

Health Consultation Feedback and Health Testing Requirements for Worcester Show & Sale 2021

Dear Member

As you are aware, during December 2020 the Society asked members to respond to a consultation on animal health and the monitoring and testing of cattle diseases. 138 members responded and the Trustees were really pleased with the thoughtful and considered responses they received. This has been a great help when discussing future health profiling policies for the breed.

The headlines were as follows:

Most of the respondents had been with the Society for over 10 years and had well-established herds of up to 20 cows. When cattle were bought and sold the majority were traded privately, but Society sales were seen as a vital outlet, and were used by new members when starting out on their Longhorn 'journey' and establishing new herds.

Most respondents felt they were aware of the health profile of their herd and those that had had health issues said that BVD, Johnes and Neospora had been the most prevalent diseases.

Members overwhelmingly felt that they wanted the Society to improve the national Longhorn herd health profile and that the breed could be seen as 'lagging behind' by the wider pedigree and commercial beef industry. Sales were seen a good way to encourage animal health and disease monitoring.

When asked if respondents would like to see all the cattle at Society sales tested and/or vaccinated for the main diseases over 75% of respondents said yes. When asked which diseases, BVD came out on top, then Johnes, IBR, Lepto and then Neospora.

When asked what the barriers to health profiling were, the most common response was that cost and time would make whole herd testing prohibitive, and that members would prefer individual testing and vaccinating protocols rather than compulsory active membership of a health scheme.

After analysing this feedback and noting the positive response from members for health profiling at Society sales, the Trustees have put the following requirements in place for the Show and Sale at Worcester on 15 May 2021. Health scheme membership, whilst encouraged, **is not** a mandatory requirement, but (as a minimum) individual testing of animals or specific disease accreditation within CHeCS for the diseases listed below is required **for all cattle** forward.

Compulsory for the Worcester Sale

BVD:

CHeCS health scheme members:

- Accredited
- AND**
- Vaccinated (all cattle except calves at foot)

Vendors privately testing:

- Negative blood test for Antigen & then vaccinated. Vaccination must be given post a clear blood test
- OR**
- 'Tag & Tested' & then vaccinated. Vaccination must be given post a clear tissue sample test.

Calves at foot should either have a negative blood test for Antigen, or been tag & tested negative for Antigen. There is no requirement to vaccinate calves at foot.

Johnes:

CHeCS health scheme members:

- Risk Level R1 or R2 no further requirements
- Risk Level R3, R4 or R5 Negative blood test (all cattle except calves at foot)

Vendors privately testing:

- Negative blood test (all cattle except calves at foot)

Blood should be drawn before the TB test is carried out.

Faecal test would be permitted if blood test timing is not compatible with TB test timing. Johnes' test sensitivities are poor and therefore membership of a health scheme is preferred.

TB

In all cases vendors must test all animals over 42 days old on the day of the sale for TB, irrespective of home testing interval.

Recommended for the Worcester Sale

IBR:

CHeCS health scheme members

- Accredited

Vendors privately testing:

- Negative blood test

When vaccinating a marker vaccine must be used. Unless routinely vaccinating, vaccinations should be done post negative blood test.

Leptospirosis:

CHeCS health scheme members

- Accredited

Vendors privately testing:

- Negative blood test

Unless routinely vaccinating, vaccinations should be done post negative blood test.

Neospora

Testing recommended for all females.

As members will be having the vet on farm to TB test and blood test for BVD and Johnes, it is recommended that the blood sample is also tested for Lepto and IBR as it will only add minimal cost and will give a fuller picture of the health profile of your cattle.

Members who are in a CHeCS approved health scheme will be required to declare their health status and this will be verified by the Society with their health scheme provider.

All cattle which are either accredited through a CHeCS approved health scheme, or blood tested for all four diseases (BVD, Johnes, Leptospirosis & IBR) will be penned separately.

All halter led cattle will be eligible to enter the show (if a show is permitted under COVID regulations).