



Animal Health Ireland

Animal information systems that raise
Beef 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

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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



Remit

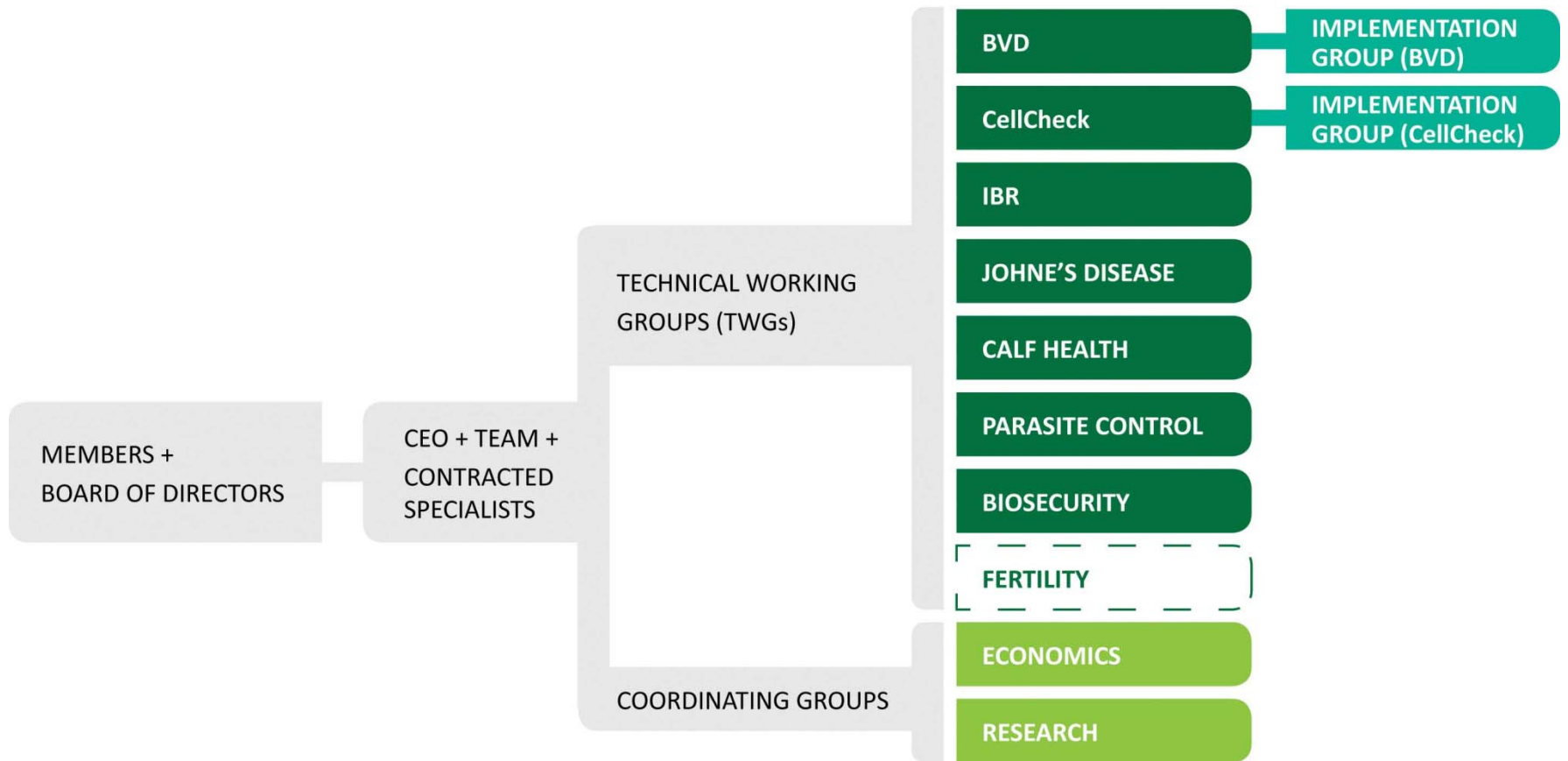
“...AHI is mandated to pursue effective control strategies for the important non-regulated diseases of livestock.”

