

Schemes and Services 2014-2020

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See **Appendices 1A to 1G** for full contact details of Department offices, laboratories etc.

See **Appendix 2A** for full contact details of Teagasc Agricultural and Horticultural Colleges and County Advisory and Training Services information.

Copies of this booklet are available on request from the local offices of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and from Teagasc Offices, by email from publications@agriculture.gov.ie

or

by post from:
Corporate Affairs Division,
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2,
D02 WK12.

Also available on the Department's website; www.agriculture.gov.ie

Support measures under the Rural Development Programme Ireland 2014 – 2020 are co-funded from the European Agricultural fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)

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This booklet is intended as a guide only to the schemes and services operated by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and other relevant Government Departments and Agencies, and has no status in law.

Ministerial Foreword

Simon Coveney, T.D.

Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

The agri-food, fisheries and forestry sectors continue to be among the most important and successful indigenous manufacturing sectors in this country. Its primary producers are the economic backbone of rural Ireland and provide the raw material for the country's highly developed and diversified food and drinks industry. Due to our high level of self-sufficiency in many products, the bulk of the sector's output is exported. Given its importance, geographic spread and export reach, the agri-food industry clearly has a very significant role to play in Ireland's ongoing economic development.

My Department together with a broadly based committee, representative of the major interests of the agri-food, fisheries and forestry sector, have worked on the development of a strategy for the sector for the period up to 2025. The resulting Food-Wise 2025 Strategy will maintain the impetus gained from the very successful Food Harvest 2020 Report and Implementation Plan. That report sees Ireland's agri-food industry as being on a journey - one that is connecting local communities across the island to vast and diverse food markets around the globe - to borrow a phrase used throughout Food Wise 2025 - "Local Roots, Global Reach". Building on our success to date, Food Wise 2025 sets out a vision for the industry continuing along this course of growth, recognising the importance of strategic foresight in capitalising fully on emerging opportunities in the years ahead. With the agri-food sector now recognised as one where ambition and investment are rewarded, Food Wise 2025 highlights the practical ways in which aspirations for growth can be made tangible and the sector can be supported as it strives for new levels of success in the intervening decade.

Our primary producers, our farmers, are customers of this Department and as such are valued and supported. In 2015 we agreed a new Farmers' Charter of Rights. The Charter is effectively an agreement between the Department and its farmer customers on delivery targets for the Department's schemes and services and brings clarity to the arrangements around inspections. It also sets out in very clear language, the timelines, application, payment and appeals processes and is a very useful reference for farmers. The Charter will remain in place until 2020 coinciding with the lifetime of the Pillar I and Pillar II schemes.

My Department's IT systems underpin the delivery of the vast array of payments to farmers. We are constantly reviewing our systems and technology to ensure that we can deliver the best possible service to our customers. We also have sophisticated electronic services which are under constant development. Approximately 60% of farmers applied online for payment in 2014. This is a significant increase from 5% in 2007 when this service was first introduced. I encourage more of you to avail of this service as it reduces errors and increases efficiency for everybody. We also continue to use our text messaging system to send reminders of important dates and to help keep you informed of key developments.

My Department places great value on those involved in agriculture, fishing and forestry sectors and their immense contribution to the Irish economy. Notwithstanding all of the new technology and systems, we are very conscious of the need for a comprehensive reference guide to assist all of our customers in their regular interaction with the Department on its many schemes and services. In this regard I am very pleased to introduce **Schemes and Services 2014 – 2020**. This booklet provides details of the various payment schemes administered by the Department, highlights important dates, covers matters relating to animal health and welfare, the numerous support measures that are in place, food safety controls and many other services. I recommend that you take time to read this publication and see what support or service my Department can provide to you.

Minister of State Tom Hayes T.D.

With responsibility for Forestry, Horticulture, Food Safety and the Greyhound Industry.

Minister of State Ann Phelan T.D.

With special responsibility for Rural Economic Development (implementation of the CEDRA report).

1. GENERAL INFORMATION	10
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine Website	11
Online Services	11
Telephone Authenticity	13
Customer Services	13
Quality Service Unit	13
Inheritance Enquiry Unit	13
Service to Assist Bereaved Families	14
Complaints	14
Press and Information Office	15
Requirements of the Disability Act 2005	15
Access Officer	16
Complaints Procedure under the Disability Act 2005	16
Website Accessibility	16
Farmers' Charter of Rights	17
Farmers' Annual Payment Statement	17
Direct Credit Payments	17
Agri-Taxation	18
Freedom of Information Act	19
Access to Information on the Environment	20
Data Protection Act 1988 as Amended	20
Laboratory Services	21
Rural Development 2014 – 2020	22
CEDRA Initiatives	22
Agriculture Appeals Office	24
2. SUPPORT PAYMENTS FOR FARMERS	26
Basic Payment Scheme/ Greening	27
Young Farmers Scheme	31
Protein Aid Scheme	32
Greening	32
National Reserve	33
Transfer of Entitlements	34
Cross Compliance	35
Nitrates Derogation	36
Environmental Impact Assessment	38
Areas of Natural Constraints (ANC) and Areas of Specific Constraints (Islands)	39
Livestock Units (LUs) used To Establish Stocking Density	41
Knowledge Transfer and Information Supports	42
Continuous Professional Development (CPD)	44
European Innovation Partnerships (EIP)	44

3. MARKET SUPPORT MEASURES	46
Export Refunds	47
Aid for Private Storage	47
Intervention	48
• Cereals	48
• Butter and Skimmed Milk Powder (SMP)	48
School Milk Scheme	49
EU Co-Funded Promotion Programmes	49
Artisan, Local and Speciality Food	50
Geographical Indications (Protected Food and Drink Names – PDO, PGI and TSG)	50
4. AGRI ENVIRONMENT	52
Green Low-Carbon Agri-Environment Scheme (GLAS)	53
Agri-Environment Options Scheme (AEOS) and Natura 2000 Scheme	57
• Organic Farming / Assistance for the development of the sector	58
• Organic Farming Scheme	59
• Schemes of Grant Aid for the Development of the Organic Sector	60
• Organic Capital Investment Scheme	60
Beef Data and Genomics Programme (BDGP)	60
5. FORESTRY	64
Forestry Programme 2014-2020	65
Afforestation Grants and Premium Levels	66
Forest Roads Scheme	67
Woodland Improvement (Thinning and Tending) Scheme	68
Environment	68
Forestry Promotion and Training	69
Forest Research and Development	70
International Forestry Division	72
Forest Service Appeals Procedure	72
Control of Felling	73
Forest Pest and Disease Protection – Import Regulations	73
Wood Packaging Material (Pallets, Crates, etc) – Export Regulations	74
Forest Reproductive Material	74
6. RESEARCH AND INNOVATION	76
Research and Innovation	77
• Food Institutional Research Measure (FIRM)	77
• Research Stimulus Fund (RSF)	77
• Programme of Competitive Forest Research for Development (COFORD)	77

7. STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS (TAMS)	78
Pig and Poultry Investment Scheme	79
Young Farmers' Capital Investment Scheme	79
Dairy Equipment Scheme	80
Low Emission Slurry Spreading Equipment Scheme	81
Animal Welfare, Safety and Nutrient Storage Scheme	82
Organic Capital Investment Scheme	82
8. ANIMAL TRACEABILITY	84
Irish Bovine Animal Identification System	85
Identification of Equines (including horses, ponies and donkeys)	86
National Sheep Identification System (NSIS)	91
National Goat Identification System (NGIS)	94
National Pig Identification and Tracing System (NPITS)	96
Tags and Approved Tag Suppliers	96
9. ANIMAL PRODUCTION/PRODUCTS	98
CATTLE	99
Cattle Breeding	99
Other Schemes/Services	100
EU Beef Carcase Classification Scheme	101
Labelling of Beef	102
MILK	104
Milk Quotas	104
Farm Partnerships	104
Milk Hygiene – Approval and Inspection Service	105
Dairy Inspection Fee	105
SHEEP	105
Sheep Breeding	105
Lamb Carcase Classification	106
PIGS	107
Pig Breeding	107
Pig Carcase Grading	107
Pig Salmonella Control Scheme	108
MEAT HYGIENE	108
Clean Livestock Policy	108
Meat Hygiene Legislation	109
Approval of Meat Establishments	109

POULTRY AND EGGS	110
Poultry Hatcheries and Hatching Egg Supply Farms	110
Poultry Meat Marketing	110
Eggs Marketing Regulations	110
HORSES	111
Purebred Equine Stud-Book	111
Horse Registration	111
Horse Sport Ireland	112
Irish Horse Board	112
Development of the Horse Industry	113
10. ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE	114
Notifiable Diseases	115
TB Eradication Schemes	116
Bovine Tuberculosis	116
Other Animal Diseases	124
Animal Health Ireland (AHI)	128
Control of Landing and Moving of International Catering Waste (Swill)	129
Fallen Animal TSE Subsidy Scheme	130
Animal By-Products	130
Veterinary Medicines and Residues Controls	131
Approval and Registration of Dealers	134
Regulations Governing the Sale of Animals at Livestock Marts	135
Regulations Governing Assembly Centres	136
Import/Export Controls	136
Animal Welfare	146
11. FEEDINGSTUFF CONTROLS	150
Control of Manufacture	151
Labelling Requirements	151
Restriction on the Use of Certain Proteins	151
Feed Hygiene	152
Additives in Feedingstuffs	152
Undesirable Substances	153
Nutritional Value	153
12. CROPS AND HORTICULTURE	154
CROPS	155
Seed Certification Scheme	155
Variety Registrations	156
Seed Testing Service	156
Crop Variety Evaluation Programme	157

Plant Genetic Resources	157
Fruit and Vegetables	158
• Scheme of Investment Aid for the Development of the Commercial Horticulture Sector	158
• Scheme of EU Aid for Producer Organisations (POs) in the Fruit And Vegetable Sector	158
BEEKEEPING / HONEY	159
PLANT HEALTH AND TRADE	160
Potatoes	161
Control of Noxious Weeds	161
Plant Protection and Biocidal Products	162
Residue Levels	163
Ground Limestone and Fertilisers	163
Analytical Service	163
13. SEA FISHERIES	164
Development of the Irish Sea Fish and Aquaculture Industries	165
Regulation of the Irish Sea Fish and Aquaculture Industries	166
Foreshore Licences and Leases	167
14. STATE BODIES AND AGENCIES	170
Bord Bia	171
Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM)	173
Bord na gCon	173
Coillte Teoranta	174
Horse Racing Ireland (HRI)	174
Irish National Stud Company Limited	175
Marine Institute	175
National Milk Agency	176
Sea Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA)	176
Teagasc	177
Veterinary Council of Ireland	181
15. OTHER GOVERNMENT SERVICES	182
DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT, COMMUNITY AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT	183
Rural Development Programme for Ireland 2014 – 2020	183
Taxation of Tractors	184
Rural Water Programme	185
DEPARTMENT OF JOBS, ENTERPRISE AND INNOVATION	186
Minimum Pay and Conditions of Employment for Agricultural Workers	186

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL PROTECTION	187
Farm Assist Scheme	187
Pay Related Social Insurance for Family Employment	189
PRSI for Farm Spouses or Civil Partners	189
Farm Partnerships	190
Self Employed Benefits	191
Rural Social Scheme (RSS)	191
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT, TOURISM AND SPORT	193
Tractor Safety	193
Local Improvements Scheme (LIS)	194
HEALTH AND SAFETY AUTHORITY	194
MET ÉIREANN	195
OFFICE OF THE REVENUE COMMISSIONERS	196
Tax Implications of the Basic Payment Scheme	196
Income Tax/Corporation Tax/Capital Gains Tax	197
Agricultural Relief from Capital Acquisitions Tax	198
Stamp Duties	199
Value Added Tax	201
Registered Farm Partnerships	204
Taxation of Farming Income	204
ORDNANCE SURVEY IRELAND	207
THE LAND REGISTRY	208
WESTERN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION	208
16. APPENDICES	210
Appendices 1A – 1G	
1A Offices of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	211
1B Regional Offices of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	217
1C Forest Schemes Contact Details	220
1D Laboratories/ Testing, Farms and Field Stations	221
1E Seed Potato Certification Technical Staff	222
1F Marine Engineering Division/ Fisheries Harbour Centres	222
1G State Bodies and other Government Departments	223
Appendix 2	225
2A Teagasc	225

One General Information

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine Website

For immediate access to all that is happening in Agriculture, Food and the Marine, visit our website at www.agriculture.gov.ie

You will find information on the following:

- Schemes and Services of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine;
- Press releases and speeches;
- Information notes on current issues;
- Contact numbers for Department Offices;
- Publications;
- Link to agfood online services and web video.

You can contact the relevant Divisions directly with any queries etc using the dedicated email addresses which can be found throughout this booklet.

Online Services

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine has a number of electronic services available to clients which can be accessed via its website at www.agriculture.gov.ie or www.agfood.ie. These include:

- Access to your financial transactions with the Department. The on-line “Financial Self-Service” option enables you to;
 - Check your payments on-line as they happen
 - View your payment history
 - Print/download your Payment Statements
 - Pay overpayments using Debit or Credit Cards
- Access to your Basic Payment Scheme/Greening application information including:
 - Online BPS application;
 - Summary Application Details, Parcel Details and Arable Payment enquiry;
 - Document enquiry showing scanned images of your BPS/Greening correspondence with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, all of which may be printed;
 - Colour mapping for your land parcels, which also may be printed.
- Access to Animal Identification and Movement (AIM) system including:
 - Calf Birth Registration facility, which allows you to register the birth of a calf online;
 - Herd Profile Enquiry, which allows you to view details of animals in your herd on AIM, as well as movements in and out of the herd. The latest TB test date for each animal is also displayed;
 - Compliance Certificate facility, which allows you to apply online for a compliance certificate, which is required when moving animals privately.

Keepers can print the Certificate of Compliance from their home PC and printer;

- Animal Events Recording for the Animal Welfare Recording and Breeding Scheme for Sucklers.
- Electronic Herd Register can be used by signing up to the online facility on AIM. Herdkeepers who avail of this option can dispense with maintaining the manual herd register “Blue Book” if they so wish.

- Access to annual Nitrogen and Phosphorus Statements:

- Farmers registered to use the BPS on-line facility can also access their individual Nitrogen and Phosphorus (N&P) statements from the AIM system. The N&P statements can also be accessed on-line by approved designated agents.

- IFORIS iNet provides access for registered forestry companies to their clients’ forestry grant applications. Forest owners who have registered for online services can apply online for the annual Forestry Premium payment. The system facilitates the submission of forestry pre-approval applications from forestry companies. The schemes covered are Afforestation and Roads. Users have access to :
 - An integrated online mapping system complete with access to various environmental datasets;
 - An online enquiry system, which allows registered foresters and forestry companies to query the status of their clients’ applications;
 - A full online system to enable foresters to submit forestry pre-approval applications online;
 - A facility to digitise and submit online the necessary maps required for an application
 - A facility to apply for the annual Forestry Premium online.

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine strongly encourages its clients to register on its web site (www.agriculture.gov.ie or www.agfood.ie) for existing and future services by clicking on the Agfood Online Services icon and following the simple instructions. Alternatively, select the web video for instructions and guidance. Farmers can also contact the agfood Online Services Helpdesk (0761 064424) for assistance. You will receive a Personal Access Code and password, for secure interaction with the Department. Once a client has registered for online services, then they will have access to all new facilities introduced by the Department that are applicable to their enterprise.

Telephone Authenticity

Please note that all telephone queries to the Department in relation to personal information will be subject to verification as to the caller's identity.

Customer Services

The quality of service provided to all our customers is a priority of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and we are constantly seeking ways to improve the efficiency and standards of delivery.

The Customer Charter 2015 -2020 gives commitments to the customer as to the level and standard of service that can be expected in his/her dealings with the Department. The Customer Service Action Plan 2015-2020 expands on these commitments, setting out how they are to be delivered by the Department. Consultation with and feedback from our clients is vital in helping us to improve our service delivery in every possible way.

Quality Service Unit

The Quality Service Unit is responsible for monitoring progress under the Customer Service Action Plan and Customer Charter, as well as co-ordinating action on further improvements in the delivery of services by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine to its customers.

As a user of our services, you are ideally placed to give us the benefit of your experiences and to assist us in getting an accurate picture of the quality of our services and to identify areas requiring improvement so that the Department continues to meet with your changing needs. If you have any comment, positive or negative, about the services you have received and/or if you have any suggestions on how the service can be improved, the Quality Service Unit would like to hear from you. Please contact us at: qualityserviceunit@agriculture.gov.ie

Inheritance Enquiry Unit

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine provides a central point of contact to assist the representatives of deceased farmers to secure outstanding payments due to the estate and, where applicable, to arrange for the transfer of Basic Payment entitlements and any other schemes in which the deceased participated. The Inheritance Enquiry Unit operates within the CAP Entitlements Section of the Department in Portlaoise.

The Inheritance Enquiry Unit will assist the legal representatives of the deceased to:

- Identify those schemes in which the deceased person participated and establish whether there are any outstanding payments due to the estate of the deceased;
- Assist the legal representatives in contacting various sections of the Department;
- Advise on what legal documents are required;

- Make arrangements for the issue of any outstanding payments due to estate of the deceased and for the transfer of Basic Payment entitlements (if any).

The Unit will act as a single repository for legal documentation submitted by representatives of the deceased thus removing the necessity for forwarding duplicate copies to several sections within the Department.

An information leaflet outlining the functions of the Inheritance Enquiry Unit is available on the Department's website www.agriculture.gov.ie.

All queries relating to the estates of deceased farmers should be submitted to:

- Inheritance Enquiry Unit, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Eircom Building, Knockmay Road, Portlaoise, Co. Laois, R32 YK81.
- Tel: 0761 064428
- Email: inheritanceenquiryunit@agriculture.gov.ie
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/customerservice/inheritanceenquiryunit/

Service to Assist Bereaved Families

In order to assist families who have suffered a sudden loss due to a farm accident, and who may not have experience in dealing with the type of day to day issues that might bring them in contact with the Department in relation to schemes and services, a single point of contact has been established in the Department's Quality Customer Service Unit. Every assistance and guidance possible will be provided to make contact/dealings with the Department as easy and as straightforward as possible.

The service to assist bereaved families can be contacted at:

- The Quality Service Unit, Corporate Affairs Division, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Grattan House, Grattan Business Centre, Dublin Road, Portlaoise, Co. Laois, R32 RY6V.
- Tel: 0761 064445 ● Email: qualityserviceunit@agriculture.gov.ie.

Complaints

If you are unhappy with the service that you receive, you can avail of the Department's Customer Complaints Procedure by referring the matter to the Quality Service Unit who will have it fully and impartially investigated. Initially complaints should be made to the Senior Officer in charge of the area to which the complaint relates. If you are not satisfied with the response received, you can then contact the Quality Service Unit of the

Department. Complaints may be made in person, in writing, by telephone and by email. In any event it is important that formal complaints are submitted in writing.

Copies of the latest Customer Service Action Plan, the Customer Charter and information on the Customer Complaints Procedure are available from the Quality Service Unit at the address below, or by accessing the Department's website www.agriculture.gov.ie

Further information is available from:

- The Quality Service Unit, Corporate Affairs Division, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Grattan House, Grattan Business Centre, Dublin Road, Portlaoise, Co. Laois, R32 RY6V.
- Tel: 057 8694331; Fax 057 8694387
- Email: qualityserviceunit@agriculture.gov.ie;
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/customerservice/

Press and Information Office

The Department has a dedicated Press and Information Office to deal with all media queries. If you have a media query please contact us on + 353 1 6072802 or via email press@agriculture.gov.ie . Department press releases are available on our website at www.agriculture.gov.ie/press. Regular news and updates are also provided on the Department's twitter account [@agriculture_ie](https://twitter.com/agriculture_ie)

Requirements of the Disability Act 2005

As a public body the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine is required, in accordance with Sections, 25, 26, 27 or 28 of the Disability Act 2005, to ensure that the services and information it provides are accessible to persons with disabilities.

Section 26 of the Act requires the Department to ensure that its mainstream public services are accessible to people with disabilities insofar as this is practical and appropriate. If it considers it necessary, the Department must provide assistance to persons with disabilities in accessing its services. Section 26(2) of the Act requires the organisation to appoint an Access Officer to provide or arrange for and co-ordinate the provision of assistance and guidance to persons with disabilities in accessing its services.

Section 28 of the Act requires the organisation to ensure that information imparted by it, is provided in an accessible format to persons with disabilities.

Access Officer

In accordance with section 26(2) of the Disability Act 2005, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine has appointed an Access Officer who is responsible for providing or arranging for, and co-ordinating assistance and guidance, to persons with disabilities accessing services provided by the offices and generally to act as a point of contact for people with disabilities wishing to access such services.

The contact details for the Access Officer are as follows:

- The Disability Access Officer, Corporate Affairs Division, Floor 6E, Agriculture House, Kildare St, Dublin 2, D02 WK12
- Tel: 01 6072046 ; 6072339 ● Email: access.officer@agriculture.gov.ie
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/customer-service/doyourequireanyspecialassistancebecauseofadisability/accessandinquiryofficers/

Complaints Procedure under the Disability Act 2005

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine has an Inquiry Officer to deal with complaints under the Disability Act 2005. Any individual can make a complaint if the Department has not complied with Sections 25, 26, 27 or 28 of the Disability Act 2005. A complaint can be made in writing by letter or email.

All complaints will be investigated by the Inquiry Officer who will issue a report on their investigations.

The contact details for the Inquiry Officer are as follows:

- Disability Inquiry Officer, Customer Service Unit, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Grattan House, Grattan Business Centre, Dublin Road, Portlaoise, Co. Laois, R32 RY6V.
- Tel: 057 869 4324; Fax: 057 869 4287 ● Email: inquiry.officer@agriculture.gov.ie
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/customer-service/doyourequireanyspecialassistancebecauseofadisability/accessandinquiryofficers/

Website Accessibility

Website accessibility is about enabling equal access to online content and services for all people, including, for example, those with a visual impairment. Accessibility has become increasingly important in the context of this Department because of the considerable growth in on-line information provided on our website. The Department is committed to ensuring, insofar as practicable, that everyone, including people with disabilities, can interact with the Department's website.

It is anticipated that an EU Directive on the accessibility of the Public Sector Bodies' websites will be finalised during the lifetime of this booklet. This Department is fully committed to meeting its obligations under this Directive.

Farmers' Charter of Rights

The Farmers' Charter of Rights 2015-2020 was agreed following discussions with the main farming organisations.

The Charter is an agreement between the Department and the main farming organisations on improving the standards and delivery targets for the Department's schemes and services, including on-farm inspections. The Charter sets out, in very clear language, the timelines, application, payment and appeals processes and is a very useful reference for farmers.

Progress under the Charter is monitored by a Review Committee under an independent chairman. The Committee is comprised of representatives of farm organisations and staff of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

Further information regarding the Farmers' Charter of Rights can be obtained from:

- The Quality Service Unit, Corporate Affairs Division, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Grattan House, Grattan Business Centre, Dublin Road, Portlaoise, Co. Laois, R32 RY6V.
- Tel: 057 8694331; Fax: 057 8694387
- Email: qualityserviceunit@agriculture.gov.ie.
- The Charter is available to download from the Department's website at www.agriculture.gov.ie/aboutus/farmerscharterofrights/
A limited number of copies are available at the Department's Regional Offices and Teagasc offices. An Irish version of the Charter is available on request.

Farmers Annual Payment Statement

In line with the Department's commitment in the Customer Service Action Plan to provide clear and accurate information, an Annual Payment Statement issues to all farmers who have received payments from the Department. The statement is a composite list of all payments issued to (and debts recovered from) a farmer in any given calendar year by the Department. Herdowners with access to the Department's on-line system at www.agfood.ie can access their Annual Payment Statements, giving details of all payments and debt recoveries for the last six years, by selecting the Financial Self Service option. To register for on-line services go to www.agfood.ie.

Direct Credit Payments

This Department issues all payments to farmers by Direct Credit. Under this payment method money is electronically forwarded directly to the farmer's nominated bank account or credit union account. At the same time a remittance advice issues by post to the farmer with confirmation of the payment and details of the transaction. In addition,

payment history and remittance details are available to those registered to use the on-line services available at www.agfood.ie.

Further information on this payment method and the relevant authorisation forms may be obtained from:

- Direct Credit Section, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Farnham Street, Cavan, H12 D459.
- Tel: 049 4368283
- Email: bank.payments@agriculture.gov.ie
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmerschemespayments/archivedschemes/singlepaymentschemedisadvantagedareasscheme/paymentbydirectcredittofarmers/

Agri-Taxation

While taxation policy is primarily the responsibility of the Department of Finance and the taxation system is administered by the Office of the Revenue Commissioners, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine continue to liaise with both organisations on agri-taxation matters. The Agri-Taxation Review was a joint initiative of the two Departments and was published as part of Budget 2015. The Review provides a solid evidence base for continued assistance to the primary agriculture sector through taxation measures, and is a clear strategy with specific policy objectives for the future to:

1. Increase the mobility and the productive use of land.

Access to land and the low level of land mobility is one of the main challenges facing farmers who want to increase their productivity. There is a growing consensus that the actual use of land is becoming more of an issue than ownership. While there is an active rental market, the majority of these cases are for short-term conacre lettings. Long-term leasing has a number of advantages over the conacre system and the Review recommends measures to assist in rebalancing the market in its favour.

2. Assist succession.

The age profile of Irish farmers is increasing and it is recognised that there are many social and economic reasons why succession management is a challenge for farmers. Assisting succession and the transfer of farms has been a central part of agri-taxation policy and the Review includes a number of recommendations to maintain and strengthen that support.

3. Complement wider agriculture policies and schemes, such as supporting:

- Investment to enhance competitiveness, including assisting new entrant, young trained farmers.
- Environmental sustainability, including the improvement of farm efficiency.
- Alternative farming models such as farm partnerships.
- Responses to increasing income volatility.

Recent budgets gave effect to many of the Review recommendations. More detail on agri-taxation can be found in Chapter 15 under the Office of the Revenue Commissioners section and on the Department's website www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/agri-foodindustry/agri-taxationreview/AgritaxationRevFinal120315.pdf

Freedom of Information Act

The Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2014 provides that every person has the right to seek access to personal information held on them by public bodies regardless of when the records were created and to other records created after 21 April 1998.

Under the Act every person has a right to:

- Seek access to records held by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine;
- Seek to correct personal information relating to oneself held by the Department, where it is inaccurate, incomplete or misleading;
- Be given reasons for decisions made by the Department where such decisions directly affect the individual involved.

When making an FOI application it is important to note that:

- The application must be in writing and must indicate that the information is sought under the Freedom of Information Act;
- The request must provide sufficient detail to enable the records sought to be identified. If you have difficulty in identifying the precise records you require, staff will assist you in preparing your request;
- If you are seeking personal information, you must provide a copy of a signed State ID, in order to allow the Department to verify your identity;
- Where information is desired in a particular format i.e. photocopy, electronically, etc. this should be outlined in your application. Your preference will be accommodated insofar as is reasonably possible.

Remember that the records you require may already be publicly available. If so, there is no need to make a formal FOI application.

In most cases, the Department must give its decision on a request within four weeks (20 working days) of receiving it.

Further information is available from:

- Freedom of Information Unit, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Grattan House, Grattan Business Centre, Dublin Road, Portlaoise, Co. Laois, R32 RY6V.
- Tel: 057 8694327; Fax: 057 8694387 ● Email: foi@agriculture.gov.ie
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/customerservice/freedomofinformationfoi/

Access to Information on the Environment

European Communities (Access to Information on the Environment) Regulations 2007 to 2014 (S.I. No. 133 of 2007, S.I. No. 662 of 2011 and S.I. 615 of 2014), give rights to those seeking to access information on the environment from public authorities.

Under these regulations, information relating to the environment held by, or for, a public authority must be made available on request, subject to certain exceptions.

When making a request for information under the Access to Information on the Environment Regulations you are required to:

- Submit the request in writing by post or email
- State that the application is being made under the AIE Regulations
- Provide sufficient detail to enable the records sought to be identified.
- Specify the form and manner of access desired, i.e. photocopy, electronically, etc.

Normally you will be notified of the decision on your request within 1 month of its receipt.

Further information is available from:

- Freedom of Information Unit, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Grattan House, Grattan Business Centre, Dublin Road, Portlaoise, Co. Laois, R32 RY6V.
- Tel: 057 8694327; Fax: 057 8694387
- Email: foi@agriculture.gov.ie
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/customerservice/accesstoinformationontheenvironment/

Data Protection Act 1988 as Amended

Under section 4 of the Data Protection Act as amended, individuals have a right to obtain from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine a copy of any information relating to them held on computer or manual filing systems.

When making a request:

- The request should be in writing by post or email
- The request must provide sufficient detail to enable the records sought to be identified. If you have difficulty in identifying the precise records you require, staff will assist you in preparing your request;
- As you are seeking access to personal information you must provide a copy of a signed State ID, in order to allow the Department to verify your identity
- Where information is desired in a particular format i.e. photocopy, electronically, etc. this should be outlined in your application. Your preference will be accommodated insofar as is reasonably possible.

Further information is available from:

- Data Protection Unit, Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine, Grattan House, Grattan Business Centre, Dublin Road, Portlaoise, Co. Laois, R32 RY6V.
- Tel: 057 8694469;
- Email: data.protection@agriculture.gov.ie

Laboratory Services

The Laboratory Services of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine play a hugely important role in assisting the Department to meet its objectives. They lend support to many of the other divisions of the Department and, in addition, provide a service to the food industry, veterinary practitioners and the general public. The fundamental work of the laboratories is as varied as it is important. Legislative based, regulatory testing forms the primary work of the Veterinary Public Health Regulatory Laboratory, Pesticides, Dairy Science and Seed Testing Laboratories; while the Veterinary Laboratory Service has a diagnostic surveillance and research and development role also.

The Laboratory Services consist of a central laboratory complex based at Backweston, Celbridge, Co. Kildare together with a number of regional laboratories located throughout the country. The Backweston complex, in occupation since 2005, has brought together a number of different laboratories having a variety of functions in the one building.

The laboratories involved are the:

- Central Veterinary Research Laboratory (CVRL) – comprising of divisions: Bacteriology, Pathology and Virology;
- Veterinary Public Health Regulatory Laboratory (VPHRL);
- Dairy Science Laboratory (DSL);
- Pesticide Control Laboratory (PCL);
- Plant Health Laboratory (PHL);
- Seed Testing Laboratory (STL).

In addition to the Backweston complex, six Regional Veterinary Laboratories located at Athlone, Cork, Kildare (Pathology Division, CVRL), Kilkenny, Limerick and Sligo whose primary work is in disease diagnosis and surveillance. A Brucellosis Laboratory in Cork and two regional Dairy Science laboratories at Limerick and Cork complete the laboratory service. Specific reference to the laboratories is included in the relevant parts of this booklet and at Appendix 1A and 1D.

Further information is available from:

- Backweston Laboratories, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Backweston Campus, Stacumny Lane, Celbridge, Co. Kildare, W23 VW2C.
- Tel: 01 6157100 ● Email: labsecretariat@agriculture.gov.ie
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/animalhealthwelfare/laboratoryservices/

Rural Development 2014 – 2020

The Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 (RDP) is a key support in:

- Enhancing the competitiveness of the agri-food sector;
- Achieving more sustainable management of natural resources;
- Ensuring a more balanced development of rural areas.

The measures in this RDP were framed in light of the experience of the previous Programme and are based on an objective analysis of sectoral needs and priorities identified by stakeholders. The total financial allocation for the Programme amounts to some €4 billion, of which €2.19 billion is funded by the EU via the European Fund for Agriculture and Rural Development. Ireland's RDP was formally adopted by the Commission on 26 May 2015.

The approved RDP contains the following measures:

- A substantial new Green Low Carbon Agri-Environment Scheme (GLAS) and a number of other targeted environmental measures. The GLAS scheme is the successor to the REPS and AEOS schemes;
- Continued strong support for Areas of Natural Constraint including Island Farmers (formerly Disadvantaged Areas/Less Favoured Areas);
- Significant support for On Farm Capital Investment;
- A range of knowledge transfer measures;
- Support for collaborative farming;
- Support for Organic Farming;
- Targeted support for the beef sector via the Beef Data and Genomics Programme.

The RDP also includes support for LEADER schemes administered by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government.

CEDRA Initiatives

In 2012, the Commission for the Economic Development of Rural Areas (CEDRA) was jointly established by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Simon Coveney TD and the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government, Phil Hogan TD. Its key function was to investigate the potential for economic development in rural Ireland and to prepare a report to underpin the development of future strategies to support the medium term economic development of rural areas for the period to 2025. The report was published in early 2014 and included a series of cross sectoral recommendations.

In 2014, Ms. Ann Phelan TD was appointed as Minister of State at the Departments of Agriculture, Food and Marine and Transport, Tourism and Sport with Special Responsibility for Rural Economic Development (implementation of the CEDRA Report) and rural transport.

As part of her work, Minister of State Phelan was responsible for the Rural Development and Innovation fund in the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine in 2015. The purpose of this €1m fund is to address some of the recommendations laid down in the CEDRA report, and was utilised for a variety of initiatives in 2015, including:

- **Support for Female Rural Entrepreneurs**

- This was a national but targeted programme to select for up to 50 women who have recently started or who have taken the first steps towards starting their own business in rural areas.

- **Support for Social Farming Operations**

- Social farming is the practice of offering voluntary but structured work experience on farms, with animals, on horticultural operations etc., to people who avail of a range of day support services
- This was a grant-aid programme to help advance existing social farming operations.

- **Support for Community Based Food and Artisan Markets**

- This was a scheme designed to help support activity in rural high streets through support for community based local food and artisan markets.

- **Agri-food related Tourism Initiatives**

- This was a scheme to provide for agri-food and marine tourism projects which advance rural and coastal economic development and was operated through the Local Authorities.

This Rural Development and Innovation fund has been increased to €1.5m for 2016 and work is ongoing to develop how this funding will be allocated. As before, it will be utilised to address the recommendations in the CEDRA report.

For further information please contact:

- CEDRA, Economics and Planning Division, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Kildare Street, Dublin 2, D02 WK12.
- Tel: 01 6072476
- Email: economicsandplanning@agriculture.gov.ie
- Web: www.agriculture.gov.ie/ruralenvironment/cedraschemes/

Agricultural Appeals Office

The Agriculture Appeals Office is an agency providing a free, impartial appeals service to farmers who are dissatisfied with decisions of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine regarding their entitlements under certain schemes. The Agriculture Appeals Act 2001, along with the Agriculture Appeals Regulations 2002 (as subsequently amended) set down the functions of the office.

Further information on the Agriculture Appeals Office

- Appeals Officers are independent in the performance of their functions;
- Appeals **must be lodged within 3 months of the Department's decision**. Every appeal **must be made in writing** and must contain a statement of the facts and contentions upon which the appellant intends to rely;
- Each case is assigned to an individual Appeals Officer who considers all the evidence and then makes a determination;
- A comprehensive decision letter subsequently issues to both the appellant and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine;
- An appellant has the right to request an oral hearing. Oral hearings are held in private and are informal. An appellant can bring someone to represent him/her at the oral hearing and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine is also represented at the hearing.

The Agriculture Appeals Office 'Information Note and Notice of Appeal' form and further information is available from:

- Agriculture Appeals Office, Kilminchy Court, Portlaoise, Co. Laois, R32 DTW5.
- Tel: 0761 064418 or 057 8631900; Fax: 057 8667177
- Email: appeals.@agriappeals.gov.ie
- Website: www.agriappeals.gov.ie

Two Support Payments for Farmers

The Single Payment Scheme came to an end on 31 December 2014 and all entitlements held under that Scheme expired on that date. It was replaced by a number of new Schemes;

- Basic Payment Scheme (BPS)
- Payment for Agricultural Practices beneficial for the Climate and the Environment (Greening)
- Young Farmers Scheme
- Protein Aid Scheme

Ireland also established a National Reserve which allocates entitlements to eligible persons so as to facilitate their participation in the Basic Payment Scheme.

Basic Payment Scheme/Greening

All eligible farmers will receive a payment under the BPS and a Greening Payment while some farmers may also qualify for a further payment under the Young Farmers Scheme or under the Aid for Protein Crops Scheme.

In practice, for the vast majority of applicants under the BPS, the main payment will amount to 70% of the overall amount payable and the remaining 30% will be the Greening Payment. The Young Farmers Scheme will be used to provide an additional payment to any person who qualifies as a 'young farmer'.

A new set of entitlements were allocated to farmers under the Basic Payment Scheme who submitted a Basic Payment Scheme application in 2015 and met the conditions for eligibility.

The closing date for receipt of applications under the 2015 Basic Payment Scheme was 29 May 2015; the closing date for the receipt of applications in subsequent years will be 15 May.

Applicants must ensure that their completed BPS/Greening and Other Area Based Schemes application form is received in the **DIRECT PAYMENTS UNIT, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD & THE MARINE, OLD ABBEYLEIX ROAD, PORTLAOISE, CO. LAOIS, R32 RPA6** or submitted online to the Department no later than mid-night on 15 May. This is the latest date allowed under EU rules and therefore cannot be extended. It is not permitted to submit your form through a Local Office, or any other office of the Department.

Amendments up to 31 May

Amendments to BPS applications, including the addition of parcels/plots, may be made up to 31 May on the **BPS AMENDMENT FORM**. This form sets out full details of the circumstances under which amendments during this period will be accepted. While certain amendments will be allowed after 31 May (see below), please note that if you need to amend an incorrectly claimed area or need to add parcels/plots to your application, this official Amendment form must be submitted by the 31 May deadline. Late Amendment Forms with additional parcels/plots or amended claimed areas will be accepted up to and including 9 June with a penalty. Payment on the parcel(s) concerned will be reduced by 1% for each working day in this period that the Amendment is late. Amendment forms should be completed fully and accurately, as they will become part of your BPS Application. The form is available from the Basic Payment Unit, Local Offices

of the Department, Teagasc/Agricultural Consultants and on the Department's website at www.agriculture.gov.ie. Where the Department has already informed you of irregularities in the application or where it has given notice of its intention to carry out an on-the-spot inspection or where that on-the-spot inspection reveals irregularities, amendments shall not be authorised in respect of the agricultural parcels affected by the irregularities.

Late Amendments (Amendments after 31 May)

You may withdraw land, reduce the claimed area of a parcel or change use from eligible to ineligible (for example, the transfer of a house site), from your application without penalty, at any time after the 31 May closing date for Amendments provided;

- the Department has not notified you about any issues concerning your BPS application;
- you have not been notified of an on-the-spot inspection;
- you have not been either fully or partially paid under the BPS

If you have been notified of an on-the-spot inspection or an inspection reveals an irregularity, an amendment cannot be accepted to that part of your application that is affected by the irregularity found.

For payment purposes, land parcels/plots of eligible land cannot be added, or claimed areas increased, after 31 May, with the exception of late Amendment Forms which will be accepted up to and including 9 June, with a penalty as set out above. You are, however, permitted to correct obvious/innocent errors at any time after the 31 May closing date for Amendments. An obvious/innocent error would be a minor clerical error on your part, generally relating to missing details from your application, for example crop use. You may also change a declared crop use, provided that the original crop was eligible for payment. You are not entitled to increase the area you declared for payment or to alter the crop use from an ineligible to an eligible crop. The Department will consider each request to correct an obvious/innocent error on its individual merits.

Deductions for Late Applications

Under EU Regulations, there is a 25 calendar day period after the 15 May closing date for the acceptance of late applications and any necessary supporting documentation. However, deductions to payments will apply to the applications which are received during this period. Except in cases of *force majeure*, applications will not be accepted without penalty after this 25 calendar day period has ended. As farmers were applying for **new payment entitlements** under the BPS in 2015, they could not be allocated these entitlements if their BPS application was received after **Tuesday 9 June**. **In other words, they will not be entitled to receive payment under the Basic Payment Scheme/Greening Payment for the duration of the new Regime.** The rate of deduction is 1% per working day in respect of payments under both the BPS and Greening Payment, Areas of Natural Constraint Scheme (ANC). The same rate of deductions will apply to the Protein Aid Scheme, REPS, AEOS, Green Low Carbon Agri Environment Schemes (GLAS), the Natura 2000 Scheme and the Organic Farming Scheme (OFS). Payment under any of these

Schemes cannot be made unless a valid BPS application form is submitted. As already stated, the application under the Basic Payment Scheme is also an application for the allocation of new entitlements under that Scheme. The EU Regulations provide that an additional 3% deduction per working day applies to payments under the BPS Scheme in 2015 for late applications for entitlements received during the 25 calendar day period.

Paper Based and Online Application

Postal applications

In the event that the Department does not receive your completed BPS application which you sent by post, you will be required to produce the Express Post receipt as proof of postage. Keep your Express Post receipt safely. The only other acceptable proof of postage will be a Registered Post receipt. Complete and return only the pre-printed application form that you received. Your pre-printed BPS application form is bar-coded and pre-printed with details relating to you and is therefore, for your use or for use by successors only.

NB. Unless you are a first-time applicant, under no circumstance should you submit a non pre-printed application form. If you mislay the pre-printed form supplied to you, you should obtain a replacement application from the BPS Unit in Portlaoise.

Online applications

You may submit your BPS application online, but you need to register first at www.agfood.ie or you can contact Agfood Online services helpdesk in the Department's Portlaoise Office, Tel: 0761 064424 or email: agfood@agriculture.ie. The on-line facility is designed to help minimise the errors that can be made, thereby eliminating processing delays due to incomplete details. It also has a warning system that alerts the applicant to a possible area over-claim on a parcel which will help to avoid a possible penalty.

Mandatory Categories

Certain categories of farmers are obliged to submit their BPS/Greening Payment application online. The categories involved are as follows;

- Arable farmers, who declare 10 hectares or more of arable land
- Organic farmers, who participate in the Organic Farming Scheme;
- Farm Partnerships, who are registered in the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine's Register of Farm Partnerships;
- Recognised Share farming arrangements who want to apply under the sharefarming arrangement.

Basic Conditions

To qualify for participation in the Basic Payment Scheme, a farmer must fulfil the following two Basic Conditions;

- **Apply for an allocation of entitlements under the Basic Payment Scheme.**
To be eligible to participate in the new scheme, a farmer must submit an application for the allocation of entitlements under the Basic Payment Scheme before the closing date for such applications in 2015.
- **Active Farmer**
To participate in the Basic Payment Scheme and related schemes a person must be an 'active farmer' as defined in the Direct Payment Regulation. Only persons who fulfil one of the following can be considered as an 'active farmer' and will be eligible to receive a direct payment;
 - A 'farmer' is defined as a person who carries out an agricultural activity such as 'the rearing or growing of agricultural products including harvesting, milking, breeding animals and keeping animals for farming purposes'.
 - Persons who do not engage in one or more of these activities must at a minimum maintain their land in 'good agricultural and environmental condition'.
 - Where land can be described as an area 'naturally kept in a state suitable for grazing or cultivation' (marginal land), each Member State must establish a level of 'minimum activity' to be carried out by farmers on such land.

Eligibility

- Any person who was eligible to receive a direct payment in excess of €100 in 2013 (Single Payment, Grassland Sheep Scheme, Burren Conservation Scheme, Beef Data Scheme) held an automatic right to receive entitlements under the Basic Payment Scheme in 2015.
- The **number** of entitlements that was allocated to a farmer under the Basic Payment Scheme was based on the number of eligible hectares declared by the farmer in 2013 or 2015, whichever was less.
- The **value** of entitlements that was allocated under the Basic Payment Scheme in 2015 was based on the value of entitlements owned by a farmer in 2014 plus the value of any payment received under the Grassland Sheep Scheme in that year.
- Farmers who never held entitlements, either owned or leased, under the current Single Payment Scheme but who actively farmed in 2013 in the dairy, beef, sheep or arable sectors were eligible to receive an allocation of entitlements in 2015. (Scottish Derogation)
- Farmers who produced 'fruit and vegetables' on a minimum area of one hectare in 2013 but did not receive a direct payment in that year, and consequently did not have an automatic 'allocation right', were eligible for an allocation of entitlements in 2015. (Fruit and Vegetable Provision)

- Ireland is implementing the ‘Internal Convergence Model’ of redistribution of funds between farmers. This model, while initially retaining the link with historic payments under the Single Payment Scheme, gradually moves all farmers towards a national average value over the five years of the new scheme but does not arrive at a ‘flat-rate’ by 2019. Entitlements with an initial value that is below 90% of the national average value will be increased in value over the five years of the Scheme. Entitlements that have an initial value that are above the national average value will be reduced gradually.

Closing Date and contact details

The closing date for applications for an allocation of entitlements under the Basic Payment Scheme in 2015 was 29 May. The closing date for the receipt of applications in subsequent years will be announced in due course.

All queries relating to the Force Majeure/Review of Entitlements should be submitted to:

- Force Majeure/Review of Entitlements, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Eircom Building, Knockmay Road, Portlaoise, Co. Laois, R32 YK81.
- Tel: 0761 064438
- Email: reviewofentitlements@agriculture.gov.ie
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmerschemespayments/capentitlementsrelatedapplicationforms/forcemajeurereviewofentitlements/

All queries relating to the Scottish Derogation should be submitted to:

- Scottish Derogation Section, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Eircom Building, Knockmay Road, Portlaoise, Co. Laois, R32 YK81.
- Tel: 0761 064447
- Email: scottishderogation@agriculture.gov.ie
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmerschemespayments/capentitlementsrelatedapplicationforms/scottishderogation/

Young Farmers Scheme

The purpose of the ‘young farmer’ category introduced under the reformed regime of Direct Payments is to encourage and facilitate the entrance of young well educated persons into the farming community. Persons who meet the definition of ‘young farmer’ receive significant benefits both in terms of preferential access to the National Reserve and in terms of qualifying for an additional payment under the Young Farmers Scheme.

Eligibility and Conditions

To qualify as a young farmer, a person;

- must be aged 40 or less in the year in which s/he first submits an application under the Basic Payment scheme

- must be setting up an agricultural holding for the first time in his/her own name or has set up such a holding during the five years preceding the first submission of the BPS application
- In addition, to ensure that the benefits of the 'young farmer' category are targeted at those who have a genuine interest in farming as a career, successful applicants will have completed, or commit to undertake, a recognised course of education in agriculture giving rise to an award at FETAC level 6 or its equivalent.

Applications and Contact Details

The online application process for the Young Farmers Scheme closed on 29 May 2015. The closing date for receipt of applications in subsequent years will be announced in due course.

All queries relating to the Young Farmers Scheme should be submitted to:

- Young Farmers Scheme, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Eircom Building, Knockmay Road, Portlaoise, Co. Laois, R32 YK81.
- Tel: 0761 064446
- Email: nationalreserveyfs@agriculture.gov.ie
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/nationalreserveandyfs/

Protein Aid Scheme

Protein Crop Premium

Ireland has decided to use €3m of the Basic Payment Ceiling to provide for a coupled payment for nitrogen fixing crops, which are also referred to as protein crops. The maximum rate of aid payable is €250 per hectare. However, if in a scheme year, the amount of aid claimed by applicants exceeds the ceiling of €3m, the rate of aid payable will be reduced on a pro-rata basis, to ensure respect for the ceiling.

Greening

Basic Payment Scheme/Greening Payment

The closing date for receipt of applications for a greening payment under the Basic Payment Scheme is 15 May.

Basic Payment Scheme/Greening Payment Application

Submission of a Basic Payment Scheme application is a requirement from farmers applying for any of the following schemes:

- Areas of Natural Constraint Scheme;
- Basic Payment Scheme/Greening Payment;
- Beef Data Genomics Scheme;
- Green Low Carbon Agri Environment Scheme (GLAS).

- Burren Farming for Conservation Programme
- Sheep Technology Adoption Programme
- Protein Aid Scheme;
- Rural Environment Protection Scheme (REPS);
- Agri-Environment options Scheme (AEOS);
- Organic Farming Scheme;
- Natura 2000 Scheme;
- Knowledge Transfer Programme

Separate application forms may be required in respect of some/all of these individual schemes. Over the course of the period to 2020 some of the above schemes may end or other new schemes linked to the BPS form may be introduced.

National Reserve

The purpose of the National Reserve is to allocate entitlements to specific categories of farmers to facilitate their participation in the Basic Payment Scheme. Priority for the allocation of entitlements from the National Reserve is given to ‘young farmers’ and ‘new entrants to farming’. Entitlements may also be allocated to persons who fall within the category known as the ‘old young farmer’ and to those impacted by force majeure circumstances.

