



09

animal health / welfare

### NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

The Diseases of Animals Act, 1966 provides the basic legislation for the control and eradication of animal diseases. The following diseases, if suspected or confirmed, must be notified to the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in accordance with the Act or the Bovine TB and Brucellosis orders.

#### GENERAL

Anthrax, Bluetongue, Brucellosis in ruminating animals and swine, Campylobacteriosis, Caseous Lymphadenitis, Contagious Agalactia, Foot and Mouth Disease, Johne's Disease, Peste des Petits Ruminants, Pulmonary Adenomatosis, Rabies, Rift Valley Fever, Salmonellosis (caused by or involving *Salmonella* Enteritidis or *Salmonella* Typhimurium, Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (other than BSE/Scrapie), Tuberculosis in ruminating animals.

#### CATTLE

Bovine Brucellosis, Bovine Tuberculosis, Bovine Leukosis, BSE, Cattle Plague (Rinderpest), Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia, Lumpy Skin Disease, Warble Fly.

#### PIGS

African Swine Fever, Aujeszky's Disease, Classical Swine Fever, Porcine Epidemic Diarrhoea, Porcine Corona Virus, Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome, Swine Influenza, Swine Vesicular Disease, Porcine Enterovirus Encephalomyelitis (Teschen Disease), Transmissible Gastroenteritis, Vesicular Stomatitis.

#### SHEEP

Enzootic Abortion of Ewes, Maedi Visna, Scrapie, Sheep Pox, Sheep Scab.

#### POULTRY

Arizona Disease, Avian Influenza (Low Pathogenic and Highly Pathogenic) Fowl Pest (other than Avian Influenza and Newcastle Disease), Infectious Laryngo-Tracheitis, Mycoplasmosis (caused by or involving *Mycoplasma Gallisepticum*, *Mycoplasma Meleagridis* or *Mycoplasma Synovia*), Newcastle disease, Psittacosis, *Salmonella gallinarum* and *pullorum*, Turkey Rhinotracheitis, diseases caused by or involving *Yersinia* spp.

#### HORSES AND OTHER EQUINES

African Horse Sickness, Contagious Equine Metritis, Dourine, Epizootic Lymphangitis, Equine Infectious Anaemia, Equine Viral Arteritis, Glanders (farcy), Equine Encephalomyelitis, Hendra virus, Piroplasmosis, Surra, West Nile Virus.

## GOATS

Caprine Viral Arthritis-Encephalitis, Goat Pox.

## DEER

Epizootic Haemorrhagic Disease.

## BEEES

Small Hive Beetle, Tropilaelaps Mite, American Foul Brood Disease, European Foul Brood Disease

## TB AND BRUCELLOSIS ERADICATION SCHEMES

The control and ultimate eradication of Bovine Tuberculosis and Brucellosis is essential for the well-being and future development of our livestock production for both export and domestic markets.

### EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS

The main aspects of the TB and Brucellosis Diseases Eradication Schemes are as follows:

- annual testing (the “Round” test) of the national herd for bovine TB and designated herds in the case of Brucellosis;
- follow-up and focused strategic additional testing, including use of blood testing in certain circumstances;
- rapid removal of reactors to meat factories paid for by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food;
- a range of compensation measures for farmers whose herds are effected by disease;
- detailed epidemiology and feedback to farmers;
- a comprehensive research programme aimed at preventing TB spread by wildlife and the development of blood tests, vaccines and other technological tools required to improve effectiveness of programmes.

Responsibility for arranging and paying for the first herd tests each year rests with farmers. In addition, farmers have primary responsibility for protecting their own herds and are also encouraged to assist the Department’s District Veterinary Offices in research activities, as necessary.

### BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS

Bovine Tuberculosis is a chronic, highly infectious disease of cattle caused by *Mycobacterium bovis*. The bacterium can cause disease in other domestic or wild animals and also in humans.

## Testing Requirements for TB

All animals on the holding, with the exception of calves under six weeks old which were born in the holding, must be tested yearly. Failure to test by the specified date and within the required period is likely to result in the prohibition of movement of animals from the herd to other farms, marts, meat plants and points of export and, if relevant, the withdrawal of herd health certification under the dairy hygiene regulations.

**Untreated raw milk from reactors should never be consumed.**

## Causes of infection in cattle

- Breathing air contaminated by already infected animals;
- Consuming contaminated food or water;
- Movement of animals and contact with infected animals e.g. across fences;
- Inter-farm sharing of machinery (cattle trailers, muck/slurry spreaders, etc.) or farm facilities (cattle crushes);
- The use of dirty lorries to transport animals;
- Wildlife, especially badgers, infected with *Mycobacterium Bovis* may be a significant factor in the persistence of bovine tuberculosis in certain areas.

## Precautions against TB Infection

- Have stock-proof boundary fencing;
- Avoid contact with other herds and stock of unknown status;
- Exercise care in buying-in cattle. Ensure that only recently tested cattle are allowed onto your farm to mix with your stock;
- Avoid using dirty contract equipment e.g. cattle transport, slurry spreaders. All such equipment should be cleansed and disinfected before use.

The risk of spread from wildlife can be reduced by keeping cattle and infected wildlife apart and by implementing the following measures:

- Fencing off common watercourses, stagnant ponds, badger setts and badger toilet areas;
- Raising drinking and feeding troughs to over 84 cm (32 inches) in height and locating them away from walls / ditches to prevent access;
- Not providing hand feeding to cattle where deer can share it e.g. circular feeders and/or meal troughs;
- Keeping feed storage areas, cattle sheds and yards closed so that wildlife cannot gain entry;
- Checking fields regularly for badger carcasses and especially before moving cattle onto new pasture – note that manual blocks kept in fields may also be accessed by badgers;
- Being aware of unusual sightings of badgers e.g. in daytime. The badgers may be sick from TB – contact your District Veterinary Office.

The ideal long-term answer to the problem of bovine tuberculosis is eradication. With an appropriate co-ordinated approach, together with new technology, Ireland can advance towards eradication of Bovine TB.

## BOVINE BRUCELLOSIS

Brucellosis in cattle is a highly contagious disease which is spread by infected material at time of calving or abortion and which can also result in infertility, morbidity and reduced milk yield. The organism is readily killed by disinfection. There are also human health risks because the disease may be transmitted by drinking unpasteurised milk from infected cows, by inhalation, cuts and abrasions, or by droplet infection. The only clinical symptom of brucellosis in cattle is abortion and it is obligatory to report all abortions to the Department's local District Veterinary Office (DVO) (see list of DVOs at Appendix 1B).

### Testing Requirements for Brucellosis

Ireland was declared **Officially Free from Brucellosis** in 2009. In light of this achievement, a controlled reduction in the testing requirements of the brucellosis eradication programme has been commenced. Details of the testing requirements are sent to farmers during the annual round test process and are available from the District Veterinary Offices and may be changed from time to time by the Department. The arrangements for the Brucellosis testing in 2010 are as follows:

- (i) **Annual herd "round" test:** only animals 24 months or over are required to be presented for testing. In addition, dairy herds are now only tested every second year;
- (ii) **Pre-movement test - Age threshold:** The age threshold for pre-movement testing for female animals has been increased to 18 months or more and to 24 months or more for bulls. Furthermore, the period for the pre-movement testing requirement has been extended from 30 days to 60 days. However, note that certain animals are required to be post-movement tested within 30 days of entering the holding if, in the event of a Brucellosis breakdown, they are to be considered eligible for the Depopulation Standard Rate Plus Depopulation Grant;
- (iii) **One movement per test:** The age threshold for female animals is 18 months or more. The 12 month threshold for bulls has been raised to 24 months or more i.e. female cattle aged 18 months or more and bulls aged 24 months or more may not be sold more than once, whether by public or private sale, on foot of a brucellosis test and such cattle being sold must be moved from the holding where tests are undertaken direct to either the purchaser's holding or direct to a mart and from there direct to the purchaser's holding;
- (iv) The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food reserves the right to request any animal to be presented for test where deemed appropriate on veterinary grounds.

