

Bovine Brucellosis eradication programme in Northern Ireland (UK) - June 2009

SCoFCAH 3-4 November 2009

BACKGROUND DISEASE SITUATION

1 – Largely eradicated by 1980s but 3 primary outbreaks in late 1990s + cross-border activity = significant recrudescence. 2002 peak

2 – Strategic response + range of measures and initiatives = progressive decline of disease

3 – 2005 single exceptional breakdown = significant number of secondary breakdown herds. 2006 downward trend ended

4 - Recent years - vigorous response: New tests (iElisa) + severe interpretation = increase in herd and animal incidence. Only 20-30% of herds with reactors had infection confirmed by culture

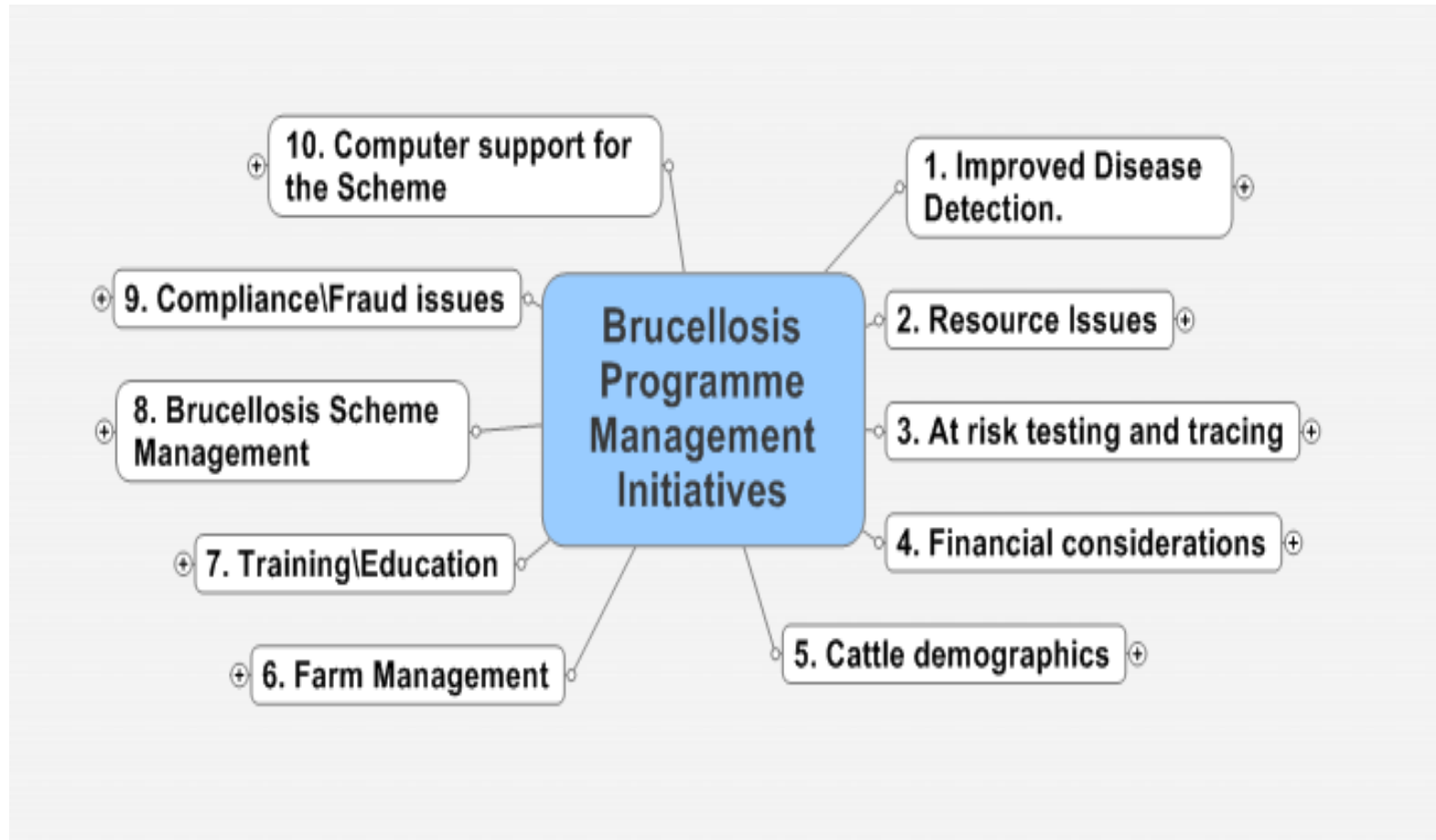
5 - Infection tends to be clustered in the SE and SW, maintained by the high cattle density in these areas

