

CATTLE INFORMATION

1. **Ear-Tag Identification** - any cattle with ear tags which the Meat & Hygiene Service (MHS.) reject due to their illegibility at slaughtering will NOT be paid for by us. **ALL** cattle born after 1st January 1998 must be ***double tagged***, and producers must ensure that their cattle have the correct number of ear tags which are clean and easy to read PRIOR to arriving at the market. Most importantly, they must **correspond with their individual passports – this is solely the responsibility of the vendor**. Any cattle missing ear tags cannot be accepted for sale, and will be licensed to go home by Trading Standards.
2. **Temperament** - any cattle known by a producer to be of bad temperament/wild should be sold direct off the farm (which the auctioneer will organise) and NOT sent to the market. This onus is entirely on the producer for the health and safety of all market users, and any stock showing such signs upon arrival will be re-loaded immediately so to minimise risks of danger.
3. **TB. Testing** - as of the 1st March 2007, all cattle over 42 days (six weeks) of age from herds on annual or bi-annual TB Tests (i.e. in 1 or 2 yearly testing parishes) must be tested negative within 60 days prior to movement UNLESS they move to The Exempt Section of a dedicated slaughter market. These changes, however, do NOT affect stock from 3 and 4 yearly tested holdings. Moreover, there are premiums available for Over Thirty Month old cattle (OTMs) which have been tested. **Confirm your status with a member of staff before unloading.**
4. **Older Cattle Disposal Scheme (OCDS)** - (for cattle born BEFORE 1st August 1996). Those entered into the Scheme in 2008 will receive a flat rate payment of 292 euros (meaning returns to UK. farmers may vary depending upon the strength of the £ sterling).

2008 is the last year of the OCDS Scheme, with the **30th September 2008** being the cut-off date to book-in pre1996 born cattle to the RPA, (nominating ear tag identifications at the same time). After this date, these cattle effectively become worthless and will cost money to dispose of. Owners of such cattle are therefore strongly advised to organise themselves now and not leave it to the last minute when RPA. weekly quotas maybe full. Cattle must be both fit to travel and for human consumption, and be accompanied by the exactly matching paperwork.

5. **Entry Forms** - it is a legal requirement to transport cattle with their passports and a fully completed entry form, the latter being available from the market office.

A) TB. Testing - full details and dates must be included on the Entry Form, which must be given to a member of the selling team upon arrival at the market.

B) Named Sires - clearly write the FULL name of the registered pedigree Hereford or Aberdeen Angus bull(s) that your stock are sired by so to attract available premiums.

6. **Meat and Hygiene Service (MHS)** - heavy penalties will be imposed by the MHS upon vendor producers of **both** cattle and sheep that are sold with dirty flanks and/or under-bellies which prove to be a threat to cleanliness and contamination. (Finished cattle show themselves better anyway with both their tails and backs lightly trimmed).

7. **Farm Assurance** - Farm Assured livestock attract the widest possible group of potential purchasers. Please affix a **current** Assurance sticker to your entry form for all categories of livestock, and be fully aware when your membership lapses. (Contact, for example, FABBL on [Tel: 01908.231642](tel:01908.231642) for more details). It is critical, particularly with over 24 month old store cattle because these need 90 days residency - note that some schemes require longer - in order to become Assured, whilst the current dairy Assurance schemes do not cover beef nor cull cows. Please clarify your own membership details.

8. **Conditions of Sale** - displayed in the market office for your benefit and taken as read.