### Precautions against Brucellosis infection in cattle

- Breed own replacements where possible;
- If buying in replacement or additional females or bulls:
  - ensure that they come from a reliable source and have been pre-movement tested within 60 days prior to movement;
  - isolate moved in animals from other females and bulls. Any pregnant bought in animals should be isolated pending completion of a post calving test;

- ensure all blood tests are carried out promptly, including the voluntary post-movement test within 30 days of arrival at the farm – failure to do so will result in reduced rates of compensation payable in the event of a disease breakdown;
- Take precautions to ensure that disease does not enter the herd from a neighbouring herd so maintain proper boundary fences and keep susceptible animals away from boundary fences – use these areas for bullocks, fodder or non-bovines;
- **DO NOT** borrow/lend equipment such as calving jack, cattle trailer, slurry spreader etc.;
- Isolate all pregnant animals away from boundary fields and observe them carefully for any signs of premature calving;
- Provide adequate calving facilities.

## COMPENSATION REGIME FOR T.B. AND BRUCELLOSIS

### Requirements

- Even if a herd is clear or is not required to be tested this year, each owner/keeper should be fully familiar with the terms of the TB and Brucellosis compensation regimes;
- The main elements of the existing compensation regime are the On-Farm Market Valuation Scheme, the Income Supplement Scheme, the Depopulation Grant Scheme and the Hardship Grant Scheme. In order to qualify for payment, the owner/keeper must meet certain eligibility conditions under each Scheme.;
- Entitlement to the payment of compensation is also conditional on compliance with the provisions of the Diseases of Animals Act, 1966, any Orders made thereunder and any other controls laid down under the Diseases Eradication Schemes, with identification regulations and other national/EU legislative requirements and controls relating to bovine animals administered by the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. **The Minister may refuse payment of compensation, in whole or in part, where a owner/keeper does not satisfy the aforementioned provisions or where the Minister is satisfied that the owner/keeper has failed to co-operate with authorised officers or Veterinary Inspectors of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in carrying out their duties under the Schemes;**
- Compensation payments are structured to benefit the owner/keeper whose farming practice assists herd health protection. The Department's Booklet "Compensation arrangements for TB and Brucellosis - Important Information for Farmers" provides useful information in relation to the On Farm Market Valuation Scheme, Income Supplement, Depopulation Grant and Hardship Grant eligibility requirements, rates, etc. The booklet is available on request from the D.V.O.;
- Under the Brucellosis Eradication Scheme, all eligible animals must be tested in accordance with the rules set out above. In addition, eligible animals that are required to have a *post-movement* Brucellosis test must have been tested within 30 days of entering the holding in order to be eligible for consideration for maximum compensation payments in the event of a Brucellosis breakdown in the herd;

- In the case of a Brucellosis breakdown, the DVO will commence completion of Form **ER 111** using all available information on eligible animals which possibly entered the herd during the specified period under review for determining compensation payment. Form **ER 111** will be forwarded to the owner/keeper who may be required to furnish additional information but will be required to sign a declaration. Each owner/keeper will have a unique review period which is dependent on, inter alia, date of breakdown test and date of last full herd test prior to the breakdown;
- Apart from the legal requirement to keep a herd register on all animal movements, it is absolutely imperative for the purposes of the Brucellosis compensation arrangements that the owner/keeper keeps records of all movements of eligible animals into/out of his/her herd using a herd register and keeping other relevant information as proof of purchase or sale. In the event of a Brucellosis breakdown, it will then be possible for the owner/keeper to speedily provide the additional information needed to complete the valuation and other compensation processes e.g. date of purchase. **The Brucellosis valuation amount due and Depopulation Grant category cannot be determined by the DVO without the full co-operation of the owner/keeper in completing Form ER 111 as soon as possible after the breakdown and providing all the information sought. The onus is on the owner/keeper to provide all necessary information to the valuer and to the DVO. The herd register and/or original sales or other related documentation may be requested from the owner/keeper by the valuer and/or the DVO.**

## ON-FARM MARKET VALUATION

Compensation for cattle removed as reactors is paid under the On-Farm Market Valuation Scheme. Under this scheme, full market values subject to the ceilings referred to below will be payable where breakdown herds are **stable** (i.e. not transient or dealer) and where the owner/keeper has complied with the legal and other requirements relating to the disease eradication schemes and to cattle identification/registration and veterinary medicine requirements. In the case of **dealer/transient herds**, compensation will not in any event exceed the ceilings that apply under the 27 April 1998 Reactor Compensation Regime.

For the purpose of valuations, "Market Value" is the equivalent price which might reasonably have been obtained for the animal at the time of determination of compensation from a purchaser in the open market if the animal was not affected by TB or Brucellosis or was not being removed as part of depopulation under the disease eradication programme.

**Note:** EU State Aid rules also require that herdowners should not be over-compensated for actual losses arising from the removal of cattle as reactors. Accordingly, herdowners are required to advise the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food of any payments received from private insurance in respect of any animal removed as a reactor. Where such payments are made, the amount payable by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food will be reduced accordingly.

The main features of the live valuation system include:

- Valuations are carried out within prescribed timescales and by reference to guidelines drawn up by Department staff;
- A ceiling of €2,800 (inclusive of factory salvage price) applies to payments in respect of any single animal, except in respect of one pedigree stock bull per farm where a ceiling of €3,500 (inclusive of factory salvage price) applies;
- Where the owner/keeper or the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food do not accept the initial valuation, they can appeal the valuation;
- Following completion of the on-farm valuation process (i.e. first valuation or appeal), the reactor(s) are removed from farms by the Reactor Collection Service;
- If there is no agreement following an appeal, the matter can be referred to an Arbitration Panel whose decision will be final and binding on both parties;
- Graduated penalties apply to the final compensation payment made to the owner/keeper where s/he unreasonably delays the removal of reactors as well as for other breaches of regulations;
- Valuation payments will not be paid in respect of any introduced animal (other than a stock bull, replacement suckler calf or in the case of a newly established herd) deemed reactor which was moved into the holding during the restriction period;
- Farmers should be aware that the movement of any animal into a restricted holding is prohibited, except with the written permission of the DVO and on foot of a movement permit.
- When farmers are given permission to move in animals during a restriction period, they should be aware that the movement in of cattle will, with certain limited exceptions, render them ineligible for the Hardship Grant and/or Income Supplement schemes and they may not be entitled to full payment under the Depopulation Grants Scheme.

## DEPOPULATION GRANT

An owner/keeper whose herd is depopulated (totally or partially) in the interest of disease control may qualify for Depopulation Grants. Depopulation Grants are paid for each animal removed in the depopulation measure and for those removed as reactors since the holding was restricted, on condition that the owner/keeper agrees to depopulation at the time specified by the DVO. If this agreement is not received and depopulation takes place subsequently, the owner/keeper is excluded from eligibility for Depopulation Grants on all past, present and future reactors during the restriction period i.e. Depopulation Grants will only be paid on the in-contact animals removed at the time of any subsequent depopulation. In addition, Depopulation Grants are not payable on animals (with certain exceptions) which are moved onto the holding during the restriction period. **(Full details are available from the District Veterinary Office (DVO)).** Depopulation Grants are paid in respect of each month of the rest period specified by the DVO. The maximum rates payable currently in force per animal for an entire 4 month period are as follows:

	Stable			Transient/Dealer/Other
	TB	Brucellosis		TB and Brucellosis
Animal	Rate (€)	Standard rate (€)	Standard rate plus(€)	
(i) Dairy Cows / In-Calf Heifers/ Pedigree Bulls > 12 months	228.52	126.97	228.55	Nil
(ii) Other Cows / In-Calf Heifers	126.96	126.97	126.97	Nil
(iii) Other Animals	76.16	38.09	76.18	Nil

### INCOME SUPPLEMENT

Income Supplement is payable in cases where disease breakdown results in the removal of **more than 10%** of animals in a herd and where depopulation is not deemed appropriate. Payment is in respect of each animal removed as a reactor from a herd, **subject to a maximum of 100 animals qualifying for payment.**

A herdowner will not be eligible for Income Supplement with effect from the date cattle (other than a stock bull, replacement suckler calf or in the case of a newly established herd) are moved into a restricted herd (even where permission for such movement has been given by the DVO). **It is important to note that movement of any animal into a restricted herd is prohibited, except with the written permission of the DVO and on foot of a movement permit, where appropriate.** Where eligibility for payment has already been determined prior to the animals having been moved in, payment of Income Supplement will cease for the remainder of that restriction period from the date of movement into the herd.