6 - Nov 2008 – Revision management structure of Brucellosis Programme. Introduction of ~ 80 new initiatives under 10 key heading to improve all aspects of the Programme.

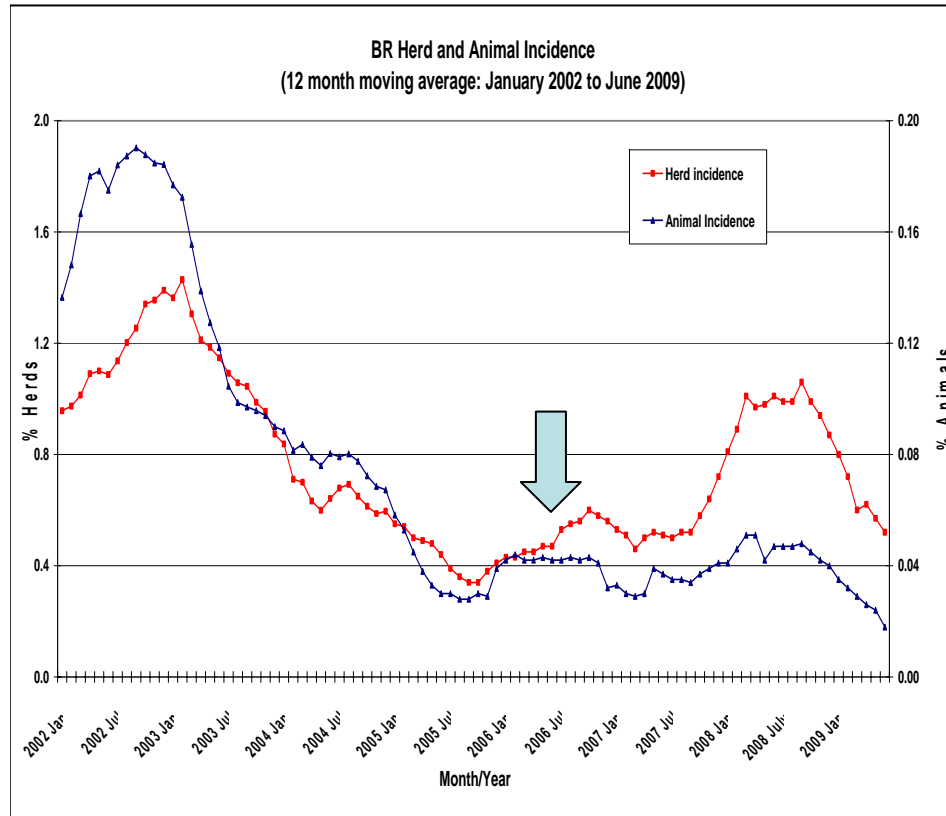
Current Control Measures

- **Brucellosis Control Programme Initiative**
 - **Brucellosis audits of DVOs**
 - **Publicity Campaign**
 - **Staff training & private vet meetings**
 - **Monthly Bulk Milk Elisa test**
 - **Abattoir surveillance**
 - **i-ELISA**
 - **Annual testing**
 - **Pre-movement testing**
 - **Cattle identification inspections**
 - **Tracing and purchase of progeny of reactors**
 - **Removal of low CFT animals**
 - **Enhanced restrictions on contiguous herds**
 - **Temporary Control Areas with increased controls**
 - **Management database**
 - **Modifications to valuation procedure**
 - **Slurry treatment with lime**

