

BRUCELLOSIS – FACTSHEET

NATURE AND OCCURRENCE

- A bacterial (brucella abortus) disease of the reproductive system causing abortions to occur.
- Affects cattle and humans (undulant fever).
- Sheep, goats and pigs can be infected by a different strain of Brucella.
- Brucellosis is a notifiable disease and is OIE category B

TRANSMISSION

- From cattle to cattle via infected milk, infected afterbirth and natural service.
- Transmission to humans via unpasteurised milk

TREATMENT

- None is allowed; all infected animals and those exposed to infection are slaughtered.

CONTROL

- A regular milk-testing regime is in force.
- Imported cattle are checked.
- Abortions and premature calvings must be reported to DEFRA.
- GB is officially Brucellosis free although the disease remains a problem in other countries, including Ireland.

COMPENSATION

- From 1/2/06 a new compensation scheme was introduced that will pay the current market value for any animal slaughtered. DEFRA issue monthly lists of values for the different categories of animals.

INSURANCE

- Cover is available to top up the compensation plus an allowance for consequential loss.

Version 200612