

Bovine TB breakdown information guide

1. Compensation

What compensation am I eligible for?

Full details are available in Section 2 of the Compensation Arrangements booklet which is available at www.bovinetb.ie under the heading TB publications.

Compensation Type	What is eligible?*
On Farm Market Valuation	All reactor animals which are disclosed because of a TB test.
Income Supplement	Herds where a breakdown results in the removal of greater than 10% of the entire herd and/or herds where at least 10% of the dairy cows are removed as reactors. It is not necessary to apply for income supplement. Eligibility is determined and paid to the herdowner by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM).
Hardship Grant	Holdings restricted during the eligibility period which runs from 1 November to 30 April. Additional conditions apply and are detailed below. Herdowners must apply for the Hardship Grant.
Depopulation	Herds where the DAFM offer to depopulate or partially depopulate the herd.

*Controlled finishing units restricted under the bovine TB eradication programme (previously known as feedlots) are ineligible for compensation.

2. On Farm Market Valuation

What are the ceilings to valuation prices?

A €3,000 ceiling applies to all reactors. Exceptions include:

- One stock bull per breakdown where a ceiling of €4,000 applies
- One pedigree stock bull in the same breakdown episode where a ceiling of €5,000 applies.

Is there tax relief for the compulsory disposal of stock?

Yes. If a farmer replaces the stock within 4 years, they are eligible for compulsory disposal of stock relief.

Will I be paid the in-calf or not in-calf rate?

The determination of pregnancy is based on the result of the post mortem carried out at the factory of slaughter.

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3. Income Supplement

What is the rate of income supplement?

Herd Type	Animal	Rate per reactor animal per month
Dairy Herd	Cows in a dairy herd	€55
Suckler Herd	Cows in a suckler herd	€38.09
All Herd Types	All other animals	€25.39

How does the income supplement work?

The income supplement is paid monthly in arrears for whole months only. It starts from the date of slaughter of the animal that brings a herdowner up to the threshold for eligibility. The first whole month of eligibility commences on the date that a breakdown results in the removal of >10% of the herd as reactors. In dairy herds, where at least 10% of the dairy cows are removed as reactors, these become eligible for payment.

4. Hardship Grant

To be eligible for the Hardship grant scheme a herdowner's holding must meet certain conditions. These conditions include:

1. The holding must be restricted and remain so for a minimum of 60 days
2. There must be no off-farm income
3. A full herd retest must have been completed.

The payment period is from the 1st of November to the 30th of April. Herdowners wishing to qualify for the hardship grant scheme must apply separately on an ER97 Hardship application form. This form is available from your Regional Veterinary Office (RVO).

At what rate is the hardship grant paid?

Animal	Rate per animal retained on farm
Suckler Cow	€38
Dairy Cow	€25
All other animals	€25
Subject to a maximum of €250/month	

Is my pension considered off farm income?

The Social Welfare pension (contributory or non-contributory) is not classed as off-farm income, however private pensions are classed as off-farm income.

5. Depopulation

In a small number of cases, full or partial depopulation of a herd may be considered, where the number of animals removed as reactors exceeds a certain level. Following the

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depopulation, the holding must be maintained free of stock for a minimum 4 months. The following rates are payable for the entire 4-month period, per animal removed.

Herd/Animal type	Rate per animal per 4-month period
Dairy Herd: Cows/in-calf heifers/stock bull > 12 months of age	€220
Suckler Herd: Cows/in-calf heifers/stock bull > 12 months of age	€152.36
All Herd Types: All other animals	€76.16

6. Movements in/out

I need to buy in cattle. Can I buy in while restricted?

Depending on the disease situation in a herd, permission to move animals into a restricted herd may be granted. As part of the permission to move animals into a restricted herd, the individual farmer must put in place and implement a plan to reduce the future risk of TB in their herd. This is called a Risk Mitigation Plan. A template plan is provided by your RVO and you are required to complete the plan with advice from your private vet and then submit it to the RVO for approval. Movement of animals into a restricted herd may impact on eligibility for compensation.

What is involved in a risk mitigation plan?

These allow for movements into your herd during a TB breakdown while minimising the risk of prolonging the outbreak. The Risk Mitigation Plan will include several practical measures which the individual farmers must undertake to reduce the risk of TB in their herd.

Can I move in a replacement suckler calf, cow or breeding bull without affecting my compensation?

