

Information communicated by Member States regarding State aid granted under Commission Regulation (EC) No 1857/2006 on the application of Articles 87 and 88 of the Treaty to State aid to small and medium-sized enterprises active in the production of agricultural products and amending Regulation (EC) No 70/2001

XA Number XA 430/2008

Member State: Ireland

Region: Member State

Title of aid scheme or name of company receiving an individual aid: Provision of consultancy services and technical expertise to the Irish Sheep Industry

Legal basis: National Development Plan 2007-2013

Annual expenditure planned under the scheme or overall amount of individual aid granted to the company: Maximum of €1m annually

Maximum aid intensity: Up to 100% of eligible costs

Date of implementation: 10 February 2009

Duration of scheme or individual aid award: 10 February 2009 – 31 December 2010

Objective of aid:

The objective of the aid is to provide consultancy services and technical expertise to the Irish sheep industry in accordance with article 15 of Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1857/2006 by focusing the new sheep breeding programme to -

- increase the profitability and sustainability of the national sheep flock, by improving productivity and reducing the costs to the sector, with a clear focus on the requirements of the market place.
- implement significant infrastructural changes and modifications to the current system to ensure a viable and sustainable sheep breeding structure into the future.

Sector(s) concerned: Ovines

Name and address of the granting authority: Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Agriculture House, Kildare Street, Dublin 2, Ireland

Web-address:

http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/schemes/NDP_State_Aid/ProofConsultancyServicesToIrishSheepFinal.doc