Members experience on harmonisation of biosecurity measures to prevent and control emerging and re-emerging transboundary animal diseases

Dr. June Fanning

Chief Veterinary Officer

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Ireland

World Organisation for Animal Health



*“Losing the sheep was like a **bereavement.**”*

- Cooley Peninsula Farmer





*“I remember sitting in a chair that night, and as I reflected on the events of the day, particularly the slaughter of the animals, **I cried**.”*

- Veterinary Surgeon

*“The silence was **deafening** without the sound of sheep.”*

- Cooley Peninsula Farmer





*“It was a big **shock**.”*

- Agricultural Advisor




WWW.FREEWORLDMAPS.NET


CO. KILDARE
IRELAND





A National Farmed Animal Biosecurity Strategy
- Biosecurity has never been more relevant

gov.ie News Departments

Press release

Third highly pathogenic avian influenza outbreak confirmed in commercial turkey flock in Co. Monaghan

From: Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
Published on: 10 November 2025
Last updated on: 14 November 2025

Study: Salmonella persists after cleaning and disinfection

Salmonella was still isolated in processing plants after the plants were washed down

12 December 2022 1 minute read By: Chris Wright

African Swine Fever 'would devastate Irish pig industry overnight'



By Megan O'Brien
October 13, 2022 12:56 PM

What really drives Ireland's worst bovine TB outbreaks

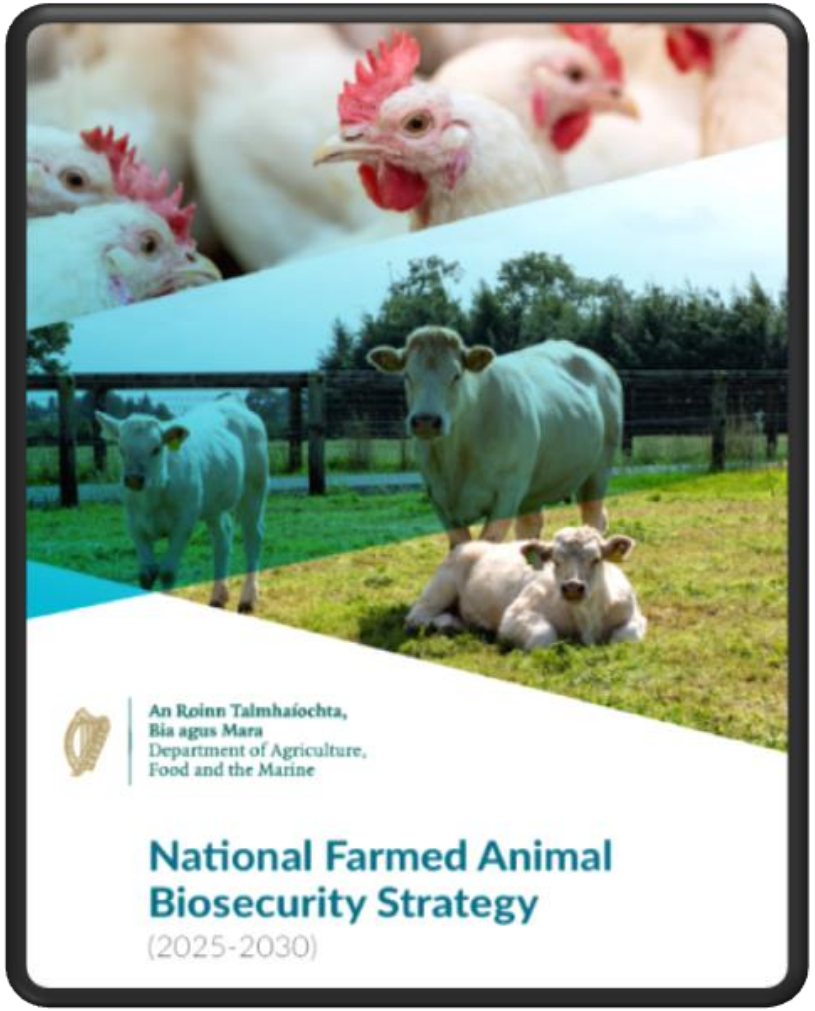
New research challenges long-held assumptions



A National Farmed Animal Biosecurity Strategy

- All-island approach to disease prevention and control.
- ***Prevention is Better than Cure.***
- It centres around the 'ABC of Biosecurity'