Eligibility and Conditions

- The qualifying criteria for a **‘young farmer’** under the National Reserve are the same as those under the Young Farmers Scheme.
- A **‘new entrant to farming’** is defined as a person who commenced his/her agricultural activity in the 2013 calendar year or any later year and did not have any agricultural activity in their own name and at their own risk in the five years preceding the start of the current agricultural activity. Successful applicants will have completed, or commit to undertaking, a recognised course of education in agriculture giving rise to an award at FETAC level 6 or its equivalent.
- With regard to the National Reserve in 2015 the term **‘old young farmer’** is used to describe that group of farmers who, while meeting all other conditions of the ‘young farmer’ category, established their holding in 2008 or 2009. Consequently they did not have the opportunity to benefit from the Young Farmers Installation Scheme and in 2015 will not be eligible to qualify as a ‘young farmer’ under the Basic Payment Scheme.
- **Force majeure** relates to unforeseen events which have negatively impacted the normal farming activity of a holding. Circumstances that constitute force majeure are; the death of the farmer, the long term professional incapacity of the farmer or a severe natural disaster affecting the agricultural land of the holding.
- An off-farm income threshold of €40,000 is applied to all applicants to the National Reserve excluding *Force Majeure*.

Closing Date and Contact Details

The online application process for phase I of the 2015 National Reserve (young farmers and new entrants to farming) closed on 31 March 2015. The online application process for phase II of the 2015 National Reserve (Old young farmers and Force Majeure) closed on 29 May 2015.

Details of the National Reserve for subsequent years will be announced in due course.

All queries relating to the National Reserve should be submitted to:

- National Reserve, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Eircom Building, Knockmay Road, Portlaoise, Co. Laois, R32 YK81.
- Tel: 0761 064446 ● Email: nationalreserveyfs@agriculture.gov.ie
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/nationalreserveandyfs/

Transfer of Entitlements

While the transfer entitlements in 2015 was restricted, farmers had the option to transfer their right to establish new entitlements (Allocation Right) under the Basic Payment Scheme where all or part of a holding had been transferred by way of inheritance, gift, partnership, merger, change of registration details or division of a holding.

Where land was leased or sold during the 2013 or 2014 scheme years, the corresponding entitlements could be transferred by way of Private Contract Clause.

The closing date for receipt of all 2015 Transfer of Allocation Right application forms and 2015 Private Contract Clause application forms was the 29 May 2015.

For the 2016 and subsequent scheme years, Basic Payment entitlements may be sold or leased with, or without, land. Applications to transfer entitlements must be completed where sale/ lease of entitlements is involved, where a holding is being transferred via gift or inheritance or where the registration details of the holding are changed as a result of the following:

- Merger of two or more holdings and entitlements;
- Division of a holding and entitlements;
- Change of legal entity;
- Addition/Removal of a person to/from a herdnumber (Change of Registration Details).

Farmers who change the registration details of their holding must update the registration details of their entitlements by submitting a Transfer of Entitlements application prior to submission of their Basic Payment Scheme Application Form in order to receive payment. It should be noted that a clawback of 50% of the entitlement value will be applied to entitlements which are sold without land.

The closing date for receipt of completed application forms to transfer entitlements for 2016 and subsequent years will be announced in due course. All relevant application forms will be available on the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine website at www.agriculture.gov.ie

All queries relating to the Transfer of Entitlements and/or Private Contract Clause should be submitted to:

- Transfer of Entitlements, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Eircom Building, Knockmay Road, Portlaoise Co. Laois, R32 YK81.
- Tel: 0761 064430
- Email: transferofentitlements@agriculture.gov.ie

Cross Compliance

Under the Common Agricultural Policy (2015 to 2019), applicants under the various Direct Payment Schemes (e.g. Basic Payment Scheme, Greening Payment, Young Farmers Scheme) and Rural Development measures (e.g. Areas of Natural Constraints, GLAS, AEOS, REPS 4) must comply with the requirements of Cross Compliance. Applicants must respect the Statutory Management Requirements (SMRS), as set down in EU legislation (Directives and Regulations), and must maintain land in Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition (GAEC).

There are 13 Statutory Management Requirements (SMRs) and 7 Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition standards across three Areas as follows:

- **Area 1 – Environment, Climate Change and Good Agricultural Condition of Land, consisting of:**
 - Nitrates Regulations (SMR 1)
 - Conservation of Wild Birds (SMR 2)
 - Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Flora and Fauna (SMR 3)
 - 7 GAEC standards:
 - GAEC 1 – Establishment of buffer strips
 - GAEC 2 – Authorisation for use of water for Irrigation
 - GAEC 3 – Protection of Groundwater from Pollution
 - GAEC 4 – Minimum Soil Cover
 - GAEC 5 – Soil Erosion
 - GAEC 6 – Maintaining Soil Organic Matter
 - GAEC 7 – Retention of Landscape Features/Avoiding encroachment of invasive plant species

- **Area 2 – Public Health, Animal Health and Plant Health, consisting of:**
 - Food & Feed Hygiene (SMR 4)
 - Hormones (SMR 5)
 - Identification & Registration of Pigs (SMR 6)
 - Identification & Registration of Cattle (SMR 7)
 - Identification & Registration of Sheep/Goats (SMR 8)
 - Animal Diseases (TSE - SMR 9)
 - Plant Protection Products (SMR 10)

- **Area 3 – Animal Welfare, consisting of:**
 - Welfare of Calves (SMR 11)
 - Welfare of Pigs (SMR 12)
 - Welfare of Animals (SMR 13)

The Department, as the EU Accredited Paying Agency, is required to carry out inspections annually to ensure compliance with the Cross Compliance requirements. Where non-compliances are determined as a result of an inspection, or following receipt of a cross report of a non-compliance determined by a relevant specialised body, penalties may be applied to an applicant's payments under the various Direct Payment Schemes and Rural Development measures.

An Explanatory Booklet on Cross Compliance Requirements 2015-2019 will be available on the Departments' Website under the heading "Cross Compliance". Enquiries in relation to Cross Compliance can be sent to the dedicated email address: cross.compliance@agriculture.gov.ie

Nitrates Derogation

Under the Nitrates Regulations (S.I. No. 31 of 2014) farmers must not apply more than 170kgs of nitrogen from livestock manure per hectare per year (generally equivalent to a stocking rate of less than 2 dairy cows per Ha). However, grassland farmers, with grazing livestock, may apply for a **Nitrates Derogation** to apply up to a limit of 250kg per hectare in a calendar year, under certain conditions.

Terms and Conditions

For a Nitrates Derogation application to be valid, all terms and conditions of the Derogation must be adhered to. These are available on the Department's website at www.agriculture.gov.ie/ruralenvironment/environmentalobligations/nitrates/nitratesderogationinformation/ and include the following:

- Must be farming a holding that is at least 80% grass.
- Must have grazing livestock – a derogation is **only** available in respect of grazing livestock.

- Must have a Fertilisation Plan in place on the holding by 1 March each year.
- Must keep Fertiliser Accounts. After the end of each calendar year, Fertiliser Accounts must be submitted to the Department to be received no later than 31 March of the following year.
- Fertiliser plans must be based on soil analysis results dated within the four year period (i.e. calendar year period including the year of application) relevant to the current application.
- Applicants who have never previously applied for a derogation and do not have soil analysis results must assume Index 3 for the relevant year but soil sample analysis must be available and the fertiliser plan amended accordingly and submitted to the Department before the end of that year.

How to apply

Nitrates Derogation applications must be submitted annually, using the Department's online facility at **agfood.ie**. Postal applications are not accepted. The documentation to be uploaded with an application, if not submitted previously within the four year period are the following:

- Fertiliser Plan
- Soil Analysis Results (corresponding to those used in fertiliser plan).
- Farm Map indicating location of individual fields and location of soil samples.
- Fully labelled farmyard sketch showing manure storage facilities and livestock housing.

This documentation is valid for four calendar years, including the year of application. For example, if making an application in 2016, documentation submitted in 2013 or later is valid.

Note: Fertiliser plans using soil analysis results dated after 15 September 2012 are valid, as these results suffice for calendar year 2013.

Farmers are reminded that compliance with the Nitrates Regulations is one of the Statutory Management Requirements under the Basic Payment Scheme, and anyone operating above the 170kg/hectare limit who has not applied for a derogation in the year in question may be subject to the application of penalties on his or her Scheme Payments.

For further information on the Nitrates Derogation, you can contact:

- Nitrates Sections, Nitrates, Biodiversity and Engineering Division, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Johnstown Castle Estate, Wexford, Y35 PN52.
- Tel: 053 9163444.
- Email: nitrates@agriculture.gov.ie
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/ruralenvironment/environmentalobligations/nitrates/nitratesderogationinformation/

Environmental Impact Assessment

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) (Agriculture) Regulations (S.I. 456 of 2011) came into force on 8 September 2011. The Regulations apply to three different types of activities;

- Restructuring of rural land holdings (including hedge removal)
- Commencing to use uncultivated land or semi-natural areas for intensive agriculture
- Land drainage works on lands used for agriculture.

Terms and Conditions

Where a farmer intends to undertake any of these activities and the proposed works exceed the size threshold for screening set out in the following table he/she must make an application to the Department giving details of the works. Screening is the process whereby the Department consider, without charge, if any significant environmental impacts may arise as a result of the activity. The Department will consider the application and let the applicant know whether he/she can proceed with the intended work or whether there is a need to apply for a more in depth assessment (consent process which must be accompanied by an Environmental Impact Statement and/or Natura Impact Statement).

Thresholds for screening applications and mandatory EIA*

Type of on-farm Activity		Screening Required	Mandatory EIA/Consent required
Restructuring of rural land holdings	Length of field boundary to be removed	Above 500 metres	Above 4 kilometres
	Re-contouring (within farm-holding)	Above 2 hectares	Above 5 hectares
	Area of lands to be restructured by removal of field boundaries	Above 5 hectares	Above 50 hectares
Commencing to use uncultivated land or semi-natural areas for intensive agriculture		Above 5 hectares	Above 50 hectares
Land drainage works on lands used for agriculture		Above 15 hectares	Above 50 hectares

*Areas (or lengths) of works undertaken in any one year or the sum of such areas (or lengths) over a five year period, beginning on the 8 September 2011.

If the proposed activity does not exceed the size thresholds but is an activity identified as ‘requiring consent’ or is a ‘notifiable action’ in a European site (e.g. SAC or SPA) or a National Heritage Area, screening by the Department may also be necessary. In such circumstances the National Parks and Wildlife Service may in certain cases direct you to apply to this Department for screening in the case of works that have been brought to their attention and are below the thresholds shown above. This will similarly apply where the activity may impact on a recorded monument. In such cases, the National Monument Service may direct you to apply for screening to this Department.

If the proposed works are to be carried out within (or may affect) a proposed NHA or a nature reserve or may have a significant effect on the environment, you will need to apply to the Department for screening. For more detailed information, the EIA Guidance document is available at www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/ruralenvironment/environment/environmentalimpactassessment/EIAGuideforFarmers200212.pdf

Application forms for screening and consent can be obtained from:

- EIA Section, Nitrates, Biodiversity and Engineering Division, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Johnstown Castle Estate, Co. Wexford, Y35 PN52.
- Tel: 053 9163444.
- Email: eiascreening@agriculture.gov.ie
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/ruralenvironment/environmentalimpactassessment/

Areas of Natural Constraints (ANC) and Areas of Specific Constraints (Islands)

The 2015 Areas of Natural Constraint Scheme replaces the previous Disadvantaged Areas Scheme which was in operation since 2001.

The scheme provides aid to those farmers whose farming enterprises are situated in ANC areas and who are making a significant contribution to achieving the objectives of the Scheme, which are defined in the governing EU legislation as follows:

- To ensure continued agricultural land use and thereby contribute to the maintenance of a viable rural community;
- To maintain the countryside;
- To maintain and promote sustainable farming systems which, in particular, take account of environmental protection measures.

Application for the Areas of Natural Constraints Scheme is made by ticking the relevant box on the Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) application form indicating an applicant's intention to be considered under the scheme.

This Scheme forms part of the 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme and is co-funded by the European Union.

Eligibility Conditions

To be eligible for payment under the Areas of Natural/Specific Constraints Scheme (ANC) an applicant must in their own right:

- Submit a valid Basic Payment Scheme and other Area-based Schemes application form by the annual deadline, confirming by ticking the ANC applicant box, their application for Areas of Natural Constraints Scheme.
- Hold a valid Herd Number issued by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. Applicants are required to be a holder of a registered herd number or have applied to the Local DVO for a herd number on or before the closing date of scheme year in question.
- Occupy and farm in their own right and at their own risk a minimum of 3 hectares of ANC forage land (with the exception of Island land), situated in an area within the State designated as an Area of Natural Constraints by the Minister and classified as Less Severely Handicapped Lowland or as More Severely Handicapped Lowland or as Mountain Type Land or as Areas of Specific Constraints.
- Undertake to farm, manage and pursue a farming activity on all land applied in the relevant scheme year, and adhere to the definition of an “active farmer”, as defined in Article 9 of Regulation (EU) No. 1307/2013.
- Undertake to farm, manage and pursue a farming activity on all land applied on in the relevant scheme year, for the full calendar year. If an applicant is aware or becomes aware that any of the forage area situated in an Area of Natural/Specific Constraints will not be available to them for the full calendar year in the relevant scheme year, that person is required to notify the Department immediately documenting the parcel numbers of each parcel concerned. Please see relevant paragraph in the BPS Terms and Conditions for details of the procedure to be followed in submitting the information.
- Comply with Cross Compliance requirements, as set down in relevant EU legislation (Directives and Regulations), and the standards for Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition (GAEC), in the areas of environment, climate change and good agricultural condition of land; public, animal and plant health and animal welfare. *Articles 91 – 94 of Regulation (EU) No. 1306/2013 refer.*
- Have a holding that meets the minimum stocking levels.
- Co-operate fully with Department staff, or it's Agents, in relation to any inspection or any request for documentation.
- Applicants who are partners in a partnership, under Irish National Regulations, can continue to benefit individually under the Scheme, based on the area of ANC land they contribute to the partnership. (Individual threshold limits will apply at measure level for registered partnership members).

- An application will not be accepted or approval may be withdrawn if, in the opinion of the Minister or his officials, it is established that an applicant artificially created the conditions required to obtain grant aid with a view to obtaining an advantage contrary to the objectives of the Scheme.

Any subsequent changes to the eligibility conditions for the ANC Scheme will be published on the Departments website.

Livestock Units (LUs) Used to Establish Stocking Density

- Bovines over 2 years of age = 1 LU each;
- Bovines 2 years old and under = 0.6 LU each;
- Equines (Horses and Donkeys) appropriately registered in the applicant's name = 1.0 LU each;
- Female or Male Deer = 0.3 LU each;
- Female or Male Sheep = 0.15 LU each;
- Female or Male Goats = 0.15 LU each.

The livestock required to establish the minimum stocking density must be possessed, held and maintained by the applicant on his/her holding for a minimum continuous period of 7 months, in addition to also maintaining an annual average calculated over the 12 months of scheme year.

AID available under Areas of Natural Constraints

Aid is provided for based on eligible forage areas which are designated as More Severely Handicapped (lowland), Less Severely Handicapped (lowland) and Coastal Areas with Specific Handicaps or Mountain Type Grazing. The lands are required to be farmed for the full calendar year by the applicant and maintained in such a condition as to ensure the lands is suitable for grazing or cultivation. Holdings of Natural Constraints must meet the eligibility conditions as above.

The scheme provides for payment as follows:

- **Mountain Type Grazing:** €109.71 on first 10 forage hectares, or part thereof, and €95.99 per hectare on remaining hectares up to a maximum of 34 hectares*.
- **More Severely Handicapped Lowland:** €95.99 per forage hectare up to a maximum of 30 hectares.
- **Less Severely Handicapped Lowland and Coastal Areas with Specific Handicaps:** €82.27 per forage hectare up to a maximum of 30 hectares.

** The top-up of €13.72 on the first 10 hectares of Mountain Type Grazing will only be paid to farmers, who maintain a sheep, cattle or goat enterprise or a combination of these enterprises.*

Farmers maintaining a combination of Mountain Type Grazing, More Severely Handicapped Lowland and/or Less Severely Handicapped Lowland and Coastal Areas with Specific Handicaps, will be paid up to a maximum of 30 hectares except where the area of Mountain Type Grazing declared is between 30 and 34 hectares. In these cases, the payment will be based on the number of hectares of Mountain Type Grazing declared.

The lands are required to be farmed for the full calendar year by the applicant and maintained in such a condition as to ensure the lands is suitable for grazing or cultivation.

AID available under Areas of Specific Constraints

A separate payment in respect of those farming off-shore islands will apply. These islands are newly designated as Areas of Specific Constraints. An island for the purpose of the scheme is defined as an area of land situated off-shore, which is not connected to the mainland by a permanent access route.

The lands are required to be farmed for the full calendar year by the applicant and maintained in such a condition as to ensure the lands is suitable for grazing or cultivation.

The scheme provides for payment as follows:

- €250 - Up to and including the first 20 hectares of Areas of Specific Constraints or part thereof
- €170 - Greater than 20 hectares or less than or equal to 34 hectares of Areas of Specific Constraints.
- €70 - Greater than 34 hectares or less than or equal to 40 hectares of Areas of Specific Constraints

Payment under the Areas of Specific Constraints category of ANC is subject to an overall maximum ceiling of 40 hectares.

The entire holding will be treated as one for the purposes of payment under the 2015 Areas of Natural/Specific Constraints Scheme.

Further information may be obtained from:

- Areas of Natural/Specific Constraints Section, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Old Abbeyleix Road, Portlaoise, Co Laois, R32 RPA6.
- Tel: 0761 064426
- Email: anc@agriculture.gov.ie
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmerschemespayments/basicpaymentscheme/

Knowledge Transfer and Information Supports

Under the Rural Development Programme, 2014-2020 a number of knowledge transfer and information supports are in place in the Agri-food sector, namely support for Knowledge Transfer Groups, Continuous Professional Development for agricultural advisors and support for European Innovation Partnerships.

Knowledge Transfer Groups

Knowledge Transfer Groups will see farmer meetings facilitated by Department approved advisors and will involve the transfer and exchange of information and best practice across a range of areas. Groups will run for a period of 3 years. All participating farmers

will be required to develop a Farm Improvement Plan (FIP) in the initial year of participation and to update it in each of the second and third years of the scheme. This plan will be developed in association with both the approved facilitator and a qualified participating veterinary practitioner as appropriate. Each participating farmer will also be required to attend a minimum of 5 knowledge transfer meetings/DAFM accredited national events per year.

For each approved group a facilitator will arrange knowledge transfer meetings for participating farmers with meeting topics covering farm management issues such as financial management, animal health and welfare, grass management, sustainability, breeding, health and safety and integrated pest management. Knowledge Transfer Groups will be delivered in the Dairy, Beef, Sheep, Poultry, Tillage, and Equine sectors.

Specifically, it is expected that Knowledge Transfer Groups will:

- encourage efficiency and effectiveness of work, and husbandry practice contributing to climate action;
- help farmers to deal with complex issues;
- build capacity of individuals in a group environment;
- ensure farmers engage in a process of continuous improvement;
- encourage innovation and new ideas;
- enhance the delivery of other related measures proposed under the RDP.

Eligibility Conditions

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine will identify Knowledge Transfer Groups to be provided and set a maximum number of groups to be funded by sector. Course facilitators will apply to manage and facilitate groups provided they comply with the following basic eligibility criteria:

- A minimum educational qualifications to Level 8 of the National Framework of Qualifications or another specified qualification deemed eligible by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine,
- Indemnity insurance up to €150,000.

Type of Support and Rates

The beneficiaries of this submeasure will be the Knowledge Transfer Group facilitator. Each facilitator will be paid an annual grant of €500 per participating farmer. There will be a maximum of 18 members per group, or 12 in the case of Poultry. Each participating farmer will be paid an annual grant of €750. This grant compensates the participating farmer for the time element (replacement farmer cost) and travel cost associated with attending knowledge transfer meetings and developing the FIP.

Further information is available from:

- Innovation Unit, Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine, Government Offices, Old Abbeylax Road, Portlaoise, Co. Laois, R32 RPA6.
- Tel: 057 8674400
- Email: KTinformation@agriculture.gov.ie
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmerschemespayments/knowledgetransferprogramme/

Continuous Professional Development (CDP)

General Description

Participation in continuing professional development activities will allow agricultural advisors to enhance their knowledge base on an on-going basis and ensure that they are familiar with the latest techniques and regulatory requirements. This scheme will promote the development of knowledgeable, professional and competent advisors, and thereby enhance the quality of service provided to farmers. The identification of appropriate areas for skills enhancement and areas in which courses will be provided will arise from an on-going stakeholder consultation process.

Having identified a topic that qualified advisors need to be up skilled on, the Department will advertise an open tender competition and allow qualified service providers to submit tender proposals to provide this training. The tender proposals will be evaluated based on predetermined selection criteria. The successful tenderer will then provide the training to qualified advisors based on the specifications set out in the tender proposal.

Eligibility Conditions

A National Framework of Qualifications (or another specified qualification as deemed eligible by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine) Level 8 educational qualification is required for eligibility.

Further information is available from:

- Innovation Unit, Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine, Government Offices, Old Abbeylax Road, Portlaoise, Co. Laois, R32 RPA6.
- Tel: 057 8674400
- Email: CPD@agriculture.gov.ie

European Innovation Partnership (EIP)

Support under the EIP creates greater linkages between research and on farm implementation. EIPs streamline, simplify and better coordinate existing instruments and initiatives and complement them with new actions where necessary. They act across the whole research and innovation chain, bringing together all relevant actors at EU, national and regional levels, making it easier for partners to co-operate and achieve better results. The structure through which the EIP approach is supported via the RDP is the funding of EIP operational groups. EIP operational groups are clearly linked to supporting innovation and best practice. Specifically they will be intended to address all or some of the following:

- promoting a resource efficient, productive and low emission agricultural sector, working in harmony with the essential natural resources on which farming depends;
- improving processes to preserve the environment, adapt to climate change and contribute to mitigation ambition;
- creating added value by better linking research and farming practice and encouraging the wider use of available innovative practices.

This scheme will foster the submission of innovative concepts and ideas from farmers, advisors, researchers, NGOs and Agri-businesses.

Once completed, the findings or outcome of the operational group will be disseminated via the EIP Network and the National Rural Network. The dissemination of the research findings through the EIP Network will ensure that the lessons learned are communicated beyond local level and thereby contribute to the overall objectives of sustainable agriculture production across the EU.

Eligibility Conditions

Support will be channelled towards the setting up of new operational groups structured around a competitive fund. This will entail the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, in consultation with external stakeholders, identifying priority issues as a basis for a call for proposals. Such a call for proposals, and the subsequent evaluation of proposals received will draw on the relevant expertise and existing research. Any proposed operational group must develop or examine an approach, process, practice or product that contributes to Rural Development priorities and which seeks to target an innovative approach in doing so.

Type of Support and Rates

Support in the form of grants will be provided in two separate stages, as follows:

- a) Support for the development of Operational Group Plans for those groups emerging from an initial call for submissions process;
- b) Support for the costs of implementing the Operational Group Plans for successful applicants. This will be based on the price set out in the successful applications.

Support will be provided for feasibility studies, animation costs, running costs and promotion activities. Amounts and rates will be based on the costs set out in successful proposals and will be reimbursed on the basis of returns/receipts received from the Operational Group.

Further information is available from:

- Innovation Unit, Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine, Government Buildings, Old Abbeylax Road, Portlaoise, Co. Laois, R32 RPA6.
- Tel: 057 8674400
- Email: EIP@agriculture.gov.ie

Export Refunds

Export refunds are subsidies, which may be paid in respect of beef, live cattle, milk and milk products, sugar, cereals, pigmeat, poultry and egg products and certain processed products that are exported outside the EU. The amount of the subsidy, which can vary depending on the destination of the product, is designed to cover the difference between the EU market price and the lower world market prices and to take account of the high input of raw material prices obtained in the European Union. The scheme enables EU exporters to better compete on world markets.

There are horizontal and sectoral EU regulations that govern licensing and the export refunds scheme. An exporter requires an export licence in order to export these products and to apply for export refunds. There are various conditions that apply to licensing and refunds including quantities, time limits, securities, etc. that the exporter must comply with.

Applications for refunds comprise export declarations, which are sent in the first place to the customs authority (i.e. the Revenue Commissioners). These export declarations (known as SADs) are then validated and forwarded to the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine. Payment declarations for export refunds are submitted online using Revenue's Online Service (ROS).

Management Committees chaired by the European Commission and comprising of representatives from all Member States establish rates of refunds from time to time.

Further information can be obtained from:

- Export Refunds, Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine, Johnstown Castle Estate, Co. Wexford, Y35 PN52.
- Tel: 053 9163546
- Email: licences@agriculture.gov.ie
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/agri-foodindustry/marketsupports/exportrefunds/

Aid For Private Storage

Aid for Private Storage (APS) is a market support measure introduced by the EU Commission for certain products when trade imbalances arise between supply and demand, or when the market price falls below a benchmark level in any EU Member State. Products eligible for APS schemes include butter, skimmed milk powder (SMP), cheese, long flax fibre, olive oil and pigmeat.

The aim of APS is to facilitate applicants to store these products for a stipulated storage period. At the end of the storage period the applicant receives aid at a rate which has been fixed in advance.

APS is an alternative to public intervention in that the product remains the property of the scheme applicants to sell at their unrestricted discretion at the end of the storage period.

Further information can be obtained from:

- Aid to Private Storage Section, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Johnstown Castle Estate, Co. Wexford, Y35 PN52.
- Tel: 053 9163437
- Email: Interventionadmin@agriculture.gov.ie
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/agri-foodindustry/marketsupports/aidstoprivatestorage/

Interventions

Cereals

The intervention system for cereals, which is a market support scheme, is open between 1 November and 31 May of the following year, subject to a minimum quantity being offered and the grain reaching the quality specifications laid down. Bonuses or deductions are made depending on the quality of the grain.

Butter and Skimmed Milk Powder (SMP)

The intervention system for butter and skimmed milk powder (SMP) is designed to support prices for basic products by removing surpluses of butter and SMP from the market. Intervention purchasing for butter is triggered in an EU Member State when the market price falls below 92% of the butter intervention price for two weeks in succession. Butter is bought only when the facility is open at 90% of the intervention price. Buying-in will cease once the quantities offered Community-wide exceed 30,000 tonnes. In such cases, buying-in may take place using a tendering system. Intervention purchasing of butter is suspended when the reported market price for butter is equal to or higher than 92% of intervention price for two consecutive weeks. Intervention buying-in for SMP operates from March to August each year, however, this period may be extended by the Commission. Quantities up to a limit of 109,000 tonnes per year may be purchased at the intervention price - thereafter a tendering system may apply.

Further information on the Intervention Schemes may be obtained from:

- On-Farm Investment, Subsidies and Storage Division, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Johnstown Castle Estate, Co Wexford, Y35 PN52.
- Tel: 053 9163467
- Email: Interventionadmid@agriculture.gov.ie
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/agri-foodindustry/marketsupports/othermarketsupportschemes/butterandsmpinterventionsales/

School Milk Scheme

EU Regulation 657/2008, as amended by EU Regulation 966/2009 provides for aid on the sale of milk and milk products supplied to schoolchildren. Each child is allowed 250 ml of milk per school day. The scheme is co-financed by the EU and the Exchequer.

Further information can be obtained from:

- Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine, Johnstown Castle Estate, Co. Wexford, Y35 PN52.
- Tel: 053 9163567
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmerschemespayments/otherfarmerssschemes/euschoolmilksscheme/

EU Co-funded Promotion Programmes

EU funding of 50% is available on a competitive basis to trade bodies for generic promotion of the quality, safety, nutrition or production methods of EU agricultural products. As at September 2015, Ireland has six programmes underway, each of which are outlined below.

- **‘Milk - A Force Of Nature’**
A three-year programme developed by seven Member States which commenced in January 2013 with the aim of increasing milk consumption based on the concept of the ‘nutrient richness’ of milk.
- **‘Discover Farmhouse Cheese’**
A three-year programme developed by Ireland, Germany and the Netherlands, which commenced in July 2013 with the aim of increasing consumption of farmhouse cheese and dairy products.
- **‘Just Add Mushrooms’**
A three-year €2.7 million programme to promote the nutritional and culinary benefits of mushrooms and increase consumption on the UK and Irish market. It commenced in July 2013 following a ‘More to Mushrooms’ campaign.
- **‘Cheese Up Your Life’**
A three-year programme developed by four Member states. It commenced in January 2015, the programme aims to educate consumers about the quality and diversity of cheeses offered by European agriculture.
- **‘European Lamb’**
A three year programme developed by Ireland, France and the United Kingdom, which commenced in January 2015. It aims to establish a role for European lamb as an everyday meat and stresses the importance of sheep farming.
- **‘Potatoes - More Than A Bit On The Side’**
A three year Multi MS programme commenced in July 2015. It is aiming to halt the long term decline in sales and consumption of fresh potatoes in Great Britain and Ireland.

Three Market Support Measures

New Regime

A new Regulation 1144/2014 effective from 1 December 2015, introduces reforms and aims to increase the proportion of promotion campaigns in third-country markets and enhance the cooperation between trade bodies in different Member States. Beneficiaries and eligible products will be extended and it will be possible to display brands and origin under strict conditions. The EU budget will increase gradually from €60m to €200m by 2019 with higher co-financing rates and an end to national co-financing. Applications will be made direct to the EU and the closing date for the first applications is February 2016.

Artisan, Local and Speciality Food

In 2014, the development of artisan, local and speciality food was advanced through Bord Bia and Teagasc programmes and the Department's funding of €36,000 in bursaries for 20 students undertaking the Diploma in Speciality Food Production in University College Cork. The Diploma meets the skills recommendations in Food Harvest 2020 and the Expert Group on Future Skills needed in the Irish Food and Beverage Sector.

The UCC course combines insights into the challenges of creating a small food enterprise, the skills required to make a business successful and essential elements of food science. Students include speciality food producers, farmers who wish to add value to their farm produce, retailers, restaurants and chefs.

Bord Bia launched a 'Guide to Food Markets' in 2014; a practical tool for market managers and stall holders designed to assist them in meeting the changing needs of the consumer. This guide highlights the evolving food market models in Ireland, advises those involved how to set up and manage a market based on best practice, and reviews future market trends. You can view the guide at the following link: www.bordbia.ie/consumer/aboutfood/farmersmarkets/Pages/GuidetoFoodMarkets.aspx

Geographical Indications (Protected Food and Drink Names)

Protected Food and Drink Names - PDO, PGI and TSG

Council Regulation 1151/2012 sets out three schemes to protect certain quality foods with a link to an area related to qualities, reputation, or other characteristics such as climate or soil.

PDO (Protected Designation of Origin) products have a strong link to the defined geographical area of production; PGI (Protected Geographical Indication) products are linked to a geographical area where at least one production step has taken place and TSG (Traditional Speciality Guaranteed) products may be made outside the area but have a traditional composition and production (proven home market usage of at least 30 years).

Wines, cheeses, hams, sausages, seafood, olives, beers, balsamic vinegar, regional breads, fruits, raw meats and vegetables may qualify. Protection is absolute and extends to translations of the name, evocation, misuse or imitation. The area may be a region, specific place or, exceptionally, a country. All producers may use the name provided they produce in the area to the PDO/PGI standard or, for TSG products, using the recipe.

Irish PDOs (Protected Designations of Origin)

Imokilly Regato

Irish PGIs (Protected Geographical Indication)

Timoleague Brown Pudding

Clare Island Salmon

Connemara Hill Lamb

Waterford Blaa/Blaa.

Spirit Drinks

EU Regulation 110/2008 protects the names of specific spirit drinks - Ireland has three GIs :

- Irish Whiskey/Uisce Beatha Eireannach/Irish Whiskey
- Irish Cream
- Irish Poteen/Irish Poitín.

Further information is available from the following

- Food Industry Development Division, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Agriculture House, Kildare St, Dublin 2, D02 WK12.
- Tel: 01 607 2017
- Email: Geographicalindications@agriculture.gov.ie
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/gi/pdopgitsg-protectedfoodnames/ OR www.agriculture.gov.ie/gi/geographicalindications-protectedspiritnames/

Four Agri-Environment

Green Low-Carbon Agri-Environment Scheme - GLAS

GLAS is an agri-environment scheme that provides funding to farmers in return for delivering environmental management on their land. It is the successor to schemes like REPS (Rural Environment Protection Scheme) and AEOS (Agri-Environment Options Scheme).

GLAS aims to deliver overarching benefits in terms of the **rural environment** and address issues of climate change mitigation, water quality and the preservation of habitats and species. In the broadest possible sense, GLAS represents a key measure for the protection of agricultural land, its habitats and biodiversity, as well as promoting **environmentally sustainable** methods of farming. It also aims to maintain and enhance landscape quality by helping to maintain important features such as traditional dry stonewalls and hedgerow management and by protecting our historic environment.

Core Requirements

All farmers in GLAS must comply with a list of core requirements. These are mandatory and aim to ensure that farmers have an enhanced level of environmental knowledge, evidenced by records kept of actions delivered and underpinned by a plan for nutrient resource efficiency on their holding.

Tiered Entry into GLAS

Access to the scheme will be prioritised on a tiered basis as set out in the table below based on the environmental assets on the farm. All farmers with Tier 1 Priority Environmental Assets (PEAs) get first access to the Scheme in year one and subsequent years. It is not guaranteed that all eligible applicants will get into the Scheme and a scoring matrix will apply if necessary. If any of the PEAs in Table 1 below are applicable to the holding, they must be chosen and the relevant actions planned.

Structure of the Scheme and Payment Rates

The overall structure of the Scheme is set out in Table 1 below, with the relevant payment rate for each action set out in Table 2.

Table 1: Core Requirements and Actions

Core Management Requirements

All of these requirements are compulsory:

- An approved agricultural planner must prepare the GLAS application
- Nutrient Management Planning
- Training in environmental practices and standards
- Record keeping of actions delivered

TIER 1 Priority Environmental Assets and Actions

Tier 1(a) All farmers with PEAs get first priority access into the Scheme in Year One and subsequent years. If any of these **Priority Assets** are applicable to the holding, they **must be chosen and the relevant actions planned**.

- Farmland Habitat (private Natura sites)
- Farmland Birds (Breeding Waders, Chough, Corncrake, Geese/Swans, Grey Partridge, Hen Harrier, Twite)
- Commonages
- High Status Water Area
- Rare Breeds

Tier 1(b) If an applicant (whether beef, sheep or dairy) with a whole farm stocking-rate exceeding 140kg Livestock Manure Nitrogen per hectare produced on the holding, or any farmer with more than 30 ha of arable crops, wishes to be considered under Tier 1, **s/he must adopt at least one of the following four mandatory actions:**

- Minimum Tillage (arable farm > or = 30ha)
- Catch crops Establishment from a Sown Crop (arable farm > or = 30ha)
- Low Emission Slurry Spreading (livestock farm >140kg N/ha only)
- Wild Bird Cover (livestock farm > 140kg N/ ha only)

Registered Organic farmers will qualify for priority access to the scheme under Tier 1(b), by selecting actions appropriate to the farm. However, if any of the assets listed in the first set of bullet-points above apply, they must be chosen first. Commitments under the Organic Farming Scheme will not qualify for payment under GLAS.

It is not guaranteed that all eligible applicants in Tier 1(b) will get into the Scheme and a scoring matrix will apply if necessary.

TIER 2 Environmental Assets and Actions

Tier 2(a) Farmers, who do not have Priority Environmental Assets but whose lands include a **Vulnerable Water Area**, may apply for access to the scheme under Tier 2. In such cases, the appropriate actions relevant to Vulnerable Water Areas **must** be selected.

Tier 2(b) In the absence of a Vulnerable Water Area, an applicant may still qualify for Tier 2 access provided one of the following actions are chosen and planned for:

- Minimum Tillage (arable farm < 30 ha)
- Catch crops Establishment from a Sown Crop (arable farm < 30 ha)
- Low Emission Slurry Spreading (livestock farm $\leq 140\text{kg N/ha}$)
- Wild Bird Cover (grassland farm {i.e. <30 ha of arable and more than 75% grass} < 140 kg N/ha)

It is not guaranteed that all eligible applicants in Tier 2 will get into the Scheme and a scoring matrix will apply if necessary.

TIER 3 General Actions*

These actions aim to enhance the environmental, water quality and biodiversity benefits delivered and can be chosen in addition to Tier 1 and Tier 2 actions or on their own (choosing only General Actions will not guarantee entry to the Scheme):

- Arable Margins
- Bat boxes
- Bird boxes
- Catch Crops
- Conservation of solitary bees
- Coppicing Hedgerows
- Environmental Management of Fallow Land
- Laying Hedgerows
- Low-emission Slurry Spreading
- Low-input Permanent Pasture
- Minimum Tillage
- Planting a Grove of Native Trees
- Planting New Hedgerows
- Protection of Archaeological Sites
- Protection of Water Courses from Bovines(not in High Status or Vulnerable Areas)
- Riparian Margins
- Traditional Hay Meadow
- Traditional Orchards
- Traditional Stone Wall Maintenance
- Wild Bird cover

*A scoring matrix will be used to allow farmers join GLAS by means of these actions if take-up of Tier 1 and Tier 2 actions permits.

Table 2:

Payment Rates Action	€ per metre/year	€ per ha/year	€ per unit/year	€ per m3/year
Arable grass margins				
a. 3 metre margin	€0.35			
b. 4 metre margin	€0.50			
c. 6 metre margin	€0.70			
Bat boxes			€13	
Bird boxes			€6	
Commonages		€120		
Conservation of solitary bees				
a. Box			€6	
b. Sand			€45	
Coppicing hedgerows	€2.20			
Environmental management of fallow land		€750		
Farmland birds				
a. Breeding Waders		€366		
b. Cough farm scheme		€365		
c. Corncrake		€364		
d. Geese and Swans		€205		
e. Grey Partridge	€2.10			
f. Hen Harrier		€370		
g. Twite A – Semi-natural /semi-improved grassland field management option		€375		
h. Twite B – Improved grassland field management option	€1.50			
i. Twite C - Winter Feed Option		€900		
Farmland habitat (private Natura sites)		€79		
Catch Crops		€155		
Laying hedgerows	€3.70			
Low-emission slurry spreading (per m3 per year)				€1.20
Low-input permanent pasture		€314		
Minimum tillage		€40		
Planting new hedgerows	€5.00			
Protection of archaeological sites				
a. Tillage option			€146	
b. Grassland option			€120	
Protection of water courses	€1.50			
Rare breeds (per LU)			€200	
Riparian margins				
a. 3 metre margin	€0.90			
b. 6 metre margin	€1.20			
c. 10 metre margin	€1.60			
d. 30 metre margin	€3.60			
Planting a Grove of Native Trees			€0.90	
Traditional hay meadow		€315		
Traditional orchards			€23.50	
Traditional stone wall maintenance	€0.70			
Wild bird cover		€900		

- GLAS, Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine, Johnstown Castle Estate, Co. Wexford, Y35 PN52.
- Tel: 053 9163400; 0761 064451
- Email: glas@agriculture.gov.ie
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmerschemespayments/glas/

Agri-Environment Options Scheme (AEOS) and Natura 2000 Scheme

The Agri-Environment Options and Natura Schemes are measures under Ireland’s Rural Development Programme 2007-2013. The Schemes are jointly funded by the European Union and National Exchequer. The objectives of AEOS are to meet the challenges of conserving and promoting biodiversity, encouraging water management and water quality measures and combating climate change. The objective of the Natura 2000 scheme is to contribute to positive environmental management of farmed Natura 2000 sites and river catchments in the implementation of the Birds Directive (Council Directive 79/409/EEC), the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC).

AEOS/Natura was designed to build upon the gains made in conservation management since 1994 under the Rural Environment Protection Scheme (REPS) and to specifically target Natura 2000 sites and areas whose landscape and biodiversity have resulted from traditional farming methods.

The Agri-Environment Options and Natura Scheme, was made up of three phases: AEOS 1 which is ending on 31 December 2015; AEOS 2 which is ending on 31 December 2016; and AEOS 3, which was closed to new entrants in December 2012, and will cease finally on 31 December 2018 when the contracts of the remaining participants will have been completed. All AEOS contracts are for a duration of at least 5 years.

Measure	Agri-Environment payment	Capital Investment
Natura 2000 (SPA and SAC)	€75 per hectare per calendar year	
Commonage land outside Natura network	€75 per hectare per calendar year	
Establishment and maintenance of habitats	€8 per 100 metre per calendar year	Fencing €3.30 per linear metre equivalent to €0.66/m per year for five years
Tree Planting and Management Standard		€62.70 per tree equivalent to €12.54 per year for five years
Whips		€9.50 per whip equivalent to €1.90 per year for five years
Traditional Hay Meadows	€314 per hectare per calendar year	
Species Rich Grasslands	€314 per hectare per calendar year	
Animal Genetic Resources	€200 per Livestock Unit per calendar year	
Traditional Orchards	€5 per tree per calendar year	€75 per tree equivalent to €15 per year for five years

Wild bird Cover	€869 per hectare per calendar year	
Hedgerow Planting	€2.50 per metre per calendar year	€32 per metre equivalent to €6.40 per year for five years
Hedgerow Coppicing	€5 per metre equivalent to €1 per year for 5 years	
Hedgerow Laying	€8 per metre equivalent to €1.60 per year for 5 years	
Traditional Dry Stone wall Maintenance	€50 per 100 metres per calendar year	
Riparian Margins	3m margin: €0.14 per metre 5.5m margin: €0.34 per metre 10.5m margin: €0.74 per metre 30.5m margin: €2.70 per metre	Fencing €3.30 per linear metre equivalent to €0.66/m per year for five years
Water Trough Installation.		€200 per drinking trough equivalent to €40 per year for five years
Arable Margins	€0.23 per metre per calendar year	
Green Cover Establishment from a sown crop.	€80 per hectare per calendar year	
Use of new technologies for slurry spreading	€0.77 per cubic metre per calendar year	
Minimum Tillage	€23 per hectare per calendar year.	
Corncrake sites	€314 per hectare per calendar year	

Further information is available from:

- AEOS Section, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Johnstown Castle Estate Wexford, Y35 PN52.
- Tel: 053 9163400
- Email: aeos@agriculture.gov.ie
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmerschemespayments/ruralenvironmentprotectionsschemereps/repssandaeossschemes/agri-environmentoptionsschemeaeos/

Organic Farming/Assistance for the Development of the Sector

Organic Farming is a specific system of farming whose aim is to produce quality food in a manner beneficial to the environment and to wildlife. Organic farmers practice farming in accordance with standards, which have been formulated for crop and livestock production. The thrust of these standards is to develop a system of farming that co-exists with other systems, sustains soil fertility and protects the environment, wildlife and non-renewable resources.

Organic production and labelling of organic products is controlled by European and national regulations, i.e. European Council Regulation (EEC) No. 834/2007 as amended, which is backed up by S.I. Nos. 112 of 2004 and 698 of 2007. The EU legislation allows Member States to use private inspection bodies to carry out the inspection and licensing system of organic operators. Five certification bodies are approved to carry out this work in Ireland, i.e. Institute of Marketecology (IMO), Irish Organic Farmers and Growers Association (IOFGA), Organic Trust Limited, BDAA-Demeter UK and Global Trust Certification Limited.

Organic Farming Scheme (OFS)

A new Organic Farming Scheme (OFS) is provided for under the current RDP. This scheme was launched on 21 April 2015. Organic Farmers are also given priority access to the new Green Low-Carbon Agricultural Scheme (GLAS) which was launched in March 2015.

The objective of the OFS is to deliver enhanced environmental and animal welfare benefits and to encourage producers to respond to the market demand for organically produced food.

To be eligible for this measure, farmers must be licensed by one of the five certification bodies approved by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, must also register with the Organic Unit of the Department and farm organically for a minimum period of 5 years.

The payment rates under the new OFS are as follows:

Payment Rates	*Hort only holdings (1ha-6ha)	*Hort only holdings of >= 6ha -60ha	**Tillage area <= 20ha	**Tillage area of >= 20ha – 60ha	Standard Rate – other holdings – farmed area of >= 3ha – 60ha	Reduced rate Other Holdings – Farmed area >60ha
In conversion	€300/ha	€220/ha	€260/ha	€220/ha	€220/ha	€60/ha
Maintenance	€200/ha	€170/ha	€170/ha	€170/ha	€170/ha	€30/ha

*The higher horticultural rates will apply to the first 6ha only and thereafter the standard rates apply up to 60ha and a reduced rate in excess of 60ha.

**The higher tillage rates will apply to the first 20ha only and thereafter the standard rates apply up to 60ha and a reduced rate in excess of 60ha. An additional €30/ha is available for red clover.

Schemes of Grant-Aid for the Development of the Organic Sector

Development grants will be available to processors under the **Off-Farm** Scheme of Grant Aid for the Development of the Organic Sector. This Off-farm Scheme, which is 100% exchequer funded, will provide grant aid for new equipment and facilities for production, preparation, grading, packing, storage, distribution and sale of organic products. Details are as follows:

- Grant aid of 40% for investments over €3,000
- Maximum off-farm grant aid of €500,000 payable over the duration of the scheme, which runs from 2015 - 2020.

Further information is available from:

- The Organic Unit, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Johnstown Castle Estate, Wexford, Y35 PN52.
- Tel: 0761 064415 or 053 9163400
- Email: organicunit@agriculture.gov.ie
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmingsectors/organicfarming/

Organic Capital Investment Scheme

This is a targeted scheme to support **On-Farm** investment co-funded by the EU. The scheme detail is outlined under the TAMS section (Chapter 7 – Structural Improvements) of the booklet.

Beef Data and Genomics Programme

The Beef Data and Genomics Programme (BDGP) is approved under Article 28 of Regulation 1305/2013 on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development. As with all area based rural development schemes the Regulations require that the scheme is of 5 to 7 years duration. The BDGP runs for 6 years and applies from 2015 to 2020.

Objectives

1. To lower the intensity of GHG emissions by improving the quality and efficiency of the national beef herd.
2. To improve the genetic merits of the national beef herd through the collection of data and genotypes of selected animals which will allow for the application of genomic selection in the beef herd.

It is expected that through the use of genotyping and data collection that farmers will be more easily able to identify the best breeding stock from which to source their replacement animals and that the selection of these higher quality animals will ultimately lead to a reduction in emissions from the agricultural sector in Ireland.

Eligibility

The Programme is open to suckler farmers, who are over 18 years of age and have a valid herd number, or have applied for a herd number by the closing date of this Programme. Applicants will not be permitted to participate in the Programme if on the closing date there are any animals, born in 2012, 2013 or 2014, that are persistently infected with BVD. Animals born in 2015, and subsequent years, must be removed to a knackery within 7 weeks of a positive or inconclusive test result. Compliance with BVD requirements will be monitored on annual basis and failure to comply will result in disqualification from the Programme.

Application

An application to participate in the Programme had to be submitted by 5 June 2015. Participants will also be required to apply for payment under the Programme each year which will be included on their Basic Payment Scheme application.

Payments under the Programme

Payments will be made annually on the basis of a maximum payable area (MPA) which is calculated by dividing the number of suckler cows that calved in the herd in 2014 by a stocking rate of 1.5. This land must have been deemed eligible forage land on the 2014 Single Payment Scheme application. In certain limited circumstances it was possible to use calved cows and eligible land declared in 2015.

Payments will be made on the lower of the MPA or the eligible forage land declared at the rate of €142.50 for the first 6.66 hectares and €120 on the remaining hectares

Requirements of the Programme

- Provision of sire number and calving ease survey
- Completion of a range of surveys relating to the cows, calves and bulls
- Genotyping 60% of animals each year, the cost of genotyping will be deducted from the farmers payments. In 2014 under the Beef genomics scheme this test cost €30 per test however the ICBF have a tender out for this work now and so the cost is expected to be less than €30 and also to fall further over the duration of the scheme
- Completion of a carbon navigator by 31 Oct 2016. This will be undertaken in conjunction with an approved advisor (who the Department will pay). This will be updated annually through the submission of data to ICBF
- Completion of a training course covering the requirements of the BDGP and advice on how to interpret the eurostar index. This course has to be undertaken by 31 October 2016
- Replacement strategy

Bulls

Participants are required to have a bull on the holding which must be genotyped four or five star on either the terminal or replacement index (on an across or within breed basis) from 30 June 2019 to 30 June 2020. If renting a bull it must be four or five star on either

the terminal or replacement index (on an across or within breed basis) from 30 June 2016. If using AI at least 80% four or five star on either the terminal or replacement index (on an across or within breed basis) from 30 June 2016.

Female replacements

Programme applicants are required to ensure that a percentage of their heifers/eligible suckler cows (rounded to the nearest animal) are genotyped females that are:

- Four or five stars on the replacement index (on a within breed or on a cross breed basis) at the time of purchase (for heifers brought into the herd) or at the time of genotyping (for those replacements bred within the herd). Where a non-genotyped replacement heifer is purchased, this animal must be subsequently genotyped and confirmed four or five stars on the replacement index (on a within or an across breed basis) before being deemed eligible for the Programme.
- at least 16 months old and;
- born in 2013 or later, if brought into the herd after 5 June 2015.