Income Supplement eligibility will also cease in the event of:

- The owner/keeper failing to co-operate with Veterinary Inspectors or authorised officers in carrying out their duties under the Diseases Eradication Schemes, including delays in testing;
- Depopulation (total or partial) of the herd being deemed appropriate by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food;
- De-restriction of the holding (or earlier if de-restriction is delayed as a result of the reactor having been treated with veterinary medicine).

The monthly rates currently in force per animal are as follows:

#### Income Supplement Monthly Rates

Animal	Stable		Transient/ Dealer/Other
	TB Rate (€)	Brucellosis Rate (€)	Rate (€)
(i) Other Cows	38.09	38.09	NIL
(ii) Dairy Cows and Other Animals	25.39	25.39	NIL

#### Note:

Specific conditions attach to the qualification for and cessation of Income Supplement payment. In particular, payment is in respect of **whole months** only (e.g. from 13 Sept to 12 Oct) and, accordingly, when eligibility ceases, a pro rata payment will not issue in respect of any remaining part month.

#### HARDSHIP GRANT

The Hardship Grant eligibility period runs from 1 November to 30 April. This Scheme is designed to alleviate the costs difficulty of some owner/keepers whose holdings are restricted on foot of a herd re test and where animals are retained and fed during periods of restriction. Potentially eligible owner/keepers must meet certain conditions, including requirements that they (i) must not have any income from milk sales and (ii) must not have any off farm income. In addition, the general rule is that where animals (with some specific exceptions) have been moved on to a holding during a restriction period, eligibility for receipt of the hardship grants ceases for the remainder of the restriction period.

The Grant may provide eligible owner/keepers with a payment of up to **€250.00** per month for a period not exceeding **4 months** within the period 1 November to 30 April.

The onus is on potentially eligible owner/keepers to ensure that they obtain and familiarise themselves with the terms and conditions document and application form ER97. Potentially eligible owner/keepers are issued with the terms and conditions document, important notice and application form **ER 97** by the DVO. **Supplies of the relevant documentation are also available at DVOs. The onus is on the owner/keeper to apply for a Hardship Grant.**

#### REACTOR COLLECTION SERVICE

A key condition for compensation payment eligibility is that all reactors must be removed immediately to slaughter via the Reactor Collection Service/Meat Plant tendering arrangement only. Where herd depopulation is deemed appropriate and the owner/keeper agrees to depopulate the herd, the entire herd must be removed to slaughter promptly in consultation with the DVO.

## MISCELLANEOUS

- A tax reference number (PPS) is required in advance of any payment issuing from the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. If compensation payment/s under the scheme will exceed €10,000 in a 12 month period, a Tax Clearance Certificate is required;
- Entitlement to compensation is conditional on owners/keepers complying with the provisions of the Diseases of Animals Act, 1966, any Orders made there under, with movement, identification and other controls laid down under the Diseases Eradication Schemes and other national/EU legislative requirements and controls relating to bovine animals administered by the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. The Minister may refuse payment of compensation, in whole or in part, where an owner/keeper does not satisfy the aforementioned provisions or where the Minister is satisfied that the owner/keeper has failed to co-operate with authorised officers or Veterinary Inspectors of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in carrying out their duties under the Schemes.
- In accordance with the payment targets agreed on Direct Payments to Farmers under the Charter of Rights for Farmers, payment of TB and Brucellosis compensation will normally be made within 3 weeks of the date of receipt of the required back-up documentation from the owner/keeper and the meat factory. The required back up documentation for valuation payment is detailed in the “Compensation arrangements for TB and Brucellosis Important Information for Farmers” Booklet;
- The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food will pay compensation in accordance with the provisions of the compensation regime and specified payment targets. This does not undermine or compromise the owner/keeper with regard to any appeal. In the event of a successful appeal, the requisite amount will issue as a separate payment;
- The compensation arrangements and rates are adjusted from time to time in consultation with the farm organisations. Any queries in relation to compensation matters should be directed to the appropriate DVO in the first instance.

*Further information regarding the Disease Eradication Schemes can be obtained from ERAD Division, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Backweston Campus, Stacumney Lane, Celbridge Co Kildare or from the District Veterinary Offices (DVOs) of the Department. (See Appendix 1 B for full list of DVO's)*

## OTHER ANIMAL DISEASES

### AUJESZKY'S DISEASE CONTROL AND ERADICATION PROGRAMME (PIGS)

A national programme for the control and eradication of Aujeszky's disease in pigs was launched in late 2002. The objective of the programme is to eliminate Aujeszky's disease from the national pig herd.

In May 2010 Ireland officially achieved EU Annex II Aujeszky's disease status. Attaining Annex II status was a very significant milestone in meeting the objective of officially eradicating Aujeszky's disease from Ireland, and it is a clear demonstration of the progress we have made and of the commitment shown by all concerned – pig herd owners, the farm representative bodies and veterinary practitioners.

Phase 3 of the Control and Eradication Programme will launch in 2010 with all herds with 6 or more pigs requiring blood sampling. The ultimate intention following Phase 3 sampling is moving forward to Annex I status – official disease freedom.

Official elimination of Aujeszky's Disease from the national pig herds will be of significant benefit to the whole Irish pig sector by recognising the health standard of the national herd, by protecting our access to export markets and by allowing Ireland to exploit new market opportunities.

### AVIAN INFLUENZA

#### **Registration of Holdings and Sites on which Domestic Poultry or Captive Birds are kept:**

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food maintains a central record of all holdings or sites on which domestic poultry or captive birds are kept. This information forms an integral part of the Department's Avian Influenza contingency planning. It is a statutory requirement, for all holdings and sites on which domestic poultry or captive birds are kept, to be registered with the Department.

If you are not already registered with the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food as a commercial poultry producer or processor and if, at present or in the near future, you are likely to;

- Own or trade in domestic poultry or other captive birds (such as pheasants, pigeons, sporting birds or exotic birds but not pet birds in domestic households), or
- Keep domestic poultry (even small numbers of chickens, hens, turkeys, ducks or geese for your own or local consumption),

You are required by law to register with the Department. Poultry owners should note that failure to register, as required by S.I. No. 42 of 2008, may leave them liable to prosecution under the Diseases of Animals Act, 1966.

*You may register by completing an application form (available at your local Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food office (see list at Appendix 1B) and on the Department's website: [www.agriculture.gov.ie](http://www.agriculture.gov.ie). Completed applications should be returned to your local Department office.*

## BLUETONGUE

Bluetongue is a disease that affects all ruminants – cattle, sheep, deer, goats and various exotic animals, including camels, llamas etc. It is caused by a virus spread by biting midges and cannot be naturally transmitted by direct or indirect contact between animals. The midges that spread infection are active between April and October in Ireland and are commonly found around farms. Peak populations of the midges occur in the late summer and the autumn and it is at this time when bluetongue is most seen.

Bluetongue does not affect humans and this disease has no public health significance. Neither can the virus be acquired by food.

The main effect is that the virus causes severe and sometimes fatal disease (including a blue tongue, caused by bleeding) in sheep and goats and although cattle are reservoirs, they usually do not get sick. Chronic cases may die in 3-5 weeks from secondary bacterial infections or have a prolonged recovery with hair or wool loss, growth retardation or sterility. Mild cases may make a complete recovery.

As of April 2010 Ireland remains free of Bluetongue. In the event of an outbreak, control zones would be established with animal movement restrictions applied. Widespread slaughter of animals is not anticipated. Vaccination is considered to be the appropriate course of action in the event of an outbreak.

Import conditions on live susceptible animals from Bluetongue-restricted areas are in place and are permitted only under defined EU conditions. These animals are then subject to mandatory post-importation testing for Bluetongue.

