

## **Update on DAFM, Bord Bia and Teagasc activities under the Beef Sector Agreement**

An Agreement was reached on 15th September 2019, in Agriculture House, Kildare Street, Dublin 2, in respect of the Irish Beef Sector. The Beef Taskforce was established as part of this Agreement with the remit to monitor the implementation of the actions arising from the Agreement. Regrettably, the meeting scheduled for 14th October was prevented from proceeding. However, the independent chair and the Department continue to engage proactively with Taskforce members with a view to implementing the provisions of the agreement. The Department understands that the agreed bonuses have been put in place by Industry.

The Department and its agencies continue to progress the commitments which they signed up to under the Agreement. The update as at 13th November 2019 is as follows:

### **Market Scrutiny**

Initiatives aimed at improving information along the supply chain included the commissioning of the following reports:

- an independent review of market and customer requirements, specifically in relation to the four in-spec bonus criteria currently in operation in the Irish beef sector;
- an independent examination of the price composition of the total value of the animal, including the fifth quarter, along the supply chain. The results will inform future actions as necessary. The beef industry will co-operate in providing data; and
- a summary of competition law issues as relevant to the Irish beef sector.

The Request for Tender for these reports was circulated on Wednesday 6th November, with a deadline for receipt of Tender Responses of 12 noon on Thursday 5th December. This will enable award of the tender before end of 2019.

## **Market Transparency**

The expert report on mechanical carcase classification review has been published:

<https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/farmingsectors/beef/ModificationTrialReport231019.pdf>

An appeals system for manual grading has been introduced and communicated to the relevant processors.

A consultation process on the transposition of the Unfair Trading Practices (UTP) Directive has commenced: <https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/customerservice/publicconsultations/>

Bord Bia has developed a beef market price index model based on 3 components: cattle price index, beef market price index (retail and wholesale) and an offal price indicator. This will be available on the Bord Bia website week commencing 18th November. An independent auditor will be contracted to review the methodology and make further recommendations.

Teagasc is significantly advanced in the first stage of the scientific review of the Quality Payment Grid(QPS). The review is a desktop analysis of the pricing structure of the grid on the basis of meat yield/conformation and will take account of the movement in base price from when the QPS was originally introduced in 2009.

## **Producer Organisations**

DAFM is proactively engaging with several potential beef Producer Organisations and providing guidance on the application process. The first beef PO was approved by DAFM in September 2019 and a further PO was approved in October 2019.

Meat and Milk Policy Division  
15 November 2019