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Bovine TB Eradication in Ireland: Programme Overview & 2019 results

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Agenda item A.02 PAFF

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TB Eradication Programme in Ireland

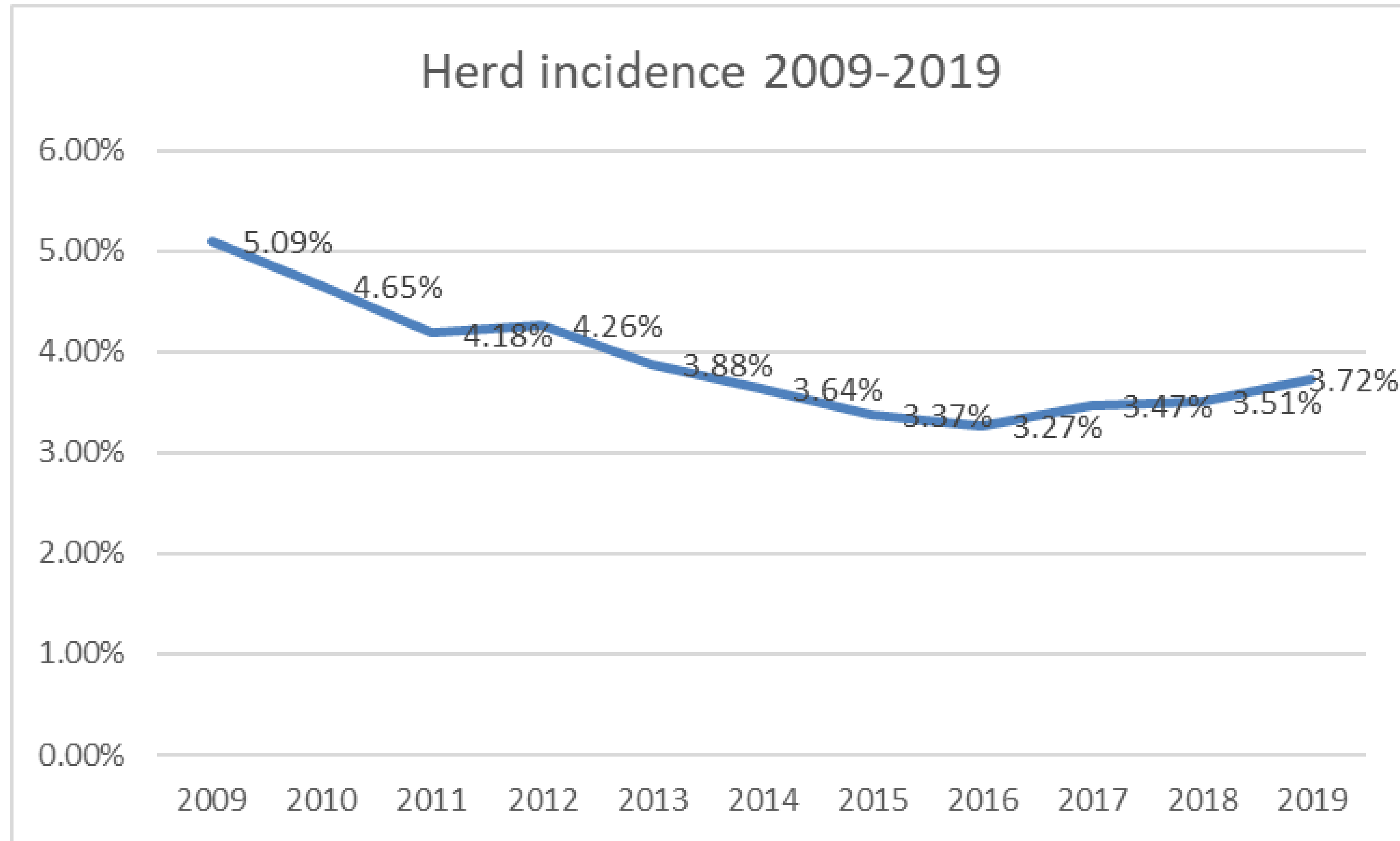


Progress is stalling after years of disease levels reducing

Stakeholders TB Forum recommended additional disease control policies which have informed the development of a renewed TB strategy

