

About this dossier

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Application Form

Part II, Section 6 of Annex - Welfare requirements for animals

Country	Ireland	Year	2020
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Have you any data to report in this period ?	Yes
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6.1 Overall conclusion on the level of compliance achieved

Ireland made significant advances in its progress towards achieving its welfare objectives during 2020. While the overall number of routine animal welfare controls carried out under the various Directives was less in 2020 than in previous years for some species, the rate of non-compliance was relatively low. Good progress was made during 2020 on reviewing existing inspection systems to ensure DAFM's animal welfare objectives are met and taking account of DAFM's key priorities for animal welfare including dairy cow & calf welfare and the issue of routine tail docking in pigs.

6.2 Official controls, non-compliances and actions/measures on animal welfare on farms

Animals kept for farming purposes (animal category)			Non-compliances		Actions/measures	
	Number of production sites	Number of official controls performed	Total number of controlled production sites	Number of controlled production sites where non-compliances were detected	Administrative	Judicial
Pigs (as defined in the Council Directive 2008/120/EC)	581	39	39	9	1	0
Laying hens (as defined in the Council Directive 1999/74/EC)	257	15	15	2	0	
Chickens (as defined in the Council Directive 2007/43/EC)	333	15	15	3	0	
Calves (as defined in the Council Directive 2008/119/EC)	29150	187	187	9	1	
Other (specify)						

6.3 Analysis and action plan for animal welfare on farms

2020 priorities focused on a review of inspection systems, ensuring targeted alignment with DAFM's key objectives and efficient, effective use of resources. 2020 priorities: dairy cow & calf welfare, tail docking in pigs, animal welfare assessment using animal-based indicators and resource-based measures. New welfare assessments for broilers and pigs are well developed and one for dairy cows is being finalised. Risk based animal welfare inspection targets: The CCA advises Regional Veterinary Offices (RVOs). Dairy calf welfare controls were prioritised during 2020 due to the rapid expansion of the national dairy herd (NC < 5% of herds inspected). A new dairy cow inspection system using animal-based measures will be initiated in 2021. The Intact Tails Programme identifies specific welfare deficits associated with tail biting on pig farms. It involves up to 4 collaborative inspections at 6-monthly intervals giving keepers the opportunity to comply with the regulations before legal sanctions are initiated. It uses a new approach, using animal-based indicators and a pig behaviour spectrum to assess pig welfare. OV's were trained in 2020 to ensure consistency and effectiveness. Inspections began in Nov 2020 (8 inspections in 2020 and welfare risks were identified on all 8 holdings). The holdings will continue to be inspected and if deficits are not addressed, enforcement action will ensue. During 2021 it is planned to inspect at least one third of commercial pig herds under the programme subject to resource availability. 31 additional pig welfare inspections were carried out in 2020 checking compliance with all provisions Directive 2008/120/EC. Footpad Dermatitis in broilers: Plan to increase targeted inspections in 2021. Flocks to be chosen based on frequency of FPD detection at slaughter. As FPD inspections do not address all aspects of Directive 2007/43/EC, additional inspections will be carried out during 2021 to check compliance with all aspects of the Directive. Demand led inspections: based on report of potential animal welfare risk. Animal Welfare Incident Report (AWIR) is completed for the relevant species and the necessary follow up action is undertaken. AWIR Bovine: No of production sites: 103254; OCs performed 163; NCs detected 72 (11 Administrative, 4 Judicial) AWIR Ovine: No of production sites: 46042 : OCS performed 40; NCs detected 18 (3 Administrative, 0 Judicial) AWIR Porcine: No of production sites: 581 (> 5 pigs) ; OCs performed 15; NCs detected 1 92 Administrative, 0 Judicial) 'At Risk' Herds: ruminant herds monitored at RVO level. No of production sites: 103254; 122 inspections carried out in 2021. 55 NCs detected (24 Administrative, 3 Judicial) Working Together for Animal Welfare: Ireland's first stand alone Animal Welfare Strategy. This will assist the DAFM in prioritising and delivering on key animal welfare targets in 2021 and beyond. Review of SI 311/2011 is planned, to

address the environmental conditions associated with risk of tail biting as well as a new pig building specification under the Targeted Agricultural Modernisation Scheme II (Pig and Poultry Investment Scheme). Funding under the scheme has been increased from €80,000 to €200,000 to encourage more pig farmers to avail of it. Review of recording systems: AFIT (Agriculture Field Inspection Testing) is the computer system used by DAFM to record welfare inspections. A review of recording systems to achieve the reporting objectives of Regulation (EU) 2017/625 is planned. Cross Divisional Animal Welfare Report (CDAWR): welfare risk noted at slaughter plant/mart etc, the RVO is notified for follow up. 3 OCs performed, 2 NCs identified (0 Administrative, 0 Judicial) On Farm inspections: (Various Species) 153 OCS performed, 14 NC identified (1 Administrative, 0 Judicial)

6.4 Animal welfare during transport

Protection of animals during transport (by species)	Number and category of non compliances								Actions/measures
	Number of official controls performed	Fitness of animals	Transport practices, space allowance, height	Means of transport	Water, feed, journey and resting times	Documents	Other	Administrative	Judicial
Bovine	696	46	0	19	6	9	4	2	0
Porcine animals	40	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	
Ovine/caprine	48	0	1	3	2	1	1	0	
Equidae	27	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	
Poultry	38	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	
Other species									
Other	6	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	

6.5 Analysis and action plan for animal welfare during transport

In 2020 Ireland introduced SAT Nav. & Temp Retrospective Controls, Hot and Cold weather monitoring, Calf exports monitoring, Enhanced monitoring of livestock welfare at loading livestock dedicated vessels and on livestock Sea Journeys. A separate Transport Inspection Report should be recorded on AFIT for each vehicle checked during Mart Compliance inspections, inspections at the time of Equine certification, which is now common following Brexit, Checks on vehicles on farm at registered equine premises and Enhanced controls on Long Journeys to 3rd countries on Route plan and Weather conditions to comply with National and European Law. Also Ireland following a review of 2020 inspections amended in 2021 the instructions to RVOs, to broaden the scope for equine transport inspections and to amend the recording system for checks on vehicles inspected at Marts. The Covid Pandemic context posed significant challenges for the implementation of these new measures.

6.6 Animal welfare at the time of killing

NIL

6.7 Comment box

Recording systems have been amended to allow for the analysis of checks by species at farm level
Records are kept by transport type (Type I, Type II, Unregistered local) 100% checks take place at assembly centres at the time of certification of bovine consignments for international transport
Animals unfit for transport are removed from the consignment

Attachments

