




ANNUAL REPORT

2016



AHI gratefully acknowledges the financial and other contributions of our stakeholders.



 Contributing to a profitable and sustainable farming and agri-food sector through improved animal health

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AHI Client Services

IMPLEMENTATION of animal health programmes

CELLCHECK

BVDFree



€38M

Increase in milk value in 2015, relative to 2013, due to reduced SCC



€66M

Net benefit of reduced BVD prevalence in 2016, relative to 2011

JOHNE'S DISEASE CONTROL

IBRFree

BEEF HEALTHCHECK

EU AND INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

FACILITATION of dialogue on animal health

7 TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS

76

Members

143

Meetings

3 IMPLEMENTATION GROUPS

178

Members

121

Meetings

NORTH-SOUTH COLLABORATION
2014 Irish Times / InterTrade Ireland Award

INFORMATIONAL RESOURCES

30 Information leaflets
66 Monthly bulletins
32 Quarterly newsletters
43 Scientific publications
9,000 Copies of the CellCheck Farm Guidelines

46 ON-FARM EVENTS

7,250 farmers attended

PROVISION of Training and Education

232 CELLCHECK FARMER WORKSHOPS

2,068 FARMERS TRAINED

1,650 BVD HERD INVESTIGATIONS

€831,603 - VALUE OF PAYMENTS MADE BY AHI IN SUPPORT OF ON-FARM ANIMAL HEALTH SERVICES

€

PAYMENT of service providers

Johne's disease risk assessments: €594,000

TASAH BVD herd investigations: €159,354

CellCheck Farmer Workshops €78,249

Over 4,000 transactions



YEAR IN REVIEW

CEO'S ADDRESS



Joe O'Flaherty, CEO, AHI

The 2016 Annual Report sets out a substantial set of achievements at the end of the second year of the current three-year strategic planning cycle.

The BVD programme continues to record strong progress, with the national animal-level prevalence of persistently infected (PI) animals falling by almost 50% over the course of 2016, relative to 2015, to stand at 0.16%. Indeed, at the time of writing, 2017 has seen the prevalence fall further, to approximately 0.1%, with good progress being made in addressing the problem of PI retention. The epidemiological model that has been painstakingly developed to support the programme indicates that we are on track to eradicate the disease by 2020, provided we can collectively find ways to completely eliminate the practice of PI retention.

The CellCheck programme has been part of a great success story in the Irish dairy herd, which has seen steady year-on-year increases in the proportion of herds achieving an annual average somatic cell count (SCC) of less than 200,000 cells/ml. Analysis of the national SCC database tells us that this proportion rose to 60% in 2015 (from 39% in 2013) and that the proportion of the overall milk volume reaching this standard increased to 64% (from 46% in 2013). The programme is on course to achieve the objective of facilitating the Irish dairy industry to reach a position whereby 75% of the milk supplied by Irish dairy farmers will have an SCC of 200,000 cells/mL or less by 2020.

With the Pilot Programme for the control of Johne's disease coming to an end in December 2016, efforts in the final quarter of that year switched to developing the foundations for a successor programme. AHI coordinated an extensive consultation exercise with stakeholders throughout that period, and continuing into 2017, both through the Implementation Group and in other fora. While much has been agreed on the shape of the new proposed programme, a number of key issues – relating particularly to cost-sharing and the long-term sustainability of the programme – remain to be resolved. I remain optimistic, however, that agreement can be reached on implementing a Johne's disease control programme, an initiative which all stakeholders rightly regard as being of considerable strategic importance to the Irish dairy industry.

The Beef HealthCheck programme has established itself rapidly, from modest beginnings in 2015 to a position, by the end of 2016, in which post-mortem results relating to approximately 65% of the national beef kill were being captured by the programme. Significant effort has been put into the development of the paper-based 'batch' reports which issue to all farmers presenting cattle to one of the participating plants, and into the subsequent development of the sophisticated online dashboards for farmers and veterinary practitioners, which are available free of charge through the AHI component of the ICBF website. Ongoing work in this programme is focused on developing the ability to establish the economic effects of liver and lung disease in cattle, and on the creation of tools to link programme results to geographic information systems, thereby enabling the spatial mapping of disease distribution in close to real time.

AHI has been observing and reporting for some time now on the progress being made by other European member states on the control and eradication of IBR. It is important that stakeholders are fully aware of the potential economic consequences of such moves on the live cattle trade out of Ireland, and of the production impacts of this disease in our dairy and beef herds. To this end, the IBR Technical Working Group and my colleague, David Graham, have been working steadily in the background to prepare the way for a public consultation on the possible introduction of an IBR eradication programme in Ireland.

In relation to the organisation's financial position, I am pleased to say that the objective of returning the Company to a position of positive net worth has been achieved, thanks to a strong surplus of over €138,000 in the 2016 financial year. This excellent outcome owes a great deal to the hard work and efforts of my colleagues in the management team, and to the continuing strong support from stakeholders.

This is my last Annual Report as CEO of Animal Health Ireland, as I announced earlier this year that I would be stepping down from the Chief Executive position by September. I have thoroughly enjoyed my almost nine years at the helm of AHI and hope that I leave the organisation in a strong position to take on the many challenges that lie ahead. All that has been achieved has been due to the genuine collaboration that has developed at multiple levels across our stakeholder network, and to the strong support, financial and otherwise, that has been extended to us from the beginning by our Member organisations. My sincere thanks are due to the Chairman and the Board of AHI, who have consistently provided me with good guidance and counsel, and have held me and the management team to the high standards that befit an organisation, such as ours, charged by our stakeholders with important national responsibilities. Finally, I must express a great debt of gratitude to each and every one of my colleagues in the AHI team, who have been fundamental to the great progress that this organisation has made. I can safely say that my successor will be fortunate to work with a group of individuals of extraordinary ability, and with a work ethic, professionalism and team spirit that is second to none.

CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS



Mike Magan, Chairman, AHI

Writing a few words for the annual report provides a good opportunity to reflect on where we are along the road to helping the farmers of Ireland to make more profit by having healthier animals.

This is by any examination a credible and worthy cause. The task is formidable but doable, and best achieved through the model which has been developed – that of the industry and government working together collaboratively. AHI has developed many examples of this principle in action, but like all good things we can and should do more. Having programmes in place to tackle the various animal health issues in bovines will be more and more important as cattle herds get bigger and systems of production become more intensive. In addition to the direct benefits to farmers and industry, there is also the benefit of healthier animals producing fewer greenhouse gas emissions per unit of output and of further improving perceptions of the quality of our products in the international marketplace.

Our model of technical working groups (TWGs) is a precious resource. We are indebted to the various members of these groups and the Chairs of the TWGs for all their hard work and effort. As a farmer I thank you all on behalf of my peers.

The implementation groups have a wide range of perspectives to consider and, as a result, can at times move rather cautiously. However, I cannot think of a better way to implement the various programmes. All involved in these groups deserve praise for their patience and resolve and for remaining committed to the collaborative approach.

Our current CEO, Joe O'Flaherty, is moving on from AHI. I have got to know Joe very well over the nearly nine years of my involvement in the organisation. He is a man of incredible ability, great knowledge and wisdom. I mentioned patience earlier and this is not bestowed in such abundance on many people....Joe got his own and my share! I wish him well as he embarks on the next chapter in his professional career. It will be clear to us all over time just what a huge contribution he has made to our industry. Joe leads a great team and I'm really grateful to each and every member of that team for consistently going above and beyond the normal call of duty.

With the support of industry and government we can continue to deliver on behalf of the cattle farmers of Ireland. I encourage you to read this annual report, which details the impressive achievements of AHI to date.



ABOUT US

THE COMPANY

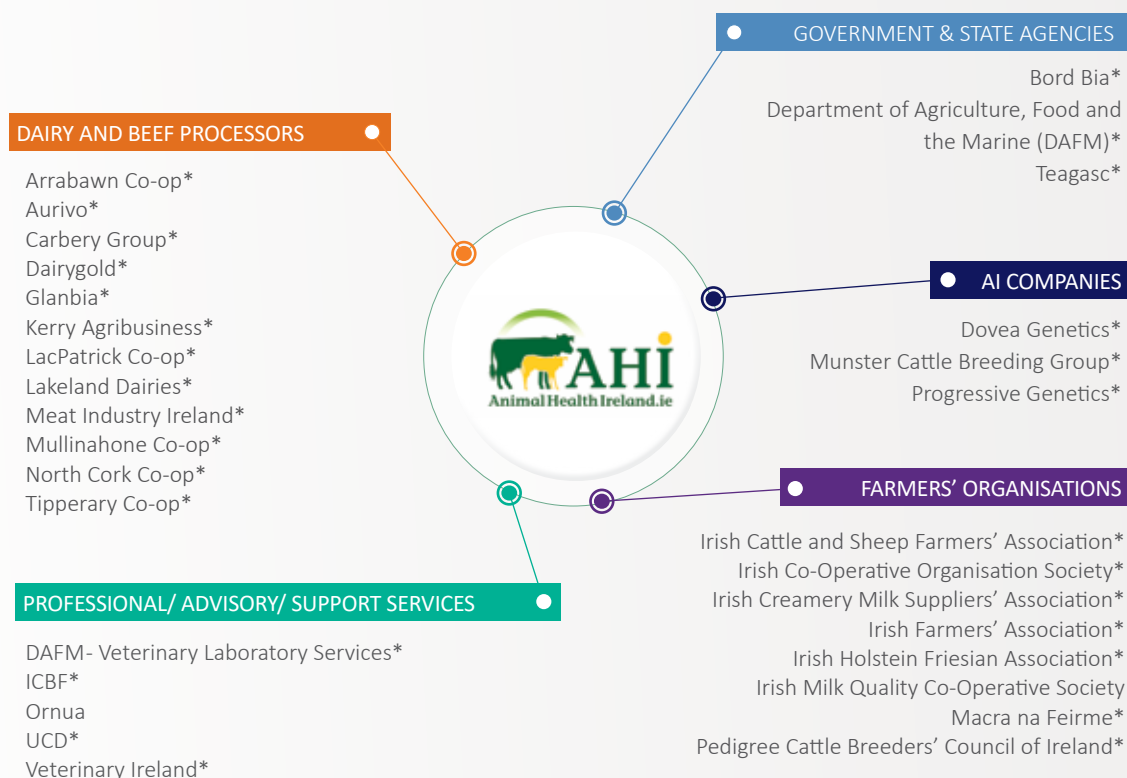
Constituted as a Company Limited by Guarantee, AHI functions as a partnership between private sector organisations and businesses in the agri-food sector and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. It is a not-for-profit organisation which receives no guaranteed income from the State; government funding is provided on the basis of strict matching with private sector contributions up to an agreed limit, meaning that the organisation depends entirely on its ability to attract investment from the private sector. The fact that AHI has continued to attract and grow such support over the period since its establishment bears testimony to the organisation's ability to deliver real outcomes on behalf of its stakeholders.

AHI provides benefits to livestock producers and processors by providing the knowledge, education and coordination required to establish effective control programmes for diseases of livestock which are not subject to international regulation.

THE MEMBERS

The Members are the various organisations that set the overall strategic direction of Animal Health Ireland and provide the necessary financial and other resources to enable the organisation operate effectively.

As of 31st December 2016, the following organisations were Stakeholders and/or Members in Animal Health Ireland (* indicates membership). The Register of Members is available to view from the Member Area of the AHI website¹



¹ http://animalhealthireland.ie/?page_id=503

THE BOARD

The Board of Animal Health Ireland comprises seven non-executive Directors. During the year, the Directors of Animal Health Ireland were:

Director	Date of appointment (reappointment)
Mr Mike Magan, Chairman	May 2009 (December 2012)
Dr Sean Brady	March 2013 (April 2016)
Mr Gerard Brickley	May 2009 (January 2014)
Mr Joe Collins	May 2009 (April 2016)
Professor Michael Doherty	May 2009 (April 2016)
Mr John O'Sullivan	May 2009 (January 2014)
Mr Robin Talbot	May 2009 (December 2012)

THE MANAGEMENT TEAM

At 31st December 2016, the staff of Animal Health Ireland comprised the following:

Member	Title	Date of employment
Mr Joe O'Flaherty	Chief Executive Officer	24/09/2009
Ms Nuala Morgan	Company Secretary	08/03/2010
Dr David Graham	DCEO & Programme Manager (Biosecure Diseases)	01/10/2010
Mr Karol Harvey	Manager, Systems and Quality Assurance	29/11/2010
Ms Jackie Dempsey	Administrator (BVD Programme)	01/03/2012
Ms Grainne Dwyer	Manager, Communications and Events	01/09/2012
Ms Finola McCoy	Programme Manager (CellCheck)	01/05/2013
Ms Nicola McKeon	Administrator (John's Disease Programme)	06/11/2013
Ms Rebecca Carroll	Programme Manager (Beef HealthCheck)	01/09/2014
Ms Fiona Reardon	MVM Researcher on BVD	01/02/2015
Ms Lisa Byrne	Administrator	07/12/2015
Ms Lorna Citer	Programme Manager (John's Disease)	01/08/2016



■ TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS (TWGs)

The Technical Working Groups (TWGs) comprise experts and experienced practitioners from a variety of fields who are tasked with drawing up factual resources, the development of decision-making tools, and the identification of areas for further Research and Development. Furthermore, in areas in which AHI is developing disease control and eradication programmes of national scope, the TWGs, in conjunction with the relevant Implementation Group (IG), are responsible for the development and implementation of these programmes. By giving of their time free of charge, these experts enable AHI to access the technical resources required to develop its various programmes at a fraction of the true economic cost of such expertise. Animal Health Ireland gratefully acknowledges the generosity of these individuals and that of their parent organisations and employers.