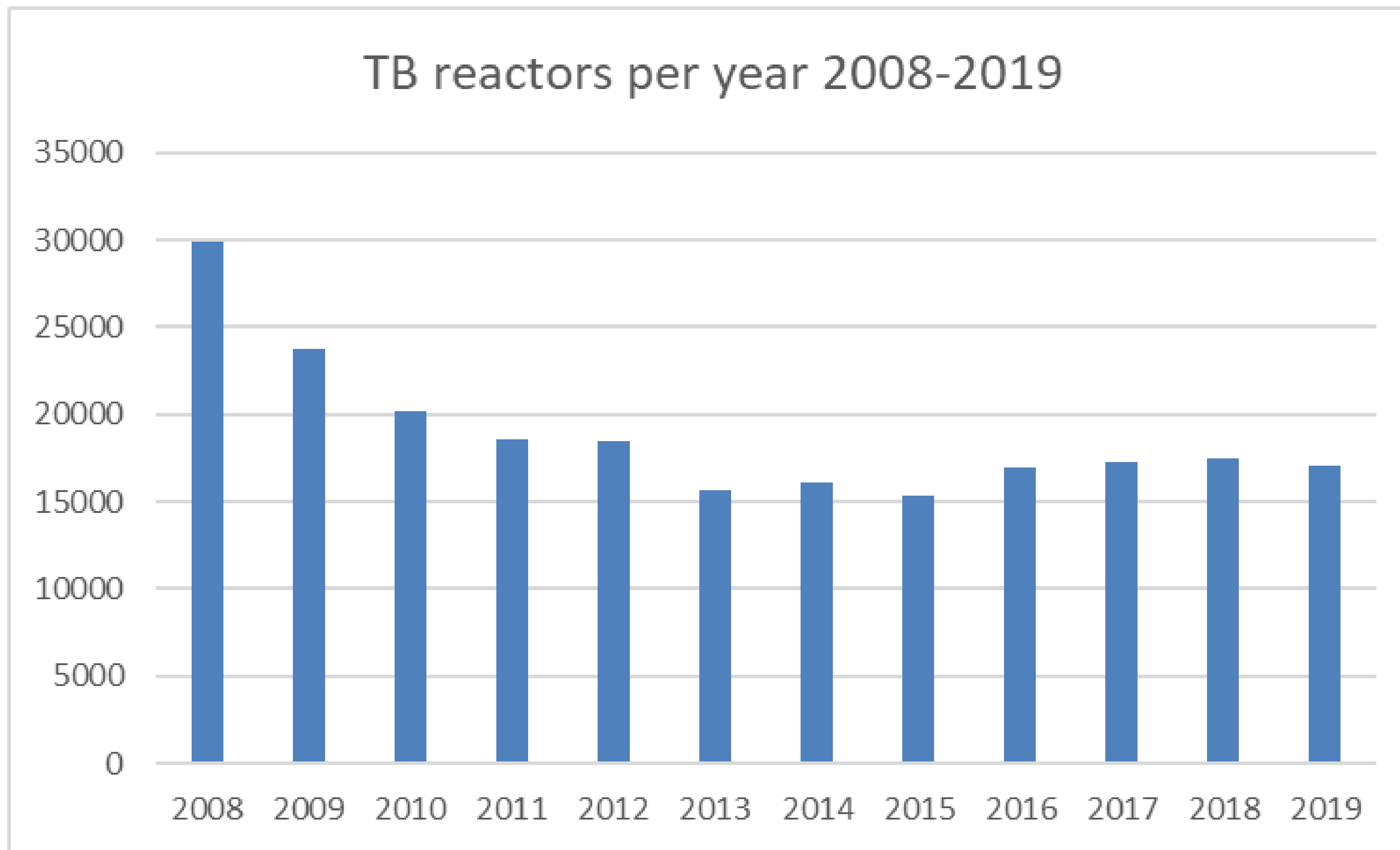
A range of new, additional, risk-based measures are coming into effect in 2020



