

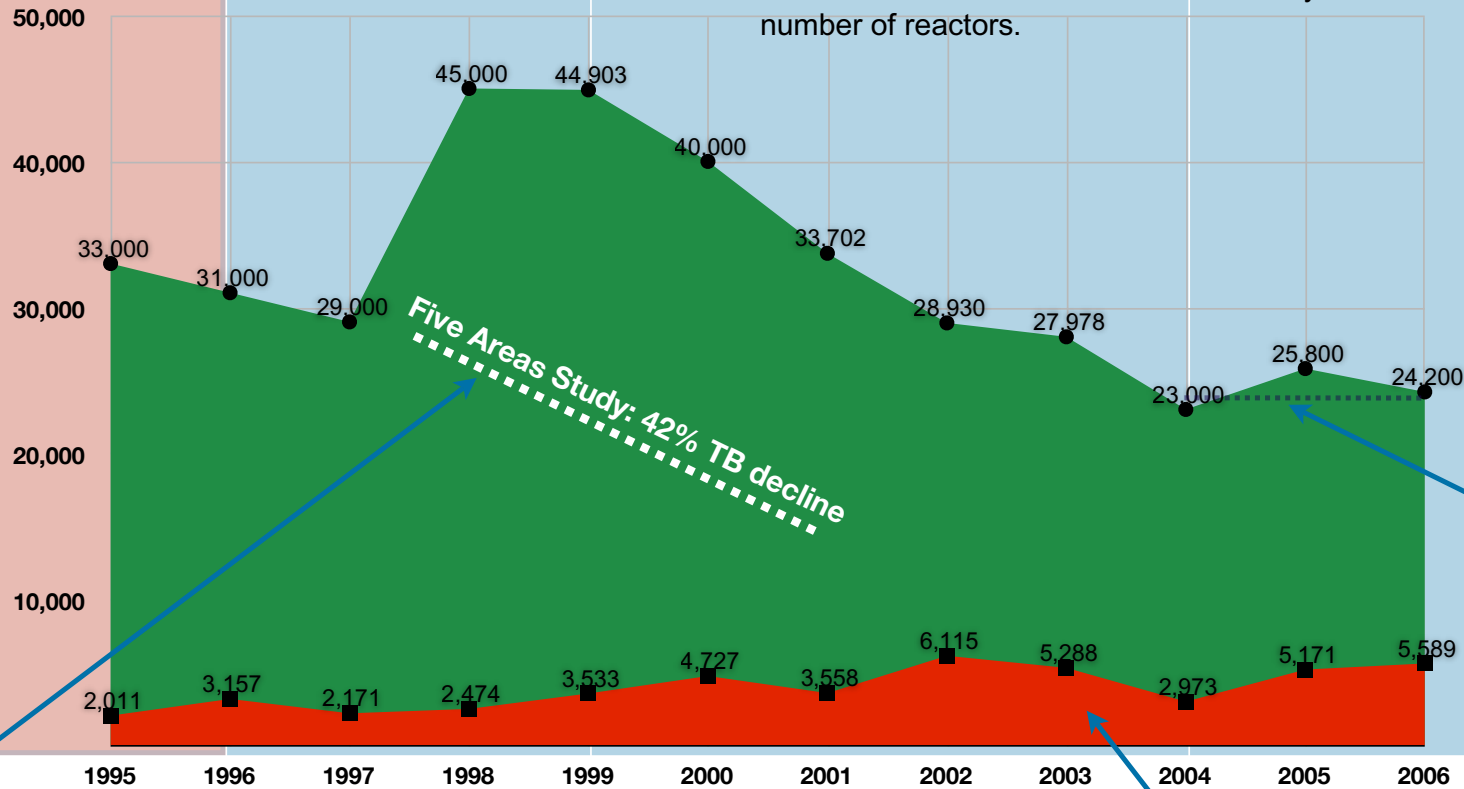
Bovine TB in Eire: numbers of TB reactor cattle and numbers of badgers killed

Badger killing with snares since at least 1988: number and locations of badgers killed unknown.

Pre-movement testing of cattle abandoned, followed by the highest ever incidence of bovine TB in cattle.

Introduction of gamma interferon test, anamnestic ELISA test and new cattle monitoring. No data or analysis is available on where, when or how these were applied or what contribution they made to the dramatic reduction in the number of reactors.

Extension of gamma interferon and ELISA. New Reactor Herd Management System.



Despite sustained and ruthless badger killing, the number of TB reactors has been steady for the last three years.

Four Areas Study: new calculations suggest that the overall reduction in the likelihood of a TB breakdown in killing areas was around 42% (mostly in the latter years of the study). Note how this reduction compares with the overall reduction in TB reactors nationally, in the same period.

■ Badgers killed
■ Reactor cattle

The NFU claims that there has been a significant increase in badger killing since 1999. In fact, so few badgers remain in Ireland that the number killed each year is small, even though 1.3 million snares are laid annually across 30% of Ireland's land area.

Year	Badgers killed	Reactor cattle		
1995	2011	33000		
1996	3157	31000		
1997	2171	29000		
1998	2474	45000		
1999	3533	44903		
2000	4727	40000		
2001	3558	33702		
2002	6115	28930		
2003	5288	27978		
2004	2973	23000		
2005	5171	25800		
2006	5589	24200		