



BAS Weekly Newsletter
Timely Advice & Current News



CEO Notes

Bovine TB - Rollout of PCR test

Suri EBVS

March Husbandry

Scottish Championship - Fibre Zone

Event Diary

Show Diary



CEO NOTES

PCR Test for bTB

Defra have introduced the PCR test for bTB in certain circumstances. See below for full details. This should improve speed and accuracy reducing the time herds are shut down if they test clear.

BAS Board Blog

This week Sue Loach resolves to be more welcoming to "newbies" <https://www.bas-uk.com/alpacapedia/the-bas-board-blog/>

Dinner at the National

You can book your place via the registry now. It is informal this year with live music and a casino. Come and join the fun. We have 100 places booked but room for another 100 so please do come along. If you don't want to eat you can join after the dinner for the drinks and entertainment.

Stud Auction

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of the stud auction. The generosity of those who donated stud services was matched by the enthusiasm of bidders. Well done everyone.

Scottish Championship

The organisers have brought the closing day forward to next Monday. **Entries Close: 7th March 2022.**

You can email about this or anything else using ceo@bas-uk.com

Duncan Pullar

BAS CEO 07496 578781



Bovine TB - roll out of PCR test

a message from Defra

Bovine TB – roll out of the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test

Accurate diagnostic and confirmatory testing is the cornerstone of any disease eradication programme. The current “gold standard” method for bTB testing from tissue samples (for bovine and non-bovine farmed animals) remains traditional microbiological culture. However, although well established, it takes between 6 and 22 weeks to obtain a final result, from that process.

That’s why we’re really pleased to tell you that from 30 March APHA will be using a PCR test in prescribed scenarios (detailed below). The recently validated PCR test can detect the bacterium that causes bTB directly from tissue samples collected at post-mortem inspection. Its major advantage – compared to culture - is that it will typically take within three weeks to get a test result.

FAQs

What is a PCR test?

Each *M. bovis* bacterium contains unique DNA which carries the genetic instructions for its development, function, growth and reproduction. PCR is a molecular-based laboratory technique which identifies tiny amounts of DNA present within *M. bovis* bacteria and amplifies it (by making millions of copies of a specific sequence of the target DNA) to produce a quantity

which is then detectable.

How will the new test be used by APHA?

From 30 March the PCR test will be used (as 'business as usual') in Great Britain for tissue samples from carcasses of:

- TB slaughterhouse cases in cattle and non-bovines i.e. animals routinely sent for private slaughter with suspicious lesions of TB identified;
- Non-bovine animals such as camelids, goats, pigs, sheep and farmed deer that are removed as TB test reactors, direct contacts or clinical TB suspects. And cases where suspicious TB lesions are identified on diagnostic post-mortem examination in a veterinary laboratory; and
- Domestic pets (cats and dogs) and exotic species of animals (e.g. in zoological collections) submitted to APHA for laboratory investigation.

How does the accuracy of the PCR test compare with microbiological culture?

In the test validation study, the *M. bovis* PCR test produced equivalent results to the traditional microbiological culture method.

How will the PCR test improve the management of TB incidents?

When a bovine slaughterhouse case is identified, the herd of origin's officially TB free status is suspended pending the final test results from the laboratory. Animals can only move on or off the affected holding under a licence issued by APHA. Currently, tissue samples taken from the carcass are submitted for microbiological culture - that process can take up to 22 weeks to complete and during that time the herd remains under movement restrictions.

Rather than relying on culture results PCR testing will be used. The process will be much quicker – with test results typically available within

three weeks. If the test results are negative restrictions on the herd will be lifted thus limiting the negative impact of movement restrictions. In most cases it will also eliminate the need for a check test – currently herd check tests (using the skin test) may be carried out pending the receipt of culture results.

The new PCR test will also allow rapid detection of *M. bovis* in tissue samples from carcasses of non-bovine animals, to confirm or negate infection in TB test positive animals, suspected cases of TB identified at post-mortem examination in the laboratory, or during routine post-mortem meat inspection in the slaughterhouse.

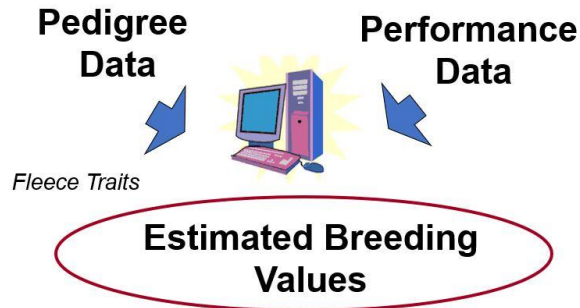
Are there any limitations of the *M. bovis* PCR test?

