

ANIMAL HEALTH IRELAND



Annual Report

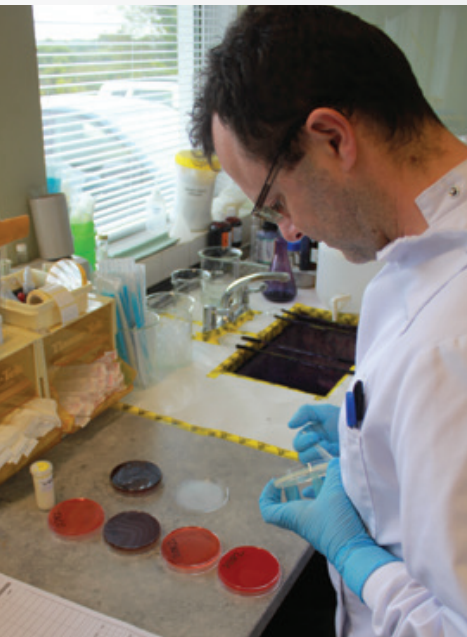
2014

OUR 2015 STAKEHOLDERS AND MEMBERS



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ANIMAL HEALTH IRELAND ANNUAL REPORT 2014



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YEAR IN REVIEW



Animal Health Ireland

CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS

The Chairman's report is a time of reflection on the activities, work and achievements of the previous 12 months. 2014, like previous years was extremely busy and intense at times. However, it was a very productive period and, as a result of our programmes, we are now starting to see real progress in terms of enhanced animal health, which is resulting in higher profits for Irish farmers.

I want to use this opportunity to thank the people who may not always get the deserved recognition for their dedication, persistence and hard work on behalf of the organisation. I would like to express my gratitude to the CEO and all the AHI staff who work tirelessly to ensure the delivery of our programmes. I would also like to thank my Board of Directors, who operate at the highest level of integrity, for their assistance and support, and to the members of the various Technical Working Groups who give freely of their expertise and time on a pro-bono basis, a fact which I feel is often forgotten. We are very fortunate to have a unique collaboration and working relationship with sister organisations within the agricultural industry. We are deeply indebted to Teagasc, UCD, ICBF, Veterinary Ireland and of course the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. Their involvement and contribution is invaluable and only serves to enhance our work further. Finally, I want to express my sincere gratitude to our many stakeholders who not only provide us with monetary support, but support in many other guises also, including through their participation in our three Implementation Groups.

The recent development of the Strategic Plan for the period 2015-2017 has highlighted weaknesses in relation to the funding model of Animal Health Ireland. My belief, as articulated on previous occasions, is that it is simply not sustainable in its current format. We have delivered, with modest funding, on three major programmes with a fourth in the early stages of development. If we are to continue with our current workload and meet the challenge of continually improving animal health, we need access to an increasing and sustainable source of funding. I believe we are at a critical juncture. We have outgrown our current funding model and I call on you, as leaders of this industry, to work with us in developing and delivering a new funding model. To me, one possible solution is that the current funding arrangements would be supplemented by some form of levy. However, to deliver this, we will need the cooperation, vision and leadership that you can bring to this issue.

AHI has a proven track record of delivery. As we move into a new era in Irish agriculture, we must continue this work, ensuring that the health of Irish animals meets the highest international standards, making the business of farming more profitable and giving our products a further edge in international markets.

Mike Magan
Chairman,
Animal Health Ireland.



Mike Magan
Chairman, AHI

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT



Joe O'Flaherty
CEO,
Animal Health Ireland.

The Annual Report for 2014 is the final of the three reports covering the period of the organisation's first Strategic Plan, which ran from 2012-2014. It paints a picture of continued, intense activity on a range of fronts, with three major programmes - BVD eradication, CellCheck and Johnne's disease control – now well established, the first two of these at the national level. In addition, the smaller-scale programmes for parasite control, calf health and biosecurity continue to deliver high-quality outputs that belie the relatively modest resources it has been possible to invest in them to date. Two other programmes, one existing and one new, deserve special mention. The first of these – the IBR programme – which has been quietly but actively developing key resources for farmers and vets over the course of the last number of years is now acquiring new impetus in response to progress by a range of countries across Europe in controlling and eradicating this disease. The second is a new programme – Beef HealthCheck – which is being developed in collaboration with Meat Industry Ireland, with the support of FBD Trust. This innovative new programme is developing 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 from post mortem meat inspection. Beef HealthCheck also contributes to the development, by ICBF, of economic breeding indexes that incorporate health and disease data.

In keeping with one of our strongly-held corporate values – that of accountability – this Annual Report continues the practice started last year of providing a detailed summary of the extent to which we succeeded in delivering what we had set out to do at the start of the year. With the same objective of accounting for the use of the resources placed at our disposal by our stakeholders, but with a somewhat broader timeframe, we have published on our website a new document – Accounting for Delivery – which summarise the outputs and outcomes delivered over the period of the Strategic Plan (2012-2014).

The financial statements in this report show that the organisation is on course to stabilise its financial position following an extremely challenging year in 2013, in which we reported a deficit of approximately €138,000. The outturn for 2014 was much better, with a surplus of income over expenditure of the order of €75,000. While we will need to continue the process of budgetary consolidation in the current year in order to eliminate our accumulated deficit, I am confident that this can be achieved, and am grateful for the clear guidance and direction in this regard which has been provided by the Audit, Finance and Risk Committee, and by the Board.

Looking forward to the future for a moment, I am very pleased to report that, following a period of extensive consultation with our stakeholders over the second half of 2014, the Strategic Plan (2015-2017) has been completed and published on our website¹. This document sets out four clear priorities for the organisation in this three-year period, which are both operational and strategic in nature, and I very much hope that it will be possible to report good progress in relation to each of these in next year's Annual Report.

¹ <http://www.animalhealthireland.ie/page.php?id=68>

Finally, I would like to join with the Chairman in extending my most sincere thanks to the Chairs and members of our Technical Working Groups, the members of our three Implementation Groups, and to our expanding network of stakeholder organisations, whose continued support is fundamental to this organisation's ability to deliver on behalf of our various constituencies – farmers, service providers, the agri-food industry and broader society. As ever, my sincere thanks are also due the Chairman and his fellow Directors for their guidance and support throughout the year, and to the talented, hard-working management team with which I am privileged to work.

Joe O'Flaherty
CEO,
Animal Health Ireland.

ABOUT US



Animal Health Ireland

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.

As of 31st December 2014, 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 website.



Mike Magan, Chairman, AHI, Prof. Gerry Boyle, Director, Teagasc, Pdraig Brennan, Sustainability Development Manager, Bord Bia, David Graham, Programme Manager, AHI, Tom O'Dwyer, Head of Dairy Knowledge Transfer, Teagasc at Dairy Herd Health Conference in Corrin Mart.

¹ <http://www.animalhealthireland.ie/page.php?id=68>

OUR 2014 STAKEHOLDERS AND MEMBERS

GOVERNMENT & STATE AGENCIES

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

DAIRY AND BEEF PROCESSORS

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

PROFESSIONAL/ ADVISORY/ SUPPORT SERVICES

- DAFM- Veterinary Lab Services*
- ICBF*
- Ornua (Irish Dairy Board)
- UCD*
- Veterinary Ireland*

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

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 time².

DIRECTORS' REMUNERATION

Directors of AHI who are public servants are precluded from drawing an Honorarium from the Company under the 'one person one salary' principle³. One of the Directors serving in 2014 was precluded from receiving fees from Animal Health Ireland on this basis. The payment of fees to those Directors eligible to receive them is subject to compliance with the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies⁴, and fees are subject to taxation.

	Honorarium €	Per Diem €	Total €
Mr Mike Magan, Chairman	10,000	18,576	28,576
Dr Seán Brady	5,000	-	5,000
Mr Gerard Brickley	5,000	-	5,000
Mr Joe Collins	-	-	-
Professor Michael Doherty	-	-	-
Mr John O'Sullivan	5,000	-	5,000
Mr Robin Talbot	5,000	-	5,000
Total	30,000	18,576	48,576

² Articles 35 and 45 of the Articles of Association set out the rules governing the appointment and retirement of Chairmen and Directors.