The number of heifers/eligible suckler cows meeting these requirements on each holding on 31st October 2018 must be equivalent to 20% of the number of the applicant's reference animals (advised to applicants upon acceptance into the Programme), and on 31st October 2020 must be equivalent to 50% of the number of the applicant's reference animals.

Queries can be submitted to the Department:

- Beef Schemes Section, Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine, Government Offices, Old Abbeylax Road, Portlaoise, Co. Laois, R32 RPA6.
- Tel: 0761 064423
- Email: beefschemas@agriculture.gov.ie
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmerschemespayments/beefgenomicsschemebeefdataprogramme/

Five Forestry

Forestry Programme 2014-2020

The Forestry Programme 2014-2020 consists of 11 separate measures aimed at forestry development which will deliver economic, social and environmental benefits to society.

Afforestation Scheme

Under the redesigned Afforestation Scheme both farmers and non farmers will receive the same premium rate which will be paid each year for 15 years. This is worth up to €9,500/hectare over 15 years. Further details of the Scheme are outlined below. It is anticipated that these changes will prove attractive to those landowners not previously interested in forestry. Furthermore, agro forestry and forestry for fibre measures are targeted specifically at farmers providing them with options for grazing livestock alongside forestry and in the case of forestry for fibre, the option to harvest timber after 10-15 years rather than 35-40 years as is the case with other types of forestry. These are significant developments for farmers as they present real options for alternative income sources which can operate alongside existing and more traditional farming enterprises.

Forest Roads Scheme

Under the Programme 2014-2020, the grant rate for roads is €40/linear metre (an increase of €5 per linear metre compared to the comparable scheme in the previous Programme). The criteria for calculating the eligible area served by the proposed forest road was also changed. Where 50% or greater of the area is due for harvesting in the next 3 years, the entire area can now be deemed eligible. For co-operative road building (joint applications) this can extend to 5 years. In cases where the proposed forest road bell mouth is at least 2 metre (m) below the surface of the existing public road, an additional 30m will be allowed per forest entrance to contribute towards the cost of additional stone required. This means that bell mouths in this situation can include an additional 60 metres of road length for grant purposes. Further details of the Scheme are outlined below.

The other Schemes included in the Forestry Programme 2014 -2020 are:

- i) **NeighbourWood Scheme:** Provides support for the development of attractive 'close-to-home' woodland amenities for public access, use and enjoyment. This measure is aimed primarily at local authorities.
- ii) **Seed Stand and Seed Orchard Scheme:** This scheme aims to increase the supply of superior home produced seed which can then be used in nurseries to grow selected and improved trees for new planting and reforestation. This will be achieved by providing support for the management of seed stands registered on the National List of Basic Material and the establishment of both indoor and outdoor seed orchards.
- iii) **Reconstitution Scheme:** Provides support for the forest holder to restore and retain forests following significant damage by natural causes (excluding fire and storm damage).

- iv) **Native Woodland Conservation Scheme:** Supports the protection and enhancement of existing native woodlands and where appropriate, the conversion of conifers forest to native woodlands. This measure is focused on important native woodland types and opportunities for habitat linkage, and on environmentally sensitive areas, with a view to realising wider eco-system services such as water protection.
- v) **Woodland Improvement (Thinning and Tending) Scheme:** This scheme provides support for forest management operations for broadleaf woodlands and actions within existing forests, which effect structural changes aimed at protecting and enhancing water quality and other environmental sensitivities.
- vi) **Knowledge Transfer and Innovation:** Supports the setting up of knowledge transfer groups, continuous professional development, and training.
- vii) **Producer Groups:** Support is provided under this measure to help forest holders to work together to create a critical mass for forestry operations and mobilising timber.
- viii) **Innovative Forest Technology:** Support for early adopters of new technology, e.g. variable tyre systems, inventory equipment.
- ix) **Forest Management Plans:** Support for forest holders to prepare management plans for their forest holdings.

Afforestation Grants and Premium Levels

The Afforestation Grants and Premium Scheme launched in 2015 under the Forestry Programme 2014-2020 provides for payment of 100% of the cost of establishing new forests and annual premium payments for up to 15 years. The Scheme does not differentiate between farmers and non-farmers with a single rate payable for each Grant and Premium Category (GPC). Expenditure on the Scheme is entirely funded by the National Exchequer.

The maximum grant and premium rates are detailed in the Tables below. The afforestation grant is a fixed grant to cover the costs incurred in the establishment of a forest and paid exclusive of VAT. It is paid in two instalments as outlined in Table 2. An additional allowance for fencing (to the maximum rates detailed below) is payable with the first grant instalment.

Table 1 - Premium Rates

GPC	Rate/hectare (ha)	Duration (years)
Unenclosed	€185	15
Sitka spruce/lodgepole pine	€440	15
10% Diverse	€510	15
Diverse	€560	15
Broadleaf	€575	15
Oak / Beech	€615	15
Beech	€615	15
Alder	€575	15
Native Woodland Establishment (Scenarios 1-3)	€635	15
Native Woodland Establishment (Scenario 4)	€635	15
Agro-forestry	€260	5
Forestry for Fibre	€180	10

Table 2 – Grant Rates

GPC	1st Grant €/ha	2nd Grant €/ha	Total €/ha	Additional Fencing Allocation €/ha IS436	Alternative Fencing Allocation €/ha Non IS436	Total Available Funding €/ha
Unenclosed	1575	525	2100	500	350	2600
Sitka spruce / LP	2310	735	3045	500	350	3545
10% Diverse Conifer	2360	790	3150	500	350	3650
Diverse Conifer	2625	840	3465	500	350	3965
Broadleaf	3780	1155	4935	500	450	5435
Oak / Beech	3990	1260	5250	500	450	5750
Beech	3990	1260	5250	500	450	5750
Alder	2520	840	3360	500	450	3860
Native Woodland Establishment (Scenarios 1-3)	3990	1260	5250	500	450	5750
Native Woodland establishment (Scenario 3)	3780	1155	4935	500	450	5435
Agro-forestry	2960	990	3950	500	450	4450
Forestry for Fibre	1460	490	1950	500	450	2450
Forestry for Fibre (Aspen, 1400 stems per ha)	1245	420	1665	500	450	2165

The Department’s forestry online services now facilitate payment to forestry applicants who use the Integrated Forest Information System (IFORIS) over the Internet. The IFORIS computer system was developed by the Forest Service for the processing of forestry pre-approval, grant and premium applications. The system was subsequently expanded to IFORIS Internet (iNet) to provide facilities to forestry companies to submit and manage their clients’ forestry scheme applications online. Forest owners who are not registered and who would like to avail of this online service can register online at www.agfood.ie. Further information on the forestry online services is contained in the General Information section in this booklet.

Forest Roads Scheme

This Scheme provides for payment of grants of up to 100% of eligible costs incurred in the construction of a forest road. The grant rate for roads is €40 per linear metre capped at 20 linear metres per hectare of forest area that is ready for harvesting. Payments are made in two instalments - 90% of eligible costs for the first instalment and a balance of 10% on satisfactory completion of the works.

A special construction works (SCW) grant is available under the Scheme for 50% of the cost of the SCW up to a maximum of €5,000 per application, whichever is the smaller.

This provision is primarily aimed at facilitating the construction of forest roads in environmentally sensitive sites to limit any potential adverse impacts from harvesting activities.

Forest road developments which connect to an existing forest road network in a public, state owned or private forest will be supported. In these situations that proportion of forest road constructed outside of the applicants land will be grant aided.

All forest road construction, whether grant aided or not, must receive the prior approval of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine. Each application must undergo an environmental assessment to ensure that it does not adversely impact on the environment.

Woodland Improvement (Thinning and Tending) Scheme

The aim of this Scheme is to stimulate investment in the improvement, protection and development of young broadleaf forests. Payment is made in a single grant of €750 per treated hectare over the full rotation of the crop. This measure is primarily aimed at private forestry owners.

Details of the schemes and grants may be obtained from:

- Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Johnstown Castle Estate, Co. Wexford, Y35 PN52.
- Tel: 053 9163400 or 0761 064415, Fax: 053 9143834
- Email: forestyappeng@agriculture.gov.ie
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/forests-service/grants-and-premiums-schemes-2015/

Environment

Previous Forestry Programmes have incorporated important checks and balances to ensure that forests are established in the most appropriate places and in a manner which protects the environment. Appropriate assessment of forestry proposals in Natura 2000 sites, stakeholder consultation and a suite of environmental guidelines are all important controls for sustainable forestry development. The Forestry Programme 2014 -2020 builds on these controls and develops them further. Protection and enhancement of water quality, native woodlands, species diversity and renewable energy are important components of the forestry schemes launched as part of the 2014-2020 programme. Specific initiatives in this regard include the following:

- Incorporation of existing native woodlands establishment scheme into the main afforestation scheme to harness the potential for planting native woodlands as part of more commercial forests;
- Significantly improved provision for native woodland conservation to enhance water quality and enrich biodiversity. This scheme will be targeted at measures to protect the Freshwater Pearl Mussel (FPM) population which is considered extinct or close to extinction in most EU countries. Ireland has 46% of the EU's population of FPM;

- A special construction works grant for forest roads worth up to €5,000 aimed at minimising adverse effects of harvesting on sensitive sites i.e. sedimentation of local watercourses;
- A Woodland Improvement Grant to support actions such as installation of silt traps, enrichment planting and reinstating setbacks. These actions are aimed at enhancing water quality, conserving archaeological sites and protecting vulnerable habitats;
- Native woodlands must be included alongside aquatic buffer zones in water sensitive sites such as aquatic Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and sensitive fisheries areas. This will provide a filtration buffer zone slowing down runoff from upland areas and helping to prevent sediment reaching rivers and streams.

For plantations over 10 hectares an open area for biodiversity enhancement amounting to 15% must be retained and where the area is less than 10ha the percentage can be reduced. The national target for broadleaf planting is 30% which will be achieved as follows:

- higher grant and premiums for broadleaf species
- the requirement to include 10% broadleaves (where site quality allows) within all new individual afforestation projects; and
- the availability of funding under the Native Woodland Establishment measure (GPC 9 and 10).

Forestry Promotion and Training

The overall objectives of the work undertaken by Forestry Division in relation to Forestry Promotion and Training are:

- To promote knowledge on the sustainable management of forests;
- To support forestry skills training;
- To improve the overall performance and competitiveness of forests;
- To help forest owners to increase their knowledge of forest management;
- To raise awareness of the many benefits of forestry, and
- To promote the development of Forestry Producer Groups.

The Forestry Programme 2014 -2020 and the Department's Rural Development Plan include specific measures aimed at knowledge transfer and promoting innovation within the forestry sector. These include the following:

The **Continuous Professional Development** (CPD) initiative is seen as an important instrument for delivering knowledge transfer to all individuals working in the field of forestry. The aim will be to further develop the knowledge base of all professionals involved in any aspect of forestry on an ongoing basis and to foster a lifelong learning approach to forestry. In broader terms, CPD will contribute towards:

- The maintenance of professional competence,
- Enhancement of existing knowledge and skills, and
- Development of new knowledge and skills.

Knowledge Transfer Groups (KTGs) involve forest owners coming together to share information on specific topics of mutual interest, for example, mobilising timber, inventory and silviculture. The concept has worked successfully in the beef and sheep sectors and the aim is to establish a similar structure for forest owners. By meeting in groups with other forest owners facilitated by a professional forester, forest owners can become more aware of the value of their forests, the importance of active forest management and the interaction with their forests and the surrounding environment.

The **Innovative Forest Technology** scheme envisages support for the adoption of new technologies that may not be fully established or tested under Irish conditions. The type of technologies envisaged could relate to harvesting technology in general or support for smaller scale technologies which are applicable to private forest holders, producer groups, forest contractors and haulage operators.

The **European Innovation Partnership (EIP)** involves the setting up of Operational Groups to develop ideas and put these into practice. It is aimed primarily at general agriculture within the framework of the Department's Rural Development Programme but could include forestry. These operational groups which are similar to KTGs are expected to be 'hands on' in terms of working towards the resolution of a certain (practical) problem or opportunity which may lead to an innovative solution. Ideas may not necessarily be technical in nature, but could be social or based on new or traditional practices. The EIP approach is aimed at ensuring better take up and implementation of the solution as hands on participation by forest owners themselves working on solutions to problems that affect them will help speed up the introduction, dissemination, and acceptance of the new idea.

For further information contact:

- The Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Johnstown Castle Estate, Co. Wexford, Y35b PN52.
- Tel: 053 9163400 or 0761 064415; Fax: 053 9143836
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/forests-service/forestry-programmes2014-2020/

Forest Research and Development

Forest Research is co-ordinated by Research and CODEX Division of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine while the Development work is undertaken and supported by the Forestry Division.

Forest Development

The Department is assisted in this work by the Council for Forest Research and Development (COFORD), an advisory body consisting of representatives from the forest sector.

A number of stakeholder groups were convened under the COFORD Council (2012-2014) which reported as follows:

Forest Management Planning: This report looked at ways to devise and implement a national system of forest management planning for forests, in order to facilitate best practice, efficient and cost effective management and use of the national forest resource both state and privately owned with due reference to the Report of the Forest Policy Review Group entitled '*Forests, products and people – Ireland's forest policy – a renewed vision*', published in July 2014. It is available at www.coford.ie

Wood Mobilisation: The report analyses the full range of issues impacting on the level of wood mobilisation, including current and projected roundwood supply/demand dynamics and measures, forest rotation length, forest roads and roading, provision of harvest information to growers, road haulage and transport technology, training, environmental designations and research and development. It addresses these and other topics through 40 specific recommendations. It is available at www.coford.ie.

Forest Research: The Forest Research Ireland (FORI) Report captures specific policy, knowledge and production focused research topics and ideas relevant to the needs of forest stakeholders. The report is available at www.agriculture.gov.ie.

A Land Availability Report when finalised will be available on www.coford.ie

The Council also updated its Forestry 2030 policy papers on '*Irish Forestry and the Economy*', '*Irish Forests and Climate Change*', '*Irish Forests and Renewable Energy*', '*Irish Forests and Biodiversity*', and '*Irish Forests and Recreation*' and published the COFORD report 2012-2013.

Forest Sector Development/COFORD Division provides the secretariat for the Council.

The following services are also provided by the Division:

- Climate change and forests – www.coford.ie
Highlights the role of forests in climate change mitigation;
- GROWFOR – Modelling and valuing forest growth - www.coford.ie
Increases the return to the state and the grower from forests;
- Windthrow – Estimating windthrow probability in forest plantations in Ireland -
Reduce the cost and incidence of windthrow damage in forests in support of sustainable forest management;
- Woodspec – Specifiers' guide to Irish timber - www.woodspec.ie
Increase the use of wood products in construction, drawing on R&D findings.
- Wood Energy – www.woodenergy.ie – Tel: 0761 064450.
Develop the wood energy sector in Ireland in accordance with government policy on increasing the use of renewable energy.

For more information contact:

- Forestry Service/COFORD, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Agriculture House, Kildare Street, Dublin 2, D02 WK12
- Tel: 01 6072487
- All services are listed under the Tools and Services tab at www.coford.ie

International Forestry Division

International Forestry Division has responsibility for a wide range of policy issues at both European (including EU) and international level.

The Division is responsible for the transposition of appropriate EU legislation into Irish law. It also represents Ireland at various EU fora, including the European Council Working Party on Forestry, the Standing Forestry Committee and the EUTR /FLEGT Committee. Furthermore it also represents Ireland at various international fora beyond the European Union such as Forest Europe and the relevant United Nations groups.

The Division is designated as Ireland's national Competent Authority for implementation, governance and enforcement of the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Regulation and the European Union Timber Regulation (EUTR), both of which are aimed at combating the global scourge of illegal logging and its underlying negative effects on the environment, human well being and greenhouse gas emissions.

The FLEGT Regulation provides for a licensing regime for imports of a range of timber and timber products from third countries that have entered into Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPA) with the EU. The first VPA country is expected to become active from early 2016.

The EUTR is an instrument which requires timber operators to apply due diligence to consignments of timber or timber products when they are first placed on the EU market. Further down the supply chain, the Regulation requires traders to keep and maintain records for traceability purposes. Overall, the EUTR is a robust instrument which aims to ensure that timber and timber products which are placed on the EU market are from legal sources. This Regulation came into force in March 2013.

For further information please see contact:

- International Forestry Division, Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine, Kildare St, Dublin 2, D02 WK12
- Tel: 0761 064400 or 01 6072000 ● Email: eutro@agriculture.gov.ie
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/forestry/eutr/EUTROverview09102014NOCPDF141014.pdf

Forest Service Appeals Procedure

Applicants under the various Forestry Schemes may appeal within three months of the decision on the application concerned to the **Agriculture Appeals Office, Kilminchy Court, Portlaoise, Co Laois** against any decision of the Department which affects their entitlements to grant or premium payments. The appeal would normally be preceded by an internal review of the decision by the Department following receipt of a submission from the applicant detailing the grounds which s/he feels should be considered as part of the review. The offer of such review is communicated with the decision on their application.

Appeals by applicants against consents to afforest or construct forest roads, and by the public, including environmental organisations, or statutory consultation bodies, who have submitted observations on the proposal, are considered by a **Forestry Appeals Committee**. This appeal must be made within 21 days of the decision to the Forestry Appeals Unit, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Johnstown Castle, Wexford.

Control Of Felling

Under the Forestry Act, 1946, with certain exceptions, it is illegal to uproot a tree over ten years old, or cut down a tree of any age, or injure a tree of any age without a Felling Licence. Any person uprooting or cutting down a tree without a felling licence may be prosecuted through the Courts. Penalties for illegal felling can be severe and in addition to any fine imposed by the Court, the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine may, by Order, also require the person convicted to replant. Landowners should note that the granting of Planning Permission does not give permission to fell trees; a felling licence still needs to be applied for before felling any trees on the site.

The Forestry Act 2014, enacted in October 2014, will, when commenced, replace the Forestry Act, 1946. It is intended that the Forestry Act 2014 will be commenced early in 2016. The requirement for a Felling Licence will remain under the Forestry Act 2014

An application for a Felling Licence can be obtained directly from:

- Felling Section, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Johnstown Castle Estate, Co. Wexford, Y35 PN52.
- Tel: 053 9170371 / 9165534 / 9170338 / 9165509
- Email: felling.forests@agriculture.gov.ie
- Department's website:
www.agriculture.gov.ie/forests/treefelling/

Forest Pest and Disease Protection - Import Regulations

The Forest Service is responsible for implementing the forestry aspects of Council Directive 2000/29/EC on protective measures against the introduction into the Community of organisms harmful to plants or plant products and against their spread within the Community. The Forest Service implements the provisions relating to wood, wood packaging material, forest plants and Christmas trees. Early detection of a newly introduced pest or disease is essential and forest owners and the forest industry are encouraged to be ever vigilant in detecting such introductions. If any unusual pest or disease is observed, please contact the Forest Service. The following services are available:

- Registration of importers (importing from non EU Countries) of controlled wood, wood products and forest plants;
- Registration of producers of forestry material such as forest nurseries;
- Forest pest and disease diagnostic service;
- Advice on import regulations concerning wood, wood packaging, forest plants and Christmas trees;
- Issuing of Phytosanitary Certificates for exports of forestry material.

For further information concerning the above please contact:

- Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Agriculture House, Kildare Street, Dublin 2, D02 WK12
- Tel: 01 6072651, Fax: 01 6072545,
- Email: forestprotection@agriculture.gov.ie
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/forestservic

Wood Packing Material (Pallets, Crates, Etc) - Export Regulations

In relation to exports, the Forest Service is responsible for the implementation of International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) No. 15, Regulation of Wood Packaging Material in International Trade. ISPM No. 15 describes phytosanitary measures to reduce the risk of introduction and/or spread of quarantine pests associated with wood packaging made of raw wood, in use in international trade. In practice, wood packaging material (pallets, crates, boxes etc.) made from unprocessed raw wood, and used in supporting, protecting or carrying goods of all kinds, must be heat treated in a specified manner and the packaging must be stamped on at least two sides with the officially approved mark verifying the heat treatment and incorporating the registration number of the producer of the packaging. The following services are available in relation to ISPM No. 15:

- Registration of kiln operators and producers of wood packaging material;
- Advice to wood packaging producers and kiln operators concerning ISPM No. 15;
- Advice to exporting companies concerning ISPM No. 15.

For further information concerning the above please contact:

- Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Agriculture House, Kildare Street, Dublin 2, D02 WK12
- Tel: 01 6072651, Fax: 01 6072545
- Email: ispm15@agriculture.gov.ie,
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/forestservic

Forest Reproductive Material

Forest Reproductive Material (FRM) is a collective term to describe seeds, plants and cuttings which are important for forestry purposes. The Forest Service is responsible for implementing Council Directive 1999/105/EC on the marketing of FRM. The aim of the legislation is to ensure that FRM which is marketed from approved suitable sources and is clearly labeled and identified throughout the entire process from seed collection to processing, storage, plant production and delivery to the final end user.

The following services are available:

- Registration of suppliers of forest reproductive material - seed collectors, nurseries, seed and plant importers;
- Registration of seed stands;
- Issuing of Seed Collection Permits and Certificates of Provenance for seed collections;
- Advice on forest seed and plant regulations.

Six Research and Innovation

Research and Innovation

Research and Codex Division operates the following competitive agri-food and forestry research programmes which provide funding to higher education institutes and other public research institutes:

(i) Food Institutional Research Measure (FIRM): FIRM is focused on ‘public good’ food related research to underpin a competitive, innovative and sustainable food manufacturing and marketing sector. The programme is creating a base of knowledge and expertise in generic technologies that will support a modern, consumer-focused industry and build capacity for R&D.

(ii) Research Stimulus Fund (RSF): RSF is focused on ‘public good’ agricultural production related research to support sustainable and competitive agricultural production practices and policies, and contribute to building and maintaining a knowledge economy and research capability in the agriculture sector.

(iii) Programme of Competitive Forest Research for Development (COFORD): COFORD is focused on ‘public good’ forestry research to support the competitiveness and environmental compatibility of the forest industry within the context of sustainable development. Projects covering thematic areas (establishing and growing forests, harvesting and products and policy and public good) are funded.

Application process for the competitive research programmes: Once research topics and funding are identified, a Call for Research Proposals is advertised. Applications are evaluated by independent experts and all proposals considered eligible for funding are forwarded to the Department’s Competitive Research Committee for approval. Most projects are 3 to 5 years in duration and involve a number of collaborating institutes. Funding is also used to facilitate Irish researcher involvement in strategically relevant national research, co-funded with other Irish funders and/or bi-lateral and trans-European/global research activities arising from the Department’s involvement in a number of initiatives in particular ERA-Nets and Joint Programming Initiatives.

Horizon 2020: The Department is the National Delegate and National Contact Point for **Societal Challenge 2 (SC2) – “Food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, marine and maritime and inland water and the Bioeconomy”** of the EU Horizon 2020 RTD programme. This involves, inter alia, helping to promote and facilitate increased application and success rates among Irish institutional and industry researchers under H2020 research calls, by providing information, advice and other supports.

Codex Alimentarius: The Department is the Codex Contact Point for Ireland, coordinating Irish overall participation in the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission which deals with consumer health protection and fair practices in the food trade. The Department operates an Irish Codex Coordinating Committee (ICAC) involving broad stakeholder representation.

For more information contact:

- Research and Codex Division, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Agriculture House, Kildare Street, Dublin 2 D02 WK12 Tel: 01 6072142
- Email: research@agriculture.gov.ie ● Website www.agriculture.gov.ie/research

Seven Structural Improvements (TAMS)

Structural Improvements (TAMS)

The following Schemes are provided for in the 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme of Ireland - The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: Europe investing in rural areas:

- Pig and Poultry Investment Scheme;
- Young Farmer Capital Investment Scheme;
- Dairy Equipment Scheme;
- Low Emission Slurry Spreading Equipment Scheme;
- Animal Welfare, Safety and Nutrient Storage Scheme;
- Organic Capital Investment Scheme (OCIS).

Pig and Poultry Investment Scheme

Aim

The principal objective of the scheme is to assist farmers purchase new equipment for the upgrading of pig and poultry units on their farms.

Conditions

The Scheme is open to farmers who hold a Department identifier for the production of poultry, eggs or pigs and have a minimum of 60 production units as an active producer and who meet the other eligibility conditions laid down in the Scheme.

Valid applications will be accepted by the Department up to 31 December 2020. Selection criteria will be applicable in order to determine those applications which go forward to the approval process. Grant-aid will be paid on approved, completed and eligible expenditure and shall be paid at a rate of 40%, subject of a maximum ceiling of €80,000 (ceiling increased in case of partnerships).

Further details are available from:

- On Farm Investment Section, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Johnstown Castle Estate, Co. Wexford Y35 PN52.
- Tel: 053 9170323 / 053 9163431
- Email: tams@agriculture.gov.ie
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmerschemespayments/farmbuildings/

Young Farmers' Capital Investment Scheme

Aim

The objective of the scheme is to provide an incentive to young farmers to upgrade their agricultural buildings and equipment by providing them with an increased level of support to meet the considerable capital costs associated with the establishment of their enterprises.

Conditions

The scheme is open to farmers who are aged between 18 years and 40 years. They require a minimum of 15 hectares, be farming for not more than five years and satisfy the requirement regarding set-up at the date of submitting the online application. Applicants are also required to fulfil the requirements regarding occupational skill and competence and to meet the other eligibility conditions laid down in the Terms & Conditions of the Scheme. A selection process comprising certain criteria will be applicable in order to determine those applications that go forward to the approval process. The grant rate is 60% subject to a maximum ceiling of €80,000 (ceiling increased in case of partnerships).

Operational dates of Scheme

The Scheme came into operation on 28 May 2015 and will be closed for receipt of final applications on 31 December 2020. This Scheme is jointly funded by the European Union and the national exchequer.

Further details are available from:

- On Farm Investment Section, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Johnstown Castle, Estate, Co. Wexford Y35 PN52.
- Tel: 053 9170323 / 053 9163431
- Email: tams@agriculture.gov.ie
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmerschemespayments/farmbuildings/

Dairy Equipment Scheme

Aim

The aim of the scheme is to encourage investment in the dairy sector by providing eligible farmers with a level of support to meet the considerable capital costs associated with establishment of their enterprise and ensuring that they have the most up-to-date technology available to compete in the modern dairy sector. The scheme will operate in all areas of the State.

Conditions

It is open to farmers who are existing livestock farmers (cattle, sheep, goats only) and have a minimum of 5 hectares which have been declared under the Basic Farm Payment Scheme/Area Aid/Integrated Administration and Control System in the year of application or preceding year and who meet the other eligibility conditions laid down in the Scheme.

Valid applications will be accepted by the Department up to 31 December 2020. Selection criteria will be applicable in order to determine those applications which go forward to the approval process. Grant aid will be paid on approved, completed and eligible expenditure and shall be paid at the rate of 40% up to the applicable maximum investment ceiling of €80,000 per holding (ceiling increased in case of partnerships).

Further details are available from:

- On Farm Investment Section, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Johnstown Castle Estate, Co. Wexford, Y35 PN52.
- Tel: 053 9170323 / 053 9163431
- Email: tams@agriculture.gov.ie
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmerschemespayments/farmbuildings/

Low-emission Slurry Spreading Equipment Scheme

Aim

The principal objective of the scheme is to assist farmers purchase new equipment for the spreading of slurry which has distinct environmental advantages.

Conditions

It is open to farmers who hold a Department identifier and have a minimum of 5 hectares which have been declared under the Basic Farm Payment Scheme/Area Aid/Integrated Administration and Control System in the year of application or preceding year and who meet the other eligibility conditions laid down in the Scheme.

Valid applications will be accepted by the Department up to 31 December 2020. Selection criteria will be applicable in order to determine those applications which go forward to the approval process. Grant-aid will be paid on approved, completed and eligible expenditure and shall be paid at a rate of 40% up to the applicable maximum investment ceiling as set out below.

The maximum amount of investment eligible for grant-aid under the Scheme is €40,000 per holding (ceiling increased in case of partnerships). The investment ceiling under this scheme is NOT subject to the overall TAMS II investment ceiling of €80,000 per holding (ceiling increased in case of partnerships).

Further details are available from:

- On Farm Investment Section, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Johnstown Castle Estate, Co. Wexford, Y35 PN52.
- Telephone: 053 9170323 / 053 9163431
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmerschemespayments/farmbuildings/

Animal Welfare, Safety and Nutrient Storage Scheme

Aim

The objective of the scheme is to facilitate farm modernisation by improvements in animal welfare, the working and production conditions on farms; competitiveness, and contribute to the improvement of agricultural incomes. The Scheme will operate in all areas of the State and will be targeted at cattle, sheep and goat farmers only.

Conditions

It is open to applicants who are existing livestock farmers (cattle, sheep, goats only) and have a minimum of 5 hectares which have been declared under the Basic Farm Payment Scheme/Area Aid/Integrated Administration and Control System in the year of application or preceding year and who meet the other eligibility conditions laid down in the Scheme.

Valid applications will be accepted by the Department up to 31 December 2020. Selection criteria will be applicable in order to determine those applications which go forward to the approval process.

Grant aid will be paid on approved, completed and eligible expenditure and shall be paid at the rate of 40% up to the applicable maximum investment ceilings (increased in case of partnerships).

Further details are available from:

- On Farm Investment Section, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine Johnstown Castle Estate, Co. Wexford, Y35 PN52.
- Telephone: 053 9170323 / 053 9163431
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmerschemespayments/farmbuildings/

Organic Capital Investment Scheme (OCIS)

Aim

The objective of the scheme is to facilitate the development of the organic sector so as to ensure a regular supply of high quality organic produce to the market. It also aims to provide an incentive to young organic farmers to upgrade their agriculture buildings and equipment by providing them with an increased level of support to meet the considerable capital costs associated with the establishment of their enterprises.

Conditions

The scheme is open to organic farmers who are registered with an approved organic certification body, are currently registered with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and meet other eligibility conditions laid down in the Terms & Conditions of the Scheme. The general rate of aid is 40% subject to a maximum investment ceiling of €80,000 (ceiling increased in case of partnerships). However, an increased rate of aid of 60% is available for young organic farmers who are more than 18 years and not more than 40 years of age, have a minimum of 15 hectares, are farming for not more than five years and satisfy the requirement regarding set-up at the date of submitting the online application. Applicants are also required to fulfil the requirements regarding occupational skill and competence and to meet the other eligibility conditions laid down in the Terms & Conditions of the Scheme.

Further details are available from:

- Organic Section, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Johnstown Castle Estate, Wexford, Y35 PN52.
- Telephone: 0761 064415/ 053 9163400
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmerschemespayments/farmbuildings/

Eight Animal Traceability

Irish Bovine Animal Identification System

The aim of the Bovine Animal Identification System is to guarantee the safety of beef and beef products by the operation of an effective animal identification and tracing system. The system has four elements: tagging, bovine passport, on-farm bovine herd registers and a computerised database.

The important aspects of each of the elements of identification are as follows:

- **Tagging**

The tagging system requires the application by the keeper of two identically numbered yellow plastic eartags to all calves born on a holding within twenty days of birth. Keepers are obliged to order their annual requirement of eartags directly from the tag supplier approved by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. They do this by completing the tag order card sent to them by the approved tag supplier and returning it with the appropriate fee. On application of a pair of tags to a calf, the keeper must complete a corresponding and identically numbered registration application form, which is supplied with each pair of tags.

- **Registration and Passports**

Keepers are required to register the birth of each calf on the Animal Identification and Movement (AIM) database. This can be done by registering the calf birth online or by completing the registration application form [received with the tags] and sending it within seven days of tagging the calf to the registration agency appointed by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. On receipt of a completed and valid registration application, the registration agency issues the keeper with a passport for the animal concerned. This passport must accompany the animal each time it is moved. All movements of the animal throughout its life must be recorded on the passport.

- **Bovine Herd Registers**

Keepers of cattle are required to maintain a herd register of all bovine animals on their holdings. The herd register must be kept up-to-date and must record information in relation to all calves born on the holding together with details of all animals entering or leaving the herd and of animal deaths on the holding. Keepers may opt to use the electronic herd register by signing up to the facility on AIM. Herdkeepers who avail of this option can dispense with maintaining the manual bovine herd register section of the “Blue Book” if they so wish.

- **Animal Identification and Movement (AIM) System**

The AIM system is a database which records all bovine birth, movements and disposals. The system captures details of all animal movements and this information is used to verify the origin, identity and life history of cattle entering the food chain. It is also used to check compliance of cattle with eligibility criteria of the Single Payment Scheme. The AIM system can also be used to assist in the

identification and tracing of bovines that may have come in contact with infectious diseases, for veterinary certification and to provide statistical information in respect of the cattle sector.

Notifications to AIM

Keepers of cattle are obliged to notify this Department of the movement of cattle to and from their holdings. In the case of cattle sold privately, the source keeper must obtain a Certificate of Compliance from the Cattle Movement Notification Agency or on-line from the Department's website prior to the movement of any animal off the holding. Both the source and destination keepers must confirm within 7 days of the event that the movement has taken place. Keepers must also notify the Department of on-farm deaths of any animal.

On-Line Facilities available to Farmers with Bovine Animals

A number of on-line facilities are available under the AIM system that allows farmers to:

- Register calf births;
- Print error letters;
- Apply for a Certificate of Compliance (to move cattle direct from farm to farm), keepers can print the Certificate of Compliance from a home PC and printer;
- Check cattle in the herd according to the AIM database;
- Verify that movements in and out of the herd have been recorded on the system;
- View the life history of individual animals until they leave the herd;
- View the most recent TB test dates for animals in the herd; and
- Online users may opt to use the electronic herd register by signing up to the facility on AIM.

Farmers must register with the Department's Agfood.ie facility to avail of the on-line services, which are available free of charge. This can be done by clicking on the Agfood icon on the Department's website www.agriculture.gov.ie and following the simple instructions. Farmers can also contact the eService Helpdesk (Tel: 0761 064424) to register over the phone or to obtain a paper application.

Identification of Equines (Including Horses, Ponies and Donkeys)

Commission Regulation 504/2008 governs the rules surrounding the identification of equidae (including horses, ponies and donkeys) across the EU. This legislation was transposed into national legislation via S.I. No. 207/2014 (as amended).

With effect from 1 July 2009, all equines issued with a passport must be implanted with a transponder by a veterinary surgeon, the transponder number of which is entered in the corresponding passport issued in respect of the animal by a passport issuing organisation (PIO) approved by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine. Relevant information in relation to the identification of the equine must be entered on the database of the issuing PIO and subsequently transmitted to the central equine database.

The central database in Ireland was established in May 2013. It is populated with relevant identification details in respect of equines identified by approved PIOs in Ireland, from 1 January 1980.

The equine passport and the entries on the central database form part of the food chain information required by official veterinarians at the slaughter house in order to determine the food chain eligibility of each equine presented for slaughter.

A list of approved studbooks and PIOs can be seen at page 89/90. These are updated as required on the Department's website and be viewed at:

<http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/farmingsectors/horses/equineregistrationandpassports/IssuingBodiesapprovedPurposesIssuingIdDocumentsEquidea190515.docx>

Applications for equine passports must contain details of the premises registered.

Number (PRN) of the keeper.

Transfer of ownership of an equine animal must be notified to the issuing PIO by the purchaser of the animal and this information must subsequently be sent to the central equine database.

A person who keeps an equine animal that is not properly identified in accordance with the legislation commits an offence.

An equine passport, which records the unique life number of the animal, is valid for the lifetime of the animal.

It is prohibited to hold more than one passport in respect of a particular equine animal.

Except in limited circumstances, the equine passport must accompany the equine at all times, or the keeper must be in a position to produce it, on request, without delay.

In the case of loss/theft etc. of a passport, a duplicate or replacement document may be issued by the issuing PIO – such documents automatically render the animal unfit for human consumption.

It is prohibited for a person, other than the owner/keeper or the person in charge of the animal during transportation, to have an identification document relating to an equine, in his/her possession other than with the consent of an authorised officer.

Commission Regulation 504/2008 will be updated and replaced by Commission Implementing Regulation 262/2015 (CR 262/2015) on 1 January 2016.

The legislative basis of the new law remains unchanged and it concentrates on strengthening the security of the identification document as well as the mandatory establishment of central equine databases across the EU to effectively exchange and synchronise data between the various parties involved in equine identification.

Commission Regulation 262/2015 clarifies that it is the keeper who is ultimately responsible for ensuring that any equine kept by him/her is properly identified.

Similarly, from 1 January 2016, the keeper will be responsible for ensuring that the data recorded on the passport is accurate and up-to-date. Any required changes must be communicated to an appropriate PIO in the Member State where the holding of the animal is located, for onward transmission to the central database of that Member State.

On moving an equine animal into another Member State, the keeper will be required to lodge the passport of the animal with a PIO in the Member State where the new holding of the animal is located. The identification data will then be entered on the database of the PIO for onward transmission to the central database of the Member State where the animal is being kept.

Commission Regulation 262/2015 provides that passports in respect of equines for breeding and production may only be issued by PIOs in the Member State where the holding of the animal is located.

Under the new rules, any equine first identified outside the timescale specified in the legislation will result in the issuance of a duplicate or replacement passport, either of which automatically render the animal unfit for human consumption.

Bodies approved by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine for the purposes of issuing identity documents for equidae.

Approved Keeper of Studbook & Contact details	Contact Details	Name of Studbook	Microchip Number Lead numbers of microchips supplied by this organisation as part of the registration process
Weatherby's Ireland GSB Limited Tara Court Dublin Road Naas Co Kildare W91 NF22	Tel. No: 045 879979 Fax. No: 045 879691 e-mail: info@weatherbys.ie	General Studbook for Thoroughbreds Weatherby's Non-Thoroughbred Register	9851010*
Horse Sport Ireland Beech House Millennium Park Naas Co Kildare W91 TK7N	Tel. No: 045 850800 Fax. No: 045 850850 e-mail: info@horsesportireland.ie Web: www.horsesportireland.ie	The Irish Sport Horse Studbook and its supplements The Irish Draught Horse Studbook and its Appendix The Irish Sport Pony Studbook The Irish Cob Studbook and the Irish Cob Part-Bred Studbook (Temporary basis)	3721414
Irish Harness Racing Association Dundee House Summerhill South Cork	Tel. No.: 01 5310365 Mobile: 087 2571330 Email: info@irishharnessracing.com james@itm-cork.ie Web: www.irishharnessracing.com	Irish Standardbred Pacer Studbook Irish Standardbred Trotter Studbook	Database maintained by Horse Sport Ireland (HSI)
Connemara Pony Breeder's Society The Showgrounds Clifden Co. Galway H71 YA09	Tel No: 095 21863 Fax No: 095 21005 e-mail: enquiries@cpbs.ie www.cpbs.ie	Connemara Pony Studbook Irish Donkey Stud	3721004
Leisure Horse Ireland Furbo Hill Spiddal Co Galway H91 VH04	Tel. No: 091 577577 Fax No. 091 670111 e-mail: info@lhi.ie Web: www.lhi.ie	Irish Piebald &Skewbald Studbook Irish Donkey Stud	3721403* (Previously 941*)
Kerry Bog Pony Co-op Society Rosetown Lodge Newbridge Co Kildare C15 D285	Tel No: 045 432007/087 9680303 e-mail: info@kerrybogpony.ie Web: www.kerrybogpony.ie	Kerry Bog Pony Studbook	3721414 Note: Database maintained by Horse Sport Ireland

Approved Keeper of Studbook & Contact details	Contact Details	Name of Studbook	Microchip Number Lead numbers of microchips supplied by this organisation as part of the registration process
Irish Warmblood Studbook Ltd 14 Carrowgar Ogonnelloe, Scarriff, Co. Clare, V94 TR52.	Tel. No: 087 2229701 Fax No. 061 923222 Email: admin@irish-warmblood.com	Warmblood Studbook of Ireland	941*

The following organisations are approved to issue identity documents for equidae which are ineligible for entry into one of the studbooks listed above are:

Horse Sport Ireland Beech House Millennium Park Naas Co Kildare W91 TK7N	Tel. No: 045 850800 Fax. No: 045 850850 e-mail: info@horsesportireland.ie Web: www.horsesportireland.ie	Not applicable	3721414
Leisure Horse Ireland Furbo Hill Spiddal Co Galway H91 VH04	Tel. No: 091 577577 Fax No. 091 670111 e-mail: info@lhi.ie Web: www.lhi.ie	Not Applicable	3721403* (Previously 941*)

* Please note that microchips starting with this number can be used by more than one organisation

This list is accurate at the time of publication but may be subject to change. Any queries in relation to equine identification can be addressed to horseid@agriculture.gov.ie or by telephone to 01 – 5058881.

National Sheep Identification System (NSIS)

The EU-wide system for the identification and registration of ovine (sheep) and caprine (goats) animals are set down under Council Regulation (EC) No 21/2004 of 17 December 2003 (as amended). These rules are implemented in respect of sheep in Ireland under the National Sheep Identification System (NSIS). More detailed information on NSIS can be found on the Department's website www.agriculture.gov.ie

Under the NSIS, all flock owners must be registered, all sheep must be tagged and details of all sheep on farms and all sheep movements must be fully recorded. This system, which encompasses producers, marts, meat factories and others, provides that Ireland has full traceability for all sheep, on an individual basis.

Registration

Any person who holds or keeps sheep in the State must apply for registration of the holding to the local District Veterinary Office of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine for the area in which the holding is situated. Registered flock owners are issued with a herd number and a sheep designator.

Identification of Sheep

Approved Tags

Only tags that have been approved for use under the NSIS may be used to tag sheep in accordance with NSIS requirements. A list of Tag Suppliers who have had tags approved for use under the NSIS is on page no. 97. The following types of tags and identifiers will be available for ID purposes under NSIS:

- Slaughter tags – white tags are to be placed in the left ear of sheep going directly to slaughter from the holding of birth.
- Mart tags – yellow tags are to be placed in the left ear of sheep presented at the mart but intended for slaughter before 12 months. They can also be used in lambs going directly to the factory.
- Electronic identifiers (electronic eartag or ruminal bolus) – these are for use in conjunction with a mart left eartag in sheep retained on the holding of origin beyond 9 months of age and intended for breeding. They are also to be used in lambs presented at a mart or sale and intended for breeding purposes and live sheep being exported to an EU Member State or a third country.

The identification requirements for sheep as outlined here apply to sheep born after 1 January 2010. The requirements for sheep born prior to 1 January 2010 continue to be the NSIS rules that were in force at that time.

In general the identification requirements for sheep born after 1 January 2010 are set down below.

- All sheep must be tagged with at least one tag by 9 months of age or on leaving the holding of birth, whichever comes first.
- Animals to be kept definitively for breeding must be double tagged by 9 months of age with a conventional mart tag in the left ear, bearing a 12 digit number, and either a ruminal bolus or an electronic tag in the right ear, bearing the identical 12 digit tag number on the conventional mart tag. In general both tags on a sheep fitted with an electronic tag will be yellow. The tag on a sheep fitted with a ruminal bolus will be light blue.
- In the case of sheep intended for slaughter before 12 months of age they may be tagged in just the left ear with a conventional slaughter tag.
- In the case of sheep going for sale via a mart before 12 months old they may be tagged in just the left ear with a conventional tag which must be approved as a mart tag. (**Upgrading to EID** - Animals less than 12 months of age bought at marts and tagged with one conventional mart tag must be upgraded to double tagging with a specific EID tag if they are to be retained for breeding. This must be done by the time the animal is 12 months of age).
- **Live Trade** – Sheep born after 1 January 2010 and engaged in intra-community trade or third country exports must be double tagged with a conventional tag in the left ear, bearing a 12 digit number, and either a ruminal bolus or an electronic tag in the right ear, bearing an identical 12 digit tag number to the conventional tag.

Sheep purchased for export and not identified as above can be upgraded to EID status as follows:

- a bespoke EID tag bearing the same number as the conventional mart tag already on the animal can be ordered by the exporter; and
- sheep can be re-tagged with a new EID set and the new tag number correlated to the old number in the flock register of the exporter.

Any animal being exported must prior to presentation for certification at the export assembly centre have been tagged in accordance with the rules of the NSIS. In general both tags on a sheep fitted with an electronic tag will be yellow. The tag on a sheep fitted with a ruminal bolus will be light blue.

Sheep Movement Database System and Movement Documents

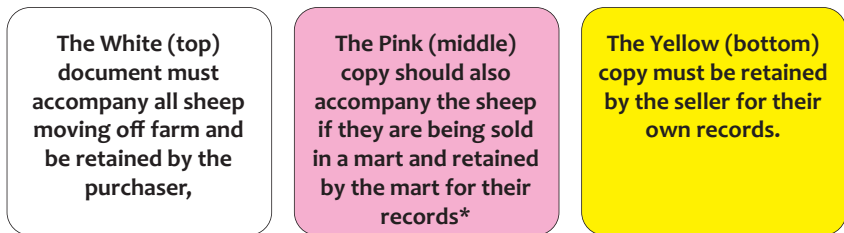
Dispatch/Movement Documents

A Dispatch/Movement Document completed by the owner of the sheep must accompany sheep moving off the holding, throughout their movement. The Dispatch/Movement Document is a personalised three-part document issued in the name and address of the flock owner and containing a pre-printed Herd/Flock Number, Serial Number and Sheep Designator. The Dispatch/Movement Document must be signed by the flock keeper off who's holding the sheep are being moved. In addition the blank areas of the document must be completed by the owner of the sheep, indicating the number of sheep being moved, the individual tag number of each sheep in the consignment being moved and the Herd/Flock Number of the farm or (in the case of a slaughter plant or mart) the name and address of the holding to which the sheep have been consigned.

It is important that farmers moving sheep from their holding ensure that the Dispatch Document that accompanies each load leaving the holding is the most up-to-date version of the Dispatch Document.

Under no circumstances should farmers use obsolete or outdated versions of the Dispatch Documents.

The Dispatch/Movement Document is a three-part document.



*Please note that in the case of movements direct from farm to farm (not through a mart) the pink middle copy must be posted by the purchaser to the local office of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine within 7 days of the movement date.

To order Dispatch Document books please contact:

- The local office of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine for the county in which you are registered as a flock owner. See Appendix One B
- As books need to be personalised with your details please order at least 1 month in advance of when you require additional supplies.
- Email: sheepid@agriculture.gov.ie
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/animalhealthwelfare/animalidentificationmovement/nationalsheepidentificationsystem/dispatchdocuments/

Flock Register

Persons who hold or keep sheep on a registered holding must maintain records of the individual animal identification number attached to the animals. They must also keep a written record of the movement of animals onto or off the registered holding. To facilitate the recording of these details, Flock Registers are issued to all sheep flock owners.

To order a Flock Register or for further information on any aspect of the NSIS, contact:

- Animal Identification & Movement (AIM) Division, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Backweston Campus, Youngs Cross, Celbridge, Co. Kildare W23 X3PH.
- Tel: 0761 064407 ● Email: sheepid@agriculture.gov.ie
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/animalhealthwelfare/animalidentificationmovement/nationalsheepidentificationsystem/sheepflockregister/

Annual Sheep Census

Under EU Regulation 21/2004 all sheep keepers must count the sheep present in the flock on the holding, record this number in the flock register and are legally obliged to return this number to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine once a year.

The Annual Sheep Census takes place normally in December and each registered flock owner will receive in the post a Census Return which he/she should complete in respect of the number of sheep on his/her holding and return it immediately in the prepaid envelope provided.

If you have no sheep at all you must complete a nil return. Failure to complete a census return will result in your sheep designator being made dormant which will prevent you from ordering sheep tags, dispatch/movement books or flock registers. It may also lead to penalties under cross compliance and could result in flock owners being ineligible for certain schemes.

National Goat Identification System (NGIS)

The EU-wide system for the identification and registration of ovine (sheep) and caprine (goats) animals are set down under Council Regulation (EC) No 21/2004 of 17 December 2003 (as amended). These rules are implemented in respect of goats in Ireland under the National Goat Identification System (NGIS). The system is based on:

- Double tagging of all goats by the age of six months or on movement from the holding, whichever comes first;
- Use of herd registers to record details of numbers of goats on the holding and details of movements; and
- Use of dispatch documents to record movements.

Registration

Any person who holds or keeps goats in the State must apply for registration of the holding to the local District Veterinary Office of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine for the area in which the holding is situated.

Identification of Goats

The identification requirements for goats as outlined here apply to goats born after 1 January 2010. The requirements for goats born prior to January 2010 continue to be the NGIS rules that were in force at that time.

In general the identification requirements for goats born after 1 January 2010 are set down below.

- All goats must be tagged by 6 months of age or on leaving the holding of birth, whichever comes first. All goats must be double tagged (i.e. a tag in each ear) with conventional tags both of which must bear the same 12 digit number which includes the goat designator of the holding of birth and an individual goat ID number. In general both tags on a goat will be green.

