TAIEX Workshop on Strengthening livestock health and Veterinary Services in Ukraine
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A strong livestock sector needs strong veterinary services

Mr Seán Ó Laoide MVB MRCVS MA MBA CertEnv
Deputy President Veterinary Council of Ireland
Outline of Presentation

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OIE /World Animal Health Organisation
Definitions

• **Veterinarian**
  means a person registered or licensed by the relevant *veterinary statutory body* of a country to practice veterinary medicine/science in that country

• **Veterinary statutory body**
  means an autonomous authority regulating *veterinarians* and *veterinary para-professionals*.

• **Veterinary Authority**
  means the Governmental Authority of an OIE Member, comprising *veterinarians*, other professionals and para-professionals, having the responsibility and competence for ensuring or supervising the implementation of animal health and welfare measures, international veterinary certification and other standards and recommendations in *the Terrestrial Code* in the whole territory.
OIE Definitions (continued)

- **Veterinary Services**
  means the governmental and non-governmental organisations that implement animal health and welfare measures and other standards and recommendations in the Terrestrial and Aquatic Codes in the territory. The Veterinary Services are under the overall control and direction of the Veterinary Authority. Private sector organisations, veterinarians, veterinary paraprofessionals or aquatic animal health professionals are normally accredited or approved by the Veterinary Authority to deliver the delegated functions.
Republic of Ireland (ROI)

- **Veterinarian**: means a Veterinary Practitioner registered with the Veterinary Council of Ireland. The Veterinary Profession is a regulated profession.

- **Veterinary statutory body**: Veterinary Council of Ireland. It regulates the Veterinary Profession and Veterinary Education in Ireland.

- **Veterinary Authority**: 1. Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Food is the central competent authority for drafting of feed, food, animal health and welfare legislation and the enforcement of animal health and welfare legislation and feed law. It enforces food law in food of animal origin under service contract with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland.  
  2. Food Safety Authority of Ireland Food Safety central competent authority for the enforcement of food law.  
  3. Local Authority is local competent Authority for food safety and animal welfare in small throughput meat plants.

- **Veterinary Services**: State Veterinary Services, Local Authority Veterinary Services and Private Veterinary Services represented by Veterinary Ireland.
Livestock Numbers

Cattle Sheep Pigs (ROI)

- **Cattle 5.8 Million** 48.1
  - Dairy cows 1 Million
  - Other cows 1.1 Million
- **Sheep 3.2 Million**
- **Pigs 1.6 Million**

Agriculture and food is an important indigenous industry in Ireland. Currently farmers make up almost 7% of the workforce. When employment in inputs, processing and marketing is included, the agri-food sector accounts for almost 10% of employment.

The agri-food sector (including agriculture, food, drinks and tobacco) accounts for around 8% of GDP. Primary agriculture accounts for 3% of GDP.

Note Greenhouse gas emissions due to Agriculture in Ireland account for approximately 27% of total emissions. Relative to other developed countries, this is a very high figure and reflects the importance of Agriculture in the Ireland.
Irish Agri-Food Industry in the National Economy

- 8.5% of Employment and 10% of Exports
- Ireland exported €8.9 billion in agri-sector
  - Dairy Sector 2008
    - 34% of Agriculture Output
    - 85% of dairy products are exported
    - Accounts for 27% of food and drink exports
    - Exports was €2.3 billion - UK 32% & EU 48%
  - Beef Sector 2008
    - 35% of Agriculture Output
    - 90% of beef products are exported
    - Exports was €1.8 billion - UK 54% & EU 45%
Ireland’s current animal health performance

Regulatory Diseases

- Officially Brucellosis Freedom Status achieved in 2010
- Eradication programme for Bovine Tuberculosis

There is All Island Animal Health and Welfare Strategy to facilitate working together in partnership with Northern Ireland to help improve animal health and welfare on the island of Ireland.

In the event of an outbreak of a disease such as Bluetongue anywhere on the island of Ireland, very close co-operation and co-ordination between the respective administrations are essential, not least because of the size of the control zones and the likelihood of them straddling the border. As a particular example of a concerted response is a common chapter in the respective *contingency plans for serious diseases for dealing with three diseases, Foot and Mouth, Avian Influenza and Bluetongue.

* Each Member State of the EU is obliged to draw up a contingency plan conforming to certain criteria, setting out the national measures to be implemented in the event of an outbreak of certain EU listed diseases
Ireland’s current animal health performance

- Animal health issues may be considered in two broad categories -
- Those issues where ‘biosecurity’ is important (in broad terms, this includes diseases such as bovine tuberculosis, bovine brucellosis, infectious bovine rhinotracheitis (IBR), or Johne’s) and of concern to those who ‘neighbour’ or purchase from infected farms, as well as the infected farm itself), and
- Those diseases where ‘between herd biosecurity’ is generally not the most significant concern, such as mastitis, fertility or lameness and where the ‘problem’ relates to the individual farm itself.
Ireland’s current animal health performance

- Of the ‘biosecure’ diseases, some are currently subject to government-led control with a view to reduction and eradication (such as bovine tuberculosis and brucellosis), whereas others (IBR, BVD, Johne’s disease) are not.