Awareness

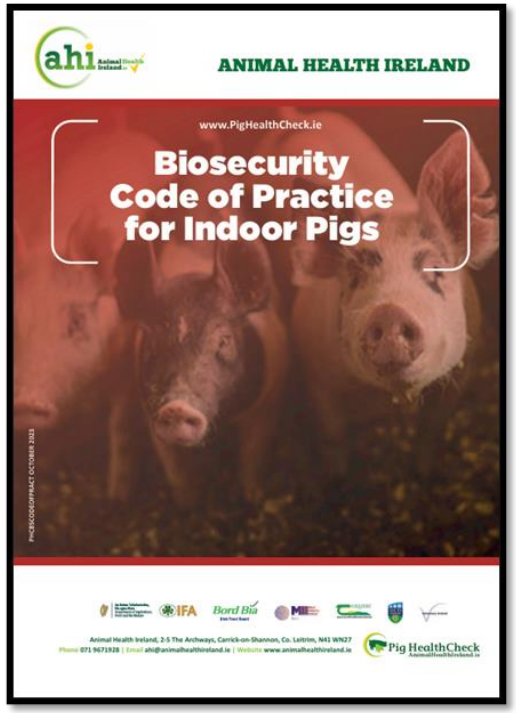
Awareness

- Guidance
- Stakeholder awareness
- Regulatory measures
- Sector specific biosecurity Codes of Practice:

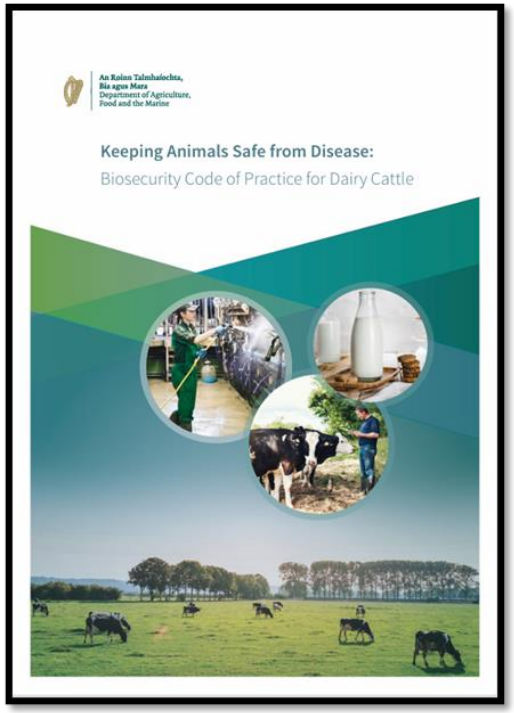
✓Pigs

✓Poultry

✓Dairy and Beef Cattle







Behavioural Change



- Success depends on biosecurity practices being implemented effectively and routinely.
- Motivations and barriers to change.
- Knowledge gaps through research.
- Collaboration with stakeholders







Consistency



- Maintaining a strong barrier
- Awareness of legislative obligations
- Implementing effective biosecurity practices









Why is Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) a threat?



AMR can spread from animals to people and vice versa.



When microorganisms like bacteria become resistant to antimicrobials, we increase the risk of running out of options to treat dangerous infections.

