



THE DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE & FOOD
AN ROINN TALMHAÍOCHTA AGUS BIA

Schemes and Services 2006-2007

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www.agriculture.gov.ie

SCHEMES AND SERVICES 2006-2007

Copies of this booklet are available on request from the local offices of the Department, from Teagasc Offices, by email from publicitions@agriculture.gov.ie, or by post from Corporate Affairs Division, Department of Agriculture and Food, Kildare Street, Dublin 2.

Also available on the Department's website; [**www.agriculture.gov.ie**](http://www.agriculture.gov.ie)

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

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We are constantly looking for ways of improving our publications and your feedback on the presentation, layout and content of this booklet would be greatly appreciated.

You can give us your views by **writing** to

Corporate Affairs Division (Schemes and Services)
Block 6E
Department of Agriculture and Food
Agriculture House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Or by **e-mail** to:

publications@agriculture.gov.ie

Thank You

CONTENTS

MINISTERIAL FOREWORD

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Internet	12
eServices	12
Customer Service	13
Charter of Rights for Farmers	14
Farmers Annual Payment Statement	14
Direct Credit Payments	14
Freedom of Information	15
National Development Plan, 2000-2006	16
Agriculture Appeals Office	17
Consumer Liaison Panel	18
Food Safety Liaison	18

2. SUPPORT PAYMENTS FOR FARMERS

Single Payment Scheme	22
The National Reserve	23
Trading/Transfer of Single Payment Entitlements	24
Modulation	24
Cross Compliance	24
Appeals Procedures	25
Area-Based Disadvantaged Areas Compensatory Allowances Scheme	25
Area Aid	27
Good Farming Practice	27

3. MARKET SUPPORT MEASURES

Export Refunds	30
Beef Intervention	30
Cereals Intervention	30
Intervention for Butter and Skimmed Milk Powder (SMP)	30
Sugar Intervention	31
Aid for Private Storage	31
Other EU Milk Market Support Measures	31

4. AGRI ENVIRONMENT

Rural Environment Protection Scheme (REPS)	34
Organic Farming	37

5. FORESTRY

Afforestation Grants and Premium Levels	40
Regional Operational Programmes 2000-2006	41
Forest Service Appeals Procedure	43
Control of Felling	44
Forest Pest and Disease Protection	44
Export of Wood Packaging (Pallets, Crates, etc) – ISPM No. 15	45
Forest Reproductive Material	45

6. STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS

Scheme of Early Retirement from Farming	48
Scheme of Installation Aid	49
Scheme of Investment Aid for Farm Waste Management	49
Scheme of Investment Aid for the Improvement in Dairy Hygiene Standards	50
Scheme of Investment Aid in Alternative Enterprises (Housing and Handling Facilities)	51
Scheme of Grant Aid for Improvements in Animal Welfare Standards (Sow Housing)	51

7. ANIMAL TRACEABILITY

CMMS/Irish Bovine Animal Identification System	54
National Beef Assurance Scheme (NBAS)	55
National Sheep Identification Scheme (NSIS)	55
National Pig Identification and Tracing System (NPITS)	56
National Goat Identification System (NGIS)	57
Tag and Tag Suppliers	58
Approved Tag Suppliers	59

8. ANIMAL PRODUCTION/PRODUCTS

Cattle

DIY A.I. Licences	62
Field Service Licences	62
A.I. Technicians Licences	63
Licences to Distribute Bovine Semen	63
Approval of Bovine Semen Storage Centres	64
Approval of Bovine Semen Collection Centres	64
Approval of Bovine Ova/Embryo Collection or Production Teams	65
On-Farm Collection of Bovine Semen	65
Pre-Entry Health Tests for Bulls to A.I. Stations	65
Kerry Cattle Scheme	66
Herd Books	66
Central Performance Testing	67
Clean Livestock Policy	67
EU Beef Carcase Classification Scheme	67
Labelling of Beef	68

Milk	
Milk Quotas	69
EU Standards for Dairy Farms and for Milk Sold for Human Consumption	69
Dairy Inspection Fee	70
Promotion/ Publicity	70
Sheep	
Breed Improvement Programmes	70
Licence to Practice Artificial Insemination and Embryo Transfer in Sheep	70
Approved Semen Collection Centres	70
Pure-Bred Sheep and Goat Flock-Book	71
Lamb Carcase Classification	71
Pigs	
Approved Porcine Semen Collection Centres	71
Breeding Pig Herd Book and Register	71
Pig Carcase Grading	72
Pig Salmonella Control Scheme	72
Meat Hygiene	72
Poultry and Eggs	
Poultry Hatcheries and Hatching Egg Supply Farms	73
Poultrymeat Marketing	73
Eggs Marketing Regulations	73
Egg Products	73
Horses	
Stud-Book Approval	74
Horse Registration	74
Irish Horse Board	75
Irish Draught Horse	75
Irish Horse Register	75
Development of the Horse Industry	76
9. ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE	
Notifiable Diseases	78
TB and Brucellosis Eradication Schemes	79
Bovine Tuberculosis	79
Bovine Brucellosis	80
Compensation Regime For TB and Brucellosis	80
On-Farm Market Valuation Scheme	81
Avian Influenza	85
Scrapie	86
National Genotype Programme	86

Sheep Scab	87
BSE	87
Warble Fly	88
Liver Fluke	88
Leukosis	88
Aujeszky's Disease	88
Swill Control	88
Fallen Animal Collection Scheme	89
Knackeries	89
Veterinary Laboratory Services	90
Veterinary Medicines	90
Approval and Registration of Dealers	92
Regulations Governing the Sale of Animals at Livestock Marts	92
Regulations Governing Assembly Centres	93
Import and Export of Live Farm Animals	93
Import of Non-Commercial Animals	94
Importation of Animal Products	94
Animal Welfare	96
10. FEEDINGSTUFF CONTROLS	
Control of Manufacture	100
Labelling Requirements	100
Restriction on the Use of Certain Proteins	100
Feed Hygiene	101
Additives in Feedingstuffs	101
Undesirable Substances	101
Nutritional Value	102
Sampling and Analysis Service to Farmers	102
11. CROPS AND HORTICULTURE	
Crops	104
Seed Certification Scheme	104
Grant Aid (Seed Potatoes)	104
Variety Registration	105
Seed Testing Service	105
Crop Variety Testing Programme	105
Plant Genetic Resources	106
Potatoes	106
Aid Schemes	106
Fruit and Vegetables	107
Beekeeping	108

Plant Health and Trade/Pesticides	108
EU Rules	109
Plant Protection and Biocidal Products	109
Registration and Authorisation	109
Residue Levels	110
Ground Limestone and Fertilisers	110
Analytical Services	110
12. FOOD AND DRINKS INDUSTRY	
National Development Plan 2000-2006	112
Food Directives and Regulations	112
Wine Import Licences	113
Ethyl Alcohol Import Licences	113
13. STATE BODIES AND AGENCIES	
Teagasc	116
Bord Bia	125
Irish National Stud Company Limited	126
National Milk Agency	126
Coillte Teoranta	127
COFORD	127
14. OTHER GOVERNMENT SERVICES	
Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism	130
Bord na gCon	130
Horse Racing Ireland	130
Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs	132
Leader +	132
The LEADER National Rural Development Programme	132
Clár	133
Rural Social Scheme	134
Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment	136
Minimum Pay and Conditions of Employment for Agricultural Workers	136
Department of The Environment and Local Government	137
Local Improvements Scheme: Farm Roadworks	137
Taxation and Use of Tractors	137
Rural Water Programme	138
Department of Transport	140
Tractor Safety	140
Health and Safety Authority	141

Land Registry	142
Met Éireann	143
Office of The Revenue Commissioners	144
Tax Implications of the Single Payment Scheme	144
Income Tax/Corporation Tax/Capital Gains Tax	144
Agricultural Relief from Capital Acquisitions Tax	144
Stamp Duties	145
Value Added Tax	148
Ordnance Survey Ireland	151
Department of Social and Family Affairs	153
Farm Assist Scheme	153
Farm Partnerships/PRSI for Farm Spouses	154
Western Development Commission	156
Appendices	
1A Offices of the Department	158
1B Local Offices of the Department	162
1C Forest Service Inspectorate	167
1D Laboratories and Field Stations	171
1E Seed Potato Certification Staff	172
1F Plant Health Inspectors	174
2 Teagasc Agricultural and Horticultural Colleges and County Advisory and Training Offices	175



Mary Coughlan, T.D.,
Minister for Agriculture and Food.



Brendan Smith, T.D.,
*Minister of State (with
responsibility for Food
and Horticulture)*



Mary Wallace, T.D.,
*Minister of State
(with responsibility for Forestry)*

MINISTERIAL FOREWORD

It gives me great pleasure to introduce my Department's main information booklet "Schemes and Services 2006 - 2007" which provides a comprehensive guide to the services available to the farming and the wider agri-business and rural communities.

The year 2005 was a major milestone for Irish agriculture with payments under the Single Payment Scheme reaching farmers for the first time. The changeover to decoupled payments is one of – if not the most important individual change in Irish agriculture since Ireland joined the EEC in 1973. It will afford both tremendous opportunities and challenges for farming, forestry and the agri-food sector. In this context, innovation, competitiveness and consumer focus will be key considerations for all elements within the sector.

The changeover to the single payment was a major undertaking by any standards and required a huge effort by my Department. Farmers also showed a great willingness to embrace the new scheme as its advantages became apparent.

I published the Charter of Rights for Farmers 2005/2007 at the end of 2005. Improving the standard of service provided to farmer customers remains one of my priorities and the new Charter is the latest in a series of Quality Customer Service initiatives undertaken by my Department. The Charter was produced in consultation with the farming social partners and it sets out specific delivery targets for many services and scheme payments to the Department's farmer customers. The Charter covers the Single Farm Payment Scheme as well as a range of other schemes including for the first time Forestry, Erad and other animal health schemes. Progress under the Charter will be monitored by a review committee.

Finally may I wish success to everyone involved in the Agri-Food and Forestry sectors in the coming year.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Coughlan".

Mary Coughlan T.D.
Minister for Agriculture and Food



1. GENERAL INFORMATION

INTERNET

“For immediate access to all that is happening in Agriculture and Food”

Visit our website at www.agriculture.gov.ie

For information on

- Schemes and Services of the Department;
- Press Releases and Speeches;
- Information Notes on current issues;
- Contact numbers for Department Offices;
- Publications.

You can **e-mail** queries to info@agriculture.gov.ie

eSERVICES

The Department has a number of eServices available to clients at present which can be accessed via it's website at www.agriculture.gov.ie. These include:

- iMap - provides access to your Area Aid application information including:
 - Summary Application Details, Parcel Details and Arable Payment enquiry;
 - Document enquiry showing scanned images of your Area Aid correspondence with the Department, all of which may be printed;
 - Colour mapping for your land parcels, which also may be printed.
- AIM - provides access to the Animal Identification and Movement 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 CMMS, as well as movements in and out of the herd;
 - Compliance Certificate facility, which allows you to apply online for a CMMS compliance certificate, which is required for certain animal movements.

The Department strongly encourages its clients to register on its web site (www.agriculture.gov.ie) for existing and future services by clicking on the eServices icon and following the simple instructions. Farmers can also contact the eServices Helpdesk (lo-call number 1890 252 118) to register over the phone or to obtain a paper application. You will receive a PAC (Personal Access Code) and password, for secure interaction with the Department. Once a client has registered for eServices, then they will have access to all new facilities introduced by the Department that are applicable to their enterprise. As well as providing online facilities, the Department will also be making facilities available using mobile phone technology in the future, as part of our ongoing commitment to the improvement of our Customer Services.

CUSTOMER SERVICE

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

To this end we have produced a Customer Service Action Plan (covering the period 2005-2007) and Customer Charter, following on from previous action plans produced since 1998. The Charter 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 expands on these commitments, setting out how they are to be delivered and monitored 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, headed by a Quality Service Officer, 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 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 Officer would like to hear from you. A Customer Comment Card is available from all Department offices and directly from the Quality Service Unit in the Department's Portlaoise Office.

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 Officer who will have it fully and impartially investigated. Complaints may be made in person, in writing, by telephone and by email.

Copies of the Action Plan 2005-2007, the Customer Charter and a leaflet explaining the Customer Complaints Procedure are available from all Department offices or direct 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 and Food, Pavilion B, Grattan Business Park, Dublin Road, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.
Tel: 057 8694330, Fax 057 8694381 or e-mail: qualityserviceunit@agriculture.gov.ie*

CHARTER OF RIGHTS FOR FARMERS

The Charter of Rights for Farmers was agreed with the farming organisations and replaces the Protocol on Direct Payments to Farmers which operated since 2000 under the Programme for Prosperity and Fairness.

The Charter sets out specific delivery targets to our farmer customers and covers the following services:

- Single Payment Scheme;
- Disadvantaged Areas Compensatory Allowances;
- Farm Waste Management Scheme;
- Dairy Hygiene Scheme;
- Alternative Enterprise Scheme;
- Installation Aid Scheme;
- Pig Welfare Scheme;
- Early Retirement Scheme;
- Rural Environment Protection Scheme (REPS);
- Afforestation Grant and Premium Scheme;
- ERAD and other Animal Health Payment Schemes.

The Charter continues our commitment to the 12 Quality Customer Service principles set out in our Customer Service Action Plan and Charter. Progress under the Charter is monitored by a review committee which meets regularly under an independent chairman. The committee is composed of representatives of farm organisations and Department staff.

*Further information regarding the Charter of Rights for Farmers can be obtained from Quality Service Unit, Corporate Affairs Division, Pavilion B, Grattan Business Park, Dublin Road, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.
Tel: 057 8694330. Copies of the Charter are available at all the Department's offices.*

FARMERS' ANNUAL PAYMENT STATEMENT

In line with the Department's commitment in the Customer Action Plan to provide clear and accurate information, an Annual Payment Statement issues to all farmer clients 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. The Annual Payment Statement for 2005, giving details of all payments and recoveries made in 2005, will issue towards the end of January 2006.

DIRECT CREDIT PAYMENTS

The Department now issues a large number of payments to farmers by Direct Credit. Under this payment method money is electronically forwarded directly to the farmer's nominated bank account. At the same time a remittance advice issues by post to the farmer with confirmation of the payment and details of the transaction. Farmers are encouraged to avail of this convenient and cost effective payment option for a number of reasons:

SAVES TIME/MORE CONVENIENT

Time spent going to the bank and queuing to cash or lodge cheques is avoided.

QUICKER PAYMENT METHOD

Through this system accounts are credited more quickly. Under the Direct Credit payment method, money is transferred straight into the nominated account.

MORE SECURE

Direct Credit payments to bank accounts eliminate the possibility of loss or theft of cheques and the effort and delay involved in seeking replacements.

NOTIFICATION OF PAYMENTS STILL ISSUED

Lodgements to accounts are notified to the farmer by post as a remittance advice containing full details of the transaction.

Farmers are being written to advising them of the availability of this payment option and are being requested to forward their bank account details on the relevant authorisation form to the Department. It is also intended to continue to promote the Direct Credit option at major agricultural events and exhibitions.

Further information and authorisation forms for this payment method may be obtained from Bank Payments Section, Department of Agriculture and Food, Farnham Street, Cavan. Tel: 049 4368283

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

The Freedom of Information (FOI Act) 1997 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. The Act was amended in certain respects in 2003.

Under the Act every person has a right to:

- seek access to records held by the Department;
- 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, some form of identification, e.g. copy of driver's licence, passport, etc. should accompany your application;

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

- where information is desired in a particular format i.e. photocopy, computer disk, 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 (i.e. 20 working days) of receiving it (where third party consultation is involved, an additional three weeks is provided for).

There is no charge for requesting personal information. With effect from 7 July 2003, there are up-front fees for requests for non-personal information. The current standard fee for an initial request for non-personal information is €15. A reduced fee of €10 applies to requesters who hold a medical card.

The FOI Act also provides that requesters may also be charged in respect of non-personal records for the time spent searching for and retrieving such records as well as for photocopying costs. Current charges are €20.95 per hour for search and retrieval of records and €0.04 per copy of each page supplied. Where the estimated charge is greater than €50.79, the requester will be advised in writing and a deposit of 20% of the overall fee sought before the request is processed. These fees are unlikely to arise if your request is for personal information.

*Applications for information under the Freedom of Information Act should be addressed to: Freedom of Information Unit, Pavilion B, Grattan Business Park, Dublin Road, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.
Tel: 057 8694327; Fax: 057 8694381; e-mail: foi@agriculture.gov.ie*

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN, 2000 - 2006

The National Development Plan provides funding of some €5.5 billion for agriculture, food and related rural development. Relevant measures are contained in the EU co-funded CAP Rural Development Plan, the Border, Midland and Western Regional Operational Programme, the Southern and Eastern Regional Operational Programme, and the Inter-Regional Operational Programmes for the Productive Sector and Employment/Human Resources Development. These place emphasis on the:

- improvement of farm structures;
- improvement of animal breeding, welfare, hygiene and quality;
- focusing on quality products and food safety at processing level and assisting in the further development of the food industry;
- development of rural services and rural enterprise support and the promotion of alternative enterprises on and off farm;
- provision of direct income support for farmers in designated disadvantaged areas;
- improvement of the environment;
- provision of back-up research, advice and training in the Agriculture and Food areas.

The measures are dealt with under appropriate chapters in this publication. A summary of the measures is also provided in explanatory booklets which are available, free of charge, from the local offices of the Department (see Appendix 1B) or by post from Corporate Affairs Division, Department of Agriculture and Food, Dublin 2 or on the Department's website at www.agriculture.gov.ie

MODULATION

Modulation is a process whereby each farmer's Single Payment is reduced by a set percentage (3% in 2005, 4% in 2006 and 5% in 2007). Up to 80% of funds generated through modulation can be retained in Ireland for spending on certain Rural Development measures. The first tranche of funding (some €18.5 million) will be available in 2006 and farmers in Less Favoured Areas will benefit from a once-off additional payment under the Disadvantaged Areas' Compensatory Allowance Scheme.

AGRICULTURE APPEALS OFFICE

The Agriculture Appeals Office is an agency that provides an appeals service to farmers who are dissatisfied with decisions of the Department of Agriculture and Food regarding their entitlements under certain schemes.

Some of the features of the 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 issues to both the appellant and the Department;
- An appellant has the right to an oral hearing, to be held at a neutral venue convenient to the appellant. Oral hearings are held in private and are as informal as possible. An appellant can bring someone to represent him/her at the oral hearing and the Department also has a representative at the hearing.

The Office deals with appeals under a range of schemes including the following:

- Single Payment Scheme;
- Area Based Compensation Scheme (previously known as Headage payments);
- Rural Environment Protection Scheme (REPS);
- Early Retirement Scheme;
- Organic Farming;
- On-Farm Investment Schemes (including Farm Waste Management, Improvement in Dairy Hygiene Standards and Alternative Enterprises);
- Farm Improvement Programme (including Horticulture);
- Installation Aid;
- Non-valuation aspects of the TB and Brucellosis Eradication Schemes.

The Agriculture Appeals Office 'Information Note and Notice of Appeal' form is available from local offices of the Department, from the Office itself, or on the Office's website, www.agriappeals.gov.ie, which contains other information about the Office.

*For further information contact the Agriculture Appeals Office, Kilminchy Court, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.
Lo-Call: 1890 671671; Telephone: 057 8667167; Fax: 057 8667177
email: appeals.office@agriculture.gov.ie website: www.agriappeals.gov.ie*

CONSUMER LIAISON PANEL

The Consumer Liaison Panel was established to strengthen communication between the consumer and the Department. The view of the consumer is vital to the future of a progressive multi-functional agriculture industry, encompassing not alone the basic function of food production but food safety, food quality, environmental and animal welfare issues. In this context the Panel, representative of general consumers, was set up to:

- Liaise on general consumer and client based issues in relation to the activities of the Department of Agriculture and Food;
- Comment on the flow of information both to and from the public.

The Panel meets on a regular basis to provide input and feedback from the consumers' perspective to the Department and also to be briefed on the Department's activities.

Consumers wishing to communicate with the Panel can do so by contacting the Consumer Liaison Panel Secretariat, c/o Department of Agriculture and Food, Agriculture House (6E), Kildare Street, Dublin 2, Tel. 01-6072569, Fax. 01-6621165 or by e-mail to consumer@agriculture.gov.ie

FOOD SAFETY LIAISON

The production of food to the highest possible standards of safety within sustainable farming systems is one of the major goals of the Department. These high standards are achieved through a wide range of actions:

- The enforcement of strict regulatory standards regarding registration, identification and labelling, farm inputs, animal health, animal welfare, veterinary hygiene, animal remedies, plant health and pesticides;
- The enforcement of EU and national rules relating to transport, marketing centres, processing plants, storage and distribution operations;
- The control of imports and exports of animals and plants and their products;
- The research and surveillance of animal and food borne pathogens carried out in the Department's veterinary research laboratories, dairy science laboratories, pesticide laboratory and approved private laboratories;
- Close co-operation with other Government Agencies on food safety issues;
- The provision of grants to food companies, state agencies and research institutions in the area of food safety.

Information on these activities are covered in greater detail in the Department's food safety booklet '**The Safe Food Chain.....Every Link is Vital**', which is available from the Food Safety Liaison Division of the Department and on the Department's website.

The Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI) is the national body with overall responsibility under the 1998 FSAI Act for the enforcement of all food safety legislation relating to processing and distribution. It is a statutory, independent, science based agency dedicated to protecting public health and consumer interests in the area of food safety and hygiene. The FSAI carries out its remit through service contracts with a number of government agencies. The Department of Agriculture and Food has service contracts with the FSAI in meat hygiene, milk and milk products, egg and egg products, pesticide control, border inspection posts, the residue monitoring programme, the zoonoses directive and food labelling. The FSAI can be contacted at 01 8171300 or by visiting their website at www.fsai.ie.

The Department also co-operates with the Food Safety Promotion Board (FSPB, also known as **Safefood**) in the delivery of its remit. The mission of the FSPB, which was established under the Good Friday Agreement, is to foster and maintain confidence in the food supply in the island of Ireland, by working in partnership with others to protect and improve the public's health.

For further information, you can contact the Food Safety Liaison Division, Department of Agriculture and Food, Kildare Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 6072443 or 01 6072046.



2. SUPPORT PAYMENTS FOR FARMERS

SINGLE PAYMENT SCHEME

Following publication of the EU Council Regulation 1782/2003 in September 2003 and having regard to the outcome of consultations with farmers and other interested parties, the Minister decided that the Livestock Premia and Arable Aid Schemes would be fully decoupled from production with effect from 1 January 2005.

The Premia Schemes, which were decoupled from production, are:

- Special Beef Premium, 1st and 2nd age animals,
- Special Beef Premium – Bulls,
- Suckler Cow Premium Scheme,
- Ewe Premium Scheme,
- Supplementary Ewe Premium (Rural World),
- Slaughter Premium Scheme,
- Extensification Premium,
- National Envelope Top-Ups relating to the Ewe Premium, Dry Heifer, Calved Heifer and Slaughtered Heifers,
- Arable Aid Scheme.

The new Single Payment Scheme has replaced all of these schemes and was introduced in Ireland on 1 January 2005.

Payment under the 2005 Single Payment Scheme commenced on 1 December 2005.

ELIGIBILITY

In general, the Single Payment Scheme is applicable to farmers who actively farmed during the reference years 2000, 2001 and 2002, who were paid Livestock Premia and/or Arable Aid in one or more of those years and who continued to farm in 2005.

The gross Single Payment is based on the average number of animals and/or the average number of hectares (in the case of Arable Aid) on which payments were made in the three reference years.

The closing date for receipt of applications under the 2006 Single Payment Scheme was 15 May 2006.

DAIRY PREMIUM

A new Dairy Premium was introduced in 2004. It was coupled to milk production in 2004 (based on milk quota held at 31 March 2004), but was decoupled from milk production in 2005 (based on milk quota held on 31 March 2005) and, where appropriate, added to any existing entitlements established under the Single Payment Scheme.

The general rules that apply for eligibility to the decoupled Dairy Premium in 2005 are that a farmer must (a) hold a milk quota on 31 March 2005, unless permission has been granted to temporarily lease it on the grounds of force majeure/exceptional circumstances and (b) have delivered milk produced on his/her holding during the 2004/2005 milk quota year or prior to 15 May 2005.

PROTEIN CROP PREMIUM

A supplementary premium payment of €55.57 per hectare will be made to applicants who declare proteins on their Area Aid Application form.

AID FOR ENERGY CROPS

Aid for energy crops at the rate of €45 per hectare will be made to applicants who declare energy crops on their Area Aid Application form.

SUGAR BEET COMPENSATION

The EU Council of Ministers agreed on the reform of the Sugar Regime in late 2005, following which the Regulations governing the incorporation of the sugar beet compensation into the Single Payment Scheme were adopted. Following consultation, the Minister decided that the Entitlements would be calculated on the basis of the average contracted quantity an individual had with Irish Sugar Limited in the 2001, 2002 and 2004 Reference Period. These Entitlements will be paid as part of the 2006 Single Payment Scheme.

THE NATIONAL RESERVE

Each Member State is obliged to create a National Reserve, using, initially up to 3% of the value of entitlements established for farmers who were farming during the reference period 2000 – 2002.

Certain categories of farmers may be allocated entitlements. A Single Payment Advisory Committee (consisting of representatives of the farming organisations, and the Department and Teagasc) was set up to advise the Minister on issues such as:

- The percentage deduction to be applied in order to create the National Reserve
- Categories under which farmers may apply to the Reserve
- Criteria for calculating the number and value of entitlements to be allocated
- The mechanism to be used to replenish the reserve

Under the 2005 National Reserve, applications were invited from 4 main categories:

Category A: Farmers who inherited a holding from a farmer who retired or died by 16 May 2005 where the holding was leased out to a third party during the reference period.

Category B: Farmers who made an investment by way of purchase or long-term lease of land or who made investment in Suckler Cow or Ewe Premium quota rights or who made other investments between 1 January 2000 and 19 October 2003, which resulted in an increase in production capacity.

Category C: Farmers who sold their milk quota into the milk quota re-structuring scheme between 1 January 2000 and 19 October 2003 and who converted to a farming sector for which a direct payment under the Livestock and/or Arable Aid Schemes would have been payable in respect of the years 2000 to 2002.

Category D: New entrants to farming since 31 December 2002 and farmers who commenced farming in 2002 but who received no direct payments in that year and whose total income did not exceed €40,000 and any off-farm income did not exceed €20,000. Farming qualifications required for this category.

EU Regulations governing the Single payment scheme specify the inclusion of one mandatory category under the **2006 National Reserve** i.e:

Category A: Farmers who inherited a holding from a farmer who retired or died by 16 May 2005 where the holding was leased out to a third party during the reference period.

A decision on the inclusion of any additional non-mandatory categories for the 2006 National Reserve will be made in due course following consultation with the Single Payment Advisory Committee.

The National Reserve will be replenished by means of:

- Clawback from sales of entitlements;
- Forfeiture to the National Reserve of inactivated and unused entitlements.

TRADING/TRANSFER OF SINGLE PAYMENT ENTITLEMENTS

Entitlements may be sold with or without land but may only be leased out if accompanied by an equivalent number of hectares. A percentage clawback for the National Reserve is applied to all sales of entitlements unless the transaction involves sale to a new entrant to farming i.e. an individual not involved in farming in the previous five years or if the holding is inherited or received by way of gift. There will be no clawback from leased entitlements.

In the event of change of ownership of a holding the applicant must apply separately to the Single payment Unit in Portlaoise if changes are required to the registration details of Single payment entitlements. Application Forms and Terms and Conditions relating to trading/transfer of entitlements are available from Department offices and on the Department website.

MODULATION

Modulation is a process whereby each farmer's Single Payment is reduced by a set percentage (3% in 2005, 4% in 2006 and 5% in 2007). Up to 80% of funds generated through modulation (about €34 million in 2007) can be retained in Ireland for spending on certain Rural Development measures. The main Rural Development measures currently administered by this Department are the Disadvantaged Areas' Compensatory Allowance Scheme, the Scheme of Early Retirement from Farming, the Rural Environment Protection Scheme and the Forestry Premium Scheme. The new Council Regulation provides that new rural development measures may be introduced from 2006 in the areas of (a) food quality, (b) meeting standards, and (c) animal welfare. The first tranche of funding is available in 2006 and will be used to fund a once-off payment of some €18.6m under the 2006 Disadvantaged Areas' Compensatory Allowance Scheme.

CROSS COMPLIANCE

Cross compliance involves two key elements:

- A requirement for farmers to comply with a number of statutory management requirements (SMRs) set down in EU legislation on the environment, food safety animal health, welfare, and plant health; and
- A requirement to maintain the farm in good agricultural and environmental condition (GAEC). In addition there will be an obligation on the Member State to ensure that there is no significant reduction in the amount of land under permanent pasture by reference to the total area under permanent pasture in 2003.

The Cross Compliance obligations are being phased in over a three-year period. Eight cross-compliance SMRs were introduced in 2005 together with the Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition requirements for Ireland. A further 7 SMRs are being introduced with effect from 1 January 2006 with the final 3 to be introduced with effect from 1 January 2007.

