

National Pig HealthCheck Programme



Business Plan 2025



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.

AHI gratefully acknowledges the financial and other contributions of our stakeholders



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Programme Objective

To improve the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the Irish pig industry through improved animal health and welfare.

COMMUNICATIONS

	Q1 ▼	Q2 ▼	Q3 ▼	Q4 ▼
01 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.	▶			
02 Organise regular meetings with private veterinary practitioners (PVPs) to discuss programme related issues.	▶			
03 Deliver a series of targeted communications (including factsheets, videos, webinars, etc.) for pig farmers, PVPs and allied industry.	▶			

PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT

01 Continue engagement with stakeholders to review progress against current programme priorities and identification of emerging issues.	▶			
02 Continue to promote delivery of Biosecurity TASAH through trained PVPs and analyse outcomes.	▶			
03 Continue to promote delivery of TASAH-funded assessment for risk factors predisposing to tail biting through trained PVPs and analyse outcomes.	▶			
04 Continue to promote delivery of TASAH-funded assessment for Salmonella through trained PVPs and analyse outcomes.	▶			
05 Continue to deliver training of PVPs as required in TASAH activities.	▶			
06 Contribute, with direction from the TWG and the IG, to the development of the PHC programme.	▶			
07 Continue developing the PHC database to capture outputs relating to the:				
a) PM system being established by DAFM.	▶			
b) New biosecurity questionnaire.	▶			
c) New welfare questionnaire/system for risk factors for tail biting.	▶			



PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT (cont.)

08 Develop herd-level benchmarking dashboards to display data within:

a. Salmonella TASA data.

b. the PM system being established by DAFM.

c. the new welfare system.

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

10 Develop the PHC database to further enhance usability.

11 Contribute to sectoral sustainability through actions assigned to AHI within iNAP2 and the antiparasitic resistance action plan (APRAP) established by the APR Stakeholder Group.

12 Contribute to the European Innovation Partnerships operational group 'Irish pig sector stakeholders moving together towards raising pigs with intact tails'.

13 Contribute to research projects:

1. Antimicrobial use on farms: a multi-actor, user-centred approach to measuring and changing behaviour.
2. Data-driven control and prioritisation of non-EU-regulated contagious animal diseases.
3. Enhanced and cost-effective biosecurity in livestock production.
4. Transdisciplinary Interventions to Control Salmonella in Irish Pig Farms.
5. Estimating the animal health losses in the Irish pig sector using the methodology of the Global Burden of Animal Diseases project.
6. Economic benefit of biosecurity in pigs and poultry.

Q1



Q2



Q3



Q4