³ Established by the Review Body on Higher Remuneration in the Public Service (1972).

⁴ As approved in October 2001 (Appendix D).

THE MANAGEMENT TEAM

At 31st December 2014 , 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 Clare Gallagher	Laboratory Analyst (VLS, Backweston)	14/01/2013 to 21/11/2014
Ms Finola McCoy	Programme Manager (<i>CellCheck</i>)	01/05/2013
Ms Nicola McKeon	Administrative Assistant	06/11/2013
Ms Rebecca Carroll	Assistant Programme Manager	01/09/2014

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 2014, seven Technical Working Groups were operational and, with the exception of one group, had met on at least one occasion over the course of 2014. Further details of the Technical Working Groups, including biographies of the Chairmen and members, are available at <http://www.animalhealthireland.ie/page.php?id=205>



The Johnes' Disease TWG sub-committee preparing the VRAMP material for veterinary training.

CHAIRS -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.



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.



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.



Dr Andy Forbes, Chairman, Parasite Control TWG

Andy is originally from Canterbury in Kent. He currently divides his time between Lyon and Hertfordshire.

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. During this time he has held a number of local, regional and global research & technical positions and been based in the UK, the USA and most recently France.

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.



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.



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

2 MEETINGS HELD BETWEEN 1/1/2014 AND 31/12/2014

MEMBER NAME	PARENT ORGANISATION	MEETINGS ATTENDED
John Mee (Chair)	Teagasc Research Centre, Moorepark	2
Stephen Conroy	Tully Bull Performance Centre, Kildare	0
Bosco Cowley	MSD Animal Health	1
Bernard Eivers	National Cattle Breeding Centre, Enfield	0
Richard Fallon	Teagasc Researcher (Retired)	2
Tim Geraghty	Scottish Agricultural College, Aberdeen (formally of UCD)	0
David Graham	Programme Manager for Biosecure Diseases, AHI	1
Pat Kirwan	Veterinary Practitioner	2
Shane McAuliffe	Interim Technical Working Group Rapporteur, AHI	2
John Moriarty	DAFM, Veterinary Laboratory Services	0
Luke O'Grady	University College Dublin	1
Ronan O'Neill	DAFM, Veterinary Laboratory Services	0
Michael Sexton	Veterinary Practitioner	0

BVD TWG**7 MEETINGS HELD BETWEEN 1/1/2014 AND 31/12/2014**

MEMBER NAME	PARENT ORGANISATION	MEETINGS ATTENDED
Michael Doherty (Chair)	University College Dublin	7
Damien Barrett	DAFM, Veterinary Laboratory Services	4
Bosco Cowley	MSD Animal Health	4
Grainne Dwyer	Interim Technical Working Group Rapporteur, AHI	1
Bernard Eivers	National Cattle Breeding Centre, Enfield	0
David Graham	Programme Manager for Biosecure Diseases, AHI	7
Maria Guelbenzu	Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute, NI	3
Shane McAuliffe	Interim Technical Working Group Rapporteur, AHI	3
Joe O'Flaherty	CEO, Animal Health Ireland	1
Luke O'Grady	University College Dublin	2
Ronan O'Neill	DAFM, Veterinary Laboratory Services	6
Riona Sayers	Teagasc Research Centre, Moorepark	4
Michael Sexton	Veterinary Practitioner	4

IBR TWG**5 MEETINGS HELD BETWEEN 1/1/2014 AND 31/12/2014**

MEMBER NAME	PARENT ORGANISATION	MEETINGS ATTENDED
Michael Gunn (Chair)	Director of DAFM Laboratories (Retired)	4
Stephen Conroy	Tully Bull Performance Centre, Kildare	3
Doreen Corridan	Munster AI	3
Bosco Cowley	MSD Animal Health	5
Grainne Dwyer	Technical Working Group Rapporteur	3
Bernard Eivers	National Cattle Breeding Centre, Enfield	4
William Fitzgerald	DAFM, Veterinary Laboratory Services	5
Tim Geraghty	Scottish Agricultural College Aberdeen (formally UCD)	3 (2 by phone)
David Graham	Programme Manager for Biosecure Diseases, AHI	5
Maria Guelbenzu	Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute, NI	1
Elizabeth Lane	Superintending Veterinary Inspector, DAFM	2
Donal Lynch	Veterinary Practitioner	3
Shane McAuliffe	Interim Technical Working Group Rapporteur, AHI	1
Shane McElroy	Veterinary Practitioner	4
Peter Maher*	Senior Superintending Veterinary Inspector, DAFM	1
Mary Newman	Zoetis	3
Ronan O'Neill	DAFM, Veterinary Laboratory Services	2
Riona Sayers	Teagasc Research Centre, Moorepark	1

*Peter Maher retired from the TWG and was replaced by Elizabeth Lane.

PARASITE CONTROL TWG

2 MEETINGS HELD BETWEEN 1/1/2014 AND 31/12/2014

MEMBER NAME	PARENT ORGANISATION	MEETINGS ATTENDED
Andrew Forbes (Chair)	Honorary Professor, Glasgow University	2
Michael Doherty	University College Dublin	0
Rebecca Carroll	Technical Working Group Rapporteur, AHI	1
Micheal Casey	DAFM, Veterinary Laboratory Services	0
Charles Chavassee	Zoetis	2
Bosco Cowley	MSD Animal Health	1
Martin Danaher	Teagasc Food Research Centre, Ashtown	1
Theo De Waal	University College Dublin	1
John Gilmore	Veterinary Practitioner	2
Barbara Good	Teagasc Research Centre, Athenry	0
David Graham	Programme Manager for Biosecure Diseases, AHI	1
Fintan Graham	Veterinary Practitioner	2
Ian Hogan	DAFM, Veterinary Laboratory Services	0
Maura Langan	Norbrook	0
Shane McAuliffe	Interim Technical Working Group Rapporteur, AHI	1
Jennifer McClure	Irish Cattle Breeding Federation (ICBF)	1
Grace Mulcahy	University College Dublin	0
Tom Murphy	DAFM, Veterinary Laboratory Services	2
James O'Shaughnessy	Teagasc Research Centre, Grange	1
Maresa Sheehan	DAFM, Veterinary Laboratory Services	1
Donal Toolan	DAFM, Veterinary Laboratory Services	2

CALFCARE TWG

1 MEETING HELD BETWEEN 1/1/2014 AND 31/12/2014

MEMBER NAME	PARENT ORGANISATION	MEETINGS ATTENDED
Ingrid Lorenz (Chair)	University College Dublin	1
Muireann Conneely	Teagasc Research Centre, Moorepark	0
Charles Chavassee	Zoetis	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	0
Ian Hogan	DAFM, Veterinary Laboratory Services	0
Emer Kennedy	Teagasc Research Centre, Moorepark	1
Shane McAuliffe	Interim Technical Working Group Rapporteur, AHI	1
John Mee	Teagasc Research Centre, Moorepark	1

CELLCHECK TWG

NO MEETINGS HELD BETWEEN 1/1/2014 AND 31/12/2014

MEMBER NAME	PARENT ORGANISATION	MEETINGS ATTENDED
Simon More (Chair)	CVERA, University College Dublin	
Damien Barrett	DAFM, Veterinary Laboratory Services	
Willie Buckley	Veterinary Practitioner	
Don Crowley	Teagasc, Clonakilty	
Brendan Dillon	Glanbia	
Kevin Downing	Irish Cattle Breeding Federation (ICBF)	
Edmond Harty	Dairymaster	
Alan Johnson	DAFM, Veterinary Laboratory Services	
Patrick Kelly	Munster AI	
Finola McCoy	Programme Manager, <i>CellCheck</i> , AHI	
Luke O'Grady	University College Dublin	
Frank O'Sullivan	Veterinary Practitioner	
George Ramsbottom	Teagasc, Oakpark	
Tom Ryan	Teagasc, Kildalton	
Niamh Ryan	Teagasc Research Centre, Moorepark	

