

Ireland

2010 Eradication Programme for Bovine Tuberculosis

Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal
Health (SCOFCAH)

5th/6th July 2011



Department of
**Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food**

An Roinn
**Talmhaíochta,
Iascaigh agus Bia**

Introduction

- The eradication programme for Bovine TB for 2010 was implemented effectively.
- Significant reduction in incidence of Bovine TB in 2010 compared with 2009:
 - Number of reactors down from 23,805 in 2009 to 20,211 i.e. (15% reduction)
 - 9% reduction in Herd Incidence
 - 9% reduction in APT
 - Lower incidence of disease is continuing into 2011

Ireland

- Demographics

- December 2010
 - 116,815 holdings with bovines
 - 6.6m animal population
 - approx. 2.2 million cows (50% dairy cows)
 - Approx. 83,000 breeding herds (25% dairy herds)
 - Average herd size: 56

2010 TB Programme – main measures

- Annual herd test – Single Intra-dermal Comparative Tuberculin Test (SICTT)
- Movement restrictions (status suspension/withdrawn as per Directive) on positive herds
- Compensation for removal of reactors
- De-restriction after clear tests at 60 days and 4 months
- Post de-restriction check tests at 6, 12 and 18 months
- Check tests on herds contiguous to infective breakdown
- Check test on herds on an area and/or epidemiological basis

2010 TB Programme – main measures contd.

- Epidemiological investigations on infective breakdowns
- Wildlife control in infected areas (targeted badger removal under licence where implicated in a breakdown)
- Veterinary meat inspection at slaughter plants
- Farm hygiene – disinfection of premises pre derestriction
- Depopulation (stamping out) of heavily infected herds
- Gamma-interferon assay in infected/problem herds

2010 TB Programme – main measures contd.

- ***Audit of SICTT***
 - supervision and monitoring of performance of testing veterinarian
 - tuberculin assay on naturally infected bovines
- ***Computerised database AHCS***
 - links disease test recording and identification databases
 - Electronic communication with veterinarians
 - Animal movements and animal test data on AHCS at marts and assembly centres

Research

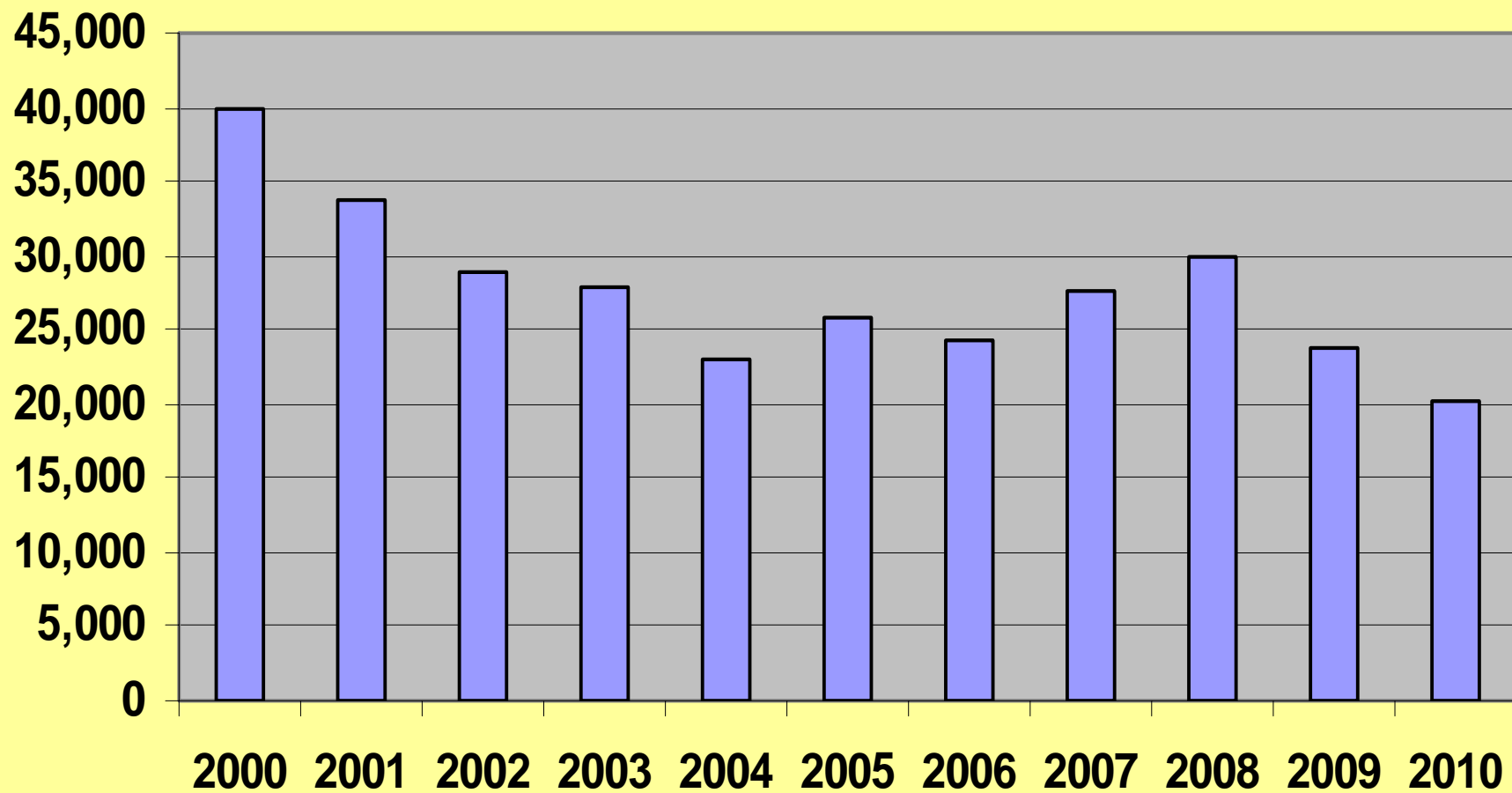
- CVERA – Centre for Veterinary Epidemiology and Risk Analysis – staff from Department of Agriculture and Food, Veterinary Faculty of University College Dublin and Teagasc (Irish Agriculture and Food Development Authority). Covers major areas of interest.
- Wildlife Unit – investigating the role of the badger in the spread of bovine tuberculosis
- Badger Vaccine Development Project in collaboration with UK
- Multiplex ELISA