- **Live Trade** – Goats engaged in intra-community trade or third country exports must be double tagged with a conventional tag in the left ear, bearing a 12 digit number, and either a ruminal bolus or an electronic tag in the right ear, bearing an identical 12 digit tag number to the conventional tag. In general both tags on a goat fitted with an electronic tag will be green. The tag on a goat fitted with a ruminal bolus will be light blue.

Only tags that have been approved for use under the NGIS may be used to tag goats in accordance with NGIS requirements. A list of Tag Suppliers who have had tags approved for use under the NGIS is on page no. 97.

Herd Register

Persons who hold or keep goats on a registered holding must maintain a herd register in the format supplied by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. For goats born prior to 31 December 2009 the details can be recorded on a batch basis (i.e. not on an individual basis) of all movements of goats onto and off the holding. For all goats born after 31 December 2009 it is necessary to record details on an individual animal basis including the following:

- the individual identification code of the animal;
- the year of birth and date of identification;
- the month and the year of death of the animal on the holding; and
- the race and, if known, the genotype.

Movement Document

A Dispatch/Movement Document completed by the owner of the goats must accompany goats moving off the holding, throughout their movement. The Dispatch/Movement Document is a three-part document, which must be signed by the herd keeper off who's holding the goats are being moved. In addition the blank areas of the document must be completed by the owner of the goat(s), indicating the number of goats being moved and the herd number of the farm or (in the case of a slaughter plant or mart) the name and address of the holding to which the goat(s) have been consigned. Details of the individual identification code of each goat must also be recorded on the document.

Annual Goat Census

Under EU Regulation 21/2004 all goat keepers must count the goats present on the holding, record this number in the herd register and are legally obliged to return this number to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine once a year.

The Annual Goat Census takes places normally in December and each registered herd owner will receive in the post a Census Return which he/she should complete in respect of the number of goats on his/her holding and return it immediately in the prepaid envelope provided.

If you have no goats at all you must complete a nil return. Failure to complete a census return will result in your goat designator being made dormant which will prevent you from ordering goat tags, dispatch/movement books or herd registers. It may also lead to penalties under cross compliance and could hamper claims made under certain schemes.

Imports

Goats imported from another Member State or from third countries must be double tagged with a conventional tag in the left ear, bearing a 12 digit number, and either a ruminal bolus or an electronic tag in the right ear, bearing an identical 12 digit tag number to the conventional tag. Existing veterinary requirements continue to apply.

For further information on any aspect of NGIS or to order a Goat Herd Register or Goat Dispatch Book contact:

- Animal Identification & Movement (AIM) Division, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Backweston Campus, Stacumny Lane, Celbridge, Co. Kildare W23 X3PH.
- Tel: 0761 064407 ● Email: sheepid@agriculture.gov.ie
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/animalhealthwelfare/animalidentificationmovement/nationalgoatidentificationsystem/

National Pig Identification and Tracing System (NPITS)

In accordance with legal requirements the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine has developed a National Pig Identification and Tracing System (NPITS), which came into operation in July 2002. In broad terms the system involves the identification of all pigs that are moved off the holding by either an ear tag or a slap mark and the identification of breeding stock with an individual number. All pig movements are recorded on a central movement database. For any queries Tel: 1890 291 000.

Only persons with valid pig herd numbers will be allowed to trade in pigs.

Tags and slap marks must be ordered from an approved tag company – the list of such companies is on page no. 97.

Pig herd owners who wish to be registered on the National Database should contact:

- Their local Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine office. See Appendix 1B
- Tel: 0761 064402 ● Email: pigid@agriculture.gov.ie
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/animalhealthwelfare/animalidentificationmovement/nationalpigidentificationandtracingsystem/

Tags and approved tags suppliers

A number of different tags have been approved for use under NSIS, NPITS and NGIS. Only tags that have been approved for use under the various systems may be used.

Tags may be ordered from a number of different suppliers and orders will be supplied **only by post** direct to the flock/herd owner who has placed the order. See list of approved tag suppliers on page overleaf.

- NATIONAL SHEEP IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM - NSIS
- NATIONAL PIG IDENTIFICATION AND TRACING SYSTEM - NPITS
- NATIONAL GOAT IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM - NGIS

The following is a list of companies approved to supply animal identification eartags under the above.

Company Name and Address	ID System Approved	Phone	Fax	E-mail/Web Address
Agrihealth Ltd. Clones Road Monaghan Co. Monaghan H18 YW57	NSIS NPITS NGIS	1890 515151 047 71800	047 74190	eartags@agrihealth.ie www.eartags.ie
AGRI-ID Unit 46 East Link Business Park Ballysimon Road, Limerick and also Louisburgh, Co. Mayo	NSIS NGIS	0818 50 60 70	061 390 887	info@agri-id.ie www.agri-id.ie
Co-Operative Animal Health Ltd. Tullow Industrial Estate Tullow Co. Carlow R93 WOD8	NSIS NPITS NGIS	059 9151251	059 9151856	jbutler@cahl.ie www.cahl.ie
Cormac Tagging Ltd Browns Grove Tuam Co. Galway H54 PR89	NSIS NPITS NGIS	093 28231 1800 303 635	093 28019	info@cormac.ie www.cormac.ie
Merko nv Leo Baekelandstraat 7 Unit 5 B-2950 Kapellen Belgium	NPITS	00 32 3 360 2670	00 32 3 326 3398	eartags@merko.be www.merko.be
Mullinahone Co-Op Mullinahone Co. Tipperary	NSIS NPITS NGIS	052 9153102	052- 9153512	eurotags@mull-coop.ie www.mull-coop.com
Quicktag 7A Churchfield Road Ballycastle Antrim BT54 6PJ Northern Ireland	NSIS NPITS NGIS	048 2076 8696	048 2076 8699	info@quicktag.co.uk www.quicktag.co.uk
Ritchey Tagg plc Fearby Road Masham Ripon North Yorkshire HG4 4ES England	NSIS NPITS NGIS	0044 1765 689541	0044 1765 689851	info@ancr.co.uk www.ritchey.co.uk
Shearwell Data Ltd Putham Farm Wheddon Cross Minehead Somerset TA24 7AS UK	NSIS NPITS NGIS	0044 1643 841611	0044 1643 841628	richard@shearwell.co.uk www.shearwell.co.uk

This list is accurate at the time of publication but may be subject to change. Please check with the AIM Division of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine Telephone: 076 1064407.

Cattle

Cattle Breeding

DIY A.I. Licences

Persons wishing to practice artificial insemination in their bovine herd must be appropriately trained and licensed and ensure that only semen from approved sources is used in the process. No person other than the herdowner, or his/her nominee, who has satisfactorily completed an approved programme of training in the practice of artificial insemination, can be approved by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine to carry out the inseminations within that herd.

Field Service Licences

Field Service Licence holders provide a year round quality bovine artificial insemination service (A.I.) to farmers through a network of trained A.I. technicians. Each Field Service Licence must:

- Ensure that good veterinary practices and procedures are adhered to;
- Utilise semen only from approved sources;
- Maintain satisfactory records; and
- Facilitate the recording, testing, genetic evaluation and publication of results of bulls used for test purposes.

A.I. Technicians Licences

The provision of a quality bovine A.I. service is ensured through the licensing of A.I. technicians employed by, or contracted to, Field Service Licence holders.

Licences to distribute Bovine Semen

Organisations or individuals must be appropriately licensed by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine to engage in the distribution of bovine semen thereby protecting animal health and welfare and traceability of the product.

Approval of Bovine Semen Storage Centres

Premises where bovine semen is stored must meet specified EU standards and must be placed under the permanent supervision of a centre veterinarian approved by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

Please note persons intending to apply for an approval for a bovine semen storage centre are advised to contact the Department at the outset so as to obtain full information on the approval process.

Approval of Bovine Semen Collection Centres

Premises where semen is collected must meet specified EU standards and must be placed under the permanent supervision of a centre veterinarian approved by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

Nine Animal Production/Products

Please note persons intending to apply for an approval for a bovine semen collection centre are advised to contact the Department at the outset so as to obtain full information on the approval process.

Approval of Bovine Ova/Embryo Collection or Production Teams

Only teams approved by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine for the purpose of producing and or collecting bovine ovas/embryos can operate such a service.

On-Farm Collection of Bovine Semen

Herdowners can preserve the bloodline of their bovine herd by having semen collected from their own herd for use within their own herd. Application for approval for On Farm Collection must be obtained from Livestock Breeding, Production and Trade Section in Cavan. Applicants or their employees for on-farm collection must have a D.I.Y. A.I. licence to store semen

Where an applicant does not have a D.I.Y. A.I. licence the semen collected on-farm must be stored in an approved centre and released only for use in his/her herd to a licensed A.I. company inseminator.

Application Forms and further information on the above can be obtained from:

- Livestock Breeding, Production and Trade Section, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Farnham Street, Cavan, H12 D459.
- Tel: 049 4368293, Fax: 049 4361486 ● Email: livbrsi@agriculture.gov.ie
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmingsectors/animalbreeding/

Other Schemes/Services

Kerry Cattle Premium Scheme

The Scheme encourages the maintenance of a number of separate herds of Kerry Cattle in Ireland and the creation and maintenance of a sufficient reserve of pure bred breeding stock.

An applicant is eligible to participate in the scheme if:

- He or she is a member of the Kerry Cattle Society Ltd;
- His or her herd is located within the territory of the State and contains at least five breeding females registered in the Herd book of the Kerry Cattle Society Ltd;
- All Kerry cows in the herd are served by bulls of the Kerry breed, either by natural service or artificial insemination;
- All progeny of Kerry cows in the herd are submitted for birth notification or registration in the Kerry Cattle Herd Book and are registered with ICBF and the Department through the Animal Events system; and

- each animal, on which premium is being applied for, was born in the applicant's herd and is alive on the date of application.

A premium of €86.18 per eligible calf is payable.

Pure-Bred Bovine Herd Book

A herd-book is any book, register, file or data medium, which is maintained by a recognised organisation and in which animals are registered with reference to all their known ascendants.

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine is the Competent Authority for granting approvals under this legislation subject to the applicant having complied with the criteria for approval.

Application Forms and further information on the above can be obtained from:

- Livestock Breeding, Production and Trade Section, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Farnham Street, Cavan, H12 D459.
- Tel: 049 4368293, Fax: 049 4361486 ● Email: livbrsi@agriculture.gov.ie
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmingsectors/animalbreeding

National Beef and Dairy Herd Improvement Programme

The Irish Cattle Breeding Federation (ICBF) is approved by this Department to carry out testing, genetic evaluation and publication of evaluation results for dairy and beef cattle in Ireland. Working with its shareholders and all stakeholders in the sector, a range of breed improvement programmes are in operation designed to improve the sustainability and profitability of the dairy and beef herds.

Further information can be obtained from:

- The Irish Cattle Breeding Federation, Highfield House, Shinagh, Bandon, Co Cork, P72 X050.
- Tel: 023 8820222; Fax: 023 8820229 ● Email: livbrsi@agriculture.gov.ie
- Website: www.icbf.com

EU Beef Carcase Classification Scheme

The aim of the Beef Carcase Classification Scheme is to ensure a common classification standard throughout the European Union. This enables the EU to operate a standardised beef price reporting system. From late 2004, most beef carcasses are classified by mechanical means. Department licensed factory employees classify the balance.

The criteria for classifying are as follows:

- Conformation (the shape and development of the carcase): is denoted by the letters E, U, R, O, P with E being the best and P the poorest;
- Fat: the degree of fat is denoted by the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 in order of increasing fatness;
- Sex category: denoted by the letters A (young bull), B (bull), C (steer), D (cow), E (heifer) and Z (Veal >8 Months).

Classification information is returned to the supplier by the slaughter plant. Over 90% of carcasses are classified by machine. Machine classification makes use of Video Image Analysis to carry out various measurements of the carcass. As the determination of classification in this case is objective, no appeal is possible. In smaller plants, classification is carried out by factory employees who have been licensed by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. In these cases, the supplier can appeal the decision of the classifier to the slaughter plant.

Further information can be obtained from:

- Livestock Breeding, Production and Trade Division, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Grattan Business Centre, Portlaoise, Co Laois, R32 K857.
- Tel: 057 869 4407 ● Email: livbrsi@agriculture.gov.ie
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmingsectors/beef/

Labelling of beef

Beef Labelling is covered under EU Regulations 1760/2000 and 1825/2000 as amended by Regulations 653/2014 and 275/2007 respectively. National Legislation covers the enforcement of these regulations, S.I. No. 435 of 2000 as amended by S. I. No. 485 of 2002.

Under these regulations, operators and organisations involved in the marketing of beef must label beef so as to provide consumers with the following information:

- A reference number or reference code permitting the identification of the animal or group of animals from which the beef was derived;
- The approval number and country of the slaughterhouse - the indication should read: 'Slaughtered in (name of the Member State or third country) (approval number)';
- The approval number and country of the de-boning hall - the indication should read: 'Cutting in; (name of the Member State or third country) (approval number)';
- The Member State or third country where the animal was born, fattened and slaughtered (Origin).

Regulations were introduced in 2006, which extended beef labelling laws to the restaurant and catering sectors. The Health (Country of Origin of Beef) Regulations 2006 (S.I. No. 307 of 2006), require that a food business operator providing prepared beef to consumers shall not (a) advertise beef for sale or supply, (b) present it for sale or supply, or (c) sell or supply it unless the country or countries of origin of the beef is indicated at the point of advertising, presenting, sale and supply in clear legible type on the advertisement, menu or other presentation used. The Regulations are enforced by the Food Safety Authority of Ireland.

Further details may be obtained from:

- Meat and Milk Policy Division, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Kildare Street, Dublin 2, D02 WK12.
- Tel 01 607 2880 ● Email: beef.policy@agriculture.gov.ie
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmingsectors/beef/labellingofbeef/

Country of Origin Labelling (Other Meats)

Since 1 April 2015 it is a legal requirement that Food Business Operators (FBOs) comply with EU Regulation 1337/2013. This means that country of origin labelling is required for pre-packed meat of swine, sheep, goats and poultry supplied to the final consumer or mass caterer. S. I. No. 113 of 2015 gave effect to the Regulation and provides for enforcement procedures and penalties.

The Regulation covers pre-packed non-processed meat, which includes fresh, chilled or frozen carcasses, whole birds and cuts of these meats (e.g. chicken breasts, lamb cutlets). It does not cover 'cured meats' (bacon/rashers/sausages) or meat products that have been further processed (for example, chicken kiev) or products that contain meat as an ingredient (e.g. lasagne).

Any meat that is presented to the consumer already packaged must comply with the origin labelling requirements as set down in the regulation. However, there is an exemption for meat which is packed on the sales premises at the customer's request or pre-packed for direct sale from the premises. These are not considered 'pre-packed' under EU labelling legislation and are not required to display origin information.

This Regulation does not currently cover non pre-packed or 'loose' product e.g. sold at a butchers counter. However the Department is liaising with the Department of Health to bring in national legislation to bring meat sold in this fashion into line with Regulation 1337/2013.

This Regulation does not include prepared meat and therefore there is no mandatory requirement, under this legislation, for premises who serve any of the meats covered by the legislation to display country of origin information. Please note that national rules have been in place since 2006 requiring origin information to be displayed for prepared beef served in these types of premises in Ireland.

A label must indicate the name of the Member State or third country (i.e. country outside the EU) where the animal was reared and slaughtered. If, however, the animal was born, reared and slaughtered in the one Member State or third country, and the FBO can prove this to the competent authority, then the label may state 'Origin: (name of Member State or third country)'. The specific labelling requirements for each animal species are set out in Regulation 1337/2013. The Regulation includes a derogation for minced meat and trimmings which allows FBOs to deviate, if they wish, from the requirements for Member States or third countries to be specified. For example, 'Origin: EU' may be used when the minced meat comes from animals born, reared and slaughtered in different EU Member States or 'Reared and slaughtered in: non-EU'.

If a member of the public has a query on a product that falls within the parameters set out above, they should contact the Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI) on **1890 33 66 77**. The FSAI, in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, the HSE, Local Authority Veterinary Service and other relevant State Agencies are the competent bodies for queries but the FSAI will be the first point of contact for consumers.

Further details may be obtained from:

- Meat and Milk Policy Division, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Kildare Street, Dublin 2, D02 WK12.
- Tel: 01 6072880 ● Email: Origin.labelling@agriculture.gov.ie
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/agri-foodindustry/foodlabelling/meatlabelling/

Milk

Milk Quotas

After 31 years in existence the EU milk quota regime ended on 31 March 2015. From April 2015 onwards there are no milk supply management controls in place in Ireland.

The Food Harvest 2020 Report set a target of increasing milk production from 5bn litres in 2008/2009 to 7.5bn litres in 2020 and the achievement of such expansion is central to the realisation of the growth targets contained in its successor, Food Wise 2025.

This increased production is being achieved by improved genetics and breeding, increased on-farm efficiency, and increase knowledge and skill levels among dairy farmers.

Farm Partnerships

The ending of the milk quota regime in March 2015 resulted in the ending of the legal basis for the Teagasc operated Milk Production Partnerships. The Department has established a new Register of Farm Partnerships to take over from the Milk Production Partnership Register. The concept of partnership in Irish agriculture is seen as a means of enhancing efficiency, providing better work/life balance; addressing land mobility and smoothing intergenerational succession. Participation on the new register has been broadened to include all of the main agriculture enterprises.

Entry on the new register is a pre condition for access to support schemes aimed at encouraging the development of farm partnerships in Irish agriculture, such as the Support for Collaborative Farming Grant Scheme and the preferential stock relief for registered farm partnerships. The Department also ensures that the members of such registered partnerships are fully catered for in the implementation of the new CAP Reform Schemes such as TAMS, GLAS, ANC and BPS.

Further details may be obtained from:

- Meat and Milk Policy Division, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Kildare Street, Dublin 2, D02 WK12
- Tel: 01 6072857
- Email: farmpartnerships@agriculture.gov.ie
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmingsectors/newfarmpartnershipregister/

Milk Hygiene - Approval and Inspection Service

Milk Hygiene section and Dairy Controls & Certification Division implement EU and national legislation to approve and supervise food business operators involved in the production of milk and milk based products. Controls are implemented to verify that legal standards of quality and safety for human consumption are maintained from production at farm level, through to manufacturing and storage.

Dairy Controls & Certification Division staff are authorised under the relevant legislation and carry out monitoring and enforcement measures, including inspections, audits and product sampling, to verify compliance with legislation. The control programmes also provide for the certification of dairy products for export to Third Country markets.

Dairy Inspection Fee

Under the Milk (Miscellaneous Provision) Act, 1979, a levy is payable on all milk purchased for processing. The levy is intended to cover the cost of the Department's inspection regime within the dairy sector. The rate of levy is 0.1 cent per litre at time of going to press (December 2015)

Further information can be obtained from:

- Milk and Meat Hygiene/ABP Division, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Grattan Business Centre, Dublin Road, Portlaoise, R32 KW50.
- Tel: 057 8694355 ● Email: dairyhygiene@agriculture.gov.ie
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/foodsafetyconsumerissues/

Sheep

Sheep Breeding

Breed Improvement Programmes

Sheep Ireland is responsible for sheep breeding. It commenced operation in 2008, with the funding provided by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. It has an industry based decision making structure and a database to meet the information needs of the sheep breeding sector, and the wider industry. It has developed structures for sheep breeding in Ireland along similar lines to that achieved by ICBF for cattle breeding. Contact www.sheep.ie for further information.

Licence to Practise Artificial Insemination and Embryo Transfer in Sheep

The practice of Artificial Insemination and Embryo Transfer in sheep is prohibited except under licence issued by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine under the Disease of Animals Act, 1966 (Foot and Mouth Disease) (Control on Artificial Insemination and Embryo Transfer in Sheep) Order, 2001, (S.I. No. 381 of 2001).

Licences to practice artificial insemination and embryo transfer in sheep may be granted only to registered veterinary surgeons.

Approved Ovine Semen Collection Centres

Ovine semen collection centres are regulated under the European Communities (Trade in Animals and Animal Semen, Ova and Embryos) Regulations, 1996 (S.I. No. 12 of 1996). Trade in ovine semen must be carried out in accordance with these Regulations.

Please note persons intending to apply for an approval for an ovine semen collection centre are advised to contact the Department at the outset so as to obtain full information on the approval process.

Approved Ovine Semen Storage Centres

Premises where ovine semen is stored must meet specified EU standards. The centre must be placed under the permanent supervision of a centre veterinarian approved by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

Please note persons wishing to apply for an approval for an ovine semen storage centre are advised to contact the Department at the outset so as to obtain full information on the approval process.

Pure-Bred Ovine and Caprine Flock-Book

A Flock Book is any book, register, file or data medium, which is maintained by a recognised organisation and in which ovines and caprines are registered with reference to all their known ascendants. The operation of a flock-book is regulated under the European Communities (Pure-Bred Sheep and Goat Flock-Book) Regulations, 1994 (S.I. No. 16 of 1994).

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine is the Competent Authority for granting approvals under this legislation subject to the applicant having complied with the criteria for approval.

Application Forms and further information on the above can be obtained from:

- Livestock Breeding, Production and Trade Section, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Farnham Street, Cavan, H12 D459.
- Tel: 049 4368293, Fax: 049 4361486
- Email: livbrsi@agriculture.gov.ie
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmingsectors/animalbreeding/

Lamb Carcase Classification

Regulation (EU) no 1308/2013 lays down detailed rules on the voluntary implementation of the Community scales for the classification of beef, pig and sheep carcasses and the reporting of prices thereof.

Lamb carcasses are classified by assessment of:

- Conformation (the shape and muscle development of the carcase), denoted by the letters E, U, R, O, P with E being the best and P the poorest;
- Fat: the degree of fat, denoted by the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 in order of increasing fatness.

A lamb carcase classification scheme in accordance with the EU grid is in voluntary operation in the vast majority of export approved lamb slaughter plants.

Further information can be obtained from:

- Livestock Breeding, Production and Trade Division, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Pavilion A, Grattan Business Centre, Dublin Road, Portlaoise, Co Laois, R32 K857.
- Tel: 057 8694407 ● Email: livbrsi@agriculture.gov.ie
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmingsectors/animalbreeding/sheepandgoats/lambcarcaseclassification/

Pigs

Pig Breeding

Approved Porcine Semen Collection Centres

Porcine semen collection centres are regulated under the European Communities (Trade in Porcine Semen-Animal Health) Regulations, 1993 (S.I. No. 242 of 1993). Trade in porcine semen can only be carried out in accordance with these Regulations.

Please note persons intending to apply for an approval for a semen collection centre are advised to contact the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine at the outset so as to obtain full information on the approval process.

Pure-Bred Porcine Herd-Book and Hybrid Porcine Register

Department approval for an organisation to maintain a herd-book or register is granted under the European Communities (Breeding Pig Herd-Book and Register) Regulations, 1994 (S.I. No. 151 of 1994).

Application Forms and further information on the above can be obtained from:

- Livestock Breeding, Production and Trade Section, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Farnham Street, Cavan, H12 D459.
- Tel: 049 4368293, Fax: 049 4361486 ● Email: livbrsi@agriculture.gov.ie
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmingsectors/animalbreeding/

Pig Carcase Grading

Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 lays down detailed rules on the EU system of grading pig carcases. All pig slaughter plants, where, on average over the course of a year, more than 200 pigs are killed per week, must grade pig carcases in accordance with their lean meat content. Grading must be carried out in accordance with one of the methods approved by the EU Commission for use in Ireland. The purpose of the grading system is to facilitate transparency in the area of pricing and to assist fair payment based on carcase quality. The operator of a slaughter plant must give to pig suppliers a statement showing, in respect of each pig, the carcase number, carcase weight, estimated percentage lean meat content and the total price paid.

Further information can be obtained from:

- Livestock Breeding, Production and Trade Division, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Pavilion A, Grattan Business Centre, Dublin Road, Portlaoise, Co Laois, R32 K857.
- Tel: 057 8694407 ● Email: livbrsi@agriculture.gov.ie
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmingsectors/pigs/pigbreeding/

Pig Salmonella Control Scheme

The purpose of this programme is to reduce any possible risk of public health problems arising from the consumption of pork and pigmeat products. A new programme commenced on 1 January 2010 which covers all aspects of the food chain. Under the revised programme, underpinned by the Diseases of Animals Act 1966 (Control of salmonella in swine) Order 2009, all pig producers supplying more than 200 pigs for slaughter in the previous 12 months must have an on-farm salmonella control plan in place and must establish a salmonella prevalence for their herd. Additional measures apply for breeding herds.

Further information on the above services can be obtained from:

- Meat and Milk Policy Division, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Kildare Street, Dublin 2, D02 WK12 ● Tel: 01 6072263
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmingsectors/pigs/pigsalmonellacontrolprogramme/

Meat Hygiene

Clean Livestock Policy

The Hygiene Package, which came into force in all European Union Member States on 1 January 2006, provides the following in relation to cleanliness of livestock being presented for slaughter:

Regulation (EC) No. 852/2004

Food business operators rearing animals or producing primary products of animal origin are to take adequate measures, as appropriate and as far as possible to ensure the cleanliness of animals going to slaughter and, where necessary, production animals.

Regulation (EC) No. 853/2004

Food business operators operating slaughterhouses must have HACCP-based intake procedures to guarantee that each animal or, where appropriate, each lot of animals accepted onto the slaughterhouse premises is clean. In the event of failure to comply with any of the requirements the food business operator must notify the official veterinarian and take appropriate measures.

Regulation (EC) No. 854/2004

The official veterinarian is to verify compliance with the food business operators' duty under Regulation (EC) No 853/2004; to ensure that animals that have such hide conditions that there is an unacceptable risk of contamination of the meat during slaughter are not slaughtered for human consumption unless they are cleaned beforehand.

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine requires food business operators at slaughtering establishments to categorise as follows:

- Cattle that can be slaughtered, without an unacceptable risk of contaminating the meat during the slaughter process by using the standard hygienic dressing procedures routinely employed by the plant;
- Cattle that can only be slaughtered without an unacceptable risk of contamination of the meat during the slaughter process, by putting in place extra defined hygienic dressing controls;
- Cattle unfit for slaughter because of hide condition. These cattle must not be presented for ante mortem and it is the responsibility of the Food Business Operator (FBO) to take the required remedial action with regard to these cattle.

The Department has also actively publicised the requirements for primary producers to ensure that animals being sent for slaughter are clean as well as guidance in that regard. This approach has included publication of articles in the farming press, information leaflets and mail shots to producers who may have supplied animals that were categorised as less than fully compliant with the required level of cleanliness.

Meat Hygiene Legislation

The European Community's food and feed hygiene legislation (The Hygiene Package) came into effect across all Member States from 1 January 2006. The Hygiene Package revises and consolidates legislation in relation to food and feed hygiene along with the production, control and marketing of products of animal origin and animal health issues in relation to the production of those products.

The Hygiene Package was motivated by the necessity to ensure high levels of public health protection in relation to food production. The package also simplifies the range of complicated and often overlapping legislation that had evolved in this area over the past 30 or so years. The underlying philosophy is that food producers should bear full responsibility for the safety of the food they produce.

The Hygiene Package was given further effect in Irish law by the European Communities (Food and Feed Hygiene) Regulations 2005 (S.I. No. 910 of 2005). These regulations have been updated and replaced by the European Communities (Food and Feed Hygiene) Regulations 2009 (S.I. No. 432 of 2009).

The regulations require food business operators that are primary producers of food products to apply for registration and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine is a registering authority for this purpose.

Approval of Meat Establishments

A food business operator, who wishes to carry out an activity that requires approval, should apply to the appropriate registering authority. The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine is the registering authority for high-throughput establishments. Before an establishment can use an identification mark on any of its product, it must be approved by a registering authority.

The Department's Veterinary Public Health Inspection Service (VPHIS) supervises high throughput establishments engaged in the slaughter of animals and the processing of meat products, minced meat and meat preparations. VPHIS carries out inspections of applicant establishments in order to verify the compliance of the Food Business Operator (FBO) with the hygiene legislation before recommending approval by the Department. These very detailed Hygiene Package inspections are carried out in addition to the regular public health monitoring and inspections that are a daily part of the remit of the VPHIS.

The scientific examination of meat and meat products is carried out at the Department's Veterinary Public Health Regulatory Laboratory, Backweston Campus, Celbridge, Co. Kildare, W23 x3ph. Tel: 01-6157368

Further information on the approval process can be obtained from:

- Meat Hygiene Section, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Grattan Business Centre, Dublin Road, Portlaoise, R32 K857. ● Tel: 057 8694458.
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/foodsafetyconsumerissues/

Poultry and Eggs

Poultry Hatcheries and Hatching Egg Supply Farms

All poultry hatcheries engaged in the production of day old chicks, turkey poults or ducklings for the production of table birds or the replacement of laying flocks must be licensed by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. Only hatching eggs obtained in accordance with a permit issued by the Department may be incubated at a licensed poultry hatchery. All breeding stock at supply farms must be obtained from approved breeding sources and are subject to inspection and blood-testing to ensure freedom from serious poultry disease. All poultry hatcheries and supply farms involved in EU trade in live poultry and hatching eggs require approval from the Department. Each consignment for export must be inspected and accompanied by the relevant health certificate.

Poultry Meat Marketing

Poultrymeat marketed in the EU must be classified as class A or class B in accordance with its quality and be packed, labelled, transported and presented for sale in accordance with the requirements of EU and national legislation governing the marketing standards for poultry. The amount of absorbed water in poultry must fall below specified limits. Poultrymeat may be marketed as 'free range', 'barn reared', 'traditional free range' or 'free range – total freedom', or contain a reference to the feed ration used, provided certain criteria are met. Producers and slaughterhouses wishing to use these terms are required to register with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and keep appropriate records and are subject to official Department inspections.

Eggs Marketing Regulations

Table eggs marketed at retail level in the EU must be graded by quality and weight and be packed, labelled, stored, transported and presented for sale in conformity with EU and national legislation on the marketing standards for eggs. Eggs must be marketed and packed in a

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine registered egg-packing centre. All registered egg packing centres are given a distinguishing number and are required to pay an annual fee in respect of their registration. Egg packs must indicate the farming method and bear a 'best before' date. This date is 28 days after laying but the latest date by which eggs must be sold to the consumer is 21 days after laying. Incubated eggs may not be sold for human consumption.

Eggs may be marketed under the terms 'cage', 'free range', 'barn' or 'organic' provided the applicable requirements of the legislation have been met. Producers and packers using these terms and indications must be registered with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and comply with relevant legislation.

Horses

Purebred Equine Stud-Book

A stud-book is any book, register, file or data medium which is maintained by a recognised organisation, and in which equines are entered or registered with reference to all their known ascendants. The operation of a stud book is regulated by S.I. No. 207/2014 European Union (Identification of Equidae) Regulations 2014 (as amended).

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine is the Competent Authority for granting approvals under this legislation subject to the applicant having complied with the criteria for approval.

The current list of approved equine studbooks are listed at: www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/farmingsectors/animalbreeding/approvedestablishmentsinthezootechnicalfile/ApprovedEquineStudBooks271115.doc

Application Forms and further information on the above can be obtained from:

- Livestock Breeding Production and Trade Section, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Farnham Street, Cavan, H12 D459. ● Tel: 049 4368293, Fax: 049 4361486
- Email: equine.infrastructures@agriculture.gov.ie
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmingsectors/animalbreeding

Contact details for organisations currently approved by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine to issue identity documents for equines are available on the Department's website www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmingsectors/horses/equineregistrationandpassports/

Horse Registration

European Commission Regulation No. 504/2008 sets out the system for the identification for equidae and is binding on all Member States of the European Union.

All keepers of horses, passport issuing bodies and veterinary practitioners are obliged to comply with the provisions of this Regulation. It requires that all equines must be identified properly within six months of the date of their birth or by 31st December in the calendar year of their birth, whichever date occurs later. The system for identifying equidae is comprised of three elements:

- An equine passport;
- A microchip implanted in the equine by a veterinary practitioner to create an unequivocal link between the passport and the equine; and

- The assignment of a unique equine life number to the equine in the database of the approved passport issuing organisation.

Any equine being moved between premises must be accompanied by the passport issued in respect of that particular animal, with the exception of foals at foot.

The Department maintains a database comprising the passport details of all equines identified by the Passport Issuing Organisations approved by the Minister.

The equine identification legislation is complemented by mandatory requirements for the registration of premises where equines are kept and in case of change of ownership of an equine, notification to the Passport Issuing Organisation which issued the passport is required.

Equines cannot be considered for slaughter for human consumption unless they have a passport that is compliant with current veterinary requirements.

Contact details for organisations currently approved by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine to issue identity documents for equines are available on:

- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmingsectors/horses/equineregistrationandpassports/
- For database queries email: horseid@agriculture.gov.ie ● Tel: 01 5058881

Horse Sport Ireland

Horse Sport Ireland (HSI) is the governing body for the sport horse industry and is responsible for devising and implementing strategies for the development and promotion of an internationally competitive Irish sport horse industry, covering breeding, sport and leisure activities. It maintains the Irish Horse Register, which incorporates the Irish Sport Horse Studbook and the Irish Draught Horse Studbook. The Board of Directors of HSI includes representatives from the International Equestrian Federation, sport/leisure organisations and the Irish Horse Board (IHB). An independent chairman is nominated by the Minister for Tourism, Culture and Sport in consultation with the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

For further details on Horse Sport Ireland contact:

- Horse Sport Ireland, 1st Floor, Beech House, Millennium Park, Osberstown, Naas, Co. Kildare, W91 TK7N.
- Tel: 045 850800 ● Email: info@horsesportireland.ie
- Website: www.horsesportireland.ie/about/contact-hsi/

Irish Horse Board

The Irish Horse Board Co-operative Society Ltd, was established in 1993. It acts as an advisory sub Board within Horse Sport Ireland (HSI) on issues relating to stud book and breeding policy.

For further details on The Irish Horse Board and application forms for membership, contact:

- The Irish Horse Board, Beech House, Millennium Park, Naas, Co Kildare, W91 TK7N.
- Tel: 045 850800
- Email ihb@ihb.ie
- Website: www.irishsporthorse.com

Development of the Horse industry

Grant aid is provided to equine organisations for projects approved by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, aimed at supporting improvements in quality equine breeding and also in the infrastructure within which the thoroughbred and non-thoroughbred horse sectors operate.

Aid focuses on:

- Quality non-thoroughbred horse production - work on the formulation of genetic indices for stallions, blood sampling/DNA testing to verify pedigree, up-grading of equine registration systems and for the promotion and marketing of non-thoroughbred horses;
- Quality thoroughbred horse production – initiatives in the areas of education, training and promotion in respect of equine health and husbandry, stud management and safety, nutrition and quality breeding;
- Research into equine diseases and breeding and the capital cost of buildings and equipment to facilitate the delivery of enhanced diagnostic and ancillary services at the Irish Equine Centre;
- Data collection and analysis leading to the generation of information to underpin improvements in the genetic quality in the non-thoroughbred sector. Support for education and training opportunities to satisfy the needs of new entrants and those already involved in the equine and related industries.

Detailed information on equine schemes is available on the Department's website www.agriculture.gov.ie

Further information can be obtained from:

- Livestock Breeding Production and Trade Section , Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Farnham Street, Cavan, H12 D459.
- Tel: 049 4368293, Fax: 049 4361486
- Email: equine.infrastructures@agriculture.gov.ie
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmingsectors/horses/equinebreedingschemes

Ten Animal Health and Welfare

Notifiable Diseases

The Animal Health and Welfare Act 2013 provides the basic legislation for the control and eradication of animal diseases. The following diseases, if suspected or confirmed, must be notified to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine in accordance with the Act or the Bovine TB and Brucellosis orders.

General

Anthrax, Bluetongue, Brucellosis in ruminating animals and swine, Campylobacteriosis, Caseous Lymphadenitis, Contagious Agalactia, Foot and Mouth Disease, Johne's Disease, Peste des Petits Ruminants, Pulmonary Adenomatosis, Rabies, Rift Valley Fever, Salmonellosis (caused by or involving *Salmonella* Enteritidis or *Salmonella* Typhimurium, Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (other than BSE/Scrapie), Tuberculosis in ruminating animals.

Cattle

Bovine Brucellosis, Bovine Tuberculosis, Bovine Leukosis, BSE, Cattle Plague (Rinderpest), Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia, Lumpy Skin Disease, Warble Fly.

Pigs

African Swine Fever, Aujeszky's Disease, Classical Swine Fever, Porcine Epidemic Diarrhoea, Porcine Corona Virus, Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome, Swine Influenza, Swine Vesicular Disease, Porcine Enterovirus Encephalomyelitis (Teschen Disease), Transmissible Gastroenteritis, Vesicular Stomatitis.

Sheep

Enzootic Abortion of Ewes, Maedi Visna, Scrapie, Sheep Pox, Sheep Scab.

Poultry

Arizona Disease, Avian Influenza (Low Pathogenic and Highly Pathogenic), Fowl Pest (other than Avian Influenza and Newcastle Disease), Infectious Laryngo-Tracheitis, Mycoplasmosis (caused by or involving *Mycoplasma Gallisepticum*, *Mycoplasma Meleagridis* or *Mycoplasma Synoviae*), Newcastle disease, Psittacosis, *Salmonella gallinarum* and *pullorum*, Turkey Rhinotracheitis, diseases caused by or involving *Yersinia* spp.

Horses and Other Equines

African Horse Sickness, Contagious Equine Metritis, Dourine, Epizootic Lymphangitis, Equine Infectious Anaemia, Equine Viral Arteritis, Glanders (farcy), Equine Encephalomyelitis, Hendra virus, Piroplasmosis, Surra, West Nile Virus.

Goats

Caprine Viral Arthritis-Encephalitis, Goat Pox.

Deer

Epizootic Haemorrhagic Disease.

Bees

Small Hive Beetle, Tropilaelaps Mite, American Foul Brood Disease, European Foul Brood Disease.

TB Eradication Scheme

The control and ultimate eradication of Bovine Tuberculosis is essential for the well-being and future development of our livestock production for both export and domestic markets.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Bovine Tuberculosis is a chronic, highly infectious disease of cattle caused by members of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex. These mycobacteria can cause disease in other domestic or wild animals and also in humans.

Existing Arrangements for Bovine TB Eradication

The main aspects of the Bovine TB Eradication Scheme are as follows:

- Annual testing (the “Round” test) of the national bovine herd for TB;
- Follow-up and focused strategic additional testing which may include; additional testing of herds found to be contiguous to a high risk TB outbreak and the use of blood testing in certain circumstances;
- Rapid removal of reactors to meat factories, the removal being paid for by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. In certain circumstances for animal welfare reasons it may be necessary for animals which are due to calf or have recently calved, to be retained on the holding in isolation for a specified period;
- Where deemed appropriate, and in particular for calf welfare reasons, by Department Inspectorate, arrangements will be made for the humane euthanasia of reactor calves deemed to be of no commercial value and rapid removal of the carcass to a knackery, the removal being paid for by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.
- A range of compensation measures for farmers whose herds are effected by disease;
- Detailed epidemiology and feedback to farmers;
- A comprehensive research programme aimed at optimising detection of TB infected bovines, reduction of transmission to and from bovines, reduction of movement of potentially infected bovines with specific focus on prevention of movement causing restriction of a hitherto uninfected herd, the development of blood tests, vaccines and other technological tools required to improve effectiveness of programmes and to prevent TB spread by wildlife.

Responsibility for arranging and paying for the first herd tests each year rests with farmers. In addition, farmers have primary responsibility for ensuring all measures necessary to protect their own herds are taken and they are also encouraged to assist the Department’s Regional Veterinary Offices (RVO) in research activities, as necessary.

Testing Requirements for TB

All cattle on the holding, regardless of ownership, with the exception of calves under six weeks old which were born in the holding, must be subjected to an annual test. Failure to test by the specified date and within the required period is likely to result in the prohibition of movement of animals from the herd to other farms, marts, meat plants and points of export and, if relevant, the withdrawal of herd health certification under the dairy hygiene regulations. Other sanctions and penalties may also apply.

It is very important that farmers do not medicate animals from the date of receipt of a test notification until the test has been completed, or permit such animals to be treated. The use of medications may interfere with the accuracy of the TB test and/or delay removal of infected animals where these are identified thereby potentially prolonging TB problems in the herd and the duration of the restriction. Non-urgent treatments, including routine anthelmintic/fluke dosing, should be postponed until the individual test result for the animal is known. Where related issues arise including cases where medication is deemed to be urgent these should be discussed in advance with the testing Veterinary Practitioner and with the RVO. Reactors are required to be removed within 30-days of disclosure, thus, where non-urgent medication results in delays in removal of reactors sanctions and penalties may apply.

Untreated raw milk from reactors or inconclusive reactors should never be consumed

- It is strongly recommended that you do not use or drink unpasteurised milk in your home at any time as this poses grave health risks when there is disease in the herd.
- Milk from reactors, inconclusive reactors or animals showing signs of Tuberculosis must be immediately withheld and must not be included in the milk dispatched to the creamery.
- Milk from the remaining clear animals in restricted herds must only be delivered to a processing plant where it will be heat treated.
- Milk from reactor or inconclusive reactor animals, which has not been heat-treated, must not be fed to calves or other animals however, this milk may be fed to other reactor animals on the farm.
- Milk from reactor or inconclusive reactor animals must be safely disposed of and a record kept of the quantity produced, date and method of disposal.

Causes of infection in cattle

- Breathing air contaminated by already infected animals;
- Consuming contaminated food or water;
- Movement of animals and contact with infected animals e.g. across fences;
- Inter-farm sharing of machinery (cattle trailers, muck/slurry spreaders, etc.) or farm facilities (cattle crushes);
- The use of dirty lorries to transport animals;
- Contact with other contaminated fomites;
- Wildlife, especially TB infected badgers, may be a significant factor in the persistence of bovine tuberculosis in certain areas.

Precautions against TB Infection

- Have stock-proof boundary fencing preferably sufficient to prevent nose-to-nose contact between animals in neighbouring herds;
- Avoid contact with other herds and stock of unknown status;
- Exercise care in buying-in cattle, check animal ID, passport and test details to ensure these relate to the animals you are introducing to your herd. Ensure that only recently tested cattle are allowed onto your farm to mix with your stock; follow general biosecurity principles as recommended by Animal Health Ireland;
- Avoid using dirty contract equipment e.g. cattle transport, slurry spreaders. All such equipment should be cleansed and disinfected before use.

The risk of spread from wildlife can be reduced by keeping cattle and infected wildlife apart and by implementing the following measures:

- Fence off common watercourses, stagnant ponds, badger setts, sett spoil heaps and badger toilet areas;
- Raise drinking and feeding troughs to over 84 cm (32 inches) in height and locating them away from walls/ditches to prevent access;
- Do not provide hand feeding to cattle where deer can share it e.g. silage/hay in circular feeders. Note meal troughs mineral blocks/licks or so called energy blocks provided at pasture or kept in fields may also be accessed by badgers and deer;
- Keep feed storage areas, cattle sheds and yards closed so that wildlife cannot gain entry;
- Check fields regularly for badger carcasses and especially before moving cattle onto new pasture;
- Be aware of unusual sightings of badgers e.g. in daytime. The badgers may be sick from TB – contact your Regional Veterinary Office in this event.

The ideal long-term answer to the problem of bovine tuberculosis is eradication. The principles of eradication include finding disease as fast as possible, confining diseased or potentially exposed animals to prevent disease spread and eradication of infection. With an appropriate co-ordinated approach, together with new technology, Ireland can advance towards eradication of Bovine TB.

Compensation Regime for T.B. Eradication

General Conditions Governing the Payment of Compensation

- The main elements of the existing compensation regime are the On-Farm Market Valuation Scheme, the Income Supplement Scheme, the Depopulation Grant Scheme and the Hardship Grant Scheme. In order to qualify for payment, the owner/keeper must meet certain eligibility conditions under each Scheme;
- Entitlement to the payment of compensation is conditional on compliance with the provisions of the Animal Health and Welfare Act 2013 (as updated) and the Animal Health and Welfare (Bovine Tuberculosis) Regulations 2015 (as updated), with Animal Remedies legislation, with movement, identification, bio security and any other controls laid down under the Diseases Eradication Schemes, including the requirement not to medicate cattle prior to testing unless urgently required and other national/EU legislative requirements and controls relating to bovine animals administered by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine.
- The Minister may refuse payment of compensation, in whole or in part, where a owner/keeper does not satisfy the aforementioned provisions or where the Minister is satisfied that the owner/keeper has failed to co-operate with Authorised Officers or Veterinary Inspectors of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine in carrying out their duties under the Schemes. In addition a person who contrives or fails to comply with the provisions under the aforementioned regulations render that person liable to fine or imprisonment.

Compensation payments are structured to benefit the owner/keeper whose farming practice assists herd health protection. The Department's Booklet "*Compensation arrangements for TB Eradication - Important Information for Herdowners/Keepers*" provides useful information in relation to the On Farm Market Valuation Scheme, Income Supplement, Depopulation Grant and Hardship Grant eligibility requirements, rates, etc. The booklet is available on request from the Regional Veterinary Office or on the Departments website www.agriculture.gov.ie

Even if a herd is clear each owner/keeper should be fully familiar with the terms of the TB compensation regime;

On-Farm Market Valuation

Compensation for cattle removed as reactors is paid under the On-Farm Market Valuation Scheme. Under this scheme, full market values subject to the ceilings referred to below will be payable where herds are **stable** (i.e. not operating as a feedlot, transient or dealer herd) and where the owner/keeper has complied with the legal and other requirements relating to the disease eradication schemes and to cattle identification/registration and veterinary medicine requirements.

For the purpose of valuations, "**Market Value**" is the equivalent price which might reasonably have been obtained for the animal, at the time of determination of compensation, from a purchaser in the open market if the animal was not affected by TB or was not being removed as part of depopulation under the disease eradication programme. Ceilings limits payable are as set down in legislation by the Minister. (Also see main features below).

TB reactors which have been diagnosed as BVD positive, which limits their value as they cannot be sold on the open market, will not be eligible for compensation in addition to their salvage/insurance value. Furthermore any animals for which a BVD test result is outstanding will require a BVD negative result before being eligible for full market valuation.

Note: EU State Aid rules also require that herdowners should not be over-compensated for actual losses arising from the removal of cattle as reactors. Accordingly, herdowners are required to advise the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine of any payments received from private insurance in respect of any animal removed as a reactor. Where such payments are made, the amount payable by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine will be reduced accordingly.

The main features of the live valuation system include:

- Valuations are carried out within prescribed timescales and by reference to guidelines drawn up by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine and his officials;
- A ceiling of **€2,800** (inclusive of factory salvage price payable by the factory and any payment received under a policy of insurance) applies to payments in respect of any single animal, except in respect of one pedigree stock bull per farm per breakdown episode, where a ceiling of **€3,500** (inclusive of factory salvage price payable by the factory and any payment received under a policy of insurance) applies;

- The valuation of dairy animals where appropriate is calculated by reference to a notional herd average yield determined by the Department or utilising milk recording figures. It is important to note that only those milk recording figures supplied by the Irish Cattle Breeding Federation (ICBF) are acceptable. In addition these will only be considered where the minimum requirement set down by the Department is available. The Department does not accept milk recording figures where the milk recording commences after notification of a restriction of a holding;
- Where the herdowner/keeper or the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine do not accept the initial valuation, they can appeal the valuation. Herdowners who wish to appeal this valuation can do so by returning the appropriate form to the Regional Veterinary Office within the time scales set down in the scheme documentation;
- Following completion of the on-farm valuation process (i.e. first valuation or appeal), the reactor(s) are removed from farms by the Reactor Collection Service;
- If there is no agreement following an appeal, the matter can, subject to the time frame specified in scheme documentation being met, be referred to an Arbitration Panel whose decision will be final and binding on both parties;
- Where deemed appropriate the Department may decide to have calves of no commercial value removed to a knackery;
- Graduated penalties apply to the final compensation payment made to the owner/keeper where he/she unreasonably delays the valuation and/or removal of reactors as well as for other breaches of regulations;
- Herdowners should be aware that the movement of any animal into a restricted holding is prohibited, except with the written permission of the Regional Veterinary Office and on foot of a movement permit.
- Herdowners are advised that even where written permission has been given which allows the movement of animals into a restricted holding, the animals introduced into the holding will, with some exceptions, be ineligible for payment under the On Farm Market Valuation Scheme. The exceptions applicable, which must also be covered by a written permit but where compensation may be payable, subject to all general criteria being met, relate to the movement in of animals in the following categories: (i) the introduction of replacement stock bull(s), (ii) an emergency replacement suckler calf, (iii) animals moved into a newly established herd on foot of the relevant permission, (iv) movement of animals into a herd contiguous to a high risk herd suspended pending test, (v) cases where approval has been given for movement home to a restricted herd of a farmer's own test negative animals from a rearing/grazing/feeding herd to alleviate or prevent a welfare problem. Additional test requirements may apply in some of the above cases and will be advised where appropriate.
- When farmers are given permission to move in animals during a restriction period, they should be aware that the movement in of cattle will, with certain limited exceptions, render them ineligible for the Hardship Grant and/or Income Supplement Schemes and they may not be entitled to full payment under the Depopulation Grants Scheme.

