



Meeting: Bovine TB Stakeholder Forum Implementation Working Group (IWG) – Meeting 16.

Date: 03 Jun 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, T Bourke, IFA; Kevin Twomey, James Lynch, AHI, John Keane, Macra na Feirme; Michael Miley, Miley Communications.

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

Patricia Reilly, Damien Barrett, Conor O'Mahony, Rosanne Greene, Philip Breslin,

Bovine TB Forum Secretariat:

Karina Wrigley, Donal Mooney, Anthony Stringer.

Apologies:

David Graham, Animal Health Ireland.

Minutes

Item	Minutes
Introduction by Chair	The chair welcomed all members to the meeting and thanked everyone for their time and contribution.
Minutes of last meeting	Minutes of meeting 15 were agreed.
Disease trends	The Department presented current disease trends and information about inconclusives disclosed since the 09 April 2021. Also discussed was whole genome sequencing within another jurisdiction and the identification of bulls with genetic resistance to TB. The IFA proposed incentivising the removal of historical inconclusives. This will be discussed at the financial working group.
Communications	The Department gave a presentation on communications since the last meeting. Since the commencement of the communications campaign on historic inconclusives, some 800 farmers removed these animals and they were congratulated for taking proactive action to reduce the risk of TB to their herd. The reactor pack flow chart and

	FAQs will be finalised following any further observations from members of the IWG.
Wildlife update	The Department gave an update on the wildlife programme including badger capture, vaccination, culling statistics and staffing. 576 notifications have been received from the farming community through the badger notification app. The National Parks and Wildlife Service has agreed draft terms for the Deer Management Forum (DMF) and is now actively searching for a chair for the forum. As the suggestion to reconvene the DMF came from the TB forum the farming organisations reiterated that the TB forum should have input into its terms of reference. The Department agreed whilst acknowledging that there will be a wider stakeholder input to the DMF.
Animal Health Law – Risk Mitigation Plans	The Department gave a presentation and update on Risk Mitigation Plans. It is proposed to extend the requirements to all herds exiting a breakdown. Further discussion will be held at the IWG.
Animal Health Law – pre/post movement testing	The Department gave a presentation and update on pre/post movement testing. Further delays in the roll out of the testing requirements could undermine Irelands export markets in milk, beef and live animals. Payment for testing is to be discussed at the Finance Working Group.
Any other business	The IWG was informed of the special sitting of the TB forum at the international Mbovis 2022 conference.
Date of next meeting	04 July 2022 11 AM – online through Cisco WebEx

Action Points

1	DAFM to provide a list of top 20 ICBF Dairy bulls and their TB resistance index score.
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