

Bovine TB open meeting

AN open meeting on bovine TB is to be held at Thirsk auction mart.

Badger culling trials recently began in the south-west of England where badgers are a proven cause of TB in cattle.

However, in the North of England, the major risk is from purchased cattle bringing the disease into the region.

There are increasing moves to set up regional health status, with the North-East and Yorkshire/Humber potentially being part of a higher health region with close trading links to Scotland.

Organised by Bishopton Veterinary Group and the Ripon Dairy Discussion Group, the meeting will give an update on regional controls.

Devon vet Neil Blake, the British Cattle Veterinary Association's lead on TB, will also discuss how farmers cope with TB in their working lives.

Nationally, the incidence of cattle TB has increased significantly in recent years – 37,753 cattle were compulsorily slaughtered as reactors or direct contacts in 2012, compared to 34,247 in 2011.

The meeting on Wednesday, October 2, starts at 7.30pm.

Anyone wishing to attend should contact Bishopton Veterinary Group on 01765-602396 to reserve a place.