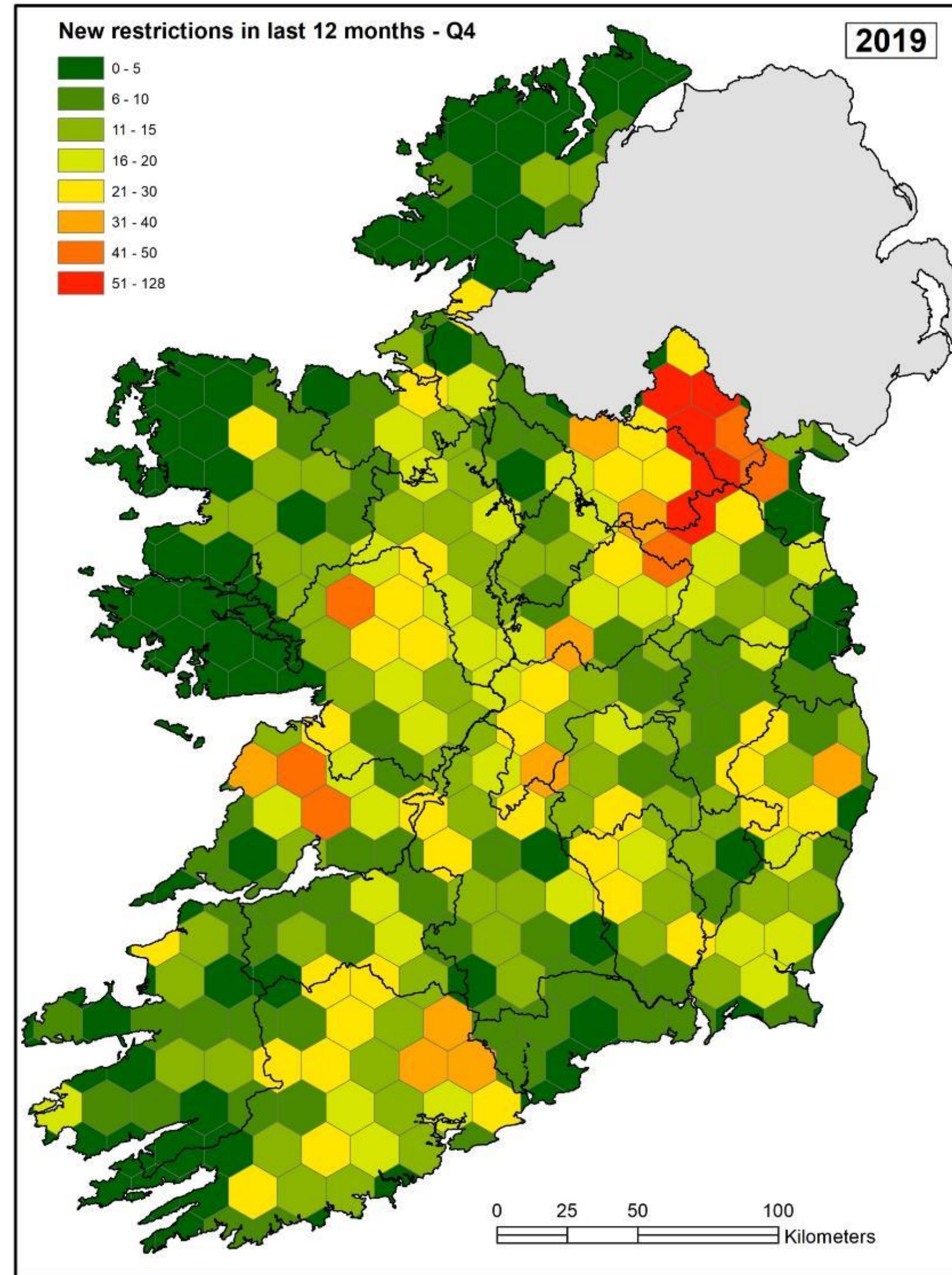


2019 TB programme results:

Herd incidence 3.72%; herd prevalence 4.01% (rolling five year herd prev 3.74%)



