



**defra**  
Department for Environment  
Food and Rural Affairs

# United Kingdom: results of the implementation of the Northern Ireland bovine brucellosis eradication programme in 2015

**AHW-CIC SCoPAFF**  
**13-14 September 2016**



Department of  
**Agriculture, Environment  
and Rural Affairs**

[www.daera-ni.gov.uk](http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk)

# Programme Results 2015 - NI (UK) Compliance with Directive Requirements

**In accordance with Council Directive 64/432/EEC**

- Absence of vaccination – vaccination prohibited since 1963

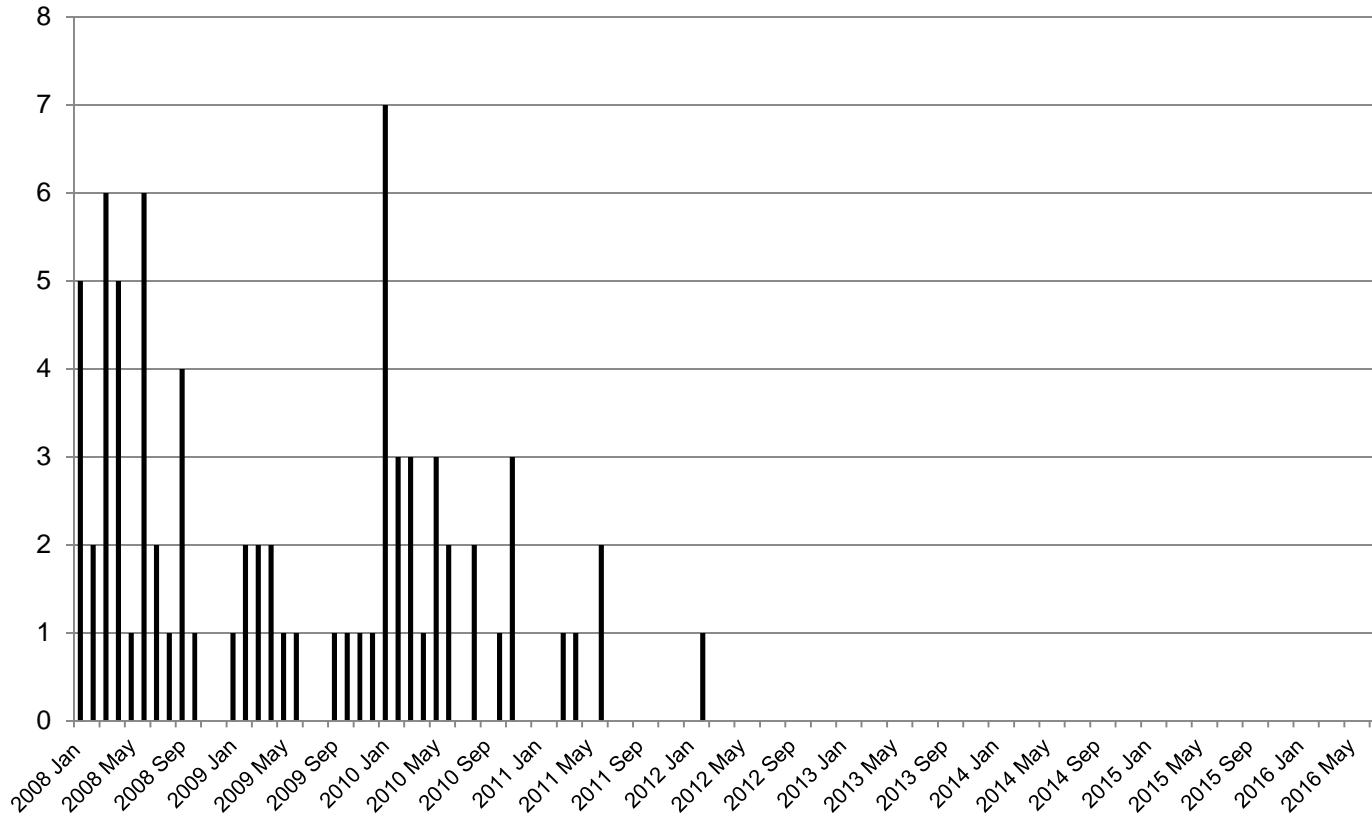
## **Compliance with these criteria in Northern Ireland (UK)**

- There have been no cases of abortion due to *Brucella* and no isolation of *Brucella abortus* in Northern Ireland (UK) from samples taken since the February 2012 case to date.
- At least 99.8% of herds have achieved officially brucellosis-free (OBF) status each year consecutively since 2009.

***Thus the requirements as set out were met and NI (UK) applied for OBF status on 05 March 2015.***

***OBF status granted and published in OJEU 06 October 2015.***

# Confirmed BR breakdowns by month from 2008



No confirmed cases of infection since February 2012.

