EUROPEAN HEALTH AND DIGITAL EXECUTIVE AGENCY (HaDEA)

Department A Health and Food
Unit A2 EU4Health/SMP

Food Programmes for eradication, control and surveillance of animal diseases and zoonoses

submitted for obtaining EU financial contribution

Annex II: Control programme – Reduction of prevalence of Salmonella serotypes in certain poultry populations

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Document version number: 2022 1.0

Member state : IRELAND

Disease Salmonella

Animal population Laying flocks of Gallus gallus

This program is multi annual : no

Request of Union co-financing from beginning : 2023

1. Contact data

Name

Phone

Email

Your job type within the CA :

Submission Date

02/12/2022 17:11:59

Submission Number

1670001122301-19017

A. Technical information

By submitting this programme, the Member State (MS) attests that the relevant provisions of the EU legislation will be implemented during its entire period of approval, in particular:

- Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 on the control of *Salmonella* and other specified food-borne zoonotic agents,
- Regulation (EU) No 517/2011 implementing Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards a Union target for the reduction of the prevalence of *Salmonella* serotypes in laying hens of *Gallus gallus*,
- Regulation (EC) No 1177/2006 implementing Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 as regards requirements for the use of specific control methods in the framework of the national programmes for the control of *Salmonella* in poultry.

As a consequence, the following measures will be implemented during the whole period of the programme:

1. Aim of the programme

It is to implement all relevant measures in order to reduce the prevalence of *Salmonella* Enteritidis and *Salmonella* Typhimurium (including the serotypes with the antigenic formula l,4,[5],12:i:-) in adult laying hens of *Gallus gallus* ('Union target') as follows:

- ☐ An annual minimum percentage of reduction of positive flocks of adult laying hens equal to at least 10% where the prevalence in the preceding year was less than 10%.
- ☐ An annual minimum percentage of reduction of positive flocks of adult laying hens equal to at least 20% where the prevalence in the preceding year was more than or equal to 10% and less than 20%.
- ☒ A reduction of the maximum percentage equal to 2% or less of positive flocks of adult laying hens.
- ☐ The Member States has less than 50 flocks of adult laying hens: the target is to have not more than one adult flock remaining positive.

Laying flocks of Gallus gallus

The Union target shall be achieved every year based on the monitoring of the previous year.

Comments(max. 32000 chars) :

The aim of the programme is to comply with the Union target referred to in Article 4(1) of Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 for the reduction of the prevalence of Salmonella Enteritidis and Salmonella Typhimurium in adult laying hens of Gallus Gallus('Union target') shall be as follows:

(i)A reduction of the maximum percentage of positive flocks of adult laying hens equal to 2% or less of all positive flocks of adult laying hens.

Please note that the National Poultry Salmonella Control Programme is currently being reviewed by DAFM and consequently, details outlined in this document may change over the next year.

2. The programme will be implemented on the **whole territory** of the MS.

☒*yes* ☐*no*

If No, please explain :

3. Flocks subject to the programme

The programme covers all flocks of adult laying hens of *Gallus gallus* but does not apply to flocks for private domestic use or leading to the direct supply, by the producer, of small quantities of table eggs to the final consumer or to local retail establishments directly supplying the eggs to the final consumer.
For the latter case (direct supply), national rules are adopted ensuring *Salmonella* control in these flocks.
The programme covers also all rearing flocks of future laying hens.

☒*yes* ☐*no*

If No, please explain :

	Total number of flocks of layers in the MS	Number of flocks covered by the programme	Number of flocks where FBO sampling shall take place	Number of flocks where official sampling will take place
Rearing flocks	38		38	0
Adult flocks	383	383	383	224

Number of holdings with more than 1,000 laying hens	224
Number of flocks in these holdings	383

NB : All cells shall be filled in with the best estimation available.

Comments (max. 32000 chars) :

A number of holdings are comprised of multiple houses. Previously we made a distinction between holdings and flocks (houses), this explains the numeric difference.

4. Notification of the detection of target *Salmonella* serovars

A procedure is in place which guarantees that the detection of the presence of the relevant *Salmonella* serotypes during sampling at the initiative of the food business operator (FBO) is notified without delay to the competent authority by the laboratory performing the analyses. Timely notification of the detection of the presence of any of the relevant *Salmonella* serotypes remains the responsibility of the food business operator and the laboratory performing the analyses.