As of 31st December 2016, seven Technical Working Groups were operational. Further details of the Technical Working Groups, including biographies of the Chairmen and members, are available from the Animal Health Ireland website². Over the course of 2016, AHI, in conjunction with the members and Chairpersons of the various Technical Working Groups, developed comprehensive guidelines for the operation of Technical Working Groups, incorporating a facility for members to make a statement in relation to commercial interests.



Prof. Simon More, Chair of the CellCheck and Johne's Disease Technical Working Groups

Simon is a veterinarian with specialist skills in national and international animal disease control. He has contributed to the work of governments and industries in a number of countries in Australasia, southeast Asia, Europe and South America.

In Ireland, he is based at University College Dublin, as Director of the UCD Centre for Veterinary Epidemiology and Risk Analysis, which provides information to support decision-making on animal disease control in Ireland, by both government and industry.

² http://animalhealthireland.ie/?page_id=510

CellCheck Technical Working Group

4 meetings held between 1/1/2016 and 31/12/2016

Member	Parent organisation	Attendance
Simon More (Chair)	CVERA, University College Dublin	4
Damien Barrett (Retired 2017)	DAFM, Veterinary Laboratory Services	0
Willie Buckley	Veterinary Practitioner, Bandon, Cork	2
Don Crowley	Teagasc, Clonakilty	3
Brendan Dillon	Glanbia	4
Kevin Downing	Irish Cattle Breeding Federation (ICBF)	1
Grainne Dwyer	Technical Working Group Rapporteur, AHI	3
Alen Dzidic	Department of Zoology, Trinity College	1
Edmond Harty	Dairymaster	2
Alan Johnson	DAFM, Veterinary Laboratory Services	3
Patrick Kelly	Munster AI	3
Jennifer McClure	Irish Cattle Breeding Federation (ICBF)	1
Finola McCoy	Programme Manager, CellCheck, AHI	4
Padraig O'Connor	Teagasc, Kildalton	2
Luke O'Grady	University College Dublin	2
Frank O'Sullivan	Veterinary Practitioner, Trim, Meath	3
George Ramsbottom	Teagasc, Oakpark	4
Tom Ryan	Teagasc, Kildalton	3

Johne's Disease Technical Working Group

1 meeting held between 1/1/2016 and 31/12/2016

Member	Parent organisation	Attendance
Simon More (Chair)	CVERA, University College Dublin	1
Damien Barrett (Retired 2017)	DAFM, Veterinary Laboratory Services	0
Bill Cashman	Veterinary Practitioner, Glanmire, Cork	1
Lorna Citer	Programme Manager (Johne's Disease), AHI	0
Doreen Corridan	Munster AI	0
Grainne Dwyer	Technical Working Group Rapporteur, AHI	0
Richard Fallon	Teagasc Researcher (Retired)	0
Margaret Good	Senior Superintending Veterinary Inspector, DAFM	1
David Graham	Programme Manager for Biosecure Diseases, AHI	0
Kevin Kenny	DAFM, Veterinary Laboratory Services	1
Aideen Kennedy	Teagasc Research Centre, Moorepark	1
Bryan Markey	University College Dublin	0
Conor McAloon	University College Dublin	1
Ciaran Mellett	Veterinary Practitioner, Kells, Meath	1
Peter Mullowney	DAFM, Agricultural House, Kildare Street, (Retired)	1
Riona Sayers	Teagasc Research Centre, Moorepark	0
Sam Strain	Programme Manager, AHI/AHWNI	1
Paul Whyte	University College Dublin	0



Prof. Michael Doherty, Chair of the BVD Technical Working Group

Michael is Dean of the School of Veterinary Medicine and Professor of Veterinary Clinical Studies in the School of Veterinary Medicine, University College Dublin.

A graduate of the University of Edinburgh, his background is in cattle practice in Donegal and at the Farm Animal Unit of the University of Glasgow.

He has managed many clinical research programmes, including studies of herd health in conventional and organic dairy herds and published extensively in clinical aspects of farm animal health.

A past-President and board member of the European College of Bovine Health Management, he is actively involved along with colleagues in the UCD Herd Health Group in the promotion, development and implementation of herd health in Ireland.

BVD Technical Working Group

4 meetings held between 1/1/2016 and 31/12/2016

Member	Parent organisation	Attendance
Michael Doherty (Chair)	University College Dublin	4
Damien Barrett	Superintending Veterinary Inspector, SAT Division, DAFM	2
Bosco Cowley	MSD Animal Health	3
Bernard Eivers	National Cattle Breeding Centre, Enfield	0
David Graham	Programme Manager for Biosecure Diseases, AHI	4
Maria Guelbenzu	Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute, NI	1
Luke O'Grady	University College Dublin	2
Ronan O'Neill	Virology Division, Central Veterinary Laboratory Services, DAFM	2
Fiona Reardon	Technical Working Group Rapporteur, AHI	3
Riona Sayers	Teagasc Research Centre, Moorepark	3
Michael Sexton	Veterinary Practitioner, Bandon, Cork	3



Dr Michael Gunn, Chair of the IBR Technical Working Group

Michael comes from a farming background in County Meath and holds a diploma in Agriculture.

He graduated with an Honours degree in veterinary medicine from UCD and was awarded a PhD from Edinburgh University on fundamental cellular metabolism.

After spending six years in mixed veterinary practice he joined the Virology Division of the Central Veterinary Laboratory at Abbotstown, Dublin 15. While in the Division he developed a range of techniques for the rapid diagnosis of virus diseases in animals. He became Deputy Director of the Veterinary Laboratory Service and subsequently Director of the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine Laboratories.

He was a member of the EU Scientific Committee on Animal Health and Animal Welfare, and a member of the European Food Safety Authority's (EFSA) Scientific Panel on Animal Health and Welfare. He is also a fellow of the Society of Biology and has recently been appointed to the Minister for Agriculture Food and Marine's Scientific Advisory Committee on Animal Health and Animal Welfare.

IBR Technical Working Group

9 meetings held between 1/1/2016 and 31/12/2016

Member	Parent organisation	Attendance
Michael Gunn (Chair)	Director of DAFM Laboratories (Retired)	9
Stephen Conroy	Tully Bull Performance Centre, Kildare (ICBF)	4
Doreen Corridan	Munster AI	5
Bosco Cowley	MSD Animal Health	6
Grainne Dwyer	Technical Working Group Rapporteur, AHI	9
Bernard Eivers	National Cattle Breeding Centre, Enfield	1
William Fitzgerald	DAFM, Veterinary Laboratory Services	6
Tim Geraghty	Manager, Disease Surveillance Centre, Aberdeen (formally UCD)	5
David Graham	Programme Manager for Biosecure Diseases, AHI	9
Maria Guelbenzu	Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute, NI	3
Elizabeth Lane	Superintending Veterinary Inspector, DAFM	6
Donal Lynch	Veterinary Practitioner, Tullamore, Offaly	3
Shane McElroy	Glanbia	3
Mary Newman	Zoetis	7
Ronan O'Neill	Virology Division, Central Veterinary Laboratory Services, DAFM	6
Riona Sayers	Teagasc Research Centre, Moorepark	3
Sharon Verner	Programme Manager, AHWNI	1



Dr Ingrid Lorenz, Chair of the CalfCare Technical Working Group

Ingrid is originally from a dairy farm in Southern Germany and joined the UCD Herd Health Group in April 2007 as Lecturer in Bovine Medicine. In March 2016 she took up the Position of Head of Department of the Cattle Health Service within the Bavarian Animal Health Service.

She graduated from the Veterinary School of the University of Munich in 1992 after which she prepared her doctoral thesis in the area of calf diseases at the Clinic for Ruminants of the University. She subsequently took up a lecturer position at the Clinic and was awarded a PhD in 2007. Her qualifications include Dr. Med. Vet., Habil, Dip. ECBHM.

The Clinic for Ruminants in Munich is renowned for its high caseload; approximately 2,000 first opinion or referral cases are seen per year, of which a high percentage are calves. Through her work there, Ingrid has acquired vast experience in internal medicine and surgery as well as in the investigation of calf-related herd health problems.

CalfCare Technical Working Group

1 meeting held between 1/1/2016 and 31/12/2016

Member	Parent organisation	Attendance
Ingrid Lorenz (Chair)	Head of Cattle Health Services, Bavaria	1
Muireann Conneely	Teagasc Research Centre, Moorepark	1
Charles Chavasse	Zoetis	1
Christine Cummins	Bonanza Calf Nutrition	1
Grainne Dwyer	Technical Working Group Rapporteur, AHI	1
Bernadette Earley	Teagasc Research Centre, Grange	0
John Fagan (Retired 2017)	DAFM, Veterinary Laboratory Services	1
Richard Fallon	Teagasc Researcher (Retired)	1
Liam Gannon	Volac Ireland	1
John Gilmore	Veterinary Practitioner, Elphin, Roscommon	0
Ian Hogan	DAFM, Veterinary Laboratory Services	1
Emer Kennedy	Teagasc Research Centre, Moorepark	0
John Mee	Teagasc Research Centre, Moorepark	1
Cindy Todd	Teagasc Research Centre, Grange	1



Dr Andy Forbes, Chair of the Parasite Control Technical Working Group

Andy is originally from Canterbury in Kent. In 1971 he graduated from the Royal School of Veterinary Studies, Edinburgh University and completed a PhD, entitled *Grazing Behaviour, Inappetence and Production Losses in Cattle with Sub-clinical Parasitic Gastroenteritis* from the University of Ghent in Belgium in 2008. He is a member of the Society of Biology and a Foundation Diplomate of the European Veterinary Parasitology College and is also a past president of the British Cattle Veterinary Association and the British Association of Veterinary Parasitology. His qualifications include BVM&S, PhD, CBiol, MSB, DipEVPC, MRCVS.

He spent several years in general veterinary practice in the United Kingdom, southern Africa and New Zealand before joining the Animal Health industry, firstly with Elanco/Lilly Research and subsequently with Merck AgVet and then Merial.

He has recently retired from the position of the Technical Director for Ruminants for Merial which was based in France. Since retiring, he is now working as an independent veterinary parasitologist specialising in ruminants and an honorary Professor at the School of Veterinary Medicine, Glasgow University.

Parasite Control Technical Working Group

1 meeting held between 1/1/2016 and 31/12/2016

Member	Parent organisation	Attendance
Andrew Forbes (Chair)	Honorary Professor, Glasgow University	1
Rebecca Carroll	Programme Manager and TWG Rapporteur, AHI	1
Micheal Casey	DAFM, Veterinary Laboratory Services	0
Charles Chavasse	Zoetis	0
Bosco Cowley	MSD Animal Health	1
Martin Danaher	Teagasc Food Research Centre, Ashtown	0
Theo De Waal	University College Dublin	0
John Gilmore	Veterinary Practitioner, Elphin, Roscommon	0
Barbara Good	Teagasc Research Centre, Athenry	1
David Graham	Programme Manager for Biosecure Diseases, AHI	1
Fintan Graham	Veterinary Practitioner, Mountrath, Laois	1
Ian Hogan	DAFM, Veterinary Laboratory Services	0
Maura Langan (Retired 2017)	Norbrook	0
Jennifer McClure	Irish Cattle Breeding Federation (ICBF)	1
Mark McGee	Teagasc Research Centre, Grange	1
Grace Mulcahy	University College Dublin	0
Tom Murphy (Retired 2017)	DAFM, Veterinary Laboratory Services	1
James O'Shaughnessy	Research Officer, DAFM	1
Maresa Sheehan	DAFM, Veterinary Laboratory Services	1
Donal Toolan	DAFM, Veterinary Laboratory Services	1



Dr John Mee, Chair of the Biosecurity Technical Working Group

John is originally from a farm in Co. Roscommon and now lives in Fermoy, Co. Cork where he works with Teagasc in the Moorepark Research Centre.

He graduated from UCD with an MVB and a PhD in Veterinary Medicine, and is a Veterinary Council of Ireland accredited Veterinary Practitioner and a European College Specialist in bovine health. He has over 25 years' experience in leading dairy and beef, cow and calf, health, welfare and reproduction research programmes.

