



DEBATE PACK

Number CDP 2016-0152, Debate Day Wed 7 Sept 2016

Badger Culling and Bovine TB

This debate pack has been prepared ahead of the debate on badger culling and bovine TB, to be held in Westminster Hall on Wednesday 7 June 2016 at 4.30-5.30pm. The Member in charge of this debate is Dr Paul Monaghan.

This briefing contains recent press and parliamentary material and links to further reading.

Related Library Briefings

[Badgers: Culls in England](#) 31 August 2016

[Badger Culling : Alternatives](#) 11 June 2014

[Badger Culling: TB Control Policy](#) 11 March 2014

[Badger Culling: Krebs Trials and Policy to 2008](#) 11 Mar 2014

The House of Commons Library prepares a briefing in hard copy and/or online for most non-legislative debates in the Chamber and Westminster Hall other than half-hour debates. Debate Packs are produced quickly after the announcement of parliamentary business. They are intended to provide a summary or overview of the issue being debated and identify relevant briefings and useful documents, including press and parliamentary material. More detailed briefing can be prepared for Members on request to the Library.

Oliver Bennett
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1. Summary

Badger culling, as a bovine TB policy measure, is a devolved matter.

[In Scotland](#), cattle herds are officially TB-free and no badger culling takes place. [In Northern Ireland](#) a 5 year research project is being conducted to test the effects of culling infected badgers and vaccinating non-infected badgers. [In Wales](#), the Welsh Government has rejected the culling of badgers.

The approach adopted by some of the devolved administrations contrasts with the approach taken by the UK Government in England, where badger culling has been conducted in a growing number of areas since 2013.

The previous UK Government's long-term [Strategy for achieving Officially Bovine Tuberculosis Free status for England](#) was published in April 2014. This set out the rationale for taking action to address the problem of bovine TB, and the range of measures intended to eradicate it by 2038. The UK Government believed badger culling should play a role in the strategy. This rationale has been disputed by some experts.

The Conservative Government announced that it intended to enable badger control to take place over a wider number of areas in 2016. Changes were made to the license conditions which may have enabled a greater number of license applications to be successful.

The Government confirmed on 30 August 2016 that 7 new culling areas would be permitted in Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire and Herefordshire, in addition to the existing areas in Gloucestershire, Somerset and Dorset. Culling in these new areas will be carried out over 4 years between 1 June and 31 January each year. The actual start date for the cull in each area will be decided by the licensed companies.

The effectiveness of badger culling as a means of controlling TB in cattle remains contentious.

2. News Items

BBC News

Badger cull extended to more English counties

30 August 2016

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-37220043>

Independent

Government expands badger cull to five new areas despite warnings it doesn't work

30 August 2016

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/badger-cull-expansion-areas-protest-evidence-bovine-tb-a7216091.html>

Daily Telegraph

Badger culls begin in five new areas, Government confirms

30 August 2016

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/08/30/badger-culls-begin-in-five-new-areas-government-confirms/>

Farmer's Weekly

Protestors pledge to disrupt badger culls

30 August 2016

<https://www.fwi.co.uk/livestock/bovine-tb-remains-huge-threat-to-farmers.htm>

Guardian

Badger cull protesters change tactics in response to expansion

23 August 2016

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/aug/23/badger-cull-protesters-change-tactics-in-response-to-expansion>

BBC News

Badgers may not transmit TB to cattle by direct contact, according to new research.

A study suggests that cows contract the disease by coming into contact with infected faeces and urine in pasture. The scientists involved suggest that advice given to farmers to control the spread of the disease may need to be reassessed.

5 August 2016

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-36976774>

Farming UK

England could eradicate Bovine TB without culling, new research shows

Bovine TB control tactics currently employed by the Welsh and Scottish authorities - which don't involve badger culling - are leading the way in bTB disease reduction, whilst those employed by England are not, according to new research from Queen Mary University of London.