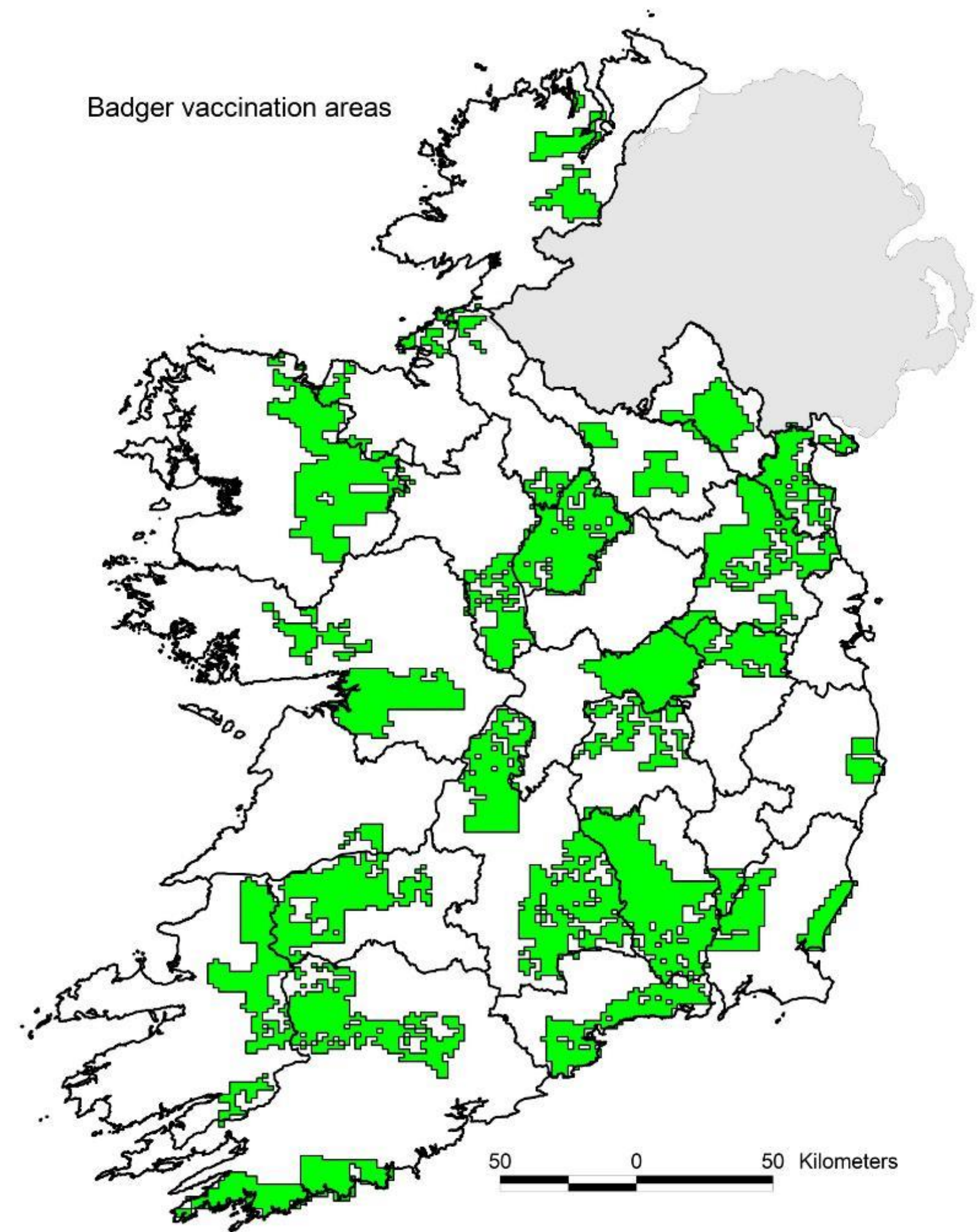
- Decrease from c.30,000 in 2008 to 17,058 in 2019
- 2019: c6.9m cattle; c8.8m tuberculin tests; c60,000 gamma interferon blood tests