☒*yes* ☐*no*

if no, please explain :

Salmonella enteritidis (Se) and Salmonella typhimurium (St) are notifiable in Ireland under Statutory Instrument entitled Notification and Control of Animal Diseases Affecting Terrestrial Animals Regulations 2016 (S.I. 130 of 2016).
In the case of a positive result, The European Communities (Control of Salmonella in Laying Flocks of Domestic Fowl) Regulations 2008 – [S.I. No.247 of 2008] apply.

It should be noted that all Private labs are obliged to submit all Salmonella isolates to the CVRL where serotyping is performed on 100% of samples.

5. Biosecurity measures

FBOs have to implement measures to prevent the contamination of their flocks.

☒*yes* ☐*no*

if no, please explain. If yes, please describe the biosecurity measures that shall be applied, quote the document describing them (if any) (max. 32000 chars) :

Checks are performed during each official sampling visit. Satisfactory or unsatisfactory biosecurity findings are registered on the salmonella sampling submission form.

Irish National Legislation in the form of S.I. 42 of 2008 outlines the range of biosecurity measures that the owner or person in charge of a poultry premises is expected to put in place. Biosecurity Advice for Flock Owners is outlined in the attached DAFM Booklet. Standardised checklists are used by the competent authority's poultry inspectorate for inspection of Primary Producers for compliance with hygiene requirements, which include checks on the implementation of biosecurity measures. Biosecurity checks include checking for site security to prevent access of other animals/people, foot dips, changing protective clothing, good hygiene practice, recording of and disposal of mortalities etc. Non-compliance is recorded on a spreadsheet . A risk basis is used to help determine the frequency of inspections the following year. In cases of non-compliance, producers are given a definitive timeframe within which they must take remedial action. Follow-up inspections are made by poultry inspectorate to ensure that remedial actions have been undertaken, or the producer risks losing his/her certification as a registered producer.

Legislation, best practice and guidance notes apply to all poultry producers. The following is an extract from the Department's Biosecurity Information for Registered Poultry Flock Owners:

BIOSECURITY ADVICE FOR POULTRY FLOCKOWNERS
1. Commercial poultry farmers should ensure that they have a good perimeter fence around the site, and that there is a single entrance/exit, with a lockable gate. Small flocks should also be fenced in.
2. All poultry houses should be bird and rodent-proof, and always keep the doors closed. Wild birds, especially pigeons and waterfowl, are a particular risk. Bird-proof netting should have apertures no larger than 25mm.
3. Only allow essential visitors to have access to the poultry site, and provide farm or disposable overalls and footwear for visitors and staff. Provide hand-washing facilities, and insist that these are used by staff and visitors.
4. Provide footbaths containing approved disinfectant* outside each poultry house. Ensure that the disinfectant is used at the recommended dilution rate, and change the disinfectant at least twice weekly.
5. Only allow essential vehicles onto the site. Staff, service vehicles etc. should be parked outside the perimeter. Insist that all vehicles that have to enter the site have been cleaned and disinfected beforehand.
6. Keep house surrounds free of vegetation and debris, and disinfect the surrounds regularly.
7. Operate an all-in/all-out policy when stocking houses, and only buy replacement birds from reputable sources.
8. Only allow equipment that has been cleaned and disinfected into poultry houses. Always store equipment in a bird and rodent-proof location following disinfection.
9. Always store shavings in a bird and rodent-proof location. Do not allow pet animals into stores or poultry houses.
10. Store dead birds in a lidded container. Dispose of carcases regularly in a safe manner. If the carcases are due to go for rendering, leave the container at the perimeter of the site for collection.
*A list of approved disinfectants can be found at: http://www.agriculture.gov.ie

MEASURES TO REDUCE THE RISK OF INTRODUCTION OF DISEASE E.G. AVIAN INFLUENZA
Specific measures are required to reduce the risk of introduction of disease e.g. avian influenza into poultry. The reservoir for the virus is in wild water birds, in particular waterfowl (e.g. ducks and geese). Waterfowl may be infected with the virus, yet show no symptoms.
The virus may be present in:
• Live birds and their products (meat, eggs, feathers)
• Carcases of birds
• Faeces of birds
Infection most commonly results from:
• Contact with wild birds
• Contact with infected poultry or poultry products
• Contaminated clothing and footwear
• Contaminated vehicles and equipment
• Contaminated feed and water
• Contaminated manure and litter
• Rodents or farm dogs and cats, which may act as mechanical vectors.

1. It is essential to prevent contact between poultry and wild birds. Ensure that houses, feed stores and shaving stores are rodent and bird-proof, including netting of vents. Keep the doors shut and ensure that cats and dogs are kept out.

