



Meeting: Bovine TB Stakeholder Forum's Implementation Working Group (IWG) – Meeting 25.

Date: 07 March 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:

Hugh Farrell, John Barron, ICOSA; Ray Doyle, James O'Donnell, ICOS; David Graham, Animal Health Ireland; Kevin Twomey, Farmer; Padraic Fogarty, Irish Wildlife Trust; Hazel Mullins, Veterinary Ireland; Des Morrison, Paul Smyth, ICMSA; TJ Maher, Tomas Bourke IFA.

Chair of TB Forum: Michael Cronin

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

Damien Barrett, Conor O Mahony, Rosanne Greene, David J Quinn, Karina Wrigley, James O'Keeffe and Gaetano Durso (Donegal RVO)

Bovine TB Forum Secretariat:

Donal Mooney, Anthony Stringer.

Apologies: Pat Neville, Coillte; Aishling Cronin, DAFM.

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 and discussed the action points from the last meeting.
RVO Presentation (Donegal RVO)	Gaetano Durso, Veterinary Inspector, presented a case study of his work within county Donegal. The Chair acknowledged the dedication and commitment of the work to reduce and manage TB in the county. Questions and answers followed.
Disease Trends	The Department gave an update on current disease trends. Please see presentation.
Communications	The Department presented an update on communications since the last meeting. Please see presentation. The 2022 communications strategy was discussed. The strategy's actions were listed and colour coded to highlight their status. The communications working group (CWG) will develop a plan of action for 2023. Next CWG meeting will

	be held on 22nd March. Outlined for the future were further written articles, plans to develop online training for FAS advisors and the reconvening of the Teagasc/DAFM info group. The importance of communicating the key message of selecting TB resistant bulls was raised. It was suggested that Teagasc could demonstrate fencing off badger setts during farm walks. It was also suggested if private veterinary practitioners could be provided with local maps of badger setts. DAFM suggested this could be a possibility for the 500 approved TASA visits.
Whole Genome Sequencing Case Study	The Department presented a whole genome sequencing case study. Please see presentation. The challenge is we need to build greater data in respect of TB isolates information especially from Wildlife perspective. Questions and answers followed.
Any other Business	The next IWG Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 04 April 2023 at 11am. DAFM was asked if an analysis of the singleton programme could be provided and if a breakdown of badger culling and vaccinations could be provided per county.

Action Points

1	The Department is to provide analysis of the singleton programme before end Q3 2023.
2	The Department is to provide a per county break down of badger vaccination and culling