



Meeting: Bovine TB Stakeholder Forum's Implementation Working Group (IWG) – Meeting 19.

Date: 06 September 2022

Time: 11:00 – 13:30.

Location: Online 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:

Kevin Twomey, Farmer; Anna Daly, IFA; Des Morrison, Paul Smyth ICMSA; Hugh Farrell, John Barron, ICSA; Ray Doyle, James O'Donnell, ICOS; James Lynch, David Graham AHI; John Keane, Macra na Feirme;; Niall Feery, NPWS; Pat Neville; Coillte; Padraic Fogarty; Irish Wildlife Trust; Prof. Stephen Gordon, UCD

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

Damien Barrett, Philip Breslin, David Quinn, Rosanne Greene, James O'Keefe.

Bovine TB Forum Secretariat:

Anthony Stringer.

Apologies:

Tadhg Gavin, Veterinary Ireland; TJ Maher, Tomas Bourke, IFA.

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 the last meeting were agreed. The Chair listed the action points of the last meeting and discussed them briefly. The Farming Organisations asked for examples of the actions to be implemented under the Risk Mitigation Plans and what is involved. The Chair requested the Farm Organisations upload the recently published reactor pack flowchart and FAQs on to their websites.
Whole Genome Sequencing	Professor Stephen Gordon gave a presentation to representatives on Whole Genome Sequencing. Question and answers followed.
Disease Trends	The Department presented current disease trends and provided an update on Department targets relating to the work of the IWG. Data were presented on the level of whole genome sequencing carried out by the CVRL and this work was commended by the chair.

	A report on PVP inspections was also presented. A training course for new VI's is being held in October. A deer management strategy group has been established, following the appointment of a Chair by the Minister. A preliminary meeting is scheduled for September 16 th . Notification of restrictions to high-risk herds entering post de-restriction check test cycle was discussed.
Chronic herds policy update	The Department presented and update on chronic herds. The IWG agreed to the proposed change in the definition of a relapsed herd to include herds with 3 or more reactors (skin or Gif) and to include atypical herds.
Wildlife Update	The Department gave an update on the wildlife programme. The Farm Organisations were asked to nominate a County Representative to work with the Department on wildlife. The Department asked the Farm Organisations to consider more local meetings on wildlife.
Communications	The Department gave an update on communications. A set of FAQs are to be developed on the animal health law testing requirements.
Any other business	Philip Breslin, Superintending Veterinary Inspector, will be replaced by David Quinn. Philip was thanked for his contribution and commitment to the eradication of bovine TB and his work on the wildlife programme. His expertise, knowledge and dedication were commended.
Date of next meeting	Wednesday 28 th September 2022 @ 2-4pm.

Action Points

1	DAFM to develop examples of actions under the Risk Mitigation Plans.
2	DAFM to circulate all presentations from today's meeting.
3	Siobhan Ring to forward correlations between TB resistance and other merits/traits.
4	Farming organisations asked to place the recently circulated Reactor Pack Flow Chart and FAQs on their websites.
5	Farming organisations to nominate a County Representative to work with DAFM on wildlife and to consider more local wildlife meeting.
6	DAFM to develop a set of FAQs regarding the AHL testing requirements.