estimated cost of AMR in EU/EEA

€1.1 billion

per year

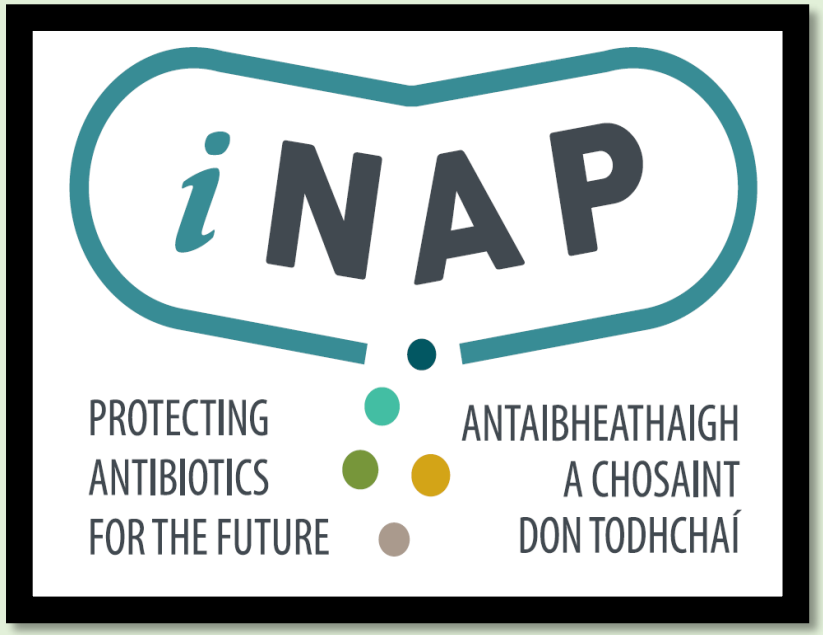
estimated AMR-related deaths in Europe

35,000

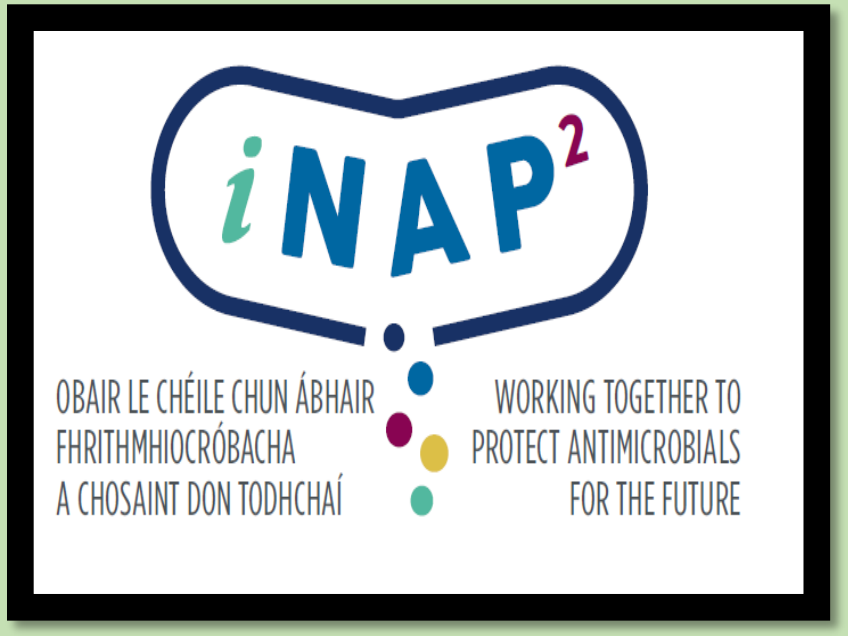
per year

iNAP – Ireland's National Action Plans on AMR

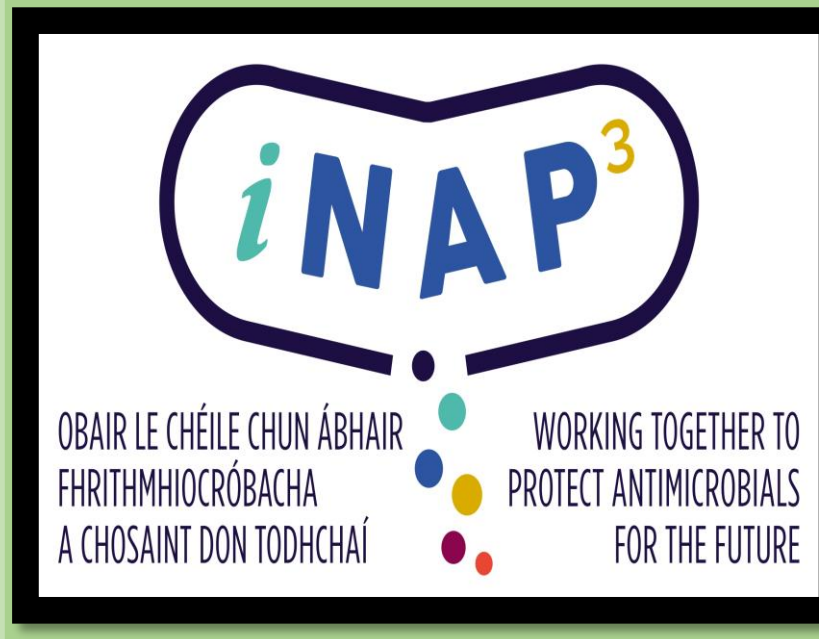
iNAP1
2017 – 2020



iNAP2
2021 – 2025



iNap3
2026 – 2030



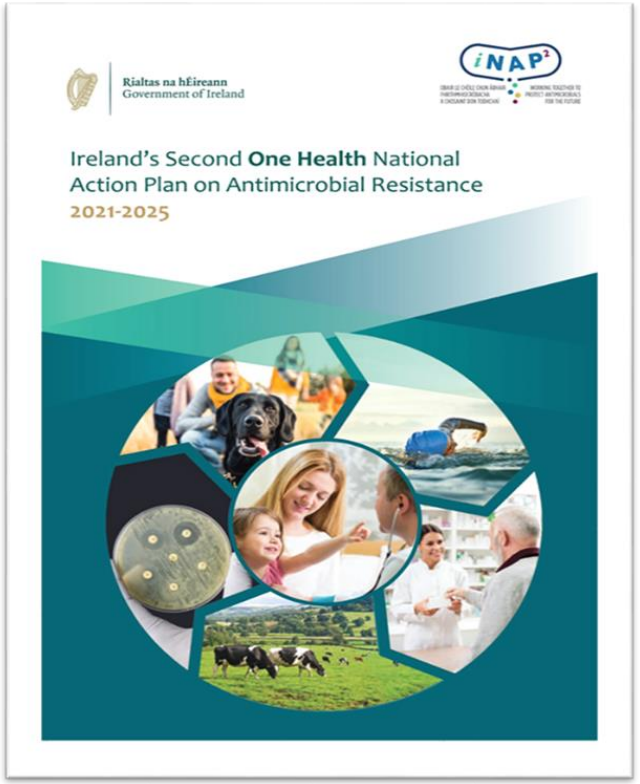