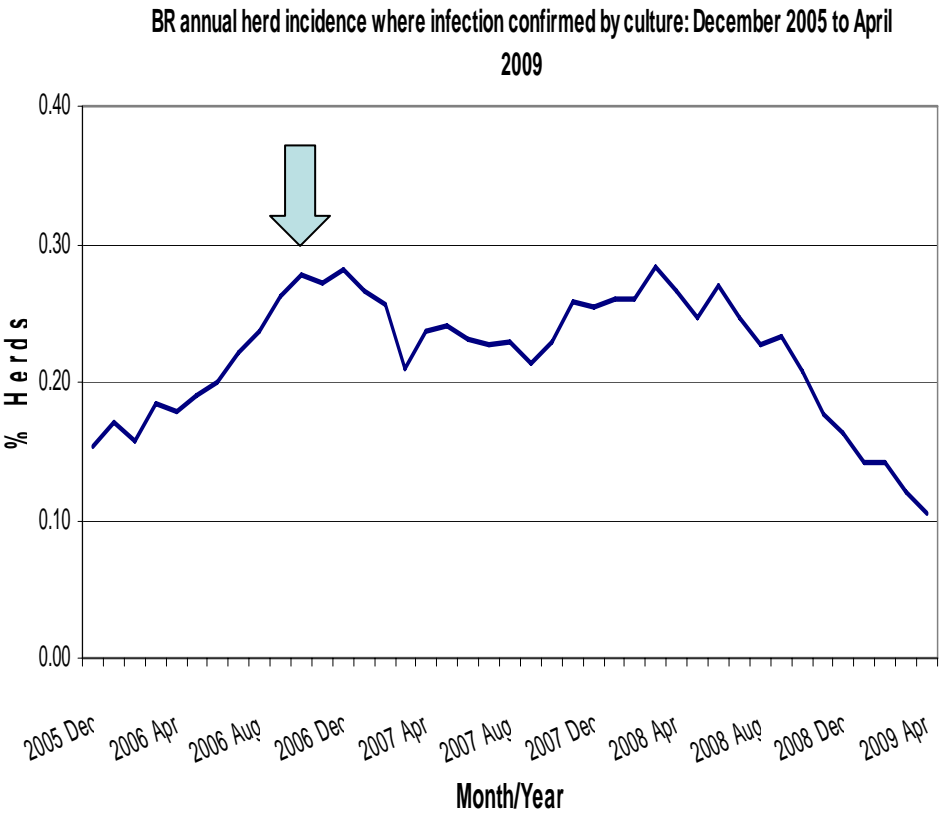
New Brucellosis Programme Initiatives



a) Herd and Animal Incidence



b) BR annual herd Incidence



UK (NI): Test and Disease Statistics: 2004 to 30th June 2009

Year	No. cattle tested	No. serological tests	Animal Incidence	Herd Incidence
2004	860653	1244900	0.067	0.60
2005	911790	1255842	0.039	0.41
2006	928500	1302518	0.032	0.56
2007	911394	1260709	0.041	0.72
2008	908811	1322883	0.040	0.87
2009(<July)	566040	660925	0.010	0.30

Confirmed Herd Incidence	%
2005	0.15
2006	0.28
2007	0.25
2008	0.16
2009 (<July)	0.04

