See Appendices 1A to 1F for full contact details.
SCHEMES AND SERVICES 2005

Copies of this booklet are available on request from the local offices of the Department, from Teagasc Offices, by email from publications@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

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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 Department’s and Agencies, and has no status in law.
Like to comment on Schemes and Services 2005?

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 email to:

publications@agriculture.gov.ie

Thank You
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A chara,

It gives me great pleasure to present “Schemes and Services 2005”, my Department’s principal information booklet. This is an important reference source, which provides comprehensive information on the services and supports available to the farming and the wider agri-business and rural communities.

The introduction of the Single Payment Scheme is a major milestone for Irish agriculture. The full decoupling of direct payments from production provides new opportunities for Irish farmers. Producing what the market wants, rather than to meet census dates and scheme requirements, will put the market centre stage. Farmers will have to take further account of consumer needs by farming in an environmentally friendly fashion, producing safe, high quality food and having regard to animal welfare.

Working together we must adapt and be willing to make necessary adjustments, as change becomes the theme for the years ahead. It is appropriate then that this booklet becomes a useful tool in ensuring that agriculture thrives in an increasingly dynamic and competitive world.

I have been very encouraged by the response of the entire sector to the new challenges we face as Irish agriculture is entering a new era. To reap the opportunities of the new framework for agriculture, we need to continue to embrace change and I can assure you, that this Government will lead and facilitate that process of change.

Our ongoing dedicated partnership is vital to enable the agri-food sector to continue to contribute to the economy and to secure the future of farming. Finally, let me take this opportunity to wish everyone involved in the agriculture and food sectors a healthy and prosperous year ahead.

Mary Coughlan, TD
Minister for Agriculture and Food

Mary Coughlan, TD
Minister for Agriculture and Food
Section 1

General Information
INTERNET AND AERTEL

“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

Aertel For information on recent announcements and deadlines for scheme applications, tune in to our Aertel service.

You can find us on page 452 on RTÉ 2.

CUSTOMER SERVICE

This is a main priority for the Department and we are continually working towards providing a better, more efficient service to customers. A part of this process is the Department’s production of its third Customer Service Action Plan (CSAP) covering the period 2005-2007 as well as a Customer Charter. Both documents build on the progress already achieved by the implementation of our previous CSAPs (1998-2000 and 2001-2004) and the Protocol on Direct Payments to Farmers (July 2000). The Charter contains commitments to the customer on the level and standard of service they can expect to receive when dealing with the Department. The CSAP is a more detailed Plan, which sets out how the Charter commitments will be delivered and evaluated by the Department.

An important feature of these publications is that we have undertaken to monitor these commitments and report on progress being made. Consultation with our
customers will form a significant part of this monitoring process. The resulting feedback is important, as it will help us in improving our service delivery where possible.

**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 the Customer Charter, as well as co-ordinating action on further improvements in the delivery of services by the Department to its customers.

You, as users of our services, 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 our customers changing needs. If you have any comment, good or bad, 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.

**Complaints**

If you are unhappy with the service 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 or by telephone.

Copies of the Action Plan 2005-2007, the Customer Charter and a leaflet explaining the Customer Complaints Procedure will be available from all Department offices or directly 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, Agriculture House, Kildare Street, Dublin 2.

Tel: 01 6072694, Fax: 01 6072788 or e-mail: qualityserviceunit@agriculture.gov.ie.
PROTOCOL ON DIRECT PAYMENTS TO FARMERS

The “Protocol on Direct Payments to Farmers” was agreed with the Farming Organisations in July 2000 under the Programme for Prosperity and Fairness. It sets out specific service delivery targets for the following direct income payments to farmers:

- Disadvantaged Areas Compensatory Allowances
- Early Retirement Scheme
- Rural Environment Protection Scheme (REPS)
- Farm Waste Management Scheme
- Dairy Hygiene Scheme
- Alternative Enterprise Scheme
- Installation Aid

As provided for in the Protocol, a Monitoring and Review Committee under the chairmanship of Dr Jim O’Grady was established by the Minister. The Committee is made up of representatives of the Farm Organisations and Department staff. The Committee meets regularly to monitor the implementation of the Protocol. The operation of the Single Payment Scheme will commence in late 2005. All direct payment schemes to farmers will be subject to review during 2005 in the context of the Protocol.

Further information regarding the Protocol can be obtained from Corporate Affairs Division, Department of Agriculture and Food, Kildare Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 6072694. Copies of the Protocol are available at all the Department’s offices.

BALANCING PAYMENTS IN RESPECT OF 2004 SCHEMES

Special Beef

The 40% balancing payments shall be paid in 2005 after it has been established whether or not the Regional Beef Quota has been exceeded and after the expiry of any relevant retention period(s) and completion of all checks.
**Slaughter Premium**

The 40% balancing payments shall be paid in 2005 after it has been established whether or not the National Quota has been exceeded and after completion of all checks.

**Farmers' Annual Payment Statement**

The Protocol on Direct Payments to Farmers specifically requires that an Annual Payment Statement issue to all farmer clients in receipt of direct payments. 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 2004, giving details of all payments and recoveries made in 2004, will issue towards the end of January 2005.

**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 time saving and cost effective payment option for a number of reasons:

**Saves Time/More Convenient**

Time spent queuing to cash or lodge cheques is avoided.

**Quicker Payment Method**

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

**More Secure**

Direct Credit payments to Bank Accounts eliminate any possibility of loss or theft of payable orders and the effort and delay involved in seeking replacements.

**Notification of Payments Still Issued**

Lodgements to accounts are notified to the account holders by the issue of 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 4368282

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT**

The Freedom of Information Acts 1997 and 2003 (“FOI Act”) provide that every person has the right to seek access to personal information held on them by public bodies regardless of when the records were created and to other records created after 21 April 1998.

Under the Act every person has a right to:

- access records held by the Department;
- seek to correct personal information relating to oneself held by the Department, where it is inaccurate, incomplete or misleading; and
- 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.
- 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 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 are charged for search and retrieval costs as well as photocopying costs in respect of non-personal records. 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. While in the case of personal records, requesters can be charged for photocopying, such costs are unlikely to arise.

Applications for information under the Freedom of Information Act should be addressed to: Freedom of Information Unit, Department of Agriculture and Food, Kildare Street, Dublin 2.

Tel: 01 6072952; Fax: 01 6072788; 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 of 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 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

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 the following schemes:

- Payments under the Single Payment Scheme (from December 2005)
- Final phases of the 2004 Livestock Premium Schemes (including Suckler Cow Premium, Special Beef Premium, Slaughter Premium, Ewe Premium and Extensification Premium)
- Area Based Compensation Scheme (previously known as Headage payments)
- Arable Aid 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.

Agriculture Appeals Office, Kilminchy Court, Portlaoise, Co Laois
Tel: 0502 67167 Lo-Call: 1890 671671; Fax: 0502 67177
e-mail: appeals.office@agriculture.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.
The terms of reference of the Panel are:

- Liaise on general consumer and client base 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 consumer’s perspective to the Department and also to be briefed on the Department 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.
Section 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 being 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,
- the Arable Aid Scheme.

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

Payment under the 2005 Single Payment Scheme will commence 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 will continue 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.
Application for the Single Payment Scheme must be made in 2005 – the closing date will be publicised in the national and farming press – otherwise any entitlements established will be transferred to the National Reserve.

**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 will be decoupled from milk production in 2005 (based on milk quota held on 31 March 2005) and, where appropriate, will be 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 temporary 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.

A statement of Provisional Single Payment Entitlements issued to the majority of eligible farmers during the final months of 2004.

A definitive statement of Single Payment Entitlements will issue to all eligible farmers early in 2005.

**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 (including those who commenced farming after the 2000-2002 reference period) may be allocated entitlements. A Single Payment Advisory Committee (consisting of representatives of the farming organisations and Teagasc) has been set up to advise the Minister on issues such as:
Applications for entitlements from the 2005 National Reserve were invited in December 2004 and it is expected that the allocation of entitlements will be completed by March 2005.

**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 first tranche of funding will be available in 2006. 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.

**CROSS COMPLIANCE**

Cross compliance will involve 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.

A consultation process on the cross compliance measures proposed for the Single Payment Scheme has been completed and a booklet on Cross Compliance will be issued to all producers in early 2005. This Booklet will provide people...
participating in the new Single Payment Scheme with critical details in relation to the requirements that must be respected in order to receive full payment under the new scheme.

**Appeals Procedures**

The Minister for Agriculture and Food announced the establishment of the Single Payment Appeals Committee in February 2004.

This Committee will examine and adjudicate on all matters relating to the implementation of the Single Payment Scheme. Appeals should be addressed to the Single Payment Unit, Department of Agriculture and Food, Government Offices, Old Abbeyleix 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 Abbeyleix Road, Portlaoise, Co Laois

LoCall: 1890 200 566

**AREA-BASED DISADVANTAGED AREAS COMPENSATORY ALLOWANCES SCHEME**

Payment will be 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 2005 must be made on the 2005 Area Aid 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;
• 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 2005. 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 2005.

**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.

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**

Farmers who have applied or intend to apply in 2005 for any of the following schemes must submit an Area Aid application:

• 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 2005:

- Disadvantaged Areas Compensatory Allowance Scheme
- Installation Aid Scheme
- On-Farm Investment Schemes
- Rural Environment Protection Scheme (REPS)
- Scheme of Early Retirement from Farming (transferees)
Section 3

Market Support Measures
EXPORT REFUNDS

The aim of the Export Refund Scheme is to allow EU exporters to compete on world markets. Export refunds are subsidies paid on certain products which are exported outside the EU. In Ireland, refunds are paid for exports of beef, live cattle, milk and milk products, cereals, pigmeat, poultry, egg products and certain processed products. An exporter requires a licence in order to export these products. Regulation 1291/2000 sets out the rules governing export refund licences. The licence gives the various conditions, quantities, times limits, etc that the exporter must comply with, in order to receive a refund. There are further regulations, specific to each product, that govern the export refunds scheme. The amount of the subsidy, which can vary depending on the product and its destination, is designed to cover the difference between the EU market prices and the lower world market prices.

Further information can be obtained from Export Refunds Division, Department of Agriculture and Food, Johnstown Castle Estate, Co Wexford. Tel: 053 63400

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 2005 exceed 60,000 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.

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 63400

**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 arises 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 from Aids to Private Storage Section, Department of Agriculture and Food, Johnstown Castle Estate, Co. Wexford. Tel: 053 63400

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.
Section 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**

• Corn-crake 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

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

Details and application forms are available from the Department’s local “Agricultural Environment and Structures 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 63400, Fax: 053 43965 or e-mail: organics@agriculture.gov.ie**
Section 5

Forestry
AFFORESTATION GRANTS AND PREMIUM LEVELS

Under the Afforestation Grants and Premium Schemes, grants up to €6,729.61 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.

Full particulars of the grants can be obtained from Forest Service, Department of Agriculture and Food, Johnstown Castle Estate, Co. Wexford. Tel: 053 60200, Lo-call: 1890 200 223, Fax: 053 43834

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”, “Forestry and Harvesting” and “Forestry and the Landscape” and compliance with them is a condition of grant-aid. 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.
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 are covered:
• Forestry Establishment and Maintenance
• Forest Harvesting and Nurseries
• Forest Product Marketing
• Other courses deemed necessary for the efficient implementation of schemes.

**Research, Tecnological 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 60200 Lo-call: 1890 200 223 Fax: 053 43836

**CONTROL OF FELLING**
The Forestry Act, 1946, requires landowners to give notice of intention to fell trees, following which Prohibition Orders are normally served. These remain in force until a Limited Felling Licence is granted which may be subject to conditions, including a specified level of replanting. General Felling Licences are normally granted, on application, to larger estates where a management programme is in place or in respect of lands where scattered trees must be
cleared in order to facilitate new planting. Where a General Felling Licence is in place, a Felling Notice is not required.

**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/forestservice

**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/forestservice
Section 6

Structural Improvements
Section 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 50% 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 41 for applications received up to the end of 2005. The upper age limit reduces to 40 in 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, or from the Early Retirement Section, Department of Agriculture and Food, Johnstown Castle Estate, Co Wexford. 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 €9,520 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;
- fulfill, 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 remain to be discharged at the date of initial application;
- 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 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.

**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 except for the purchase of mobile equipment where a grant rate of 20% is payable.

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 if they satisfy the conditions of the Scheme.

The maximum amount of investment eligible for grant aid under the Scheme is €75,000 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.

Further information and application forms for all the Schemes described in this section, may be obtained from your local “Agricultural Environment and Structures Office”. (See Appendix 1B for full details)
Section 7

Animal Traceability
CMMS/IRISH BOVINE ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM

The Irish Bovine Animal Identification System is called the Cattle Movement Monitoring System (CMMS). It traces all Irish bovine animals from birth to slaughter by means of tagging, passports and a central database which records all births, movements and disposals. It has been fully operational since 2000. The main aspects of the current arrangements 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 their holding within twenty days of birth. Keepers are obliged to order their annual requirement of eartags direct 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, where relevant. Upon application of pairs of tags to a calf, keepers must complete a corresponding and identically numbered registration application form, which is supplied with each pair of tags.

