

ANIMAL HEALTH IRELAND ANNUAL REPORT



20 15



Our 2015 Stakeholders and Members



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CONTENTS

02	YEAR IN REVIEW
06	ABOUT US
19	CORPORATE GOVERNANCE
21	OUR ACTIVITIES
24	ANIMAL HEALTH PROGRAMMES
40	FINANCIAL REPORT
57	APPENDIX 1 - AHI BUSINESS PLANS

A photograph of a dairy farm. The top half shows a row of black and white cows in a milking parlor, with their heads restrained by a metal bar. The bottom half shows the same cows feeding on a large pile of yellow hay. A green and yellow horizontal band is overlaid on the image, containing the text "Year in Review".

Year in Review

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT



Joe O'Flaherty
CEO, AHI

The Annual Report for 2015 is the first of the three that will span the period of the current AHI Strategic Plan (2015-2017) and, as such, provides an indication of the extent to which progress is being made in realising the ambitious objectives set out in that Plan.

In relation to two of the priorities established in the Plan, the review of the AHI funding model (Strategic Priority 2) and of our corporate governance structures (Strategic Priority 3), AHI has been obliged to alter the timing of the Special General Meeting, at which proposals in relation to these matters were to have been discussed and agreed. This was primarily as a result of the recent General Election and subsequent process of government formation. The Chairman has recently written to Members, however, to advise that he expects to be in a position to convene this meeting in the early summer, when it is hoped that substantive progress on these key issues can be made.

The two other priorities articulated in the Strategic Plan were: to ensure the continued delivery of the priority programmes (Strategic Priority 1); and to develop new programmes to support the beef sector and strengthen the horizontal supports to all programmes (Strategic Priority 4). In relation to both of these, substantial progress has been achieved over the course of 2015, as set out in the detailed reports from the Programme Managers on the BVD eradication programme, *CellCheck*, *Beef HealthCheck* and the Johne's disease pilot programme. In relation to the first of these – the BVD eradication programme – the further significant reduction in disease prevalence, now apparent at this point in 2016, is encouraging and bodes well for the eradication of this highly damaging disease by 2020, the target originally set for this programme.

Standing back from the specifics of these individual programmes, the awarding to AHI during 2015 of the contract to deliver the training and coordination services required to underpin the on-farm Targeted Advisory Service on Animal Health (TASAH) – a measure within the Rural Development Programme – is a very significant development. Taken together with the approval of AHI as a Skillnets training network, it is clear that the capacity of the organisation to develop and deliver training in support of our priority animal health programmes has been greatly strengthened over the past year.

As regards the financial position, as set out in the accompanying Financial Statement, the Company reports a surplus of just over €38,000 for 2015, and a further reduction of the accumulated deficit. However, the fact that the surplus outturn fell short of that budgeted has meant that the deficit has not yet been eliminated over the course of 2015, as had been anticipated. For 2016, my focus, and that of the management team, will be to ensure that the budget targets we have set for the current year are met, and that the Company returns to a position of positive net worth over the course of the year.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

As reported in the notes to the accounts, the transition by the Company in 2015 to the new financial reporting framework – FRS 102 – has resulted in a restatement of both the surplus and deficit for 2014, with the latter increasing from the figure of (€88,862), reported in our 2014 financial statements to (€124,359). This movement comes about as a result of the fact that the new accounting standard, in contrast to that previously applicable, obliges the Company to recognise a liability for accrued annual leave. The build-up of untaken annual leave is a reflection of the enormous time commitment by individual staff members in recent years to the establishment of our very significant priority programmes; however, this admirable level of commitment is neither sustainable in the long run, nor conducive to maximising the performance of the team. For this reason, I have put in place a policy to significantly reduce accrued annual leave over the course of 2016, and to eliminate it completely by the end of the following year. The winding down of the accrued annual leave position is expected to contribute to the elimination of the accumulated deficit by the end of the current year.

It remains for me to express my heartfelt thanks to our Stakeholders and Members, on whose financial and moral support the organisation depends for its existence, and to the many members of the Technical Working Groups and Implementation Groups, whose work is fundamental to the development and operationalisation of the very substantial programme of work set out in this report. Finally, and as ever, my sincere thanks are due the Chairman and his fellow Directors for their constant guidance and support and to my colleagues in the management team and staff, on whose dedication, experience and exceptional ability I constantly rely.

Joe O'Flaherty
CEO, Animal Health Ireland.

CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS

I constantly remind myself of the reason for Animal Health Ireland's existence - we exist to improve animal health and to make the farmers of Ireland more profitable. Easily stated, perhaps, but delivering this mission in an organisation such as ours, which depends on a broad range of stakeholders, each with their own constituency and with different perspectives on the various issues which confront us, can at times prove challenging.

The details of the various programmes are provided elsewhere in this report, but I do want to make particular mention of a few of these. The eradication of BVD has indeed been problematic, but when we consider our starting point and where we have now arrived at, I am pleased with progress. I do admit to having been overly optimistic as to how we as an industry would behave when confronted with identified disease-carrying animals, but every day is a learning day! CellCheck continues to deliver positive outcomes, with a clear downward trend in the national Somatic Cell Count figures now well established. The 'Top 500' awards event was a remarkable success and really shows the positive power of collaboration. Beef HealthCheck is rapidly becoming a vital information provider both to the farmer and the industry, and it will be interesting to watch its further development. Two significant challenges - Johnes' disease and IBR - are coming sharply into focus - and I would implore all concerned not to politicise the plans to tackle both.

The Board of AHI has guided the organisation astutely and knowledgeably over the past year. I thank them, as I do the extremely hardworking staff and executives of AHI, who are defined by their extraordinary commitment to their work. The capacity to continue to deliver at the current rate will only be possible if we review the way AHI is funded. We need a rational, all-encompassing debate on this issue to ensure that AHI is well placed to meet the challenges posed by animal diseases and by the progress made by our international competitors, neither of which will stand still and wait for us.

Mike Magan
Chairman, Animal Health Ireland.



Mike Magan
Chairman, AHI



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 the organisation and that provide the necessary financial and other resources to enable Animal Health Ireland to operate effectively. Members have entitlement to vote at General Meetings, and where voting by poll takes place, each Member is entitled to one 'Contribution Vote' in respect of every €3,000 of Annual Financial Contribution to the Company.

Our 2015 Stakeholders and Members

As of 31st December 2015, 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.

GOVERNMENT & STATE AGENCIES

Bord Bia*
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)*
Teagasc*

AI COMPANIES

Dovea Genetics*
Munster Cattle Breeding Group*
Progressive Genetics*

PROFESSIONAL/ ADVISORY/ SUPPORT SERVICES

DAFM- Veterinary Laboratory Services*
ICBF*
Ornua
UCD*
Veterinary Ireland*

ANIMAL HEALTH IRELAND

DAIRY AND BEEF PROCESSORS

Arrabawn Co-op*
Aurivo*
Carbery Group*
Dairygold*
Glanbia*
Kerry Agribusiness*
LacPatrick Co-op*
Lakeland Dairies*
Meat Industry Ireland*
Mullinahone Co-op*
North Cork Co-op*
Tipperary Co-op*

FARMERS' ORGANISATIONS

Irish Cattle and Sheep Farmers' Association*
Irish Co-Operative Organisation Society*
Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers' Association*
Irish Farmers' Association*
Irish Holstein Friesian Association*
Irish Milk Quality Co-Operative Society
Macra na Feirme*
Pedigree Cattle Breeders' Council of Ireland*

*Members

¹ <http://www.animalhealthireland.ie/page.php?id=11>

ABOUT US

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
Mr Gerard Brickley	May 2009 (January 2014)
Mr Joe Collins	May 2009
Professor Michael Doherty	May 2009
Mr John O'Sullivan	May 2009 (January 2014)
Mr Robin Talbot	May 2009 (December 2012)

Rotation of Chairman and Directors

The Articles of Association of AHI 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.

The Management Team

At 31st December 2015, the permanent staff of Animal Health Ireland comprised the following:

Name	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	Planning & Operations Manager	29/11/2010
Ms Jackie Dempsey	Helpdesk Support (Part-time)	01/03/2012
Ms Grainne Dwyer	Communications and Events Manager	01/09/2012
Ms Finola McCoy	Programme Manager (CellCheck)	01/05/2013
Ms Nicola McKeon	Administrative Assistant	06/11/2013
Ms Rebecca Carroll	Assistant Programme Manager	01/09/2014
Ms Fiona Reardon	MVM Researcher on BVD	01/02/2015
Ms Lisa Byrne	Administrative Assistant	07/12/2015

Technical Working Groups

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 in this regard.

As of 31st December 2015, 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.



² <http://www.animalhealthireland.ie/page.php?id=205>

Technical Working Groups (TWGs)



Prof Simon More, Chairman, Johne's disease and *CellCheck* TWG

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. This Centre provides information to support decision-making on animal disease control in Ireland, by both government and industry.