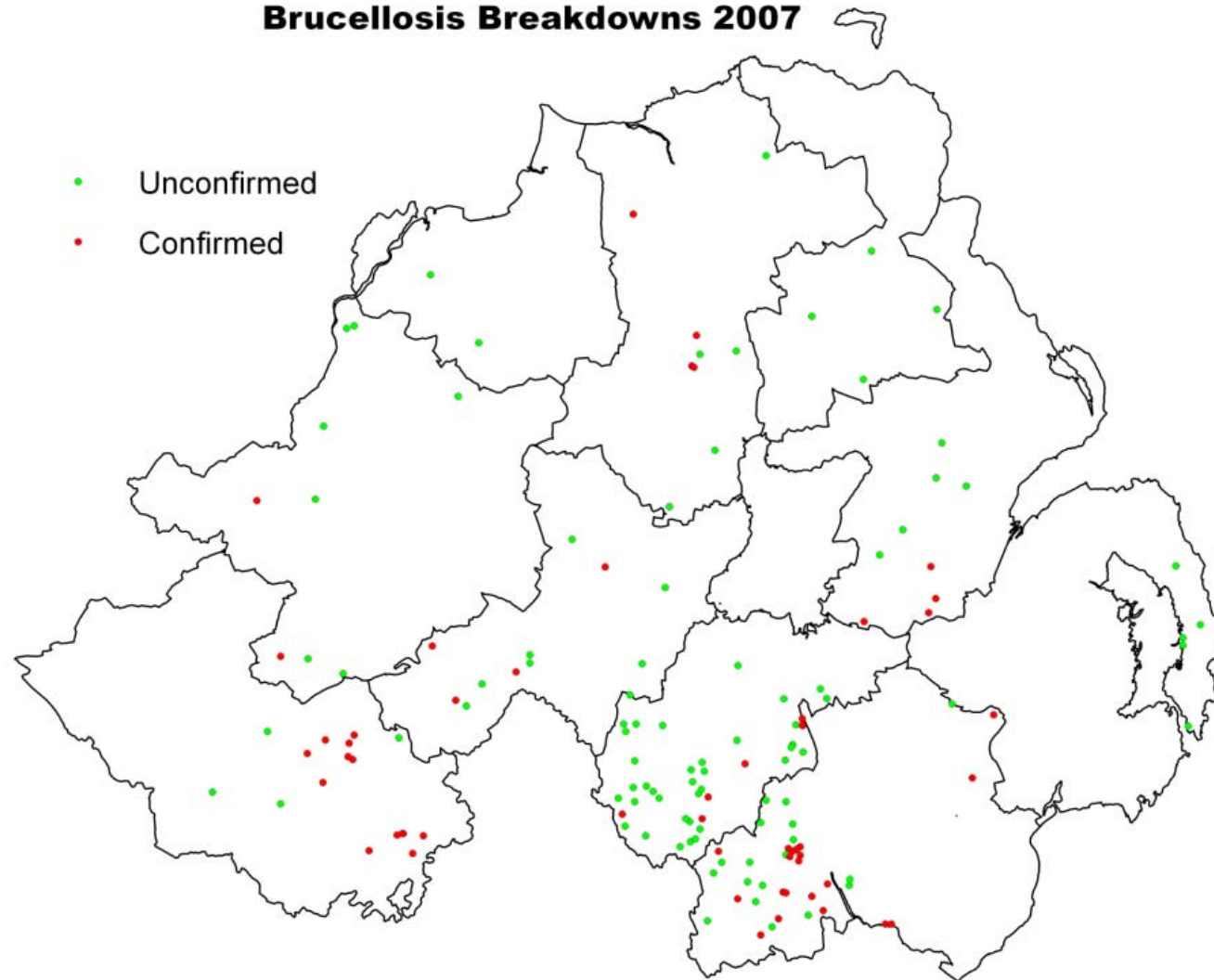
Data on infection

Year	New herds infected (~)	Positive animals (#)	Herds confirmed by culture
2007	151	402	56
2008	177	366	36
2009 (30 June)	41	68	10