JOHNE'S DISEASE TWG

3 MEETINGS HELD BETWEEN 1/1/2014 AND 31/12/2014

MEMBER NAME	PARENT ORGANISATION	MEETINGS ATTENDED
Simon More (Chair)	CVERA, University College Dublin	3
Damien Barrett	DAFM, Veterinary Laboratory Services	3
Bill Cashman	Veterinary Practitioner	3
Doreen Corridan	Munster AI	3
Richard Fallon	Teagasc Researcher (Retired)	3
Margaret Good	Senior Superintending Veterinary Inspector, DAFM	3
David Graham	Programme Manager for Biosecure Diseases, AHI	3
Kevin Kenny	DAFM, Veterinary Laboratory Services	3
Shane McAuliffe	Interim Technical Working Group Rapporteur, AHI	3
Bryan Markey	University College Dublin	3
Conor McAloon	University College Dublin	3
Ciaran Mellett	Veterinary Practitioner	3
Peter Mullaney	DAFM, Agricultural House, Kildare Street	3
Riona Sayers	Teagasc Research Centre, Moorepark	3
Sam Strain	Programme Manager, AHI/AHWN	3
Paul Whyte	University College Dublin	3

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 2014, 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 at <http://www.animalhealthireland.ie/page.php?id=206>.

JD IMPLEMENTATION GROUP

2 meetings held between 1/1/2014 and 31/12/2014

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
Animal Health Ireland
Carbery Group
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
Dairygold
Glanbia
Irish Cattle and Sheep Farmers' Association
Irish Cattle Breeding Federation
Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers Association
Irish Dairy Board
Irish Farmers' Association
Irish Holstein Friesian Association
Kerry Agribusiness
Lakeland Dairies
Munster AI
Pedigree Cattle Breeders Council of Ireland
Progressive Genetics
Teagasc
Veterinary Ireland

BVD IMPLEMENTATION GROUP

10 meetings held between 1/1/2014 and 31/12/2014

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

CELLCHECK IMPLEMENTATION GROUP

1 meeting held between 1/1/2014 and 31/12/2014

Mike Magan (Chair)	Animal Health Ireland
Finola McCoy	Programme Manager, Animal Health Ireland
Simon More	UCD, Chair of <i>CellCheck</i> Technical Working Group

Organisations represented on the CellCheck Implementation Group

Arrabawn
Animal Health Ireland
Aurivo
Dairygold
Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine
Glanbia
Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers Association
Irish Dairy Board
Irish Farmers' Association
Irish Milk Quality Co-operative Society
Kerry Agribusiness
Lakeland Dairies
Teagasc
Tipperary Co-operative Society
Veterinary Ireland

OUR ACTIVITIES



Animal Health Ireland

AN ACTIVE AND EVENTFUL YEAR

2014 continued to be a year full of diverse activity and engagement with all our stakeholders. A new departure for AHI was the introduction of several new publications, which provided us with an opportunity to expand our target audiences in a more meaningful manner.

In the planning and execution of our events, we formed partnerships with many of our stakeholders - Teagasc, Veterinary Ireland, UCD and the Farm Relief Services. Without their support we would not have been able to deliver a wide range of activities during the year. We are equally grateful for the assistance of the individuals we worked with, on the various projects from the different organisations.

One of the highlights of the year was the winning of an Irish Times / Intertrade Ireland innovation award, which was presented to AHI by An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny.



Grainne Dwyer,
Communications and
Events Manager



Mike Magan, David Graham and Joe O'Flaherty receiving the North/South Collaboration Award at the Irish Times/Intertrade Award Ceremony at the Royal Hospital, Kilmainham.

ACTIVITIES

CalfCare Farmer Events

AHI and Teagasc, supported by Volac, hosted a series of four farmer Open Days around the country. The on-farm events covered a range of topics, including colostrum management, care of the scouring calf, Johne's disease and nutrition, in addition to information on calf housing and facilities. In excess of 600 farmers attended the CalfCare events.

Beef 2014

AHI in association with Veterinary Ireland, the Central Veterinary Research Laboratory and Teagasc, were involved in the planning and delivery of the Animal Health Village component of the major Teagasc beef event in Grange on the 18th of June. David Graham, Sam Strain, Ingrid Lorenz and Emer Kennedy attended the AHI information stands, engaging with farmers on BVD, Johne's disease and CalfCare.

Beef Health Nights and Dairy Herd Health Conference

Following the success of the AHI Conference in 2013, the focus in 2014 switched to a series of farmer-focussed animal health events, which were developed in conjunction with Teagasc, Veterinary Ireland and the Irish Farmers' Journal.

Two Beef Health Nights - Keeping your Beef Herd Healthy - took place on the 21st and 22nd of October in Claremorris and Tullamore, with a focus on parasite control and nutrition.

A one day Dairy Herd Health Conference - Keeping your Dairy Herd Healthy - took place in Corrin Mart, Fermoy on 23rd of October. This conference covered issues including mastitis, rearing healthy heifers, parasite control, biosecurity and stock movement, lameness and genetics.

CellCheck

Two new initiatives involving the CellCheck programme were held during the year, including 8 regional meetings and the launch of the *Milking For Quality* Awards. For a full account of these activities, see the *CellCheck* Report on page 29.

Other Activities

AHI continued to be involved in other agricultural and veterinary events during the year including the Cattle Association of Veterinary Ireland (CAVI) conference, which was held in Cork. Presentations were delivered by David Graham, Sam Strain and Finola McCoy. AHI hosted an information stand, which facilitated a valuable interaction between the Programme Managers and veterinary practitioners.

Training

Training continued to be an important component of the work of AHI. In January, additional funding was announced by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine to further support the Johne's disease pilot programme, allowing for an increased level of participation by dairy farmers. Since the commencement of the pilot, 389 vets have been trained by AHI to carry out the on-farm risk assessment component of the programme with 6 training sessions held during the year.

A further three *CellCheck* Stage 2 training sessions were held during the year. Participants included Teagasc Advisors, veterinary practitioners, milking machine technicians and Co-op milk quality advisors. In conjunction with *CellCheck* Regional Coordinators, trained services providers are involved with and facilitate *CellCheck* Farmer Workshops around the country.

PUBLICATIONS

AHI Veterinary Ireland Newsletter

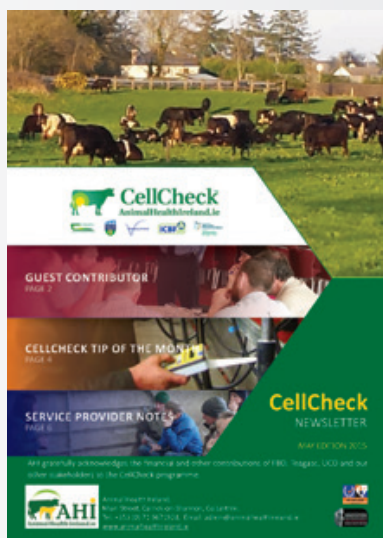
As part of our ongoing working relationship with Veterinary Ireland, we produced two newsletters in 2014 which have been specially developed for the veterinary practitioner. The publication aims to provide a detailed analysis of topics of interest to a veterinary audience including BVD, mastitis, Johne's disease and IBR. As part of the initiative, guest contributors are invited to write articles on their particular area of expertise.

CellCheck Newsletter

As a result of feedback from the *CellCheck* Regional meetings held during the year, where service providers sought regular targeted information and updates on the programme, the first edition of the *CellCheck* newsletter was produced and published in October. The Newsletter is delivered on a monthly basis with regular technical articles, updates on programme activities, operational information, and articles from guest contributors. The feedback has been positive and the Newsletter has been well received, not just by the service providers, but by industry in general.

AHI Bulletin

The monthly stakeholder articles, which we have been distributing to our stakeholders for a number of years, now appear as 'AHI bulletins' - graphically designed to make them more visually appealing, but retaining the same emphasis on providing concise and timely information of interest to our stakeholders.



