

How does LIMO LEADER HERD HEALTH work?

- Herd owners joining the scheme complete an application form and submit same to ILCS for membership approval.
- Once membership is approved samples may be taken by your private veterinary practitioner and submitted to IML with the appropriate submission form and a current AIMS stock list.
- Laboratory charges will be invoiced to the herd owner by IML upon sample submission.
- Results will be issued by IML on receipt of payment.
- For level 1 testing, individual animal health declarations for sales will be issued based on protocols currently being developed by an AHI-led working group.
- For those participating at levels 2 and 3, a LIMO LEADER statement of herd participation will be issued by ILCS in conjunction with IML.
- LIMO LEADER certification of disease-free status will be issued by ILCS under CHeCS licence when disease free status is achieved (will take a minimum of one to two years depending on the disease).
- It is imperative that members familiarise themselves and their vet with the testing and sample submission procedures in advance of the day of testing. Read carefully this guide and the CHeCS technical document (www.Irishlimousin.com).

Testing and Submission

- Herd owners may test for any or all of the diseases at the same time.
- Use the submission form appropriate to the testing program, i.e. level 1, 2 or 3 and familiarise yourself with how to complete the form(s) in advance of the day of testing.
- Where testing is being conducted under level 2 or 3, ensure you are familiar with the ‘eligible’ age categories and testing procedures for each disease. This information is detailed in the CHeCS technical document and summarised on the submission forms.
- Only one sample per animal is required irrespective of the no. of tests requested per animal. **However, it is essential that each blood bottle is filled to capacity.**
- The submission form and samples must be accompanied by a current AIMS stock list (herd profile) provided and signed or stamped by your vet. The file must include the following fields: Animal ID, sample bottle no., date of birth and breed.
- The vet must also **email an electronic (Microsoft Excel or CSV) copy of the AIMS stock listing** to IML (enquiries@imlabs.ie) quoting your herd identifier (IE number) in the subject of the email. This is stipulated to avoid transcription errors and ensure maximum traceability from farm to result as part of the accreditation process.
- Blood samples should be **received by IML** within 24 hours of collection (**avoid weekend posting**). Failure to comply with this request may render your blood samples unsuitable for testing.

Note:

To reduce the incidence of false positive Johne’s results ensure testing for Johne’s is conducted before, or a minimum of 3 months after a TB test. For example, it is not recommended to test for Johne’s the day the TB herd test is being read.

It is not possible to achieve Leptospirosis free status where the herd is vaccinated against the disease. However, herds vaccinating against BVD and/or IBR can partake in the accredited free programmes and potentially achieve accredited free status.

Fees and Charges

No Annual Membership Fee – Open to all ILCS Members (full and associate)

Failing to email an electronic copy (**Microsoft Excel or CSV**) of the herd profile to IML (containing all four of the relevant fields) will require IML staff to generate the required electronic format and a **data entry fee of €40** will apply.

Laboratory charges

| Test | Price p/sample (Incl. VAT) | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|---------|---------|
| | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 |
| BVD Antibody | €3 | €2.50 | €2.30 |
| BVD Virus | €5 | €4.50 | €4.30 |
| IBR Antibody (conventional) | €3 | €2.50 | €2.30 |
| IBR Antibody (gE marker) | €6 | €5.50 | €5.30 |
| Johne’s Antibody | €3 | €2.50 | €2.30 |
| Leptospirosis Antibody | €3 | €2.50 | €2.30 |

How do I join LIMO LEADER HERD HEALTH?

Complete an application form and return it to:

Irish Limousin Cattle Society Ltd,
Kilglass, Mitchelstown,
Co. Cork, Ireland
email: admin@irishlimousin.com or Fax: (0)25 85060

Application forms are available to download from:
www.irishlimousin.com

Tel: (0) 258 5036 or emailing: admin@irishlimousin.com.

For IML Veterinary Support please telephone Suzanne at (0)14080741 to log your query.

Irish Limousin Cattle Society

“Delivering service to our members & customers”



Healthy Herd Healthy Profits

A guide to the
Limo Leader Herd Health Programme



What is LIMO LEADER HERD HEALTH?

LIMO LEADER HERD HEALTH is an Irish Limousin Cattle Society initiative put in place to promote and encourage herd health among breeders and commercial users of Irish Limousin. ILCS has teamed up with IML laboratories Ltd, a new independent and accredited testing laboratory in Ireland. This initiative represents a further development of ILCS services to its breeders and associate members.

LIMO LEADER HERD HEALTH is licensed by Cattle Health Certification Standards (CHeCS) and supported by Animal Health Ireland (AHI)

Currently LIMO LEADER HERD HEALTH offers testing, eradication and accreditation options covering the four most important endemic infectious disease agents:

- Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD).
- Johnes Disease.
- Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis (IBR).
- Leptospirosis.

It is anticipated that additional diseases caused by Salmonella, Neospora and liver fluke will be accommodated in the future.

Why LIMO LEADER HERD HEALTH?

- Improve herd health, productivity and profit.
- ILCS service to all members.
- Providing added confidence to our customers.
- Affordable – No membership fee, just low cost testing.
- Flexible – Programmes available to suit individual circumstances.
- Technical backup via IML veterinary support.

Testing Programmes

Testing may be conducted at one of three levels depending on the degree of testing and confidence in herd health status required. Programmes are available to facilitate breeders who wish to attain health status information for an individual animal, for the pedigree herd only where other cattle enterprises exist, or for determination of whole herd health status with a view to achieving freedom of disease and accreditation.

