



submitted for obtaining EU financial contribution

Annex III: Programme for the control and eradication of Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies

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Document version number: 2022 1.0

Member state : IRELAND

Disease Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies

This program is multi annual :

Request of Union co-financing from beginning : To end of

1. Contact data

Name	Phone
Email	Your job type within the CA :

Submission Date
01/12/2022 12:35:49

Submission Number
1669898152032-18973



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2. Description of the programme

Please give a short description of the programme (max. 32000 chars) :

BSE

Ireland's Programme is intended to monitor, control and ultimately eradicate BSE from the national herd. It includes the identification and slaughter of cohort and progeny animals outside of the food chain associated with a positive BSE case. The programme also includes active surveillance of all fallen bovine animals greater than 48 months of age, casualty and emergency slaughtered animals in slaughter houses over 48 months of age as well as BSE clinical suspects identified at slaughter house plants on ante mortem inspection and on farm through passive surveillance >12 months in accordance with Regulation (EC) No. 999/2001 of the European Parliament and the Council as amended. Healthy bovine aged over 30 months that were born in Bulgaria, Romania, UK or any non-EU country must also be tested

Scrapie

This is a Programme for monitoring, control and eradication of scrapie in sheep and goats. This involves genotyping, partial depopulation of (classical) infected sheep flocks and full depopulation of infected goat and sheep flocks in exceptional circumstances. This is achieved through active surveillance at slaughter plants, at intermediate plants (knackeries) and the continued implementation of National Genotyping Programme. Control and Eradication is also achieved by passive surveillance on farm and on ante mortem examination at slaughter plants.

3. Description of the epidemiological situation of the disease

Last year's No of cases	Total No	No of classical cases	No of atypical cases	No of undetermined cases
BSE case	0	0	0	0
Scrapie case (ovine)	1	0	1	0
Scrapie case (caprine)	0	0	0	0
Last case of		date (classical case)	date (atypical case)	date (undetermined case)
BSE		25/06/2015	13/05/2020	
Scrapie (ovine)		14/02/2018	19/10/2022	
Scrapie (caprine)				

Comments (if any)

The first case of BSE in Ireland was reported in 1989. To date, 1662 cases have been identified with the last positive case being an atypical case in May 2020 (born in 2006). Since 1989, it is a legal requirement for any person observing an animal with clinical signs consistent with BSE to inform DAFM. Initially, herds with positive BSE cases were completely depopulated of all bovine animals on the holding. Depopulation was accompanied by full tracing of all cohorts and progeny who were subsequently killed and disposed of outside of the food chain. In 2006, the policy was changed to a policy of partial depopulation whereby all of the cohorts and progeny animals were traced, killed and disposed of

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outside of the food chain. All of the BSE cases confirmed between 2007 and May 2020 were born in Ireland. Some of the cases confirmed between 1989 and 1996 were born in other European countries (United Kingdom 11 cases, Netherlands 3 cases, France 3 cases and Denmark 1 case). Controls to protect public and animal health continue in place such as SRM removal at slaughter, feed ban of animal proteins to ruminants, import controls and effective rendering to method 1 of animal by products. In May 2021, Ireland were officially granted negligible BSE risk status by the OIE.

In 2021, there was 1 case of Atypical Scrapie and 0 cases of Classical Scrapie with a total of 1 flock restricted and 1 case of Atypical Scrapie in 2022 with no flock restricted.

4. Measures included in the programme

4.1 Designation of the central authority in charge of supervising and coordinating the departments responsible for implementing the programme

(max. 32000 chars) :

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

4.2 Description and delimitation of the geographical and administrative areas in which the programme is to be applied

(max. 32000 chars) :

Republic of Ireland to be treated as a single area

4.3 System in place for the registration of holdings

(max. 32000 chars) :

BSE
Each holding containing bovine animals is registered with the Department as per regulation (EU) 2019/2035 and is identified by a specific herd number allocated following a satisfactory inspection by DAFM staff to ensure compliance with certain criteria and standards of animal welfare. Slaughter of BSE cohort and progeny animals currently takes place at a designated slaughterhouse outside of the food chain, which is licensed by DAFM. Slaughterhouses and knackeries where sampling is carried out are also approved by DAFM (Regulation EC No 10/69/2009 and EU No 853/2004)

Scrapie

All farms and slaughter plants involved with the programme are registered with DAFM (Regulation EC

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No 2019/2035). Larger ovine slaughter houses are approved and operate under the control of DAFM while smaller ones are operated under the control of the Local Authorities.