The Department published an information booklet entitled “*The Single Payment Scheme – Guide to Cross Compliance*” which was issued to each producer in April 2005. This booklet set out the Standards and Requirements that farmers had to meet in respect of the first eight Statutory Management Requirements (SMRs) from 1 January 2005. The detail of how farmers should respect Good Agricultural and Environment Condition is also set out.

The important features of the Statutory Management Requirements for Cross Compliance to be implemented on 1st January 2006 and 1st January 2007, have been circulated to farmers in a further information booklet.

APPEALS PROCEDURES

The Minister for Agriculture and Food established a Single Payment Appeals Committee to deal with appeals from farmers regarding their entitlements under the Single Payment Scheme and other related matters in relation to the implementation of the Scheme. The Committee has an independent Chairman and comprises Appeals Officers from the Agriculture Appeals Office.

Appeals should be addressed to the Single Payment Unit, Department of Agriculture and Food, Government Offices, Old Abbeylex Road, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.

*Further information regarding the Single Payment Scheme may be obtained from the Single Payment Unit, Department of Agriculture and Food, Government Offices, Old Abbeylex Road, Portlaoise, Co Laois.
LoCall: 1890 200 566*

AREA-BASED DISADVANTAGED AREAS COMPENSATORY ALLOWANCES SCHEME

Payment is based on eligible forage areas which are designated as More Severely Handicapped (lowland), Less Severely Handicapped (lowland)/Coastal Areas with Specific Handicaps or Mountain Type Grazing. The lands must be used for grazing of cattle, sheep, horses, goats or deer.

Application for the Disadvantaged Areas Compensatory Allowance Scheme in 2006 must be made on the 2006 Single payment application form.

This Scheme is co-funded by the European Union.

Eligibility for the Scheme

To qualify, an applicant must:

- be a registered herdowner aged 18 years or over who currently holds a herd number issued by the Department of Agriculture and Food;
- occupy and farm a minimum of 3 hectares of forage land in a designated Disadvantaged Area;

2. SUPPORT PAYMENTS FOR FARMERS

- reside within daily commuting distance (70 miles) of the holding on which Compensatory Allowance is being claimed;
- undertake to remain in farming for 5 years from the first payment of a Compensatory Allowance;
- comply with Good Farming Practice as set down by the Department in its booklet "*Good Farming Practice*";
- comply with the EU Hormones Directives 96/22/EC and 96/23/EC;
- have a minimum stocking density of an average 0.15 livestock units per forage hectare in the calendar year. The minimum stocking density must be maintained for a minimum period of 4 continuous months in 2006. In calculating the average stocking density on the holding for the purposes of the minimum 0.15 LU/Ha requirement, the average bovine LU equivalents will be taken at 5 dates throughout the year. The minimum stocking level may not apply where agri environmental or other recognised environmental measures require a lower stocking density on the grounds that the land in question has been degraded or is in danger of becoming degraded;
- own, possess and maintain the livestock required to establish the minimum stocking density on his/her holding.

In the case of first-time applicants for the Disadvantaged Areas Compensatory Allowance Scheme the minimum stocking density on the holding, calculated as set out above, will be based on stocking density throughout 2006.

LIVESTOCK UNITS (LUS)

- Bovines over 2 years of age = 1 LU each;
- Bovines 2 years old and under = 0.6 LU each;
- Breeding Mares registered in the applicant's name in the Irish Horse Register or with the Connemara Pony Breeders' Society=1 LU each;
- Female Breeding Deer = 0.3 LU each;
- Sheep and Goats = 0.15 LU each.

The livestock required to establish the minimum stocking density must be owned, possessed, held and maintained by the applicant on his/her holding.

AID AVAILABLE

The scheme provides for payment as follows:

- **Mountain type land**
€101.58 on first 10 hectares or part thereof and €88.88 per hectare on remaining hectares subject to an overall payment ceiling of 45 hectares.
- **More Severely Handicapped (lowland)**
€88.88 per hectare on up to 45 hectares.
- **Less Severely Handicapped (lowland) and Areas with Specific Handicaps (Coastal Areas)**
€76.18 per hectare on up to 45 hectares.

For 2006, as a once-off measure, modulated funds of approximately €18m will be spent in the disadvantaged areas and this will have the effect of increasing the payment levels per hectare in 2006 – from €88.88 to €95.02, from €76.18 to €81.44 and from €101.58 to €108.00

Where a farmer farms a combination of the above lands s/he is paid on mountain type land firstly, lowland (More Severely Handicapped) secondly, and lowland (Less Severely Handicapped) and Areas with Specific Handicaps (Coastal Areas) lastly, subject to an overall payment ceiling of 45 hectares.

In the case of common pastures, allowances per hectare will be paid on percentage share of commonage used.

AREA AID

Submission of an Area Aid Application is a requirement from farmers applying in 2006 for any of the following schemes.

- Disadvantaged Areas Compensatory Allowance Scheme;
- Single Payment Scheme;
- Rural Environment Protection Scheme (REPS);
- Scheme Of Investment Aid For Farm Waste Management;
- Scheme Of Investment Aid For The Improvement Of Dairy Hygiene Standards;
- Scheme Of Investment Aid In Alternative Enterprises;
- Early Retirement Scheme;
- Installation Aid Scheme;
- Dried Fodder Scheme;
- Afforestation Premium Scheme.

GOOD FARMING PRACTICE

Good Farming Practice is common-sense farming which cares for the environment and meets minimum hygiene and animal welfare standards. It also involves complying with the law on the environment, hygiene, animal welfare, animal identification and registration and animal health.

For the purposes of Council Regulation EC1257/99 on support for Rural Development “usual good farming practice” is defined, as, the standard of farming which a reasonable farmer would follow in the region concerned. The Department’s booklet entitled “Good Farming Practice” set out in detail the obligations on farmers and the penalties that would be applied for breaches of good farming practice.

Good Farming Practice will continue to apply to the following schemes for 2006:

- Disadvantaged Areas Compensatory Allowance Scheme;
- Installation Aid Scheme;
- On-Farm Investment Schemes;
- Rural Environment Protection Scheme (REPS);
- Scheme of Early Retirement from Farming (transferees).



3. MARKET SUPPORT MEASURES

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 or raw material prices obtaining in the European Union. The scheme enables EU exporters to better compete on world markets.

- 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, times limits, securities, etc. that the exporter must comply with;
- There are horizontal and sectoral EU regulations that govern licensing and the export refunds scheme;
- 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 transferred to the Department of Agriculture and Food;
- An exporter using the Revenue Commissioners online ROS service can now make these declarations online;
- Management committees chaired and operated by the European Commission establish rates of refunds from time to time; rates are subject to change at any time.

Further information can be obtained from Export Refunds Division, Department of Agriculture and Food, Johnstown Castle Estate, Co Wexford. Tel 053 9163400.

BEEF INTERVENTION

Intervention is a system that can be used to support beef prices by removing surpluses of beef from the market, and placing it in storage. The beef is later sold from intervention when EU market prices have stabilised at an acceptable level. The Department acts for the EU Commission in the purchasing of product for intervention.

CEREALS INTERVENTION

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. The intervention price paid to the offeror is increased by fixed monthly increments. The price paid for standard quality grain is currently €101.77 plus 46 cent extra for every month from November, depending on the month of take-over. Bonuses or deductions are made depending on the quality of the grain.

INTERVENTION BUTTER AND SKIMMED MILK POWDER (SMP)

The intervention system is designed to support prices for basic products by removing surpluses of butter and SMP from the market. From March to August, intervention purchasing for butter is triggered in a Member

State when the market price falls below 92% of the butter intervention price for two consecutive weeks in the Member State concerned. Butter is bought only when the facility is open. Buying-in will cease when the quantities offered in 2006 exceed 50,000 tonnes in all Member States. 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. Quantities up to a limit of 109,000 tonnes per year may be purchased at the intervention price - thereafter a tendering system may apply.

SUGAR INTERVENTION

The intervention system is designed to support prices for basic products by removing surpluses of product from the market. The market year for sugar runs from 1st July to 30th June the following year. Sugar manufactured during a market year can be offered-in to intervention during that year or anytime up to the following 30th September. Offers made must be accepted, subject to a minimum quantity being offered and the sugar reaching the quality specifications laid down within the regulations.

Further information on the Intervention Schemes may be obtained from On-Farm Investment, Subsidies and Storage Division, Department of Agriculture and Food, Johnstown Castle Estate, Co Wexford. Tel: 053 9163400

AID FOR PRIVATE STORAGE

The Schemes for Aid to Private Storage of butter, cream and cheese, pigmeat, sheepmeat and beef are market support measures introduced by the EU Commission when seasonal imbalance arise between supply and demand in the butter, cream and cheese markets or in the case of pigmeat, sheepmeat and beef when the price falls below a benchmark level in any EU Member State.

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

They are an alternative to public intervention in that the products remain the property of the storers to sell at their unrestricted discretion at the end of the storage period.

Further information can be obtained form Aids to Private Storage Section, Department of Agriculture and Food, Johnstown Castle Estate, Co. Wexford. Tel: 053 9163400

OTHER EU MILK MARKET SUPPORT MEASURES

CASEIN AND CASEINATES

Regulation 2921/90 provides for a subsidy to producers of casein and caseinates manufactured from skimmed milk (SM) or from raw casein extracted from milk of EU origin. The subsidy varies in accordance with the type of casein produced.

SKIM MILK POWDER (SMP) DISPOSAL SCHEMES

Regulation 2799/99 provides for the payment of aid for incorporation or denaturing of SMP into animal feed. The compound feedingstuff must normally contain between 50% and 80% SMP, not less than 5% non-butter fat and at least 2% starch. Production is carried out under Department supervision.

PASTRY BUTTER FOR CONFECTIONERY INDUSTRY AND DIRECT USE

Regulation 2571/97 provides for the granting of aid for cream, butter and concentrated butter from the market for use in the manufacture of pastry products, ice-cream and other foodstuffs. From time to time, intervention butter is also made available at a reduced price for the same purpose.

The rates of aid and purchase prices differ according to the type of final product made and are fixed by adjudication of tenders at EU Commission Milk Management Committee meetings.

Regulation 429/90 provides for the sale, at reduced prices, of intervention butter intended for direct consumption in the form of concentrated butter and its subsequent sale at retail outlets.

SCHOOL MILK SCHEME

Regulation 2707/2000, as amended by Regulation 816/2004, provides for aid on the sale of milk and milk products supplied to schoolchildren. Each child is allowed .25 litres of milk per school day. This scheme is co-financed by the EU and the Exchequer.

BUTTER FOR NON-PROFIT MAKING ORGANISATIONS

Regulation 2191/81 provides for the purchase of reduced-price butter by certain non-profit making organisations e.g. hospitals, welfare institutions and other organisations that supply meals as an integral part of their service.

Further information can be obtained from Milk Subsidies Section, Department of Agriculture and Food, Johnstown Castle Estate, Co. Wexford. Tel: 053 9163400



4. AGRI ENVIRONMENT

RURAL ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION SCHEME (REPS)

The Rural Environmental Protection Scheme (REPS), forms part of Ireland's CAP Rural Development Plan 2000–2006. The current scheme, REPS 3 was introduced in June 2004.

The objectives of REPS are:

- To establish farming practices and production methods that reflect the increasing concern for conservation, landscape protection and wider environmental problems;
- To protect wildlife habitats and endangered species of flora and fauna; and
- To produce quality food in an extensive and environmentally friendly manner.

The Scheme is available to all farmers and is jointly funded by the European Union and National Exchequer.

Under REPS, a participant farmer is required to draw up a nutrient management plan and a grassland management plan for his/her farm. Plans required for the Scheme have to be drawn up by a planner/planning agency approved by the Minister.

BIODIVERSITY OPTIONS

There are 11 basic measures in REPS which are compulsory. To achieve increased biodiversity at farm level, enhancement of the 11 basic Measures is desirable. By providing farmers with a choice from a series of optional undertakings, each farmer is given the opportunity to select the works most appropriate to the environmental or landscape features of the farm.

Scheme applicants must undertake two options, with at least one coming from Category 1.

CATEGORY 1 OPTIONS:

- Creation of New Habitat;
- Hedgerow Rejuvenation;
- New Hedgerow Rejuvenation;
- Additional Stonewall Maintenance;
- Green Cover Establishment;
- Environmental Management of Set-aside;
- Increased Arable Margins.

CATEGORY 2 OPTIONS:

- Traditional Hay Meadows;
- Species Rich Grassland;
- Increased Watercourse Margin;
- Exclude all Bovine Access to Watercourses;
- Broadleaved Tree Planting;
- Nature Corridors;

- Increase in Archaeological Buffer Zones;
- Management of Publicly Accessible Archaeological Sites;
- Provide Landscaping around the Farmyard.

All undertakings included in the farmers REPS plan must be implemented for a period of five years.

SUPPLEMENTARY MEASURES:

- Corncrake Habitats;
- Traditional Irish Orchards;
- Conservation of Rare Breeds;
- Riparian Zones;
- LINNET Habitats;
- Organic Farming.

SUPPLEMENTARY MEASURES

These are designed to take account of the need to resolve specific environmental problems, such as the protection of important habitat sites and to give farmers the opportunity to respond to market demands for the supply of organic food.

Farmers may undertake as many Supplementary Measures as they wish; however they will only be paid for any one Supplementary Measure or paid on two Supplementary Measures where one is undertaken from Traditional Orchards, LINNET Habitats or Riparian zones and one is undertaken from Rare Breeds, Organic Farming or Corncrake Habitat.

Where a participant is availing of payment under Measure A, payment may not be accumulated with payment under the Organic Supplementary Measure on the same land parcel.

Farmers who wish to undertake Supplementary Measure(s) must comply with the Measure(s) from the commencement date of the plan.

REPS PAYMENT RATES

<p>Non Target Area Land General REPS Programme</p>	<p>€200/ha for first 20 ha €175/ha for next 20 ha up to 40 ha €70/ha for next 15 ha up to 55 ha €10/ha for areas over 55 ha</p>
<p>Target Area Land Measure A</p>	<p>€242/ha for first 40 ha €24/ha for next 40 ha up to 80 ha €18/ha for next 40 ha up to 120 ha €5/ha for areas over 120 ha</p>
<p>Supplementary Measures Rare Breeds Traditional Orchards Riparian (Max. area 2.5ha) Corncrake Habitat LINNET Project (Max. area 2.5ha)</p> <p>Organic Farming Farms greater than 3 ha</p> <p>Organic Horticultural Holdings 3 ha or less and at least 1 ha under fruit or vegetables (excluding green manures)</p>	<p>€200 per LU €150 per orchard €724.50/ha €100/ha (top up) €700/ha first ha €400/ha for next 1.5 ha</p> <p>€181/ha in conversion up to 55 ha €30/ha in conversion areas over 55 ha €91/ha full organic status up to 55 ha €15/ha full organic status areas over 55 ha</p> <p>€242/ha in conversion €121/ha full organic status</p>

Details and application forms are available from the Department's local "Agricultural Environment and Structures (AES) Offices." (See Appendix 1B)

ORGANIC FARMING

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 practise 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.

The organic sector is regulated by Council Regulation (EEC) No 2092/91. This Regulation governs the production and preparation of organic food. It also governs the importation from third countries of non-processed crop and animal products, processed agricultural products intended for human consumption, and animal feed, where the labelling, advertising material or commercial documents indicate that the product was produced in accordance with the Regulation. Under Regulation 2092/91 an organic operator is also required to notify the Department of the farming activity and submit his or her enterprise to inspection.

ASSISTANCE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SECTOR

- **Rural Environment Protection Scheme**

Supplementary Measure 6 (SM6) of the Rural Environment Protection Scheme (REPS) provides additional payments to REPS farmers who wish to convert to or continue with organic farming methods. The objective is to encourage producers in REPS to respond to the market demand for organically produced food.

To be eligible for this measure, farmers must submit to inspection under the inspection arrangements approved by the Department, must register with the Department and must farm in accordance with an agri environmental plan drawn up by an approved REPS planning agency for a period of 5 years.

- **Scheme of Grant-Aid for the Development of the Organic Sector**

This scheme, which was approved under the National Development Plan 2000-2006, provides grant assistance towards investments in equipment and facilities for the production, preparation, grading, packing and storage of organic products. Both on-farm and off-farm projects are eligible.

For on-farm investment projects costing over €2,540, the Department will provide 40% grant assistance, up to a maximum of €50,790. For off-farm investment projects costing over €2,540, 40% grant assistance is again available up to a maximum of €508,000.

Further information is available from the Organic Unit, Johnstown Castle Estate, Wexford. Lo-call: 1890 200 509 or 053 9163400, Fax: 053 9143965 or e-mail: organics@agriculture.gov.ie



5. FORESTRY

AFFORESTATION GRANTS AND PREMIUM LEVELS

Under the Afforestation Grants and Premium Schemes, grants up to €7,335.28 per hectare and annual premiums up to €499 per hectare are available to those planting in the current season. Expenditure on these schemes is co-funded by the EU.

GRANT RATES (EFFECTIVE FROM 01.01.05)

	Afforestation Grant ¹	Second Instalment Grant ¹	Total Grant
	€/ha	€/ha	€/ha
Unenclosed Land	2,214.42	761.21	2,975.63
Enclosed and Improved Land			
Non-diverse conifers	2,214.42	761.21	2,975.63
20% diverse conifers	2,352.82	761.21	3,114.03
Diverse conifers	2,629.63	830.41	3,460.04
Broadleaf			
Approved Species Other than Oak/Beech 100% stocking	3,999.67	1,199.90	5,199.57
Oak 75- 100% stocking	5,259.25	1,660.82	6,920.07
Beech 80%-100%	5,536.06	1,799.22	7,335.28

Note

1 All 1st instalment grants are cost based. The rates shown above are the maximum amounts payable. Second instalment grants are paid 4 years after the initial works are completed subject to satisfactory establishment.

RATES OF FOREST PREMIUM

Grant/Premium Category (GPC)	Farmer Premium (annual payment, 20 years) €/ha			Non-farmer Premium (annual payment, 15 years) €/ha
	Plantation area			
	< 6ha	≥ 6ha	≥ 12ha	
GPC 1 - Unenclosed	209.51	209.51	209.51	171.41
GPC 2 - Sitka spruce/lodgepole pine	336.48	349.18	361.88	
GPC 3 - 20% Diverse mix	391.08	403.78	416.47	
GPC 4 - Diverse	416.47	429.17	441.87	
GPC 5 - Broadleaf (except oak & beech)	441.87	454.57	467.26	184.11
GPC 6 - Oak	473.61	486.31	499.01	
GPC 7 - Beech	473.61	486.31	499.01	

In the interests of multi-functional forestry objectives, broadleaf rates of aid may be extended to unenclosed land on a case by case basis.

Full particulars of the grants can be obtained from Forest Service, Department of Agriculture and Food, Johnstown Castle Estate, Co. Wexford. Tel: 053 9160200, Lo-call: 1890 200 223, Fax: 053 9143834

ENVIRONMENT

It is a condition of grant-aid, under the CAP Afforestation Scheme 2000-2006, that development be compatible with the protection of the environment. Environmental considerations at the time of application include water quality, designated habitats, archaeology, landscape and size of area. Public agencies and the general public are consulted in relation to applications for forestry grants in areas of special environmental sensitivity. Guidelines have been produced on:

- “Forestry and Archaeology”,
- “Forestry and Water Quality”,
- “Forestry and Biodiversity”,
- “Forest Harvesting and the Environment Guidelines”,
- “Forestry and the Landscape”,
- “Forest Protection Guidelines”.

Diversity in planting and the planting of broadleaves, in particular, is encouraged by means of the differentials of the grant scheme. The target for broadleaf planting is 30% of total new planting by the end of the current programme in 2006.

An Environmental Impact Assessment is required to be carried out on areas over 50 hectares, and on areas under the 50 hectares threshold where a proposed development is perceived as having a significant environmental impact.

Local authorities are consulted on all afforestation applications over 25 hectares and are consulted on all afforestation applications within a prime scenic area in the County Developments Plan or within an area listed in the Inventory of outstanding Landscapes.

REGIONAL OPERATIONAL PROGRAMMES 2000-2006

WOODLAND IMPROVEMENT

This sub-measure is aimed at:

- the improvement of the overall quality of the forest estate;
- enrichment and enlargement of the native and semi-native woodland;
- establishment of amenity and urban woodland;
- the reconstitution of damaged woodland.

The sub-measure will provide grant-aid under the following schemes:

- Native Woodland;
- NeighbourWood;
- Reconstitution of Woodland;
- Woodland Improvement;
- Shaping of Broadleaves;
- High Pruning of Conifers.

This measure is co-funded by the EU.

FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT

This sub-measure will contribute to the development of forestry by:

- encouraging participation in the forestry sector;
- supporting projects and associations of forest holders aimed at the development of forestry as a sustainable and efficient enterprise;
- encouraging diversification of agricultural activities;
- improving the processing and marketing of forestry products;
- promoting new uses for forestry products;
- providing back-up support for the efficient implementation of the programme through the creation of a modern computer based forest information system.

The sub-measure will provide grant-aid under the following categories:

- Promotion;
- Nurseries;
- Aid to forestry co-ops and Associations;
- Forestry Studies;
- Projects and Initiatives;
- Promotion of Wood-Based Irish Furniture.

FOREST ROADS

This sub-measure is designed to both allow access for forest plantation development, maintenance and fire protection and facilitate timber extraction.

EMPLOYMENT AND HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME

This programme provides funding for training in the forestry sector. Training in the areas listed below is covered:

- Forestry Establishment and Maintenance;
- Forest Harvesting and Nurseries;

- Forest Product Marketing;
- Other courses deemed necessary for the efficient implementation of schemes.

RESEARCH, TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME

This programme provides funding for research and development in the forestry sector under the following sub-measures:

- Research Projects;
- Technology Transfer;
- Researcher training and mobility;
- Forest research and development co-ordination.

For further information contact the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture and Food, Johnstown Castle Estate, Co. Wexford. Tel: 053 9160200 Lo-call: 1890 200 223 Fax: 053 9143836

FOREST SERVICE APPEALS PROCEDURE

The Appeals procedure in the Forest Service is handled by an administrative unit of the Forest Service. Customers may appeal against any decision of the Forest Service which affects their entitlements under the grant and premium schemes. The majority of appeals handled by the Unit relate to refusal of pre-planting approval and refusal or reduction in grants.

The public and environmental organisations also have the facility to appeal against afforestation proposals in certain environmentally sensitive sites. Under environmental Regulations in place since 2001, there is a very extensive consultation process which must be undertaken by the Forest Service before it approves afforestation in areas designated as environmentally sensitive. Press notices are placed in local papers to invite observations of the public on afforestation proposals in areas designated as any of the following:

- A proposed Natural Heritage Area, Special Area of Conservation, Special Protection Area or a National Park;
- An area containing an archaeological site or feature with intensive public use;
- A prime scenic area in a County Development Plan or listed in an Inventory of Outstanding Landscapes.

Local Authorities and environmental organisations are also consulted directly about these applications. If the public or any of these organisations object to the planting proposal their observations and objections are taken into consideration in the deliberations of the Forest Service on the proposal. If the decision on the proposal means that their objections were not upheld, they are offered an opportunity to appeal within 21 days.

Appeals related to public consultation procedure must be lodged within 21 days of receipt of the Forest Service decision.

Appeals against any other decisions affecting a customer's entitlements under the grant and premium schemes should be lodged as soon as possible after notification of the adverse decision by the Forest Service.

All appeals must be made in writing, setting out the grounds of appeal and addressed to: The Appeal Unit, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture & Food, Johnstown Castle Estate, Co Wexford. Lo-call 1890 – 200 223

CONTROL OF FELLING

Under Section 37 of the Forestry Act 1946 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. Notice of intention to fell or uproot trees must be given in writing on a form known as a Felling Notice. On receipt of a completed Felling Notice, an Order prohibiting the felling of the trees is issued. This protects the trees in question while consideration is given to the issuing of a felling licence. Any person uprooting or cutting down a tree without a felling licence may be prosecuted through the Courts. Penalties for illegal fellings can be severe and in addition to any fine imposed by the Court, the Minister may, by Order, also require the person convicted to replant.

A Felling Notice can be obtained from any Garda Station or directly from Felling Section, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture and Food, Johnstown Castle Estate, Co. Wexford; tel : (053) 9160170/9160174/9160175/9160181.

FOREST PEST AND DISEASE PROTECTION

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, 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.

EXPORTS OF WOOD PACKAGING (PALLETS, CRATES, ETC) – ISPM NO. 15

In relation to exports, the Forest Service is responsible for the implementation of the new International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) No. 15. Guidelines for regulating wood packaging 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 (pallets, crates, boxes etc.) made from unprocessed raw wood and used in supporting, protecting or carrying a commodity, must be heat treated or fumigated in a specified manner and the packaging must be stamped on at least two sides with the officially approved mark verifying the 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 producers of wood packaging, kiln operators and fumigation companies;
- Advice to wood packaging manufacturers, fumigation companies 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 and Food, Agriculture House (3 West), Kildare Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 607 2651, Fax: 01 607 2545, e-mail: forestprotection@agriculture.gov.ie, web: www.agriculture.gov.ie/forests-service

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 is from approved suitable sources and is clearly labelled 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 with the assistance of COFORD. (see Section 13 for information on COFORD);
- Issuing of Certificates of Provenance for seed collections;
- Advice on forest seed and plant regulations.

For further information concerning the above please contact - Forest Service, Department of Agriculture and Food, Agriculture House (3 West), Kildare Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 607 2651, Fax: 01 607 2545, e-mail: frm@agriculture.gov.ie, web: www.agriculture.gov.ie/forests-service



6. STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS

SCHEME OF EARLY RETIREMENT FROM FARMING (1994-1999)

Participants in this first Scheme receive payments of pension for ten-years or until their 70th birthday, whichever is the sooner, provided they and their transferees continue to comply with their undertakings. The Scheme also provided for pensions for retired farm workers. The closing date for applications under this Scheme was 31 December 1999 and a new Early Retirement Scheme was introduced in November 2000 (see details beneath).

SCHEME OF EARLY RETIREMENT FROM FARMING (2000-2006)

The current Scheme of Early Retirement to apply for the period from 2000 to 2006 was introduced on 27 November 2000. It is one of the measures in Ireland's CAP Rural Development Plan 2000-2006. The Scheme provides for a pension for retiring farm workers in certain circumstances. The new Scheme is co-financed by the EU.

OBJECTIVES

To provide an income for older farmers (between the ages of 55 and 66) who decide to stop farming;

To encourage the replacement of such older farmers by farmers able to improve, where necessary, the economic viability of the remaining agricultural holding;

To re-assign agricultural land to non-agricultural uses where it cannot be farmed under satisfactory conditions of economic viability.

MAIN FEATURES

- **Age limits**

The retiring farmer (transferor) must be aged between 55 and 66 years. A farming transferee must be aged between 18 and 40 for applications received up to the end of 2006.

- **Duration of Pension**

The pension will be paid for not more than 10 years or until the applicants 66th birthday, whichever is the sooner.

- **Amounts Payable**

The pension amount will comprise a flat rate of €5,403 plus €338 per hectare of Utilisable Agricultural Area up to a maximum of 24 hectares. The maximum payment under the Scheme is €13,515 per annum.

- **National Retirement Pensions**

The Early Retirement Pension is paid as a supplement to any national retirement pension which might be payable. Consequently, the amount of any national retirement pension must be deducted from the Early Retirement Pension. The definition of national retirement pension includes Old Age Pension (Contributory and Non-Contributory), Invalidity Pension, Retirement Pension and Widow's Contributory and Non-Contributory Pensions. For the purposes of the Early Retirement Scheme, the Widow's Pensions are reckoned as national retirement pensions only when the recipients have reached the national retirement age (66 years).

- **Making an IACS Declaration**

Farmers applying for the Scheme must have all their lands (whether owned or leased) recorded on the Department's Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS). This means that they must make an Area Aid application even if they do not expect to qualify for Area Aid.

The Scheme document and application form are available from the Department's Local Offices (see Appendix 1B), or from the Early Retirement Section, Department of Agriculture and Food, Johnstown Castle Estate, Co Wexford (Tel 053 9163400). Applications under the Scheme must be made to the Early Retirement Section in Wexford. The document is also on the Department's website at www.agriculture.gov.ie.

SCHEME OF INSTALLATION AID

The Scheme aims to encourage young people to take up farming.

CONDITIONS

Under the Scheme, a premium of €9,523 is payable to farmers under 35 years of age at the time of setting up who:

- generate a minimum of 20 income units from farming at setting up, or at the latest within 12 months of that date, and have a total income, including non-farm income, of at least 50 income units within 2 years of the date of set up;
- fulfil, at the time of setting up on the farm or at the latest within two years of that date, certain requirements regarding occupational skill and competence;
- have obtained title/leasehold title to the land and confirm that setting up costs associated with the farm transfer were incurred;
- submit an initial application within 6 months of first setting up in farming and submit a full application with supporting documentation within 30 months of set up.