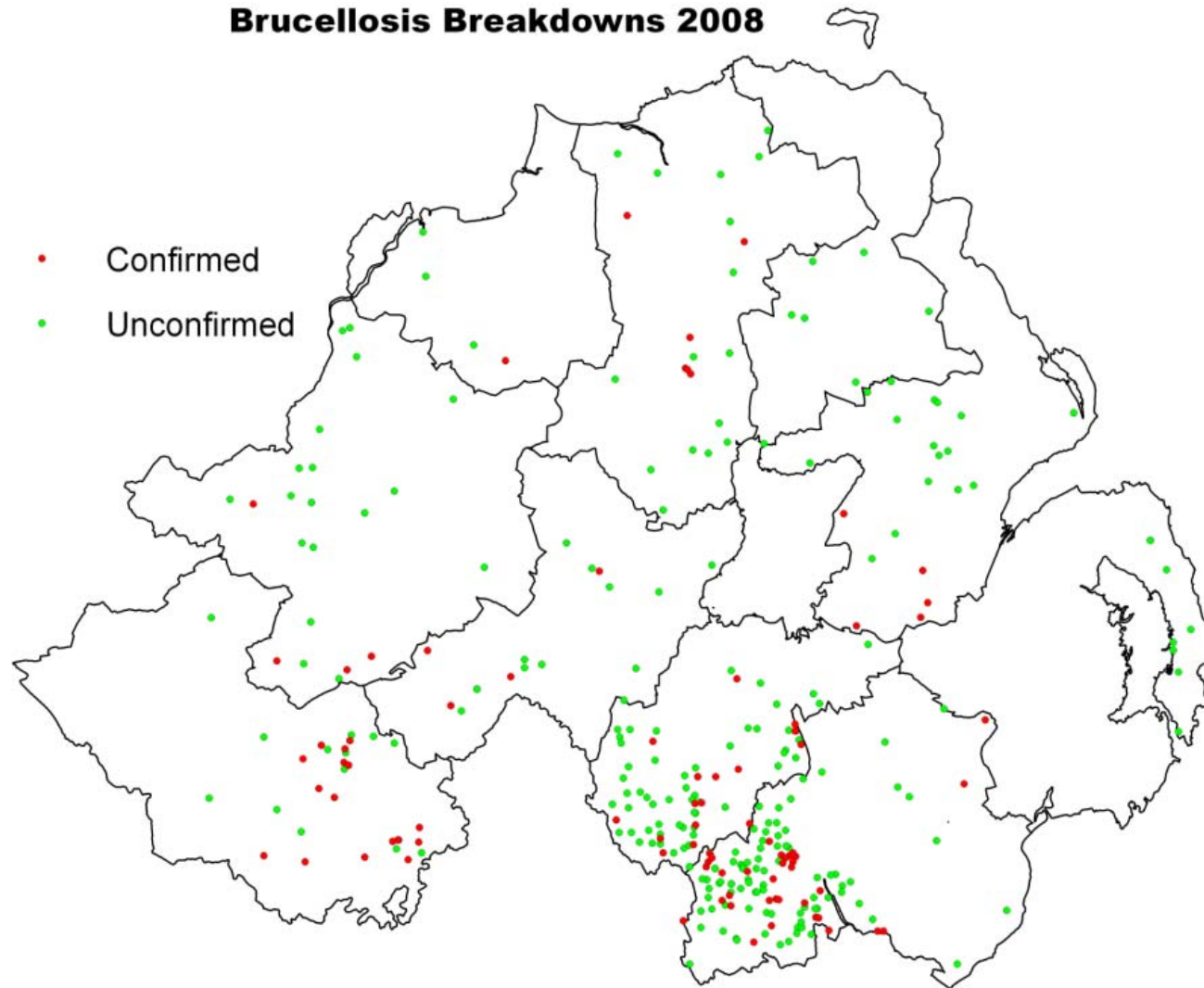
(~) serological reactor in herd where no reactor animal identified in previous 12 months

