

# Completing your 2020 IJCP requirements

Lawrence Gavey, Johne's disease Programme Manager

**T**he end of the year is fast approaching. If you are participating in the Irish Johne's Control Programme, you have only a small window of time remaining to complete the programme requirements. An extension for completion, as was provided at the end of 2019, is not expected to be granted for this year.

Your ICBF display of Johne's herd records has recently been enhanced to show clearly your progress towards completing your whole herd test and veterinary risk assessment and management plan (VRAMP), and whether there are animals in your herd for which ancillary PCR (dung) testing is required or ELISA (blood or milk) re-testing is recommended. There is a guide to using the ICBF screen on the AHI website [click here](#).

Outstanding actions should be undertaken by 15th December to ensure they are completed and uploaded to ICBF before the end of the year. The following are the most common outstanding actions.

There are 1,400 herds that have yet to complete a VRAMP for 2020. This is a fully funded annual requirement of the programme, so if you still need to complete a VRAMP this year (as shown on ICBF), you should be in touch with your veterinary practitioner to arrange it. You may conduct your VRAMP remotely this year, especially for herds with a prior VRAMP and your vet's familiarity with the herd, to reduce farm visits and protect against COVID spread.

Almost 600 herds have yet to start their whole herd test. Milk testing has practically finished, so herd testing must be conducted on blood samples now. This may be easier now, as cows are being housed. Contact your veterinary practitioner immediately to arrange this testing.



IRISH JOHNE'S CONTROL PROGRAMME

Animal Health Ireland, 2-5 The Archways, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim, N41 WN27



400 herds have started but not completed their whole herd test. You can check on ICBF or with your veterinary practitioner to see whether this applies to your herd. If you have animals on the farm that were missed when the milking herd was tested, contact your veterinary practitioner to arrange for them to be tested as required. If the animals are no longer on the farm, complete an 'Application for Exemption' form. If the animals are non-breeding beef animals held separately to the dairy herd, complete the 'Notification for Exemption' form. These forms are available from AHI or your veterinary practitioner, and should be submitted to AHI.

Remember that to meet the conditions to be paid testing assistance, you must complete both the VRAMP and whole herd test. In 2019 there were 33 herds that started their whole herd test, but neither completed the testing nor applied for an exemption from testing for untested eligible animals so were ineligible for payment of testing assistance. Don't let this happen to you in 2020; if unsure, consult your veterinary practitioner or AHI.

The herd test includes doing PCR testing on dung samples from animals which have a positive or inconclusive ELISA result from the blood or milk test (unless the herd already has a positive result to a faecal culture or PCR test). This is important, because these animals are considered infected, and the herd also considered infected, if the dung test is not done, and that is not in the best interest of the farmer, the Irish dairy industry or the programme. Dung testing when required by the programme is fully funded. It is not a condition for payment of herd testing assistance, but should be done as soon as possible after the ELISA test results are reported, and like blood testing is probably easier when the cows are in the shed. If you're unsure whether you have animals needing a dung test, contact your veterinary practitioner or AHI.

The AHI website ([click here](#)) provides more information on the IJCP, including the exemption forms, ICBF User Guide and Flowchart to guide you in the required steps of the programme.

It has been a difficult year due to the uncertainties and restrictions of COVID. Let's finish the year on a positive by completing the VRAMP and whole herd test and dung test if appropriate, so that you are best equipped to prevent or control the spread and impacts of Johne's disease in 2021 and beyond.

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Supporting the production and sustainable farming and agri-food sector through improved animal health

**NOTIFICATION OF NON-BREEDING CATTLE EXEMPT FROM THE WHOLE HERD TEST**

This exemption is provided for separate units of non-breeding animals, such as a beef finishing unit on a separate parcel of land or outdoors. The exemption does not apply to cull heifers, cows and bulls from the breeding herd.

HERD NUMBER

(County number e.g. 12345678)

**1. HERDOWNER DECLARATION**

I declare that the animals listed below are exempted from the whole herd test for Johne's disease, as they:

- Have been kept, whenever on my farms and aged over two years, on land or in housing that have not been used within the previous 12 months to keep my breeding herd and replacement stock, and
- Have not been used as breeding animals, and
- Are not in the process of being culled from the breeding herd.

LIST OF ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION TAG NUMBERS:


If there is insufficient space to list all non-breeding cattle kept separately from the breeding herd, please use page 2 below.

**2. APPROVED VETERINARY PRACTITIONER ENDORSEMENT**

I endorse the above declaration.

I am satisfied that the ICP herd (of breeding animals and replacement young stock intended for breeding) occupies land and housing that, for at least the preceding 12 months, has not been used by the animals listed above, which are maintained in a physically separate, non-breeding unit.

NAME  (PRINT NAME)

SIGNED  DATE

**3. RETURN THE COMPLETED FORM**

EMAIL  ahI@animalhealthireland.ie

POST  Animal Health Ireland, 2-5 The Archways, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim N41 WN27

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**UNTESTED ELIGIBLE CATTLE THAT HAVE LEFT THE HERD - APPLICATION FOR EXEMPTION**

HERD NUMBER

(County number e.g. 12345678)

**1. HERDOWNER APPLICATION**

I apply for the animals listed below to be exempted from the whole herd test for Johne's disease, as they:

- Were eligible animals that should have been included in the whole herd test
- Number less than 5% of the eligible animals in my herd for the current year
- Were removed from the farms without being tested, due to\*

\*A reason for not testing the animals before removal must be provided.

I acknowledge that, in future years, I should either remove cull animals from the farms prior to starting the herd test, or if they are on the farms when the herd test starts, include them in the testing.

LIST OF ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION TAG NUMBERS:


If there is insufficient space to list all untested eligible animals that have left the herd, please use page 2 below.

NAME  (PRINT NAME)

SIGNED  DATE

**2. RETURN THE COMPLETED FORM**

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