Review of *Brucella abortus* surveillance in Great Britain

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Bovine brucellosis is a zoonotic disease traditionally caused by an infection with the bacterium *Brucella abortus*. *B. abortus* is now exotic to Great Britain and is notifiable; suspicion of disease must be reported to the Competent Authority so that infection can be controlled and eradicated. GB has been Officially Brucellosis Free (OBF) since 1985. Making the assumption that GB's OBF status that underpins cattle trade within the European Union is to be retained, a review of the surveillance and control activities in GB was conducted to assess whether they were still effective, legislatively compliant, proportionate and value for money. Existing surveillance was targeted at imports from non-OBF countries and GB-resident breeding cattle. A Qualitative Risk Assessment evaluated the risk of re-introducing disease to GB and the potential for disease to spread. The risk of importation has dropped significantly since a review in 2006 as a result of a reducing disease prevalence in countries that export cattle to GB. A total of 12 recommendations were agreed and implemented. These: (1) maintain and raise the awareness of the need to report clinical suspicion; (2) target imported and post-imported cattle on the basis of risk; (3) make no changes to artificial insemination bull monitoring; (4) reduce active surveillance in the national herd by reducing the frequency of bulk milk testing; and (5) define communication routes and consistency of approach in response to abortion notifications and disease suspicion. Implementation of the recommendations was undertaken collaboratively by the governments of England, Scotland and Wales and the veterinary and industry communities in GB. This paper uses a science-based logic to implement a fit-for-purpose, risk-based approach to surveillance for *B. abortus* in GB in order to maintain OBF status.