



Meeting: Bovine TB Stakeholder Forum – Meeting 11
Date: 26 May 2021
Time: 11:00 – 13:00
Location: Virtual Meeting

Attendees

Chairs:

Michael Cronin, Chair TB Stakeholder Forum; Gerry Kiely, Chair Finance Working Group (FWG); John Griffin, Chair Science Working Group (SWG).

Organisations:

Mike Magan, Animal Health Ireland; Joe Burke, Bord Bia; Conor Mulvihill, Dairy Industry Ireland; Lorcan McCabe, ICMSA; Hugh Farrell, ICSA; Ray Doyle, ICOS; Pat Farrell, IFA; Padraic Fogarty; Irish Wildlife Trust; John Keane, Macra na Feirme; Colin Kelly, Ornua; Simon More, UCD; Tadhg Gavin, Veterinary Ireland; Claire Crowley, NPWS; Kevin Twomey, Farmer; Joe Ryan, Meat Industry Ireland

Organisation Observers:

David Graham, Animal Health Ireland; Paul Smyth, ICMSA; John Barron, ICSA; Tomas Bourke, IFA; Derry Dillon, Macra na Feirme

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM):

Michael Sheahan, Eoin Ryan

Bovine TB Forum Secretariat:

Karina Wrigley, Philip Breslin, James O’Keeffe, Rosanne Greene, Frances MacAodhain, Anthony Stringer

Apologies:

Colm Forde, DAFM; Sean Brady Chair of Implementation Working Group (IWG).

Minutes

Item	Minutes
Introduction by Chair Michael Cronin	The Chair welcomed all and introduced new members. He gave a brief introduction to the purpose of the forum, and outlined the number of meetings and bilateral meetings held since the forum began. The Chair acknowledged the commitment of the forum to strengthen the TB eradication programme and noted the submissions made by all towards the interim report and the TB strategy. The Chair noted that the strategy can evolve and adapt as necessary to improve the programme and reduce TB. The forum is now supported by three working groups and two reports have been commissioned; On farm Market Valuation and Cost Benefit Analysis.
Minutes of Previous Meeting	The minutes of meeting 10 (04 February 2021) were agreed.

Update on TB Situation	DAFM gave an update on current national disease trends (see email attachment) and answered questions on badgers and inconclusive reactors.
Report from working groups	<p>The Chair of the SWG gave a presentation on the work of the group to date (see email attachment). DAFM were asked to circulate the list of the members of SWG to the TB Forum.</p> <p>The FWG Chair updated the Forum on progress on the terms of reference over the first 3 meetings. At the first meeting of the FWG, it was decided to establish a technical group to progress the recommendations concerning quality scoring contained in the OFMV review. This group is to meet concurrent to the FWG and has had its first meeting. At the second meeting, the FWG were presented with the findings contained in the draft cost benefit analysis carried out by Grant Thornton, the main one being that the public/private benefit split is 22%/78%. Farming organisations were asked to present their views on a new financial model to the FWG taking these findings into account at the third meeting of the group. The FWG chair commented that the presentations did not constitute financial models as they were focussed on expenditure with no consideration of funding. Work to continue in this regard.</p> <p>The TB forum Chair read a report on behalf of the IWG Chair. He noted the terms of reference for the group and to date three meetings had been held. The meetings covered topics on inconclusive animals, extended breakdown herds, revision of policy regarding controlled calf rearing units and the new animal health law. To-date the policies on inconclusive animals and extended breakdown herds have been implemented. Further discussions are to be held on wildlife, communications and the animal health law.</p>
Communications	<p>The Chair introduced Michael Miley to the forum. Michael is a communications professional appointed to the TB Forum by the Minister to assist in developing a communications strategy for the TB Programme.</p> <p>DAFM provided a presentation on communications (see email attachment) The question put to the forum was what we can do to empower farmers to reduce risk? A number of suggestions were made and the Forum was asked to submit any further suggestions to DAFM.</p>
Strategic review of TB Programme	The Chair said the current strategy was developed and agreed by the Forum in December 2020 and is a road map and must continually adapt in response to TB risks so that the ultimate aim of getting rid on TB in the next 10 years can be achieved. DAFM stated that the current actions in the strategy were based on recommendations agreed by the TB Forum during 2018-2020, but it is now time to consider what additional disease reducing measures should be taken during 2022-2024. DAFM asked representatives to reflect on what additional actions and policies should be undertaken during 2022-2024 to reduce TB and to submit these proposals, so that they can be discussed at the next TB Forum meeting. The Chair asked DAFM to write to representatives seeking submissions.
Review of inconclusive policy	DAFM briefed the Forum on the results of the inconclusive policy to-date; initial results indicate it is successful in identifying infected cattle more quickly and thus reducing the risk of further disease spread. Discussion on further enhancements to the policy will be held once the current policy has been in place for a while to allow sufficient time for the analysis of the results.
Date of next meeting and close of meeting.	The Chair thanked everyone for their contribution to the meeting. He noted that it was a good meeting, and acknowledged the work being done by the

	working groups. The Chair suggested the next TB forum could be held in September or October.
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Action Points

1	Membership of the Scientific working group to be circulated to members of the Forum.
2	Members of the Forum to make suggestions on how to empower farmers to reduce risk.
3	Members of the Forum to submit proposals and options for additional disease reducing measures to be introduced from 2022-2024, for discussion at the next TB Forum meeting.