



BSE Surveillance Scheme

The national BSE surveillance programme in Ireland complies with the guidelines in Articles 11.4.20 of the WOAHP Terrestrial Code, and with EU TSE Regulation 999/2001. WOAHP (Formerly the OIE) have designated Ireland as a country with a “negligible” BSE risk in May 2021. This status is based on a detailed risk analysis, awareness programme, monitoring and surveillance programme and the history of BSE in the country.

The surveillance programme is made up of three key components

1. Active surveillance – casualty/emergency slaughter animals

All casualty or emergency cattle over the age of 48 months must be tested for BSE at slaughter.

2. Active Surveillance – fallen animals

All fallen animals (died on farm) over the age of 48 months must be sampled for BSE at collection centres along with healthy slaughter animals over 30 months of age and fallen animals over 24 months of age born in controlled risk countries (Romania, Bulgaria and third countries including GB).

3. Passive surveillance

All cattle displaying behavioural or clinical signs consistent with BSE and where BSE cannot be ruled out must be tested for BSE following euthanasia/death (clinical suspects).

The surveillance programme is a national programme in line with EU legislation requirements. Samples are taken by DAFM approved officers and are tested at DAFM approved laboratories.

The purpose of the surveillance programme is to ensure public safety and animal health by preventing BSE affected animals entering the human food chain or animal feed chain.

Year	No of Samples	Positives	Negatives
2020	64,089	1*	64,088
2021	59,574	0	59,574
2022	59,980	0	59,980
2023	65,272*	1*	65,271*
2024	63,013	1*	63,013

* confirmed as atypical BSE