



Meeting: Bovine TB Stakeholder Forum Implementation Working Group (IWG) – Meeting 15.

Date: 03 May 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, Des Morrison ICMSA; Hugh Farrell, John Barron, ICOSA; Ray Doyle, James O'Donnell, ICOS; TJ Maher, Anna Daly, IFA; Kevin Twomey, Farmer; James Lynch, David Graham, Animal Health Ireland; John Keane, Macra na Feirme; Michael Miley, Communications; Tadhg Gavin, Veterinary Ireland.

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

Patricia Reilly, Eoin Ryan, Damien Barrett, Conor O'Mahony, Rosanne Greene, James O'Keeffe, Philip Breslin, Karina Wrigley, Maire McElroy

Bovine TB Forum Secretariat:

Donal Mooney, Anthony Stringer.

Apologies:

T Bourke, IFA.

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 Des Morrison (ICMSA) Damien Barrett and Conor O'Mahony (DAFM). All three gave a brief introduction, acknowledged the challenge ahead and looked forward to working with the IWG. The Chair acknowledged the departure of Eoin Ryan and thanked him for his contribution towards the eradication of bovine TB. Damien Barrett will replace Eoin Ryan.
Minutes of last meeting	The minutes of meeting 14 were agreed and the action points were discussed. One of the Farming Organisations reiterated the importance of having a comprehensive plan in place concerning wildlife where road network infrastructure changes will be taking place.
Disease trends and wildlife update	DAFM provided an update on current disease trends. A whole genome case study was presented. The Chair noted the important

	work being done by DAFMs Laboratory. Please see circulated presentation.
The use of PCR to improve turnaround time for factory lesions	Maire McElroy (Agriculture Labs) gave a presentation on the current trial of the use of PCR tests to improve turnaround time for factory lesion cases. The potential use and impact of PCR tests on the TB programme would need to be discussed with all stakeholders. Please see circulated presentation.
Communications	DAFM gave an update on current and future events. Please see circulated presentation.
Chronic Herds Policy - update	The Department gave an updated presentation on chronic breakdowns. Please see circulated presentation.
Animal Health Law - update	DAFM gave a presentation on the implementation of the Animal Health Law (AHL). The Farming Organisations objected to paying for more than one test per year. This will be discussed at the Financial Working group. An update was also given in relation to risk mitigation plans which is to be discussed in detail at the next meeting.
Any other business	The Farming Organisations and representatives thanked Eoin Ryan for his work and wished him well on his move within the Department. Michael Cronin informed the IWG of the TB forum which will be held in person, tomorrow, at Backweston Campus. The Minister will be in attendance.
Date of next meeting	The aim is to have the next meeting first week in June.

Action Points

1	The Department to further analyse the TB Inconclusive report over period 9 th April 2021 to 31 st Dec 2021 inclusive to find out <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The number that are singletons. 2) The number of those singletons that failed 1st reactor re-test.
2	Farmers are to receive a quarterly text message prompt to remove historic inconclusives.
3	Reactor Pack flow chart and FAQs and animal health law and pre-emptive risk mitigation plan letters to be circulated to IWG for final sign off.