John has worked in research institutes, universities, the Department of Agriculture and in private veterinary practice in Ireland, New Zealand and in Australia. His current research interests include dairy cow and calf herd health and fertility and beef herd health. His research work has been published in over 75 scientific papers in peer-reviewed journals and textbooks. He also reviews for over 20 leading international bioscience journals and serves on the editorial boards of five scientific journals, including the Irish Veterinary Journal BioMed Central (Deputy Editor).

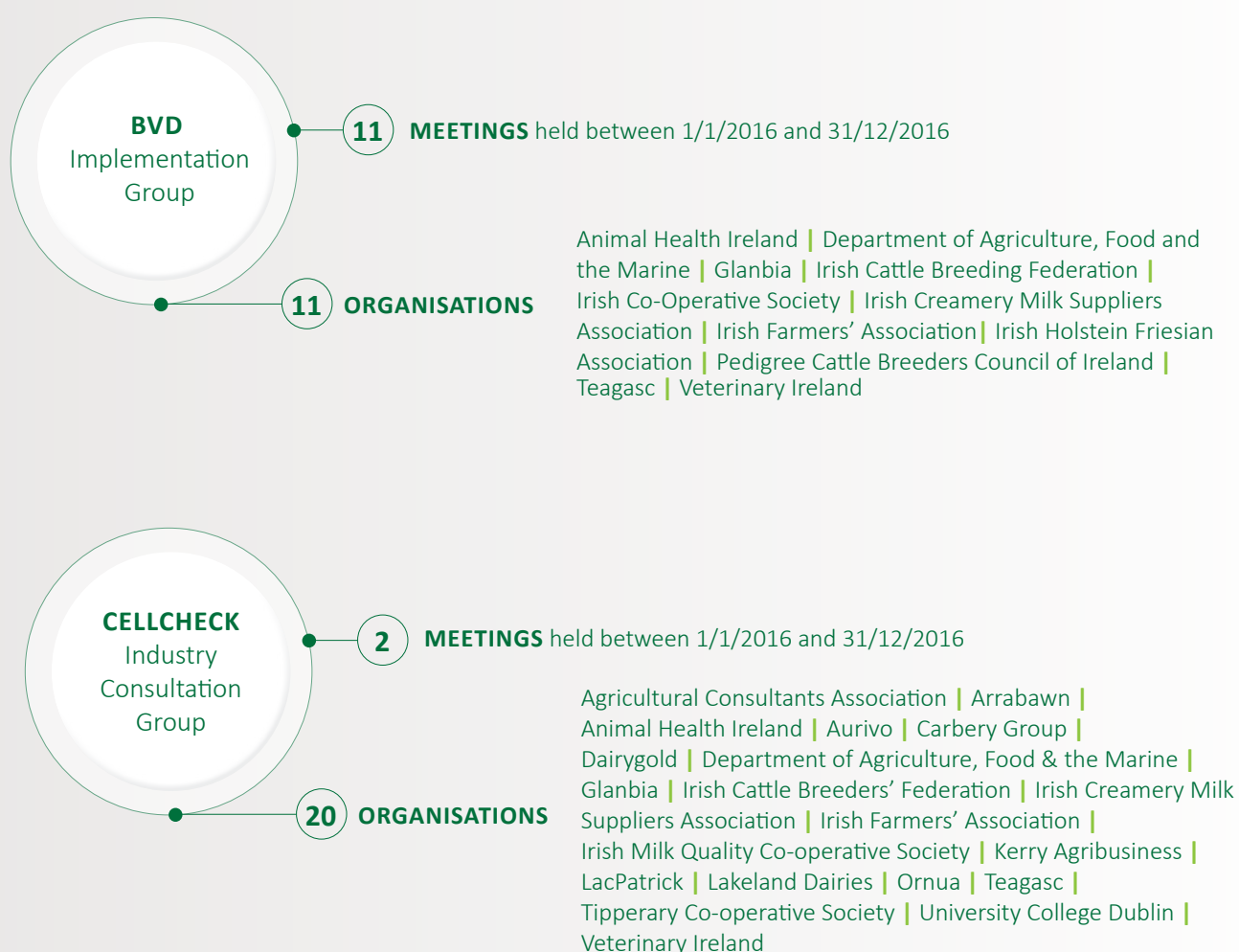
BioSecurity Technical Working Group

2 meetings held between 1/1/2016 and 31/12/2016

Member	Parent organisation	Attendance
John Mee (Chair)	Teagasc Research Centre, Moorepark	2
Stephen Conroy	Tully Bull Performance Centre, Kildare (ICBF)	1
Bosco Cowley	MSD Animal Health	1
Grainne Dwyer	Technical Working Group Rapporteur, AHI	2
Bernard Eivers	National Cattle Breeding Centre, Enfield	0
Richard Fallon	Teagasc Researcher (Retired)	1
David Graham	Programme Manager for Biosecure Diseases, AHI	2
Pat Kirwan	Veterinary Practitioner, Wicklow	1
John Moriarty	DAFM, Veterinary Laboratory Services	1
Luke O'Grady	University College Dublin	1
Eoin Ryan	DAFM, Veterinary Laboratory Services	2
George Ramsbottom	Teagasc, Oakpark	1
Michael Sexton	Veterinary Practitioner, Bandon, Cork	1

IMPLEMENTATION AND CONSULTATION GROUPS

In conjunction with the relevant Technical Working Group, the Implementation Groups (IGs) are responsible for the development, implementation and monitoring of major animal health programmes. Members of the Implementation Groups are drawn from the relevant AHI stakeholder organisations. Over the course of 2016, Implementation Groups for the BVD eradication programme and for the Johne's disease control programme, and an Industry Consultation Group for CellCheck, were operative, chaired by Joe O'Flaherty, CEO of Animal Health Ireland. Further details of the Implementation Groups are available from the Animal Health Ireland Website³.



³ http://animalhealthireland.ie/?page_id=514

**JOHNE'S
DISEASE**
Implementation
Group

3 MEETINGS held between 1/1/2016 and 31/12/2016

26 ORGANISATIONS

ABP Ireland | Animal Health Ireland | Arrabawn | Aurivo |
Carbery Group | Centenary Thurles | Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine | Dairygold | Glanbia |
Irish Cattle and Sheep Farmers' Association | Irish Cattle
Breeding Federation | Irish Cooperative Organisation Society |
Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers Association |
Irish Farmers' Association | Irish Holstein Friesian Association |
Kerry Agribusiness | LacPatrick | Lakeland Dairies |
National Dairy Council | Meat Industry Ireland | Munster AI |
Ornua | Pedigree Cattle Breeders Council of Ireland |
Progressive Genetics | Teagasc | Veterinary Ireland





CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

GENERAL MEETINGS OF MEMBERS

The seventh Annual General Meeting of the Company was held in Portlaoise on 4th of May 2016. The financial statements for the year ended 31st December, 2015 and the report of the Directors and Auditors thereon were adopted. Gilroy Gannon were appointed as auditors. Presentations relating to AHl Business Plans and the operation of the various programmes were made by the CEO and Programme Managers.

BOARD MEETINGS

The Board met on five occasions between 01/01/2016 and 31/12/2016. The attendance of Directors at these meetings is summarised below.

Director	Meetings Attended
M. Magan (Chairman)	5
S. Brady	5
G. Brickley	4
J. Collins	4
M. Doherty	3
J. O'Sullivan	5
R. Talbot	5

ROTATION OF CHAIRMAN AND DIRECTORS

The Articles of Association of AHl provide that the first Chairman appointed shall hold office until the termination of the first Board meeting following the Third Annual General Meeting and shall then retire but shall be eligible for re-election. Thereafter, subject to the provisions of the Articles, the Chairman from time to time shall hold office from the termination of the Board meeting at which he was elected until termination of the first Board meeting following the third next Annual General Meeting following his election.

In relation to Directors, the Articles of Association state that at the first Board meeting following every third Annual General Meeting a number of Directors shall retire from office according to the following sequence: two Directors shall retire at the first such Board meeting, three Directors shall retire at the second such Board meeting, two Directors shall retire at the third such Board meeting and thereafter the Directors shall rotate according to the same sequence repeated from time to time.

■ PERFORMANCE MONITORING

Detailed business plans are produced annually by AHI, following consultation with the Board, the Members, the Technical Working Groups and the Implementation Groups. Progress reports are provided to Members annually at the AGM and at least quarterly through the AHI newsletter, programme newsletters and other bulletins. Quarterly management accounts of the Company are also available to Members through the Stakeholder portal of the AHI website. The Annual Report sets out in detail the extent to which the deliverables agreed at the start of the year have been achieved.

■ MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING

Over the course of 2016, the Memoranda of Understanding between AHI and the organisations listed below were in force. These memoranda are available for inspection by Members upon request.

Organisation	Date of entry Into force
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	11/01/2016
ICBF	01/01/2016
Teagasc	09/05/2016
UCD	18/06/2012
AHWNI	26/09/2012
ICBF	22/09/2010

■ COMMITTEES

The Audit, Finance & Risk Committee and the Remuneration Committee each met on one occasion in 2016.

OUR ACTIVITIES



The education and training role of the Company took on increased importance in 2016, with the expansion of these activities in support of the Targeted Advisory Service on Animal Health (TASAH). In parallel with this structured training, AHI continued to deliver a number of important on-farm events providing timely and relevant information to farmers in partnerships with many of our Stakeholders, such as Teagasc, Meat Industry Ireland and UCD, and with the support of our sponsors, which include FBD, the Irish Farmers' Journal, Ornua and DAFM. We continue to grow and expand our range of publications, with the aim of reaching a broader audience and engaging with them in a more meaningful way.



Gráinne Dwyer
Communications and Event Manager

CALFCARE FARMER EVENTS

The CalfCare events were held in nine locations around the country and were jointly hosted by AHI and Teagasc, in conjunction with Glanbia, Aurivo, Lakeland Dairies and Dairygold, and supported by Volac. Over 1,600 farmers attended our on-farm CalfCare events in 2016, which covered topics including colostrum management, cryptosporidiosis/coccidiosis, the feeding of calf milk replacer, and labour management at calving/calf rearing.

WBC 2016

The 29th Congress of the World Association for Buiatrics (WBC 2016) took place in July 2016 in the Convention Centre, Dublin. This week-long Congress, which is held every two years, was jointly hosted on this occasion by the World Association for Buiatrics and by Veterinary Ireland. Experts in the fields of cattle health and production made presentations on a host of topics, including diagnostics, animal health systems, animal welfare initiatives, food safety, mastitis control, parasite control, animal reproduction and a wide range of infectious disease control programmes. Over 3,000 delegates attended from around the World with representatives from academia, research, private veterinary practice and government veterinary services, as well as leading animal scientists.

David Graham was one of the keynote speakers at the Congress with Rebecca Carroll and Fiona Reardon also presenting. AHI was among the many national and international exhibitors with a presence at the event.

BEEF 2016

Animal Health Ireland, in association with Veterinary Ireland, the Central Regional Veterinary Laboratory and Teagasc, were involved in the planning and delivery of the Animal Health Village component of the major Teagasc beef event- Beef 2016. Rebecca Carroll and Andy Forbes, Chairman of the Parasite Control TWG, attended the AHI information stand, engaging and answering farmers' queries on parasite control and the new Beef HealthCheck reports.

BEEF HEALTHCHECK FARMER EVENTS

Five Beef HealthCheck events, jointly organised by AHI, MII and Teagasc, were attended by 800 farmers across the country. All events were Knowledge Transfer (KT) approved for beef discussion groups. Under the theme of Animal Health at Housing, four topics were addressed by the speakers- pneumonia, parasite control, anti-microbial resistance (AMR) and the use of Beef HealthCheck reports.



■ CELLCHECK MILKING FOR QUALITY AWARDS

The CellCheck *Milking For Quality* Awards ceremony was held in the Lyrath Hotel, Kilkenny in November. Among the 700 attendees were the Best 500 winners, their partners and industry representatives. The CellCheck plaques were sponsored by FBD with Ornua, the Irish Farmers' Journal and AHI sponsoring the Awards ceremony. It was a most enjoyable night, celebrating the great achievements of the individual winners.

■ OTHER ACTIVITIES

AHI continued to be involved in other agricultural events during the year, such as the Newford Open Day (Athenry) and the National Heifer Rearing Winner Open Day (Ballynoe, Co. Cork), which provided a great opportunity to engage with farmers and discuss animal health issues with them.

■ TRAINING

Training continues to be an important component of the work of AHI. Towards the end of 2015, AHI successfully secured the contract for delivery of training and services as part of the Rural Development Plan 2014-2020, which is co-funded by the Irish government and the EU. One component of that programme – the Targeted Advisory Service on Animal Health (TASAH), which is delivered by veterinary practitioners who have received training by AHI, currently provides an investigation service for the BVD programme, and will be expanded in the future to encompass other programmes, such as Johne's Disease Control and CellCheck. During 2016, 427 veterinary practitioners received TASAH-funded training in relation to the BVD eradication programme, and 325 on the Johne's disease control programme.

Other training offered by AHI included CellCheck Stage 2 training, and basic training modules for veterinary practitioners wishing to become approved to deliver on-farm risk assessments in the Pilot Johne's Disease Control Programme.

