



**MUNSTER
BOVINE**

Collectively Improving Farm Life

HERD HEALTH SERVICES



INTRODUCTION

- Our Herd Health programme is all about helping herdowners achieve the best possible performance from their herds through maximising health and management.
- The Munster Bovine Herd Health programme has been running since 2013 with almost 3,000 herd owners set to avail of the service in 2023.
- The greatest testament to the Herd Health programme is that once farmers join, they continue to use the service year on year.

WHAT IS TESTED AND HOW IS TESTING COMPLETED?

- All you have to do is sign up and we organise everything else. Milk samples are collected from your bulk tank at 4 strategic times during the year. A variety of tests are carried out depending on the month of collection.
- The table below illustrates what diseases are tested for and when the various tests are carried out.
- After each round of testing, the results are posted to each herd owner and emailed to their own vet if requested.

HERD HEALTH TESTING SCHEDULE

Disease	1st Test April	2nd Test June	3rd Test August	4th Test November
IBR	Y	Y	Y	
BVD	Y	Y		
Lepto	Y	Y	Y	
Neospora	Y		Y	Y
Liver Fluke	Y	Y	Y	Y
Salmonella		Y	Y	
Stomach Worms	Y	Y	Y	Y
Mycoplasma Bovis		Y		
Q Fever			Y	

HERD HEALTH PROGRAMME

A number of programme options are available to Herd Owners and can be discussed at the application stage. To find out if you qualify for Co-Op price support offered as part of Sustainability initiatives with some Co-Operatives simply enquire at application stage. If you are currently Milk Recording the following options are available.

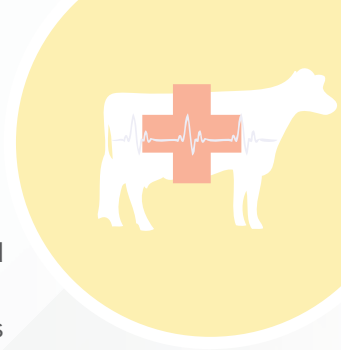
Herd Health Options	**Munster Recommends**		
	Gold Programme*	Silver Programme*	Bronze Programme
What is Included	Testing and end of year vet meeting	Testing and Munster Vet phone support	Testing Only
Programme Cost	€399/Herd	€330/Herd	€280/Herd

Please note that all results can also be emailed to Herd Owners own VET at no extra cost if participating in Gold or Silver programmes.

NOT MILK RECORDING?

Herd Health Options	Non Milk Recording Customer Programme
What is Included	Testing, phone support and one to one Munster Vet Consultation
Programme Cost	€499/Herd

WHAT IS ACHIEVED AT THE END OF YEAR VET MEETING?



The end of year consultation is a full review of your herds performance. Expert advice is provided on each of the following areas.

- Production and Breeding - Your herd's genetic potential and performance is established. Is performance meeting the genetic potential of the herd?
- Disease and vaccination - Disease results are analysed, and the herds vaccination plan is reviewed. Each herdowner receives a vaccination plan for their herd.
- Parasites and dosing - Dosing history is reviewed, and plans are put in place for the Winter and the following grazing season.
- SCC and mastitis - Milk recording results are analysed and reviewed. Is your herd suitable for selective dry cow therapy?
- Nutrition - Your herds milk recording data is analysed for evidence of negative energy balance and acidosis during lactation.
- Johnes disease - If your herd is testing for Johnes through milk recording, your results will be available for analysis.

SAMPLE SPRING VACCINATION PLANNER

	0-1 yr Calves	1-2 Yr Breeding Heifers & Bulls	2yr+ Cows, In-calf heifers & Bulls
January		IBRLive	IBRLive
February	RSV/P13 Intranasal	Clostridial Disease	
March			
April	Clostridial Disease		
May	Clostridial Disease		
June			
July	IBRLive	IBRLive	IBRLive
August		Salmonella	
September		Salmonella	Salmonella
October			
November	Leptospirosis		
December	Leptospirosis	Leptospirosis	Leptospirosis

BENEFITS OF HERD HEALTH

- **Improve herd performance** - Maximise the potential of your herd by minimising disease and optimising herd management.
- **Reduce antibiotic usage** - Reducing disease, improving nutrition and ensuring consistently low SCC/Mastitis will reduce the need for antibiotics.
- **Only dose when required** - using your results to help avoid overuse of dosing products which can lead to anthelmintic resistance developing on your farm.
- **Peace of mind** - knowing that your cows are healthy and performing as they should offers huge reassurance to herdowners.





“Using Herd Health, you’re keeping more cows in the system. When you see your annual milk recording report it’s the ones from the third lactation up, they’re making serious money relative to the first lactation. The longer they stay in the herd the more money they are making for you, that’s the simple blueprint.”

Michael Ryan - Cashel, Co. Tipperary



“I would definitely recommend farmers to join Herd Health. I think the information it gives you, and then the amount of work that information allows you to do is massive if you want to drive on your herd, increase your solids and get a better cow.”

Edmund Tobin - Cashel, Co. Tipperary



“You’re only shooting in the dark without Milk Recording and Herd Health. There are so many diseases now, and with the cost of them if there’s an outbreak it’s huge. It’s like an insurance policy really.”

Gerard Murnane - Bruff, Co. Limerick



“I’d place huge importance on Milk Recording and Herd Health. It was like picking lottery numbers in the past. When I got the results back I was shocked some of the cows I was considering to cull were better than others.”

Isabel McGill and David Walsh - Grenagh, Co. Cork



“We value Herd Health because it’s very important we don’t give the herd antibiotics when they don’t need them because they build up a resistance to it.”

John & Ian Fox - Kilmallock, Co. Limerick

HOW TO GET STARTED

Contact your Milk Advisor, Area Sales Manager or the Herd Management Team today.

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