- In areas of animal health where government is currently involved, there has been some significant progress. An example is the eradication of bovine brucellosis, with the recent recognition of Ireland as being an Officially Brucellosis Free country - and the resolution of the BSE issue.

- In areas of animal health where government is not currently involved, an industry-led, not-for-profit partnership between livestock farmers, processors, service providers and government, Animal Health Ireland has taken the initiative in order to achieve international best-practice in the adoption of appropriate processes or in measured outputs. (http://www.animalhealthireland.ie/)
Summary Slide
Significance of Animal Health for Ireland

- Animal Health in critical a global trading environment
- Animal health is a critical contributor to the international competitiveness of agricultural product. Ireland has benefited from its image as a ‘green’ natural grass-based production facility, with a healthy herd of naturally reared animals – supporting access to some important high profile markets. However, whilst good animal health is perceived to deliver safe wholesome food, increasingly Ireland’s position in this regard is subject to challenge – recalling the BSE situation and the feed contamination event of 2008. It is increasingly likely that international competitors will seek to challenge this strong marketing position and Ireland will need to be in a position to bolster marketing claims with robust supporting evidence.
The critical role of animal health for Ireland impacts at two levels

• Firstly in the national and international market-place. This is due to the impact (perceived or otherwise) of animal disease on product quality, safety and food security and also to the specific importance of animal health in international trade.

• Secondly, animal health is a critical contributor to efficiency, profitability and thus competitiveness at individual farm level.
Agriculture and the Environment
The Key Issues

Climate Change

Note– Methane is 23 times more potent than CO2
- Nitrous Oxide is 296 times more potent

• Food Supply
• Water Scarcity
• Biodiversity
• Waste Management
Why Should Agriculture Engage With Climate Change?

- **Security** of the European & Global Food Chains
- More **Extreme Weather** (Droughts, Floods, Snow & Ice)
- More **Pests & Diseases** (Blue Tongue, Brown Rot, etc)
- **Saving Money** & Efficient Agriculture
- **New Legislation** & Policies
- **New Market Place** Developments
- **Energy Security** & Jobs in the “Green Economy”
Ireland's Environmental Advantages

- **Ruminant Livestock** production in Ireland is **Grass Based**
- **Permanent Grass** is an excellent “Carbon Sink,” and very good for **Biodiversity**

Reduction in methane emissions can be achieved by

- Increasing quality of winter forage
- Selecting animals for increased efficiency
- Addition of plant oils to the diet
- Increasing the intensity of the production system
- And potentially increasing the fatty acid content in grazed grass
Irish Agriculture is engaging in Environment Sustainability.

- "Our mission is to lead the development of a competitive sustainable and consumer-focused agri-food sector and a vibrant rural economy and society.“- Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Foods.

- From next January the Irish Beef Quality Assurance Scheme (Board Bia) will require beef farms to be audited on the environment sustainability of their farms.
Veterinary Services must be familiar with modern management and systems approach.

This includes:

- Herd Health Planning
- Food Safety Management Systems and
- Environmental Management Systems including Meat chain and climate Life Cycle Analysis

Veterinary Services and Veterinarians must work with Public Health and Environmental Services and Professionals.
Key Components of modern Veterinary Service

*Effective VS have four fundamental components:

1. the human, physical and financial resources to attract resources and retain professionals with technical and leadership skills;

2. the technical authority and capability to address current and new issues including prevention and control of biological disasters based on scientific principles;

3. the sustained interaction with stakeholders in order to stay on course and carry out relevant joint programmes and services; and

4. the ability to access markets through compliance with existing standards and the implementation of new disciplines such as the harmonisation of standards, equivalence and zoning.

*OIE
Capacity building and Education essential to maintaining VS

Key Components:

- Sound Undergraduate Education
- Research
- Post Graduate Programmes
- Lifelong Learning

Underpinned by effective regulation of the Veterinary Profession and Veterinary Teaching Establishments.
Ireland Veterinary Regulatory and Veterinary Educational Components

1. Veterinary Council of Ireland with powers under the Veterinary Practice Act of 2005 to regulate the Veterinary Profession

- 1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the principal function of the Council is to regulate the practice of veterinary medicine in the State and, unless the Board is established, the practice of veterinary nursing in the State.
- (2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1), the Council shall have the following functions:
  - (a) to establish and maintain the Register and the Register of Veterinary Nurses;
  - (b) to establish procedures and criteria for registration including the issue of certificates of registration and renewal of registration;
  - (c) to establish, publish, maintain and review codes of professional conduct for persons registered under Part 4 or 8;
Veterinary Practice Act 2005 Section 13.