iNAP – Key Achievements

- 50% reduction in sales of highest critically important antimicrobials
- 24% overall reduction in sales for food producing animals
- Development of National Veterinary Prescription System
- iNAP launched November 2025

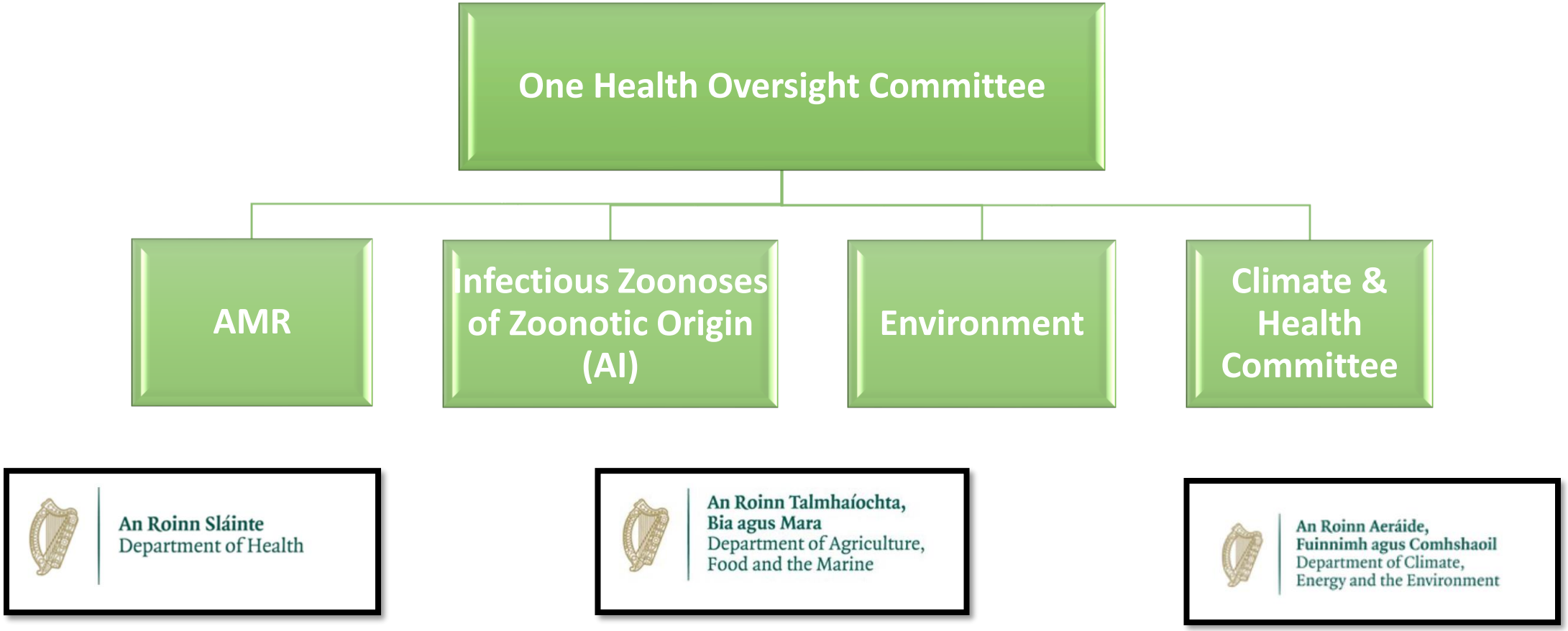
✓Includes new objective strengthening multisectoral governance, sustainability and accountability