4.4 System in place for the identification of animals

(max. 32000 chars) :

BSE

A very extensive range of measures is now in place to ensure the integrity of the national herd and cattle presented for slaughter as per Regulation (EU) 2016/429 as supplemented by Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2035 and Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/520. These include a computerised animal traceability system. All calves are tagged at birth with a unique identification number, registered at a central registration database and issued with a passport. From 01st July 2022, there is a legal requirement on herd keepers to officially identify all new born calves with a tag set containing a white EID tag. This passport records all movements and it accompanies the bovine animal throughout its life. The Herdowner also maintains a Herd Register which contains information on all births, purchases, sales and deaths of bovine animals including all movements of animals into and out of holdings. Information in relation to all births, deaths, and bovine animal movements in Ireland is also captured and maintained on a central electronic database. This system became fully operational at the beginning of 2000 and was subsequently enhanced by the Animal Identification and Movement System (AIMS). At slaughterhouses, strict procedures are in place to verify both the origin and health status of the animals presented for slaughter. These include checks of ear tags and documentation (including checks against the Department's database) and ante mortem inspections. In addition each individual animal is assigned a carcass number which can be cross - referenced to its individual tag number and therefore back to the farm of origin.

Scrapie

The National Sheep Identification System-(NSIS)

Ireland has had a sheep identification system in place since 2001 as per Regulation (EU) 2016/429 as supplemented by Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2035 and Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/520. The National Sheep Identification System (NSIS) is based on the individual tagging of sheep, the keeping of flock registers by the flock owners and the use of dispatch documents for all movements of sheep between holdings, to the markets or to slaughterhouses. In accordance with Council Regulation (EC) 21/2004, introducing a harmonised EU wide system for sheep ID, electronic identification (EID) of sheep was introduced in Ireland in 2010.

Regulation (EC) 21/2004 also provided for a derogation whereby sheep intended for slaughter before they are 12 months old are permanently exempted from electronic tagging requirements. The use of EID is increasing and DAFM is encouraging the use of the EID in all cases where the animals are not going from the primary holding directly to the slaughter plant. EID is also used in all sheep destined for live export.

The following changes were made to NSIS as a result of the introduction of EID:

- (a) a different numbering system was put in place to accommodate electronic tagging and a number of companies have been approved by DAFM to supply EID tags to Irish flockowners,
- (b) the Irish tagging system is based on the principle of one ID tag for life from the holding of origin,
- (c) the electronic tagging of breeding animals and of live animals being exported

Census:

An annual census of the national flock is now a requirement. Flockowners are requested to submit the number of sheep in specific categories on their holding to DAFM within a specified time frame. This

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information is then correlated and retained electronically by DAFM which formulates the national census register.

4.5 Measures in place as regards the notification of the disease

(max. 32000 chars) :

BSE

The disease is compulsory notifiable and "a person who has in his possession or under his charge an affected or a suspected animal, or the carcass of such an animal, and any veterinary surgeon or other person who, in the course of his duties, examines or inspects any such animal or carcass shall, with all practicable speed, notify the fact to (a) the Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine or (b) an inspector at a District Veterinary Office of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine or to the Surveillance, ABP and TSE Division (SAT).

Scrapie

The Disease is compulsorily notifiable under EU and National Legislation. Additionally, on completion of all active surveillance results are notified to the relevant TSE staff/section within the Department.

Monitoring by Active Surveillance

Regulation (EC) 999/2001 as amended by Regulation (EU) 630/2013 requires the annual testing of 10,000 healthy slaughter sheep and 10,000 fallen sheep over 18 months of age where the sheep population is greater than 750,000 breeding animals.

