

# Helpsheet

## Beef Data and Genomics Programme

**For guidance only – please consult Terms and Conditions (T&C's) attached for full details of all aspects of the Programme.**

**This is a six year programme and you will be required to complete all actions for the full six years. If you withdraw, or are disqualified from the Programme for a non-compliance, during the course of the six years, any payments already made will be recovered by the Department.**

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

**Payment** -Payment will be made at the rate of €142.50 for the each of the first 6.66 hectares of eligible forage land and €120 on the remaining eligible hectares. The eligible hectares on which you are entitled to claim will be equal to the number of calved cows on your holding in 2014 (**known as reference animals**) divided by a standard stocking rate of 1.5, up to the limit of the declared forage land deemed eligible on your 2014 SPS application. If the land on your holding decreases by more than 20% of the amount set in 2014, then you will be disqualified from the Programme.

**Selection criteria** - this will only apply in the event of oversubscription. The selection criteria, if required, may include:

- New entrants, to ensure a commitment to maximise environmental efficiency.
- Previous engagement in the 2014 Beef Genomics Programme.
- Herd size, marks will be allocated on a sliding scale with higher marks for those herds with smaller numbers of calved cows in 2014 to maximise the number of herds involved.

**Please turn over to view the requirements of the Programme**

## **Requirements of the Programme – see T&C's for further detail**

### **Requirement 1 – Calving details**

Register all new born calves within 27 days of birth, provide sire number and complete survey relating to calving ease.

### **Requirement 2 – Surveys**

Complete a range of surveys relating to the calves, cows and bulls in your herd.

### **Requirement 3 – Genotyping**

Genotype all of the animals specified by the ICBF. Each year, the number to be genotyped will be equivalent to 60% of the number of reference animals on your holding in 2014.

### **Requirement 4 – Replacement strategy**

**Stock bull** – At least one stock bull on the holding on 30 June 2019 must be a bull that has been genotyped 4 or 5 star on either the Terminal or Replacement index and this, or a similar 4 or 5 star bull, must be retained on the holding until 30 June 2020.

Applicants are strongly advised to introduce 4 or 5 star bulls at the next replacement date to avoid compliance difficulties and potential clawback of payments later in the Programme.

**AI** –When using AI, at least 80% of the AI used must be from 4 or 5 star bulls on the Terminal or Replacement index. This applies from 30<sup>th</sup> June.

**Leased bulls** – If it is your practice to lease a bull, you must notify the Department by 30 June 2016 of your intention to do so. Specific conditions apply – see T&C's.

**Female replacements** – You will be required to ensure that a percentage of your heifers/eligible suckler cows are genotyped females that are:

(i) 4 or 5 stars on the replacement index (see T&C's for specific conditions).

(ii) At least 16 months old and (iii) Born in 2013 or later.

The number of heifers/eligible suckler cows meeting these requirements on each holding on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2018 must be equivalent to 20% of the number of your reference animals and on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020 must be equivalent to 50% of your reference animals.

### **Requirement 5 – Carbon Navigator**

You must complete a carbon navigator with an approved advisor by 31 October 2016 and provide data for it to be annually updated. This is a tool which estimates the potential financial savings and green house gas reductions that could be made on your farm.

### **Requirement 6 – Training**

You must attend a training course relating to this scheme by 31 October 2016.