■ PUBLICATIONS

AHI continues to provide a comprehensive ranges of publications which support our various programmes. In addition to our regular monthly and quarterly publications, we began the production of a new monthly bulletin dealing with the topic of Johne's Disease and related matters in April 2016.

All AHI publications are available from our website www.animalhealthireland.ie.

A photograph of a group of people, including men and women, standing in a barn. They are gathered around a large pile of yellow hay. In the foreground, two black and white cows are visible, standing behind a metal railing. The people are dressed in casual or business-casual attire, with some wearing boots. The background shows the interior of a barn with a green corrugated metal wall. The text "OUR PROGRAMMES" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters on the right side of the image.

OUR PROGRAMMES

BVD

ANNUAL REPORT



RESULTS

Just over 2.3 million calves were born in 2016. Consistent with previous years, there was a very high level of compliance with the requirement to tissue tag test these calves, with results received by the programme database for 99.4% of these. The overall prevalence of PI calves born in 2016 was 0.16% (3,802), representing a reduction of almost 50% compared to 2015, when 0.33% (7,422) were identified as PI. The prevalence of herds in which one or more calves had a positive or inconclusive result also decreased markedly from 5.9% (4,757) to 3.2% (2,530). These figures indicate an overall decrease in the prevalence of PI calves born during the compulsory phase of the programme by some 75%, from 0.66% in 2013 (Figures 1A and 1B).

During 2016, the BVD Implementation Group (BVDIG) continued to emphasise the importance of prompt removal of all PI animals once identified, with strict isolation where the option to conduct a confirmatory re-test was applied. At the end of 2016 only 282 PI calves born in 2016 were still alive (Figures 1C), compared to a figure of 891 2015-born PIs still alive at the end of 2015.

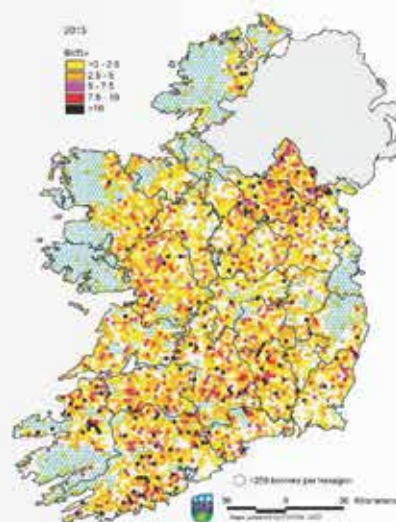


Figure 1A. Map showing distribution of PI births during 2013. Each hexagon represents an area of approximately 10km²

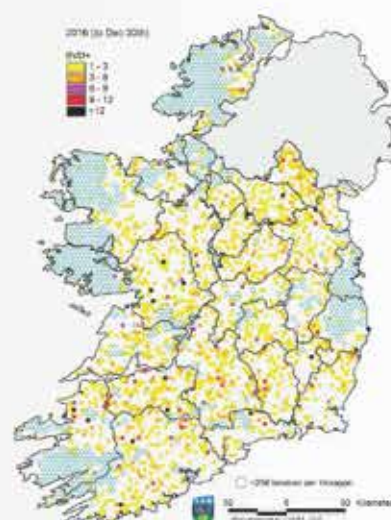


Figure 1B. Map showing distribution of PI births during 2016. Each hexagon represents an area of approximately 10km²

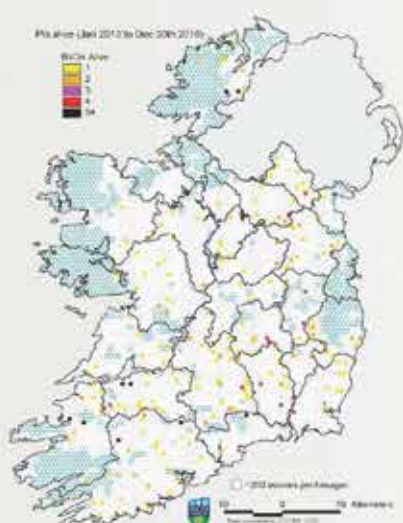


Figure 1C. Map showing distribution of all PI animals born 2013-2016 that remained alive at the end of 2016. Each hexagon represents an area of approximately 10km²

This increased rate of removal was assisted by the introduction by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) of restrictions (on both movements in and out) for herds retaining PI animals for more than seven weeks after the date of their first test, and it continues the year-on-year reduction in the level of retention of PI calves, as demonstrated in a study carried by the Centre for Veterinary Epidemiology and Risk Assessment (CVERA) at University College Dublin⁴ (Figure 2).

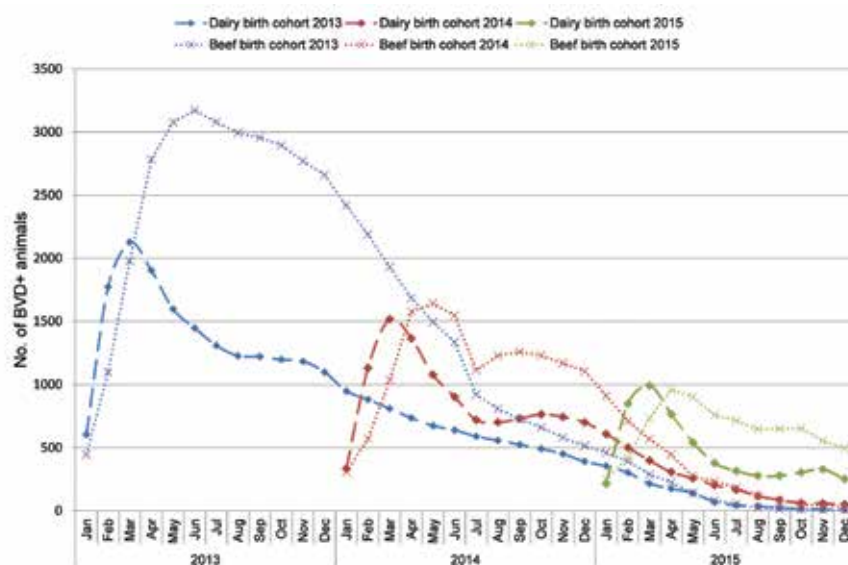


Figure 2. Number of BVD+ animals alive at each month by birth year (cohort) in beef and dairy herds

NEGATIVE HERD STATUS

A herd may qualify for negative herd status (NHS) by meeting the following requirements:

1. existence of a negative BVD status for every animal currently in the herd (on the basis of either 'direct' or 'indirect' results);
2. absence of any animal(s) deemed to be persistently infected with BVD virus in the 12 months preceding the acquisition of NHS.

At the end of 2015, 49,087 of approximately 83,000 breeding herds had achieved NHS. By the end of 2016, this had risen to almost 65,000 (78%), with the programme database holding a status on 99.2% of the 5.7 million cattle in these herds. The status of the remaining 0.8% (44,000) is unknown, with the majority (31,000) of these animals having been born prior to the start of the programme in 2013. The presence of small numbers of these untested animals is the reason that the majority of non-NHS herds have not yet acquired a negative status. The acquiring of NHS is an important milestone for herds in the context of the national programme and also confers an economic benefit through access to reduced-cost testing. The testing of these remaining unknown animals is an important goal for 2017. In December 2016, ICBF began issuing SMS messages or letters to these herds, listing the identity of these animals and encouraging their testing.

⁴ Clegg, T.A., Graham, D., O'Sullivan, P., McGrath, G., More, S.J., 2016. Temporal trends in the retention of BVD+ calves and associated animal and herd-level risk factors during the compulsory eradication programme in Ireland. *Preventive Veterinary Medicine* 134, 128-138.

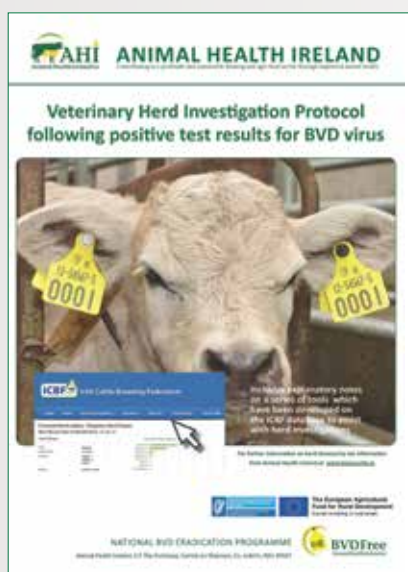
TARGETED ADVISORY SERVICE ON ANIMAL HEALTH (TASAH)

The Targeted Advisory Service on Animal Health (TASAH), which was introduced in late 2015, provided an investigation by a trained veterinary practitioner for herds with one or more positive result in 2016. These investigations were funded through the Rural Development Programme (2014-2020) and sought to review herd biosecurity, identify a plausible source or sources of infection, ensure that the herd was left free from BVDV and agree farm-specific biosecurity measures to prevent its re-introduction. AHI trained almost 400 private veterinary practitioners in the performance of herd investigations, with participating farmers typically able to select a practitioner from their own veterinary practice to conduct their investigation⁵. By the end of 2016, 1,430 investigations had been requested, of which almost three quarters had been completed, biosecurity recommendations provided to herd owners and the results reported to AHI.

Preliminary analysis of these results indicated that the majority (82%) of herd owners were provided with three biosecurity recommendations, with these most commonly relating to the risks of introduction of virus associated with personnel (including the farmer), the purchase of cattle, contact with neighbouring cattle at pasture and the role of vaccination. One or more plausible sources of infection were identified in 84% of herds, with a single plausible source identified in 47% of herds. In approximately one third of cases, the source was considered to be within the herd, while in two thirds of cases it was outside the herd. This latter proportion is anticipated to increase further as the number of herds with NHS increases, requiring a greater emphasis on bioexclusion measures to prevent accidental introduction of BVD virus.

ICBF DEVELOPMENTS

During 2016 work was undertaken to further improve the presentation of herd results to farmers and their veterinary practitioners, including the incorporation of herd status information and the development of tools to support herd investigations. This information is available to all herdowners, free of charge⁶. Significant work was also put into providing a series of data extracts in support of the programme.



⁵ see http://animalhealthireland.ie/?page_id=5009 for a full listing

⁶ see <http://animalhealthireland.ie/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/BVD-ICBF-Guide-2016-FINAL.pdf> for a detailed guide to accessing these data.

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG) ACTIVITY

The TWG met regularly in 2016 with a particular focus on the options for BVD testing that would be available to farmers in 2017 and beyond and the threshold prevalence of PI births below which it may be safe to introduce alternative testing options for herds with NHS, with particular emphasis on the cost-effectiveness of a serological option, based on blood sampling of a limited number of younger animals in each herd. This work relied heavily on the Irish BVD Model developed in 2015 in collaboration with the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research in Leipzig, with input from the Centre for Veterinary Epidemiology and Risk Analysis (CVERA) at University College Dublin and supported by data extracts from ICBF. Key outputs from this work, which were presented to the BVD Implementation Group in August, were as follows:

- In the absence of any further retention of PIs, eradication by 2020 remains achievable, while retention of PIs will delay the time and cost to attain eradication.
- Introduction of a serological option would not materially delay the time to eradication relative to continued tissue tag testing. However, when factors including the reduction in tissue tag testing costs available to herds with NHS, herd size and trading patterns were taken into account, it was shown that a serological option would only be practical in a minority of larger herds, which would typically realise only a modest saving.
- Introduction of a serological option would lead to a reduction in the proportion of animals with a defined BVD status, hindering herd investigations and requiring extensive education of both herd owners and veterinary practitioners and changes to laboratory testing protocols.



■ KEY DECISIONS AND PROGRAMME ENHANCEMENTS FOR 2017

Taking the results of the modelling work into account, the TWG concluded that tag testing should continue to eradication, with serology being developed instead for post-eradication surveillance to demonstrate continued freedom from infection.

This was presented by the TWG to a meeting of the BVDIG in November 2016 as one of a series of recommendations to enhance the programme in 2017. Following discussion by the IG and a meeting with the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, the following decisions were agreed:

1. **Tissue tag testing will continue in all herds for 2017.** An important change for 2017 was the availability of more than one source of tags. The BVDIG, in conjunction with the National Reference Laboratory, put in place measures to ensure that laboratories were designated to test additional tag types. Herd owners were advised to check with their tag supplier or AHI⁷ to identify suitable laboratories for the tag type they are using.
2. **Increased financial supports provided by DAFM but reduced time limits for removal of PI calves.**
 - a. **Beef herds**
€185 for beef breed animals removed with a registered date of death on AIM within 3 weeks of the initial test, reducing to €60 if removed in the 4th or 5th week after the initial test.
 - b. **Dairy herds**
 - i. Dairy and dairy cross heifers: €150 if removed within 3 weeks of the initial test, reducing to €35 if removed in the 4th or 5th week after the initial test.
 - ii. €30 for removal of bull calves within 3 weeks of the initial test.
3. **Restriction of herds retaining PI calves and notification of neighbours.** DAFM put in place measures to automatically restrict movements into and out of herds that retain PI animals for more than five weeks after the date of the initial test. Restrictions are automatically lifted following removal of PIs. Neighbouring herds will also be notified, advising them to take appropriate biosecurity measures to minimize the risk of accidental introduction of infection.
4. **Confirmatory and dam testing by blood sample only.** Testing of the dam of PI calves and, where desired, confirmatory testing of the calf must be done on a blood sample. A supplementary tissue tag can no longer be used for testing these animals. DAFM will fund the sampling visit by the herd's veterinary practitioner and the subsequent testing.
5. **Veterinary investigations of all herds with PI calves born in 2017.** All herds with PI calves born in 2017 are required to undergo a TASA⁸ investigation within 3 months of the date of the first positive result

These key messages for 2017, were developed into a flier for distribution to herd owners via SMS, with tag deliveries and programme letters issued by ICBF⁸.

