Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food – Main Offices

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Head Office</td>
<td>Agriculture House, Kildare Street, Dublin 2.</td>
<td>Lo-call: 1890 200 510 also 01 6072000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portlaoise Office</td>
<td>Old Abbeyleix Road, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.</td>
<td>Lo-call: 1890 200 506 also 057 8674400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cavan Office</td>
<td>Government Buildings, Farnham Street, Cavan, Co. Cavan.</td>
<td>Lo-call: 1890 200 508 also 049 4368200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wexford Office</td>
<td>Johnstown Castle Estate, Co. Wexford.</td>
<td>Lo-call: 1890 200 509 also 053 9163400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maynooth Office</td>
<td>Maynooth Business Campus, Block B, Maynooth Co. Kildare</td>
<td>01 5053300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clonakilty Office</td>
<td>Sea Fisheries, Unit C, West Cork Technology Park, Clonakilty, Co Cork</td>
<td>Lo-call 1890 252 741 or 023 59500</td>
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See Appendices 1A to 1G for full contact details of Department offices, laboratories etc.

See Appendix 2 for full contact details of Teagasc Agricultural and Horticultural Colleges and County Advisory and Training Services.
Support measures under the Rural Development Programme Ireland 2007 – 2013 are co-funded from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD).

The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: Europe investing in Rural Areas

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

I am pleased to launch my Department’s “Schemes and Services 2008” publication which provides a comprehensive outline of the services available to the farming, fishing and wider rural communities.

The agri-food and fishing sectors are among the most important and successful indigenous manufacturing sectors in this country. In 2007, in the face of stiff international competition, the export of Irish food products, including fish, exceeded €8 million for the first time. This is a strong indicator of how the productivity and capability of the farming and the food processing sector has changed and a benchmark on how well it is meeting the demands of the increasingly sophisticated international food market. The strengthening of global food commodities augers well for the continuing success of our food exports, particularly with the changing international food environment having such potential for a food exporting nation.

The Department and its State Agencies work in tandem with these sectors in providing a comprehensive range of supports, schemes and services tailored to meet their needs. In 2007, the Department made payments totalling €1.6 billion to farmers under various schemes. In excess of €1.1 billion was paid to farmers under the Single Payment Scheme a further €250 million was paid under the Disadvantaged Areas Scheme and €311 million under REPS.

Almost half of all payments under the 2007 Single Payment Scheme were paid directly into farmers’ bank accounts. Under current European Commission requirements, from mid October 2008 all payments to farmers must be made to a bank account and payment by cheque will no longer be allowed. Farmers have been advised of this requirement and I would urge that bank account details be provided on the relevant authorisation form to my Department.

Online applications for the Single Payment Scheme were introduced for the first time in 2007. The application form has been further enhanced and made more user friendly for 2008. For full details of this and the other online services provided by my Department please visit www.agfood.ie

Mary Coughlan, T.D.,
Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.
The Animal Welfare Recording and Breeding Scheme for Suckler Herds was introduced in 2007. The scheme, which is 100% exchequer funded, will deliver some €2.35 million to suckler farmers over the next five years. The Scheme will assist producers in meeting consumer demands for high levels of animal welfare and quality beef production as well as securing the supply base for the beef industry.

REPS 4 was approved by the EU in late July 2007 as part of Ireland's Rural Development Programme 2007-2013. Funding of some €3 billion has been provided for the Scheme up to 2013 and €1.6 billion of this amount is coming from the National Exchequer – almost double the national provision to 2006. REPS not alone provides for protection for the countryside, but will ensure that that primary agricultural production is carried out in a sustainable and environmentally-friendly manner.

Finally, I welcome the Government decision in September 2007 to establish the new Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Integrating responsibility for seafood creates new opportunities to drive forward the development of the sea fisheries and aquaculture industries in tandem with the renewed emphasis on the development of the food industry generally, through the injection of fresh thinking from other sectors of the food industry and through new product and market development.

Mary Coughlan, TD
Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

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

John Browne, T.D.,
Minister of State
(with responsibility for Sea Fisheries)

Trevor Sargent, T.D.,
Minister of State
(with responsibility for Food and Horticulture)
01 general information
1. GENERAL INFORMATION

DEPARTMENT WEBSITE

“For immediate access to all that is happening in Agriculture, Fisheries 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

ONLINE SERVICES

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

■ SPS/ iMap- provides access to your Single Payment Scheme (SPS)/Area Aid application information including:
  - Online SPS application;
  - Summary Application Details, Parcel Details and Arable Payment enquiry;
  - Document enquiry showing scanned images of your SPS/Area Aid correspondence with the Department, all of which may be printed;
  - Colour mapping for your land parcels, which also may be printed.

