



FarmLab

HEALTH SURE

HEALTHSURE CERTIFICATION

FarmLab HealthSure is a certification scheme for cattle herds. Participation in the scheme allows farmers to monitor and certify their herds for two of the main infectious diseases in cattle herds - IBR (Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis) and Johnes Disease (infection with Mycobacterium Avium Paratuberculosis).

Farmers can choose to enrol for one or both disease schemes. FarmLab HealthSure is accredited by CHeCS in the UK. CHeCS - Cattle Health Certification Standards - is an internationally recognised scheme and ensures that when your herd is certified under HealthSure it too has the same international recognition. This is of particular interest to breeders who may be exporting stock to other countries.



FARMLAB HEALTHSURE FOR IBR

IBR is a viral disease which affects cattle populations in most countries in the world. Some countries have managed to eradicate the disease and it is becoming an increasingly important disease from a trade point of view. More and more countries are involved in IBR eradication programmes, and therefore are moving to source replacement stock from IBR-free herds. IBR causes a range of problems in cattle herds, including respiratory disease, infertility and immunosuppression. Animals become infected from contact with the virus, this can be from contact with other infected animals or contaminated clothing or environment. Infected animals can act as a source of infection to other animals for the rest of their lives. Vaccination helps to reduce shedding from infected animals and can also reduce the severity of the disease in non-infected animals if they come in-contact with the virus.

Herds which enrol in the HealthSure IBR scheme will undergo annual blood testing for IBR and carry out yearly vaccination for IBR in their herds. All bought in animals, which have not come from CHeCS accredited herds, will have to be tested and undergo a quarantine period before entering the herd. Herds which test negative for IBR and adhere with the conditions of the scheme will receive certification for their herd. Certificates can also be issued for individual animals pre-sale etc.

FARMLAB HEALTHSURE FOR JOHNES DISEASE

Johnes Disease is an infectious disease of ruminants caused by Mycobacterium Avium Paratuberculosis (MAP). Cattle with Johnes Disease

generally have been infected as calves, or maybe even before birth in the uterus. Johnes Disease has a relatively long incubation, with most cases not showing clinical signs until the animal has reached 2-4 years of age. The main clinical signs of Johnes Disease are diarrhoea, with associated wasting, and ill-thrift. MAP infection can also increase the chances that the animal will suffer from other diseases, and that it will have reduced productivity, e.g. milk yield, compared to a non-infected animal.

MAP infection can be diagnosed by testing blood or milk samples for MAP antibodies. Infected animals do not usually show positive results for MAP antibodies until they are at least two years of age. Demonstration of MAP in the faeces by PCR testing confirms the diagnosis of Johnes Disease.

Herds which enrol in the HealthSure Johnes scheme will carry out annual blood testing for MAP. All bought in animals, which have not come from CHeCS accredited herds, will have to be tested and undergo a quarantine period before entering the herd. Herds which test negative for Johnes Disease, and adhere with the conditions of the scheme, will receive certification for their herd. Certificates can also be issued for individual animals pre-sale etc.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Before considering enrolling for FarmLab HealthSure, farmers are required to read the terms and conditions of the scheme. HealthSure members will also require the help and involvement of their own veterinary practitioner. It is very important that the herd's veterinary practitioner is involved from the beginning of the HealthSure herd

certification process. Veterinary involvement is required for sample taking, setting up a risk management plan on the farm and certification of the herd. Therefore it is imperative that prospective HealthSure members and their veterinary surgeons familiarize themselves thoroughly with the terms and conditions of the scheme.



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