An important limitation of the test is that it is not possible to apply whole genome sequencing (WGS) directly on the *M. bovis* target DNA sequence that is amplified through PCR testing (i.e. the PCR product). WGS is only possible with DNA obtained from a pure microbial culture. This means that APHA will not be able to rely exclusively on the PCR test for case management and epidemiological analyses of TB breakdowns. Therefore, even when a PCR test yields a positive result, to allow full analyses of the breakdown and identify the probable source of infection, subsequent culture will still need to be carried out to allow WGS to be performed. Not all of the PCR positive samples from a given breakdown will be subject to WGS and it will not interfere with or delay APHA's decisions to manage the TB breakdown.

For a small proportion of samples, PCR may not provide a valid test result. In these cases, culture will need to be carried out to obtain a final result (and in the case of non-bovine samples, additionally WGS).

Further information about the *M. bovis* PCR test is available on the [TB hub website](#).

Measuring **Breeding Potential**



Suri EBVS

The EBV project has delivered an analysis this year based on historic data and new information from the 2021 shearing season. If you want to join in the EBV project please contact Duncan. Some headline findings are:

A combined breed (Suri and Huacaya) genetic analysis was carried out on seven fleece traits. The dataset included 6,540 records from 3,614 animals. There were 1,239 records from 683 animals registered as Suri. The descriptive statistics for the Suri breed are given.

Descriptive statistics for fleece traits of the Suri breed

Trait / description	Minimum	Maximum	Mean
Fibre diameter (FD)	15.1	40.6	24.2
Standard deviation of Fibre Diameter (SDFD)	3.2	10.4	5.3
Comfort factor (CF)	7.7	100	84.5
Spin fineness (SF)	14.7	39.7	24.0
Staple length (SL)	5	170	131.1
CRV Dg/mm (FC)	7.7	42.3	14.8
Fleece weight (FW)	0.4	5.8	2.0

The genetic analysis took account of factors such as breed, sex of the animal, fleece colour, age of animal, breed, birth year, herd and year at shearing.

An animal's breeding value is its genetic merit, half of which will be passed on to its progeny. EBV's are expressed in the units of measurement for each particular trait. The absolute value of an EBV is not critical, but rather the differences in EBV's between animals. They are given as + ive or - ive differences between an animal's genetics and the mean EBV of the population the animal is compared. The mean EBV is expected to be close to zero and animals are viewed as being average, above, or below average for a particular trait. The genetic analyses enabled estimated breeding value (EBV) solutions to be estimated on 3,614 animals with data but in addition those animals that were in the pedigree file, consisting of sires and dams, which in total was 8,232 animals. The estimated breeding value is calculated from using information provided on the animal itself and its relatives. An animal may still have an EBV calculated without having a record itself as information is analysed from it's relatives as well as records it may have on other traits

Descriptive statistics for EBVs from animals with records of the Suri Breed

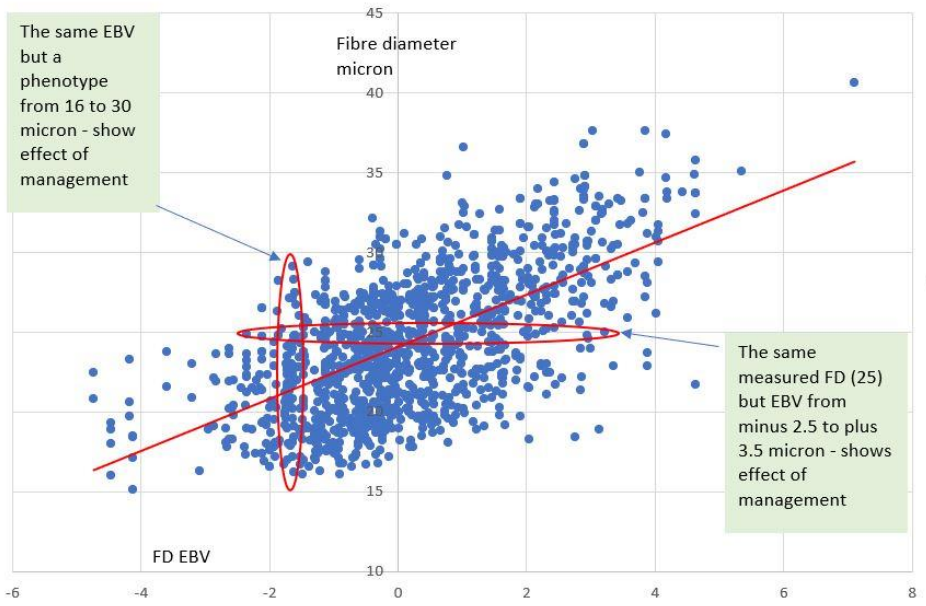
Trait / description	Minimum	Maximum	Mean
Fibre diameter (FD)	-4.73	7.11	0.17
Standard deviation of Fibre Diameter (SDFD)	-1.05	1.71	0.05
Comfort factor (CF)	-28.08	13.9	-0.95
Spin fineness (SF)	-4.51	7.22	0.19
CRV Dg/mm (FC)	-5.7	10.48	0.00
Staple length (SL)	-24.56	28.53	3.37
Fleece weight (FW)	-0.65	0.75	0.07