(#) seropositive animals

Brucellosis Breakdowns 2007

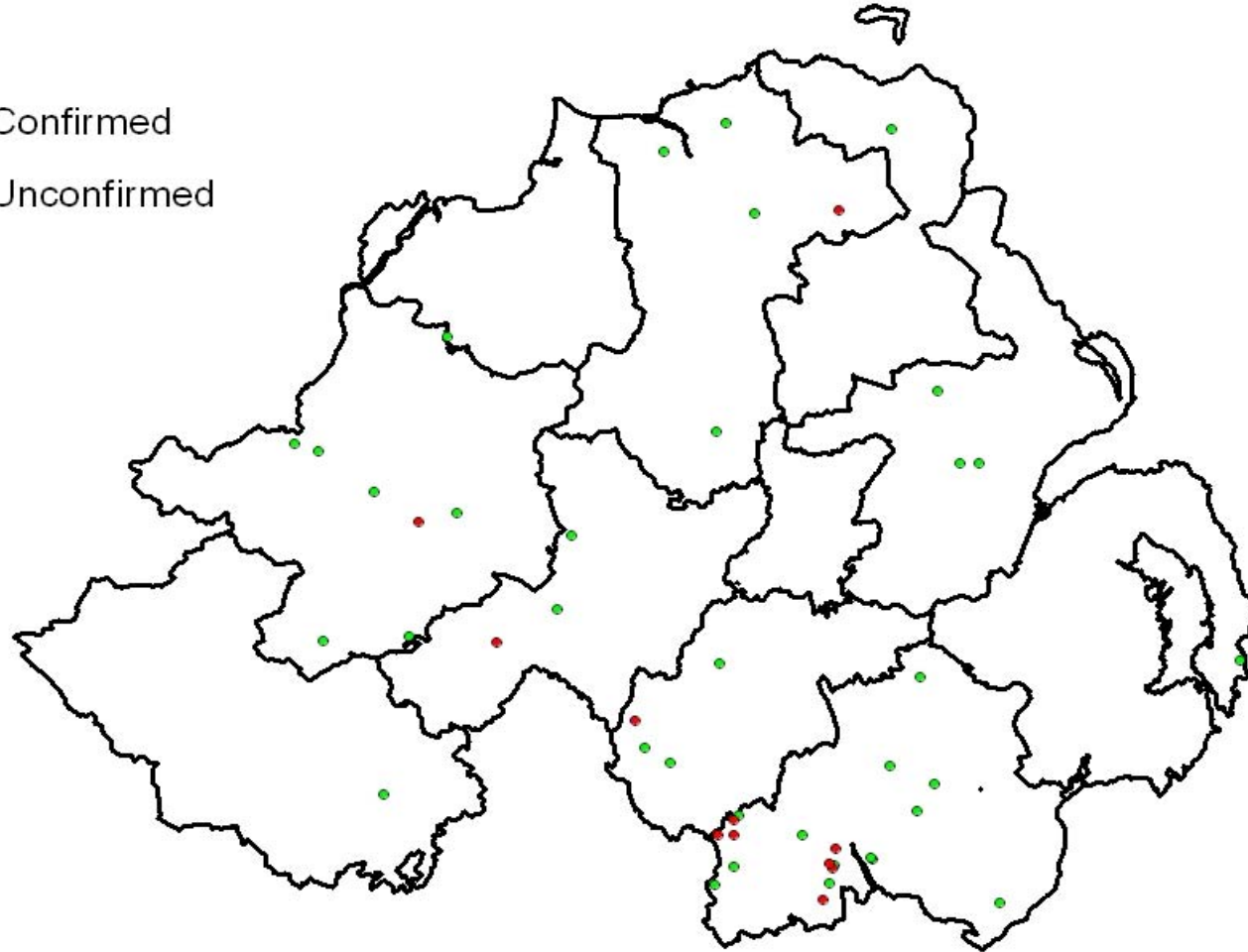


Brucellosis Breakdowns 2008



BR Breakdowns to 30 June 2009

- Confirmed
- Unconfirmed



Conclusion

- **More focused and intensive efforts since 2007 = significant improvement in herd, animal and confirmed incidence of the disease**
- **Encouraging reduction in disease levels in areas with historical higher incidence**
- **The increased amount of herd testing carried out in winter will be a truer indicator of sustained progress if it does not disclose a large number of new breakdowns.**

Thank you