CellCheck TWG - 3 meetings held between 1/1/2015 and 31/12/2015

Member	Parent organisation	Meetings attended
Simon More (Chair)	CVERA, University College Dublin	3
Damien Barrett	DAFM, Veterinary Laboratory Services	0
Willie Buckley	Veterinary Practitioner	2
Don Crowley	Teagasc, Clonakilty	1
Brendan Dillon	Glanbia	2
Kevin Downing	Irish Cattle Breeding Federation (ICBF)	0
Grainne Dwyer	Technical Working Group Rapporteur, AHI	3
Edmond Harty	Dairymaster	0
Alan Johnson	DAFM, Veterinary Laboratory Services	1
Patrick Kelly	Munster AI	3
Finola McCoy	Programme Manager, CellCheck, AHI	3
Luke O'Grady	University College Dublin	1
Frank O'Sullivan	Veterinary Practitioner	1
George Ramsbottom	Teagasc, Oakpark	0
Tom Ryan	Teagasc, Kildalton	1
Niamh Ryan	Teagasc Research Centre, Moorepark	0

Johne's disease TWG - 3 meetings held between 1/1/2015 and 31/12/2015

Member	Parent organisation	Meetings attended
Simon More (Chair)	CVERA, University College Dublin	2
Damien Barrett	DAFM, Veterinary Laboratory Services	2
Bill Cashman	Veterinary Practitioner	2
Doreen Corridan	Munster AI	0
Grainne Dwyer	Technical Working Group Rapporteur, AHI	3
Richard Fallon	Teagasc Researcher (Retired)	3
Margaret Good	Senior Superintending Veterinary Inspector, DAFM	3
David Graham	Programme Manager for Biosecure Diseases, AHI	1
Kevin Kenny	DAFM, Veterinary Laboratory Services	2
Aideen Kennedy	Teagasc Research Centre, Moorepark	2
Bryan Markey	University College Dublin	1
Conor McAloon	University College Dublin	1
Ciaran Mellett	Veterinary Practitioner	3
Peter Mullaney	DAFM, Agricultural House, Kildare Street (Retired)	3
Riona Sayers	Teagasc Research Centre, Moorepark	0
Sam Strain	Programme Manager, AHI/AHWNI	2
Paul Whyte	University College Dublin	2





Prof Michael Doherty, Chairman, BVD TWG

Michael is Professor of Veterinary Clinical Studies in the School of Agriculture, Food Science and 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 TWG - 8 meetings held between 1/1/2015 and 31/12/2015

Member	Parent organisation	Meetings attended
Michael Doherty (Chair)	University College Dublin	8
Damien Barrett	DAFM, Veterinary Laboratory Services	4
Bosco Cowley	MSD Animal Health	6
Bernard Eivers	National Cattle Breeding Centre, Enfield	1
David Graham	Programme Manager for Biosecure Diseases, AHI	8
Maria Guelbenzu	Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute, NI	2
Luke O'Grady	University College Dublin	7
Ronan O'Neill	DAFM, Veterinary Laboratory Services	4
Fiona Reardon	Technical Working Group Rapporteur, AHI	6
Riona Sayers	Teagasc Research Centre, Moorepark	5
Michael Sexton	Veterinary Practitioner	5



Dr Michael Gunn, Chairman, IBR TWG

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 TWG - 6 meetings held between 1/1/2015 and 31/12/2015

Member	Parent organisation	Meetings attended
Michael Gunn (Chair)	Director of DAFM Laboratories (Retired)	6
Stephen Conroy	Tully Bull Performance Centre, Kildare (ICBF)	4
Doreen Corridan	Munster AI	3
Bosco Cowley	MSD Animal Health	4
Grainne Dwyer	Technical Working Group Rapporteur	6
Bernard Eivers	National Cattle Breeding Centre, Enfield	0
William Fitzgerald	DAFM, Veterinary Laboratory Services	5
Tim Geraghty	Scottish Agricultural College Aberdeen (formally UCD)	3
David Graham	Programme Manager for Biosecure Diseases, AHl	6
Maria Guelbenzu	Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute, NI	2
Elizabeth Lane	Superintending Veterinary Inspector, DAFM	5
Donal Lynch	Veterinary Practitioner	3
Shane McElroy	Glanbia	4
Mary Newman	Zoetis	4
Ronan O'Neill	DAFM, Veterinary Laboratory Services	5
Riona Sayers	Teagasc Research Centre, Moorepark	1



Dr Andy Forbes, Chairman, Parasite Control TWG

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 TWG - 1 meetings held between 1/1/2015 and 31/12/2015

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



Dr Ingrid Lorenz, Chairman, CalfCare TWG

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.

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., 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 TWG - 1 meetings held between 1/1/2015 and 31/12/2015

Member	Parent organisation	Meetings attended
Ingrid Lorenz (Chair)	University College Dublin	1
Muireann Conneely	Teagasc Research Centre, Moorepark	0
Charles Chavasse	Zoetis	0
Christine Cummins	Teagasc Research Centre, Moorepark	1
Grainne Dwyer	Technical Working Group Rapporteur, AHI	1
Bernadette Earley	Teagasc Research Centre, Grange	1
John Fagan	DAFM, Veterinary Laboratory Services	1
Richard Fallon	Teagasc Researcher (Retired)	1
Liam Gannon	Volac Ireland	1
John Gilmore	Veterinary Practitioner	1
Ian Hogan	DAFM, Veterinary Laboratory Services	1
Emer Kennedy	Teagasc Research Centre, Moorepark	1
John Mee	Teagasc Research Centre, Moorepark	1

ABOUT US



Dr John Mee, Chairman, Biosecurity TWG

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 TWG - 4 meetings held between 1/1/2015 and 31/12/2015

Member	Parent organisation	Meetings attended
John Mee (Chair)	Teagasc Research Centre, Moorepark	3
Stephen Conroy	Tully Bull Performance Centre, Kildare (ICBF)	1
Bosco Cowley	MSD Animal Health	1
Grainne Dwyer	Technical Working Group Rapporteur, AHI	4
Bernard Eivers	National Cattle Breeding Centre, Enfield	0
Richard Fallon	Teagasc Researcher (Retired)	3
David Graham	Programme Manager for Biosecure Diseases, AHI	4
Pat Kirwan	Veterinary Practitioner	3
John Moriarty	DAFM, Veterinary Laboratory Services	3
Luke O'Grady	University College Dublin	3
Ronan O'Neill	DAFM, Veterinary Laboratory Services	4
Michael Sexton	Veterinary Practitioner	0

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 2015, Implementation Groups for the BVD eradication programme and for the Johne's disease control programme, and an Industry Consultation Group for *CellCheck*, were operative. Further details of the Implementation Groups are available from the Animal Health Ireland Website³.

12 meetings held between 1/1/2015 and 31/12/2015

BVD IMPLEMENTATION GROUP

Joe O'Flaherty (Chair), Animal Health Ireland
David Graham, Programme Manager, Animal Health Ireland
Michael Doherty, UCD, Chair of BVD Technical Working Group

Organisations represented on the BVD Implementation Group

Animal Health Ireland	Irish Farmers' Association
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	Irish Holstein Friesian Association
Glanbia	Pedigree Cattle Breeders Council of Ireland
Irish Cattle Breeding Federation	Teagasc
Irish Co-Operative Society	Veterinary Ireland
Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers Association	

7 meetings held between 1/1/2015 and 31/12/2015

JOHNE'S DISEASE IMPLEMENTATION GROUP

Joe O'Flaherty (Chair), Animal Health Ireland
Sam Strain, Programme Manager, AHI/ AHWNI
Simon More, UCD, Chair of Johne's disease Technical Working Group

Organisations represented on the Johne's Disease Implementation Group

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

³ <http://www.animalhealthireland.ie/page.php?id=206>

2 meetings held between 1/1/2015 and 31/12/2015

**CELLCHECK INDUSTRY
CONSULTATION GROUP**

Joe O'Flaherty (Chair), Animal Health Ireland
 Finola McCoy, Programme Manager, AHI
 Simon More, UCD, Chair of Johnne's disease Technical Working Group

Organisations represented on the CellCheck Industry Consultation Group

Arrabawn	Irish Milk Quality Co-operative Society
Animal Health Ireland	Kerry Agribusiness
Aurivo	LacPatrick
Carbery Group	Lakeland Dairies
Dairygold	Ornua
Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine	Teagasc
Glanbia	Tipperary Co-operative Society
Irish Cattle Breeders' Federation	University College Dublin
Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers Association	Veterinary Ireland
Irish Farmers' Association	



A photograph of a black cow and a brown calf in a field of straw. The black cow is on the left, looking down at the brown calf on the right. The calf is looking up at the cow. The background is a field of straw. A green and yellow horizontal bar is overlaid on the image, containing the text "Corporate Governance".

Corporate Governance

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

General meetings of Members

The sixth Annual General Meeting of the Company was held in Dublin on 10th of June 2015. 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 AHI Business Plans and the operation of the various programmes were made by the CEO.

Board meetings

The Board met on three occasions between 01/01/2015 and 31/12/2015. The attendance of Directors at these meetings is summarised below.

