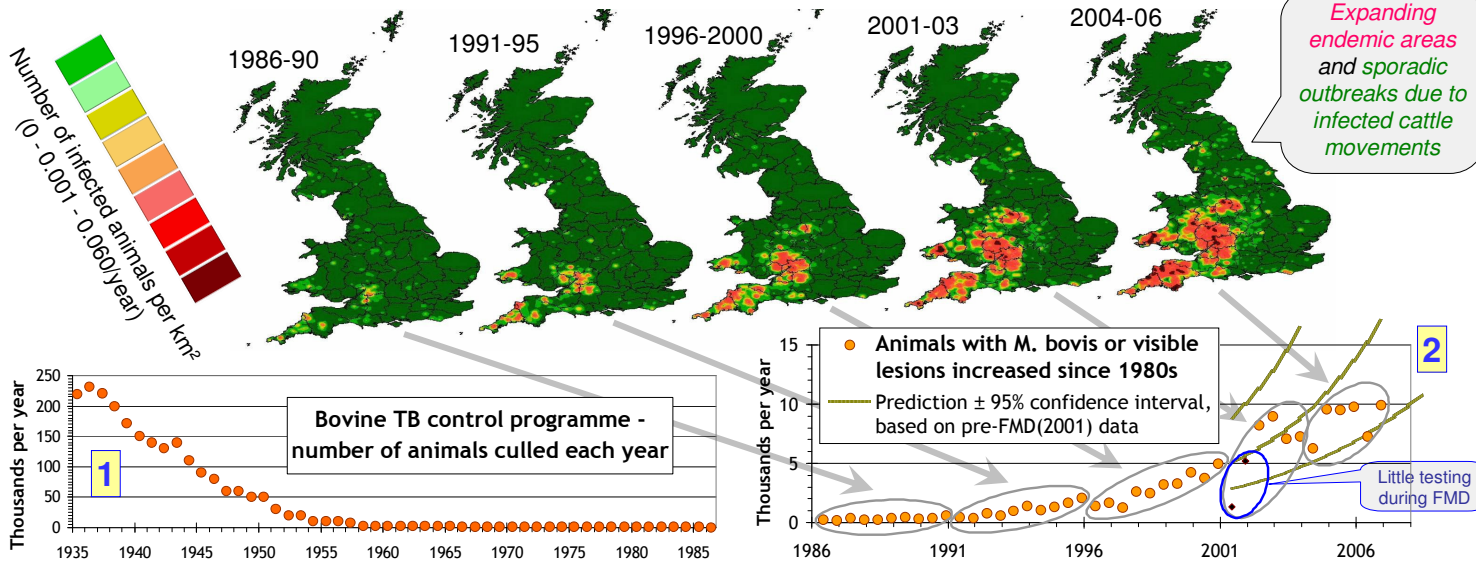


# Rising bovine TB incidence in GB - is it due to herd size?

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## Herd size and increasing bovine TB incidence

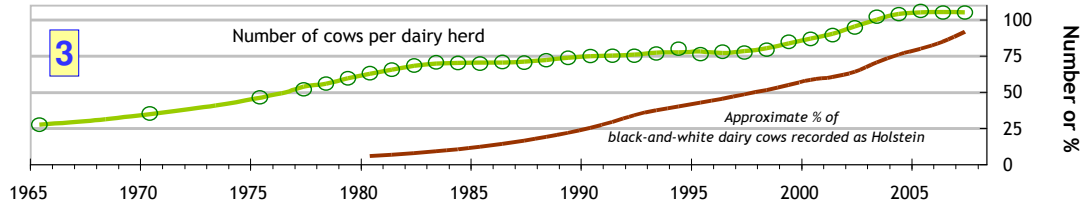
Since herd sizes have been increasing in the last 40 years (3), and the probability of a herd being infected increases with herd size (4), could that explain the rise in bovine TB?

### However:

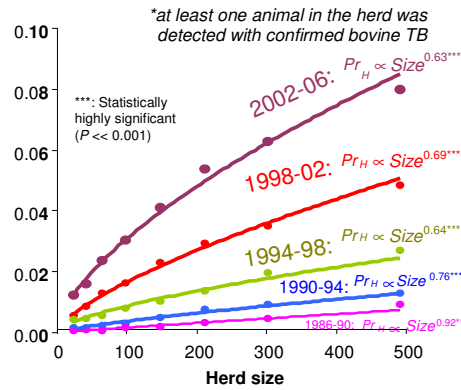
- The bovine TB rise happened c.20 years *after* the increase in average herd size (2, 3)
- The probability of an individual animal being confirmed doesn't vary with herd size (5).

### But herd size is still very important:

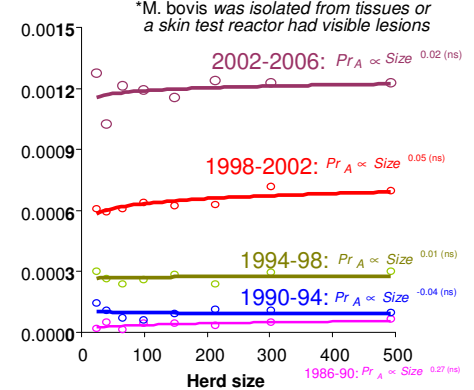
- Herd size increases the probability (4) and duration (6) of bovine TB incidents. This affects the economic and animal welfare problems caused by bovine TB.



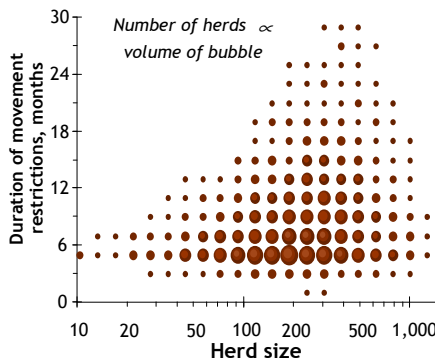
### 4 Probability of a confirmed\* bovine TB herd incident starting, per year ( $Pr_H$ )



### 5 Probability of finding an animal with confirmed\* bovine TB, per year ( $Pr_A$ )

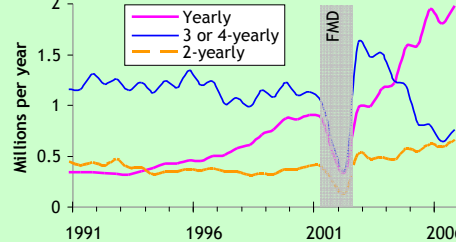


### 6 Large (confirmed) herds tend to be restricted longer



## 7 NEW INITIATIVES - NEW HOPES

Many more routine tests are being performed **yearly** since 2004



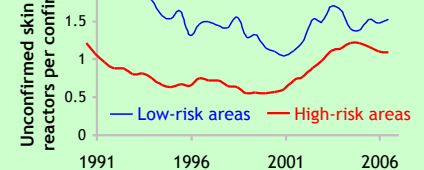
### Pre-movement testing – since March 2006

Animals aged ≥ 15 months, moving from parishes tested every 1 or 2 years, preventing:

- 150-250 infected movements / year, including
- ~ 50 infected movements to 3 or 4-year parishes

From March 2007, animals ≥ 6 weeks tested

Tuberculin may be detecting more early-stage infections since 2002



Recent low rainfall may have helped!