Ireland's surveillance programme for 2023 will involve:

- Targeted active surveillance which will involve rapid testing a sample of animals over 18 months of age which die (fallen animals) or which are slaughtered for human consumption, this will provide additional information in relation to the incidence of scrapie in the general sheep population. Ireland will, at minimum, conduct the number of tests provided for under EU law.
- Discriminatory Western blotting of all cases testing positive or inconclusive on the rapid test
- Where a positive TSE case is an atypical scrapie case, the prion protein genotype for the codon 141 shall also be determined.
- Where a positive TSE case is found in goats, the prion protein genotype for codons 146 and 222 will be determined
- Genotyping of animals in scrapie classical positive flocks at the three codons
- Rapid testing of a sample of animals (>18 months of age) depopulated from scrapie positive flocks, in line with the minimum sample size specified for such testing in the TSE Regulation 999/2001, Annex III, Part II, Point 5.
- TSE testing of fallen animals (>18months of age) and cull animals (>18mths) from classical scrapie positive flocks.
- TSE testing of fallen animals (>18months of age) in scrapie monitored flocks (mainly controlled risk and negligible risk flocks as per Annex VIII of the TSE Regulation 999/2001)

Diagnostic TSE Tests Used

For the programmes described above Ireland will use one or more rapid tests approved in accordance with the provisions of commission Regulation (EC) 999/2001 as amended. These will be performed in private laboratories that have been approved by the Central Veterinary Research Laboratory (CVRL) of the DAFM.ie. The National Reference Laboratory (NRL) positive or inconclusive results from these tests will be verified at the CVRL by the NRL using histopathology and immunohistochemistry and/or immunoblotting (where appropriate). All rapid test positives or inconclusives are subjected to both confirmatory and discriminatory testing.

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Taking and Analysing the Samples

Samples for rapid testing are taken by the Food Business Operator (FBO) under the supervision of DAFM officers at slaughter plants. Sampling at knackeries, veterinary college, regional veterinary laboratories is carried out by veterinarians. These samples are analysed using an approved rapid test in accordance with Council Regulation 999/2001 as amended.

The recording and reporting of test results (fully automated system) is carried out in compliance with the practices and procedures in place at the laboratory.

Genotyping was outsourced from the Department's National Reference Laboratory to an independent commercial laboratory in 2016 and it is expected this arrangement will continue in 2023

4.6 Testing

4.6.1 Rapid tests in bovine animals

Targets for year **2023**

	Age (in months) above which animals are tested	Estimated number of animals to be tested	Estimated number of rapid tests, including rapid tests used for confirmation
Healthy slaughtered bovine animals born in MS listed in Annex to CD2009/719/EC	48	0	0
Risk animals born in MS listed in Annex to CD 2009/719/EC	48	70 000	70 000
Healthy slaughtered bovine animals NOT born in MS listed in Annex to CD 2009/719/EC	30	100	100
Risk animals NOT born in MS listed in Annex to CD 2009/719/EC	24	5	5
Suspect animals (as referred to in Art 12.2 of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001)		15	15

4.6.2 Rapid tests on small ruminants

The sampling rules applicable for the monitoring of ovine and caprine animals slaughtered or not for human consumption (described below as healthy slaughtered/dead animals) are in compliance with provisions of Annex III, II, 4 of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001, in particular:

- Animals are over 18 months of age or have more than two permanent incisors,
- No over-representation of any group (origin, age, breed, production type, etc),
- Sampling representative of each region and season,
- Multiple sampling in the same flock avoided whenever possible,
- A system is in place to ensure that in successive sampling years, all officially registered holdings with more than 100 animals where TSE cases have never been detected are subject to TSE testing,
- A system is in place to check that animals are not being diverted from sampling (except derogation communicated to the Commission):

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yes

no

If no please explain.

4.6.2.1 Rapid tests on ovine animals

Estimated population of adult ewes and ewe lambs put to the ram.

2 700 000

Targets for year

2023

	Estimated number of animals to be tested
Healthy slaughtered ovine animals (a)	10 000
Dead ovine animals (b)	10 000
In the context of measures of control/eradication on holdings affected by TSE as described in Annexes III and VII of the TSE regulation	
Ovine animals from holdings affected by classical scrapie	250
Ovine animals from holdings affected by atypical scrapie	0
Ovine animals from holdings affected by BSE	0
Suspect animals (c)	5
Total number of tests	20 255

(a) Annex III, A, II, 2 of the TSE regulation

(b) Annex III, A, II, 3 of the TSE regulation

(c) Art 12 of the TSE regulation

4.6.2.2 Rapid tests on caprine animals

Estimated population of female goats and female kids mated .