9 September 2015

http://www.farminguk.com/News/England-could-eradicate-Bovine-TB-without-culling-new-research-shows_36997.html

3. Press Releases

3.1 National Farmers Union

NFU response to Defra TB strategy announcement

<http://www.nfuonline.com/misc/press-releases/defra-tb-strategy-announcement-nfu-response/>

30 August 2016

NFU President Meurig Raymond said: “Bovine TB remains a huge threat to beef and dairy farmers in large parts of the country. More than 28,000 cattle were slaughtered in England last year because of it and nearly 4,000 herds that had previously been clear of the disease were affected by it.

“Farmers facing a daily battle against bTB in those areas that have been granted licences for badger control operations this year will welcome the news that finally action is being taken to tackle the reservoir of disease in wildlife in these areas. Today’s announcement means that badger control will now be taking place in ten per cent of the area where cattle are at the highest risk of contracting bTB.

“There is still a huge amount of work ahead to ensure the eradication of bTB from this country and I would like to take this opportunity to thank farmers for their continued support in working towards this goal.

“The chief vet has made it clear that dealing with the disease in both cattle and badgers is essential to tackling the disease effectively and that proactive badger control is currently the best available option for dealing with the disease in badgers. The number of areas that have expressed interest in carrying out badger controls in future years not only shows the sheer extent of the bTB problem farmers are facing but also the industry’s continued commitment to playing its part in tackling this devastating disease.

More...

- [Learn about bTB in badgers and cattle - visit the TB Free England website](#)
- [Watch: Find out what bovine TB means for thousands of farmers](#)
- [Visit our animal health pages on NFUonline here](#)
- [From Defra: Further measures to eradicate bovine TB](#)

“We have always said that we must use every option available to tackle bTB, including cattle testing, cattle movement controls, improving biosecurity, and encouraging farmers to make informed decisions when buying cattle in from other areas.

“We will consult with our members before submitting our response to the consultation launched today on introducing further cattle measures, including more severe skin tests for herds in the area at greatest risk from bTB and increased surveillance testing for all herds in the areas on the edge of the disease spread.

“The new farm advice packs will provide farmers with information to help them improve the effectiveness of the biosecurity measures they implement on their farms, and the updated online mapping tool will allow farmers to make better informed decisions when buying in livestock to minimise the risk of bringing bTB onto their farms.

“The NFU has always said that control of bTB in non-bovine animals has to be part of any strategy to tackle the disease so we welcome the consultation launched today on introducing further disease control measures for these species.”

3.2 RSPCA

RSPCA alarm at badger cull restart

RSPCA warns continuing 'cruel' culls in Somerset, Gloucestershire & Dorset while extending culls to a further five areas in another three counties will have no major effect on bovine TB

Tuesday 23 August 2016

The RSPCA is alarmed that despite three years of failed culls the UK Government is now forging ahead with plans to kill badgers in six different areas.

Three counties, Somerset, Gloucestershire and Dorset were subject to culls in 2015 and now it has been announced Defra will be licensing new areas in north Cornwall, north and south Devon, south Herefordshire and west Dorset despite strong public opposition to the scheme.

The RSPCA is once again renewing calls for the culls to be stopped and instead a more proactive approach with a focus on cattle husbandry through improved biosecurity and better cattle control measures be adopted to tackle the problem of bovine TB.

RSPCA assistant director of public affairs David Bowles said: “We are saddened but unsurprised at the restart of the badger culls but to extend the number of cull areas further is alarming - especially when the last three years of culls have been such a failure, often missing targets such as numbers to be killed. This action is flying in the face of public and scientific opinion.

“We remain firmly opposed to plans for a widespread cull because we have not seen any evidence that the pilot culls have succeeded in reducing bovine TB in the cull areas and we have serious concerns about the humaneness of the culling methods used.

“The RSPCA, along with many other animal welfare and veterinary organisations and scientific experts, has always maintained that culling is not the answer to solving the devastating problem of bovine TB. In fact it is more likely to make the problem worse.