**Registration**

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 furnishing 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 from a holding. 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 holding. 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.
**Movement Notifications**

Keepers of cattle have obligations to notify the Department of the movement of cattle to and from their holding. 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 Facilities available to farmers with bovine animals**

Farmers can view details of their Bovine herd on-line via the Animal Identification and Movement (AIM) system by logging on to the Department’s website, www.agriculture.gov.ie and accessing eServices, the electronic service of the Department. The Online Herd Profile Enquiry facility will allow farmers to view online details of their cattle herd profiles as well as movements in and out of herds during a specified period. The facility to register calf births online through the Department’s website is also available. This facility allows farmers to complete applications for the registration of calf births over the Internet.

**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; and
- enforcing these standards through a registration and approval system.

The animal identification and tracing system captures details of millions of animal movements each year onto a central database. This information is used to verify the origin, identity and life history of cattle entering the food chain. The database has also been used increasingly to establish entitlement to and eligibility for EU premia, to assist in contact tracing and veterinary certification and to provide statistical information in respect of the cattle sector.

Under the NBAS, all persons engaged in the primary production and processing of cattle and beef (farmers, marts, slaughterhouses, meat processors, bovine animal
Further information on the scheme may be obtained from National Beef Assurance Scheme Division, Department of Agriculture and Food, Maynooth, Co. Kildare. Tel: 01 5053000

NATIONAL SHEEP IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM (NSIS)


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.

**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*

**Tag and Tag Suppliers**

A number of different tags have been approved for use under NSIS. Tags are available to purchase from any of the eight trading approved tag suppliers. Both long and short-term tags have been approved but it should be remembered when ordering tags that short-term standard tags can be used only for lambs going directly to slaughter. Long-term standard tags can be used in all circumstances. All tags are white in colour with the exception of import tags, which are red and replacement tags, which are coloured yellow.

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 51.

The implementation of the National Sheep Identification System is monitored on an on-going basis and the scheme will be routinely reviewed at regular intervals.

**New EU Legislation**

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 will need to be adjusted by 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 harmonised system may be obtained from the NSIS unit of the Department of Agriculture and Food, Kildare Street, Dublin 2. Helpline 1890 504 604 or 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.

In preparation for this scheme the Department has updated the National Pig Herd Database. In this context new pig herd registration numbers have been issued to all known active pig herd owners.

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

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 01 6072827
## Approved Pig and Sheep Tag Suppliers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Schemes &amp; Services 2005 page 51</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Agrihealth Ltd.</strong>&lt;br&gt;Clones Road, Monaghan, Co Monaghan&lt;br&gt;<em>Phone:</em> 1890 515151/047 71800&lt;br&gt;<em>Email:</em> <a href="mailto:eartags@eircom.net">eartags@eircom.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Co-Operative Animal Health Ltd.</strong>&lt;br&gt;Tullow Industrial Estate, Tullow, Co Carlow&lt;br&gt;<em>Phone:</em> 059 9151251&lt;br&gt;<em>Email:</em> <a href="mailto:tags@cahl.ie">tags@cahl.ie</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cormac Sheep Tagging</strong>&lt;br&gt;Vicar Street, Tuam, Co Galway&lt;br&gt;<em>Phone:</em> 093 28251&lt;br&gt;<em>Email:</em> <a href="mailto:sheeptagging@eircom.net">sheeptagging@eircom.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dalton I.D. Systems (Ireland) Ltd.</strong>&lt;br&gt;Kiltole Quarry, Convoy, Co. Donegal&lt;br&gt;<em>Phone:</em> 074 910 1962&lt;br&gt;<em>Email:</em> <a href="mailto:md@dalton.co.uk">md@dalton.co.uk</a> / <a href="mailto:holden@dalton.ie">holden@dalton.ie</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Eurotags</strong>&lt;br&gt;Mullinahone Co-Op, Mullinahone, Co Tipperary&lt;br&gt;<em>Phone:</em> 052 53102&lt;br&gt;<em>Email:</em> <a href="mailto:eurotags@mull-coop.ie">eurotags@mull-coop.ie</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Magenta Direct</strong>&lt;br&gt;Unit D3, M7 Business Park, Newhall, Naas, Co Kildare&lt;br&gt;<em>Phone:</em> 045 887999&lt;br&gt;<em>Email:</em> <a href="mailto:info@magentadirect.com">info@magentadirect.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Quicktag</strong>&lt;br&gt;7A Churchfield Road, Ballycastle, Antrim BT54 6PJ, Northern Ireland&lt;br&gt;<em>Phone:</em> 048 2076 8696&lt;br&gt;<em>Email:</em> <a href="mailto:info@quicktag.net">info@quicktag.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ritchey Tagg plc</strong>&lt;br&gt;Fearby Road, Masham, Ripon, North Yorkshire, HG4 4ES England&lt;br&gt;<em>Phone:</em> 0044 1765 689541&lt;br&gt;<em>Email:</em> <a href="mailto:info@ritcheytagg.co.uk">info@ritcheytagg.co.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Merko NV (Pig Tags only)</strong>&lt;br&gt;Industriepark “De Vloeiende”, Leo Baekelandstraat 7 (unit 5)&lt;br&gt;B-2950, Kapellen Belgium&lt;br&gt;<em>Phone:</em> 0032 3360 2672/74&lt;br&gt;<em>Email:</em> <a href="mailto:eartags@merko.be">eartags@merko.be</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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GOAT REGISTRATION, IDENTIFICATION AND MOVEMENT SCHEME

A system for registration, identification and movement of goats in the State came into force from 8 January 1996 to meet the requirements of an EU Directive on the control of movement of goats. The main elements of the system are as follows:

Registration

From 8 January 1996, any person who holds, keeps or handles 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. However, persons who have already been allocated herd numbers under the Bovine Tuberculosis Scheme or Goat Headage Scheme in Disadvantaged Areas DO NOT HAVE TO APPLY FOR REGISTRATION.

Herd Registers

Every herdowner must maintain a herd register in the format supplied by the Department. This register includes:

• The date on which the animal is moved onto or off the holding
• The address of the place from or to which the movement took place
• The identification mark borne by the animals for such movement
• The total number of goats on the farm at a given date
• This register suffices for the purpose of the premium payments in the goat sector.

Identification of Goats

Goats moving off a farm/holding for sale or for any other reason must bear an identification mark, e.g. a herd brand, prior to movement.

Movement Document

Goats moving off a farm or a holding must be accompanied throughout their movement by the movement document Form SM, indicating the number of goats being moved, their identification mark, the place/farm of origin and place of destination (farm, mart, factory, slaughterhouse). This document must be signed
by the herdowner and be handed up at the place of destination. The recipient of
the document must keep it for three years following the end of the year in which
the movement occurs. Where animals are purchased at a mart, the sales
documents provided by the mart will suffice as a movement document from the
mart to the holding of destination. Unsold animals moving from a mart back to a
farm/holding must also be accompanied by a movement document.

Additional movement documents can be obtained from the District Veterinary
Offices, meat plants, marts or from the Animal Health Division of the
Department. Herdowners should ensure that they comply with all aspects of the
new system so as to safeguard their headage entitlements.

**New EU Legislation**

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

A new harmonised system for the identification and registration of goats will
apply in all Member States with effect from July 2005. In the interim the existing
requirements will continue to apply.

*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 01 607 2827*
Section 8

Animal Production/Products
CATTLE

DIY A.I. LICENCES

General Aim

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.

Conditions

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

• No person other than the herdowner or his/her 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/her 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 A.I 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

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.

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. TECHNICIANS LICENCES

General Aim

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.

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

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.

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 is 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

To ensure that premises where semen is stored meets specified standards set out in S.I. No. 499 of 2004.

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 so 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.

Please note persons wishing 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.

How to apply

Applications are made on Form SSC.

APPROVAL OF BOVINE SEMEN COLLECTION CENTRES

General Aim

To ensure that premises where semen is collected meets specified standards set out in S.I. No. 112 of 1996, as amended by S.I. No. 499 of 2004.

Conditions

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

• The centre must be so constructed or isolated so 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.

How to apply

Applications are made on Form SCC.

**APPROVAL OF BOVINE OVA/EMBRYO COLLECTION OR PRODUCTION TEAMS**

General Aim

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.

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 are subject to supervision by the Department of Agriculture and Food.

• Permanent or mobile laboratories must be available.

How to apply

Applicants apply in writing for approval.
ON-FARM COLLECTION OF BOVINE SEMEN

General Aim

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.

Conditions

• On–farm collection of bovine semen can only be carried out by an approved bovine semen collection centre.
• 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 OFC1.

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

General Aim

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

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

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 registration in the Kerry Cattle Herd Book.

How to apply

Applications are made on Form K1.

Rates of Payment

€76.18 per calf.

CONTROL OF BULLS FOR BREEDING

General Aim

To control the use of bulls for breeding purposes. Permits may be issued to the following:

- Research organisations.
- Bull Beef Producers.
- Persons in respect of the use of bulls for breeding in small herds i.e. herds of cattle of which not more than 30 are breeding female cows (cows and breeding heifers) and which are owned by persons who do not engage in the production of milk for public sale
- Persons in respect of bulls which are entered or eligible to be entered in a herd book maintained by an organisation which is not an EU approved organisation.
- Persons in respect of bulls whose genetic merit as respects such economic traits as the Minister for Agriculture and Food considers appropriate has been objectively evaluated in a manner acceptable to the Minister.
Conditions

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

• The Department of Agriculture and Food must inspect each bull the subject of a permit application.
• The holder of a permit must produce the permit when requested to do so by an inspector of the Department of Agriculture and Food.

How to apply

Applications are made on Form LB/CBBA/1

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, Control of Bulls for Breeding: 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 and Animal By-Products Division, Department of Agriculture and Food, Kildare Street, Dublin 2. Tel 01 607 2000.

BEEF CARCASE CLASSIFICATION SCHEME

Aim

The aim of the Beef Carcase Classification Scheme is to ensure a common classification standard throughout the European Union. From late 2004, most of
the export approved kill is classified by mechanical means. The balance is classified by Department trained factory employees. The criteria for classifying is 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; and
- 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. In larger plants, classification is carried out by mechanical means. Video Image Analysis is used to carry out various measurements of carcase. As the determination of classification in this case is objective, no appeal is possible. In smaller plants, classification is carried out by factory employees who have been licensed by the Department. In these cases, 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 63400

LABELLING OF BEEF

The Minister for Agriculture and Food is the competent authority for the purposes 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: ‘Cutting in (name of Member State or Third Country) (approval number).’
• The Member State or Third Country where the animal was born, fattened and slaughtered.

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.

Further details may be obtained from Meat Hygiene and Animal By-Products Division, Department of Agriculture and Food, Kildare Street, Dublin 2.
Tel: 01 607 2377.

MILK

MILK QUOTAS

The Milk Quota Regulations provide for the payment of a levy, known as the “super levy”, on milk deliveries during a milk quota year in excess of Ireland’s national quota. The liability of milk purchasers and individual producers attached to the purchasers who have exceeded their quota is established after the reallocation of unused quota. As the fat content of milk deliveries is also subject to restriction, the milk deliveries of each supplier are adjusted to take account of differences between each producer’s butterfat representative level and the actual fat content of his/her milk deliveries. Super levy, if applicable, is paid on the fat-adjusted deliveries in the milk quota year if that quantity exceeds the actual deliveries at a national level.

The milk quota system currently in operation includes arrangement for the following schemes operated by the milk purchasers:

• **Temporary Leasing Scheme** - operated during the milk quota year.
  
  Under the Temporary Leasing Scheme, milk producers can offer to lease all or part of their quota, which they consider they will not use during the current milk quota year. 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.

• **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, milk producers may sell milk quota into their Milk Purchaser’s restructuring pool. Other producers with that Milk Purchaser may apply to purchase quota from the pool.

- **Reallocation of Unused Quotas** - administered after the end of the milk quota year.

In the event of an excess of production over quota at national level, there is a system in place whereby unused quota is reallocated to certain categories of producer. This system is known as “flexi-milk”.

Schemes for the allocation of additional milk quota from the National Reserve are 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 published 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: 01 607 2857.**

**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 are set out in the Directive 92/46/EEC which applies throughout the European Union. This lays down standards for everything from the production of raw milk on farms to the packaging and labelling of finished products. It was given legal effect in Ireland by Statutory Instrument No. 9 of 1996.

**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 0.11 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 musculature 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.

LICENSE 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 an EU grid compulsory for all EU approved slaughterhouses.

Lamb carcasses will be required to be classified by assessment of:

- Conformation (the shape and muscle development of the carcase) will be denoted by the letter S, E, U, R, O, P with S being the best and P the poorest; and
- Fat: the degree of fat will be denoted by the number 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 in order of increasing fatness.
A lamb carcase classification scheme is in operation in the vast majority of export approved plants.

Further information can be obtained from Livestock Division, Department of Agriculture and Food, Block B, Maynooth Business Campus, Maynooth, Co. Kildare. Tel: 01 505 3300

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 CARCASE GRADING

The EU system of grading pig carcases is implemented in Ireland by the Pig Carcase (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 carcases in accordance with their lean meat content. Grading must be carried out in accordance with one of the methods approved by the EU Commission for use in Ireland. 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 carcase quality. The operator of a slaughter plant must give to pig suppliers a statement showing, in respect of each pig, the carcase number, carcase weight, estimated percentage lean meat content and the total price paid.

**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**

**FRESH MEAT**

Premises slaughtering animals (excluding poultry) for human consumption must meet the requirements of the European Communities (Fresh Meat) Regulations 1997 – SI No. 434 of 1997.