Bluetongue is a notifiable disease and any suspicions must be immediately reported to the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Further information on Bluetongue can be found on the Department's website or by visiting [www.bluetongue.ie](http://www.bluetongue.ie)

## BSE

BSE is a fatal disease of cattle, which is potentially linked to the fatal human disease, variant CJD (vCJD). Its main route of transmission in cattle is through the consumption of feed containing or contaminated with Meat and Bone Meal (MBM) from the remains of infected animals. BSE can only be confirmed by post-mortem examination of the brain. It is most common in cows aged 11 years or over. Clinical signs may include evidence of anxiety and fear, abnormal gait, pawing the ground or continuous licking of nose, reduced milk yield, frenzy or aggression. Suspect animals are destroyed by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (with

compensation) and herds are restricted pending the outcome of post-mortem examination. The Department operates a partial depopulation regime that involves the removal of cohorts (as defined in EU legislation) and progeny animals, with compensation paid at market value.

Since 2009 Ireland among a number of EU Member States are now required to test all healthy slaughtered bovines over 48 months of age intended for human consumption and all casualty and fallen animals over 48 months of age.

## LEUKOSIS

Ireland was declared officially free of leukosis as of 1 March 1993 following a national round of tests carried out in 1991/1992. Commission Decision 1999/465/EC of 13 July 1999 (OJ L181, 1999, page 32) establishes the officially enzootic-bovine-leukosis-free status of Ireland's bovine herd. Surveillance is carried out annually to maintain Ireland's disease-free status.

*Further information may be obtained from the Animal Health and Welfare Division, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Kildare Street, Dublin 2, Tel: 01 6072407.*

## LIVER FLUKE

Each autumn, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food issue a forecast of the incidence of liver fluke, which is updated as required. Stockowners should follow the advice given.

## SCRAPIE

Scrapie is a disease of sheep in the same family as BSE (The Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies or TSE's). The incidence of Scrapie in Ireland is thought to be relatively low, with a geographical tendency towards the South East. In addition Scrapie, unlike BSE, is horizontally transmissible, especially at lambing time.

### Control and Eradication Measures

In October 2001, before horizontal EU measures were in place, the Department introduced a full depopulation regime for infected flocks, which included a prohibition on re-stocking with sheep for a period of two years following depopulation.

Since 1 October 2003, the policy for the control and eradication of Scrapie has developed in line with the development of a harmonised regime at EU level. Its main elements are:

#### Active Surveillance

A comprehensive testing programme for the disease is carried out at slaughterhouses and knackeries.

#### Infected Flocks

Infected flocks are genotyped and the Scrapie susceptible animals are disposed of. Flock owners are subsequently required to breed with Scrapie resistant animals only and are subject to a variety of restrictions, all of which are laid down by EU legislation. The Department's package includes free genotyping, market value for susceptible animals required to be disposed of, and a "hardship" payment of €84 per breeding ewe.

## NATIONAL GENOTYPE PROGRAMME (NGP) (Voluntary Scheme)

NGP assists flock owners in selecting breeding sheep that are less susceptible to Scrapie. Orchid Cellmark Ltd. is the commercial laboratory approved by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food to provide a blood testing service to determine the genotype of the sheep.

Participation in the NGP involves a flock owner applying to the Department to have NSIS identified sheep genotyped. S/he designates a Private Veterinary Practitioner to take blood samples. A "Lab- Form" containing details relating to the flock owner, the designated PVP and the tag numbers of the sheep to be tested will be generated and issued to the designated PVP.

The PVP in consultation with the flock owner chooses from the list of NGP approved laboratories, the laboratory in which s/he wishes to have the samples tested. The chosen laboratory is responsible for the supply of blood sampling kits and the instructions for use. The transfer of blood samples to the chosen laboratory is a matter between the flock owner, the PVP and the designated laboratory.

The laboratory transmits electronically to the Department the result of each individual test and the Department then issues the flock owner with an NGP Certificate that states the genotype of each of the sheep tested.

*National Genotype Help-Line 1890-441-250*

## SHEEP SCAB

Sheep scab is subject to controls under the Diseases of Animals Act 1966 (Notification and Control of Animal Diseases) Order 2008 S.I. No 101 of 2008 and responsibility for these controls rest with the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. This Order provides that any person who has an affected animal in his/her possession must notify his/her local District Veterinary Office. Following receipt of notification the Department may restrict a flock for a period of time.

## WARBLE FLY

Warbles manifest themselves as bumps rising on the backs of cattle from mid February until the fly emerges between April and June. Herdowners must notify any infestation and may not move infested cattle without a certificate of treatment. There has been no evidence of warbles in the domestic herd in recent years, but they may be found in imported cattle and this may result in spread requiring area treatment. **Responsible importation protects the herd: buy only from a reputable source and inform your DVO of any intended importations.**

## ANIMAL HEALTH IRELAND (AHI)

Animal Health Ireland is a private company limited by guarantee, set up in 2009. It is partly funded by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. The aim of AHI is through superior animal health and welfare, to improve overall profitability for individual farmers and the agri-food industry and to enhance the competitiveness of Irish livestock and food in the international marketplace. Animal diseases that are already subject to regulation (such as Tuberculosis and Brucellosis) are specifically excluded from its remit.

Further information is available on Animal Health Ireland's website [www.animalhealthireland.ie](http://www.animalhealthireland.ie)

## SWILL CONTROL

Legislation governing the removal and disposal of international swill i.e. the Diseases of Animals Act, 1966 (as amended), Diseases of Animals (Feeding and Use of Swill) Order 1985, (S.I. No. 153 of 1985), Diseases of Animals (Feeding and Use of Swill) (Amendment) Order 1987, (S.I. No. 133 of 1987), Diseases of Animals Act, 1966 (Prohibition on the Use of Swill) Order 2001, (S.I. No. 597 of 2001), European Communities (Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies and Animal By-Products) Regulations 2008, SI No. 252 of 2008. Diseases of Animals Act 1966 (Prohibition on the use of swill) (Amendment) Order 2009, SI No. 12 of 2009. European Communities (Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies and Animal By-Products) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2009 SI No. 345 of 2009.

Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 3 October 2002 laying down health rules concerning animal by-products not intended for human consumption, prohibits the collection and feeding of swill to animals indefinitely for reasons of animal health but permits the feeding of certain non-animal products and milk products to animals. Licences are required to land international swill at and remove international swill from ports and airports under the above Swill Orders. International swill should only be landed at and removed from a port or airport by licensed operators. The feeding of such international swill/food waste to animals has always been prohibited.

## SUBSIDY FOR TSE TESTING SCHEME

The Subsidy for TSE Testing Scheme introduced in April 2009 provides for the subsidised collection and destruction of bovines over 48 months and is available in all 26 counties. Category 2 Intermediate plants (knackereries) offering this service to farmers must be approved in accordance with the European Communities (Animal By-Products) Regulations, 2008 (S.I. No 252/2008) as amended.

The charges payable by a farmer to the collector in respect of over 48 month bovine collected under the scheme are as follows:

€54.03 per tagged over 48 month bovine

It is an offence to bury dead animals on-farm, except in accordance with a licence issued by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Likewise farmers are advised that it is an offence if the carcase of an animal over 48 months of age deteriorates to the extent that the sample cannot easily be tested. In this context, the local knackery must be contacted within 24 hours of the death of an animal. A record should be kept of the time and date of notification of the death to the knackery. Carcases awaiting collection must be held in such a way that domestic animals, including farmed livestock, and wild animals cannot gain access to them. Failure to comply with these conditions may lead to prosecution under S.I. No. 252 of 2008 as amended.

Form NBAS 31D must be fully completed and signed and the animal passport available when the animal is collected. The NBAS 31D and the passport must be surrendered to the Collector who picks up the carcase from your farm. If you do not have the passport for the dead animal, then you must request a permit called the FAL 1 permit from your local DVO **before** the carcase is collected. This permit will be faxed directly to the knackery from the DVO.

