

Ireland

2009 Eradication Programme for Bovine Tuberculosis

Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal
Health (SCOFCAH)

7 September 2010



Department of
**Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food**

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Introduction

- **The eradication programme for Bovine TB for 2009 was implemented effectively**
- **Significant reduction in incidence of Bovine TB in 2009 compared with 2008**
- **number of reactors down from 29,900 in 2008 to 23,800 in 2009 i.e. 20% reduction**
- **13.5% reduction in Herd Incidence**
- **18% reduction in APT**
- **Lower incidence of disease is continuing into 2010**



Ireland - Demographics

- **December 2009**
 - **117,287 holdings with bovines**
 - **6,025,656 animal population**
 - **approx. 2.6 million cows (50% dairy cows)**
 - **Approx. 100,000 breeding herds (35% dairy herds)**
 - **Average herd size 52**

2009 TB Programme-main measures

- Annual herd test – Single Intra-dermal Comparative Tuberculin Test (SICTT)
- Movement restrictions (status suspension/withdrawn as per Directive) on positive herds
- Compensation for removal of reactors
- De-restriction after clear tests at 60 days and 4 months
- Post de-restriction check tests at 6, 12 and 18 months
- Check tests on herds contiguous to infective breakdown
- Check test on herds on an area and/or epidemiological basis

2009 TB Programme-main measures - 2

- Epidemiological investigations on infective breakdowns
- Wildlife control in infected areas (targeted badger removal under licence where implicated in a breakdown)
- Veterinary meat inspection at slaughter plants
- Farm hygiene – disinfection of premises pre-derestriction
- Depopulation (stamping out) of heavily infected herds
- Gamma-interferon assay in infected/problem herds

2009 TB Programme-main measures - 3

- ***Audit of SICTT***
 - supervision and monitoring of performance of testing veterinarian
 - tuberculin assay on naturally infected bovines
- ***Computerised database AHCS***
 - links disease test recording and identification databases
 - Electronic communication with veterinarians
 - Animal movements and animal test data on AHCS at marts and assembly centres



Research

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Research

- **CVERA** – Centre for Veterinary Epidemiology and Risk Analysis – staff from Department of Agriculture and Food, Veterinary Faculty of University College Dublin and Teagasc (Irish Agriculture and Food Development Authority). Covers major areas of interest.
- **Wildlife Unit** – investigating the role of the badger in the spread of bovine tuberculosis
- **Badger Vaccine Development Project in collaboration with UK**
- **Multiplex ELISA**

