

# Whole Herd Test (WHT) and Veterinary Risk Assessment and Management Plan (VRAMP) completion

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**T**he last quarter of the year is a busy period for members of the Irish Johne's Control Programme (IJCP) as many are taking action to complete their WHT and VRAMP requirements. 2022 is an important year for the programme as 362 herds are currently in their fourth year on a test-negative pathway (TNP), meaning they are required to complete a Whole Herd Test, but not a VRAMP. If these year four TNP herds do not show MAP through ancillary testing and complete a clear WHT they will continue on a TNP into year five of the programme. In year five of the programme TNP herds will not be required to carry out either a Whole Herd Test or Veterinary Risk Assessment Management Plan; however, the benefits to your herd of completing both these activities, in the absence of financial supports, should be considered as part of your annual herd health activities anyway. Animal Health Ireland have also in 2022 issued a specific mobile text notification and letter to year four TNP herds clarifying their requirements within the programme.

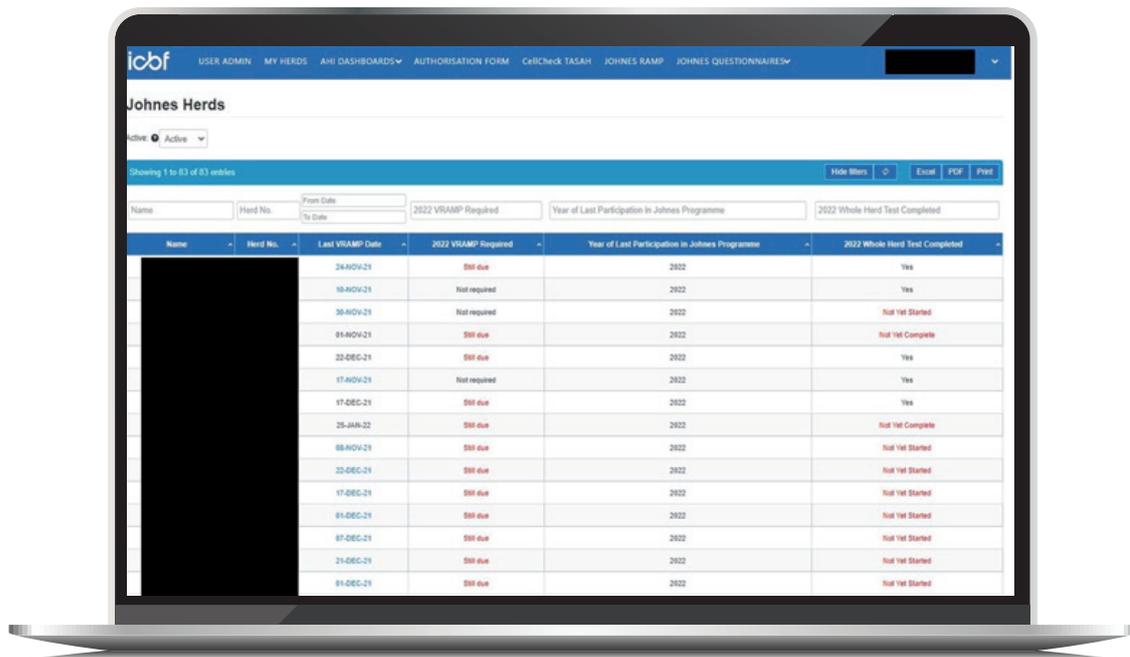
For all herds in the 2022 programme the deadline to having your Whole Herd Test completed is within the 2022 calendar year. However, if your WHT is started but incomplete within the 2022 programme there is allowance for completion up to 31st January 2023. If you do not start your WHT until January 2023 it will be counted towards the 2023 programme and not the 2022 programme.

To facilitate farmers in the programme and remind them if they have not completed their 2022 VRAMP, not completed or not started their Whole Herd Test, AHI are sending out mobile phone text notifications to herdowners. If you receive one of these AHI text messages please read it and act on it.

Dependent on which programme activity you have not completed you could receive either one or two of the messages below:

- If you have not completed your VRAMP in the 2022 programme you will receive the following message: **AHI Johne's – VRAMP for 2022 still due, see <https://johnes.icbf.com> Contact your vet.**
- If you have not started your WHT in the 2022 programme you will receive the following message: **AHI Johne's – Herd test for 2022 not yet started, see <https://johnes.icbf.com> Contact your vet or milk recorder.**
- If you have started but not completed your WHT in the 2022 programme you will receive the following message: **AHI Johne's – Herd test for 2022 not yet completed, see <https://johnes.icbf.com> Contact your vet.**
- If you are a year 4 TNP herd and you have not started your WHT in the 2022 programme you will receive the following message: **AHI Johne's – Herd test for 2022 not yet started, see <https://johnes.icbf.com> Contact your vet or milk recorder. NOTE: No testing assistance payable this year.**
- If you are a year 4 TNP herd and you have started but not completed your WHT in the 2022 programme you will receive the following message: **AHI Johne's – Herd test for 2022 not yet completed, see <https://johnes.icbf.com> Contact your vet. NOTE: No testing assistance payable this year.**

- Along with directly notifying IJCP members about required actions all nominated veterinary practitioners (AVPs) are also notified of outstanding activities for the herds for which they are the nominated AVP.
- The following message has been sent to all AVPs who have clients with outstanding work in the IJCP. It reminds the AVPs to check their ICBF webpage where they can view work still needing completion under the 2022 programme (Figure 1): **AHI Johne's – You have client herds yet to complete their 2022 VRAMP, WHT. See <https://johnes.icbf.com> for tasks highlighted in red, contact herd to complete.**



**Figure 1.** AVP view of their ICBF webpage where they can view work still needing completion under the 2022 programme.

Additionally in the case of dairy herds, their milk processor regularly receives a list of supplier herds with outstanding activities; this allows them to encourage their suppliers towards completion of programme activities.

Collectively, these communications are provided to assist herdowners and their PVPs to complete the requirements of the programme for 2022. This is important to ensure that herds get the most benefit from the programme, including the best understanding of their herd's status. In addition, completion of these elements are a condition to receive the financial supports provided by processors toward milk and blood testing costs.