

AHWNI launches new TB website



Animal Health and Welfare NI (AHWNI) has launched a new website as part of an industry campaign to provide information for farmers on bovine TB.

With the incidence of bovine TB in NI at unprecedented levels, the ambition is for the website to hold key information and practical advice for dealing with and preventing the infection. Website content will be expanded with time and in line with emerging research findings and reports.

Commenting on the launch of the website, AHWNI Chief Executive Dr Sam Strain said, “Bovine TB is a complex and hugely challenging disease, impacting animal health and welfare, and can have devastating knock-on effects on human health as well as farm business profitability. Given that many factors are involved in its spread, tackling bovine TB successfully will require a multi-faceted and multi-agency approach.

“While the cattle industry in NI does not currently have all the tools required to deal with bovine TB, one area that can be progressed is the provision of independent advice to farmers. The aim of the AHWNI TB website is to provide farmers with a ‘go-to’ place for them to access information on bovine TB from a trusted source.

This resource is only one strand of the many actions that need to be taken if TB is to be effectively controlled. These include reducing the risk of purchasing infected livestock as well as the infection risk from wildlife. However, fundamental to controlling the infection is understanding it and knowing some of the measures farmers can take to reduce the risk of infection spread. This is why we’ve developed this website.”

As an industry-led, not-for-profit organisation, the aim of AHWNI is to benefit ruminant livestock producers through providing up-to-date knowledge and through co-ordinating the control of selected endemic diseases. The new website is an important resource to help farmers understand the infection and identify practical ways that are within their gift to reduce the risk of infection in their herds.

Note for editors:

1. The new AHWNI website may be viewed at www.tbfreeeni.com.
2. In addition to co-ordinating the BVD Programme, AHWNI also manages the voluntary Johne’s Disease Programme. The organisation also co-ordinated the 2023 Sheep Scab project in conjunction with Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) and has provided training for farmers on reducing the risks of Anti-Microbial resistance.
3. For more information, please contact AHWNI (email info@animalhealthni.com, tel. 028 7963 9333).