CORPORATE GOVERNANCE



Animal Health Ireland

GENERAL MEETINGS OF MEMBERS

The Fifth Annual General Meeting of the Company was held in Portlaoise on 3rd of July 2014. The financial statements for the year ended 31st December, 2014 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. Stakeholders were encouraged to participate in the stakeholder consultation exercise in preparation for the publication of the Strategic Plan (2015 – 2017).

BOARD MEETINGS

The Board met on four occasions between 01/01/2014 and 31/12/2014. The attendance of Directors at these meetings is summarised opposite:

DIRECTOR	MEETINGS ATTENDED
M. Magan (Chairman)	4
S. Brady	4
G. Brickley	4
J. Collins	4
M. Doherty	3
J. O'Sullivan	4
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. Continuing an innovation which started last year, this year's Annual Report sets out in detail the extent to which the deliverables agreed at the start of the year have been achieved. In addition, a new document - Accounting for Delivery - reports on the extent to which the significant ambition set out in the Strategic Plan (2012-2014) was delivered upon <http://www.animalhealthireland.ie/page.php?id=68>.

ORGANISATION	DATE OF ENTRY INTO FORCE
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	14/06/2010
Teagasc	01/09/2010
Agri-Food & Biosciences Institute	22/09/2010
Glanbia	03/06/2011
UCD	18/06/2012
AHWNI	26/09/2012

MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING

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

ANIMAL HEALTH PROGRAMMES



Animal Health Ireland

BVD ANNUAL REPORT

2014 saw the completion of the second compulsory year of the national eradication programme. The level of compliance by farmers with the requirement to tag and test all calves born continued to be very high. Results were recorded on the database for 98.8% of registered calves by the end of December, with the majority of untested calves being either recently born or dead.

Results

Substantial progress was made during the course of 2014, with the incidence of PI calves detected falling by approximately one third from 2013 at animal and herd level. Overall 0.46% of calves born in 2014 were considered PI (2013; 0.67%) with 7.6% of herds having one or more PI (2013; 11.3%).

Challenges And Incentives

The level of retention of PIs born in 2014 continued to be a concern, although data indicated an improvement relative to 2013 births. Thus at the end of 2013, 4,384 PIs born that year were retained in 2,765 herds while at the end of 2014 these figures had more than halved, with 2,064 2014-born PIs still alive in 1,205 herds. These improvements are a combination of a reduction in the actual numbers born and a greater rate of removal. The BVD Implementation Group (BVDIG) continued to strongly recommend the prompt disposal of PI animals following their identification, and this was supported by the outcomes of two studies carried out in conjunction with the Centre for Veterinary Epidemiology and Risk Assessment (CVERA) at UCD. The first found that retained PI animals were on average 89kg lighter at slaughter than non-PI comrades born in the same herd (taking into account differences in age at slaughter and herd type). The second study examined the impact of retention on the likelihood that the herd would have PI calves born again the following season and found that this risk increased dramatically when PI calves were retained past the start of the breeding season.

To encourage removal of PIs, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and the Marine (DAFM) announced an enhanced compensation package in June, providing a payment of €120 for each beef breed calf and €100 for the second and subsequent dairy heifer, subject to their removal within a specified time.

Revised Legislation

The BVDIG had input into the revised legislation (BVD Regulations (2014) which replaced the BVD Order (2012) in March 2014. The two principal changes were the introduction of a specific prohibition on untested calves born after 1st January 2013 being moved to slaughter, and the awarding of National Reference Laboratory status for BVD to the Veterinary Laboratory Services of DAFM.

Technical Working Group (TWG)

The TWG met regularly throughout 2014, addressing a range of issues including criteria for negative herd status, the nature and timing of alternative surveillance strategies and protocols for herd investigations. Work was also initiated on a number of studies to provide an evidence base for decisions later in the programme.

Negative Herd Status

During 2014 the BVDIG also established a sub-group to finalise the list of herds that were considered to have complied with the programme guidelines in 2012, resulting in 7,300 compliant herds. The TWG and BVDIG established and communicated the criteria that would allow these herds to achieve and maintain a “negative herd status” from 1st January 2015. However, due to concerns regarding the level of retention of PIs and the introduction of infection through Trojan animals (non-PI dams carrying PI calves), the TWG recommended that for 2015, tag testing of all calves would be the only method used for monitoring NHS herds, with this being available at reduced cost for herds with NHS.

Programme Partners

The BVD eradication programme is an industry-led initiative and the contribution of ICBF, the National Reference Laboratory, CVERA and a range of individuals and stakeholder organisations in the BVDIG and TWG is gratefully acknowledged.

Northern Ireland

AHI has also continued to interact with the development of the eradication programme in Northern Ireland, including input into a Working Group established by Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) to progress the transition to a compulsory programme in 2015. The cross-border collaboration on this programme with Animal Health and Welfare NI was recognised as the “Best North-South Collaboration” at the Irish Times/Intertrade Ireland Innovation Awards 2014.

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. Both are available at <http://www.animalhealthireland.ie/page.php?id=61>.

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.

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.

CELLCHECK ANNUAL REPORT

Following consultation with stakeholders and industry bodies three key activities, from among the many documented in the *CellCheck* business plan for 2014, were identified as priority tasks:

1. To collate and analyse the national SCC profile, following collection of full-year data from milk processors by DAFM;
2. In conjunction with the regional coordinators, to enable delivery of a minimum of 200 *CellCheck Farmer Workshops*, through a network of trained local service providers;
3. Engagement with processors and key influencers to communicate the value and opportunity of continually improving milk quality.

National SCC data collation

DAFM convened a meeting with personnel from each of the participating processors, ICBF and AHI, to discuss and plan the ongoing collation and analysis of SCC data under an MOU between DAFM, ICBF and AHI. At the meeting, AHI presented an outline of the type of analysis planned for the SCC data, while ICBF outlined the data specification requirements to ensure uniformity of data collected in the future. Gathering feedback from co-op personnel responsible for dataflow also meant that practical challenges and issues could be understood and managed, ensuring an efficient process and minimising the workload on all parties. Collation and analysis of the first national SCC dataset has been completed. This dataset currently contains 2013 SCC data, and accounts for over 92% of the national milk pool. The analysis shows the SCC distribution of both herds and milk, nationally and at co-op level.

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. The workshops are delivered by teams of 4 trained local service providers, and cost €30 per farmer. The team of 7 Regional Coordinators has played a key role in coordinating and organising these workshops. 33 workshops were delivered in 2014, which was a decrease on the number delivered in 2013, and less than the ambitious target set for 2014. This emphasises the importance of increasing all industry ownership of the programme and activities, to maximise engagement with farmers.

Dairy Processor Meetings

A series of trilateral meetings commenced in autumn, with each of the dairy processors, DAFM and AHI. The results of the SCC analysis were presented to each of the co-ops individually, along with relevant economics research carried out previously by Teagasc, exploring the cost of mastitis to the processing industry. This information was important in quantifying the benefit to industry of low SCC milk and informing discussions directly with industry stakeholders. 7 meetings have been held to date and the final 2 are planned for early 2015.

Service Provider Training

3 more Stage 2 training days were held throughout the country in 2014, bringing the number of local service providers trained to deliver Farmer Workshops as part of a team to over 370. Training was delivered by Karen Brosnan and the *CellCheck* programme manager. The contact details of all Stage 2-trained service providers are available on an interactive map on www.CellCheck.ie.

A series of 8 regional networking events were held around the country during June and July, open to all Stage 2 trained service providers. These events were designed to provide an opportunity for service providers to continue networking with their Regional Coordinator and other professionals. The Regional Coordinators also invited service providers from their area to share their experiences of organising and delivering workshops. These regional events were also an important part of the *CellCheck* programme evaluation, as they provided an opportunity to gather feedback from the service providers about the opportunities and challenges for Farmer Workshop coordination and delivery.

