

# Cattle purchasing checklist



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Prior to purchasing, it is key to know your own herd health and vaccination status for Johne's, BVD, IBR and Lepto



Date: \_\_\_\_\_ No. of animals to be purchased: \_\_\_\_\_

Name and address of farm where cattle are to be purchased from: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Source herd size: \_\_\_\_\_ Is the source herd CHeCS (Cattle Health Certification Standards) accredited?  Y  N

Has the source herd brought any animals into the herd in the last 6 months?  Y  N

Vendor's name and address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

The guidance below *is intended as an aide-memoire* and covers the purchase of any cattle onto the holding – however, there are additional questions which should be asked if purchasing bulls. Bull health declarations can be made available from CHeCS providers; they detail the herd of origin's CHeCS health status, any individual animal test results and animal vaccination details.

**Johne's Disease** – a slow onset disease causing production losses, scour, wasting and eventual death.

If applicable, what CHeCS risk level is the source herd?  1  2  3  4

Has the source herd ever vaccinated for Johne's Disease?  Y  N

What type of screening does the herd undertake?  All cows  Selected Animals (eg 30 cows)  Bulk milk  None

When was the last screen?  Within 3 months  3–6 months  6–12 months  Longer

What were the results of screening in the last 2 years? \_\_\_\_\_

**BVD** – a viral disease of cattle causing infertility, abortions, and impaired immune function. Persistently infected (PI) calves may be born to cattle infected when pregnant. These calves are a source of infection to all naive cattle and must be removed once identified (tested BVD virus positive).

Is the source herd accredited BVD-free?  Yes accredited free  Yes monitored free  N

Is the source herd vaccinated?  Y  N

Is the animal(s) to be purchased pregnant?  Y  N

Has the animal(s) to be purchased been tested for BVD virus?  Y  N

Is the source herd registered for BVDFree, or a national BVD scheme?  Y  N

**Leptospirosis** – a bacterial disease of cattle causing reproductive failure and milk drop. This disease is also transmissible to humans (zoonosis).

Is the source herd accredited/monitored lepto-free?  Yes accredited free  Yes monitored free  N

Is the source herd vaccinated?  Y  N

**IBR** – a viral disease of cattle causing respiratory disease, reproductive failure and milk drop. A carrier status may occur and can lead to the introduction of the disease.

Is the source herd accredited IBR-free?  Y  N

Is the source herd vaccinated?  Y  N If yes vaccine used \_\_\_\_\_

Is the animal(s) to be purchased antibody positive?  Y  N

**Bovine Tuberculosis** – a notifiable bacterial disease of cattle that is under statutory control.

What is the testing frequency imposed on the source herd?  6-monthly  Annual  4-yearly

Does the herd have a CHeCS risk level?  Y  N If yes state level (0–10) \_\_\_\_\_

Has the source herd had a reactor or inconclusive reactor in the last four years?  Y  N

Is the source herd a CHeCS Bovine TB accredited herd?  Y  N

**Campylobacteriosis** – a sexually transmitted disease that can cause fertility problems.

- Is natural service used in the source herd?  Y  N
- If the animal(s) is pregnant, was service via:  AI  Natural service
- Has the animal ever run with a bull?  Y  N
- 

**Salmonella** – a reportable disease causing scour and abortions. This disease is transmissible to humans (zoonosis).

- Has there ever been a confirmed case in the source herd?  Y  N
- Is the source herd vaccinated?  Y  N
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**Neospora caninum** – a protozoal parasite that can cause cattle to abort.

- Is the source herd accredited Neospora free?  Y  N
- Have there been confirmed cases in the source herd?  Y  N
- Has the animal(s) to be purchased been tested?  Y  N
- 

**Parasites** – purchased cattle may harbour a variety of parasites, including gut worms, lungworm, liver fluke, lice and mites.

- Has the parasite status of the animals to be purchased been assessed (eg faecal samples/blood tests)?  Y  N
- Has lungworm been confirmed previously in the source herd?  Y  N
- Has liver fluke been confirmed in the source herd?  Y  N
- When was the last treatment for:
- |                                   |  |  |   |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|---|
| Liver fluke                       | <input type="checkbox"/> within 3 months | <input type="checkbox"/> within 6 months | <input type="checkbox"/> within 12 months |
| Endoparasites (gutworm, lungworm) | <input type="checkbox"/> within 3 months | <input type="checkbox"/> within 6 months | <input type="checkbox"/> within 12 months |
| Ectoparasites (mites, lice)       | <input type="checkbox"/> within 3 months | <input type="checkbox"/> within 6 months | <input type="checkbox"/> within 12 months |
- Has anthelmintic resistance ever been reported on the source farm?  Y  N
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**Digital Dermatitis** – infectious cause of lameness.

- Is digital dermatitis present in the source herd?  Y  N
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**Mastitis** – a common multifactorial disease that can cause significant economic loss.

- Have the cell count and mastitis records of the animal(s) to be purchased been seen?  Y  N
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**Brucellosis** – a disease that causes cattle to abort. This disease is transmissible to humans (zoonosis).

- Have the cattle to be purchased been imported from outside GB?  Y  N
- Are there animals from within the source herd from outside GB?  Y  N
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**Mycoplasma bovis** – a bacteria causing pneumonia, middle ear disease, arthritis and mastitis as the main clinical presenting signs.

- Is there a history of confirmed *Mycoplasma bovis* disease in the herd?  Y  N  N/A
- Are the animals to be purchased antibody positive for *Mycoplasma bovis*?  Y  N  N/A
- Are the animals to be purchased PCR positive for *Mycoplasma bovis*?  Y  N  N/A
- 

**Bluetongue (BTV) and Schmallenberg Virus (SBV)\***

- Has the source herd/animal been vaccinated for SBV?  Y  N
- Have any confirmed cases of SBV congenital deformity been seen in the source herd?  Y  N
- If buying imported cattle, have they been sourced from areas where BTV infection has been confirmed (see Defra risk assessment maps)  Y  N
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\*It is recommended you seek the most up-to-date information on the current status of infection relating to both of the above viruses and take account of this information when making purchasing decisions.

As with all issues relating to animal health and welfare, consultation with your veterinary surgeon is recommended in relation to interpretation of the above answers and their potential impact on the health and vaccination status of your herd. For further information about these, and other, diseases and the threat they may pose, please visit the AHDB Dairy website: [dairy.ahdb.org.uk](http://dairy.ahdb.org.uk)

Please note the content in this checklist should not be considered definitive and complete.

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