This Scheme is co-funded by the Irish Government under the National Development Plan 2000-2006 and the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund of the European Union.

SCHEME OF INVESTMENT AID FOR FARM WASTE MANAGEMENT

AIM

This scheme, which was launched on 23rd March 2006, aims to facilitate the management of farm waste by providing grant aid to farmers for investments in storage facilities for silage and agricultural wastes, animal housing, safety elements and equipment for the application of farm waste. The scheme has been extended to include horses, deer, goats, pigs and poultry, and mushroom compost.

ELIGIBILITY

The scheme is open to farmers who have:

1. a minimum of 3 hectares which has been declared under the Single Farm Payment Scheme/Area Aid/Integrated Administration and Control System
and
2. not more than 650 Income Units including off-farm income, with no upper income limit being applied in the case of pig and poultry farmers.

A standard grant rate of 60% is applicable for both animal housing and slurry storage with 70% being available in the four Zone C counties (Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim and Monaghan). In addition, “top-up” grants will be available for young farmers in certain cases.

A 40% grant rate is applicable to the purchase of specialised equipment with specific environmental advantages, specialised slurry spreading tankers and related equipment. The purchase of standard mobile equipment is grant aided at 20%.

The maximum amount of investment eligible for grant aid under the Scheme is €120,000 per holding.

This Scheme is co-funded by the Irish Government under the National Development Plan 2000-2006 and the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund of the European Union.

SCHEME OF INVESTMENT AID FOR THE IMPROVEMENT IN DAIRY HYGIENE STANDARDS

AIM

The aim of the Scheme is to assist dairy farmers in upgrading the dairying facilities on their farms, to ensure continued adherence to EU standards and to further improve on-farm dairy hygiene standards to meet consumer hygiene demands.

ELIGIBILITY

The scheme is open to farmers who have a minimum of 30 Income Units and not more than 450 Income Units, including off-farm income. At least 20 of the Income Units must come from farming. The rate of grant aid payable under the scheme will be 40% of the approved costs.

In addition, young trained farmers under 35 years who have commenced farming in the five year period prior to application will qualify for additional aid at the rate of 15% in Less Favoured Areas and 5% in the rest of the country.

The maximum amount of investment eligible for grant aid under the Scheme is €50,000 per holding.

This Scheme is co-funded by the Irish Government under the National Development Plan 2000-2006 and the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund of the European Union.

SCHEME OF INVESTMENT AID IN ALTERNATIVE ENTERPRISES (HOUSING AND HANDLING FACILITIES)

AIM

The objective of the Scheme is to promote and maintain agricultural enterprises, not in surplus, by providing grant aid to farmers for investment in housing/handling facilities for horses, deer, rabbits, goats and other acceptable non-quota species.

ELIGIBILITY

The scheme is open to farmers who have a minimum of 30 Income Units and not more than 200 Income Units including off-farm income. At least 20 of the Income Units must come from farming. The grant rate will be tiered - the rate of grant aid payable under the scheme for farmers with not more than 150 Income Units as a percentage of approved costs is 40%. For applicants with over 150 Income Units and not more than 200 Income Units the rate of grant aid payable under the scheme will be 20% of the approved costs.

The maximum amount of investment eligible for grant aid under the Scheme is €31,743 per holding in respect of horses and deer and €6,349 in respect of other species.

This Scheme is funded by the Irish Government under the National Development Plan 2000-2006.

SCHEME OF GRANT AID FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN ANIMAL WELFARE STANDARDS (SOW HOUSING)

AIM

The aim of the Scheme is to assist farmers in upgrading and converting their existing sow housing to ensure compliance with EU animal welfare standards.

ELIGIBILITY

The Scheme is open to farmers who have a minimum of 60 units from pig production. The standard rate of grant aid payable will be 40% of the approved costs.

In addition grant aid is also available for the preparation of Environmental Impact Assessments and Environmental Impact Statements which are required in relation to the proposed investments, and is payable at a rate of 12% up to a maximum grant of €20,000.

The maximum grant payable under the Scheme is €120,000 per holding including any grant paid in respect of an Environmental Impact Assessment and/or Environmental Impact Statement.

This Scheme is funded by the Irish Government under the National Development Plan 2000-2006.

Further information and application forms for all the Schemes described in this section, may be obtained from your local "Agricultural Environment and Structures Office (AES)". (See Appendix 1B for full details)



7. ANIMAL TRACEABILITY

CMMS/IRISH BOVINE ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM

The Irish Bovine Animal Identification System has four elements: tagging, bovine passports, on farm bovine herd registers and a computerised database.

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

- **Tagging**

The tagging system requires the application by the animals' 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. They do this by completing the tag order card sent to them by the approved tag supplier and returning it with the appropriate fee. Upon 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 a central birth registration database. They do this by completing the registration application form mentioned above and sending it within seven days of tagging the calf to the registration agency appointed by the Department. On receipt of the completed registration application form, 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.

- **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 animals that have died on the holding.

- **The database - Cattle Movement Monitoring System (CMMS)**

The database is called the Cattle Movement Monitoring System (CMMS) and it traces all Irish bovine animals from birth to slaughter and records all births, movements and disposals. The database has been fully operational since 2000.

The system captures details of millions of animal movements each year and this information is used to verify the origin, identity and life history of cattle entering the food chain. The database is also used to check compliance of cattle with eligibility criteria of Single Farm Payment Scheme. The database can be used also to assist in contact tracing and veterinary certification and to provide statistical information in respect of the cattle sector.

NOTIFICATIONS TO THE CMMS

Keepers of cattle have obligations to notify the Department of the movement of cattle to and from their holdings. In the case of cattle sold privately, the keeper must obtain a pre-clearance certificate from the Cattle Movement Notification Agency prior to the movement of any animal off the holding. Both the source and recipient keepers must confirm after the event whether the movement has taken place. Keepers must also notify the Departments of on-farm deaths.

ON-LINE AND MOBILE PHONE FACILITIES AVAILABLE TO FARMERS WITH BOVINE ANIMALS

A number of on-line facilities are available to farmers under the Animal Identification and Movement System (AIM). The facilities allow farmers to:

- Register Calf Births;
- Apply for a Certificate of Compliance (to move cattle direct from farm to farm);
- Check the cattle in the herd according to CMMS;
- Verify that movements in and out of the herd have been recorded on the system;
- See the life history of individual animals until they leave the herd.

A mobile phone application covering some of these facilities will be introduced in early 2006.

Farmers must register with the Department's eServices to avail of the on-line and mobile phone services, which are free of charge. This can be done by clicking on the eServices icon on the Department's website www.agriculture.gov.ie and following the simple instructions. Farmers can also contact the eServices Helpdesk (lo-call number 1890 252 118) to register over the phone or to obtain a paper application.

NATIONAL BEEF ASSURANCE SCHEME (NBAS)

AIM

The aim of the Scheme is to guarantee the safety of beef and beef products by:

- operating an effective animal identification and tracing system;
- developing high standards of production and processing;
- enforcing these standards through a registration and approval system.

Under the NBAS, all persons engaged in the primary production and processing of cattle and beef (farmers, marts, slaughterhouses, meat processors, bovine animal feed compounders and other keepers of cattle) will, when fully implemented, be subject to an approval and inspection process to ensure that required standards are being met.

Further information on the above measures may be obtained from National Beef Assurance Scheme Division, Department of Agriculture and Food, Maynooth, Co. Kildare. Tel: 01 5053300

NATIONAL SHEEP IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM (NSIS)

The rules governing the operation of the National Sheep Identification System (NSIS) are set down in the Diseases of Animals Act, 1966 (National Sheep Identification System) Order, 2001 – S. I. No. 281 of 2001.

The National Sheep Identification System (NSIS) came into operation on 21 June 2001. Under the system, all sheep must be tagged and details of all sheep on farms and of all sheep movements must be fully recorded. Processors are required to attach a label incorporating the country of origin, the flock number, and the individual identifier to the finished carcass. This system, which encompasses producers, marts, meat factories and others, provides that for the first time, Ireland has full traceability for all sheep, on an individual basis.

DISPATCH/MOVEMENT DOCUMENTS

In accordance with the requirements of NSIS, sheep moving off farm must be accompanied by a Dispatch/Movement Document, completed by the owner of the sheep, throughout their movement – indicating number of sheep being moved, the individual tag number of each sheep in the consignment being moved, the flock number of the farm from which the sheep have most recently come, and the name and address of the owner of the sheep.

The Dispatch/Movement Document is a three-part document. The top copy (white) should accompany all sheep moving off farm to the purchaser, the middle copy (pink) should also accompany the sheep if they are being sold in a mart (this is for the mart records) and the bottom copy (yellow) should be retained by the seller for their own records.

Dispatch/Movement books are available from the Department's District Veterinary Offices (see list at Appendix 1B) .

FLOCK REGISTER

Under NSIS it is a legal requirement that persons who hold or keep sheep on a registered holding maintain records of the individual animal identification number attached to the animals. It is also a legal requirement to keep a written record of the movement of animals onto or off the registered holding. To facilitate the recording of these details, new Flock Registers were issued to all sheep flock owners.

Requests for Flock Registers should be addressed to the Special Projects Unit, Animal Health and Welfare Division, Agriculture House, Kildare Street, Dublin 2. Helpline: 1890 504 604 or 01 6072827

NEW EU LEGISLATION

Council Regulation (EC) No 21/2004 establishing a system for the identification and registration of ovine (sheep) and caprine (goats) animals came into effect on **9 July 2005**.

This new harmonized system provides for **electronic individual identification** of sheep, based on double tagging, together with a central movement database recording movements on a batch basis. This system is to be implemented in January 2008, although the implementation date is subject to review following a Commission report in 2006. For the interim period some minor aspects of the current system were adjusted in July 2005 to comply with the new harmonised system. The changes include a change to the format of the flock number to all numeric and minor adjustments to the Dispatch Documents and Flock register.

Further information on any aspect of NSIS or the new harmonized system may be obtained from the NSIS unit of the Department of Agriculture and Food, Kildare Street, Dublin 2. Helpline: 1890 504 604 or Tel: 01 6072827

NATIONAL PIG IDENTIFICATION AND TRACING SYSTEM (NPITS)

In accordance with legal requirements the Department 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 farm 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.

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 59.

Pig herd owners who wish to be registered on the National Database should contact the Special Projects Unit of Animal Health and Welfare Division of the Department. Helpline: 1890 504 604 or Tel: 01 6072827

NATIONAL GOAT IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM (NGIS)

Under Council Regulation (EC) No 21/2004 a system of goat identification has been introduced across the EU. This is a major development for the Irish goat sector. With the introduction of NGIS Ireland will have a national system of goat identification vital for disease control, traceability and consumer assurance. 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;
- Use of dispatch documents to record movements.

REGISTRATION

From 9 July 2005, 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 for the area in which the holding is situated.

HERD REGISTERS

Every herd owner must maintain a herd register in the format supplied by the Department.

From 15 September 2005 the herd register must contain details, on a batch basis (i.e. not on an individual basis) of all movements of goats on and off the holding. From 1 December 2005 the herd register must contain details, on a batch basis, of all goats on the holding over the age of six months. These records may of course be kept on an individual animal basis should the herd owner so wish.

Details of all tag replacements must also be recorded in the herd register.

IDENTIFICATION OF GOATS

From **15 September 2005** all goats moved from the holding must be double tagged (i.e. a tag in each ear) on movement with tags (white) showing the owner's goat herd designator (available from the local DVO) and an individual number. All movements must be accompanied by a dispatch document.

If a person buys goats from another keeper he/she must ensure that the goats have been tagged and that he/she receives a dispatch document for his/her records. No further tagging is required except in the event of tag loss.

From the **1 December 2005** all goats on the holding over the age of six months must be double tagged. Goats must thereafter be tagged by the age of six months or on movement, whichever comes first.

7. ANIMAL TRACEABILITY

Tags will be issued to a herd owner containing his/her 7-digit herd designator and an individual number, starting at 1. However the herd owner will not need to record the **individual** numbers on dispatch documents or in herd registers unless he/she wishes to do so.

Where a goat has lost a tag the herd owner is required to replace the lost tag with a replacement tag bearing the **same designator and individual number** as the tag lost as soon as is practicable. This replacement (which is yellow) must be ordered from the tag supplier, specifying the number required to be on the tag.

Where a goat has lost both tags the herd owner should similarly replace with two tags bearing the same designator and individual number as the tags lost.

All details regarding tag replacements must be recorded in the herd register. Full instructions on how to do this are contained in the herd register.

Tags must be ordered from an approved tag company – the list of such companies is on page 59.

MOVEMENT DOCUMENT

From 15 September 2005 the herd register must contain details, on a batch basis (i.e. not on an individual basis) of all movements of goats on and off the holding. From 1 December 2005 the herd register must contain details, on a batch basis, of all goats on the holding over the age of six months. These records may of course be kept on an individual animal basis should the herd owner so wish.

Details of all tag replacements must also be recorded in the register.

IMPORTS

Goats imported from another Member State will be double tagged and no further tagging is required. Existing veterinary requirements continue to apply. Imports from a country outside of the EU must be tagged with red import tags.

Further information may be obtained from the Special Projects Unit of the Department of Agriculture and Food, Kildare Street, Dublin 2. Helpline: 1890 504 604 or Tel: 01 6072827

TAG AND TAG SUPPLIERS

A number of different tags have been approved for use under NSIS, NPITS and NGIS. Tags are available to purchase from any of the eight trading approved tag suppliers. Both long and short-term sheep tags have been approved but it should be remembered when ordering tags that short-term standard sheep tags can be used **only** for lambs going **directly** to slaughter. Long-term standard sheep tags can be used for sheep in all circumstances.

All sheep and goat tags are white in colour with the exception of import tags, which are red and replacement tags, which are coloured yellow.

Pig tags are green in colour.

Tags may be ordered from a number of different suppliers and orders will be supplied **only by post** direct to the flock owner who has placed the order. See list of approved tag suppliers on page 59.

**NATIONAL SHEEP IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM-NSIS
NATIONAL PIG IDENTIFICATION AND TRACING SYSTEM – NPITS
NATIONAL GOAT IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM - NGIS
APPROVED TAG SUPPLIERS - 2005/2006**

The following is a list of companies approved to supply animal identification eartags under the above systems for the 2005/2006 year.

Company Name & Address	Id. System Approved	Phone	Fax	E-mail/Web Address
Agrihealth Ltd. Clones Road Monaghan Co. Monaghan	NSIS NPITS NGIS	1890 515151 047 71800	047 74190	eartags@agrihealth.ie www.eartags.ie
Co-Operative Animal Health Ltd. Tullow Industrial Estate Tullow Co. Carlow	NSIS NPITS NGIS	059 9151251	059 9151856	nbyrne@cahl.ie www.cahl.ie
Cormac Sheep Tagging Vicar Street Tuam Co. Galway	NSIS NPITS NGIS	093 28231	093 28019	sheeptagging@eircom.net
Dalton I.D. Systems (Ireland) Ltd. Kiltole Quarry Convoy Co. Donegal	NSIS NPITS NGIS	074 9101962	074 9101959	md@dalton.co.uk holden@dalton.ie www.dalton.ie
Eurotags Mullinahone Co-Op Mullinahone Co. Tipperary	NSIS NPITS NGIS	052 53357	052 53289	mdwyer@mull-coop.ie
Quicktag 7A Churchfield Road Ballycastle Antrim BT54 6PJ Northern Ireland	NSIS NPITS NGIS	048 2076 8696	028 2076 8699	info@quicktag.net www.quicktag.net
Ritchey Tagg plc Fearby Road Masham Ripon North Yorkshire HG4 4ES England	NSIS NPITS NGIS	0044 1765 689541	0044 1765 689851	john.robinson@ritchey.co.uk www.ritcheytagg.com
Merko nv Leo Baekelandstraat 7 Unit 5 B-2950 Kapellen Belgium	NPITS	00 32 3 360 2670	00 32 3 326 3398	merko@merko.be



8. ANIMAL PRODUCTION/PRODUCTS

CATTLE

DIY A.I. LICENCES

General Aim of Scheme Measure

To ensure that persons wishing to practice Artificial Insemination in their bovine herd are appropriately trained for the task and that only semen from approved sources is used in the process.

Scheme/Measure Conditions

The following are some of the conditions attaching to the issue of a licence:

- No person other than the herdowner, or, his wholetime employee, who has satisfactorily completed an approved programme of training in the practice of Artificial Insemination, shall be approved by the Minister for Agriculture and Food to carry out the inseminations within that herd;
- Inseminations by the herdowner or his wholetime employee shall be confined to the herd specified in the licence;
- The amount of semen that may be supplied to any herdowner under these arrangements shall be related to the number of cows in the herd concerned and shall not exceed 2.5 straws per cow per year;
- Herdowners must book their DIY A.I. training or refresher courses with a company licensed by the Department to conduct such courses;
- Holders of DIY AI Licences are permitted to store limited amounts of semen on-farm.

How to apply

Applications are made on Form **DIY A.I.1**

A full set of the conditions attaching to a DIY A.I licence is issued with each application form. A list of the companies licensed to provide courses is available on request.

FIELD SERVICE LICENCES

General Aim of Scheme Measure

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.

Scheme/Measure Conditions

The Field Service Licence holder:

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

How to apply

First time applications are made using Form **FSL 1**.

Renewal applications are made using Form **FSL 2**.

A full set of the conditions attaching to a Field Service Licence is issued with each application form.

A.I. TECHICIANS LICENCES

General Aim of Scheme Measure

The aim of the scheme is primarily to ensure the provision of a quality bovine A.I. service through the licenced Field Service network all the while maintaining animal health and welfare standards and traceability of product.

Scheme/Measure Conditions

The following are some of the conditions attaching to the issue of a licence:

- A.I. technicians and sales personnel must be employed by a Field Service Licence holder;
- A.I. technicians must be fully contactable at all times;
- A.I. technicians can only be employed by the Field Service Licence holder named on their licence.

How to apply

Applications for a Provisional A.I. Technicians Licence are made on Form **AI PROV.**

Applications for a Full Technicians Licence are made on Form **AI FUL.**

A full set of the conditions attaching to an A.I. technicians Licence is issued with each application form

LICENCES TO DISTRIBUTE BOVINE SEMEN

General Aim of Scheme Measure

To ensure that organisations or individuals who wish to trade in bovine semen, are appropriately licensed by the Department of Agriculture and Food to engage in the distribution of bovine semen thereby protecting animal health and welfare and traceability of product.

Scheme/Measure Conditions

The following are some of the conditions attaching to the issue of a licence:

- Distributors must keep satisfactory records;
- Semen must only be supplied to holders of current DIY A.I. licensees;
- The licensee is subject to the overall veterinary and zootechnical control of the Department of Agriculture and Food.

How to apply

A first time application for the distribution of bovine semen by a registered importer of bovine semen are made using Form **DC 1**. Renewal applications are made using Form **DC 2**. A full set of the conditions attaching to the licence is issued with each application form.

An application for a licence to sell and distribute semen on behalf of an AI company by an individual is made on Form **DBSL 1**.

APPROVAL OF BOVINE SEMEN STORAGE CENTRES

General Aim of Scheme Measure

To ensure that premises where semen is stored meets specified standards set out in S.I. 499 of 2004.

Scheme/Measure Conditions

The following are some of the conditions attaching to the issue of an approval:

- The centre must be placed under the permanent supervision of a centre veterinarian approved by the Minister for Agriculture and Food;
- The centre must be so constructed or isolated that contact with livestock outside is prevented;
- The centre must be so constructed that the storage facilities can be readily cleaned and disinfected;
- Satisfactory records must be kept;
- The storage centre will be inspected by the Department of Agriculture and Food at least twice a year to assess all matters relating to the conditions of approval and supervision.

How to apply

Applications are made on Form **SCC**.

APPROVAL OF BOVINE SEMEN COLLECTION CENTRES

General Aim of Scheme Measure

To ensure that premises where semen is collected meets specified standards set out in S.I. 112 of 1996, as amended.

Scheme/Measure Conditions

The following are some of the conditions attaching to the issue of an approval:

- The centre must be so constructed or isolated that contact with livestock outside is prevented;
- The centre must be so constructed that the storage facilities can be readily cleaned and disinfected;
- The centre must comply with the conditions for approval, supervision, movement of animals, as well as routine tests and treatment to be applied to all bovine animals in the Centre;
- Any analysis required must be carried out in approved laboratories;
- The storage centre will be inspected by the Department of Agriculture and Food at least twice a year to assess all matters relating to the conditions of approval and supervision;
- Satisfactory records must be kept.

Please note persons wishing to apply for an approval for a semen collection centre are advised to contact the Department at the outset so as to obtain full information on the approval process (see contact details beneath).

How to apply

Applications are made on Form **SCC**.

APPROVAL OF BOVINE OVA/EMBRYO COLLECTION OR PRODUCTION TEAMS

General Aim of Scheme Measure

To ensure that only teams approved by the Department of Agriculture and Food for the purpose of producing and or collecting bovine ovas/embryos operate such a service.

Scheme/Measure Conditions

The following are some of the conditions attaching to the issue of an approval:

- Collection, processing and storage of embryos must only be carried out by suitable qualified personnel;
- Embryo collection teams must be supervised by an official veterinarian;
- Permanent or mobile laboratories must be available.

How to apply

Applications are made on Form **ECT 1**.

ON-FARM COLLECTION OF BOVINE SEMEN

General Aim of Scheme Measure

To allow herdowners to preserve the bloodline of their bovine herd by having semen collected from their own herd for use within their own herd.

Scheme/Measure Conditions

- On-farm collection of bovine semen can only be carried out by an approved bovine semen collection center;
- Applicants or their employees for on-farm collection must have a D.I.Y. A.I. licence to store semen and they can only store a quantity of semen (collected on-farm or otherwise) to the maximum allowed by his/her D.I.Y. A.I. licence;
- 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.

How to apply

Applications are made on Form **OFC 1**.

PRE-ENTRY HEALTH TESTS FOR BULLS TO A.I. STATIONS

General Aim of Scheme Measure

The aim of the scheme is to ensure that all bovine semen for use in A.I. meets all animal health requirements.

Scheme/Measure Conditions

Bulls must pass a number of specified health tests before they can be allowed into an A.I. station.

How to apply

Applications are made on application Form **HT 1**.

KERRY CATTLE SCHEME

General Aim of Scheme Measure

To preserve the Kerry Cattle Breed.

Conditions

A herd is eligible to participate in the scheme if:

- the owner is a member of the Kerry Cattle Society of Ireland;
- the herd is located within the territory of the State and contains at least five breeding animals;
- females are registered in the Herd book of the Kerry Cattle Society of Ireland;
- 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/registration in the Kerry Cattle Herd Book;
- the animals the subject of an application for the premium have been born in the applicant's herd.

How to apply

Applications are made on Application Form **K1**.

Rates/Methods of payment

€76.18 per calf.

*Application forms and further information on all the Schemes and Services described above can be obtained from Livestock Breeding Section, Department of Agriculture and Food, Farnham Street, Cavan.
Telephone:*

DIY AI Licences: 049 4368295 or 049 4368200 ext 399; Field Service Licences, AI Technician Licences, Licences to Distribute Bovine Semen, Approval of Bovine Semen Storage Centres and Approval of Bovine Semen Collection Centres, Approval of Bovine Ova/Embryo Collection or Production Teams, Kerry Cattle Scheme: 049 4368296 or 049 4368200 ext 413; On-Farm Collection of Bovine Semen, Pre-Entry Health Tests for Bulls to AI Stations: 049 4368297 or 049 4368200 ext 415.

Fax: 049 4361486 Email: bovineai@agriculture.gov.ie

HERD BOOKS

A herd-book is any book, register, file or data medium which is maintained by a recognised organisation and in which bovines are registered with reference to all their known ascendants. The operation of a herd-book is regulated under the European Communities (Trade in Bovine Breeding Animals their Semen, Ova and Embryos) Regulations 1996 S.I. No. 112 of 1996.

The Department is the Competent Authority for granting approvals under this legislation subject to the applicant having complied with the criteria for approval. Terms and Conditions apply.

Application forms and further information can be obtained from Livestock Breeding Section, Department of Agriculture and Food, Farnham Street, Cavan. Tel: 049 4368292 Fax: 049 4361486 Email: zootechnics@agriculture.gov.ie

CENTRAL PERFORMANCE TESTING

The Irish Cattle Breeding Federation (ICBF) operates a bull performance testing station at Tully, Co Kildare. The primary objective of the service is to identify top quality beef bulls for use in the A.I. service and by pedigree breeders as sires in pedigree herds. The test period lasts approximately 200 days during which the young bulls are fed and housed under uniform conditions. Bulls are assessed for growth rate, feed conversion, body measurements and conformation. An ultrasonic scanner is used to measure back-fat and eye muscle area. The fees payable are available with the terms and conditions on request from ICBF.

Further information can be obtained from The Irish Cattle Breeding Federation, Highfield House, Bandon, Co Cork. Tel: 023 20222 Fax: 023 20229 E-mail: bwickham@icbf.com

CLEAN LIVESTOCK POLICY

Regulations were introduced in 1998 to implement a clean livestock policy at all premises slaughtering animals for human consumption. The Regulations, which amend the Abattoirs Act, 1988 (Veterinary Examination) Regulations, 1992, extended the grounds under which a veterinary inspector may declare an animal to be unfit for slaughter for human consumption to include the condition of the hide, skin or fleece of an animal. Animals are scored into different categories according to the cleanliness of the hide, skin or fleece, ranging from Category 1 (Ideal) to Category 5 (Reject).

Further information may be obtained from Meat Hygiene Section, Meat Hygiene and Animal By-Products Division, Department of Agriculture and Food, Kildare Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 6072830

EU BEEF CARCASE CLASSIFICATION SCHEME

AIM

The aim of the EU Beef Carcase Classification Scheme is to provide a common descriptive system for beef carcasses throughout the European Union. This enables the EU to operate standardised beef price reporting from all Member States, facilitating trade and also enabling the introduction of EU Market Support Schemes, when required.

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) and E (heifer).

Classification information is returned to the supplier.

Over 90% of carcasses are classified by mechanical means. The remainder are classified by trained factory employees, who have been licensed by the Department to carry out this work. In the case of mechanical classification, Video Image Analysis is used to carry out various measurements of the carcass and determine the classification. As the classification in this case is objective, no appeal is possible. In smaller plants where classification is done by licensed classifiers, the supplier can appeal the decision of the classifier to the slaughter plant.

Further information can be obtained from Beef Classification Section, Department of Agriculture and Food, Johnstown Castle Estate, Wexford, Tel 053 9163400

LABELLING OF BEEF

The Minister for Agriculture and Food is the competent authority for the purpose of implementing the regulations governing the labelling of beef and beef products.

Under these regulations, operators or 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: 'Cut 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).

The regulations also provide for a voluntary labelling scheme whereby operators wishing to provide supplementary information on labels may only do so subject to the approval of the Department.

The Department is currently in the process of extending the existing beef labelling laws to require information on the 'country of origin' of beef to be provided to all consumers at the point of choice in Irish restaurants, hotels, pubs and catering outlets which are currently excluded. The necessary provisions are included in amendments to the Irish Medicines Board (Miscellaneous Provision) Bill 2005 which is currently before the Oireachtas. The proposed amendments will allow for the making of regulations to satisfy this requirement, subject to EU approval. It is expected that these Regulations will be in place in 2006. They will be enforced by the Food Safety Authority of Ireland.

Further details may be obtained from Meat Policy Division, Department of Agriculture and Food, Kildare Street, Dublin 2. Tel 01 607 2880

MILK

MILK QUOTAS

The Milk Quota Regulations provide for the payment of a levy, known as the “super levy”, on milk deliveries in excess of Ireland’s annual national quota. The liability of individual producers who have exceeded their quota, which is expressed in terms of volume and fat content, is established after the reallocation of unused quota.

The following quota allocation schemes are operated by co-operatives/dairies in accordance with rules set down by the Minister:

- **Milk Quota Restructuring Scheme** - operated at the beginning of each milk quota year. The Milk Quota Restructuring Scheme is the principal means by which additional milk quota is acquired by producers. Under the scheme, producers may sell milk quota into their co-operative’s/dairy’s restructuring pool and other producers with that co-operative/dairy may apply to purchase quota from the pool.
- **Temporary Leasing Scheme** - operated during the milk quota year. Under the Temporary Leasing Scheme producers can offer to lease the part of their quota which they consider they will not use during the current milk quota year into their co-operative’s/dairy’s pool. A person may lease their full quota only when he/she has been granted permission to do so by the Department due to the exceptional circumstances of his/her case. Other producers, who require additional quota for that year, can apply to temporary lease quota from the pool. The period of lease expires in each case on 31 March.
- **Reallocation of Unused Quota** - administered after the end of the milk quota year. In the event of an excess of production over quota at national level, unused quota is reallocated to eligible over-quota producers. This system is known as “flexi-milk”.

In addition, a scheme for the allocation of additional milk quota from the National Reserve is operated by the Department. Applications on the grounds of Hardship and Animal Disease are assessed by the Milk Quota Appeals Tribunal, which makes recommendations to the Minister.

