

FREE TEST

A Teagasc Advisory Newsletter



September 2014

Testing for fluke

Do you want to test your herd or flock for liver fluke this autumn/winter? Teagasc is interested in hearing from you and will provide free testing.

Teagasc is undertaking a research project to establish levels of liver fluke on Irish farms and will provide **FREE LIVER FLUKE TESTING** to approximately 1,000 beef, sheep and dairy farmers. For beef suckler farms, approximately seven cows (if you have less cows, all will be tested) will be blood sampled during a farm visit between October 2014 and January 2015. For sheep farmers, sampling kits for 20 ewes (or less if the flock is smaller) will be posted to you. Collect dung from 20 different ewes and post to the lab for testing using a pre-paid box which will be supplied. Testing will proceed between October and December 2014.

Teagasc is also hoping to supply sheep farmers with rumen fluke data if resources allow. Results will be returned via your Teagasc advisor. This DAFM-funded project aims to provide a blueprint for on-farm control of liver fluke by developing novel tools (on-farm testing, vaccines, fluke prediction tools) for use by multiple users including farmers and veterinarians. This will assist in achieving sustainable use of existing parasitic treatments (anthelmintics) and help with reducing resistance to anthelmintics in Ireland.

Beef farmers will also have the opportunity to volunteer for an Animal Health Ireland BVD surveillance pilot scheme which will involve testing of approximately five BVD unvaccinated, homebred (if available) 9-18 month old animals from each distinct management group on the farm (other age groups may be sampled for smaller herds if 9-18 month olds are not available).

Apply now using the form overleaf to be considered for inclusion in the project. Use **BLOCK LETTERS**. Complete the application and post to:

Riona Sayers
AGRIC
Teagasc
Moorepark
Fermoy
Co Cork

Please note that not all farmers that apply will be accepted into the trial due to resource constraints so **APPLY EARLY!**

APPLICATION FORM

Circle farm type

BEEF

SHEEP

Name of Teagasc Advisor

Herd number (for mapping purposes)

Name

Postal address

County

GPS coordinates of farmyard

(These can be obtained using a SatNav or Google maps or ask your advisor to help. If you cannot get these, please do apply and we will call you to assist in getting us this information).

X:

Y:

Mobile Number

Herd/Flock Size

(number of breeding animals)

Calving season (spring or all-year round)

Preferred month for sampling

Do you wish to partake in AHI BVD pilot scheme? (beef farmers only)

YES

NO