Director	Meetings Attended
M. Magan (Chairman)	3
S. Brady	3
G. Brickley	3
J. Collins	3
M. Doherty	3
J. O'Sullivan	3
R. Talbot	2

Performance monitoring

Detailed business plans are produced annually by the management team, following consultation with the Board, the Members, the Technical Working Groups and the Implementation Groups. Progress against these business plans is provided to Members annually at the AGM and quarterly through the AHI newsletter. 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

Memoranda of Understanding have been developed between AHI and the organisations listed below. These memoranda are available for inspection by Members upon request.

Organisation	Date of entry Into force
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	06/01/2015
Teagasc	01/09/2010
Agri-Food & Biosciences Institute	22/09/2010
UCD	18/06/2012
AHWNI	26/09/2012

Audit, Finance & Risk Committee

The Audit, Finance & Risk Committee met on two occasions during 2015.

Remuneration Committee

The Remuneration Committee met on one occasion during 2015.

Our Activities



OUR ACTIVITIES



Gráinne Dwyer
Communications and Event Manager

Activities

In January, as in previous years, we held a series of seven dairy CalfCare events around the country. These events were jointly hosted by AHI and Teagasc in conjunction with Glanbia, Aurivo, and Kerry Agri-Business and were supported by Volac. Over 1,200 farmers attended the events. This is a marked increase in attendance over the 2014 events and is perhaps reflective of the interest amongst farmers for information on calf rearing. In the post milk quota era, where price volatility will require tighter financial controls on-farm, improved calf health and herd health will contribute to increased farm profitability.

Following an extensive consultation process, taking several months to complete, our Strategic Plan (2015-2017) was launched by Simon Coveney, TD, and Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine in June. The launch was attended by our stakeholders, industry partners and government officials. Four priority areas were identified during the process and our final Strategic Plan (2015-2017) is available to view on our website⁴.

In September, we formally launched the Beef HealthCheck programme at the National Ploughing Championships in Portlaoise. The launch, which took place at the FBD stand, was addressed by Simon Coveney, T.D., Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, representatives of Meat Industry Ireland and FBD, and by the Beef HealthCheck Programme Manager.

To further enhance the work of the IBR TWG and to investigate and learn from the experiences of other national IBR programmes, the TWG undertook a study tour to Belgium and the Netherlands. The trip proved to be very beneficial, with a report on the findings from the study tour scheduled to be published in early 2016. The Study Tour was kindly sponsored by the Golden Jubilee Trust.

The CellCheck *Milking For Quality* Awards were held in November, with over 500 people in attendance. The award plaques are sponsored by the FBD Trust and are given to the 500 milk suppliers nationally with the lowest, weighted annual average somatic cell count (SCC) for the previous year's supply – 2014. The winners were drawn from all 13 Co-op regions. Invitees included the winners and their partners, senior management from the participating co-ops, industry representatives and staff of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. The highlight of the Awards Ceremony was the announcement by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Simon Coveney of the Top 10 suppliers nationally who attained the lowest weighted average SCC across all Co-ops. Minister Coveney and Kevin Lane, CEO, Ornua jointly presented the top 10 suppliers with luxury food hampers, sponsored by Ornua. This hamper was in addition to receiving the CellCheck *Milking For Quality* Awards plaque.

AHI continued to be engaged with a broad range of stakeholders throughout the year. Among these was the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Agriculture, Food and the Marine, a meeting of which was attended by the Chairman, CEO and Programme Managers in March. AHI has met the Committee on several occasions over recent years, with these engagements providing a very useful means of updating the Deputies and Senators on the work of the organisation, and of receiving feedback from the elected representatives.

⁴ <http://www.animalhealthireland.ie/page.php?id=127>

AHI Training

Training of farmers, service providers and veterinary practitioners has become a major component of the work of AHI, in support of our various programmes. During the year, AHI became a Skillnet provider and it is hoped that this partnership will allow us to sustain our current training offering and to expand its scope into the future.

The Targeted Advisory Service on Animal Health (TASAH), a measure funded under the Rural Development Programme (2014-2020), is a significant development for AHI, and one which has great potential to support farmers by providing a free investigation service, delivered by a trained vet, for certain important diseases of cattle. The measure will initially run for three years, focusing on BVD, Johne's disease, IBR and somatic cell count reduction. Training of veterinary practitioners in relation to BVD herd investigations commenced in 2015 and is scheduled to be complete by Quarter 1 of 2016.

AHI Publications

The publication of our regular monthly CellCheck Newsletter and AHI bulletins, and of our more comprehensive quarterly stakeholder newsletter, continued throughout the year, supplemented by the AHI Veterinary Newsletter. To coincide with the launch of our latest programme, Beef HealthCheck, and commencing in April, we began the production of a new quarterly newsletter in support of this programme, aimed at beef farmers and those working in the beef industry.



Animal Health Programmes

BVD ANNUAL REPORT



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.



ANIMAL HEALTH PROGRAMMES

Results

2015 was the third year of the compulsory phase of the national eradication programme. Consistent with previous years, the level of compliance with the requirement to test calves remained very high. At the end of the year, 2,235,034 calves had been registered, compared with 2.08 million at the end of 2014 (an increase of 155,000 calves [7.5%]), with results recorded on ICBF for 99.1% of these.

0.33% of calves born in 2015 were considered to be persistently infected (PI), based on either an initial positive or inconclusive result without a retest, or with a positive retest result, representing a decrease of approximately one third from 2014 when 0.46% of calves were PI (see the Animal Health Ireland website⁵ for details and up-to-date results). 10.6% of calves with an initial positive or inconclusive result that were subject to a retest gave a negative result, indicating that they had been transiently infected (TI). 6% of the dams of calves considered to be PI were positive when tested, consistent with their being PI dams. At a herd level, 5.9% of approximately 83,000 breeding herds had one or more positive or inconclusive results in 2015, representing a decrease of approximately one quarter from 2014. Approximately 75% of these herds had a single PI animal, with more than 95% having 5 or less PIs.

Analysis of figures at a national level indicated that the proportion of the national breeding herd with a direct or indirect negative status on the ICBF database stood at 98.1% (of 5.6 million animals) in mid-December, while the proportion of animals whose status was not known stood at 1.8% (approximately 101,000). Of these, 16,000 were recently-born calves that were still in the process of being tested.

Retention of PI animals

During 2015, the BVD Implementation Group continued to emphasise the importance of prompt removal of PI calves once identified (particularly in advance of the breeding season), with strict isolation

where the option to conduct a confirmatory re-test was applied. This reflects the understanding firstly that PI animals typically fail to survive or to thrive relative to non-PI comrades. Secondly, and of greater concern, is the fact that they are a continued source of infection for animals in both their own and in neighbouring herds. Pregnant animals are at particular risk, since infection between approximately 30 and 120 days can result in the creation of further PI calves to be born in the following year. Three peer-reviewed papers, published in 2015 and based on Irish data, confirmed these messages. Key findings from these papers included: PI calves had a higher death rate than their non-PI comrades, while those that were sent to slaughter had a 89kg-lower slaughter weight; herds that retained PIs into and beyond the breeding season had a significantly higher probability of having PIs the following year; herds with one or more contiguous neighbours with a PI were approximately twice as likely to have a PI calf the following year compared to those without positive neighbours (see the Animal Health Ireland website⁶ for details).

At a herd level, 5.9% of approximately 83,000 breeding herds had one or more positive or inconclusive results in 2015, representing a decrease of approximately one quarter from 2014.

At the start of 2015, 1,986 and 1,182 PIs born in 2013 and 2014 respectively were still alive (3,168 in total), representing 8.5% and 20.5% of all PIs born in each of those years. By the end of 2015, only 201 of these remained alive. The rate of removal

⁵ <http://www.animalhealthireland.ie/page.php?id=226>

⁶ <http://www.animalhealthireland.ie/page.php?id=69#BVD>

ANIMAL HEALTH PROGRAMMES

of PIs born in 2015 was higher than in previous years, with only 12% (891) remaining at the start of 2016. This increased rate of removal, coupled with a decrease in the absolute number born, contributed to an overall decrease in the infection pressure. However, the failure to remove all PIs prior to the start of the breeding season in 2015 has provided the opportunity for the creation of further PI calves to be born in 2016.