2. Separate ducks and geese from other poultry.
3. Feed and water free range birds indoors where possible. Always clean up feed spills immediately after they have occurred.
4. Prevent poultry from having access to ponds, lakes or rivers e.g. by fencing off these areas and do not allow free standing water to collect.
5. Staff and visitors on poultry farms should not have contact with wild birds (e.g. waterfowling). Only essential visitors should be allowed access to the poultry house. A record of all visitors should be maintained.
6. Use foot dips at the entrance to the poultry house and change your footwear, on entry to the house, to boots that are dedicated to use inside the poultry house.
7. Always clean and disinfect* equipment prior to using it in a poultry house, and do not leave it outside whilst not in use.
8. Check the source of the water supplies to your house at regular intervals. If the source is lake water, it must be adequately treated to kill viruses (e.g. by chlorination or UV light).
*A list of approved disinfectants can be found at: http://www.agriculture.gov.ie

VEHICLE CLEANING & DISINFECTION PROTOCOL
1. Choose a location that will avoid solutions entering surface water drains or water courses, and preferably with a concrete surface.
2. First remove any equipment (modules, module lifting equipment, crates, pipes, covers etc.) for cleaning.
3. Starting from the top and working down, remove any solid debris from the outside and inside of the vehicle by scraping, then brushing. Pay special attention to the underside of the vehicle, wheels, wheel arches, tyres, mud-guards and exposed chassis. Dung and soiled bedding may contain high levels of infective material, and should be safely disposed of e.g. by composting.
4. Apply detergent using a knapsack sprayer or pressure washer, at low pressure (approx. 500 psi or 35 bars), to avoid dispersal of potentially infective material.
5. Soak all external and internal surfaces of the vehicle, starting from the top and working down. Pay special attention to the wheels, wheel arches, tyres, mud-guards and underside of the vehicle. Allow at least 10 minutes contact time for the detergent to penetrate and loosen the dirt. Rinse at high pressure with clean water.
6. Check that all surfaces are visibly clean, before disinfecting.
7. Use an approved disinfectant*. Ensure that disinfectant has been properly stored, is in date, and is used in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.
8. Apply the disinfectant with a pressure washer (at low pressure) or knap sack sprayer. Ensure that the recommended contact time for the disinfectant is allowed. If the disinfectant affects untreated metals or damaged galvanised metals, it should be rinsed off after the recommended contact time.
9. Outside of vehicle - start at the top and work down each side. Inside the vehicle - disinfect the walls and floor of the transporter, and then the loading ramp and tail gate lift. Pay special attention to the wheel arches, tyres, mudguards and underside of the vehicle.
10. Take all removable items out of the cab of the vehicle including the floor mats, clothing, wellington boots etc. Use a dustpan and brush to remove any debris from inside the cab and dispose of it into a refuse sack.
11. Use a soft hand brush and a bucket of detergent to clean the cab floor, floor mats and foot pedals. Rinse. Use a clean cloth soaked in a solution of disinfectant at the recommended dilution rate to disinfect the cab floor, floor mats and foot pedals.
12. Ensure that all items packed back into the cab are clean.
13. Park the vehicle on a slope away from the wash area, to drain and dry.
14. Once the vehicle is removed from the wash area, wash down the concrete surface with detergent.

(ensure that cleaned and disinfected vehicles do not become re-contaminated when using pressure washers to clean the wash area or other vehicles).
15. Clean and disinfect waterproof overalls and boots and the cleaning equipment.
*A list of approved disinfectants can be found on the Department of Agriculture at: http://www.agriculture.gov.ie

DISINFECTION PROGRAMME FOR POULTRY FARMS
The following procedures should be followed for each house to be disinfected after depopulation to prevent the carry over of infection.

Removal of feed, equipment, litter etc.
1. Remove any residual food from the silo and feed equipment.
2. Take out any removable equipment.
3. Remove any dead bird carcases from the litter, and dispose of with other carcases.
4. Remove all litter from the house.
5. Load litter to ensure that all outside areas such as concrete pads at doors are cleared of old litter.
6. Ensure loads are covered before transport from the site.

Dry cleaning
1. Work from the top of the house and work down.
2. Blow down all surface dust from ceilings, water pipes, fan boxes and inlets.
3. Blow or brush loose debris from walls.
4. Scrape floor using mechanised scrapers.
5. Blow or wash down bulk feed bins.

