

## FARM SERVICES – GENERAL GUIDANCE

The Farm Services Section is responsible for maintaining animal records including registrations, movements (including deaths) and animal health testing.

1. There is a ban on the importation of cattle to Guernsey, Alderney, Sark and Herm (with the exception of inter-island movements between these islands). Therefore the only cattle in the Islands are pure bred Guernsey or Guernsey cross bred by Artificial Insemination. The Department operates an Artificial Insemination Service for Guernsey and Beef Semen (fees apply) but legislation specifies a number of conditions (as detailed below) that are applied to ensure that only pure bred Guernsey cattle are allowed to breed within the islands.
2. Cross bred males must be castrated by 6 months of age and females slaughtered by 24 months of age.
3. At the present time cattle can only be slaughtered for human consumption up to the age of 30 months, due to BSE precautions. (Incineration and slaughterman costs apply). Female pure bred animals slaughtered after this age must be incinerated and, when they are culled cattle from a dairy herd, are currently eligible for a cull cattle compensation of £150 unless they are in such a poor condition that in any other circumstances they would have been declared unfit for human consumption. **For the sake of clarity, neither pure bred Guernsey cattle that have been kept for beef production, nor cross-bred animals, qualify for cull cattle compensation.**
4. The Animal Health Ordinance (1996) requires all bovine animals to be tagged (registered) within 21 days of birth or before being moved from premises of birth. If any animal loses one or more ear tags, please contact Farm Services to order replacement tags (charges exist for the registration and tagging of animals). Animals that are not appropriately tagged and recorded cannot be accepted for slaughter at the States Slaughterhouse.
5. Any animals that are sold or otherwise transferred from one owner to another must be identified with two ear tags before leaving the farm of origin.
6. Under the Animal Health Ordinance (1996), the Department undertakes mandatory animal health testing on all bovine animals within Guernsey, Alderney, Herm and Sark in line with EU directives and to maintain its disease free status. The testing procedures are necessary to obtain officially recognised freedom from Tuberculosis (TB), Brucellosis and Enzootic Bovine Leucosis. In addition the Department also includes tests for Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis (IBR), Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) and Leptospira hardjo. The Department follows the testing protocols laid down by the Central Veterinary Laboratory (CVL).

The current testing protocol for TB requires one quarter of the Islands' herd **over 6 weeks of age** to be tested each year; this is done on a herd by herd basis. All cattle are included within the scheme and will be tested every 4 years.

7. Currently most herds in Guernsey are vaccinated against Johnes Disease and Blue Tongue, but this is a matter for individual farmers.