The detailed criteria for the operation of these Schemes are determined by the Minister and are announced in the national media.

Details of the arrangements are also available to producers at their co-operatives/dairies or on request from Milk Policy Division, Department of Agriculture and Food, Kildare Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 6072857

EU STANDARDS FOR DAIRY FARMS AND FOR MILK SOLD FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

The hygiene and public health protection rules for the production and processing of milk and dairy products are set out in a series of five Regulations formulated by the European Commission and apply throughout the entire Union. They lay down standards for everything from the production of raw milk on farms to the packaging and labelling of finished dairy products leaving the processing establishments.

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 currently stands at 0.1 cent per litre.

PROMOTION/PUBLICITY

EU funding is provided for the generic promotion of consumption of milk and milk products. The funding is provided on the basis of proposals submitted to the Commission and runs side by side with any generic promotion and publicity campaign operated and funded by the industry itself.

SHEEP

BREED IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMMES

The objective of the Pedigree Sheep Breed Improvement Programme operated by the Department is to improve lean tissue growth rate and muscularity in terminal sire (meat) breeds of sheep in Ireland. It incorporates performance recording and ultrasonic measurement of muscle and fat depth. These characteristics are included in an overall breeding value that is called the Lean Meat Index (L.M.I.). Participation is open to any pedigree sheep breeder with a flock of 10, or more, pedigree ewes.

In the case of the Galway Sheep Breed Improvement Programme, the objectives are:

- to record the lambing performance of all pedigree ewes in registered Galway flocks;
- to classify the ewes and their progeny into genetic merit classes for prolificacy;
- to encourage the use of this information in the selection of breeding stock, and thus bring about genetic improvement for prolificacy in registered pedigree Galway flocks.

LICENCE TO PRACTICE 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 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 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.

*Further information on the above services can be obtained from Livestock Breeding Section,
Department of Agriculture and Food, Farnham Street, Cavan. Tel: 049 4368292 Fax: 049 4361486
E-mail: zootechnics@agriculture.gov.ie*

PURE-BRED SHEEP AND GOAT 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. 16 of 1994.

The Department is the Competent Authority for granting approvals under this legislation subject to the applicant having complied with the criteria for approval. Terms and Conditions apply.

Application forms and further information can be obtained from Livestock Breeding Section, Department of Agriculture and Food, Farnham Street, Cavan. Tel: 049 4368292 Fax: 049 4361486 E-mail: zootechnics@agriculture.gov.ie

LAMB CARCASE CLASSIFICATION

Council Regulation 2137/92 sets the goal of making the use of the EU grid compulsory for all EU approved slaughterhouses.

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, 5 in order of increasing fatness.

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

Further information can be obtained from Livestock Division, Department of Agriculture and Food, Block B, Maynooth Business Campus, Maynooth, Co. Kildare. Tel: 01 5053300

PIGS

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 storage centre are advised to contact the Department at the outset so as to obtain full information on the approval process.

BREEDING PIG HERD-BOOK AND 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.

Further information on the above services can be obtained from Livestock Breeding Section, Department of Agriculture and Food, Farnham Street, Cavan. Tel: 049 4368292, Fax: 049 4361486 E-mail: zootechnics@agriculture.gov.ie

PIG CARCASS GRADING

The EU system of grading pig carcasses is implemented in Ireland by the Pig Carcass (Grading) Regulations, 1988 to 2001. All pig slaughter plants, where, on average over the course of a year, more than 200 pigs are killed per week, must grade pig carcasses 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. Grade shall be indicated on the skin of the shank or ham by a number being the estimated lean meat content or the corresponding grade letter. The purpose of the grading system is to facilitate transparency in the area of pricing and to assist fair payment based on carcass quality. The operator of a slaughter plant must give to pig suppliers a statement showing, in respect of each pig, the carcass number, carcass weight, estimated percentage lean meat content and the total price paid.

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. Under the Abattoirs Act 1988 (Veterinary Examination) (Amendment) Regulations 2002, all pig producers must ensure that they are in possession of a valid certificate of categorisation for their pig herds.

Further information on the above services can be obtained from Meat Policy Division, Department of Agriculture and Food, Kildare Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 6072735

MEAT HYGIENE

Establishments engaged in the slaughter of animals (cattle, sheep, pigs, poultry, goats, deer, wild game and farmed game) and the processing of meat products, minced meat, meat preparations must be approved. A food business operator can market products of animal origin only if they have been prepared and handled exclusively in establishments approved for that purpose. Requests for approval will be considered under Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 [OJ No. L226 of 25.6.2004, p 22].

Further information on the approval process can be obtained from Meat Hygiene Section, Meat Hygiene and Animal By Products Division, Department of Agriculture and Food, Kildare Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 6072830.

The scientific examination of meat and meat products is carried out at the Department's Central Meat Control Laboratory, Young's Cross, Celbridge, Co. Kildare. Tel: 01-6157368

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. 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 a health certificate signed by an official veterinarian.

POULTRYMEAT 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 and Food and keep appropriate records and are subject to official Department inspections.

EGGS MARKETING REGULATIONS

Table eggs marketed 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 registered egg-packing centre. All registered 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 'free range', 'cage', 'perchery/barn' or 'organic' provided the applicable requirements of the legislation have been met. Conditions also apply where eggs and packs bear an indication of how the laying hens are fed. Producers and packers using these terms and indications must be registered with the Department and must keep appropriate records.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, producers may sell their own eggs directly to the consumer from their own farm and by door-to-door selling provided the eggs are not graded or packed in the manner set out in the marketing standards legislation.

EGG PRODUCTS

The European Communities (Egg Products) Regulations, 1991 and 1992 (SI No. 293 of 1991 and SI No. 419 of 1992) specify the hygiene and health requirements concerning the production and the placing on the market of egg products for direct human consumption or for the manufacture of foodstuffs. The legislation also

prescribes conditions for the approval of premises, the health, hygiene and supervision of production and for the storage and markings of egg products.

Further information on the above services may be obtained from Meat Policy Division, Department of Agriculture and Food, Kildare Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 6072263

HORSES

STUD-BOOK APPROVAL

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 the European Communities (Equine Stud-Book and Competition) Regulations, 2004 S.I. No. 399 of 2004.

The Department is the Competent Authority for granting approvals under this legislation subject to the applicant having complied with the criteria for approval. Terms and Conditions apply.

*Application forms and further information can be obtained from Livestock Breeding Section, Department of Agriculture and Food, Farnham Street, Cavan. Tel: 049 4368292 Fax: 049 4361486
E-mail: zootechnics@agriculture.gov.ie*

HORSE REGISTRATION

All equidae in Ireland which include horses, donkeys, ponies and zebras must be identified in accordance with the European Communities (Equine Stud-book and Competition) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 399 of 2004). These Regulations implement EU Decision 2000/68, and mean that:

- all equidae when they are being moved out of a holding must be accompanied by an identity document. Such movements will include movement between premises, entering competitions, for the purpose of breeding, leaving Ireland, being sold or being presented for slaughter;
- certain medication given to equidae that are intended for human consumption must be entered in the identity document by the veterinary surgeon administering the medication;
- from 1 January 2005, all equidae being presented for slaughter for human consumption must be accompanied by an identity document which was issued at least 6 months before being presented for slaughter.

The authority approved to issue the identification documents for equidae that may not be eligible for entry into a studbook, is the Irish Horse Board (IHB). The Irish Horse Board can be contacted at (01) 5053584. Other organisations seeking approval to issue identification documents should seek an application form from Livestock Breeding Section.

Further information can be obtained from Livestock Breeding Section, Department of Agriculture and Food, Farnham Street, Cavan. Tel: 049 4368292, Fax: 049 4361486 E-mail: zootechnics@agriculture.gov.ie

IRISH HORSE BOARD

The Irish Horse Board Co-operative Society Ltd was established in 1993.

The objectives of the Board are:

- to maintain the Irish Horse Register;
- to improve the quality of the Irish Sport Horse;
- to identify markets and promote the Irish Horse in these markets;
- to promote the training of breeders in technical aspects and to assist in the promotion of equestrian tourism;
- to represent the interests of breeders on various bodies, including discussions with Government Departments.

For further details and application forms for membership contact: The Irish Horse Board, Block B, Maynooth Business Campus, Maynooth, Co. Kildare. Tel: 01 5053353

IRISH DRAUGHT HORSE

The Irish Horse Board is approved to maintain the studbook of origin for the Irish Draught Horse and administers the Irish Draught Horse Colt Retention Scheme and the Irish Draught Foal Grant.

For further details contact: The Irish Horse Board, Block B, Maynooth Business Campus, Maynooth, Co. Kildare. Tel: 01 5053584, Fax: 01 5053562, email ihb@ihb.ie

IRISH HORSE REGISTER

The Irish Horse Register was formally transferred to the Irish Horse Board Co-operative Society Ltd on 1 January 1995. The Register maintains the studbook records for the Irish Draught and Irish Sport Horses.

Information regarding registrations, etc, including the current Stallion List incorporating Approved and Supplementary Stallions, can be obtained from the Irish Horse Register, Irish Horse Board, Block B, Maynooth Business Campus, Maynooth, Co Kildare, Tel: 01 5053584, Fax: 01 5053562, email ihb@ihb.ie.

All recent publications including "Approved Stallions 2004-2005", Press Releases, and application forms, etc. are available on the website at www.irishhorseboard.com.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE HORSE INDUSTRY

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (NDP) 2000-2006

Improvements in Equine Quality

Support is provided under the NDP to assist farmers in producing horses selectively, using strict quality criteria. The sub-measure involves grant aid for the following activities in the non-thoroughbred sector:

- Stallion Performance Testing;
- Purchase of top quality stallions for use in the non-thoroughbred sector;
- Quality Mare Competitions.

Application forms and further information can be obtained from Livestock Breeding Division (Horses), Department of Agriculture and Food, Farnham Street, Cavan. Tel: 049 4368291

Infrastructural Improvements

Grant aid is provided under the NDP to organisations for approved projects aimed at improving the infrastructure within which the thoroughbred and non-thoroughbred horse sectors operate and includes support for the following:

- 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 Irish 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;
- Development of a reliable database for the whole horse industry which will provide essential information on breeding, sales, exports, performance of Irish horses abroad and employment in the sector.

Application forms and further information can be obtained from Livestock Breeding Division (Horses), Department of Agriculture and Food, Farnham Street, Cavan. Tel: 049 4368291

TRAINING FOR THE HORSE INDUSTRY

The University of Limerick (UL) is offering Certificate/Diploma in Science (Equine Science) programmes through both on-campus and distance education. The development and delivery of these programmes is co-ordinated by the International Equine Institute of UL and funded by the Department of Agriculture and Food under the NDP.

For further Information contact the International Equine Institute University of Limerick. Tel: 061 202430, Fax: 061 202184. Website www.iei.ul.ie



9. ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

The Diseases of Animals Act, 1966 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 and Food or Gardai:

GENERAL

Anthrax, Bluetongue, Brucellosis, Campylobacteriosis, Caseous Lymphadenitis, Contagious Agalactia, Foot and Mouth Disease, Johne's Disease, Parasitic Mange, Peste des Petits Ruminants, Pulmonary Adenomatosis, Rabies, Rift Valley Fever, Salmonella enteritidis and typhimurium, Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (other than BSE/Scrapie), Tuberculosis.

CATTLE

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, Teschen Disease, Transmissible Gastroenteritis, Vesicula Stomatitis.

SHEEP

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

POULTRY

Arizona Disease, Fowl Pest including Newcastle Disease and Fowl Plague (Avian Influenza), Infectious Laryngo-Tracheitis, Mycoplasma gallisepticum, meleagridis and synovia, Psittacosis, Salmonella gallinarum and pullorum, Turkey Rhinotracheitis, Diseases involving Yersinia spp.

HORSES AND OTHER EQUINES

African Horse Sickness, Contagious Equine Metritis, Dourine, Epizootic Lymphangitis, Equine Infectious Anaemia, Equine Viral Arteritis, Glanders or Farcy, Equine Encephalomyelitis.

GOATS

Caprine Viral Arthritis-Encephalitis, Goat Pox,

DEER

Epizootic Haemorrhagic Disease

In the event of an outbreak of the more serious diseases e.g. Foot and Mouth Disease or Swine Fever a policy of slaughtering out the herd (with compensation) and restricting movements would be adopted by the Department because of the infectious nature of the diseases and the potential damage to trade. Early stamping out is the most effective way to deal with many of these diseases and consequently immediate notification is essential.

TB AND BRUCELLOSIS ERADICATION SCHEMES

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

EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS

The main aspects of the TB and Brucellosis Diseases Eradication Schemes are as follows:

- annual testing of the national herd and/or designated categories of animals, with primary responsibility for arranging testing and paying for certain tests assigned to farmers;
- follow-up and focused strategic additional testing, including use of blood testing in certain circumstances;
- a quality control programme in relation to all aspects of the Schemes;
- a comprehensive programme to expedite the lifting of movement restrictions on certain herds;
- a comprehensive research programme aimed at preventing TB spread by wildlife;
- improved epidemiology and feedback to farmers;
- continuation of research on developing blood tests, vaccines and other technological tools required to improve effectiveness of programmes;
- a national Forum to advise and make recommendations to the Minister on the operation of the Schemes.

The central focus of the arrangements is that responsibility for arranging and paying for the first herd tests each year rests with farmers. In addition, farmers have been assigned greater responsibility for protecting their own herds and are also expected to assist the Department's District Veterinary Offices in research activities, as necessary.

BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS

Bovine Tuberculosis is a chronic, highly infectious disease of cattle caused by *Mycobacterium bovis*. The bacterium can cause disease in other domestic or wild animals and also in humans. It is a legal requirement that cattle over 6 weeks of age have had a TB test within the previous 12 months before moving out of your holding.

Untreated raw milk from reactors should never be consumed.

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;
- Wildlife, especially badgers, infected with *Mycobacterium Bovis* may be a significant factor in the persistence of bovine tuberculosis in certain areas.

Precautions against TB Infection

- Have stock-proof boundary fencing;
- Avoid contact with other herds and stock of unknown status;
- Exercise care in buying-in cattle. Ensure that only recently tested cattle are allowed onto your farm to mix with your stock;
- Avoid using dirty contract equipment e.g. cattle transport, slurry spreaders. All such equipment should be cleansed and disinfected before use.

The ideal long-term answer to the problem of bovine tuberculosis is eradication. With an appropriate co-ordinated approach, together with new technology currently being developed, Ireland can advance towards eradication of Bovine TB.

BOVINE BRUCELLOSIS

Brucellosis in cattle is a highly contagious disease which is spread by infected material at time of calving or abortion and which can also result in infertility, morbidity and reduced milk yield. The organism is readily killed by disinfection. There are also human health risks because the disease may be transmitted by drinking unpasteurised milk from infected cows, by inhalation, cuts and abrasions, or by droplet infection. The only clinical symptom of brucellosis in cattle is abortion and it is obligatory to report all abortions to the Department's local District Veterinary Office (DVO) (see list of DVOs at Appendix 1B).

The Department's policy is to eliminate the final sources of infection by depopulating brucellosis herds with active infection. A full round of blood testing for all eligible cattle (all female cattle and bulls over 12 months of age) is carried out each year to complement the existing arrangements which include the monthly milk testing of dairy herds.

All female cattle and bulls, over 12 months of age, being moved into or out of holdings (other than direct to a slaughter premises) must have passed a blood test within 30 days preceding the date of movement. Also, bulls over 12 months and female cattle over 18 months of age may not be sold more than once, whether by public or private sale, on foot of a brucellosis test and such cattle being sold must be moved from the holding where tests are undertaken direct to either the purchaser's holding or direct to a mart and from there direct to the purchaser's holding.

COMPENSATION REGIME FOR T.B. AND BRUCELLOSIS

Requirements

- Even if a herd is clear at present, each owner/keeper should be fully familiar with the available TB and Brucellosis compensation regimes.
- 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 also conditional on compliance with the provisions of the Diseases of Animals Act, 1966, any Orders made thereunder and any other controls laid down under the Diseases Eradication Schemes, with identification regulations and other national/EU legislative

requirements and controls relating to bovine animals administered by the Minister for Agriculture and Food. **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 in carrying out their duties under the Schemes.**

- Compensation payments are structured to benefit the owner/keeper whose farming practice assists herd health protection. The Department's Booklet "Important Information on the Bovine Tuberculosis and Brucellosis Eradication Schemes and the "Important Information for the Owner/Keeper" Booklet on the On – Farm Market Valuation Scheme provide useful information in relation to the valuation arrangements, Income Supplement and Depopulation Grant eligibility requirements, rates, etc. Both Booklets are available on request from the D.V.O.
- Under the Brucellosis Eradication Scheme, all eligible animals must be tested. An eligible animal is (i) a female animal aged 12 months or over (ii) a bull aged 12 months or over.
- In the case of a Brucellosis breakdown, the DVO will commence completion of Form **ER 111** using all available information on **eligible animals** which possibly entered the herd during the specified period under review for determining compensation payment. Form **ER 111** will be forwarded to the owner/keeper who may be required to furnish additional information but will be required to sign a declaration. Each owner/keeper will have a unique review period which is dependent on, inter alia, date of breakdown test and date of last full herd test prior to the breakdown.
- Apart from the legal requirement to keep a herd register on all animal movements, it is absolutely imperative for the purposes of the Brucellosis compensation arrangements that the owner/keeper keeps records of all movements of **eligible animals** into/out of his/her herd using a herd register and keeping other relevant information as proof of purchase or sale. In the event of a Brucellosis breakdown, it will then be possible for the owner/keeper to speedily provide the additional information needed to complete the valuation and other compensation processes e.g. date of purchase. **The Brucellosis valuation amount due and Depopulation Grant category cannot be determined by the DVO without the full co-operation of the owner/keeper in completing Form ER 111 as soon as possible after the breakdown and providing all the information sought. The onus is on the owner/keeper to provide all necessary information to the valuer and to the DVO. The herd register and/or original sales or other related documentation may be requested from the owner/keeper by the valuer and/or the DVO.**

ON-FARM MARKET VALUATION SCHEME

The On-Farm Market Valuation Scheme replaced the Reactor Grant element of the compensation regime with effect from 2 April 2002 for all reactors disclosed as a result of a test carried out on or after this date. However, reactor grant rates continue to apply to dealer/transient herds.

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 Brucellosis or was not being removed as part of a depopulation under the disease eradication programme.**

The main features of the live valuation system include;

- Valuations to be carried out by suitably qualified valuers within prescribed timescales and by reference to guidelines drawn up by Department staff;
- A ceiling of **€2,540** (inclusive of factory salvage price) to apply to payment in respect of any single animal, except in respect of one pedigree stock bull per farm where a ceiling of **€3,175** (inclusive of factory salvage price) applies;
- Where the owner/keeper or the Department do not accept the initial valuation, this can be appealed to another valuer on the panel. The party making the appeal will carry the full cost involved;
- 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 on the next available occasion;
- If there is no agreement following an appeal, the matter is referred to an Arbitration Panel whose decision will be final and binding on both parties;
- Graduated penalties apply to the final compensation payment made to the owner/keeper where s/he unreasonably delays the removal of reactors or where a voluntary post movement Brucellosis test was not carried out as well as for other breaches of regulations;
- Valuation payments will not be paid in respect of any introduced animal (other than a stock bull, replacement suckler calf or in the case of a newly established herd) deemed reactor which was moved into the holding during the restriction period.

FULL MARKET VALUE

Full market values subject to the ceilings referred to above will be payable where breakdown herds are **stable** (i.e. not transient or dealer) 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. In respect of **dealer/transient herds**, compensation will *not* in any event exceed the ceilings that apply under the 27 April 1998 Compensation Regime.

VOLUNTARY BRUCELLOSIS POST MOVEMENT TEST

Failure by the owner/keeper to carry out the voluntary Brucellosis 30 day Post Movement Blood Test on all **eligible animals** moved into the holding during the review period will result in deductions in the range **2% - 25%** on the valuation **Gross Differential Amount** in accordance with the following criteria:

No. of Animals Bought – In	Status (At initial breakdown test)	Deduction
1 – 5	All Clear	2%
6 – 10	All Clear	5%
11 and higher	All Clear	10%
1 – 5	1 or more failed	5%
6 – 10	1 or more failed	15%
11 and higher	1 or more failed	25%

DEPOPULATION GRANT

An owner/keeper whose herd is depopulated (totally or partially) in the interest of disease control may qualify for Depopulation Grants. Depopulation Grants are paid for each animal removed in the depopulation measure and for those removed as reactors since the holding was restricted, on condition that the owner/keeper agrees to depopulation at the time specified by the DVO. If this agreement is not received, and depopulation takes place subsequently, the owner/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. Depopulation Grants are paid in respect of each month of the rest period specified by the DVO.

The rates currently in force are as follows:

	Stable			Transient/Dealer/Other
	TB	Brucellosis		TB & Brucellosis
	Rate (€)	Standard rate (€)	Standard rate plus (€)	Other rate
(i) (Dairy Cows/In-Calf Heifers, Pedigree Bulls > 12 months)	228.55	126.97	228.55 (2)	Nil
(ii) Other Cows/In-Calf Heifers	126.97	126.97	126.97	Nil
(iii) Other Animals	76.18	38.09	76.18	Nil

Note:

Depopulation Grant rates quoted above represent the maximum available in respect of a 4 month rest period following depopulation. Pro rata deductions or increases will be made if the rest period after depopulation is less than or more than 4 months

INCOME SUPPLEMENT

Income Supplement is payable in cases where disease breakdown 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, **subject to a maximum of 100 animals qualifying for payment.**

Income Supplement is **not** payable in the event of animals (other than a stock bull, replacement suckler calf or in the case of a newly established herd) being purchased or moved into a restricted holding with the permission of the DVO **at any time during the restriction period. (It is important to note that movement of any animal into a restricted herd is prohibited, except with the written permission of the DVO and on foot of a movement permit, where appropriate).** In such cases, **eligibility for payment** will cease from the date of movement into the herd for the remainder of that restriction period.

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;

- Depopulation (total or partial) of the herd being deemed appropriate by the Department;
- De-restriction of the holding.

The rates currently in force are as follows:

Income Supplement Monthly Rates			
	Stable		Transient/Other
	TB	Brucellosis	
	Rate (€)	Rate (€)	Rate (€)
From 1 January to 31 December			
(i) Other Cows	€38.09	€38.09	NIL
(ii) Dairy Cows & Other Animals	€25.39	€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 only and accordingly when eligibility ceases, a pro rata payment will not issue in respect of any remaining part month.

HARDSHIP GRANT

The Hardship Grant eligibility period runs from 1 November to 30 April. This Scheme is designed to alleviate the costs difficulty of some owner/keepers whose holdings are restricted on foot of a herd re-test and where animals are retained and fed during periods of restriction. Potentially eligible 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.

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 2005 to 30 April 2006.

The onus is on potentially eligible owner/keepers to ensure that they obtain and familiarise themselves with the 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 **ER 97** 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. 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 DVO.

MISCELLANEOUS

- If a compensation payment is over **€650**, a Tax Number is required and if over **€6,500** in a 12 month period, a Tax Clearance Certificate is required;

- In accordance with the payment targets agreed on Direct Payments to Farmers under the Charter of Rights for Farmers, payment of TB and Brucellosis compensation will normally be made within 2-3 weeks of the date of receipt of the required back-up documentation from the owner/keeper and the meat plant. The required back up documentation for valuation payment is detailed in the On–Farm Market Valuation Scheme Booklet;
- The Department will pay compensation, as processed by the DVO, 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 DVO in the first instance.

Further information regarding the Disease Eradication Schemes can be obtained from the ERAD Division of the Department of Agriculture and Food, Maynooth Business Campus, Maynooth, Co Kildare or from the District Veterinary Offices (DVOs) of the Department. (See Appendix 1 B for full list of DVO's)

AVIAN INFLUENZA

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

The Department of Agriculture and Food is maintaining a central record of all holdings or sites on which domestic poultry or captive birds are kept. This information will form an integral part of the Department's Avian Influenza contingency planning. Since 31 December 2005 it is a statutory requirement, under the Diseases of Animals Act 1966 (Registration of Poultry Premises) Order 2005, for all holdings and sites on which domestic poultry or captive birds are kept to be registered with the Department.

If you are not already registered with the Department as a commercial poultry producer or processor 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 SI No 677 of 2005, may leave them liable to prosecution under the Diseases of Animals Act 1966.

You may register by completing an application form (available at your local Department of Agriculture and Food office (see list at Appendix 1B) and on the Department's website: www.agriculture.gov.ie). Completed applications should be returned to your local Department office.

SCRAPIE

BACKGROUND

Scrapie is a disease of sheep in the same family as BSE (The Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies or TSE's). The incidence of Scrapie in Ireland is thought to be relatively low, with a geographical tendency towards the South East.

In addition Scrapie, unlike BSE, is horizontally transmissible, especially at lambing time.

CONTROL AND ERADICATION MEASURES

In October 2001, before horizontal EU measures were in place, the Department introduced a full depopulation regime for infected flocks, which included a prohibition on re-stocking with sheep for a period of two years following depopulation.

Since 1 October 2003, the policy for the control and eradication of Scrapie has developed 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.

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 package includes free genotyping, market value for animals required to be disposed of, and a "hardship" payment of €28 per breeding ewe.

NATIONAL GENOTYPE PROGRAMME (NGP)

NGP assists flock owners in selecting breeding sheep that are less susceptible to Scrapie. There are two commercial laboratories approved by the Department to provide a blood testing service to determine the genotype of the sheep.

Participation in the NGP involves a flock owner applying to the Department to have NSIS identified sheep genotyped. He/She designates a Private Veterinary Practitioner 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.

The PVP in consultation with the flock owner chooses from the list of NGP approved laboratories, the laboratory in which he/she wishes to have the samples tested. The chosen laboratory is responsible for the supply of blood sampling kits and the instructions for use. The transfer of blood samples to the chosen laboratory is a matter between the flock owner, the PVP and the designated laboratory.

The laboratory transmits electronically to the Department the result of each individual test and the Department then issues to the flock owner an NGP Certificate that states the genotype of each of the sheep tested.

Payment for the genotyping service is made directly by the flock owner /PVP to the approved testing laboratory of his/her choice and in 2005 the Department offset the cost of such tests through a contribution of €10 per test for the first 40,000 test completed.

COMPULSORY BREEDING PROGRAMME

It is proposed to introduce a Compulsory Breeding Programme, which is a requirement under EU regulations, early in 2006.

National Genotype Help-Line 1890-441-250

SHEEP SCAB

In 1994, the Sheep Dipping Scheme was reformed by Orders in accordance with the Programme for Competitiveness and Work. The Orders are: the Sheep Scab (Ireland) Order of 1905 (Amendment) Order, 1994 and the Sheep Dipping Order, 1965 (Amendment) Order, 1994. These Orders, which are operated by the Local Authorities, retain sheep scab as a notifiable disease and continue to provide for compulsory treatment of scab-infected flocks whilst abolishing the annual Autumn preventive dipping. Under the new arrangements, it is not necessary to obtain dipping certificates to qualify for the Single Payment Scheme.

Flockowners should pay particular attention to the environmental aspects of sheepdipping. Sheep dip is detrimental to water quality, fish, stream life, livestock and wild and domestic birds. It is an offence under the Water Pollution Acts, 1977 and 1990, the Local Government (Water Pollution) Regulations 1992 (S.I. No. 271 of 1992), the Fisheries (Consolidation) Act, 1959 and the Waste Management Act, 1996 to dispose of any spent sheep dip to surface or groundwaters.

BSE

This is a disease of the nervous system affecting cattle. It can only be confirmed by post-mortem examination of the brain. It is most common in cows aged 10 years or over. 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. Suspect animals are destroyed by the Department (with compensation) and herds are restricted pending the outcome of post-mortem examination. A scheme of assistance for depopulation of the herds involved is available to herdowners where an animal is confirmed to be positive.

A targeted active surveillance programme for BSE began in 2000 with the testing of a proportion of fallen stock and a random survey of cattle eligible for human consumption. This programme was extended in 2001. Since 1 July 2001, all cattle presented for slaughter over 30 months of age and all fallen and casualty animals over 24 months of age are tested for BSE.

Further information may be obtained from the Animal Health and Welfare Division, Department of Agriculture and Food, Kildare Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 6072407

WARBLE FLY

Warbles manifest themselves as bumps rising on the backs of cattle from mid-February until the fly emerges between April and June. Herdowners 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 are being 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 DVO of any intended importations.**

LIVER FLUKE

Each Autumn, the Department issues a forecast of the incidence of liver fluke which is updated as required. Stockowners should follow the advice given.

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.

AUJESZKY'S DISEASE

Aujeszký's Disease Control and Eradication Programme (Pigs)

A national programme for the control and eradication of Aujeszký's disease in pigs was launched in late 2002. The objective of the programme is to eliminate Aujeszký's disease from the national pig herd. The eradication of this disease from Ireland will be of benefit to the whole pig sector by raising the health standard of the national herd and by protecting Irish access to international markets.

