

## Minutes of the 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of iNAP Animal Health Implementation Committee

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2023 2.30- 4:30 pm Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Board Room, Admin Building, Backweston Business Campus with option to join by Webex video conference

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

Minutes of the last (seventeenth) meeting were circulated before this meeting. Updates were given in relation to the various action points. It was advised that the prescribing guidelines are still under review by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM). Information regarding the practice of selective dry cow therapy (SDCT) in New Zealand was shared with the Committee which highlighted the positive trends in last number of years that had been driven by consumer expectations rather than legislation. It was suggested that a general awareness of AMR may have decreased use of blanket dry cow therapy (BDCT), Animal Health Ireland offered to search for more specific information on the factors that have promoted a shift towards SDCT in NZ (AP1). Paper on approaches to SDCT in other countries to be shared with the committee. (AP2).

Minutes were approved and will be published on the DAFM website (AP3).

### **2. Progress update on iNAP2 animal health sector projects – Margaret Wilson DAFM**

DAFM outlined the progress in relation to specific actions included under each strategic objective included in iNAP2 relevant to the animal health sector. An updated document outlining stakeholder progress on all projects that have commenced will be circulated after the meeting (AP4).

### **3. Progress update on iNAP2 Environmental sector projects- Aisling O'Connor EPA**

The EPA presented progress updates for several projects relevant to the environmental sector including preparation of the Environmental Protection Agency's quadrennial State of the Environment Report underway for 2024, and mention of the recent EPA, Health Service Executive and Economic and Social Research Institute annual joint Environment, Health and Wellbeing event in May 2023. A presentation by Prof Dearbhaile Morris on the One Health Challenge of AMR is available on EPA YouTube channel

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ZopXOWI6K8&list=PLFesobjWT1FhrfGaAlzGMJq4ZKtn2E2YE>

The EPA-HSE funded AREST project is at final reporting stage, nearing completion. Two subsequent projects have been funded which address priority issues outlined in the EPA's AMR Research Gap Analysis report. Further detail on the various actions relevant to the environment sector will be circulated to the committee in the overall progress report (see AP 4)

### **4. Mastitis AST Testing Guidance Policy Document – John Moriarty DAFM, Finola McCoy AHI, Rosemarie Slowey DAFM.**

A Mastitis Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing Policy Guidance Document has been developed as action point under strategic objective 2 of iNAP2. This document addresses the selection of antimicrobials (AMs) for AST by core antimicrobial test panels for disc diffusion and provision of a

framework for inclusion of additional antimicrobials. This guidance policy supports a uniform approach to dealing with poor sample quality and provides a framework for quality, reporting of results and data management, it also establishes reporting and submission of unusual or extensively resistant isolates to the AMR NRL.

There was general support for the development of this document and some points for further consideration were raised. The committee acknowledged the work done to bring this document to fruition. This document will be circulated after the meeting for comment (AP5)

#### **5. EU Council Recommendations – Caroline Garvan DAFM**

The DAFM presented details of the recently adopted Council Recommendations in relation to stepping up actions by the European Union to combat antimicrobial resistance utilising a One Health approach. There was reference to the specific targets set for the health sectors in Member States regarding occurrence of blood stream infections and in particular prescribing of certain classes of antimicrobials and overall consumption.

A query was raised as to whether country specific targets for antimicrobial use in agriculture were likely to be introduced, similar to the targets now indicated for human health, it was advised that there are no discussions currently in this regard.

There was a view expressed that focussing on weight of antimicrobial sold might not be the best metric for measuring progress, and that the use of AMEG category D antimicrobials should be promoted in the first instance - this point was agreed with. The potential use of the national Veterinary Prescribing System as a mechanism to benchmark prescribing practices was also mentioned.

#### **6. Update on EU Summary Report on AMR Surveillance – Rosemarie Slowey DAFM**

Findings from the 2022 National AMR Surveillance programme which focussed on broilers and turkeys were presented, outlining the prevalence of antimicrobial resistance in zoonotic and commensal bacteria. The prevalence of Salmonella was very low in poultry again in 2022, there was however resistance detected in some imported frozen chicken meat sampled as part of the surveillance programme

Cefotaxime resistant isolates were recovered from 14.3% of turkey caeca sampled at slaughter but there were low levels of resistance detected in turkeys at slaughter, however the prevalence was significantly higher in turkey meat sampled at retail, almost a quarter of which were imported from other EU countries. The Irish Farmers Association highlighted that finding of AMR in imported meat is concerning.