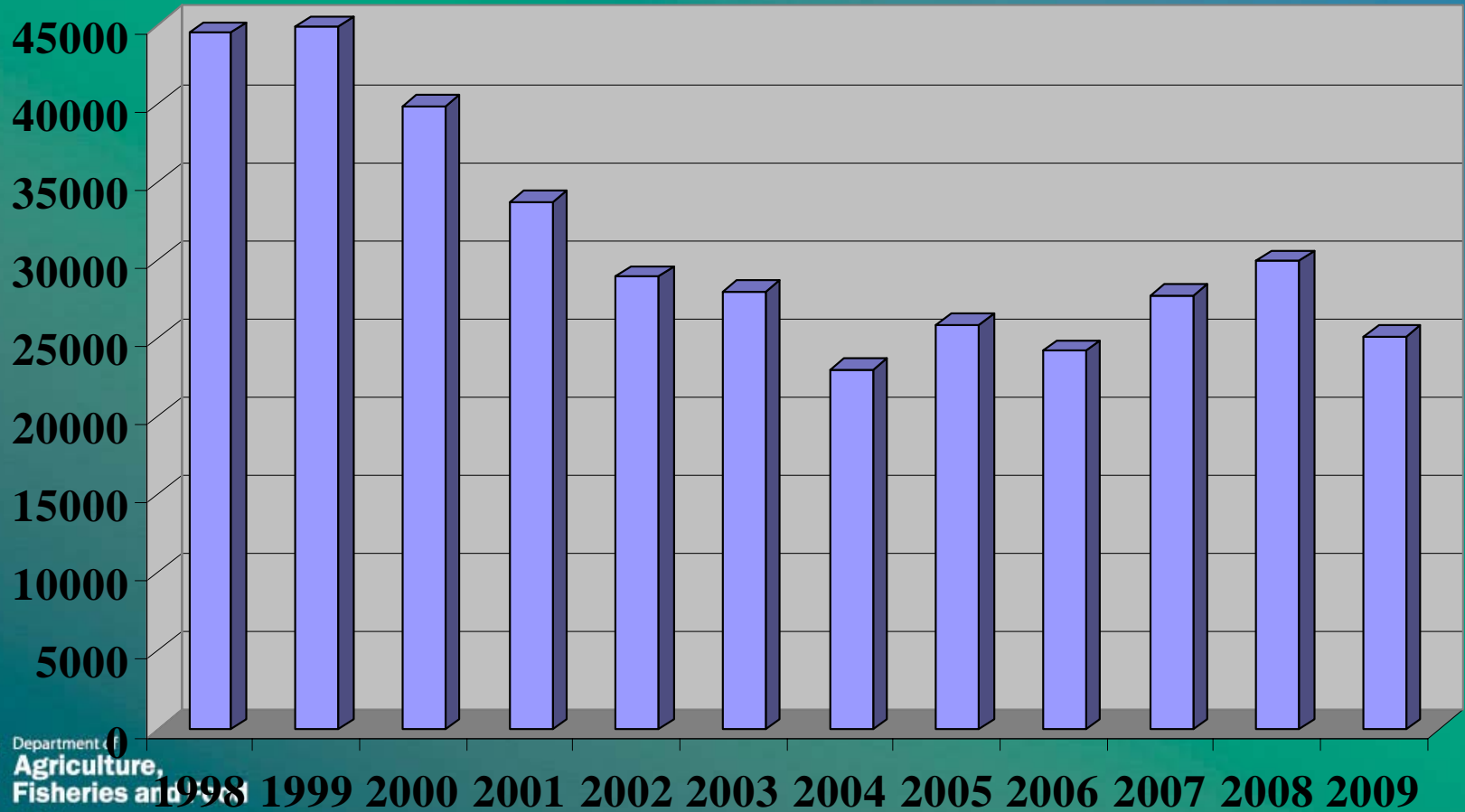
Main TB trends 1999- 2009

Animals removed as reactors

- 1999 45,000
- 2009 23,800

Animals removed under programme 1999-2009

Animals Removed



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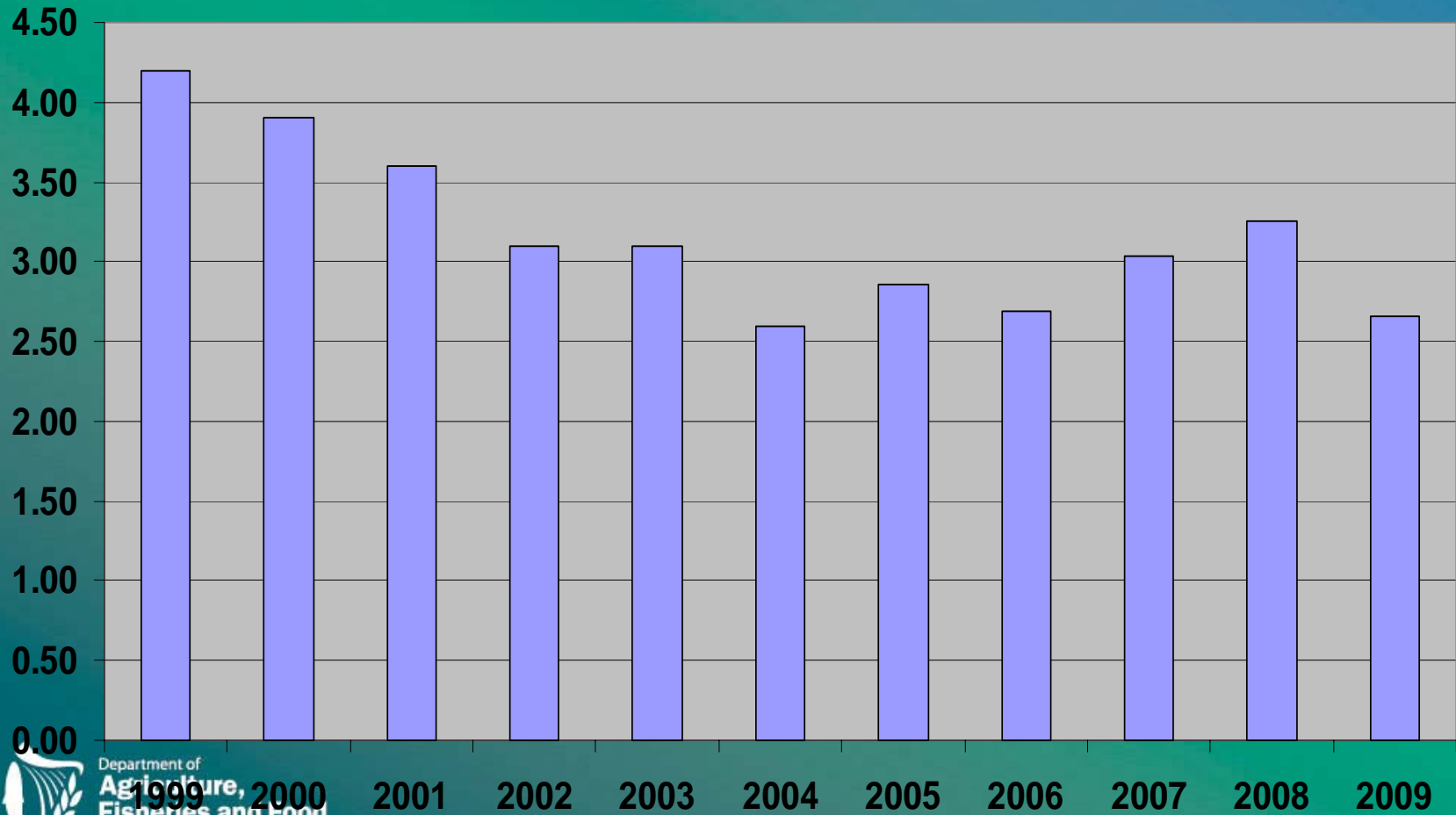
Main TB trends 1999- 2009 contd.