“We don't believe an extension of the badger cull will solve the problem

of bovine TB in cattle. It ignores all the scientific evidence that indicates a cull will not achieve this.

“Whilst the RSPCA agrees action is needed to deal with bovine TB we do not believe culling badgers is an effective way to achieve this. Methods need to be based on available scientific evidence and expert opinion. Alternatives include stricter controls on the movement of cattle, increased levels of cattle testing, improved biosecurity, and vaccination once supplies of the vaccine become available. These are having an impact in Wales where culling does not occur.”

3.3 Badger Trust

Badger Trust calls for halt to badger culls following Brexit vote

<http://www.badger.org.uk/#!Badger-Trust-calls-for-halt-to-badger-culls-following-Brexit-vote/bxj4a/577ba27b0cf2e2ae837d0286>

July 5, 2016

The Badger Trust is calling for an immediate halt to further badger culling following last week’s referendum vote to leave the EU.

DEFRA is now facing a massive task in dealing with the aftermath of Brexit as it confronts the reality of disconnecting a hugely complex UK farming and food production system that is so closely woven into the fabric of the European Union.

Speaking of the growing crisis, Badger Trust’s CEO Dominic Dyer says:

“DEFRA is already reeling from a brutal round of budget cuts and does not have the staff capacity to cope with rearranging subsidies to farmers under the Common Agricultural Policy, changing food labelling and safety regulations, free movement of labour and disease control policy, to mention just a few. Every key aspect of DEFRA’s work will now have to be reviewed and significantly altered to cope with this workload and we cannot see how such a marginal and ineffective policy like the badger cull can survive this process.

“DEFRA has already stated that they will never be able to tell if culling has impacted on the levels of TB in cattle and, given the £25m they have spent so far on this policy, we cannot see a rational justification for them continuing with it. The UK receives €30m a year from Brussels to fight bovine TB and this money is now clearly going to go elsewhere and will have to be made up by British taxpayers. They will also have to cover the entire farming subsidy bill from their budget.

“The badger culls are very unpopular with the public and opposition from scientists, vets and now even farmers is at an all time high. The Welsh government has proved beyond any doubt that badger culling is irrelevant and that TB can be reduced much faster and more effectively by concentrating on improved cattle testing and movement controls for a much lower cost to the taxpayer.”

Responding to the growing crisis in DEFRA caused by the Brexit vote, Badger Trust Chairman Peter Martin said:

“Throughout the referendum campaign Environment Minister, Liz Truss stated that a vote to leave the EU would have a greater impact on the farming and food production industries than any other part of the economy, leading to less trade and investment, higher production costs and fewer jobs. Brexit has now left her having to deal with a growing sense of panic in the farming and food industry over the impact of Britain outside of the EU. She has some hard decisions to make.

“Continuing with the badger culls is simply not a realistic option when proven alternatives for controlling bovine TB are known to be cheaper, faster and more effective. We have already seen the publication of DEFRA’s long awaited 25 year Plan for Nature put on hold because of the Brexit result and there are growing concerns that Britain outside of the EU will not deliver the same level of protection for British wildlife.

“The badger culls were always a politically motivated policy rather than an effective solution to bovine TB. It would be thoroughly irresponsible for the government and its supporters in the farming and countryside lobby to keep pursuing it, in the face of the current crisis caused by Brexit. DEFRA cannot deliver it and the taxpayer cannot afford it.”

4. Department for Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

What the government's doing about bovine tuberculosis (bovine TB).

30 August 2016

<https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/bovine-tuberculosis-bovine-tb>

[Bovine TB: badger control policy value for money analysis](#)

[Bovine TB: authorisation for badger control in 2016](#)

[Bovine TB: government badger control costs 2015](#) Policy paper
[Advice to Natural England on setting minimum and maximum numbers of badgers to be controlled in 2016](#) Policy Paper

[Bovine TB: controlling the risk of bovine TB from badgers](#) From Natural England and others.

