

ALL ISLAND ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE STRATEGY

All-Island Animal Health and Welfare Strategy

Background

Primary agriculture production remains an important economic activity on the island of Ireland attributing 2.5% of Gross Value Added in Ireland (2008) and 1.2% in Northern Ireland (2008). Employment in this sector accounted for about 5% of employment in Ireland and 3.7% in Northern Ireland in 2008. The industry is dominated by livestock production and a large processing industry is based on this output. There is a strong reliance on trade in animals and animal products with the major part of the output of the sector being sold outside the island. In 2008 primary agriculture accounted for 6.0% of total exports in Ireland.

It is important therefore that the animal health and welfare status of livestock on the island of Ireland should be at the highest level. Historically the island has enjoyed a high animal health and welfare status. In that connection, the impact of factors such as the establishment of the Single European Market in the early 1990s, the changing profile and practices of the farming industry and the growth in transport and travel in general have increased the vulnerability of the island to disease and pose a threat to our animal health status. Animal health and welfare issues are of increasing concern to consumers, the industry, to the general public and to both Governments.

Within the island both administrations have faced many common animal health problems over the years and a number of existing diseases continue to create problems across the different species. Both Governments are involved on a continuous basis in disease eradication, control and surveillance through a combination of compulsory testing, routine inspections and investigations, mandatory and voluntary reporting and through Codes of Practice.

Co-operation to Date

The need for a high level animal health and welfare status throughout the island led the North/South Ministerial Council (NSMC) to commission in late 2001 a programme of work to develop closer co-operation and joint strategies for the improvement of animal health on both sides of the border. Under the NSMC arrangements, a number of working groups on different aspects of

animal health and welfare were established with the objective of co-operating on policies as far as possible. Full co-operation in the field of animal health and welfare continued through the work of these groups since 2002. The most significant achievements of the working groups to date have been:

- the development of broadly similar systems of sheep identification which helps facilitate trade in slaughter sheep on the island;
- co-operation in relation to the exchange of data to facilitate trade in bovine animals following the lifting of the BSE ban on imports from the United Kingdom (UK);
- broad alignment of policies in respect of border controls to prevent the introduction of animal disease;
- co-operation on scrapie policies;
- close liaison on Avian Influenza, Bluetongue, Equine Infectious Anaemia, Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and a range of other epizootic diseases;
- co-operation on contingency planning for exotic disease outbreaks;
- co-operation on testing regimes for TB and Brucellosis, especially in border areas; and
- joint enforcement operations particularly with regard to the seizure of illegal medicines and hormonal substances.

The Working Groups continue to co-operate closely, overseen by the Animal Health and Welfare Strategy Steering Group which is made up of senior officials from both Departments. A structured approach to the development of animal health and welfare policy across the island is therefore in place, and this approach is a key part of the Strategy. The Terms of Reference for the Working Groups, and details of Working Group co-operation to date, are set out in **Annex 1**.

Policy Context

The island of Ireland presents a distinct epidemiological entity and it is therefore critical that policies continue to be integrated where possible and complementary in nature. The clear veterinary view in the UK and Ireland is that it makes sense to have distinct animal health strategies on the island of Great Britain (GB) and on the island of Ireland, recognising however, the close

social relationships which exist and the extensive trade arrangements between the two islands.

Both administrations are committed to adopting a strategic approach to animal health and welfare within the island of Ireland. While part of the focus of the development of a strategic approach on the island of Ireland will be on programmes and actions within the respective jurisdictions, there will always be a common thread to policy development, given that many of our rules and practices are set or influenced at European Union (EU) or international level.

Currently trade in animals between Member States of the EU is regulated under EU legislation, much of which was reinforced in the aftermath of the Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak in 2001.

Key Strategic Principles and Framework

In implementing an all-island Strategy, both administrations are guided by a number of key principles, including achieving or maintaining consistently high standards of animal health and welfare, improved public health and an effective capacity to deal with emergencies within a policy framework which:-

- is based on sound veterinary and scientific evidence;
- does not impose unnecessary regulation on the industry, but seeks to reduce the regulatory burden where possible;
- facilitates joined-up working between the respective Veterinary Services and associated enforcement agencies; and
- has high level monitoring arrangements.

These principles are neither exhaustive nor exclusive. The two administrations agree that cognisance be taken of the views of stakeholders on animal health and welfare matters in the development of policy on an all-island basis. Furthermore an essential prerequisite for an all-island animal health strategy is that animals and animal products entering the island of Ireland are subject to the same rules i.e. EU rules.

