

## **TEMPORARY REALLOCATION OF QUOTA (TRQ) DUE TO HERD MOVEMENT RESTRICTIONS – OVERVIEW OF THE SCHEME**

Under the Animal Health Act 1981, the Diseases of Animals (Northern Ireland) Order 1981 and the Food and Environment Protection Act 1985, a formal notice may be served to prohibit the movement of livestock from a producer's holding.

If you have received a notice restricting herd movement you:

- Can continue to deliver milk and market milk products,
- May only move livestock off the farm if the animals are going directly to slaughter, and
- Must not move or sell on any livestock, except as specified above, including heifers in-calf.

As a result of these restrictions, affected producers may exceed their quota. In these circumstances, a producer can apply for a priority treatment when unused quota is being reallocated at the end of the year.

The TRQ Scheme application form, which can be requested from the Milk Quotas Helpline, comes with explanatory notes and must be returned to the RPA in Exeter by Monday 30 April 2012

Due to the complexities of the levy calculation, the eligibility for and allocation of quota cannot be confirmed before July 2012. We therefore strongly advise producers to do everything they can during the quota year to cover their over-production.

You will not qualify for an allocation:

- if you leased out quota between the start of the movement restriction and the end of the quota year;
- you transferred out unused quota between the start of the movement restriction and the end of the quota year;
- you bought cows or in-calf heifers between the start of the movement restriction and the end of the quota year, unless you can provide satisfactory evidence that you already had a contract to do so prior to your herd being placed under restriction,

- if your herd movement restriction was applied due to an overdue test, unless you can provide evidence that extenuating circumstances for the delay was beyond your control

You must also prove that:

- you have exceeded your quota, and
- you have retained first calving heifers in excess of 20% of the number of animals in your herd on the first day of the movement restriction.

Eligible animals are those that meet the following requirements:

- first calving heifers
- in excess of the 20% replacement rate which
- calve for the first time during the restriction period, and
- within the 2011/12 quota year.

The maximum daily allowance for the period of the restriction is 16 litres per eligible animal.

**There is no guarantee that your excess production will be covered.** You are therefore advised to consider acquiring extra quota to avoid the possibility of paying levy at the end of the quota year.

***Please now read the attached 'Frequently Asked Questions Regarding the TRQ Scheme'.*** Further information is also available from the Rural Payments Agency, Milk Quotas, PO Box 277, Exeter EX5 1WB (Telephone: 01392 266005 website: [rpa.defra.gov.uk](http://rpa.defra.gov.uk))