

## About this dossier

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## Eradication: Final report for Bovine Tuberculosis 2019

For each approved annual or multi-annual programme Member States shall submit to the Commission by the 30 April each year an annual detailed technical and financial report covering the previous year. That report shall include the results achieved and a detailed account of eligible costs incurred (Art 14 of Regulation (EU) No 652/2014).

This form is for information only, no submission possible.

ID: 20200421-UCM86LC3

**Country code:** IE

### Reporting period

**From:** 2019

**To:** 2019

**Year of implementation:** 2019

## 1. Technical implementation of the programme

### 1.1 Description and evaluation of the evolution of the epidemiological situation, the technical implementation of the activities foreseen under the programme and the cost-effectiveness of the programme.

The incidence of bovine TB in Ireland has declined significantly since 2009 when 23,805 animals were removed as reactors to 17,058 in 2019. This is a decrease of 433 on 2018. Herd incidence was at 3.72% in 2019 and 3.51% in 2018. Herd incidence has decreased 26.9% since 2009 which was at 5.09%. It is not possible to attribute the decline in the incidence of the disease to any single factor. Nevertheless, the main factor involved would appear to be the badger removal policy which has been in place for some years now. In addition, the introduction of Animal Health Computer System (AHCS) and its integration with the Animal Identification and Movement System (AIM) has facilitated more effective management of programme delivery, including enhanced quality controls of delivery of the SICTT and additional movement control of animals from high risk herds such as contiguous herds not tested in the previous 4-months and due a test. The APT, number of reactor animals disclosed per 1000 tests, remained relatively low in 2019 at 1.62%, in comparison to 2.66% in 2009 and more recently 1.97% in 2018. 98.35% of herds were tested in 2019. At under 4%, bTB herd incidence in Ireland remains at far lower levels than in previous decades. However, disease trends have deteriorated over the past three years. The reasons why this is happening are multifactorial and often relate to local factors which highlight the challenges in successfully eradicating the disease. The expansion of the dairy herd since 2015 has played a role in this, since dairy herds, larger herds, and herds which introduce more cattle are all more at risk of bTB breakdowns. 52% of all bTB reactors in 2019 were in dairy herds, while there were approximately 2.8 million farm-to-farm cattle

movements last year. Whilst setting targets is essential for governance and reporting purposes, observing a linear decrease towards zero is not the norm in eradication programmes of this nature.

In May 2018 the Government of Ireland mandated the formation of a bTB Stakeholder Forum. This Stakeholder Forum comprised of representatives from across the agrifood sector, leading researchers and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. The Stakeholder Forum was tasked with bringing forward proposals for the Minister's consideration for driving forward the eradication of bTB, while at the same time respecting the principles of the National Farmed Animal Health Strategy which are;

- (i) Working in partnership to improve animal health standards
- (ii) Roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders must be clear
- (iii) Principle of 'prevention is better than cure' must be consistently applied, and
- (iv) animal health programmes will have clear objectives, and will be sustainably and appropriately funded.

The bTB Forum's Chairman presented a report to the Minister in July 2019 containing a selection of proposals which could have a significant impact on the reduction of bTB in the years ahead. It is intended that a strategy will be launched mapping a 10-year plan for bTB taking account of the recommendations of the Forum report.

The cost of the TB eradication scheme has declined relative to 2009 mirroring the substantial reduction in the incidence of the disease over that period. In 2019, the cost of the scheme (excluding staff salary costs) amounted to approx. € [redacted] compared with € [redacted] in 2009. Within this figure, the cost of compensation has fallen over the years from € [redacted] in 2009 to € [redacted] in 2019. Compared to 2018, compensation costs remained static.

Please see attachment for the detailed list of expenditure for the programme excluding staffing costs, "TB Expenditure 2019".

**1.2 Details on the level of achievement of the targets set in the approved programme and technical difficulties.**

All targets were substantially reached, 98.35% of herds were subjected to at least one test during the year and 96.16% of animals; herds that remained untested at year end comprised of herds with no animals during the year, newly established herds and other herds that were tested in the early part of 2020.

The total number of Tuberculin tests carried out was 8,827,682.

The total number of Gamma-interferon tests carried out was 58,212

The total number of Bacteriological Tests carried out was 4,248, 3,453 related to cattle, 795 related to other species.

**1.3 Epidemiological maps for infection and other relevant data on the disease/activities (information on serotypes involved,...) (Please attach files of data using the PDF attachment feature) Use the textbox below to provide clarifications for the maps you attach, if needed.**

See attachment "epi map for final report 2019".

**1.4 Additional epidemiological information (on epidemiological inquiries, abortions, lesions found in abattoir, human cases, etc...)**

(1) Following examination of lesions found in abattoir in 3861 cattle at routine slaughter 1654 were determined infected as a result of laboratory examination.

(2) Following examination of tissues/glands from 330 animals, considered to be positive reactors to a tuberculin test and where herd status was suspended pending completion of laboratory examination, under the singleton procedure as described in the Irish programme, 62 were determined infected as a result of laboratory examination.