Depopulation Grant

An owner/keeper whose herd is depopulated (totally or partially) in the interest of disease control may qualify for Depopulation Grants during the rest period provided the holding or depopulated portion thereof remains free of stock. Depopulation Grants are generally paid for each animal removed in the depopulation measure and for those removed as reactors since the holding was restricted, on condition that the herdowner/keeper agrees to depopulation at the time specified by the Regional Veterinary Office. If this agreement is not received and depopulation takes place subsequently, the herdowner/keeper is excluded from eligibility for Depopulation Grants on all past, present and future reactors during the restriction period i.e. Depopulation Grants will only be paid on the in-contact animals removed at the time of any subsequent depopulation. In addition, Depopulation Grants are not payable on animals (with certain exceptions) which are moved onto the holding during the restriction period. (Full details are available from the RVO). Payment of a depopulation grant in respect of an animal(s) which has been medicated will be considered on a case by case basis. Depopulation Grants are paid in respect of each month of the rest period specified by the RVO. The maximum rates payable currently in force per animal for an entire 4 month period are as set out below. Pro rata deductions will be made if the rest period after depopulation is less than 4 months:

Depopulation Grant Rates for TB: The rates currently in force at the time of print of this document are as follows:

Animal	Stable	Dealer Herds, transient herds and herds operating as Feedlot following restriction
	Rate (€)	Rate (€)
(i) Dairy Cows / In-Calf Heifers/Pedigree Bulls > 12 months	228.52	Nil
(ii) Other Cows / In-Calf Heifers	126.96	Nil
(iii) Other Animals	76.16	Nil

Income Supplement

Income Supplement is payable in stable herds for cases where a TB outbreak results in the removal of **more than 10%** of animals in a herd and where depopulation is not deemed appropriate. Payment is in respect of each animal removed as a reactor from a herd during the relevant restriction period, **subject to a maximum of 100 animals qualifying for payment**. Details of the base animal numbers used to determine when more than 10% of the herd has been removed and criteria which determine the eligibility date for payment under this scheme are set out in the “*Compensation arrangements for TB Eradication - Important Information for Herdowners/Keepers*”.

A herdowner will not be eligible for Income Supplement with effect from the date cattle (with certain exceptions) are moved into the holding during the restriction period, (even where permission for such movement has been given by the Regional Veterinary Office). It is important to note that movement of any animal into a restricted herd is prohibited, except with the written permission of the Regional Veterinary Office and on foot of a movement permit, where appropriate. Where eligibility for payment has already been determined prior to the animals having been moved in, payment of Income Supplement will cease for the remainder of that restriction period from the date of movement into the herd. Payment of the Income Supplement grant in respect of an animal(s) which has been medicated will be considered on a case by case basis but in any event will not be payable for any extended period in the event of animals being retained on the farm until the withdrawal period has expired.

Income Supplement eligibility will also cease in the event of:

- The owner/keeper failing to co-operate with Veterinary Inspectors or Authorised Officers in carrying out their duties under the Diseases Eradication Schemes, including delays in testing;
- Depopulation (total or partial) of the herd being deemed appropriate by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine;
- De-restriction of the holding (or earlier if de-restriction is delayed as a result of the reactor having being treated with veterinary medicine).

The monthly rates currently in force per animal are as follows:

Income Supplement Monthly rates

Animal	Stable	Dealer Herds, transient herds and herds operating as Feedlot following restriction
	Rate (€)	Rate (€)
(i) Other Cows	38.09	Nil
(ii) Dairy Cows & Other Animals	25.39	Nil

Note:

- Specific conditions attach to the qualification for and cessation of Income Supplement payment. In particular, payment is in respect of **whole months** in arrears. A pro rata payment will not issue in respect of any remaining part month which occurs at the end of an eligibility period. Payment may not be made where the herd owner fails to have the Reactor re-test carried out within the specified time.

Hardship Grant

The Hardship Grant eligibility period runs from 1 November to 30 April each year. This Scheme is designed to alleviate the costs difficulty of some herd owner/keepers whose holdings are restricted on foot of a herd re-test and where animals are retained and fed during periods of restriction. Some exceptions to the herd re-test rule may apply and are outlined in scheme documentation. Potentially eligible herd owner/keepers must meet certain conditions, including requirements that they (i) must not have any income from milk sales and (ii) must not have any off farm income. In addition, the general rule is that where animals (with some specific exceptions) have been moved on to a holding during a restriction period, eligibility for receipt of the hardship grants ceases for the remainder of the restriction period. Payment of the Hardship Grant in respect of an animal(s) retained on the holding as a result of having been treated with a medicine will be considered on a case by case basis. The Grant may provide eligible owner/keepers with a payment of up to **€250.00** per month for a period not exceeding **4 months** within the period 1 November to 30 April.

The onus is on potentially eligible owner/keepers to ensure that they obtain and familiarise themselves with the relevant terms and conditions document and application form **ER97**. Potentially eligible owner/keepers are issued with the terms and conditions document, important notice and application form **ER97** by the DVO. Supplies of the relevant documentation are also available at DVOs. **The onus is on the owner/keeper to apply for a Hardship Grant.**

Reactor Collection Service

A key condition for compensation payment eligibility is that all reactors must be removed immediately to slaughter via the Reactor Collection Service/Meat Plant tendering arrangement only, or in the case of certain calves, removal of the carcass to a Knackery where the Department deems this to be necessary. Where herd depopulation is deemed appropriate and the owner/keeper agrees to depopulate the herd, the entire herd must be removed to slaughter promptly in consultation with the RVO.

Miscellaneous

- A tax reference number (PPS) is required in advance of any payment issuing from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. If compensation payment/s under the scheme will exceed **€10,000** in a 12 month period, a Tax Clearance Certificate is required;
- Entitlement to the payment of compensation is conditional on compliance with the provisions of the Animal Health and Welfare Act 2013 (as updated), the Animal Health and Welfare (Bovine Tuberculosis) Regulations 2015 (as updated), with Animal Remedies legislation, with movement, identification, bio security and any other controls laid down under the Diseases Eradication Schemes, including the requirement not to medicate cattle prior to testing unless urgently required and other national/EU legislative requirements and controls relating to bovine animals administered by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

- The Minister may refuse payment of compensation, in whole or in part, where a owner/keeper does not satisfy the aforementioned provisions or where the Minister is satisfied that the owner/keeper has failed to co-operate with authorised officers or Veterinary Inspectors of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine in carrying out their duties under the Schemes. In addition a person who contrives or fails to comply with the provisions under the aforementioned regulations render that person liable to fine or imprisonment.
- In accordance with the payment targets for Direct Payments to farmers agreed under the Farmers’ Charter of Rights, payment of TB compensation will normally be made within 3 weeks of the date of receipt of the required back-up documentation from the owner/keeper and the meat factory. The required back up documentation for valuation payment is detailed in the “*Compensation arrangements for TB Eradication Scheme - Important Information for Herdowners/Keepers*” Booklet;
- The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine will pay compensation in accordance with the provisions of the compensation regime and specified payment targets. This does not undermine or compromise the owner/keeper with regard to any appeal. In the event of a successful appeal, the requisite amount will issue as a separate payment;
- The compensation arrangements and rates are adjusted from time to time in consultation with the farm organisations. Any queries in relation to compensation matters should be directed to the appropriate RVO in the first instance.

Further information regarding the bovine TB Disease Eradication Scheme can be obtained from:

- ERAD Division, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Backweston Campus, Stacumney Lane, Celbridge, Co Kildare, W23 X3PH.
- (See Appendix 1 A for contact Numbers for ERAD Division)
- The Regional Veterinary Offices (RVOs) of the Department.
(See Appendix 1 B for full list of RVO’s)
- Tel: 01 5058600
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/animalhealthwelfare/diseasecontrol/bovinetberadicationsscheme/

Other Animal Diseases

Bovine Brucellosis and Enzootic Bovine Leucosis

Bovine Brucellosis and Enzootic Bovine Leucosis (EBL) has been eradicated in Ireland. However, the Department operates a Monitoring Scheme involving the collection of various samples at slaughter. The samples are analysed for a number of diseases and allows for the monitoring as proof for national disease freedom in particular for Brucellosis and EBL with follow-up testing on-farm in the case of suspect findings. The requirement for a Brucellosis pre-movement test was discontinued from 28 September 2015.

As Brucellosis in bovines remains notifiable, there is an obligation to report all abortions in cattle to the Department’s local Regional Veterinary Office (RVO) (see list of RVOs at Appendix 1B) and also an obligation to submit such foetuses, if available, for testing for Brucellosis to a Department Regional Veterinary Laboratory and/or to have the animal that aborted sampled for Brucellosis as soon as possible by your Veterinary Practitioner.

Aujeszky's Disease and Eradication Programme (PIGS)

In October 2012 Ireland achieved official Aujeszky's free status. Official elimination of Aujeszky's Disease from the national pig herds is of significant benefit to the whole Irish pig sector by recognising the health standard of the national herd, by protecting our access to export markets and by allowing Ireland to exploit new market opportunities. Surveillance is carried out annually to maintain Ireland's disease-free status.

Avian Influenza

Registration of Holdings and Sites on which Domestic Poultry or Captive Birds are kept:

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine maintains a central record of all holdings or sites on which domestic poultry or captive birds are kept. This information forms an integral part of the Department's Avian Influenza contingency planning. It is a statutory requirement, for all holdings and sites on which domestic poultry or captive birds are kept, to be registered with the Department.

If your premises is not already registered with the Department and if, at present or in the near future, you are likely to:

- Own or trade in domestic poultry or other captive birds (such as pheasants, pigeons, sporting birds or exotic birds but not pet birds in domestic households), or
- Keep domestic poultry (even small numbers of chickens, hens, turkeys, ducks or geese for your own or local consumption), you are required by law to register with the Department. Poultry owners should note that failure to register, as required by S.I. No. 114 of 2014, may leave them liable to prosecution under the Regulations.

You may register by completing an application form PR1 (available at your local Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine office) (see list at Appendix 1B)

- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/animalhealthwelfare/animalwelfare/registrationofpremisesanimals/
- Completed applications should be returned to your local Department office.

Bluetongue

Bluetongue is a disease that affects all ruminants – cattle, sheep, deer, goats and various exotic animals, including camels, llamas etc. It is caused by a virus spread by biting midges and cannot be naturally transmitted by direct or indirect contact between animals. The midges that spread infection are active between April and October in Ireland and are commonly found around farms. Peak populations of the midges occur in the late summer and the autumn and it is at this time when bluetongue is most seen.

Bluetongue does not affect humans and this disease has no public health significance. Neither can the virus be acquired by food.

The main effect is that the virus causes severe and sometimes fatal disease (including a blue tongue, caused by bleeding) in sheep and goats and although cattle are reservoirs, they usually do not get sick. Chronic cases may die in 3-5 weeks from secondary bacterial infections or have a prolonged recovery with hair or wool loss, growth retardation or sterility. Mild cases may make a complete recovery.

As of June 2015 Ireland remains free of Bluetongue. In the event of an outbreak, control zones would be established with animal movement restrictions applied. Widespread slaughter of animals is not anticipated. Vaccination is considered to be the appropriate course of action in the event of an outbreak.

Import conditions on live susceptible animals from Bluetongue-restricted areas are in place and are permitted only under defined EU conditions.

Bluetongue is a notifiable disease and any suspect cases must be immediately reported to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. Further information on Bluetongue can be found on the Department's website at agriculture.gov.ie/bluetongue/

Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy(BSE)

BSE is a disease of cattle, which is potentially linked to the fatal human disease, variant CJD (vCJD). Historically its main route of transmission in cattle was through the consumption of feed containing, or contaminated with, meat and bone meal (MBM) from the remains of infected animals. BSE can only be confirmed by post-mortem examination of the brain. Clinical signs may include evidence of anxiety and fear, abnormal gait, pawing the ground or continuous licking of nose, reduced milk yield, frenzy or aggression. Ireland's BSE controls are consistent with legal requirements and best international practice and recognised as being thorough and effective. The number of BSE cases has declined from a peak of 333 in 2002 to 1 in 2013, no case in 2014 and 1 case in the first half of 2015.

BSE suspect animals are destroyed by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and herds are restricted pending the outcome of post-mortem examination. The Department operates a partial depopulation regime that involves the removal of cohorts (as defined in EU legislation) and progeny animals, with compensation paid at market value.

Since March 2013, Ireland is no longer required to test healthy slaughtered bovines over 72 months of age. There is only a requirement to test the following animal categories:

1. Casualties over 48 months of age.
2. On-Farm emergency slaughter animals over 48 months of age.
3. On-Farm fallen stock over 48 months of age.
4. Imported animals over 30 months of age from Romania, Bulgaria and Croatia.

Further information may be obtained from:

- TSE Section, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Johnstown Castle Estate, Co Wexford, Y35 PN52.
- Tel: 053 9163437
- Email: TSEpaymentsJC@agriculture.gov.ie

Scrapie

Scrapie is a disease of sheep in the same family as BSE. The incidence of Scrapie in Ireland is relatively low, with a geographical tendency towards the south east. Scrapie, unlike BSE, is horizontally transmissible, especially at lambing time.

Control and Eradication Measures

Since 2004 where cases of classical Scrapie are discovered, the Department organises genotyping of the flock and partial depopulation of sheep most susceptible to Scrapie in line with the development of a harmonised regime at EU level. Its main elements are:

Active Surveillance

A comprehensive testing programme for the disease is carried out at slaughterhouses and knackeries.

Passive Surveillance

Testing for the disease where a case is suspect by a flock owner or Veterinary Officer.

Infected Flocks

Infected flocks are genotyped and the Scrapie susceptible animals are disposed of. Flock owners are subsequently required to breed with Scrapie resistant animals only and are subject to a variety of restrictions, all of which are laid down by EU legislation. The Department's Scrapie package includes free genotyping, market value compensation for susceptible animals required to be disposed of, and a hardship payment of €84 per breeding ewe.

Further information may be obtained from:

- TSE Section, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Johnstown Castle Estate, Co Wexford, Y35 PN52.
- Tel: 053 9163437 ● Email: TSEpaymentsJC@agriculture.gov.ie

National Genotype Programme (NGP) (Voluntary Scheme)

NGP assists flock owners in selecting breeding sheep that are less susceptible to Scrapie. SAC Consulting Veterinary Services is the commercial laboratory approved by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine to provide a blood testing service for determining the genotype of the sheep.

To participate in the NGP a flock owner applies to the Department to have sheep genotyped, and designates a Private Veterinary Practitioner (PVP) to take blood samples. A Lab-Form containing details relating to the flock owner, the designated PVP and the tag numbers of the sheep to be tested will be generated and issued to the designated PVP. SAC Consulting Veterinary Services enter details of each individual result to the Department's NGP system. The Department then issues the flock owner with an NGP Certificate that states the genotype of each of the sheep tested.

Further information may be obtained from:

- TSE Section, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Johnstown Castle Estate, Co Wexford, Y35 PN52.
- National Genotype Programme information Tel: 053 9163437
- Email: TSEpaymentsJC@agriculture.gov.ie

Leukosis

Ireland was declared officially free of leukosis as of 1 March 1993 following a national round of tests carried out in 1991/1992. Commission Decision 1999/465/EC of 13 July 1999 (OJ L181, 1999, page 32) establishes the officially enzootic-bovine-leukosis-free status of Ireland's bovine herd. Surveillance is carried out annually to maintain Ireland's disease-free status.

Liver Fluke

Each autumn, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine issue a forecast of the incidence of liver fluke, which is updated as required. Stockowners should follow the advice given.

Sheep Scab

Sheep scab is subject to controls under the (Notification and Control of Animal Diseases) Regulations 2014 S.I. No. 110 of 2014. These regulations provides that any person who has an affected animal in his/her possession must notify his/her local District Veterinary Office. Following receipt of notification the Department may restrict a flock for a period of time.

Warble Fly

Warbles manifest themselves as bumps rising on the backs of cattle from mid February until the fly emerges between April and June. Herd Owners must notify any infestation and may not move infested cattle without a certificate of treatment. There has been no evidence of warbles in the domestic herd in recent years, but they may be found in imported cattle and this may result in spread requiring area treatment. Responsible importation protects the herd: buy only from a reputable source and inform your District Veterinary Office of any intended importations

Animal Health Ireland (AHI)

Animal Health Ireland (AHI) was established in 2009 and is a private company limited by guarantee. It is a legal entity with its own Board of Directors, having been incorporated as a company limited by guarantee. AHI is funded by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine up to a maximum amount subject to matching funding from industry stakeholders. Its aim is to improve animal health standards through a co-ordinate national approach including prioritising research projects and undertaking action programmes. AHI currently address a number of animal conditions/diseases which have negative impacts on production, both at farm level and nationally including Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD), Johne's Disease, Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis (IBR) and Somatic Cell Counts.

Bovine Viral Diarrhoea

AHI commenced a voluntary Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) eradication programme in January 2012. This was followed by a compulsory programme which commenced in January 2013. The current legislative basis for this is set out in S.I. No. 118 of 2014, and it requires all animals born after 1 January 2013 to be tested for the presence of the BVD virus. The test is normally done by means of tissue tag, which can be submitted to a number of designated labs for analysis. A list of designated labs is available on the Animal Health Ireland Website at www.animalhealthireland.ie

The programme requires that all Persistently Infected (PI) animals are removed from the herd and that the dams of PIs are subject to test so as to establish or confirm their status. The rate of compliance to test for the presence of the BVD virus is almost 100%. Compensation is available for farmers who dispose of their PI animals within agreed timeframes. PI animals can be legally disposed of through a knackery or direct to slaughter i.e. not through sale to an intermediary. Further measures including notification of contiguous herds so that they can take precautionary measures and movement restrictions out of and through herds with PIs were introduced in 2015 to accelerate the eradication of this disease. Please see the Department's website for further details:

www.agriculture.gov.ie/animalhealthwelfare/diseasecontrol/bovineviraldiarrhoeabvd/

Control of landing and moving of International Catering Waste

Legislation governing the removal and disposal of International Catering Waste (ICW) includes Council Regulation (EC) No. 1069/2009; Commission Regulation (EU) No. 142/2011; the Animal Health and Welfare Act 2013 (Number 15 of 2013) and the European Union (Animal By-Products) Regulations 2014 (S.I. No. 187/2014)

Animal by-products not intended for human consumption are a potential source of risk to public and animal health. Past outbreaks of FMD have demonstrated the impact of unregulated use of animal by-products on animal health. Catering waste, as a defined category of ABP, is strictly prohibited as feed for species of farmed animals. ICW presents a particular risk and it is imperative that adequate controls are in place to ensure that ICW when landed and moved in Ireland is disposed of in a manner that minimises risk to public and animal health. Under Article 23 of Regulation (EC) 1069/2009, operators involved in handling or transport of ABP including ICW must be registered with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and authorised to either land or move ICW.

Officers authorised under the Animal Health and Welfare Act 2013 (No. 15 of 2013) also have powers under the Diseases of Animals (Feeding and Use of Swill) Order, 1985 (S.I. No. 153/1985), the Diseases of Animals (Feeding and Use of Swill) (Amendment) Order, 1987 (S.I. No. 133/1987) and the Diseases of Animals Act, 1966 (Prohibition on the use of Swill) Order, 2001 (S.I. No. 597/2001) to perform the controls and enforcement required to ensure the landing and disposal of ICW in accordance with the above-mentioned regulations.

For further information please contact:

- Animal by Products, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Grattan House, Grattan Business Centre, Dublin Road, Portlaoise, R32 RY6V.
- Tel: 057 8694316
- Email: animalbyproducts@agriculture.gov.ie

Fallen Animal TSE Subsidy Scheme

The Fallen Animal TSE Subsidy Scheme ensures that fallen bovines aged over 48 months, which must be BSE tested in accordance with EU legislation, are disposed of in compliance with animal and public health and environmental regulations.

The scheme provides for the subsidised collection and destruction of bovines over 48 months. Category 2 Intermediate plants (knackeries) offering this service to farmers must be approved in accordance with the European Communities (Animal By-Products) Regulations, 2014 (S.I. No. 187/2014).

Category 1 rendering plants are used for the rendering and disposal costs of over 48 month fallen cattle. Costs are fully covered by the Scheme and the collection charge to the farmer is capped at €54.03 including VAT.

It is an offence to bury dead animals on farm, except in accordance with a licence issued by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

The BSE testing of fallen animals over 48 months of age is a critical action, and farmers are obliged to contact a knackery within 24 hours of the animal's death to ensure that the carcass does not deteriorate to an extent that the BSE sample cannot easily be taken. A record should be kept of the time and date of notification of the death to the knackery. Carcasses awaiting collection must be held in such a way that domestic animals, including farmed livestock and wild animals, cannot gain access to them. Failure to comply with these conditions may lead to prosecution under S.I. No. 187 of 2014.

The animal passport and a completed and signed form NBAS 31D must be available and given to the animal collector when the carcass is picked up from the farm. If the passport for the dead animal is not available, then a FAL 1 permit must be requested from the local Regional Veterinary Office before the carcass is collected. This permit will be faxed directly to the knackery.

A list of approved knackeries is available on the Department's website at www.agriculture.gov.ie/animalhealthwelfare/fallenanimals/

Further information can be obtained from:

- Fallen Animal TSE Subsidy Scheme Section, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Johnstown Castle Estate, Co Wexford, Y35 PN52.
- Tel: 053 9163437 ● Email: TSEpaymentsJC@agriculture.gov.ie

Animal By-Products

Animal By-Products (ABP) are entire bodies or parts of animals or products of animal origin not intended for human consumption. The disposal of ABP is highly regulated in order to protect both human and animal health. The main legal requirements are set out in Regulation (EC) No. 1069/2009, its implementing Regulation (EU) No. 142/2011 and the European Union (Animal By-Products) Regulations 2014 (S.I. No. 187/2014).

Under this Regulation approval must be sought from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine for most operations dealing with ABP. These activities include operating;

- Rendering plants;
- Compost plants;
- Biogas plants;
- Knackeries;
- Pet food plants;
- Wool and hide stores;
- Intermediate plants;
- Meat and bonemeal (MBM) stores;
- Collection centres;
- Transporting ABP;
- Feeding meat from fallen animals to hounds or fur animals.

Further details and application forms for approval under the ABP regulations can be obtained from:

- Milk and Meat Hygiene/ABP/TSE Division, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Grattan Business Centre, Dublin Road, Portlaoise, Co. Laois, R32 KW50.
- Tel: 0761 064440, Fax: 057 8694386.
- Email: animalbyproducts@agriculture.gov.ie
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/agri-foodindustry/animalbyproducts/

Veterinary Medicines and Residues Controls

General

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine oversees and implements a number of controls in relation to veterinary medicines and residues, in order to safeguard public health and also animal health and welfare. The applicable national legislation is as follows;

- The European Communities (Animal Remedies) (No. 2) Regulations 2007 (S.I. No. 786/2007)
- The European Communities (Control of Animal Remedies and their Residues) Regulations 2009 (S. I. No. 183/2009);
- The European Communities (Animal Remedies and Medicated Feedingstuffs) Regulations 1994 (S. I. No. 176/1994);
- Control on Animal Vaccines Regulations 2014 (S. I. No. 193/2014)

Licensing of Veterinary Medicines

Only veterinary medicines (i.e. animal remedies, including vaccines) which have been licensed for the Irish market may be imported, sold or used on animals; this requirement applies both to 'food-producing' animals and pets or leisure animals. Licenses valid for the Irish market may be issued by:

- The Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA) – the bulk of veterinary medicines authorised for the Irish market have been licensed by the Authority – for further information on the HPRA's services, see (www.hpra.ie) or phone (01) 6764971;
- The European Commission/European Medicines Agency – such licenses are valid in all EU States; for further information, see www.ema.europa.eu;
- The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine – the Department is enabled by EU legislation to issue exceptional licenses in limited circumstances, in particular to address specific health or suffering problems in animals.

In addition, in order to protect the national herd from certain diseases, the import and use of certain vaccines is subject to specific licensing.

Commercial Distribution of Veterinary Medicines

Commercial distribution of veterinary medicines is limited to licensed outlets (i.e. licensed wholesalers and retailers – Licensed Merchants), as well as veterinary practices supplying their own clients and pharmacies approved by the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland. In addition, certain medicines for pet animals may be sold by registered outlets (Companion Animal Medicine sellers). The category of medicine each outlet may supply is determined by the restriction placed on the product at time of licensing (route of supply); such designated routes of supply appear on the product packaging. Veterinary medicines may only be sourced from authorised outlets.

For further information on premises licensing, please contact:

- Tel: 01 5058662 or 01 5058665 (Wholesale) or 01 5058668 or 01 5058669 (retail)

For further information on the issue of Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine exceptional licences and the importation of certain vaccines, please contact:

- Tel: 01 5058662

For information on Mail Order, Solicit Order and Internet Licences, which are applicable to holders of a Retail/Merchant's licence, please contact :

- Tel: 01 5058668 or 01 5058669

Alternatively, you can send your query in writing to:

- Veterinary Medicines Section, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Backweston Administration Building, Stacumny Lane, Celbridge, Co. Kildare, W23 X3PH.

General information, including 'Frequently Asked Questions' is also available at:

- www.agriculture.gov.ie/animalhealthwelfare/veterinarymedicinesresidues/informationforfarmersaboutanimalremedies/

Medicated Feedingstuffs

Manufacture, distribution and sale of medicated feedingstuffs and intermediate products is subject to licensing by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine under the European Communities (Animal Remedies and Medicated Feedingstuffs) Regulations, 1994. The use of medicated feedingstuffs is prohibited except under and in accordance with the terms of a veterinary written direction issued by a registered veterinary practitioner. Medicated pre-mixes must be authorised by the Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA) or the European Commission, European Medicines Agency.

For further information, please contact:

- Veterinary Medicines Section, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Backweston Administration Building, Stacumny Lane, Celbridge, Co. Kildare, W23 X3PH.
- Tel: 01 5058662 or 01 5058665
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/agri-foodindustry/feedingstuffs/animalhealth/

Residues

In order to verify that farmers and processors (i.e. Food Business Operators) comply with their obligations under EU Food Law and the Hygiene Legislation to protect consumers from residues, the Department implements a comprehensive National Residue Plan. Under the Plan, samples are tested for residues of banned products (such as growth promoting hormones) licensed medicines (these usually arise where animals enter the food chain before expiry of the prescribed withdrawal period for the medicine concerned), or environmental contaminants. The Residue Plan covers eleven food-producing species (including aquaculture). Annually, approximately 18,000 samples were taken and tested at officially approved laboratories for 18 residue groupings. All positive results are followed up by an investigation on the farm of origin with a view to taking the necessary enforcement measures which can include prosecution in the Courts (see penalties below).

Official testing is complemented by a statutorily based regime under which primary processors are obliged to implement residue-monitoring measures. This regime, which involves annual submission to the Department for approval of individual residue plans, makes it mandatory for processors to subject suppliers, whose animals or animal products test positive, to significantly intensified monitoring. This regime of self-monitoring is subject to Department scrutiny.

For further information, please contact:

- Veterinary Medicines Section, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Backweston Administration Building, Stacumny Lane, Celbridge, Co. Kildare, W23 X3PH.
- Tel: 01 5058659
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/animalhealthwelfare/veterinarymedicinesresidues/

Reminder for Farmers

Farmers are reminded to use only authorised medicines and to use them only as specified on the product labelling. Farmers are also reminded of the need to comply with the post-treatment withdrawal periods specified on the product labelling and to keep the *Animal Remedies Record* of all animal remedies coming on to the farm for administration to food producing animals. The format of record is set out below:

Purchase/incoming details

Quantity	Authorised name of animal remedy	Date of receipt	Name and address of Supplier
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Administration/Outgoing details

Date of Administration	Authorised name and quantity of animal remedy administered	Identity of animal to which animal remedy administered including Ear Tag No. if appropriate	Date of expiry of a withdrawal period	Name of person who administered the Animal Remedy	Name of prescribing Veterinary Practitioner (if applicable)	Quantities of unused or expired animal remedies which were returned
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The format of the Animal Remedies Record may be downloaded from:
www.agriculture.gov.ie/animalhealthwelfare/veterinarymedicinesresidues/

Penalties

Severe penalties may be imposed by the Courts for breaches of the legislation imposed for the sale, possession and use of unauthorised animal remedies; a person found guilty of an offence may be prohibited from keeping animals or animal remedies. Penalties range from a Class A fine and/or 6 months imprisonment for a person convicted on summary prosecution to a maximum of €500,000 fine and/or 3 years imprisonment for a conviction on indictment. In addition to judicial action, farmers who breach the legislation are liable to have penalties applied to their Basic Farm Payment under EU Cross-Compliance Rules.

Approval and Registration of Dealers

Under the European Communities (Approval and Registration of Dealers of Bovine Animals and Swine) Regulations 2007 (S. I. No. 151 of 2007) and the European Communities (Approval and Registration of Dealers of Ovine Animals) Regulations 2008 (S. I. No. 100 of 2008) all dealers engaged in the buying and selling of animals must be registered.

In the case of cattle and pigs, a dealer is defined as a person who purchases and sells to another person, within a period of 30 days. A person who buys and resells within 30 days, less than 100 cattle in any 12 month period, will be excluded from the requirements to be approved as a dealer.

In the case of sheep, a dealer is defined as a person who purchases and sells to another person within a period of 29 days. A person who buys and resells within 29 days, less than 100 sheep in any 12 month period, will similarly be considered to be excluded from the requirements to be approved as a dealer.

All dealers engaged must be approved and registered by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. It is not permitted for a person to buy/acquire/source an animal from or sell/supply/dispose of an animal to a dealer unless the dealer is approved, registered and in possession of a current approval number under the aforementioned legislation. In addition, if a dealer is assembling/holding animals, he/she must have premises, which has been approved for that specific purpose.

However, the following exemptions apply:

- A person who resides outside the State, who buys animals in the State on his or her own account;
- A person, who selects or bids for animals (on a commission or per head basis) exclusively on behalf of others (e.g. dealers, factories or private individuals) but who does not buy and pay for the animals, is excluded from the definition of a dealer and therefore is not required to be approved as a dealer.

The legislation requires that those who register as dealers comply with arrangements relating to the welfare and transport of animals, standards and upkeep of premises, keeping of records and compliance with animal notification and disease testing procedures.

Each dealer must make a written application for approval and registration as a dealer in respect of each premises used for his/her dealing operations. The written application(s) shall be made to the local Regional Veterinary Office (RVO) of the Department in which the premises are situated, see list of RVOs at Appendix 1B. If the application is for approval as dealer without premises, the written application should be made to the District Veterinary Office in the county where the dealer is resident or carries out most of the dealing operations.

Regulations Governing the Sale of Animals at Livestock Marts

The Livestock Marts Act, 1967 (Date of Test and Identification of Seller) Regulations 2002 (S.I. No. 188 of 2002) came into effect on 1 July 2002. This legislation requires all livestock marts to place on view by means of an electronic display unit the following information, when the sale of an animal takes place at a mart:

- The name and full address of the owner and the person in whose name the herd or flock from which the animal is being offered for sale is registered;
- Where the animals has been tested for either or both Bovine Tuberculosis and Bovine Brucellosis under the Diseases of Animals Act, 1966 (No. 6 of 1966);
- Where an animal is presented for sale by or on behalf of a dealer, a statement to that fact.

This information must be clearly legible to each person present at or in the immediate vicinity of the sales ring where an animal is being offered for sale. In circumstances where sheep are being sold direct from pens the Regulations require that the relevant details be publicly announced before the sale.

The purpose of this legislation is to ensure that there is greater transparency in the operations of livestock marts and that clients are provided with a uniform quality of service.

Regulations Governing Assembly Centres

The European Communities (Assembly Centres) Regulations 2000 (S.I. No. 257 of 2000) implements Council Directive 97/12/EC of 17 March 1997. An assembly centre is a holding, collection centre or market at which animals from different holdings are grouped together to form consignments of animals intended for export to other Member States of the European Union. Assembly Centres must be approved for trading purposes and meet the requirements laid down in the aforementioned legislation. An Assembly Centre may only commence operations once it has been inspected and approved by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

The species, class and type of animals approved to be handled by an Assembly Centre may be limited to certain terms or conditions deemed appropriate by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine. Where the Minister approves an Assembly Centre an approval number will be allocated with any terms or conditions attached.

Further information may be obtained from

- Animal Health and Welfare (Assembly Centre), Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Derryhallagh, Drumshanbo, Co. Leitrim, N41 EW27
- Tel: 071 9682000
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmingsectors/animalbreeding/approvestablishmentsintheveterinaryandzootechnicalfieldapprovedlaboratories/

Import/Export Controls

Import and Export of Live Farm Animals

There is free movement of live farm animals between EU Member States in accordance with EU trade regulations. Live farm animals are subject to veterinary inspection and health certification at their place of origin in the exporting country and to checks at their place of destination in the importing country. This freedom of movement of animals poses extra risks for Ireland's animal health status and calls for greater vigilance by importers and farmers to ensure that costly animal diseases are not imported. In several sectors, voluntary codes of practice are in place, which set out additional measures of protection as far as imports are concerned. On the export side, farm animals going to EU destinations, including Northern Ireland, must be examined by an official veterinarian in an approved Assembly Centre prior to export in order to facilitate the issue of the necessary health certificates.

EU veterinary legislation imposes a wide range of requirements with which farmers have to comply. Animals have to be identified in a manner that enables their holding of origin to be traced. All farms must be registered with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and they will be subject to official veterinary checks on their health status.

More stringent rules apply to the import/export of live farm animals from non-EU Member States.

For further information on importing/exporting live farm animals to/from Ireland please contact your local District Veterinary Office.

Import of Poultry and Hatching Eggs

Imports of poultry and hatching eggs from **EU Member States** are permitted under EU trade rules. Importers must give the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine advance notification of the intended import and all imports must be accompanied by an appropriate health certificate which complies with one of the model health certificates in Council Directive 2009/158/EEC (as amended) and which is endorsed by an Official Veterinarian, duly authorised by the Competent Authority in the Member State of export.

Imports of poultry and hatching eggs from **non-EU Member States** are only permitted from those regions/countries listed in Commission Regulation 798/2008 as amended by Commission Regulation 215/2010 and may only enter the EU through a Border Inspection Post approved for the import of poultry. There are no BIP facilities for poultry in Ireland.

Import of Hobby Birds (Birds other than Poultry and Pet Birds)

Import of hobby birds from **EU Member States** is by way of General Authorisation (i.e. no licence required). However certain conditions apply. Importers must give the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine advance notification of the intended import. The birds must be accompanied by an owner's declaration and, in the case of psittacine species, an appropriate health certificate signed by an official veterinarian of the country of export or by a registered Veterinary Practitioner in accordance with Council Directive 92/65/EEC and based on the model in Commission Regulation 599/2004/EC. The birds must come from a premises approved in accordance with Council Directive 92/65/EEC.

Import of hobby birds from **non-EU Member States** is only permitted from those regions/countries listed in Commission Regulation 798/2008 as amended by Commission Regulation 215/2010. The birds must be accompanied by an import licence issued by the Department and the appropriate health certificate in accordance with Commission Regulation 318/2007 as amended by Commission Regulation 239/2010. The birds must undergo a specified quarantine period and upon first entry to the EU the birds must be checked at an EU Border Inspection Post approved for the inspection of live animals. There are no BIP or quarantine facilities in Ireland so this will have to be undertaken in another Member State.

Import/export of horses

Registration of ownership/change of ownership

Any person who acquires ownership of an equine, must notify the agency that issued the original passport (PIO) within 30 days of the transaction.

Registration of premises

Under Control on Places where Horses are Kept Regulations 2014 (S. I. No. 113 of 2014), all equine premises must be registered with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. Equidae keepers should note that failure to register, as required by S. I. No. 113 of 2014, may leave them liable to prosecution under the Animal Health and Welfare Act, 2013.

You may register by completing an application form:

- available at your local Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine office (see list at Appendix 1B) or
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/animalhealthwelfare/animalwelfare/registrationofpremisesanimals/registrationofhorsepremises/
- Completed applications should be returned to your local Department office.

Import/Export to/from EU Member States

Horses must be accompanied by their passport and an Intra Community Health Certificate, which has been signed by an Official Veterinarian of the country of export and which complies with Council Directive 90/426/EEC as amended. Applications made to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine for an official health certificate must be accompanied by a health certificate issued by the exporter's private Veterinary Practitioner and a copy of the passport and marking sheet from the passport. Horses will be required to undergo a veterinary inspection by an Official Veterinarian at the port/airport of departure.

Certain categories of horse, whose health status can be guaranteed by a body designated under the Tripartite Agreement (TPA) agreed between Ireland, France and United Kingdom, may travel to/from France from/to UK & Ireland under a DOCOM (a document generated by the TPA body under the TRACES system). All other horses going to France must have official certification issued by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. No health certification is required for registered horses moving between Ireland and Britain.

Import from Non-EU Member States

Prospective importers must apply to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine for an import licence. Horses must be accompanied by their passport and a health certificate which complies with the provisions of Commission Decision 93/197/EEC as amended. Upon first entry to the EU, the horses will be required to undergo border inspection checks. Importers are required to give 24 hours advance notice to the Border Inspection Post of choice.

Export to Non-EU Member States

Horse exports to non-EU Member States must be accompanied by their passport, an export licence and an official health certificate, both issued by this Department and which complies with the conditions set out by the accepting country. Applications made to the Department for an official health certificate must be accompanied by a health certificate issued by the exporter's private Veterinary Practitioner along with a copy of the passport and the marking sheet from the passport. Horses will be required to undergo a veterinary inspection by an Official Veterinarian at the port/airport of departure.

Border Inspection Posts (BIP)

All consignments of live animals from third countries must be checked at a Border Inspection Post (BIP) on arrival on the territory of the EU. Animals other than equines or ungulates* cannot be imported directly into Ireland but must undergo veterinary checks at a BIP approved for this category of animal (category "O") in another EU Member State, see list at: http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/bips/bips_contact_en.htm

This does not apply to equines. Equines including horses can be checked at Dublin or Shannon airports, ungulates may be checked at Shannon airport. Pets other than equines do not require BIP checks but are subject to other rules i.e. PETS scheme.

(*cloven hoofed animals, for example, cattle, sheep, pigs, deer etc.)

All enquiries in relation to the import of live farm animals, including poultry and horses, should be directed to:

- Live Trade Section, Animal Health and Welfare Division, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Kildare Street, Dublin 2, D02 WK12.
- Tel: 01 6072862 ● email: livetrade@agriculture.gov.ie
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/animalhealthwelfare/tradeinliveanimalspoultryinclgamebirdsetc/

Import of Pet Animals, Cats, Dogs and Ferrets (Non-Commercial Movement)

Cats, Dogs or Ferrets To/From Other Member States of the EU

Persons travelling on holiday or to permanently locate their residence (or other non-commercial movement where there is no sale or change of ownership involved) **to/ from** Ireland **to/from** another EU Member States may bring their pet cat, dog, or ferret with them provided the following conditions are met:

- The pet must be identified by a microchip (a transponder readable by a device compatible with ISO standard 11785);
- The animal must be accompanied by an EU Pet Passport in respect of the animal which demonstrates that the animal is currently immunized against rabies;
- In cases where a dog is being brought in from countries other than Finland, Malta or the UK, that it has been treated against Echinococcus Multilocularis (tapeworm) not more than 120 hours (5 days) and not less than 24 hours (1 day) prior to scheduled arrival time in Ireland;
- In cases where the number of animals being moved exceeds 5, a veterinary health certificate to demonstrate that the animals have been clinically examined within 48 hours of departure is also required unless the owner can show proof that the animals are being brought to compete in a sporting event or other competition.

Cats, dogs or ferrets from other Member States of the EU may enter Ireland through any port/airport of entry and may be transported by any airline or ferry company operating within the State that is willing to transport such animals. The operator of such airline/ ferry company is legally obliged under the Pet Passport (No. 2) Regulations 2014 to notify the intended arrival of the animals to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine by email to petmove@agriculture.gov.ie at least 24 hours in advance. As regards air travel, the Department does not require that pets from the EU be carried as manifested freight and it is therefore a matter for the airlines to decide whether to carry the animal in the cabin or as excess baggage.

Cats, Dogs or Ferrets from Non-EU Countries

Persons travelling on holiday or to permanently locate their residence (or other non-commercial movement where there is no sale or change of ownership involved) to Ireland from a 'low-risk' non-EU country (see list in Annex 11 to Commission Implementing Regulation 577/2013) or a 'high risk' country (in which case a rabies titre test is required) may bring their pet cat, dog, or ferret with them provided the following conditions are met:

- An approved airline/pet cargo carrier must be used. A list of the approved airlines/cargo handlers is available on the Department's website.
- Pets from Non-EU low-risk countries may enter Ireland via Dublin Airport **only**.
- The pet must be identified by a microchip (a transponder readable by a device compatible with ISO standard 11785);
- The animal must be accompanied by a veterinary health certificate in the form of Annex IV to Commission Implementing Decision 577/2013 to certify that the animal is currently immunized against rabies;
- A blood test at least 30 days after rabies vaccination to confirm a neutralising antibody titration at least equal to 0.5 IU/ml. The pet may enter Ireland only when at least three months has expired since a successful blood-test;
- Dogs must be treated against *Echinococcus Multilocularis* (tapeworm) not more than 120 hours (5 days) and not less than 24 hours (1 day) prior to scheduled arrival time in Ireland or depending on the country of origin;
- Evidence that the movement is for non-commercial purposes must be presented to the approved airline in advance (air ticket reservation etc.)

Cats, dogs or ferrets from the outside of the EU may enter Ireland only through Dublin airport (unless already cleared to enter the EU at a point of entry in another Member State) and must be transported by an approved airline which will carry out checks for compliance upon arrival. The operator of such airline/ cargo company is legally obliged under the Pet Passport (No. 2) Regulations 2014 to notify the arrival of the animals to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine by email to petmove@agriculture.gov.ie at least 24 hours in advance and the pets must be carried as manifested freight.

Rules on Commercial Movement (i.e sale or change of ownership) of all dogs, cats and ferrets

Exports of dogs, cats or ferrets to other Member States

Persons wishing to trade dogs, cats or ferrets to other EU Member States must:

1. Register the premises on which the animals are born and/or reared (from which they are being exported) with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. Pet animals of these species may only be traded from registered premises.
2. Ensure that each animal (including each pup/kitten) is
 - identified by a microchip (a transponder readable by a device compatible with ISO standard 11785) and is

- accompanied by an EU Pet Passport* **showing a record of –**
 - (i) Microchip identification of the animal, including date of insertion (which must precede date of vaccination);
 - (ii) Proof of immunization against rabies. Animals must be a minimum of 12 weeks old before a rabies vaccine can be administered. The immunity takes effect 21 days after vaccination, so in fact pups must be a minimum of 15 weeks of age before they are eligible to travel between Member States of the EU;
 - (iii) That the animal underwent a clinical veterinary examination within 48 hours of departure, to confirm that the animal shows no signs of diseases and is fit to be transported for the intended journey.
 - (iv) Details of veterinary treatments (anti-echinococcus treatment, other anti-parasite treatments and other vaccinations) administered as required.
- 3. Ensure that each consignment is accompanied by a veterinary health (“Balai”) certificate issued by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine within 48 hours of scheduled departure time. (Health certificates available from local offices of the Department see list and contact details).
- 4. Ensure that animals have access to food and water for the duration of the journey. Detailed guidelines on the welfare of these animals during transport are included in a document on the Departments’ website.
- 5. Ensure that animals are consigned out of the country by an approved Type 2 transporter only.

Dogs/cats moving in trade to other EU Member States may leave Ireland through any of the ferry ports. In the event that such animals are found not to be compliant with the Regulation they will be denied travel and will be returned to place of origin at the owner’s expense. It is an offence under the Pet Passport (No.2) Regulations 2014 to import or export or to attempt to import or export a dog, cat or ferret in contravention of the Regulations.

All enquiries in relation to the import of pet cats, dogs and ferrets, and registration of holdings/sites where dogs are kept for the purpose of trade, should be directed to:

- Animal Health and Welfare Division, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Kildare Street, Dublin 2, D02 WK12.
- Tel: 01 6072862
- Email: livetrade@agriculture.gov.ie.
- Details are also available at www.agriculture.gov.ie/pets

Import into Ireland of other Pets (Rodents and Rabbits)

Requirements for importing pet rodents and Lagomorphs (rabbits) from EU Member States

Persons coming to Ireland from another EU Member State may import to Ireland their **pet rodents or rabbits** provided the following conditions are met:

- The pets are accompanied en route by the owner or a person acting on behalf of the owner;
- A Form of Advance Notice of Import must be sent to the Animal Health and Welfare Division, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Kildare Street, Dublin 2, D02 WK12, at least 24 hrs in advance of arrival of consignment in Ireland.

Requirements for importing pet rodents and rabbits from a country which is not a Member State of the European Union.

Persons may bring their **pet rodents and rabbits** to Ireland from **certain** non-EU countries provided they are accompanied by a Licence issued by the Animal Health and Welfare Division of the Department. The licence will set out the requirements for import which include a veterinary health certificate, and the animals must be transported in a container which must comply with the International Air Transport Association (IATA) Live Animal Regulations and must be secured with a seal or lock.

Persons wishing to import such pets from Non-EU countries are asked to apply to Animal Health and Welfare Division, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Kildare Street, Dublin 2, D02 WK12 for an import permit. An advance notice of import is also required. Application should be made in sufficient time to enable the pre-export requirements to be completed.

In respect of any non-domestic rodent or rabbit kept as a pet but which may be listed on the CITES list of endangered species, it is the responsibility of the pet owner to check with the Parks and Wildlife section of the Department of the Environment as to whether a CITES licence is required to import such an animal.

Import into Ireland of Pet Birds

Pet Birds are birds:

- of any species except fowl, turkeys, guinea fowl, ducks, geese, quails, pigeons, partridges and ratites reared or kept in captivity for breeding, the production of meat or eggs for consumption, or for re-stocking supplies of game,
- which are not being traded commercially,
- which travel with the owner or with a person representing the owner.

Imports of pet birds into Ireland will therefore only occur when a person is relocating to Ireland or holidaying here.

Requirements for importing pet birds from EU Member States

Persons bringing their pet birds to Ireland from another EU country on change of residence or on holiday may bring pet birds provided the following conditions are met:

- The birds are accompanied en route by the owner or a person acting on behalf of the owner,
- An Owner Declaration for pet birds must accompany the bird/s en route;
- A Form of Advance Notice of Import must be sent to the Animal Health and Welfare Division, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Kildare Street, Dublin 2, D02 WK12, at least 24 hrs in advance of arrival of consignment in Ireland.

Requirements for importing pet birds from a country which is not a member country of the European Union

Persons bringing their pet birds to Ireland (on change of residence or on holiday only) from a non-EU country (other than Andorra, the Faroe Islands, Greenland, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Norway, San Marino, Switzerland and the Vatican City State) may import not more than 5 birds. In addition, the birds must be:

- Accompanied en route by the owner or a person acting on behalf of the owner.
- Individually identified.
- Accompanied by a veterinary health certificate signed by an Official Veterinarian to confirm compliance with the pre-export requirements as set out in Commission Decision 2007/25/EC as amended (model certificate included at Annex 11).
- Accompanied by a declaration signed by the owner/person representing the owner in the form contained at Annex 11 in Commission Decision 2007/25/EC as amended.
- Imported either through **Dublin Airport** or **Shannon Airport**.

Persons wishing to import pet birds from Non-EU countries are asked to apply to Animal Health and Welfare Division, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Kildare Street, Dublin 2, D02 WK12 for an import permit so as to facilitate the necessary documentary and identity checks upon import. Application should be made in sufficient time to enable the pre-export requirements to be completed.

Racing Pigeons

Pigeons from Northern Ireland for race release will require an import licence issued by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. Pigeons exported from Ireland to another EU Member State for race release will require an export licence issued by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

All enquiries in relation to such imports should be directed to:

- Live Trade Section, Animal Health Division, Floor 4 Centre, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Agriculture House, Kildare Street, Dublin 2, D02 WK12, Ireland.
- Tel: 01 6072862
- Email: livetrade@agriculture.gov.ie
- Web: www.agriculture.gov.ie/agri-foodindustry/tradeimportsexports/importofbirds/

Importation of Products of Animal Origin

Products of animal origin fall into two main categories – those intended for human consumption and those defined as animal by-products. Intra-community trade and import from third countries of both these categories of products of animal origin are in general harmonised in accordance with Community Regulations for the protection of animal and human health. All traders or importers of products of animal origin into Ireland must be registered and or approved with the relevant competent authority.

