

## Irish Johne's Control Programme

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## Business Plan 2017-2018

AHI gratefully acknowledges the financial and other contributions of our stakeholders to the Johne's disease programme.



# IRISH JOHNE'S CONTROL PROGRAMME

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## Programme objectives

- I. Enhance the ability of participating farmers to keep their herds clear of Johne's disease (JD).
- II. Enable participating farmers to reduce the level of infection in their herds, where present.
- III. Provide additional reassurance to the marketplace in relation to Ireland's efforts to control Johne's disease.
- IV. Improve calf health and farm biosecurity in participating farms.

## About the programme

The new programme builds on the knowledge and experience gained from the pilot programme, a review of international best practice and extensive consultation with stakeholders. By endorsing the Irish Johne's Control Programme stakeholders acknowledge that the effective control of Johne's disease requires a long-term commitment on their part, and on the part of participating farmers.

## Programme phases

A phased approach is adopted to implementation, with Phase One, commencing in 2017, acting as a bridge between the pilot programme and the IJCP for those herds that participated in the former. Phase Two, commencing in early 2018, will open participation to all herds and expand the range of programme measures available to participating farmers.

### **Phase One**

The programme focuses on building confidence of freedom for test-negative herds and the resolution of infection in infected herds through the implementation of tailored management plans, based on biosecurity risk assessments, risk mitigation practices and testing. Animal health awareness and knowledge exchange activities are an underpinning element of the programme and a series of regional seminars, convened by milk processors and aimed at promoting an awareness of Johne's disease prevention and control, will be put in place in Phase One. During Phase One, herdowners who were formerly enrolled in the pilot programme will be encouraged to register with the programme so that they can become actively involved and benefit from the various funded supports available for activities, including ancillary testing, VRAMP and whole herd testing.

### **Phase Two**

During Phase Two, access to the programme will be broadened to include all herdowners who register with the programme, with a range of pathways by which herdowners may participate (Appendix One). Additional measures will also progressively be made available to farmers, including individual herd investigations for confirmed test-positive herds, funded by DAFM and the EU, and delivered through the TASA measure of the Rural Development Programme. The allocation of funds to support measures within the programme, and the requirements of the programme itself, will be refined based on the outcomes of an international consultancy and programme outcomes over time. In this phase, measures to support beef farmers will also be developed and progressively rolled out.

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## Key programme elements

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### Phase One

1. Centralised registration.
2. Farmer awareness seminars funded by the milk processor and professional development for Dairy Milk Quality Advisors and Teagasc Dairy Advisors.
3. On-farm veterinary risk assessment and management planning (VRAMP) visit, delivered by an approved veterinary practitioner and funded by the milk processor.
4. Subvention for whole-herd testing, funded by DAFM to actively contribute additional contemporary data to inform a consultancy evaluating national surveillance methods.
5. Ancillary testing (using faecal PCR) to resolve the test status of animals with positive or inconclusive ELISA results, funded by DAFM.

### Phase Two

1. Centralised registration.
2. Farmer awareness seminars funded by the milk processor and professional development for Dairy Milk Quality Advisors and Teagasc Dairy Advisors.
3. Whole herd testing (with levels of available supports to be determined by the JDIG taking into account the outcome of the consultancy undertaken as part of Phase One).
4. On-farm veterinary risk assessment and management planning (VRAMP) visit, delivered by an approved veterinary practitioner and funded by the milk processor.
5. Ancillary testing (using faecal culture or faecal PCR) to resolve the test status of animals with positive ELISA results, funded by DAFM.
6. On-farm herd investigations by an approved veterinary practitioner, funded by DAFM and the EU under the Targeted Advisory Service on Animal Health (TASAH) measure of the Rural Development Programme (RDP).
7. JD Herd Assurance Score, provided to the individual herdowner.
8. Knowledge exchange measures (to be defined), involving participating herdowners and Approved Veterinary Practitioners.
9. Measures aimed at improving calf health and farm biosecurity.
10. Measures aimed at supporting the National Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance.

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## **Programme support**

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1. National surveillance activities for JD. The cost-effectiveness of screening for JD and identifying new cases through the use of existing, enhanced or new information flows and tools will be assessed by means of a consultancy (Phase One), funded by DAFM, whose terms of reference will be agreed by the TWG and IG.
2. A comprehensive communications strategy.
3. Research to identify and address knowledge gaps.
4. Structured programme coordination, monitoring and evaluation.

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## **Financial supports**

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The level of financial support available to farmers for the various funded elements of the programme may vary from year to year, depending on the outcomes of the consultancy report and subject to the funding limits applicable in a given year and the level of demand.

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## **Awareness seminars**

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All farmers are encouraged to find out more about Johne's disease control and how to manage the risk of Johne's disease entering and spreading within their herd by participating in a Johne's disease seminar hosted by their milk processor.



## Irish Johne's Control Programme Business Plan 2017-2018

Programme Elements Supporting Activities	2017		2018			
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
<b>A. COMMUNICATIONS</b>						
1. Publish programme requirements for participating farmers.						
2. Develop and agree communications plan with stakeholders.						
3. Implement the communications plan.						
4. Submit for publication in a peer-reviewed journal a descriptive paper outlining the findings of the Pilot Johne's disease Programme.						
5. Submit for publication in a peer-reviewed journal a paper on the findings from the JD surveys of participating veterinary practitioners.						
<b>B. PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT, MONITORING AND EVALUATION</b>						
1. Establish annual thresholds for funded elements of the programme.						
2. Establish and implement mechanisms for payment to beneficiaries in respect of the funded elements of the programme.						
3. Review the current VRAMP process and modify in accordance with the recommendations of the joint TWGs (JD, Biosecurity, Calf Care) to ensure Programme Objective 3 is satisfactorily addressed.						
4. Commence delivery of modified VRAMP in dairy herds.						
5. Develop a VRAMP for beef herds.						
6. Develop and introduce a personal Herd Health Monitor, incorporating objectively verifiable indicators of individual farm biosecurity status.						
7. Develop a JD Herd Assurance Score for use by those farmers who wish to avail of it.						
8. Develop and commence implementation of various programme quality assurance measures.						
9. Review current test methods and appraise research findings for potential application in the Irish context. Develop appropriate quality control procedures for laboratories, including a formal system of designation.						
10. Undertake a consultancy aimed at establishing the cost-effectiveness of various possible surveillance and case-identification measures to be incorporated into the programme.						
11. Develop and agree with stakeholders a programme evaluation framework.						
12. Develop national testing guide-lines for the control of Johne's disease and the return of infected herds to a test-negative status.						



## Programme Pathways

### Johne's Disease Control - A Shared Responsibility