■ AIM - provides access to the Animal Identification and Movement system, all of which are available using mobile phone technology, including:
  - Calf Birth Registration facility, which allows you to register the birth of a calf online;
  - Herd Profile Enquiry, which allows you to view details of animals in your herd on CMMS, as well as movements in and out of the herd;
  - Compliance Certificate facility, which allows you to apply online for a CMMS compliance certificate, which is required for certain animal movements.

The Department strongly encourages its clients to register on its web site (www.agriculture.gov.ie or www.agfood.ie ) for existing and future services by clicking on the agfood Online Services icon and following the simple instructions. Farmers can also contact the agfood Online Services Helpdesk (lo-call number 1890 252 118) to register over the phone or to obtain a paper application. You will receive a PAC (Personal Access Code) and password, for secure interaction with the Department. Once a client has registered for Online Services, then they will have access to all new facilities introduced by the Department that are applicable to their enterprise.
CUSTOMER SERVICE

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

To this end we have in place a Customer Charter and Customer Service Action Plan, both of which will be updated during 2008. The Charter gives commitments to the customer as to the level and standard of service that can be expected in his/her dealings with the Department. The Customer Service Action Plan expands on these commitments, setting out how they are to be delivered and monitored by the Department. Consultation with and feedback from our clients is vital in helping us to improve our service delivery in every possible way.

QUALITY SERVICE UNIT

The Quality Service Unit, headed by a Quality Service Officer, is responsible for monitoring progress under the Customer Service Action Plan and Customer Charter, as well as co-ordinating action on further improvements in the delivery of services by the Department to its customers.

As a user of our services, you are ideally placed to give us the benefit of your experiences and to assist us in getting an accurate picture of the quality of our services and to identify areas requiring improvement so that the Department continues to meet with your changing needs. If you have any comment, positive or negative, about the services you have received and/or if you have any suggestions on how the service can be improved, the Quality Service Officer would like to hear from you.

A Customer Comment Card is available from all Department offices and directly from the Quality Service Unit.

COMPLAINTS

If you are unhappy with the service that you receive, you can avail of the Department’s Customer Complaints Procedure by referring the matter to the Quality Service Officer who will have it fully and impartially investigated. Complaints may be made in person, in writing, by telephone and by email.

Copies of the latest Customer Service Action Plan, the Customer Charter and a leaflet explaining the Customer Complaints Procedure are available from all Department offices or direct from the Quality Service Unit at the address below, or by accessing the Department’s website www.agriculture.gov.ie

Further information is available from the Quality Service Unit, Corporate Affairs Division, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Pavilion B, Grattan Business Centre, Dublin Road, Portlaoise, Co. Laois. Tel: 057 8694330, Fax 057 8694381 or e-mail: qualityserviceunit@agriculture.gov.ie
CHARTER OF RIGHTS FOR FARMERS

The Charter of Rights for Farmers 2005/2007 was agreed following discussions with the farming organisations. It will remain in place until a new Charter of Rights is agreed during 2008.

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

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

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

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

FARMER’S ANNUAL PAYMENT STATEMENT

In line with the Department’s commitment in the Customer Action Plan to provide clear and accurate information, an Annual Payment Statement issues to all farmer clients who have received payments from the Department. The statement is a composite list of all payments issued to (and debts recovered from) a farmer in any given calendar year by the Department. The Annual Payment Statement for 2007, giving details of all payments and recoveries made in 2007, was issued in February 2008.

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.

Under current EU Commission requirements, from mid October 2008, all payments to farmers must be made to a bank account and payment by cheque will no longer be allowed. Farmers have been advised of this requirement and are requested to forward their bank account details on the relevant authorisation form to the Department.

Apart from the EU Commission requirement, payment by Direct Credit is a convenient and cost effective payment option for a number of reasons:
SAVES TIME/MORE CONVENIENT;
Time spent going to the bank and queuing to cash or lodge cheques is avoided.

