Project Title: Spatio-temporal modelling of bovine tuberculosis across Northern Ireland.

Supervisor: Hannah Mitchell

Funded: DAFM – DAERA, 4 year PhD, eligibility for UK/ROI applicants

Project description

Bovine tuberculosis (bTB) is a chronic, infectious disease caused by the bacteria *Mycobacterium bovis* that affects cattle, badgers, deer and humans. Control of the disease is essential to maintain export markets, and to protect human and animal health. Despite a costly eradication programme spanning decades, prevalence is increasing in cattle on the Island of Ireland, compromising sustainability and farmer resilience.

The primary objective of this PhD will be to create novel spatial models to identify associations between risk factors and incidence, taking into account geographical space and examining large- and small-scale trends across Northern Ireland, giving spatial insights into the disease across the country.

This project offers an opportunity to work within an inter-disciplinary team across the Island of Ireland as we aim to understand the spatial spread of the disease across Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.