There are two categories of slaughter premises, i.e., large scale operations slaughtering over 1,000 livestock units annually and low capacity abattoirs slaughtering below this figure. Large scale operations are supervised by veterinary officers of the Department and may export their produce. Responsibility for licensing of low capacity abattoirs slaughtering exclusively for the domestic market has been transferred to the relevant local authority and the Food Safety Authority of Ireland. Responsibility for the day-to-day operations of the abattoirs and the passing of meat for human consumption remains under the direct control and supervision of the local authority veterinary services. All animals slaughtered are subject to ante and post-mortem veterinary examination.
Scientific examination of meat and meat products is carried out at the Department’s Central Meat Control Laboratory, Abbotstown, Castleknock, Dublin 15. Tel: 01 6072879

MEAT PRODUCTS AND OTHER PRODUCTS OF ANIMAL ORIGIN

Plants engaged in the production and trading of meat products and other products of animal origin require approval from the Department in accordance with the European Communities (Meat Products and Other Products of Animal Origin) Regulations, 1995 - (S.I. No. 126 of 1995), the Schedules of which were amended in part by the European Communities (Meat Products and Other Products of Animal Origin) Regulations, 1997 - (S.I. No. 175 of 1997).

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

MINCED MEAT AND MEAT PREPARATIONS

Plants engaged in the production and trading of minced meat and meat preparations require approval from the Department in accordance with the European Communities (Minced Meat and Meat Preparations) Regulations, 1996 - (S.I. No. 243 of 1996).

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

POULTRYMEAT

Plants engaged in the production of and trade in fresh poultrymeat must be approved under, and operate in accordance with, the European Communities (Fresh Poultrymeat) Regulations, 1996 (S.I. No. 3 of 1996). There are some exemptions from this requirement for small producers.

WILD GAME MEAT

Plants involved in the processing of and trade in wild game meat require approval from the Department in accordance with the European Communities (Wild Game) Regulations, 1995 (S.I. No. 298 of 1995).
FARMED GAME AND RABBIT MEAT

Plants involved in the production of and trade in rabbit meat or farmed game meat require approval from the Department in accordance with the European Communities (Rabbit Meat and Farmed Game Meat) Regulations, 1995 - (S.I. No. 278 of 1995).

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, in local non-auction markets 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 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 recognized 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 registration authority for the issue of the identity documents for equidae that are not eligible for entry into a studbook or approved organisation, is the Irish Horse Board (IHB), which can be contacted at (01) 5053584.
**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; and
- to represent the interests of breeders on various bodies, including discussions with Government Departments.

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

**Irish Horse Register**

The Irish Horse Register was formally transferred to the Irish Horse Board Co-operative Society Ltd on 1 January 1995. Staff from the Department of Agriculture and Food were seconded to the Board. The Register maintains the studbook records for the Irish Draught and 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, upgrading 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
Section 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 or Gardaí:

**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 enteriditis and typhimurium, Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (other than BSE/Scarpie), 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, negotiating terms 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 recognition of this, the disease levies, which contribute towards the costs of compensation, have been reduced. 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.

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).

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 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.

- Under the compensation regimes, the criteria normally applying (i.e. compliance with the provisions of the Diseases of Animals Act, 1966; any Orders made there under; with movement, identification and other controls laid down under the Diseases Eradication Schemes) will apply. Entitlement to the payment of compensation is also conditional on the owner/keeper concerned meeting 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 (August 1998) and the "Important Information for the Owner/Keeper" Booklet on the On – Farm Market Valuation Scheme of July 2004 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, an eligible animal means any bovine animal aged 12 months or more except a castrate. Thus, an eligible animal is (i) a female animal aged 12 months or over (ii) a bull aged 12 months or over.

- For 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 only 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.

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 to be 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.

**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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of Animals Bought – In</th>
<th>Status (At initial breakdown test)</th>
<th>Deduction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 – 5</td>
<td>All Clear</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 – 10</td>
<td>All Clear</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 and higher</td>
<td>All Clear</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 – 5</td>
<td>1 or more failed</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 – 10</td>
<td>1 or more failed</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 and higher</td>
<td>1 or more failed</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Income Supplement**

Income Supplement continues to be 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 replacement bull, or a bull in a newly established suitable enterprise 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, *where eligibility has already been determined*, payment will cease from the date of movement into the herd. In other cases, where animals are purchased or moved in, potential eligibility for Income Supplement ceases 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:

**T.B. Income Supplement Monthly Rates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>From 1 January to 31 December</th>
<th>Pedigree</th>
<th>Non Pedigree</th>
<th>Transient</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(i) Other Cows</td>
<td>€38.09</td>
<td>€38.09</td>
<td>NIL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(ii) Dairy Cows &amp; Other Animals</td>
<td>€25.39</td>
<td>€25.39</td>
<td>NIL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Brucellosis Income Supplement Monthly Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>From 1 January to 31 December</th>
<th>Standard Rate</th>
<th>Standard Rate Plus</th>
<th>Other Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(i) Other Cows</td>
<td>€38.09</td>
<td>€38.09</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(ii) Dairy Cows &amp; Other Animals</td>
<td>€25.39</td>
<td>€25.39</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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.

### 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 applying are as follows:
T.B. Depopulation Grant Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Pedigree</th>
<th>Non Pedigree</th>
<th>Transient</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(i) Dairy Cows /</td>
<td>€57.13 per month</td>
<td>€57.13 per month</td>
<td>NIL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-Calf Heifers,</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pedigree Bulls</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; 12 months</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(ii) Other Cows /</td>
<td>€31.74 per month</td>
<td>€31.74 per month</td>
<td>NIL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-Calf Heifers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(iii) Other Animals</td>
<td>€19.04 per month</td>
<td>€19.04 per month</td>
<td>NIL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: An owner/keeper, whose herd is depopulated (totally or partially) in the interest of disease control, may qualify for Depopulation Grants.

Brucellosis Depopulation Grant Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Standard Rate</th>
<th>Standard Rate Plus</th>
<th>Other Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(i) Dairy Cows /</td>
<td>€126.97</td>
<td>€228.55</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-Calf Heifers,</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pedigree Bulls</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; 12 months</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(ii) Other Cows /</td>
<td>€126.97</td>
<td>€126.97</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-Calf Heifers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(iii) Other Animals</td>
<td>€38.09</td>
<td>€76.18</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Hardship Grant

The 2004/2005 Hardship Grant eligibility period commenced on 1 November, 2004. 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
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 €250.00 per month for a period not exceeding **4 months** within the period 1 November 2004 to 30 April 2005.

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.**

**Note:** Owner/keepers who received any Hardship Grant payment in respect of previous Hardship Grant eligibility periods can qualify for a Hardship Grant during the current eligibility period 1 November 2004 to 30 April 2005.

**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 for the Protocol on Direct Payments to Farmers, payment of TB and Brucellosis compensation will normally be made within 2-4 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)

**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 the 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 Scrapie susceptible animals are disposed of. Flockowners 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 ewe.

**NATIONAL GENOTYPE PROGRAMME (NGP)**

NGP assists flock owners in selecting breeding sheep, which are less susceptible to Scrapie. In 2004, three commercial laboratories, were approved by the Department to provide a blood testing service to determine the genotype of sheep.

Participation in the NGP will involve a flock owner applying to the Department to have NSIS identified sheep genotyped. He/she will designate a PVP (Private Veterinary Practitioner) to take blood samples. A “lab form” containing details relating to the flock owner, the designated PVP and the sheep to be genotyped will be generated and issued to the designated PVP.

The PVP in consultation with the flock owner will choose from the list of NGP-approved laboratories – the laboratory in which he/she wishes to have the samples tested. The chosen laboratory will be responsible for supply of blood sampling kits and instructions for use. The transfer of blood samples to the chosen laboratory will be a matter between the flock owner, the PVP and the designated laboratory. The laboratory will transmit electronically to the Department the result of each individual test and the Department will then issue to the flock owner an NGP Certificate that will state the genotype of each of the sheep tested.

Payment for the genotyping service will be made directly by the flock owner/PVP to the approved testing laboratory of his/her choice and in 2004 the Department offset the cost of such tests through a contribution of €10 per test for the first 30,000 tests completed.

*National Genotype Programme Help-Line 1890 441 250*
**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. Animal Collectors 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 70327*
**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.**

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

**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.**

**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 sheep income support schemes.

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.

**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**


**AUJESZKY’S DISEASE**

**Aujeszky’s Disease Control and Eradication Programme (Pigs)**

A national programme for the control and eradication of Aujeszky’s disease in pigs was launched in late 2002. The objective of the programme is to eliminate Aujeszky’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 Aujeszky’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 Aujeszky’s disease status is shared amongst herdowners through contact with the central pig database.
Aujeszky’s helpline: 1890 504 604 or phone 01 607 2827 (Special Projects Unit, Animal Health and Welfare Division, of the Department)

**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 9 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 testing 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.

**CONTROLS ON MAMMALIAN MEAT AND BONE MEAL AND POULTRY OFFAL**


**Mammalian Meat and Bone Meal (MBM)**

It is an offence to do the following without a valid licence from the Minister for Agriculture and Food:

- To manufacture mammalian meat and bone meal;
- Purchase mammalian meat and bone meal;

The purchase, manufacture, sale, supply or import of mammalian meat and bone
meal for use as a fertilizer is prohibited. The spreading of MBM on land is also prohibited.

**Mammalian Meat and Bone Meal and Poultry Offal**

It is an offence to have mammalian meat and bone meal or poultry offal on any land or premises -

- To which a licence under the Fertilisers, Feedingstuffs and Mineral Mixtures Regulations 1957 (S.I. No. 264 of 1957) relates or is required to relate;
- To which a licence under the European Communities (Animal Remedies and Medicated Feedingstuffs) Regulations 1994 (S.I. No. 176 of 1994) relates or is required to relate;
- Otherwise used for, or in connection with, the manufacture, storage or sale of a feedingstuff intended for feeding to an animal kept for farming purposes, or
- Used for or in connection with the holding, handling, keeping, farming, slaughtering, selling or supplying an animal kept for farming purposes (tinned pet food containing meat and bone meal or poultry offal, or dried sealed and bagged pet food containing poultry offal if the bag weighs 5kgs or less, exempted subject to specified conditions).

**It is an offence to:**

- Feed mammalian meat and bone meal or poultry offal to an animal kept for farming purposes;
- Sell or supply mammalian meat and bone meal or poultry offal for feeding to an animal kept for farming purposes;
- Feed a feedingstuff labelled, presented for feeding to a non ruminant or poultry to a ruminant;
- Permit mammalian meat and bone meal or poultry offal to contaminate any other substance during storage or transport;
- Permit mammalian meat and bone meal or poultry offal to contaminate a feedingstuff intended for feeding to an animal kept for farming purposes or food intended for human consumption;
- Use a vehicle that has been used to transport meat and bone meal or poultry offal to transport a feedingstuff intended for feeding to an animal kept for farming purposes or food intended for human consumption;
• Have, sell or supply petfood (other than tinned) containing mammalian meat and bone meal or poultry offal unless the package or container bears a notice stating that the product may contain mammalian meat and bone meal or poultry offal or other processed animal proteins and that it is illegal to feed the product to an animal kept for farming purposes or to have it on land or premises used in connection with an animal kept for farming purposes.

**Poultry Offal**

It is an offence to do the following without a valid licence from the Minister for Agriculture and Food:

• Incorporate poultry offal into an animal feedingstuff;
• Sell or supply a feedingstuff into which poultry offal has been incorporated.

It is an offence to feed these products, or to incorporate such products into any feedingstuff that it is intended to feed, to farmed animals or poultry, which are kept, fattened or bred for the production of food.

Further information may be obtained from the Animal Health and Welfare Division, Department of Agriculture and Food, Kildare Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 6072707

**VETERINARY LABORATORY SERVICES**

The Veterinary Laboratory Service provides a diagnostic and advisory service for stock owners through their veterinary practitioners. Details of the services and charges are available from each laboratory (see Appendix 1D).

**VETERINARY MEDICINES**

All animal remedies are required to be authorised by either the Irish Medicines Board or by the Minister for Agriculture and Food, as appropriate. All unauthorised animal remedies are deemed to be prohibited. Animal remedies may only be used in accordance with the conditions attached to the product authorisation. The manufacture, importation, sale, possession and use of unauthorised products is prohibited save under licence. It is an offence not to observe the proper dose rate

The Department implements on an ongoing basis 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 (including the role of the Irish Medicines Board insofar as that body acts as competent authority under the legislation) and also licensing of premises engaged in the commercial distribution of veterinary medicines. The Department has carried out a review of some aspects of the 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 EU dimension – current and prospective. The changes to the national regime arising from this review will be put in place at an early date.

Currently, over 1,000 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 for the manufacture thereof 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 surgeon. 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.

**National Residue Plan**

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 Communications, Marine and Natural Resources). During 2003, in excess of 60,000 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 up to and including legal action.

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**

Investigations are carried out on farm and at meat factories to detect the use of illegal substances or abuses of authorised substances. Where evidence of the use of hormones or other prohibited substances is found in an animal or its carcase, the carcase will be condemned and live animals found to be illegally treated will be permanently excluded from the food chain. Produce is also monitored for residues of authorised medicines. Residue violations will result in condemnation of produce, on-farm investigations and possible prosecution. Sale outlets are also subject to inspection. Severe penalties are 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 €1,269.74 and/or 1 year imprisonment for a person convicted on summary prosecution to €317,434.52 fine and/or 10 years imprisonment for a second conviction on indictment.

