



**Johne's Control**  
AnimalHealthIreland.ie

# Irish Johne's Control 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](http://www.AnimalHealthIreland.ie)

JDBUSPLA V1.0

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Animal Health Ireland (AHI) is a private-public partnership established between private agri-sector stakeholders 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

1. Enhance the ability of participating farmers to keep their herds clear of Johne's disease (JD).
2. Assist participating farmers to reduce the level of infection in their herds, where present.
3. Provide additional reassurance to the marketplace in relation to Ireland's efforts to control Johne's disease and sustainability of Irish cattle production.
4. Improve calf health, farm biosecurity and sustainability in participating farms.

### COMMUNICATIONS

		Q1 ▼	Q2 ▼	Q3 ▼	Q4 ▼
01	Maintain and refine current communication channels for all stakeholders, focused on farmers, veterinary practitioners, milk processors, laboratories and milk recording organisations.				
02	Use digital media to enhance communication channels.				
03	Present the IJCP and its outputs at stakeholder and wider interest events.				
04	Development of new communication network with the beef sector through phase 3 of the IJCP.				

### PROGRAMME COORDINATION

01	Use programme data to drive required change using an evidence-based approach.				
02	Support policy and procedural considerations and decisions of the Implementation Group (JDIG) and technical considerations and decisions of the Technical Working Group.				
03	Efficient and effective programme administration.				
04	Provide annual, quarterly and ad hoc programme reports.				
05	Facilitation of timely payments for herd testing and other funded.				

### PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT

01	Engage with funders and wider IG to agree programme objectives, structure and implementation of Phase 3.				
02	Implement JDIG instructions related to broad change in ancillary testing policy for transition from Phase 2 to Phase 3 programme.				
03	Continued investigation of potential programme evaluation metrics to provide assessment tools.				
04	Further investigate Phase 3 implementation to facilitate increased participation of beef herds in IJCP.				

## PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT

	Q1 ▼	Q2 ▼	Q3 ▼	Q4 ▼
<b>05</b> Development and implementation of a herd assurance tool as directed by JDIG phase 3 design requirements.				
<b>06</b> Recruitment of new herds, through promotions with Processors, AVPs, MROs, BTM, developing beef industry network (assurance for pedigree herds, AgClimatise for all beef herds).				
<b>07</b> Coordination at laboratory level of National Reference Laboratory project to build an archive of MAP-positive faecal samples – step by step process to engage and bring all laboratories into this project.				

## ICT SUPPORT

<b>01</b> Maintenance and development of CRM, ICBF databases – Focus on extra requirements related to implementation of Phase 3 of the IJCP.				
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## RESEARCH

<b>01</b> Facilitate the implementation and delivery of projects identified through R&D prioritisation activities, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analysis of inconclusive ELISA test results based on subsequent positive faecal PCR disclosure, with purpose to help introduction of Phase 3.</li> <li>• Analysis of ELISA result trends to determine factors predictive of animals that subsequently disclose ancillary positive results.</li> <li>• Analysis of herd testing statuses in the IJCP based on pathway residency.</li> <li>• Further analysis of movement and retention of risk animals in IJCP herds.</li> <li>• Exploratory data analysis of VRAMP scores within IJCP herds.</li> <li>• Comparison of blood and milk samples for ELISA testing.</li> <li>• Behavioural science of AVP engagement.</li> <li>• Bulk Tank Milk surveillance data analysis, including risk factors for positive BTM results.</li> </ul>				
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## TRAINING

<b>01</b> Deliver AVP and TASA training (new participants and refresher) plus wider stakeholder activities as required.				
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