A list of approved knackeries is available on the Department's website at [www.agriculture.gov.ie](http://www.agriculture.gov.ie)

*Further information can be obtained from Subsidy for TSE Testing Division, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Johnstown Castle, Co Wexford. Tel: 053 9163437*

## ANIMAL BY-PRODUCTS

Animal By-Products (ABP) are entire bodies or parts of animals or products of animal origin not intended for human consumption. The disposal of ABP is highly regulated in order to protect both human and animal health. The main legal requirements are set out in Regulation (EC) No. 1774/2002.

Under this Regulation approval must be sought from the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for most operations dealing with ABP. These activities include operating;

- Rendering plants;
- Compost plants;
- Biogas plants;
- Knackeries;
- Pet food plants;
- Wool and hide stores;
- Technical plants;
- Meat and bonemeal stores;
- Collection Centres;
- Transporting ABP;
- Feeding meat from fallen animals to hounds or fur animals.

*Further details and application forms for approval under the ABP regulations can be obtained from Milk and Meat Hygiene/ABP Division, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Pavilion B, Grattan Business Centre, Dublin Road, Portlaoise, Co. Laois. Tel: 057 8694343/057 8694346, Fax: 057 8694391. The Section's web-pages can be found at [www.agriculture.gov.ie](http://www.agriculture.gov.ie)*

## VETERINARY MEDICINES AND RESIDUES CONTROLS

### General

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food oversees and implements a number of controls in relation to veterinary medicines and residues, in order to safeguard public health and also animal health and welfare. Following is the relevant national legislation:

- The European Communities (Animal Remedies) (No 2) Regulations 2007 (SI 786/2007)
- The European Communities (Control of Animal Remedies and their Residues) Regulations 2009 (SI 183/2009);
- The European Communities (Animal Remedies and Medicated Feedingstuffs) Regulations 1994 (SI 176/1994);
- Diseases of Animals Act 1966 (Control on Animal and Poultry Vaccines) Order 2002 (SI 528/2002).

### Licensing of Veterinary Medicines

Only veterinary medicines (i.e. animal remedies, including vaccines) which have been licensed for the Irish market may be imported, sold or used on animals; this requirement applies both to 'food-producing' animals and pets or leisure animals. Licenses valid for the Irish market may be issued by:

- The Irish Medicines Board – the bulk of veterinary medicines authorised for the Irish market have been licensed by the Board – for further information on IMB's services, see ([www.IMB.ie](http://www.IMB.ie)) or phone (01) 6764971);
- The European Commission/European Medicines Agency – such licenses are valid in all EU States; for further information, see [www.ema.europa.eu](http://www.ema.europa.eu);
- The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food – the Department is enabled by EU legislation to issue exceptional licenses in limited circumstances, in particular to address specific health or suffering problems in animals.

In addition, in order to protect the national herd from certain diseases, the import and use of certain vaccines is subject to specific licensing.

### Commercial Distribution of Veterinary Medicines

Commercial distribution of veterinary medicines is limited to licensed outlets (i.e. licensed wholesalers and retailers – 'Licensed Merchants'), as well as veterinary practices supplying their own clients and pharmacies approved by the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland. In addition, certain medicines for pet animals may be sold by registered outlets ('Companion Animal Medicine' sellers). The category of medicine

each outlet may supply is determined by the restriction placed on the product at time of licensing ('route of supply'); such designated routes of supply appear on the product packaging. Veterinary medicines may only be sourced from authorised outlets.

*For further information on premises licensing, please contact: 01- 5058662 or 01-5058665 (Wholesale) or 5058666, 5058668 or 5058669 (retail)*

*For further information on the issue of Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food exceptional licences and the importation of certain vaccines , please contact 01-5058662*

*For information on Mail Order, Solicit Order and Internet Licences, which are applicable to holders of a Retail/Merchant's licence, please contact 01 5058669*  
*Further general information, including 'Frequently Asked Questions' is also available at*

*<http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/animalhealthwelfare/veterinarymedicinesresidues/informationforfarmersaboutanimalremedies/>*

### **Medicated Feedingstuffs**

Manufacture, distribution and sale of medicated feedingstuffs and intermediate products is subject to licensing by the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food under the European Communities (Animal Remedies and Medicated Feedingstuffs) Regulations, 1994. The use of medicated feedingstuffs is prohibited except under and in accordance with the terms of a veterinary written direction issued by a registered veterinary practitioner. Medicated pre-mixes must be authorised by the Irish Medicines Board or the European Commission, European Medicines Agency

*For further information, please contact 01-5058662 or 01-5058665*

### **Residues**

In order to verify that farmers and processors (i.e. 'Food Business Operators') comply with their obligations under EU Food Law and the Hygiene Legislation to protect consumers from residues, the Department implements a comprehensive National Residue Plan. Under the Plan, samples are tested for residues of banned products (such as growth promoting hormones) licensed medicines (these usually arise where animals enter the food chain before expiry of the prescribed withdrawal period for the medicine concerned), or environmental contaminants. The Residue Plan covers eleven food-producing species (including aquaculture). During 2009, in excess of 24,000 samples were taken and tested at officially approved laboratories for 18 residue groupings. All positive results are followed up by an investigation on the farm of origin with a view to taking the necessary enforcement measures which can include prosecution in the Courts (see penalties below).

Official testing is complemented by a statutorily based regime under which primary processors are obliged to implement residue-monitoring measures. This regime, which involves annual submission to the Department for approval of individual

residue plans, makes it mandatory for processors to subject suppliers, whose animals or animal products test positive, to significantly intensified monitoring. This regime of self-monitoring is subject to Department scrutiny.

*For further information, please contact Veterinary Medicines Section, 01-5058659 or <http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/animalhealthwelfare/veterinarymedicinesresidues/>*

### Reminder for Farmers

Farmers are reminded only to use authorised medicines and to use them only as specified on the product labelling. Farmers are also reminded of the need to comply with the post-treatment withdrawal periods specified on the product labelling and to keep the "Animal Remedies Record" of all animal remedies coming on to the farm for administration to food producing animals. The form of record is set out below:

Purchase/incoming details						
Quantity	Authorised name of animal remedy	Date of receipt	Name and address of Supplier			

  

Administration/Outgoing details						
Date of Administration	Authorised name and quantity of animal remedy administered	Identity of animal to which animal remedy administered including Ear Tag No. if appropriate	Date of expiry of a withdrawal period	Name of person who administered the Animal Remedy	Name of prescribing Veterinary Practitioner (if applicable)	Quantities of unused or expired animal remedies which were returned

*The format of the Animal Remedies Record may be downloaded from: <http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/animalhealthwelfare/veterinarymedicinesresidues/>*

### Penalties

Severe penalties may be imposed by the Courts for breaches of the legislation imposed for the sale, possession and use of unauthorised animal remedies; a person found guilty of an offence may be prohibited from keeping animals or animal remedies. Penalties range from a maximum fine of €5,000 and/or 6 months imprisonment for a person convicted on summary prosecution to a maximum of €500,000 fine and/or 3 years imprisonment for a conviction on indictment. In addition to judicial action, farmers who breach the legislation are liable to have penalties applied to their Single Farm Payment under EU Cross-compliance rules.

## APPROVAL AND REGISTRATION OF DEALERS

Under the European Communities (Approval and Registration of Dealers of Bovine Animals and Swine) Regulations 2007 (S.I. No. 151 of 2007) and the European Communities (Approval and Registration of Dealers of Ovine Animals) Regulations 2008 (S.I. 100 of 2008) all dealers engaged in the buying and selling of animals must be registered.

In the case of cattle and pigs a dealer is defined as a person who purchases and sells to another person within a period of 30 days. A person who buys and resells within 30 days less than 100 cattle in any 12 month period will be excluded from the requirements to be approved as a dealer.

In the case of sheep a dealer is defined as a person who purchases and sells to another person within a period of 29 days. A person who buys and resells within 29 days less than 100 sheep in any 12 month period will similarly be considered to be excluded from the requirements to be approved as a dealer.

All dealers engaged must be approved and registered by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. It is not permitted for a person to buy/acquire/source an animal from or sell/supply/dispose of an animal to a dealer unless the dealer is approved, registered and in possession of a current approval number under the aforementioned legislation. In addition if a dealer is assembling/holding animals, he/she must have premises, which has been approved for that specific purpose.

