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The performance of the interferon gamma assay when used as a diagnostic or quality assurance test in *Mycobacterium bovis* infected herds

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Abstract

There are two different contexts in the Irish bTB eradication programme in which the interferon-gamma assay (IFN- γ) is applied. Firstly, the IFN- γ assay is applied routinely to high risk cohorts in herds with four or more reactors to the SICTT. The IFN- γ test is then carried out on blood samples submitted to the laboratory within 8 h of collection (diagnostic testing). Secondly, the use of the IFN- γ assay has recently been extended to test SICTT reactors as part of a general quality assurance (QA) scheme to monitor the performance of the SICTT. Blood samples from reactors are tested one day

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