



Meeting: Bovine TB Stakeholder Forum Implementation Working Group (IWG) – Meeting 17.

Date: 04 July 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:

Des Morrison ICMSA; Hugh Farrell, John Barron, ICOSA; James O'Donnell, ICOS; TJ Maher, T Bourke, IFA; James Lynch, David Graham AHI; John Keane, Macra na Feirme, Conor Geraghty, Tadhg Gavin, Veterinary Ireland.

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

Damien Barrett, Conor O'Mahony, Karina Wrigley, James O'Keefe

Bovine TB Forum Secretariat:

Donal Mooney, Anthony Stringer.

Apologies:

Rosanne Greene, Philip Breslin, Kevin Twomey, Paul Smyth, Ray Doyle.

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	The minutes of meeting 16 were agreed.
Reflection on M Bovis Conference	The Chair asked representatives who were at the international M Bovis conference for their reflections on the special sitting of the TB Forum. Representatives touched on the clarity of discussion with the international experts. Representative reflections included labour requirements for successful eradication, the wildlife burden, the increase of costs closer to eradication, the complexity of the disease the importance of good testing and stakeholder commitment. The Chair thanked DAFM for inviting members to the event.
Disease trends	DAFM presented current disease trends, whole genome sequencing mapping data for county Clare and a TB breakdown case study. The Farming Organisations enquired if DAFM have any data on the possible number of anergic TB animals or if there is anyway that information could be determined. DAFM highlighted that further analysis of chronic herds will provide information in relation to this. Veterinary Ireland suggested PVPs could play a role in on-farm clinical

	diagnosis of TB. The Farming Organisations asked DAFM to continue providing quarterly statistics and maps to the IWG.
Communications	DAFM gave a presentation on communications since the last meeting and a brief update on historical inconclusives. The Farming Organisations requested DAFM to provide farmers with an incentive to remove the historic inconclusives by providing them with a market-based valuation. The Deer Management Forum is continuing to seek the appointment of a Chair. The Farming Organisations asked to see and contribute to its terms of reference. The terms are currently in draft and will be provided to the IWG when a chair has been appointed.
Animal Health Law Pre and Post Movement Testing	DAFM provided an update. The proposed implementation date is mid-September. The Farming Organisations stated they were not in agreement on the proposed implementation date and pointed out they are not willing to pay for extra TB testing. The Finance Working Group was urged to progress its discussions. A Farming Organisation contended that the delay of the AHL implementation was due to delays on DAFMs side in respect of the FWG where meetings were not held due to staff changes.
Any other business	Representatives were asked for further points of discussion. The Farming Organisations asked for a review of recently discussed and agreed items. The Farm Organisations raised the question of the costs of extra testing. A member raised the issue of communications between the farmer and the VIs in relation to information on the disease breakdown.
Date of next meeting	03 August 2022 11 AM – online through Cisco WebEx

Action Points

1	DAFM to provide the Farming Organisations with TB stats quarterly, along with relevant maps.
2	DAFM in consultation with the Chair is to review agreed actions over last year and report accordingly.