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Dear Sir

I would like to update the position with Cattle Health Certification Standards (CHeCS) accredited schemes. Booth & Brownlie (2012) in their recent most informative paper on establishing a pilot bovine viral diarrhoea virus eradication scheme in Somerset quote a personal communication with me in 2007 that only 4.4% of UK farms were members of CHeCS accredited schemes. This itself was a major improvement on the figure quoted by Burr (2004) that only approximately 1% of UK herds were in a CHeCS scheme.

Since 2007 we have seen a major increase in UK cattle health schemes both on a national and regional basis. There are now eight schemes operating in the UK and two in the Republic of Ireland. Full details can be found on the CHeCS website ([www.checs.co.uk](http://www.checs.co.uk)). Currently 13500-14000 UK herds are in some form of disease monitoring, control and/or eradication under a CHeCS accredited scheme. That is around 14% of UK cattle holdings - a significant increase since 2007.

It is difficult to be precise on the dairy:beef split but it is likely to be around 40:60. Burr (2004) reported that membership was very heavily orientated to Scotland and pedigree beef herds. It is pleasing to note that many farmers encouraged by their vets throughout the UK are now following the Scottish example.

The majority of producers will be screening for BVD and Johne's disease fewer for IBR and Leptospirosis.

Yours sincerely

Tim Brigstocke  
**Executive Director**

**References:**

Booth, R.J. & Brownlie, J. (2012). Establishing a pilot bovine viral diarrhoea virus eradication scheme in Somerset. *Veterinary Record* doi: 10.1136/vr.100191 170: 73-76.

Burr, P. (2004). Health Schemes: Are they only for the minority? *Cattle Practice* 12(4): 255-257