Yes, but both bulls and cows require a 30-day pre-movement test.

Can I still sell cattle while restricted?

Animals can continue to be sold direct for slaughter. In addition, on a case-by-case basis, DAFM may permit the sale of animals to Controlled Finishing Units restricted under the bovine TB eradication programme.

7. Contract Rearing

If my herd is restricted with TB, can I move animals back into my herd from a contract rearing set up?

Animals may be moved back into a TB restricted herd when a Risk Mitigation Plan is approved and permission is granted by your RVO.

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If my herd is restricted with TB can I move animals out to contract rearing?

Depending on the disease situation in a herd, permission to move animals into a contract rearer may be granted. The contract rearer herd will be restricted and will require a Risk Mitigation Plan and will have to undergo two clear tests.

Do movements related to contract rearing affect my compensation?

Home bred heifers moved back into a TB restricted herd from a contract rearer remain eligible for full On Farm Market Valuation. However, the number of animals eligible for income supplement will be reduced in line with the number of animals moved into the herd.

8. General

How many tests will I have to do?

Following disclosure of TB reactors on your farm, your herd will require two subsequent, consecutive, clear full herd tests. The first will commence at least 60 days from the date of removal of the last TB reactor animal, with the second test, 120 days from the removal date. You may also be required to undertake additional blood testing of animals in your herd.

Who pays for additional TB tests?

Tests, additional to your annual herd test, in the context of a disease breakdown are paid for by DAFM.

What will the Department do to identify the source of the outbreak of TB in my herd?

DAFM will carry out an investigation into the likely source of TB in your herd. The Veterinary Inspector will look at wildlife, movement of animals, the previous history of TB and possible residual infection in older animals in your herd, the sharing of machinery/equipment and the disease situation in your neighbourhood. Where wildlife is implicated the wildlife programme will be initiated.

What are the rules around removal of reactor calves/young weanlings from my farm? Do they have to be put down on the farm?

Recognising the difficulty of witnessing euthanasia on a farm, a farmer can liaise with the Regional Veterinary Office to discuss appropriate, alternative options.

I have had a persistent issue with TB for years. None of the animals removed have had lesions when removed. Why is this?

Not all reactors will be found to have lesions at slaughter. This does not mean that they are not infected with TB. Lesions are often found in animals who have been infected for a long period of time and so newly infected animals will likely not have any lesions identified.

When my herd goes TB clear when will I have to do my next TB herd level test?

Some herds will not have to complete another herd level TB test until 12 months' time. Low risk herds (i.e., herds with less than 2 infected animals over the course of the restriction, may be classed as low risk) may have to do a test in 6 months' time. However, if your herd is classified as TB high risk (i.e., herds with 2 or more TB infected animals over the course of the restriction, may be classed as high risk) you may have to undergo the TB check test

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protocol. This requires tests at 6 monthly intervals for a period of up to 20 months. The first of these tests is scheduled 3 months following derestriction, with the option to have the test carried out inside 5 months of this date. The herd will be restricted until this test is completed. The remaining 2 check tests will then take place at 6 monthly intervals.

If there is a TB Contiguous testing programme in your area, you may have to carry out TB tests more frequently.

How does a TB outbreak affect my participation in other DAFM schemes?

A TB outbreak is recognised as Force Majeure in most DAFM schemes. Requirements of the scheme that can still be completed during a TB outbreak should be completed, but requirements that are affected by removal of reactors or restriction of the herd should be identified as force majeure.

What happens if I have inconclusive (doubtful) animals at a herd test?

Where there are four or more inconclusive animals on a test, they will all be deemed reactors. On tests where there are reactors, all inconclusives will be deemed reactors and all historic inconclusives will be removed. Inconclusive animals not removed as reactors will be blood tested 7 to 30 days later and skin tested after 60 days. The herd is restricted until the animal passes these 2 tests. Thereafter the animal is blood tested every 6 months. If the animal is slaughtered before the initial blood or skin test the herd is restricted until follow up testing is done.

Biosecurity

Good biosecurity is critical to protecting your cattle from a range of infectious diseases; if you take steps to improve biosecurity on your farm, for example, ensuring a good test is carried out, you will reduce the risk of TB and also of many other diseases in your herd. Ask yourself how can TB be brought onto my farm? Through people, animals, wildlife, equipment or poor fencing? What steps have you taken to reduce this risk?