✓Communication and behaviour change

✓Renewed focus on biosecurity and infection



National One Health Framework



Biosecurity at the Border

- Creating awarenes at airports and ports with media campaigns
- Detection dog “Casey”













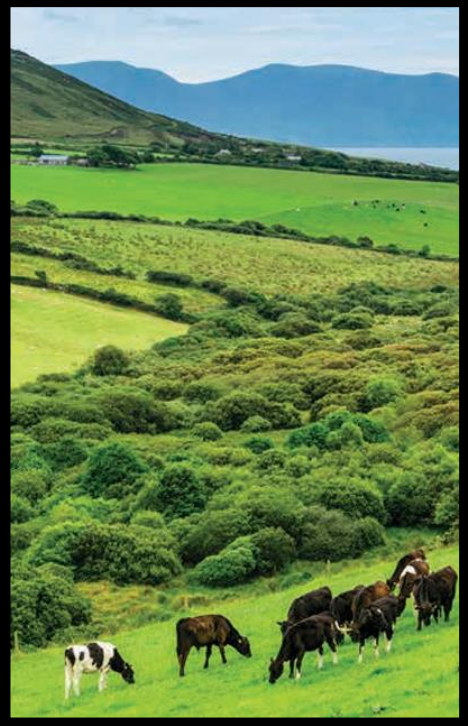


An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine

Bovine TB Action Plan

Addressing Bovine TB in Ireland

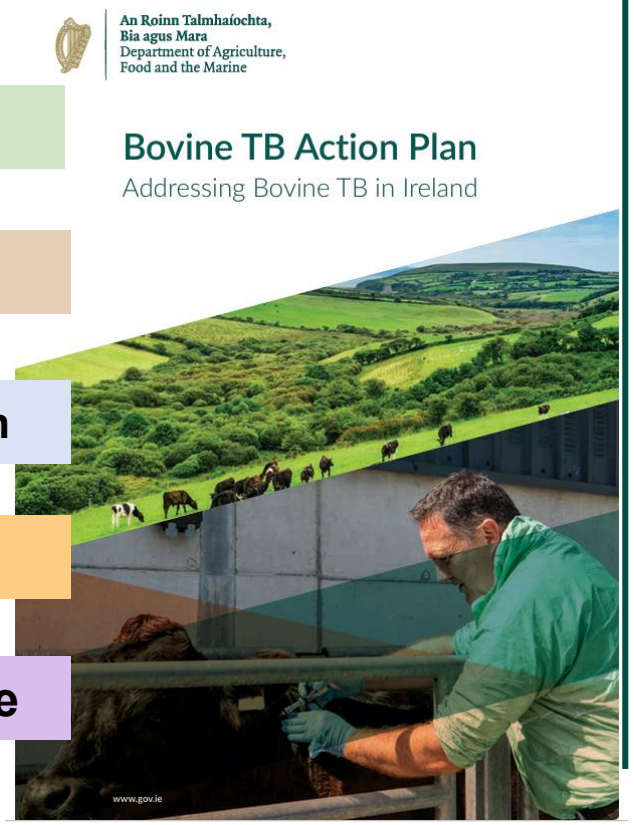






Bovine TB Action Plan: Addressing Bovine TB in Ireland

1. **Support bTB Free Herds**
2. **Enhance Wildlife Biosecurity**
3. **Detect and eliminate bTB infection**
4. **Improve On-Farm Biosecurity**
5. **Reduce bTB in High Risk Cattle**



