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## **Introduction**

The Tuberculosis Investigation Unit was established by ERAD in cooperation 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 1993 and comprises the fourth report of the Unit.

Projects include field studies, analyses of herd data relating to herd and area breakdowns, studies on wildlife and animal husbandry-related practices which may influence the occurrence and/or persistence of bovine tuberculosis in an area.

The application of modern computerised techniques such as Geographical Information Systems (GIS) in tuberculosis and brucellosis investigations is outlined.

The first report of the Unit was published in November 1990. The second report was published in February 1992. The third report was published in March 1993.

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

## **Acknowledgements**

The cooperation of the staff of the District Veterinary Offices, the Central Veterinary Laboratory, the Regional Veterinary Laboratories and ERAD, together with that of regional Teagasc staff members, is acknowledged. The valued assistance of the members of the Statistics Unit, Teagasc is greatly appreciated.

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July, 1994

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