

**Welcome! Well, with 2018 drawing to a close, it seems appropriate to have a look back at the year – and a look forward to 2019!**

The TB Advisory Service began delivering advice to farmers in October 2017, and since then, more than 1,000 of you have been in touch! The number of Advice Visits we have delivered each month increased



steadily during 2018, with almost 100 visits being delivered in November alone. Our telephone advice service is also proving to be very popular, so if you have any questions relating to bovine TB, please give us a call! We now have 70 TBAS advisers covering the High Risk and Edge Areas of England, so have plenty of capacity to deliver more Advice Visits.

We have particularly enjoyed meeting farmers at the shows and events we have attended, and look forward to seeing both old and new faces during 2019. We are planning to hold more TBAS talks, as these have been very well attended – if you would like one in your area, please let us know.

As you may be aware, the government has recently published a review of their 25-year strategy to eliminate

TB from England by 2038. The report, written by Professor Sir Charles Godfray, acknowledges the ‘burden this disease places on the welfare and well-being of farmers and their families’, as well as its effects on cattle welfare, our indigenous wildlife and the wider livestock industry. However, the report goes on to point out that individual farmers have a pivotal role to play in the fight against the disease – stating that ‘poor take up of on-farm biosecurity measures and the extent of trading in often high-risk cattle is, we believe, severely hampering disease control measures’.

The TB Advisory Service is uniquely placed to help farmers understand the things they can change on their own farms, to reduce the risk and impact of a TB breakdown. By working together, we can halt the spread of this insidious disease – let’s make 2019 the year we all make a difference!

## And the winner is...

Back in June the TB Advisory Service teamed up with IAE to give one lucky cattle farmer the chance to win a brand-new badger-proof feeding trough. All farmers that had a TBAS Advice Visit prior to 31st October 2018 were entered into the competition, and the winner is James Allen from Gloucestershire.



[www.iae.co.uk](http://www.iae.co.uk)

**To find out more about the TB Advisory Service or to request advice, please contact us today.**

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Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

## Did you know .....

.....New legislation came into force on the 1st November, 2018, relating to compensation payments for TB reactors. The measures have been introduced to encourage herd owners to take further proportionate steps to improve disease control on their farm, as well as providing a safety net for farmers that may wish to arrange private slaughter of TB reactors.

- Compensation at 50% of the average market price for the same category cattle will be paid for any animal brought into a TB breakdown herd which then fails a TB test whilst that breakdown is still ongoing. This applies to newly purchased animals, as well as any brought back to the restricted herd that are under the same ownership (e.g. in calf dairy heifers reared off site). However, cattle keepers that have joined a CHeCS accredited TB scheme prior to the breakdown will continue to receive 100% compensation, provided the herd is accredited at the time of the breakdown.
- 50% compensation will also apply to TB reactors that are too unclean to be slaughtered. Such cases are very few in number but it is hoped that this measure will make it exceptionally rare.
- Previously, if the owner of TB reactor cattle chose to send the animals for slaughter privately, they risked receiving little or no payment if the carcass was condemned at the slaughterhouse. From 1st November 2018, cattle keepers who choose this option will receive compensation at the same rates as other TB affected keepers in respect of any compulsorily slaughtered animal if the carcass of that animal is condemned.

If you have any questions about this new legislation, the TBAS advisers would be happy to answer them!

## Meet The Team

Ever wondered about the people involved in the TB Advisory Service?

**Name:** Jo Cooper

**Role:** Project Administrator



Jo Cooper joined the TBAS team in April 2018, and works in our main office in West Sussex. Jo is responsible for the day-to-day tasks that keep the project running – including monitoring emails and sending out Advice Visit reports. If you call the office, it is most likely to be Jo answering the phone, so please say hello!

In her spare time, Jo enjoys spending time with her family, friends and her cocker spaniel, Charlie. Jo is a keen birdwatcher, and can often be found in a hide at her local nature reserve. Whilst looking forward to Christmas with her family, Jo is expecting to spend most of her time doing the washing up!

## Christmas Hours

The TBAS Office will be closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day. A number of advisers are working over the festive period, so if you have any questions, please give us a call!



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