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

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

NOTIFICATION OF PAYMENTS STILL ISSUED;
Lodgements to accounts are notified to the farmer by post with a remittance advice containing full details of the transaction.

Further information and authorisation forms for this payment method may be obtained from Direct Credit, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food, Farnham Street, Cavan. Tel: 049 4368283

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT
The Freedom of Information (FOI) Acts 1997 and 2003 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:

■ Seek access to records held by the Department;
■ Seek to correct personal information relating to oneself held by the Department, where it is inaccurate, incomplete or misleading;
■ Be given reasons for decisions made by the Department where such decisions directly affect the individual involved.

When making an FOI application it is important to note that:

■ The application must be in writing and must indicate that the information is sought under the Freedom of Information Act;
■ The request must provide sufficient detail to enable the records sought to be identified. If you have difficulty in identifying the precise records you require, staff will assist you in preparing your request;
■ If you are seeking personal information, some form of identification, e.g. copy of driver’s licence, passport, etc. should accompany your application;
■ 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 (20 working days) of receiving it. Where third party consultation is involved, an additional three weeks is provided for.

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

Further information is available from: Freedom of Information Unit, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Pavilion B, Grattan Business Centre, Dublin Road, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.
Tel: 057 8694327; Fax: 057 8694381; e-mail: foi@agriculture.gov.ie

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN/ RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME, 2007-2013

The agri-food and fisheries elements under various sub-programmes of the National Development Plan (NDP) will account for some €9.3 billion of public expenditure (€8.7bn for agri-food and €583m for fisheries). Of the €8.7bn an amount of €5.78bn is allocated to the rural development programme (RDP). The bulk of the NDP funding is earmarked for agriculture and food development under four sub-programmes addressing competitiveness (€1.7bn), the environment (€6bn), the food industry (€289m) and agri-food research (€641m). On fishery issues a total of €583 million has been allocated for marine research, coastal protection, development of the seafood sector (seafood processing and marketing, training, aquaculture) and development of the fisheries coastal infrastructure (piers and harbours). The recommendations of the Agri-Vision 2015 Action Plan are reflected in the support measures under the NDP.

The RDP has an allocation of €5.78bn of which €2.3bn will be met from the European Agriculture Fund for Rural Development in the implementation of Ireland’s Rural Development Programme 2007-2013 (RDP). The RDP addresses three priorities – competitiveness, the environment and the wider rural economy.

Under competitiveness there is increased funding available for Early Retirement, Farm Investment and Installation Aid. Funding has been substantially increased for the Rural Environment Protection Scheme (REPS 4), Natura 2000 and the Disadvantaged Areas Scheme. A range of measures are included in the RDP to foster the development of rural areas and contribute to the quality of life in these areas. The wider rural economy support measures are administered the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs (see chapter 14 for further information).

In addition to the RDP there are other Agriculture, Fisheries and Food support measures under the NDP, which are fully funded from the national exchequer. These include On Farm Investment under the competitiveness programme and an Animal Welfare Suckler Scheme under the environmental programme. Forestry measures are fully funded by the national exchequer under the NDP (see chapter 5 for further information on Forestry).

The NDP Food Programme will provide investment in capital infrastructure and marketing. The Agri-food Research Sub-programme of the NDP will provide scientific support for a modern, innovative and knowledge driven sector (see chapter 12 for further information).
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, Fisheries and Food regarding their entitlements under certain schemes.

SOME OF THE FEATURES OF THE OFFICE

- Appeals Officers are independent in the performance of their functions;
- Appeals **must be lodged within 3 months of the Department’s decision**. Every appeal **must be made in writing** and must contain a statement of the facts and contentions upon which the appellant intends to rely;
- Each case is assigned to an individual Appeals Officer who considers all the evidence and then makes a determination. A comprehensive decision letter issues to both the appellant and the Department;
- An appellant has the right to an oral hearing, to be held at a neutral venue convenient to the appellant. Oral hearings are held in private and are as informal as possible. An appellant can bring someone to represent him/her at the oral hearing and the Department also has a representative at the hearing.

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

- Single Payment Scheme;
- Disadvantaged Areas Compensatory Allowances Scheme;
- 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](http://www.agriappeals.gov.ie) which contains other information about the Office.

