

Herdsure® Cattle Health Improvement Service Information Sheet for Farmers



What is the Herdsure® Cattle Health Improvement Service?

The Herdsure® Cattle Health Improvement Service offers a means of assessing and improving the known health status of your dairy and beef cattle. Our aim is to reduce the cost of disease to your business and benefit the welfare of your animals.

A major benefit is that the service is very user-friendly and straightforward to implement. It is suitable for all types of cattle herds – dairy and beef, commercial and pedigree.

How does the service work?

■ Sampling, testing & management protocols

Our veterinary experts have designed protocols for each disease covered by the service.

The programmes help you and your local veterinary practitioner work together to control and reduce disease.

The diseases included in the service are bovine viral diarrhoea (BVD), Johne's disease, liver fluke, infectious bovine rhinotracheitis (IBR), leptospirosis and neosporosis.

■ Health statements

There are three levels of health status. At specific stages, we will issue a health statement confirming the health status of your herd based on test results. For a health statement to be issued, protocols must be followed completely.

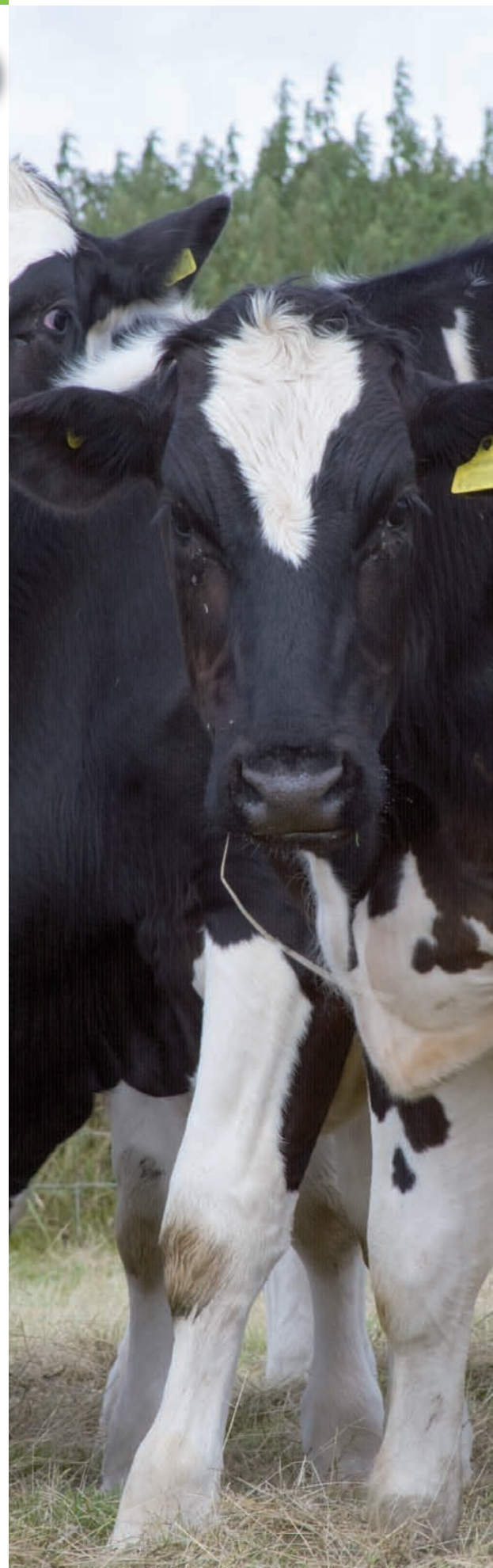
■ Biosecurity

Advice on biosecurity measures for your farm is provided with the protocols explaining the procedures and testing necessary to protect your herd against the introduction of disease from brought-in cattle.

■ Convenient sampling and testing

Where appropriate, we will provide sampling materials for you to collect bulk milk and faecal samples. These can then be returned using convenient postage-paid labels. Where appropriate, we will also issue sample submission forms pre-filled with ear tag numbers.

We have developed a new IT system, the Herdsure® Management System, for us to manage customer records and monitor each farm so you do not need to worry about recording any details. We will do all the tracking and prompt you and your veterinary practitioner when the next samples are due.



What are the three levels of health status?

- Level 1 – Establishes the health status of the herd with regard to the diseases included in the Herdsure® protocols.
- Level 2 – Aims to improve the health status of the herd with regard to the diseases included in the Herdsure® protocols.
- Level 3 – Monitors and aims to maintain the improved health status of the herd with regard to the diseases included in the Herdsure® protocols.

How do I register my farm?

Please talk to your veterinary practitioner to register your farm and be enrolled onto the service. Your veterinary practice must also be registered as a participating practice in the Herdsure® service to be able to do this.

For each participating farm, your veterinary practitioner will complete the registration forms. When we receive the completed registration form for the farm, we will provide:

- The handbook for farmers.
- Sample materials and packaging with pre-paid postage labels.
- Your veterinary practitioner will start to follow the testing protocols and work in partnership with you to progress towards improved herd health.

How much does the service cost?

There is an annual subscription charge and your veterinary practitioner will invoice you for this. This is based on the size of your herd and the number of diseases you wish to sign up for. You may enrol for the service for as little as £20 for a herd of up to 200 cattle.

You can either pay a subscription right from the start to include all diseases for which a service is offered, or ask your veterinary practitioner to add further diseases to your agreement whenever you wish.

Tests are charged for separately, at competitive rates.

ANNUAL SERVICE SUBSCRIPTION PRICES 2010/11
(per disease and size of herd, payable to VLA via the veterinary practitioner)

Disease	Herds of less than 200	Herds of more than 200
Bovine viral diarrhoea (BVD)	£20	£30
Johne's disease	£20	£30
Liver fluke	£20	£30
Infectious bovine rhinotracheitis (IBR)	£20	£30
Leptospirosis	£20	£30
Neosporosis	£20	£30

Herd size is based on the number of adult cattle (>30 months) currently registered on CTS as a general principle. Further information to confirm herd size may be requested at the time of registration.