



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine

Bovine TB Eradication in Ireland:

Programme Overview & 2018 results

Eoin Ryan

24th September 2019

TB Eradication Scheme



Find the Disease

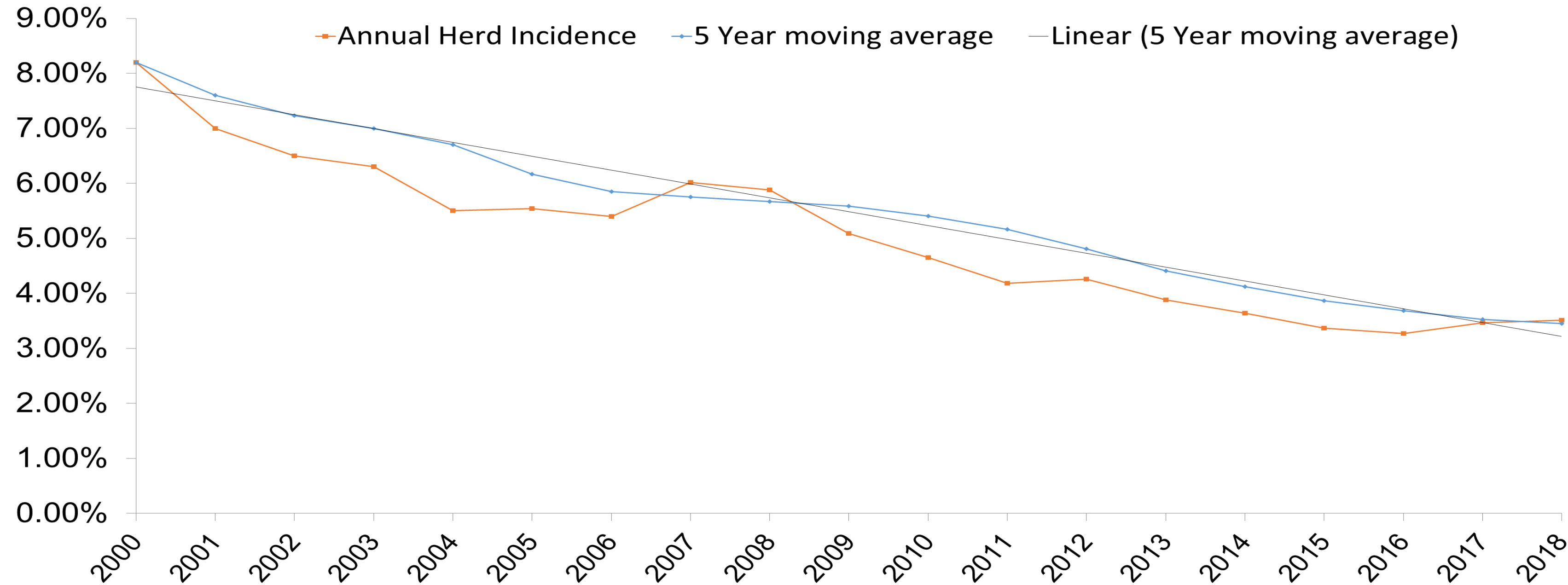
Deduce Source

Confine the Disease

Remove Diseased Animals