[Bovine TB: improving testing in the High Risk Area of England](#) Open Consultation. Closes 8 November 2016.

[Bovine TB: controlling bovine TB in non-bovine animals](#) Open Consultation Closes on 8 November 2016.

[Further measures to eradicate bovine TB](#)

DEFRA Ministerial Statement on badger cull 30 August 2016

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/further-measures-to-eradicate-bovine-tb>

Farming Minister George Eustice announces new measures to tackle devastating disease:

Further measures to tackle [bovine TB](#) in England were announced today as part of the government's 25-year strategy to eradicate the disease and protect the livelihoods of dairy and beef farmers.

Bovine TB costs taxpayers over £100 million every year and England has the highest incidence of the disease in Europe. In 2015 alone over 28,000 cattle had to be slaughtered in England to control the disease, causing devastation and distress for farmers and rural communities, where herds have often been built up on family farms over many generations.

The government's strategy includes tighter cattle measures, improved biosecurity and [badger control](#) in areas where the disease is rife. Advice from the Chief Veterinary Officer makes clear that dealing with the disease in both cattle and badgers is essential to tackle the disease effectively. This strategy is already delivering results: we are on track to achieve TB freedom to

more than half of the country by 2020—the first time anywhere in England will have this status.

New measures outlined today include:

Seven additional licences for badger control measures covering parts of Herefordshire, Gloucestershire, Cornwall, Devon and Dorset, with operations now underway.

A consultation on introducing further cattle measures including more sensitive tests for TB-affected herds in the High Risk Area, and increased surveillance testing for herds in the Edge Area.

A call for views on a more risk-based approach to TB testing of cattle herds in the High Risk Area.

New farm advice packs to help farmers affected by bovine TB to improve the effectiveness of biosecurity measures on their farm.

An updated online tool mapping the location of bovine TB incidents over the last five years to allow farmers to make informed decisions when buying livestock.

A consultation on introducing further measures for controlling TB in non-bovine animals.

Farming Minister George Eustice said:

Our comprehensive strategy to eradicate bovine TB in England is delivering results, with more than half the country on track to be free of the disease by the end of this Parliament.

Bovine TB has a devastating impact on farms, which is why we are taking strong action to eradicate the disease, including tighter cattle controls, improved biosecurity and badger control measures in areas where the disease is rife.

The veterinary advice and the experience of other countries is clear—we will not be able to eradicate this disease unless we also tackle the reservoir of the disease in the badger population as well as cattle.

Chief Vet Nigel Gibbens said:

Action to prevent infection of cattle from significant reservoirs of TB infection in local badger populations is an essential part of the government's 25-year strategy to eradicate bovine TB in England.

Proactive badger control is currently the best available option and the licensing of further areas is necessary to realise disease control benefits at regional rather than at local levels.

In 2015 badger control operations in Somerset, Gloucestershire and Dorset were all successful in meeting their targets, and the government announced in December that it wanted to see badger control over a wider number of areas in 2016.

As part of its long-term strategy to eradicate bovine TB, the government has already introduced tougher movement controls

and more frequent testing, as well as working with farmers, vets and others to improve biosecurity on farm and when trading.

Notes to editors

In line with existing rules for Approved Finishing Units (AFUs), operating licences for AFUs with grazing in cull areas will be withdrawn, with 12 months' notice, after at least 12 months of successful culling. Enforcing the existing strict licensing rules on AFUs helps to reduce the potential risk of disease spread and protect the hard work of our farmers and livestock keepers to eradicate bovine TB. More information on [Approved Finishing Units operating rules](#) is available.

The [consultation on further cattle measures](#) closes on 8 November 2016

The [call for views on cattle testing](#) closes on 8 November 2016

The [consultation on further non-bovine measures](#) closes on 8 November 2016.

[Information on Natural England's licensing for badger control operations](#)

For more information, please contact the Defra press office on 020 8026 3663 and 020 8225 7618.

