



Meeting: Bovine TB Stakeholder Forum – Meeting 16
Date: 28 February 2023
Time: 11:00 – 13:15
Location: Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine - Backweston Campus

Attendees

Chair:

Michael Cronin.

Working Group Chairs:

Sean Brady, Implementation Working Group (IWG)

Gerard Kiely, Finance Working Group (FWG)

John Griffin, Scientific Working Group (SWG)

Organisations:

David Graham, James Lynch, Animal Health Ireland; TJ Maher, Tomas Bourke, IFA; Des Morrison, Paul Smyth, ICMSA; Ray Doyle, James O'Donnell, ICOS, Hugh Farrell ICOSA, Simon More, UCD; Kevin Twomey, Farmer; John Keane, Macra, Padraic Fogarty, Irish Wildlife Trust; Joe Burke, Bord Bia.

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

June Fanning, Michael Sheahan, Damien Barrett, Conor O Mahony, Rosanne Greene.

Bovine TB Forum Secretariat:

Karina Wrigley, James O'Keeffe, David Quinn, Donal Mooney, Anthony Stringer.

Apologies:

Claire Crowley, NPWS; Sile Sweeney, Meat Industry Ireland; David Smith Ornua; John Mee, Teagasc; Conor Mulvihill, Dairy Industry Ireland.

Minutes

Item	Minutes
Introduction by Chair Michael Cronin	The Chair welcomed all representatives and gave an overview of work the TB Forum and its working groups have completed to-date. The Chair thanked all representatives for their collaboration and thanked the Chairs of the working groups, Sean Brady, Gerry Kiely and John Griffin, for their continued work.
Minutes of previous meeting	The minutes of meeting 15 were agreed. The Chair discussed the action points of the last meeting.
Disease trends update	The Department provided a presentation on the current disease situation. Please see presentation. The discussions that followed focused on the use of herd incidence data, the multifactorial nature of TB and its sources, analysis of county boundaries, genetic resistance as a tool, working towards farmers fencing off badger setts from wildlife.
Working Groups update	Sean Brady, IWG Chair, provided a summary of the work of the group to date highlighting the recent successful introduction of EU Animal Health Law (AHL) pre and post movement test requirement on the 1 st of February 2023,

	<p>excellent work of communications sub-group and the implementation of the policy on enhanced actions to clear infection from extended breakdowns is continuing.</p> <p>Gerry Kiely, FWG Chair, provided an update on the work completed to date by their working group. He highlighted the success of all parties reaching agreement on the revised compensation rates that will be applied retrospectively from 1st February 2023. Also, agreement reached on the payment to farmers to a maximum of €70 will be provided to breeding herds in 2023 who need to carry out required necessary additional testing on cows of any age or males over 36 months moved from one breeding herd to another breeding herd.</p> <p>John Griffin, SWG Chair, presented the prioritisation of topics for the provision of research funding by the Department. Giving an overview of the background, methodology and themes he then discussed the results of the survey. Please see the presentation. The Farming organisations felt with development of PCR technology that this new diagnostic method should be treated as priority as an alternative to culture. The TB Forum Chair acknowledged the work completed by the working groups and thanked them for their effort and acknowledged the continued cooperation between all stakeholders involved in the working groups. Question and answers along with discussion followed.</p>
Proposed new actions to consider for 2023 and beyond	<p>The Department proposed new actions for consideration while Simon More proposed point 4.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TASAH focus on high-risk herds. 2. Work with UCD CVERA to identify TB clusters earlier, and the use of machine learning projects to identify high risk animals (DAU) and herds (DCU). 3. Further development of Whole Genome Sequencing as an epidemiological tool Regional approach focusing on low Incidence regions to further reduce TB incidence in these areas. 4. TB Forum to examine the 'TB Free programme' model being implemented in New Zealand (S. More proposal) <p>There was discussion on resources within the wildlife programme.</p>
Any other Business	<p>There was a recent RTE article where data and information were quoted from a deer management report. There was no information given about the report within the article and the Department were asked if they could provide the source of the report. There was an update provided about the re-opening of trade with China and their TB requirements to trade.</p>
Close of meeting	<p>The Chair summarised the meeting and thanked everyone for attending, he noted and acknowledged the successful collaborative model of the TB forum. The next TB forum date will be confirmed in due course.</p>

Action Points

1	Chairman of TB Forum to write to Minister re the possibility of funding to be provided for the fencing off of badger setts under the TAMs programme.
2	The Department to explore possibility of presenting TB Maps excluding singleton reactor herds.

3	The Department to provide information on the source of infection for new breakdowns in 2022.
4	The Department to circulate papers on TB and slurry.
5	The Department to find the source of a deer report from a recent RTE broadcast.
6	SWG to report at next TB Forum meeting position on regional approach to eradication.
7	A provisional report from the Deer Management Forum is to be presented to the TB Forum before end of 2023.