For further information contact the Agriculture Appeals Office, Kilminchy Court, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.
Lo-Call: 1890 671671 or Tel: 057 8667167; Fax: 057 8667177
email: appeals.office@agriculture.gov.ie website: [www.agriappeals.gov.ie](http://www.agriappeals.gov.ie)
CONSUMER LIAISON PANEL

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

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

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

Consumers wishing to communicate with the Panel can do so by contacting the Consumer Liaison Panel Secretariat, c/o Department of Agriculture, Fisheries 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.

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, Fisheries 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, Fisheries and Food, Kildare Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 6072443 or 01 6072046
support payments for farmers
2. SUPPORT PAYMENTS FOR FARMERS

SINGLE PAYMENT SCHEME
The Single Payment Scheme was introduced in Ireland on 1 January 2005.

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

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

SINGLE PAYMENT SCHEME 2007
The closing date for receipt of applications under the 2007 Single Payment Scheme was 15 May 2007.

ONLINE APPLICATIONS
An on-line application facility was offered to farmers for the first time in 2007. Farmers may apply directly once registered for online services with the Department or have an authorised agriculture agent to apply on their behalf (see details of Online Services provided by the Department at Chapter 1).

Agriculture Agents must be suitably qualified planners/advisors/consultants with recognised experience in completing significant application forms on behalf of farmers and be registered with the Department for the purpose of submitting online Single Payment Scheme applications.

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

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

PROTEIN CROP PREMIUM
A supplementary premium payment of €55.57 per hectare will be made to applicants who declare proteins on their Single Payment 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 Single Payment Application form and have submitted the relevant contract or letter of undertaking within the necessary timeframe.

A Maximum Guaranteed Area (MGA) in the European Union for Energy Crops, for which aid may be granted, has been established at 2 million hectares. Where the area for which aid is claimed exceeds this MGA, the rate at which the aid will be paid shall be reduced proportionately for the year in question.

Applicants under the Energy Crops and Non Food Setaside Schemes should obtain the full terms and conditions of these schemes by contacting the Energy Crops Section, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Old Abbeyleix Road, Portlaoise, Co. Laois, Tel. 057 8678701 and 057 8678709 or via email at energycrops@agriculture.gov.ie

NATIONAL ENERGY PREMIUM
A top up of €80 per hectare, funded by the National Exchequer, may be paid in addition to the Energy Crops Scheme. This top up will be subject to a maximum ceiling of 37.5 hectares over any consecutive 3-year period in which the application for funding is made. This additional payment applies from the 2007 Scheme year onwards.

SUGAR BEET COMPENSATION
The EU Council of Ministers agreed on the reform of the Sugar Regime in late 2005, following which the Regulations governing the incorporation of the sugar beet compensation into the Single Payment Scheme were adopted. Following consultation, the Minister decided that the Entitlements would be calculated on the basis of the average contracted quantity an individual had with Irish Sugar Limited in the 2001, 2002 and 2004 Reference Period. The compensation payable to farmers arising from the Sugar Regime was incorporated in the Single Payment Scheme with effect from 2006.

SINGLE PAYMENT APPLICATION
Submission of a Single Payment application is a requirement from farmers applying in 2008 for any of the following schemes:
- Disadvantaged Areas Compensatory Allowance Scheme;
- Single Payment Scheme;
- Energy Crops Scheme (including National Energy Premium);
- Protein Crops 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;
- Scheme of Early Retirement from Farming;
- Young Farmers’ Installation Aid Scheme;
- Dried Fodder Scheme;
- Afforestation Premium Scheme;
- Suckler Welfare Scheme.
THE NATIONAL RESERVE

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

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

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

The vast bulk of the funds in the National Reserve were used to make allocations to successful applicants under the 2005 National Reserve when applications were invited from 4 main categories as follows:

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

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

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

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

The 2006 National Reserve catered for 2 categories of farmers:

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

**Category B:** New entrants to farming since the reference period. This category was extended in 2006 to include new entrants who were farming leased/rented land for the previous three years. Income and educational qualifications apply to this category.

Funding from the 2006 National reserve was also used to increase the value of entitlements for farmers who had qualified for Category C in 2005 in line with the increase to the value of dairy premium entitlements in 2006.

The 2007 National Reserve caters for 4 categories of farmers:

**Category A:** (similar to 2005 and 2006) Farmers who inherited a holding from a farmer who retired or died by 16 May 2005 where the holding was leased out to a third party during the reference period.

