



Meeting: Bovine TB Stakeholder Forum Implementation Working Group (IWG) – Meeting 13.
Date: 01 March 2022
Time: 11:00 – 13:00.
Location: Virtual Meeting.
Purpose: The stated purpose of the IWG is to consider the details and modalities for the policies set out in the bTB strategy.

Attendees

Chair:

Sean Brady

Chair TB Forum:

Michael Cronin

Organisations:

Paul Smyth, ICMSA; Hugh Farrell, John Barron, ICOSA; Ray Doyle, James O'Donnell ICOS; TJ Maher, T Bourke, IFA; Kevin Twomey, Farmer; James Lynch Animal Health Ireland; Michael Miley, Communications.

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

Patricia Reilly, Eoin Ryan, Karina Wrigley, Philip Breslin, James O'Keeffe, Rosanne Greene.

Bovine TB Forum Secretariat:

Donal Mooney.

Apologies:

Lorcan McCabe ICMSA; David Graham, Animal Health Ireland.

Minutes

Item	Minutes
Introduction by Chair	The Chair welcomed all representatives to the meeting and thanked everyone for their contribution and time. The Chair welcomed James O'Donnell ICOS to the IWG.
Minutes of last meeting	The minutes of meeting 12 were agreed with a noted amendment that the Farm Organisations request the removal of the reference to €200 figure in respect of a bonus for historic inconclusives that are slaughtered voluntarily.
Disease trends and wildlife update	DAFM provided an update on disease trends and unveiled the new cluster map that is to be published on www.bovinetb.ie . The meeting was informed that another historic inconclusive letter has issued to 2,286 farmers. DAFM gave an overview of two case studies of whole genome sequencing. DAFM provided data in respect of the number of farm relief staff (FRS) assigned to each county for wildlife work. Presently three FRS staff work alongside one DAFM Technical Agricultural Officer (TAO). DAFM provided the figures in respect of the additional number of setts identified over the last four years. The Farming Organisations are very concerned about wildlife personnel

	resources. The Chair proposed to write to the Minister in this regard.
Communications	DAFM gave an update on communications including an update on the Customer Relationship Management software.
Animal Health Law – Pre and post movement testing	The proposal regarding pre and post movement testing has been approved by the Minister. The Farm Organisations suggested DAFM extend the 60-day window before a herd is listed for a full herd test to 90 days. DAFM advised the Farm Organisations to discuss the new testing regime with their members. A communications campaign will be undertaken in advance of the go live date. The Farm Organisations stated that farmers should not have to pay for any pre or post movement testing under the new animal health law. The Chair indicated that is a matter for Finance Working Group (FWG) to consider.
Risk mitigation plans contract rearing	DAFM shared the contract rearing document which had been drafted by the Communication Working Group (CWG). The Farm Organisations suggested further agreed amendments to the document.
Irish Deer Management Forum	DAFM stated that the Irish Deer Management Forum (IDMF) is to be reconvened in conjunction with the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage. The Farm Organisations requested sight of the IDMF Terms of Reference when available.
Any other business	A Farm Organisation raised a matter concerning circulation of TB Forum information via a social media platform by representative of an organisation on the TB Forum. The Farm Organisation requested that the Chair of the TB Forum address this issue.
Date of next meeting	Tuesday 5th April 2022

Action Points

1	DAFM is to consider issuing a communication to members of the public that it is the responsibility of the Local Authorities to dispose of roadkill.
2	DAFM is to give a presentation, at the next meeting, on the success of the collaborative efforts in reducing TB in Co. Clare.
3	The Chair is to write to the Minister regarding wildlife staffing.
4	The CWG is to develop the communications campaign regarding the new animal health law testing rules.
5	Macra na Feirme is to send a representative to the next CWG meeting.
6	DAFM is to provide the IDMF Terms of Reference when available.
7	The Chair of the TB Forum, in consultation with Michael Miley, is to review issue re media circulation of TB Forum information by a member of the Forum.