Water sanitization
Drainable systems (all egg-laying sites have a drainable water system)
1. Drain the header tank and check that it is free from debris. Clean as required.
2. Fill the tank with that volume of water required to fill the entire drinking system and add sanitizer at recommended dilution.
3. Allow sanitizer solution to fill the drinking system. Leave for one hour.
4. Drain the system and fill with fresh water.
Non-drainable systems
1. Shortly before depopulation, add sanitizer to the header tank.
2. Isolate supply from header tank and allow the water to be consumed until the tank is empty.
3. Remove any debris from the header tank.
4. Fill the tank with water, and add sanitizer at recommended dilution.

Cleaning and disinfection of the buildings and equipment
1. Include any stores in this cleaning procedure.
2. Wash all surfaces with a pressure washer with the detergent sanitizer solution.
3. Externally, spray air inlets, deposits from around fan boxes and the loading area.
4. Internally include air inlets, fan boxes, partitions, feeders and drinkers and all other equipment removed from the house, ensuring that everything is visibly clean.
5. Use a soak tank if available for removable equipment.
6. Soak all surfaces for 20-30 minutes, and then rinse all surfaces with water at high pressure.
7. Also ensure that all dirty areas such as concrete aprons around houses and bulk bin pads are washed clean.

6. Minimum sampling requirements for food business operators (FBO):

Samples at the initiative of the FBOs will be taken and analysed to test for the target *Salmonella* serovars respecting the following minimum sampling requirements:

a. Rearing flocks: day-old chicks, two weeks before moving to laying phase or laying unit

b. Adults laying flocks: every 15 weeks during the laying period

☒*yes* ☐*no*

if no, please explain - Indicate also who takes the FBO samples, and, if additional FBO sampling, going beyond the minimum sampling requirements, is performed, please describe what is done.

FBO sampling is undertaken by FBO staff in accordance requirements outlined in Annex 2 of Commission Regulation 517/2011.

7. Samples are taken in accordance with provisions of point 2.2 of Annex to Regulation (EU) No 517/2011

☒*yes* ☐*no*

if no, please explain :

8. Specific requirements laid down in Annex II.D of Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 will be complied with where relevant. In particular:

• due to the presence or the suspicion of the presence of SE or ST (including monophasic ST I,4,[5],12:i:-) in the flock, eggs cannot be used for human consumption unless heat treated;

• eggs from these flocks shall be marked and considered as class B eggs.

☒*yes* ☐*no*

if no, please explain - Indicate also if prompt depopulation of the infected flocks is compulsory.

All positive table egg laying flocks are slaughtered out.

9. If birds from flocks infected with SE or ST are slaughtered, please describe the measures that shall be implemented by the FBO and the CA to ensure that fresh poultry meat meet the relevant **EU microbiological criteria** (row 1.28 of Chapter 1 of Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005): absence of SE/ST in 5 samples of 25g:

Measures implemented by the FBO (farm level)

This is not widely applicable. In Ireland, Salmonella positive table egg layers are generally culled and sent for rendering and therefore positive flocks or carcases rarely enter the slaughterhouse. If Salmonella enteriditis/typhimurium positive flocks are sent for sanitary slaughter, this is only following agreement between DAFM and the slaughterhouse and positive flocks must be slaughtered at the end of the day. All eggs are destroyed and sent for rendering. On the rare occasion that Salmonella positive flocks are exported to the U.K. for slaughter and heat treatment (destined for human consumption), the slaughterhouse is advised of this by the FBO in advance of any birds being exported. All poultry meat placed on market complies with EU bacteriological requirements.

Measures implemented by the FBO (slaughterhouse level)

Increased neck-flap sampling (60 industry and 60 DAFM neck flap samples) must be taken from the positive flock. Meat from the positive flock must be frozen and maintained under control of DAFM with spatial separation from other (Salmonella negative) flocks until both industry and official samples are returned and are all negative for Salmonella enteritidis or Salmonella typhimurium. Positive flocks must be slaughtered at the end of the day with subsequent cleaning and disinfection.

Measures implemented by the CA (farm and slaughterhouse level)

This is not widely applicable. In Ireland, Salmonella positive table egg layers are generally culled and sent for rendering and therefore positive flocks or carcases rarely enter the slaughterhouse. If Salmonella enteriditis/typhimurium positive flocks are sent for sanitary slaughter, this is only following agreement between DAFM and the slaughterhouse and positive flocks must be slaughtered at the end of the day, with subsequent cleaning and disinfection. A restriction notice on all product from the positive flock is issued by the CA at the slaughterhouse and a restriction withdrawal notice is only issued once the Veterinary Inspector has verified that all FBO and official samples were negative for Salmonella enteriditis or Salmonella typhimurium.