**Category B:** New entrants to farming since the reference period, who received land by inheritance, purchase of lease. The leased/rented land must have been declared on the 2005, 2006 and 2007 Single Payment application forms. Income and educational qualifications apply to this category.
**Category C:** This category provides a top-up for certain sheep farmers whose entitlements are below the average value for the DED concerned and whose gross Single Payment is less than €6,000. At least 40% of the value of the applicants Single Payment entitlements must have been derived from coupled payments associated with sheep production during the reference period. The maximum top up from the Reserve is €1,000.

**Category D:** This category provides a top-up for farmers on offshore islands whose entitlements are below the average value for the DED concerned and whose gross Single Payment is less than €6,000. Allocations to successful applicants will not exceed €1,000.

Decisions regarding categories to be included in the 2008 National Reserve will be made in due course and will be dependant on the level of funding available in the Reserve at that stage.

**TRADING /TRANSFER OF SINGLE PAYMENT ENTITLEMENT**

Entitlements may be sold with or without land but may only be sold without land provided at least 80% of entitlements have been used during one scheme year. Otherwise the unused entitlements must be surrendered to the National Reserve. A farmer uses entitlements by declaring one hectare of eligible land on his/her Single Payment application form.

A percentage clawback was applied to the sales of entitlements with or without land in 2006 and 2007 but this clawback has been abolished in 2008. Entitlements may only be leased if accompanied by an equivalent number of hectares. In the event of change of ownership of a holding or change to the registration details of a herdnumber, the applicant must apply separately to the Single Payment Unit in Portlaoise if changes are required to the registration details of Single Payment entitlements.

Application to transfer entitlements must be completed where sale/gift/lease of entitlements is involved, where a holding is being transferred via gift or inheritance or where the registration details of the holding are changed as a result of the following:

- Merger of two or more holdings and entitlements;
- Division of a holding and entitlements;
- Change of legal entity;
- Formation or division of a partnership etc;
- Addition/Removal of a person on a herdnumber (Admin Transfer).

Farmers who change the registration details of their holding must update the registration details of their entitlements prior to submission of their Single Payment Application Form in order to receive Single Payment. Therefore completed application forms for the transfer of entitlements must be lodged with the Department offices in Portlaoise on or before the closing date for the Single Payment Scheme.

Application Forms and Terms and Conditions are available from Department local offices and on the Department website.

**MODULATION**

Modulation is a process whereby each farmer’s Single Payment is reduced by a set percentage (3% in 2005, 4% in 2006 and 5% in 2007). Up to 80% of funds generated through modulation (about €34 million in 2007) can be retained in Ireland for spending on certain Rural Development measures. The main Rural Development measures currently administered by the Department are the Disadvantaged Areas’ Compensatory Allowance Scheme, the Scheme of Early Retirement from Farming and the Rural Environment Protection Scheme (REPS).
CROSS COMPLIANCE

Cross compliance involves two key elements:

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

The Cross Compliance obligations have been phased in over a three-year period. Eight cross-compliance SMRs were introduced in 2005 together with the Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition requirements for Ireland. A further 7 SMRs were introduced with effect from 1 January 2006 with the final 3 introduced with effect from 1 January 2007. From 1 January 2007 Cross Compliance has been extended to a number of other scheme areas including the Disadvantaged Areas Compensatory Allowance Scheme and REPS.

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

A further information booklet entitled “The Single Payment Scheme – Guide to Cross Compliance Requirements to be Implemented in 2006 and 2007” was issued in August 2007. This booklet set out the important features of the SMRs for Cross Compliance to be implemented on 1st January 2006 and 1st January 2007.

In August 2007 a leaflet was issued to all farmers outlining what to expect should they be selected for inspection under the Single Payment Scheme/Disadvantaged Areas Compensatory Allowance Scheme.

Copies of these three publications can be accessed on the Department’s website under the heading “Cross Compliance”. Enquiries in relation to Cross Compliance can also be sent to the dedicated email address cross.compliance@agriculture.gov.ie

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

APPEALS PROCEDURES

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

Appeals should be addressed to the Single Payment Unit, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Government Offices, Old Abbeyleix Road, Portlaoise, Co Laois.
**NITRATES DEROGATION**

Under the Nitrates Regulations\(^1\) (S.I. No. 378 of 2006) farmers must not spread livestock manure and slurry containing more than 170kgs of nitrogen per hectare per year. However, grassland farmers, with grazing livestock, may apply annually for a derogation to apply up to a limit of 250kg per hectare in a calendar year, under certain conditions. Farmers doing so will need to have a Fertiliser Plan on their holding by 1 March each year and will have to keep Fertiliser Accounts.

