NATIONAL PIG HEALTHCHECK BUSINESS PLAN

2023

To contribute to an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable farming and agri-food sector through improved animal health and welfare.

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Programme Objective: To improve profitability and sustainability of the Irish pig industry through improved animal health and welfare

KEY DELIVERABLES

Q1 Q2 Q3 Q4

COMMUNICATIONS

- Maintain a communication plan in support of programme activities (e.g. newsletters) and continue the development of AHI webpages relating to Pig HealthCheck as needed.
- Organise regular meetings with private veterinary practitioners to discuss programme related issues.
- Deliver a series of targeted communications (including factsheets, videos, webinars, etc.) for pig farmers, veterinary practitioners and allied industry.

PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT

- Continue engagement with stakeholders to review progress against current programme priorities and identification of emerging issues.
- Continue to promote delivery of Biosecurity TASAH through trained veterinary practitioners and analyse outcomes.
- Continue to promote delivery of TASAH-funded assessment for risk factors predisposing to tail-biting through trained PVPs and analyse outcomes.
- Continue to promote delivery of TASAH-funded assessment for Salmonella through trained PVPs and analyse outcomes.
- Continue to deliver training of veterinary practitioners as required in TASAH activities.
- Contribute to the Walsh Fellow – Development and implementation of a tail-biting risk assessment tool on commercial pig farms, with expertise and data.
- With Teagasc, to further investigate risk factors for tail-biting through the 'Schwip' research project and incorporate these into a revised TASAH assessment as required.
- Contribute, with direction from the Technical Working Group, to the development of the Pig HealthCheck programme.

PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT (continued)

Continue developing the Pig HealthCheck database to capture outputs relating to the PM system being established by DAFM and other priority areas as identified by stakeholders

Develop herd-level benchmarking dashboards to display data within:

- AMU.
- Salmonella data (new TASAH).
- the PM system being established by DAFM.

Deliver supporting tools (user guides, videos) for PVPs, farmers and DAFM/advisory staff on use of the dashboards.

Develop the Pig HealthCheck database to make it more user-friendly.

Contribute to sectoral sustainability through actions assigned to AHI within iNAP2 and the antiparasitic resistance action plan (APRAP) established by the APR Stakeholder Group (e.g. code of practice regarding responsible use of antiparasitics for pig farmers).

SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES

Contribute to research projects:

- Antimicrobial use on farms: a multi-actor, user-centred approach to measuring and changing behaviour.
- Biomarkers and Microbiome in Farms for Antimicrobial Resistance Management.
- Data-driven control and prioritisation of non-EU-regulated contagious animal diseases.
- Enhanced and cost-effective biosecurity in livestock production.,
- Using stakeholder insights to drive behavioural change in the pig industry.
- Preliminary investigation into the development or acquisition of advanced digital post-mortem inspection systems for Irish slaughterhouses.
- Economic benefit of biosecurity in pigs and poultry.