

## **Draft Minutes of the Seventeenth meeting of iNAP Animal Health Implementation Committee**

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2022 (14.00 – 16.00) Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine Seminar Rooms 1 and 2, DAFM Laboratories Building, Backweston Business Campus with option to join by Webex video conference**

### **1. Approval of minutes from the last meeting**

Minutes of the last (sixteenth) meeting were circulated before this meeting. Re Action Point 4 *DAFM to follow up with each farming organisation separately to discuss what additional actions will be taken under SO1 to increase knowledge and awareness of AMR among farmers under iNAP2-IFA and ICOS* will follow up with DAFM following the meeting. Re Action Point 12 *An update on VAT on vaccines will be presented at the next meeting* DAFM advised the group that the VAT on vaccines issue is still with the Minister for Finance. APHA advised that it would be timely to continue to push this issue in view of the upcoming Budget.

Minutes were approved and will be published on the DAFM website (AP1).

### **2. Surveillance of AMR in *E. coli* from Badgers-Richard Dunne and Rosemarie Slowey DAFM**

The findings of a nationwide survey looking at prevalence of AMR in *E. coli* from badgers were presented. Commensal *E. coli* were isolated from 82 of the 96 faecal samples screened. Isolates were screened for resistance to 15 antimicrobials (panels used in official surveillance) 94% of isolates were fully susceptible. Study confirms wildlife are a reservoir of AMR bacteria in Ireland. Levels of ESBL found were comparable to Northern Ireland 2018-19 (8.9%). CG advised the group that a research call was going out to carry out further studies into AMR in wildlife. NL highlighted that there's a knowledge gap around AMR in companion animals and this area is worthy of further research.

### **3. Progress update on iNAP2 animal health sector projects- Caroline Garvan DAFM**

An updated document outlining stakeholder progress on all projects that have commenced will be circulated after the meeting (AP2). DAFM presented progress updates received to date.

**Strategic Objective 1:** 23 actions, 21 in progress.

Project 9- AHI, in conjunction with Teagasc, DAFM and dairy processors, will deliver 13 on farm events in October with a focus on preparing for drying off, called Dry Cow Therapy- steps for success.

Project 14-VCI have developed a webinar in partnership with experts promoting awareness of AMR and potential impacts for human and animal health in relation to AMR. The webinar issued by email to all VCI registrants (3200 vets and 1200 nurses), with accredited CVE, in April 2022, and is accessible on the VCI website for any stakeholder to access.

**Strategic Objective 2:** 11 actions, 10 are in progress.

Project 24- The 2021 all-Ireland Disease Surveillance report is in the final stages of collation and writing.

Project 27 – The guidelines have been finalised and were circulated to all UCDVH clinical staff and final year students in July 2022. Further dissemination is planned in due course.

Project 28 – Professor Martin Cormican has agreed to undertake the work to complete the One Health Surveillance Report. The Department of Health is in the process of agreeing a Memorandum of Understanding with Professor Cormican in relation to this. DoH has engaged with the DAFM regarding the completion of the report and a One Health approach has been agreed.

Project 34 - The Pilot Soil Sampling Programme temporarily ceased activity during the summer months due to fertiliser application on farms. It has since recommenced, and it is hoped that the Pilot Programme is completed by end of Oct '22.

**Strategic Objective 3:** 11 actions, 1 is completed, 10 in progress. AHI updated.

Project 35 – 336 pig units have now had biosecurity assessments. External biosecurity continues to score higher than internal. Benchmarking tools are available to herdowners and their nominated PVPs via the Pig HealthCheck database provided through ICBF .The requirement to have completed a biosecurity assessment between 1.1.21 and 11.07.22 was a condition of eligibility for the PEPS2. During this period work was completed on a Salmonella TASAH activity, supported by DAFM-funded on-farm sampling and culture. PVP training has been delivered and the TASAH is now available to herd owners. This has been developed in conjunction with a review of the National Salmonella Control Plan, which is expected to be completed shortly and to result in increased uptake of the TASAH. In the poultry sector, 322 units had been reviewed in terms of their biosecurity for broilers and 82 units for layers. Overall, internal biosecurity scores are better than those for external biosecurity in broiler and layers flocks.

Project 36 - DAFM application to the Commission for approval of the eradication programme as a precursor to an application for recognition of freedom has been approved and published in COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2022/1218. Evaluation of additional post-eradication surveillance strategies, including bulk tank milk testing and young stock check testing, is ongoing. Data from the most recent round of national bulk tank milk testing indicates only 25% of herds with detectable antibodies. A pilot of an alternative testing strategy (young stock check testing) is being conducted currently, with results due in Q4.

Project 37- 392 tail biting assessments had been completed for 262 units. These assessments show that provision of environmental enrichment is the main area that requires improvement. An annual risk factor assessment is now required as part of the Bord Bia Pig Quality Assurance Standard and is expected to increase uptake. Results are now displayed on the PHC database, with benchmarking against other herds. The requirement to have completed a risk assessment for tail biting between 1.1.21 and 11.07.22 was a condition of eligibility for the PEPS2. inspection data is now being routinely provided from factories and is displayed in the Pig HealthCheck dashboards, including benchmarking. Work is ongoing on systems to capture PM data.