An application for a derogation must be submitted to the Department each year. Arrangements for 2008 are currently being finalised and details of the terms and conditions which apply will be available on the Department’s website and will be publicised.

Farmers are reminded that compliance with the Nitrates Directive is one of the Statutory Management Requirements under the Single Payment Scheme, and anyone operating above the 170kg/hectare limit who has not applied for a derogation in the year in question is putting his or her Single Payment at risk.

For further information on the Nitrates Derogation, you can contact Environment Section, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food, Johnstown Castle Estate, Wexford. Tel: 053 9163400. Email: agenv@agriculture.gov.ie.

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

Payment is based on eligible forage areas which are designated as More Severely Handicapped (lowland), Less Severely Handicapped (lowland) and 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 2008 must be made on the 2008 Single Payment application form.

This Scheme is co-funded by the European Union.

**Eligibility**

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, Fisheries and Food;
- Occupy and farm a minimum of 3 hectares of forage land in a designated Disadvantaged Area;
- Undertake to remain in farming for 5 years from the first payment of a Compensatory Allowance;
- Comply with Cross Compliance as set down by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food;
- 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 3 continuous months in 2008. 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;

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\(^1\) European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2006.
In relation to any mountain commonage that you farm, be a participant under REPS or any National Scheme that may be in place or be compliant with the relevant Commonage Framework Plan;

Co-operate with Department staff in relation to any inspection or any request for documentation.

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 2008.

**LIVESTOCK UNITS (LUS)**

- Bovines over 2 years of age = 1 LU each;
- Bovines 2 years old and under = 0.6 LU each;
- Equines 6 months and under, registered in the applicant’s name in the Irish Horse Register or with the Connemara Pony Breeders’ Society = 0.6 LU each;
- Equines over 6 months, registered in the applicant’s name in the Irish Horse Register or with the Connemara Pony Breeders’ Society = 0.6 LU each;
- Female or Male Deer = 0.3 LU each;
- Female or Male Sheep = 0.15 LU each;
- Female or Male 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 for a continuous period of 3 months.

**AID AVAILABLE**

The scheme provides for payment as follows:

- **Mountain type land**
  Standard Rate of €109.71 on first 10 hectares or part thereof and €95.99 per hectare on remaining hectares subject to an overall payment ceiling of 45 hectares.

- **More Severely Handicapped (lowland)**
  Standard Rate of €95.99 per hectare on up to 45 hectares.

- **Less Severely Handicapped (lowland) and Areas with Specific Handicaps (Coastal Areas)**
  Standard Rate of €82.27 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.

An Energy Rate of Aid is also payable on Disadvantaged areas used for the production of energy crops, subject to a maximum of 10 hectares. Disadvantaged Areas Scheme applicants will continue to be required to meet the minimum forage area requirement of 3 hectares with the minimum stocking density requirement of 0.15 livestock units per hectare of forage lands declared.

- **Mountain type land**
  An Energy Rate of €76.06 on first 10 hectares or part thereof and €95.99 per hectare on remaining hectares subject to an overall ceiling of 45 hectares.

- **More Severely Handicapped (lowland)**
  An Energy Rate of €64.34 per hectare on up to 45 hectares.
Less Severely Handicapped (lowland) and Areas with Specific Handicaps (Coastal Areas)

Energy Rate of €50.62 per hectare on up to 45 hectares.

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

Further information regarding the Disadvantaged Areas Compensatory Allowance Scheme may be obtained from Disadvantaged Areas Section, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Old Abbeyleix Road, Portlaoise, Co Laois. Lo-call: 1890 200 114

ANIMAL WELFARE RECORDING AND BREEDING SCHEME FOR SUCKLER HERDS

This is a new 100% Exchequer funded Scheme, which will operate for a maximum of 5 years from 1 January 2008 until 31 December 2012.