DEFRA 17 December 2015 House of Commons HCWS409

Elizabeth Truss (The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs)Affairs)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2015-12-17/HCWS409/>

Today I am updating the House on the implementation of our 25-year strategy to eradicate bovine TB in England.

The strategy is delivering results with more than half the country on track to be officially free of the disease by 2019.

Badger control operations in Somerset, Gloucestershire and Dorset were all successful in meeting their targets. The UK Chief Veterinary Officer's advice is that the results show that industry-led badger control can deliver the level of effectiveness required to be confident of achieving disease control benefits. As part of our strategy the Government wants to see badger control over a wider number of areas next year. This is in line with the UK Chief Veterinary Officer's advice on what is needed to realise disease control benefits at regional level.

Bovine TB is the greatest animal health threat to the UK. Dealing with the disease is costing the taxpayer £100million each year. Last year alone over 26,000 cattle had to be slaughtered in England to control the disease, causing devastation and distress for farmers and rural communities across large swathes of the country.

The Government is taking strong action to deliver a long-term plan to eradicate the disease and protect the future of the UK's dairy and beef industries. The comprehensive strategy includes strengthening cattle testing and movement controls, improving biosecurity on farm and when trading, and badger control in areas where TB is rife.

The Low Risk Area, covering over half of England, is on track to achieve officially TB-free status by the end of 2019. This would be the first time anywhere in England has enjoyed this status.

The approach of tackling the disease in cattle and in wildlife has worked in Australia, is working in New Zealand and Ireland and is supported by the Government and Defra Chief Scientists, the UK Chief Vet and other leading vets.

To further improve our cattle movement controls, the Government plans to introduce statutory post-movement testing next year for cattle entering the Low Risk Area. This will reduce the risk of importing TB-infected animals from higher risk areas and bring this part of England in line with Scotland. In November 2015, Defra, in partnership with AHDB, the NFU, BCVA and Landex, launched a campaign to step up biosecurity measures in farms and in the cattle trade and help protect herds from bovine TB.

We have also overseen the successful completion of the first year of six private badger vaccination projects funded under the Badger Edge Vaccination Scheme. The ongoing worldwide shortage of BCG vaccine and the need to prioritise available stocks for humans is impacting on supply for badger vaccination projects. Following advice from Public Health England, I have taken the decision to suspend attempts to source BCG vaccine for the Badger Edge Vaccination Scheme and other private badger vaccination deployment projects in England until the supply situation is resolved. This follows the decision of the Welsh Government to do the same.

Our long-term research to develop an oral TB vaccine for badgers and an effective TB vaccine for cattle is ongoing.

The European Commission has endorsed Defra's bovine TB eradication programme for ongoing financial support in 2016.

To ensure we have a successful and resilient industry, I am determined to enable all available measures necessary to eradicate this devastating disease as quickly as possible. We will continue to deliver on our 25-year strategy for a TB-free England.

Guidance to Natural England

Licences to kill or take badgers for the purpose of preventing the spread of bovine TB under section 10(2)(a) of the Protection of Badgers Act 1992

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/489845/badger-culling-guidance-ne.pdf

17 December 2015 (Revised: reference corrected 6 January 2016)

Extract:

Scope of this Guidance

1. This guidance is given by the Secretary of State to Natural England under section 15(2) of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (NERC Act), and represents the Secretary of State's considered views, based on current scientific evidence, about what is required for any cull of badgers for bovine tuberculosis (TB) control purposes to be effective, safe and humane.
2. Section 15(6) of the NERC Act requires Natural England to have regard to this Guidance in discharging its functions. The Secretary of State has consulted Natural England and the Environment Agency in accordance with section 15(3)(a) and (b) of the Act and, in accordance with section 15(3)(c) of the Act, has also consulted more widely through a public consultation.¹
3. An agreement under section 78 of the NERC Act was entered into with effect from 1 October 2006 authorising Natural England to carry out various Defra functions including those relating to licensing under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.
4. This guidance relates only to licensing functions under section 10(2)(a) of the Protection of Badgers Act to kill or take badgers for the purpose of preventing the spread of TB, and any associated licensing functions under section 16(3)(g) and (h) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 in relation to any activity that (in the absence of such a licence) would be prohibited under section 11 of that Act. Guidance for all other badger licensing is given in a separate document.
5. **TB policy is devolved.** With the exception of paragraph 27, this guidance relates to England only.