⁷ see http://animalhealthireland.ie/?page_id=233 for details

⁸ <http://animalhealthireland.ie/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/BVD-Key-Points-2017-FINAL.pdf>

Taking into account these enhanced programme measures, the BVDIG has requested that the TWG provide recommendations relating to;

- a target herd level prevalence at which a switch from tag testing to serological surveillance can be achieved; and
- the estimated date on which that target prevalence would be achieved, and a report on the operation of the surveillance methodology that will be used in the post-tag testing phase of the programme.

A TWG sub-group has been formed to address these specific requests, with further input from the Helmholtz Centre.

The TWG also co-ordinated a series of other studies to enhance the evidence base for the programme, including: analysis of pilot sampling and serological testing in dairy herds; evaluation of different serological test kits and the impact of vaccination on their performance in uninfected animals; a survey of deer; and studies to quantify the impact of Trojan movements on the introduction of PI calves into previously free herds. A study on the risk of spread of BVDV between contiguous herds was also completed⁹, concluding that the risk of a herd producing one or more PI calves was doubled if PIs were present in contiguous herds, supporting the need to inform herdowners whose neighbours were retaining PI animals.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Reduction in prevalence of PI calves of 50% from 2015 (0.33%) to 2016 (0.16%).
- 78% of breeding herds had achieved negative herd status by the end of 2016.
- Investigations conducted by trained private veterinary practitioners of herds with PI births identified one or more plausible sources of infection in 84% of cases, the majority of which lay outside the herd, highlighting the importance of biosecurity to prevent accidental introduction of infection.
- Disease modelling shows that eradication is achievable by 2020, but requires that retention of PIs no longer occurs.
- The BVD Technical Working Group, based on the modelling work, has recommended that tag testing continue to eradication, but is considering options for introduction of a serological testing option in advance of eradication and also post-eradication surveillance strategies.
- A suite of measures agreed for 2017 to enhance progress of the programme, with a view to realising the 2020 target for eradication.

⁹ Graham, D.A., Clegg, T.A., Thulke, H.H., O'Sullivan, P., McGrath, G., More, S.J., 2016. Quantifying the risk of spread of bovine viral diarrhoea virus (BVDV) between contiguous herds in Ireland. Preventive Veterinary Medicine 126, 30-38.



Dr David Graham, BVD and IBR Programme Manager

David is Deputy CEO of AHI and Programme Manager for Biosecure Diseases including the BVD and IBR programmes.

He qualified from UCD as a Veterinary Surgeon in 1988, and after working as a house surgeon at the Veterinary School in Dublin he moved back to Northern Ireland where he spent several years in a mixed large animal practice. In 1992 David joined the Stormont laboratories of the Veterinary Sciences division of the Science Service (now the Agrifood and Biosciences Institute) of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development where he has worked in several branches. During his time there he gained extensive experience in the diagnosis and control of a wide range of viral and bacterial diseases, including bovine viral diarrhoea (BVDV), infectious bovine rhinotracheitis (IBR), Johne's disease and leptospirosis.

He received his PhD in 1998 on improved methods for diagnosing bovine respiratory disease from Queen's University Belfast and in 2007 he established, and has subsequently led a cattle health scheme offering monitoring, eradication and accreditation programmes for BVD, IBR, Johnes and leptospirosis.

IBR ANNUAL REPORT



The IBR Technical Working Group met regularly during 2016. In the early part of the year the focus was on completion of the report on the study visit to Belgium and the Netherlands that was undertaken in late 2015. This report, entitled National Perspectives on IBR: Control and Eradication in Belgium and the Netherlands¹⁰, details the control and eradication programmes currently underway in these countries, including the drivers for their initiation, funding, management, sampling and testing regimes, means of herd categorisation, progress to date and future plans.

The Foodwise 2025 report¹¹ contains a commitment to initiate a national IBR eradication programme by 2019 subject to a favourable outcome from analysis of the costs and benefits of such a programme.

The TWG has continued its work to develop options for a national programme with a view to subjecting these to mathematical modelling to compare costs and cost-effectiveness. As part of this process an exercise to identify and prioritize knowledge gaps related to the control of IBR was also completed.

DAFM have commissioned Teagasc to conduct an analysis of the economic benefits of eradication, which will contribute to a broader cost-benefit analysis. This work, supported by the TWG, is ongoing and is seeking to quantify: the potential impacts of IBR due to clinical and subclinical disease; the effect of the acquisition by certain EU member states of Article 9 and Article 10 status under Council Directive 64/432 (with consequent restriction/loss of live export markets for Ireland); and reduction in the rate of genetic gain, as a result of the exclusion of potential AI sires due to IBR.



¹⁰ available at http://animalhealthireland.ie/?page_id=5803

¹¹ <https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/foodindustrydevelopmenttrademarks/agri-foodandtheeconomy/foodwise2025/report/FoodWise2025.pdf>

CELLCHECK ANNUAL REPORT



NATIONAL SCC DATA COLLATION AND ANALYSIS:

The developing national SCC database is an invaluable technical resource for the programme, and has been established with the support of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM). DAFM currently collects SCC data relating to more than 90% of the national milk pool, directly from each of the processors. This facilitates the identification of temporal SCC trends and the measurement of industry progress. To date, the database contains SCC data for the three years 2013 to 2015. Analysis of this data shows the SCC distribution of both herds and milk and the clear progress between 2013 and 2015 (Figure 1).

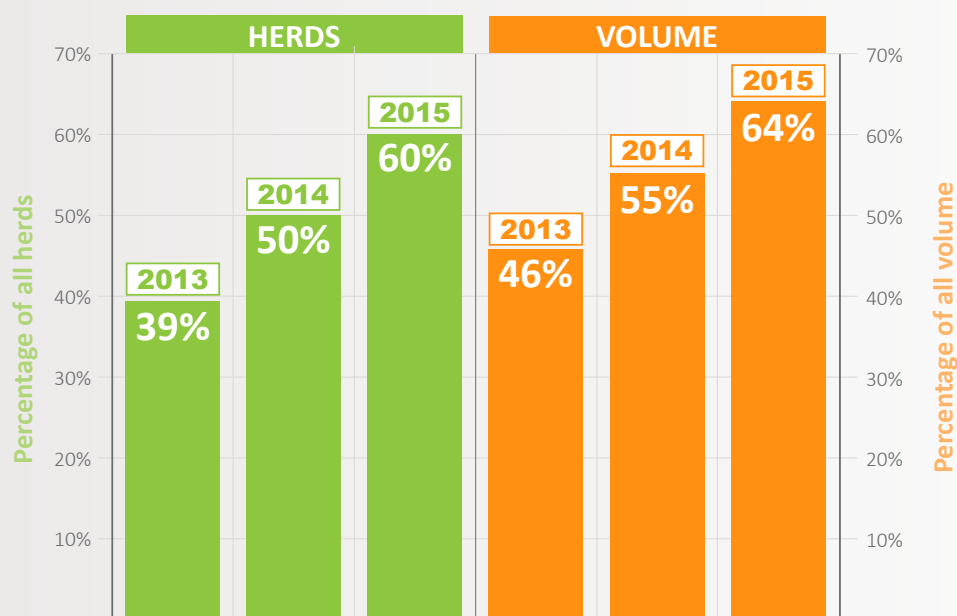


Figure 1. Proportions of herds and national milk volume with an SCC <200,000 cells/mL 2013-2015

This positive trend is similar to that seen in the milk recording herds, with the proportion of herds with a herd SCC less than 200,000 cells/mL increasing from 26% in 2010 to 60% in 2016 (Figure 2).

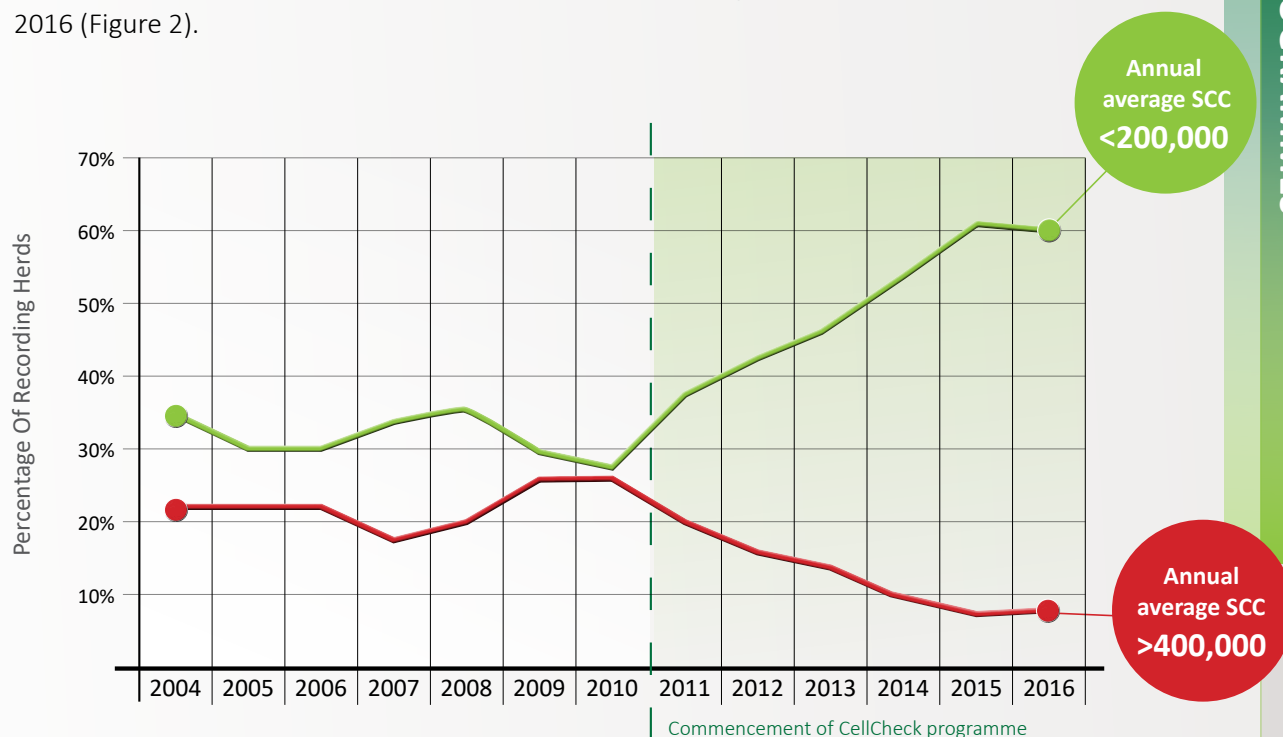


Figure 2. Distribution of Irish milk recording herds 2004-2016 (Source ICBF)

An individual “CellCheck activity and SCC performance” report was generated for each co-op, based on detailed analysis of this bulk tank SCC data and benchmarked against national performance. Individualised, secure reports were issued to management of each of the participating milk processors.



CELLCHECK MILKING FOR QUALITY AWARDS

The winners of the CellCheck *Milking For Quality* awards supported by FBD Trust, were announced at an award ceremony in November which was sponsored and supported by the Irish Farmers' Journal and Ornua. This award which was based on 2015 SCC data collated by Department of Agriculture, was open to any supplier with at least 9 months of SCC results from an individual processor. Once again, the performance of these award-winning suppliers was excellent, with the weighted annual average SCC of all winners falling below approximately 87,000 cells/mL, an improvement on the outcomes of the previous year. A special award was also made to the top supplier from each participating milk processor.

CELLCHECK FARMER WORKSHOPS

The commencement of the Dairy Knowledge Transfer programme in 2016 resulted in significant CellCheck farmer workshop activity, as all programme participants are required to participate in a workshop within the first 18 months of the programme. Approximately 4,200 dairy farmers are participating in 270 workshops which are being held around the country. Workshop delivery commenced in October, with 120 of these having been completed by the end of the year. A Customer Relationship Management (CRM) and online booking system were developed by AHI in order to enable group facilitators to book workshops and confirm details online, and to assist with the logistics of workshop preparation and delivery. The team of Regional Coordinators has worked closely with AHI, the group facilitators and CellCheck-trained local service providers in the planning and delivery of these workshops.