Beef HealthCheck continues to capture and feed back liver and lung lesions to farmers. Discussions continue with DAFM to bring these data fully within the AM/PM programme to enable wider sharing of results with herds' nominated veterinary practitioners. Detailed analysis of BHC data generated through participating meat plants to investigate impact of liver and lung lesions on production

parameters is ongoing with a focus on financial and climate impacts of increased times to slaughter in different production systems.

Project 41 – Training of PVPs and service providers in support of a new TASAH activity (Cell Check Solutions) directed at herds with high SCC that are not well placed to implement selective dry cow therapy has been completed and the is now available on a pilot basis for the remainder of 2022. 6 additional training sessions for PVPs in the Dry Cow Consults have been delivered and promotion of the Dry Cow Consults for 2022 has also begun, with all potentially eligible herds contacted.

**Strategic Objective 4:** 11 actions, 2 complete and 8 in progress.

Project 49 – There are 304 members now signed up to do the course. The majority completing the course are still pig producers but there is more interest being seen from beef and dairy farmers as a result further promotion by industry partners.

Project 52 - DAFM has submitted draft primary legislation – Veterinary Medicinal Products Medicated Feed and Fertilisers Regulation Bill 2022 to the Agricultural Joint Oireachtas Committee for Pre-Legislative Scrutiny following approval by Cabinet.

Project 54- A second draft Code has been developed by aquaculture PVPs, to align where possible with the other sector-specific Codes so as to streamline AMR information and awareness messaging. The draft is almost ready to share with fish farmers.

**Strategic Objective 5:** 16 actions, 2 complete and 11 in progress.

Project 56 - Draft terms of reference have been drawn up for the AMR Thematic Network and suitable participants from all three One Health sectors have been identified and approached. The first meeting of the Network is planned for October 2022.

#### **4. Progress Update on iNAP2 Environmental sector projects- Dr Anna Shore EPA**

The EPA presented progress updates for several projects:

Project 22- AMR issues raised in EPA response on the national stakeholders consultation by the HSE on the proposed Health Protection Strategy 2022-2027. AMR issues included in EPA written submission on the DAFM Reform Programme for the Better Regulation of Food in Ireland (To-Be Report). Part of the implementation of the Food Safety and Food Authenticity Strategy (FSFA).

Project 33 - There were a few very relevant research ideas proposed in response to the AMR research call announced in early 2022. These are under evaluation at present with results and any award to be decided in Q4 2022.

The chair acknowledged the huge amount work undertaken by the environmental sector around AMR.

#### **5. Update on NVPS – Peter Collins DAFM**

The NVPS is planned for nationwide release on Dec 1st, 2022 in line with the upregulation of antiparasitic medicines to POM status. Legislation Drafted – with Ag Oireachtas Pre-Legislative Scrutiny Committee. Additional functionality is being developed which will enable easier recording of administered and dispensed veterinary medicinal products. Development work is ongoing with the

system integration component also. DAFM is finalising a training and communication plan in advance of the nationwide rollout on Dec 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022. ICOS queried how the comparable products list for antiparasitics will function on NVPS and expressed concerns about LM's ability to fill scripts for antiparasitic products. The Chair advised the group that there is no time to examine all issues at today's meeting and stated that concerns around NVPS roll out and change in route of supply of APs are acknowledged within DAFM. The Chair acknowledged the huge amount of work that's being done by NVPS team to overcome the complexities involved and make the system as streamlined as possible. SM queried the reports the system will deliver in due course and expressed willingness of CVERA to participate in discussions around data analytics in order to maximise value. PC welcomed the opportunity to engage. APHA highlighted potential issues with availability of pack sizes in dispensing digital prescriptions. PC acknowledged useful guidance received from APHA to date and stated that DAFM will continue to engage with APHA during NVPS development.

#### **6. Analysis of Sales of Intramammary tubes in 2021- Simon More AHI**

SM presented the findings of a study into trends in sales of intramammary tubes in recent years. SM highlighted that sales data is a crude measure of use and in 2021 there was no evidence of a move towards selective dry cow therapy in the national herd in AM sales data analysed. ICOS queried why a positive trend in terms of declining sales of dry cow tubes in 2019 was reversed in 2020/2021. SM suggested that stockpiling of tubes may be to blame but it's impossible to say for certain without more granular data. ICMSA queried whether the data from Netherlands and Denmark is sales or usage data and SM confirmed these countries have usage data to report. ICMSA highlighted that NVPS outputs will allow a better interrogation of data and suggested that anecdotally increased uptake of SDCT is not reflected in sales data. ICOS queries whether any data had been looked at from NZ which has a comparable grass-based production model to Ireland and suggested that data from DK/NL is not directly comparable. SM offered to look for data on DCT usage levels in NZ (**AP3**) but suggested that challenges in terms of mastitis control are comparable between IE/DK and NL and highlighted that 1/3 of Irish herds have suboptimal mastitis control and these issues may not necessarily be related to grass based production model.