10. **Laboratories** in which samples (official and FBO samples) collected within this programme are analysed are accredited to ISO 17025 standard and the analytical methods for *Salmonella* detection is within the scope of their accreditation.

☒*yes* ☐*no*

If no, please explain :

11. The **analytical methods** used for the detection of the target *Salmonella* serovars is the one defined in Part 3.2 of the Annex of Regulation (EU) No 200/2010 i.e. Amendment 1 of EN/ISO 6579-2002/Amd1:2007. `*Microbiology of food and animal feeding stuffs - Horizontal method for the detection of Salmonella spp. -- Amendment 1: Annex D: Detection of Salmonella spp. in animal faeces and in environmental samples from the primary production stage*'.

    Serotyping is performed following the Kaufman-White-Le Minor scheme.

☒*yes* ☐*no*

If no please explain.

For samples taken on behalf of the FBO alternative methods if validated in accordance with the most recent version of EN/ISO16140 may be used.

☒*yes* ☐*no*

If no please explain.

12. Samples are transported and stored in accordance with point 3.1 of the Annex to Regulation (EU) No 517/2011. In particular, samples examination shall start in the laboratory within 4 days after sampling.

☒ *yes* ☐ *no*

If no, please explain :

13. Please describe the **official controls at feed level** (including sampling).

Comments (max. 32000 chars) :

There are 14 feed mills supplying over 600,000 tonnes of poultry feed in Ireland. Routine official Salmonella Monitoring of raw materials used in poultry feed has been carried out by DAFM since 1988. Raw material samples are taken at point of import, at compound feed manufacturers premises or at the point of manufacture (e.g. fish meal).

Routine official Salmonella monitoring of compound (finished) poultry feed has been carried out by DAFM since 1988 in all poultry compound feed manufacturers. Compound feed samples are taken at point of dispatch in poultry compound feed manufacturers premises or from bagged product. Official sampling of feeding-stuffs from mills supplying the poultry industry occurs a minimum of 4 times per year in each mill.

In poultry offal rendering plants, sampling for salmonella is carried out in accordance with the provisions of Council Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009 laying down health rules concerning animal by-products not intended for human consumption.

In addition, an Official Veterinarian as part of any suspect S.enteriditis or S.typhimurium investigations may take feed samples.

Detailed results of all Ireland official raw material and poultry compound feed results are presented to the Commission as part of Ireland's zoonosis data report as was required under Council Directive 2003/99/EEC.

Heat treatment of all poultry feed is compulsory under the Diseases of Animals (Poultry Feed) Order 1991 - S.I. No 364 of 1991.

14. Official controls at holding, flock and hatchery level

a. Please describe the official checks concerning the **general hygiene provisions** (Annex I of Regulation (EC) No 852/2004) including checks on biosecurity measures, and consequences in case of unsatisfactory outcome.

(max. 32000 chars) :

Checks are performed during each official sampling visit. Satisfactory or unsatisfactory biosecurity findings are registered on the salmonella sampling submission form.

Depending on the seriousness of the biosecurity issue discovered, a written warning may be issued advising on the remedial action required and time frame for resolution or for more serious infractions requirement that the remedy is applied immediately.

Irish National Legislation in the form of S.I. 42 of 2008 outlines the range of biosecurity measures that the owner or person in charge of a poultry premises is expected to put in place. Biosecurity Advice for Flock Owners is outlined in the attached DAFM Booklet. Standardised checklists are used by the competent authority's poultry inspectorate for inspection of Primary Producers for compliance with hygiene requirements, which include checks on the implementation of biosecurity measures. Biosecurity checks include checking for site security to prevent access of other animals/people, foot dips, changing protective clothing, good hygiene practice, recording of and disposal of mortalities etc. Non-compliance is recorded on a spreadsheet . A risk basis is used to help determine the frequency of inspections the following year. In cases of non-compliance, producers are given a definitive timeframe within which they must take remedial action. Follow-up inspections are made by poultry inspectorate to ensure that remedial actions have been undertaken, or the producer risks losing his/her certification as a registered producer.