Under the programme all pig herds in the country, however small, must be blood tested. Herds are issued with an Aujeszký's disease status based on blood test results, with those positive for the disease implementing a control plan which must include vaccination. Herdowners negative for the disease can protect their status by buying in only from other negative herds – information on Aujeszký's disease status is shared amongst herdowners through contact with the central pig database.

Aujeszký's helpline: 1890 504 604 or phone 01 607 2827 (Special Projects Unit, Animal Health and Welfare Division, of the Department)

SWILL CONTROL

Legislation governing the removal and disposal of international swill i.e. the Diseases of Animals Act, 1966 (as amended), Diseases of Animals (Feeding and Use of Swill) Order 1985, (SI No 153 of 1985), Diseases of Animals (Feeding and Use of Swill) (Amendment) Order 1987, (SI No 133 of 1987), Diseases of Animals Act 1966 (Prohibition on the Use of Swill) Order 2001, (SI No 597 of 2001), prohibits the collection and feeding of swill to animals indefinitely for reasons of animal health but permits the feeding of certain non-animal products and milk products to animals. A licence is required to remove international swill from ports and

airports under the above Swill Orders. International swill should only be removed from a port or airport by a licensed operator. The feeding of such international swill/food waste to animals has always been prohibited.

FALLEN ANIMAL COLLECTION SCHEME

The Fallen Animal Collection Scheme introduced in July 2001 provides for the subsidised collection and destruction of fallen ruminant animals and is available in all 26 counties. The Scheme also subsidises the destruction of certain other non-ruminant fallen animals. Category 2 Intermediate plants offering this service to farmers must be licensed in accordance with the European Communities (Animal By-Products) Regulations, 2003 (S.I. No 248/2003).

The charges payable by a farmer to the collector in respect of ruminant animals collected under the scheme are as follows:

- €12.70 plus VAT per tagged calf (i.e. animal up to six months of age);
- €19.05 plus VAT per tagged young adult bovine (i.e. animals between six months and two years);
- € 31.74 plus VAT per tagged adult bovine animal (i.e. animals over two years of age).

Farmers are reminded of the obligation to make appropriate arrangements for the removal of a fallen animal without delay.

Further information can be obtained from The Fallen Animal Collection Division, Department of Agriculture and Food, Johnstown Castle, Co Wexford. Tel: 053 9170327

KNACKERIES

EC Regulation 1774/2002 (SI 248 of 2003), which lays down the health rules concerning Animal By-Products not intended for human consumption, provides for the approval of knackery premises as Category 2 Intermediate Plants and governs the manner of collection, treatment and disposal of animal by-products.

Material from knackeries does not enter the food or farm animal feed chain.

Category 2 Intermediate Plants (Knackeries) may also sell unprocessed category 2 animal by-products as feed for certain animals as set out in Article 23 (2) (c) of Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002 (i.e. packs of hounds, zoo animals). Accordingly certain premises are licensed Knackery Meat Sellers and may supply feed to Knackery meat feeder (KMFo) licence holders in accordance with SI. 248/2003.

Details of approved premises and Knackery meat sellers licence holders are found on the Department's website

Further information on knackeries can be obtained from Animal By-Products Section, Department of Agriculture and Food, Kildare Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 6072249, 6072223, or 6072312

VETERINARY LABORATORY SERVICES

The Veterinary Laboratory Service provides a comprehensive animal disease surveillance function for the country supported by an in-depth range of diagnostic facilities. Details of the services and charges are available from each laboratory. (See Appendix 1D for full list of laboratories)

VETERINARY MEDICINES

The Department implements a number of controls in relation to veterinary medicines in order to safeguard public health and also animal health and welfare. The Animal Remedies Act 1993 and Regulations made thereunder provide a comprehensive legislative basis for licensing of veterinary medicines. Under this regime, the IMB acts as licensing authority for veterinary medicines (animal remedies), while the Department licenses premises engaged in the commercial distribution of veterinary medicines. All animal remedies intended for use are required to be authorised in the State and may only be used in accordance with the conditions attached to the product authorisation.

The Department has carried out an extensive review of national legislation taking account of operational experience, relevant developments since its enactment, including a Report from the IMB on the availability of intramammary veterinary medicines and the provisions of new European legislation governing veterinary medicines (Directive 2004/28/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council). The new legislation (which came into effect in November 2005) is designed to address problems as regards availability of animal treatments by streamlining the licensing regimes, by encouraging innovation etc. The EU Directive also requires that all medicines for food producing animals should be made subject to prescription. However, this legislation also contains a mechanism for categories of medicines to be exempted from that requirement. The EU will adopt a decision on the exemption criteria by 1st January 2007 and, pending this decision, existing distribution regimes remain in place. The Department is seeking to avail of the exemption mechanism to retain the essence of Ireland's existing distribution regime under which products such as wormers and certain vaccines are available off-prescription and has decided to retain the existing distribution regime until 1 January 2007. However, intramammary veterinary medicines will become subject to veterinary prescription from 1 January 2007.

Currently, over 1000 individual products are licensed in accordance with the detailed requirements of EU legislation. In addition, in the region of 75 wholesale and 740 retail premises are regulated and licensed in accordance with relevant legislation having been inspected by the Department to ensure that they reach the required standard. The manufacture, distribution and sale of medicated feedingstuffs and intermediate products is also subject to licensing by the Minister under the European Communities (Animal Remedies and Medicated Feedingstuffs) Regulations, 1994 as amended by the European Communities (Animal Remedies and Medicated Feedingstuffs) (Amendment) Regulations, 2003. 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 Irish Medicines Board. There are currently in the region of 25 licensed medicated feed manufacturers and 8 home mixers licensed to manufacture medicated feed.

The Department also implements a comprehensive National Residue Plan designed to protect consumers from illegal residues, be they 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, where operation of the Plan is managed by the Department of Marine and Natural Resources). During 2004, in excess of 50,000 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.

Since 2000, official testing has been 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.

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 €1,270.00 and/or 1 year imprisonment for a person convicted on summary prosecution to €317,500.00 fine and/or 10 years imprisonment for a second conviction on indictment.

RECORDS

Under the Animal Remedies Regulation 2005, Farmers are required to keep a record (the "Animal Remedies Record") of all animal remedies coming on to the farm for administration to food producing animals. The form of record is set out below:

Purchase/incoming details			
Quantity	Authorised name of animal remedy	Date of receipt	Name & address of Supplier

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. where appropriate	Date of expiry of 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

APPROVAL AND REGISTRATION OF DEALERS

Under the Diseases of Animals Acts, 1966 to 2001 (Approval and Registration of Dealers and Dealers' Premises) Order, 2001 all dealers engaged in the buying or selling of animals (cattle/sheep/pigs) and or poultry must be approved and registered by the Department. It is not permitted for a person to buy/acquire/source any animal or poultry from or sell/supply/dispose of any animal or poultry to a dealer unless the dealer is approved, registered and in possession of a current approval number under S.I. No. 79 of 2001.

A dealer is defined as a person who purchases animals or poultry and sells or supplies such animals or poultry to another person within a period of 45 days. In addition if a dealer is assembling/holding animals, he/she must have a premises which has been approved for that specific purpose.

Persons (agents or brokers) who acquire animals from clients for supply to other clients are deemed to be dealers and must undergo an approval and registration process, even though they are not physically in possession of the animals as a keeper at any time. In addition agents procuring animals for factories or live export points are deemed to be dealers and must undergo an approval and registration process. The requirement applies also to livestock marts that acquire animals for supply to clients outside the sales ring.

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 District Veterinary Office (DVO) of the Department in which the premises are situated. If the application is for approval as a dealer without premises (agent), the written application should be made to the DVO in the County where the dealer is resident or carries out most of the dealing operations. Two passport photographs of the dealer signed and stamped by the local Garda or Peace Commissioner (or by the Police Service of Northern Ireland in the case of applicants from Northern Ireland) must accompany each application.

Further information and application forms may be obtained from Departments' District Veterinary Offices listed at Appendix 1 B.

REGULATION 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 took 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 above mentioned legislation. An Assembly Centre may only commence operations once it has been inspected and approved by the Department of Agriculture and Food.

The species, class and type of animals approved to be handled by an assembly centre may be limited to certain terms or conditions considered appropriate by the Minister. Where the Minister approves an assembly centre an approval number will be allocated together with any terms or conditions attaching.

IMPORT AND EXPORT OF LIVE FARM ANIMALS

Quarantine control on live farm animals coming from other EU countries has been removed and border checks are no longer applicable to such trade. 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 greater 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. In several cases, farmers have to maintain records of animals kept and details of all movements of stock into and out of their holdings. All farms must be registered with the Department and they will be subject to official veterinary checks on their health status.

IMPORT OF POULTRY

Importation of poultry from other Member States of the EU is permitted, if they are certified and accompanied by the appropriate health certificate in Annex IV to Council Directive 90/539/EEC which is endorsed by an Official Veterinarian, duly authorised by the Competent Authority in the Member State of export.

All enquiries in relation to the import of live farm animals, including poultry, should be directed to Live Trade Section, Animal Health and Welfare Division, Department of Agriculture and Food, Kildare Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 607 2466 /2062/2698.

IMPORT OF NON-COMMERCIAL ANIMALS

CATS AND DOGS - EU PET PASSPORT SYSTEM

From 3 July 2004, a new harmonised system covering the non-commercial movement of pet dogs and cats has been agreed for all of the European Union. Under this new system it will be possible, subject to certain conditions, to bring pet dogs and cats directly into Ireland from a range of qualifying countries (qualifying countries include all EU member states, other European countries and territories, and certain third countries) deemed low risk for rabies.

Pet dogs and cats may travel directly into Ireland provided that:

- The animal is travelling from a qualifying country;
- The animal is identified by means of a microchip;
- The animal has been vaccinated against rabies;
- The animal has, at least six months before entry, been successfully blood-tested for rabies anti-bodies;
- The animal has been correctly treated for against tick and tapeworm.

Evidence that an animal complies with the last four conditions above will be contained in a **Passport**, a document standardised throughout the EU.

In addition to the requirements set out above, it will also be necessary to travel **on an approved carrier and on an approved route to an approved entry point**.

The common travel area between Ireland and the UK continues to operate.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR PET CATS AND DOGS ORIGINATING IN NON-QUALIFYING COUNTRIES

Pet cats and dogs originating in countries other than qualifying countries will continue to be subject to six months quarantine on entry into Ireland.

*All enquiries in relation to the import of pet cats and dogs should be directed to Special Projects Unit, Animal Health and Welfare Division, Department of Agriculture and Food, Kildare Street, Dublin 2.
Tel: 01 607 2827 Details also available on www.agriculture.gov.ie/pets*

IMPORTATION OF ANIMAL PRODUCTS

Animal products* may be imported from EU Member States and other countries subject to certain conditions. The following are the principal animal and public and health conditions that apply:

- They must originate from approved premises in the Member States and be appropriately health labelled and packaged;
- They must originate from a third country that is approved and listed by the European Commission for the export of that category of product;
- It must come from an establishment, e.g. slaughterhouse, cutting plant, processing plant or coldstore which has been approved and listed by the EU Commission for export to the European Community;

- The importer is required to provide to the Department with advance notification in writing of each consignment to be imported;
- Each consignment must be accompanied by the commercial document (EU States) or appropriate model health certificate (third countries) required under EU law;
- Consignments from third countries may only be brought into the Community through a border inspection post at a port or airport that has been approved by the EU Commission for importation of the relevant category of product from third countries. The approved border inspection posts in Ireland are: Dublin Port and Shannon Airport;
- All importers of animal products into Ireland must be registered with the Department.

Forms for registration as an importer and further information is available from the Food Safety Liaison Division, (Imports Section), Department of Agriculture and Food, Kildare Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 6072892/6072896 and on the Department's Web site: www.agriculture.gov.ie

Importers proposing to import animal products derived from bovines from the United Kingdom should be aware that under EU rules to protect against BSE, there are certain restrictions on what the UK is allowed to export. (Please see beneath.)

**Animal products include fresh meat of bovine animals, swine, sheep, goats or domestic solipeds (e.g. horses), poultry meat, rabbitmeat and farmed game meat, meat products, milk, eggs and egg products, animal casings, hides/skins, petfood, bones and bone products, processed animal protein (e.g. fishmeal and bloodmeal), blood and blood products, serum, lard and rendered fats, raw material (e.g. offal), game trophies, unprocessed manure, processed manure, and processed manure products and apiculture products, unprocessed wool, hair, bristles and feathers. Fish and fishery products (excluding fishmeal) are the responsibility of the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources.*

PERSONAL IMPORT OF ANIMAL PRODUCTS – ADVICE TO TRAVELLERS

From EU Countries

In order to maintain the high level of protection for animal and public health only animal products, which have been produced in accordance with EU rules may be imported for the purpose of own consumption and then only if contained in the personal luggage of travellers and intended for their personal or domestic consumption. Generally, this applies to animal 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 personal import of meat and milk products for own consumption purposes from almost all non-EU countries, by means of personal baggage, **is prohibited** under EU and national regulations.

For more specific information please refer to the Department's website www.agriculture.gov.ie or contact the Food Safety Liaison Division, (Imports Section), Department of Agriculture and Food, Kildare Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 6072892/6072896

ANIMAL WELFARE

Stricter welfare standards for farm animals are now in operation and must be implemented to a large extent at farm level. The Protection of Animals Kept for Farming Purposes Act, 1984 has been supplemented by the European Communities (Protection of Animals Kept for Farming Purposes) Regulations 2000 (SI No 127 of 2000) giving effect to Council Directive 98/58/EC (as amended by Council Regulation (EC) No 806/2003) which sets the standards concerning the protection of animals kept for farming purposes and requires owners and people in charge of animals to ensure the welfare of their animals.

FARM ANIMAL WELFARE ADVISORY COUNCIL

In 2002, the Minister established the Farm Animal Welfare Advisory Council (FAWAC) which brought together, for the first time in Ireland, representatives of the principal stakeholders (from animal welfare organisations to farming bodies and from Government Departments - North and South - to veterinary representative bodies) in an advisory body to the Minister which has a broad mandate and an impressive work programme.

In 2004 FAWAC introduced the Early Warning/Intervention System for Animal Welfare Cases involving the Department of Agriculture and Food, Irish Farmers' Association and the Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty of Animals. The objective of this system is to provide a framework within which problems can be spotted before they become critical or overwhelming. This will in turn facilitate timely, effective and sensitive intervention or the provision of assistance by, as appropriate, public agencies, neighbours, farming bodies and welfare groups. The new system will allow for concerned individuals to approach their local IFA representatives, their local SPCA or indeed the Department in the knowledge that the matter 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 and Food. The role of the Garda Síochána under the Protection of Animals Act 1911 (as amended) is also acknowledged.

In 2005 FAWAC produced a booklet entitled Animal Welfare Guidelines for Horses, Ponies and Donkeys. These guidelines have been developed with the intention of encouraging owners of these animals to adopt and maintain the highest standards of husbandry. FAWAC has already produced three other Animal Welfare Guideline booklets for Beef, Sheep and Dairy farmers. It is proposed to publish similar guidelines in relation to the keeping of broiler chickens. Copies of these publications are available from Animal Health and Welfare Division, Tel. 01-6072706.

SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

The Minister also established in 2002, the Scientific Advisory Committee on Animal Health and Welfare (SACAHW). SACAHW is comprised of scientific experts who are available to furnish the Minister with advice on various issues of animal health and welfare, which may from time to time arise.

PROTECTION OF ANIMALS DURING TRANSPORT

The Disease of Animals (Protection of Animals during Transport) Orders 1995 – 2003 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 Department of Agriculture and Food has undertaken to increase awareness of the legal requirements of those in charge of animals during transport. A system of vehicle inspections is in place, under the above mentioned legislation

which are carried out by staff, in the field, throughout the country, which encompass all forms of animal transport.

NEW EU LEGISLATION

Council Regulation 1 of 2005 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations will come into effect on 5 January 2007. This harmonised legislation will apply to the transport of live animals, including cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, poultry and horses and sets out conditions as follows:

- On animal welfare, mode of transport and loading facilities to be met by all transporters of animals (including farmers transporting their own animals) irrespective of distance travelled;
- Training and authorisation of person who transport live animals over a distance in excess of 65km for commercial purposes (including farmers transporting their own animals);
- 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.

Farming Organisations, operators of assembly centres and livestock marts, hauliers and international transporters have been informed through the press and through correspondence of the requirements of the Regulation.

Further information on the Protection of Animals During Transport may be obtained from National Beef Assurance Scheme Division, Department of Agriculture and Food, Maynooth, Co. Kildare. Tel: 01 5053300

PROHIBITION ON TAIL DOCKING OF BOVINE ANIMALS

SI No 263 of 2003, Protection of Animals Kept for Farming Purposes Act 1984 (Bovine Animals), Prohibition on Tail Docking Regulations 2003, prohibits tail docking of bovine animals except in limited circumstances.

WELFARE OF CALVES AND PIGS

The welfare of calves and pigs is subject to European Communities (Welfare of Calves and Pigs) Regulations 2003 (SI No 48 of 2003), which set out minimum requirements of accommodation in relation to space; lighting; ventilation; veterinary treatment etc. to allow the animals to express natural behaviour. A booklet entitled "Pig Welfare Requirements - On Farm and in Transit" is available to assist farmers and transporters in familiarising themselves and complying with the relevant legislation. Copies of this publication are available from Animal Health and Welfare Division, Tel. 01-6072706.

WELFARE OF LAYING HENS

Laying hens, including those in battery cages, are subject to the provisions of EU Council Directive No. 1999/74/EC, which have been transposed into national law by the European Communities (Welfare of Laying Hens) Regulations, 2002 (SI No 98 of 2002). These Regulations provide for minimum standards for the protection of laying hens and specify the accommodation and other welfare requirements for keeping and rearing laying hens.

EX-GRATIA FUNDING TO ANIMAL WELFARE BODIES

Since the mid 1990's the practice has been maintained of providing ex-gratia payments to a range of animal welfare bodies throughout the country to assist in their work over the succeeding 12 months in directly delivering care and welfare services to animals. These payments have been acknowledged by all concerned as having been of real practical benefit to the bodies in question and to the animals with which they come into contact.

*For further details contact the Animal Health and Welfare Division of the Department;
Telephone: 01 6072680*

DEALING WITH HORNS ON CATTLE – BEST PRACTICE

Leaflets entitled “Dealing with Horns on Cattle – Best Practice” and Posters entitled “Horned Cattle Welfare Guidelines” were produced in 2004. These contained advice to farmers and others involved in the trade as regards what is acceptable in terms of horns on cattle when they are presented for sale or export. The leaflets and posters were circulated to Farm Organisations, Marts, Teagasc Offices and District Veterinary Offices. The Leaflets specify the legislation governing the dehorning of cattle i.e. the Diseases of Animals Act 1966, Diseases of Animals Act 1966 (Section 54) (Appointed Day and Exemptions) Order 1967 (SI No 217 of 1967) and Diseases of Animals Act 1966 (Section 54) (Exemption) Order 2002 (SI No 436 of 2002).



10. FEEDINGSTUFF CONTROLS

CONTROL OF MANUFACTURE

The manufacture for sale of compound feedingstuffs and mineral mixtures for animal feeding is officially controlled. Manufacturers require 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 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 or mineral mixtures 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;
- directions for use;
- a list of ingredients in descending order by weight contained in the feedingstuff;
- minimum storage life;
- net weight;
- the name and address of the manufacturer or supplier;
- a declaration of composition characteristics.

RESTRICTIONS 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. 999/2001. 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 Production and Safety Division, Department of Agriculture and Food, Maynooth, Co. Kildare Tel: 01 5053575

FEED HYGIENE

EU Regulation (EC) No. 1831/2003 laying down the requirements for feed hygiene applies to all feed 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 operators are required to be approved or registered for their activities. This includes most livestock and arable farms that grow, use or sell crops for feed use;
- 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 Production and Safety Division, Department of Agriculture and Food, Maynooth, Co. Kildare
Tel: 01 5053576*

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 medicinal additives and fat soluble vitamins, 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 Production and Safety Division, Department of Agriculture and Food, Maynooth, Co. Kildare. Tel: 01 5053576

UNDESIRABLE SUBSTANCES

Maximum permitted levels for the more common types of undesirable substances found in feedingstuffs are laid down. These substances include heavy metals, aflatoxin, 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.

SAMPLING AND ANALYSIS SERVICE TO FARMERS

A farmer who has purchased a feedingstuff may apply to have a sample taken and analysed officially for confirmation that the particulars given by the seller under EU legislation are correct. Applications, accompanied by the relevant fee for each analysis required, should be made to the Department's Crop Production and Safety Division within sixty days of delivery of the feedingstuff to which the application relates. Samples should not be sent with the application, as the law requires that sampling be carried out in a prescribed manner by an authorised officer. It is essential that bags which are unopened and which have been stored in a satisfactory manner should be available for sampling, and in the case of bulk deliveries adequate information should be available to satisfy the officer that the feedingstuff in question is from a specific consignment and has been stored in a suitable manner.

Further details can be obtained from Crop Production and Safety Division, Department of Agriculture and Food, Maynooth, Co. Kildare. Tel: 01 5053576



11. CROPS AND HORTICULTURE

CROPS

SEED CERTIFICATION SCHEME

Under EU and Irish law, it is illegal to market uncertified seed. Seed of barley, oats, wheat, triticale, perennial ryegrass, field beans and seed potatoes were certified in 2005.

SEED POTATOES

The initial source of the seed is produced under laboratory conditions by meristem tip culture and micro propagation. All stocks are tested during propagation for the presence of common potato viruses. Propagation of disease free microplants follows under glasshouse conditions to produce virus free potato minitubers which are then sold to specialised seed growers.

Growers wishing to produce seed potato crops for sale should apply to Crop Production and Safety Division, Department of Agriculture and Food, Maynooth Business Campus, Maynooth, Co Kildare on the appropriate application form (forms together with conditions are available on request). Land on which seed potato crops are to be grown must have been tested and found to be free of potato cyst nematode. Fees for crop and tuber inspections were introduced in 2005.

Each grower's crop is inspected during the growing season and is certified if it reaches the specified standards of freedom from disease and pests and is well cultivated. At the request of a registered person, the produce of the certified crop is inspected at the grading and packing stages and an officer of the Department then seals the bags or other containers.

All crops from which it is intended to retain seed must be officially certified. The Class X certification of seed potatoes was discontinued in 2005. From 2006, planting material must comprise either purchased certified basic seed or home produced certified basic seed. It is illegal to sell uncertified seed potatoes.

To produce high yields and quality potatoes, to safeguard against the introduction of unwanted and damaging pests into land, and to reduce storage losses, potato growers should:

- use certified seed;
- observe a one-year-in-four crop rotation;
- store potatoes in suitable temperature controlled stores.

Further information can be obtained from Crop Production and Safety Division, Department of Agriculture and Food, Maynooth, Co Kildare. Tel: 01 5053342

GRANT AID (SEED POTATOES)

Grant aid is available under The Scheme of Investment Aid for the Potato Sector (Seed Potatoes). The scheme is aimed at the seed potato producers to encourage the development of a commercially viable seed producing sector. The programme comes under the National Development Plan. A grant package of 35% applies under the scheme.

Further information can be obtained from Crop Production and Safety Division, Department of Agriculture and Food, Maynooth, Co Kildare. Tel: 01 5053328

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, and 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 and copies are available for a fee of €3.81 from Crop Production and Safety Division, Department of Agriculture and Food, Maynooth, Co. Kildare. Tel: 01 5053328

SEED TESTING SERVICE

Farmers and merchants may have seeds tested for purity and germination and weed seed content, moisture content, biochemical test for viability, hectolitre weight etc., at the Department's Seed Testing Station. A fee is charged for these tests.

Further information can be obtained from the Seed Testing Station, Department of Agriculture and Food, Young's Cross, Celbridge, Co Kildare. Tel: 01 6157521

CROP VARIETY TESTING PROGRAMME

In accordance with both EU Directives and National Legislation the Department of Agriculture and Food 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 performance either for cultivation or as regards the uses, which can be made of the crops or products, derived therefrom 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 testing centres at Backweston (Headquarters), Moorepark, Athenry, Kildalton and Raphoe. 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 potato varieties, generally homebred.*

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 commercial farms throughout the country recommended by Teagasc Development Officers. There are currently Recommended list REPS trials for spring barley varieties being evaluated. 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, Oats, Triticale), Forage Maize, Herbage (Grass and Clover), Potatoes, Sugar Beet 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 Production and Safety Division, Department of Agriculture and Food, Maynooth, Co. Kildare. Tel: 01 5053580

PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES

The Department of Agriculture & Food provides financial aid towards the conservation and sustainable use of plant and animal genetic resources. A call for suitable projects is made annually.

The Department also maintains a genebank of old cereal and potato varieties and co-ordinates supports from EU and International Organisations aimed at conserving genetic resources.

Further details can be obtained from Crop Production and Safety Division, Department of Agriculture and Food, Maynooth, Co. Kildare. Tel: 01 5053576

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. A one-off registration fee of €19.04 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 Production and Safety Division, Department of Agriculture and Food, Maynooth, Co Kildare. Tel: 01 5053342

AID SCHEMES

AID FOR STARCH USERS

This is an EU scheme under which eligible applicants can claim a Production Refund for the utilisation of starch produced from maize, wheat or rice. In Ireland the main users are in the papermaking and in the chemical industries.

SCHEME OF AID FOR DEHYDRATED FODDER

This is an EU scheme under which aid can be claimed by processors of dehydrated fodder i.e. grass dried in the form of meal or feed pellets. Ireland has a 5,000 tonne share of the annual EU quota.

Further information can be obtained from APS Section, Department of Agriculture and Food, Johnstown Castle, Co Wexford. Tel: 053 9163400

AID FOR SUGAR USERS

This is an EU Scheme under which eligible applicants can claim a Production Refund for the use of certain sugar products in the manufacture of approved chemical products.

Further information may be obtained from Sugar Section, Crops Policy and State Bodies Division, Department of Agriculture and Food, Kildare St. Dublin 2 Tel (01)6072874

PROCESSING AID FOR FLAX AND HEMP GROWN FOR FIBRE

EU Regulations provide for processing aid for flax and hemp grown for fibre. A contract for processing must be concluded with a grower by the approved processor. Growers are required to include details of their flax and hemp crops on their Area Aid application. Before hemp can be grown a licence must be obtained from the Department of Health and Children.

Further information may be obtained from Crops Policy and State Bodies Division, Department of Agriculture and Food, Kildare Street, Dublin 2, Tel: 01 6072037

FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

SCHEME OF INVESTMENT FOR THE COMMERCIAL HORTICULTURE SECTOR

Grant aid is available under the Scheme of Investment for the Commercial Horticulture Sector to encourage investment in commercially viable horticultural enterprises. The scheme is primarily aimed at those in rural areas who are engaged in production or are starting production projects.

Further information can be obtained from Crop Production and Safety Division, Department of Agriculture and Food, Maynooth, Co Kildare. Tel: 01 5053580

PRODUCER ORGANISATIONS

A Producers Organisation means any legal entity which is formed on the initiative of growers of fruit and vegetables who undertake to market all their production through the organisation.

To obtain recognition a Producer Organisation must have a minimum of 5 members with an annual volume of production of at least €100,000.

EU financial assistance is available to recognised Producer Organisations towards the cost of implementation of approved operational programmes.

Further particulars may be obtained from Crop Production and Safety Division, Department of Agriculture and Food, Maynooth, Co Kildare. Tel: 01 5053578

CERTIFICATION SCHEME

A Certification Scheme is in operation for soft fruit planting material. A list is produced of certified producers of healthy stocks of recommended varieties of strawberries.

Further particulars may be obtained from Crop Production and Safety Division, Department of Agriculture and Food, Maynooth, Co Kildare. Tel: 01 5053579

EUROPEAN MARKETING STANDARDS FOR FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

European Community Marketing Standards exist for a wide range of fresh fruit and vegetables. The function of the standards is to ensure that regulated produce offered to the consumer is of acceptable quality and accurately labelled. The standards make provisions concerning quality, sizing, presentation and marking of regulated fresh produce. These standards apply to homegrown and imported products offered for sale at wholesale and retail levels throughout the country and to products being 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.

Details of the standards prescribed for the various products may be obtained from Crop Production and Safety Division, Department of Agriculture and Food, Maynooth, Co Kildare. Tel: 01 5053578

BEE-KEEPING

Teagasc provides an advisory service for bee-keepers. Information is available from local Teagasc offices.

In confirmed cases of Foul Brood disease, the Department operates statutory controls to prevent the disease from spreading to other hives or apiaries. Additional disease controls are exercised under the Bees (Regulation of Import) Order, 1980 which prohibits the import of bees, except under licence issued by the Department.

The European Communities (Notification of Varroasis in Bees) Regulations, 1996 require any person keeping or having charge of bees to report cases or suspected cases of varroasis and sets penalties in the case of failure to do so.

Further information can be obtained from Crop Production and Safety Division, Department of Agriculture and Food, Maynooth, Co. Kildare. Tel: 01 5053578

PLANT HEALTH AND TRADE/PESTICIDES

This country 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 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 Plant Protection Service of the Department.