6 000

Targets for year

2023

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	Estimated number of animals to be tested
Healthy slaughtered caprine animals (a)	0
Dead caprine animals (b)	100
In the context of measures of control/eradication on holdings affected by TSE as described in Annexes III and VII of the TSE regulation	
Caprine animals from holdings affected by classical scrapie	0
Caprine animals from holdings affected by atypical scrapie	0
Caprine animals from holdings affected by BSE	0
Suspect animals (c)	0
Total number of tests	100

(a) Annex III, A, II, 2 of the TSE regulation

(b) Annex III, A, II, 3 of the TSE regulation

(c) Art 12 of the TSE regulation

4.6.3 Confirmatory tests **other than rapid tests** as referred to in Annex X Chapter C of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001

Targets for year

2023

	Estimated number of tests
Confirmatory tests in Bovine animals	15
Confirmatory tests in Ovine and Caprine animals	10

4.6.4 Discriminatory tests (Annex X.C point 3.1 (c) and 3.2 (c)(i) of Regulation (EC) No 999(2001)

Targets for year

2023

	Estimated number of tests
Primary molecular testing on bovine animals	1
Primary molecular testing on ovine and caprine animals	10
Total	11

4.6.5 Genotyping of positive and randomly selected animals

Adult sheep population



More than 750,000 animals



Less than or equal to 750,000 animals

Targets for year

2023

	Estimated number
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Genotyping of TSE cases	10
Random genotyping	0

4.7 Eradication

4.7.1 Measures following confirmation of a TSE case in bovine animals

4.7.1.1 Description

(max. 32000 chars):

Dealing with BSE Infected Herds (Art 13, Annex VII of Regulation No 999/2001)
Following the confirmation of BSE in a herd, tracing of cohorts - as defined by Regulation (EC) No. 999/2001 - and any progeny born within 2 years of the date of onset of BSE to the dam will take place. Any live animals identified under this tracing programme are slaughtered at a designated slaughterhouse outside of the food chain. All animal by-products (ABP) produced by the slaughter of BSE cohorts and progeny animals are treated as Category 1 ABP material and are disposed of in accordance with Regulation (EC) 1069/2009 as implemented by Regulation (EU) 142/2011. The number of animals slaughtered under this regime is a function of the number of cases in which the disease is identified and the year of birth of the positive case.

4.7.1.2 Summary table

Targets for year

2023

	Estimated number
Bovine animals culled and destroyed	100

4.7.2 Measures following confirmation of a TSE case in ovine and caprine animals

4.7.2.1 Description

(max. 32000 chars):

Dealing with Scrapie Infected Flocks (Art 13, Annex VII of Regulation No 999/2001)
• Ireland operated a Scrapie Depopulation Policy from December 2001 to 1st October 2003. Since 1st October, 2003 Ireland operates a genotyping and partial depopulation policy. Flockowners are permitted to retain Category 1 rams and ewes and Category 2 ewes. Farmers are required to dispose of Category 2 rams, and all Category 3, 4 and 5 animals. Flockowners may opt to avail of the concession to dispose of all un-genotyped male lambs outside the food chain (applicable to male lambs born immediately following restriction date). Additionally, the competent authority has retained the option to fully depopulate where warranted. Since 15th July 2007, positive flocks are restricted following the removal and disposal of the last susceptible animal.
In recent years, there has been a decrease in the number of flocks diagnosed with scrapie with the last case of classical scrapie in 2018 and only 1 case of atypical scrapie in 2020 and 2021. As per regulation 1176/2021, all restriction measures for atypical scrapie cases have been lifted.

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4.7.2.2 Summary table

Targets for year **2023**

	Estimated number
Ovine and caprine animals culled and destroyed (due to classical scrapie)	600
Ovine and caprine animals compulsory slaughter (due to classical scrapie)	0
Genotyping tests - monitoring and eradication measures	600

4.7.3 Breeding programme for resistance to TSEs in sheep

4.7.3.1 General description

Description of the programme according to the minimum requirements set out in Annex VII, Chapter B of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001

(max. 32000 chars) :

There are no immediate plans to implement a breeding programme.