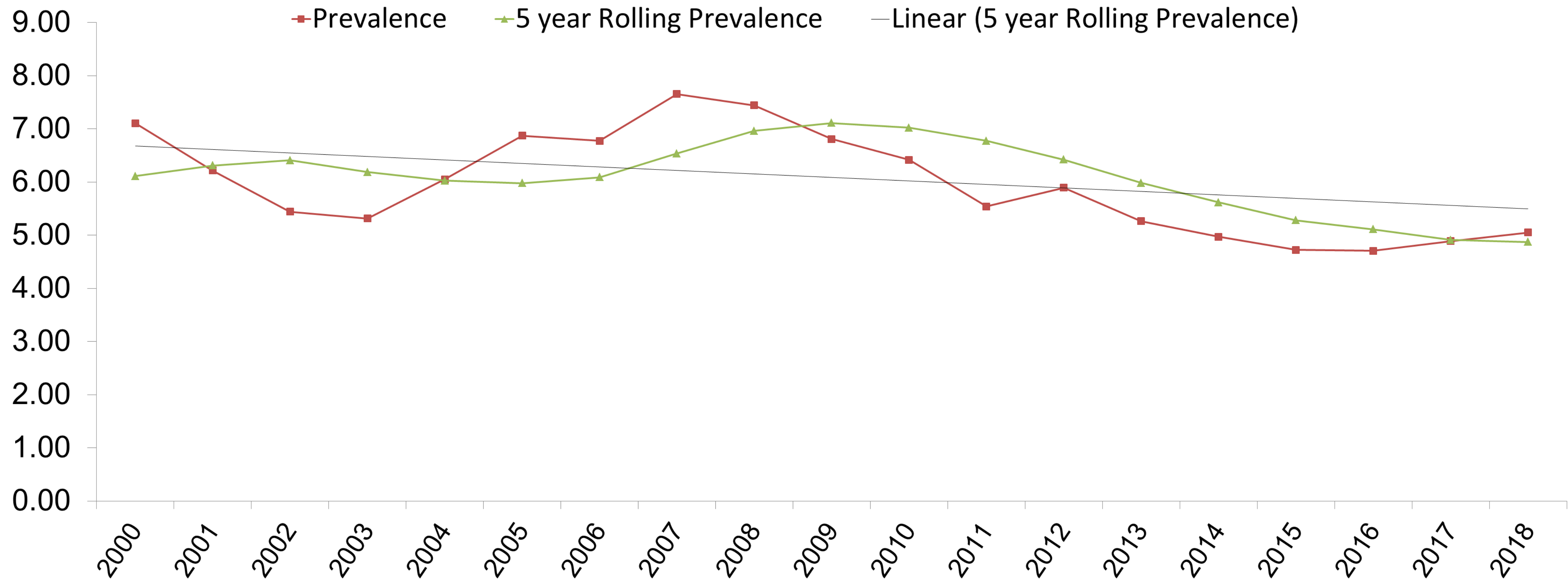


Herd Incidence: downwards trend

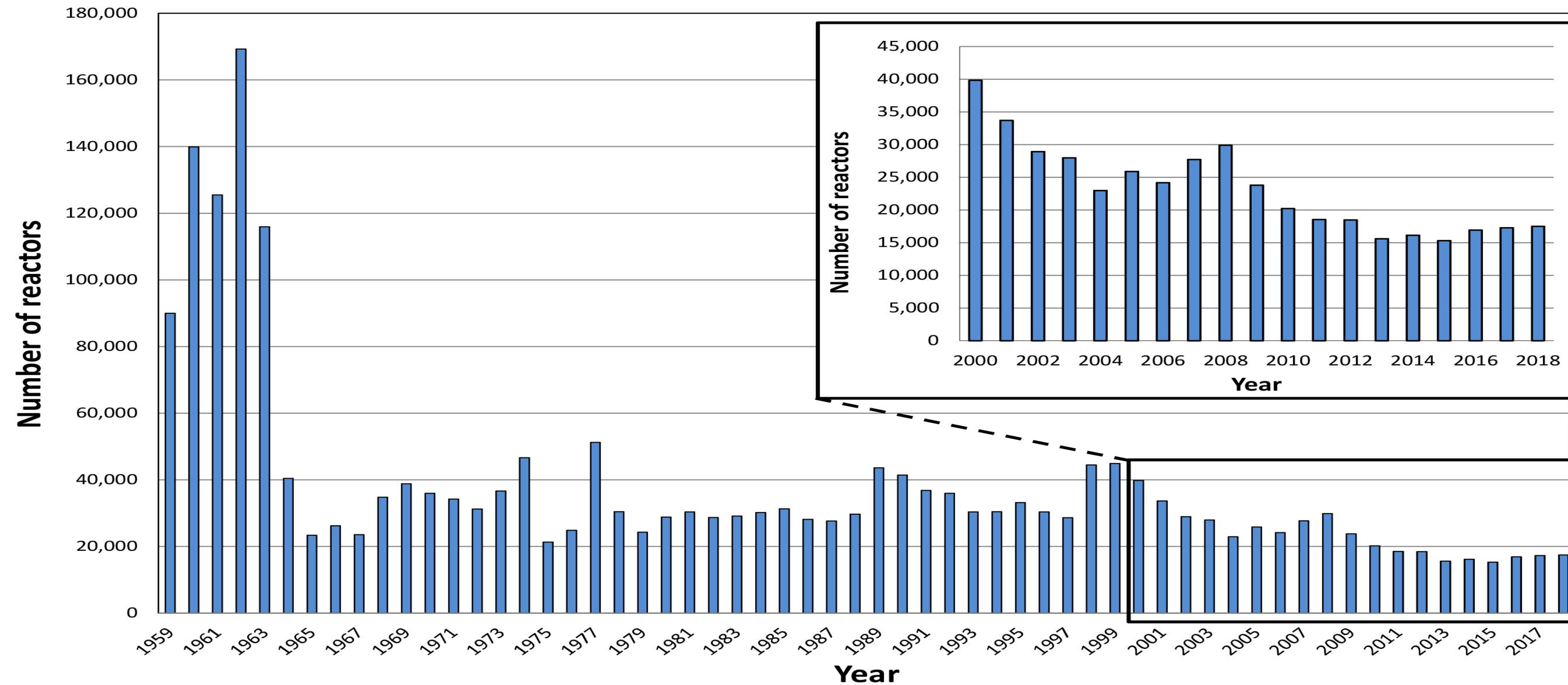


Decline from 5.88% in 2008 to 3.51% in 2018
2017: 3.47%

Herd Prevalence

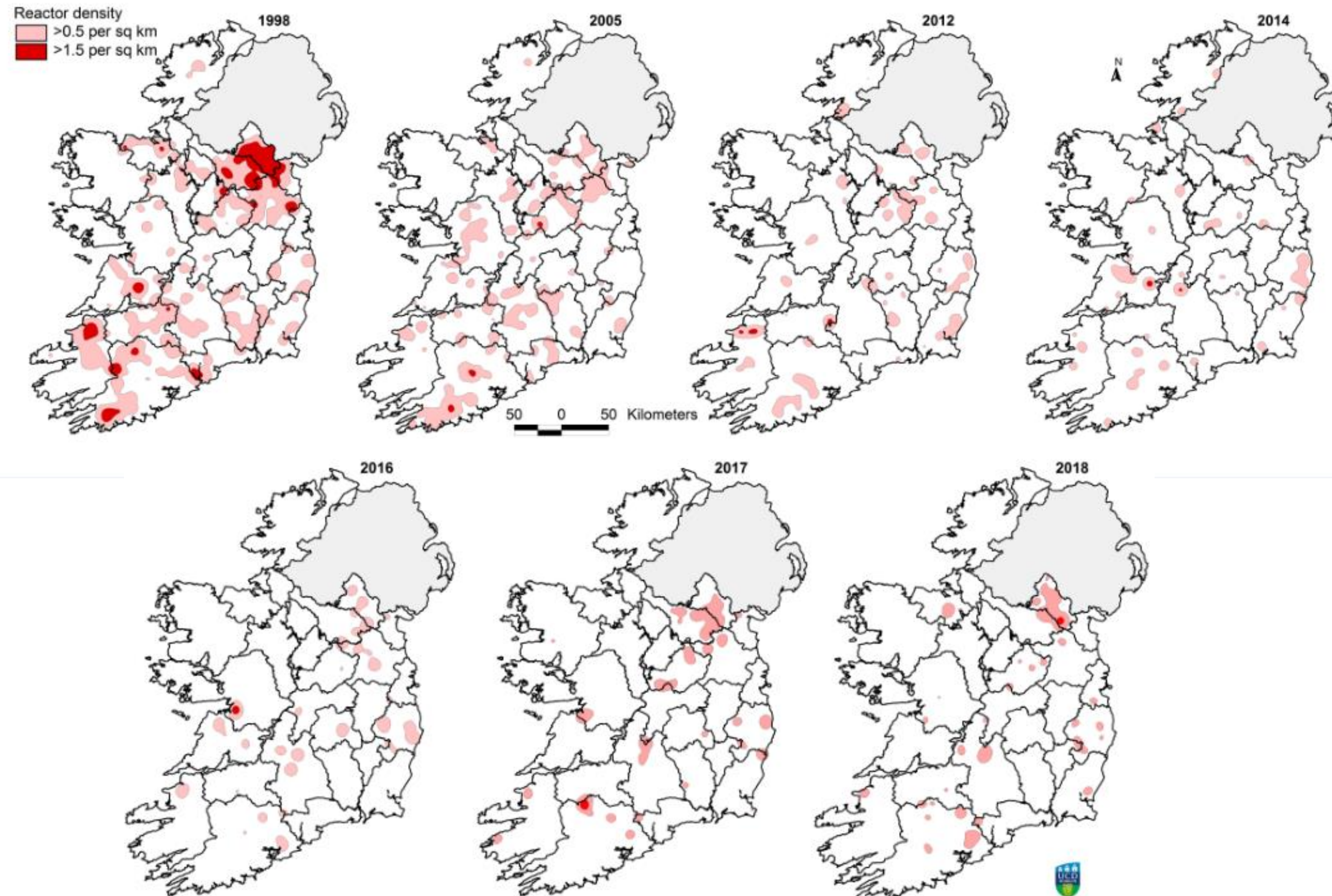


The number of reactors per year has decreased significantly



- Decrease from c.30,000 in 2008 to 17,491 in 2018
- Increase of 225 on 2017 figure, attributed to increased gamma interferon testing
- 2018: 6.9m cattle; 8.8m tuberculin tests; 50,000 gamma interferon tests

TB test reactor density has decreased



Wildlife Programme

- Badgers: cattle TB can prompt a removal programme locally if epi link
- Policy of badger vaccination now in place since 2018
- Badger removal will still take place if necessary, where severe cattle outbreaks occur and the evidence implicates badgers
- Wildlife control is critical to stop spillover into cattle population