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 is subject to control, must be inspected at production level to check compliance with the requirements 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 the Department and be authorised to issue plant passports, where appropriate. Material subject to plant health control originating outside the EU may only be imported by registered importers and is subject to mandatory phytosanitary inspection upon entry to the EU.

Further information and application forms for registration may be obtained from Plant Trade Section, Crops Production and Safety Division, Department of Agriculture and Food, Maynooth, Co Kildare. Tel: 01 5053342

PLANT PROTECTION AND BIOCIDAL PRODUCTS

The Department maintains close co-operation with the Department of Health and Children, Department of the Environment and Local Government, the Food Safety Authority of Ireland and the Health and Safety Authority in the operation of the various regulations.

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 operates statutory controls over all plant protection and biocidal products used in Ireland and only products notified under the European Communities (Classification, Packaging and Labelling of Plant Protection Products and Biocide Products) Regulations, 2001 or authorised or registered in accordance with the European Communities (Authorisation, Placing on the Market, Use and Control of Plant Protection Products) Regulations, 2003 as amended or the European Communities (Authorisation, Placing on the Market, Use and Control of Biocidal Products) Regulations, 2001 can be used. The use of plant protection and biocidal products in a manner other than that provided for on 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 marketed and used comply with the EU regulations. Users of plant protection and biocidal products should follow the instructions carefully.

The Department publishes a list of plant protection products which have been authorised, cleared, notified or granted permission to market under the Regulations.

RESIDUE LEVELS

It is illegal to market food products containing a higher level of pesticide residues than permitted maxima which are laid down by Regulations. The Department publishes an annual report on pesticide residues in food.

Further information can be obtained from Crop Production and Safety Division, Department of Agriculture and Food, Maynooth, Co Kildare. Tel: 01 5053342

GROUND LIMESTONE AND FERTILISERS

Legal standards are prescribed for the sale of ground limestone and fertilisers to ensure that farmers get the correct quality and formulation. The seller is required to give the purchaser a statement showing the analysis of the material. The Department carries 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 farmer who has reason to believe that a purchased ground limestone may be defective, can apply to the Department 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 Production and Safety Division, Department of Agriculture and Food, Maynooth, Co Kildare. Tel: 01 5053342



12. FOOD AND DRINKS INDUSTRY

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2000 – 2006

Funding is available to the food industry under the following initiatives in the National Development Plan:

- **Capital Investment**
Funding is administered by the Industrial Development Agencies and by the Department's Food Division.
- **Research, Technology, Innovation**
The Department's Food Division administers public food research by institutions; The Industrial Development Agencies provide funding for in-company research and technology transfer.
- **Marketing and Promotion**
Funding is provided to support food promotional work of An Bord Bia and to improve the marketing capabilities of individual firms.
- **Human Resource Development**
Funding to address the human resource requirements of the food industry, in particular training in the areas of food safety and productivity/competitiveness, is managed by the Industrial Development Agencies.

NDP MEASURES

Capital Investment Scheme

Grant aid is provided to assist certain capital projects to improve marketing and processing in the horticulture, potato, eggs, grain and livestock sectors, which do not fall within the remit of the Industrial Development Agencies and are not covered by the Department's on-farm schemes. Applications are invited periodically and are subject to an assessment/selection process.

Institutional Research and Development

Support is provided under this measure for "public good" research carried out by institutions, including the universities and Teagasc. The results are widely disseminated for the benefit of the general food industry. Applications for funding are invited periodically and are subject to an assessment/selection process. Priority is given to the themes of food safety, new innovative food products and the enhancement of the institutions' ability to support development in the consumer foods area. Grant aid covers agreed costs.

Further details on these measures have been published in a separate booklet. This booklet and any additional information may be obtained from Food Division, Department of Agriculture and Food, Kildare St., Dublin 2. Tel: 01 6072841

FOOD DIRECTIVES AND REGULATIONS

The Department administers EU Directives and Regulations laying down compositional/processing standards and labelling requirements for the following products:

- Wines;
- Spirit Drinks;

- Ethyl Alcohol;
- Aromatized Wine-based Drinks;
- Jams, Jellies and Marmalades;
- Fruit Juices and Fruit Nectars;
- Cocoa and Chocolate Products;
- Coffee and Chicory Products.

The Department is also responsible for implementing EU Regulations on the protection of geographical indications/designations of origin of agricultural products and foodstuffs and on certificates of specific character for traditional foodstuffs/agricultural products. Under these Regulations, the names used to designate or market these products are protected at Community level against misuse or imitation and have the exclusive use of the Community symbol as a guarantee of authenticity.

The Department administers Regulations (EC) 2826/2000 and 2702/1999 as amended on information and promotion measures for agricultural products on the internal market and in third countries, respectively. The purpose of the measures, which are financed jointly by the Community, the trade and the Member State, is to promote through thematic or targeted campaigns, intrinsic product qualities, specific production methods or control systems. The measures must be generic in nature and may not be brand or origin oriented.

Calls for proposals are issued in October of each year for internal market programmes and in January for third country programmes.

WINE IMPORT LICENCES

A licence is required to import wine from non-EU countries where the quantity exceeds 30 hectolitres.

Applicants must lodge a security, €1.25 per hectolitre for all wines. No security is required where the value would be €60 or less. The security is refundable on return of the licence endorsed by the customs authorities to show that import took place within the four-month period of validity of the licence.

ETHYL ALCOHOL IMPORT LICENCES

A licence is required to import ethyl alcohol from non-EU countries where the quantity being imported exceeds 100 hectolitres.

Applicants must lodge a security of €1.00 per hectolitre (No security is required where it would amount to €100 or less). The security is refundable on return of the licence endorsed by the customs authorities to show that import took place within the four month period of validity of the licence.

Further information on any of the above may be obtained from Food Division, Department of Agriculture and Food, Kildare St., Dublin 2. Tel: 01 6072713, 6072371 or on the Department's website: www.agriculture.gov.ie



13. STATE BODIES AND AGENCIES

TEAGASC

Teagasc – the Agriculture and Food Development Authority – is the national body with responsibility for providing advisory, training, research and development services geared to the Irish agriculture and food industry and rural communities.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

Integrated research, advisory and training services are provided through eight research centres, nine colleges and a nationwide network of county and local training centres and advisory offices. (See Appendix 2 for full details). Horticulture research is located at Kinsealy Centre, Malahide Road, Dublin 17 (see Training and Development Section).

Head Office: Teagasc, Oak Park, Carlow, Tel: (059) 9170200; Fax: (059) 918 2097.

Director: Mr. Jim Flanagan; Website: www.teagasc.ie

RESEARCH SERVICES

Research on all aspects of agriculture, economics and rural development is carried out at six research centres, as follows:

Beef	Grange Beef Research Centre, Teagasc, Grange, Dunsany, Co Meath Head of Centre: Dr Eddie O’Riordan Tel. (046) 9061100; Fax. (046) 9026154 Email: eoriordan@grange.teagasc.ie
Dairying	Moorepark Dairy Production Research Centre, Teagasc, Moorepark, Fermoy, Co Cork Head of Centre : Dr Pat Dillon Tel. (025) 42222; Fax. (025) 42340 Email: pdillon@moorepark.teagasc.ie
Tillage	Oak Park Crops Research Centre, Teagasc, Oak Park, Carlow Head of Centre: Dr James Burke Tel. (059) 9170200; Fax. (059) 9142423 Email: jimburke@oakpark.teagasc.ie
Sheep	Animal Production Research Centre, Teagasc, Athenry, Co Galway Head of Department: Dr Seamus Hanrahan Tel. (091) 845845; Fax. (091) 845847 Email: shanrahan@athenry.teagasc.ie
Economics/Rural Development	Rural Economy Research Centre, Teagasc, Athenry, Co Galway Head of Centre: Dr. Cathal O’Donoghue Tel. (091) 845200; Fax. (091) 844296 Email: codonoghue@rerc.teagasc.ie

Environment

Johnstown Castle Environment Research Centre, Teagasc,
Johnstown Castle, Wexford
Head of Centre: Dr Noel Culleton
Tel. (053) 9171200; Fax. (053) 9142213
Email: nculleton@johnstown.teagasc.ie

FOOD RESEARCH

Food research and development is carried out at two centres:

Ashtown Food Research Centre, Teagasc, Ashtown, Dublin 15, Tel. (01) 8059500, Fax. (01) 8059550. Head of Centre: Dr. Declan Troy; email: dtroy@nfc.teagasc.ie

Moorepark Food Research Centre, Teagasc, Moorepark, Fermoy, Co Cork, Tel. (025) 42222, Fax. (025) 42340, which embraces Moorepark Technology Ltd, the research and development pilot plant. Head of Directorate - Dr Liam Donnelly; email: ldonnelly@moorepark.teagasc.ie

ADVISORY SERVICES

The key role of the Advisory Service is to seek to maximise the income and sustainability of farm families within rural communities through the implementation of the following programmes:

The Technology and Business Competitiveness Programme, which focuses on technical and financial efficiency and on-farm investment appraisal in the main farm enterprises.

The Rural Viability Programme which assists farmers to assess their future and adjust their farm and family situations to exploit new opportunities and challenges. The cornerstone of this programme is the Options Analysis programme. This will help farm families explore their options on and off the farm to ensure future viability. As well as maximising income from existing enterprises, there will be major emphasis on new land use options such as forestry and energy production and new income-earning opportunities outside the farm gate.

The Environment and Good Farm Practice Programme which provides REPS Planning and a range of environmental services to support farmers who have to comply with new standards arising from the CAP reform programme.

Key Advisory Personnel

Head of Directorate: Pat Boyle, Teagasc Oak Park, Carlow.
Tel: (059) 9170200; Fax: (059) 918 2097; Email: pboyle@oakpark.teagasc.ie

Assistant Directors:

Tom Collins, Teagasc Oak Park, Carlow. Tel: (059) 9170200;
Fax: (059) 918 2097; Email: tcollins@oakpark.teagasc.ie

Gerry Scully, Teagasc, Mellows Centre, Athenry, Co Galway.
Tel ((091) 845200 Fax: (091) 844296; Email: gscully@athenry.teagasc.ie

Dermot McCarthy, Teagasc, Moorepark, Fermoy, Co. Cork.

Tel: (025)42244 Fax: (025) 42384; Email: dmccarthy@moorepark.teagasc.ie

Enterprise Programme Managers

Dairying: Matt Ryan, Teagasc, Moorepark, Fermoy, Co. Cork.

Tel (024) 42244 Fax: (025) 42384; Email: mryan@moorepark.teagasc.ie

Drystock: Bernard Smyth, Teagasc, Grange, Dunsany, Co. Meath.

Tel. (046) 906 1100; Fax. (046) 902 6154; Email: bsmyth@grange.teagasc.ie

Tillage: Jim O'Mahony, Teagasc, Oak Park, Carlow.

Tel: (059) 9170200 Fax: (059) 9142423; Email: jomahony@oakpark.teagasc.ie

Environment: Sean Regan, Teagasc, Mellows Centre, Athenry, Co. Galway.

Tel (091) 845200 Fax (091) 844296; Email: sregan@athenry.teagasc.ie

Technology & Farm Management: Dr Tom Kelly, Teagasc, Kildalton College, Piltown, Co Kilkenny.

Tel: (051) 644000 Fax: (051) 643446; Email: tkelly@kildalton.teagasc.ie

Rural Development: John Whiriskey, Teagasc, Mellows Centre, Athenry, Co. Galway.

Tel: 091 845200; Email: jwhiriskey@athenry.teagasc.ie

REPS PLANNING

Teagasc operates a comprehensive Rural Environment Protection Scheme (REPS) planning service open to all farmer clients. The service ensures that income is optimised by combining REPS with efficient farming practices as well as supporting the implementation of the plan thereby reducing the risk of penalties.

Head of REPS Services: Eugene Ryan, Teagasc Johnstown Castle, Wexford, Tel: (053) 9171200; Fax: (053) 9142004; email: eryan@johnstown.teagasc.ie

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 are now in operation with dairy processors, meat processors, livestock marts and other agri-businesses.

Corporate clients who wish to avail of these or any Teagasc advisory, training, research or laboratory services should contact the Chief Agricultural Officer at the county office.

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

The Training and Development Directorate includes development units on Curriculum and Quality Assurance, Horticulture, Forestry and Pigs. In the case of Forestry, Pigs and Horticulture, advice and research are integrated in the management of these newly established units.

Head of Directorate: Donal Carey, Teagasc, Kinsealy, Malahide Road, Dublin 17.

Tel: 01 8459000; Fax: 01 8460524; Email: donal.carey@teagasc.ie

Paddy Browne, Teagasc, Head Office, Oak Park, Carlow.
Tel: 059 9170200; Fax: 059 9182097; Email: pbrowne@hq.teagasc.ie

Head of Curriculum & Quality Assurance Unit: Eamon Tully, Teagasc, Kildalton College, Piltown, Co. Kilkenny. Tel: 051-644400; Fax 051-643446; Email: etully@kildalton.teagasc.ie

Head of Forestry Development Unit: Nuala Ni Fhlatharta, Teagasc, The Development Centre, Mellows Campus, Athenry, Co. Galway. Tel: (091) 845200 Fax (091) 844296; email: nniflat@athenry.teagasc.ie

Head of Pig Development Unit: Brendan Lynch, Teagasc, Moorepark, Fermoy, Co. Cork.
Tel: (025) 42222 Fax: (025) 42340; email: blynch@moorepark.teagasc.ie

Head of Horticulture Development Unit: Michael Conlon, Teagasc, Kinsealy Centre, Malahide Road, Dublin 17. Tel: (051) 644000 Fax: (051) 643446. Email: mconlon@kildalton.teagasc.ie

Education Programme Manager: Liam Myles, Teagasc, Kinsealy, Malahide Road, Dublin 17.
Tel: 01 8459000; Email: liam.myles@teagasc.ie

ANALYTICAL SERVICES

Teagasc provides an independent analytical service to farmers and to the industry as follows:

Johnstown Castle Environment Research Centre, Wexford, Tel: (053) 71200 Fax: (053) 42213 – soils.

Oak Park Crops Research Centre, Carlow, Tel: (059) 9170200; Fax: (059) 9142423 - plant pests and diseases.

FOOD TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

Teagasc provides contract research and consultancy services to food companies from its food research centres as follows: Ashtown Food Research Centre, Ashtown, Dublin 15. Tel: 01-8059500; Fax: 01- 8059550 and Moorepark Food Research Centre, Moorepark, Fermoy, Co. Cork. Tel: 025-42222; Fax: 025-42340. Teagasc provides pilot plant services to food companies from its subsidiary Moorepark Technology Ltd., Moorepark, Fermoy, Co. Cork. Tel: 025-42222; Fax: 025-42340.

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 resource of over 200 teachers and trainers operating from colleges, local training centres and research centres. More than 10,000 people attend Teagasc training courses each year.

All education and training programmes have recently been 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 National Qualification Authority has raised the standing of Teagasc courses both nationally and internationally.

HIGHER EDUCATION COURSE

Higher education programmes in agriculture, horticulture, agri-business and equine studies, with recruitment through the Central Applications Office (CAO) system, are provided jointly with Institutes of Technology.

PROGRESSION

Students who secure awards have the possibility to advance to degree level.

FURTHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING COURSES

Further education and training programmes are available in agriculture, horticulture, forestry and horses. These courses are available at eight colleges and at local Teagasc centres depending on demand. To meet the needs of the growing number of part-time farmers, some courses are provided at night, weekends and during annual holiday periods at some locations

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.

HIGHER EDUCATION COURSES

There are now eleven third level programmes appearing on the CAO list and this is set to expand in the years ahead. All of these courses are conducted jointly by Teagasc colleges and Institutes of Technology, thus facilitating the best use of the core competencies of each of the partner institutions.

These courses are accredited by the Higher Education and Training Awards Council (HETAC) and graduates have the opportunity to progress up to degree level. Recruitment to the courses is through the CAO system with a number of places reserved for mature students and holders of designated Further Education and Training Awards Council (FETAC) awards.

Higher Certificate in Agriculture

The following four partnerships offer this two year course leading to a Higher Certificate in Agriculture:

- Clonakilty College, Co Cork and Cork Institute of Technology. Course Code CR010;
- Kildalton College, Co Kilkenny and Waterford Institute of Technology. Course Code WD098;
- Mountbellew College, Co. Galway and Galway/Mayo Institute of Technology;
- Ballyhaise College, Co Cavan and Dundalk Institute of Technology. Course Code DK075.

Apply through the CAO

Holders of the HETAC Higher Certificate in Agriculture with merit or distinction are eligible to apply for a HETAC add-on B Sc in Agriculture or to the B Agr Sc at UCD.

Bachelor of Science in Horticulture

The B Sc Horticulture is a three year course offered jointly by the following horticultural colleges and Institutes of Technology:

- Kildalton College, Co Kilkenny and Waterford Institute of Technology. CAO Course Code: WD096;
- College of Amenity Horticulture, National Botanic Gardens, Dublin and Institute of Technology, Blanchardstown, Dublin. CAO Course Code: BN008;
- Salesian Horticultural College, Warrenstown, Co Meath and Institute of Technology, Blanchardstown, Dublin. CAO Course Code: BN007.

Apply through the CAO

Higher Certificate in Agricultural Science

This two year course is delivered jointly by Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT) and Kildalton College, Piltown, Co Kilkenny. Apply through the CAO.

Higher Certificate in Agri-Business

This two year course is offered at the Franciscan Brothers College, Mountbellew and Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology. Apply through the CAO.

Higher Certificate in Agricultural Mechanisation

This two year course is delivered in partnership by the Salesian Agricultural College, Pallaskenny, Co Limerick and Limerick Institute of Technology. Apply through the CAO.

Higher Certificate in Equine Studies

This two year course is offered jointly by Gurteen College, Ballingarry, Roscrea, Co Tipperary and Athlone Institute of Technology. Apply to the CAO.

FURTHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING

All of Teagasc's further education and training courses have been benchmarked and upgraded in recent years and are now nationally accredited by the Further Education and Training Awards Council (FETAC).

These courses are suitable for people who wish to make a career in agriculture, horticulture, horses or forestry but who do not wish to complete a third level course. There is no minimum educational entry requirement but those who have completed the Leaving Certificate are most likely to benefit. These courses open up a wide range of career options for participants. Many will return to farming either in a full-time or part-time capacity but there are excellent job prospects in the expanding amenity horticulture and forestry sectors.

Paid work experience is an integral part of these courses where participants have the opportunity to develop the skills and competencies associated with their chosen career.

Participants who achieve the necessary results may transfer either directly or via the Higher Education Links Scheme to linked third level courses.

Advanced Certificate in Agriculture

This 2 to 2½ year course, leading to a FETAC Advanced Certificate in Agriculture, is offered at six agricultural colleges - Ballyhaise, Clonakilty, Gurteen, Kildalton, Mountbellew and Pallaskenny. The course is also offered, on a part-time basis, at some Teagasc training centres. It is also offered at night and weekends for people who are in part-time employment

Advanced Certificate in Horticulture

This course, which extends over two years, is provided at three horticultural colleges – Botanic Gardens, Kildalton & Warrenstown.

Certificate in Horticultural Skills

This one year introductory horticultural skills course, sponsored by FAS, is conducted at the Teagasc Kinsealy Centre, Malahide Road, Dublin 17.

Certificate in Greenkeeping

This two year block release course, provides a firm grounding in the practical and technical skills and knowledge in the area of greenkeeping and is delivered at the College of Amenity Horticulture, National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Dublin.

Advanced Certificate in Dairy Herd Management

This two year course is offered at Clonakilty Agricultural College and Ballyhaise Agricultural College. Some of the course work is delivered by Cork Institute of Technology (CIT) and Dundalk Institute of Technology (DIT).

Advanced Certificate in Machinery and Crop Management

This course is offered at Kildalton Agricultural College, Piltown, Co Kilkenny. Some of the course work is delivered by Waterford Institute of Technology.

Advanced Certificate in Drystock Management

This course is offered at Gurteen Agricultural College, Ballingarry, Roscrea, Co Tipperary. Some of the course work is delivered by Athlone Institute of Technology.

Advanced Certificate in Farm Management

This three year programme, on approved master farms, combined with project work and block release courses at Kildalton College, Piltown, Co. Kilkenny, provides students with the opportunity to acquire knowledge and skills for farm management.

Advanced Certificate in Horsemanship

This two year course is offered at Kildalton College, Piltown, Co Kilkenny.

Advanced Certificate in Forestry

This two year course is offered at the Teagasc College, Ballyhaise, Co Cavan.

ADULT AND EDUCATION TRAINING

Lifelong learning is important for all and in this regard farmers and rural dwellers are no different. To meet this demand, Teagasc provides a comprehensive range of training programmes at local offices in each county and at colleges.

Each year over 10,000 farmers and/or their partners participate in courses ranging from 12.5 hours right up to 100 hours. The courses are delivered in modules of 12.5 or 25 hours duration.

The courses are nationally accredited by FETAC and participants have the option of accumulating modules and progression to FETAC awards.

Courses on:

Agriculture

- 100 Hours Agriculture Course;
- 80 Hours Introductory Management Course;
- Technology and Business Modules;
- Rural Viability Modules;
- Information Technology Modules;
- Environment/Food Safety Modules;
- Discussion Groups.

Rural Diversification

- Certificate in Floristry;
- Certificate in Irish Home Hospitality;
- Alternative Enterprise Module.

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 Ashtown Food Research Centre, Teagasc, Ashtown, Castleknock, Dublin 15, and at Moorepark Food Research Centre, Teagasc, Moorepark, Fermoy Co Cork. Training is also provided at local level and on site where it is deemed appropriate.

INFORMATION ON COURSES

Detailed information on all Teagasc courses is available from the Training and Development Directorate, Teagasc, Kinsealy Centre, Malahide Road, Dublin 17 and Teagasc Head Office, Oak Park, Carlow as well as 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.

Comprehensive information on Teagasc training is also available on the Teagasc website at www.teagasc.ie

PUBLICATIONS

A wide range of publications – handbooks, leaflets, financial bulletins, recording sheets and videotapes – are available from Teagasc.

Full particulars of these publications can be obtained from local Teagasc offices or the Publications Office, Teagasc, Head Office, Oak Park, Carlow. Tel: 059 9183409, Fax: 059 9183498, Email: publications@hq.teagasc.ie

BORD BIA

Bord Bia is the Irish food, drink and horticulture industry's trade development, information and promotion agency. Its mission is to deliver effective and innovative market development, promotion and information services to assist companies grow and win new business.

Bord Bia works in partnership with this industry to increase the sales and exports of Irish food, drink and horticulture by developing long-term relationships between Irish companies and trade buyers. This is achieved by delivery of core services to the customer - trade buyers - and to Irish food, drink and horticultural (including amenity horticulture) companies.

Bord Bia operates programmes to develop and foster contact between buyers and Irish companies, including participation under the 'Ireland the Food Island' umbrella brand at international trade exhibitions, and co-ordinating inward buying visits.

Promotional programmes are developed to support marketing activities, offering a range of solutions to provide distinctiveness and a competitive edge to Irish products through advertising, media relations and point of sale material and other tools.

Commercial success depends on reliable information and strategic contacts. Bord Bia has a thorough understanding of the capabilities and strategies of Irish food, drink and horticultural companies. For Irish companies, Bord Bia supplies comprehensive information and insight on global market trends.

The reputation of Irish food, drink and horticulture is key to its success. Bord Bia has developed Quality Assurance Schemes for beef, pigmeat, eggs and poultry. In the horticulture sector the programme encompasses all the main sectors of production including field vegetables, mushrooms, soft fruit and top fruit, protected crops and potatoes. A programme for producers of hardy nursery stock, potted plants and bedding plants is also in operation.

Targeted financial assistance is available to help eligible companies to develop their marketing plans and activities. Bord Bia operates two financial grant programmes to assist SME's improve their marketing capabilities.

Bord Bia employs 91 staff, has its Head Office in Dublin and eight strategically located offices in key export markets. The offices are located in Amsterdam, Chicago, Düsseldorf, London, Madrid, Milan, Moscow and Paris.

For further information, contact the Information Unit, Bord Bia, Clanwilliam Court, Lower Mount Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 6685155. Email: info@bordbia.ie Website: www.bordbia.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. Tel: 045 521251; E-Mail: stud@irish-national-stud.ie, Website: www.irish-national-stud.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.

Further information; contact the National Milk Agency, IPC House, Shelbourne Road, Dublin 4. Tel: 01 6603396 www.nationalmilkagency.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 Finance and the Minister for Agriculture and Food. The company was established under the Forestry Act, 1988 which sets out its objectives and duties.

Principal Objectives:

- To operate on a commercial basis and in accordance with efficient silvicultural practices;
- To manage the resources available in a manner consistent with the company's objectives;
- To establish woodland industries and participate with others in forestry and related activities to enhance the profitable operation of the company.

For more information contact Coillte, The Irish Forestry Board, Newtownmountkennedy, Co Wicklow. Tel: 01 2011111 Website: www.coillte.ie

COFORD (NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR FOREST RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT)

COFORD is a non-statutory agency under the aegis of the Department. COFORD's remit is to fund and co-ordinate research and development projects with the aim of developing the forestry industry through technical innovation and good silvicultural practice.

COFORD's overall objectives are:

- To establish and strengthen links between research competence and industrial needs;
- To determine forest research needs to maintain international competitiveness, provide sustainable employment, encourage innovation and enhance environmental harmony;
- To evaluate research progress and transfer technology to ensure maximum benefit.

For more information contact COFORD, Arena House, Arena Road, Sandyford, Dublin 18. Tel: 01 2130725, website: www.coford.ie



14. OTHER GOVERNMENT SERVICES

DEPARTMENT OF ARTS, SPORT AND TOURISM

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, 104, Henry Street, Limerick Tel: 061 316788 Fax: 061 316739 email: admin@igb.ie Website: www.igb.ie

HORSE RACING IRELAND (HRI)

HRI was established on 18 December 2001 under the provisions of the Irish Horseracing Industry Act 1994 and 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.

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, Thoroughbred County House, Kill, Co Kildare. Tel: 045 842800 Fax: 045 842801 email: info@horseracingireland.ie website: www.horseracing.ie

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY, RURAL AND GAELTACHT AFFAIRS

RURAL ENTERPRISE

LEADER is the EU Community Initiative for Rural Development that provides approved Local Action Groups with public funding (EU and National) to implement multi-sectoral business plans for the development of their own areas.

LEADER in the current period 2000 to 2006 is being delivered via two programmes:

- **LEADER+ ;**
- **LEADER National Rural Development Programme.**

LEADER +

The essential aim of the measure, which has a public contribution of some €73.7 million, is to encourage the emergence and testing of new approaches to integrated and sustainable development in rural communities. The Initiative is in place in 22 areas throughout the country.

The LEADER National Rural Development Programme

The LEADER National Rural Development Programme, with a public contribution of some €75.6 million, forms part of the Regional Operational Programmes under the National Development Plan 2000 - 2006. The Programme complements the LEADER+ Programme and ensures the availability of funding in the 13 areas that were not appointed to deliver the LEADER+ Programme. In addition, the 3 collective bodies (Muintir na Tire, Irish Farmhouse Holidays and Irish Country Holidays) that are not eligible under LEADER+ receive assistance under this programme.

Funding for Rural/Agri Tourism is provided from this Programme on a nation-wide basis.

How do I apply for a grant?

Firstly, you should contact your Local Action Group that has responsibility for your area. Applications for grant aid should be made directly to the group. The approval of grants by groups is made within detailed operating rules drawn up by the Department and approved by the EU Commission.

For details of local Action Groups contact the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs. Tel: 01 6473000; email: eolas@pobail.ie; website: www.pobail.ie

What are the levels of grant aid?

LEADER is not intended for major development projects and an overall ceiling of €65,000 per project will apply to all LEADER+ and National Rural Development projects. In exceptional circumstances and subject to the prior approval of the Department, aid up to €100,000 may be granted. The maximum rate of public funding as a general rule will be 50% with the following exceptions:

- Administration up to 100%;
- Animation up to 100%;
- Training up to 100%;
- Analysis and Development for community based projects up to 80%.

What categories is funding available for?

Aid under both programmes may take the form of support for the following measures:

- Training;
- Analysis and Development;
- Innovative rural enterprises, craft enterprises and local services/facilities;
- Exploitation of agriculture, forestry and fisheries products;
- Enhancement of natural/built/social/cultural environment;
- Environmentally friendly initiatives;
- Animation and capacity building.

How can I drawdown funding?

When your application has been approved by the Board and you have signed the letter of offer/contract, the project can commence. Grant payment may be made only on completion of the project (or an identifiable phase of the project), on submission of a fully documented, valid claim and on inspection by the Group as to the project's satisfactory completion.

CLÁR

The CLÁR programme was introduced in 2001 to address depopulation, as well as the decline and lack of services in rural areas. Areas in 18 counties, with a population of 362,000, have been selected under the programme, including areas added in January 2003 in light of the 2002 population census data. The areas in the programme are those that suffered the greatest population decline from 1926 to 2002 with an average population loss of 50%. The exception is the Cooley Peninsula, which was included on the basis of the serious difficulties caused there by Foot and Mouth Disease.