However, the following exemptions apply:

- A person who resides outside the State, who buys animals in the State on his or her own account;
- A person, who selects or bids for animals (on a commission or per head basis) exclusively on behalf of others (e.g. dealers, factories, or private individuals) but who does not buy and pay for the animals, is excluded from the definition of a dealer and therefore is not required to be approved as a dealer.

The legislation requires those who register as dealers and to comply with arrangements relating to the welfare and transport of animals, standards and the upkeep of premises, keeping of records and compliance with animal notification and disease testing procedures.

Each dealer must make a written application for approval and registration as a dealer in respect of each premises used for his/her dealing operations. The written application(s) shall be made to the local District Veterinary Office (DVO) of the Department in which the premises are situated. (See list of DVOs at appendix 1B). If the application is for approval as dealer without premises, the written application should be made to the DVO in the County where the dealer is resident or carries out most of the dealing operations. Two passport photographs of the dealer signed and stamped by the local Garda or Peace Commissioner must accompany each application.

## REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE SALE OF ANIMALS AT LIVESTOCK MARTS

The Livestock Marts Act, 1967 (Date of Test and Identification of Seller) Regulations 2002 (S.I. No. 188 of 2002) came into effect on 1 July 2002. This legislation requires all livestock marts to place on view by means of an electronic display unit the following information, when the sale of an animal takes place at a mart:

- The name and full address of the owner and the person in whose name the herd or flock from which the animal is being offered for sale is registered;
- Where the animals has been tested for either or both bovine Tuberculosis and bovine Brucellosis under the Diseases of Animals Act, 1966 (No. 6 of 1966);
- Where an animal is presented for sale by or on behalf of a dealer, a statement to that fact.

This information must be clearly legible to each person present at or in the immediate vicinity of the sales ring where an animal is being offered for sale. In circumstances where sheep are being sold direct from pens the Regulations require that the relevant details be publicly announced before the sale.

The purpose of this legislation is to ensure that there is greater transparency in the operations of livestock marts and that clients are provided with a uniform quality of service.

## REGULATIONS GOVERNING ASSEMBLY CENTRES

The European Communities (Assembly Centres) Regulations 2000 (S.I. No. 257 of 2000) implements Council Directive 97/12/EC of 17 March 1997. An assembly centre is a holding, collection centre or market at which animals from different holdings are grouped together to form consignments of animals intended for export to other Member States of the European Union. Assembly Centres must be approved for trading purposes and meet the requirements laid down in the aforementioned legislation. An assembly centre may only commence operations once it has been inspected and approved by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

The species, class and type of animals approved to be handled by an assembly centre may be limited to certain terms or conditions deemed appropriate by the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Where the Minister approves an assembly centre an approval number will be allocated with any terms or conditions attaching.

## IMPORT/EXPORT CONTROLS

### IMPORT AND EXPORT OF LIVE FARM ANIMALS

There is free movement of live farm animals between EU Member States in accordance with EU trade regulations. Live farm animals are subject to veterinary inspection and health certification at their place of origin in the exporting country and to checks at their place of destination in the importing country. This freedom of movement of animals poses extra risks for Ireland's animal health status and calls for greater vigilance by importers and farmers to ensure that costly animal diseases are not imported. In several sectors, voluntary codes of practice are in place, which set out additional measures of protection as far as imports are concerned. On the export side, farm animals going to EU destinations, including Northern Ireland, must be examined by an official veterinarian in an approved assembly centre prior to export in order to facilitate the issue of the necessary health certificates.

EU veterinary legislation imposes a wide range of requirements with which farmers have to comply. Animals have to be identified in a manner that enables their holding of origin to be traced. In several cases, farmers have to maintain records of animals kept and details of all movements of stock into and out of their holdings. All farms must be registered with the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and they will be subject to official veterinary checks on their health status.

More stringent rules apply to the import/export of live farm animals from non-EU Member States.

For further information on importing/exporting live farm animals to/from Ireland please contact your local District Veterinary Office.

### IMPORT OF POULTRY AND HATCHING EGGS

Imports of poultry and hatching eggs from EU Member States are permitted under EU trade rules. An import licence issued by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food must accompany the poultry/ eggs along with an appropriate health certificate which complies with one of the model health certificates in Council Directive 2009/158/EEC and which is endorsed by an Official Veterinarian, duly authorised by the Competent Authority in the Member State of export.

Imports of poultry and hatching eggs from non-EU Member States is only permitted from those regions/countries listed in Commission Regulation 798/2008 as amended by Commission Regulation 215/2010. The poultry/eggs must be accompanied by an import licence issued by the Department and the appropriate health certificate, which complies with one of the model health certificates in Commission Regulation 215/2010. Upon first entry to the EU the poultry/eggs must be checked at an EU Border Inspection Post approved for the inspection of live animals (See BIPS below). A number of post-import conditions will apply.

## **IMPORT OF HOBBY BIRDS** (birds other than poultry and pet birds)

Import of hobby birds from EU Member States is by way of General Authorisation (i.e. no licence required). However there are certain conditions attached. Importers must give the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food advance notification of the intended import. The birds must be accompanied by an owner's declaration and in the case of psittacine species an appropriate health certificate signed by an official veterinarian of the country of export or by a registered veterinary practitioner in accordance with Council Directive 92/65/EEC and based on the model in Commission Regulation 599/2004/EC. The birds must come from a premises approved in accordance with Council Directive 92/65/EEC.

Import of hobby birds from non-EU Member States is only permitted from those regions/countries listed in Commission Regulation 798/2008 as amended by Commission Regulation 215/2010. The birds must be accompanied by an import licence issued by the Department and the appropriate health certificate in accordance with Commission Regulation 318/2007 as amended by Commission Regulation 239/2010. The birds must undergo a specified quarantine period and upon first entry to the EU the birds must be checked at an EU Border Inspection Post approved for the inspection of live animals. There are no BIP or quarantine facilities in Ireland so this will have to be undertaken in another Member State.

## **IMPORT/EXPORT OF HORSES**

### **IMPORT/EXPORT TO/FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM AND FRANCE**

Registered horses and horses for breeding or production travelling between Ireland, France and the United Kingdom may do so accompanied by a passport only. No intervention is required by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

### **IMPORT/EXPORT TO/FROM EU MEMBER STATES**

Horses must be accompanied by their passport and an Intra Community Health Certificate, which has been signed by an Official Veterinarian of the country of export and which complies with Council Directive 90/426/EEC as amended. Applications made to the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for an official health certificate must be accompanied by a health certificate issued by the exporter's private veterinary practitioner and a copy of the passport and marking sheet from the passport. Horses will be required to undergo a veterinary inspection by an Official Veterinarian at the port/airport of departure.

### **IMPORT FROM NON-EU MEMBER STATES**

Prospective importers must apply to the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for an import licence (except USA and Canada). Horses must be accompanied by their passport and a health certificate which complies with the provisions of Commission Decision 93/197/EEC as amended. Upon first entry to the EU the horses will be required to undergo border inspection checks. Importers are required to give 24 hours advance notice to the Border Inspection Post of choice.

## EXPORT TO NON-EU MEMBER STATES

Horse exports to non-EU Member States must be accompanied by their passport, an export licence (except USA and Canada) and an official health certificate, both issued by this Department and which complies with the conditions set out by the accepting country. Applications made to this Department for an official health certificate must be accompanied by a health certificate issued by the exporter's private veterinary practitioner along with a copy of the passport and the marking sheet from the passport. Horses will be required to undergo a veterinary inspection by an Official Veterinarian at the port/airport of departure.

### BORDER INSPECTION POSTS (BIPS)

From 3 August 2009, all consignment of live animals requiring BIP checks can no longer be imported directly into Ireland from a country outside the EU, but will have to undergo border inspection checks at a Border Inspection Post approved for this category of animal in another EU Member State e.g. Frankfurt, London.

This does not apply to horses (which may be checked at Dublin or Shannon airports), ungulates\* (which may be checked at Shannon) or pets. Pets do not require BIP checks but are subject to other rules e.g. PETS scheme or quarantine.