Aim of the Strategy

The ultimate objective of an all-island animal health and welfare strategy is the development of policies which facilitate free movement of animals on the island.

The Strategic Approach

In order to work towards the ultimate aim of free movement of animals, three key strategic areas have been identified. These are:-

- Partnership;
- Further co-operation on Trade, Animal Identification and Animal Movement Policies and Legislation; and
- Further co-operation in developing Disease Control and Animal Welfare Policies.

These key elements of the Strategy will be delivered through a number of activities, which are set out in **Annex 2**. This annex sets out the context of each activity, key initial milestones and achievements with details of how these will help meet the ultimate aim of the Strategy. These activities, and their associated milestones, will be added to and updated on a regular basis as the Strategy develops.

1. Partnership

Historically there has been close co-operation between the Departments in developing animal health and welfare policy and in dealing with disease outbreaks. In parallel with this co-operation, both Departments have worked closely with their respective industries and other key stakeholders. To this end, the North/South Working Groups will continue to co-operate and work closely together and will be reviewed regularly to ensure that co-operation is targeted on the most important and relevant issues and in those areas where co-operation can be most effective. For the Strategy to be successful buy-in from the industry on both sides of the border needs to be secured.

2. Co-operation in the development of Trade, Animal Identification and Animal Movement Policies and Legislation

Co-operation on trade issues is key to meeting the objective of free movement of animals on the island. There is a range of issues which affect trade on both sides of the border, including application of EU Directive 64/432 on animal health problems affecting intra-Community trade in bovine animals and pigs as well as arrangements for sheep. Working together in order to develop trade policies that seek to reduce bureaucracy and limit the constraints on movement in both directions is a key issue.

Adopting similar approaches to animal identification and developing compatible information systems, for example, will also help development of an internationally competitive agri-food sector.

Animals and animal products from each jurisdiction will continue to be identified with the respective country designation codes in accordance with the current EU requirements.

3. Co-operation in the development of Disease Control and Animal Welfare Policies

Free movement will only be possible if underpinned by comparable measures on disease control and animal welfare measures. Full co-operation on animal health issues has also the very real potential to help reduce and prevent animal disease spread on the island.

Next Steps

The development of an all-island Animal Health and Welfare Strategy will provide both jurisdictions with the basis for seeking international recognition to develop and enhance the animal health and welfare status of the island and provides the foundation on which we can build upon our trading position and animal health status.

Ministers and officials will continue to meet regularly to develop, review and monitor policies and programmes. The initial activities are set out in Annex 2 while progress towards the milestones which will be monitored is set out in

Annex 3 and new milestones towards the ultimate aim of the Strategy will be added as the Strategy develops over time.

Annex 1

North South Co-operation to Date

Under the NSMC arrangements a number of working groups were established with the objective of co-operating on policies as far as possible.

The Groups are:-

- Animal By-Products
- Animal Welfare
- Bovine TB/Brucellosis
- Disease Co-ordination and Surveillance
- ID and Traceability
- Import/Export of Live Animals and their Products [Trade]
- Other Zoonoses
- Veterinary Medicines

The terms of reference of each working group, and the details of co-operation to date are set out below.

1. Animal By-Products

Animal by-products (ABP) policy is governed by the EU Animal By-Products Regulation No. 1774/2002 and is therefore similar in both jurisdictions. The role of the group is to consider a range of issues of mutual interest, including those affecting cross-border trade, disposal of international catering waste and options for the use and disposal of ABP generally.

Given the extent of existing policy co-operation, the current focus is on the exchange of information between the administrations north and south in support of trade, and strengthening co-operation on cross-border issues, such as, the safe transport of ABP. Topics discussed recently include registration of hauliers; approval of ABP composting plants: storage of meat and bone meal (MBM); use of tallow as fuel; use of Trade Control and Expert System (TRACES), which controls import and export of live animals and animal products in the EU; separation in cold stores; ABP enforcement procedures; MBM fertiliser labelling; and disposal of fallen animals.

2. Animal Welfare

Broad terms of reference were agreed as follows:

- to review animal welfare issues North and South;
- to identify and progress areas for co-operation/joint action; and
- EU dimension - benefit in both sides informing each other in relation to issues arising and to discuss implementation of EU rules to ensure where possible a common approach.