For laying flocks, procedures of parent and grandparent flocks of Gallus gallus declared positive after monitoring are carried out in accordance with the requirements of ANNEX II, section (D) of Council Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003.

b. Routine official **sampling scheme:** EU minimum requirements are implemented i.e. official sampling are performed:

■ in one flock per year per holding comprising at least 1,000 birds;

■ at the age of 24 +/- 2 weeks in laying flocks housed in buildings where the relevant Salmonella was detected in the preceding flock;

■ in any case of suspicion of Salmonella infection when investigating food-borne outbreaks in accordance with Article 8 of Directive 2003/99/EC or any cases where the competent authority considers it appropriate, using the sampling protocol laid down in point 4(b) of Part D to Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003;

■ in all other laying flocks on the holding in case Salmonella Enteritidis or Salmonella Typhimurium is detected in one laying flock on the holding;

■ in cases where the competent authority considers it appropriate.

☒*yes* ☐*no*

If no, please explain. - Indicate also 1)if additional official sampling going beyond EU minimum requirements is performed give a description of what is done 2)who is taking the official samples

Official sampling does not go beyond EU minimum requirements.
Official samples are taken by full-time salaried official veterinarian or technical staff.

c. **Official confirmatory sampling** (in addition to the confirmatory samples at the holding which are systematically performed if FBO or official samples are positive at the hatchery):

After positive official samples at the holding	☐ Always ☐ Sometimes (criteria apply) ☒ Never

Laying flocks of Gallus gallus

After positive FBO samples at the holding	☐ Always ☐ Sometimes (criteria apply) ☒ Never

When official confirmatory sampling is performed, additional samples are taken for checking the presence of antimicrobials:

☐ Always ☐ Sometimes ☒ Never

Please insert any comments. Describe the criteria used to determine if confirmatory sampling is performed. Indicate also which samples (if any) are taken to check the presence of antimicrobials.

1	2	3	4
For routine samples taken at the holding	No of flocks positive to SE / ST	Out of the flocks in column 2, No of cases where official confirmatory samples[3] were taken	Out of the cases in column 3, No of cases where confirmatory samples were negative
FBO samples[1]	0	0	0
Official samples[2]	0	0	0

[1] Reg 517/2011, point 2.2.1 of the Annex

[2] Reg 517/2011, point 2.2.2 of the Annex

[3] Reg 2160/2003, point II.D.4 of the Annex

What happened to the flocks counted under 4 (re checked for the presence of Salmonella? Checked for the presence of antimicrobials?) (max. 32000 chars):

d. Article 2 of Regulation (EC) No 1177/2006 **(antimicrobials** shall not be used as a specific method to control *Salmonella* in poultry): please describe the official controls implemented (documentary checks, sampletaking) to check the correct implementation of this provision. For samples please describe the samples taken, the analytical method used, the result of the tests.

Comments - Describe also if any other measures are implemented*(max. 32000 chars) :*

Official veterinarians inspect the on-farm animal remedies register of the flock owners and all prescriptions during official visits. Poultry serum samples are taken in line with the National Residue Control Plan as appropriate. Documentary checks carried out during official visits include the scrutiny of all prescriptions relating to antimicrobial usage. All withdrawal periods are implemented according to the manufacturer's guidelines. Where antimicrobials are used for purposes other than the control of Salmonella, sampling is delayed until the end of the withdrawal period. There were no residues detected in poultry samples during 2019 or 2020.
Samples will be taken occasionally from negative or suspect flocks to test for antimicrobial activity.

15. Salmonella vaccination

- ☐ Voluntary
- ☐ Compulsory
- ☒ Forbidden

Use of *Salmonella* vaccines is in compliance with provisions of Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 1177/2006.

☐*yes* ☒*no*

If no, please explain. - If performed please describe the vaccination scheme (vaccines used, vaccines providers, target flocks, number of doses administered per bird, etc) (max. 32000 chars) :

Vaccines are not used.

16. System for **compensation to owners** for the value of their birds slaughtered or culled and the eggs destroyed or heat treated.

Describe the system for compensation to owners. Indicate also how improper implementation of biosecurity measures can affect the payment of compensation (max. 32000 chars) :

DAFM operates a non-statutory scheme of compensation whereby the value of poultry and eggs destroyed (less any salvage) and costs of transport to place of destruction may be reimbursed. Other costs arising, such as loss of income, are not compensated.