**Records**

Farmers are required to record the administration of all animal remedies which are designated veterinary surgeon use only, prescription only, pharmacy only and any medicine for food producing animals which requires observation of a withdrawal period, e.g. anthelmintics, intramammaries. The form of record is set out overleaf:
**Form Of Record To Be Kept**

Animal Remedies Regulations, 1996

Form of record to be kept in accordance with Regulation 42(2)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of Administration</th>
<th>Name and quantity of animal remedy administered</th>
<th>Identity of animal to which animal remedy administered including Ear Tag No. where appropriate</th>
<th>Date of expiry of withdrawal period (if any)</th>
<th>Name of person who administered the Animal Remedy</th>
<th>Name of prescribing Veterinary Surgeon (if applicable)</th>
<th>Name of supplier of Animal Remedy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**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 such 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 1B.

REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE SALE OF ANIMALS AT LIVESTOCK MARTS

Under the provisions of S.I. No 33 of 1997 there was a requirement for all marts to ensure that where the sale of an animal is being conducted at a Livestock Mart the foregoing information specific to each lot as the animals enter the ring are publicly identified in advance of that sale. As there were continued complaints of difficulties on the part of potential purchasers in accessing such information, the Department introduced regulations, which require all Livestock Marts to electronically display the requisite information on all offered for sale.

The specific requirements for electronic display data have been introduced in the interests of ensuring greater transparency, and to provide clients with a uniform quality of service.

The above new Regulations (SI no 188 of 2002) came into operation on 1 July 2002 and in so doing revoke the Livestock Mart (Date of Test and Name and Address of Owner) Regulations 1997 (SI No. 33 of 1997)

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.

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, USA and Canada, Russia, Chile and Hong Kong) deemed low risk for rabies.

From that date 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.

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**IMPORTATION OF ANIMAL PRODUCTS**

Animal products* may be imported from EU Member States and other countries.

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*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.
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 overleaf.)
PROHIBITION ON THE IMPORT OF LIVE BOVINE ANIMALS AND CERTAIN PRODUCTS FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM

Under European Community provisions adopted to protect against bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), the importation from the United Kingdom of the following animals/products is prohibited:

(a) live bovine animals;
(b) meat meal, bone meal, and meat-and-bone meal of mammalian origin;
(c) animal feed and fertilisers containing the material referred to in (b).

Pending the outcome of an ongoing review by the EU Commission of the current ban the importation from the United Kingdom of the following products and materials derived from bovine animals is also prohibited:

• meat;
• products which are liable to enter the human food or animal feed chains;
• materials which are destined for use in cosmetics or medical or pharmaceutical products.

By way of derogation from the above, certain meat and meat products derived from bovine animals born and reared in Northern Ireland and slaughtered in premises exclusively used for that purpose may be imported provided they comply with the relevant Community provisions to protect against BSE.

In addition the following products may also be imported:

• Deboned fresh meat derived from bovines slaughtered in the UK, which meet the requirements of the Date-based Export Scheme (DBES).
• Fresh meat, minced meat, meat preparations, meat products, petfood, and other products of animal origin derived from animals slaughtered outside the UK accompanied by the appropriate health certificate.
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 (S.I. 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.

In 2003, the Minister for Agriculture and Food 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.

One of the projects on which the FAWAC has been working has recently been 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.

FAWAC also produced booklets in 2003 on animal welfare guidelines for beef, sheep and dairy farmers. Copies of these publications are available from the Animal Health and Welfare Division at the Department at 01 6072680.
The Minister for Agriculture and Food also established in 2003, 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.

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

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 was produced in 2003 on “Pig Welfare Requirements - On Farm and in Transit” 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 at 01-6072706.

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 and specify the accommodation and other welfare requirements for keeping and rearing laying hens.

In the case of transport, the Diseases of Animals (Protection of Animals during Transport) Orders, 1995, 1997, 2001 and 2003 prescribe strict standards for animal handling and the state of vehicle repair 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 the awareness of the legal requirements of those in charge of animals during transport. Farmers and hauliers have been informed through the press and through the publication of brochures and posters. A system of vehicle inspections has been put in place by the Department of Agriculture and Food, under the above legislation, to be carried out in the field by its staff throughout the country, which will encompass all forms of animal transport.
Since the mid 1990’s the practice has been maintained of providing, from funds available at end-year, 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 details of these payments, contact Animal Health and Welfare Division at 01 6072680.*

Leaflets entitled “*Dealing with Horns of 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. 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).
Section 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 processed animal proteins to farmed animals. Farmed animals are kept, fattened or bred for the production of food. This restriction also applies to fishmeal, dicalcium phosphate derived from defatted bones and hydrolysed proteins, except where authorised under EU
Regulation 1234/2003/EC. All those who wish to import, store, incorporate, trade or feed fishmeal or compound feedingstuffs containing fishmeal must hold a valid licence or permit under the above Regulation.

**Application forms for a licence/permit to use any of these proteins may be obtained from Crop Production and Safety Division, Department of Agriculture and Food, 1st Floor, Maynooth Business Campus, Maynooth, Co. Kildare. Tel: 01 5053575**

**ADDITIVES IN FEEDINGSTUFFS**

A harmonised EU system for the manufacture of most feed additives, premixtures (including mineral mixtures) and compound feedingstuffs containing such additives was introduced by the European Communities (Approval and Registration of Establishments and Intermediaries operating in the Animal Feed Sector) Regulations. They set minimum conditions for the manufacture of the above products and restrict their manufacture or use to those manufacturers who are included on a national list. On-farm mixing, whether using fixed or mobile equipment, fall within the scope of the Regulations.

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.

Additives, or premixtures and mineral mixtures prepared from additives with a view to their being incorporated into compound feedingstuffs may only be put into circulation or used by approved or registered establishments or intermediaries. A person may only supply certain additives, or premixtures and mineral mixtures prepared from such additives to approved or registered establishments or intermediaries.

**Application forms for approval or registration under the above legislation can be obtained from Animal Feedingstuffs, Crop Production and Safety Division, Department of Agriculture and Food, 1st Floor, Maynooth Business Campus, 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 Animal Feedingstuffs, Crop Production and Safety Division, Department of Agriculture and Food, 1st Floor, Maynooth Business Campus, Maynooth, Co. Kildare. Tel: 01 5053576
Section 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 and field beans, and seed potatoes were certified in 2004.

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 the Department of Agriculture and Food, Block B, Maynooth Business Campus, 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, Abbotstown, Castleknock, Dublin 15. Tel: 01 6072871

CROP VARIETY TESTING PROGRAMME

The Department has a statutory obligation to carry out variety trials of a range of farm crops, e.g. cereals, forage crops, herbages, potatoes, and root crops, to determine their value for cultivation and use (VCU) in accordance with EU Directives and National Legislation.
These trials, called National List (NL) Trials are carried out over 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.

Promising varieties from the NL trials are advanced to Recommended List (RL) Trials which take a minimum 3 year period and which are carried out at the above centres and on commercial farms throughout the country recommended by Teagasc Development Officers. Combined NL and RL trials may be carried out for some crops by extending a NL trial to a third year.

Recommended Lists of the most outstanding varieties in trials are issued annually for the main crop species. These are an invaluable aid to growers in selecting varieties suitable to their needs.

Further details can be obtained from Crop Production and Safety Division, Department of Agriculture and Food, 1st Floor, Maynooth Business Campus, Maynooth, Co. Kildare. Tel: 01 5053345

AID SCHEMES

AID FOR STARCH USERS

This is an EU scheme under which eligible applicants can claim a Production Refund for the utilization 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. Decoupling will affect this Scheme, in so far as the rate of payment will be reduced from €68.83/tonne to €33/tonne with effect from 1 April 2005, Council Regulation (EC) No 1786/2003 refers.

Further information can be obtained from APS Section, Department of Agriculture and Food, Johnstown Castle, Co Wexford. Tel: 053 63400

*DUS (Distinct, Uniform, Stable) tests are only carried in Ireland on potato varieties, generally homebred.
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

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 once-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.

Seed Potatoes

Stocks are produced by meristem tip culture, as well as stem cuttings and are tested during propagation for the presence of common viruses. By the progressive propagation of material under controlled conditions, seed, which is free of virus infection, is produced. 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; and
- store potatoes in suitable temperature controlled stores.

Growers wishing to produce seed potato crops for sale should apply to Crop Production and Safety, Department of Agriculture and Food, Maynooth Business Campus, Maynooth, Co Kildare on the appropriate application form (forms together with conditions are available on request). Completed application forms must be with the Department by 15 May at the latest. Land on which seed potato crops are to be grown must have been tested and found to be free of potato cyst nematode. With effect from the 2005 season a fee will be charged in respect of PCN sampling and testing, crop inspection and tuber inspection.

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. The produce of the certified crop is inspected at the grading and packing stages and bags or other containers are sealed by an officer of the Department at the request of a registered person.

All crops from which it is intended to retain seed must be officially certified from 2005. The Class X certification of seed potatoes is being discontinued. Growers
who have produced Class X seed in 2004 may plant this material in 2005 but from 2006 planting material must comprise either purchased certified basic seed or home produced certified basic seed.

Further information can be obtained from Crop Production and Safety Division, Department of Agriculture and Food, Block B, Maynooth Business Campus, Maynooth, Co Kildare. Tel: 01 5053337

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.

The scheme will terminate at the end of 2006.

Further information can be obtained from Crop Production and Safety Division, Department of Agriculture and Food, Block B, Maynooth Business Campus, Maynooth, Co Kildare. Tel: 01 5053337

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.

Community 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, Block B, Maynooth Business Campus, Maynooth, Co Kildare. Tel: 01 5053337
**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, Block B, Maynooth Business Campus, Maynooth, Co Kildare. Tel: 01 5053337

**Quality Control**

Standards for quality, classification, size, packaging, presentation and marking, called “quality standards”, are in operation in respect of a wide range of horticultural products. These standards apply to homegrown and imported products offered for sale at wholesale and retail levels throughout the country and to products being exported. Department officials inspect produce to ensure that the standards are being observed. There are penalties for infringements of the quality standards.

Details of the standards prescribed for the various products may be obtained from Crop Production and Safety Division, Department of Agriculture and Food, Block B, Maynooth Business Campus, Maynooth, Co Kildare. Tel: 01 5053337

**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.
PLANT HEALTH AND TRADE

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.
HEALTH AND SAFETY

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 in accordance with the European Communities (Authorisation, Placing on the Market, Use and Control of Plant Protection Products) Regulations, 1994 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 Business Campus, 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 fertiliser/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 Plant Trade Section, Crop Production and Safety Division, Department of Agriculture and Food, Maynooth Business Campus, Maynooth, Co Kildare. Tel: 01 5053342
Section 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 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 or 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 twice a year.

**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](http://www.agriculture.gov.ie)*
Section 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 nine research centres, nine colleges and a nationwide network of county and local training centres and advisory offices. (See Appendix 2 for full details.)

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 seven research centres.

Director of Research: Dr Seamus Crosse, Teagasc, Oak Park, Carlow.
Tel: 059 9170200; E-mail: scrosse@hq.teagasc.ie

Research Centres

Beef
Grange Research Centre, Dunsany, Co Meath
Head of Centre: Dr Eddie O’Riordan
Tel: 046 906 1100; Fax: 046 902 6154

Dairying/Pigs
Moorepark Research Centre, Fermoy, Co Cork
Head of Centre: Dr Pat Dillon
Tel: 025 42222; Fax: 025 42340

Tillage
Oak Park Research Centre, Carlow
Head of Centre: Dr James Burke
Tel: 059 917 0200; Fax: 059 9142423
Sheep
Athenry Research Centre, Athenry, Co. Galway
Head of Centre: Dr Seamus Hanrahan
Tel: 091 845845; Fax: 091 845847

Economics/Rural Development
Rural Economy Research Centre
Mellows Centre, Athenry, Co. Galway
Head of Centre: Eamonn Pitts
Tel: 091 845200; Fax: 091 844296

Horticulture
Kinsealy Research Centre, Malahide Road, Dublin 17
Head of Centre: Liam Staunton
Tel: 01 8459000; Fax: 01 8460524

Environment
Johnstown Castle Research Centre, Wexford
Head of Centre: Dr Noel Culleton
Tel: 053 71200; Fax: 053 42004

**Food Research**

Food research and development is carried out at two centres:

The National Food Centre, Dunsinea, Castleknock, Dublin 15, Tel: 01 8059500, Fax: 01 8059550, which embraces the food development facility at Limerick Food Centre, Raheen, Co Limerick, Tel: 061 302033. Head of Centre: Mr Declan Troy.

The National Dairy Products Research Centre, Moorepark, Fermoy, Co Cork, Tel: 025 42222, Fax: 025 42340, which embraces Moorepark Technology Ltd, the research and development pilot plant. Director of Operations: Dr Liam Donnelly; Email: ldonnelly@moorepark.teagasc.ie

**Advisory Services**

Teagasc offers all farmers access to a wide range of independent professional advisory services. Advisory staff are located in a nationwide network of advisory offices and local training centres. All front-line advisory staff are supported by specialists, researchers and laboratory staff from the Teagasc research and development centres.