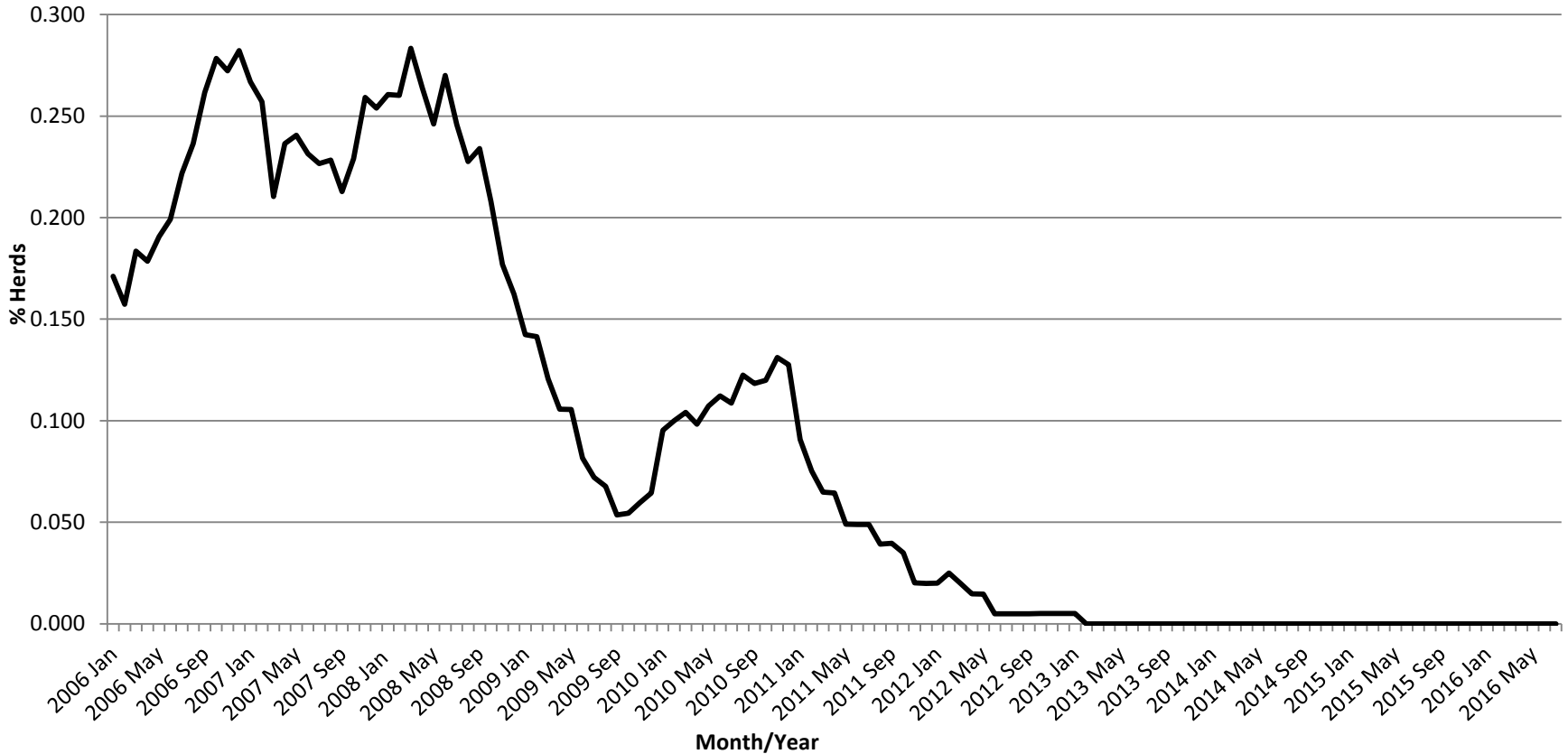


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# Confirmed herd incidence of *Brucella abortus*: UK (NI)

BR annual herd incidence where infection confirmed by culture:  
December 2005 to July 2016



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# Programme implementation changes following award of OBF status October 2015

## Testing

- Increase in the age of testing at routine tests from 12 to 24 months
- Decrease in herd serological test frequency
- Pre-movement and pre-export brucellosis testing abolished
- Bulk Milk ELISA testing continues for all dairy herds
- Abattoir surveillance and abortions follow up continues.

## Communications/ use of experts

- Continue to highlight the importance of biosecurity and abortions reporting (farming press, continued staff training)
  - Expect a small number of false positives to result from testing; these results to be followed up fully by veterinarians, using risk assessments and expert advice.
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# Validation and outcome of UK programme

The brucellosis programme has benefited from the co-financing received from the Commission: PAFF (ScoFCAH) received updates on the current NI programme in May 2013, June 2014 and September 2015.

The programme has also been endorsed by two visits to NI, in 2008 and 2011, by EU Task Force national experts on brucellosis. Their reports were complimentary and their recommendations were fully followed up.

The overall outcome has been successful progress to eradication.

***NI (UK) is grateful to the Commission and colleagues from other Member States for their assistance in helping us to reach our goal of freedom from bovine Brucellosis.***