A number of measures are considered to have contributed to the increased rate of removal in 2015:

- Continued communication from BVDIG, AHI and stakeholders contributing to further raising of awareness of the importance of prompt removal.
- Enhanced provision of financial supports for removal of PIs by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) (see the Animal Health Ireland website³ for details) that were structured to encourage prompt removal:
 - o Suckler herds receive €90 for disposal of each beef breed PI removed within 7 weeks of the first test, rising to €140 if removed within 5 weeks of the first test.
 - o Dairy Herds will receive €70 for each dairy breed PI heifer calf removed within 7 weeks of the first test, rising to €120 if removed within 5 weeks of the first test.
- Non-retention of PI calves for more than seven weeks was included as a criterion for entry to, and continued participation in, the Beef Data Genomics Programme (see the DAFM website⁴ for details).
- DAFM wrote to a small number of herds that were not participating in the programme to advise them of their requirement to test under the BVD legislation and informing them that restrictions would be imposed should testing not be carried out. This led to DAFM issuing restriction notices to a number of these herds due to continued non-participation.
- In June 2015 DAFM began a process of contacting herds regarding imposing movement restrictions (inward and outward) due to retention of PIs. In the first instance, herds retaining PIs born in 2013 were addressed, followed by those born in 2014 and moving on at the end of the year to those born in 2015. In many cases the contact from DAFM was sufficient to trigger removal of the PIs, avoiding the need for the herd to be restricted.
- DAFM wrote to all herd owners retaining PI animals to encourage them to dispose of them and advising of their intention to put in place a process of notifying neighbouring herds to allow them to take all practical measures to prevent spread of infection to their herds (due to resource constraints these did not issue in 2015, but are expected to issue in the first quarter of 2016).

Negative herd status (NHS)

At the end of 2015, approximately 6,000 herds that had taken part in, and complied with the guidelines of, the voluntary phase of the programme in 2012 had acquired negative herd status (NHS) by satisfying the following conditions:

1. Completion of a minimum of three years of tissue tag testing on calves born into the herd in each of these three years;
2. Existence of a negative BVD status for every animal currently in the herd (on the basis of either 'direct' or 'indirect' results);
3. Absence from the herd of any animal(s) deemed to be PI in the 12 months preceding the acquisition of NHS.

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. During 2015 a number of laboratories offered testing at a rate of €2.50, based on the reduced likelihood of pools of samples taken

³ <http://www.animalhealthireland.ie/page.php?id=204>

⁴ <http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmerschemespayments/beefgenomicsschemebeefdataprogramme/beefdataandgenomicsprogrammebdgp2015-2020/>

ANIMAL HEALTH PROGRAMMES

from herds with NHS being found positive when tested by RT-PCR. A number of additional laboratories were designated for RT-PCR toward the end of 2015 with a view to offering reduced cost testing to herds with NHS in 2016 (see the Animal Health Ireland website⁹ for details). Over the course of 2016, it is expected that the majority of herds will acquire NHS, with 49,087 of 83,298 satisfying these criteria at the end of December. A further 28,598 herds would also be potentially eligible once the status of untested animals (an average of approximately three per herd) was determined. From the start of December onwards, ICBF began issuing SMS messages to these herds, identifying these animals and advising them that the absence of a status for them would prevent the award of NHS on 1st January 2016.

Revised software for the handheld devices used by veterinary practitioners to assist them with managing BVD in their clients' herds was also developed, allowing practitioners to identify and sample animals of unknown status at TB tests during 2015. During the second half of 2015 DAFM also began routinely sampling imported animals to clarify their BVD status.

ICBF developments

During this period considerable work was undertaken to further improve the presentation of herd results to farmers, including the incorporation of herd status information and the development of tools to support herd investigations following positive test results. This information is available to all herdowners, free of charge (see Animal Health Ireland website¹⁰ for a detailed guide to accessing these data). Significant work was also put into programming in relation to NHS and into developing a series of data extracts in support of the programme.

Technical working group activity

A key focus for the BVD Technical Working Group in 2015 was on the monitoring options that would be available in 2016 to herds that had achieved NHS, with particular emphasis on the cost-effectiveness of introducing a serological option, based on blood sampling of a limited number of younger animals in each herd. Significant effort was put into developing a national BVD model to provide an evidence base for this analysis, which was led by a visiting researcher from 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. The outputs from this work were presented to the BVDIG in July. Key outputs from the model were:

- In the absence of retention of PIs from the beginning of the programme, the number of infected herds at the end of 2015 would have been expected to be of the order of 100 (Figure 1), with eradication anticipated in 2018.
- Retention of PI animals has delayed the programme, increasing the time and cost to eradication.
- In the absence of any further retention of PIs, eradication by 2020 remains achievable.
- For larger herds, a switch to targeted serological testing would be cheaper than continued tag testing, although for smaller herds the most cost-effective option continues to be tag testing.
- At the current level of infection, the introduction of serological testing as an option for herds with NHS would only be viable where all contiguous farms also have NHS, bio-security is assured and the risk of trade-based BVD introduction is zero.

9 http://www.animalhealthireland.ie/ckfinder/userfiles/files/20151216%20BVDLABDES%20v26_0.pdf

10 http://www.animalhealthireland.ie/ckfinder/userfiles/files/BVDTagInsert2015_005.pdf

ANIMAL HEALTH PROGRAMMES

Taking these points into account, the BVDIG decided that tissue tag testing should remain as the only testing option for 2016 (available at reduced cost). The TWG have continued this modelling work to consider the options for BVD testing that will be available to farmers in 2017 and beyond and the threshold prevalence of PI births below which it would be safe to introduce them. This decision, along with other key messages for 2016, were communicated through a flier distributed with tag deliveries in late 2015 and into 2016 (see the Animal Health Ireland website¹¹ for details).

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 beef and dairy herds, evaluation of different serological test kits and the impact of vaccination on their performance in uninfected animals, a survey of deer and a study to quantify the impact of Trojan movements on the introduction of PI calves into previously free herds. In the meantime, the TWG has also produced a guidance for herd owners to help avoid the introduction of Trojan animals (see the Animal Health Ireland website¹² for details).

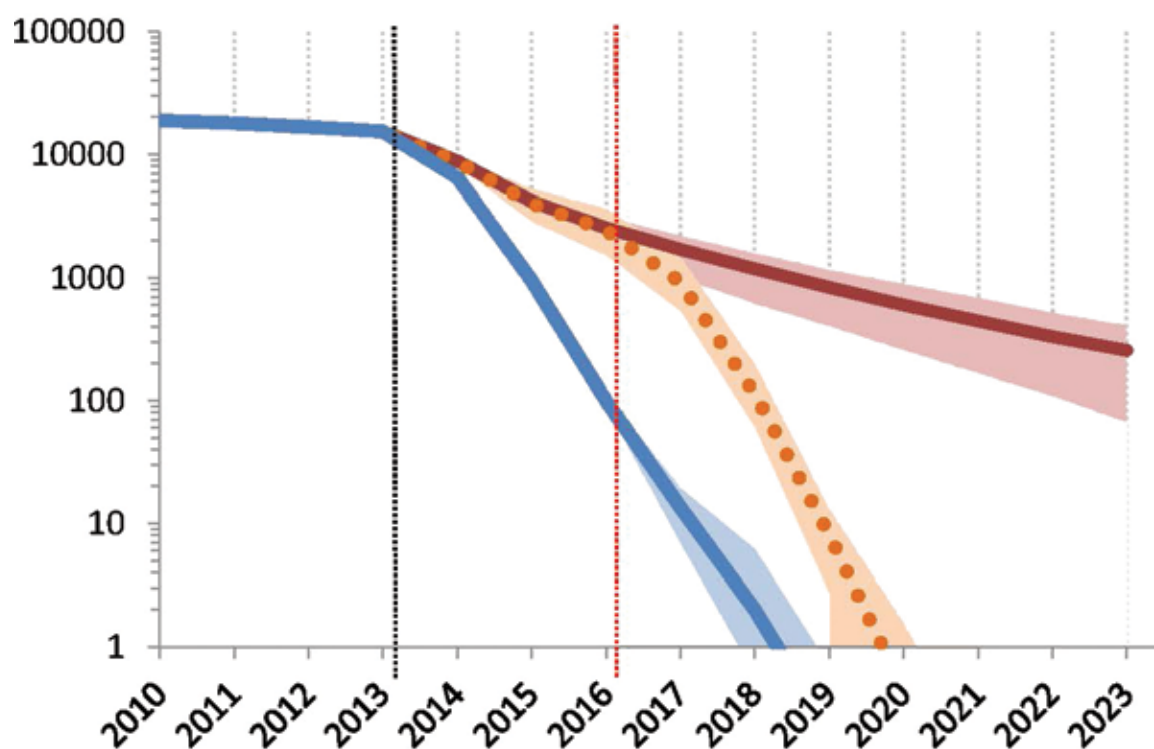


Figure 1. Model outputs showing the influence of retention of PIs on the time to eradication

blue line - no retention from 2013 onward;

dotted line - no retention from 2016 onward;

brown line - continued problem with retention).

11 http://www.animalhealthireland.ie/ckfinder/userfiles/files/BVDTagInsert2015_005.pdf

12 <http://www.animalhealthireland.ie/page.php?id=144>

ANIMAL HEALTH PROGRAMMES

Development of a Targeted Advisory Service on Animal Health (TASAH)

In November 2015, following a public procurement exercise, AHI was awarded a contract by DAFM to deliver a Targeted Advisory Service on Animal Health (TASAH). The initial focus of the service is on BVD, with the intention of providing a funded investigation by a trained veterinary practitioner to all herds with a PI calf born in 2016. The service consists of two parts: firstly, training of veterinary practitioners and secondly the setting up and organising of the delivery of the Measure. Approximately 100 practitioners underwent training in 2015, with the training of a further 300 scheduled to be completed by early February 2016. In parallel with this, significant work was put into developing a portal on the AHI

website to manage the service. This provides a list of trained veterinary practitioners and allow herd owners either directly (see the Animal Health Ireland website⁹ for details) or through the AHI office (071 9671928), to request an investigation and to select the practitioner that they wish to conduct it. It also allows practitioners to manage requests for investigation, including the reporting of key findings. The TASAH is funded under the Rural Development Programme and in the first instance will run for three years, covering the cost of up to three hours of veterinary time per investigation. In addition to BVD, it is intended that it will develop to address Johne's disease, infectious bovine rhinotracheitis (IBR) and elevated somatic cell counts.