Protect your herd from Bovine TB (bTB)

Buying Animals: Check the bTB history of animals before buying and only buy from herds with no recent breakdown

Breeding: Use AI and stock bulls with higher levels of bTB resistance. See more at www.icbf.ie

Badgers: Identify badger setts and use livestock fencing to keep cattle away. Report badger activity at www.bovinetb.ie

For more information please visit www.bovinetb.ie

Badger Notification Portal

TB Awareness at 2026 National Ploughing Championships



TB Awareness at 2026 National Ploughing Championships



Behaviour Change at 2026 National Ploughing Championships









Avian Influenza Awareness









Communication during Increased Risk Period

Compulsory biosecurity measures:

usually introduced around October or November, based on risk

- Stakeholder forums
- Webinars
- Press releases
- Social media
- Radio/Podcasts
- Advertising campaigns
- Website updates
- Circulars (HPAI Update)



RTÉ | 100 News Sport Entertainment Business Lifestyle Culture Gaeilge | Play

News › Ireland › World Business Sport Nuacht Programmes RTÉ Investigates

Housing order for all poultry comes into effect amid bird flu risk

Updated / Monday, 10 Nov 2025 09:51

An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

NDCC Avian Influenza Update 12 of 2025

1. Introduction of Biosecurity Measures Regulations 1st November 2025

- 'Best practice' biosecurity measures as usually advised by the Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine, will become mandatory for all poultry and captive bird keepers effective from 1st November.
- These are precautionary measures to reduce the risk of an incursion of avian influenza to poultry in Ireland.
- There will not be a requirement for birds to be permanently housed from this date, nor will there be any restrictions on bird gatherings, shows or sales at this time.
- A guidance document on the measures which must be taken by poultry and captive bird keepers has been developed and is available in the **Annex** below and at www.gov.ie/birdflu

Biosecurity continues to remain the #1 method in disease prevention and control
Strict Biosecurity measures are ESSENTIAL to help prevent HPAI outbreaks

Communication

It is not just

- Public relations
- Media management alone
- Simply issuing information





- <u>Goal</u>: sustained engagement and behaviour change

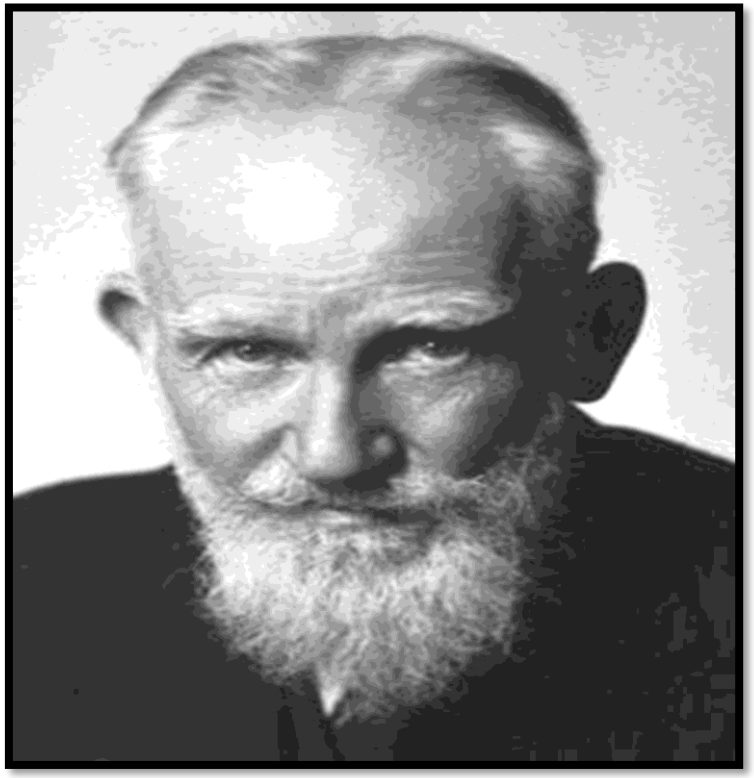








Thank you!



“The single biggest problem in communication is the illusion that it has taken place”

- George Bernard Shaw (Famous Irish Playwright & Nobel Prize Winner)