Animal welfare policy is governed by EU legislation to a large extent and is broadly the same in both jurisdictions, with little necessity for further alignment. In recognition of the cross-border dimension, the Farm Animal Welfare Advisory Council includes representation from DARD.

Given the extent of existing policy co-operation, the current focus is on the exchange of information between the two administrations, strengthening of co-operation on cross-border issues such as animal transport standards and the development of joint initiatives on animal welfare issues. Both administrations are liaising closely in order to ensure similarity in new primary animal welfare legislation and European legislation.

3. Bovine Tuberculosis (TB)/ Brucellosis (BR)

The aim of the TB/BR Working Group is to share statistical and other information relevant to the control and eradication of TB and Brucellosis and to explore possible areas of co-operation on projects.

Bovine Tuberculosis (TB)

The aim is to develop a common all-island framework for TB surveillance and disease reduction. Council Directive 64/432/EEC (as amended) prescribes the requirements and testing programmes that must be observed by Member States in relation to TB. In the context of compliance with the Directive, there is and will continue to be an emphasis on promoting further co-operation on strategies on the island for the control of the disease. The ongoing implementation of the Northern Ireland policy review has led to greater co-

operation in the approach of both administrations though some differences remain at present, for example in regard to wildlife as a reservoir of infection.

In addition to the above, a number of initiatives are ongoing concerning data and information exchange.

Brucellosis (BR)

Following the attainment of Officially Brucellosis free status by Ireland, the objective will be to ensure that (i) progress continues to be made in Northern Ireland in eradicating the disease so that it can attain Brucellosis free status also as soon as possible and (ii) freedom from the disease is maintained in Ireland. As with TB, there will continue to be emphasis on sharing of data and information.

4. Disease Co-ordination and Surveillance

The dedicated Disease Surveillance Group, was subsumed into the Other Diseases Working group which was renamed the Disease Co-ordination and Surveillance Working Group. The aim of the Working Group is to cover surveillance aspects of diseases excluding TB and Brucellosis, and other Zoonoses (which are covered by specific Working Groups) and to underpin progress to free movement by ensuring comparable disease control measures. Full co-operation on animal health issues has also the very real potential to help reduce and prevent animal disease spread on the island.

A process for identifying all-island disease priorities was developed and a draft Terms of Reference which could be used to progress the ground work for developing an all-island disease surveillance plan.

This work takes into account the strategy for enhancing veterinary surveillance in the UK, which will influence the approach to surveillance in Northern Ireland.

The group deals with issues also concerning BSE in cattle and Scrapie in sheep in an all-island context.

Bluetongue

Officials continue to liaise on bluetongue issues in the light of the evolving situation. Close co-operation in the area of import controls is ongoing.

Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)

The 2001 outbreak of FMD highlighted the value and necessity of close co-operation and co-ordination between administrations north and south and the need to invoke similar arrangements in the event of a future outbreak. The value of this level of close co-operation and co-ordination was again illustrated in the all-island approach taken in response to the outbreaks of FMD in England in 2007.

Specific provision has been made for such co-operation and co-ordination in the FMD contingency plans for both jurisdictions. Essentially, in the event of an outbreak, immediate contacts will be established at all appropriate levels between the two administrations. A common chapter, setting out these arrangements has been incorporated into the FMD contingency plans of both jurisdictions. The overriding purpose is to ensure adequate and timely consultation, exchange of information and co-ordination of policies. The maintenance of the all-island approach depends crucially on both administrations adopting and applying common control measures without which the joint approach is undermined. Similar provisions have been included in contingency plans for avian flu and bluetongue.

Aujeszky's Disease (AD)

Eradication programmes operate in both jurisdictions. In July 2009 DARD's eradication plan was officially recognised and they achieved Annex II status. DAFF applied for Annex II status also. The next step will be formal recognition of disease freedom (Annex I). It is hoped that eradication can be achieved simultaneously in both jurisdictions so that the island of Ireland may take advantage of increased trading opportunities, which will exist when the island is officially AD free.

DARD and DAFF officials continue to keep each other updated on progress and that cooperation will continue.

Avian Influenza

Since the threat of Avian Influenza emerged in 2005, officials have maintained on-going frequent contact on Avian Influenza matters, including wild bird surveillance, the assessment of risk, preventive actions taken in both jurisdictions and contingency planning. The control of Avian Influenza is based on an EU legal framework, which means that the preventive measures being taken on the island of Ireland, and the control measures that would be taken in the event of a disease outbreak, are broadly similar.

Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE)

Equivalent public health protection measures are in place in both jurisdictions, notwithstanding operational differences. Surveillance testing policies and other operational aspects are based on EU requirements having regard to the current categorisation of the respective areas. Notification systems have been put in place to advise Northern Ireland of the export of the offspring of any Irish BSE cases. Reciprocal arrangements are also in place in Northern Ireland. Both administrations will continue the arrangements for data exchange on Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy (TSE) surveillance programmes and testing results and in relation to BSE reported passive cases.

Scrapie

Both administrations are implementing the EU surveillance testing programme and have been developing policies to eradicate Scrapie on the island of Ireland which reflects the agreed EU measures on Scrapie. The approach of both administrations involves greater flock-owner awareness, enhanced testing, genotyping and removal of susceptible sheep. Joint guidance notes for farmers have been issued.

The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) has implemented the Northern Ireland Scrapie Plan, which includes a Ram Genotyping Scheme for purebred flocks and a Compulsory Scrapie Flocks Scheme in respect of all confirmed cases of Scrapie.

The Irish policy is being reviewed and will be finalised shortly, before which the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (DAFF) will discuss co-operation on these policies with DARD. The National Genotype Programme is a voluntary scheme that was introduced in 2004 and is administered by DAFF. Priority actions on Scrapie include achieving mutual recognition of the respective genotyping programmes and certification.

Johnes Disease

The disease is notifiable in both jurisdictions and the practical aspects of policy are broadly similar.

Caseous Lymphadenitis (CLA)

The disease is notifiable in both jurisdictions and since 2004 the policy approach has been similar.

5. Identification (ID) and Traceability

The aim of this Working Group is to put complementary animal identification programmes in place and to pursue the possibilities for information exchange including electronic exchange of data on an ongoing basis.

Cattle: Equivalent systems already operate on the island, but there are some differences between the systems in the two jurisdictions. Data exchange arrangements have been put in place for cattle movements. The potential for electronic data exchange is also being developed with the objective both of preventing fraud and facilitating traceability for disease control purposes.

Pigs: Pig identification and traceability systems have been put in place in both jurisdictions.

Sheep: Application of EU Regulation 21/2004 on the electronic identification and movement of sheep within the island.

6. Import/Export of Live Animals and their Products

The role of the group, on an ongoing basis, is to examine and to work towards resolution of live animal and animal product trade issues as they arise.

7. Other Zoonoses

The Group aims to explore common areas of interest and possible mutual assistance in the field of Zoonoses. The working group produced a report in September 2004 on the operation of pig salmonella monitoring schemes in both jurisdictions, specifically pointing up areas which may need to be addressed in order to minimise trade distortion. DAFF operates a statutory surveillance and control programme for pigs while DARD has a voluntary monitoring programme in place. A review has been undertaken to examine the possibility of alignment of these programmes and a report was produced highlighting the areas of compatibility between the two schemes and the mechanisms to be addressed to facilitate cross-border trade. Following the introduction of the new EU Zoonoses Regulation and Directive, co-operation on policies has been achieved to a large degree in this area. For poultry, differences of approach remain towards vaccination of egg layers and broiler breeders insofar as vaccination is not permitted in Ireland and is encouraged in Northern Ireland.

8. Veterinary Medicines

The Veterinary Medicines Group operates under the following Terms of Reference agreed in January 2002:

“To discuss issues of mutual interest to both authorities in respect of the control of veterinary medicines, the enforcement of residue controls under Directives 96/22, 96/23 and 2001/82 and related areas”.

Regulation of veterinary medicines and residues is controlled largely by EU legislation. Therefore, there has been substantial alignment in terms of policies between both administrations. However due to differing approaches in the two jurisdictions to the implementation of EU legislation on exemptions of some medicines from a mandatory prescriptive regime, there will be some divergences as regards the sales categories of certain products and prescribing functions. Currently the scope for alignment of procedures in both jurisdictions on medicated feedstuffs and sale of medicines to address illegal cross-border trade is being examined. Another priority is to develop further liaison on the investigation and enforcement action against habitual residue offenders, in particular, those who sell animals from one jurisdiction to another.