The population can be viewed in percentile groups

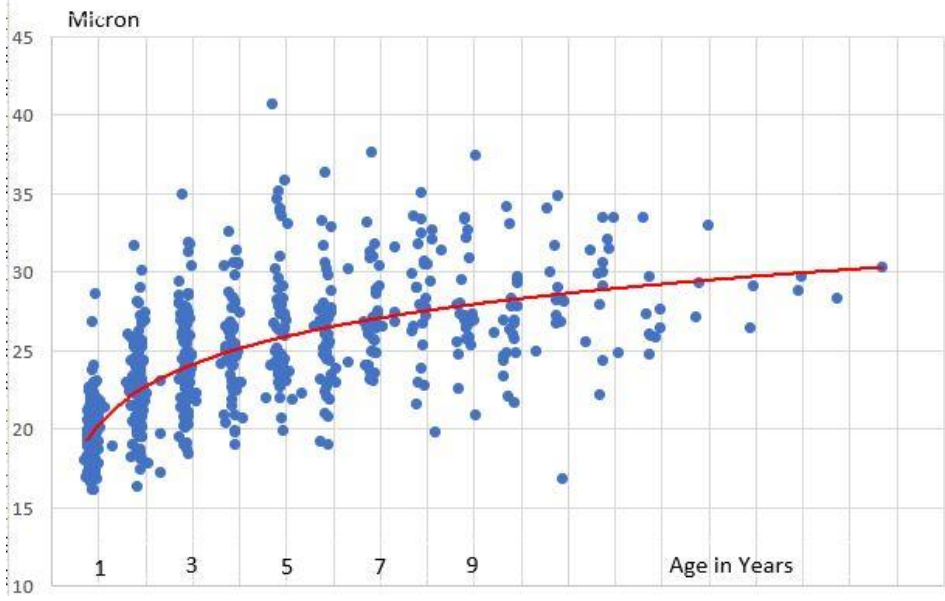
	FD	SDFD	CF	SF	FC	SL	FW
Top 1%	-4.73	-1.05	10.2	-4.51	5.46	22.04	0.54
Top 10%	-2.95	-0.71	5.04	-2.97	2.24	13.95	0.33
Top 25%	-1.63	-0.41	2.85	-1.61	1.14	8.66	0.2
Average	-0.84	-0.2	-4.13	-0.84	-1.36	-2.08	-0.06
Bottom 25%	1.17	0.28	-8.76	1.09	-2.46	-6.94	-0.19
Bottom 10%	2.32	0.6	-17.73	2.35	-4.45	-18.7	-0.43
Bottom 1%	4.19	1.31	-28.08	4.46	-5.7	-24.56	-0.65

SURI FD EBV vs FD measurement

$$y = 1.6313x + 24.083$$



Suri





March Husbandry

- Prepare a birthing kit including plasma or colostrum, stomach tube, towels, bubble wrap or cria coats, disinfectant, scales, lambing tapes, lubricant gloves, glucose, alpaca teats and bottle. (Remember the preparing for birthing YouTube is available via the members area [Webinar Details and YouTube Links – The British Alpaca Society \(bas-uk.com\)](#))
- Weigh new born cria, record the birth, weight and other details.
- Cria need to be vaccinated against clostridial disease – talk to your vet.
- Wean and insert microchips in cria who are now 6 months old and get them logged onto the registry via ‘Manage your Herd’ in the on line herd book or by asking the registry office to send you a paper application form . registry@bas-uk.com
- If you are expecting births collect plasma by taking blood from geldings for processing. Work with your friends and neighbours to reduce the cost by having a “plasma day” with your local vet. You cannot buy or sell plasma so get organised!.
- Order microchips and ear tags for this year’s cria.
- Order fly deterrent if you use it.
- Feed hay ad lib, feed nursing dams extra protein.
- Body score, check for jaw abscesses and look for evidence of mites.
- Drench or vaccinate against liver fluke/lungworm if appropriate.

Name/Herd Name –

Address –

Total number of entries –

Total Entry Fees Paid (£3 per entry) –

Please note: Entries with entry forms should be sent by tracked post/courier (not Hermes, as they are not reliable in this area) to: P. Robson, Westyett Farm, Westshield Road, Lanark ML11 8NT.