All poultry samples testing positive for Salmonella are routinely forwarded to the Central Veterinary Research Laboratory (CVRL) for Serotyping. A confirmed positive result by CA is where a target serovar is serotyped. The CA is advised immediately once a target serovar is identified and contact made by officials with the flock owner. As soon as is practicable, valuation is carried out after a flock is confirmed positive by competent staff of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, following an on-site visit. Valuation is based on such factors as the age of birds, costs expended and future production foregone. A scale of compensation is not publicly available and varies from case to case for example, age is a considerable factor in determining value. All payments are limited to the market value of such animals if they had not been affected by the disease.

An application in respect of a premises at which another outbreak of Salmonella occurred within the previous 12 months will not be considered for compensation. In order to be eligible for compensation a flockowner must demonstrate that he/she has taken all reasonable precautions to prevent the introduction of Salmonella into the flock. No compensation is payable in cases where the outbreak can reasonably be assumed to be attributable to the actions or negligence of the owner of the flock. A reduced payment may be made where it is considered that such person is in part responsible for the outbreak. For the purposes of the competent authority's compensation scheme, the owner shall be regarded as responsible for all matters concerning his/her flock.

With regard to prompt slaughter, in cases where the flockowner is unable to secure prompt slaughter of the birds, for example due to severe weather conditions or the refusal of slaughter plants to accept Salmonella positive flocks, the entire compensation packaged offered may be capped, or an element thereof e.g. in respect of additional eggs produced. The Department strives to pay all compensation within 90 days of depopulation in order to avoid any reduction in Community financial support.

17. Please describe the official procedure to test, after the depopulation of an infected flock, the **efficacy of the disinfection** of a poultry house (No of samples, No of tests, samples taken, etc).

(max. 32000 chars) :

Houses are thoroughly cleaned, disinfected and fumigated before restocking. The official disinfection programme for poultry farms is outlined in the Department's Biosecurity Information for Registered Poultry Flock Owners. This includes the removal of feed, equipment, litter etc, dry cleaning, water sanitisation and the cleaning and disinfection of buildings and equipment.

DAFM also provides advice and best practice guidance to flock owners in relation to effective

disinfection of a poultry house. Once the FBO has completed disinfection they contact DAFM and samples are taken to test the efficacy of disinfection before restocking.

Following depopulation, the housing is thoroughly cleansed and disinfected Once the FBO has completed disinfection they contact DAFM and samples are taken to test the efficacy of disinfection before restocking and the house is swabbed (boot swabs/dust sample) for Salmonella sp. with negative results required for all Salmonella serovars before being restocked. 10 samples are taken per house and one test carried out per sample for the purpose of ensuring maximum sensitivity of detection. Samples are typically a combination of pair(s) of boot swabs and 30 x 30cm absorbent dust swab(s) The test method used is ISO 6579-1: 2017 (Microbiology of the food chain – Horizontal method for detection, enumeration and serotyping of Salmonella Part 1: Detection of salmonella spp.(ISO 6579-1:2017).

B. General information

1. Structure and organisation of the **Competent Authorities** (from the central CA to the local CAs)

Short description and/or reference to a document presenting this description (max. 32000 chars) :

The central competent authority for this programme is the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM). Officially collected samples are tested at DAFM's Central Veterinary Research Laboratory, the Director of which reports to DAFM's Chief Veterinary Officer. DAFM has Regional Veterinary Offices (RVO) around the country and staff from these offices undertake the official sampling programme. The evaluation of results and decisions in relation to follow-up action in positive cases are the responsibility of official veterinarians in DAFM headquarters.

2. Legal basis for the implementation of the programme

(max. 32000 chars) :

The central competent authority for this programme is the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM). Officially collected samples are tested at DAFM's Central Veterinary Research Laboratory, the Director of which reports to DAFM's Chief Veterinary Officer. DAFM has Regional Veterinary Offices (RVO) around the country and staff from these offices undertake the official sampling programme. The evaluation of results and decisions in relation to follow-up action in positive cases are the responsibility of official veterinarians in DAFM headquarters.

3. Give a short summary of the outcome of the **monitoring of the target *Salmonella* serovars** (SE, ST) implemented in accordance with Article 4 of Directive 2003/99/EC (evolution of the prevalence values based on the monitoring of animal populations or subpopulations or of the food chain).

(max. 32000 chars) :

The occurrence of salmonella in laying flocks has remained low in recent years in Ireland.
2013: One outbreak
2014: No outbreaks
2015: One outbreak
2016: One outbreak S. Orion Serovar x1
2017: One salmonella Llandoff. One Salmonella unnamed Serovar
2018: No outbreaks.
2019: No outbreaks
2020: No outbreaks
2021: No outbreaks

The incidence of salmonella in humans has also declined in recent years. In 2021 there were 173 human clinical isolates. The number of human Salmonella isolates is now less than half of that observed in 2000, and has been sustained at this level in recent years.

