

Quarantine Units - Milestone Review Recommendations

Welsh Government conducted a milestone review following the introduction of Quarantine Units (QUs) in 2017.

As part of the review, Welsh Government sought industry feedback on the operational rules and requirements through a stakeholder event. This involved show societies and farming unions held at RWAS on 20 November 2018.

WG also raised the operational rules of the scheme at a Livestock Identification Advisory Group (LIDAG) meeting in October 2018. It then collected animal movement data from Welsh farms to regional shows in the years preceding and following the introduction of QUs.

The responses received from the farming industry and show secretaries were collated and a list of recommendations compiled. These recommendations were approved by the Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs in December 2018.

The aim of the following recommendations is to make it easier for farmers to get and maintain a QU.

1. Improved communications between the Welsh Government and stakeholders through events and simplified guidance.
2. QU guidance in relation to TB to be revisited and where appropriate clarified.
3. Explore the possibility of amending the 24 hour reporting rule to allow farmers to report the activation of a QU within 24 hours, whilst the individual animal movements are completed within three days.
4. Explore the possibility of developing a grant scheme for QU certification. This will help farmers meet the initial cost of certification;
5. Explore group farm certification and renewal inspections by the certification body.
6. Assess whether the certification body can combine QU visits with other visits to further reduce costs.
7. Allow greater discretion for QU inspectors when considering compliance with requirements. (eg. the use of natural barriers around QUs).

8. Ask the certification body to streamline the renewal inspection process for QUs; and

9. Continue collecting animal movement data about animal movements from Welsh holdings to agricultural shows.