Animal Health Ireland

Animal information systems that raise dairy farm profitability by improving herd and animal health

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ICAR 2012
Presentation outline

1. Background to AHI
2. Animal health and profitability
3. Harnessing the ICBF database
4. Some reflections
Animal Health Ireland

1. Background to AHI
Some basic facts

- Official launch, January 2009
- Incorporation as Company, May 2009
- Not for profit
- Budget ~ €1 million / annum
- Public-private partnership (50:50)
- 7 Directors; 6 staff; 32 members
Stakeholder map

- Irish Cattle and Sheep Farmers’ Association (ICSA)
- Irish Charolais Cattle Society
- Irish Co-Operative Organisation Society (ICOS)
- Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers’ Association (ICMSA)
- Irish Farmers’ Association (IFA)
- Irish Holstein Friesian Association
- Macra na Feirme
- Pedigree Cattle Breeders’ Council of Ireland

- AIB Ireland
- Arrabawn Co-op
- Carbery Group
- Connacht Gold
- Dairygold
- Dawn Meats
- Glanbia
- Kepak Group
- Kerry Agribusiness
- Lakeland Dairies
- Tipperary Co-op
- Town of Monaghan Co-op
- Wexford Milk Producers

- Cork Marts
- DAFM - Veterinary Lab Services
- ICBF
- UCD
- Veterinary Ireland

- Bord Bia
- Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
- Teagasc
Remit

“...AHI is mandated to pursue effective control strategies for the important non-regulated diseases of livestock.”
Mission  
(2012-2014 Strategy)

“Through superior animal health, to enhance value for cattle farmers and the agri-food industry.”
Human Resources
The AHI programme development process

- **RESEARCH**: Technical and Scientific practitioners review latest studies on current and upcoming animal health issues(s).
- **DELIBERATE**: Government and commercial sectors consider best science as presented.
- **AGREE NATIONAL POSITION**: Facilitate discussion with all relevant stakeholders.
- **AGREE PLAN OF ACTION**: Course of action agreed by AHI stakeholders: programme design and delivery or revisit research.
- **DEPLOY**: Ensure rollout of programme meets agreed goals.
- **REVIEW**: Monitor and report.

AHI - Animal Health Ireland
A menu of options

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Diseases/Issues</th>
<th>Rank Order</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Delphi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Infertility</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Udder health/milk quality</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BVD</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lameness</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diseases of young calves</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weanling pneumonia</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johne’s disease</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parasitic diseases</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>IBR</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Salmonellosis</td>
<td></td>
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Table 1: Outputs of Delphi Study 2010
Strategic priorities (2012-14)

Priority work programmes

- BVD
- CellCheck (SCC)
- Johne’s disease
- IBR
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2. Animal health and profitability
# Economics of BVD eradication

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Suckler</th>
<th>Dairy</th>
<th>Beef</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Losses €m</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>102</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eradication costs €m</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefit:cost</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payback period (Years)</td>
<td>1.15</td>
<td>0.42</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.53</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Table 3: Summary of estimated losses (€m); benefit: cost and payback periods
Economics of SCC control

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCC cells/ml</th>
<th>Net farm profit, €</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;100,000 cells/ml</td>
<td>31,252</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100,001-200,000 cells/ml</td>
<td>26,771</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200,001-300,000 cells/ml</td>
<td>19,661</td>
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<tr>
<td>300,001-400,000 cells/ml</td>
<td>16,936</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;400,000 cells/ml</td>
<td>11,748</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4: The inverse relationship between net farm profit and SCC
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3. Harnessing the ICBF database (The BVD programme)
BVD Eradication Programme - Flowchart

1. Order tissue sample tags
2. Tag calves and submit ear punch to lab
3. Results
4. ICBF database (Vet) Farmer
5. Positive
6. Testing to remove further PIs
7. Negative
8. Mart boards Sale declarations

Years 1-3
BVD Eradication Programme - Flowchart

Herds
9,465
Dairy : Beef
57% : 43%

Positive animals
2,236 (0.6%)
Herd prevalence
13.7%

Order tissue sample tags
Tag calves and submit ear punch to lab
ICBF database (Vet) Farmer
Results
Positive
Negative

Testing to remove further PIs
Mart boards Sale declarations

Years 1-3

Tags ordered
563,914
Samples tested
373,579
Negative
369,690
BVD eradication programme - dataflows
BVD eradication Programme – ICBF role (1)

- Receipt of standardised laboratory test data
- Integration of test data with AIM data
- Issuing of text (SMS) message for all results
- Issuing of standard letters (positive, inconclusive, ‘no tissue’ results)
- Export of test data to marts via AHCS (DAFM system) for display
BVD eradication Programme – ICBF role (2)

- Weekly updates to Implementation Group
- Forward/backward tracing and notification
- Detailed programme evaluation data
- Individual herd reports
- Test lists for vets
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4. Reflections
ICBF / AHI partnership

- Extensive database (90% of breeding animals)
- Proven track record – trusted by industry
- Flexible, adaptive
- Cost-effective (use of existing resources)
ICBF / AHI partnership

- Convergence of sciences / technologies
- Synergy of organisational objectives
- Shared values - ‘Industry Good’ ethos