IBR ANNUAL REPORT

The IBR technical working group (TWG) met regularly throughout 2014 under the chairmanship of Dr Michael Gunn.

The key outputs for the year were two information leaflets for veterinary practitioners and breeders of dairy and beef bull calves with potential for use as AI sires. These provide guidance to help them minimize the rejection of potential AI sires as a result of their IBR status (see the Animal Health Ireland website¹³ for details).

The TWG also undertook a number of activities to inform a decision on the merits or otherwise of introducing an IBR eradication programme. These included the identification and categorisation of current knowledge gaps, preliminary data gathering to support a cost-benefit analysis and a review, including the supporting legislation, of the EU-recognised eradication programmes in Belgium and Germany



Members of the IBR Technical Working Group on farm visit to Henk Blankena, Bathman, The Netherlands during IBR Study Tour, September 2015.

¹³ <http://www.animalhealthireland.ie/page.php?id=61>

CELLCHECK ANNUAL REPORT



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.



ANIMAL HEALTH PROGRAMMES

Industry targets

One of the key milestones for 2015 was the establishment of an industry-agreed SCC target. Following significant consultation with stakeholders through the CellCheck Industry Consultation Group, a common industry goal was agreed; by 2020, 75% of the milk supplied by Irish farmers will have an SCC of 200,000 cells/mL or less. This goal will be subject to review at the end of the current AHI strategy period (2015-2017). KPIs were also agreed which will allow the progress of the industry to be measured, and for the CellCheck programme to be further refined, as required.

National SCC data collation

In order to measure industry progress, a national database of bulk tank SCC data is essential. Work continued throughout 2015 to collect and analyse a second year of bulk tank SCC data (2014), with the support of DAFM, ICBF and UCD. The analysis shows the SCC distribution of both herds and milk, nationally and at co-op level, and can now also demonstrate progress between 2013 and 2014 (*Fig 1*). One of the priority activities for 2015 was to analyse the SCC data of CellCheck Farmer Workshop participants to assess the impact of workshops on udder health performance. However, to date this has not been feasible due to the absence of consistent unique identifiers for a significant portion of this national database.

Following a request from DAFM, analysis of this dataset has also been carried out to look at the impact of the seasonality factor on herd eligibility to supply milk. This work will be published in 2016.

The final 2 trilateral meetings between AHI, DAFM and the processors were held in early 2015, presenting results of the 2013 SCC and economic analyses to each of the co-ops individually. Following these meetings, an individual 'CellCheck activity and SCC performance' report was generated for each co-op, and issued to management.

CellCheck Milking For Quality Awards

Now in its second year, the winners of the CellCheck Milking for Quality awards supported by FBD Trust, were announced. This award is based on SCC data collated by Department of Agriculture, any supplier with at least 9 months of SCC results from one co-op/processor being considered eligible. Once again, the performance of these national winners was excellent; the range of weighted annual average SCC of the winners for 2014 was 37,000 cells/ml to 97,000 cells/ml. With the support of Ornua, AHI hosted a national awards ceremony in November, which was addressed by Simon Coveney, T.D., Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

CellCheck Farmer Workshops

The objective of the Farmer Workshop is to help farmers understand the causes of mastitis and to highlight how making simple changes in their everyday milking routines can improve and maintain lower somatic cell counts (SCC) in their herd. 24 workshops were delivered in 2015, with 325 farmers participating. In addition to these, workshops were delivered to students of the new Waterford Institute of Technology Level 8 Agricultural Science course, all the Level 6 Advanced Certificate in Agriculture (Dairy) courses and the Professional Diploma in Farm Management. The CellCheck team has worked with the Regional Coordinators and local service providers to plan and deliver these workshops. The team of seven Coordinators continued to evolve in 2015, with the aim of continuing to improve geographic cover nationally.

During 2015, DAFM proposed participation in CellCheck Farmer Workshops as one of the Dairy Knowledge Transfer measures under the RDP, which is now due to commence in 2016. This will mean an estimated 6,000 - 7,000 dairy farmers will participate in workshops in 2016 and 2017. At the request of DAFM, AHI has also supported the development of the 'Animal Health Measures', which will be a component of the Farm Improvement Plan, another of the KT measures under the RDP. These Animal Health Measures provide a structure for farmers

ANIMAL HEALTH PROGRAMMES

to engage with their veterinary practitioner to use objective output measures in key areas of animal health, to explore current farm performance, set appropriate farm-specific targets and recommended actions, and measure progress over time.

Service Provider Training

2 more Stage 2 training days were held in 2015, attended by 32 local service providers from various parts of the country. The contact details of all Stage 2-trained service providers are available on an interactive map on www.cellcheck.ie. Evaluation of participant feedback has also been on-going, highlighting a high level of satisfaction and interest in the training provided to date, and identifying areas of further demand. In Q4 of 2015, the TWG commenced work on development of the next phase of training for service providers, which will focus on the technical aspects of mastitis management.

Laboratory Proficiency Testing:

Following discussions with DAFM, a meeting was convened with all of the laboratories currently offering commercial milk culture and sensitivity services to farmers, with the objective of exploring the possibility of harmonizing laboratory methods, establishing a national database of mastitis pathogens identified, and capturing information on antimicrobial resistance patterns nationally. The proposals were favourably received by all attendees, and work on the various objectives is on-going, commencing with the development of a laboratory proficiency test by DAFM and the RVLs.

Communications and training

During the year, I attended several mastitis and milk quality-related conferences and seminars, and was invited to present at training/education events, including FETAC Responsible Person's Training, IMQCS, Dairy Business Degree students, Teagasc Open Day, CAVI, NDC and various co-op hosted information events.

2015 also saw the conclusion of my Nuffield study, exploring the benefits, constraints and opportunities for creating cross-professional networks in the agri-industry. This work has highlighted the importance of an 'honest broker' in building networks, a role that AHI is well placed to perform, in the area of animal health. I presented my learnings at the annual Nuffield conference and for those interested, my final report is available online¹⁴.

Key points:

- Industry-agreed target-70% of milk <200,000 cells/mL by 2020
- Collation and analysis of 2 sequential years of national SCC data (2013-2014)
- CellCheck Farmer Workshops
 - o organised by 7 Regional Coordinators
 - o 24 events
 - o 325 farmers
 - o 8 workshops for Level 6 Advanced Dairy students
 - o Identified as KT measure in RDP
- Events and communications
 - o CellCheck *Milk For Quality* Awards
 - o CellCheck monthly newsletter

¹⁴ http://nuffieldinternational.org/rep_pdf/1444469718Finola-McCoy-2014-report.pdf

JOHNE'S DISEASE ANNUAL REPORT



Dr Sam Strain - Johne's disease Programme Manager

Sam is Programme Manager for Animal Health and Welfare Northern Ireland and has responsibility for the Johne's disease control programmes across the island of Ireland.

Sam qualified as a Veterinary Surgeon from the University of Glasgow in 1992, following which he worked in mixed general practice in Scotland before completing his PhD in veterinary immunology at Glasgow University. He subsequently worked in mixed general practice in Northern Ireland before joining the Veterinary Sciences Division of AFBI, where he was Head of the Salmonella and Brucella culture National References Laboratories as well as Head of the bovine TB culture and TB immunology groups.

While working in AFBI, he was principal investigator within a number of international research consortia which included study of the early pathogenesis of TB and Johne's disease, the evaluation of novel vaccine and diagnostic targets for bovine mycobacterial diseases and the effect of parasite co-infection on mycobacterial immune responses and disease outcomes.



ANIMAL HEALTH PROGRAMMES

Since the commencement of the AHI Johne's Control Programme over 250,000 tests, performed on over 150,000 animals have been uploaded to the ICBF database. The programme continues to be financially supported by industry and government and promoted through educational activities to farmers and veterinary practitioners.

During 2015, approximately 1,300 herds were enrolled in the programme. Most herds that had animals that tested positive for Johne's Disease had relatively few, with the great majority of these herds having 3 or less positive animals. As has been seen elsewhere, there was a correlation between the size of herds and the number of animals testing positive, with larger herds tending to have more test positive animals. The peak age for test positive animals was 4 years. For milk tests, the size of the initial positive test reading correlated with the likelihood of the subsequent test also being positive. Test positive animals with higher initial test readings were more likely to be positive at the next test. Similarly, those animals with higher test readings were more likely to be faecal test positive. Both of these observations are consistent with the view that in many cases animals that are test positive and have the highest readings represent those animals with most advanced infection. These animals probably constitute the greatest infectious risk to other animals.