4.7.3.2 Summary table

Targets for year **2023**

	Estimated number
Ewes to be genotyped under the framework of a breeding programme referred to in Article 6a of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001	0
Rams to be genotyped under the framework of a breeding programme referred to in Article 6a of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001	0
Total	0

5. Costs

5.1 Detailed analysis of the costs

(max. 32000 chars):

BSE Costs

The costs of this programme (net of VAT) is estimated as follows for 2023:

Active Surveillance (Slaughter plants) > 30 months

100 tests

Active Surveillance >24 months

5 tests

Active Surveillance (Slaughter Plants) >48 months

500 tests

Active Surveillance (Fallen Animals)

65,000

Additional costs associated with testing (consumables, printing, protective clothing)

Compensation for negative suspects:

15 cases average cost

Compensation for cohorts and progeny

100 cases culled and destroyed

Scrapie Costs

The costs of the programme (net of Vat) in 2023 is estimated as follows

Active surveillance at slaughter plants

10,000 tests

Active surveillance (Fallen Animals Ovine)

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10,000 tests
Active surveillance (Fallen Animals Caprine)
100 tests
Suspects
5 cases
Depopulation of susceptible animals in infected flocks
600 animals
Rapid testing of cull animals in infected flocks
600 animals
Costs of genotyping for TSE cases and Monitoring and Eradication
900
Compensation for animals culled and destroyed in positive flock
600 animals
Haulage/Valuation/Glynnns and other miscellaneous costs

5.2 Detailed analysis of the cost of the programme

Costs of the planned activities for year :

2023

5.3. Financial information

1. Identification of the implementing entities - financial circuits/flows

Identify and describe the entities which will be in charge of implementing the eligible measures planned in this programme which costs will constitute the reimbursement/payment claim to the EU. Describe the financial flows/circuits followed.

Each of the following paragraphs (from a to e) shall be filled out if EU cofinancing is requested for the related measure.

a) Implementing entities - **sampling**: who performs the official sampling? Who pays?
(e.g. authorised private vets perform the sampling and are paid by the regional veterinary services (state budget); sampling equipment is provided by the private laboratory testing the samples which includes the price in the invoice which is paid by the local state veterinary services (state budget))

(max. 32000 chars):

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) vets generally perform the sampling and are paid by the DAFM (state budget); sampling equipment is provided by the DAFM (state budget). In slaughter plants food business operators take samples under supervision from DAFM authorised officers.

b) Implementing entities - **testing**: who performs the testing of the official samples? Who pays?
(e.g. regional public laboratories perform the testing of official samples and costs related to this testing are entirely paid by the state budget)

(max. 32000 chars):

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and private laboratories perform the testing of official samples and costs related to this testing are entirely paid by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (state budget).

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c) Implementing entities - **compensation**: who performs the compensation? Who pays?
(e.g. compensation is paid by the central level of the state veterinary services,
or compensation is paid by an insurance fund fed by compulsory farmers contribution)

(max. 32000 chars):

Compensation is paid by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (state budget).

d) Implementing entities - **vaccination (if applicable)** : who provides the vaccine and who performs the vaccination?
Who pays the vaccine? Who pays the vaccinator?

(e.g. farmers buy their vaccine to the private vets, send the paid invoices to the local state veterinary services which reimburse the farmers of the full amount and the vaccinator is paid by the regional state veterinary services)

(max. 32000 chars):

n/a

e) Implementing entities - **other essential measures**: who implements this measure? Who provides the equipment/
service? Who pays?

(max. 32000 chars):

n/a

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2. Source of funding of eligible measures

All eligible measures for which cofinancing is requested and reimbursement will be claimed are financed by public funds.

yes

no

3. Additional measures in exceptional and justified cases

In the "*Guidelines for the Union co-funded veterinary programmes*", it is indicated that in exceptional and duly justified cases, additional necessary measures can be proposed by the Member States in their application.

If you introduced these type of measures in this programme, for each of them, please provide detailed technical justification and also justification of their cost:

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Attachments

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- 1) The more files you attach, the longer it takes to upload them .
- 2) This attachment files should have one of the format listed here : jpg, jpeg, tiff, tif, xls, xlsx, doc, docx, ppt, pptx, bmp, pna, pdf.
- 3) The total file size of the attached files should not exceed 2 500Kb (+- 2.5 Mb). You will receive a message while attaching when you try to load too much.
- 4) IT CAN TAKE **SEVERAL MINUTES TO UPLOAD** ALL THE ATTACHED FILES. Don't interrupt the uploading by closing the pdf and wait until you have received a Submission Number!
- 5) Only use letters from a-z and numbers from 1-10 in the attachment names, otherwise the submission of the data will not work.

List of all attachments

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