Main TB trends 2000-2010

Animals removed as reactors

- 2000 45,000
- 2010 20,211

Animals removed under programme 2000 – 2010.



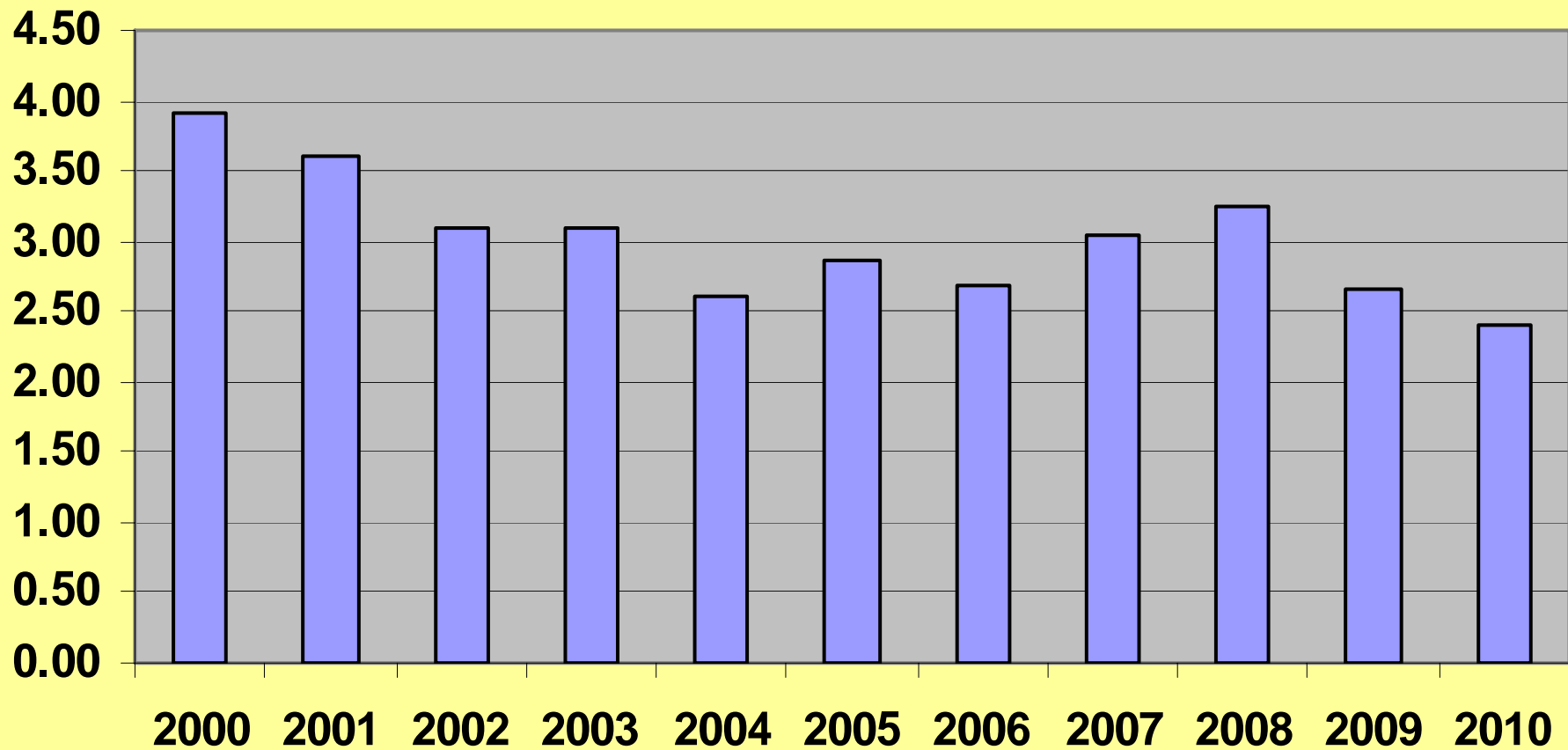
Main TB trends 2000- 2010 contd.