CLÁR funds or co-funds, together with other Departments, State agencies and local authorities, investment in selected priority developments supporting physical, economic and social infrastructure across a wide range of measures.

CLÁR funds of €14.139 million in 2002, €8.613 million in 2003 and €12.116 million in 2004 were spent on these measures with related public and private expenditure of nearly €36.5 million. A budget of €13.7 million was allocated to the programme for 2005.

Further information can be obtained from CLÁR, Rural Development Division 1, Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, 43/49 Mespil Road, Dublin 4. Tel: 01 6473197

RURAL SOCIAL SCHEME (RSS)

AIM OF THE SCHEME

The aims of the scheme are to provide:

- Certain services of benefit to rural communities by harnessing the skills and talents available among low-income farmers and fishermen;
- Income support to low income farmers and fishermen who are in receipt of specified, primarily, long-term social welfare payments.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

The scheme is aimed, primarily, at farmers who are in receipt of long-term social welfare payments, but the rules will admit low-income fishermen also. To be eligible to participate an individual must be in receipt of:

- Farm Assist*; **or**
- have a herd number and be in receipt of one of the following long-term Social Welfare payments:
 - Unemployment Assistance;
 - Unemployment Benefit, if previously on CE;
 - Disability Allowance.

The dependent spouse of a person qualified will also be eligible to participate in the scheme as an alternate, i.e. instead of the spouse to whom the herd number is allocated.

Successful applicants for the scheme who are in receipt of Farm Assist, Unemployment Assistance or Unemployment Benefit may not receive this payment from the Department of Social and Family Affairs so long as they participate on the scheme.

*See page 153 for details of the Farm Assist Scheme

TERMS OF THE RSS

Participants will work 19.5 hours per week and the scheme will be administered in a farmer-friendly manner. Participants can work their hours in a flexible way, e.g. week/on week off, but this flexibility will at all times be subject to the requirements of the project they are working on. Participants will not be allowed to undertake any other significant employment, other than farming or fishing, yielding a payment of more than €88.88 per week. Participants will initially go on the scheme for 1 year but this can be extended. In the event that there is greater demand than places available at the end of the first year then priority will be given to new entrants. However, those who have completed their one year period of participation on the scheme can re-apply the following year when the same conditions will apply.

WHAT WORK WILL BE UNDERTAKEN?

The work to be undertaken by participants on the scheme will fall into the following broad categories:

- Projects relating to maintenance and enhancement of waymarked ways, agreed walks, bog roads etc.;
- Village and countryside enhancement projects;
- Environmental maintenance work – maintenance and caretaking of community and sporting facilities;
- Projects relating to not for profit cultural and heritage centres;
- Energy conservation work for elderly and less well off;
- Social care and care of the elderly, community after-school groups and community pre-schooling groups.

These categories will be kept under review.

MANAGEMENT OF THE SCHEME

The RSS will be delivered at a local level by the LEADER companies and in the Gaeltacht areas by the LEADER companies and Údarás na Gaeltachta.

As this Scheme will be administered on a local level, you should in all instances contact your local LEADER, or Údarás na Gaeltachta Office for any further information, or for an application form.

DEPARTMENT OF ENTERPRISE, TRADE AND EMPLOYMENT

MINIMUM PAY AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT FOR AGRICULTURAL WORKERS

Legal minimum rates of pay and conditions of employment for agricultural workers are set by the Labour Court on the recommendation of the Agricultural Workers' Joint Labour Committee. Employers are bound, under penalty, to pay rates of wages and observe conditions of employment, which are not less favourable than those, prescribed in the Employment Regulation Order made by the Court. They are 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.

The Employment Regulation Order covers agricultural workers engaged in dairy farming, poultry farming, the use of land as grazing, meadow or pasture land or orchard or osier land or woodland, or for market gardens, private gardens, nursery grounds or sports grounds, horticulture, the production of any consumable produce which is grown for sale or for other use, the caring for or the rearing or training of animals and any other incidental activities connected with agriculture.

The employer of any worker (i.e. workers covered by the Order) are bound, under penalty, to keep records of wages, payment, working hours, etc., and must retain these records for three years.

The provisions of the Employment Regulation Order, and of employment legislation generally, are enforced by the Labour Inspectorate of the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment. Inspectors have power to enter premises, inspect wage sheets and other records, interview the employers and workers concerned and institute legal proceedings (if necessary).

Copies of Agricultural Workers' Joint Labour Committee Employment Regulation Orders are available from the Labour Court, Tom Johnson House, Haddington Road, Dublin 4, Tel: 01 6136666 and from the Information Unit, Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Davitt House, 65A Adelaide Road, Dublin 2, Tel: 01 6313131. Complaints, in relation to breaches of the Order and of employment legislation should be notified to the Labour Inspectorate Section of the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

LOCAL IMPROVEMENTS SCHEME: FARM ROAD WORKS

Under the Local Improvements Scheme, state grants are provided to County Councils to enable them improve non-public accommodation roads. 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.

TAXATION AND USE OF TRACTORS

The standard rate of motor taxation for a general haulage tractor is €253 per annum, but the owner of the tractor whose only or chief occupation is farming may, on payment of a substantially reduced rate of €78 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 €78 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 €78 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.

A passenger should be carried on a tractor **only** if there is a proper seat. In particular a passenger should not be carried on the drawbar or on top of a load (e.g. of hay) on the trailer. Special care should be taken where there are young children. Farm tractors and machinery should not be left in such a position that young children can interfere with them. In no circumstances, should a child be allowed to drive a tractor.

Farmers, using agricultural tractors and trailers to haul agricultural produce, should not adopt the following loading practices:

- use of exceptionally high frames on trailers - to facilitate loading of produce to a height which could endanger the stability, steering and braking of an agricultural tractor/trailer combination;

- exceeding the maximum legally permissible vehicle weight or the design gross vehicle weight - an Explanatory Leaflet (No. 1) on the legal maximum vehicle weights and dimensions is available, free of charge, from the Department of Transport, Vehicle Standards Division, Floor 1, 25 Clare Street, Dublin 2. The design GVW weight is the maximum weight at which the braking, steering etc. is designed to safely operate; and can be determined from the manufacturer's specification for the tractor or trailer (available from dealers/distributors).

The above practices endanger the tractor driver and other road users; could render the tractor owner and driver liable to prosecution; and, in the event of an accident, to the payment of substantial compensation to any injured third parties.

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 schemes;
- small public water and sewerage systems in rural villages;
- private individual supplies where an alternative group or public supply is not available.

Some €644 million will be spent on measures to improve rural water supplies under the NDP 2000-2006;

- €451 million will be spent in the Border, Midland and Western Region;
- €193 million in the Southern and Eastern Region.

Grants and subsidies which are designed to bring quality deficient group schemes up to a satisfactory standard and boost the development and expansion of the group water sector are as follows:

GROUP WATER SCHEMES

- Up to 100% of cost of essential water treatment and disinfection equipment where this is being provided by way of design, Build Operate (DBO) contract;
- A capital grant for new schemes and the upgrading of existing schemes amounting to 85% of cost subject to a maximum cost of €7,618.43 per house served.

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:

- €50.79 for each house supplied from a local authority source;
- €101.58 for each house supplied from a private source;
- €196.81 for each house where water disinfection and/or treatment is provided under a Design, Build, Operate (DBO) contract or where the water disinfection/treatment plant is operated and maintained by a contractor by way of a bona fide Operational and Maintenance Contract.

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.

OTHER GRANTS

The Department of the Environment and Local Government also pays the following grant directly:

The grant for renewal and repair of thatched roofs of houses.

Details of this grant may be obtained from the Department of the Environment and Local Government on 01 8882000, 096 24200 or on the Lo-call: 1890 305030

In addition, the Department provides funding to local authorities to enable them to operate a range of social housing options, including voluntary housing initiatives, local authority housing programme, affordable housing schemes, the shared ownership scheme, house purchase and improvement loans, disabled persons and essential repairs grants and the scheme of improvement works in lieu of local authority housing.

Details of the social housing options are available from your local authority.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

TRACTOR SAFETY

All tractors used in a public place must be fitted with safety frames and are subject to the normal laws governing road traffic including, driver licensing, insurance, motor tax, vehicle lighting, etc. The fitting of cladding to the frame, i.e. a safety cab, is a matter of choice. The purpose of the frame is to protect the driver from the tractor overturn. Safety frames shall comply with the requirement of EU Type Approval Directives and Irish Road Traffic regulations.

When transporting loose material such as silage, slurry, sand, gravel, etc., special care should be taken to ensure that material does not spill onto a public road - such spillages can cause accidents. Loads of lime or other dusty materials or offal or other offensive materials should be fully covered with a tarpaulin.

Most tractors and agricultural machinery are slow moving vehicles and the general rule of keeping to the left is of particular importance.

HEALTH AND SAFETY AUTHORITY

Agriculture and construction remain the two most high-risk sectors of the Irish economy. Last year these two sectors accounted for over 50% of all workplace fatalities. 15 people lost their lives in accidents on farms in 2005. Nine of those killed were more than sixty years of age; seven of those aged more than sixty five years. Many more people suffered serious injuries.

The HSA is determined to work in partnership with the farming community to reduce the number of fatalities and accidents on farms. Good health and safety 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!

The starting point for good health and safety management on a farm is the preparation of a safety statement. By law all farms must have a safety statement. Failure to draw up a statement can result in prosecution. The safety statement identifies the hazards on a farm and spells out the steps that need to be taken to reduce these risks.

A newly revised Farm Safety Handbook and a Farm Safety Self-Assessment document have been drawn up to take account of the new Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005. Also planned is a farm version of the Safe System of Work Plan (SSWP).

Farmers are advised to obtain a copy of the Farm Safety Handbook - a well-illustrated booklet explaining how to manage health and safety on the farm, or any related publication. These are obtainable from Michael Neville, Publications Section, Health and Safety Authority, 10 Hogan Place, Dublin 2. Tel: 1890 289 389/01-6147806 or email publications@hsa.ie

THE LAND REGISTRY

The Land Registry has offices in Dublin (at Chancery Street, Dublin 7, at Setanta Centre, Nassau Street, Dublin 2, and at Block 1, Irish Life Centre, Lower Abbey Street, Dublin 1) and in Waterford, at Cork Road, Waterford.

The Land Registry provides the first registration of all 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.

Chancery Street	LoCall 1890 333001 or Telephone 01 6707500 Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Longford, Louth, Meath, Monaghan and Westmeath.
Setanta Centre	LoCall 1890 333001 or Telephone 01 6707500 Dublin, Clare, Galway, Mayo, Roscommon, Sligo.
Irish Life	Local 1890 333001 or Telephone 01 6707500 Kildare and Wicklow
Waterford	LoCall 1890 333002 or Telephone 051 303000 Cork, Carlow, Kerry, Kilkenny, Laois, Limerick, Offaly, Tipperary, Wexford and Waterford.

In addition to these offices, there is a local office in each county (with the exceptions of Dublin and Waterford) attached to the Circuit Court Office. Each local office provides a means of access to all Folios, Filed Plan Maps and Name Indexes for all counties.

This information can also be accessed by account holders via the Land Registry Electronic Access Service. For further information on the EAS please check our website www.landregistry.ie.

The registered owner may inspect any document filed in the central office under which a registration is made affecting his or her property and may obtain a copy of the document. A registered owner may also obtain a certificate of his or her title to the property, known as a Land Certificate. The Land Certificate can be used as collateral for securing loans from financial institutions.

A Registry map is maintained in the central office on which registered holdings are shown and on which rights, such as rights of way, are defined. The Registry map can be inspected and copy maps, showing particular plans, can be obtained.

The Ground Rents Purchase Scheme is administered from the Land Registry in the Irish Life Centre (Telephone 01 6707500 or LoCall 1890 333001).

Further information on the Land Registry can be obtained from the Land Registry website at www.landregistry.ie

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, Today FM and most Local Radio stations.

TELEVISION

Met Éireann weather forecasts are presented on RTÉ 1 and RTÉ 2 several times daily, some of which coincide with the main news times. The presentation before 14.00 on Sunday provides a forecast for a week ahead and is geared primarily, towards farming. Most other television news summaries contain a brief weather forecast.

WARNINGS

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. Severe weather alerts are issued for very heavy rain (flooding), strong winds and snow.

WEATHERDIAL FROM MET ÉIREANN

The latest weather information updated 3 times per day, everyday just call "1550 123" plus the number for your area:

MUNSTER	850
LEINSTER	851
CONNACHT	852
ULSTER	853
DUBLIN	854
SEA AREA/GALE WARNINGS	855

Forecasts/charts/aviation products by fax. 1570 131 838
(Dial from the tone phone attached to your fax machine)

Calls cost €0.95 (voice) per min, €1.75 (fax). VAT incl.

S.P: iTouch, 3050 Lake Drive, Citywest Digital Park, Co Dublin. Tel: 01 411 2021

For specially tailored forecasts (chargeable): Tel: 01 8064255, Fax: 01 8064275.

NEWSPAPERS

A forecast for a week ahead, specially for farmers, is published in a number of national, farming and provincial weekly newspapers.

OFFICE OF THE REVENUE COMMISSIONERS

TAX IMPLICATIONS OF THE SINGLE PAYMENT SCHEME

The single 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.

Payment entitlement is intangible property for **stamp duty** purposes and a liability to stamp duty, at the non-residential property rates, will arise on an instrument of transfer of payment entitlement on the consideration payable for the transfer of the payment entitlement or the market value of the payment entitlement in the case of a gift. A liability to stamp duty may also arise, under section 31 of the Stamp Duties Consolidation Act, 1999, on a contract for sale 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

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 the 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".
- 2) For the purposes of the relief, a "farmer" means an individual who is domiciled in Ireland and at least 80% of the gross market value of whose assets is represented on the Valuation Date by agricultural property after taking the gift or inheritance. The domicile criterion and the "80%" test do not apply in the case of agricultural property which consists of trees and underwood.
- 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 sold or compulsorily acquired within six years of the date of the gift/inheritance and is not replaced within one year by other agricultural property, **or if the beneficiary is not resident in the State for all of the three tax years immediately following the tax year in which the valuation date falls.**

An explanatory leaflet (Agricultural Relief - CAT 5) which sets out full details is available from the Capital Taxes Division, Taxpayer Advisory Service, Dublin Castle, Dublin 2, Lo call: 1890 201104 Fax: 01 6790049

Further information is available from the Capital Taxes Division, Taxpayer Advisory Service, Dublin Castle, Dublin 2, Lo call: 1890 201104

STAMP DUTIES

Stamp Duties are taxes chargeable on certain commercial and legal documents, which are used to transfer ownership of property. Duty is 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. The stamp duties with which most people are familiar are the stamp duties payable on cheques, 15c, and the stamp duty 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 purchased. 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 of property other than shares or marketable securities are:

STAMP DUTY ON RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY

Aggregate Consideration	First Time Buyer Rate	Full Rate
Less than €127,000	Exempt	Exempt
€127,001 - €190,500	Exempt	3%
€190,501 - €254,000	Exempt	4%
€254,001 - €317,500	Exempt	5%
€317,501 - €381,000	3%	6%
€381,001 - €635,000	6%	7.5%
Over €635,000	9%	9%

STAMP DUTY ON NON-RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY

Aggregate Consideration	Rate
Not exceeding €10,000	Exempt
€10,001 - €20,000	1%
€20,001 - €30,000	2%
€30,001 - €40,000	3%
€40,001 - €70,000	4%
€70,001 - €80,000	5%
€80,001 - €100,000	6%
€100,001 - €120,000	7%
€120,001 - €150,000	8%
Over €150,000	9%

Stamp Duty is also charged on the following:

- Cheques at 15c per cheque;
- ATM Cards at €10 per annum;
- Laser Cards at €10 per annum;
- Combined ATM/Laser Cards at €20 per annum;
- Credit cards and charge cards at €40.

When property is transferred within an immediate family, stamp duty is payable but is charged at half the rate normally applying.

To take an example: if a farmer transfers his/her farm having a non-residential open market value of €200,000 to his/her son/daughter as a gift, stamp duty is chargeable on €200,000 at an effective rate of 4.5% (as opposed to the 9% quoted in the rates.) There is no stamp duty on property transferred by way of inheritances.

Stamp duty is not chargeable on transfers of any property between spouses.

Penalties apply if documents chargeable to stamp duty are not properly stamped on time.

In general, there is no stamp duty on transfers of livestock and farm machinery but where such property is transferred together with land, it can increase the amount of duty payable. For example, if a farmer buys a farm for €65,000 the deed of transfer will attract a charge to stamp duty at a non-residential rate of 4%, i.e. €2,600. However, if at the same time and as part of the farm purchase he/she also buys stock and machinery valued at, say €20,000 duty is then payable on €65,000 at 6% i.e. €3,900. This arises because the total consideration paid for the series of transactions is between €80,001 and €100,000.

YOUNG TRAINED FARMER RELIEF

Section 81A 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 prior to 31 December 2005 but, as a part of Budget 2006, is extended for a further three years to 31 December 2008. This will be provided for in the Finance Bill 2006.

The relief does not apply to leases or where a power of revocation exists. The relief is by way of a 100% reduction in the stamp duty that would otherwise be payable. In order to qualify, the transferee must be a young trained farmer as defined in the Act. On the date on which the instrument was executed such persons must:

- be under 35 years of age;
- hold one of the qualifications as set out on the form SD2A which is available from the Revenue Commissioners from any of the 3 offices listed below or on www.revenue.ie under the heading 'Leaflets and Guides' - 'Stamp Duty' – 'SD 2A'; and
- furnish a declaration to the effect that he or she will, for period of five years from the date of execution of the transfer:
- spend not less than 50% of his or her normal working time farming the land;
- retain ownership of the land;
- furnish his or her PPS number.

In addition to these conditions, the deed of transfer must contain a certificate to the effect that the provisions of Section 81A Stamp Duties Consolidations Act, 1999 apply to the transfer. The section also provides for refund of duty paid in a limited number of circumstances.

FARM CONSOLIDATION RELIEF

Section 81B of the Stamp Duties Consolidation Act 1999 contains the provisions relating to Farm Consolidation Relief. The relief provides that where there is a valid consolidation certificate in existence at the time of an exchange of lands, no stamp duty will be charged on an exchange of such lands where the lands are of equal value.

A consolidation certificate is a certificate issued by Teagasc for the purposes of the relief to each farmer concerned in an exchange of lands. This certificate identifies the lands involved, the owners of such lands, and certifies that Teagasc is satisfied that the exchange of lands complies (or will comply) with the conditions of consolidation. Further information on how to obtain a consolidation certificate may be obtained from local Teagasc offices.

In a case where the lands exchanged are not of equal value, stamp duty will only be charged on the amount of the difference in the value of the lands concerned. The rate of stamp duty will be the non-residential rate appropriate to this chargeable amount (e.g. Farmer A and Farmer B exchange land valued at €90,000 and €65,000 respectively, and a cash amount of €25,000 is paid by Farmer B by way of equality. The stamp duty liability is €500 i.e. €25,000 @2%). This stamp duty is payable by Farmer B, the person to whom the land which is of greater value is transferred. Where consideration is paid in respect of the difference (or part of the difference) in those values, it must be payable in cash.

The relief applies to instruments executed on or after 1 July 2005 and on or before 30 June 2007.

Further details of this relief can be found in leaflet 'SD81B' available from any of the offices listed below and also on www.revenue.ie under the heading "Leaflets and Guides" – "Stamp Duty" – "SD81".

Further information may be obtained from the Dublin Stamping District, Dublin Region, Stamping Building, Dublin Castle, or Cork Stamp Duty Office, South West Region, Government Buildings, Sullivan's Quay, Cork or from the Galway Stamp Duty Office, Border Midlands West Region, Custom House, Flood Street, Galway

VALUE-ADDED TAX

Value-Added Tax (VAT) is a tax on consumer spending. VAT-registered traders collect it on their supplies of goods and services to their customers. Each such trader in the chain of supply from manufacturer through to retailer charges VAT on his/her taxable sales and is entitled to deduct from this amount the VAT paid on his/her business purchases (with some exceptions e.g. cars, petrol, meals and entertainment expenses).

For VAT purposes, a 'farmer' is a person who engages in agricultural production activities on land he/she owns or occupies in the State. Generally speaking, for VAT purposes, 'agricultural production' refers to the production of agricultural goods (e.g. crop production; general stock farming; poultry farming; forestry; and fisheries) and/or the supply of agricultural services (e.g. sowing and planting; crop spraying; harvesting; stock minding, rearing and fattening; and tree felling).

VAT RATES

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, horses, deer, goats, greyhounds.
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.
21%	Hire of machinery; Leasing of milk quota (without land); Transport; Storage.

FARMERS – OBLIGATION TO REGISTER FOR VAT

A farmer is obliged to register for VAT if his/her turnover from certain supplies exceeds, or is likely to exceed, the relevant threshold for those supplies in a continuous twelve month period. The supplies in question, together with the relevant turnover thresholds are as follows:

- supplies of agricultural services (other than insemination services, stock minding or stock rearing) which exceed, or are likely to exceed €27,500;
- supplies of livestock semen, other than to other farmers licensed as an A.I. centre, or to a person over whom the farmer exercises control, which exceed, or are likely to exceed, €55,000;
- supplies of retail horticultural products which exceed, or are likely to exceed, €55,000;

Note: Where the farmer's supplies consist of the services referred to in (a), as well as the goods referred to in (b) or (c), the relevant threshold is €27,500

- (d) intra-Community acquisitions¹ which exceed, or are likely to exceed, €41,000;
- (e) Fourth Schedule services², regardless of their value
- (f) supplies of taxable goods, other than agricultural goods, which exceed or are likely to exceed €55,000;
- (g) supplies of taxable services, other than agricultural services, which exceed or are likely to exceed €27,500.

If a farmer is obliged to register in respect of his/her Fourth Schedule services (paragraph (e) refers), he/she must also account for VAT in respect of his/her intra-Community acquisitions (paragraph (d) refers), regardless of the value of the intra-Community acquisitions.

If a farmer is obliged to register in respect of either his/her intra-Community acquisitions or Fourth Schedule services, such registration is effectively 'ring-fenced' to the intra-Community acquisitions and/or the Fourth Schedule services. The farmer is not obliged to register in respect of his/her farming activities.

Of course, where a farmer is obliged to register for VAT in respect of supplies of any other goods or services, as outlined in paragraphs (a), (b), (c), (f) and (g) above, he/she must account for VAT in respect of all of his/her activities, including farming.

FARMERS – OPTION TO REGISTER FOR VAT

A farmer who is not obliged to register for VAT may opt to do so.

If a farmer who has opted to register for VAT wishes subsequently to cancel his/her registration, he/she may do so by arrangement with his/her local Revenue district. However, this may give rise to recovery by Revenue of all or some of the net VAT repaid to the farmer during the period for which he/she opted to register.

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 19th 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.

'FLAT-RATE ADDITION'

Farmers who are not registered for VAT are not entitled to recover the VAT charged to them on their farming expenses (e.g. farm machinery, electricity etc.) Generally speaking, such farmers are compensated for these VAT charges by means of a flat-rate amount (currently 4.8%) which is added to the prices at which they

¹ 'Intra-Community acquisitions' are goods purchased from VAT-registered traders in other EU Member States. For further details about intra-Community acquisitions in relation to farming activities, see Revenue's information leaflet, *Farmers and Intra-EU Transactions* (VAT no. 12/01).

² 'Fourth Schedule services' are certain services which are received from abroad and which are included in the list of services provided in the Fourth Schedule to the VAT Act, 1972. Examples of such services which might be received from abroad in the course of farming activities are: accountancy services; legal services; engineering/architectural consultancy services; telecommunications services; and hire of machinery and equipment. For further details, see Revenue's information leaflet, *Fourth Schedule Services* (VAT no. 2/04).

sell their products and services to VAT-registered persons (e.g. marts, agricultural co-operatives and meat factories). This compensatory amount is referred to as a 'flat-rate addition'. Farmers who are not registered for VAT, thus who are entitled to the payment of this flat-rate addition are referred to as 'flat-rate farmers'.

For example,

A flat-rate farmer sells a quantity of milk produced from his/her dairy herd to a VAT-registered agricultural co-operative for €1,000.

The flat-rate addition at 4.8% is €48.

The farmer charges the co-operative €1,048.

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 Fourth Schedule services 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.

MILK PRODUCTION PARTNERSHIPS

Any farmers thinking about establishing a Milk Production Partnership might find it useful to read Revenue's information leaflet, "VAT Issues for Milk Production Partnerships" (VAT No. 1/04).

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.

FARM NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLAN (NMP) UNDER SECTION 659 OF THE TAXES CONSOLIDATION ACT, 1997

All farmers following a Farm Nutrient Management Plan may avail of the farm pollution control allowance for capital expenditure in Section 659 of the Taxes Consolidation Act, 1997 subject to certain restrictions.

The farm N.M.P. shall be in accordance with one of the following:

- an Agri environmental plan prepared under the Rural Environment Protection Scheme (REPS);
- a plan prepared under the Erne Catchment Nutrient Management Scheme;
- a farm NMP prepared in accordance with guidelines issued by the Department.

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 our large scale maps of rural areas – these maps are at a scale of 1:2500/ 1:5000 for rural and semi-rural areas and at 1:10,000 scale for mountainous regions. Nearly all the country is covered by 1:2500 scale mapping with older 1:2500 maps now being replaced by new 1:5000 scale mapping. Each 1:2500 for example covers an area of **approximately 300 hectares** and it shows building, fences, drains, rivers and roads etc. As 1:2500 maps show areas of fields they are very useful as a basis for farm planning; they can be used for keeping records of cropping, of the location of underground drains or shores and of soil survey results. Aerial photography and orthography are products which can also be used as an information source to the farming community; Ordnance Survey Ireland from its sales offices in Phoenix Park can supply national coverage of Aerial photography and orthography taken in 1995 (B/W) and 2000 (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 and paper form.

Options include:

- Any scale;
- Paper plots or in a variety of digital format;
- Composite maps;
- Paper size A4 to A0;
- Selected themes for digital products;
- Planning Packs.

Historic 6 inch and 25 inch maps are also available, however the 6 inch maps do not show land parcels.

DIGITAL MAP DATA

Both Digital Image data (raster) and Digital Feature data (vector) are available in a number of industry standard formats and are supplied on a variety of media options. Digital vector and raster data can be tailored to customer's specifications. In 2006, Ordnance Survey Ireland's Place Map agents network will be able to supply mapping in digital format. Digital mapping can also be purchased from Ordnance Survey Ireland main sales office in Phoenix Park, Dublin.

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY

National coverage at 1:30,000 and 1:40,000 photo-scale is available. This photography was taken in 1995 and 2000 and a new series will be created during 2005/06 ; other selected areas are also available ranging from 1:5000 to 1:20,000 photo-scale. Aerial Photography is available as prints in both black and white and colour.

HOW TO GET ORDNANCE SURVEY MAPS

There are Ordnance Survey Place Map agents in Dublin, Mullingar, Waterford, Kilkenny, Killarney, Cork, Galway, Limerick, Cavan , Athlone and Swords where mapping in both a paper or digital format can be purchased, many of these agents accept orders by telephone and fax. Failing this, mapping may be obtained from Ordnance Survey Ireland, Phoenix Park, Dublin. Tel: 01 8025349, Fax: 01 8220979. When ordering large

scale maps - 1:1000, 1:2500, 1:5000, 25 inch or 6 inch scale maps, it is necessary to state the position of the holding or other features which the map is covering, preferably by specifying the townland the holding is in.

Ordnance Survey Ireland Tourist and Leisure product range can be purchased on-line from our on-line map shop www.irishmaps.ie and from all good book shops. More information regarding our products and services can be obtained from our website www.osi.ie or by contacting our Mapsales Department - Tel: 01 8025349.

The names and addresses of our Place Map agents can be obtained on our website or by ringing our reception area in Phoenix Park. Tel: 01 8025300

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND FAMILY AFFAIRS

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.

How does the means test work?

To qualify for Farm Assist, you must satisfy a means test, that is, your means must be below a certain level.

Your means include:

- Any income you or your spouse/partner have;
- Property which you or your spouse/partner have (except your home);
- Other asset(s) which could provide you with an income.

How much can I get?

If you qualify, your payment will comprise a personal rate for yourself with extra amounts for a qualified adult and child dependants. Your weekly rate of payment is calculated by subtracting your weekly means assessment from the maximum rate of Farm Assist payable to you if you had no means.

The weekly rates of Farm Assist are:

	€
Maximum Personal Rate	165.80
Qualified Adult Allowance (*)	110.00
Each Child Dependant Full Rate (**)	16.80
Half Rate	8.40

Note:

(*) This amount is payable if your spouse/partner has a gross weekly earnings/income of €88.88 or less (the weekly disregard is €100.00 from May 2006). A reduced rate increase may be payable if your spouse/partner has a gross weekly earnings/income of between €88.89 and €240.00 (reduced rate increase payable if weekly earnings are between €100.00 and €250.00 from May 2006).

