

**Welcome! The TB Advisory Service team have had a busy few months, and it has been great to meet so many farmers at the shows and events we have attended. We have more events planned over the coming months – but if you are holding a farmer meeting and would like one of our advisers to speak about TB, then please get in touch!**

From the meetings we have held, it's clear that most farmers understand the 'ins and outs' of their 'routine' TB testing regime, but that many questions can arise if a farm is brought in to more frequent testing, due to a TB incident in the area – or even on their own farm.

Whilst the 'rules and regulations' are available via the TB Hub website, many farmers are keen to understand how these apply to their specific situation, especially where the farm has multiple holdings, temporary land associations (TLA) or a temporary CPH. The TBAS Telephone Advice Service is here to help! If you have any questions, or simply want reassurance that you are interpreting the rules correctly, then please give us a call!

For more bespoke advice, we would recommend a FREE on-farm Advice Visit – this should take no more than two hours of your time and you will receive a comprehensive report for your farm.

**Don't forget....**

The TB Advisory Service has teamed up with IAE to give one lucky farmer a brand-new badger-proof cattle feeding trough! All farmers receiving a FREE Advice Visit from TBAS before 31st October 2018 will be entered in a prize draw – so don't delay, book your Advice Visit today!



**Advice Visits - What to expect...**

When you first contact TBAS, we will need to collect some basic information about you and your farm. Your details will be passed on to an experienced adviser, who will arrange a convenient time for a visit. The visits take around two hours – depending on how much there is to look at and discuss on your farm, and we encourage you to invite your own vet along.

**At the visit**

The adviser will ask about your farm set up, any concerns you currently have and issues you may face in the future. They will have a walk around your farm buildings and fields to better understand your current situation. At the end of the visits, the adviser will discuss with you what they have seen and what they feel you can do to improve your current TB risk.

**After the visit**

You will receive a bespoke report including recommendations of practical things that you can do to reduce the TB risk on your farm. Again, you are encouraged to share this report with your vet. You will also receive a follow up call from TBAS to get some feedback and to see how you are getting on with implementing the recommendations given in the report.

**Don't worry**

The adviser is there to help and will not judge you or your farm. The recommendations are suggestions, there is no penalty if you don't implement them. If you have any questions or concerns, just call us, we are here to help!

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

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W	<a href="http://tbas.org.uk">tbas.org.uk</a>
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Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

## Mythbuster.....

**'I had a reactor, but the post mortem result came back negative, so it didn't have TB after all, right?'**

**WRONG!**

For many farmers, it is difficult enough dealing with a TB breakdown, but when this is followed by a 'negative' post-mortem result, the frustration is understandable. A negative PM result is actually termed 'No Visible Lesions (NVL)', indicating that the changes seen in the lymph nodes of cattle in the advanced stages of TB were not found during inspection of the carcass. This does not mean the animal did not have TB. The lesions associated with TB in cattle are microscopic to begin with, and can't be seen by the naked eye – it is only in the latter stages of the disease when they become clearly visible. To be able to culture the TB organism, swab samples are taken from the carcass – directly from lesions where these are visible. If the animal has no visible lesions, the swabs are taken from pre-defined areas. As such, the chance of finding a culture 'positive' result is lower in NVL cases than where lesions are clearly visible.

So, regardless of the post mortem result, an animal that failed the TB skin test is very likely to have had TB - it is estimated that there is only one false positive for every 5000 - 6000 TB-free cattle tested with the standard skin test.

Although an NVL result can be frustrating, there is some good news. Reactors with visible lesions at post mortem are more likely to have been excreting TB bacteria and therefore, would have posed a higher risk for infection spreading through your herd, compared with NVL cattle in the early stages of the disease. By removing animals from the herd in the early stages of disease, before they have had the opportunity to become more infectious to other animals, the risk of a more serious TB herd breakdown is reduced.

To find out more, please visit the TB Hub or speak to your vet.



*Typical TB lesion in a lymph node*

## Meet The Team

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

**Name:** Emily Craven MRCVS

**Role:** TBAS Adviser



Emily Craven graduated from Cambridge Vet School in 2013 and now works for Westpoint Farm Vets, where her interests include health planning, mobility, and, of course, TB. Outside of work, there is no escape from animals, as Emily keeps a small herd of British White cattle and is a keen horsewoman. Emily is known to many through her roles at various agricultural shows, and she is a council member for the Royal Bath & West of England Society. Emily's main interest outside farming is athletics, and she is a nationally graded judge for field athletics.

## Come and see us!

**The TB Advisory Service will be attending a number of meetings and events during the coming months - please come and say hello!**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> October Dairy Show, Shepton Mallet
- 24<sup>th</sup> October Farmer meeting, Hemel Hempstead
- 24<sup>th</sup> October Farmer meeting, Thame
- 25<sup>th</sup> October Farmer meeting, Leicester

## Don't forget to follow us!

**To get the latest news from the TB Advisory Service, don't forget to follow us on Twitter and like our Facebook page!**



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