The following are the principal conditions applying to trade and imports:

- For trade within the EU, products must originate from approved premises in the Member State, be appropriately health marked, labelled, packaged and accompanied by a commercial document detailing the approved establishment of origin and the consignee for the purposes of traceability;
- Imports must originate from a third country approved and listed by the European Commission for the export of that species/category of product. In addition they must come from an approved establishment, e.g. slaughterhouse, cutting plant, coldstore or processing plant that has been approved and listed for export to the EU for the product concerned;
- Consignment must be accompanied by the appropriate model health certificate or document required under EU law including, in the case of products derived from susceptible animal species, the required declaration with regard to BSE;
- Consignments may only be imported into the EU through an approved border inspection post. In Ireland approved border inspection posts for products of animal origin are at Dublin Port and Shannon Airport;
- The importer is required to provide the border inspection post of introduction with at least 24 hours advance notification of arrival by submitting Part 1 of the CVED (Common Veterinary Entry Document – ref. Annex III to Regulation (EC) No. 136/2004);
- Consignments must be presented to the Border Inspection Post for veterinary checks on arrival and without delay. A charge is applicable for this service.

Licensing requirements

The importation from third countries of consignments of animal by-product for research and diagnostic purposes, display items or trade samples must be authorised in advance by a licence issued by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

The import of pathogens and pathogenic agents into Ireland is only permitted under licence issued by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine under The Importation of Pathogenic Agents Order, 1997 (S. I. No. 373 of 1997). Licenses issued by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine do not exempt importers from any prohibition, regulation or restriction imposed by any other Agency or Department.

Further information on imports of products of animal origin into Ireland is available from:

- Product Imports Section, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Agriculture House, Kildare Street, Dublin 2, D02 WK12
- Tel: 01 6072582 or fax to: 00 353 1 6072513
- Email: animalproductimports@agriculture.gov.ie.

Information on animal by-product establishments registration or approval may be obtained from:

- The Milk and Meat Hygiene/ABP/TSE Division, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Grattan House, Grattan Business Centre, Portlaoise, Co. Laois. R32 RY6V.
- Tel: 0761 064440; Fax 057 8694386 ● Email: animalbyproducts@agriculture.gov.ie

Animal By-products:

- There is a general ban on the feeding of animal by-products to farm animals in the food chain;
- Trade and import in unprocessed animal by-products is limited to especially approved establishments;
- Animal by-products that are finished and processed products must be appropriately wrapped, labelled and transported and accompanied by a commercial document;
- Imports must originate from a Third Country approved and listed by the European Commission for the export of that species/category of animal by-product. In addition they must come from an establishment approved by the third country for export to the EU of the animal by-product concerned;
- The importer is required to provide the Border Inspection Post with prior notification of arrival of each consignment that is to be imported;
- On arrival the consignment must be accompanied by the appropriate model health certificate required under EU law including, in the case of products derived from susceptible animal species, the required declaration with regard to BSE;
- All importers of animal products into Ireland must be registered with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

Safeguard Measures

Safeguard measures may be introduced at short notice, limiting or banning the import of products of animal origin from countries or regions, due to animal disease outbreaks or other public or animal health hazards. Importers are responsible for checking the current status of any requirements.

Forms for registration as an importer and further information on imports are available from:

- The Food Safety Liaison Division, (Imports Section), Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Kildare Street, Dublin 2, D02 WK12.
- Tel: 01 6072892/ 01 6072896.
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/agri-foodindustry/animalbyproducts/imports_of_animals_and_animalproducts

Information on animal by-product establishment approvals may be obtained from:

- The Milk and Meat Hygiene/ABP/TSE Division, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Grattan Business Centre, Portlaoise, Co. Laois, R32 RY6V.
- Tel: 057 8694348
- Email: animalbyproducts@agriculture.gov.ie
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/agri-foodindustry/animalbyproducts/

Personal Import of Animal Products - Advice to Travellers

From EU Countries

In order to protect animal and public health only products of animal origin which have been produced in accordance with EU rules may be carried in travelers' luggage for personal or domestic consumption. Generally, this pertains to products which are on sale to the public in the Member State of origin that have been appropriately packaged and have an identifying EU health mark.

From Non-EU Countries

The importation of products of animal origin in travellers' luggage or that are ordered remotely and delivered or sent to the consumer is prohibited with limited exceptions. This prohibition does not apply to EU Member States or Andorra, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, San Marino and Switzerland.

For more specific information on personal imports of products of animal origin please refer to the European Commission Health and Food Safety website:

http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/animalproducts/personal_imports/index_en.htm

Animal Welfare

Farm Animal Welfare Advisory Council

In 2002, the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries established the Farm Animal Welfare Advisory Council (FAWAC). The Council is made up of representatives of animal welfare organisations, farming bodies, veterinary representative bodies and Government Departments - North and South.

The Early Warning/Intervention System for Animal Welfare Cases in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Irish Farmers' Association and the Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty of Animals provides a framework within which problems can be dealt with before they become critical or overwhelming. This in turn facilitates timely, effective and sensitive intervention or the provision of assistance by, as appropriate, public agencies, neighbours, farming bodies and welfare groups. The system allows for concerned individuals to approach their local IFA representatives, their local SPCA or indeed the Department in the knowledge that their welfare concerns will thereafter be dealt with in the most effective, timely and sensitive manner. This can only be to the benefit of the animals themselves and the persons concerned. However, where circumstances so warrant, it is recognised that prosecutions may be taken by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. The role of the Garda Síochána under the Animal Health and Welfare Act 2013 is also acknowledged.

In 2014 FAWAC produced a booklet entitled Animal Welfare Guidelines for Horses at Gatherings and Sales. These guidelines have been produced so as to assist all those who are responsible for ensuring the welfare of horses in the areas of fairs, marts and sales. FAWAC has already produced nine other Animal Welfare Guidelines booklets for Beef, Sheep, Dairy, Equines, Pigs, Poultry, Laying Hens, Managing Acutely Injured Livestock On-Farm and advising best practice for the Welfare of Animals during Transport. Similar guidelines in relation to the On Farm Euthanasia of Pigs is nearing completion and should be published in Spring 2016.

Copies of these publications are available to download from the FAWAC website at www.fawac.ie/publications/animalwelfareguidelines/

Ex-Gratia Funding to Animal Welfare Bodies

Since the mid 1990's the Department has provided ex-gratia payments to animal welfare bodies throughout the country to assist them in their work in delivering animal care and welfare. Each year an advertisement in the national press, invites applications from animal welfare bodies who wish to be considered for ex-gratia funding to assist their work in caring for animals. In addition, the Department emails application forms to previous recipients of funding and to persons/bodies working in animal care who may have contacted the Department during the course of the year and expressed an interest in being considered for grant assistance. Applicants are required to submit supporting documentation, including detailed financial accounts. Depending on the size of the organisation, these can be statements of income and expenditure for a 12 month period, certified or audited accounts. Organisations must also submit an up to date tax clearance certificate and/or a registered charity number. Applicants may also be subject to an inspection by the Department's Veterinary Inspectorate.

Scientific Advisory Committee on Animal Health and Welfare

The Scientific Advisory Committee on Animal Health and Welfare (SACAHW) was established in 2002 by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries. The principal function of the Committee is to provide the Minister with advice from a scientific perspective on issues where independent expert opinion is warranted.

Protection of animals during transport

EU Council Regulation No. 1 of 2005 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations prescribe strict standards for animal handling and the state of the vehicle and hygiene and, on long journeys, standards for feeding, watering, resting periods, journey times and stocking densities during transportation. The Regulation came into effect on 5 January 2007 and has been given legal effect in Ireland by the European Communities (Animal Transport and Control Post) Regulations 2006 (S.I. No. 675 of 2006). The Council Regulation applies to the transport of live animals, including cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, poultry, equines and dogs taking place in connection with an economic activity and sets out conditions as:

- On animal welfare, mode of transport and loading facilities to be met by all transporters of animals irrespective of distance travelled;

- Training and authorisation of person who transports live animals over a distance in excess of 65km for commercial purposes;
- Operators of assembly centres must ensure that animals are treated in accordance with the technical rules of the Regulation;
- Inspection of vehicles and maintenance of records of persons who transport animals on long journeys (defined as over eight hours). Such vehicles must have satellite based navigation systems installed within deadlines laid down in the Regulation.

This Department has undertaken to increase awareness of the legal requirements of those in charge of animals during transport. In this regard the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine has produced posters and information leaflets on the transport of equines and livestock. A booklet on the best practice for the welfare of animals during transport is also available to download from the Farm Animal Welfare Advisory Council (www.FAWAC.ie). Organisations, operators of assembly centres and livestock marts, hauliers and international transporters have also been contacted and informed of the requirements of the regulation.

Vehicles approved by the Department for long journeys (over 8 hours) have to be of a high standard and undergo inspection.

For further information on Council Regulation (EC) No. 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations and how to apply for a transport authorisation, please contact Animal Health & Welfare Division at the contact details below or alternatively log on to the Department's website www.agriculture.gov.ie/animaltransport.

Further information on the Protection of Animals During Transport may be obtained from:

- Animal Health & Welfare Division, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, 4C Agriculture House, Kildare Street, Dublin 2, D02 WK12.
- Tel: 01 6072680 or 01 6072143
- Email: animalwelfaretransport@agriculture.gov.ie
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/animaltransport/

Prohibition on Tail Docking of Bovine Animals

S. I. No. 225 of 2014 Prohibition on Tail Docking (Bovines) (No. 2) Regulations 2014 continue the existing ban on non-medical tail docking of cattle and replaces S. I. No. 263 of 2003.

Welfare of Farmed Animals, including Laying Hens, Calves, Pigs and Animals being slaughtered

S. I. No. 311 of 2010 EC Communities (Welfare of farmed animals) Regulations 2010 give effect to a series of European Directives concerning the protection of animals including broilers, laying hens, calves and pigs.

S. I. No. 292 of 2013 on the European Union (protection of animals at the time of killing) Regulations 2013 give effect to Council Regulations (EC) No. 1099/2009 on the protection of animals at time of killing.

Control of Manufacture

The manufacture for sale of animal feedingstuffs is officially controlled. Manufacturers are required to be either approved or registered depending on their activity. To ensure that compounders comply with the required legislation and that products conform to the label declarations on the content of specified constituents, manufacturers' premises are regularly inspected by officers of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and production records are examined. Samples of manufactured products are taken at production points, at retailers' premises and on farms and sent to the State Laboratory for analysis. Producers who persist in breaching the regulations governing the manufacture of compound feeds may be prosecuted.

Labelling Requirements

In the case of all feedingstuffs, the seller is obliged to give the purchaser a statutory statement. In the case of feedingstuffs in bags, the statement is either printed on the bag or on a label attached to the bag; in the case of bulk deliveries, it must be given on a document accompanying each consignment.

For each consignment of compound feedingstuff, the purchaser should obtain a statement showing:

- The species of animal for which the feed is intended;
- A list of ingredients in descending order by weight contained in the feedingstuff;
- Minimum storage life;
- Net weight;
- A declaration of composition characteristics;
- The name and address of the manufacturer or supplier;
- The approval/registration number of the manufacturer.

Restriction on the Use of Certain Proteins

There is a total ban on the feeding of animal proteins to farmed animals. Farmed animals are kept, fattened or bred for the production of food. This restriction also applies to fishmeal and to dicalcium phosphate derived from defatted bones, except where authorised under EU Regulation (EC) No. 999 of 2001. All those who wish to import, store, incorporate or trade fishmeal or dicalcium phosphate must be authorised under the above Regulation.

Application forms for authorisation to use any of these proteins may be obtained from:

- Crop Policy, Production and Safety Division, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Administration Building, Backweston, Co. Kildare, W23 X3PH.
- Tel: 01 5058884 ● Email: cropproduction@agriculture.gov.ie
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/agri-foodindustry/feedingstuffs/

Eleven Feedingstuff Controls

Feed Hygiene

EU Regulation (EC) No. 1831 of 2005 laying down the requirements for feed hygiene applies to all feed business operators from 1 January 2006. This 'farm to fork' approach means that it applies to all businesses including the primary production of feed materials and also the handling, transport, manufacture, marketing and use of animal feeds. The regulations aim to ensure that all involved take the necessary precautions to ensure the safety of feed.

The key elements of the regulation are as follows:

- All feed business operators are required to be approved or registered for their activities. This includes all farmers who keep livestock and /or grow crops which may be fed to livestock (Primary Producers);
- Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) principles to be adopted by all operators other than for primary production of feed and the feeding of farmed animals;
- Application of good agricultural practice at the level of primary production of feed materials and the feeding of farmed animals;
- Operators must source feed from approved or registered operators.

Application forms for approval or registration under the above legislation can be obtained from:

- Crop Policy, Production and Safety Division, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Administration Building, Backweston, Co. Kildare, W23 X3PH.
- Tel: 01 5058884 ● Email: cropproduction@agriculture.gov.ie
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/agri-foodindustry/feedingstuffs/

Additives in Feedingstuffs

EU additive regulations lay down specific rules for the assessment, putting into circulation and use of additives in feedingstuffs. Only additives authorised in accordance with EU legislation may be put into circulation and they may only be used if incorporated in feedingstuffs under the conditions set out in the authorisation regulation. In the case of feedingstuffs, which contain fat-soluble vitamins and coccidiostats, farmers must be supplied with appropriate details such as name, inclusion level and expiry date of the guarantee of that level and also conditions of use, e.g. withdrawal period before slaughter.

Application forms for approval or registration under the above legislation can be obtained from:

- Crop Policy, Production and Safety Division, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Administration Building, Backweston, Co. Kildare, W23 X3PH.
- Tel: 01 505 8884 ● Email: cropproduction@agriculture.gov.ie
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/agri-foodindustry/feedingstuffs/

Undesirable Substances

Maximum permitted levels for the more common types of undesirable substances found in feedingstuffs are laid down in Directive 2002/32/EC as amended. These substances include dioxins, heavy metals, aflatoxin B1, gossypol, toxic weed seeds, etc.

Nutritional Value

The statement of the level of crude protein, crude oil, crude fibre, crude ash and moisture content where it equals or exceeds 14% etc., is a guide to the nutritional value of the feedingstuff and should be carefully considered when purchasing feed.

Further details can be obtained from:

- Crop Policy, Production and Safety Division, Administration Building, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Backweston Campus, Celbridge, Co. Kildare, W23 X3PH.
- Tel: 01 505 8884
- Email: cropproduction@agriculture.gov.ie
- Website www.agriculture.gov.ie/agri-foodindustry/feedingstuffs/

Twelve Crops and Horticulture

Crops

Seed Certification Scheme

Seed certification is a quality assurance system whereby seed intended for marketing is subject to official control and inspection. At its simplest, the system certifies that a sack, packet or box of seed contains what it says on the label and that the seed was produced, inspected and graded in accordance with the requirements of a Certification Scheme. The immediate objective of seed certification is to supply high quality seed to farmers and other growers, which is true to identity, high in purity and germination capacity and free from certain pests and diseases. Seed quality is most important in crop production as high quality seed is essential for good crop yields and good returns and minimises the likelihood of crop failure. Seed of barley, oats, wheat, triticale, field beans, oilseed rape and seed potatoes were certified in 2014.

The Seed Certification Scheme is an official system supported by EU and National Legislation and International Protocols to ensure that seed is produced, multiplied and marketed according to predetermined standards and systems, while maintaining the genetic integrity of the product. It is part of a wider system of international trade incorporating plant breeding, plant breeder's rights, plant genetic resources and biodiversity. Under EU and Irish law, it is illegal to market uncertified seed.

There are seven EU Seed Directives which provide for common standards for seed certification across the EU Member States and for the free movement of certified seed. The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine is the designated authority for implementing the Seed Certification Scheme in Ireland.

Production of certified seed of combinable crops requires the establishment of a contract between the grower and the seed merchant. Certain conditions are stipulated regarding the suitability of the site for growing a seed crop. Seed production is overseen by official inspections and sampling during the field, seed intake, packaging and labelling phases of production. Contracts are not required in the case of seed potatoes but growers must apply to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine before crops are planted. Land to be used for seed potatoes must be officially soil sampled and tested for potato cyst nematodes (PCN) in advance of planting the crop. Both growing crops and harvested tubers must pass official inspections before seed is certified.

The initial source material for seed potatoes is produced by meristem tip culture under laboratory conditions in order to minimise disease levels. The first generation ('mini-tubers') are produced in a glasshouse and these are subsequently multiplied over a number of generations in the field to produce seed for growing commercial ware crops. Mini-tubers are produced at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Tops Potato Centre in Raphoe, Co. Donegal and may also be imported. Under EU legislation (Decision 2004/03/EC) Ireland is one of a small number of areas within the EU officially recognized as a High Grade Seed Area for seed potatoes because the country is currently free from a

number of significant potato diseases that occur in other Member States. Under this legislation, only 'Pre-basic' (White Label with purple stripe) and 'Basic' (White Label) seed potatoes can be marketed in Ireland.

Further information can be obtained from:

- Crop Policy, Production and Safety Division, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Administration Building, Backweston Campus, Celbridge, Co Kildare, W23 X3PH.
- Tel: 01 5058811 ● Email: cropproduction@agriculture.gov.ie
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmingsectors/crops/seedcertification/seedcertificationscheme/

Variety Registrations

Under EU legislation only seed of varieties which are registered in the Irish National Catalogue of Agricultural Plant Varieties or in the EU Common Catalogue may be marketed here. In addition, all seed marketed, including grass seed mixtures, must be officially certified. Varieties to be included in the National Catalogue must be tested under official control and in accordance with EU requirements.

The National Catalogue of Agricultural Plant Varieties is published annually. Further information can be obtained from:

- Crop Policy, Production and Safety Division, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Administration Building, Backweston Campus, Celbridge, Co Kildare, W23 X3PH.
- Tel: 01 5058811 ● Email: cropproduction@agriculture.gov.ie
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmingsectors/crops/seedcertification/plantbreedersrightsnationalcatalogue/

Seed Testing Service

Farmers and merchants may have seeds tested for germination, analytical purity, moisture content, Tetrazolium quick viability, hectolitre weight, various seed borne diseases etc., at the Department's Seed Testing Laboratory. A fee is charged for these tests.

Tests for a number of quarantine organisms are also carried out at the Plant Health Laboratory in Backweston.

Further information can be obtained from:

- The Seed Testing Laboratory, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Backweston Campus, Celbridge, Co Kildare, W23 X3PH.
- Tel: 01 6157518 (reception) ● Email: seedtesting@agriculture.gov.ie
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/animalhealthwelfare/laboratoryservices/seedtestinglaboratory/

Crop Variety Evaluation Programme

In accordance with both EU Directives and National Legislation the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine is the competent authority in Ireland to carry out V.C.U. (Value for Cultivation and Use) trials for crop varieties. New varieties showing superior merit are given positive V.C.U. status.

These trials, called **National List (NL) Trials** are carried out over a minimum of two years; mainly at the Department's Crop Variety Evaluation Centres at the following locations;

- Backweston Farm, Leixlip, Co Kildare, W23 AE3V
- Teagasc, Kildaton College, via Carrick-on-Suir, Co Kilkenny, E32 YWO8
- Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Mellows Campus, Athenry, Co. Galway, H65 R718
- Teagasc, Moorepark Research Centre, Fermoy Co. Cork, P61 C997
- The Potato Farm and Laboratory, The Tops, Raphoe, Co. Donegal, F93 HV02

Varieties meeting acceptable standards for both VCU (and DUS*) are eligible for registration in the National Catalogue of Agricultural Plant Varieties.

*DUS (Distinct, Uniform, Stable) tests are only carried out in Ireland on newly bred potato varieties.

Promising varieties from the NL trials are advanced to **Recommended List (RL) Trials**, which take a minimum 3-year period. These trials are carried out at the above centres and on selected commercial farms as recommended by Teagasc Development Officers. Varieties included in combined National / Recommended List trials must be tested for a minimum of 3 years before they can be considered for entry to the National Catalogue and the Recommended List.

Trials are currently undertaken for the following crops; Cereals (Wheat, Barley and Oats), Forage Maize, Herbage (Grass and Clover), Potatoes, Beans and Oilseed Rape.

Recommended Lists of the most outstanding varieties in trials are issued annually for the main crop species.

Further details can be obtained from:

- Crop Policy, Production and Safety Division, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Administration Building, Backweston Campus, Celbridge, Co Kildare, W23 X3PH.
- Tel: 01 5058811 ● Email: cropproduction@agriculture.gov.ie

Plant Genetic Resources

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine provides financial aid towards the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources for food and agriculture through the Genetic Resources Grant Aid Scheme. The scheme makes an annual call for suitable projects and is overseen by an advisory committee consisting of personnel from the Department, Universities, Teagasc, the farm organisations and NGO's.

The Department also maintains a genebank of old cereal and potato varieties and coordinates supports from EU and International Organisations aimed at conserving genetic

resources. The Department also provides funding to the Irish Seed Savers Association to maintain a traditional Irish orchard amongst other measures aimed at the conservation and sustainable use of Irish plant genetic resources.

Further details can be obtained from:

- Crop Policy, Production and Safety Division, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Administration Building, Backweston Campus, Celbridge, Co. Kildare, W23 X3PH.
- Tel: 01 5058811 ● Email: cropproduction@agriculture.gov.ie
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmerschemespayments/otherfarmersschemes/conservationofgeneticresourcesforfoodandagriculture/conservationofplantgeneticresources/

Fruit and Vegetables

Scheme of Investment Aid for the Development of the Commercial Horticulture Sector

Grant aid is available under the Scheme of Investment Aid for the Development of the Commercial Horticulture Sector. The Scheme aims to assist development of the horticulture sector, including beekeeping, by providing grant aid for capital investments in specialised plant and equipment as well as emerging technologies specific to commercial horticulture production. The scheme's objectives are to facilitate environmentally friendly practices; promote the diversification of on-farm activities; improve the quality of products and improve working conditions. The scheme is primarily aimed at those engaging in commercial horticulture production and/or beekeeping.

Further information can be obtained from:

- Crop Policy, Production and Safety Division, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Administration Building, Backweston Campus, Celbridge, Co. Kildare, W23 X3PH.
- Tel: 01 5058886 ● Email: HorticultureGrants@agriculture.gov.ie
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmerschemespayments/horticultureschemes/

Scheme of EU Aid for Producer Organisations (POs) in the Fruit and Vegetable Sector

A Producer Organisation is a legal entity, which is formed on the initiative of growers of fruit and vegetables, who undertake to market their production through the Producer Organisation structure.

To obtain recognition from this Department, a Producer Organisation must have a minimum of 5 active producer members with a combined annual value of marketed production (VMP) of at least €2,500,000.

A Producer Organisation must implement a 3, 4 or 5-year operational programme (business plan) which must also receive prior approval from the Department and must be submitted by 15 September of the year prior to commencement. However, legal entities wishing to obtain recognition as a Producer Organisation are advised to contact the Department well in advance of that date as the recognition process involves a series of pre-recognition checks which must be complied with before recognition is possible.

EU financial assistance is available to recognised Producer Organisations towards the eligible costs of implementing their approved operational programmes.

Further information can be obtained from:

- Crop Policy, Production and Safety Division, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Administration Building, Backweston Campus, Celbridge, Co. Kildare, W23 X3PH.
- Tel: 01 5058893 ● Email: poscheme@agriculture.gov.ie
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmerschemespayments/horticultureschemes

Production and Marketing of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables

Commercial producers of fresh fruit and vegetables (including potatoes and edible fungi) are required to register as food producers with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. The Department carries out inspections to ensure compliance with food safety regulations. There are penalties for infringements of the legislation. In addition to registration, commercial producers of sprouted seed also require approval by the Department.

European Union Marketing Standards exist for a wide range of fresh fruit and vegetables. The function of the standards is to ensure that regulated produce offered for sale is of acceptable quality and appropriately labelled. The standards concern quality, sizing, presentation and labelling. These standards apply to home-grown and imported products offered for sale at wholesale and retail levels throughout the country and to products being imported/exported. Responsibility for ensuring that produce which is sold or offered for sale complies with the marketing standards lies with the trader. Department officials inspect produce to ensure that the standards are being observed. There are penalties for infringements of the marketing standards.

Further information may be obtained from:

- Crop Policy, Production and Safety Division, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Administration Building, Backweston Campus, Celbridge, Co Kildare, W23 X3PH.
- Tel: 01 5058804
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmingsectors/horticulture/freshfruitvegetablesmarketingstandardseu/

Beekeeping/Honey

The beekeeping sector is regulated by EU and National Legislation. Under this legislation, bees are subject to veterinary inspection for certain notifiable diseases. Currently these diseases are Foul Brood Disease (American and European), Small Hive Beetle and the Tropilaelaps mite. Beekeepers must notify this Department of all suspected outbreaks of any of these diseases in their bee-hives or colonies. Imports and exports of bees are subject to health certification at their place of origin in the exporting country and to checks at their place of destination in the importing country.

Grant aid towards specialist beekeeping facilities and equipment is available under the Scheme of Investment Aid for the Development of the Commercial Horticulture Sector.

Beekeepers are encouraged to register as food producers with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

Honey offered for sale must comply with the European Communities (Marketing of Honey) Regulations 2003 (S. I. No. 367 of 2003 as amended). These regulations aim to ensure traded honey is of acceptable quality and accurately labelled, especially in terms of origin. In addition honey offered for sale to the consumer must also comply with the European Union (Provision of Food Information to Consumers) Regulations 2014 (S. I. No. 556 of 2014). The Department carries out inspections to ensure compliance with these regulations. There are penalties for infringements of the legislation. In addition to ensuring appropriate labelling of honey, the Department also conducts controls to ensure honey meets food safety requirements.

Further information can be obtained from:

- Crop Policy, Production and Safety Division, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Administration Building, Backweston Campus, Celbridge, Co. Kildare, W23 X3PH.
- Tel: 01 5058804
- Email: beekeeping@agriculture.gov.ie
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmingsectors/beekeepinghoney/

Plant Health and Trade

Ireland is free of many of the serious diseases and pests, which affect plants and crops and consequently has a high standard of plant health. The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine operates controls under both National and EU legislation to maintain this high health status. Any unusual occurrence of disease or pest should be notified immediately to the Department's Horticulture & Plant Health Division.

EU Rules

A common system of plant health controls operates within the EU. A feature of this system is that material (certain plants, plant products and other objects), which are subject to these controls, must be inspected at production level to check compliance with the requirements that are laid down in respect of movement within the EU. Some of this material must be accompanied by a label, known as a Plant Passport, when being moved. This denotes eligibility for movement within the EU and specifically for movement into and within designated protected zones. Persons involved in the production and movement of relevant material must be registered with this Department and be authorised to issue Plant Passports, where appropriate.

Material that is of non-EU origin and is subject to plant health controls may only be imported by registered importers and is subject to mandatory phytosanitary inspection upon entry into the EU.

Further information and application forms for registration may be obtained from:

- Plant Trade Section, Crop Policy, Production and Safety Division, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Administration Building, Backweston Campus, Celbridge, Co. Kildare, W23 X3PH.
- Tel: 01 5058792 ● Email: plantandpests@agriculture.gov.ie
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmingsectors/planthealthtrade/

Potatoes

Registration of Potato Growers and Potato Packers Act

Under the Registration of Potato Growers and Potato Packers Acts, 1984 and 2004, every person who is a grower of potatoes for sale or a packer of potatoes for sale must register with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. A once-off registration fee of €19 is payable.

Potatoes may not be sold unless they have been grown by a registered grower and packed by a registered packer. A person may not sell potatoes in a package unless the package bears the registration number of both the registered grower and the registered packer.

Regulations made under the Act require both growers and packers to maintain detailed records of quantities sold/purchased. These records ensure that potatoes offered for sale at retail level can be traced back to individual growers or importers.

Standards for Sale of Potatoes

Potatoes sold or offered for sale must comply with the requirements of the Food Standards (Potatoes) Regulations. They must be of good quality, sold separately by variety and sold in the prescribed size ranges. Packages must be marked with the potato variety and the size range. Packaging must be able to absorb moisture and admit air. The Regulations do not apply to potatoes for processing or for export.

Further information can be obtained from:

- Crop Policy, Production and Safety Division, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Administration Building, Backweston Campus, Celbridge, Co. Kildare, W23 X3PH.
- Tel: 01 5058804 ● Email: PotatoOnline@agriculture.gov.ie
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmingsectors/crops/potatoes/

Control of Noxious Weeds

Under the Noxious Weeds Act, 1936, it is an offence not to prevent the growth and spread of noxious weeds. Owners and occupiers of land must ensure that they abide by the provision in the Act. Noxious weeds, which must be controlled, are ragwort, thistle, dock, common barberry, male wild hop and wild oat.

- For control methods, please contact:
- The Local Teagasc Advisor or, alternatively,
- Consult the Teagasc fact sheet on ragwort at www.teagasc.ie

Plant Protection and Biocidal Products

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine maintains close co-operation with the Department of Health, Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, the Food Safety Authority of Ireland and the Health and Safety Authority in the enforcement of regulations pertaining to these products.

Registration and Authorisation

Plant protection products, when correctly used, are a most valuable tool in crop production for controlling weeds, diseases and pests, enabling a good yield of top quality crops to be obtained. Biocides, when used correctly, provide effective means of disinfection and preservation of products, surfaces and materials in industry and in the home. However, being biologically active, plant protection products and biocidal products must be handled and used with care.

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine operates statutory controls over all plant protection and biocidal products used in Ireland. Plant protection products are authorised in accordance with Regulation (EC) No. 1107 of 2009, concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market. Biocidal products are authorised in accordance with Regulation (EU) No. 528 of 2012, concerning the making available on the market and use of biocidal products. Any use of plant protection and biocidal products which contravenes the related conditions which are listed on the product labels is an offence which is subject to prosecution.

Regular inspection by the Department is carried out to ensure that all plant protection and biocidal products that are marketed and used comply with the relevant EU regulations. Users of plant protection and biocidal products should follow the conditions of use on the label.

The Department publishes lists of products approved for use under the relevant Regulations.

Sustainable use of Pesticides Directive

The Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive (SUD) establishes a framework for European Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides by setting minimum rules to reduce risks to human health and the environment from the use of pesticides. It promotes the use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) which includes alternative approaches and techniques to chemical use. It puts in place new requirements in the areas of advice, sale, supply, storage and use of plant protection products. The SUD was enacted into Irish Law by S. I. No. 155 of 2012.

The legislation impacts on a number of categories of individuals involved in the whole area of pesticide use (advisors, distributors, professional users and inspectors of application equipment). Individuals within each category are required to register with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and must have an appropriate level of training for the type of activity in which they are engaged. Since November 2013 all advisors and inspectors of application equipment are required to be registered. All professional users and distributors are required to be registered by November 2015. The Department has developed an online registration system for this purpose (www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie/sud/sudreg/). In addition there

are requirements to test certain categories of pesticide application equipment (boom sprayers > 3m and all blast and orchard sprayers) at least once by November 2016. The interval between inspections must not exceed 5 years up until 2020 and must not exceed 3 years thereafter. New standards regarding pesticide storage design, construction and operation have also been developed and all distribution stores must comply with these standards and be registered with the Department by November 2015. Since 1 January 2014, all professional users have been obliged to apply the general principles of Integrated Pest Management and they must maintain records to demonstrate the application of these principles.

Residue Levels

It is illegal to market food products that contain higher levels of pesticides residues than the permitted maxima which are laid down by the relevant Regulations. The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine publishes an annual report on Pesticide Residues in Food.

Further information can be obtained from:

- Crop Policy, Production and Safety Division, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Administration Building, Backweston Campus, Celbridge, Co. Kildare, W23 X3PH.
- Tel: 01 5058885
- Pesticides Control Division, Backweston Agrilabs, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Backweston, Co. Kildare, W23 X3PH.
- Tel: 01 6157552 ● Email: pcs@agriculture.gov.ie
- Website: www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie/

Ground Limestone and Fertilisers

Legal standards are prescribed for the manufacture and sale of ground limestone and fertilisers to ensure that the product placed on the market complies with minimum standards and labelling requirements. For bulk sales, the seller is required to give the purchaser a statement showing the analysis of the material. The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine carry out checks on material on sale and takes samples for official analysis. Appropriate action is taken in the event of breach of the Regulations.

Analytical Service

Any customer who has reason to believe that a purchased ground limestone may be defective, can apply to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine to have an official sample taken for analysis. Applications for official sampling/analysis should reach the Department within twenty-eight days of delivery of the material purchased and be accompanied by a fee of €6.35 in each case.

Further information can be obtained from:

- Crop Policy, Production and Safety Division, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Administration Building, Backweston Campus, Celbridge, Co. Kildare. W23 X3PH.
- Tel: 01 5058766 ● Email: feedimports@agriculture.gov.ie

Thirteen Sea Fisheries

Development of Irish Sea Fish and Aquaculture Industries

Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM)

BIM is the State Agency responsible for developing the Irish Seafood Industry including the catching, aquaculture and processing sectors as well as providing training to the sector. The development initiatives and schemes to address this responsibility are set out in the context of national and EU policy for the sector and are drawn up having regard to the Common Fisheries Policy and the new European Maritime and Fisheries Fund. The programmes are all contained in the Seafood Development Programme 2014 - 2020.

The key objective is to grow the seafood sector in an environmentally sustainable manner, so that it will add more value to a natural raw material supply and produce much needed jobs that will in turn sustain communities in the peripheral, coastal regions of Ireland. Government strategies including Food Wise 2025 and Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth recognize the opportunities for the seafood sector to build scale and expand value, exports and jobs.

BIM supports the seafood sector with a range of supports, services and expertise. These supports are available to the fishing fleet, aquaculture enterprises, seafood processing enterprises and to coastal communities through Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAGs).

For further details of all BIM's Programmes and Schemes contact contact:

- B.I.M., P.O. Box 12, Crofton Road, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, A96 E5AO.
- Tel: 01 2144100,
- Email: info@bim.ie
- Website: www.bim.ie/

Údarás Na Gaeltachta

Údarás na Gaeltachta is the regional authority responsible for the economic, social and cultural development of the Gaeltacht. Údarás encourages investment in the Gaeltacht through a range of generous incentives for new enterprises and through support and assistance for existing businesses.

Údarás is an implementing agency for the development of aquaculture projects in the Gaeltacht areas and works closely with BIM and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine in ensuring the smooth implementation and management of projects that are funded by NDP/EU funds.

For further details contact:

- Údarás na Gaeltachta, Na Forbacha, Co. na Gaillimhe, H91 TY22.
- Tel: 091 503100; Fax: 091 503101
- Email: eolas@udaras.ie
- Website: www.udaras.ie

Regulation of Irish Sea Fish and Aquaculture Industries

Licensing of Sea Fishing Boats

The legislation governing sea-fishing boat licensing is set out in Section 4 of the Fisheries (Amendment) Act 2003 (the 2003 Act), (as inserted by Section 97 of the Sea-Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006). An Irish sea-fishing boat must be entered in the Fishing Boat Register before it is licensed to engage in commercial sea-fishing activities.

Registration of Sea Fishing Boats

In accordance with Section 3 of the Fisheries (Amendment) Act 2003 (No. 21 of 2003), the function of sea-fishing boat licensing was transferred to the Licensing Authority for Sea-Fishing Boats with effect from 1 July 2003.

As specified in that Act, the Licensing Authority is the Registrar General of Fishing Boats, or, under the superintendence of the Registrar General, the Deputy Registrar General of Fishing Boats.

The legislation governing sea-fishing boat registration is set out in Sections 74 to 80 and Section 100 of the Sea-Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006, and the Merchant Shipping (Registry, Lettering and Numbering of Fishing Boats) Regulations 2005 (S. I. No. 261 of 2005). This legislation charges the Registrar General with the maintenance of the Register of Fishing Boats (“Register”) and the proper management of the capacity of Irish sea-fishing boats.

For further details contact:

- The Licensing Authority for Sea-Fishing Boats, National Seafood Centre, Clogheen, Clonakilty, Co. Cork, P85 TX47.
- Tel: 0761 064409
- Email: fleetregister@agriculture.gov.ie
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/fisheries/seafisheriesadministration/seafisheriesadministration/seafishingfleetregister/

Aquaculture Licences

Aquaculture includes the culture or farming of fish, aquatic invertebrates, aquatic plants or any aquatic form of food suitable for the nutrition of fish. Applications for aquaculture licences are assessed under the provisions of the Fisheries (Amendment) Act, 1997. In addition, marine-based aquaculture also requires an accompanying foreshore licence (under the Foreshore Act 1933). Land-based aquaculture may also require planning permission and a discharge permit from the Local Authority.

Aquaculture licensing is administered through the Aquaculture and Foreshore Management Division of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. The Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine determines aquaculture applications made to the Division on the approved application form and accompanied by the appropriate fees.

Under Section 6 of the Fisheries (Amendment) Act 1997 it is illegal to engage in aquaculture without an appropriate aquaculture licence.

An application form for an aquaculture licence can be obtained from:

- The Aquaculture Licensing Section, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, National Seafood Centre, Clonakilty, Co. Cork, P85 TX47.
- Tel: 023 8859500
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/fisheries/aquacultureforeshoremanagement/aquaculturelicensing

Aquaculture Licence Appeals Procedures

The Appeals procedure for aquaculture licensing is handled by the independent Aquaculture Licences Appeals Board, established on 16 June 1998 under Section 22 of the Fisheries (Amendment) Act, 1997. All Board members are engaged on a part-time basis. Customers, the public or environmental organisations aggrieved by a decision of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine on an aquaculture licence application, or by the revocation or amendment of an aquaculture licence, may make an appeal within one month of publication (in the case of a decision) or notification (in the case of revocation/amendment).

All appeals must be made in writing on the appeals application form, setting out the grounds of appeal and addressed to:

- The Aquaculture Licences Appeals Board, Kilminchy Court, Dublin Road, Portlaoise, Co.Laois, R32 DTW5.
- Tel: 057 8631912
- Email: info@alab.ie

Foreshore Licenses and Leases

The foreshore is classed as the land and seabed between the high water of ordinary or medium tides (shown HWM on Ordnance Survey maps) and the twelve mile limit (12 nautical miles equals approximately 22.24 kilometres).

The Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine is responsible for foreshore licensing in respect of activities which are:

- Wholly or primarily for the use, development or support of aquaculture,
or
- Wholly or primarily for the use, development or support of sea-fishing, including the processing and sale of sea-fish and manufacture of products derived from sea-fish,
or
- In relation to a Fishery Harbour Centre.

Applications for foreshore leases/licences in respect of activities other than those listed above are the responsibility of the Minister for Environment, Community and Local Government. Applications for foreshore leases or licences are administered through the Aquaculture and Foreshore Management Division of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. The Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine decides on applications made to the Division on the approved application form. Any person who places a structure in the foreshore without a lease or carries out an activity without a licence or who breaches the terms of a lease/licence may be prosecuted through the Courts.

An application form for a foreshore lease or licence can be obtained from:

- The Foreshore Co-ordination Unit, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, National Seafood Centre, Clonakilty, Co. Cork, P85 TX47.
- Tel: 023 8859500
- Website: www.agriculture.gov.ie/fisheries/aquacultureforeshoremanagement/foreshoreadministration

Fourteen State Bodies and Agencies

Bord Bia

Bord Bia's mission is to drive through market insight and, in partnership with industry, the commercial success of a world class Irish food, drink and horticulture industry.

Bord Bia employs 95 staff, has eleven offices in export markets – in Amsterdam, Dubai, Dusseldorf, London, Madrid, Milan, Moscow, New York, Paris, Shanghai and Stockholm – as well as a head office in Dublin.

Quality Assurance Schemes (QAS)

Bord Bia has developed Quality Assurance Schemes for beef, dairy, lamb, pork, poultry, eggs and horticulture. These provide independent certification of quality back to farm level. The horticulture programme includes field vegetables, mushrooms, soft fruit and top fruit, protected crops and potatoes, hardy nursery stock, potted plants and bedding plants. QAS has played an important role in underpinning the Origin Green programme since May 2011, when carbon output was first measured as part of Bord Bia's Beef and Lamb QAS. Beginning in 2014 the Sustainable Dairy Assurance Scheme (SDAS) effectively extends carbon emission monitoring to the dairy industry. Over 30,000 (94%) of Bord Bia's Beef QAS members have taken part in a sustainability survey as part of their 18 month farm audit. Ireland is the first country to assess the environmental performance of farms on a national scale.

Producers interested in joining a Bord Bia QAS Scheme should contact Bord Bia. (www.bordbia.ie/industry/farmers/quality/pages/qualityassuranceschemes.aspx)

Origin Green – The National Sustainability Programme

In 2011 Bord Bia, in conjunction with the Irish food and drink industry, launched Origin Green, a promise to the world: that Ireland would be a leading source of sustainably produced food and drink. This unique national sustainability programme for Ireland's food and drink industry is independently verified, and enables Ireland's food producers to set and achieve measurable sustainability targets – reducing environment impact, serving local communities more effectively and protecting Ireland's rich natural resources. Food manufacturers develop a plan with clear targets in key areas such as emissions, energy, waste, water, biodiversity and corporate social responsibility. As at September, 2015 over 471 companies had signed up for the Origin Green programme, 117 were fully verified members, 159 sustainability plans had been submitted for verification.

For further information please see: (www.origingreen.ie/)

Market insight and strategy

Commercial success depends on reliable information and strategic contacts. Bord Bia has a thorough understanding of the capabilities of Irish food, drink and horticultural companies and supplies them with information and insight on global market trends. Services for small business are provided through the Bord Bia Vantage Programme (www.bordbiavantage.ie), the Marketing Assistance Programme (MAP) for companies with a turnover between €100,000 and €3.5m and the Step Change Fund (SCF) for companies with a turnover of between €100,000 and €5m to support them in improving their marketing capability.

For further information please see:

(www.bordbiavantage.ie/business-development/map-step-change-fund/)

Collaborative Ventures

Food Academy, a collaborative initiative between Bord Bia, the 35 Local Enterprise Offices and Musgraves/Supervalu provides integrated supports and training to food companies as they progress from start-up to national distribution and export. The programme consists of modules including Finance Distribution, the Market and the Consumer, Production and Marketing. To apply e-mail: maria.stokes@bordbia.ie.

Website: www.bordbiavantage.ie/business-development/food-academy/.

Bord Bia is working with Tesco on their Taste Bud programme to assist companies to reach the next level and with Teagasc and Enterprise Ireland on the innovative FoodWorks programme for food start-ups.

In 2015 Bord Bia launched their Ascent Programme, with support from PwC, to help Irish food and drink companies address strategic issues impacting future growth plans.

Farmers Markets

Bord Bia also provides guidance on routes to market. For further information please contact Cormac.Kelly@BordBia.ie or

www.bordbia.ie/consumer/aboutfood/farmersmarkets/Pages/default.aspx.

Food Dudes Programme/EU School Fruit & Vegetables Scheme

The Food Dudes Programme is an evidence based incentivised behaviour changing programme which was developed by the University of Wales, Bangor. It is managed by Bord Bia, the Irish Food Board and was rolled out in Ireland in 2005. It is funded by the Department and an EU contribution has been received under EU School Fruit & Vegetables Scheme since 2009. It aims to increase primary schoolchildren's fruit and vegetable consumption by repeated tasting of fruit and vegetables over a 16 day intervention period, supported by role models (Food Dudes Heroes) and small rewards. The original programme was completed in 2014 having reached 477,423 school children and 3,127 schools (95% of all primary schools in Ireland).

Building on the success of the original programme, a roll-out of the Food Dudes Boost Programme commenced in 2014 with the aim of reaching more young children. The Junior Cycle (Junior Infants to Second Class) taste fruit and vegetables daily during the 16 day intervention period and the Senior Cycle (Third Class to Sixth Class) enjoy 4 tasting days as a boost. Additional Department and EU funding will enable the programme run at approx. 800 schools and reach 160,000 children in the 2015/2016 school year, compared to 390 schools and 70,000 children in previous school years.

The programme has been evaluated a number of times and shown to increase fruit and vegetable consumption and that this is sustained over time. The most recent evaluation by UCD (2011/12) showed that consumption of fruit increased by approximately 20% (from

58.5% to 78.5%) and of vegetables by 42% (from 11.5% to 53.5%). A further evaluation of the programme will be carried out in the 2015/2016 school year, the report of which will be published in early 2017.

For further information, contact:

- The Information Unit, Bord Bia, Clanwilliam Court, Lower Mount Street, Dublin 2, D02 A344.
- Tel: 01 6685155.
- Email: info@bordbia.ie ● Website: www.bordbia.ie

Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM)

BIM is the state agency with primary responsibility for the sustainable development of the Irish seafish and aquaculture industry both at sea and ashore, and the diversification of the coastal economy so as to enhance the employment, income and welfare of people in coastal regions and their contribution to the national economy.

BIM provides a wide range of financial, technical, educational, marketing, resource development and ice supply services for the production sector through to the processing and marketing sectors.

For further details on BIM see chapter 13 on Sea Fisheries

For more information contact:

- B.I.M., P.O. Box 12, Crofton Road, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, A96 E5AO.
- Tel: 01 2144100
- Email: info@bim.ie ● Website: www.bim.ie

Bord na gCon

Bord na gCon was established on 28 May 1958 under the Greyhound Industry Act, 1958 chiefly to control greyhound racing and to improve and develop the greyhound industry.

Functions:

- The control, promotion and operation of greyhound racing;
- The operation of totalisator betting;
- The regulation of public sales of greyhounds;
- The making of grants for prize money and the allocation of grants to improve the amenities at tracks;
- The licensing of greyhound tracks and their officials;
- The authorisation of bookmakers to conduct business at tracks and the collection of levies on course bets;
- The promotion of greyhound exports;
- The overall control of coursing.

For further information contact:

- Irish Greyhound Board - Bord na gCon, Green Park, Dock Rd., Limerick, V94 Y17X.
- Tel: 061 448000 Fax: 061 303788
- Email: admin@igb.ie ● Website: www.igb.ie

Coillte Teoranta

Coillte Teoranta is a private limited company, which operates in forestry and related activities on a commercial basis. The company is co-owned by the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform and the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine. The company was established under the Forestry Act, 1988 which sets out its objectives and duties. In accordance with the Act, the State's forest estate was vested in the company to facilitate its management and development on a commercial basis.

Principal Objectives:

- To carry on the business of forestry and related activities on a commercial basis and in accordance with efficient silvicultural practices;
- To establish and carry on woodland industries;
- To participate with others in forestry and related activities consistent with its objects, designed to enhance the effective and profitable operation of the company;
- To utilise and manage the resources available to it in a manner consistent with the above objects.

For more information contact:

- Coillte, The Irish Forestry Board, Newtownmountkennedy, Co. Wicklow, A63 DN25.
- Tel: 01 2011111
- Email: info@coillte.ie ● Website: www.coillte.ie

Horse Racing Ireland (HRI)

Horse Racing Ireland was established on 18 December 2001 under the provisions of the Horse and Greyhound Racing Act, 2001 to replace the Irish Horseracing Authority including its Racecourses, Tote and Irish Thoroughbred Marketing subsidiaries and to incorporate certain administrative functions of the Irish Turf Club. It is thus charged with the overall administration, promotion and development of the horse racing industry.

Functions:

- Development and promotion of Irish horseracing;
- Promotion of the Irish thoroughbred horse;
- Allocation of race fixtures, programmes and prize money;
- Negotiation of sale of media and data rights;
- Operation of a totalisator at race meetings;

- Representation of Irish racing internationally;
- Development of authorised racecourses;
- Operation of racecourses that are owned by HRI;
- Control of the operations of authorised bookmakers;
- Financial and other support to assist the industry's training and educational needs;
- Stakeholding of prize fund including entry fees and sponsorship;
- Guaranteeing the cost of integrity services;
- Overall administration of Irish racing other than those functions specified in legislation to be carried out by the Racing Regulatory Body;
- Registration of horse identification, names, owners, colours and acceptance of entries and declarations;
- Compilation and publication of the racing calendar and form book;
- Provision and maintenance of mobile track equipment, including starting stalls, photo finish and camera patrol equipment.

For further information contact:

- Horse Racing Ireland, Ballymany, The Curragh, Co. Kildare, R56 XE37.
- Tel: 045 455455 Fax: 045 455456/455604
- Email: info@horseracingireland.ie ● Website: www.goracing.ie

Irish National Stud Company Limited

The Irish National Stud Co. Ltd keeps a range of top class stallions with a view to making quality bloodlines available to the thoroughbred horse industry in Ireland. The Japanese Gardens and St Fiachra's Garden, both of which are located on the grounds of the Stud, plus the opportunity for visitors to view the horses standing at the Stud have proven to be a major tourist attraction through the years. The Stud also engages in farming activities and trains people for employment in the bloodstock sector.

