

## POSITION: JOHNE'S DISEASE PROGRAMME MANAGER

### The Organisation

Animal Health Ireland is a not-for-profit, public-private partnership, tasked with controlling livestock diseases not subject to international regulation, with the objective of improving the profitability and sustainability of Irish farmers and the agri-food sector. The advice provided by AHI is developed by a number of Technical Working Groups (TWGs) and the delivery of its major programmes, including one addressing Johne's disease (JD), is overseen by cross- industry Implementation Groups (IGs).

### The position

The establishment of the Irish Johne's Control Programme (IJCP) has been led by AHI in conjunction with industry stakeholders through the JD IG, guided by scientific input from the JD TWG. Following a previous pilot programme, Phase One of the IJCP was launched in late 2017 as a voluntary national programme for the dairy sector. The (IJCP) is a long term programme for the control of Johne's disease and recognises the value of effective and on-going disease prevention and containment practices to control the infection. The IJCP provides pathways for test-negative and test-positive herds to demonstrate progress towards an improved herd assurance for Johne's disease, while also improving calf health and biosecurity and providing market assurance. Further details of the IJCP are available at [www.animalhealthireland.ie](http://www.animalhealthireland.ie). Phase Two of the IJCP began in January 2019, with the ambition of achieving a significant level of engagement with dairy herds in the near future. Due to retirement, a vacancy has arisen for a programme manager to oversee the continued development of the IJCP. Reporting directly to the CEO, the successful candidate will have responsibility for all aspects of the IJCP, building on the significant progress made to date.

### Educational Requirements

Candidates must hold a degree in veterinary medicine.

### Desirable qualifications, experience and competencies

- A Masters or Doctoral level qualification in a relevant area.
- A strong understanding of the complexities of the control of Johne's disease, including the interpretation of test results and biosecurity.
- Experience of project management, preferably in the context of delivering a large-scale animal health programme.
- Strong organisational skills, with a demonstrable ability to effectively plan, structure and prioritise work, to meet deadlines and manage time effectively.
- The ability to manage and analyse large datasets.
- Experience in knowledge transfer, with a strong ability to communicate clearly and appropriately, in both writing and verbally, with a wide range of stakeholders, including farmers, veterinary practitioners, industry representatives, scientists and policy makers.
- An understanding of the interaction between various interest groups and stakeholders in the Irish agri-food sector and a demonstrable ability to work effectively with such groups.
- A demonstrable ability to advocate effectively on behalf of the employing organisation and to promote the achievement of its objectives with external parties.
- A demonstrable ability to work co-operatively and effectively as part of a team.
- A demonstrable record of originating action aimed at resolving problems.

## Role description

- Responsibility for all operational aspects of the IJCP.
- Developing and implementing monitoring activities to measure progress towards agreed objectives.
- Development of science-based informational resources on Johne's disease control for the benefit of farmers and other stakeholders
- Liaising with software developers to devise computer-based applications and reports to assist with the implementation, monitoring and management of the IJCP.
- Contributing to stakeholder management, particularly through supporting the Chair of the JDIG.
- Co-ordinating the activities of the JD TWG.
- Identification of significant knowledge gaps and the formulation of proposals as to how to address these.
- Contributing to the development of relevant international peer-reviewed journal articles.
- Championing the IJCP to livestock farmers, relevant service providers, particularly the veterinary profession, and industry stakeholders
- Addressing and making presentations at events such as road shows, farmer and veterinary clinical society meetings, and exhibitions.
- Contributing to the development of other AHI programmes and to the corporate development of the organisation.

## Job Location

Carrick on Shannon, Co. Leitrim.

## Contract Duration

The contract will be for an initial duration of 2 years, with the potential for renewal. This is a full-time contract.

## Start Date

The indicative start date for this post is Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May

## Salary

€83,232-€99,878, dependent on qualifications, experience and demonstrable competencies.

**REFERENCE: AHI/IJCPM**



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