Mission (2012-2014 Strategy)

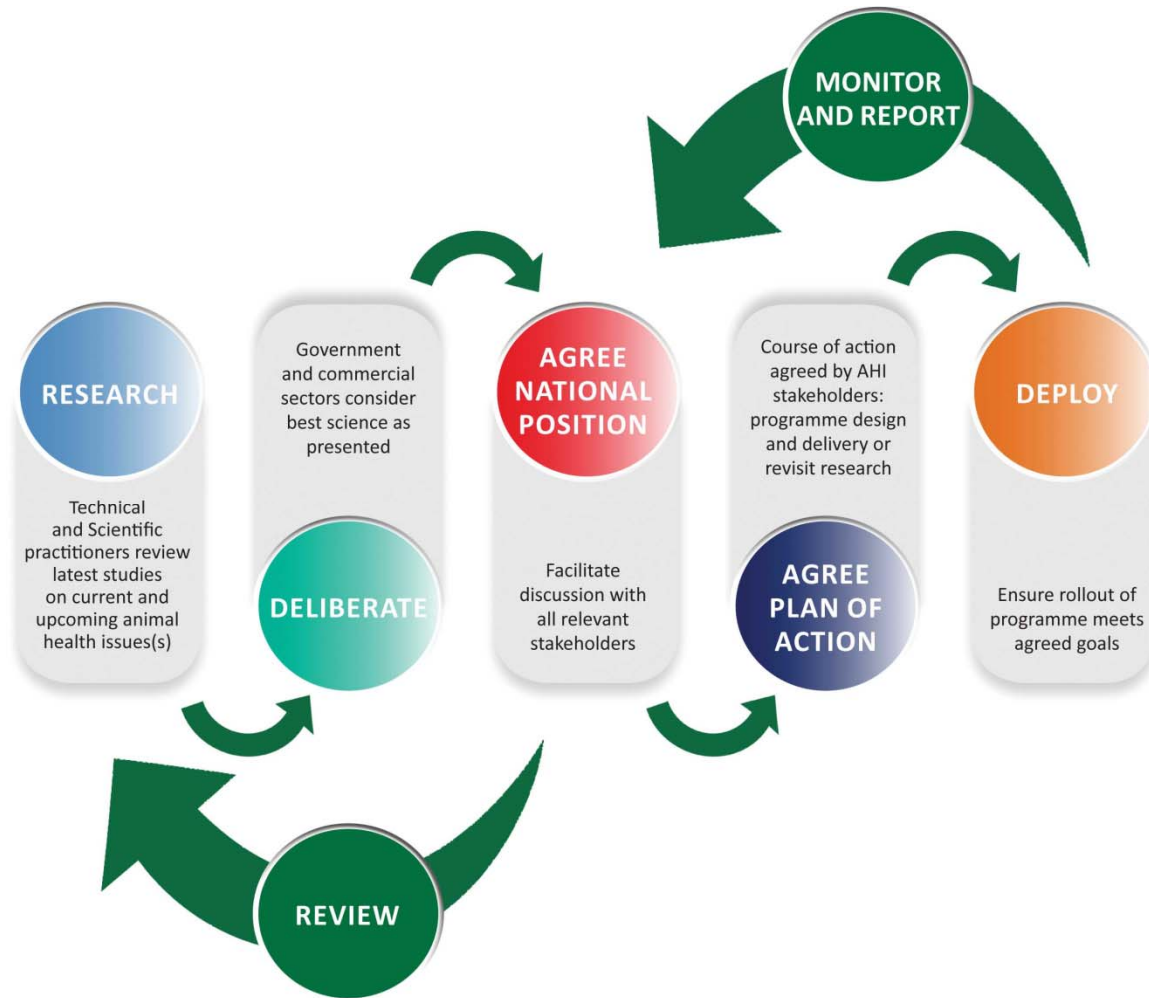
“Through superior animal health, to enhance value for cattle farmers and the agri-food industry.”