The services are focused on meeting the needs of a diverse farming community and rural society.

The Business and Technology Service has primary responsibility for the transfer of
technology and the development of business management services for progressive farmers. It takes the lead role in the facilitation of discussion groups and monitor farms, often as part of joint development programmes operated with agribusiness.

The Rural Viability Service supports the smaller and frequently less intensive farmers, many of whom are participating in REPS. Optimisation of income from direct income supports, REPS and more effective farming is the core business of the service.

The Planning Post Fischler Programme is a key component of the Teagasc service to farmers in 2005. The programme is aimed at assisting farm families to confront the challenges and opportunities following the implementation of the radical reforms in EU policy in January 2005. Participants are enabled to assess their present farm business and household position, analyse the options available to them and identify development and income opportunities both on and off-farm.

The advisory programme is focused on the following key priorities:

- **Improving the competitiveness of all farm enterprises** through the adoption of lowest cost production technologies reduced overhead costs and effective analysis of the performance of the farm business.
- Playing a key role in **rural viability initiatives**, especially through the provision of the Planning Post Fischler Programme and advice and training on diversification.
- **Implementing farming systems that are sustainable** particularly in terms of environmental impact, with specific attention to improving fertiliser use and waste management strategies.
- Ensuring that farmers can meet the requirements of **food safety schemes and quality assurance programmes**, both statutory and voluntary.

Farmers can avail of the expert Teagasc services through an annual advisory contract or by availing of a particular service.

**Key Advisory Personnel**

| Director of Advisory Services | Pat Boyle, Teagasc Oak Park, Carlow |
| Tel: 059 9170200; Fax: 059 918 2097 |

| Assistant Directors | Tom Collins, Teagasc Oak Park, Carlow |
| Tel: 059 9170200; Fax: 059 918 2097 |
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 71200; Fax: 053 42004; 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.

ANALYTICAL SERVICES

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

Johnstown Castle Research Centre, Wexford, Tel: 053 71200 Fax: 053 42004
• Soils, plants, fertilisers, slurry, water, pollutant materials, industrial wastes and heavy metals.

Grange Research Centre, Dunsany, Co Meath, Tel: 046 9061100; Fax: 046 9026154
• Blood and animal tissue.

Oak Park Research Centre, Carlow, Tel: 059 9170200; Fax: 059 9142423
• Crop plant constituents, pesticide residues, plant pests and diseases.

Kinsealy Research Centre, Malahide Road, Dublin 17, Tel: 01 8049000; Fax: 01 8460524
• Pests and diseases of horticultural plants.

National Food Centre, Dunsinea, Castleknock, Dublin 15. Tel: 01 8059500; Fax: 01 8059550 and National Dairy Products Research Centre, Moorepark, Fermoy, Co. Cork, Tel: 025 42222; Fax: 025 42340 - Analytical services for the food industry.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Teagasc provides the full suite of training for young entrants, farmers, rural entrepreneurs and executives/operatives in the food industry. The organisation has a resource of over 200 teachers and trainers operating from nine 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 education and training programmes within the framework of the National Qualification Authority has raised the standing of Teagasc courses both nationally and internationally.

**Third Level Courses**

Third level 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 at merit or distinction have the possibility to advance to diploma and degree level.

**Vocational Courses**

Vocational 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 vocational awards to apply for a quota of higher education courses. Specific vocational 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.

**Third Level Courses**

The provision of Third Level training has been a major step forward for Teagasc in recent years. 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. The courses are accredited by the Higher Education and Training
Awards Council (HETAC) and graduates have the opportunity to progress right up to university 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**

**Course Aim**

This two year course, offered jointly by agricultural colleges and institutes of technology, is accredited by HETAC. The course has been developed to provide the education and training needed by future commercial farmers and skilled workers in the agri industry.

**Location**

The following four partnerships offer the Higher Certificate in Agriculture:

- Clonakilty College, Co Cork and Cork Institute of Technology. CAO Course Code CR010.
- Kildalton College, Co Kilkenny and Waterford Institute of Technology. CAO Course Code WD098.
- Mountbellew College, Co Galway and Galway/ Mayo Institute of Technology. CAO Course Code GA749.
- Ballyhaise Agricultural College, Co Cavan and Dundalk Institute of Technology.

**Entry Requirements and Application Procedures**

Applicants must apply through the CAO. They must have passes in five Leaving Certificate subjects at ordinary level grade D3 or better. The subjects passed must include Maths and either English or Irish. If there are more applicants than places, the standard points system will be used to rank applicants. Holders of relevant FETAC awards and mature students may also apply.

**Career Prospects**

As well as careers in farming, people completing this course can aspire to jobs in:

- Farm Management
- Environmental Management and Monitoring
- Agri Industry
- Sales and Marketing
• Quality Control

Progression

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

Bachelor Degree in Horticulture

Course Aim

The course aims to provide the student with a firm grounding in technical skills in the areas of landscape design and construction, sport turf management, nursery stock production and food crop production. Throughout the course students acquire a knowledge of the identification and use of plants in the environment. They also gain an understanding of the concepts and processes of management and information technology.

Location

The course is offered jointly by horticultural colleges and institutes of technology. It is accredited by HETAC.

The three partnerships offering the course are:

• 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

On successful completion students are awarded the Bachelor Degree in Horticulture (this award meets the training requirement for Stamp Duty exemption and Installation Aid).

Entry Requirements and Application Procedures

Recruitment to the course is through the CAO. Applicants must have passes in five Leaving Certificate subjects at ordinary level, Grade D3 or better. The subjects passed must include Maths and either English or Irish. Holders of relevant FETAC awards and mature students may also apply. If there are more applicants than
places, the standard points system will be used to rank applicants.

**Higher Certificate in Agricultural Science**

The aim of this two year third level course is to train people for the agri-service industry, as field or laboratory technicians or sales personnel.

This course is delivered jointly by Waterford Institute of Technology and Kildalton College, Piltown, Co Kilkenny. Apply to the CAO.

**Higher Certificate in Agri-Business**

This two year third level course is offered at the Franciscan Brothers College, Mountbellew and Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology. Course code GA104.

The course is aimed at students interested in jobs in the agri-business sector. Many students progress to Diploma level in year three and complete a Degree in Business Studies at the end of year four. Apply to the CAO.

**Higher Certificate in Agricultural Mechanisation**

The course provides education and training for students to enable them to understand the core subjects of agricultural mechanisation. The two year course is delivered in partnership by the Salesian Agricultural College, Pallaskenry, Co Limerick and Limerick Institute of Technology. Apply to the CAO.

**Higher Certificate in Equine Studies**

The aim of the course is to provide the student with business studies and equine related knowledge and skills required for a range of job opportunities within the horse industry both in Ireland and abroad. This two year course, accredited by HETAC, is offered jointly by Gurteen College, Ballingarry, Roscrea, Co Tipperary and Athlone Institute of Technology. Apply to the CAO.

**Vocational Courses**

All of Teagasc’s vocational courses have been benchmarked and upgraded in recent years and are now nationally accredited by 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 via the Higher Education Links Scheme to third level courses.

**Vocational Certificate in Agriculture**

**Course Aim**

This course, accredited by FETAC, is suitable for people who wish to make their career in farming but who do not wish to complete a third level agricultural course. The course is very suitable for future farmers and for people seeking employment on farms.

**Locations**

The Vocational Certificate in Agriculture is offered at six agricultural colleges - Ballyhaise, Clonakilty, Gurteen, Kildalton, Mountbellew and Pallaskenry. 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.

**Entry Requirements and Application Procedures**

There is no minimum educational entry requirement but those who have completed the Leaving Certificate are likely to benefit most from the course. Applicants must be 17 years on 1 January following entry to the course. Applications should be made directly to the college of the applicant’s choice or to the local Teagasc Centre offering the course.

**Course Structure and Content**

Year one course work consists of 28 weeks course work at a college or Teagasc centre and four weeks on an approved training farm.

Year two consists of nine months placement on an approved training farm and eight weeks course work at a college or Teagasc training centre.
On successful completion of the year two programme students are awarded the FETAC Vocational Certificate in Agriculture - Level 3. (This award meets the training requirements for Stamp Duty exemption and Installation Aid).

**Vocational Certificate in Horticulture**

**Course Aim**

This course, which extends over two years is accredited by the FETAC. The course is suitable for people who wish to make their careers in horticulture but who do not wish to complete the Third Level course. There are excellent job opportunities for people with the skills which this course offers.

**Location**

The Course is provided at four Horticultural Colleges:

- College of Horticulture, An Grianan, Termonfeckin, Drogheda, Co Louth
- Kildalton College, Piltown, Co Kilkenny.
- Salesian College of Horticulture, Warrenstown, Drumree, Co Meath.
- College of Amenity Horticulture, National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Dublin 9

**Entry Requirements and Application Procedures**

There is no minimum educational entry requirement, but those who have completed the Leaving Certificate are likely to benefit most from it. Applicants must be 17 years on 1 January following entry to the course. Applications should be made directly to the college of the applicant’s choice or to the local Teagasc Centre offering the course.

**Course Structure and Content**

Year one consists of 28 weeks course work at college and four weeks work experience on an approved horticultural unit.

Year two consists of 32 weeks placement on an approved horticultural unit and 12 weeks course work at the college.

**Certificate in Horticultural Skills**

The course exposes learners to a range of jobs and employment positions and develops skills, knowledge and attitudes at a level of performance required to access employment and prepares students, for education and training at a higher level. This one year introductory horticultural skills course, sponsored by FAS, is
conducted at Teagasc Kinsealy Research Centre, Malahide Road, Dublin 17.

**Vocational Certificate in Greenkeeping**

This two year block release course, accredited by FETAC, provides a firm grounding in the practical and technical skills and knowledge in the area of greenkeeping. The course provides the standard qualification for greenkeepers in Ireland. It is designed for people employed as trainee or assistant greenkeepers on golf courses. Block release course work is delivered at the College of Amenity Horticulture, National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Dublin.

**Advanced Certificate in Dairy Herd Management**

The course provides in-depth knowledge of dairying and the dairy industry and is designed to ensure that entrants to full-time commercial dairy farming acquire the high level of technical and managerial skills required to run a modern commercial dairy farm or to gain employment in the agri-business sector. The 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 Farm Machinery and Arable Crops**

The aim of this course is to provide young people with the in-depth knowledge and skills required for work as tillage farmers, agricultural contractors, fabricators and sales demonstrators. This course is offered at Kildalton Agricultural College, Piltown, Co Kilkenny. Some course work is delivered by Waterford Institute of Technology.

**Advanced Certificate in Drystock Production**

The aim of this new course is to provide entrants to full-time commercial drystock farming with the level of technical and managerial skills required to run a modern commercial drystock farm or to gain employment in the agri-business sector. The 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**

**Course Aim**

This three year programme, accredited by FETAC, provides students with the opportunity to acquire knowledge and skills for farm management.
There are excellent opportunities for graduates at home and abroad as farm managers. Some graduates become involved in joint venture farming through partnership arrangements or through land leasing.

**Location**

Approved master farms combined with project work and block release courses at a designated college.

**Entry Requirements and Application Procedure**

Students who have successfully completed the FETAC Vocational Certificate in Agriculture - Level 2 are eligible to apply.

**Vocational Certificate in Horse Breeding and Training**

This two year course aims to provide knowledge and skills, relating to the sports horse and in particular adding value to young horses. There are good employment opportunities in the industry including stud farms, training yards and equestrian centres. The course is offered at Kildalton Agricultural College, Piltown, Co Kilkenny.

**Vocational Certificate in Forestry**

This two year course provides training for people who wish to take up jobs in forestry as workers and supervisors. Jobs in the area are readily available and pay rates are good. This course is accredited by FETAC and is offered at the Teagasc College, Ballyhaise, Co Cavan.

**Adult and Continuing Education**

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

Each year over 10,000 farmers and/or their partners participate in courses ranging from 12.5 hours right up to certificate level.

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 include:
Agriculture

- Advanced Course in Dairy Herd Management
- Advanced Course in Drystock Management
- Advanced Course in Tillage Crop Management
- Advanced Course in Business Management
- 100 Hours Basic 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 National Food Centre, Dunsinea, Castleknock, Dublin 15, and at the Dairy Products Research Centre, 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 Teagasc Head Office, 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

Key Education and Training Personnel

Director of Education & Training Services
Donal Carey, Teagasc, Kinsealy, Malahide Rd, Dublin 17
Tel: 01 8459000; email: dcarey@hq.teagasc.ie

Assistant Director of Education & Training Services
Paddy Browne, Teagasc, Oak Park, Carlow.
Tel: 059 9170200; email: pbrowne@hq.teagasc.ie

Head of Curriculum and Quality Assurance
Eamonn Tully, Teagasc, Kildalton College, Piltown, Co Kilkenny.
Tel: 051 644000; email: etully@kildalton.teagasc.ie

Education Programme Manager
Liam Myles, Teagasc, Kinsealy, Malahide Rd, Dublin 17.
Tel: 01 8459000; email: lmyles@hq.teagasc.ie

(See Appendix 2 for contact numbers for colleges and local Teagasc centres)

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, 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 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 themselves.

