



BSE Surveillance Scheme

The national BSE surveillance programme in Ireland complies with the guidelines in Articles 11.4.20 to 11.4.22 of the OIE Terrestrial Code, and with EU TSE Regulation 999/2001. The OIE have designated Ireland as a country with a “negligible” BSE risk in 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.

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
2012	288,986	3	288,983
2013	155,840	1	155,839
2014	50,533	0	50,533
2015	51,622	1	51,621
2016	59,717	0	59,717
2017	59,982	1	59,981
2018	70,279	0	70,279
2019	56,912	0	56,912
2020	64,089	1	64,088

* There have been no positive BSE cases in Ireland to date in 2021