SERVICE PROVIDER TRAINING

Five more Stage 2 Workshop training days were held in 2015, attended by local service providers from various parts of the country. Stage 2 Workshop training was also identified by DAFM as a CPD requirement for all dairy group facilitators. The contact details of all Stage 2-trained service providers are available on an interactive map¹².

CELLCHECK IMPLEMENTATION GROUP

Work within the TWG identified some key industry and programme challenges, which were outlined in a CellCheck discussion document for industry. One of the actions proposed in this document was the convening of a CellCheck Implementation Group to replace the Industry Consultation Group which had supported the programme to date. It is expected that the CellCheck Implementation Group can facilitate robust discussion, engagement and decision on some of the key challenges, both current and emerging, facing the industry.

LABORATORY PROFICIENCY TESTING

The development and roll-out of a national laboratory proficiency test in partnership with Limerick RVL has continued. Eight commercial labs are participating in this test, which started with bacterial identification in early 2016, and which had progressed to including antimicrobial sensitivity by the end of the year. Several of the participating labs have also commenced data sharing, and have been contributing towards the establishment of a national database of the mastitis pathogens identified.

RESEARCH STUDIES

Following a request from DAFM, analysis of the national bulk tank SCC dataset has been carried out to look at the impact of the seasonality factor on herd eligibility to supply. This evidence base is essential to inform industry discussions and decision making. Following peer-review, this work was accepted for publication in the Irish Veterinary Journal and will be available online in the near future.

An additional area of novel research was on the trends in intramammary antimicrobial usage in Ireland in the period 2003-15 using national sales data. Findings from the work included a reduction in the use of intramammary treatments during lactation; however there is widespread use of critically important antimicrobials for human medicine (CIAs). There is also evidence of almost blanket use of dry cow treatment, contrary to recent moves internationally towards selective dry cow treatment. All of this research was carried out in partnership with CVERA, UCD and DAFM.

¹² http://animalhealthireland.ie/?page_id=100

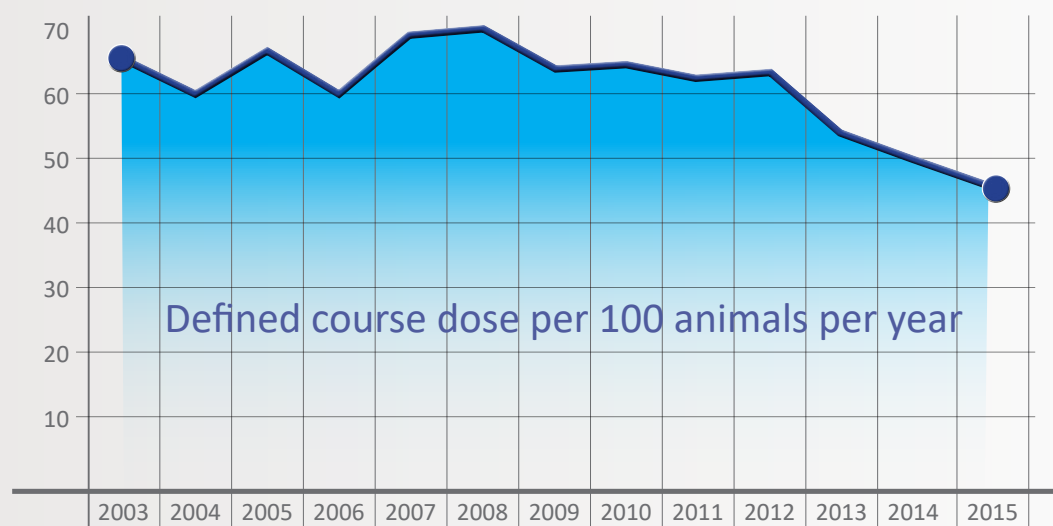


Figure 3. Estimated on-farm antimicrobial usage of in-lactation intramammary antimicrobials in Ireland between 2003 and 2015.

COMMUNICATIONS AND TRAINING

During the year, I attended and presented at several mastitis and milk quality-related conferences and seminars, including the IDF Mastitis Conference in France. I was invited to present at a number of training and education events, including FETAC Responsible Person's Training, IMQCS, Dairy Business Degree students and various milk processor-hosted information events.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Collation and analysis of 3 sequential years of national SCC data (2013-2015).
- Proportion of herds with SCC<200,000 cells/mL increased from 39% in 2013 to 60% in 2015.
- Proportion of milk volume with SCC<200,000 cells/mL increased from 46% in 2013 to 64% in 2015.
- Reduction in in-lactation intramammary use, from a high of 69.9 defined course doses per 100 animals per year in 2008 to 46.6 in 2015.
- CellCheck Farmer Workshops
 - 115 events
 - 1,541 farmers
- Events and communications
 - CellCheck *Milking For Quality* Awards
 - CellCheck monthly newsletters



Finola McCoy, CellCheck Programme Manager

Finola graduated from University College Dublin in 1997 with a degree in veterinary medicine. She spent the following 11 years working in various mixed practices in Ireland, UK and New Zealand, and during this time developed a keen interest in the dairy industry. Working with large dairy herds in New Zealand provided an invaluable insight into some of the challenges associated with herd expansion and disease control. While working in practice she undertook a Masters in Science in Livestock Health and Production through the University of London, which she completed in 2006.

Finola joined the Teagasc research team in Moorepark in 2008, as the mastitis research officer. She co-ordinated and managed a pilot study evaluating a team-based approach to mastitis control, as well as collaborating on other research projects. She has a keen interest and experience in international models of mastitis control. While working for Teagasc she commenced working as Programme Manager for CellCheck, and joined the AHI staff in May 2013 to continue working in that role.

JOHNE'S CONTROL ANNUAL REPORT



■ GENERAL

The pilot phase of the National Johne's Control Programme entered its final year in 2016 with a total of 1,214 herds enrolled. The focus for much of the year was on the provision of ongoing training for Approved Veterinary Practitioners (AVP), to ensure farmers had access to current technical knowledge and advice. This programme was funded through the TASAH training programme. In the third quarter of 2016 the training programme was broadened to include dairy factory advisers, and plans are in place to further expand training activities to other dairy field advisers in 2017.

The Pilot Programme has been successful in building a body of scientific knowledge which has enabled farmers to successfully manage and control Johne's disease.

Data collected from herds during the course of the pilot phase has also informed the calculation of herd prevalence for Johne's disease, estimated at 28% for dairy herds, and a risk factor review, which has led to the development of improved advisory information for farmers.

With the support of the Johne's Disease Implementation Group, the principal activity in late 2016 was an extensive consultation with stakeholders on the future of Johne's disease control in Ireland, following the ending of the pilot programme.



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- By year end 506 AVPs had participated in training to enhance skills in conducting risk assessments and test interpretation.
- The training programme was expanded through a series of pilot workshops for dairy factory advisers to ensure their access to the most recent information about Johne's disease control and the National Johne's Control Programme. This initiative will be further expanded in 2017 in recognition of the value of a team approach to Johne's disease management and prevention.
- Completion of two economic analyses examining the potential impact of Johne's disease at the national level and estimating its true impact at farm level.
- Finalisation of the risk factor study for Johne's disease infection in herds.
- Progression of the behavioural research projects regarding access to and participation in the pilot programme. These projects were undertaken as part of the ICONMap programme.
- Completion of two surveys to elicit farmer and veterinary attitudes towards Johne's disease control and the programme.
- Production of regular newsletters and bulletins as part of an overarching communication plan.
- Stakeholders had an improved understanding of the epidemiology and financial impact of Johne's disease on the Irish dairy industry, enabling them to take informed decisions regarding the establishment of a successor to the Pilot Programme.
- Farmers are better able to access current information about Johne's disease control from a variety of sources.
- The knowledge required to control Johne's disease is available to Irish dairy farmers.



Lorna Citer, Johne's Disease Programme Manager

Lorna graduated from the University of Sydney, Australia in 1977 with a degree in veterinary science. She worked as a government veterinary officer on the National Brucellosis and TB Eradication Campaign (BTEC) in the late seventies, and in private mixed practice in Australia and the UK.

After a number of years working in private practice, Lorna developed an interest in vocational training and coordinated a rural training centre for a vocational training organisation where she focussed on delivering practical training programmes for farmers wanting to improve their farms' profitability and productivity in New South Wales. She also undertook further study in project management and more recently completed a Postgraduate Certificate in Management.

Lorna worked with Animal Health Australia from 2003 to 2016 and for a number of years managed the National Johne's Disease Control Programme. During this time she developed an interest in endemic diseases generally and has worked with the sheep and dairy goat industries on a number of national disease surveillance and control projects. Lorna joined AHI in August 2016.

BEEF HEALTHCHECK ANNUAL REPORT



At the beginning of 2016, information meetings for Temporary Veterinary Inspectors (TVIs), outlining the Beef HealthCheck programme, took place in 8 meat plants. These meat plants join 10 other plants in the Beef HealthCheck programme recording data on liver and lung lesions found in cattle at slaughter and issuing paper reports. By the end of 2016, all plants across 7 meat processors were transmitting this information to the ICBF database. The Beef HealthCheck programme now encompasses approximately 65% of the national beef kill in Ireland.

■ BEEF HEALTHCHECK ONLINE

One of the key milestones for the Beef HealthCheck programme in 2016 was the development of an online reporting system to complement the paper-based reports issued by meat plants. Beef HealthCheck Online can be accessed free of charge by farmers through the Irish Cattle Breeding Federation (ICBF) website. AHl also developed a 'Step-by-step guide to viewing Beef HealthCheck data on ICBF', a resource for farmers wishing to access programme information and share it with their veterinary practitioners. The leaflet is available on the AHl website.¹³



Beef HealthCheck Online provides a range of tools to search and analyse Beef HealthCheck information at a herd level. The information can be used to analyse animal performance and the results of activities to improve animal health on farm. The liver fluke results can be used in combination with faecal egg counts to monitor dosing programmes. The liver abscess results can be used to assess the appropriateness of diets in finishing cattle. Lung results, when analysed with on-farm information, can be used to monitor pneumonia control programmes. More generally, it is hoped that this new online resource will encourage farmers and veterinary practitioners to develop and improve herd health plans.

¹³ <https://goo.gl/lilo5C>

COMMUNICATIONS

AHI met several times during 2016 with Meat Industry Ireland (MII) and meat processor representatives to plan Beef HealthCheck developments and organise events. AHI also held regular meetings with other key stakeholders, including the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM), ICBF and Veterinary Ireland.

AHI in conjunction with MII, individual meat processors, Teagasc and DAFM ran a series of Beef HealthCheck events in October. The theme of the events was Animal Health at Housing and approximately 800 farmers attended these National Knowledge Transfer-approved events. Farmers heard speakers talking on parasite control at housing, respiratory disease, understanding the Beef HealthCheck report and antimicrobial resistance.

The Beef HealthCheck newsletter continued to be published quarterly in 2016. This newsletter on cattle health and production is aimed at beef farmers and others working in the beef industry.

I had the opportunity to attend or speak at several events over the course of 2016, including the Newford farm open day, Beef 2016 at Teagasc Grange, a Teagasc Beef Advisors in-service training session, a World Buiatrics Congress workshop for veterinary practitioners and a Teagasc winter finishing event at Cillin Hill. At all these events I updated attending farmers and animal health professionals on the developments in the Beef HealthCheck programme.

In July, I presented work which has arisen from the Beef HealthCheck programme at the international World Buiatrics Congress which was held in Dublin this year. A poster on the Development of the Beef HealthCheck programme was included in the section on National Animal Health Programmes and I gave an oral presentation on analysing disease prevalence from abattoir populations.





Rebecca Carroll, Beef HealthCheck Programme Manager

Rebecca graduated from University College Dublin in 2007 with a degree in veterinary medicine. She initially worked in mixed practice in Kilmacthomas, Co. Waterford before moving to New Zealand and working in a large mixed practice in the Waikato region. Here she developed an interest in large animal veterinary medicine and particularly in herd health. Returning to Ireland in 2011 she worked in a dairy-focused practice in Dungarvan, Co. Waterford. While in practice she completed a Certificate in Dairy Herd Health through University College Dublin. She joined AHI in 2014.

Rebecca is responsible for the Beef HealthCheck programme- a major project which involves the capture of relevant animal health information from slaughter premises, with the ultimate aim of enabling more profitable beef production.



FINANCIAL STATEMENT

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Company Information

Board of Directors	M.J. Magan (Chairman) S. Brady J.G. Brickley J.Collins M.L.Doherty J.O'Sullivan R. Herbert Talbot
Company Secretary	N. Morgan
Registered Number	470675
Registered Office and Business Address	4-5 The Archways Carrick-on-Shannon Co Leitrim N41 WN27
Statutory Auditors	Gilroy Gannon
Accountants & Business Advisors	Russell Brennan Keane
Bankers	Bank of Ireland
Solicitors	Frank Mulvey Solicitors

Directors' Report

For the financial year ended 31st December 2016

The directors present their report together with the audited financial statements for the financial year ended 31st December 2016.

