



Media Release

12 Oct 10

Leading Cattle Health Scheme Providers Agree To Merge

CHeCS licensed cattle health scheme providers HI Health Ltd. and Biobest Laboratories Ltd. (Herdcare) have reached agreement to merge their brands and services to offer a consistent value-driven service to livestock farmers and vet practices throughout the UK and Ireland.

Biobest have provided laboratory testing services and veterinary advice to the HI Health board and membership under contract since 2005 and this agreement represents a natural progression for the two organisations delivering a range of services to the combined membership under the HI Health Herdcare brand:

- Disease testing and advice under CHeCS rules for BVD, IBR, leptospirosis and IBR
- Testing and advice for further infections such as liver fluke and Neospora
- Friendly and professional membership support
- Competitive pricing on testing and membership
- IT upgrade providing full health planning and report options for members and vets
- Available to Beef and Dairy producers

HI Health Chairman, Michael Cursiter of Laga Farms in Orkney, believes this represents the next step for the group in delivering the benefits of infectious disease control and health planning to farmers throughout the UK and Ireland. "Our teams will be working closely to establish the final structure over the next few months and I am delighted that the present farmer and independent vet led board will retain the role of monitoring HI Health Herdcare's development and performance".

The membership and administrative staff from HI Health will join Biobest in an expanded Cattle Health team which will continue to deliver easy access to health scheme and veterinary advice with rapid test turnaround. Biobest's Paul Burr commented "We are delighted to have agreed the development of the HI Health Herdcare brand which allows Karen Tait and Joyce Henry to join our team headed up by Veterinary Manager Dr Susan Duthie and Cattle Health Scheme Manager David Kay."

One of the first options added through the new structure is to provide a BVD Plus membership which will help farmers and vets in Scotland manage their involvement in the Scottish BVD initiative and those in England and Wales to take advantage of local funded projects. In both cases this will provide the first step towards accreditation.

biobest [laboratories](#)
[biobest herdcare](#)
[biobest research](#)

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The current membership of HI Health and Herdcare have been sent communication giving further details of the changes which will bring new benefits and options to them. Cattle Health scheme representatives will be available at the bulls sales at Stirling and Carlisle and the Agri-Expo in Carlisle in the coming month to handle enquiries.

Ends.

Notes for Editors

Attached Photograph L to R - Ian MacDougall, (Business Development Manager Biobest), Michael Cursiter (Chairman HI Health), Dr Susan Duthie (Veterinary Manager, Biobest), Michael Durno (Vice-Chairman HI Health),

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HI Health Ltd is a CHeCS accredited farmer led organisation established in 1999. It offers Scottish livestock farmers health planning and disease eradication and accreditation with the aim of improving the performance and profitability as well as welfare whilst ensuring a practical and a common sense approach. HI Health Ltd. were awarded the Scottish Farmer "Animal Health Provider of the Year" award in 2007.

Biobest Laboratories Ltd. is a specialist veterinary virology, serology and DNA diagnostics business founded in 1995 and based on the outskirts of Edinburgh. It provides services to farmers, veterinary practices, pharmaceutical and contract research companies. Biobest Herdcare is a CHeCS licensed cattle health scheme offered to cattle farmers throughout the UK and Ireland and grew out of the Cattle Health 2000 scheme which Biobest took over from MAFF in 1996. Dr Paul Burr MD of Biobest is currently a council member of the British Cattle Veterinary Association.

Cattle Health Certification Standards (UK), abbreviated CHeCS is a self-regulatory body for Cattle Health Schemes in the UK. It is a non-trading organisation established by the British cattle industry for the control and eradication of non-statutory diseases by a set of standards to which all licensed Cattle Health Schemes must adhere. www.checs.co.uk