

GUIDE TO TB TESTING

About the TB test

- The standard test we use is called the Single Intradermal Comparative Cervical Tuberculin Test (SICCT)
- This involves injecting avian (bird) TB and injecting bovine (cattle) TB below; we then compare the two injection sites 72 hours (+/- 4 hours) later.
- Vets use an APHA chart to compare the reactions at both sites to determine whether the animal falls into one of three categories:
 - Clear: no evidence of TB
 - Inconclusive: needs to be isolated and retested in 60 days
 - Reactor: positive for being infected with TB and needs to be isolated ahead of being culled

Prepare

- If only a handful of animals are being tested, it is useful to send the tag numbers to the office so we can print the details of just the animals being tested rather than all animals on your holding
- Ensure your movement records are up to date (online and in your book) – the vet will ask to see these
- Plan how your cattle will be restrained on test day

Test day (Day 1)

- Vet will arrive with printed paperwork containing all the animals on your holding (unless tag numbers have been sent ahead of time)
- Each animal will need to be sufficiently restrained to allow the area in the photograph to be clipped, measured and injected with avian and bovine TB
- For adult cattle, a crush is often sufficient but sometimes a halter is necessary to keep cattle restrained enough to test in a safe manner
- Safety for all staff and cattle is paramount



Image provided by Dr Margaret Good. Source: <https://www.icbf.com/all-about-tb/>

Reading day (Day 2)

- The vet will need to run their hand over every animal's test site to check for lumps (reactions to the injections) so it is important to present the cattle to the vet in the same way as you did on testing day
- Any cattle with reactions at the test site need to be measured
- If any inconclusive or reactor cattle are found during the TB read you will be informed of this immediately

Places for further information

- Information on the effectiveness of the TB test
 - <https://tbhub.co.uk/tb-testing-cattle/skin-testing/tuberculin-skin-testing/>
- Locations of current TB breakdowns
 - <https://www.ibtb.co.uk/>