



westpoint veterinary group

Beef Buyer's Checklist

Buying in cattle always comes with the risk of introducing disease into your herd. By asking the right questions, farmers can learn more about the risks associated with buying in a specific group of animals. The buyer can then take appropriate measures, which may include pre-purchase testing, treatment or vaccination, and isolation. The table below gives an idea of the sort of questions a buyer should ask, and an indication of the risk associated with the answer.

If you are in any doubt, please discuss the matter with your veterinary surgeon.

General questions						
Does the source herd belong to a CHeCS accredited health scheme?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Has the source herd brought any cattle (incl. bulls) into the herd in the last six months?	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Bovine Tuberculosis is a notifiable bacterial disease, which can also affect people.						
Is the source herd tested for TB more frequently than every 4 years?		No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Has the source herd had TB reactors or Inconclusive results in the last 4 years?		No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Have the animals to be purchased had a clear TB test in the last 60 days?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not tested	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Johne's Disease has a slow onset of disease, but is ultimately fatal.						
Is the source herd accredited as Johne's free? (e.g. CHeCS accreditation)	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Has the source herd had any confirmed or suspected cases?		No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Bovine Viral Diarrhoea is a viral disease, causing clinical signs including infertility and abortion. Calves born to infected dams are termed Persistently Infected (PI) and will eventually die, but can spread BVD to other cattle.						
Has the source herd been tested to prove it is free of BVD? (e.g. CHeCS accredited)	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Is the source herd vaccinated against BVD?		Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Have the cattle to be purchased had a clear test for BVD antigen?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Are the animals to be purchased pregnant?	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Leptospirosis is a bacterial disease of cattle, causing reproductive failure and milk drop. It can also affect people.						
Has the source herd been tested to prove it is free of Leptospira? (e.g. CHeCS accredited)	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Is the source herd vaccinated against Leptospirosis?		Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis (IBR) is a viral disease of cattle causing respiratory disease, reproductive failure and milk drop. A carrier status can be produced. Vaccinated cattle can act as carriers of IBR.						
Has the source herd been tested to prove it is free of IBR? (e.g. CHeCS accredited)	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Is the source herd vaccinated against IBR?		Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Parasites may be harboured by purchased cattle, and may pose a risk to your herd.						
Does the source herd have an active programme for controlling parasites (e.g. routine worming or Faecal Egg Counting)?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>		No	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Has a parasite treatment been given (eg for gutworm or lungworm) in the last three weeks?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>		No	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Is there any evidence of external parasites, such as ringworm, lice etc?		No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Have the animals to be purchased had a clear test for liver fluke in the last six months?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not tested	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Green - These animals are less likely to pose a significant disease risk	<input type="checkbox"/> Amber - These animals may pose a disease risk to your herd	<input type="checkbox"/> Red - These animals may pose a significant disease risk to your herd				