Count of TB breakdowns herds during 2019

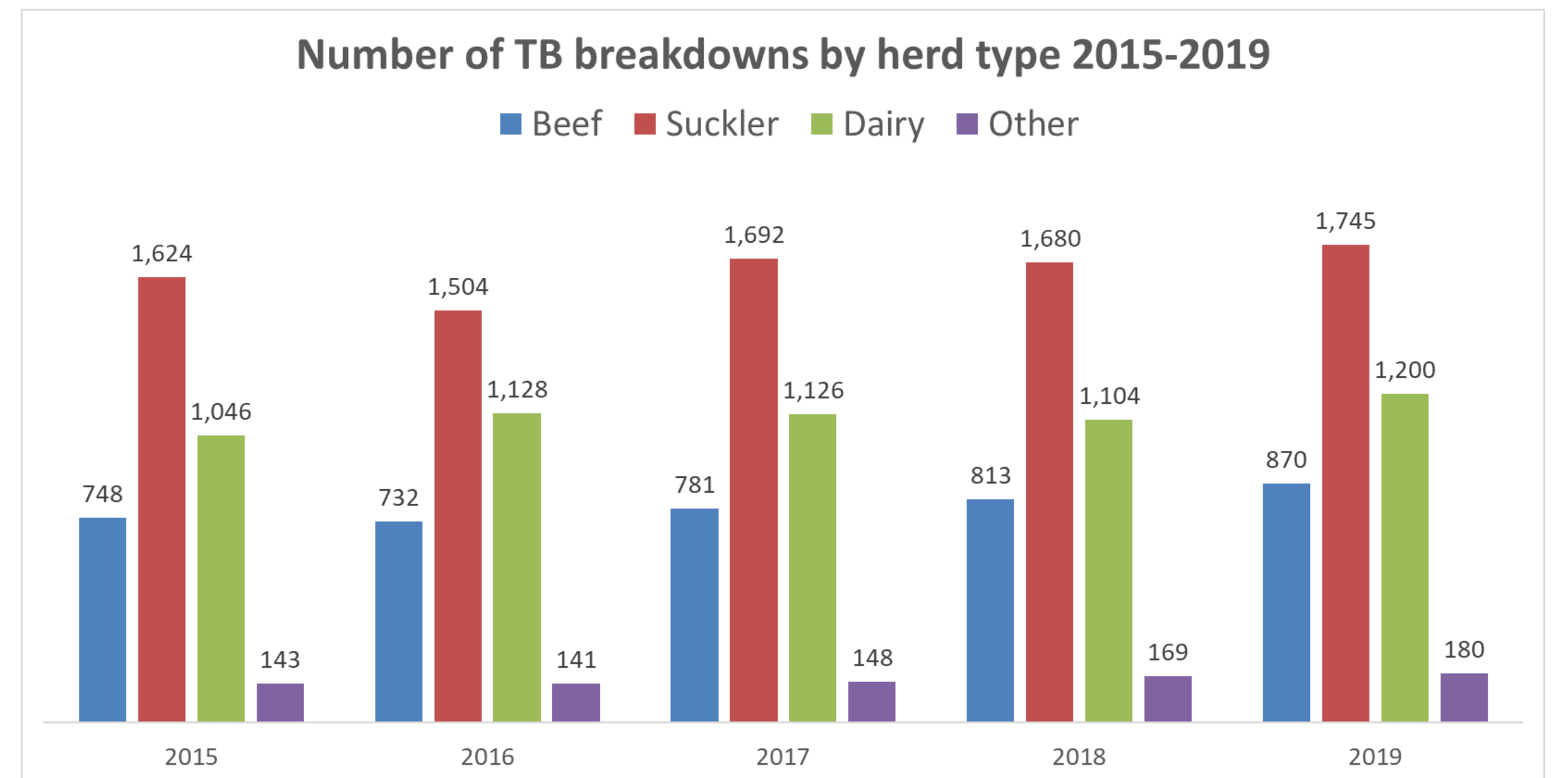
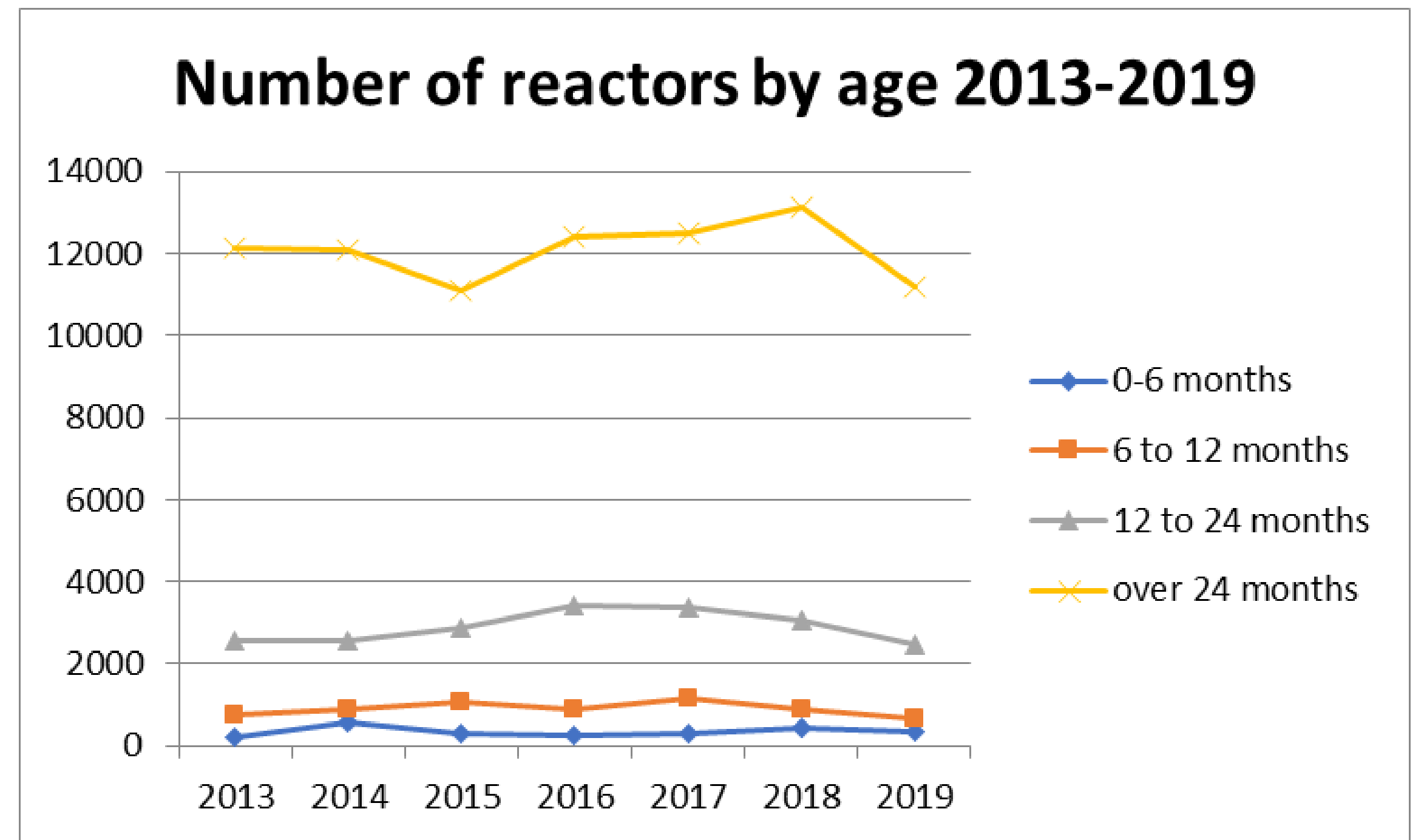
Wildlife Programme

- Badgers: cattle TB can prompt a removal programme locally if epi link
- Areas of badger vaccination expanded during 2019 (green areas on map, 17,700 km²)
- Badger removal will still take place if necessary, where severe cattle outbreaks occur and the evidence implicates badgers
- Wildlife TB risk control is critical to stop spillover into cattle population



Challenges

- Research shows risk is greater in dairy and large herds
- Rapid expansion of dairy industry in Ireland
- Increasing bovine density – less herds, more cattle
- Stakeholder buy-in essential for new measures



What is next for 2020?

- Renewed TB Eradication Strategy to be launched, informed by the recommendations of the TB Stakeholders Forum
- Risk-based additional measures
- New policies on inconclusives, chronic herds, recurrent herds, biosecurity
- Action plans for high incidence areas
- Independent reports commissioned on costs & benefits of programme and valuation of reactors for compensation
- Monitor and evaluate effectiveness, revise policy accordingly



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Bovine TB Stakeholder Forum



Thank you – any questions?