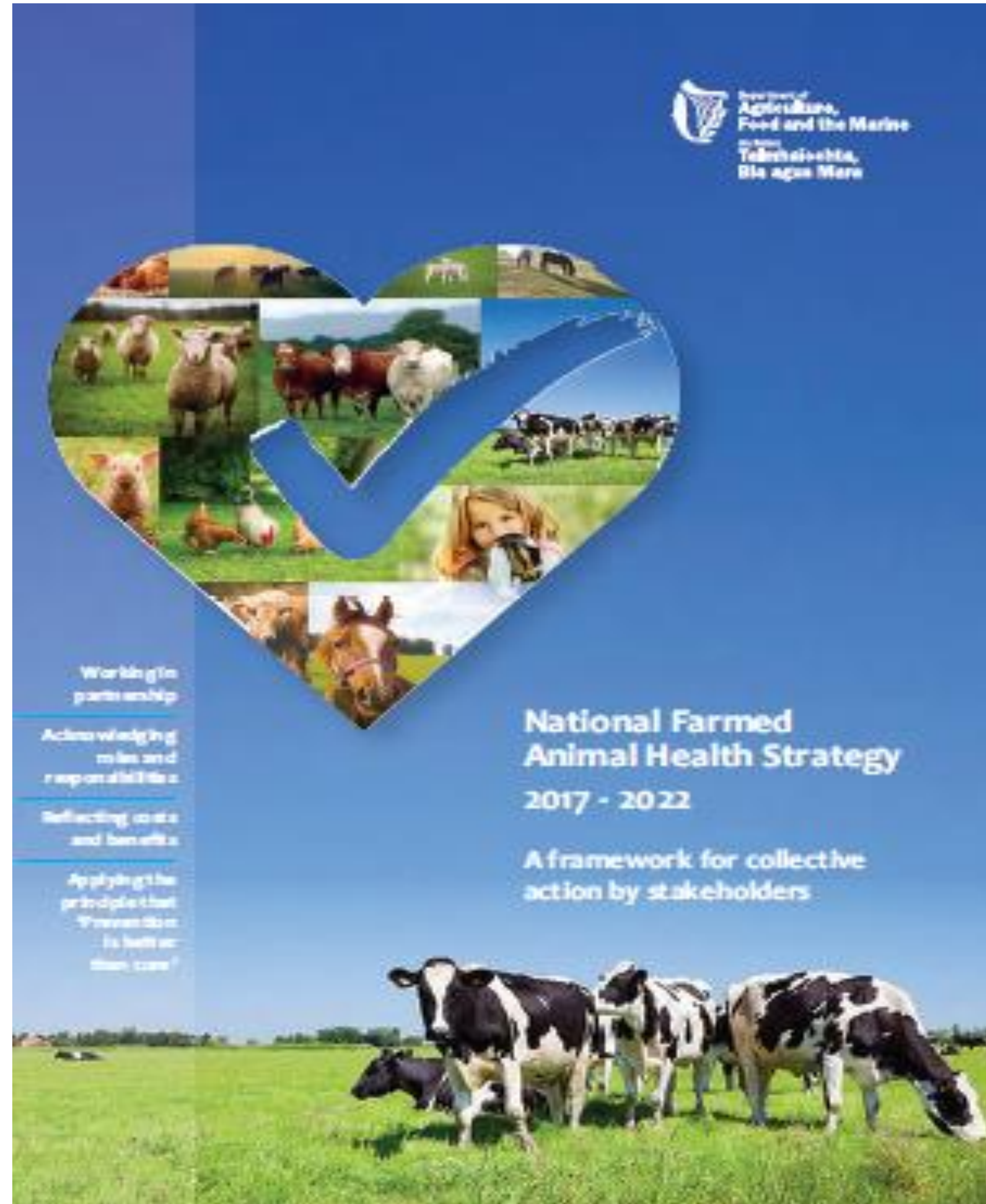


Things are changing

- Stakeholders TB Forum has secured general agreement from stakeholders on new TB policies
- Agreement to continue with 6-monthly Forum meetings
- Opportunity to renew the TB eradication programme, improve effectiveness and drive disease down for the 2030 target

TB Forum

- Government decision May 2018
- 3 consultation papers
- 7 meetings of Forum
- 5 bilateral meetings with farm bodies
- Final agreement at June 25th 2019 meeting





TB Forum recommendations: Governance

1. Regular 6-monthly meetings
2. Public meetings in areas with higher levels of bTB
3. Each regional office to host an annual bTB meeting with local farming representatives



TB Forum recommendations:

Disease policies (in addition to existing programme)

4. Enhanced biosecurity advice
5. Single DAFM point of contact within regional offices for liaising with farmers in bTB breakdowns
6. Action plans for areas with higher levels of bTB
7. Additional resources into addressing disease transmission from wildlife (incl. deer and further research in the area)

TB Forum recommendations:

Disease policies

8. Enhanced support to approx. 300-500 herds at higher risk of recurrence
9. Simplified Herd Risk Categorisation
e.g. Old: FDO New: C 4
10. Increase actions to reduce the risk from animals which test inconclusive

TB Forum recommendations:

Costs and benefits:

11. Proposals to commission reports into:
 - I. Effectiveness of On Farm Market Valuation Scheme
 - II. Cost Benefit Analysis of TB Programme to inform financing

What is next?

- Minister to launch renewed TB Eradication Strategy
- Develop Action Plan
- TB Stakeholder Forum to reconvene in Q4 2019
- Commission reports
- Monitor and evaluate effectiveness, revise policy accordingly



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine

Bovine TB Stakeholder Forum



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

Window of Opportunity

- Regain momentum
- Costs
- Maintaining a focus on disease
- Communications
- DAFM Resources
 1. Enhanced support
 2. Wildlife
 3. Maximising operational effectiveness



Thank you – any questions?