4. System for the registration of holdings and identification of flocks

(max. 32000 chars) :

All establishments keeping poultry, regardless of the numbers involved, were in 2015, required to register with the competent authority under regulations made under the Animal Health and Welfare Act 2013. This SI is entitled Control on Places where Poultry are Kept Regulations (S.I. 114 of 2014).

Breeding establishments are registered under the Poultry Hatcheries Act 1947 and, if they are engaged in Intra Community Trade, they must be approved under the European Communities (Live Poultry and Hatching Eggs) Regulations 1992 and 1995 which implement Council Directive 90/539/EEC, replaced by Council Directive 2009/158 /EEC. European Communities (Marketing Standards for eggs for hatching and farmyard poultry chicks) Regulations 2008 (617/2008)

Irish Poultry flocks are identified using a unique flock identifier number ("Flock Number"). This is an alpha-numeric code including an area-identifying letter followed by a 7 digit numeric code.

Ireland is in the process of reviewing this legislation and will be publishing new legislation to govern the registration of poultry premises in the next year.

5. System to monitor the implementation of the programme.

Laying flocks of Gallus gallus

(max. 32000 chars) :

Flocks are subject to an ongoing testing programme as per the requirements of the legislation. A risk basis is used to help determine the frequency of inspections.

Results are collated centrally in order to further monitor compliance. When Salmonella results are generated they are forwarded to the CCA Headquarters (Agriculture House, Dublin) where they are inspected by an official veterinarian of the Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine (DAFM). Data is monitored on an ongoing basis by the DAFM official veterinarian. Reports are also forwarded to administrative colleagues where data is tabulated allowing the maintenance of databases.

C. Targets

1 Targets related to flocks official monitoring

1.1 Targets on laboratory tests on official samples for year : 2023

Type of the test (description)	Target population	Number of planned tests
Bacteriological detection test	Laying flocks of Gallus gallus	448
Serotyping	Laying flocks of Gallus gallus	20
Antimicrobial detection test	Laying flocks of Gallus gallus	0
Test for verification of the efficacy of disinfection	Laying flocks of Gallus gallus	60

1.2 Targets on official sampling of flocks for year : 2023

Type of the test (description)	Rearing flocks	Adult flocks
Total No of flocks (a)	38	383
No of flocks in the programme		383
No of flocks planned to be checked (b)		224
No of flock visits to take official samples (c)		224
No of official samples taken		448
Target serovars (d)		SE + ST
Possible No of flocks infected by target serovars		6
Possible No of flocks to be depopulated		6
Total No of birds to be slaughtered/culled		15 000
Total No of eggs to be destroyed	Text	200 000
Total No of eggs to be heat treated	Text	0

Laying flocks of Gallus gallus

(a) Including eligible and non eligible flocks
(b) A checked flock is a flock where at least one official sampling visit will take place. A flock shall be counted only once even if it was visited serveral times.
(c) Each visit for the purpose of taking official samples shall be counted. Several visits on the same flock for taking official samples shall be counted separately.
(d) Salmonella Enteritidis and Salmonella Typhimurium = SE + ST
Salmonella Enteritidis, Typhimurium, Hadar, Infantis, Virchow = SE+ ST + SH +SI + SV

2.1 *Targets on vaccination for year :* **2023**

Type of the test (description)	Target on vaccination
Number of flocks in the Salmonella programme	0
Number of flocks expected to be vaccinated	0
Number of birds expected to be vaccinated	0
Number of doses expected to be administered	0

E. 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 reimbursment/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 perform 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))

Official sampling is undertaken by official veterinarians or technical staff employed by the Competent National Authority, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM).

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)

Testing of official sampling is undertaken by the Competent National Authority's Central Veterinary Research Laboratory and laboratories approved by DAFM.

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)

DAFM operates a non-statutory scheme of compensation whereby the value of poultry and eggs destroyed (less any salvage) and costs of transport to place of destruction are reimbursed. Other costs arising, such as loss of income, are not compensated.

d) Implementing entities - **vaccination**: 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)

N/A

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

N/A

2. Source of funding of eligible measures

All eligible measures for which cofinancing is requested and reimbursment 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:

Attachments

IMPORTANT :

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

		Attachment name	File will be saved as (only a-z and 0-9 and -_) :	File size
			Total size of attachments :	