Up to the end of 2015, just under 2,500 Veterinary Risk Assessment and Management Plans (V-RAMPs) had been carried out and uploaded to the ICBF database. These were undertaken by AHI Approved Veterinary Practitioners and consisted of a number of questions focusing on farm practices relating to bio-exclusion (the possibility that infection could have been introduced into a farm) and bio-containment (the possibility of spread of infection between animals). To assist with the quantification of risks, each risk was scored using detailed guidance developed by the Johne's Disease TWG. The practical outcome of each V-RAMP is a small number of recommendations relating to changes in management that the herdowner can implement to

reduce the risk of infection. Those herds that had animals that tested positive tended to have slightly higher V-RAMP scores compared to herds with no animals testing positive. Herds that had practices that could predispose to infection spread in the calf rearing areas were more likely to have risks identified in the calving area also.

AHI ran two V-RAMP training courses during 2015 for veterinary practitioners. In total approximately 450 veterinary practitioners have now been trained to deliver V-RAMPs. A workshop was delivered on the application and interpretation of Johne's tests at the Cattle Association of Veterinary Ireland in October, together with a review of the pilot programme. In addition, several farmer information events were run during the year in conjunction with a number of the dairy co-ops.

To facilitate the delivery of V-RAMPs the TWG developed two Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). These were designed to assist AVPs in the provision of both initial V-RAMPs to new entrants to the Pilot Programme and follow-up V-RAMPs for those herds that have entered their second or subsequent year of the programme and in which an initial V-RAMP visit had already been carried out. They outline the purposes for the V-RAMP visits and provide guidance as to how they should be conducted on farms.

The optimal use of tests for Johne's Disease and the appropriate interpretation of test results are recognised as significant challenges in the control of Johne's Disease. To facilitate the best use of these tests in the programme, guidance on test interpretation and the use of follow-up (ancillary) testing was included in the SOPs. In addition, guidance notes were published and are available to herdowners in the form of a brief bulletin (see the Animal Health Ireland website¹⁵ for details)

Where active disease has not already been confirmed and where there are animals with positive antibody test results it may be advisable that follow-up (ancillary) testing is conducted to further investigate

¹⁵ <http://www.animalhealthireland.ie/page.php?id=233>

ANIMAL HEALTH PROGRAMMES

the status of blood or milk test positive cattle. During the initial phase of the pilot programme, ancillary testing following an antibody-positive result had been limited to faecal culture. However, during 2015, the TWG took the decision that this should be extended to include PCR through designated laboratories. The form for applications for laboratory designation (see the Animal Health Ireland website¹⁶ for details) has been revised to allow laboratories to apply for designation to provide PCR tests to the programme. It should be noted that the TWG advises that the PCR test should only be used on animals that have had a previous positive blood or milk test.

Johne's Disease remains a notifiable disease in Ireland. To clarify the mechanism for notifying DAFM on the suspicion of the presence of Johne's Disease, Statutory Instrument 101 of 2008 (Diseases of Animals Act 1966 (Notification and Control of Animal Diseases) Order 2008) was revised through the adoption of SI 123 (2015) 'Notification and Control of Animal Diseases Regulations 2014 (Amendment) Regulations 2015' which states:

(3A). It is sufficient compliance with Regulation 3 for a person who is a member of the Animal Health Ireland Johne's Disease Control Programme and to whom that Regulation applies to notify the Irish Cattle Breeding Federation of the suspicion that an animal, carcase, product, semen or embryo is affected or may be affected with Johne's Disease."

All test results for pilot programme herds are uploaded to ICBF. Therefore, for those herds in the pilot programme, there is now no additional requirement to notify DAFM of positive Johne's Disease test results.

During 2015, ICBF completed the development of a herd categorisation system which it is expected will be made available to herdowners during 2016. Categorisation is designed to give herdowners an indication of their likely infection status. In addition, as it rolls over several years it will act as a means of measuring whether progress in controlling the infection and in improving the confidence of infection absence is being made at the individual herd level.

A survey of herdowners enrolled in the programme was carried out by AHI. It showed that the V-RAMP visits were regarded by the vast majority of participants as being very beneficial. Herdowners felt it was particularly valuable in assisting with their understanding of infection risks specific to their herd, and as a means of providing practical recommendations to assist their management of these risks through focussed engagement with their veterinary practitioners. It highlighted the need for ongoing Johne's Disease-related education, with herdowners expressing a view that small group discussions were a particularly valuable means of communicating information.

¹⁶ <http://www.animalhealthireland.ie/page.php?id=213>

BEEF HEALTHCHECK ANNUAL REPORT



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.

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.



Joe O'Flaherty (AHI), Joe Ryan (Meat Industry Ireland), Fiona Muldoon (FBD), Simon Coveney, TD, Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Rebecca Carroll (AHI), Mike Magan (Chairman, AHI), David Graham (AHI).

ANIMAL HEALTH PROGRAMMES

Introduction

2015 saw the official launch of the Beef HealthCheck programme by Simon Coveney, Minister of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. An extensive framework for the programme has been put in place which aims to assist farmers and their veterinary practitioners to control losses due to liver fluke and pneumonia through capture, analysis and reporting of abattoir data.

Beef HealthCheck meetings

Animal Health Ireland met regularly throughout 2015 with Meat Industry Ireland, meat processor representatives and ICBF to plan and develop the Beef HealthCheck programme. AHI also held regular meetings with other key stakeholders, including DAFM and Veterinary Ireland.

Programme development

Descriptors for liver and lung lesions were agreed with stakeholders and these common descriptors are being used to record liver and lung lesions in all participating meat plants. Software for recording the categories has been developed by each meat processor and a hardware specification agreed for the touchscreen terminals. A batch level report has been developed and this report is being issued by participating meat plants to farmers for every batch of cattle slaughtered. A format for transferring data from meat plants to ICBF has been agreed to allow meat plants to transfer recorded data to the ICBF database.

Communications

The 'Beef HealthCheck Information leaflet for Temporary Veterinary Inspectors' was developed and published in 2015. This leaflet is aimed at Temporary Veterinary Inspectors (TVIs) who carry out post-mortem inspections of cattle in meat factories. It outlines the programme for TVIs and includes detailed descriptions and illustrations of the liver and lung lesion categories which they are recording. The

leaflet was sent to all TVIs in advance of the roll-out of the programme in each participating meat plant.

Information meetings for TVIs were held in each meat plant in advance of the roll-out of the programme, with 150 vets attending the 9 information meetings that took place in 2015. The information meetings included detailed descriptions of the Beef HealthCheck categories and information on the operation of the touchscreen terminals. The information leaflets and meetings have been important tools to brief TVIs on the Beef HealthCheck programme.

The first edition of the Beef HealthCheck Newsletter was published in April. This quarterly newsletter on cattle health and production is aimed at beef farmers and others working in the beef industry. The newsletter is an online publication and is circulated via Email to subscribers to AHI's on-line newsletter service¹⁷.

During the year I spoke at various conferences and events including a presentation on the Beef HealthCheck programme at the Veterinary Ireland CAVI conference in October 2015.

Data Analysis

I began a Masters in Veterinary Medicine in University College Dublin, examining the prevalence of liver lesions caused by liver fluke in cattle slaughtered in Irish abattoirs and the economic impact of these lesions on cattle performance. This work will continue into 2016.

¹⁷ <http://www.animalhealthireland.ie/>



Financial Statement

for the financial year ended 31 December 2015

Company Information	41
Directors' Report	42
Independent Auditors' Report	44
Income & Expenditure Account	46
Balance Sheet	47
Statement of Cash Flows	48
Notes to the Financial Statements	49

Company Information

Board of Directors	M.J. Magan (Chairman) S. Brady J.G. Brickley L.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 2015

The directors present their report together with the audited financial statements for the financial year ended 31st December 2015.

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, and promulgated by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland. 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 2016 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.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

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 2015 are set out below. Unless indicated otherwise, they served as directors for the entire year.

Mike Magan (Chairman)

S. Brady

J.G. Brickley

L.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 and to co-ordinate effective control programmes for non-regulated diseases of livestock.

Results

The results for the financial year are set out on pages 46.

Assets and Liabilities and Financial Position

The net financial position at year end is set out on page 47.

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 2015.

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

26th April 2016

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 2015 which comprise an Income and Expenditure Account, a Balance Sheet, and a Statement of Cash Flows and related notes 1 to 17. 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 and promulgated by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland.

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 42, 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 2015 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.