To arrive no later than 14th April.

Entry fees can be paid either by BACS to Scottish Alpaca Group at Bank of Scotland, Sort Code 80-12-48, Account No. 06001447 (please include your herd's name as a reference) or by cheque payable to Scottish Alpaca Group.

If you are not attending the show, please let us know if you need your items returned by post/courier. The cost will be invoiced.

2022 Event Diary



If you need information about any of the events listed below then please email Duncan using ceo@bas-uk.com

Friday	11-Mar	Affiliate Course - Hertfordshire
Saturday	16-Apr	Affiliate Course- Cornwall
Sunday	17-Apr	Affiliate Course- Cornwall
Friday	22-Apr	Affiliate Course- Cornwall
Saturday	23-Apr	Affiliate Course- Cornwall
Sunday	24 -Apr	Affiliate Course - Devon
Saturday	11 June	Affiliate Course - Devon
Sunday	12 June	Affiliate Course - Devon

If you would like your BAS, Educational or Regional group **event** included in this section (not shows) please send details to Duncan.

2022 Show Diary



Make a note in your diary!

(New information in red)

Breeders considering entering more than one fleece show may need the organisers of one show to forward the fleece(s) to the next show the fleeces are entered for. Please could entries to multiple fleece shows advise the organisers of the plan to ensure they know those entries need to be despatched asap to the next show. Please ensure that all the necessary entry forms are included in the box separately from the forms for the first shows.

National Show

Date: 25th, 26th and 27th March 2022

Judges: Mrs Mary-Jo Smith and Mr Tim Hey

Venue: Telford International Centre

Organiser: Duncan Pullar 07496 578781, ceo@bas-uk.com

NWAG Halter Show NOW FULL

Date: Saturday 2nd April 2022

Judge: Mary-Jo Smith

Venue: Borderway Mart, Carlisle.

Named entries for those carried over from 2021 open 14-18th February

HoEAG Spring Alpaca Fiesta 2022

Show Dates: Friday 8th, Saturday 9th & Sunday 10th April 2022

Judge: Barbara Hetherington

To be held at Bury Farm Equestrian Centre

EXHIBITOR REMINDER

Selection of your alpacas for the numbers previously booked, must be completed by midnight on **Sunday, 27th February.**

Scottish Alpaca Championship

Dates; 23rd and 24th April 2022

Judge: Barbara Hetherington

Venue: Lanark Auction Market

Entries open: 18th February 2022

Entries Close: 7th March 2022

Entry fee: £22 inc VAT

Organiser Stuart Ramsay

South of England Spring Live Alpaca Halter Show.

Dates: Saturday 23rd April & Sunday 24th April 2022

Judge: Jay Holland

Venue: South of England Showground, Ardingly RH17 6TH

Entries open: Wednesday 16th of February

Entries close: **Sunday 13th March** or when the maximum number of entries is reached.

Organisers: Tony & Hilary Monkcom hilary@pinnaclealpacas.com

North Somerset Show

Date: 2nd May,

Entries Open: 1st April

Entries Close: 16th April,

max 140 places, £25 inc Vat entry fee,

Organisers: Garry Naish 07785 116211, Judith Newman 07901 683802

Northumberland Championship

Show date: Friday June 3rd

Judge: Tim Hey

Entry Fee: £25 + VAT

Entries open: 9am Thursday 3rd March for the remaining places by email

Available places for this show are severely limited

Please submit your entry via email to rachel.vaclik@gmail.com in the first instance with your requirements. We just need to know the number of places you would like, and an indication of male/female split to help us plan our very limited pen space.

Places will be awarded on a first come first served basis from 9am Thursday 3rd March and will be confirmed as soon as possible after receipt of your email.

CCA Cornwall Fleece Show 2022

Date: 9th July 2022

Judge: Barbara Hetherington

Venue: Carn Tremayne Farm, Praze, Cornwall TR14 9PG.

EAG Fleece Show

Dates: 19th/20th/21st August

Westmorland Show 2022

Date: Wednesday 7th September 2022

Judge: Shirley Bettinson

Venue: Lane Farm, Crooklands, Kendal, Cumbria, LA7 7NH

Organisers: Steven / Tracey Ellershaw - lythebrowalpacas@yahoo.com / 07710957107

SWAG Halter & Fleece Show

Dates: 17th & 18th September 2022

Venue: The Somerset County Show 1@ Taunton Racecourse

Yorkshire Alpaca Group Halter Show

Dates: 5th & 16th October

Venue: York Auction Mart.

EAG Halter Show

Dates: 8th/9th/10th October



Facebook



Website



Email

© 2021 British Alpaca Society, All rights reserved.

Any pictures used are kindly provided by the members and no bias is inferred by their use.