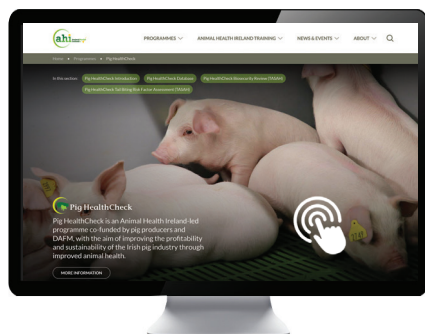


What is involved in the Salmonella TASA?

Faecal samples from finishing pens will be collected by your PVP at your next Biosecurity assessment and this will include recording some additional supplementary management information about your farm. The **anonymised** faecal samples will be tested to see if *Salmonella* spp. is detected, and, if so, which serotypes(s) are present. If ST or mST are detected, further funded faecal sampling will be taken by the PVP from other sections of your farm to identify the additional areas and production stages contaminated with these strains. The information will then guide the PVP together with you, the farmer, in drawing up a control plan specific to your farm.

How can I avail from this service?

To avail of this service, contact your nominated PVP (the same vet who completes your biosecurity assessment and animal welfare assessment). Only PVPs who have undergone specific training are able to carry out this activity.



Pig HealthCheck
AnimalHealthIreland.ie



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

Phone 071 9671928 | Email ahi@animalhealthireland.ie | Website www.animalhealthireland.ie

SALMONELLA TASA

Salmonella Update for Irish Pig Farmers

The current serological test for *Salmonella*, completed at factory level, does not identify the strains (serotypes) of *Salmonella* that may be present on your farm or in your pigs.



A funded farm specific Targeted Advisory Service on Animal Health (TASA) has been set up by Animal Health Ireland (AHI) in the form of on-farm bacteriological tests that can identify the strains of *Salmonella*, if it is present.

Pig HealthCheck
AnimalHealthIreland.ie



» Salmonella Testing

The current serological test for *Salmonella*, completed at factory level, does not identify the strains (serotypes) of *Salmonella* that may be present on your farm or in your pigs.

There are many strains of *Salmonella* that can affect human health but the serious serotypes, *Salmonella* Typhimurium (ST) and monophasic *Salmonella* Typhimurium (mST) are the two mostly associated with the consumption of pig meat and are also the most problematic serotypes on pig farms where they are easily transmitted between pigs and humans.

- Due to the risk to human health there has been ongoing surveillance at European level to measure the levels of these *Salmonella* strains in pigs. Ireland has been shown to have higher than average levels of both of these disease-causing strains.
- There is a significant reputational risk if there was ever a case of *Salmonella* caused by these strains in people, as modern diagnostic techniques enable identification of sources of food disease outbreaks.
- A further issue is that most ST and mST strains isolated from pigs and pork products display multiple drug resistance (i.e. they are resistant to at least three and usually more antibiotics). It is necessary to know the serotype of *Salmonella* present to formulate a suitable 'on farm control programme'.

It is necessary to know the serotype of Salmonella present to formulate a suitable 'on farm control programme'.

» Salmonella TASAH Funded Control plans

A funded farm specific Targeted Advisory Service on Animal Health (TASAH) has been set up by Animal Health Ireland (AHI) in the form of on-farm bacteriological tests that can identify the strains of *Salmonella*, if it is present.

Should you wish to participate, this TASAH activity is free of charge as it is funded by DAFM and covers the bacteriological testing of faecal samples collected by your nominated private veterinary practitioner (PVP) on their Biosecurity assessment visit of your farm. The test results are **confidential** and remain between the farmer, the PVP and AHI, who manage the programme database.

- The results will be used to develop 'farm specific' control plans for *Salmonella*, which will be drawn up by the PVP in agreement with the farmer in the same manner as for any other disease present on the farm.
- Agreed measures may include vaccination, specific hygiene programmes, external and internal biosecurity measures and other courses of action the PVP may suggest. The implementation of this farm specific control plan may come however with additional costs but these measures may also assist the control of other diseases and improve the overall performance of the piggery.
- Your participation in this TASAH activity is voluntary and there are no plans whatsoever to make it part of the Bord Bia quality standards. Food safety is of the utmost importance and because of the risks to human health, it is recommended that all farms (and especially farms that have serological test results over 50%) complete this TASAH.
- The development of farm specific control plans allows the Irish pig industry to demonstrate a proactive approach to managing *Salmonella* at farm level.