Statement of Directors Responsibilities

The directors are responsible for preparing the Directors' Report and financial statements in accordance with applicable Irish law and regulations.

Irish company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under the law, the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the Companies Act 2014 and FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" issued by the Financial Reporting Council. Under company law, the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at the financial year end date and of the income and expenditure of the company for the financial year and otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2014.

In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, identify those standards, and note the effect and the reason for any material departure from those standards; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for ensuring that the company keeps or causes to be kept adequate accounting records which correctly explain and record the transactions of the company, enable at any time the assets, liabilities, financial position and income and expenditure of the company to be determined with reasonable accuracy, enable them to ensure that the financial statements and Directors' Report comply with the Companies Act 2014 and enable the financial statements to be audited. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The directors are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the company's website.

Going Concern

Based on committed stakeholder subscriptions over the next year and the 2017 budget, the directors are satisfied that Animal Health Ireland Initiative has adequate resources to continue for at least twelve months from the date of approval of these financial statements and it is appropriate to adopt the going concern basis in the preparation of the financial statements.

Accounting Records

The measures taken by the directors to ensure compliance with the requirements of Section 281 to 285 of the Companies Act 2014 with regard to the keeping of accounting records are the implementation of necessary policies and procedures for recording transactions, the employment of competent accounting personnel with appropriate expertise and the provision of adequate resources to the financial function. The accounting records of the company are located at 4-5 The Archways, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim N41 WN27.

Statement on Relevant Audit Information

In accordance with section 330 of Companies Act 2014:

- (i) so far as each person who was a director at the date of approving this report is aware, there is no relevant audit information, being information needed by the auditor in connection with preparing its report, of which the auditor is unaware, and
- (ii) each director has taken all the steps that he or she ought to have taken as a director in order to make himself or herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's statutory auditors are aware of that information.

Legal Status

Animal Health Ireland Initiative is a company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital. Animal Health Ireland Initiative is a not for profit organisation set up to enhance value for livestock farmers and the agrifood industry through superior animal health. All income to the company is applied towards the running of the organisation.

The Companies Act 2014 commenced on 1st June 2015. The directors have availed of the provisions applicable during transition and have also availed of the provisions of section 291(5) of the Companies Act 2014 to use a format for the financial statements that better describes the activities of a company not trading for a profit. The main change is the replacement of the title "Profit and Loss" with the title "Income and Expenditure" and consequential changes in the description of certain items to be consistent with the descriptions appropriate to the not for profit sector.

Directors

The names of the persons who were directors at anytime during the year ended 31st December 2016 are set out below. Unless indicated otherwise, they served as directors for the entire year

Mike Magan (Chairman)

S. Brady

J.G. Brickley

J. Collins

M.L. Doherty

J.O'Sullivan

R.H. Talbot

Principal Activities

The principal activities of the company are to promote awareness and education in animal health and to co-ordinate effective control programmes for non-regulated diseases of livestock.

Results

The results for the financial year are set out on page 55, which show a welcome increase in the surplus on ordinary activities to €138,776 (€38,447 in 2015).

Assets and Liabilities and Financial Position

The net financial position at year end is set out on page 56, showing net assets of €52,864 as at 31st December 2016 compared to net liabilities of €85,912 as at 31st December 2015.

Risks and Uncertainties

The principal risks and uncertainties faced are the needs for the company to maintain the confidence and the support of all Stakeholders and to deliver its various programmes to the highest standards within budget.

Subsequent Events

There have been no significant events affecting the company since the year end.

Transactions involving Directors

There were no contracts of any significance in relation to the affairs of the company in which the directors had any interest, as defined in the Companies Act 2014, at any time during the financial year ending on 31st December 2016.

Audit Committee

The directors confirm that the company has established an Audit, Finance and Risk Committee in accordance with the requirements of Section 167 of the Companies Act 2014.

Auditors

The auditors, Gilroy Gannon, have indicated their willingness to continue in office in accordance with the provisions of Section 383(2) of the Companies Act 2014.

On behalf of the Board

Mike Magan

Seán Brady

Chairman

Director

10th May 2017

Independent Auditors' Report to the Members of Animal Health Ireland Initiative

We have audited the financial statements of Animal Health Ireland Initiative (a company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital) for the financial year ended 31st December 2016 which comprise an Income and Expenditure Account, a Balance Sheet, and Cashflow Statement and related notes 1 to 16. The relevant financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is the Companies Act 2014 and FRS 102, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued by the Financial Reporting Council.

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with section 391 of the Companies Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of directors and auditors

As explained more fully in the Directors' Responsibilities Statement set out on page 50, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view and otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2014. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with Irish law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's (APB's) Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of the audit of the financial statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the directors; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the Directors' Report to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

Opinion on financial statements

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at 31st December 2016 and of its surplus for the financial year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the relevant reporting framework and, in particular, the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

Matters on which we are required to report by the Companies Act 2014

- We have obtained all the information and explanations which we consider necessary for the purposes of our audit.
- In our opinion the accounting records of the company were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited.
- The financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records.
- In our opinion the information given in the Directors' Report is consistent with the financial statements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of our obligation under the Companies Act 2014 to report to you if, in our opinion, the disclosures of directors' remuneration and transactions specified by sections 305 to 312 of the Act are not made.

Joe Gannon

For and on behalf of **Gilroy Gannon**

Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm

10th May 2017

Income and Expenditure Account

For the financial year ended 31st December 2016

	Notes	2016 €	2015 €
Income from Stakeholders		1,425,275	1,248,149
Other Income		872,080	322,298
		2,297,355	1,570,447
Operating Expenses	4, 5	(2,158,579)	(1,532,000)
Surplus on Ordinary Activities		138,776	38,447
Taxation	7	-	
Surplus after Taxation		138,776	38,447
Accumulated Deficit at beginning of financial year		(85,912)	(124,359)
Accumulated Surplus/(Deficit) at end of financial year		52,864	(85,912)

Balance Sheet

As at 31st December 2016

	Note	2016 €	2015 €
Fixed assets	8	9,008	18,858
Current assets			
Stocks	9	7,553	9,269
Debtors	10	129,515	249,451
Bank	11	378,039	175,031
		<u>515,107</u>	<u>433,751</u>
Creditors	12	<u>(471,251)</u>	<u>(538,521)</u>
Net current assets/(liabilities)		<u>43,856</u>	<u>(104,770)</u>
Net assets/(liabilities)		<u>52,864</u>	<u>(85,912)</u>
Represented By:			
Reserve Account		<u>52,864</u>	<u>(85,912)</u>

The notes on pages 58- 64 form part of the financial statements.

These financial statements were approved by the Board on 10th May 2017 and signed on its behalf by:

On behalf of the Board

Mike Magan
Chairman

Seán Brady
Director

Statement of Cash Flows

For the financial year ended 31st December 2016

	2016 €	2015 €
Cash flows from operating activities	138,776	38,447
Surplus for the financial year		
<i>Adjustments for:</i>		
Depreciation	14,076	8,087
<i>Changes in:</i>		
Stocks	1,716	4,408
Trade and other debtors	119,935	(215,665)
Trade and other creditors	(67,270)	166,746
Cash generated from operations	207,233	2,023
Net cash from operating activities	207,233	2,023
Cash flows from investing activities		
Purchase of fixed assets	(4,226)	(14,440)
Net cash used in investing activities	(4,226)	(14,440)
Net increase/ (decrease) in cash	203,007	(12,417)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of financial year	11 175,032	187,448
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	11 378,039	175,031

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the financial year ended 31st December 2016

1. Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

2. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis and in accordance with the historical cost convention. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is the Companies Act 2014 and FRS102.

The financial statements are prepared in euros.

Going concern

Based on committed stakeholder subscriptions over the next year and the 2017 budget, the directors are satisfied that Animal Health Ireland Initiative has adequate resources to continue for at least twelve months from the date of approval of these financial statements and it is appropriate to adopt the going concern basis in the preparation of the financial statements.

Income

The company's primary source of income consists of stakeholder's subscriptions. These funds are recognised in the financial statements on an accruals basis. Income received from stakeholders, including the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, is credited to the Income and Expenditure Account so as to match it with the expenditure to which it relates.

The company also earns some service income from the provision of educational training courses to veterinary practitioners and others regarding disease control and eradication.

Government grants

Government grants are provided through the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine by way of an annual stakeholder subscription to the company. These funds are recognised in the Income and Expenditure Account so as to match them with the expenditure to which they relate.

The company has entered into a Training Network Programme with Skillnets Ltd. The Skillnets grant was released to the Income and Expenditure Account in 2016 to match it with the expenditure to which it relates.

The company has entered into a Services Contract with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine relating to the provision of certain services. The funding element of the contract relating to capital expenditure is written off over three years in line with the applicable depreciation policy.

Expenditure

All expenditure to date has been written off and no value is attributed to unexpired costs.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of an asset, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Office equipment- 12.5% / 33.33% straight line

Furniture and fittings- 12.5% straight line

If there is an indication that there has been a significant change in depreciation rate, useful life or residual value of tangible assets, the depreciation is revised prospectively to reflect the new estimates.

Stocks

Stocks are measured at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

Critical Accounting Judgements and Estimates

The preparation of these financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of policies and reported amounts of assets and liabilities, income and expenses.

Judgements and estimates are continually evaluated and are based on historical experiences and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

The company makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results.

The company considers there are no estimates or judgements that have a significant risk of causing material adjustments to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities that should be disclosed.

3. Surplus

	2016	2015
Surplus for the financial year is stated after charging:	€	€
Depreciation of fixed assets	14,076	8,088
Directors' remuneration	42,431	43,925
Auditors' remuneration		
Audit	3,998	3,998
Other services relating to programmes	6,765	1,230

4. Directors' Remuneration

In the financial year ended 31st December 2015 Directors' emoluments were as follows:-	2016	2015
	€	€
Remuneration	42,431	43,925
Travel expenses	6,239	9,468
	48,670	53,393

	2016	2015
	€	€
M.J. Magan (Chairman)	22,431	23,925
S. Brady	5,000	5,000
J.G. Brickley	5,000	5,000
J. Collins	-	-
M.L. Doherty	-	-
J. O'Sullivan	5,000	5,000
R.H. Talbot	5,000	5,000
	<u>42,431</u>	<u>43,925</u>

The Chairman's remuneration comprises an annual honorarium of €10,000 and per diem payments amounting to €12,431 (2015:€13,925). The per diem is paid in respect of activities undertaken in pursuit of the objectives of the company over and above the normal duties associated with the office.

There were no related party transactions with the directors during the financial year ended 31st December 2016.

5. Staff Costs

The staff costs for all employees, excluding directors, comprise:-	2016	2015
	€	€
Salaries	629,192	570,228
Social security costs	58,385	49,990
Other staff costs	8,192	8,190
Pension costs	48,112	48,309
Travel expenses	84,012	72,685
	<u>827,893</u>	<u>749,402</u>

Short term benefits, including holiday pay, are recognised as an expense in the period in which the service is received.

The average number of persons employed by the company during the financial year was as follows:	2016	2015
	Number	Number
Key Management	3	3
Administration	3	2
Programme management	4	4
Planning and operations	1	1
Communications	1	1
	<u>12</u>	<u>11</u>

	2016 €	2015 €
Key management compensation		
This comprises benefits paid to key management, including the CEO, during 2016 which are included in staff costs above. The average number of key management during the year was 3 (2015:3)		
Total key management compensation	391,518	375,219
Remuneration of the Chief Executive		
	2016 €	2015 €
Salary	120,000	120,000
Other benefits, including pension costs	33,858	34,506
Social security costs	1,835	1,899
Travel expenses	10,458	9,620
	166,151	166,025

6. Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

The company received Government grants through the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine by way of stakeholder subscriptions totalling €707,125 in the financial year to 31st December 2016 (2015: €530,000) and were used as follows:-

	2016 €	2015 €
Staff costs	121,713	126,280
Contributions to operating expenses	585,412	403,720
	707,125	530,000

In addition, Animal Health Ireland Initiative works in conjunction with and is partially funded by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine to coordinate and oversee the delivery of on-farm risk assessments in the Johnes's Disease Pilot Programme; to provide specialist training in animal health for on farm advisors (veterinarians); to assess on farm animal health practices and to arrange payments to private veterinary practitioners under the Targeted Advisory Services Animal Health (TASAH) in relation to the BVD Herd investigation programme.

7. Taxation

The surplus on ordinary activities is not subject to Corporation Tax in accordance with the principal of mutual trading. Therefore, no Corporation Tax liability has been provided for in the year ending 31st December 2016.