Annex 2

Initial Activities for Delivery of the Key Elements of the Strategy

Key Strategic Area	Activity	Context/Description	How Activity Helps Meets the Ultimate Aim	Milestones
Working in Partnership.	Review of priorities for co-operation	This activity is intended to ensure that resources are targeted where they are most needed. The Working Groups can be set specific tasks with the objective of aligning approaches in both jurisdictions to prevent and control disease while ensuring identification and movement policies are broadly aligned.	The objective will be to secure better prioritisation of resources, and therefore greater focus on meeting the ultimate aim. Working Groups can be set up or stood down as appropriate to meet current priorities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of existing Working Groups to commence by December 2007, with a meeting of Joint Chairs of Working Groups in January 2008. • Review completed with work programme agreed by February 2008, and annually or as required thereafter.
	Stakeholder involvement	Increase stakeholder/ government interaction on an all-island basis by setting up annual stakeholder meeting involving both Governments and key all-island stakeholders.	Will ensure genuine partnership in the development of policy and in the delivery of the All-Island Strategy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All-island Consultative Forum to be set up to discuss the all-Island strategic approach and the forward work programme by Autumn 2009.
Co-operation on Disease Control and Animal Welfare Policies.	Common Chapters for Epizootic Disease Contingency Plans	With agreed contingency plan common chapters, and therefore formalised co-operation, protocols will be in place to ensure timely communication and co-operation, minimise trade disruption, leading to rapid control and eradication and return of disease free status.	Common chapters are being developed for inclusion in respective epizootic contingency plans, which will help reduce risks of disease spread, which in turn underpins the aim of free movement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish FMD Common Chapter by 9 November 2007 (NSMC Sectoral Meeting). • Avian Influenza Common Chapter by March 2008 and • Bluetongue Common Chapter by July 2009

	Seek to develop common approach to scrapie and to sheep genotyping.	The intention is to conclude discussions on common approaches and mutual recognition of genotyping programmes which will facilitate movement of breeding sheep North and South. Mutual recognition will lead to the acceptance of sheep genotype certification, under the respective regimes without further confirmatory blood testing being required by DARD or DAFF.	Common genotyping programmes will facilitate movement of breeding sheep North and South.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TSE Working Group draft proposals on development of common approach to genotyping by December 2009.
	Seek common approach to salmonella in pigs.	Working Groups to develop common approaches to salmonella surveillance and control in pigs.	Common approach to salmonella in pigs would enhance public health on the island.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other Zoonoses Working Group to bring forward proposals on common approach in 2010.
	Joint approaches to welfare of animals in transport.	Formal arrangements to be put in place for data sharing with respect to transporter authorisations under EU 1/2005 to ensure common approach to the requirements under the legislation and to dealing with breaches of the legislation. This approach is apt as breaches may occur in one jurisdiction, but a transporter may be authorised in the other.	Common approaches to welfare in transport will facilitate movement of animals and their protection under the welfare of animals during transport rules.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protocol for dealing with welfare during transport breaches agreed by November 2007.
Co-operation on Trade, Animal Identification and Animal Movement Policies and Legislation.	Joint project on Electronic Identification of sheep.	Under EU Regulation 21/2004, on sheep identification, an electronic sheep identification system has to be introduced by 31 December 2009. The Identification Working Group is to examine the feasibility of a system of Electronic Identification for sheep, while examining approaches for inclusion of the views of stakeholders.	There is general agreement that North and South need to work together to introduce complementary systems on the Island. Such a move is key to free movement and effective traceability. It may also lead to a reduction in the bureaucracy with respect to animal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compatible sheep EID systems in place by December 2009.

			movements on the Island.	
	Data Sharing Project	Equivalent data systems and the ability to exchange movement information electronically are key to the free movement of animals on the island. A project to identify how data on animal movements, disease outbreak information etc. can be better shared, will be initiated - with the ultimate possibility of a joint electronic data system.	Equivalent data systems are fundamental to underpinning the administration and enforcement of the free movement of animals on the island.	• Report on potential for joint system in 2010.
	Review of the application of Council Directive 64/432 and of trade arrangements for sheep	Officials to examine the application of relevant EU Directives with regard to trade in live animals within the Island, to GB and to Member States.	Common approach to interpretation of EU legislation will ease the free movement of animals within the Island.	• Trade Working Group to consider impact of Commission Decisions on implementation of Council Directive 64/432 and to bring forward a paper by December 2009.