(**) An increase of €16.80 is payable for each child dependant if you are in receipt of an increase for a qualified adult. Where you do not qualify for such an increase, half rate child dependant increases may be payable.

How is it paid?

If you qualify, payment will be made on a weekly basis. You may opt to have your money paid directly into your bank account (Electronic Fund Transfer) or by Post Draft at your local Post Office.

How do I apply?

You may apply for Farm Assist by completing the application form, FARM 1, which is available from:

- Your Social Welfare Local Office;
- The Department's LoCall Leaflet Line - 1890 20 23 23;
- Or online at www.welfare.ie.

For more information on Farm Assist contact your Social Welfare Local Office (see local telephone directory for details). Information is also available on the Department of Social and Family Affairs website, www.welfare.ie

Voluntary Contributions

Farmers in receipt of Farm Assist are no longer insurable at Class S. However you may be entitled to pay Voluntary Contributions.

For further details contact Voluntary Contributions Section, Department of Social and Family Affairs, Social Welfare Services, Cork Road, Waterford Tel: 051 356000

PRSI FOR FARM SPOUSES

Farm Spouses & PRSI: The Current General Position

Current social welfare legislation exempts spouses from PRSI liability as both employed and self-employed contributors. This exclusion recognises the practical difficulties in establishing the nature of a genuine employment relationship in circumstances such as when a person employed under a contract of service (i.e. as an employee) by his or her spouse is classed as an "excepted" contributor under social welfare law. As a result, farming spouses can only pay PRSI if they are involved in one of three scenarios.

Firstly, spouses who are actively engaged in a commercial partnership (as opposed to simply being the joint owners of a property) are treated as individual self-employed contributors and are thus liable to social insurance contributions. These contributions – made under PRSI Class S – enable them to build up an insurance record in their own right and to receive accruing benefits. A partnership is commonly understood to be an association of two or more persons for the purpose of gain or of sharing in the work and profits of an enterprise. Liability for PRSI contributions is not contingent on the ownership of property but rather on the nature of the business arrangements between the couple. Co-ownership of property does not in itself create a partnership.

Secondly, where a family business is incorporated as a limited company, spouses involved in the business can establish a social insurance record as either employees or as self-employed contributors – depending on whether a contract of service exists.

Thirdly, it is known that persons engaged in farming are increasingly taking up "off-farm" employment. This enables farming spouses who might otherwise not be insured to develop a social insurance record on the basis of their "off-farm" earnings. Also, farming spouses who were previously employed are able to maintain their social insurance coverage in the long-term by contributing to the voluntary PRSI contribution scheme.

There are currently no plans to change the existing provisions.

Farm Partnership

Where a genuine partnership exists on a farm both spouses 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 €3,174 per year this income would be reckonable for PRSI purposes and contributions would be payable at a rate of 3%, or **€253 per annum, whichever is greater**, where income is below €22,880 per annum and at a rate of 5% **of all income** otherwise (includes the Health Contribution).

Income below the €3,174 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, of course, continue to be reckonable for social insurance class S benefits/pensions.

What is a partnership?

This 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 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). Income Tax returns of each partner showing his/her share of the profits should be available. In the case of married couples 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.

It is recommended that individuals wishing to enter into a partnership agreement should seek legal advice before doing so.

What are the Benefits?

PRSI Class S covers a contributor for the following benefits:

- Old Age Contributory Pension;
- Widows and Widower's Contributory Pension;
- Maternity Benefit;
- Adoptive Benefit;
- Orphans (Contributory) Allowance;
- Bereavement Grant.

Note: *The Department of Agriculture, and Food's schemes and programmes do not present an obstacle to the formation of single-farm business partnerships*

For further information contact the Information Service of the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs, Aras Mhic Dhiarmada, Store Street, Dublin 1. Tel: 01 7043274; email: info@welfare.ie website: www.welfare.ie

WESTERN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (WDC)

The WDC was established as a statutory agency in 1999 to promote, foster 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 four strategic aims of the WDC are:

- To foster and promote job creation and the transfer of skills to the Western Region;
- To contribute to the creation of a quality economic and social environment by highlighting and supporting opportunities for improvements to the Western Region's transport; communications and energy infrastructure;
- To stimulate the creation of a quality business and community-based enterprise environment across the Western Region;
- To create vibrant and sustainable enterprise in the rural areas of the Western region.

Further information can be obtained from the Western Development Commission, Dillon House, Ballaghaderreen, Co. Roscommon, Website: www.wdc.ie Tel: 094 9861441 Email: info@wdc.ie



APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1A

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD – MAIN OFFICES

Head Office - Agriculture House, Kildare Street, Dublin 2.

Lo-call: 1890 200 510 also 01 6072000

Cavan Office - Government Buildings, Farnham Street, Cavan, Co. Cavan.

Lo-call: 1890 200 508 also 049 4368200

Maynooth Office – Maynooth Business Campus, Block B, Maynooth Co. Kildare

Tel: 01 5053300

Portlaoise Office - Old Abbeyleix Road, Portlaoise, Co Laois.

Lo-call: 1890 200 506 also 057 8674400

Lo-call: 1890 200 566 (Single Payment Scheme)

Wexford Office - Johnstown Castle Estate, Co Wexford.

Lo-call: 1890 200 509 also 053 9163400

Division

**All (01) except
where indicated**

Accommodation	6072883/6072878
Accounts Division, Cavan	049 4368200
Agricultural Structures Division, Wexford	053 9163400
Environment Section	
Farm Retirement Scheme; e-mail: ers@agriculture.gov.ie	
Organic Farming Unit; e-mail: organics@agriculture.gov.ie	
Rural Environment Protection Scheme; e-mail: reps@agriculture.gov.ie	
Aid for Private Storage, Wexford	053 9165563
Agriculture Appeals Office, Kilminchy Court, Portlaoise	057 8667167 Locall 1890 671 671
Animal Health and Welfare Division	
Animal Welfare Issues, Marts, Legislation, and Swill	6072049
Control of Horses	6072728
Import/Export of Cats and Dogs	6072827
Import/Export of Livestock, Horses, Birds - Quarantine Procedures	6072862
Sheep Scab	6072000 Ext 3000
CAP Rural Development Division	
General Structural Policy, Monitoring and Control of Structural Funds	6072885
Central Meat Control Laboratory, Backweston Laboratory Complex	6157368

Division	All (01) except where indicated
Collection, Castlebar	094 9035300
Corporate Affairs Division	6072802
Crops Policy and State Bodies	6072852
Crop Production and Safety Division	
Animal Feedingstuffs	5053576
Cereal Seed Variety Testing and Seed Certification	5053580
Fertilisers and Plant Trade	5053579
Horticulture	5053578
NDP Grant Aid (Horticulture, Potatoes and Grain Storage)	5053580
Pesticides	5053579
Potato	5053342
Seed Testing Station	5053575
Crop Variety Testing Division, Backweston	6302900
Customer Service Unit	6072694
Dairy Premium	057 8674400 Ext 320
Dairy Science Laboratory, Backweston Laboratory Complex	6157465
Economics and Planning Division	6072175
Enquiry Unit	6072690
ERAD, Maynooth	5053497/5053472
Licensing and Use of Veterinary Medicines	5053318
EU Trade	6072724
Export Refunds, Wexford	053 9163400
Fallen Animals Payments	053 9170327
Finance Division	6072799
Food Division	6072841
Food Safety Liaison Division	
Animal Product Imports and Reimports	6072892/6072896
Food Safety Liaison	6072046
Forestry	
Approvals, 2nd Instalment Grants, Subsequent Premiums, Pensions, Aerial Fertilisation and Native Woodland Scheme	053 9176002
First Grant and First Premiums	053 9160193
Felling	053 9160170
Financial Management	053 9160187
Forestry Planning and Development	053 9160180
Policy Unit	053 9160216
Forestry Promotion and Training	053 9160178

Division	All (01) except where indicated
Appeals Unit	053 9160213
Coillte Governance, COFORD and Plant health	053 9160171
Cross Compliance	053 9176013
Freedom of Information Unit	057 8694327
Information (Press Office)	6072190
Information Systems Division	6072922
Internal Audit	6072849
Intervention Operations	053 9163437
Irish Horse Board, Maynooth	5053584
ISO Projects Management Division	6072120
Lands Division, Cavan	049 4368259
Legal Services Division	6072270/6072542
Livestock Breeding, Cavan	049 4368200
MBM Operations	053 9165515
Meat Hygiene and Animal By-Products Division	
Meat Hygiene Section	6072830
Animal By-Products Section, Portlaoise	057 869343
Meat Policy Division	
Beef Policy	6072880
Central Fees Unit	6072930
Pigmeat	6072700
Poultry/Eggs	6072832
Sheepmeat/Meat Trade	6072935
Milk Policy Division	6072856/6072857
Milk Subsidies, Wexford	053 9163405
National Beef Assurance Division, Maynooth	5053300
On Farm Investment Schemes Division, Wexford	
Alternative Enterprises	053 9165504
Dairy Hygiene Scheme	053 9165571
Farm Waste Management Scheme	053 9165504
Scheme of Installation Aid	053 9170323
Organic Farming	053 9170315

Division**All (01) except
where indicated****Personnel Division**

Administrative Staff	6072806
Agricultural Officers	6072811
Inspectorate Staff	6072944
Staff Training and Development	6072783
Veterinary/Legal Staff	6072252

Quality Service Unit

057 8694330

Pesticide Control Service, Backweston Laboratory Complex

6157552

Records Branch, Land Commission (National Archives Premises),

4750766/67

Bishop Street, Dublin 8**Seed Certification Division**

Seed Testing Station, Backweston Laboratory Complex	6157518
Tops Potato Centre	074 9145488

Single Payment Scheme, Portlaoise

1890 200 566

Survey Branch, Land Commission (National Archives Premises),

4750769/70

Bishop Street, Dublin 8**Veterinary Research Laboratory, Backweston Laboratory Complex**

6157106

APPENDIX 1B

LOCAL OFFICES OF THE DEPARTMENT

Please note that in the instances marked with an asterisk (*) below some Department services are split within a county or cover part of another county. The split is based according to the herd number ranges as listed at the end of Appendix 1B. The Farm Development Offices are now known as Agricultural, Environmental and Structures (AES)

COUNTY	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
CARLOW Veterinary Livestock AES	Industrial Estate, Athy Road, Carlow.	059 9170022
CAVAN Veterinary Livestock AES	Government Offices, Farnham Street, Cavan.	049 4368200
CLARE Veterinary Livestock AES	Government Offices, Kilrush Road, Ennis.	065 6866042
CORK Cork North East * Veterinary Livestock	Hibernian House, 80 South Mall, Cork.	021 4851400
AES (Mallow/Fermoy NW)	Gooldshill, Mallow	022 21153
Cork Central * Veterinary Livestock AES	Hibernian House, 80 South Mall, Cork	021 4851400
Cork West * Veterinary Livestock AES	Darrara, Clonakilty.	023 36200
DONEGAL Veterinary Livestock	Meeting House St., Raphoe.	074 9145990
AES (Donegal South)	Public Service Centre Drumlonagher, Donegal Town.	074 9721048
AES (Donegal North)	Govt., Offices, High Road Letterkenny.	074 9122199

COUNTY	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
DUBLIN Veterinary (Dublin & Wicklow East*) Livestock (Dublin & Wicklow East*) AES	St. John's House High Street Tallaght Dublin 24.	01 4149900
GALWAY Veterinary Livestock AES (Galway West)	Dockgate Building Merchants Rd, Galway.	091 507600
AES (Galway North)	The Mall, Tuam.	093 24257
AES (Galway East & South)	Main St., Loughrea.	091 841098
KERRY Veterinary Livestock AES (Kerry North)	Government Offices, Spa Road, Tralee.	066 7145052
AES (Kerry South)	Credit Union Building, Beech Road, Killarney	064 31013
KILDARE Veterinary (Kildare & Wicklow West*) Livestock (Kildare & Wicklow West*)	Poplar House, Poplar Square, Naas.	045 873035
AES	Spring Garden House, Sallins Road, Naas.	045 894044
KILKENNY Veterinary Livestock AES	Government Offices, Hebron Road, Kilkenny.	056 7772400
LAOIS Veterinary Livestock AES	Government Offices, Old Abbeyleix Road, Portlaoise.	057 8674400

COUNTY	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
LEITRIM Veterinary Livestock	See Co. Sligo. See Co. Sligo.	
AES	Govt Offices, Carrick-on-Shannon.	071 9620030 071 9620066
LIMERICK Veterinary Livestock AES	Houston Hall, Ballycummin Ave, Raheen Industrial Estate, Raheen, Limerick.	061 500900
LONGFORD Veterinary Livestock AES	Government Offices, Ballinalee Road, Longford.	043 50020
LOUTH Veterinary Livestock	North Quay, Drogheda.	041 9870086
AES	Government Offices, Millenium Centre, Dundalk	042 9334342
MAYO Veterinary Livestock AES (Mayo West)	Michael Davitt House, Castlebar	094 9035300
AES (Mayo East)	The Square, Claremorris.	094 9371490
AES(Mayo North)	Government Offices Humbert St, Ballina.	096 22161
MEATH Veterinary Livestock AES	Government Offices, Kells Road, Navan	046 9079030
MONAGHAN Veterinary Livestock	Main Street, Ballybay	042 9748800
AES	Old Garda Barracks, Monaghan	047 81452

COUNTY	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
OFFALY Veterinary Livestock AES	Government Offices, Clonminch, Tullamore.	057 9346037
ROSCOMMON Veterinary Livestock AES	Government Offices, Convent Road, Roscommon.	090 6630100
SLIGO Veterinary (Sligo & Leitrim) Livestock (Sligo & Leitrim) AES	Government Offices, Cranmore Road, Sligo.	071 9155030
TIPPERARY Veterinary & Livestock (Tipp. South*)	Government Offices, Davis Street, Tipperary.	062 80100
Veterinary, Livestock & AES (Tipp. North*)	Government Offices, St Conlon's Road, Nenagh	067 50014
AES (Tipp. Mid)	Liberty Square, Thurles	0504 21664
AES (Tipp. South)	Government Offices, New Quay, Clonmel.	052 21717
WATERFORD Veterinary Livestock AES (Waterford East)	The Glen, Waterford.	051 301700
AES (Waterford West)	New Civic Offices, Davitts Quay, Dungarvan	058 41279
WESTMEATH Veterinary Livestock	Bellview, Dublin Road, Mullingar.	044 9339034
AES	Pearse Street, Athlone.	090 6494439
WEXFORD Veterinary Livestock AES	Vinegar Hill Lane, Templeshannon, Enniscorthy.	053 9242008

COUNTY	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
WICKLOW AES	No. 2, The Murrrough, Wicklow Town.	0404 25000
Wicklow East* Veterinary Livestock	See Co. Dublin.	
Wicklow West* Veterinary Livestock	See Co. Kildare.	

*Area responsibilities of Veterinary and Livestock services in certain local offices

Office	Herd Number Ranges
Cork North East	D269001 – D270999 D272001 – D277999 D297001 – D298999 D308001 – D311999 D322001 – D415999
Cork Central	D198001 – D224999 D233001 – D268999 D271001 D278001 – D296999 D299001 – D307999 D312001 – D321999
Cork West	D101001 – D197999 D225001 – D232999
Tipperary South	V177001 – V263999
Tipperary North	V101001 – V176300
Wicklow West (Kildare)	Z201001 – Z226999
Wicklow East (Dublin)	Z101001 – Z148999

APPENDIX 1C

FOREST SERVICE INSPECTORATE

POSITION	INSPECTOR	ADDRESS	PHONE	FAX/E-MAIL
Chief Forestry Inspector	Diarmuid McAree	Forest Service, Kildare St., Dublin 2.	01 6072651 087 2551491	01 6072545 diarmuid.mcaree@ agriculture.gov.ie
Senior Inspector (Forestry)	John Connelly	Forest Service, Kildare St., Dublin 2.	01 6072917 087 2549699	01 6072545 john.connelly@ agriculture.gov.ie
Divisional Inspector Division I (North And West)	Eamonn Cunningham Grade I	Forest Service, Houston Hall, Ballycummin Avenue, Raheen Industrial Estate, Raheen, Limerick.	061 306817 087 2536566	061 306815 eamonn.cunningham@ agriculture.gov.ie
Divisional Inspector Division II (South And East)	Séamus Dunne Grade I	Forest Service, Kildare St., Dublin 2.	01 6072275 087 2515524	01 6072545 seamus.dunne@ agriculture.gov.ie
Divisional Inspector (Environmental Audit and Forest Protection)	Noel Foley Grade I	Forest Service, Social Welfare Building, Oliver Plunkett Road, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal.	074 91 21848 087 2515525	074 91 22791 noel.foley@ agriculture.gov.ie
Divisional Inspector (Forest Inventory)	Christy O'Donovan Grade I	Forest Service, Civic Offices, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford.	058 45845 087 2536567	058 45808 christy.odonovan@ agriculture.gov.ie
DIVISION I - DISTRICTS				
1. Dublin/Meath Louth/Kildare Nth	Vacancy			
2. Wicklow/Wexford	Fergus Moore Grade II	Forest Service, Johnstown Castle, Wexford	053 9160207 087 6750700	053 9143836 fergus.moore@ agriculture.gov.ie.
3. Carlow, Kilkenny North, Laois East, Kildare South	Billy Murren Grade II	Forest Service, Church Street, Graiguecullen, Carlow.	059 9142710 087 2536563	059 9142711 billy.murren@agriculture. gov.ie

4. Waterford/ Kilkenny Sth	Robert Hamilton Grade III	Forest Service, Customs House, The Quay, Waterford.	051 858722 087 6697072	051 858710 robert.hamilton@ agriculture.gov.ie
5. Cork North & East	Brian Mahoney Grade III	Forest Service, Irish Life Building, South Mall, Cork.	021 4274233 087 6395423	021 4272114 brian.mahoney@ agriculture.gov.ie
6. Cork South West/Kerry South	Eugene Curran Grade II	Forest Service, 27 Townsend Street, Skibbereen, Co. Cork.	028 23400 087 2536576	028 23401 eugene.curran@ agriculture.gov.ie
7. Limerick/ Tipperary Nth West	John Madden Grade II	Forest Service, Houston Hall, Ballycummin Avenue, Raheen Industrial, Estate, Raheen, Limerick.	061 306819 087 2536561	061 306815 john.madden@ agriculture.gov.ie
8. Offaly/Laois West/Tipperary North	Charles Fahy Grade II	Forest Service, Hamilton House, Emmet Street, Birr, Co. Offaly.	057 9121805 087 2536569	057 9121806 charles.fahy@ agriculture.gov.ie
15. Tipperary South and Central	Seamus Kennedy Grade III	Forest Service, ACC House, Liberty Square, Thurles, Co. Tipperary	0504 90599 087 6468522	0504 90852 seamus.kennedy@ agriculture.gov.ie
17. Kerry North/ West	Ciarán Nugent Grade III	Forest Service, Island Centre, Castleisland, Co. Kerry.	066 7142706 087 9682040	066 7142707 ciarán.nugent@agriculture. gov.ie
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10. Galway	Donal Keegan Grade III	Forest Service, Ross House, Merchant's Road, Galway.	091 539560 087 6296088	091 539561 donal.keegan@ agriculture.gov.ie
11. Mayo	Tom Kavanagh Grade III	Forest Service, Davitt House, Castlebar, Co. Mayo.	094 9042926 087 2284265	094 9023633 tom.kavanagh@ agriculture.gov.ie

12. Leitrim/ Sligo/Cavan West	Senan Kelly Grade III	Forest Service, Government Buildings, Cranmore Road, Sligo.	071 9141283 087 2691150	071 9141351 senan.kelly@ agriculture.gov.ie
13. Donegal	Martin Regan Grade II	Forest Service, Mill Road, Glenties, Co. Donegal.	074 9551852 087 2536562	074 9551853 martin.regan@ agriculture.gov.ie
14. Monaghan Cavan/Longford Westmeath/ Meath West	Eddie Healy Grade II	Forest Service, Bellview, Dublin Road, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath	044 9349993 087 2536573	044 9344062 eddie.healy@ agriculture.gov.ie
16. Roscommon	Matt Fallon Grade II	Forest Service, Government Buildings Convent Rd., Roscommon	090 6630149 087 2536575	090 6627269 matt.fallon@ agriculture.gov.ie

FOREST PROTECTION AND ENVIRONMENT

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Environment	Pat O'Callaghan Grade II	Forest Service, The Mill, Church Street, Cahir, Co. Tipperary.	052 45768 087 2536564	052 45771 pat.ocallaghan@ agriculture.gov.ie
Environment	Kevin Collins Grade III	Forest Service, Kildare St, Dublin 2.	01 6072502 087 2229200	01 6072545 kevin.collins@ agriculture.gov.ie
Forest Ecologist	Orla Fahy Grade III	Forest Service, Davitt House, Castlebar, Co. Mayo.	094 9042925 087 6206458	094 9023633 orla.fahy@ agriculture.gov.ie

Archaeologist Forest Protection And Environment	Emmet Byrnes Grade III	Forest Service, Kildare St, Dublin 2.	01 6072229 87 2283697	01 6072545 emmet.byrnes@ agriculture.gov.ie
FOREST INVENTORY AND LANDSCAPE				
Forest Inventory	Mark Twomey Grade III	Forest Service, 2A Irish Life Building, South Mall, Cork.	021 4905334 087 2786095	021 4272114 mark.twomey@ ariculture.gov.ie
Forest Inventory	Vacancy			
Landscape And Design	Pat Farrington Grade II	Forest Service, Johnstown Castle Estate, Wexford.	053 9153501 087 2283696	pat.farrington@ agriculture.gov.ie

APPENDIX 1D

LABORATORIES AND FIELD STATIONS

	Address	Telephone
Blood Testing Laboratory	Model Farm Road, Cork	021 4545377
Central Meat Control Laboratory	Backweston Laboratory Complex, Young's Cross, Celbridge, Co. Kildare	01 6157368
Central Veterinary Research Laboratory	Backweston Laboratory Complex, Young's Cross, Celbridge, Co. Kildare	01 6157106
Crop Variety Testing	c/o Teagasc, Moorepark Production, Research Centre, Moorepark, Fermoy, Co. Cork	025 27530
Dairy Science Laboratory	Backweston Laboratory Complex, Young's Cross, Celbridge, Co. Kildare	01 6157465
Dairy Science Laboratory	Model Farm Road, Cork	021 4543300
Dairy Science Laboratory	Killeely Road, Limerick	061 452444
National Crop Variety Testing Centre	Backweston, Leixlip, Co. Kildare.	01 6302900
Pesticides Control Service	Backweston Laboratory Complex, Young's Cross, Celbridge, Co. Kildare	01 6157552
Potato Farm & Laboratory	Tops, Raphoe, Co. Donegal	074 9145490
Regional Veterinary Laboratory	Model Farm Road, Cork	021 4543931
Regional Veterinary Laboratory	Leggettsrath, Hebron Road, Kilkenny	056 7721688
Regional Veterinary Laboratory	Knockalisheen, Limerick	061 452911
Regional Veterinary Laboratory	Fawcetts Bridge, Doonally, Sligo	071 9142191
Regional Veterinary Laboratory	Coosan, Athlone, Co Westmeath	0906 475514
Seed Testing Station	Backweston Laboratory Complex, Young's Cross, Celbridge, Co. Kildare	01 6157518

APPENDIX 1E

SEED POTATO CERTIFICATION TECHNICAL STAFF

Mr Michael Murray, Area Superintendent
National Crop Variety Testing Centre,
Backweston Farm, Leixlip, Co. Kildare.

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SEED INSPECTORS & DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS (D. S)

District	Name and Address	Telephone
	Mr R Treacy (D.S.) Dunwiley, Ballybofey Co Donegal	074 9131069
Newtoncunningham	Mr H Gallagher, 41 Orchard Grove, Letterkenny, Co Donegal.	074 9126362
Lifford No. 1	Mr T Patton, Gallows Lane, Lifford, Co Donegal.	074 9141542
Lifford No. 2 - St Johnston	Mr S Given, Burnview House, Rossigier, Lifford, Co Donegal.	074 9141060
Stranorlar-Ballybofey	Mr N Wilkinson, Conroy Road, Raphoe, Co Donegal.	074 9145267
Manorcunningham/Churchtown	Mr J Coyle, Killycreen, Ramelton, Co Donegal.	074 9151111
	Mr P Clarke (D.S.) Government Offices, High Road, Letterkenny, Co Donegal	074 9122591
Carrigart/Fanad	Mr J.V. Kelly, Ballyboe, Rathmullan, Co Donegal.	074 9158311
Ramelton	Mr J.P. Crawford, The Ards, Ramelton, Co Donegal.	074 9151187
Buncrana	Mr S Masterson, Pillar Park, Buncrana, Co Donegal.	074 9361614
Moville/Muff	Mr H Holmes, Ballyratten, Moville, Lifford, Co Donegal.	074 9382602
Burnfort	Mr K Cunnane, The Veagh, Manorcunningham, Co Donegal.	074 9157238
	Vacant (D. S.)	
Kildare and North Wicklow	Mr T Cunniffe, 3 Knockcullen Rise, Knocklyon, Dublin 16.	01 4944613

District	Name and Address	Telephone
Louth and Monaghan	Malachy Quigley, Edenkell Hackballscross, Dundalk, Co. Louth	087 6678873
Dublin and Meath	(Vacant)	
	Mr. M. Mc Donagh (D. S.) Ballintoher Road, Lahassaragh, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary	067 41664
Carlow, Wexford, South Wicklow, Kilkenny, Tipperary and East, Waterford	Mr E Houlihan, Castlehacket, Parklands, Enniscorthy, Co Wexford.	087 2504973
Laois, Offaly, Westmeath Longford and North Tipperary	Mr M Murtagh, Ballyclare, Ferbane, Co Offaly	0906 454382
Roscommon, Clare, Galway, Sligo and Mayo	Mr P Finnerty, Palmerstown, Oranmore, Co Galway	091 794561
West Waterford, East Cork and East Limerick	Mr J Casey, Blood Testing Station, Model Farm Road, Cork.	021 4545377
Kerry, West Cork and West Limerick	Mr M Stafford, Malindi, Farnahoe, Innishannon, Co Cork.	021 4775518

APPENDIX 1F

PLANT HEALTH INSPECTORS

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Cork, Kerry, Limerick, Clare William Larkin	Department of Agriculture and Food Blood Testing Station Model Farm Road Cork Tel: 021 4545377 Fax: 021 4545694
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Monaghan, Cavan, Longford and Westmeath Jerome Walsh	Block B Maynooth Business Campus, Maynooth, Co. Kildare Tel: 01 5053360 Fax: 01 5053564
Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, Mayo and Galway Christy Quinn	Department of Agriculture and Food, Government Buildings, Shannon Lodge, Carrick on Shannon Tel: 078 20095 Fax: 078 21810

APPENDIX 2 TEAGASC

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Agricultural Colleges

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Tel: 049 4338108, Fax: 049 4338540.

Principal: Mr Felix McCabe

ballyhaise.college@cavan.teagasc.ie

Agricultural College, Darrara, Clonakilty, Co Cork.

Tel: 023 33302, Fax: 023 34449.

Principal: Mr J J Harty

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Kildalton Agricultural College, Piltown, Co Kilkenny.

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Principal: Mr Frank Murphy

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Gurteen Agricultural College, Ballingarry, Roscrea, Co Tipperary.

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Principal: Mr Michael Pearson

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Franciscan Brothers Agricultural College, Mountbellew, Co Galway.

Tel: 0905 79205, Fax: 0905 79276.

Principal: Mr Tom Burke

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Principal: Mr John McCarthy

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Assistant Principal: Mr Ciaran Walsh

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College of Amenity Horticulture, National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Dublin 9.

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Principal: Dr Paul Cusack

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Salesian College of Horticulture, Warrenstown, Drumree, Co Meath.

Tel: 01 8259392, Fax: 01 8259632.

Principal: Harold Lawlor

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TEAGASC COUNTY ADVISORY AND TRAINING SERVICES

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Cavan

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Teagasc, Ardnaculla, Ennistymon, Co Clare.

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Cork East

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Teagasc, Knockgriffen, Midleton, Co Cork.

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Teagasc, Moorepark, Fermoy, Co Cork.

Tel: 025 42244, Fax: 025 42384.

Teagasc, Sandfield, Mallow, Co Cork.

Tel: 022 21936/21898, Fax: 022 42657.

*Teagasc, Community Centre, Main Street, Charleville, Co Cork.

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Teagasc, James O’Keeffe Institute, Newmarket, Co Cork.
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Teagasc, Carnegie Hall, Millstreet, Co Cork.
Tel: 029 70031/70489, Fax: 029 70886.

Teagasc, Bluepool, Kanturk, Co Cork.
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Cork West

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Teagasc, Codrum, Macroom, Co Cork.
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Tipperary SR

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Teagasc, Davis Road, Tipperary.
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Teagasc, Showgrounds, Gorey, Co Wexford.
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Teagasc, Kiltegan Road, Baltinglass, Co Wicklow.

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