While collaboration with Dairy Australia commenced in early 2014 on the development of the next phase of service provider training (Stage 3 problem-solving), the decision was made to postpone any further work until 2015, in light of limited resources and the need to focus on the previously identified priority activities for 2014.

CellCheck Milking For Quality Awards

The winners of the first *CellCheck Milking For Quality* awards, were announced to each of the co-ops in July. The *Milking For Quality* awards, supported by FBD Trust, were presented to the 500 suppliers with the best annual average SCC for 2013. This was based on SCC data collated by the Department of Agriculture and analysed by ICBF, with any supplier having at least 9 months of SCC results from one co-op/processor being considered eligible. The range of weighted annual average SCC of the winners was 25,000 cells/ml to 103,000 cells/ml. Each of the winners received a robust, weather-proof award plaque, designed to be wall-mounted on the milking parlour/entrance wall. Several of the co-ops organised awards nights to present the plaques to their winners. Both Arrabawn and Lisavaired hosted farmer information evenings, with several technical speakers at which the awards were presented, while Drinagh hosted a social evening just for their award winners and their families.

Industry Consultation Group (ICG)

Preliminary analysis of the bulk tank SCC data, and SCC results from milk recording herds has enabled the *CellCheck* programme to facilitate industry discussion around appropriate long-term udder health goals, as well as short-term programme KPIs. Several proposed goals have been presented to the ICG, which will require further discussion before achieving industry agreement.

Communications

Monthly technical articles continued in stakeholder newsletters/bulletins and now feature regularly in 10 different Industry Newsletters. A regular service provider newsletter also commenced in October. This was developed in response to suggestions from the *CellCheck*-trained service providers, gathered during the series of regional networking events held during the summer. As well as regular technical articles, the newsletter contains updates on programme activities, articles from guest contributors and operational information or reminders, when appropriate.

During the year, the *CellCheck* programme manager was invited to present at several conferences and training/education events, and to various stakeholder groups. Attendance at the 2014 Nuffield Contemporary Scholars Conference also afforded an opportunity to visit Dairy Australia, and to update and share experiences on the ongoing development of both the *CellCheck* and Countdown Downunder programmes. A visit to DairyNZ also allowed discussions about possible collaborations and resource-sharing in the future.

Finola McCoy - *CellCheck* Programme Manager



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

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

JOHNE'S DISEASE ANNUAL REPORT

The AHI Johne's disease pilot programme, which was supported financially by industry and government, and promoted through educational activities to farmers and veterinary practitioners, saw a substantial and rapid uptake by herdowners across the country with approximately 1,800 herdowners applying to join the programme.

Each herd participating in the programme was required to undertake a veterinary risk assessment and management plan (V-RAMP) and test each animal over two years of age, using either one blood or two milk samples. Over the course of the year approximately 114,000 animals were tested. Of those herds that had test-positive animals, most had relatively few. The majority of these herds had two or less animals testing positive, although, there were a small number of herds with sizeable numbers of animals that tested positive. The peak age when most animals tested positive was 4, with most positive animals being 3-5 years of age.

V-RAMPs were carried out on approximately 1,600 herds. These were undertaken by veterinary practitioners and consisted of a number of questions on each farm management area, focusing on practices relating to bioexclusion (the possibility that infection could have been introduced into a farm) and biocontainment (the possibility of spread of infection between animals). They give an opportunity for vets and farmers to discuss the clinical evidence of infection within the farm and relevant on-farm management practices, which may predispose to the introduction and spread of infection. 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 was a small number of management changes that the herdowner could implement to reduce the risk of infection. In order for veterinary practitioners to carry out V-RAMPs they first had to undergo a full day training course run by AHI. In total, almost 400 veterinary practitioners have now undergone training, all of whom are now approved to carry out V-RAMPs and are listed within the AHI website.

The overall scores of the assessments carried out during the year varied considerably, indicating a wide variation in the Johne's disease-related risks as measured by veterinary practitioners. Some of the most frequent risks identified included the use of high-risk colostrum and milk for feeding calves and exposure of calves to adult animal faeces. Interestingly there appeared to be an association between the risks identified around calf rearing and those identified in the calving area. Herds that scored high in one area tended to have high scores in the other. While there was a great deal of variation in herd scores, herds that had high overall scores appeared to have a higher likelihood of having animals that tested positive, supporting the view that at least some of the risks being assessed are associated with an increased likelihood of detectable infection.

The Johne's Technical Working Group (TWG) met several times during the year. The issues addressed included developing the framework for programme monitoring and quality control, approaches to the development of Johne's Disease control in beef herds, and the optimal use of ancillary tests to assist with the confirmation of infection in individual animals and herds. Critical to the quality control of the programme was the development of a standardised approach to the infection using practitioners that had undergone standardised training and the use of a standardised risk assessment approach. The TWG also recommended that surveys should be carried out of programme participants in 2015 following a full year of the programme.

To support the programme, members of the TWG, in collaboration with international experts and based upon current knowledge, drafted a study to evaluate a range of testing strategies for infected herds currently available to Irish herdowners to assess their effectiveness as infection establishes and develops over several years. This work demonstrated the relatively poor ability of current tests

to detect all infected animals and the substantial risk of infection becoming more widely established in herds if herdowners were to rely solely on animal testing without also employing management strategies to control the spread of infection within herds.

In addition to formal veterinary training, several other communication events were supported during the year. Preliminary feedback from veterinary practitioners on the training they underwent was presented to the annual meeting of the Society for Veterinary Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine in Dublin. In addition, details of the programme were presented to the 4th International Paratuberculosis Forum organised by the International Dairy Forum and to the 12th International Colloquium on Paratuberculosis, both of which were held in Parma. Preliminary findings from the programme were also presented to the annual meeting of the Cattle Association of Veterinary Ireland.

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.

BEEF HEALTHCHECK ANNUAL REPORT

Beef HealthCheck is a new Animal Health Ireland-led project which is being developed in collaboration with Meat Industry Ireland. Rebecca Carroll, who took up employment with AHI in 2014 as an Assistant Programme Manager, has taken the lead on the development of the *Beef HealthCheck* programme. 2014 also saw the formation of an industry working group to implement the project in MII member meat factories.

The Beef HealthCheck project will 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 captured by veterinary inspectors during post mortem meat inspection.

In conjunction with our technical working groups, descriptors for the lung and liver lesions commonly found in cattle at slaughter have been developed. Touchscreen technology will be used to allow veterinary inspectors record their findings on liver and lung pathology. Data will be stored on the ICBF database. Reports for farmers on batches of animals presented to a factory are under development. Over time, we will also develop farm level reports, reports for veterinary practitioners, and regional reports. It is envisaged that these will be accessed through the ICBF website.

Animal Health Ireland is also working with the Department of Agriculture Food and Marine to ensure that Beef HealthCheck will operate in harmony with the DAFM plans to develop a computerised system to record findings from the ante- and post-mortem inspection of slaughter animals in Irish meat factories.

Animal Health Ireland-led analysis of the data generated through the project has been initiated and will be published where appropriate. The data captured will also be used to investigate the economic losses associated with liver and lung lesions, with the intention of including this information in farmer reports.

A quarterly newsletter, aimed at beef farmers and people working in the beef industry, has been developed in parallel with the *Beef HealthCheck* project with the first issue scheduled to appear in April 2015.

Rebecca Carroll - *Beef HealthCheck* Assistant 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's work with Animal Health Ireland will focus on supporting profitable beef production, with a particular emphasis on the development of a major project to capture relevant animal health information from slaughter premises.

ANIMAL HEALTH IRELAND INITIATIVE

(A company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital)

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

DIRECTORS' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2014

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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

Secretary and Registered Office

N. Morgan,
Main Street,
Carrick-on-Shannon,
Co. Leitrim.
Registered Number: 470675

Statutory Auditors

Gilroy Gannon,
Sligo.

Solicitors

Frank Mulvey Solicitors,
Castle Building,
Friary Road,
Naas,
Co. Kildare.