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

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

Commercial success depends on reliable information and the right 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 vital 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: 01 201 1111. Website: www.coillte.ie

COFORD

COFORD is a non-statutory agency under the aegis of the Department. It’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: 01 213 0725. Website: www.coford.ie
Section 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.
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 sixteen areas originally selected for inclusion in the CLÁR programme were those which suffered the greatest population decline from 1926 to 1996, with the exception of the Cooley Peninsula (which was included based on the serious difficulties caused there by Foot and Mouth Disease.) The average population loss in these regions was 50%.

Following an analysis of the 2002 Population Census data, the CLÁR areas were reviewed and extended arising from the commitment in the Agreed Programme for Government. The population that benefits from the revised CLÁR programme has increased from 284,000 to 362,000, while the number of District Electoral Divisions (DEDs) included has increased from 701 to 890.

CLÁR funds of €14.139 million in 2002 and €8.613 million in 2003 were spent on these measures with related public and private expenditure of nearly €21 million. A budget of €13.49 million was allocated to the programme for 2004.

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 6473195

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

*See page 179 for details of the Farm Assist Scheme
• 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.

**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.

**Transferring from Community Employment (CE)**

FÁS have identified 1,300 participants on CE who they feel would qualify for the RSS. Only those on CE schemes who qualify for participation on CE on the basis of the Rural Social Scheme eligibility guidelines may apply to participate on the RSS. Those intending to transfer to the RSS will have to do so under the same conditions as other applicants and will have to avail of their option to transfer by a specified date.

**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.
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, or
• 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**

- a 100% capital grant to finance the provision of essential water disinfection and filtration equipment in privately sourced schemes.
- 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.
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. The frame must comply with the international standard laid down by OECD (the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development).

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 (HSA)

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. 19 people lost their lives in accidents on farms in 2003. Two of these fatalities involved children. 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 just doesn’t happen, it demands time and effort but the rewards are great. Make sure that you give this important task the priority it deserves and lets 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. We have recently introduced the Farm Safety Self-Assessment document that is designed to assist farmers in drawing up a safety statement.

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. Obtainable from Michael Neville, Publications Section, Health and Safety Authority, 10 Hogan Place, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 6147000/6147030
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  
Locall 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 and the 18.20 broadcast immediately follows Farm News. 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 RTE 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. The presentation at approx. 20.01 on RTÉ 2 includes information on European Weather. Most other television news summaries contain a brief weather forecast.

WARNINGS

Frost warnings for the 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) €1.75 (fax) per min. 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

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
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aggregate Consideration</th>
<th>First Time Buyer Rate Pre 2/12/04</th>
<th>First Time Buyer Rate* On/After 2/12/04</th>
<th>Full Rate</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than €127,000</td>
<td>Exempt</td>
<td>Exempt</td>
<td>Exempt</td>
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<tr>
<td>€127,001 - €190,500</td>
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<td>Exempt</td>
<td>3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>€190,501 - €254,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>€317,501 - €381,000</td>
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<td>€381,001 - €635,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Over €635,000</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
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*The Minister for Finance has announced that the new rates in column 3 above will apply for first-time purchasers of residential property where the conveyance/deed of transfer is executed on or after 2 December 2004.*
**Stamp Duty on Non-Residential Property**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aggregate Consideration</th>
<th>Rate</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Not exceeding €10,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>€10,001 - €20,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>€20,001 - €30,000</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>€30,001 - €40,000</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>€40,001 - €70,000</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>€70,001 - €80,000</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>€80,001 - €100,000</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>€100,001 - €120,000</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>€120,001 - €150,000</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over €150,000</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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.

From 30 May 1990, 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.

Section 81 of the Stamp Duties Consolidations Act, 1999 provides for relief from stamp duty on the transfer, by way of gift or sale of agricultural land (including buildings) to young trained farmers who meet certain conditions. The relief applies to deeds executed prior to 25 March 2004.

Section 81 has been replaced by Section 81A for transfers by way of sale or gift of agricultural land where the deeds are executed on or after 25 March 2004 up until 31 December 2005. Section 81A provides for a new schedule of required qualifications, a change of emphasis to completion of courses rather than mere attendance at courses and it gives details of the requirements for persons with learning difficulties.

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 transfferee 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 new 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.

**Stamp Relief for Exchange of Farmland**

As announced in the Budget of December 2004 a new stamp duty relief will be provided for farmers who swap land for the purpose of consolidating farm holdings. Under the relief the stamp duty charge will be based on the amount equal to the difference in the values of the lands exchanged which must be payable in cash. It is a once off relief for a two year period. The conditions attaching to the relief will be published in the 2005 Finance Bill and full details will be available from the Revenue Commissioners at that stage.

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. It is collected by VAT-registered traders 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VAT rate</th>
<th>Agricultural goods and services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Zero rate</td>
<td>Plants/seeds/bulbs for food production; Planting/sowing for food production.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.8%</td>
<td>Live cattle, sheep, pigs, horses, deer, goats, greyhounds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.5%</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21%</td>
<td>Hire of machinery; Leasing of milk quota (without land); Transport; Storage.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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:

(a) supplies of agricultural services (other than insemination services, stock minding or stock rearing) which exceed, or are likely to exceed, €25,500

(b) 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, €51,000

(c) supplies of retail horticultural products which exceed, or are likely to exceed, €51,000

**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 €25,500.

(d) intra-Community acquisitions¹ which exceed, or are likely to exceed, €41,000
(e) Fourth Schedule services\(^2\), regardless of their value

(f) supplies of taxable goods, other than agricultural goods, which exceed or are likely to exceed €51,000

(g) supplies of taxable services, other than agricultural services, which exceed or are likely to exceed €25,500.

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.

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\(^{1}\) ‘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).
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 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, or
- 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 Offices.

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 from.

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 6inch 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 2005, Ordnance Surveys Irelands 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, a new series will be created in 2005; 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 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 6inch 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.
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 148.40
Qualified Adult Allowance (*)  96.90
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. A reduced rate increase may be payable if your spouse/partner has a gross weekly earnings/income of between €88.89 and €220.00.

(**) 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 25
• 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 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 €20,800 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 and Family Affairs, Oisin House, Pearse Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 7043000; 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 Clare, Donegal, Galway, Leitrim, Mayo, Roscommon and Sligo.

**Strategic Aims**

The four strategic aims of the WDC are:

- To attract skilled jobs and people to the Western Region;
- To create a quality economic environment through regional economic infrastructure;
- To create a quality business environment through the development of a positive investment culture, including the successful investment of the €32 million Western Investment Fund;
- The cultivation of sustainable rural industries grown from the Western Region's natural strengths and the provision of assessments and strategic solutions addressing current rural development issues.

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

Lo-call: 1890 200 507 also 094 9035300

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  
01 5053300

Portlaoise Office - Old Abbyleix Road, Portlaoise, Co Laois.  
Lo-call: 1890 200 506 also 0502 74400 Lo-call: 1890 200 566 (Single Payment Scheme)

Wexford Office - Johnstown Castle Estate, Co Wexford.  
Lo-call: 1890 200 509 also 053 63400

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<th>All (01) except where indicated</th>
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<tr>
<td>Accommodation</td>
<td>6072883/6072878</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accounts Division, Cavan</td>
<td>049 4368200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agricultural Structures Division, Wexford</td>
<td>053 63400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environment Section</td>
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<tr>
<td>Farm Retirement Scheme; e-mail: <a href="mailto:ers@agriculture.gov.ie">ers@agriculture.gov.ie</a></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Organic Farming Unit; e-mail: <a href="mailto:organics@agriculture.gov.ie">organics@agriculture.gov.ie</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Rural Environment Protection Scheme; e-mail: <a href="mailto:reps@agriculture.gov.ie">reps@agriculture.gov.ie</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Aid for Private Storage, Wexford</td>
<td>053 65563</td>
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### Division

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**Agriculture Appeals Office, Kilminchy Court, Portlaoise**  
0502 67167  
Lo–call 1890 671 671

**Animal Health and Welfare Division**
- Animal Welfare Issues, Marts, Legislation, and Swill: 6072049
- Control of Horses: 6072288
- Import/Export of Cats and Dogs: 6072827
- Import/Export of Livestock, Horses, Birds - Quarantine Procedures: 6072862
- Legislation: 6072124
- Licensing and Use of Veterinary Medicines: 5053318
- Licensing of Purchase of Mammalian Meat and Bone Meal and that of Poultry Offal: 6072707
- Sheep Scab: 6072000 Ext 3000

**Area Aid, Hume House, Dublin 4 – For 2004 Schemes and Earlier**
The following Lo-Call numbers are available for calling the Area Aid Unit directly:
- Counties Cork, Kerry and Limerick: Lo-call 1890 200 503
- Counties Clare, Galway and Roscommon: Lo-call 1890 200 502
- Counties Donegal, Mayo and Sligo: Lo-call 1890 200 504
- Counties Carlow, Dublin, Kildare, Kilkenny, Laois, Tipperary, Waterford, Wexford and Wicklow: Lo-call 1890 200 505
- Counties Cavan, Leitrim, Longford, Louth, Meath, Monaghan, Offaly and Westmeath: Lo-call 1890 200 498

E-mail address: area-aid@agriculture.gov.ie

**Central Meat Control Laboratory**  
6072879

**Collection, Castlebar**  
094 9035300

**Corporate Affairs Division**  
6072802

**Crops Policy and State Bodies**  
6072852
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<tr>
<td>Animal Feedingstuffs</td>
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<td>Cereal Seed Variety Testing and Seed Certification</td>
<td>5053580</td>
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<td>Fertilisers and Plant Trade</td>
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<td>Horticulture</td>
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<td>NDP Grant Aid (Horticulture, Potatoes and Grain Storage)</td>
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<td><strong>Crop Variety Testing Division</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Customer Service Unit</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Dairy Premium</strong></td>
<td>0502 74400 (Ext 320)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Dairy Science Laboratory, Harcourt Terrace, Dublin 2</strong></td>
<td>6616341</td>
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<td><strong>Economics and Planning Division</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Enquiry Unit</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Export Refunds, Wexford</strong></td>
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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)

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COUNTY | ADDRESS | TELEPHONE
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WEXFORD
Veterinary | Vinegar Hill Lane, | 054 42008
Livestock | Templeshannon, | Enniscorthy
AES
WICKLOW
AES | No. 2, The Murrough, | 0404 25000
Wicklow Town
Wicklow East* See Co. Dublin
Veterinary
Livestock
Wicklow West* See Co. Kildare
Veterinary
Livestock

*Area responsibilities of Veterinary and Livestock services in certain local offices

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D268001 – D281999  
D284001 – D415999 |
| Cork Central | D198001 – D224999  
D233001 – D260999  
D262001 – D267999  
D282001 – D283999 |
| Cork South 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: CHIEF FORESTRY INSPECTOR
Inspector: Diarmuid McAree
Address: Forest Service, Kildare St., Dublin 2
Phone: 01 6072651 / 087 2551491
Fax: 01 6072545
Email: diarmuid.mcaree@agriculture.gov.ie

Position: SENIOR INSPECTOR (FORESTRY)
Inspector: John Connelly
Address: Forest Service, Kildare St., Dublin 2
Phone: 01 6072917 / 087 2549699
Fax: 01 6072545
Email: john.connelly@agriculture.gov.ie

Position: DIVISIONAL INSPECTOR DIVISION I (SOUTH & EAST)
Inspector: Eamonn Cunningham – Grade I
Address: Forest Service, St. Munchin’s House, Mallow Street, Limerick
Phone: 061 411181 / 087 2536566
Fax: 061 411166
Email: eamonn.cunningham@agriculture.gov.ie

Position: DIVISIONAL INSPECTOR DIVISION II (NORTH & WEST)
Inspector: Vacancy – Grade I
Address: Forest Service, Bellview, Dublin Road, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath
Phone: 044 44061
Fax: 044 44062

Position: DIVISIONAL INSPECTOR (ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT AND FOREST PROTECTION)
Inspector: Noel Foley – Grade I
Address: Forest Service, Social Welfare Building, Oliver Plunkett Road, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal
Phone: 074 91 21848 / 087 2515525
Fax: 074 91 22791
Email: noel.foley@agriculture.gov.ie
Position: DIVISIONAL INSPECTOR (FOREST INVENTORY)
Inspector: Christy O’Donovan – Grade I
Address: Forest Service, Civic Offices, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford
Phone: 058 45845 / 087 2536567
Fax: 058 45808
Email: christy.odonovan@agriculture.gov.ie

DIVISION I - DISTRICTS

1. DUBLIN/MEATH/LOUTH/KILDARE NTH
Inspector: Séamus Dunne – Grade II
Address: Forest Service, Kildare St., Dublin 2
Phone: 01 6072275 / 087 2515524
Fax: 01 6072545
Email: seamus.dunne@agriculture.gov.ie

2. WICKLOW/WEXFORD
Inspector: Fergus Moore – Grade II
Address: Forest Service, Johnstown Castle, Wexford
Phone: 053 60207 / 087 6750700
Fax: 053-43836
Email: fergus.moore@agriculture.gov.ie

3. CARLOW, KILKENNY NORTH, LAOIS EAST, KILDARE SOUTH
Inspector: Billy Murren – Grade II
Address: Forest Service, Church Street, Graiguecullen, Carlow
Phone: 059 91 42710 / 087 2536563
Fax: 059 91 42711
Email: billy.murren@agriculture.gov.ie

4. WATERFORD/KILKENNY STH
Inspector: Robert Hamilton – Grade III
Address: Forest Service, Customs House, The Quay, Waterford
Phone: 051 858722 / 087 6697072
Fax: 051 858710
Email: robert.hamilton@agriculture.gov.ie
5. CORK NORTH & EAST