For further information contact:

- The Irish National Stud, Tully, Kildare, R51 DD56.
- Tel: 045 521251;
- Email: stud@irish-national-stud.ie ● Website: www.irishnationalstud.ie

Marine Institute

The Marine Institute is responsible for marine research delivery and is the implementing body for the Marine Research Programme. The objective of the Marine Research Programme is to provide funding to the marine sector in Ireland that will:

- Build new research capacity and capability;
- Enable sharing of existing knowledge and technology transfer;
- Increase competitiveness and opportunities for sustainable economic growth;

- Protect and conserve marine resources;
- Inform public policy;
- Increase public awareness of our maritime heritage.

The Marine Institute are currently finalising the Marine Research and Innovation Agenda for Ireland 2014-2020 (and associated Action Plan) that will set the sectoral priorities for marine research for the next funding cycle until 2020. The action plan will contribute towards the research and innovation component of Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth – An Integrated Marine Plan for Ireland and continue to build on the investment under Sea Change 2007-2013, which aims to ensure that Ireland fully maximises the economic, social and environmental contribution of its marine resources.

For more information contact:

- Marine Institute, Rinville, Oranmore, Co. Galway, H91 R673.
- Tel: 091 387200 ● Email: institute.mail@marine.ie ● Website: www.marine.ie

National Milk Agency

The National Milk Agency continues to regulate, on a national basis, the supply of milk for liquid consumption. This Agency is responsible for the registration of suppliers and pasteurisers of drinking milk and of the supply contracts made between them with the purpose of ensuring a reliable year round supply of drinking milk to the consumer.

For further information, contact:

- The National Milk Agency, IPC House, Shelbourne Road, Dublin 4, D04 A4E0.
- Tel: 01 6603396 ● Email: natmilk@eircom.net ● Website: www.nationalmilkagency.ie

Sea Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA)

The Sea Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA) was established on the 1 January 2007. It is responsible for the implementation and enforcement of national and EU Regulations on Sea Fisheries Protection and Seafood Safety. Sea Fisheries Officers work closely with other Government agencies such as the Naval Service, Food Safety Authority of Ireland and the Marine Institute, in the implementation of fisheries control and seafood safety programmes.

For more information contact:

- Sea Fisheries Protection Authority, National Seafood Centre, HQ, Clogheen, Clonakilty, Co. Cork, P85 TX47.
- Tel: 023 8859300
- Email: info@sfpa.ie ● Website: www.sfpa.ie

Teagasc

Teagasc – the Agriculture and Food Development Authority – supports science based innovation in the agri-food sector and broader bio-economy to underpin profitability, competitiveness and sustainability. Through its research (agriculture and food) and its knowledge transfer services (education and advisory) it pursues four goals;

- Improve the competitiveness of agriculture food and wider bio economy;
- Support sustainable farming and the environment;
- Encourage diversification of the rural economy and enhance the quality of life in rural areas;
- Enhance organisational capability and deliver value for money.

Organisational Structure

Integrated research (agriculture and food) and knowledge transfer (education and advisory) services are provided through our research centres, colleges and a network of advisory offices.

- See Appendix 2A for full contact details of Teagasc Agricultural and Horticultural Colleges and County Advisory and Training Services.
- Email: info@teagasc.ie ● Website: www.teagasc.ie

Knowledge Transfer Services for Farmers

Advisory

The Teagasc Advisory Service maximise the income and sustainability of farm families within rural communities through the implementation of the following programmes:

Business and Technology Programme

Farmers need technical and financial management support to develop their businesses in response to competitive pressures and the challenges posed by more volatile international markets. Through its Business and Technology (B&T) service Teagasc continue to increase the competitiveness of Irish agriculture through promotion of innovation in production efficiency and product quality. The key components of the B&T programme include increased use of financial and business tools (the profit monitor, cost control planner and other financial tools), monitor farms, discussion groups, industry joint programmes, focused farm visits, and business and technology training for adult farmers. The programme focuses on better business management and uptake of proven technology by farmers, ensuring that they can compete internationally.

Soils and Environment Programme

Achieving sustainable systems of agriculture is one of the major goals for Teagasc. This programme supports sustainable farming through the provision of environmental services, nutrient/manure management planning services and the transfer of environmental technologies from research. The Programme provides a balance of environmental and technical advice for farmers.

The key activities of the programme are:

- Support farmers participating in environment schemes such as AEOS and REPS;
- Deliver fertilizer planning services to farmers;
- Improve the efficiency and profitability of farms;
- Support national initiatives around national water quality and greenhouse gas abatement.

Rural Innovation Programme (Options Programme)

This programme delivers advice on diversification enterprises and businesses. The Options Programme assists rural people in assessing the possibilities of starting their own diversified business. It also supports farmers with significant developmental or financial viability issues. Participants are supported through a formal planning process to deal with the challenges which confront them and will be referred to relevant support services as appropriate.

Services to Agri-Business

A range of specialised advisory, training and consultancy services are provided by Teagasc to the agri-business sector.

- Joint development programmes leverage the capacity of dairy processors, meat processors, livestock marts and other agri-businesses to deliver improved supports on key common objectives for farmers.
- Teagasc ConnectEd is a new training and support service for all rural professionals who engage with farmers. Corporate clients who wish to avail of these or any Teagasc advisory, training, research or laboratory services can participate.

Analytical Services

Teagasc provides an independent analytical service to farmers and to the industry through the following locations:

Soil Analysis

Teagasc Environment Research Centre, Johnstown Castle, Wexford, Y35 Y521. Tel: 053 9171200

Plant Pests and Diseases

Teagasc Crops Research Centre, Oak Park, Carlow, R93 XE12. Tel: 059 9170200

Specialist Residue and Chemical Contaminant Analysis

Teagasc Food Research Centre, Ashtown, Dublin 15, D15 KN3K. Tel: 01 8059500

Food Industry Research and Development Supports

Teagasc provides contract research and consultancy services to food companies from its two food research sites at:

Teagasc Food Research Centre, Ashtown, Dublin 15, D15 KN3K. Tel: 01 8059500

Teagasc Food Research Centre, Moorepark, Fermoy, Co. Cork, P61 C997. Tel: 025 42222

Food industry supports are provided by a number of means as follows:

- Access to the expertise and outputs from the food research programme;
- Access to a range of modern food production and product testing facilities located in Dublin and Cork;

- Food training programmes and individual company contract research and consultancy opportunities.

Education and Training

Teagasc provides a suite of training for young entrants, farmers, rural entrepreneurs and executives/operatives in the food industry. Teagasc has a network of over 120 teachers and trainers operating from colleges, local training centres and research centres. More than 3,500 learners participate in Teagasc further education programmes at levels 5 and 6 and in Teagasc linked higher education programmes at levels 6, 7 and 8. In a typical year 3,000 to 5,000 adult farmers and industry personnel attend Teagasc short training courses and continuous professional development courses.

All education and training programmes are evaluated, upgraded and benchmarked to the best international standards.

The important features of these new developments are:

National Accreditation

The accreditation of Teagasc's education and training programmes within the framework of the Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) is a key element of Teagasc course recognition both nationally and internationally.

Further Education and Training Courses

Further education and training programmes are available in agriculture, horticulture, forestry and horses. These courses are available at four Teagasc colleges and three Teagasc supported private colleges and at local Teagasc centres depending on demand. Flexible provision is becoming increasingly important as more and more farmers also have off farm jobs. To meet this need Teagasc provide part-time and distance education programmes in addition to its suite of full-time programmes.

These courses open up a wide range of career options for participants. Many will return to farming either on a full-time or part-time capacity but there are job and career opportunities in the wider agri-food sector for those who are not returning to the family farm. There are also opportunities in the wider land based sector including horticulture, equine and forestry sectors.

Practical training with approved hosts, home farm involvement and discussion group participation are integral parts of Teagasc courses with participants having the opportunity to develop the skills and competencies associated with their chosen career.

Participants who achieve the necessary results at Level 5 and 6 may be able to transfer, or progress to higher education level courses and achieve higher qualifications on the National Framework of Qualifications ladder.

Higher Education Courses

There are now many higher level education options on the CAO list and the number is continuing to expand. Teagasc is a partner of many Institutes of Technology and University College Dublin in the delivery of higher agricultural education. This facilitates the best use of the core competencies of each of the partner institutions.

These courses are accredited by the Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) and higher education learners have the opportunity to progress up to degree level and potentially to post graduate studies. Recruitment to the courses is through the CAO system with a number of places reserved for mature students and holders of designated further education awards accredited by QQI.

Higher Education Links Scheme

The Higher Education Links Scheme enables holders of further education awards to apply for a quota of higher education courses. Specific further education courses are linked with specific higher education courses. Applicants for a higher education course, covered by the scheme, are made through the standard CAO form.

Food Industry Courses

The Irish food industry needs to be able to guarantee the quality of the product it is supplying to increasingly discriminating consumers. In order to maintain and improve market position, food companies must be committed to training their personnel in the technologies required in modern food manufacturing.

Teagasc is the leading supplier of training to the food processing and retail sector in food safety and quality systems, food innovation and new product development. Teagasc provides training in all aspects of food quality and safety with a view to assisting food businesses to meet legal obligations, customer requirements and industry best practice.

Teagasc's main strengths are derived from broad experience in the food sector and the applied nature of the training programmes provided. Many of our programmes incorporate a practical on-the-job element to optimise the transfer of information and maximise application.

Teagasc food industry training is provided at two main centres, the Teagasc Food Research Centre, Ashtown, Dublin 15, D15 KN3K, and at Teagasc Food Research Centre, Moorepark, Fermoy, Co. Cork, P61 C997. Training is also provided at local level and on site where it is deemed appropriate.

Information of Courses

Detailed information on all Teagasc courses is available from the Knowledge Transfer Directorate, Head Office, Oak Park, Carlow, R93 XE12 as well as from colleges and local Teagasc offices.

An annual prospectus of Teagasc courses which also features profiles on past students is also available from any of the above locations and at www.teagasc.ie

Comprehensive information on Teagasc education and training is also available on the Teagasc website at www.teagasc.ie. The Teagasc education web pages are now the information channel of choice for many people seeking information on Teagasc courses.

Publications

The following publications i.e. The Dairy Manual, Beef Manual, Drainage Manual and the Management Data for Farm Planning 2013/2014 are all for sale at the Publications Office, Teagasc, Head Office, Oak Park, Carlow, R93 XE12.

Payment can be made by credit/debit card or by cheque made payable to Teagasc. All other publications can be found at our website www.teagasc.ie

Full particulars of these publications can be obtained from:

- Local Teagasc offices or the Publications Office, Teagasc, Head Office, Oak Park, Carlow, R93 XE12.
- Tel: 059 9183409
- Email: publications@teagasc.ie
- Website: www.teagasc.ie/publications

The Veterinary Council of Ireland

The Veterinary Council of Ireland, which regulates the practice of veterinary medicine, was established on the 1 January 2006 under Section 11 of the Veterinary Practice Act, 2005. The Veterinary Council of Ireland has 19 members, which reflects interests such as education, animal welfare, consumers and food safety and a balance as between veterinarians and others.

For further information contact:

- The Veterinary Council of Ireland, 53 Lansdowne Rd., Ballsbridge, Dublin 4, D04 NY29.
- Tel: 01 6684402
- Email: info@vci.ie
- Website: www.vci.ie

Aquaculture Licences Appeals Board

Please see Chapter 13, page 167 for information on the Aquaculture Licences Appeals Board.

Department of Environment, Community and Local Government

Rural Development Programme for Ireland 2014 - 2020

The LEADER element of the Rural Development Programme 2014 - 2020 will provide €250 million in financial resources to support the development of sustainable rural communities. It is expected that the 2014 - 2020 programme will fund enterprise development, job creation, rural tourism and recreation. In addition, promoting social inclusion through building community capacity, training and animation, basic services for hard to reach communities and enhanced national communication initiatives to improve broadband and building community capacity. Other areas of possible activity include initiatives aimed at rural youth, renewable energy, the protection and sustainable use of water resources at a local level and the protection and improvement of local biodiversity.

Ireland is reconfiguring the way in which local and rural development interventions are implemented. This is in line with Government policy to ensure that local government is well positioned to support the effective and efficient delivery of local and rural development.

A further ten million euro has been allocated to the co-operation element of the Programme. Fifteen million euro has been allocated for the delivery of two agri-food schemes which will be managed jointly by the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine and the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government. Five million euro will be held in reserve for the purposes of supporting Rural Economic Development Zones – REDZ initiative pending the successful outcome of a pilot scheme as identified in the report of the Commission for the Economic Development of Rural Areas also known as CEDRA¹. In this context €220m of the overall programme complement for the 2014-2020 period has been allocated based on administrative or county boundaries to 28 sub-regional areas as per table overleaf.

Relevant information on 2014 - 2020 Rural Development programme is available on the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government website at www.environ.ie/en/Community/RuralDevelopment/EURuralDevelopment/RuralDevelopmentProgrammeLEADER2014-2020/

¹ To fulfil a recommendation under the report of the Commission for Economic Development of Rural Areas (CEDRA), a specific allocation of €1m allocation was provided for a CEDRA Rural Innovation and Development Fund in the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine in 2015. This fund was used to pilot a small number of innovative initiatives under the CEDRA report. Schemes funded included support for female entrepreneurs in rural areas, support for community based food markets, support for social farming and Local Authority initiative to promote Agri-Tourism.

Table : LEADER Allocations 2014-2020

Sub Regional Area	Programme Allocation
Rural Dublin	€6,370,438.43
Kildare	€5,261,600.01
Meath	€6,903,123.57
Wicklow	€6,336,549.00
Carlow	€6,416,803.43
Kilkenny	€7,791,572.91
Wexford	€9,840,140.56
Tipperary	€10,103,443.28
Waterford	€7,522,796.18
Cork	€13,938,823.22
Kerry	€10,219,868.29
Clare	€8,920,224.65
Limerick	€9,276,593.96
Galway	€12,195,883.61
Mayo	€11,121,431.88
Roscommon	€8,852,659.22
Louth	€6,101,862.01
Leitrim	€5,998,474.74
Sligo	€7,655,647.81
Cavan	€8,522,285.84
Donegal	€12,913,877.86
Monaghan	€7,592,719.51
Laois	€7,124,586.86
Longford	€7,597,623.07
Offaly	€8,036,763.90
Westmeath	€7,384,206.22
Total	€220,000,000.00

Taxation of Tractors

The standard rate of motor taxation for a general haulage tractor is €333 per annum, but the owner of the tractor whose only or chief occupation is farming may, on payment of a substantially reduced rate of €102 per annum, use his or her tractor for the haulage of his or her own agricultural produce, articles required for his or her farm, including farmhouse and buildings, and similar goods for another farmer provided they are not carried for reward.

Further concessions available to owners of tractors taxed at the €102 rate enable such owners:

- To haul, for reward, milk to a creamery or cream-separating station, separated milk from a creamery or cream-separating station, and milk containers to and from a creamery or cream-separating station;

- To haul, for reward, livestock owned by a person resident not more than two miles from the haulier's residence, to or from a farm and to or from a livestock auction, market or fair. This concession is confined to days on which the auction, market or fair takes place and is limited to distances of twenty miles by public road from the haulier's residence.

The €102 tax rate also extends to tractors owned by agricultural co-operative societies and used for:

- The haulage for farmers, provided it is not for reward, of the produce of their farms and articles required for the farms;
- The haulage for farmers, for reward, of milk to a creamery or cream-separating station, separated milk from a creamery or cream-separating station and milk containers to and from a creamery or cream-separating station.

Cut-down trucks, vans, land-rovers, jeeps and other such vehicles are not classified as agricultural tractors even if they have altered engines or gear-boxes.

Rural Water Programme

The Rural Water Programme is administered by the Local Authorities and is comprised of a number of measures to address deficiencies in:

- Group Water and Group Sewerage Schemes;
- Private individual supplies where an alternative group or public supply is not available.

Grants and subsidies, which are designed to bring quality deficient group schemes up to a satisfactory standard, are as follows:

Group Water Schemes

- A grant of 100% of the cost of essential treatment and disinfection facilities is available for schemes participating in bundled Design Build Operate contracts. Other necessary works like buildings, reservoirs, pipelines associated with the contract are grant aided at up to 85% of cost, subject to a maximum grant of €6,475.66 per house;
- Grants of up to 85% of cost subject to a maximum grant of €7,475 per house are available for new Group Water Schemes and grants of up to 85% of cost subject to a maximum grant of €6,475.66 per house are available for general upgrading of existing Group Water Schemes.

Group Sewerage Schemes

A grant of €6,500 per house or 75% of the overall scheme costs whichever is the lesser is available for Group Sewerage Schemes.

Subsidy towards the operational costs of Group Water Schemes

The amount of subsidy will be 100% of the qualifying expenditure as approved by the Local Authority, subject to a limit of:

- € 40.00 per annum for each house supplied from an Irish Water Main;
- €95.00 per annum for each house supplied from a private source.

Separate subsidies are also available towards “bona fide” Operational and Maintenance (O and M) costs associated with Design/Build/Operate (DBO) contracts for group schemes that have their own water treatment facilities. Details are available from County Councils.

Individual Water Supplies

Grants are available for the provision or improvement of individual supplies in houses more than 7 years old, which are not connected to either a public or group scheme water supply. The maximum household grant is €2,031.58 subject to a maximum of 75% of the cost.

- Application Forms and Explanatory Memoranda governing the conditions of these schemes are available by contacting the Rural Water Programme Liaison Officer at your local County Council.

Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation

Minimum Pay and Conditions of Employment for Agricultural Workers

Up to 2011, legal minimum rates of pay and conditions of employment for agricultural workers were set down by the Labour Court in Employment Regulation Orders on the recommendation of the Agricultural Workers' Joint Labour Committee (JLC). Employers were bound, under penalty, to pay rates of wages and observe conditions of employment, which were not less favourable than those prescribed in the Employment Regulation Order made by the Court. They were also bound by the obligations imposed by the generality of other employment legislation e.g. Organisation of Working Time Act, Protection of Young Persons Act and Payment of Wages Act etc.

A High Court Ruling in July 2011, which held the wage setting mechanism operated by the JLCs to be unconstitutional, caused the cessation of JLC activity from that date.

The Industrial Relations (Amendment) Act 2012 provided for reform of the Joint Labour Committee system to rectify deficiencies in the legal framework highlighted in the High Court judgment. As provided for in that Act, the Labour Court undertook a review of each Joint Labour Committee including the Agricultural Workers' Joint Labour Committee. The Review was published in 2013 and recommended that the Agricultural Workers' JLC be retained but with reduced scope. As the Agricultural Workers JLC was the only Committee established by primary legislation, an amendment to the definition of 'agriculture' in the Industrial Relations Act 1976 was required in order to give effect to the Court's recommendation. This was done through the Industrial Relations (Amendment) Act 2015.

(A copy of the Labour Court Review of the Joint Labour Committee system can be found on the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation website: www.djei.ie/en/Publications/Publication-files/Review-of-Joint-Labour-Committee-System.pdf)

Separately, up until 2013, there were a number of individual enterprise level agreements made between unions and individual mushroom farm operators which were registered as

Registered Employment Agreements (REAs) with the Labour Court. Part III of the Industrial Relations Act of 1946, which provides for the registration of such agreements (both sectoral and individual enterprise level agreements) was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court in the 2013 McGowan Judgment.

The Industrial Relations (Amendment) Act 2015, which came into effect on 1 August 2015, provides for a replacement framework for Registered Employment Agreements in individual enterprises and a new mechanism whereby pay and pension and sick pay provisions in a particular sector can be established, agreed and enforced by Ministerial Order.

Agreements that have already been reached at enterprise level can now be registered with the Labour Court.

The provisions of employment legislation generally, are enforced by Inspectors from the National Employment Rights Authority. Inspectors have power to enter premises, inspect wage sheets and other records, interview the employers and workers concerned and institute legal proceedings (if necessary).

From 1 October 2015, this function will be undertaken by the Workplace Relations Commission.

Complaints in relation to breaches of employment legislation should be notified to:

- NERA Inspection Services, O'Brien Road, Carlow, R93 W7W2.
- Tel: 1890 220100/059 9178900
- Email: inspection@employmentrights.ie

Department of Social Protection

Farm Assist Scheme

What is Farm Assist?

Farm Assist is a weekly means-tested payment for low-income farmers.

Who can qualify for Farm Assist?

You will qualify if you:

- Are a farmer;
- Are aged between 18 and 66 years;
- Satisfy a means-test;
- Satisfy the habitual residence condition.

How does the means test work?

To qualify for Farm Assist, you must show that your means are below a certain level.

Your means are:

- Any income belonging to you, your spouse, civil partner or cohabitant,

- Property belonging to you, your spouse, civil partner or cohabitant (except your home), and,
- Any other asset(s) that could provide you with an income.

How much can I get?

If you qualify, your payment is made up of a personal rate for yourself with extra amounts for a qualified adult and qualified child. Your weekly rate of payment is the difference between your weekly means assessment and the maximum rate of Farm Assist that you could get if you had no means.

The weekly rates of Farm Assist are:	€
Maximum Personal Rate	188.00
Qualified Adult Allowance *	124.80
Each Child Dependant Full Rate **	29.80
Half Rate	14.90

Notes:

* You will not get an increase for a qualified adult if your spouse, civil partner or cohabitant gets a social welfare payment in their own right (except Disablement Benefit, Funeral Grant, Guardian's Payment (Contributory), Guardian's Payment (Non-Contributory), Child Benefit or (Supplementary Welfare Allowance), or is disqualified from getting unemployment payments because of a trade dispute, or takes part in a full-time Solas (formally known as FÁS) training course, or gets a training allowance for a Vocational Training Opportunities (VTOS) scheme.

** You can get an increase of €29.80 for each qualified child if you get an increase for a qualified adult or if you are parenting alone. If you do not qualify for an increase for a qualified adult, you may get a half-rate qualified child increase.

How is it paid?

You receive your payment weekly. You may opt to have your payment paid directly into your bank account or paid by Electronic Information Transfer (EIT) at a post office using your public services card.

How do I apply?

You may apply for Farm Assist by completing application form FARM 1, which you can get from:

- The Department's website at www.welfare.ie;
- The Department's Leaflet Request Line on 1890 20 23 25;
- Your local Intreo Centre or Citizens Information Centre.

Contributions Payable

Since 1 January 2007, Farm Assist customers are no longer excused from paying PRSI. You may be liable to pay Class 'S' contributions on your income from self-employment. If you are not already registered as self-employed please contact your local tax office. When you send in your annual returns to the tax office they will let you know if you have to pay PRSI. If you do not have to pay PRSI you may be able to pay Voluntary Contributions.

For more information, log on to www.welfare.ie or contact:

- Voluntary Contributions Section, Department of Social Protection, Social Welfare Services, Cork Road, Waterford, X91 EH04.
- Tel: 1890 690 690 or + 353 1 4715 898 (if calling from outside the Republic of Ireland)

Fish Assist: Note that information on Fish Assist is also available from www.welfare.ie

Pay Related Social Insurance (PRSI) for Family Employment

The following categories of 'Family Employment' are not covered by the social insurance system:

- A spouse or civil partner employed by their self-employed spouse or civil partner;
- A person employed by a 'prescribed relative' where the family employment relates to a private dwelling house or a farm in or on which both the person and the employer reside;
- A 'prescribed relative' (other than a spouse or civil partner) who helps a self-employed person with their business but who is not a partner in the business.

Note:

A "prescribed relative" includes a father, a mother, a grandfather, a grandmother, a stepfather, a stepmother, a son, a daughter, a grandson, a granddaughter, a stepson, a stepdaughter, a brother, a sister, a half-brother, or a half-sister.

PRSI for Farming Spouses or Civil Partners

A spouse or civil partner is not covered for social insurance if they are employed by their spouse.

To become eligible for social insurance, a spouse or civil partner may choose to;

- Become a self-employed contributor alongside their self-employed spouse or civil partner; or
- Operate the business as a partnership with their spouse or civil partner.

From 2014, certain spouses and civil partners of people who are self-employed will be able to access social insurance by paying Pay Related Social Insurance (PRSI) to build up entitlement to social insurance benefits as a self-employed worker. Prior to 2014 these categories of spouses or civil partners were excluded from social insurance.

The spouses or civil partners affected are those who:

- Assist in the business of their self-employed spouse/civil partner performing the same or ancillary tasks,
- But who are not a business partner or an employee.

Implementation Date

The new liability to pay PRSI as a self-employed worker applies as follows:

- Where the spouse or civil partner of the self-employed contributor has reckonable income (i.e. income which is outside PAYE and on which tax is collected through the self-assessed system of tax collection), liability commenced from 1 January 2014.

- where the spouse or civil partner of the self-employed contributor has reckonable emoluments (i.e. income which is not derived from insurable employment and which is taxed under the PAYE system), liability commenced from 1 August 2014.

Conditions

For the self-employment to be deemed insurable the spouse or civil partner will be required to:

- Demonstrate that he/she performs the same or ancillary tasks as their self-employed spouse or civil partner, and
- Demonstrate that their income from all sources exceeds €5,000 each per annum. The income from his/her contribution to the business must be shown as trading income or share of the profits, in the pay and file return made under Revenue's self-assessment system of tax collection.

Self-employed persons who earn €5,000 or more in a contribution year are liable for PRSI at the Class S rate of 4%, subject to a minimum payment of €500.

Farm Partnership

Where a genuine partnership exists on a farm, both spouses or civil partners can be considered to be in insurable self-employment individually for the purposes of Pay-Related Social Insurance (PRSI).

Once each partner's income from the farm enterprise exceeds a threshold of €5,000 per year, this income would be reckonable for PRSI purposes and contributions would be payable at a rate of 4%, or €500 per annum, whichever is greater.

Income below the €5,000 threshold in any year would not give rise to a contribution liability. The individual would cease to be insured in respect of that year (subject to certain conditions, a person in such circumstances could apply to become a voluntary contributor to retain social insurance cover). Earlier or subsequent contributions would continue to be reckonable for PRSI Class S benefits and pensions.

What is a partnership?

A partnership is the relationship that exists between persons carrying on a business in common with a view to making a profit. The receipt of a share of the profits by a person can be considered to be evidence that the person concerned is a partner in a business.

The following points should be noted:

- The Partnership **must** be genuine and supported by appropriate documentary evidence such as the existence of joint business accounts with banks, etc. There should also be evidence that business activities are in joint names including invoices, mart, creamery accounts, cash-and-carry accounts, farm grant applications, herd numbers, business insurance policies, etc.
- The most important indicator of the existence of a business partnership is the sharing of profits (or losses). The Income Tax returns of each partner showing his or her share of the profits should be available. In the case of married couples who are making income tax returns under joint or separate assessment, the income of each must be shown.

- The Income Tax returns should be correctly made on a current year basis – applications for the backdating of partnership status are not accepted.

PRSI contributions are calculated on the basis of income details contained in Income Tax returns.

Self-Employed Benefits

PRSI Class S covers a contributor for the following benefits:

- State Pension (Contributory);
- Widow's and Widower's or Surviving Civil Partner's(Contributory) Pension;
- Maternity Benefit;
- Adoptive Benefit; and
- Guardian's Payment (Contributory).

Rural Social Scheme (RSS)

What is Rural Social Scheme?

The Rural Social Scheme (RSS) is aimed at low-income farmers and fishermen/women. To qualify for the RSS you must be getting a social welfare payment. In return, people participating in the RSS provide services that benefit rural communities.

The Department of Social Protection has overall responsibility for policy in relation to the Rural Social Scheme, including eligibility criteria. The Department monitors the implementation of the RSS and supports the various bodies that manage the RSS locally. At a local level, the Scheme is managed by implementing bodies such as local development companies and in the Gaeltacht areas, by Údarás na Gaeltachta.

What type of work is carried out by people participating in the Scheme?

The type of work carried out by RSS participants includes:

- Maintaining and enhancing various walking routes (that is, waymarked ways, agreed walks) and bog roads;
- Energy conservation work for older people and those at risk of poverty;
- Village and countryside enhancement projects;
- Social care and care of older people;
- Community care for pre-school and after-school groups;
- Environmental maintenance work - maintenance and caretaking of community and sporting facilities;
- Projects relating to not-for-profit cultural and heritage centres;
- Community administration or clerical work; and
- Any other appropriate community-based project.

Who can qualify for RSS?

To participate in the scheme you must be getting Farm/Fish Assist, or meet the eligibility criteria set out for either a farmer or fisherperson, and be in receipt of one of the qualifying payments from the Department of Social Protection.

If you are eligible for RSS, but do not wish to participate, your dependent spouse, civil partner or cohabitant may take the available place. However, this is only if neither of you are participating in any other similar scheme, for example, the Community Employment Scheme.

If you are a child/sibling of a herd/flock/pig herd/equine number owner and you can certify that you are resident and/or working on the farm **AND** are in receipt of one of the qualifying payment from the Department of Social Protection, you may be eligible to participate on the RSS on the basis of your parent's/sibling's herd/flock/pig herd/equine number. Should this situation apply to you, it should be noted on your application form and discussed with your local Implementing Body. There is only one RSS place per herd/flock/pig herd/equine number.

How many hours work is involved and how long does RSS last?

You work 19.5 hours per week. These hours are based on a farmer/fisher-friendly schedule to ensure participation on the scheme does not affect your farming/fishing activities. If you get a place on the Scheme, you are offered a contract from your start date up to the following 31 March. You may be considered for a further term following the initial contract, if you continue to meet all the criteria for the Scheme. The Implementing Body decides on your application.

While it is not intended that anyone would remain on the scheme permanently, there is no definite time limit for participation.

How much will participants be paid on the RSS?

Your rate of payment on the RSS will depend on your qualifying Department of Social Protection payment. In most cases your RSS rate of payment will be equivalent to your existing payment plus a €20 top-up.

The following table outlines the rates of payment for certain participants:

Qualifying payment	Rate of Payment
Jobseeker's Allowance/Benefit, Farm Assist	Equal to your current rate of payment plus €20 top-up. Minimum weekly payment of €208.
One-Parent Family Payment	Equal to your current rate of payment plus €20 top-up. Minimum weekly payment of €208.
Disability Allowance	Equal to your current rate of payment plus €20 top-up. Minimum weekly payment of €208.
Widow's, Widower's or Surviving Civil Partner's Contributory Pension	Equal to your current rate of payment plus €20 top-up. Minimum weekly payment of €208.
Widow's, Widower's or Surviving Civil Partner's Non-Contributory Pension	Equal to your current rate of payment plus €20 top-up. Minimum weekly payment of €208.
Qualified Adult on a State Pension (Non-Contributory)	Your spouse will continue to receive the Increase for a Qualified Adult (IQA) payment. Your rate on the RSS will be the difference between your IQA payment and €208.

PRSI Contributions

A Class A PRSI contribution is paid on behalf of all RSS participants. You are not liable for the Universal Social Charge (USC) on your RSS payment.

How do I apply?

As this scheme is administered locally, you should contact your local RSS implementing body for further information or an application form.

For further information on schemes and services of the Department of Social Protection log on to www.welfare.ie or

- Tel: 1890 66 22 44 (if calling from outside the Republic of Ireland call +353 71 91 93302).
- Alternatively drop in to your local Intreo Centre, Social Welfare Office or Citizens Information Centre.

Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport

Tractor Safety

Tractors are governed by normal road traffic laws on driver licensing, insurance, motor tax and vehicle lighting. All tractors used in a public place must be fitted with safety frames. The purpose of the frame is to protect the driver from being crushed underneath if the tractor overturns. The frame must comply with approved standards. It is up to the owner or driver to fit a safety cab.

Tractors must carefully transport loose material such as silage, slurry, sand or gravel, so that the material does not spill onto a public road and cause a crash. Loads of lime or other dusty materials, offal or other offensive material must be fully covered with a tarpaulin. Under section 13(10) of the Roads Act 1993, it is an offence, without lawful authority or the consent of a road authority to leave any material or thing on a public road such that the material or thing is a hazard or potential hazard to persons using a public road or obstructs or interferes with the safe use or maintenance of a public road.

Farmers using agricultural tractors and trailers to haul agricultural produce must not:

- Use exceptionally high frames on trailers which could endanger the stability, steering and braking of an agricultural tractor and trailer combination, or
- Exceed the maximum legally permissible combination weight or the design gross vehicle weight.

Tractors on the road

A tractor used in a public place must obey the laws governing road traffic. If you are driving a tractor, you should keep left to let faster traffic pass. Your driving mirror must provide an adequate view of the road to the back. Do not carry a passenger unless the tractor is equipped to carry one.

Note: Revised Regulations for Agricultural Vehicles

The Minister for Transport, Tourism & Sport introduced legislation revising standards for agricultural vehicles effective from 1 January 2016. Agricultural vehicles are now widely used on our roads; they are generally constructed to very high standards and it is important that the regulatory regime reflects the developments in agricultural vehicle technology and requires them to comply with recognised vehicle standards in relation to a number of key safety areas, i.e. braking, suspension systems, tyres and lighting as well as the weights for which they are designed.

Further information on these Regulation can be found at www.rsa.ie/en/RSA/Your-Vehicle/Vehicle-Standards/Agricultural-Vehicles/ or

- Tel: 1890 50 60 80.

Local Improvement Scheme (LIS)

Section 81 of the Local Government Act 2001 provides the statutory basis for the Local Improvements Scheme (LIS). The purpose of the Local Improvement Scheme is to provide funding for roads and laneways that Councils have not taken in charge; that is, private roads and laneways. However, the maintenance and improvement of these is, in the first instance, a matter for the relevant landowner.

The administration of the LIS is delegated to the County Councils and accordingly the selection and prioritisation of the road projects to be funded under the scheme is entirely a matter for the County Councils, subject to the terms of the Departments grants memorandum. Beneficiaries are, between them, required to contribute a portion of the costs of the schemes. County Councils are responsible for the administration of the Scheme, the collection of the contribution and the selection and execution of eligible works.

Requests for information, application forms etc., should, therefore be addressed to the relevant Council.

Health and Safety Authority

Agriculture and construction remain amongst the top four most high-risk sectors of the Irish economy. Typically, these two sectors account for over 55% of all workplace fatalities in any year. During the period 2004 - 2014 there were on average 20 deaths on Irish farms every year.

Accidents involving tractors and machinery (particularly vehicles) consistently account for over 50% of deaths on Irish farms with children and the elderly particularly vulnerable. Many more people are suffering serious injuries often leading to permanent disability.

The Health and Safety Authority is determined to work in partnership with the farming community to reduce the number of fatalities and accidents on Irish farms. Good safety and health practice doesn't just happen, it demands time and effort but the rewards are great. Make sure that you give this important task the priority it deserves and let's all stay safe on the farm!

Under the 2005 Safety Health and Welfare at Work Act employers have a legal duty to prepare a written safety and health document referred to as a Safety Statement. Farmers with three or less employees can comply with the terms of the Code of Practice for Agriculture as an alternative to preparing a written safety statement. Failure to comply with this safety statement or Code of Practice requirement can result in prosecution.

The Code of Practice for Agriculture was launched in 2006 and posted to every farm household. It includes a Risk Assessment Document and a Safe System of Work Plan (SWWP). It also provides practical user-friendly guidance with respect to farmers, family members, employees, service providers, advisers, trainers and persons with a role related to safety and health. It sets out clearly the major risks in farming and provides a simple approach through the risk assessment document to managing safety at farm level.

Farmers are encouraged to use the Code of Practice to manage farm safety.

- Additional copies may be downloaded for free from the Health and Safety Authority website; www.hsa.ie.
- Also on this website farmers are encouraged to access and use the online risk assessment of the Farm Safety Code of Practice or
- go directly to www.farmsafely.com

Farmers are also strongly encouraged to attend a half day training course on how to use this Farm Safety Code of Practice. These courses are provided by Teagasc and all farmers (even those not clients of Teagasc) should contact their local Teagasc office and secure their place on the next available course.

For further information on farm safety:

- <http://www.teagasc.ie/newsletters/safety/farmsafetyguide.asp>

For further information on courses:

- http://www.teagasc.ie/health_safety/education_training.asp

Met Éireann

Radio

Detailed 'live' weather broadcasts are made a number of times daily on RTÉ Radio 1. The broadcast at 07.55 covers the period out to 5 days ahead. Met Éireann forecasts are also included with News Bulletins on RTÉ Radio 1, RTÉ 2FM, RTÉ Lyric, Today FM, Newstalk, and most Local Radio stations.

Television

Met Éireann weather forecasts are presented on RTÉ 1 and RTÉ 2 several times daily, with detailed forecast presentations following the main news bulletins at "Six-One" and "Nine O'Clock". The presentation before 14.00 on Sunday provides a forecast for a week ahead together with related agri-information and is geared primarily towards farming. Most other television news summaries contain a brief weather forecast.

Web

Detailed weather forecasts, regularly updated, are available on www.met.ie. This includes: rainfall radar; national, regional & county forecasts; weather warnings; a variety of past weather information. The Met Éireann mobile app is also available for both iOS and Android.

Warnings

Weather Warnings for wind, rain, snow, fog, low temperatures, high temperatures, thunderstorms and coastal wind warnings are presented in three categories:

STATUS YELLOW -	Weather Alert - Be Aware
STATUS ORANGE -	Weather Warning - Be Prepared
STATUS RED -	Severe Weather Warning - Take Action

Details of the thresholds used when issuing weather warnings are provided on the website www.met.ie

Frost warnings for fruit-growers are included in April and May with the routine forecasts when necessary. Warnings of weather conditions suitable to the spread of potato blight are added to the main forecasts, when appropriate, between May and September. Warnings of conditions conducive to the risk of forest fires are also issued as appropriate.

Bespoke Forecast Services

For specially tailored forecasts, which are chargeable contact (01) 806 4250 during office hours to enquire about, or set up, a service.

Newspapers

A forecast for a week ahead, especially for farmers, is published in a number of national farming and provincial weekly newspapers.

WINTER READY

- For further information on winter preparation, please go to:
<http://winterready.ie/Be-Winter-Ready.aspx>

Office of the Revenue Commissioners

Tax Implications of the Basic Payments Scheme

The reform of the Common Agricultural Policy, with effect from 1 January 2015, saw the existing Single Payment Scheme for farmers being replaced by a new Basic Payment Scheme. All entitlements held under the Single Payment Scheme expired on 31 December 2014. The following publication by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine outlines the new scheme: CAP 2015 - An Introduction to Direct Payments.

The Basic Payment is liable to tax as income. It will be taxed under Schedule D, either Case I or Case IV depending on circumstances. Payment entitlement is a chargeable asset for capital gains purposes. Once acquired it may be disposed of by way of sale, gift etc.

Accordingly, gains arising from transactions in payment entitlement will be chargeable to CGT in the normal manner.

Transfers of payment entitlement whether by way of gift or inheritance are liable to Capital Acquisitions Tax as any other asset and are subject to the normal Capital Acquisitions Tax rules. Transfers of payment entitlement will however be recognised as transfers of agricultural property for the purpose of the Capital Acquisitions Tax Agricultural Relief.

While payment entitlement is intangible property for Stamp Duty purposes, section 101A of the Stamp Duties Consolidation Act 1999 provides for an exemption from Stamp Duty on the sale, transfer or other disposition of payment entitlement. A single payment does not represent consideration for any supply between the farmer and the State and is, therefore, outside the scope of VAT. However, as payment entitlement is transferable either with or without land, there are situations in which a VAT liability will arise.

Income Tax/Corporation Tax/Capital Gains Tax

A single payment entitlement is a chargeable asset for capital gains tax purposes under current capital gains tax legislation. Accordingly, any chargeable gain arising on the disposal of such entitlements before 15 May 2014 would ordinarily have been liable to capital gains tax and capital gains tax would be payable on or before 15 December 2014.

However, in the particular circumstances that gave rise to the need for the transfer of the single payment entitlement, the Minister for Finance issued a statement in May 2014 that he intended to introduce a provision in Finance Bill 2014 to exempt from capital gains tax any chargeable gain on the transfer by individuals of payment entitlements under the Single Payment Scheme where all of those entitlements were leased out in 2013 and where the individuals had been advised by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine to dispose of those entitlements to the lessee before 15 May 2014. Accordingly, lessors affected who disposed of their single payment entitlements to lessees before 15 May 2014 will not be required to pay capital gains tax on these disposals.

Section 51 Finance Act 2014 gives effect to the statement issued by the Minister for Finance. It inserts a new section (Section 604C) in the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997 which exempts the relevant payment entitlements from capital gains tax.

To participate in the Basic Payment Scheme and related schemes a person must be an 'active farmer'. Profits, from the trade of farming and capital gains on the disposal of certain assets, are assessable to income tax and capital gains tax, respectively where the farmer is a sole trader. Such profits and gains are assessable to corporation tax in the case of farming companies, except, where the company disposes of development land, where the charge is to capital gains tax.

Agricultural Relief from Capital Acquisitions Tax

Section 89 of the Capital Acquisitions Tax Consolidation Act, 2003 Applicable to Both Gifts and Inheritance

- 1) "Agricultural Property" is defined as "agricultural land, pasture and woodland situated in a Member State and crops, trees and underwood growing on such land and also includes such farm buildings, farm houses and mansion houses (together with the lands occupied therewith) as are of a character appropriate to the property, and farm machinery, livestock and bloodstock thereon, and a payment entitlement."
- 2) For the purposes of the relief, a "farmer" means an individual in respect of whom not less than 80 per cent of the market value of the property owned by the individual consists of agricultural property in a Member State, after taking the gift or inheritance and who:
 - (i) is the holder of any of the qualifications set out in Schedule 2, 2A or 2B to the Stamp Duties Consolidation Act 1999, or who achieves such a qualification within a period of 4 years commencing on the date of the gift or inheritance, and who for a period of not less than 6 years commencing on the valuation date of the gift or inheritance farms the agricultural property on a commercial basis and with a view to the realisation of profits or,
 - (ii) for a period of not less than 6 years commencing on the valuation date of the gift or inheritance spends not less than 50 per cent of his or her normal working time farming the agricultural property on a commercial basis and with a view to the realisation of profits, or
 - (iii) leases the whole or substantially the whole of the agricultural property comprised in the gift or inheritance for a period of not less than 6 years commencing on the valuation date of the gift or inheritance, to an individual who satisfies the conditions in paragraph (i) or (ii).

No deduction is made from the market value of property for any debts or encumbrances except debts or encumbrances in respect of a dwelling-house, which is the only or main residence of the individual and that is not agricultural property. The "80%" test does not apply in the case of agricultural property, which consists of trees and under-wood.

- 3) For gifts and inheritance taken on or after 23 January 1997 the relief is calculated by reducing the market value of the "Agricultural Property" by a flat rate of 90%.
- 4) The relief is withdrawn if the property is disposed of or compulsorily acquired within six years of the date of the gift/inheritance and the proceeds from such disposal or compulsory acquisition are not fully expended in acquiring other agricultural property within a year of the sale or within 6 years of the compulsory acquisition **or if the beneficiary or lessee ceases to qualify as a farmer within the period of 6 years commencing on the valuation date of the gift or inheritance.**

An explanatory leaflet- (Agricultural Relief - CAT 5), which sets out full details is available on www.revenue.ie

Stamp Duties

Stamp Duties are taxes chargeable on certain commercial and legal documents. Following the introduction of e-Stamping on 30 December 2009 a Stamp Certificate, issued by the Revenue Commissioners, is attached to the document to denote that it has been stamped. Previously duty was denoted by means of stamps impressed on the documents. Unless a deed transferring ownership is properly stamped, it cannot be relied upon to prove title to property.

For documents executed on or after 7 July 2012 stamp duty is a self-assessed tax payable by the "accountable person" (e.g. the purchaser or transferee in the case of a transfer of property, the lessee in the case of a lease).

The stamp duties with which most people are familiar are the stamp duties payable on the sale of houses and land. There are always stamp duty implications to be considered whenever property, such as land and buildings, is transferred. Duty is charged on the price or consideration, paid for property or, in the case of a gift, its open market value. Where applicable, VAT should be excluded from the chargeable consideration. The present rates of duty on the transfer on sale or by gift of property other than shares or marketable securities are:

Stamp Duty on Residential Property

Aggregate Consideration

Rate of Duty

First €1,000,000

1%

Excess over €1,000,000

2%

Stamp Duty on Non Residential Property

The rate of stamp duty applicable to instruments executed on or after 7 December 2011 is 2%.

Stamp Duty on Mixed (i.e. Residential and Non-Residential) Property

Where a transaction relates to a mixed property, the consideration must be apportioned between the residential and non-residential elements. The residential property is not aggregated with the non-residential portion for the purposes of determining the appropriate rate of stamp duty.

Various reliefs and exemptions from the charge to stamp duty are available:

Conveyances and transfers of land between close relatives on or after 1 January 2015 are currently subject to stamp duty at one-half the normal rate of stamp duty ("consanguinity relief").

Consanguinity relief is subject to a number of conditions:

- Between 1 January 2015 but before 1 January 2016, a conveyance or transfer by a person of any age may qualify for relief;
- Between 1 January 2016 and before 1 January 2018, only a conveyance or transfer by a person under 67 years of age may qualify for relief.

In addition, the individual to whom the land is conveyed or transferred must, from the date of execution of the conveyance or transfer –

- farm the land for a period of not less than 6 years, or
- lease it for a period of not less than 6 years to an individual who will farm the land.

More information about consanguinity relief is available on www.revenue.ie/en/tax/stamp-duty/reliefs-exemptions.html#section7.

There is no stamp duty on property transferred by way of inheritance.

Stamp duty is not chargeable on transfers of any property between spouses and civil partners. Penalties apply if documents chargeable to stamp duty are not properly stamped on time.

Young Trained Farmer Relief

Section 81AA of the Stamp Duties Consolidation Act, 1999 provides for relief from stamp duty on the transfer by way of gift or sale of agricultural land (including buildings) to young trained farmers who meet certain conditions. The relief applies to deeds executed on or after 2 April 2007 and on or before 31 December 2015. Finance Bill 2015 currently before the Oireachtas provides for an extension of the relief to 31 December 2018.

Further information can be found in the Leaflet SD2B. This leaflet can be accessed on www.revenue.ie

Farm Consolidation Relief – The Relief is no longer available

Section 81C of the Stamp Duties Consolidation Act, 1999 contains the provisions relating to Farm Consolidation Relief. The purpose of the relief was to encourage the consolidation of farm holdings in order to reduce fragmentation and improve the operation and viability of the farm(s) concerned. The relief applies to instruments executed on or after 1 July 2007 and on or before 30 June 2011 (“the relevant period”).

Certain Family Farm Transfers

Section 83B of the Stamp Duties Consolidation Act provides for an exemption from stamp duty for transfers of farmland from a child to a parent in the context of certain family arrangements to which the provisions of section 599 of the Taxes Consolidation Act, 1997 (as amended by section 52 of the Finance Act, 2007) apply for capital gains tax purposes. A child for the purposes of section 599 includes a child of a deceased child, certain nephews and nieces and foster children.

Further information in relation to stamp duty may be obtained -

- on www.revenue.ie (under Taxes & Duties/Stamp Duty),
- by emailing Revenue on MyEnquiries - as this is a secure platform you need to register (this takes a few days) and once registered you may use MyEnquiries for all your contacts with Revenue, or
- by calling 1890 48 25 82 between Tuesday to Friday from 10.00 to 13.00.

Value Added Tax

Value-Added Tax (VAT) is a tax on consumer spending. It is collected by VAT-registered traders on their supplies of goods and services effected within the State, for consideration, to their customers. Generally, each such trader in the chain of supply from manufacturer through to retailer charges VAT on his or her sales and is entitled to deduct from this amount the VAT paid on his or her purchases.

The effect of offsetting VAT on purchases against VAT on sales is to impose the tax on the added value at each stage of production – hence Value-Added Tax. For the final consumer, not being VAT-registered, VAT simply forms part of the purchase price.

Definition of farmer for VAT purposes

For VAT purposes a farmer means a person who engages in at least one of the agricultural production activities in the State listed in appendix 1 and whose supplies consist exclusively of either or both

1. agricultural produce (other than bovine semen and nursery stock), or
2. agricultural services (other than agricultural contracting services), or

whose supplies consist exclusively of either or both agricultural produce (but see (a) above) and/or agricultural services (but see (b) above) and of one or more of the following:-

- Machinery, plant or equipment which he/she has used for his/her farming activity;
- Racehorse training services for which the annual turnover does not exceed and is not likely to exceed €37,500;
- Goods, other than those referred to above, for which the annual turnover does not exceed and is not likely to exceed €75,000 or services, other than those referred to above, for which the annual turnover does not exceed and is not likely to exceed €37,500.

In brief therefore, a person who engages in agricultural production, and whose turnover from non-agricultural activities does not exceed the appropriate annual threshold, is a flat-rate farmer i.e. a farmer who is not obliged to register for VAT in respect of his/her farming activities.