- (d) to specify and keep under review standards and approve programmes of education and further education necessary for the purposes of registration and continued registration under Part 4 or 8;
- (e) to conduct inquiries into and, where appropriate, impose sanctions in relation to the fitness to practise of a person registered under Part 4 or 8;
- (f) to advise the Minister in relation to any matter relating to the functions of the Council that the Council considers appropriate or is specified by the Minister;
- (g) to promote the practice of veterinary medicine;
- (h) to make pronouncements, as it sees fit, in relation to issues that affect the veterinary profession;
Veterinary Practice Act 2005 Section 13.

• (i) to facilitate the exchange of information between those engaged in the practice of veterinary medicine or veterinary nursing and those who avail of veterinary services;
• (j) where appropriate, to act as the competent authority for the purposes of—
• (i) mutual recognition of veterinary qualifications obtained in or recognised by Member States,
• (ii) all matters referred to in the Directives referred to in section 43;
• (k) to borrow money in accordance with section 31;
• (l) to specify and keep under review standards of veterinary premises;
Veterinary Practice Act 2005 Section 13.

- [ ]
- (m) to enter into agreements in relation to the following
- matters with bodies in other states that are duly authorised
- to exercise functions in those states that correspond
- to the functions of the Council:
- (i) recognition by the Council, for the purposes of registration
- under Part 4 or 8, of diplomas, degrees and
- other evidence of formal qualifications to practise
- veterinary medicine awarded in those states;
- (ii) recognition by such bodies, for the purposes of authorisation
- of the practice of veterinary medicine in
- those states, of diplomas, degrees or other evidence
- of formal qualifications to practise veterinary medicine
- awarded in the State;
- and (n) to carry out investigations under Part 10.
Veterinary Practice Act 2005 Section 13.

- (3) The Council may make and carry out arrangements with any person for the purpose of assisting the Council or any of its committees in the proper discharge of functions.
- (4) The Council has all such powers as are necessary for or incidental to the performance of its functions under this Act.

Note: Compulsory Continuing Professional Development and Practice Premises Accreditation is in Place.
Ireland’s One Veterinary Educational Establishment

University College Dublin

- **Infrastructure** – A modern, purpose-built facility on the campus of a major research-intensive University, with easy access to both a major urban centre and agricultural/equine enterprise

- **International Profile** – Being one of only nine schools outside North America, and five in Europe, to have achieved AVMA accreditation provides us with an additional quality benchmark, a high international profile and the ability to attract significant numbers of international students

- **Research** – Strong research programmes in areas such as food safety/public health, reproductive biology and infectious disease

- **Uniqueness** – Only veterinary school on the Island of Ireland
University College Dublin Veterinary School

The curriculum has undergone changes in the past number of years in response to the report of external visitations and as a result of ongoing changes in education and the veterinary profession in Ireland, Europe and the World. These changes led to the introduction of a lecture-free final year, to a shift from memorising to managing information, and a culture of enquiry-based learning.
UCD’s Educational Philosophy

The attributes of the UCD graduate are the starting point and a constant reference for the MVB educational priorities and objectives. The UCD MVB graduate is:

1. Academically Excellent:
2. Intellectually Flexible and Culturally Literate: and
3. Globally Engaged:

Note: One of the most significant and positive curricular innovations has been the introduction of the course on Applications and Integration (Problem-based Learning).
University College Dublin Research Themes

Research in the School of Agriculture, Food Science and Veterinary Medicine spans a number of areas and UCD is recognised as a leader internationally in a number of specific areas. Overall University College Dublin is focusing its research efforts and resources on the four key themes of:

- Earth Sciences, Energy and the Environment
- Health and Healthcare Delivery
- Information, Computation and Communications
- Global Ireland

UCD Veterinary Medicine has a major input into the first two of these themes and also contributes to the remaining two. UCD Veterinary Medicine is therefore exceptionally well-equipped to deliver on the challenges and benefits of the One Health paradigm. Increasingly, the Ecosystem Health concept whereby the health of the environment, plants, animals and humans are seen as interdependent, is gaining currency and again, UCD Veterinary Medicine has unique resources to contribute to this theme.
Conclusions

A strong livestock sector needs strong veterinary services which is enabled through:

1. A regulated profession required to follow lifelong learning
2. and a veterinary education system that can train graduates for a rapidly changing world.
Thank you for your attention