Human Resources



The AHI programme development process



A menu of options

Diseases/Issues	Rank Order		
	Delphi	ICBF Dairy	ICBF Beef
Infertility	1	1	4
Udder health/milk quality	2	4	
BVD	3	2	1
Lameness	4	5	
Diseases of young calves	5	3	2
Weanling pneumonia	6		3
Johne's disease	7		
Parasitic diseases			5
IBR		6	6
Salmonellosis		7	7

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

	Suckler	Dairy	Beef	Total
Losses €m	27	55	20	102
Eradication costs €m	6	4	-	10
Benefit:cost	5	14	-	10
Payback period (Years)	1.15	0.42	-	0.53

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

Economics of SCC control

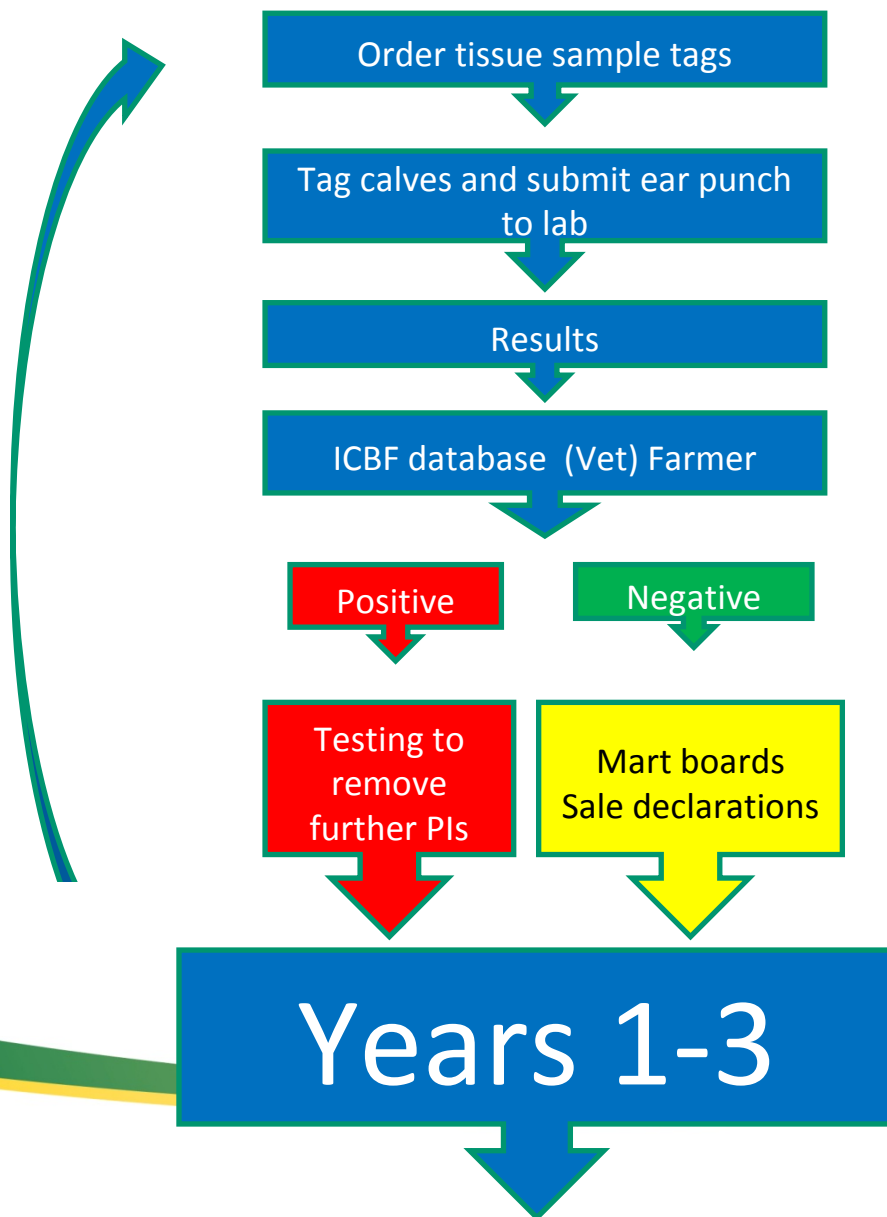
SCC cells/ml	<100,000 cells/ml	100,001-200,000 cells/ml	200,001-300,000 cells/ml	300,001-400,000 cells/ml	>400,000 cells/ml
Net farm profit, €	31,252	26,771	19,661	16,936	11,748