OBJECTIVES OF THE SCHEME

The Objectives of the Scheme are to encourage suckler farmers to:

- Enhance welfare standards for animals, produced from the suckler cow herd;
- Improve husbandry standards at weaning time, leading to reduced illness and mortality and enhanced health of the National beef herd;
- Build their knowledge through training and education of the best practice in suckler cow herd health;
- Improve the breed quality of suckler cows naturally through on-going use of the data compiled under the Scheme by the Irish Cattle Breeding Federation (ICBF).

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to participate in the Scheme, a farmer shall:

- Be aged eighteen years or over;
- Be farming a holding for which all land parcels will be declared every year of the contract under the EU Single Payment Scheme;
- Undertake to implement, for the full term of the Scheme, Measures 1 to 6 on all eligible suckler cows and the calves they are suckling kept on his/her holding. Payment shall be limited to a maximum of 100 eligible suckler cows kept by the applicant. However, the requirements of the Scheme apply to all sucker cows, and calves reared by those cows (whether born on the farm or bought in) kept on the holding. Measure 7 shall also be compulsory.

An animal payment of €82 (where the applicant is reporting the animal events online) or €80 (where animal events are reported manually) per qualifying suckler cow is available under the Scheme (beef breed cows in mixed enterprise herds, i.e. herds that contain both suckler and dairy animals can qualify) to herdowners who undertake, by way of a 5 year contract to comply with 7 animal welfare measures.
The Measures are:
1. Calving details
2. Disbudding of calves
3. Castration of bull calves (if castration is taking place)
4. Minimum calving age
5. Weaning best practice
6. Animal Events Recording
7. Training and Education

Further information regarding the Animal Welfare, Recording and Breeding Scheme for Suckler Herds may be obtained from the Suckler Herds Section, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Government Offices, Old Abbey-leix Road, Portlaoise, Co Laois. LoCall: 1890 252 707
03 market support measures
3. MARKET SUPPORT MEASURES

EXPORT REFUNDS

Export refunds are subsidies, which may be paid in respect of beef, live cattle, milk and milk products, sugar, cereals, pigmeat, poultry and egg products and certain processed products that are exported outside the EU. The amount of the subsidy, which can vary depending on the destination of the product, is designed to cover the difference between the EU market price and the lower world market prices and to take account of the high input or raw material prices obtained in the European Union. The scheme enables EU exporters to better compete on world markets.

- An exporter requires an export licence in order to export these products and to apply for export refunds;
- There are various conditions that apply to licensing and refunds including quantities, time limits, securities, etc. that the exporter must comply with;
- There are horizontal and sectoral EU regulations that govern licensing and the export refunds scheme;
- Applications for refunds comprise export declarations, which are sent in the first place to the customs authority (i.e. the Revenue Commissioners). These export declarations (known as SADs) are then validated and transferred to the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food;
- An exporter using the Revenue Commissioners online ROS service can now make these declarations online;
- Management committees chaired and operated by the European Commission establish rates of refunds from time to time; rates are subject to change at any time.

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

BEEF INTERVENTION

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

CEREALS INTERVENTION

The intervention system for cereals, which is a market support scheme, is open between 1 November and 31 May of the following year, subject to a minimum quantity being offered and the grain reaching the quality specifications laid down. The intervention price paid to the offeror is increased by monthly increments. The price paid for standard quality grain is currently €101.77 per tonne increasing to €104.53 by the end of the buying-in period in May. The price paid depends 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 EU 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. From 2008 onwards, buying-in will cease once the quantities offered Community-wide exceed 30,000 tonnes. In such cases, buying-in may take place using a tendering system. Intervention purchasing of butter is suspended when the reported market price for butter is equal to or higher than 92% of intervention price for two consecutive weeks. Intervention buying-in for SMP operates from March to August each year. Quantities up to a limit of 109,000 tonnes per year may be purchased at the intervention price - thereafter a tendering system may apply.

SUGAR INTERVENTION

In Ireland purchasing of sugar into intervention has ceased. The only activity under the sugar intervention scheme will be the selling of the remaining intervention stocks of white sugar.

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

AID FOR PRIVATE STORAGE

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

The Schemes aim is to facilitate producers to store these products for a stipulated storage period. At the end of the storage period the storer receives aid at a rate, which has been fixed in advance. They are an alternative to public intervention in that the products remain the property of the storers to sell at their unrestricted discretion at the end of the storage period.

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

OTHER EU MILK MARKET SUPPORT MEASURES

CASEIN AND CASEINATES

EU 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
EU 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
EU Regulation 1898/2005 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.