(3) Following examination of tissues/glands from 223 animals of unresolved status (inconclusives) 24 were determined infected as a result of laboratory examination.

(4) Following examination of glands from 1,814 animals considered to be positive reactors but where additional laboratory examination was requested for various reasons 604 were determined infected as a result of laboratory examination.

**2. TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION ON RUMINANT DISEASES PROGRAMMES**

VERY IMPORTANT: Please fill out the following tables with figures corresponding to measures performed during the implementing period (1/1 to 31/12).

**Table A - DATA ON HERDS**

Region	Animal species	Total number of herds	Total number of herds under	Number of herds to be checked under the	Number of herds checked	Number of positive herds	Number of new positive herds	Number of herds depopulated
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			the programme	programme this year				
		% of positive herds depopulated	% of herds coverage		% of positive herds Period herd prevalence		% of positive herds Herd incidence	
Ireland	Cattle	111,004	111,004	111,004	109,175	4,380	4,060	23
		0.53 %	98.35 %		4.01 %		3.72 %	
<b>Total</b>		111,004	111,004	111,004	109,175	4,380	4,060	23
		0.53 %	98.35 %		4.01 %		3.72 %	

**Table B - DATA ON ANIMALS**

Region	Animal species	Total number of animals	Number of animals under the programme	Number of animals to be tested under the programme this year	Number of animals tested	Number of animals tested individually	Number of positive animals	Number of animals with positive result slaughtered or culled	Number of animals slaughtered
% coverage at animals level						% positive animals Animal Prevalence			
Ireland	Cattle	7,266,751	7,266,751	7,266,751	6,987,918	6,987,918	17,058	16,852	18,930
		96.16 %				0.24 %			
<b>Total</b>		7,266,751	7,266,751	7,266,751	6,987,918	6,987,918	17,058	16,852	18,930
		96.16 %				0.24 %			

**Table C - DATA ON VACCINATION PROGRAMMES**

Region	Animal species	Total number of herds	Total number of animals	Number of herds in vaccination programme this year	Number of herds vaccinated	Number of animals vaccinated	Number of doses of vaccine administered	Number of adults vaccinated	Number of young animals vaccinated	Number of animals with primary vaccination (initial+ booster)
<b>Total</b>		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

**Table D - DATA ON STATUS OF HERDS AT THE END OF THE PERIOD**

	Region	Animal species	Total number of herds and animals under the programme	Unknown	Not free or not officially free from disease		Free of officially free-disease status suspended/ withdrawn	Free from disease	Officially free from disease
					Last check positive	Last check negative			
<b>herds</b>	Ireland	Cattle	111,104	0	1,312	961	242	0	108,489
<b>animals</b>	"	"	6,363,409	0	190,372	119,139	30,827	0	6,023,071
<b>Total - herds</b>			111,104	0	1,312	961	242	0	108,489
<b>Total - animals</b>			6,363,409	0	190,372	119,139	30,827	0	6,023,071

**Table E - SUSPENSION/WITHDRAWAL OF THE FREE OR OFFICIALLY FREE STATUS**

Region	Animal species	Status	Reason	Number of herds
Ireland	Cattle	Suspended	Entering animals in the herd with insufficient status	7
Ireland	Cattle	Withdrawn	Entering animals in the herd with insufficient status	18
Ireland	Cattle	Suspended	Does not fulfil the routine testing frequency	11,273
Ireland	Cattle	Withdrawn	Does not fulfil the routine testing frequency	1
Ireland	Cattle	Suspended	Non-negative result in diagnostic test	2,722
Ireland	Cattle	Withdrawn	Non-negative result in diagnostic test	3,952
Ireland	Cattle	Suspended	The disease is suspected	5,468
Ireland	Cattle	Withdrawn	The disease is suspected	15
Ireland	Cattle	Suspended	other risk based	5,826
Ireland	Cattle	Withdrawn	other risk based	1
<b>Total</b>				29,283

**Table F - STRATIFIED DATA ON SURVEILLANCE AND LABORATORY TESTS**

Region	Animal species	Test type	Number of samples	Number of tests	Number of positive tests
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Ireland	Cattle	Tuberculin test	8,827,682	8,827,682	14,320
Ireland	Cattle	Gamma-interferon test	58,212	58,212	10,219
Ireland	Cattle	Bacteriological test	3,453	3,453	495
<b>Total</b>			8,889,347	8,889,347	25,034
			<b>Methods of laboratory analysis</b>	<b>Total number of tests</b>	
			<b>Total - Bacteriological test</b>	3,453	
			<b>Total - Gamma-interferon test</b>	58,212	
			<b>Total - Tuberculin test</b>	8,827,682	

## COMMENT / ADDITIONAL CLARIFICATION

1.9.1 SANTE Data Collection Platform - PRODUCTION • Contact us at [SANTE-XMLGATE3@ec.europa.eu](mailto:SANTE-XMLGATE3@ec.europa.eu)