APT – Reactors per 1,000 tested.

2000: 3.90

2010: 2.41

APT 2000 – 2010.

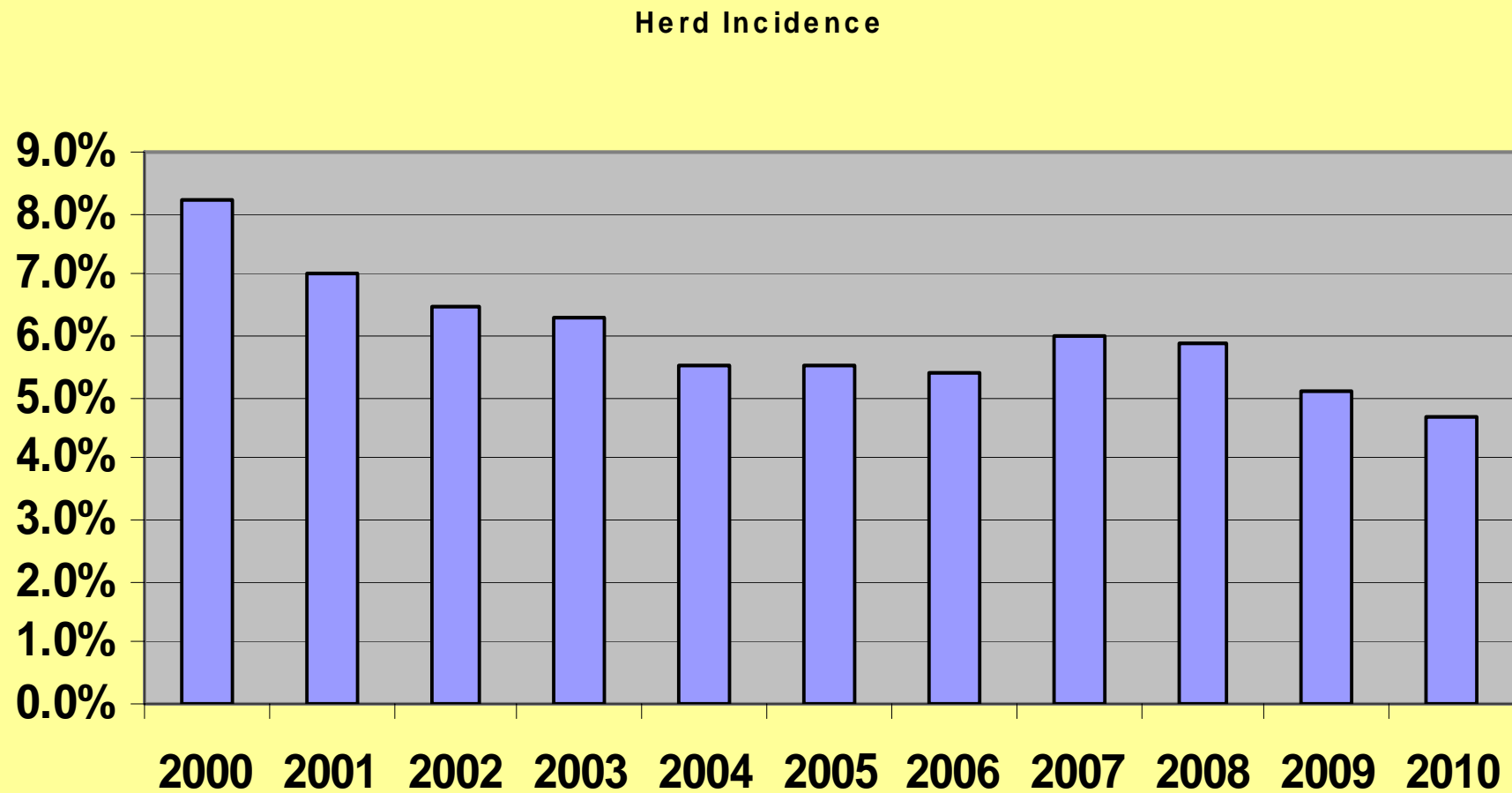


Main TB trends 2000- 2010 contd.