Joseph Gannon For and on behalf of **Gilroy Gannon**

Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm
26th April 2016

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Income and Expenditure AccountFor the financial year ended 31st December 2015

	Notes	2015 €	2014 €
Income from Stakeholders' Subscriptions		1,248,149	1,128,399
Other Income		322,298	458,694
Total Income		1,570,447	1,587,093
Operating Expenses	4, 5	(1,532,000)	(1,517,108)
Surplus on ordinary activities		38,447	69,985
Taxation	7	-	-
Surplus after Taxation		38,447	69,985
Accumulated Deficit at beginning of financial year		(124,359)	(194,344)
Accumulated Deficit at end of financial year		(85,912)	(124,359)

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Balance SheetFor the financial year ended 31st December 2015

	Note	2015 €	2014 €
Fixed assets	8	18,858	12,505
Current assets			
Stocks	9	9,269	13,677
Debtors	10	249,451	33,786
Bank	11	183,084	187,448
		441,804	234,911
Creditors	12	(546,574)	(371,775)
Net current liabilities		(104,770)	(136,864)
Net liabilities		(85,912)	(124,359)
Represented By:			
Reserve Account		(85,912)	(124,359)

The notes on pages 49- 56 form part of the financial statements.

These financial statements were approved by the Board on 26th April 2016 and signed on its behalf by:

On behalf of the Board

Mike Magan
Chairman

Seán Brady
Director

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Statement of Cash Flows

For the financial year ended 31st December 2015

	2015 €	2014 €
Cash flows from operating activities		
Surplus for the financial year	38,447	69,985
<i>Adjustments for:</i>		
Depreciation	8,087	3,273
<i>Changes in:</i>		
Stocks	4,408	5,264
Trade and other debtors	(215,665)	18,199
Trade and other creditors	166,746	(137,609)
Cash generated from operations	2,023	(40,888)
Net cash from/(used in) operating activities	2,023	(40,888)
Cash flows from investing activities		
Purchase of fixed assets	(14,440)	(177)
Net cash used in investing activities	(14,440)	(177)
Net decrease in cash	(12,417)	(41,065)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of financial year	187,448	228,513
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	175,031	187,448

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the financial year ended 31st December 2015

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 2016 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.

Transition to FRS 102

The entity transitioned from previously extant Irish GAAP to FRS 102 as at 1st January 2014. An explanation of how transition to FRS 102 has affected the reported financial position and financial performance is given in note 13.

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 bulk of the Skillnets grant is expected to be released to the Income and Expenditure Account in 2016.

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.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

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

	2015	2014
Surplus for the financial year is stated after charging:	€	€
Depreciation of fixed assets	8,087	3,274
Directors' remuneration	43,925	48,576
Auditors' remuneration		
Audit	3,998	3,998
Other services relating to programmes	1,230	-

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

4. Directors' Remuneration

In the financial year ended 31st December 2015 Directors' emoluments were as follows:-	2015 €	2014 €
Remuneration	43,925	48,576
Travel expenses	9,468	11,405
	53,393	59,981
M.J. Magan (Chairman)	23,925	28,576
S. Brady	5,000	5,000
J.G. Brickley	5,000	5,000
L.J. Collins	-	-
M.L. Doherty	-	-
J. O'Sullivan	5,000	5,000
R.H. Talbot	5,000	5,000
	43,925	48,576

The Chairman's remuneration comprises an annual honorarium of €10,000 and per diem payments amounting to €13,925 (2014:€18,576). 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 2015.

5. Staff Costs

The staff costs for all employees, excluding directors, comprise:-	2015 €	2014 €
Salaries	570,228	520,846
Social security costs	49,990	44,718
Other staff costs	8,190	13,061
Pension costs	48,309	46,414
Travel expenses	72,685	70,540
	749,402	695,579

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:	2015 Number	2014 Number
Key Management	3	3
Administration	2	2
Programme management	4	3
Planning and operations	1	1
Technical working group liaison	1	1
Laboratory assistant	-	1
	11	11

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Key management compensation	2015	2014
	€	€
This comprises benefits paid to key management, including the CEO, during 2015 which are included in staff costs above. The average number of key management during the year was 3 (2014:3)		
Total key management compensation	375,219	377,343
Remuneration of the Chief Executive	2015	2014
	€	€
Salary	120,000	120,000
Other benefits, including pension costs	34,506	37,338
Social security costs	1,899	1,866
Travel expenses	9,620	11,544
	166,025	170,748

6. Government Grants

The company received Government grants through the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine by way of stakeholder subscriptions totalling €530,000 in the financial year to 31st December 2015 (2014: €530,000) and were used as follows:-

	2015	2014
	€	€
Staff costs	126,280	120,000
Contributions to operating expenses	403,720	410,000
	530,000	530,000

In addition, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine has contributed €660,000 to the Johne's Disease Programme up to 31st December 2015. This funding is released to the Income and Expenditure Account to match the payments under the VRAMPS Scheme.

7. Taxation

The company received a determination from Revenue regarding its mutual trading status to the effect that the company is not liable to Corporation Tax on any surplus from the stakeholders' contributions. Therefore, no Corporation Tax liability has been provided for in the year ending 31st December 2015.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

8. Fixed Assets

	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 2015	19,169	1,437	20,606
Carrying amount			
At 31st December 2015	18,239	619	18,858

8. Fixed Assets

In respect of prior year

	Office equipment €	Furniture & fittings €	Total €
Cost			
At 1 st January 2014	23,956	2,056	26,012
Additions	177	-	177
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31st December 2014	24,133	2,056	26,189
Depreciation			
At 1 st January 2014	9,487	923	10,410
Charge for the year	3,017	257	3,274
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31st December 2014	12,504	1,180	13,684
Carrying amount			
At 31st December 2014	11,629	876	12,505

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

9. Stocks

	2015	2014
	€	€
Finished goods	<u>9,269</u>	<u>13,677</u>

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

	2015	2014
	€	€
Debtors	200,451	32,686
Stakeholder subscriptions	<u>49,000</u>	<u>1,100</u>
	<u>249,451</u>	<u>33,786</u>

11. Cash And Cash Equivalents

	2015	2014
	€	€
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>183,084</u>	<u>187,448</u>

12. Creditors

	2015	2014
	€	€
Bank overdraft	8,053	-
Trade creditors	141,561	164,795
Tax and social insurance:		
Payroll Taxes	23,789	21,190
Accruals	67,782	54,042
Deferred income	<u>305,389</u>	<u>131,748</u>
	<u>546,574</u>	<u>371,775</u>

The repayment terms of trade creditors vary between on demand and 90 days. No interest is payable on tradecreditors.

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

Deferred income comprises Johnne's Disease Programme €266,560 (2014:€131,748); Targeted Advisory Services on Animal Health €19,939 and Skillnets €18,890.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

13. Transition to FRS 102

This is the first year that the company has presented its financial statements under FRS102.

Prior to 1st January 2014 the company prepared its financial statements under previously extant GAAP. From 1st January 2014, the company has elected to present its financial statements in accordance with FRS 102 and the Companies Act 2014.

The comparative figures in respect of the 2014 financial statements have been restated to reflect the company's first adoption of FRS 102 from the date of transaction 1st January 2014.

The reconciliation of the Income and Expenditure Account prepared in accordance with Irish GAAP and in accordance with FRS 102 for the financial year ended 31st December 2014 and the reconciliation of the amount of total deficit at 31st December 2014, before and after the application of FRS 102, is as follows:

Reconciliation of Reserve Account	1st Jan 2014	31st Dec 2014
Deficit (as previously stated)	(164,344)	(88,862)
Holiday payaccrual	(30,000)	(35,497)
Deficit (restated)	<u>(194,344)</u>	<u>(124,359)</u>

Reconciliation of surplus	31st Dec 2014
Surplus (as previously stated)	75,482
2014 Movement in Holiday pay accrual	(5,497)
Surplus for the financial year (as restated under FRS 102)	<u>69,985</u>

Holiday payaccrual***Irish GAAP***

Under Irish GAAP provision for holiday pay accruals were not recognised and holiday pay was charged to the Income and Expenditure Account as it was paid.

FRS 102

FRS 102 requires short term employee benefits to be charged to the Income & Expenditure Account as the employee service is received.

Impact

This has resulted in the company recognising a liability for holiday pay of €30,000 on transition to FRS 102. The total holiday pay accrual at 31st December 2015 is €37,471.

14. 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.

15. Related Parties

The company 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 2015 (2014: €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.

16. 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.





17. Approval of Financial Statements

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 26 April 2016.

APPENDIX I - AHI BUSINESS PLANS 2015

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 2015	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Outcomes 2015
Communications					
1. Develop and implement quarterly communication plans in support of the programme.					Complete.
Programme development and implementation					
2. Analyse fluke data gathered to date and publish as appropriate.					Partially complete. This work is forming part of a Masters programme, which is being undertaken by the Programme Manager and is being carried forward into 2016.
3. Agree standardized format of data capture and implement across participating plants.					Partially complete. Implementation is complete in 9 plants and at an advanced stage in the remainder, with completion scheduled for Q1 2016.
4. Develop and implement agreed standard formats for reporting data at supplier level and in aggregate form.					Complete.