Inspector: Brian Mahoney – Grade III
Address: Forest Service, Irish Life Building, South Mall, Cork
Phone: 021 4274233 / 087 6395423
Fax: 021 4272114
Email: brian.mahoney@agriculture.gov.ie

6. CORK SOUTH WEST/ KERRY SOUTH

Inspector: Eugene Curran – Grade II
Address: Forest Service, 27 Townsend Street, Skibbereen, Co. Cork
Phone: 028 23400 / 087 2536576
Fax: 028 23401
Email: eugene.curran@agriculture.gov.ie

7. LIMERICK/ TIPPERARY NTH WEST

Inspector: John Madden – Grade II
Address: Forest Service, St. Munchin’s House, Mallow Street, Limerick
Phone: 061 411182 / 087 2536561
Fax: 061 411166
Email: john.madden@agriculture.gov.ie

8. OFFALY/LAOIS WEST/TIPPERARY NORTH

Inspector: Charles Fahy – Grade II
Address: Forest Service, Hamilton House, Emmet Street, Birr, Co. Offaly
Phone: 0509 21805 / 087 2536569
Fax: 0509 21806
Email: charles.fahy@agriculture.gov.ie

15. TIPPERARY South and Central

Inspector: Seamus Kennedy – Grade III
Address: Forest Service, ACC House, Liberty Square, Thurles, Co. Tipperary
Phone: 0504 90599 / 087 6468522
Fax: 0504 90852
Email: seamus.kennedy@agriculture.gov.ie
17. KERRY NORTH/West
Inspector: Ciarán Nugent – Grade III
Address: Forest Service, Island Centre, Castleisland, Co. Kerry
Phone: 066 7142706 / 087 9682040
Fax: 066 7142707
Email: ciaran.nugent@agriculture.gov.ie

DIVISION II – DISTRICTS

9. CLARE
Inspector: John Flanagan – Grade III
Address: Forest Service, Francis Street, Ennis, Co. Clare
Phone: 065 6865986 / 087 2590706
Fax: 065 6865982
Email: johnp.flanagan@agriculture.gov.ie

10. GALWAY
Inspector: Donal Keegan – Grade III
Address: Forest Service, Ross House, Merchant’s Road, Galway
Phone: 091 539560 / 087 6296088
Fax: 091 539561
Email: donal.keegan@agriculture.gov.ie

11. MAYO
Inspector: Tom Kavanagh – Grade III
Address: Forest Service, Davitt House, Castlebar, Co. Mayo
Phone: 094 90 42926 / 087 2284265
Fax: 094 90 23633
Email: tom.kavanagh@agriculture.gov.ie

12. LEITRIM/SLIGO/CAVAN WEST
Inspector: Senan Kelly – Grade III
Address: Forest Service, Government Buildings, Cranmore Road, Sligo
Phone: 071 9141283 / 087 2691150
Fax: 071 91 41351
Email: senan.kelly@agriculture.gov.ie
13. DONEGAL

Inspector: Martin Regan – Grade II
Address: Forest Service, Mill Road, Glenties, Co. Donegal
Phone: 074 95 51852 / 087 2536562
Fax: 074 95 51853
Email: martin.regan@agriculture.gov.ie

14. MONAGHAN/CAVAN /LONGFORD/WESTMEATH/MEATH WEST

Inspector: Eddie Healy – Grade II
Address: Forest Service, Bellview, Dublin Road, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath
Phone: 044 49993 / 087 2536573
Fax: 044 44062
Email: eddie.healy@agriculture.gov.ie

16. ROSCOMMON

Inspector: Matt Fallon – Grade II
Address: Forest Service, Church Street, Roscommon
Phone: 090 66 27143 / 087 2536575
Fax: 090 66-27269
Email: matt.fallon@agriculture.gov.ie

FOREST PROTECTION AND ENVIRONMENT

FOREST PROTECTION & FOREST REPRODUCTIVE MATERIAL

Inspector: Gerard Cahalane – Grade II
Address: Forest Service, Kildare St, Dublin 2
Phone: 01 6072932 / 087 2515521
Fax: 01 6072545
Email: gerard.cahalane@agriculture.gov.ie

FOREST PROTECTION & FOREST REPRODUCTIVE MATERIAL

Inspector: Tom McDonald – Grade III
Address: Forest Service, Kildare St, Dublin 2
Phone: 01 6072286 / 087 6697106
Fax: 01 6072545
Email: tom.mcdonald@agriculture.gov.ie
FOREST PROTECTION & FOREST REPRODUCTIVE MATERIAL

Inspector: Kevin Keary – Grade III
Address: Forest Service, Johnstown Castle Estate, Wexford
Phone: 053 60215 / 087 6331852
Fax: 053 76010
Email: kevin.keary@agriculture.gov.ie

ENVIRONMENT

Inspector: Pat O’Callaghan – Grade II
Address: Forest Service, The Mill, Church Street, Cahir, Co. Tipperary
Phone: 052 45768 / 087 2536564
Fax: 052 45771
Email: pat.ocallaghan@agriculture.gov.ie

ENVIRONMENT

Inspector: Kevin Collins – Grade III
Address: Forest Service, Kildare St, Dublin 2
Phone: 01 6072502 / 087 2229200
Fax: 01 6072545
Email: kevin.collins@agriculture.gov.ie

FOREST ECOLOGIST

Inspector: Orla Fahy – Grade III
Address: Forest Service, Davitt House, Castlebar, Co. Mayo
Phone: 094 9042925 / 087 6206458
Fax: 094 9023633
Email: orla.fahy@agriculture.gov.ie

ARCHAEOLOGIST FOREST PROTECTION AND ENVIRONMENT

Inspector: Emmet Byrnes – Grade III
Address: Forest Service, Kildare St, Dublin 2
Phone: 01 6072229 / 087 2283697
Fax: 01 6072545
Email: emmet.byrnes@agriculture.gov.ie
FOREST INVENTORY AND LANDSCAPE

FOREST INVENTORY
Inspector: Mark Twomey – Grade III
Address: Forest Service, 2A Irish Life Building, South Mall, Cork
Phone: 021 4905334 / 087 2786095
Fax: 021 4272114
Email: mark.twomey@agriculture.gov.ie

FOREST INVENTORY
Inspector: Niall Farrelly – Grade III
Address: Forest Service, Johnstown Castle Estate, Wexford.
Phone: 053 60217 / 087 2062254
Email: niall.farrelly@agriculture.gov.ie

LANDSCAPE AND DESIGN
Inspector: Pat Farrington – Grade II
Address: Forest Service, Johnstown Castle Estate, Wexford
Phone: 053 53501 / 087 2283696
Email: pat.farrington@agriculture.gov.ie
**APPENDIX 1D**

**LABORATORIES AND FIELD STATIONS**

**Blood Testing Laboratory**  
Model Farm Road, Cork  
021 4545377

**Central Veterinary Laboratory**  
Abbotstown, Castleknock, Dublin 15  
01 6072869

**Central Meat Control Laboratory**  
Abbotstown, Castleknock, Dublin 15  
01 6072879

**Crop Variety Testing**  
c/o Teagasc, Moorepark Production, Research Centre,  
Moorepark, Fermoy, Co. Cork  
025 42419

**Dairy Science Laboratory**  
Harcourt Terrace, Dublin 2  
01 6762313

**Dairy Science Laboratory**  
Model Farm Road, Cork  
021 4543300

**Dairy Science Laboratory**  
Killeely Road, Limerick  
061 452444

**Regional Veterinary Laboratory**  
Model Farm Road, Cork  
021 4543931

**Regional Veterinary Laboratory**  
Leggetsrath, 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

National Crop Variety Testing Centre
Backweston, Leixlip, Co. Kildare.  01 6302900
Fax: 01 6280634

Pesticides Control Service
Abbotsotwn, Castleknock, Dublin 15  01 6072655

Potato Farm & Laboratory
Tops, Raphoe, Co. Donegal  074 9145490

Seed Testing Station
Abbotstown, Castleknock, Dublin 15  01 6072871
**APPENDIX 1E**

**SEED POTATO CERTIFICATION STAFF**

Mr Michael Murray, Area Superintendent  
Tel: 01 6302925/086 8123679  
National Crop Variety Testing Centre,  
Backweston, Leixlip, Co. Kildare.

**SEED INSPECTORS & DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS (D. S)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Name and Address</th>
<th>Telephone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mr R Treacy (D. S.)</td>
<td>074 9131069</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dunwiley, Ballybofey</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Co Donegal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lifford No. 1</strong></td>
<td>Mr T Patton, Gallows Lane</td>
<td>074 9141542</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lifford, Co Donegal.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lifford No. 2</strong></td>
<td>Mr S Given, Burnview House</td>
<td>074 9141060</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- St Johnston</td>
<td>Rossigier, Lifford, Co Donegal.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Stranorlar</strong></td>
<td>Mr N Wilkinson, Conroy Road</td>
<td>074 9145267</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Ballybofey</td>
<td>Raphoe, Co Donegal.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Manorcunningham/</strong></td>
<td>Mr J Coyle, Killycreen, Churchtown</td>
<td>074 9151111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Churchtown</strong></td>
<td>Ramelton, Co Donegal.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>District Superintendent:</strong> Vacant</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fanad</strong></td>
<td>Mr J.V. Kelly, Ballyboe,</td>
<td>074 9158311</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Carrigart</strong></td>
<td>Rathmullan, Co Donegal.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ramelton</strong></td>
<td>Mr J.P. Crawford, The Ards</td>
<td>074 9151187</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ramelton, Co Donegal.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Newtowncunningham</strong></td>
<td>Mr W Hay, Galdonagh,</td>
<td>074 9157224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Manorcunningham, Co Donegal.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Contact Person</td>
<td>Address</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buncrana</td>
<td>Mr S Masterson</td>
<td>Pillar Park, Buncrana, Co Donegal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moville/Muff</td>
<td>Mr H Holmes</td>
<td>Ballyratten, Moville, Lifford, Co Donegal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burnfort</td>
<td>Mr K Cunnane</td>
<td>The Veagh, Manorcunningham, Co Donegal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District Superintendent: Vacant</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roscommon, Clare, Galway, Sligo and Mayo</td>
<td>Mr P Finnerty</td>
<td>Palmerstown, Oranmore, Co Galway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laois, Offaly, Westmeath and Longford and N Tipperary</td>
<td>Mr M Murtagh</td>
<td>Ballyclare, Ferban, Co Offaly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kildare and North Wicklow</td>
<td>Mr T Cunniffe</td>
<td>3 Knockcullen Rise, Knocklyon, Dublin 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louth and Monaghan</td>
<td>Malachy Quigley</td>
<td>Edenkell, Hackballscross, Dundalk, Co Louth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dublin and Meath</td>
<td>Mr J McGinley</td>
<td>205 Athlumley Castle, Navan, Co Meath</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mr. M. Mc Donagh</td>
<td>Ballintoher Road, Lahassaragh, Nenagh, Co Tipperary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Contact Person</td>
<td>Address</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>---------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carlow, Wexford, South Wicklow, Kilkenny, Tipperary and East Waterford</td>
<td>Mr E Houlihan</td>
<td>Castlehacket, Parklands, Enniscorthy, Co Wexford.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Waterford, East Cork and East Limerick</td>
<td>Mr J Casey</td>
<td>Blood Testing Station, Model Farm Road, Cork.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kerry, West Cork and West Limerick</td>
<td>Mr M Stafford</td>
<td>Malindi, Farnahoe, Innishannon, Co Cork.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**INSPECTORS FOR FOUNDATION STOCK**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr P Clarke</td>
<td>District Superintendent</td>
<td>Government Offices, High Road, Letterkenny, Co Donegal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr H Gallagher</td>
<td></td>
<td>41 Orchard Grove, Letterkenny, Co Donegal.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# APPENDIX 1F

## PLANT HEALTH INSPECTORS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone Numbers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dublin, Meath Louth, Wicklow and Wexford</td>
<td>Barry Delany</td>
<td>Block B Maynooth Business Campus, Maynooth, Co. Kildare</td>
<td>Tel: 01 5053355 / Fax: 01 5053564</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kildare, Laois, Offaly</td>
<td>Sheila Nolan</td>
<td>Backweston Farm, Leixlip, Co. Kildare</td>
<td>Tel: 01 6302914 / Fax: 01 6280634</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cork, Kerry, Limerick, Clare</td>
<td>William Larkin</td>
<td>Department of Agriculture and Food, Blood Testing Station, Model Farm Road, Cork</td>
<td>Tel: 021 4545377 / Fax: 021 4545694</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kilkenny, Waterford, Carlow and Tipperary</td>
<td>Mairead Fanning</td>
<td>Kildalton Agriculture College, Piltown, Co Kilkenny</td>
<td>Tel: 051 644554 / Fax: 051 643446</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monaghan, Cavan, Longford and Westmeath</td>
<td>Jerome Walsh</td>
<td>Block B Maynooth Business Campus, Maynooth, Co. Kildare</td>
<td>Tel: 01 5053360 / Fax: 01 5053564</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, Mayo and Galway</td>
<td>Christy Quinn</td>
<td>Department of Agriculture and Food, Government Buildings, Shannon Lodge, Carrick on Shannon</td>
<td>Tel: 078 20095 / Fax: 078 21810</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Agricultural and Horticultural Colleges

