



**Better Returns Programme**



## Buyers checklist for breeding cattle

Buying in livestock is risky and is the most likely way of introducing a new disease onto your farm. The cost of a disease outbreak can be huge with long lasting effects. There are many potential diseases of concern as this checklist shows. The fewer red marks on the list, the lower the risk of buying in disease. Try not to rush a buying decision and involve your vet early on so they can guide you. Your vet may want to speak to the vendor's vet and arrange for some testing of the animals you want to buy. All stock bought on to the farm should be quarantined for 3 weeks on arrival to allow time for vaccinations and treatments to be completed and for health to be assessed.

### General questions

Is the source herd closed?	Yes		No
Does the source herd belong to any health accreditation scheme?	Yes	No	
How many animals are in the source herd?	<50		>300

**Johne's Disease** has a slow onset of disease, but is ultimately fatal.

Is the source herd accredited as Johne's free? (CHeCS accreditation)	Yes	No	
Has the source herd had any confirmed or suspected cases?		No	Yes
Does the source herd vaccinate against Johne's?		No	Yes

**Bovine Viral Diarrhoea** is a viral disease, causing clinical signs including infertility and abortion. Calves born to infected dams are termed Persistently Infected (PI) and will eventually die, but can spread BVD to other cattle.

Has the source herd been tested to prove it is free of BVD? (CHeCS accredited)	Yes	No	
Is the source herd vaccinated against BVD?		Yes	No
Have the cattle to be purchased had a clear test for BVD antigen?	Yes	No	
Are the animals to be purchased pregnant?	No	Yes	

**Leptospirosis** is a bacterial disease of cattle, causing reproductive failure and milk drop, and it can affect people.

Has the source herd been tested to prove it is free of Leptospirosis? (CHeCS accredited)	Yes	No	
Is the source herd vaccinated against Leptospirosis?		Yes	No

**Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis (IBR)** is a viral disease of cattle causing respiratory disease, reproductive failure and milk drop. A carrier status can be produced.

Has the source herd been tested to prove it is free of IBR? (CHeCS accredited)	Yes	No	
Is the source herd vaccinated against IBR?		Yes	No
If the source herd does vaccinate, have they always used a marker vaccine?		Yes	No

This is simple guide, remember to discuss with your vet to test and treat where a risk has been identified.

Eblex would like to acknowledge the Aberdeen Angus Cattle Society for their contribution to this checklist



<b>Parasites</b> may be harboured by purchased cattle, and may pose a risk to your herd.			
Have the animals to be purchased been vaccinated against lungworm?	Yes		No
Has any treatment been given to eliminate parasites in the last three weeks?	Yes		No
Have the animals had any boluses for longer acting anthelmintics?	Yes		No
Is there any evidence of external parasites, such as ringworm, lice?		No	Yes
Have the animals to be purchased had a clear test for liver fluke in the last year?	Yes	Not tested	No
<b>Bovine Tuberculosis</b> is a notifiable bacterial disease, which can also affect people.			
Is the source herd tested for TB more frequently than every 4 years?		No	Yes
Has the source herd had TB reactors or inconclusive results in the last 4 years?		No	Yes
Have the animals to be purchased had a clear test in the last 60 days?	Yes	Not tested	No
<b>Neospora caninum</b> is a protozoal parasite that can cause cattle to abort.			
Have the animals to be purchased has a clear test for Neospora?	Yes	Not tested	No
<b>Salmonella</b> is a disease causing scour and abortions. This disease is transmissible to humans (zoonosis).			
Have there ever been a confirmed cases in the source herd?	No		Yes
Is the source herd vaccinated?		Yes	No
<b>Campylobacter foetus venerealis</b> is a sexually transmitted disease that can cause fertility problems.			
Is natural service used in the source herd?			Yes
If the animal (s) is pregnant was service via a bull or artificial insemination (AI)?	AI	Bull	
Has the animal ever run with a bull?	No	Yes	



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