APPENDIX I - AHI BUSINESS PLANS 2015

Programme: Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD)






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

Deliverables 2015	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Outcomes 2015
Communications					
1. Publish a manuscript in a peer-reviewed journal analysing the impact of retaining PI animals.					Complete.
2. Develop and implement quarterly communication plans in support of the programme.					Complete.
3. Maintain and refine helpdesk support facility for farmers.					Complete.
4. Present programme outputs at national and international conferences.					Complete.
Programme development and implementation					
5. Develop enhanced mapping tools to support programme-related decision making and communications.					Partially complete. Automation of supporting data extracts established and draft specifications of map display formats prepared. Currently scheduled for completion in Q1 2016.
6. Develop tools to utilise available data to facilitate herd investigations, completion of overdue testing and provision of biosecurity advice.					Complete.
7. Provide training for veterinary practitioners in herd investigations and surveillance strategies.					Partially complete. Initiation of training was postponed to December to allow it to take place in support of herd investigations conducted under the Targeted Advisory Services on Animal Health (TASAH) delivered under the Rural Development Plan (2014-2020). Training of over 400 veterinary practitioners scheduled for completion during Q1 2016.
8. Provide programme management resources to AHWNI to support the implementation of a compulsory programme in Northern Ireland in 2015.					Complete.
9. 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.
10. 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, abortion serology and deer survey; publish as appropriate in peer-reviewed journals.					Partially complete. A study on risk associated with the BVD status of neighbouring herds has been completed and submitted for publication. Work is continuing on a number of other studies which are scheduled for completion in 2016.

APPENDIX I - AHI BUSINESS PLANS 2015

Programme: Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD)








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

Deliverables 2015	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Outcomes 2015
Programme development and implementation					
11. Supervise an Irish Research Council-funded MSc project on BVD.					Complete.
12. Continue development of the ICBF database in support of the programme.					Complete.
13. Conduct a modelling exercise on the impact of control decisions on programme outcomes.					Complete.
14. Decide and communicate the transition criteria and testing requirements to enable herds to acquire and maintain Negative Herd Status and to avail of lower cost monitoring options in 2016 and beyond.					Complete.
15. Revise the BVD Regulations (2014) to enable further programme development.					Deferred following decision by BVD Implementation that all herds would continue to tag test in 2016.

APPENDIX I - AHI BUSINESS PLANS 2015

Programme: CellCheck





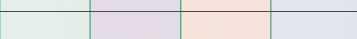
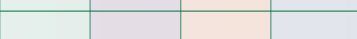
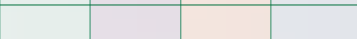
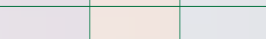
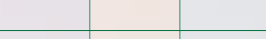


Programme Objective: Facilitate the Irish dairy industry to continue to improve milk quality, such that 75% of the milk supplied by Irish farmers will have an SCC of 200,000 cells/mL or less by year end 2020.

Deliverables 2015	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Outcomes 2015
Communications					
1. Deliver 2014 CellCheck <i>Milking For Quality</i> 'Top 500 award', and establish at least 1 new award category, subject to data availability.					Partially complete (required data for new award category unavailable).
2. Develop additional communication avenues within 2 nd and 3 rd level educational system.					Complete.
3. Disseminate monthly communications, to include technical articles, programme and operational updates, and case studies, through the agricultural media and stakeholder publications.					Complete.
4. Engage with key influencers and milk processors, including non-AHI member co-ops, to communicate the value and opportunity of continually improving milk quality, and to promote adoption of signals to influence behaviour change.					Complete
5. Maintain and publicise, through the AHI website and other media, the national database of participating service providers.					Complete.
6. Promote development of CCK100 brand.					Incomplete (awaiting further discussion and decision by the Industry Consultation Group)
7. Write a scientific paper outlining collective and multi-faceted approach to behaviour change in mastitis control, suitable for submission for peer-review.					Complete (Due to lack of available SCC data, the focus of this research was altered to address the impact of the seasonality factor)

APPENDIX I - AHI BUSINESS PLANS 2015

Programme: CellCheck

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Deliverables 2015	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Outcomes 2015
Programme development and implementation					
8. In association with each milk processor, identify individual annual targets for supplier participation in <i>CellCheck Farmer Workshops</i> .					Partially complete (requests issued to all stakeholder co-ops)
9. Refine administrative and QC structures to facilitate ongoing industry delivery of <i>CellCheck Farmer Workshops</i> .					Complete
10. In partnership with milk processors, expand the network of Regional Co-ordinators to ensure adequate geographic coverage nationally.					Complete
11. Investigate opportunities to further enhance existing national QA and knowledge transfer schemes through inclusion of udder health-related measures/practices.					Complete
12. In conjunction with milk processors, continue the promotion and sale of the <i>CellCheck Farm Guidelines</i> .					Complete
13. In conjunction with TWG and industry partners, develop a 'Stage 3' service provider training module.**					Partially complete (development work ongoing)
14. Identify 'Stage 3 equivalent' training, and establish a database of skilled mastitis problem solvers.					Incomplete (mechanism for the recognition of appropriately qualified individuals remains to be agreed by stakeholders)
15. Collate and analyse national SCC profile and trends, including impact of seasonality factor, following collection of 2011, 2012 and 2014 data from milk processors by DAFM. **					Partially complete (seasonality work complete, DAFM addressing quality issues prior to collation of further years of data)
16. In association with ICBF, UCD and TWG members, develop additional CellCheck tools e.g. problem-solving milk recording reports, to support detailed farm-level investigation, CostCheck app, FAQ webpage.					Partially complete (CostCheck app awaiting launch; insufficient resources to continue milk recording report development until Q4 2016)
Programme evaluation, monitoring and refinement					
17. With milk processor support, continue to collate and analyse SCC data of workshop participants to assess the impact of farm workshops on udder health performance.**					Incomplete (necessary data unavailable to date)
18. With support from Teagasc and CVERA, continue to measure attitudes, behaviours and practices relevant to mastitis control.					Complete

APPENDIX I - AHI BUSINESS PLANS 2015

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 2015	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Outcomes 2015
Communications and awareness					
1. In conjunction with CVERA submit to a peer-reviewed journal a descriptive paper outlining Pilot Programme findings.					Partially complete. Programme reviewed and outcomes presented to the JDIG. Writing and publication of paper delayed.
2. Publish in an international peer-reviewed journal the results of epidemiological modelling to evaluate the effect of differing interventions on the control of infection within infected herds.					Complete
3. Support stakeholder organisations, as required, in the delivery of farmer information and training events.					Complete
4. Develop and publish in farming and veterinary media a series of articles on JD, with a target of 6 articles.					Complete
5. In conjunction with Teagasc, submit to a peer-reviewed journal the preliminary on-farm economic findings arising from the pilot programme.					Delayed due to a delay in recruiting Teagasc researcher to carry out analysis
Programme development and implementation					
6. Finalise a detailed review of the JD Pilot Programme to inform its ongoing refinement and development.					Complete and results presented to JDIG
7. Monitor and report on delivery of the database development schedule, agreed with ICBF for 2015.					Complete
8. Contribute to the ICONMAP research project including the economics of JD at farm level, evaluation of diagnostic tests, factors influencing ongoing farmer engagement in the programme and risk factor analysis of programme herds.					Complete
9. Refine training materials and deliver ongoing JD-related training to practitioners and herdowners.					Complete
10. Monitor the performance of designated diagnostic laboratories according to agreed designation criteria and take appropriate corrective action where necessary.					Complete

APPENDIX I - AHI BUSINESS PLANS 2015

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Deliverables 2015	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Outcomes 2015
Programme development and implementation (continued)					
11. Develop V-RAMP resources for beef herds.					V-RAMP for beef herds drafted.
12. Conduct a survey of farmer and veterinary participants in the pilot programme in 2014 to assist the further refinement of the programme and the development of quality assurance measures.					Farmer survey completed and results presented to the JDIG. Veterinary practitioner survey drafted.
13. Convene meetings of the JD IG to review the outcomes of the various analyses carried out and explore the case for an expansion of the pilot programme in 2016 and beyond.					Complete.

APPENDIX I - AHI BUSINESS PLANS 2015

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 2015	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Outcomes 2015
Communications					
1. Complete and publish a guide to the management of potential AI beef sires to minimize the risk of their exclusion from semen collection centres due to BoHV-1 status.					Complete
2. Develop and implement communications plan for IBR.					Complete
Programme development and implementation					
3. Conduct a cost-benefit analysis of the control and eradication of BoHV-1 infection in Ireland.					Partially complete. This work is led by Teagasc and is expected to be completed by Q2 2016.
4. Contribute to Northern Ireland Research Challenge Fund study on IBR in dairy herds.					Complete
5. Conduct analysis of the risk factors for detection of BoHV-1 (and other viruses) in bovine respiratory disease.					Not initiated due to resource constraints. Carried forward to 2016 business plan.
6. Conduct testing and analysis of bovine herpes virus survey.					Complete
7. Develop capacity within ICBF database to handle IBR test results.					Partially complete (further development to be guided by decisions on implementation of a national programme)
8. Progress development of a draft framework for a national eradication programme and a roadmap to delivery.					Partially complete. Carried forward to 2016 business plan
9. Conduct a European study visit.					Complete