5. Parliamentary Questions

[Bovine Tuberculosis](#)

Asked by David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what recent changes her Department has made to licensing criteria for badger control in England.

Answered by: George Eustice: Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs:

Following a public consultation, the following changes to licensing conditions were published on 17 December 2015:

- Enabling Natural England to keep the duration of annual badger control operations under review rather than limiting them to six weeks.
- Reducing the minimum size of an area from 150km² to 100km².
- Removing the requirement for at least 70% of the land in candidate areas to be accessible but retaining a requirement that approximately 90% of the land in the control area be either accessible, or within 200m of accessible land.

**12 July 2016 Written Question Answered House of Commons
42129**

[Bovine Tuberculosis](#)

Asked by Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what assistance her Department is giving to landowners to facilitate the work of land agents in trial **badger culls**; and if she will make a statement.

Answered by George Eustice: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Communication with both landowners and land agents in their area is a matter for the cull companies. Natural England as licensing authority can provide advice to companies who have specific queries on matters

**11 July 2016 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons
| 41843**

[Bovine Tuberculosis](#)

Asked by Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for relating to licencing requirements.

Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, how many areas will be involved in the **badger cull** in 2016; and what estimate she has made of the cost to the public purse of that cull.

Answered by George Eustice Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Decisions on licence applications will be announced before the start of badger control operations. The cost will depend on the number of applicants authorised to proceed.

11 Jul 2016 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 41638

[Badger Culls](#)

Asked by Ann Clwyd: What assessment she has made of the effectiveness of recent badger culls.

Answered by George Eustice Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

During 2015, badger control operations in Somerset, Gloucestershire and Dorset were all successful in meeting their targets. According to the Chief Veterinary Officer's advice, the results show that industry-led badger control can deliver the level of effectiveness that will enable us to be confident of achieving disease control benefits.

**7 July 2016 Oral Questions Answered House of Commons
Volume 612 905721**

Asked by Ann Clwyd: Badger culling in England costs about £7,000 per badger killed. In Wales, the badger vaccination ... programme costs about £700 per badger vaccinated. Lord Krebs, who is a renowned expert on the subject, has ... continually said that rolling out culling as a national policy to control TB in cattle is not really credible. Does the Minister accept that?

Answered by George Eustice Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs:

TB is costing the country £100 million a year, and that is why we have to act. The veterinary advice is clear—we cannot have a coherent strategy to eradicate TB without also tackling the disease in the wildlife population. Following advice from the World Health Organisation, the vaccination operations in Wales, as in England, have been suspended because there is a lack of vaccine.

07 Jul 2016 | Oral questions - 1st Supplementary | Answered | House of Commons | 612 c1027

[Bovine Tuberculosis: Vaccination](#)

Asked by Lord Trefgarne: To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to secure adequate supplies of anti-TB vaccine for use on badgers, in view of the present shortage.

Answered by Lord Gardiner of Kimble:

The ongoing shortage of Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG) vaccine, and the need to prioritise available stocks for humans, is impacting on supply for badger vaccination projects. Following advice from Public Health England (PHE) in December 2015, Defra took the decision to suspend attempts to source BCG vaccine for the Badger Edge Vaccination Scheme and other private badger vaccination deployment projects in England until this situation is resolved.

We are seeking regular updates from PHE about the vaccine shortage so that once the situation is resolved we can be in a position to re-start ordering of vaccine at the earliest opportunity.

04 July 2016 Written Question Answered House of Lords HL769**Badger Cull**

Asked by Neil Parish: When will the Minister be able to give the scientific figures for the **badger** cull areas to show the reduction in the amount of disease in cattle?