Accountants & Business Advisors

Russell Brennan Keane,
RBK House,
Irishtown,
Athlone,
Co. Westmeath.

Bankers

Bank of Ireland,
Carrick-on-Shannon,
Co. Leitrim.

DIRECTORS' REPORT

The directors present their report together with the audited financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2014.

Statement of Directors' Responsibilities

The directors are responsible for preparing the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland including the accounting standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council and promulgated by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland.

Irish company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the company and of the income and expenditure of the company for that year. In preparing those financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors confirm that they have complied with the above requirements in preparing the financial statements.

The directors are responsible for keeping proper books of account that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Acts 1963 to 1983 and 1990 to 2013. 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.

Going Concern

Based on committed stakeholder subscriptions over the next year, budgeted service income and cash at bank, the directors are satisfied that Animal Health Ireland Initiative has adequate resources to continue for at least 12 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.

Books of Account

The measures taken by the directors to ensure compliance with the requirements of Section 202, Companies Act, 1990, regarding proper books of account 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 books of account of the Company are maintained at Main Street, Carrick-on-Shannon.

Legal Status

Animal Health Ireland Initiative is a company incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1963 to 1983 and 1990 to 2013 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.

Directors

The names of the persons who were directors at anytime during the year ended 31st December 2014 are set out below. Unless indicated otherwise, they served as directors for the entire year.

- M. J. Magan (Chairman)
- S. Brady
- J. G. Brickley
- L. J. Collins
- M. L. Doherty
- J. O'Sullivan
- R. H. Talbot

Principal Activities and Date of Incorporation

Animal Health Ireland Initiative was incorporated on 11th May 2009 as a company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital. The principal activities of the Company are to promote awareness and education and to coordinate effective control programmes for non-regulated diseases of livestock.

Results

The results for the financial year are set out on pages 39 to 46.

Risks and Uncertainties

The principal risks and uncertainties faced are the needs for the Company to maintain the confidence and 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.

Transaction 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 Acts, 1990, at any time during the year ending on 31st December 2013.

Auditors

Gilroy Gannon, having been appointed auditors at the AGM held on 3rd July 2014, have expressed their willingness to continue in office in accordance with the provisions of Section 160(2) of the Companies Act, 1963.

on behalf of the Board

Mike Magan
30th April 2015

Dr Seán Brady

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 year ended 31st December 2014 which comprise the Income and Expenditure Account, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and the related notes 1-15. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is Irish law and accounting standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council and promulgated by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland (Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland).

Respective responsibilities of directors and auditors

As explained more fully in the Directors' Report set out on pages 35-36, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements giving a true and fair view. 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.

This report, including the opinions, has been prepared for, and only for, the Company's members, as a body, in accordance with Section 193 of the Companies Act, 1990 and for no other purpose. 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 Auditors' 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, save where expressly agreed by our prior consent in writing.

Scope of the audit of 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.

We also report to you if, in our opinion, any information specified by law regarding directors' remuneration and directors' transactions is not disclosed and, where practicable, include such information in our report.

Opinion

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland of the state of the company's affairs as at 31st December 2014 and of its surplus for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Acts 1963 to 1983 and 1990 to 2013.

Matters on which we are required to report by the Cos. Acts 1963 to 1983 and 1990 to 2013

- We have obtained all the information and explanations which we consider necessary for the purposes of our audit.
- In our opinion proper books of account have been kept by the company.
- The financial statements are in agreement with the books of account.
- 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 the provisions in the Companies Acts 1963 to 1983 and 1990 to 2013 which require us to report to you if, in our opinion, the disclosures of directors' remuneration and transactions specified by law are not made.

Joseph Gannon

for and on behalf of

**Gilroy Gannon Chartered Accountants
& Registered Auditors**

1st May 2015

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT for the year ended 31 st December 2014		Note	2014 €	2013 €
Income from Stakeholders' Subscriptions			1,128,399	1,049,996
Other Income			458,694	235,338
Total Income			1,587,093	1,285,334
Operating Expenses		3,5	(1,511,611)	(1,423,288)
Surplus / (Deficit) on ordinary activities			75,482	(137,954)
Taxation		6	-	-
Surplus / (Deficit) after Taxation			75,482	(137,954)
Accumulated (Deficit) at beginning of financial year			(164,344)	(26,390)
Accumulated (Deficit) at end of financial year			(88,862)	(164,344)

There are no recognised gains or losses other than the surplus/ (deficit) attributable to members of the Company for the above two financial years.

The financial statements were approved by the Board on 30th April 2015 and signed on its behalf by

Mike Magan
30th April 2015

Dr Seán Brady

BALANCE SHEET as at 31st December 2014

	Note	2014 €	2013 €
Fixed assets	7	12,505	15,602
Current Assets			
Stocks	8	13,677	18,941
Debtors	9	33,786	51,985
Bank		<u>187,448</u>	<u>228,513</u>
		234,911	299,439
Creditors	10	<u>(336,278)</u>	<u>(479,385)</u>
Net Current Liabilities		(101,367)	(179,946)
Total Net Liabilities		<u>(88,862)</u>	<u>(164,344)</u>
Represented By:			
Revenue Reserves Account	13	<u>(88,862)</u>	<u>(164,344)</u>

The notes on pages 43- 46 form part of the financial statements.

The financial statements were approved by the Board on 30th April 2015 and signed on its behalf by

Mike Magan
30th April 2015

Dr Seán Brady

CASH FLOW STATEMENT as at 31 st December 2014	2014 €	2013 €
Reconciliation of Operating Surplus to Net Cash Outflow from Operating Activities		
Surplus/(Deficit) after taxation	75,482	(137,954)
Depreciation	3,274	3,252
Decrease in stocks	5,264	1,209
Decrease/ (Increase) in debtors	18,199	(21,685)
(Decrease) / Increase in creditors	(143,107)	353,000
Net Cash (Outflow)/ Inflow from Operating Activities	(40,888)	197,822
Purchase of fixed assets	(177)	(1,150)
(Decrease)/ Increase in cash	(41,065)	196,672
Opening bank balances at beginning of financial year	228,513	31,841
Closing bank balances at end of financial year	187,448	228,513

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the company's financial statements:-

1. Basis of preparation

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles under the historical cost convention and comply with financial reporting standards of the Financial Reporting Council, as promulgated by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland.

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis which assumes the Company will have sufficient funding and cash resources to continue its operation, without material curtailment, for the foreseeable future.

The financial statements are expressed in Euro (€).

2. Income

The Company's primary source of income consists of stakeholders' subscriptions. These funds are recognised in the financial statements on an accrual 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.

3. 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 & Expenditure Account so as to match them with the expenditure to which they relate.

No government grants in respect of capital expenditure have been received to date by the Company.

4. Expenditure

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

5. Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on all fixed assets, at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset systematically over its expected useful life, as follows:

Office equipment	12.5% Straight line
Furniture and fittings	12.5% Straight line

6. Stock

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Going Concern

Based on committed stakeholder subscriptions over the next year, budgeted service income and cash at bank, the directors are satisfied that Animal Health Ireland Initiative has adequate resources to continue for at least 12 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.

2. Surplus / (Deficit)

	2014 €	2013 €
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year is stated after charging:		
Depreciation of tangible assets	3,274	3,252
Directors' remuneration (note 5)	48,576	56,213
Independent Auditors' remuneration	3,998	4,500
Remuneration of Chief Executive		
Gross pay	120,000	118,895
Other benefits	10,460	-
Pension contribution	26,878	25,731

Other benefits refer to an income continuance policy, €4,190 of which relates to 2014 and the balance to prior years.

3. Staff Costs

The staff costs for all employees, excluding directors, comprise:-

	2014 €	2013 €
Salaries	515,349	502,007
Social welfare costs	44,718	43,824
Other staff related costs	13,061	2,601
Pension costs	46,414	45,267
	<u>619,542</u>	<u>593,699</u>

Included in staff costs is the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine contribution towards the CEO's salary and superannuation. These costs form part of the Department's overall annual contribution to the running of Animal Health Ireland Initiative, as set out in note 4 below.