For each disease, herds may join the scheme at a number of different levels, depending on circumstances and status.

Where herd testing is conducted in order to gain accredited or vaccinated monitored free status, the herd must abide by the rules of Cattle Health Certification Standards (CHeCS), a self-regulatory body set up by the UK cattle industry to ensure consistency between different schemes and herds. These guidelines cover requirements for sampling and biosecurity. For detail please consult the CHeCS Technical Document available online at www.irishlimousin.com

Level 1 (Basic Investigation/Surveillance/health declaration): A one off test on individual cattle for initial investigation of herd status or to obtain individual health declarations for official sales or other purposes.

Level 2 (Pedigree Herd Monitor): Testing of **all eligible** (consult appropriate sample submission form) ILCS registered cattle but including females used as ET recipients, surrogate dams and foster dams. This level is specifically aimed at ILCS breeders having additional cattle enterprises, the scale of which may deter whole herd testing under Level 3. Participants at level 2 are obliged to manage their pedigree stock within a separate management group and in accordance with CHeCS otherwise testing will be deemed to be at Level 1.

Level 3 (Accredited Program): **All eligible** cattle irrespective of breed or pedigree status. Testing must be conducted according to the guidelines of CHeCS. Herds participating at level 3 can achieve accredited free status. **Certification of disease free status is ordinarily only possible under level 3.**

Note: Where an ILCS breeder operating a dairy herd tests the Limousin herd at level 2 and is compliant with the rules of CHeCS, and simultaneously is a member of a CHeCS dairy herd health accreditation programme it will be possible to obtain accredited free status once disease free status is achieved in both schemes.

The Diseases

BOVINE VIRAL DIARRHOEA (BVD)

Agent/cause BVD is caused by a virus, bovine viral diarrhoea virus (BVDV).

Disease

- Infection can result in a wide range of clinical signs including:
 - Weakening of the immune system, leaving cattle more susceptible to other infections.
 - Scours and pneumonia in calves.
 - Reproductive problems, including failure to conceive, and abortion in older cattle and birth defects in calves.
- Calves that survive infection during early pregnancy can be born persistently infected (PI) with the virus. Many will develop a fatal condition called mucosal disease early in life (before three years of age).

Introduction and spread

- Purchase of PI (Persistently Infected) cattle (possibly as unborn calves in pregnant cattle) is the most important means of introduction.
- PI calves are highly efficient transmitters of virus to other cattle.
- Purchase of transiently infected animals can also introduce BVD onto a farm.

Impact

- Economic losses can be very high due to the various clinical outcomes of BVD.
- Persistently infected bulls are excluded from AI centres due to the presence of BVDV in their semen.
- Possible future restriction on live exports.

JOHNE'S DISEASE

Agent/cause Bacterial infection caused by Mycobacterium avium subspecies paratuberculosis (MAP).

Disease

- Chronic, progressive wasting and scour in adult cattle.
- High rate of wastage in heavily infected herds at three to five years of age.
- MAP is shed in large numbers in faeces and can also be found in colostrum and milk.

Introduction and spread

- Usually introduced by purchasing infected replacement breeding stock, including bulls.
- Cattle are usually infected by mouth as calves from milk or a contaminated environment, although disease does not normally occur until at least two years of age. Infection prior to birth can also occur but is rare.

Impact

- Production losses.
- Early culling.
- Negative impact on cattle sales.
- It has been suggested that MAP may have a link to Crohn's disease, a human bowel disease, although this has never been proven.

INFECTIOUS BOVINE RHINOTRACHEITIS (IBR)

Agent/cause Caused by Bovine Herpes Virus-1 (BHV-1)

Disease

- Pneumonia, which can be particularly severe in housed beef cattle.
- Pneumonia and reduced milk yields in dairy herds.
- Abortions may also occur.
- Some strains cause only mild symptoms.
- Once infected an animal will remain a life long carrier of the disease and can excrete virus when stressed.

Introduction and spread

- Purchase of carrier animals including bulls is the main source of new infections.
- Spread is mainly by the respiratory route.

Impact

- Losses due to disease.
- Recovered (carrier) bulls are excluded from AI centres as they may shed virus in their semen.
- Vaccinated animals are excluded from AI centres.
- Barrier to the export of live cattle to other regions or countries within Europe, where the disease has already been eradicated.

LEPTOSPIROSIS

Agent/cause Caused by bacterial organisms collectively referred to as Leptospira Hardjo (Leptospira borgspetersenii serovar Hardjo and Leptospira interrogans serovar Hardjo).

Disease

- Milk drop.
- Infertility and abortion (usually during the second half of pregnancy).
- Birth of weak calves with a poor survival rate.
- L. Hardjo localises in the kidneys and the male and female genital tracts after infection and is shed in the urine. Some animals excrete it continuously for a short time and then stop; others shed either continuously or intermittently for life.

Introduction and spread

- Usually introduced by the purchase of infected cattle or farm vermin.
- Infection spread by contact with infected urine, infected bulls, sheep or contaminated water or pasture.

Impact

- Losses due to disease in cattle.
- Risk of infection in humans, with flu-like symptoms and severe headaches.
- Dairymen in the parlour are at particular risk and herd owners should be aware of their responsibilities under the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) regulations.