



## Introduction

Liver fluke (*Fasciola hepatica*) is a common parasitic condition affecting cattle in Ireland. Infection is not usually clinically severe but effective control, including the timely administration of a flukicide and pasture management, is crucial to reduce production losses on affected farms. Abattoir data on liver fluke and other conditions are a potential source of information to farmers on the health status of their livestock.

## Aims of the programme

- Report liver and lung lesions seen at slaughter directly to farmers and their veterinary practitioners
- Provide online tools to inform veterinary decision making in herd health planning and anthelmintic treatment
- Contribute to breeding values for genetic resistance for health improvements in the national herd

Data collected at slaughter via touchscreens from 17 abattoirs



Liver fluke – Abscesses - Pneumonia

Farmer receives report from the abattoir

For each batch slaughtered, farmer receives individual animal information on liver and lung lesions.

Tag	Sex	Age (mths)	CARCASE (kg)	LIVER SCORE	LUNG SCORE
IE 12 24567 8 0001	E	20	300	3	1
IE 12 24567 8 0002	C	22	300	2	1
IE 12 24567 8 0003	D	40	400	2	1
IE 12 24567 8 0004	B	44	500	1	1
IE 12 24567 8 0005	E	19	340	1	2
IE 12 24567 8 0006	C	20	250	1	1
IE 12 24567 8 0007	D	26	430	2	1

Online tools for farmers and veterinary practitioners

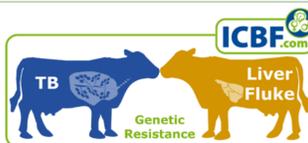


An online BHC dashboard allows viewing of herd information with graphical summaries, trends and previous batch reports, including individual animal results.

Data sent to the cattle database ICBF

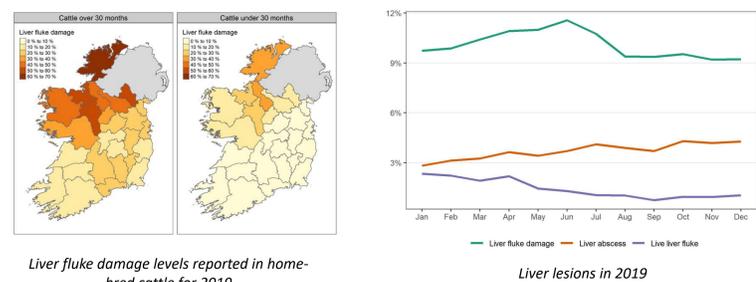


Data contribute to breeding values and genetic evaluations



National programme data are compiled and reported

Nationally, the Beef HealthCheck data are being used to follow trends in liver fluke, liver abscesses and pneumonia.



## Limitations

- Programme is dependent on the participation and accuracy of the abattoir veterinary inspectors
- Diagnostic sensitivity can be low
- Time lag from infection to slaughter – control measures are only beneficial to future stock
- Fluke prevalence is responsive to environmental conditions – programme success needs to be based on reach and usage

## Conclusions

- Successful demonstration of a private-public partnership funded by industry and government
- Fluke risk varies between farms - individual reports better inform farmers than regional averages
- Data accumulating since 2016 - overcomes seasonal variation to identify farm risk
- Supports a shift to preventative animal health care