#### **7. Antimicrobial Use Guidelines UCD Veterinary Hospital- Nola Leonard UCD**

NL gave a presentation outlining the process of developing guidelines to promote the prudent prescribing and use of AMs across a range of animal species in UCDVH and acknowledged the contribution of clinicians and teaching staff in UCD in developing these guidelines. The findings of a student summer research project looking at prescribing patterns in companion animals which presented to UCDVH in between June 2020 and December 2021 were presented. During that time 33% of animals presenting were prescribed AMs. Prior to presentation, 17 [50%] cats and 127 [44.6%] dogs were prescribed antimicrobials by the referring veterinarian. This study also looked at the accuracy of dosing per AM prescribed and found that animals received the correct dose for bodyweight >93% of the time. EMA class C AMs were prescribed most commonly to dogs and cats. Findings of an online survey to PVPs carried out by UCD were also presented with 14% of respondents having a practice AMU policy in place. Feedback was sought from the group regarding how best to disseminate and promote the guidelines to vets. DAFM advised that they would engage with Veterinary Ireland and VICAS re endorsing these guidelines. (**AP4**) VCI advised that they would be happy to publicise these guidelines on their webpage (**AP5**).

## **8. Piloting and evaluating behaviour change interventions targeting antimicrobial use on farms- Aine Regan Teagasc**

AR presented AMU-FARM Project which follows on from *safefood*-funded AMU Project which identified behaviour change interventions. The project aims to test and validate novel, evidence-based strategies to support the Irish agricultural sector to transition towards reduced AMU. AHI is developing a course for vets in motivational interviewing.

## **9. AOB**

DAFM advised the group that proposed AMU Reduction targets had not yet been requested from Cion. CVO thanked all presenters and reminded the group that we've come a long way and built a significant foundation to mitigate AMR, we now need to get the metrics to highlight the progress being made. DAFM to circulate draft minutes of this meeting and advise Committee about next meeting date (AP 13).

## **Actions**

<b><u>Action No.</u></b>	<b><u>Description</u></b>
1	DAFM will publish 16 <sup>th</sup> meeting minutes on DAFM website.
2	DAFM to circulate updated iNAP progress report document with all updates following meeting.
3	SM to look at data on SDCT in New Zealand.
4	DAFM advised that they would engage with Veterinary Ireland and VICAS re endorsing UCDVH prescribing guidelines.
5	VCI advised that they would be happy to publicise UCDVH prescribing guidelines on their webpage.
6	DAFM to circulate draft minutes of this meeting and advise Committee about next meeting date.

## **Attendees**

**Chair** - Dr Martin Blake - Chief Veterinary Officer (DAFM)

<b><u>Representative</u></b>	<b><u>Organisation</u></b>
John Keogh	Animal and Plant Health Association

Dr Anna Shore (AS)	Environmental Protection Agency
Ray Doyle (RD)	Irish Cooperative Organisation Society
Eamonn Farrell (EF)	Irish Cooperative Organisation Society
Paul Smyth (PS)	Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers Association
Anna Daly (AD)	Irish Farmers Association
Cornelia O'Connell (COC)	Irish Grain and Feed Association
Edgar Garcia Manzanilla (EGM)	Teagasc
Aine Regan	Teagasc
Nola Leonard (NL)	University College Dublin
Simon More (SM)	University College Dublin/ CVERA
Niamh Muldoon (NM)	Veterinary Council of Ireland

### **Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine**

Martin Blake (MB)	Chief Veterinary Officer
June Fanning (JF)	Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer
Caroline Garvan (CG)	Superintending Veterinary Inspector
Julie Bolton (JB)	Veterinary Inspector
Rosemarie Slowey (RS)	Senior Research Officer
Amalia Naranjo Lucena (ANL)	Research Officer
Maire McElroy (MM)	Head of Division Bacteriology
Richard Dunne	Laboratory Attendant
Peter Collins (PC)	Assistant Principal

### **Apologies**

<b><u>Representative</u></b>	<b><u>Organisation</u></b>
David Graham (DG)	Animal Health Ireland
John Moriarty (JM)	DAFM
Paul Corkery (PC)	DAFM
Jonathan Derham (JD)	Environmental Protection Agency
Lisa O'Connor (LOC)	Food Safety Authority of Ireland
Gavin Ryan (GR)	Health Products Regulatory Authority
Mike Lynch	ICBF
Tomas Bourke (TB)	Irish Farmers Association
Bill Dore (BD)	Marine Institute
Joe Ryan (JR)/Sile Sweeney (SS)	Meat Industry Ireland
Linda Gordon (LG)	Safefood
Vivienne Duggan	UCD
Conor Geraghty	Veterinary Ireland