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



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

Results

ICBF database (Vet) Farmer

Positive

Negative

Testing to remove further PIs

Mart boards
Sale declarations

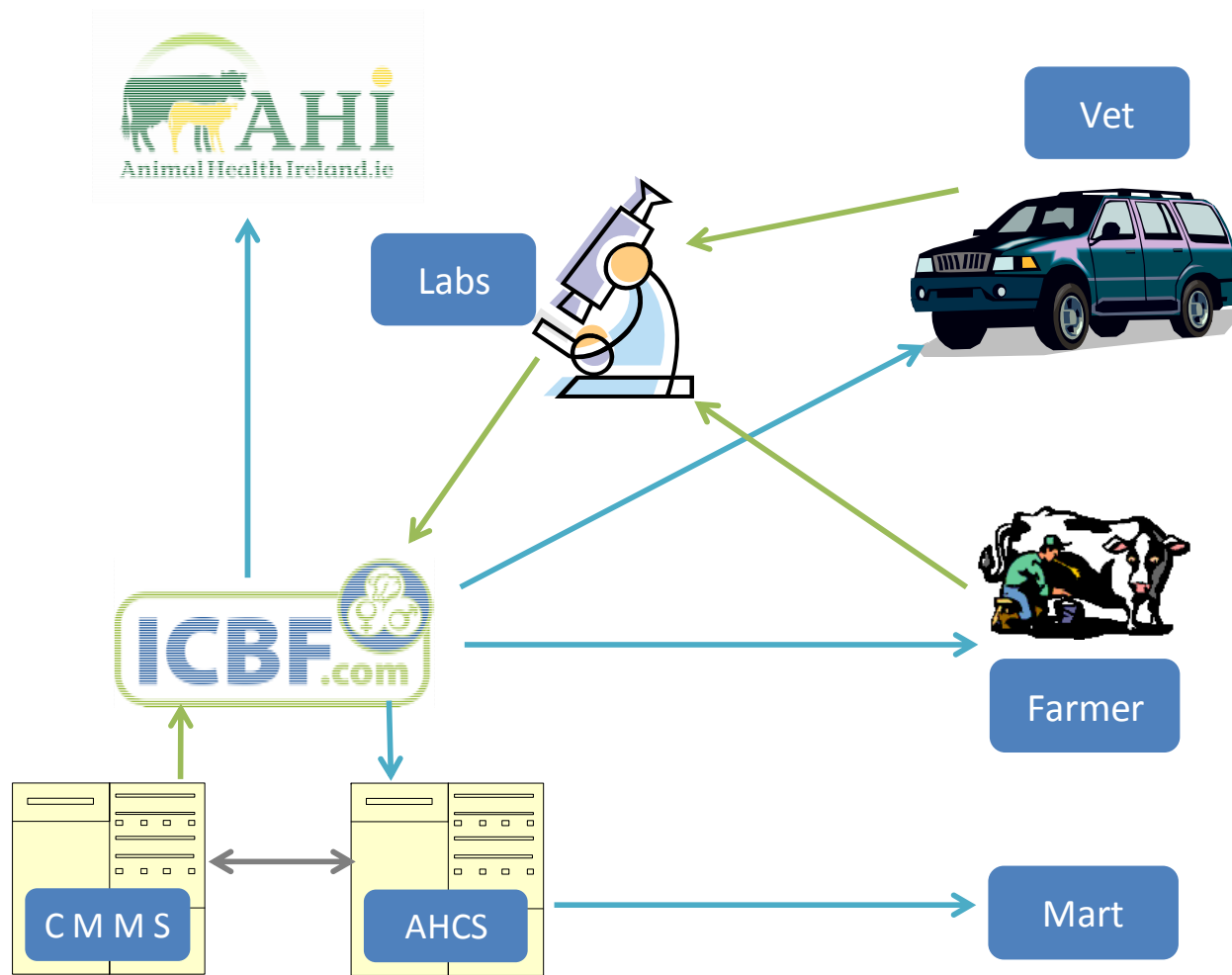
Tags ordered
563,914

Samples tested
373,579

Negative
369,690

Years 1-3

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

