



Meeting: Bovine TB Stakeholder Forum's Implementation Working Group (IWG) – Meeting 23.

Date: 10 January 2023

Time: 11:00 – 13:00

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

Organisations:

TJ Maher, Tomas Bourke IFA; Des Morrison, ICMSA; Hugh Farrell, John Barron, ICSA; Ray Doyle, James O'Donnell, ICOS; James Lynch, David Graham, Animal Health Ireland; Kevin Twomey, Farmer, Padraic Fogarty, Irish Wildlife Trust, Niall Feery NPWS; Pat Neville Coillte

Chair of TB Forum: Michael Cronin

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

Damien Barrett, Conor O'Mahony, Rosanne Greene, Diarmuid Lynch, Shirley Roche

Bovine TB Forum Secretariat:

David Quinn, Karina Wrigley, Donal Mooney, Anthony Stringer.

Apologies: Michael Miley, Paul Smyth

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.
Disease Trends	The Department presented current disease trends. Herd incidence is reducing but reactor numbers are increasing. The effect of large breakdowns was discussed. Sanction has been granted for five hundred clear herds to access the Targeted Advisory Service on Animal Health (TASAH). TASAH provides advice on reducing TB risk. A County Louth Whole Genome Sequencing case study was presented and discussed. Latent TB was explained.
Communications Update	The Department provided an update on communications since the last meeting. The Department was represented at the National Dairy Conference. The Department demonstrated access to the ICBF website and showed how the top-rated Economic Breeding Index (EBI) bulls were not rating highly for TB resistance. The Clare TB story

	was published in the Irish Farmers Journal. Animal Health Law communications were discussed. The Communications Subgroup meeting has been scheduled.
Oversight of Restricted Herds Update	The Department presented an update on the oversight of restricted Herds. The Farming Organisations highlighted the vital importance of having necessary resources in place especially regarding wildlife duties. One of the Farm Organisations mentioned the Department need to examine the TB risk in more detail.
Cork Case Study	Shirley Roche and Diarmuid Lynch, Cork Regional Veterinary Office, presented a TB case study from County Cork involving mammary TB. The Chair and representatives acknowledged and thanked them for their dedication in finding the source of TB in the herd.
	The Group extended their sympathies to Tomas Bourke and family on the recent passing of his Father TJ.
Any other Business	Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday 7 th February at 11am.

Action Points

1	The Department is to provide an update on wildlife at Meeting 24.
2	The Department is to ask Siobhan Ring, ICBF for a breakdown of the 10% health score on the Economic Breeding Index (EBI).
3	Consideration should be given to writing to the AI stations to promote the use of TB resistant bulls.