The prevalence of resistant bacteria in broilers and broiler meat continued to decrease; the levels halved in broiler meat between 2020 and 2022 indicating very positive trends in relation to AMR levels in the sector. The prevalence in broiler caeca (9.3% in 2022) has decreased very significantly from the start of monitoring in 2016, when over 85% of samples were positive.

## **7. EU Audit of AMR Surveillance Report Findings and Update – Caroline Garvan DAFM**

The DAFM presented findings from a draft report of a DG Sante Audit of Ireland’s AMR Surveillance programme under CID 2020/1729 which took place in January 23. Overall, the report is positive with only one recommendation relating to AMR sampling at the Border Control Posts. The DAFM have submitted comments to the Commission to clarify and improve the overall accuracy of the report. The final audit report will be published by the Commission in due course.

## **8. NVPS Screen Demonstration – Peter Collins DAFM**

The DAFM gave a presentation of the NVPS (National Veterinary Prescription System) outlining the functionality. Discussion followed regarding the data fields requested/ required to generate an online prescription, and considerations around dispensing of veterinary medicinal products (VMPs) by vets or third party VMP dispensers. The primary focus of the discussion related to the following areas.

- Animal species/ categories and stages data required from NVPS data capture
- Presented ‘screen flow’ for a veterinary practitioner writing a prescription on NVPS- regarding administration/ dispensing of a prescription.
- Pack size/ splitting packs of veterinary medicines, specifically in relation to prescribing of antiparasitics

It was agreed that clarification would be sought on the legal requirement for reporting antimicrobial data under article 57 (AP 6). This clarification will include guidance with regard to data capture in the NVPS in relation to age category (AP 7).

It was agreed that there would be a follow up workshop with stakeholders, to further demonstrate and discuss the functionality and use of the NVPS. This workshop will serve to address any relevant concerns, in particular those discussed at the meeting (AP 8).


The validity period of an antiparasitic prescription was raised. Concerns were expressed regarding any potential change from a previously suggested 12-month validity. It was clarified that the validity period was one item under review, and that this would be dealt with in the Statutory Instrument ( SI) that is to be drafted, to follow the current Bill travelling through the Oireachtas. It was clarified that the content of the SI is not drafted, agreed, or finalised.

## **9. AOB**

Not Raised

### **Actions**

<b><u>Action No.</u></b>	<b><u>Description</u></b>
1	AHI to seek specific information on the factors that have promoted a shift towards SDCT in NZ

2	DAFM circulate paper: Selective use of Antimicrobials in Dairy Cattle at Drying-Off. J.  Selective use of antimicrobials in dai Dairy Sci. 105: 7161-7189.
3	Approved minutes from last (17 <sup>th</sup> ) iNAP meeting to be published on DAFM webpage
4	DAFM to circulate updated iNAP progress report document following meeting
5	DAFM to circulate Draft Mastitis Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing Policy Guidance Document for comment
6	DAFM to clarify animal production type capture requirements under Article 57 as they related to NVPS data capture on farm particularly regarding cattle sector
7	DAFM to seek clarification regarding categorization of less than 1 year old bovine animals regarding production type for NVPS data capture
8	DAFM to organize NVPS workshop with stakeholders
9	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 (JK)	Animal and Plant Health Association (APHA)
Ray Doyle (RD)	Irish Cooperative Organisation Society (ICOS)
Edgar Garcia Manzanilla (EGM)	Teagasc
Simon More (SM)	University College Dublin/ CVERA
Tomas Bourke	Irish Farmers Association (IFA)
Lisa O Connor (LOC)	Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI)
Finola McCoy	Animal Health Ireland (AHI)
Linda Gordon	Safefood
Mike Lynch	ICBF
Aisling O'Connor	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
John Enright	ICMSA

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

Martin Blake (MB)	Chief Veterinary Officer
June Fanning (JF)	Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer

Caroline Garvan (CG)	Senior Superintending Veterinary Inspector
Julie Bolton (JB)	Veterinary Inspector
Zara Conlon	Veterinary Inspector
Rosemarie Slowey (RS)	Senior Research Officer
Margaret Wilson (MW)	Superintending Veterinary Inspector
Maire McElroy (MM)	Head of Division Bacteriology
John Moriarty (JM)	Head of Division Pathology
Peter Collins (PC)	Assistant Principal
Denise Flood (DF)	HEO

### **Apologies**

<b><u>Representative</u></b>	<b><u>Organisation</u></b>
David Graham (DG)	Animal Health Ireland
Cornelia O'Connell	IGFM
Bill Dore (BD)	Marine Institute
Sile Sweeney (SS)	Meat Industry Ireland
Niamh Muldoon	Veterinary Council of Ireland
Jane Piggott	VICAS