

DAFM Virology Division.

The Virology Division provides DAFM with the capacity to identify and characterise farmed animal viral diseases and provides a mix of diagnostic, investigative and consultative services for viral diseases that are exotic to Ireland, e.g. FMD, and for those viral diseases of farmed animals which are endemic to Ireland. The Division hosts nine National Reference Laboratories (NRLs) and represents Ireland at international level.

DAFM Veterinary Public Health Regulatory Laboratory. (VPHRL)

The Veterinary Public Health Regulatory Laboratory (VPHRL) carries out microbiological testing as part of the official verification of the correct functioning of food and feed safety management systems employed by DAFM regulated industry. Since 2015, the VPHRL is designated as NRL for microbiological parameters for E. coli, including Shigatoxin-producing E. coli. VPHRL has for many years fulfilled the duties of NRL parasites with regards to the parasite Trichinella.

VPHRL is also specialised in the chemical analysis of animal and farm samples for the detection of residues of veterinary medicinal products, banned substances such as growth promoters, and contaminants, such as heavy metals. VPHRL is the National Reference Laboratory for several residues groups including antithyroid agents, beta-agonists, chloramphenicol and dapsone, antibiotics, carbadox and chemical elements in accordance with Commission Decision 98/536/EC.

DAFM Dairy Science Laboratory (DSL)

The Dairy Science Laboratory carries out microbiological testing of milk and milk products and other ready to eat food products to verify compliance is with the microbiological criteria set out in Regulation (EC) 2073/2005. The Division hosts the National Reference Laboratory (NRL) function for *Listeria monocytogenes*, Coagulase positive staphylococci, TBC & SCC in raw milk and phosphatase.

The DSLs are also involved in the chemical analysis of infant formula and dairy products to confirm compliance with various EU and third country import requirements.

DAFM Bacteriology Division

The primary role of the Division is to provide the bacteriological diagnostic, monitoring, and advisory service to support DAFM in the achievement of its strategic objectives with respect to animal health, public health, trade and environment. The Division hosts the National Reference Laboratory (NRL) functions for food, feed and animal health – *Salmonella*, *Campylobacter*, Antimicrobial Resistance and *M. bovis* and *Mycobacteria*.

DAFM Pesticides Control Laboratory (PCL)

The Pesticides Residues Laboratory is the accredited National Reference Laboratories for pesticides in fruit and vegetables, cereals, food with high fat content and for single residue methods. It carries out the testing required under the pesticide residue control programme agreed under the Departments' service contract with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland. The Laboratory utilises multi-residue methods coupled with sophisticated modern equipment maximise the efficiency of its analytical scope. Testing is carried out for the presence of pesticide residues and their metabolites in various matrices, including fruit and vegetables, animal fat, dairy products (including infant formula), and honey.

The State Laboratory.

The State Laboratory is an EU National Reference Laboratory for additives for use in animal nutrition, for dioxins and PCBs in food and animal feed, for heavy metals and mycotoxins in animal feed, and for veterinary residues (steroids, corticosteroids, NSAIDs, nitroimidazoles and sedatives) and mycotoxins in food of animal origin. It is fortunate to have first class laboratory facilities and state of the art analytical instrumentation that support the highly specialised analytical service it provides to its clients.