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**Tuberculosis Investigation Unit**

**University College Dublin**

**Selected Papers  
1998**

*Edited by*

**J.D. Collins and R.F. Hammond**

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Selected Papers 1998**

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## **Introduction**

The Tuberculosis Investigation Unit was established by ERAD in co-operation with Teagasc in May, 1989 as part of the National Strategic Plan for the Eradication of Tuberculosis in Cattle.

The **purpose** of the Unit is to investigate the factors which militate against the eradication of tuberculosis in cattle at the national or regional levels and to identify means of improving the present rate of eradication.

The **objective** of the Unit is to manage and analyse retrospective and concurrent data relating to the occurrence of tuberculosis in cattle so as to define those factors which are responsible for the emergence or recurrence of infection and to identify ways of eliminating or otherwise controlling these factors.

This publication is a collection of papers presented in summary form which describe projects undertaken by members of the Tuberculosis Investigation Unit during 1998 and comprises the ninth report of the Unit.

This report includes summaries of breakdown patterns of tuberculosis in cattle based upon analyses of episodes of the disease. Other studies on the application of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) in the control of tuberculosis, brucellosis (contagious abortion) in cattle and bovine spongiform encephalopathy are included. Particular attention has been given to the significance of contiguity in outbreaks of tuberculosis and brucellosis in cattle. Further details are given of an extended study on the interactions between badgers and cattle in four designated areas, which is now in its third year.

An investigative procedure for brucellosis outbreaks in cattle which has been developed in association with a number of District Veterinary Office is described.

A list of current Associate Members of the Unit is presented in Appendix I.

As this is the Unit's tenth year in operation, a list of the Selected Papers published by the Tuberculosis Investigation Unit is included as an Appendix.

## **Acknowledgements**

The co-operation of the staff of the District Veterinary Offices, the Central Veterinary Laboratory, the Regional Veterinary Laboratories and ERAD, is acknowledged.

ERAD/Teagasc Tuberculosis Investigation Unit  
University College Dublin  
Veterinary College of Ireland  
Ballsbridge  
Dublin 4.

September, 1999

## **ERAD/TEAGASC TUBERCULOSIS INVESTIGATION UNIT**

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### **Members of the Unit**

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J.M. Griffin  
T. Haesy  
R.F. Hammond  
I. Higgins  
G. McGrath  
J.J. O'Keeffe  
K. Towey  
P.W. White  
J. Smith (Secretarial)

### **External Consultants to the Unit**

S.W. Martin  
Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph, Canada

D.H. Williams  
Department of Statistics, University College Dublin