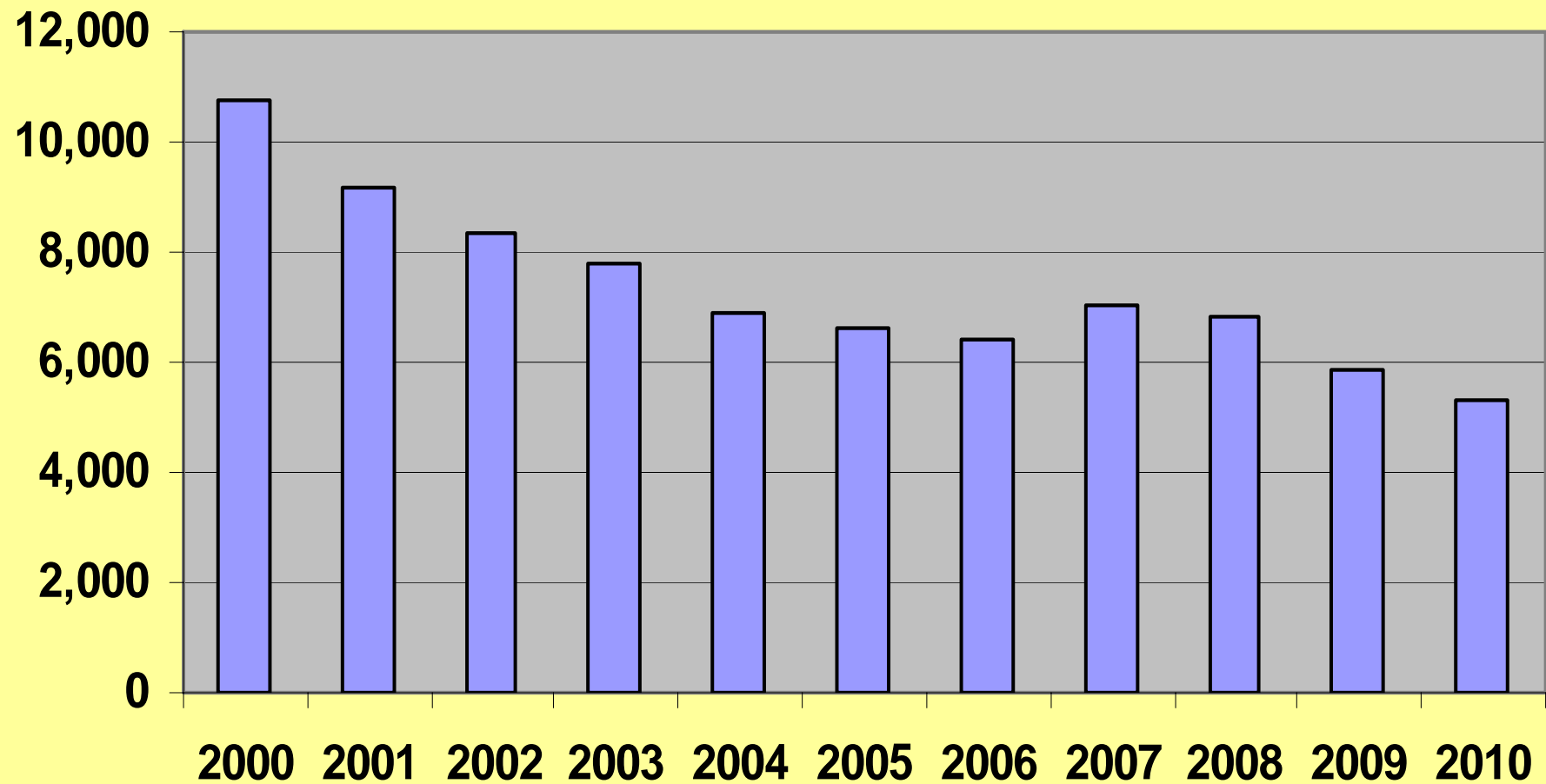
- Herd Incidence

- 2000 8.20%
- 2010 4.65%

Herd Incidence 2000 – 2010.



Herds Restricted 2000 – 2010.



Summary and Conclusions

- Implementation of programme is showing good results:
 - Number of reactors down from 23,805 in 2009 to 20,211 i.e.
 - Herd incidence down from:
 - 5.09% in 2009 to
 - 4.65% in 2010.
 - Lower incidence of disease is continuing into 2011

The Future

- Badger removal programme appears to be paying dividends.
- Considered view is that further substantial reduction will be difficult until badger vaccination programme is implemented.
- Continue to implement programme on similar lines including controlled badger removal
- Research into Badger vaccination is on-going (in collaboration with UK) but definitive conclusions will not be available until 2014 at the earliest.

Thank you for your attention.



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