(\*cloven hoofed animals, for example, cattle sheep, pigs, deer etc.)

*All enquiries in relation to the import of live farm animals, including poultry and horses, should be directed to Live Trade Section, Animal Health and Welfare Division, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Kildare Street, Dublin 2.  
Tel: 01 6072862*

## IMPORT OF NON-COMMERCIAL ANIMALS

### CATS AND DOGS - EU PET PASSPORT SYSTEM

From 3 July 2004, a new harmonised system covering the non-commercial movement of pet dogs and cats was agreed for all of the European Union. Under this new system it is possible, subject to certain conditions, to bring pet dogs and cats directly into Ireland from a range of qualifying countries (qualifying countries include all EU Member States, other European countries and territories, and certain Third Countries) deemed low risk for rabies.

Pet dogs and cats may travel directly into Ireland provided that:

- The animal is travelling from a qualifying country;
- The animal is identified by means of a microchip;
- The animal has been vaccinated against rabies;
- The animal has, at least six months before entry, been successfully blood-tested for rabies anti-bodies;
- The animal has been correctly treated against ticks and tapeworm.

Evidence that an animal complies with the last four conditions above will be contained in a **Passport**, a document standardised throughout the EU.

In addition to the requirements set out above, it will also be necessary to travel **on an approved carrier and on an approved route to an approved entry point**.

In the absence of approved airlines from eligible countries the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food has put in place an interim measure to facilitate the direct entry by air of pet cats and dogs into Ireland. Details of the Prior Approval System are available at <http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/pets>

The common travel area between Ireland and the UK continues to operate.

## ARRANGEMENTS FOR PET CATS AND DOGS ORIGINATING IN NON-QUALIFYING COUNTRIES

Pet cats and dogs originating in countries other than qualifying countries will continue to be subject to six months quarantine on entry into Ireland.

*All enquiries in relation to the import of pet cats and dogs should be directed to Special Projects Unit, Animal Health and Welfare Division, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Kildare Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 607 2827. Details are also available at [www.agriculture.gov.ie/pets](http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/pets)*

## IMPORT CONDITIONS FOR SMALL PET MAMMALS

### United Kingdom

There is no intervention required from this Department for the import of small pet mammals from the UK (i.e. no licence or health certification required).

### Member States of the EU

Small pet mammals may be imported into Ireland on foot of an import licence issued by this Department. However, the status of the country of export, particularly in regard to rabies will be taken into account before a licence can be issued. The pet(s) must be accompanied by a health certificate issued by registered private veterinary practitioner, certified within 5 days of departure stating that at the time of inspection the pet was free of all clinical signs of a contagious or infectious disease and is fit to travel. They must also be accompanied by a declaration signed by the owner stating that the animals have been born in captivity and have been kept in captivity since birth.

### Non-Member States of the EU

The import of small pet mammals from countries outside the EU may be permitted under licence. In addition to the requirements set out above such animals will be required to undergo six months quarantine at an officially approved premises.

## IMPORT OF PET BIRDS

Pet birds are birds travelling with their owners on change of residence or for vacation purposes. It only applies to 5 birds or less.

Import of pet birds from EU Member States is by way of General Authorisation (i.e. no licence required). Importers must give the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food advance notification of the intended import. The birds must be accompanied by an owner's declaration.

Import of pet birds from non-EU Member States is only permitted from an OIE listed country. The birds must be accompanied by an import licence issued by the Department and a health certificate, which complies with the model health certificate in Commission Decision 2007/25/EC.

Prospective importers must contact the Department of the Environment, National Parks and Wildlife Division with regard to any CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) certificates which may be required. Phone: 01 8883240.

## IMPORT OF PIGEONS

### Breeding Pigeons

Import of breeding pigeons from EU Member States is by way of General Authorisation (i.e. no licence required). However there are certain conditions attached. Importers must give the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food advance notification of the intended import. The birds must be accompanied by the appropriate health certificate in accordance with Council Directive 2009/158/EC and a veterinary certificate stating that the birds have been vaccinated against Paramyxovirus 1.

Import of breeding pigeons from non-EU Member States is only permitted from those regions/countries listed in Commission Regulation 798/2008 as amended by Commission Regulation 215/2010. The birds must be accompanied by an import licence issued by the Department and the appropriate health certificate, in accordance with Commission Regulation 798/2008 as amended by Commission Regulation 215/2010. The birds must be inspected at a Border Inspection Post approved for the import of live animals. There are no such facilities in Ireland (See BIPS above).

### Racing Pigeons

Import of racing pigeons from EU Member States is by way of General Authorisation. Importers must give the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food advance notification of the intended import. The birds must be accompanied by an owner's declaration and a veterinary certificate stating that the birds have been vaccinated against Paramyxovirus 1.

Import of racing pigeons from non-EU Member States is only permitted from those regions/countries listed in Commission Regulation 798/2008 as amended by Commission Regulation 215/2010. The birds must be accompanied by an import

licence issued by the Department and the appropriate health certificate in accordance with Commission Regulation 318/2007 as amended by Commission Regulation 239/2010. The birds must undergo a specified quarantine period and upon first entry to the EU the birds must be checked at an EU Border Inspection Post approved for the inspection of live animals. There are no BIP or quarantine facilities in Ireland so this will have to be undertaken in another Member State (See BIPS above).

Pigeons imported from Northern Ireland for race release will require an import licence issued by this Department. Pigeons exported from Ireland to another EU Member State for race release will require an export licence issued by this Department.

*All enquiries in relation to such imports should be directed to Live Trade Section, Animal Health Division, Floor 3 Centre, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Agriculture House, Kildare Street, Dublin 2, Ireland. Tel: 01 6072862.*

## IMPORTATION OF PRODUCTS OF ANIMAL ORIGIN

Products of animal origin fall into two main categories – those intended for human consumption and those defined as animal by-products\*. Inter-community trade and import from Third Countries of both these categories of products of animal origin are harmonised in accordance with Community Regulations to ensure the protection of animal and human health.

The following are the principal conditions applying to trade and imports:

### Human Consumption:

- For trade within the EU products must originate from approved premises in the Member States and be appropriately health labelled and packaged;
- Products being traded must be accompanied by a commercial document detailing the approved establishment of origin and the consignee for the purposes of traceability;
- Imports must originate from a Third Country approved and listed by the European Commission for the export of that species/category of product. In addition they must come from an approved establishment, e.g. slaughterhouse, cutting plant, processing plant or coldstore that has been approved and listed for export to the EU for the product concerned;
- Consignments from Third Countries may only be imported on to the territory of the Community through an EU approved border inspection post. The approved border inspection posts in Ireland are at Dublin Port and Shannon Airport;
- The importer is required to provide the Border Inspection Post with prior notification of arrival of each consignment that is to be imported;
- On arrival the consignment must be accompanied by the appropriate model health certificate required under EU law including, in the case of products derived from susceptible animal species, the required declaration with regard to BSE;
- All importers of animal products into Ireland must be registered with the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

## Animal By-products:

- There is a general ban on the feeding of animal by-products to farm animals in the food chain;
- Trade and import in unprocessed animal by-products is limited to especially approved establishments;
- Animal by-products that are finished and processed products must be appropriately wrapped, labelled and transported and accompanied by a commercial document;
- Imports must originate from a Third Country approved and listed by the European Commission for the export of that species/category of animal by-product. In addition they must come from an establishment approved by the third country for export to the EU of the animal by-product concerned;
- The importer is required to provide the Border Inspection Post with prior notification of arrival of each consignment that is to be imported;
- On arrival the consignment must be accompanied by the appropriate model health certificate required under EU law including, in the case of products derived from susceptible animal species, the required declaration with regard to BSE;
- All importers of animal products into Ireland must be registered with the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

## SAFEGUARD MEASURES

Where there are concerns with regard to the effectiveness of controls operated in a Third Country approved for export of animals or animal products to the EU or, where animal disease outbreaks occur in a country or in regions of that country, the EU introduces safeguard measures where imports of susceptible animals or animal products from the area concerned impose risks for human and animal health. These measures, introduced by means of EU Commission Decision, may ban or control imports of susceptible animals or animal products from the area until the risks to EU health are eliminated. Safeguard measures limiting or banning trade from an EU country or region are also implemented where, for example, the conditions of an animal disease outbreak could seriously effect production and trade in the EU.

