



National Beef HealthCheck Programme

2024 Business Plan



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

www.AnimalHealthIreland.ie

BHCBUSPLA V1.0

ISSUED BY: AHI

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Animal Health Ireland (AHI) is a private-public partnership established between private agri-sector stakeholders (of which the meat processing sector is a key component) and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM).

AHI aims to provide the knowledge, education and coordination required to establish effective control programmes for important diseases of livestock that are not subject to international regulation and in so doing to contribute to an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable farming and agrifood sector through improved animal health and welfare.











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Programme Objectives

Beef HealthCheck Programme: To develop tools to assist farmers and their veterinary practitioners to control losses due to liver fluke, liver abscesses and pneumonia through capture, analysis and reporting of abattoir data; to contribute to the development by ICBF of economic breeding indexes that incorporate health and disease data.

Parasite Control Programme: Promote a sustainable approach to parasite control on Irish farms, aiming to delay anthelmintic resistance and minimise treatments on farm with monitoring, testing and strategic treatment.

COMMUNICATIONS

		Q1 ▼	Q2 ▼	Q3 ▼	Q4 ▼
01	Continue to produce Beef HealthCheck newsletters and materials and distribute to stakeholders, farmers and the farming press.				
02	Produce regular programme reports for relevant stakeholders.				
03	Engage with stakeholders to promote the use of ICBF breeding values for liver fluke resistance.				
04	Contribute to sectoral sustainability through actions assigned to AHI within the antiparasitic resistance action plan (APRAP) established by the APR Stakeholder Group. These include the developing and promoting codes of best practice for anthelmintic use and analysis of anthelmintic sales trends.				
05	Maintain and promote a list of current Irish anthelmintic products for cattle and sheep.				
06	Continue to produce educational materials for farmers and veterinary practitioners on all aspects of the Beef HealthCheck programme and parasite control.				
07	Present work on the Beef HealthCheck and Parasite Control programmes at national and international conferences.				
08	Produce communication materials as part of the SPARC EU Horizon project on sustainable parasite control.				

PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT

	Q1 ▼	Q2 ▼	Q3 ▼	Q4 ▼
01 Progress, with DAFM and ICBF, direct messaging as a tool to communicate Beef HealthCheck results to farmers. 01 Encourage web-based BHC dashboard awareness and use by farmers and their private veterinary practitioners, as well as progressing mobile-friendly site development.				
02 Engage with processors and veterinary inspectors to optimise data collection at the factory and additional processors to seek their participation in the Beef HealthCheck programme.				
03 Analyse Beef HealthCheck data and other relevant datasets to identify trends according to animal- and herd-type, location and season and associated economic costs and sustainability benefits for liver fluke, liver abscesses and pneumonia. Publish as appropriate and contribute to the Irish case study with the Global Burden of Animal Disease project on these outcomes.				
04 Engage with DAFM, TWG, ICBF, herdowners and veterinary practitioners to further develop and apply tools to support the Beef HealthCheck programme and reduce impacts of recorded conditions and improve efficiency of production.				
05 Deliver on the requirements of the SPARC EU Horizon project on sustainable parasite control.				