Further information available on www.revenue.ie

A VAT-registered farmer is obliged to charge VAT at the appropriate rate on his/her supplies of taxable goods and services. The rates, which apply to various agricultural goods and services, are shown in the following table:

VAT rate	Agricultural goods and services
Zero rate	Plants/seeds/bulbs for food production; Planting/sowing for food production.
4.8%	Live cattle, sheep, pigs, deer, goats.
4.8%	Supply of horses normally intended for use in the preparation of foodstuffs or for use in agricultural production.
9%	Supply of live horses, other than those normally intended for use in the preparation of foodstuffs or for use in agricultural production.
9%	Hire of horses.
9%	The supply of greyhounds. An eBrief issued in relation to Horses in November 2014
13.5%	Farm building work; land drainage and reclamation; Planting/sowing for other than food production; crop spraying; harvesting; stock minding, rearing and fattening; tree felling; bovine semen; seeds, bulbs, rhizomes and similar supplies used for the agricultural production of bio fuel crops. Supplies of insemination services, including supplies of nominations and "no foal, no fee" inseminations, by VAT registered traders are liable to VAT at the Reduced Rate.
23%	Hire of machinery; leasing of milk quota (without land); transport; storage.

A farmer is obliged to register where:-

1. his/her annual turnover from agricultural contracting activities other than insemination services, stock minding and stock rearing exceeds or is likely to exceed €37,500.
2. his/her annual turnover from sales of bovine semen other than to other farmers licensed as an A.I. centre or supplies to a person over whom the farmer exercises control, exceeds or is likely to exceed €75,000.
3. his/her annual turnover from retail sales of horticultural products exceeds or is likely to exceed €75,000.
4. his/her annual turnover from supplies of agricultural services, other than insemination services, stock minding or rearing, and either or both bovine semen or nursery stock exceeds or is likely to exceed €37,500.
5. he/she is in receipt of services which are taxable where received (New Intra-Community VAT Rules on Place of Supply For Services).
6. his/her annual turnover from sales of bovine semen and retail sales of nursery stock exceeds or is likely to exceed €75,000.
7. his/her annual turnover from intra-Community acquisitions exceeds or is likely to exceed €41,000.
8. his/her annual turnover from taxable goods or services, other than any exclusions mentioned above exceeds or is likely to exceed the appropriate thresholds.

Option to register

A farmer who is not obliged to register may elect to do so.

If a farmer is obliged to register in respect of Intra-Community Acquisitions or services received from abroad such registration is effectively 'ring fenced' to the Intra-Community acquisitions or services which are taxable where received (New Intra-Community VAT Rules on Place of Supply For Services). S/he is not obliged to register in respect of his/her farming activities.

Where s/he registers in respect of racehorse training this registration may also be isolated and s/he is not required to register in respect of his/her farming activities. In general Revenue will accept that where a racehorse trainer is also a farmer, that the training element is only 10 per cent of the total turnover.

Flat-rate farmers

A flat-rate farmer is a farmer who is not registered for VAT in respect of his/her farming activities. In order to compensate for VAT paid on supplies to him/her, such a farmer is entitled to a flat-rate addition (at present 5.2%) to the prices at which his/her agricultural produce or agricultural services are supplied to VAT-registered persons including marts, agricultural co-operatives and meat factories. A flat-rate farmer is also entitled to reclaim VAT incurred in respect of the construction, extension, alteration or reconstruction of farm buildings, and land drainage, from the VAT Repayment (Unregistered) Section.

Flat-rate farmers have no Irish VAT liability in respect of purchases of goods in other Member States provided the €41,000 threshold is not exceeded. Instead, VAT is charged in the Member State of purchase at the rate applicable there. **Farmers who exceed the acquisitions threshold** are liable to Irish VAT regardless of whether or not they have paid VAT in the Member State of purchase. Therefore, to avoid double taxation, farmers whose purchases in other Member States exceed or are likely to exceed €41,000 per annum must register and account for VAT here.

Records and Returns

A VAT-registered farmer is obliged to keep records of purchases and sales so that he/she can complete bi-monthly VAT returns (i.e. January/February, March/April, May/June, July/August, September/October and November/December). A VAT return for each bi-monthly period is due on the 19 day of the month following the end of the relevant period. If VAT charged on sales exceeds VAT incurred on purchases, payment, as appropriate, should accompany the return. If VAT incurred on purchases exceeds VAT charged on sales, Revenue will refund the difference, as appropriate.

VAT Refunds on Farm Buildings and Land Drainage Works

Generally speaking, a flat-rate farmer is entitled to a refund of VAT incurred by him/her in respect of expenditure on farm buildings and land drainage works for the purposes of his/her farming business.

Claims for refund must be completed on the appropriate form (Form VAT 58). Single claims amounting to less than €125 are not admissible. However, such claims may be represented with other claims from the same claimant once the combined value of the total claim exceeds €125.

Where the flat-rate farmer is registered for VAT in respect of Intra-Community acquisitions and/or only, he/she is still entitled to a refund of VAT incurred in respect of such works. However, rather than making a separate claim for refund, the refund must be claimed as a deduction from the amount of VAT payable by that farmer with his/her periodic VAT return. You can contact Unregistered VAT Repayment section at 061 488060.

Registered Farm Partnerships

Any farmers thinking about establishing a Registered Farm Partnership might find it useful to read

www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/farmingsectors/newfarmpartnershipregister/RequirementsFarmPartnershipRegistration160215.doc

Further information may be obtained on this or any other matter from the Revenue website at **www.revenue.ie** or from your local Revenue district.

Taxation of Farming Income

Profits from the trade of farming are, depending on the circumstances, assessable to income tax or to corporation tax. The following, which is based on the legislation in place at 30 July 2015, is a very brief description of some of the more common provisions that impact on the taxation of farming income. Additional information is available from the Revenue website, **www.revenue.ie** or from your tax advisor.

Averaging of farm profits

Certain farmers may elect to be charged to income tax on the basis of the average of the aggregate farming profits and losses ending in a year of assessment rather than being charged to tax on their farming profits in the normal way (i.e. on the profits of a 12-month period ending in the year of assessment). For the years of assessment 2015 onwards the period of income averaging is increased from three to five years.

Previously a farmer could not elect to average if he or his spouse/civil partner carried on another trade or profession. This is changed to allow averaging of farming profits by a farmer where he or his spouse/civil partner carry on another trade provided that trade represents on-farm diversification.

Allowances for capital expenditure on construction of farm buildings and other works

Persons chargeable to tax on their farming profits may claim a farm buildings allowance for capital expenditure on the construction of farm buildings (other than buildings used as a dwelling) and certain other works. The cost is written off at the rate of 15% per annum in the first 6 years and 10% in year 7.

Relief for certain income from leasing of farmland

Certain income arising from the leasing of farmland is exempt from income tax. This relief was widened with effect from 1 January 2015.

The amount of income that may be exempted under a qualifying long term lease is increased and a fourth threshold is introduced for lease periods of 15 or more years with income of up to €40,000 being exempted.

Where one or more qualifying leases are entered into, some on or after 1 January 2015 and some at any other time (i.e. prior to 1 January 2015), then the amount of the exemption is limited, in aggregate, to the following:

- €40,000 where the longest qualifying lease is for 15 years or more,
- €30,000 where the longest qualifying lease is for 10 but less than 15 years,
- €22,500 where the longest qualifying lease is for 7 but less than 10 years, and
- €18,000 where all the qualifying leases are for 5 or 6 years.

There is no longer any lower age threshold for lessors and in consequence the reference to lessors who are permanently incapacitated is also removed. A company may now be an eligible lessee provided it is not connected with the lessor.

Stock Relief - General

Stock relief is a deduction from farm trading income of 25% of the increase in the value of trading stock in an accounting period. The relief may not be used to create or augment a loss and must be claimed on or before the return filing date for the period to which it relates.

Stock Relief – Young Trained Farmers

This provides for an enhanced rate of stock relief of 100% rather than 25% for four years. It applies to farmers who become “qualifying farmers”, i.e. farmers who are under 35 years of age and who meet certain training requirements.

Stock Relief – Registered Farm Partnership

Stock relief is provided at the rate of 50% for farmers who are partners in registered farm partnerships and 100% for certain qualifying farmers within the meaning of section 667B (often referred to as young trained farmers), who are partners in such partnerships. It applies to accounting periods which commence on or after 1 January 2012.

From 1 January 2014 the maximum amount of stock relief that can be claimed for registered farm partnerships is limited to €15,000 over 3 years.

Compulsory disposals of livestock

This scheme applies to profits accruing on the disposal of stock under statutory disease eradication measures.

A farmer may elect to exclude such profits in computing income for the accounting period in which the disposal takes place, in which case they are deemed to arise in equal instalments in each of the next 4 accounting periods (or, if the farmer wishes, in the period in which they arise and the following 3 periods).

Also, the farmer may be entitled to stock relief of 100% in the 4-year deferral period. The option to defer does not apply where a permanent discontinuance of the farming trade occurs.

Milk Quota

Under CAP reform Milk Quota was abolished from 31 March 2015.

A seven-year write-down capital allowance regime has been available to defray the cost of purchase of milk quota since 2000. Where a farmer has not claimed the full allowances when the quota comes to an end, that farmer may be entitled to claim a balancing allowance. The balancing allowance will be equal to the amount of the unused allowance. No further writing down allowance is given for any subsequent chargeable period.

The EU has permitted the payment of super-levy fines incurred by farmers for exceeding their milk quota in the final operation year; i.e. 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015, to be paid over a three-year period to alleviate the financial burden on farmers. Farmers will be entitled to claim any super levy fines in full as a deduction against farm income in the year in which the expense is recognised in their accounts.

Taxation of stallion profits and gains

Since 1 August 2008, stallions are treated as stock in trade. This means that income from stud fees and profits or gains from the sale of stallions is taxable in the normal manner (a previous exemption ended on 31 July 2008).

Profits from the occupation of certain woodlands

Profits or gains from the commercial occupation of woodlands in the State are exempt from income tax and corporation tax.

Notwithstanding the exemption, details of all such profits, gains and losses must be included in the annual return of income. The normal rules relating to the keeping of records and the making available of those records for inspection by Revenue also apply.

The Guidelines for the preparation of a Farm N.M.P. may be obtained from the Department's local Agricultural, Environmental and Structures (AES) Offices (see list of AES offices at Appendix 1B).

Further information in relation to the provision of Section 659 of the Taxes Consolidation Act, 1997 may be obtained from the local Office of the Revenue Commissioners.

Ordnance Survey Ireland

Ordnance Survey Ireland offers for sale a wide range of mapping in both a digital and paper format. Of principal interest to the farming community are large scale maps of rural areas – these maps are at a scale of 1:2500 and 1:5000 for rural and semi-rural. Aerial Imagery and Ortho photography are products which can also be used as an information source to the farming community. Ordnance Survey Ireland from its sales offices in the Phoenix Park can supply national coverage of Aerial Imagery and Ortho photography taken in 1995 (B/W) and 2000 (Colour) and 2005 (Colour).

Mapping can be supplied by Ordnance Survey Ireland and its network of agents as standard sheets or as a site centred on-demand service, in either a digital or paper form.

Options include:

- A variety of map scales;
- Paper plots;
- Digital Maps in a variety of formats;
- Composite maps;
- Paper plots from A4 to A0;
- Selected themes for digital products;
- Planning Packs;
- Land Registry Maps;
- Historic Maps.

Many Ordnance Survey maps and products are now available online at www.osi.ie

Historic 6 inch and 25 inch maps are also available. Historic maps can be viewed free of charge at and can also be downloaded and purchased online at www.osi.ie

Digital Map Data

Both Digital Image data (raster) and Digital Feature data (vector) are available in a number of standard formats and are supplied on a variety of media options. Digital vector and raster data can be tailored to customer's specifications. Ordnance Survey Ireland Place Map Agents network can supply mapping in digital format. Digital mapping can also be purchased from Ordnance Survey Ireland Map Sales office in the Phoenix Park, Dublin, or on-line at www.osi.ie.

Aerial Photography

National coverage at 1:30,000 and 1:40,000 photo-scales are available. This photography was taken in 1995 and 2000 and during 2005/06. Other selected areas are also available ranging from 1:5,000 to 1:20,000 photo-scales. Aerial Photography is available as prints in both black and white and colour. National coverage at 1:30,000 and 1:40,000 photo-scales are available on the OS website to view via the map viewer. Images can also be purchased on-line. Lower flown photography is only available from Ordnance Survey Irelands map shop in the Phoenix Park, Dublin 8.

The Land Registry

The Land Registry has public offices in Dublin at Chancery Street, Dublin 7, in Roscommon at Government Offices, Golf Links Road, Roscommon, and in Waterford, at Cork Road, Waterford.

Since 4 November 2006, the Land Registry has been under the control of the Property Registration Authority. The Land Registry provides the first registration of title to property in the State and registers subsequent dealings with the property. The Registry maintains registers of the ownership of freehold land, leasehold interests and other rights and burdens which may affect property.

For General enquiries please contact:

- Tel: 0761 001610/051 303000 or
- Email: info@prai.ie ● Website: www.prai.ie

Folios, Maps and Name Indexes for all counties can be inspected at Land Registry public offices. The Registry map, on which registered holdings are shown and on which rights such as rights of way are defined, can also be inspected and copy maps, showing particular plans, can be obtained.

This information can also be accessed via the Land Registry's online service www.landdirect.ie which is available to both account holders and guest users. For further information on this online service please check the website www.landdirect.ie.

The registered owner (or his/her agent) may apply to inspect or obtain a copy of any document filed in the Land Registry under which a registration is made affecting his or her property. Under the terms of the Registration of Deeds and Title Act 2006, the Property Registration Authority ceased to issue or reissue Land Certificates as and from 1 January 2007 and from 1 January 2010, all remaining Land Certificates not already cancelled ceased to have force or effect.

Please see the Land Registry website www.prai.ie for further information.

The Ground Rents Purchase Scheme is administered by the Land Registry in Chancery Street, Dublin 7 (Tel: 0761 001610 or 051 303000, Email: groundrents@prai.ie).

Further information on the Land Registry can be obtained from the Property Registration Authority website at www.prai.ie

Western Development Commission (WDC)

The WDC was established as a statutory agency in 1999 to promote and encourage economic and social development in the Western Region comprising the counties of Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, Roscommon, Mayo, Galway and Clare.

Strategic Aims

The five strategic goals of the WDC are:

- Contribute to balanced regional development by ensuring that the western region maximises its full potential for economic and social development;
- Promote the benefits of living, working and doing business in the west;
- Support the sustainable economic and social development of the rural economy;
- Provide risk capital to SMEs and social enterprises through the WDC Investment Fund;
- Operate the WDC as a competent and effective organisation.

Further information can be obtained from:

- The Western Development Commission, Dillon House, Ballaghaderreen, Co. Roscommon, F45 WY26.
- Tel: 094 9861441
- Email: info@wdc.ie
- Website: www.wdc.ie

Appendices

APPENDIX 1A

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND THE MARINE

Head Office

Agriculture House, Kildare St, Dublin 2, DO2 WK12.

Agriculture House Fax No:

0761 064400/ 01 6072000

01 6616263

Decentralised Offices:

Backweston Administration Building

Stacumny Lane,

Celbridge,

Co Kildare,

W23 X3PH.

01 5058600

Backweston Laboratories:

Backweston Laboratory Campus,

Stacumny Lane,

Celbridge,

Co. Kildare,

W23 X3PH.

01 6157100

Cavan Office:

Government Offices,

Farnham Street,

Cavan,

H12 D459.

0761 064412/ 049 4368200

Clonakilty Office

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine,

Government Offices,

National Seafood Centre,

Clogheen,

Clonakilty,

Co. Cork,

P85 TX47.

0761 064409/ 023 8859500

Portlaoise Office

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine,

Government Offices,

Old Abbeyleix Road,

Portlaoise,

Co. Laois,

PR32 RPA6.

0761 064419/ 057 8674400

Wexford Office

Johnstown Castle Estate,

Co Wexford,

Y35 PN52.

0761 064415/ 053 9163400

APPENDIX 1A DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND THE MARINE

DIVISIONS

Accommodation (See also Management Services)	01 6072878 / 057 8689923
Accounts	049 4368200
Agricultural Structures	
Agri-environment Options Scheme Operations (AEOS)	053 9163425
Agri-environment Options Scheme (AEOS)	053 9163446
Co-Ordination Unit	053 9170315
Early Retirement Scheme	053 9163469
Organic Unit	053 9163465
REPS IT	053 9163451
REPS Payments	053 9163452
REPS Policy	053 9163452
REPS Withdrawals	053 9163421
Aids to Private Storage	053 9163437
Intervention	053 9163467
Animal Health and Welfare	
Class A Diseases	01 6072862
Helpline for:	
● Avian flu	0761 064403
● Influenza	
● Blue Tongue	
Animal Welfare	0761 064408/ 01 6072379
BVD	0761 064590
Import/Export of Cats and Dogs	01 6072827
Import/Export of Livestock, Horses, Birds – Quarantine Procedures	01 6072862
Marts	071 9682000
Scrapie Payments	053 9163437
Sheep/Pig I.D.	01 6072901
Swill Control	057 8694346
Transport of Live Animals	01 6072706
Fallen Animals (TSE Subsidy) Scheme	053 9163437
TSE (BSE/Scrapie)	053 9163437
Class B Diseases	01 6072224
Control of Horses Act	01 6072292
General Animal Health Investigations	0761 064408
Vet Lab Services	01 6072859
Animal Identification Movement	
AIM Exits, Duplicates / Missing Stolen	01 5058883
AIM Project	01 5058629

Cattle ID	01 5058880
Equine Identification	0761 064402/ 01 5058881
Farm to Farm & Mart Movement	01 5058882
Pig ID	0761 064402/ 01 5058881
Sheep Identification & Movement	0761 064407/ 01 5058880
Tagging and Registration	01 5058880

CAP Entitlements : See also Direct Payments Unit for Helpline numbers

Consolidation of Entitlements: All Counties	0761 064430
Force Majeure/Review of Entitlements	0761 064438
Inheritance Enquiry Unit	0761 064428
National Reserve	0761 064446
Queries Online Registration- All Counties helpdesk	0761 064424
REPS Derogation	053 9163400
Scottish Derogation Section	0761 064447
Transfer of Entitlements (incl Private Contract Clause)	0761 064430
Unused Entitlements: All Counties	057 8680475
Young Farmers Scheme	0761 064446

Climate Change and Bioenergy Policy

Bioenergy Policy and Climate Change Mitigation	057 8689916
Climate Change Adaptation	057 8694476
Climate Change & Bioenergy Policy	057 8689918
Environmental Coordination (SEA, EIA, etc.)	057 8689915

Corporate Affairs

Co-ordination	01 6072383
Data Protection	057 8694469
Freedom of Information	057 8694327
Press & Information Office	01 6072802
Quality Service Unit	057 8694331
North/South Co-Operation	01 6072046

Crop Policy Production & Safety

Animal Feedingstuffs, Cereal and Grass Seed, Certification Fees	01 5058884
Crop Policy Section	01 6072324
Horticulture Grants Scheme	01 5058886
Plant Trade, Pesticides and Fertilisers	01 5058885
Potato Section	01 5058895
Producer Organisation Scheme for Fruit and Vegetables	01 5058893

Direct Payments Unit - See also CAP Entitlements Division

Help-Lines for Area Based and other related issues arising from Basic Payment Application:

Carlow, Clare, Cork, Dublin, Mayo, Offaly, Tipperary, Waterford	0761 064425
Cavan, Galway, Kilkenny, Laois, Louth, Meath Monaghan, Sligo, Westmeath, Wicklow	0761 064421

Donegal, Kerry, Kildare, Leitrim, Limerick		
Longford, Roscommon, Wexford	0761	064420
Areas of Natural Constraint Scheme (All Counties)	0761	064426
Commonages (All Counties)	0761	064448
Greening (All Counties)	0761	064441
Queries regarding Online Registration (All Counties)	0761	064424
Economics & Planning	01	6072875
ERAD		
Bovine Disease Levies	01	5058887
Compensation Policy	01	5058888
On Farm Market Valuation	01	5058889
Prosecution / Litigation	01	5058890
Policy	01	5058891
Veterinary Medicines	01	5058662
EU & International Trade	01	6072724
Export Refunds – Wexford Office	053	9163448
Feedingstuffs	01	5058892
Finance	01	6072799
Fisheries – Clonakilty Office		
● Aquaculture & Foreshore Management		
● Marine Agencies and Programmes		
● Seafood Policy & Development		
● Sea Fisheries Administration		
● Licensing Authority for Sea-fishing Boats	023	8859500/ 0761 064409
● Harbours		
● Seafood Policy and Development		
Fish Quotas	023	8859578
Fisheries Policy	023	8859572
Engineering (See Appendix 1G)	023	8859500
Food Industry Development	01	6072303
Forestry - Wexford Office		
2nd Instalment Grants and Premiums	053	9165533
Appeals Unit	053	9170308
Approvals and Aerial Fertilisation	053	9170308
Change of Applicant	053	9170358
Coillte Corporate Governance and Divisional Co-Ordination	053	9170320
Debt Management Section	053	9163419
Felling	053	9170371
Financial Management & Reporting Section	053	9170367
First Grant and First Premiums	053	9165525

Forestry Policy	053	9165521
Forestry Promotion and Training	053	9170358
Forestry Spatial & UAT Section	053	9163435
Legislation	053	9163436
Horticulture & Plant Health	01 5058600/ 01 5058752	
Importation of Products of Animal Origin	01	6072582
Information Systems	01	6072673
Internal Audit	01	6072771
Intervention Operations – Wexford Office	053	9163492
ISO Projects Management	057	8689908
Legal Services		
Agriculture House, Dublin	01 6072349/ 01 6072179	
Lands Branch, Cavan	049	4368225
Records Branch, Unit 11, Clonminam Industrial Estate, Portlaoise, R32 YO33	057	8634988
Livestock Breeding Production and Trade	049	4368242
Cavan Office		
Management Services – Portlaoise Office	057	8694306
(See also Accommodation)		
Milk and Meat Hygiene/ Animal By-Products		
Animal by-products	076	1064440
Central Fees unit	057	8694334
Dairy Hygiene	057	8694357
Live Trade and Former OIE List A Diseases	01	6072862
Pet Passports	01	6072827
T.S.E. Section	01	6072483
Vet Med	01	5058662
Meat and Milk Policy		
Beef Policy	01	6072880
Eggs & Poultry	01	6072832
Food Safety Liaison Unit	01	6072263
Milk Policy & Trade	01	6072853
Milk Quota	01	6072857
Milk Subsidies	053	9165563
National Disease Control Centre Animal Product Import	01	6072000
Pigmeat	01	6072700
Sheepmeat / Farmed Game and International Markets	01	6072935

National Beef Assurance Scheme

AIM Development	01	5058629
AIM Exits/Duplicates/Missing and Stolen	01	5058883
Farm to Farm/Marts	01	5058882
Tagging and Registration	01	5058880
Transport/Dealers	01	5058881

National Disease Control Centre

Animal Product Imports	01	6072000
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Nitrates, Biodiversity & Engineering

Biodiversity/ Water Policy/ Nitrates	053	9163444
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On Farm Investment

Bioenergy	053	9165504
TAMS II Schemes	053 9170323 / 053	9163431

Personnel

Administrative Staff	01	6072806
Agricultural Officers	01	6072056
Inspectorate Staff	01	6072056
Staff Training and Development	01	6072783
Veterinary/Labs/Legal Staff	01	6072252

Research and Codex

01 6072565

Rural Development (CAP)

01 6072885

State Bodies – Contact No. Dept. of Agriculture, Food and Marine

Bord Bia	01	6072202
Bord Iascaigh Mhara, Marine Institute, Sea Fisheries Protection Authority, Aquaculture Licensing Appeals Board	023	8859589
Coillte	053	9170320
Horse Racing Ireland, Irish National Stud, Bord Na gCon	049	4368291
National Milk Agency	057	8694355
State Bodies (Corporate Governance)	01	6072740
Teagasc	01	6072037
Veterinary Council of Ireland	01	5058662

APPEALS OFFICE**Agriculture Appeals Office**

Kilminchy Court, Dublin Road,	057	8631900
Portlaoise, Co Laois, R32 DTW5	0761	064418
Fax No:	057	8667177

Aquaculture Licensing Appeals Board

Kilminchy Court, Dublin Road Portlaoise, Co. Laois, R32 DTW5	057	8631912
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APPENDIX 1B

List of Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine Regional Offices/ AES Offices

Counties	Office	Functions	Telephone	Address
Carlow	(See Wexford)	Veterinary Livestock AES	053 9259200 0761 064416	Vinegar Hill Lane, Templeshannon, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford. Y21 E924
Cavan	Cavan	Veterinary Livestock AES	049 4368200 0761 064439	Government Offices, Farnham Street, Cavan. H12 D459
Clare	(See Limerick)	Veterinary Livestock AES	061 500900 0761 064431	Houston Hall, Ballycummin Avenue, Raheen Industrial Estate, Raheen, Limerick. V94 PKF1
Cork North/ Cork South	Cork	Veterinary Livestock AES	021 4851400	Hibernian House, 80A South Mall, Cork. T12 XY56
Donegal	Raphoe	Veterinary Livestock AES	074 9173600 074 9122199	Meeting House Street, Raphoe, Co. Donegal. W93 WK52
Dublin	(See Kildare)	Veterinary Livestock AES	045 873035 0761 064410	Poplar House, Poplar Square, Naas, Co. Kildare. W91 HC5P
Galway	Galway	Veterinary Livestock AES	091 507600 091 507600	Arás an tSáile, Lakeshore Drive, Renmore, Galway, Co. Galway. H91 AN2E Mellows Campus, Athenry, Co. Galway, H65 F961.
Kerry	Kerry	Veterinary Livestock AES	066 7164300 0761 064433	Government Offices, Spa Road, Tralee, Co. Kerry. V92 VX4V
Kildare	Kildare	Veterinary Livestock AES	045 873035 0761 064410	Poplar House, Poplar Square, Naas, Co. Kildare. W91 HC5P

Counties	Office	Functions	Telephone	Address
Kilkenny	(See Waterford)	Veterinary Livestock AES	051 312300 0761 064413	The Glen, Waterford, Co. Waterford. X91 P04E
Laois	(See Kildare)	Veterinary Livestock AES	045 873035 0761 064410	Poplar House, Poplar Square, Naas, Co. Kildare. W91 HC5P
Leitrim	Leitrim	Veterinary Livestock AES	0761 064434	Derryhallagh, Drumshanbo, Co. Leitrim. N41 EW27
Limerick	Limerick	Veterinary Livestock AES	061 500900 0761 064431	Houston Hall, Ballycummin Avenue, Raheen Industrial Estate, Raheen, Limerick. V94 PKF1
Longford	(See Leitrim)	Veterinary Livestock AES	071 9682000 0761 064434	Derryhallagh, Drumshanbo, Co. Leitrim. N41 EW27
Louth	(See Meath)	Veterinary Livestock AES	046 9079030 0761 064411	Government Offices, Athlumney, Kilcarn, Navan, Co. Meath. C15 Y2T3
Mayo	Mayo	Veterinary Livestock AES	094 9035300 0761 064435	Government Offices, Michael Davitt House, Castlebar, Co. Mayo. F23 VE28
Meath	Meath	Veterinary Livestock AES	046 9079030 0761 064411	Government Offices, Athlumney, Kilcarn, Navan, Co. Meath. C15 Y2T3
Monaghan	(See Cavan)	Veterinary Livestock AES	049 4368200 0761 064412	Government Offices, Farnham Street, Cavan, Co. Cavan. H12 D459
Offaly	Offaly	Veterinary Livestock AES	057 9370300 0761 064417	Government Offices, Clominch, Tullamore, Co. Offaly. R35 Y2N5
Roscommon	Roscommon	Veterinary Livestock AES	0906 630100	Government Offices, Golf Links Road, Roscommon, Co. Roscommon. F42 NC84
Sligo	(See Leitrim)	Veterinary Livestock AES	071 9682000 0761 064434	Derryhallagh, Drumshanbo, Co. Leitrim. N41 EW27

Counties	Office	Functions	Telephone	Address
Tipperary	Tipperary	Veterinary Livestock AES	062 34900 0761 064432	Government Offices, Davis Street, Tipperary, Co. Tipperary. E34 PT93
Waterford	Waterford	Veterinary Livestock AES	051 312300 0761 064413	The Glen, Waterford, Co. Waterford. X91 P04E
Westmeath	(See Offaly)	Veterinary Livestock AES	057 9370300 0761 064417	Government Offices, Clominch, Tullamore, Co. Offaly. R35 Y2N5
Wexford	Wexford	Veterinary Livestock AES	053 9259200 0761 064416	Vinegar Hill Lane, Templeshannon, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford. Y21 E924
Wicklow East	(See Wexford)	Veterinary Livestock AES	053 9242000 0761 064416	Vinegar Hill Lane, Templeshannon, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford. Y21 E924
Wicklow West	(See Kildare)	Veterinary Livestock AES	045 873035 0761 064410	Poplar House, Poplar Square, Naas, Co. Kildare W91 HC5P

*** Area responsibilities for Veterinary and Livestock services in certain local offices**

Office

Wicklow West (Kildare)*
Wicklow East (Wexford)*

Herd Number Ranges

Z201001 – Z226999
Z101001 – Z148999

APPENDIX 1C –FORESTRY SCHEMES CONTACT DETAILS

Forestry Schemes Contact Details

Approvals	Tel: 053 9170308 Email: forestryappenq@agriculture.gov.ie
1st Grant	Tel: 053 9165525 Email: 1stgrant@agriculture.gov.ie
Felling	Tel: 053 9170371 Email: felling.forests@agriculture.gov.ie
Forest Health	Tel: 01 6072651 Email: forestprotection@agriculture.gov.ie
International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) No. 15	Tel: 01 6072651 Email: forestprotection@agriculture.gov.ie
Forest Reproductive Material	Tel: 01 6072651 Email: frm@agriculture.gov.ie

APPENDIX 1D

LABORATORIES/TESTING, FARMS AND FIELD STATIONS

NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
Blood Testing Laboratory (Brucellosis)	Model Farm Road, Cork, T12 DK73.	021 4545377
Veterinary Public Health Regulatory Laboratory	Backweston Laboratory Campus, Celbridge, Co. Kildare, W23 X3PH.	01 6157368
Central Veterinary Research Laboratory (Bacteriology, Pathology and Virology)	Backweston Laboratory Campus, Celbridge, Co. Kildare, W23 X3PH.	01 6157106
Crop Variety Evaluation	c/o Teagasc, Ballyderown Farm, Moorepark, Fermoy, Co. Cork, P61 C997.	025 27530
Dairy Science Laboratory	Backweston Laboratory Campus, Celbridge, Co. Kildare, W23 X3PH.	01 6157465
Dairy Science Laboratory	Model Farm Road, Bishopstown, Cork, T12 DK73.	021 4543300
Dairy Science Laboratory	Killeely Road, Limerick, V94 TS88.	061 452444/338
National Crop Variety Evaluation	Backweston Farm, Leixlip, Co. Kildare, W23 AE3V.	01 6302900
Pesticides Regulation and Control Divisions	Backweston Laboratory Campus, Celbridge, Co. Kildare, W23 X3PH.	01 6157552
Plant Health Laboratory (Feedingstuffs Microscopy Lab)	Backweston Laboratory Campus, Celbridge, Co. Kildare, W23 X3PH.	01 6157504/09
Potato Farm and Laboratory	Tops, Raphoe, Co. Donegal, F93 HV02.	074 9145490
Regional Veterinary Laboratory	Backweston Laboratory Campus, Celbridge, Co. Kildare, W23 X3PH.	01 6157115
Regional Veterinary Laboratory	Model Farm Road, Bishopstown, Cork, T12 DK73.	021 4543931
Regional Veterinary Laboratory	Leggetsrath, Hebron Road, Kilkenny, R95 TX39.	056 7721688
Regional Veterinary Laboratory	Knockalisheen, Limerick, V94 WK44.	061 582610
Regional Veterinary Laboratory	Fawcetts Bridge, Doonally, Sligo, F91 XRW7.	071 9142191
Regional Veterinary Laboratory	Coosan, Athlone, Co Westmeath, N37 N471.	090 6475514
Seed Testing Laboratory	Backweston Laboratory Campus, Celbridge, Co. Kildare, W23 X3PH.	01 6157518
Veterinary Research Farm	Longtown Farm, Clane, Co Kildare W91 KW9o	045 868325

Appendices

APPENDIX 1E

SEED POTATO CERTIFICATION TECHNICAL STAFF

SEED POTATO INSPECTORS AND DISTRICTS SUPERINTENDENTS (DS)

All Counties

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine,
Crop Policy, Production & Safety Division (Potato Section),
Floor 2,
Backweston Administration Building,
Celbridge,
Co. Kildare,
W23 X3PH.
Tel: 01 5058600

APPENDIX 1F

MARINE ENGINEERING DIVISION/ FISHERIES HARBOUR CENTRES

The Engineering Division provides an advisory, inspectorial and design and construction service on aspects of Fisheries Engineering to the Department and to Central Government generally.

The service provided by the Engineering Division ranges across environmental work in the marine and fresh-water environments, fisheries related work in rivers and lakes, aquaculture related work, and an advisory, design and construction service in relation to harbour developments.

Head Office

Clogheen, Clonakilty,
Co Cork, P85 TX47.
Tel: 023 8859500
Fax: 023 8821780

West Region

2nd Floor Custom House, Druid Lane,
Galway, H91 XV2C.
Tel: 091 560500

South Region

Reen Point, Blennerville,
Tralee, Co. Kerry,
V92 X2TK.
Tel: 066 7149340

East Region

Leeson Lane, Dublin 2,
D02 TR60.
Tel: 01 6072870
Fax: 01 6624216

North Region

Upper Main Street, Ballyshannon,
Co. Donegal, F94 X960.
Tel: 071 9852561
Fax: 071 9852563

FISHERIES HARBOUR CENTRES – HARBOUR MASTERS

Ros a' Mhíl Fishery Harbour Centre,
Co Galway, H91 K765.
Tel: 091 560506 / 091 560507
Fax: 091 572131

Killybegs Fishery Harbour Centre,
Co Donegal, F94 EC58.
Tel: 074 97310311/091 9731032
Fax: 074 9731840

Dunmore East Fishery Harbour Centre,
Co. Waterford, X91 VN0N.
Tel: 051 383166
Fax: 051 383607

Castletownbere Fishery Harbour Centre,
Co Cork, P75 YC60.
Tel: 027 70220
Fax: 027 70329

Howth Fishery Harbour Centre,
Co. Dublin, D13 V0F6.
Tel: 01 8322252
Fax: 01 8326948

An Daingean Fishery Harbour Centre,
Co. Kerry, V92 HoCV.
Tel: 066 9151629
Fax: 066 9152546

APPENDIX 1G

STATE BODIES AND OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

STATE BODY (COMMERCIAL)

STATE BODY (COMMERCIAL)	TELEPHONE NUMBER	WEBSITE
Bord na gCon	061 448000	www.igb.ie
Coillte	01 2011111	www.coillte.ie
Horse Racing Ireland	045 455455	www.goracing.ie
Irish National Stud	045 455455	www.irishnationalstud.ie

STATE BODY (NON-COMMERCIAL)

STATE BODY (NON-COMMERCIAL)	TELEPHONE NUMBER	WEBSITE
Aquaculture Licensing Appeals Board	057 8631912	www.alab.ie
Bord Bia	01 6685155	www.bordbia.ie
Bord Iascaigh Mhara	01 2144100	www.bim.ie
Marine Institute	091 387200	www.marine.ie
National Milk Agency	01 6603396	www.nationalmilkagency.ie
Sea Fisheries Protection Authority	023 8859300	www.sfpa.ie
Teagasc	059 9170200	www.teagasc.ie
Veterinary Council of Ireland	01 6684402	www.vci.ie

OTHER DEPARTMENT/STATE BODIES	TELEPHONE NUMBER	WEBSITE
Department of Environment, Community and Local Government	01 888 2000	www.environ.ie
Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation	1890 220222	www.djei.ie
Health and Safety Authority	1890 289389	www.hsa.ie
Met Éireann	01 8064200	www.met.ie
Office of the Revenue Commissioners	Dublin: 1890 333425 Border Midlands West: 1890 777425 South West: 1890 222425 East & South East: 1890 444425	www.revenue.ie
Ordnance Survey Ireland	01 8025300	www.osi.ie
Department of Social Protection	071 919 3302	www.welfare.ie
The Land Registry	0761 001610 / 051 303000	www.prai.ie
Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport	0761 001601/ 01 6707444	www.dttas.ie
Western Development Commission	094 98 61441	www.wdc.ie

APPENDIX 2A – TEAGASC

HEAD OFFICE

- Address: Head Office: Teagasc, Oak Park, Carlow, R93 XE12.
- Tel: 059 9170200
- Email: info@teagasc.ie
- Website: www.teagasc.ie

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

SENIOR MANAGEMENT

Director of Teagasc: Prof. Gerry Boyle
● Email: gerry.boyle@teagasc.ie

Director of Research: Dr. Frank O'Mara
● Email: frank.omara@teagasc.ie

Director of Knowledge Transfer: Dr. Tom Kelly
● Email: tom.kelly@teagasc.ie

Chief Operations Officer:
Tom Doherty, Teagasc Oak Park, Carlow, R93 XE12.
● Email: tom.doherty@teagasc.ie
● Tel: 059 9170200

RESEARCH

Director of Research:
Dr. Frank O'Mara, Teagasc Oak Park, Carlow, R93 XE12.
● Email: frank.omara@teagasc.ie
● Tel: 059 9170200

Assistant Director of Research:
Declan Troy, Teagasc Food Research Centre, Ashtown, Dublin 15, D15 KN3K.
● Email: declan.troy@teagasc.ie
● Tel: 01 8059500

Senior Research Officer – Research Support:
Raymond Kelly, Teagasc, Oak Park, Carlow, R93 XE12.
● Email: raymond.kelly@teagasc.ie
● Tel: 059 9170200

KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

Director of Knowledge Transfer:
Dr. Tom Kelly, Teagasc Oak Park, Carlow, R93 XE12.
● Email: tom.kelly@teagasc.ie
● Tel: 059 9170200

Assistant Director of Knowledge Transfer:
Paul Maher, Teagasc Oak Park, Carlow, R93 XE12.
● Email: paul.maher@teagasc.ie
● Tel: 059 9170200

Head of Education Programme:
Tony Pettit, Teagasc, Kildalton College, Piltown, Co. Kilkenny, E32 YW08.
● Email: tony.pettit@teagasc.ie
● Tel: 051 644400

Head of Advisory Services:
Dermot McCarthy, Teagasc, Moorepark, Fermoy, Co. Cork, P61 C997.
● Email: dermot.mccarthy@teagasc.ie
● Tel: 025 42244

AGRICULTURAL AND HORTICULTURAL COLLEGES

Agricultural College, Ballyhaise, Co. Cavan, H12 E392.
● Principal: John Kelly
● Email: John.kelly@teagasc.ie
● Tel: 049 4338108

Agricultural College, Darrara, Clonakilty, Co. Cork, P85 AX52.
● Principal: Majella Moloney
● Email: majella.moloney@teagasc.ie
● Tel: 023 88 32500

Kildalton Agricultural College, Piltown, Co. Kilkenny, E32 YW08.
● Principal: Paul Hennessy
● Email: paul.hennessy@teagasc.ie
● Tel: 051 644400

College of Amenity Horticulture, National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Dublin 9, Dog VY63.
● Principal: John Mulhern
● Email: john.mulhern@teagasc.ie
● Tel: 01 8040201

Kildalton Horticultural College, Piltown, Co. Kilkenny, E32 YW08.
● Assistant Principal: Ciaran Walsh
● Email: ciaran.walsh@teagasc.ie
● Tel: 051 644400

TEAGASC SUPPORTED PRIVATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES

Gurteen Agricultural College, Ballingarry, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary, E53 TP93.

- Principal: Michael Pearson
- Email: principal@gurteencollege.ie
- Tel: 067 21282

Franciscan Brothers Agricultural College, Mountbellew, Co. Galway, H53 WE00.

- Principal: Tom Burke
- Email: tburke@agbellewosf.ie
- Tel: 090 9679205

Salesian Agricultural College, Pallaskenry, Co. Limerick, V94 V8N3.

- Principal: Derek O Donoghue
- Email: info@pallaskenry.com
- Tel: 061 393100

PROGRAMMES

Food Programme

Head of Food Programme:

Dr. Mark Fenelon, Teagasc Food Research Centre, Moorepark, Fermoy, Co. Cork, P61 C997.

- Email: mark.fenelon@teagasc.ie;
- Tel: 025 42222

Research Locations:

- Teagasc Food Research Centre, Ashtown, Dublin 15, D15 KN3K.
- Tel: 01 8059500

- Teagasc Food Research Centre, Moorepark, Fermoy, Co. Cork, P61 C997.

- Tel: 025 42222

- Moorepark Technology Ltd., Moorepark, Fermoy, Co. Cork, P61 C997.

- Tel: 025 42222

Research Departments:

Food Bioscience Department: Dr. Tom Beresford

- Email: tom.beresford@teagasc.ie
- Tel: 025 42222

- Food Chemistry & Technology Department: Eimear Gallagher (Acting).

- Email: Eimear.gallagher@teagasc.ie
- Tel: 01 8059500

Food Industry Development Department: Pat Daly

- Email: pat.daly@teagasc.ie
- Tel: 01 8059500

Food Safety Department: Dr. Geraldine Duffy

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- Tel: 01 8059500

ANIMAL AND GRASSLAND PROGRAMME

Head of Animal and Grassland Research Programme:

Dr. Pat Dillon

- Email: pat.dillon@teagasc.ie
- Tel: 025 42222

Research Locations:

Animal & Grassland Research and Innovation Centre

- Teagasc, Mellows Campus, Athenry, Co. Galway, H65 R718.
- Tel: 091 845200

- Teagasc, Grange, Dunsany, Co. Meath, C15 PW93.
- Tel: 046 9061100

- Teagasc, Moorepark, Fermoy, Co. Cork, P61 C997.
- Tel: 025 42222

Research Departments:

Animal and Bioscience Research Department:

Prof. Michael Diskin

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Grassland Science Research Department:

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- Tel: 025 42222

Livestock Systems Research Department:

Dr. Pdraig French

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Research Enterprise Leaders:

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- Email: michael.diskin@teagasc.ie
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Beef Enterprise Leader – Grange: Dr. Edward O'Riordan

- Email: edward.oriordan@teagasc.ie
- Tel: 046 9061100

Dairy Enterprise Leader–
Dr. Pdraig French, Teagasc, Moorepark, Fermoy,
Co. Cork, P61 C997.
Email: padraig.french@teagasc.ie
● Tel: 025 42222

Knowledge Transfer Departments:

Dairying: Tom O’ Dwyer, Teagasc, Moorepark, Fermoy,
Co. Cork, P61 C997.

● Email: tom.odwyer@teagasc.ie
● Tel: 024 42244

Drystock: Pearse Kelly, Teagasc, Grange, Dunsany, Co.
Meath, C15 PW93.

● Email: pearse.kelly@teagasc.ie
● Tel: 046 9061100

Development Department:

Pig Development Department:

Ciaran Carroll, Teagasc, Moorepark, Fermoy, Co. Cork,
P61 C997.

● Email: Ciaran.carroll@teagasc.ie
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CROPS, ENVIRONMENT AND LAND USE PROGRAMME

Head of Crops, Environment and Land Use Programme:
Paddy Browne

● Email: paddy.browne@teagasc.ie
● Tel: 059 9170200

Research Locations:

- Crops Research Centre, Teagasc, Oak Park, Carlow, R93 XE12.
- Tel. 059 9170200
- Environment Research Centre, Teagasc, Johnstown Castle, Wexford, Y35 Y521.
- Tel: 053 9171200

Research Departments:

Crop Science Research Department: John Spink

● Email: John.spink@teagasc.ie
● Tel: 059 9170200

Soil, Environment & Land - Use Research Department:
Karl Richards

● Email: karl.richards@teagasc.ie
● Tel: 053 9171200

Knowledge Transfer Departments:

Crops: Michael Hennessy, Teagasc, Oak Park, Carlow,
R93 XE12.

● Email: michael.hennessy@teagasc.ie;
● Tel: 059 9183427

Environment: Pat Murphy, Teagasc Johnstown Castle,
Co. Wexford, Y35 Y521.

● Email: pat.murphy@teagasc.ie
● Tel: 053 9171255

Development Department:

Horticulture Development Department:
Dermot Callaghan, Teagasc, Kildalton, Pilltown,
Co. Kilkenny, P85 AX52.

● Email: dermot.callaghan@teagasc.ie
● Tel: 051 644552

Forestry Development Department:

Dr. Nuala Ni Fhlatharta, Teagasc, Mellows Campus,
Athenry, Co. Galway, H65 R718.

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● Tel: 091 845200

RURAL ECONOMY AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Head of Rural Economy and Development Programme:

Dr Cathal O’Donoghue

● Email: cathal.odonoghue@teagasc.ie
● Tel: 091 845200

Research Locations:

Rural Economy Research Centre, Teagasc, Athenry,
Co. Galway, H65 R718.

● Tel: 091 845200

Research Departments:

Agricultural Economics and Farm Surveys Research
Department: Dr. Thia Hennessy

● Email: thia.hennessy@teagasc.ie
● Tel: 091 845200

Spatial Analysis, Food Marketing and Agri Innovation
Department: Dr Maeve Henchion

● Email: maeve.henchion@teagasc.ie
● Tel: 01 8059515

Knowledge Transfer Department:

Farm Management and Rural Development:
Fintan Phelan

● Email: Fintan.phelan@teagasc.ie
● Tel: 045 879203

EDUCATION PROGRAMME

Head of Education Programme: Tony Pettit

- Teagasc Kildalton College, Piltown, Co. Kilkenny, E32 YW08.
- Email: tony.pettit@teagasc.ie
- Tel: 051 644400

Head of Curriculum Development and Standards Unit:
Frank Murphy

- Teagasc, Kildalton College, Piltown, Co. Kilkenny, E32 YW08.
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- Tel: 051 644400

KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

Head of Advisory Services:

Dermot McCarthy, Teagasc, Moorepark, Fermoy, Co. Cork, P61 C997.

- Email: dermot.mccarthy@teagasc.ie
- Tel: 025 42244

ADVISORY REGIONS

Cork East Advisory Region:

- Teagasc, Advisory Office, Moorepark, Fermoy, Co. Cork, P61 C997.
- Regional Manager: Gerard MacMahon
- Email: gerard.macmahon@teagasc.ie
- Tel: 025 42244

Cork West Advisory Region:

- Teagasc, Codrum, Macroom, Co. Cork, P12 TX32.
- Regional Manager: Billy Kelleher
- Email: billy.kelleher@teagasc.ie
- Tel: 026 41604

Galway/Clare Advisory Region:

- Teagasc, Mellows Campus, Athenry, Co. Galway, H65 R718.
- Regional Manager: Brendan Heneghan
- Email: brendan.heneghan@teagasc.ie
- Tel: 091 845200

Laois/Kildare/Meath/ Louth/Dublin Advisory Region:

- Teagasc, 1 Park Villas, Portlaoise, Co. Laois, R32 CF21.
- Regional Manager: Larry O'Loughlin
- Email: larry.oloughlin@teagasc.ie
- Tel: 057 8621326

Mayo Advisory Region:

- Teagasc, Newport Road, Westport, Co. Mayo, F28 W681.
- Regional Manager: Peter Leonard
- Email: peter.leonard@teagasc.ie
- Tel: 098 28333

Roscommon/Longford Advisory Region:

- Teagasc, Town Centre, Longford, N39 T180.
- Regional Manager: Tom Kellegher
- Email: tom.kellegher@teagasc.ie
- Tel: 043 3341021

Sligo/Leitrim/Donegal Advisory Region:

- Teagasc, Carrownanty, Ballymote, Co. Sligo, F56 A585.
- Regional Manager: Ben Wilkinson
- Email: ben.wilkinson@teagasc.ie
- Tel: 071 9183369

Tipperary Advisory Region:

- Teagasc, Carrigeen, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary, E91 Y394.
- Regional Manager: Donal Mullane
- Email: donal.mullane@teagasc.ie
- Tel: 052 6121300

Waterford/Kilkenny Advisory Region:

- Teagasc, Shandon, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford, X35 PF60.
- Regional Manager: John Moloney
- Email: john.moloney@teagasc.ie
- Tel: 058 41211

Westmeath/Offaly/Cavan/Monaghan Advisory Region:

- Teagasc, Clonminch, Tullamore, Co. Offaly, R35 TP60.
- Regional Manager: Con Feighery
- Email: con.feighery@teagasc.ie
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Wicklow/Carlow/Wexford Advisory Region:

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