

-----Original Message-----

From: xxxxxxxxx [SMTP:xxxxxxx@agriculture.gov.ie]

Sent: 30 June 2011 11:41

To: xxxxxxxxx

Subject: RE: Impact of Foot & Mouth on bovine TB

xxxxxxx,

Reply below

(a) the number of cattle slaughtered in the Irish Republic due to Foot and Mouth in 2001 as a proportion of the number of cattle which existed at the time (as requested in my earlier emails shown below)

We slaughtered 1,181 cattle due to FMD in 2001 (113 on the single infected premises and 1068 as a precautionary measure).

The total number of cattle in the December CSO Census was 6.408 million.

(b) the number of months over which TB testing was suspended in 2001 due to Foot and Mouth, and

The following FMD control measures were introduced in Ireland in 2001:

28/02/01 National movement ban on susceptible species (except for slaughter)

01/03/01 Protection & Surveillance Zone around outbreak no. 1 in Northern Ireland (involving a small area in Co. Louth)

22/03/01 Extension of the Protection & Surveillance Zone in Co. Louth following the outbreak in Ireland, and additional controls in the whole of Co. Louth (the area affected is <1% of the total area of the country)

19/04/01 Lifting of the controls on Co. Louth

03/04/01 Lifting of the Protection & Surveillance Zone

19/09/01 Recognition of official FMD-free status by OIE

TB testing was only suspended for the duration of the FMD controls, which were in place for a 2 month period from 28/02/01 to 30/04/01., although some reactor re-testing continued throughout the crisis. The TB annual programme normally commences in mid-March each year. Therefore there was very little interruption to the annual programme. It started approximately 6 weeks later and we had caught up by the end of the year.

(c) whether TB testing was relaxed at all when herds were restocked after the 2001 Foot and Mouth restrictions were lifted.

There was no relaxation after the crisis was over.

By the end of 2001 we had done 9.4M animal tests

In 2002 we also did 9.4M animal tests (this would have been the normal level of animal tests/year).

We did 129000 herd tests in 2001 and 130000 in 2002.

We removed 33,702 reactors in 2001 and 28,930 in 2002.

The figures are on the web-site from 2005

<http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/animalhealthwelfare/diseasecontrol/bovinetbbrucellosis/eradicationsschemes/statistics/tbstats/>

The figures vary depending on the level of disease detected and you will see that 2001 was a pretty normal year - in 2011 we did 8.4M tests, 114000 herds were tested (this is a slightly different figure than herd tests which we were counting in '01 and '02 i.e. some herds had more than one test in the year and each counted as a herd test). We had 20,211 reactors - so we have had a good improvement over the last 10-years.