Annex 3

Progress on Activities for Delivery of All-Island Animal Health and Welfare Strategy

Key Strategic Area	Activity	Milestones	Update
Working in Partnership	Review of priorities for co-operation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of existing Working Groups to commence by December 2007, with a meeting of Joint Chairs of Working Groups in January 2008. • Review completed with work programme agreed by February 2008, and annually or as required thereafter. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Joint Chairs of Working Groups met in January 2008. A review of Working Groups was completed and the 'Other Diseases' and 'Disease Surveillance' Working Groups were merged. The work programme was agreed. • The Steering Group met in June 2009 and initiated a further review of the Working Groups which resulted in agreement to merge the TSE Working Group with the Disease Co-ordination and Surveillance Working Group
	Stakeholder involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All-Island Consultative Forum to be set up to meet to discuss all-island strategic approach and the forward work programme by December 2009. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DARD initiated the formal consultation process in March 2008 and concluded the process in June 2008. • DAFF circulated the draft to its stakeholders. • Following NSMC agreement at the Meeting on 20 March 2009, a cross-border event was planned to bring industry stakeholders together to discuss delivery of the Strategy in Autumn 2009. As it was not possible to agree a suitable date in the Autumn, the event will now take place on 12 April 2010.
Further co-operation on the development of disease control and animal	Common Chapters for Epizootic Disease Contingency Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish FMD Common Chapter by 9 November 2007 (NSMC Sectoral Meeting). • Avian Influenza Common Chapter by March 2008. • Bluetongue Common 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FMD Common Chapter agreed. • Avian Influenza Common Chapter agreed. • Bluetongue Common Chapter agreed. • An interim common early

welfare policies		Chapter by July 2009 .	warning protocol for major incidents that impact on animal health, animal welfare or the food/feed chains in both jurisdictions has been put in place. This document has been amended recently to reflect updated contact details. This will sit alongside the existing rapid notifications systems for serious animal diseases.
	Seek to develop common approach to scrapie and to sheep genotyping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TSE Working Group draft proposals on development of common approach to genotyping by September 2010. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A complementary approach on scrapie has been adopted following compulsory EU measures set out in Commission Regulation 999/2001. • Progress towards the Mutual Recognition of “Genotype Programmes“ is at an advanced stage. • Genotype Programmes are continually under review - Programme will continue in 2010.
	Seek common approach to salmonella in pigs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other Zoonoses Working Group to bring forward proposals on common approach in 2010. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other Zoonoses Working Group met in April to bring forward a common approach in advance of EU baseline report which was published in May 2008. Template agreed. • DAFF met with stakeholders to inform them of proposed modifications to the salmonella control plan, which will in general terms be in keeping with programme in Northern Ireland. Both primary producers and processors have clear responsibilities and a defined role in the delivery of the new programme. It is noted that in Ireland this is a statutory based scheme while it is voluntary and run by the industry in Northern Ireland. The new programme has been finalised and is now in place.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was agreed that both control programmes would form part of National Plans for the control of Salmonella as required under EU legislation. (Northern Ireland's will be part of UK NCP). • A joint position paper analysing both Schemes has been finalised.
	Joint approaches to welfare of animals in transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protocol for dealing with welfare during transport breaches agreed by November 2007. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protocol agreed in November 2007.
	Disease Control	<i>Disease Co-Ordination and Surveillance Working Group</i> to examine the question of formal EU recognition relating to the island's Aujeszky's status for Commission consideration in 2010.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The respective Departments have had separate contacts with the EU Commission. • DARD submitted formal application via DEFRA and UKREP on 14 May 2009. A presentation was made at SCOFCAH on 30 June 2009. In July 2009 the eradication plan was formally recognised and Annex II status agreed. • DAFF made a formal application for Annex II status to the Commission and made a presentation to the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health on the 2nd March, 2010. DAFF is launching phase 3 of the National Aujeszky's Control and Eradication Programme also.
Further co-operation in the development of trade, animal identification and animal movement policies and legislation	Joint project on Electronic Identification of sheep	Compatible sheep EID systems in place by December 2009 .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislation came into operation in Northern Ireland on 31 December 2009. • Sheep EID is being implemented in line with EU rules from 2010 in both jurisdictions. Northern Ireland has opted to apply EID whereas DAFF will apply the slaughter derogation thus limiting EID to mainly breeding sheep.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussions are continuing to ensure that the systems for the electronic identification of sheep are compatible and continue to support north/south trade.
	Data Sharing Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report on potential for joint system in 2010. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consideration is continuing on the specific areas of data that are not currently being shared, for which there would be a business benefit.
	Review of the application of Council Directive 64/432	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trade Working Group to consider impact of implementation of Council Directive 64/432 by December 2009. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DAFF is considering the implementation of Council Directive 64/432 in the light of a recent opinion of Commission Legal Services.