*Forms for registration as an importer and further information on imports is available from the Food Safety Liaison Division, (Imports Section), Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Kildare Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 6072892/6072896. There is also information on the Department's Web site: [www.agriculture.gov.ie](http://www.agriculture.gov.ie) - choose 'Trade and Exports' > 'Import of Animals and Products of Animal origin'.*

*Information on animal by-product establishment approvals may be obtained from the Meat Hygiene and Animal By-products Division, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Grattan Business Centre, Portlaoise, Co. Laois. Tel: 057 8694348*

*\*Products for human consumption include fresh meat of bovine animals, swine, sheep, goats or domestic solipeds (e.g. horses), poultry meat, rabbitmeat and farmed game meat, meat products and preparations, milk and milk products, eggs and egg products, animal casings, honey, frogs legs, snails, fish and fishery products.*

*Animal by-products include non-tanned hides/skins, petfood, bones and bone products, processed animal protein (e.g. fishmeal and bloodmeal), blood and blood products, serum, lard and rendered fats, raw material for the manufacture of pet foods or technical products, game trophies, unprocessed manure, processed manure and processed manure products, apiculture products, unprocessed wool, hair, bristles and feathers.*

## PERSONAL IMPORT OF ANIMAL PRODUCTS – ADVICE TO TRAVELLERS

### From EU Countries

In order to maintain the high level of protection for animal and public health only animal products which have been produced in accordance with EU rules may be imported for the purpose of own consumption, and then only if contained in the personal luggage of travelers and intended for their personal or domestic consumption. Generally, this applies to animal products, which are on sale to the public in the Member State of origin that have been appropriately packaged and have an identifying EU health mark.

### From Non-EU Countries

The personal import of meat and milk products for own consumption purposes from almost all non-EU countries, by means of personal baggage, is **prohibited** under EU and national regulations.

*For more specific information please refer to the Department's website [www.agriculture.gov.ie](http://www.agriculture.gov.ie) choose 'Trade and Exports' 'Import of Animals and Products of Animal origin' or contact the Food Safety Liaison Division, (Imports Section), Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Kildare Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 6072892/6072896*

## ANIMAL WELFARE

### FARM ANIMAL WELFARE ADVISORY COUNCIL

In 2002, the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food established the Farm Animal Welfare Advisory Council (FAWAC) which brought together, for the first time in Ireland, representatives of the principal stakeholders (from animal welfare organisations to farming bodies and from Government Departments - North and South - to veterinary representative bodies) in an advisory body to the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food which has a broad mandate and an impressive work programme.

In 2004 FAWAC introduced the Early Warning/Intervention System for Animal Welfare Cases involving the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Irish Farmers' Association and the Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty of Animals. The objective of this system is to provide a framework within which problems can be spotted before they become critical or overwhelming. This will in turn facilitate timely, effective and sensitive intervention or the provision of assistance by, as appropriate, public agencies, neighbours, farming bodies and welfare groups. The new system

will allow for concerned individuals to approach their local IFA representatives, their local SPCA or indeed the Department in the knowledge that the matter will thereafter be dealt with in the most effective, timely and sensitive manner. This can only be to the benefit of the animals themselves and the persons concerned. However, where circumstances so warrant, it is recognised that prosecutions may be taken by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. The role of the Garda Síochána under the Protection of Animals Act, 1911 (as amended) is also acknowledged.

In 2009 FAWAC produced a booklet entitled Animal Welfare Guidelines for Managing Acutely Injured Livestock On Farm. These guidelines have been produced to set out the procedure for managing an injured animal on farm. In 2010 FAWAC produced a booklet on the Welfare of Pigs. FAWAC has already produced six other Animal Welfare Guideline booklets for Poultry, Beef, Sheep, Dairy and Equine farmers and advising best practice for the Welfare of Animals during transport. It is proposed to publish similar guidelines in relation to the keeping of laying hens in 2010.

Copies of these publications are available from Animal Health and Welfare Division, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Kildare St, Dublin 2 - Tel. 01- 6072706.

#### EX-GRATIA FUNDING TO ANIMAL WELFARE BODIES

Since the mid 1990's the practice has been maintained of providing ex-gratia payments to a range of animal welfare bodies throughout the country to assist in their work over the succeeding 12 months in directly delivering care and welfare services to animals. These payments have been acknowledged by all concerned as having been of real practical benefit to the bodies in question and to the animals with which they come into contact

#### SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

In 2002 the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food established the Scientific Advisory Committee on Animal Health and Welfare (SACAHW). SACAHW is comprised of scientific experts who are available to furnish the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food with advice on various issues of animal health and welfare, which may from time to time arise.

#### PROTECTION OF ANIMALS DURING TRANSPORT

EU Council Regulation 1 of 2005 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations prescribe strict standards for animal handling and the state of the vehicle and hygiene and, on long journeys, standards for feeding, watering, resting periods, journey times and stocking densities during transportation. The Regulation came into effect on 5 January 2007 and has been given legal effect in Ireland by the European Communities (Animal Transport and Control Post) Regulations 2006 (S.I. No. 675 of 2006). The Council Regulation applies to the transport of live animals, including cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, poultry and horses and sets out conditions as follows:

- On animal welfare, mode of transport and loading facilities to be met by all transporters of animals irrespective of distance travelled;
- Training and authorisation of person who transports live animals over a distance in excess of 65km for commercial purposes;
- Operators of assembly centres must ensure that animals are treated in accordance with the technical rules of the Regulation;
- Inspection of vehicles and maintenance of records of persons who transport animals on long journeys (defined as over eight hours). Such vehicles must have satellite based navigation systems installed within deadlines laid down in the Regulation.

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food has undertaken to increase awareness of the legal requirements of those in charge of animals during transport. A system of vehicle inspections is in place, under the above-mentioned legislation. The inspections carried out by Department staff, throughout the country encompass all forms of animal transport.

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food have produced a poster and information leaflets on the transport of horses and livestock, which have been made freely available. In addition, the Farm Animal Welfare Advisory Council (FAWAC) at the request of the Department has produced a Best Practice for the Welfare of Animals during Transport booklet.

Farming Organisations, operators of assembly centres and livestock marts, hauliers and international transporters have been informed through the press and through correspondence of the requirements of the Regulation.

For further information on Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations and how to apply for a transport authorisation, please contact National Beef Assurance Division at the contact details below or alternatively log on to the Department's website [www.agriculture.gov.ie/animaltransport](http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/animaltransport).

*Further information on the Protection of Animals During Transport may be obtained from National Beef Assurance Scheme Division, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Backweston, Celbridge, Co. Kildare.  
Tel: 01 5058881; Email: [transport@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:transport@agriculture.gov.ie)*

## PROHIBITION ON TAIL DOCKING OF BOVINE ANIMALS

S.I. No. 263 of 2003, Protection of Animals Kept for Farming Purposes Act 1984 (Bovine Animals), Prohibition on Tail Docking Regulations 2003, prohibits tail docking of bovine animals except in limited circumstances.

## WELFARE OF FARMED ANIMALS, INCLUDING LAYING HENS, CALVES AND PIGS AND ANIMALS BEING SLAUGHTERED

Stricter welfare standards for farm animals are now in operation and must be implemented to a large extent at farm level. The European Communities (Welfare of Farmed Animals) Regulations 2008 (S.I. No. 14 of 2008) give effect to a series of European Directives on welfare including laying hens, calves, pigs and animals being slaughtered. The Regulations set out general conditions for the keeping of laying hens and the minimum requirements of accommodation for pigs and calves in relation to space, lighting, ventilation, veterinary treatment etc. to allow the animals to express natural behaviour. The regulations also detail requirements relating to slaughtering practices and sets out approved methods for the slaughter of animals. The regulations require that an owner take all necessary steps to ensure the welfare of an animal under his or her care and to ensure that the animal is not caused unnecessary pain or injury.