The average number of people employed by the Company during the year:-

	2014	2013
Management	2	2
Administration	3	3
Programme management	3	2
Planning & operations	1	1
Technical working group liaison	1	1
Laboratory analyst	1	1
	<u>11</u>	<u>10</u>

4. 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 year to 31st December 2014 (2013 : €510,496) and were used as follows:-

	2014 €	2013 €
Staff costs	120,000	122,037
Contribution to operating expenses	410,000	388,459
	<u>530,000</u>	<u>510,496</u>

The Company also received, over a two year period, additional funding totalling €400,000 from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine specifically earmarked for the Johne's Disease programme. A portion of this funding was released to the Income & Expenditure Account in 2014 to match the payments made in 2014 under the VRAMPS scheme. A balance of €119,548 (2013: €200,000) remains at year end. This is classified as deferred income (note 10).

5. Directors' Emoluments

In the year ended 31st December Directors' emoluments were as follows:

	2014 €	2013 €
Directors' remuneration	48,576	56,213
Travel expenses	11,405	10,729
	<u>59,981</u>	<u>66,942</u>
M.J. Magan (Chairman)	28,576	32,255
S. Brady	5,000	3,958
J.G. Brickley	5,000	5,000
L.J. Collins	-	5,000
M.L. Doherty	-	-
J. O'Sullivan	5,000	5,000
R.H Talbot	5,000	5,000
	<u>48,576</u>	<u>56,213</u>

The Chairman's remuneration comprises an annual honorarium of €10,000 and per diem payments amounting to €18,576 (2013: €22,255). 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 year ended 31st December 2014.

6. Taxation

The Company received a determination from Revenue in 2010 regarding its mutual trading status to the effect that the Company is not liable to Corporation Tax on any surplus from Stakeholders' contributions. Therefore, no Corporation Tax liability has been provided for the year ending 31st December 2014.

7. Fixed Assets

	Office Equipment €	Furniture & Fittings €	Total €
Cost			
Opening Cost	23,956	2,056	26,012
Additions	177	-	177
Closing Costs	<u>24,133</u>	<u>2,056</u>	<u>26,189</u>
Depreciation			
Opening Depreciation	9,487	923	10,410
Depreciation Charge	3,017	257	3,274
Closing Depreciation	<u>12,504</u>	<u>1,180</u>	<u>13,684</u>
Net Book Value			
NBV at 31st December 2014	<u>11,629</u>	<u>876</u>	<u>12,505</u>
NBV at 31st December 2013	<u>14,469</u>	<u>1,133</u>	<u>15,602</u>

8. Stocks

	2014 €	2013 €
Finished goods	13,677	18,941

The basis by which stocks are valued is shown on page 42.

9. Debtors

	2014 €	2013 €
Debtors	32,686	50,785
Stakeholder subscriptions	1,100	1,200
	<u>33,786</u>	<u>51,985</u>

10. Creditors

	2014 €	2013 €
Trade creditors	164,795	199,629
Payroll taxes	21,190	23,224
Accruals and other creditors	18,545	56,532
Deferred income	131,748	200,000
	<u>336,278</u>	<u>479,385</u>

The above creditors and accruals fall due within one year.

Deferred income refers to the Johne's Disease Programme. €119,548 relates to funding from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine not expended in 2014. The balance is from other stakeholders.

11. 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.

12. Related Parties

The Company benefitted from the provision of the BVD Helpdesk, serviced by four employees of the Department, 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)

Irish Cattle Breeding Federation (ICBF)

Teagasc

Teagasc contributed €45,000 to the Company in 2014 (2013: €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 and ICBF, were not quantified and accordingly are not included in the Income and Expenditure Account.

13. Reconciliation of Movement in Revenue Reserves

	2014 €	2013 €
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	75,482	(137,954)
Opening balance	(164,344)	(26,390)
Closing balance	<u>(88,862)</u>	<u>(164,344)</u>

14. Company 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.

15. Approval of financial statements

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 30th April 2015.

Programme: Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD)



RESOURCE ALLOCATION (2014)

Human: Internal - CEO 25%; Programme Manager 85%; Project and Operations Manager 20%.
External - Technical Working Group; Implementation Group

Financial: €221,709

DELIVERABLES (2014)

	QUARTER 1			QUARTER 2			QUARTER 3			QUARTER 4		
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
A. Communications												
1. Complete the assessment of appeals regarding the non-compliance of herds that participated in the voluntary phase and communicate the decisions to herd owners.												
2. In conjunction with BVDIG develop and implement quarterly communication plans in support of the programme.												
3. Maintain and refine helpdesk support facility for farmers.												
4. Publish a manuscript in a peer-reviewed journal describing the analysis of the impact of retaining PI animals.												
5. Submit a manuscript to a peer-reviewed journal describing the analysis of the impact of BVD vaccination on antibody responses.												
6. Present programme outputs at national and international conferences.												
B. Continuing programme development												
1. 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.												
2. Seek the designation of laboratories conducting regular bulk tank milk testing for BVD, the inclusion of first lactation pool testing in these programmes and the transfer of these results to ICBF.												
3. BVDIG, guided by the TWG, to establish the transition criteria and testing requirements to enable herds to move to, and remain within, the monitoring phase of the programme.												
4. In conjunction with ICBF, establish mechanisms to monitor and communicate compliance with transition criteria and subsequent testing requirements.												
5. Contribute to a revision by DAFM of the BVD Regulations (2012) to take account of the transition criteria and testing requirements, thereby providing a legislative basis for the entry of herds into the monitoring phase of the programme.												
6. In conjunction with DAFM and ICBF develop tools to utilise available data to facilitate herd investigations, completion of overdue testing and provision of biosecurity advice.												
7. In conjunction with TWG develop additional tools for on-farm investigation and resolution of problematic disease breakdowns.												
8. In conjunction with CVERA, develop mapping tools to support programme-related decision-making and communications.												
9. Provide programme management resources to AHWNI to support the implementation of a compulsory programme in Northern Ireland in 2014.												
C. Programme evaluation, monitoring and refinement												
1. Monitor the performance of the designated diagnostic laboratories according to agreed designation criteria and take appropriate corrective action where necessary.												
2. In conjunction with CVERA, complete an initial study on the retention of PI animals.												
3. In conjunction with TWG, conduct a study to evaluate the impact of vaccination on milk and blood-based antibody testing.												

Deliverables (outcomes) 2014

A1. Complete.

A2. Complete.

A3. Complete.

A4. Partially complete: manuscript submitted in late 2014 and accepted in May 2015.

A5. Partially complete: the scope of the study has been extended to include sampling in 2015. As a consequence analysis and publication of results have been carried forward to 2015 Business Plan.

A6. Complete.

B1. Complete.

B2. Complete.

B3. Complete.

B4. Complete.

B5. Deferred to 2015 Business Plan.

B6. Complete.

B7. Complete.

B8. Complete.

B9. Complete.

C1. Complete.

C2. Complete.

C3. Partially complete: the scope of the study has been extended to include sampling in 2015. As a consequence analysis and publication of results have been carried forward to 2015 Business Plan.

Programme: CellCheck

RESOURCE ALLOCATION (2014)

Human: Internal - CEO 25%; Programme Manager 100%; Project and Operations Manager 30%.

External - Technical Working Group; Industry Consultation Group; Regional CellCheck Coordinators (7); local service provider network.

