



FARM NAME & ADDRESS: Mock Farm, Mock Lane, Truro, TR11RR

Date of assessment: 21 Dec 2009

Farm representative met: A Trotter

## Farm survey and biosecurity report form

Areas checked	Findings	Recommendations & comments
Arrival & departure– disinfectant in use	No disinfection process in place. Foot bowls were present but empty.	As a priority, reinstate the disinfection process at the entrance and consider additional footwash facilities into the main paddock. Recommend FAM 30 disinfectant is used.
Farm boundaries and fencing condition	Boundary fences were too close to the hedge and allowed nose to nose contact over it. Hedges were in poor condition and require reinstating in some areas.	Reinstate hedge on Northern boundary and install secondary fencing at least 10 feet away from the boundary hedge. Your stock currently has nose to nose contact with your neighbours stock. Potential for some electric fencing to be installed to assist in keeping wildlife out. Installing some stock proof fencing (sheep wire) will help in this area. Allowing access to natural hedges can result in your stock reaching into the fox runs that exist. Sarcoptic mange infection is a real problem if you allow that to continue.
Wildlife activity found	A single hole badger sett was found on the Northern boundary hedge, with a latrine area beside it. A clear run, emanating from the sett, direct to the feed store exists. Another, much larger latrine area was found in the top paddock, which was easily accessible to your stock. Signs of lots of rabbits and numerous foxes on the premises.	The single hole badger sett needs close monitoring, as may well contain a sick animal in it. Check your rights under the Badger Act to see what you can legally do if it is indeed sick. Suggest that electric fencing be used on the Northern boundary hedge to deny entry to the badger. Consider fencing off the latrine areas with sheep wire or electric fencing as a matter of priority.
Occupant's biosecurity awareness	Clearly not fully aware of the need for active biosecurity measures to be implemented.	I debriefed you on all of the areas that need to be addressed and I left our advice leaflet on the easiest, cheapest and most effective measures to adopt.
Housing & shed conditions	The feed store has open access holes in its side which will result in badgers, rats & mice gaining access and possibly cross contaminating your feed. Animal shelters were well maintained, but the bedding was very old and could do with regular replacement.	Repair & reinforce the side walls of the feed store as a matter of priority. Change the bedding regularly, as it will attract rats, mice and possibly retain mange mites in it if you ever suffer with that particular problem.

Water troughs	All were at ground level and easily accessible to other wildlife species.	As a matter of urgency, raise your troughs off of the ground to a height of at least 30 ins. The badger living on the Northern boundary is clearly using the trough closest to the feed store, possibly cross contaminating your water. Badger footprints were found all around the trough.
Ground feeding	Ground feeding was apparent.	Use the feed stands that already exist, as these will deter badgers from feeding on uneaten feed that your stock don't consume. Badgers saliva and urine will infect ground feed if it is left uneaten.
Other pests/rodents found	Rat & mice droppings were clearly in evidence in your feed store.	Repair the feed store walls and get a Pest control company to initiate a removal programme if you can't do your own. Some self help would also be beneficial, but beware of what poisons you use, especially with cats & dogs on the premises.
Signage	No obvious signs on display. If there were, we missed them.	Recommend that " all visitors to report to owner before entering the premises" sign be put on display to ensure unexpected visitors comply with arrival & disinfection procedures.
TB awareness generally	Wasn't aware that there was a TB problem in cattle locally, and that you were open to the disease being introduced onto your farm via the wildlife that exists on it.	Stay informed, speak to your neighbours on the matter and be vigilant at all times. Consider subscribing to your Society's News letter or Magazine to stay informed.
Stock faeces removal	There were large amounts of faeces in all of the paddocks.	A faeces removal programme is necessary to both reduce risk of infection and to improve your animal welfare conditions.
Gate condition & effectiveness	Where they exist, all were in good condition	None
Badger awareness	Not very knowledgeable on tell tale signs to watch out for. With lots of foxes on the property, it would be easy to mistake fox activity with badger.	Information given on the day and photographs & other supporting information to be sent via E mail. This will allow easy identification of badger activity as opposed to fox. You now know what a badger latrine area looks like.

Isolation paddock availability	You didn't have one in place, but there were plans to erect one if a disease outbreak occurred.	Waiting for it to happen will create problems, as you will need it immediately when disease does arrive. A paddock, well away from your grouped stock area is a matter of necessity. Ensure that you place a footwash bowl at the access to it as well. Disinfect into and out of it when you are using it for isolation purposes.
General knowledge on animal welfare and species habits	Seemed to be generally aware of the need for good animal husbandry and welfare but didn't always put it into practice.	Time needs to be taken to ensure that your stock is well cared for. Prevention is always better than cure !
Mapping availability	Farm boundary maps were not available or used for the survey. As a 50 acre holding, it is imperative that accurate maps are available to work with.	Recommend that every farm has a copy of the farm boundaries available for us to use and return to owner once wildlife activity has been plotted on it.
Documentation left with owner	A question/answer biosecurity sheet, copy of the Badger Act 1992 and a copy of our TB information sheet was left with the owner	Photos to be sent as agreed with owner.

GENERAL COMMENTS: With many valuable animals on the property, care and action needs to be taken to reduce the possibilities of introducing disease onto it. Clearly, with the amount of badger activity found, coupled with the incidences of TB in cattle locally, there is a real possibility of introducing TB into your herd. You need to address your fencing, feed store, ground feeding, trough and badger latrine areas as a matter of priority. After those areas have been addressed, you need to go through this assessment sheet to determine what actions are needed to further minimise your chances of introducing & spreading disease.

**Note:** For interest only. The Public Footpath dissecting the farm will always have potential for introducing disease accidentally, and in times of high alert, actions should be taken to eliminate all possibility of public contact with your animals by means of good signage and possible closure of the footpath if the nature of the outbreak demands it.

**CONTACTS –if we can be of service to you or you would like to find out more, please get in touch via:**

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