



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

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

Phone | 071 9671928 Email | ahi@animalhealthireland.ie

MIKE MAGAN, CHAIR OF ANIMAL HEALTH IRELAND ANNOUNCES HIS RETIREMENT

Mike Magan has announced his retirement as Chair of Animal Health Ireland and will leave the position at the end of 2021. Mike was appointed by the Minister of Agriculture Brendan Smith to the Board of AHI when it established in 2009 and has been Chair for the past 12 years. In this role, he has overseen the growth and development of the organisation from an initial concept to its current position, playing a key role in animal health in the cattle and pig sectors. He has been instrumental in driving the resulting changes in how national animal health programmes for non-regulated diseases are addressed. The collaborative model developed by AHI, with industry and government stakeholders working together and informed by science, has resulted in the development of five national programmes – BVD, CellCheck, Johne’s disease, Beef HealthCheck and Pig HealthCheck with work well advanced on developing options for an IBR eradication programme. Collectively, these programmes have made a significant contribution to the sustainability of the industry- not only economically, but also through the benefits they have produced in reducing antimicrobial usage, improving animal welfare and increasing the efficiency of production and reducing the greenhouse gas emissions per unit of output.

David Graham, CEO said “Mike’s dedication to the role and his absolute belief in the contribution that improved animal health can make to the agri-food sector work has driven the organisation to become what it is today. I have greatly valued his enthusiasm, guidance and friendship and as he steps down from AHI wish him continued success in his wide range of other activities within the sector”.

Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Charlie McConalogue TD commented: “Mike Magan has been and will continue to be one of the great leaders of the agri-sector. Mike’s leadership in the space of animal health has ensured our sector is better placed to face the challenges we will encounter in the future.

Over the past 12 years, Mike has been an excellent leader in Animal Health Ireland (AHI). In that time AHI, through its public/private partnership model has delivered benefits both to individual farmers on the ground as well as to the wider industry. Mike understood and championed the clear benefit of this collaborative effort of farmers, processors, other stakeholders and scientific experts, to bring about tangible improvements and benefits. The AHI model, to which Mike has committed so much energy, is internationally recognised as a successful model system of engagement and collaboration and is a testament to his enthusiasm, commitment and belief. On behalf of every farmer in the country, I thank Mike for his hard work, commitment and dedication to animal health”.

The new Chair of Animal Health Ireland will be announced in the New Year.

Grainne Dwyer

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