APT

1999: 4.2

2009: 2.60

APT 1999 - 2009



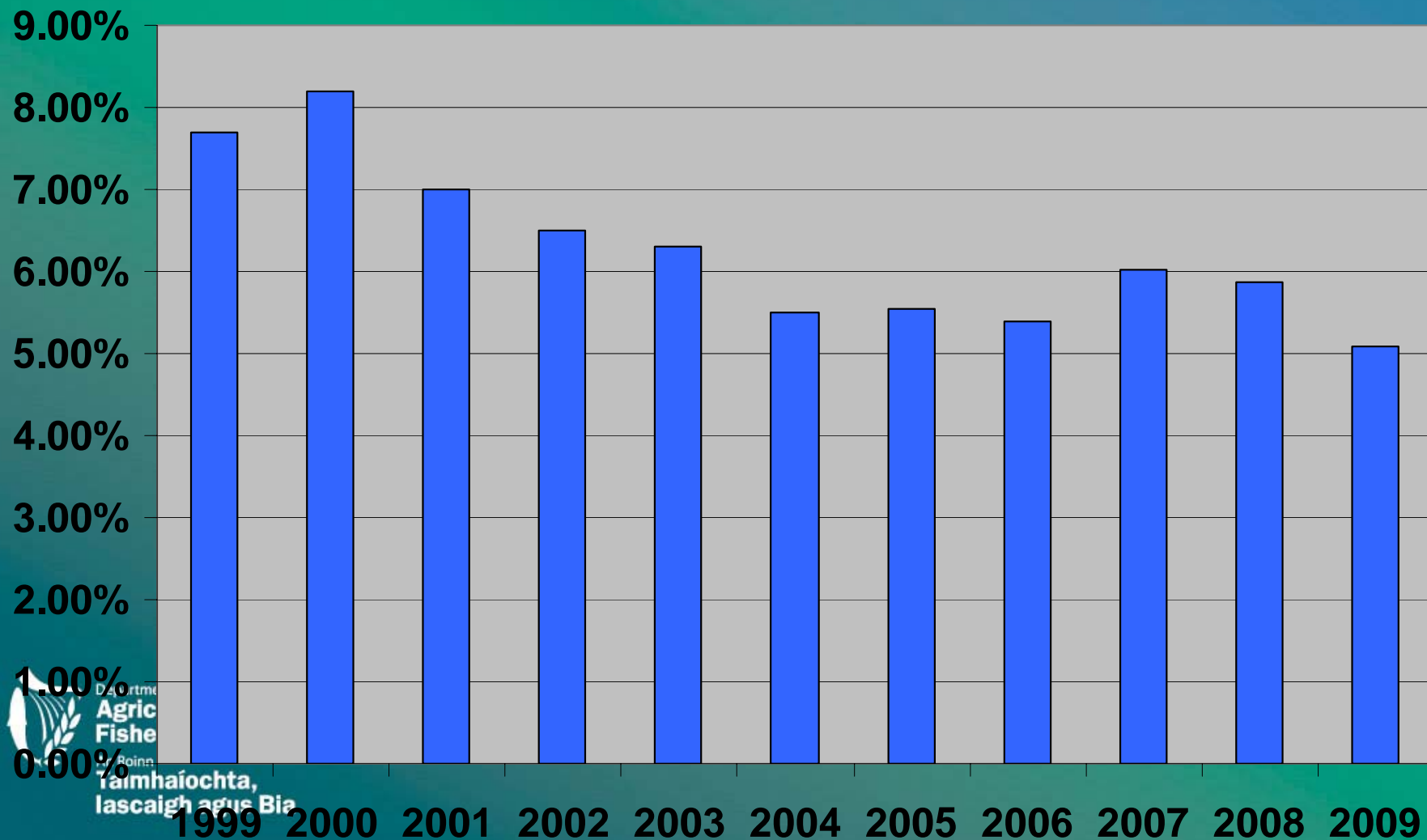
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Main TB trends 1999- 2009 contd.