Agricultural Colleges

Agricultural College, Ballyhaise, Co Cavan.
Principal: Mr Felix McCabe
Tel: 049 4338108, Fax: 049 4338540; ballyhaise.college@cavan.teagasc.ie

Agricultural College, Darrara, Clonakilty, Co Cork.
Principal: Mr J J Harty
Tel: 023 33302, Fax: 023 34449; office@clonakilty.teagasc.ie

Kildalton Agricultural College, Piltown, Co Kilkenny.
Principal: Mr Frank Murphy
Tel: 051 644000, Fax: 051 643797; fmurphy@kildalton.teagasc.ie

Gurteen Agricultural College, Ballingarry, Roscrea, Co Tipperary.
Principal: Mr Michael Pearson
Tel: 067 21282, Fax: 067 21290; mpearson@gurteencollege.ie

Franciscan Brothers Agricultural College, Mountbellew, Co Galway.
Principal: Mr Tom Burke
Tel: 090 9679205, Fax: 090 9679276; tvburke@iol.ie

Salesian Agricultural College, Pallaskenry, Co Limerick.
Principal: Mr John McCarthy
Tel: 061 393100, Fax: 061 393005; info@pallaskenry.com

Horticultural Colleges

Kildalton Horticultural College, Piltown, Co Kilkenny.
Mr Ciaran Walsh (Acting)
Tel: 051 644000, Fax: 051 643797; cwalsh@kildalton.teagasc.ie

Principal: Dr Paul Cusack
Tel: 01 8374388, Fax: 01 8377329; college@botanic.teagasc.ie

Salesian College of Horticulture, Warrenstown, Drumree, Co Meath.
Principal: Harold Lawlor
Tel: 01 8259392, Fax: 01 8259632; hlawlor@warrenstowncollege.ie
TEAGASC COUNTY ADVISORY AND TRAINING SERVICES

Carlow
Teagasc, The Green, Tullow, Co Carlow.
Tel: 059 91 51210/51301, Fax: 059 91 51931
Teagasc, Barrett Street, Bagenalstown, Co Carlow.
Tel: 059 97 21267/21305, Fax: 059 97 21537

Cavan
Teagasc, Advisory Office, Ballyhaise College, Ballyhaise, Co Cavan.
Tel: 049 4338300, Fax: 049 4338304
Teagasc, Kells Road, Bailieboro, Co Cavan.
Tel: 042 9665435/9665511, Fax: 042 9666492
Teagasc, Mart Hse, Granard Road, Ballyjamesduff, Co Cavan.
Tel: 049 8544499, Fax: 049 8544063

Clare
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Tel: 065 6828676, Fax: 065 6828301
Teagasc, Fossabeg, Scariff, Co Clare.
Tel: 061 921093/921311, Fax: 061 921525
Teagasc, Ardnaculla, Ennistymon, Co Clare.
Tel: 065 7071077/7071635, Fax: 065 7071261
Teagasc, Ballyurra, Kilrush, Co Clare.
Tel: 065 9051189/9051676, Fax: 065 9051459

Cork East
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Tel: 021 545055/545489, Fax: 021 343598
Teagasc, Knockgriffin, Midleton, Co Cork.
Tel: 021 631898/631184, Fax: 021 631745
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.
Tel: 063 81514

Teagasc, James O’Keeffe Institute, Newmarket, Co Cork.
Tel: 029 60220/60671, Fax: 029 60675

Teagasc, Carnegie Hall, Millstreet, Co Cork.
Tel: 029 70031/70489, Fax: 029 70886

Teagasc, Bluepool, Kanturk, Co Cork.
Tel: 029 50164/50565, Fax: 029 51181

Cork West
Teagasc, Kilbarry Road, Dunmanway, Co Cork.
Tel: 023 45113/45406, Fax: 023 45161

Teagasc, Codrum, Macroom, Co Cork.
Tel: 026 41604/41605, Fax: 026 42317

Teagasc, Aras Beanntrai, The Square, Bantry, Co Cork.
Tel: 027 50265/51344, Fax: 027 51869

Teagasc, Connolly Street, Bandon, Co Cork.
Tel: 023 41589/41104, Fax: 023 44038

Teagasc, Coronea, Skibbereen, Co Cork.
Tel: 028 21574/21888, Fax: 028 22398

Teagasc, Advisory Office, Darrara College, Clonakilty, Co Cork.
Tel: 023 33118, Fax: 023 34449

Donegal
Teagasc, Cavan Lower, Ballybofey, Co Donegal.
Tel: 074 9131189/31520, Fax: 074 9132062

Teagasc, Carnamuggagh, Letterkenny, Co Donegal.
Tel: 074 9121555, Fax: 074 9126659

Teagasc, Doonan, Donegal.
Tel: 074 9721231/21918, Fax: 074 9721918

Teagasc, Public Services Centre, Malin Road, Carndonagh, Co. Donegal
Tel/Fax: 074 9374233
Dublin
Teagasc, Kinsealy Research Centre, Malahide Road, Dublin 17.
Tel: 01 8459000, Fax: 01 8461218

Galway
Teagasc, County Advisory Office, Athenry, Co Galway.
Tel: 091 845800, Fax: 091 845830.
Teagasc, Terryland Retail Park, Headford Road, Galway.
Tel: 091 562101-2/566556, Fax: 091 561353
Teagasc, c/o M Keady, The Square, Headford, Co Galway.
Tel: 093 35563/35210
Teagasc, Deerpark, Ballinasloe, Co Galway.
Tel: 090 96 42456/42098 Fax: 090 96 42973
Teagasc, Barrack Street, Loughrea, Co Galway.
Tel: 091 841088/841330, Fax: 091 841114
Teagasc, Castle Avenue, Portumna, Co Galway.
Tel: 090 97 41124/41369, 090 97 41118
Teagasc, Upper Dublin Road, Tuam, Co Galway.
Tel: 093 24506/28123, Fax: 093 28895
Teagasc, Bridge Street, Gort, Co Galway.
Tel: 091 631155/631205

Kerry
Teagasc, The Pavilion, Austin Stack Park, Tralee, Co Kerry.
Tel: 066 7125077, Fax: 066 7125558
Teagasc, Clieveragh, Listowel, Co Kerry.
Tel: 068 21266/21792/21978, Fax: 068 22700
Teagasc, Cleeney, Killarney, Co Kerry.
Tel: 064 32344/32345/34392, Fax: 064 32366
Teagasc, IRD Office, Kenmare, Co Kerry.
Tel: 064 41275
Teagasc, Courthouse, Caherciveen, Co Kerry.
Tel: 066 9472452, 066 9472937
Kildare
Teagasc, Friary Road, Naas, Co Kildare.
Tel: 045 879203/897205, Fax: 045 879093
Teagasc, Rathstewart, Athy, Co Kildare.
Tel: 059 86 31719/31710/31256, Fax: 059 8638261

Kilkenny
Teagasc, Kells Road, Kilkenny.
Tel: 056 7721153, Fax: 056 7721852
Teagasc, Mullinavat, Co Kilkenny.
Tel: 051 898137, Fax: 051 898204

Laois
Teagasc, 1 Park Villas, Portlaoise, Co Laois.
Tel: 0502 21326/21507, Fax: 0502 22974
Teagasc, Knockiel, Rathdowney, Co Laois.
Tel: 0505 46451/46169, Fax: 0505 46601

Leitrim
Teagasc, Bridge Street, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim.
Tel: 071 9620028, Fax: 071 9621363
Teagasc, Hill Street, Mohill, Co Leitrim.
Tel: 071 9631076, Fax: 071 9631989
Teagasc, Sligo Road, Manorhamilton, Co Leitrim.
Tel: 071 9855107, Fax: 071 9856151

Limerick
Teagasc, Parnell Street, Limerick.
Tel: 061 415922/415148, Fax: 061 310835
Teagasc, Kilmallock, Co Limerick.
Tel: 063 98039/98049, Fax: 063 98580
Teagasc, Gortboy, Newcastlewest, Co Limerick.
Tel: 069 61444/61565/61095, Fax: 069 61094
Longford
Teagasc, Town Centre, Longford.
Tel: 043 41021-4, Fax: 043 41025

Louth
Teagasc, Dublin Road, Dundalk, Co Louth.
Tel: 042 9332263, Fax: 042 9332316
Teagasc, Slane Road, Drogheda, Co Louth.
Tel: 041 9833006, Fax: 041 9838024

Mayo
Teagasc, Michael Davitt House, Castlebar, Co Mayo.
Tel: 094 90 21944/21124, Fax: 094 9024572
Teagasc, Bunree Road, Ardnaree, Ballina, Co Mayo.
Tel: 096 22335/22077, Fax: 096 71188
Teagasc, Newport Road, Westport, Co Mayo.
Tel: 098 28333/28334, Fax: 098 27295
Teagasc, Abbey Road, Ballinrobe, Co Mayo.
Tel: 094 95 41125/41342, Fax: 094 9541869
Teagasc, Lower James Street, Claremorris, Co Mayo.
Tel: 094 93 71360/71434, Fax: 094 9371913
Teagasc, Abbey Street, Ballyhaunis, Co Mayo.
Tel: 094 9630104, Fax: 094 9631032
Teagasc, Bridge Street, Swinford, Co Mayo.
Tel: 094 9251157, Fax: 094 9252305
Teagasc, American Street, Belmullet, Co Mayo.
Tel: 097 81104, Fax: 097 82302
Teagasc, Mullinmore Street, Crossmolina, Co Mayo.
Tel: 096 31159, Fax: 096 31979
Meath
Teagasc, Kells Road, Navan, Co Meath.
Tel: 046 90 21792/21793, Fax: 046 9022811
Teagasc, Willowfield, Navan Road, Kells, Co Meath.
Tel: 046 92 40039/40895, Fax: 046 9240312
Teagasc, Grange Advisory Office, Dunsany, Co Meath.
Tel: 046 90 61100, Fax: 046 9026154

Monaghan
Teagasc, Coolshannagh, Monaghan.
Tel: 047 81188/81170, Fax: 047 81408
Teagasc, Lakeview, Castleblaney, Co Monaghan.
Tel: 042 9740072, Fax: 042 9746659

Offaly
Teagasc, Clonminch, Tullamore, Co Offaly
Tel: 0506 21405/21008, Fax: 0506 21659
Teagasc, St Brendan’s House, Oxmanstown Mall, Birr, Co Offaly.
Tel: 0509 20284-5-6/20932, Fax: 0509 21630

Roscommon
Teagasc, Abbey Street, Roscommon.
Tel: 090 6626166, Fax: 090 6625494
Teagasc, St Patrick’s Street, Castlerea, Co Roscommon.
Tel: 094 96 20160/20486, Fax: 094 9620917
Teagasc, Magazine Road, Athlone, Co Roscommon.
Tel: 090 6494109, Fax: 090 6494636
Teagasc, The Crescent, Boyle, Co Roscommon.
Tel: 071 9662189, Fax: 071 9664973

Sligo
Teagasc, Riverside, Sligo.
Tel: 071 91 42286/45903, Fax: 071 9142677
Teagasc, Carrownanty, Ballymote, Co Sligo.
Tel: 071 91 83369/83101, Fax: 071 9183246

Teagasc, Enniscrone, Co Sligo.
Tel: 096 36298

**Tipperary NR**
Teagasc, Dromin Road, Nenagh, Co Tipperary.
Tel: 067 31225/31821/31370, Fax: 067 31130

Teagasc, Castlemeadows, Thurles, Co Tipperary.
Tel: 0504 21777/21091, Fax: 0504 21405

**Tipperary SR**
Teagasc, Carrigeen, Clonmel, Co Tipperary.
Tel: 052 21300/21548, Fax: 052 21199

Teagasc, Davis Road, Tipperary.
Tel: 062 51844/51845/31003, Fax: 062 51180

**Waterford**
Teagasc, Shandon, Dungarvan, Co Waterford.
Tel: 058 41211/41265, Fax: 058 43551

Teagasc, Main Street West, Lismore, Co Waterford.
Tel: 058 54181/54489, Fax: 058 54126

Teagasc, C/o Waterford/Ross Marts, Old Kilmeaden Road, Waterford.
Tel: 051 375417, Fax: 051 52239

**Westmeath**
Teagasc, Bellview, Dublin Road, Mullingar, Co Westmeath.
Tel: 044 40721, Fax: 044 40327

Teagasc, Dublin Road, Moate, Co Westmeath.
Tel: 0902 6481167, Fax: 090 6482085

**Wexford**
Teagasc, Advisory & Training Centre, Johnstown Castle, Wexford.
Tel: 053 71350, Fax: 053 45880
Teagasc, Barretts Park, New Ross, Co Wexford.
Tel: 051 421404, Fax: 051 425490

Teagasc, Dublin Road, Enniscorthy, Co Wexford.
Tel: 054 33332, Fax: 054 33830

Teagasc, Showgrounds, Gorey, Co Wexford.
Tel: 055 21333, Fax: 055 21548

Wicklow
Teagasc, Wentworth Place, Wicklow.
Tel: 0404 67315, Fax: 0404 69898

Teagasc, Coolruss, Tinahely, Co Wicklow.
Tel: 0402 38171/38233, Fax: 0402 38640

Teagasc, Kiltegan Road, Baltinglass, Co Wicklow.
Tel: 059 6481200, Fax: 059 6481432