

G.O. Reference No. 20441/16.

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## Cattle Diseases Prevention Act, 1929.

# TUBERCULOSIS IN CATTLE.

## NOTICE TO FARMERS.

The attention of farmers is called to the fact that meat and milk containing bovine tubercle bacilli can cause tuberculosis in human beings, and for that reason it has been found necessary to take action in regard to cattle suffering from tuberculosis.

One of the principal causes of bovine infection is insanitary, unventilated and overcrowded premises for housing cattle, and farmers are urged to pay particular attention to this fact. The services of the Inspectors of the Local Government Board are always readily available for advice in this connection. Facilities are afforded by the Agricultural Credits Act for granting money at a low rate of interest for improving farm buildings.

In the interests of public health, it has been considered advisable to require farmers to notify tuberculosis in cattle and compulsorily to slaughter all cattle found affected with this disease.

### NOTIFICATION OF DISEASE IN CATTLE.

Under the Tuberculosis Order, 1929, and the Tuberculosis (Amendment) Order, 1931, a farmer having in his possession or under his charge,

- (1) any cow which is, or appears to be, suffering from tuberculosis of the udder, indurated udder or other chronic disease of the udder; or
- (2) any bovine animal which is, or appears to be, suffering from tuberculous emaciation; or
- (3) any bovine animal which is suffering from a chronic cough and showing definite clinical signs of tuberculosis,

is required to give immediate notification in writing of the fact to an Inspector under the Cattle Diseases Prevention Act or to the nearest Police Station. Supplies of printed notification forms are kept at all Police Stations, and at the office of the Chief Inspector under the Cattle Diseases Prevention Act, Murray House, Douglas. The object of notification is not to render the farmer liable to prosecution but to enable arrangements to be made to have the animal properly examined by a Veterinary Surgeon at no expense to the farmer. In addition to giving notification, the farmer is required to isolate the affected animal from all other animals and not to move the affected animal from his premises.

### EXAMINATION OF ANIMALS.

When notification of disease in a bovine animal has been made by a farmer and the Chief Inspector under the Cattle Diseases Prevention Act reports that he suspects the animal to be affected with tuberculosis, the Government Secretary arranges for a Veterinary Surgeon to examine the animal.

## SLAUGHTER OF DISEASED ANIMALS.

If the report of the Veterinary Surgeon shows that the animal is suffering from tuberculosis, notice in writing is given to the owner of the animal that it is intended to slaughter the animal. Before the slaughter is carried out, the owner can object in writing to the Government Secretary to the animal being slaughtered, and, in such a case, it is not lawful to slaughter the animal without the special authority of the Lieutenant Governor.

## VALUATION FOR COMPENSATION.

The market value of an animal before slaughter is determined by agreement between a person authorised by the Government Secretary and the owner of the animal. The Veterinary Surgeon usually acts on behalf of the Government Secretary in valuing animals, but should an owner of an animal take exception to the Veterinary Surgeon taking part in the valuation, it is open to him to communicate with the Government Secretary in the matter.

For the purposes of the Orders, the market value of an animal is the price which might reasonably have been obtained from a purchaser in the open market who had no knowledge of the existence of disease in the animal except knowledge that could have been obtained by an examination of the animal.

## POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION OF SLAUGHTERED ANIMALS.

In the case of every animal slaughtered under the Orders, arrangements are made for the carcase to be examined at the time of slaughter or as soon as possible thereafter by the Veterinary Surgeon. The owner of the animal is entitled to be present at the examination or he may arrange to be represented by a private Veterinary Surgeon or other person.

## COMPENSATION.

As a result of the post-mortem examination, the Veterinary Surgeon reports

- (1) whether the animal is free from tuberculosis;
- (2) whether the animal is affected with tuberculosis not in an advanced stage; or
- (3) whether the animal is affected with advanced tuberculosis.

If the animal is free from tuberculosis, the owner receives by way of compensation the full market value of the animal and a further sum of twenty shillings.

If the animal is affected with tuberculosis not in an advanced stage, the owner receives by way of compensation three-fourths of the market value of the animal or the sum of fifty-five shillings, whichever sum is the greater.

If the animal is affected with advanced tuberculosis, the owner receives by way of compensation one-fourth of the market value of the animal or the sum of fifty-five shillings, whichever sum is the greater.

## GENERAL.

In view of the foregoing information, farmers will observe that it is in their own interests, from the standpoint of compensation, to report **immediately** any symptoms of disease in their cattle, and they are reminded that compensation may be refused in cases where it is apparent that there has been neglect on the part of the owner to report the existence of disease. A farmer who fails to report a case of disease in his cattle is liable to prosecution and to a penalty of £20.

By Order,

B. E. SARGEAUNT,

Government Secretary.

Government Office,

Isle of Man,

2nd April, 1931.