8. Fixed Assets

	Office equipment €	Furniture & fittings €	Total €
Cost			
At 1 st January 2016	37,408	2,056	39,464
Additions	4,226	-	4,226
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31st December 2016	41,634	2,056	43,690
Depreciation			
At 1 st January 2016	19,169	1,437	20,606
Charge for the year	13,458	618	14,076
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31st December 2016	32,627	2,055	34,682
Carrying amount			
At 31st December 2016	9,007	1	9,008

8. Fixed Assets**In respect of prior year**

	Office equipment €	Furniture & fittings €	Total €
Cost			
At 1 st January 2015	24,133	2,056	26,189
Additions	14,440	-	14,440
Disposals	(1,165)	-	(1,165)
At 31st December 2015	37,408	2,056	39,464
Depreciation			
At 1 st January 2015	12,504	1,180	13,684
Charge for the year	7,830	257	8,087
Disposals	(1,165)	-	(1,165)
At 31st December	19,169	1,437	20,606
Carrying amount			
At 31st December	18,239	619	18,858

The basis by which depreciation is calculated is stated in Note 2.

9. Stocks

	2016	2015
	€	€
Finished goods	7,553	9,269

The basis by which stocks are valued is stated in Note 2. The replacement cost of stocks did not differ significantly from the figures shown above.

10 Debtors

	2016	2015
	€	€
Debtors	129,515	200,451
Stakeholder subscriptions	-	49,000
	129,515	249,451

11. Cash And Cash Equivalents

	2016	2015
	€	€
Cash at bank and in hand	378,039	183,084
Bank overdrafts	-	(8,053)
	378,039	175,031

Included in the above balance of €378,039 is €234,777 (2015: €182,936) representing grants provided by Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and Skillnets in support of certain specific programmes and activities.

12. Creditors

	2016	2015
	€	€
Trade creditors	240,306	141,561
Tax and social insurance:		
Payroll Taxes	27,769	23,789
Accruals	185,405	67,782
Deferred income	17,771	305,389
	471,251	538,521

Payroll taxes are subject to the terms of the relevant legislation. No interest was due at the financial year end date.

Deferred income comprises Johne's Disease Pilot Programme €Nil (2015 : €266,560); Targeted Advisory Services on Animal Health €15,071 (2015 : €19,939) and Skillnets €Nil (2015: €18,890) and others €2,700 (2015: €Nil).

13. Pension Costs

Animal Health Ireland Initiative does not operate a company pension scheme. The company complies with legislative requirements to allow employees have deductions made from their salary towards Personal Retirement Savings Accounts (“PRSAs”).

Animal Health Ireland Initiative indirectly contributed to the pension scheme of its CEO through the annual subscription made to the company by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

The company contributed to a Personal Retirement Savings Account of the Deputy CEO.

14. Related Parties

The BVD Programme benefited from the provision of the BVD Helpdesk, serviced by four employees of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, a service which has not been costed to the company.

Animal Health Ireland Initiative also received services of significant benefit from the following organisations:

University College Dublin (UCD)
Teagasc

Teagasc contributed €45,000 to the company in 2016 (2015: €45,000) towards the Cellcheck Programme. In addition, Teagasc provides other services to the company. These services received from Teagasc, in addition to certain services provided by UCD, were not quantified and accordingly are not included in the Income and Expenditure Account.

15. Limited by Guarantee

Animal Health Ireland Initiative is a company limited by guarantee not having a share capital. The liability of each member, in the event of the company being wound up, will not exceed one thousand euro per member.

16. Approval of Financial Statements

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 10th May 2017.

APPENDIX I- AHI BUSINESS PLANS 2016

Programme: Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD)









Programme Objective: To eradicate Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) from the national cattle herd by year end 2020.

Deliverables 2016	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Outcomes 2016
Communications					
1. Develop and implement quarterly communication plans in support of the programme.					Complete
2. Maintain and refine helpdesk support facility for farmers.					Complete
3. Present programme outputs at national and international conferences.					Complete
4. In conjunction with all stakeholders represented in the BVD Implementation Group, ensure that an effective and sustainable solution to minimize the problem of PI retention is in place for 2016.					Partially complete. Measures implemented in 2016 led to a reduction in retention. A series of additional measures for implementation in 2017 were agreed.
Programme development					
1. Develop enhanced mapping tools to support programme-related decision-making and communications.					Complete
2. Provide training for veterinary practitioners in herd BVD investigations and surveillance strategies and co-ordinate delivery of Targeted Advisory Service on Animal Health to farmers.					Complete
3. Continue modelling work in support of programme with emphasis on additional surveillance options, costs and thresholds for introduction.					Complete
4. Provide programme management resources to AHWNI to support the implementation of a compulsory programme in Northern Ireland in 2016.					Complete
5. Conduct regular analyses of key programme performance indicators to provide an evidence base for TWG and BVDIG decisions and identify key communications arising from these.					Complete
6. Conduct studies and analyses to provide evidence base for the programme to include sero-surveillance data, influence of vaccination on antibody responses, bulk tank milk testing, and abortion serology; publish as appropriate in peer-reviewed journals.					Partially complete. Several studies have been concluded and published or submitted for publication in peer-reviewed journals. Work is continuing on a number of other studies which are scheduled for completion in 2017.
7. Supervise an Irish Research Council-funded MSc project on BVD					Complete
8. Continue development of the ICBF database in support of the programme					Complete

APPENDIX I- AHI BUSINESS PLANS 2016










Programme: CellCheck

Programme Objective: Facilitate the Irish dairy industry to continue to improve milk quality, such that 75% of the milk supplied by Irish farmers will have an SCC of 200,000 cells/mL or less by year end 2020.

Deliverables 2016	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Outcomes 2016
Communications					
1. Disseminate monthly communications, to include technical articles, programme and operational updates, case studies and video material, through the agricultural media and stakeholder publications.					Complete
2. Engage with milk processors and key influencers to communicate the value and opportunity of continually improving milk quality and to promote adoption of signals to influence behaviour change.					Complete
3. Develop CellCheck activity reports for use by milk processor management, to include annual processor and national SCC performance measures.					Complete
4. Deliver 2015 CellCheck <i>Milking For Quality</i> Best 500 award, and establish at least 1 new award category, subject to data availability.					Partially complete. Required data for new award category unavailable.
5. Maintain and publicise, through the AHI website and other media, the national database of participating service providers.					Complete
6. Submit to a peer reviewed journal a scientific paper on the impact of the seasonality factor on Irish dairy herds.					Complete
7. Subject to data availability, submit to a peer-reviewed journal a scientific paper, outlining the results of a collective and multi-faceted approach to behaviour change in mastitis control.					Incomplete. Lack of available data.
8. In conjunction with milk processors, continue the promotion and sale of the CellCheck Farm Guidelines.					Complete











Programme: CellCheck (continued)

Programme Objective: Facilitate the Irish dairy industry to continue to improve milk quality, such that 75% of the milk supplied by Irish farmers will have an SCC of 200,000 cells/mL or less by year end 2020.

Deliverables 2016	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Outcomes 2016
Continuing programme development					
1. With the support of the Regional Coordinator network, assist RDP facilitators to deliver a target of 200 workshops for participants in the dairy knowledge transfer component of the RDP, including the delivery of additional Stage 2 training, as required.					Partially complete. Delay in commencement of RDP; Stage 2 training and 115 workshops delivered.
2. In conjunction with TWG and industry partners, develop an additional service provider training module, and deliver a minimum of 3 training events.					Partially complete. Development commenced, highlighting broader industry challenges of greater need.
3. In association with ICBF, UCD and TWG members, develop a Mastitis Investigation Tool based on milk recording data, to support detailed farm-level investigations.					Partially complete (as above)
4. In partnership with DAFM, develop a protocol for laboratories providing commercial milk culture and sensitivity services to be listed as 'CellCheck approved'.					Complete
5. Complete and launch the CostCheck mobile app.					Partially complete. Development work largely completed
6. Contribute to industry discussions on the further enhancement of milk pricing structures.					Complete
Programme evaluation, monitoring and refinement					
1. Together with DAFM, refine SCC bulk tank data collation mechanisms and continue national SCC profile and trend analysis.					Complete
2. Pending data availability, analyse SCC data of workshop participants to assess the impact of farm workshops on udder health performance					Incomplete. Lack of available data.
3. Continue to measure attitudes, behaviours and practices relevant to mastitis control, including levels of intra-mammary antibiotic use.					Complete






Programme: Johne's disease

Programme Objective: To establish a voluntary national programme for Johne's disease that enables (1) participating herd owners to have increasing confidence in the absence of infection in their herds and to achieve significant control or elimination where present and (2) to underpin the quality of Irish dairy and beef produce in the international marketplace.

Deliverables 2016	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Outcomes 2016
Communications and awareness					
1. Submit to a peer review journal a descriptive paper outlining the findings of the Pilot Programme.					Incomplete. Awaiting further information from Research Reports.
2. Support milk processors and other stakeholder organisations, as required, in engaging farmers on Johne's disease, including through the delivery of farmer information and training events.					Complete
3. Develop and publish regular Johne's Disease information bulletins for herd owners.					Complete
4. Publish a minimum of three Johne's Disease information articles for veterinary practitioners.					Incomplete. Priority given to development of Johne's disease bulletins.
5. As part of the Targeted Advisory Service on Animal Health, undertake a series of training events to further upskill Approved Veterinary Practitioners.					Complete
6. Submit to a peer reviewed journal the findings from surveys of participating herd owners and veterinary practitioners.					Partially complete. Commissioning of research delayed.
7. In conjunction with Teagasc, submit to a peer-reviewed journal a paper presenting the findings of the economic analysis of the programme.					Complete
Programme development and implementation					
1. Regularly report the outcomes of the Johne's disease Pilot Programme to the Implementation Group, to assist the refinement and further development of the programme.					Complete
2. Monitor and report on the delivery of the ICBF development schedule agreed with ICBF for 2016.					Complete
3. Contribute to the ICONMAP research project including the economics of Johne's disease at farm level, evaluation of diagnostic tests, factors influencing farmer engagement in the programme and risk factor analysis of programme herds.					Complete







Programme: Johne's disease (continued)

Programme Objective: To establish a voluntary national programme for Johne's disease that enables (1) participating herd owners to have increasing confidence in the absence of infection in their herds and to achieve significant control or elimination where present and (2) to underpin the quality of Irish dairy and beef produce in the international marketplace.

Deliverables 2016	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Outcomes 2016
Programme development and implementation (continued)					
4. Finalise the development of V-RAMP resources for beef herds.					Partially complete. Development of V-RAMP for beef herds due for completion in Q2 2017.
5. Subject to demand from veterinary practitioners, provide further training to establish additional approved veterinary practitioners (AVPs).					Complete
6. In conjunction with the State Veterinary Laboratory Services, carry out an analysis of the performance of faecal culture and environmental sampling in the programme.					Incomplete. Resource constraints in collaborating institution.
7. Recruit a Programme Manager to lead the further development of the Johne's disease programme in Ireland.					Complete
8. Further enhance the functionality of the ICBF database, including the development and refinement of the risk categorisation system.					Partially complete. Work on-going.






Programme: IBR

Programme Objective: To eradicate Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis (IBR)/BoHV-1 from the national herd, subject to a positive cost-benefit analysis and a mandate from AHI Stakeholders.

Deliverables 2016	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Outcomes 2016
Communications					
1. Develop, agree with stakeholders and implement a communications plan to support a future national IBR eradication programme.					Partially complete. A number of AHI bulletins on IBR, publication of the Report on the Study Visit published and conference presentations.
Programme development and implementation					
1. Complete an analysis of the economics of BoHV-1 infection in Ireland, incorporating the impact of the disease on animal productivity, national genetic gain and international trade.					Partially complete. This work is led by Teagasc and is expected to be completed in 2017.
2. Conduct an analysis of the risk factors for detection of BoHV-1 (and other viruses) in bovine respiratory disease.					Incomplete. Resource constraints in collaborating institution.
3. Develop options for the structure of a national eradication programme and, subject to modelling analysis, select the most cost-effective options for incorporation into a roadmap for public consultation.					Partially completed. Carried forward to 2017.
4. Develop the functionality of the ICBF database in respect of IBR data.					Complete
5. Establish baseline prevalence data for beef and dairy herds.					Partially completed. Several data sources have been identified and analysed. Additional sources have been identified and data requested.

Programme: Beef HealthCheck

Programme Objective: 1) To develop tools to assist farmers and their veterinary practitioners to control losses due to liver fluke and pneumonia through capture, analysis and reporting of abattoir data. 2) To contribute to the development by ICBF of economic breeding indexes that incorporate health and disease data.

Deliverables 2016	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Outcomes 2016
Communications					
1. Continue to produce the Beef HealthCheck quarterly newsletter and distribute to stakeholders, farmers and the farming press.					Complete
2. Present work on the Beef HealthCheck programme at national and international conferences.					Complete
Programme development					
1. Continue to support the roll out of the Beef HealthCheck programme in additional meat plants, with a target of coverage of at least 75% of the national beef kill by year end.					Partially complete. Estimated coverage of 65% of the national beef kill
2. Develop an interface on the ICBF website for the BHC batch level information, herd level reports and information for veterinary practitioners.					Complete
3. Continue analysis on initial data, looking at liver fluke prevalence and the economic impact of liver fluke on the performance of beef cattle, and publish as appropriate.					Partially complete. This work forms part of a Masters programme being undertaken by the Programme Manager, which is due for completion in September 2017.

