

The New Year brings new rules on the disposal of carcasses and the testing of older animals for BSE. Most of you will have received the various Defra and Nfsco mailings.

There are also implications for the livestock markets where for the last few years over-30-month beef has been sold with the barren cows. The split now will be between 'Clean Beef' even if it is over 30 months and animals which have had a calf which will be 'Barrens'. Cull bulls will become 'Barrens' at 48 months.

At the same time there is no free collection of dead cows even though animals over 42 months will have the brain stem tested for BSE. Thus if you have a dead or cull cow phone the knackers yard direct and not through the TSE helpline. The approximate prices in our area are:-

Bradshaw (Newport area)	01948 663621	£80
Brassington	01538 300243	£70
Strain (formerly Parkers)	01889 574892	£65
Redfern	01298 24114	£63

I am told the prices can be negotiated to a certain extent!

The rules for casualty animals are still the same, they can either walk onto a lorry bearing weight on all four legs or they can be killed on the farm if they have suffered an **acute and recent injury**. Please do not ask us for certificates for "limpy lills" as they cannot be given.

I would suggest that you present lame cases to us before they are hopeless cases. It might mean that we can amputate a claw if the infection has not gone too far up the leg. We have also had great success with the new technique of hemiamputation in which we just remove the front of the toe if that is infected. With both techniques the animals can have a useful lactation and should be able to walk up the back board but I cannot emphasise enough they need to be carried out early.

Whoops and couple of senior moments in last months letter! The dose of Nuflor Minidose is **2ml/22.5kg** (sorry BL if I gave you a heart attack). I also meant to say we have huge faith in the collar heat detectors even though we do **NOT** sell them. We can recommend James Butter if you want to discuss prices and installation (07811 239265).

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