

Dairy UK Statement
Bovine TB / Badger cull
September 2018

Animal health is paramount to dairy producers and processors. Bovine TB is an absolute tragedy for farmers and the dairy industry is committed to making every effort to eradicate it and protect the health and well-being of dairy cows in the UK. Bovine TB is a dreadful disease affecting not only cattle but also many other species including badgers and Bovine TB has not been successfully tackled in any other country without also tackling the reservoir of disease in wildlife. The areas selected for culling are particular hotspots, where the farming community has already suffered the effects of persistent Bovine TB.

Dairy UK supports the government's comprehensive, science-based strategy for TB eradication which draws upon the full range of control techniques including culling and vaccination. This strategy is based on the best scientific evidence available and a pragmatic, science-based approach to tackling bovine TB remains the correct one. The dairy industry must work closely with the Government to ensure a sustainable and productive dairy supply chain.

It would be wrong, therefore, to make any attempts to discriminate how we source our milk when dairy farmers and milk processors are doing all they can to support the Government's science-led TB eradication plans.