Financial: €132,029



DELIVERABLES (2014)

	QUARTER 1			QUARTER 2			QUARTER 3			QUARTER 4		
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
A. Communications												
1. Continue to disseminate monthly technical articles through the agricultural media and stakeholder publications.												
2. Continue to engage with processors and key influencers to communicate the value and opportunity of continually improving milk quality. **												
3. In conjunction with Teagasc and processors, continue to promote and monitor the use of the economic calculator, Costcheck, including individual and collective communications to dairy farmers.												
4. In conjunction with stakeholders and other partners develop and establish a milk quality award that gives appropriate recognition to milk suppliers who achieve consistently low SCC results.												
5. Maintain and publicise, through the AHI website and other media, the national database of participating service providers.												
6. In conjunction with Teagasc, UCD, Agri-Aware and other relevant parties, develop additional communication avenues within levels 2 & 3 of the educational system.												
7. In conjunction with Teagasc, Veterinary Ireland and the farming press, publish farmer case studies; focusing on financial benefit, achievable progress, simple solutions.												
8. Investigate feasibility of increasing frequency of bulk tank SCC testing and reporting by processors to all farmers.												
9. Encourage recognition of quality-related bonus payments in IFI, or alternative milk price league.												
10. In conjunction with Teagasc, ICBF, Veterinary Ireland and other stakeholders, increase awareness of the value of clinical case recording at farm level.												
11. Identify mastitis problem-solving mentors and 'champions' within the service-provider sector.												
12. Increase awareness by service providers of the business/added-value opportunities associated with the development and delivery of additional udder health services.												
B. Continuing programme development												
1. In conjunction with DAFM and ICBF, collate and analyse the national SCC profile, following collection of full-year data from milk processors by DAFM. **												
2. In conjunction with Teagasc, processors and the Regional Coordinators, enable delivery of a minimum of 200 farmer workshops through the network of trained local service providers. **												
3. In conjunction with processors, continue the promotion and sale of the CellCheck Farm Guidelines, with target sales of ≥4,000 units.												
4. In conjunction with Teagasc, processors, ICBF and the milk recording organisations, promote the uptake of milk recording through the AHI stakeholder network.												
5. In conjunction with UCD and Veterinary Ireland, establish a database of currently skilled ('Stage 3' equivalent) mastitis problem solvers.												
6. In conjunction with TWG and industry partners, develop and deliver Stage 3 service provider training to ≥ 60 service providers.												
7. Facilitate industry agreement on, and promotion of a singular industry SCC target.												
8. Develop additional technical resources (e.g. CellCheck app, problem-solving milk recording reports).												
9. Establish a system of centralised deduction (from milk payments) with all AHI milk processor stakeholders, to enable payment for Farmer Workshop attendance, Farm Guidelines purchase etc.												
10. In partnership with processors, expand the network of Regional Co-ordinators to ensure adequate geographic coverage nationally.												

Programme: CellCheck

RESOURCE ALLOCATION (2014)

Human: Internal - CEO 25%; Programme Manager 100%; Project and Operations Manager 30%.
External - Technical Working Group; Industry Consultation Group; Regional CellCheck Coordinators (7); local service provider network.

Financial: €132,029



DELIVERABLES (2014)

	QUARTER 1			QUARTER 2			QUARTER 3			QUARTER 4		
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
C. Programme evaluation, monitoring and refinement												
1. With support from Teagasc and CVERA, continue to measure attitudes, behaviours and practices relevant to mastitis control.												
2. With processor support, collate and analyse SCC data of workshop participants in 2013 to assess udder health performance.												
3. Assess the level of engagement by service providers in CellCheck programme activities.												

Deliverables (outcomes) 2014

A1-A8, A10, A12. Complete.
A9. Partially complete: ongoing discussion with IFJ regarding further modification of the milk price league.
A11. Incomplete: further SP training development postponed to prioritise limited resources on key deliverables.

C1-C3. Complete.

B1, B4, B9. Complete **

B2. Partially complete **: c. 35 workshops organised by industry stakeholders.

B3. Partially complete: 835 *CellCheck* Farm Guidelines sold in 2014.

B5. Incomplete: mechanism for the recognition of appropriately qualified individuals remains to be agreed by stakeholders.

B6. Incomplete: further SP training development postponed to prioritise

limited resources on key deliverables.

B7. Partially complete.

B8. Partially complete: work on app and milk recording reports ongoing.

B10. Partially complete: commitment to an additional Regional Coordinator provided by milk processor committed by Glanbia, but not identified.

** Key programme deliverables

Programme: Johne's disease

RESOURCE ALLOCATION (2014)

Human: Internal - CEO 25%; Programme Manager 100%; Project and Operations Manager 20%.
External - Technical Working Group; Implementation Group

Financial: €81,144



DELIVERABLES (2014)

	QUARTER 1			QUARTER 2			QUARTER 3			QUARTER 4		
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
A. Programme development and implementation												
1. Undertake a detailed review of the JD Pilot Programme to inform development of the control programme beyond 2014.												
2. Develop a sound understanding of the economics of JD at farm and industry level through the ICONMAP project and other research collaborations.												
3. Complete the development of RAMP resources for beef herds.												
4. Agree with ICBF a database development schedule for 2014.												
5. Monitor delivery of the agreed ICBF development schedule.												
6. Continue the roll-out of RAMP training to veterinary practitioners, with a target total uptake from programme inception of 250 practitioners.												
B. Communications and awareness												
1. Present the preliminary findings from the Pilot Programme at the 12th International Colloquium on Paratuberculosis in Italy.												
2. Support stakeholder organisations, as required, in the delivery of farmer information and training events.												
3. Develop and publish in farming and veterinary media a series of articles and case studies on JD, with a target of 6 major articles.												
C. Programme evaluation, monitoring and refinement												
1. Undertake an audit and quality control of the delivery at farm level of the veterinary Risk Assessment and Management Plans (RAMP).												
2. Undertake an audit and quality control of third party on-farm sampling.												
3. Monitor the performance of designated diagnostic laboratories according to agreed designation criteria and take appropriate corrective action where necessary.												
4. Monitor the quality and timeliness of reporting of test results to ICBF and take appropriate corrective action where necessary.												
5. Monitor the performance of data transfer and communications between labs, ICBF and herd owners and take appropriate corrective action where necessary.												
D. Research												
1. Measure pilot programme RAMP findings and their associations with the likely infection status of participating herds.												
2. In conjunction with international consultants, complete the epidemiological modelling of JD in infected herds.												
3. Contribute to research assessing the characteristics of currently available tests within Irish dairy herds as part of the ICONMAP project.												
4. Undertake epidemiological modelling to evaluate the effect of differing interventions on the control of infection within infected herds and publish the results in an international peer-reviewed journal.												
5. Ensure appropriate coordination between the TWG and the ICONMAP project and other relevant research projects.												

Deliverables (outcomes) 2014

- A1.** Partially Complete: review delayed to allow for completion of a full year of the pilot programme.
A2. Partially Complete: analysis commissioned but completion delayed due to delay in Teagasc recruitment and completion of a full year of the pilot programme.
A3. Partially Complete: draft outline of Beef resources completed.
A4. Complete.
A5. Complete.
A6. Complete: (391 Veterinary Practitioners trained).

- B1.** Complete.
B2. Complete.
B3. Complete.

- C1.** Complete.
C2. Complete.
C3. Complete.
C4. Complete.
C5. Complete.

- D1.** Complete.
D2. Complete.
D3. Complete.
D4. Complete.
D5. Complete.

Programme: IBR**RESOURCE ALLOCATION (2014)**

Human: Internal - CEO 5%; Programme Manager 10%.
External - Technical Working Group

Financial: €1,050



DELIVERABLES (2014)	QUARTER 1			QUARTER 2			QUARTER 3			QUARTER 4		
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
A. Communications												
1. Complete and publish a guide to the management of potential AI sires to minimize the risk of their exclusion from semen collection centres due to BoHV-1 status.												
2. Complete and publish in a peer-reviewed journal an analysis of the role of BoHV-1 (and other viruses) in respiratory disease in calves.												
B. Continuing programme development												
1. With TWG and Economics Coordinating Group complete an analysis of the economics of BoHV-1 infection in Ireland, including an analysis of the opportunities and threats relating to international trade.												
2. In conjunction with TWG, identify key knowledge gaps and communicate these to research funders so as to inform decision-making regarding a possible future national programme.												

Deliverables (outcomes) 2014

A1. Complete.

A2. Complete.

B1. Initiated: scheduled to be completed in 2015.

B2. Complete.

NOTES