Answered by: George Eustice: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

As my Honourable Friend knows, the randomised badger culling trials a decade or more ago found that the benefits of the culling of badgers were only seen some four years after the conclusion of the culls. The reality is that the programme is a long-term commitment and it will be several years before we can see the impact of the culls. From figures from last year, however, we know that perturbation, which several hon. Members have previously highlighted to me, was actually far less of an issue in years one and two of the culls in Gloucester and Somerset than people predicted.

05 May 2016 | Oral questions - Supplementary | Answered | House of Commons | 609 c292

6. Other Parliamentary Material

Short Debate on Bovine TB

House of Commons 17 December 2015

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmhansrd/cm151217/debtext/151217-0001.htm>

Short debate on Badger Vaccination in Cheshire

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm150129/debtext/150129-0001.htm>

House of Commons 29 January 2015

Early Day Motion

Early Day Motion 1029

The hypothesised relationship between bovine tuberculosis and meles (European badger).

<https://www.parliament.uk/edm/2015-16/1029>

Date tabled: 28.01.2016 Primary sponsor: [Monaghan, Paul](#)

That this House notes the Government has to date authorised £25,000,000 expenditure on the culling of badgers in England and Wales; further notes that this equates to expenditure of approximately £7,000 per European Badger killed; recognises that the hypothesised relationship between bovine tuberculosis and Meles meles, European Badger, is as yet unproven; and considers that a policy of culling represents questionable value for money, offers little benefit to farmers, and is both inefficient and unsustainable at the current level of expenditure.

Petition to Parliament

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/122595>

Created by Emily Lawrence Deadline 24 August 2016

Petition the Government to stop expanding the badger cull across the country

Bovine TB is a devastating disease for farmers and cattle. However, the badger cull is proven to be unscientific Inhumane and ineffective. At a cost of £20 million pounds so far a roll out across the country cannot be justified. Move away from culling and focus on cattle based measures.

Wales have reduced incidents of bovine TB by 48% without killing a single badger.

The Randomised badger culling trials undertaken by the last government killed 11,000 badgers and proved that culling badgers will not reduce the disease

95% of the disease is spread by cattle.

7. Further reading and useful links

Badger cattle contact project

London Zoological Society

The Badger Cattle Contact Project was established in 2012 to investigate contact between badgers and cattle to understand how bovine tuberculosis is transmitted between the species. We are independent scientists with no alliance to either side of the debate on managing TB in cattle and badgers. Our research is funded by DEFRA.

<https://www.zsl.org/science/research/badger-cattle-contact-project>

Badgers prefer cattle pasture but avoid cattle: implications for bovine tuberculosis control

Ecology Letters, Wiley Online Library

<https://www.zsl.org/science/research/badger-cattle-contact-project>

4 August 2016

Tackling TB: Why culls will help disease control

National Farmers' Union NFU Online TB Free England

The evidence that proves a badger cull will work

<https://www.nfuonline.com/assets/14431>

- [New TB tools and web hub launched for farmers](#)
- [TB news - NFUonline](#)
- [TB Hub](#)

Bovine TB: Why badger culling is not the answer'.

RSPCA

<http://www.rspca.org.uk/getinvolved/campaign/badgers>

includes

Badgers and bovine TB: the science

The Wildlife Trusts

<http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/bTBscience>

Badger Trust

<http://www.badger.org.uk/#!can-the-cull/ywdj>

Team Badger

<http://www.teambadger.org/>

TB policy in Scotland

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/animal-welfare/Diseases/disease/tuberculosis>

TB policy in Wales

<http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/ahw/disease/bovinetuberculosis/?lang=en>

TB policy in Northern Ireland

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/topics/animal-health-and-welfare/animal-diseases-diseases-affect-cattle/bovine-tuberculosis>

DEBATE PACK

Number CDP 2016-0152
Debate Day Wed 7 Sept
2016

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