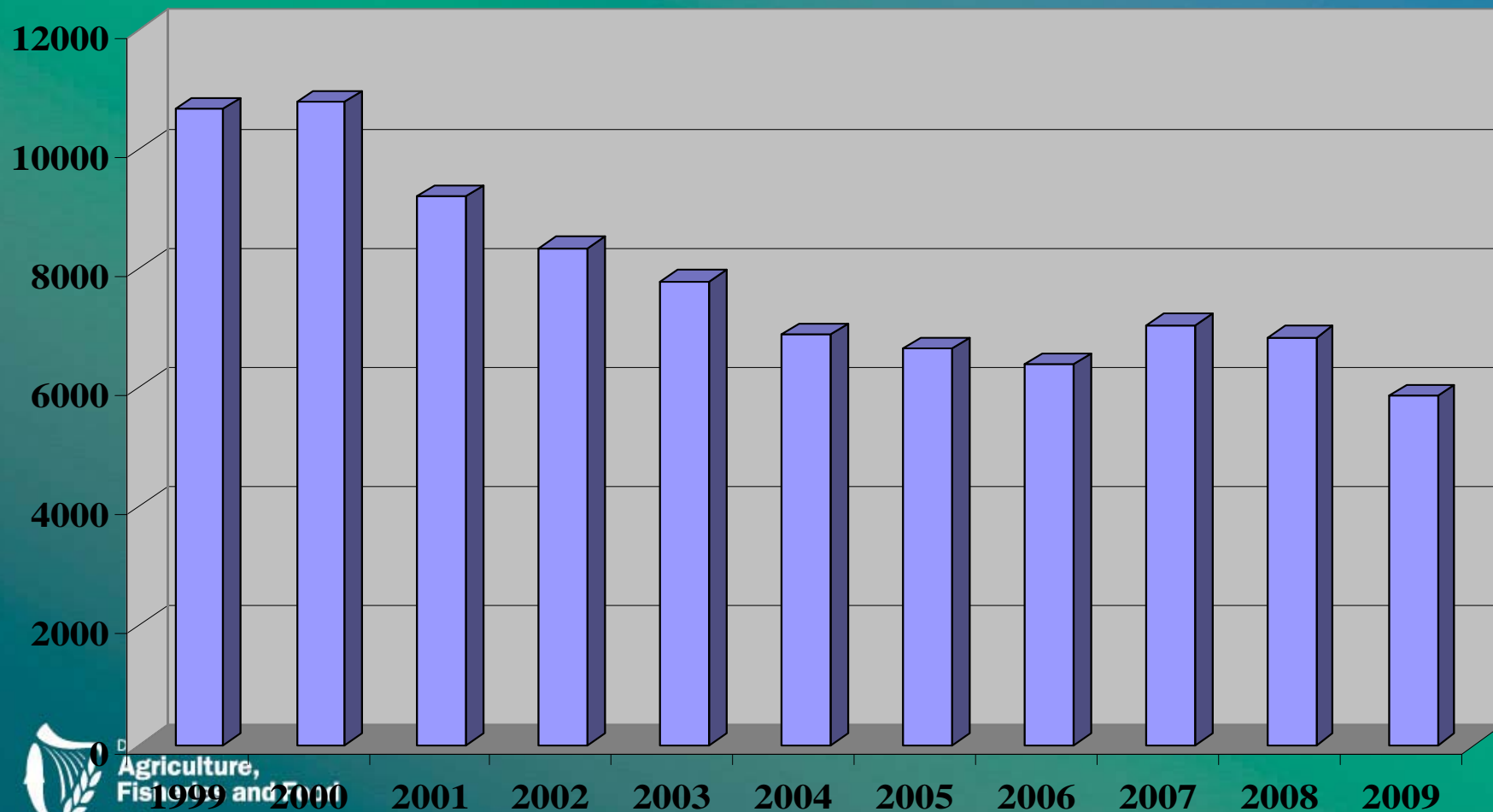
- Herd Incidence

- 1999 7.7%
- 2009 5.1%

Herd Incidence 1999 - 2009



Herds Restricted 1999-2009



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Summary and Conclusions

- Implementation of programme is showing good results:
 - Number of reactors down from 29,900 in 2009 to 23,800 in 2008
 - Herd incidence down from:
 - 5.9% in 2008 *to*
 - 5.1% in 2009
 - Lower incidence of disease is continuing into 2010

The Future

- Badger removal programme appears to be paying dividends.
- Considered view is that further substantial reduction will be difficult until badger vaccination programme is implemented.
- Continue to implement programme on similar lines including controlled badger removal
- Research into Badger vaccination is on-going (in collaboration with UK) but definitive conclusions will not be available until 2013 at the earliest.

Thank you for your attention.



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