EU 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
EU Regulation 2707/2000, as amended by EU Regulation 816/2004 and EU Regulation 1152/2007, 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
EU Regulation 1898/2005 provides for the purchase of reduced-price butter by certain non profit making organisations e.g. hospitals, welfare institutions and other organisations that supply meals as an integral part of their service.

Further information can be obtained from Milk Subsidies Section, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Johnstown Castle Estate, Co. Wexford. Tel: 053 9163400
04 agri environment
4. AGRI ENVIRONMENT

RURAL ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION SCHEME (REPS)

The Rural Environmental Protection Scheme (REPS), forms part of Ireland’s Rural Development Programme 2007-2013. The current Scheme, REPS 4 was introduced in August 2007.

The objectives of REPS are:

- To promote:
  - Ways of using agricultural land which are compatible with the protection and improvement of the environment, biodiversity, the landscape and its features, climate change, natural resources, water quality, the soil and genetic diversity;
  - Environmentally-favourable farming systems;
  - The conservation of high nature-value farmed environments which are under threat;
  - The upkeep of historical features on agricultural land;
  - The use of environmental planning in farming practice;

- To protect against land abandonment;

- To sustain the social fabric in rural communities;

- To contribute to positive environmental management of farmed NATURA 2000 sites.

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 Department.

Farmers with land in a NATURA 2000 site i.e. Special Areas of Conservation (SAC’s) or Special Protection Areas (SPA’s) must include such lands in the REPS farm plan.

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 a minimum of two biodiversity options, with at least one coming from Category 1.

CATEGORY 1 OPTIONS:

- Traditional Hay Meadows;
- Species Rich Grassland;
- Use of Clover in Swards;
- Creation of New Habitat;
- Establish Farm Woodland;
- Coppicing of Hedgerows;
- Laying of Hedgerows;
- Plant New Hedgerows;
■ Additional Stonewall Maintenance;
■ Traditional Irish Orchards;
■ Install Bird Boxes;
■ Green Cover Establishment;
■ Environmental Management of Set-aside;
■ Increased Arable Margins;
■ Low Input Spring Cereals;
■ Minimum Tillage Crops.

**CATEGORY 2 OPTIONS:**
■ Traditional Hay Meadows;
■ Species Rich Grassland;
■ Use of Trailing Shoe;
■ Control of Invasive Species;
■ Increased Watercourse Margin;
■ Exclude all Bovine Access to Watercourses;
■ Use of planted buffer zones;
■ Broadleaved Tree Planting;
■ Nature Corridors;
■ Increase in Archaeological Buffer Zones;
■ Establish Traditional Irish Orchards;
■ Install bird or bat boxes;
■ Green Cover Establishment;
■ Increased Arable Margins;
■ Minimum-Tillage.

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

**SUPPLEMENTARY MEASURES:**
■ Wild Bird Habitat;
■ Traditional Irish Orchards;
■ Conservation of Animal Genetic Resources;
■ Riparian Zones;
■ LINNET Habitats;
■ Low Input Spring Cereals;
■ Minimum-tillage;
■ Traditional Sustainable Grazing;
■ Incorporation of Clover into Grassland Swards;
■ Mixed Grazing;
■ Lakes and Catchments;
■ Heritage Buildings;

**SUPPLEMENTARY MEASURES**
These are designed to take account of the need to resolve specific environmental problems that relate to the priority environmental themes of water quality, biodiversity/landscape and climate change. These Supplementary Measures provide farmers with the opportunity to draw down additional payments under the scheme.
Farmers who wish to undertake Supplementary Measure(s) must comply with the Measure(s) from the commencement date of the plan, with the exception of Lake Catchments and Heritage Building supplementary measures, as a condition of eligibility for payment.

**REPS PAYMENT RATES (PER ANNUM)**

| General REPS Programme | €234/ha for first 20 ha  
|                       | €205/ha for next 20 ha up to 40 ha  
|                       | €82/ha for next 15 ha up to 55 ha  
|                       | €10/ha for areas over 55 ha  
| Natura 2000, commonage and NHA land | €282/ha for first 40 ha  
|                       | €29/ha for next 40 ha up to 80 ha  
|                       | €22/ha for next 40 ha up to 120 ha  
|                       | €5/ha for areas over 120 ha  
| Supplementary Measures | €234 per LU of the breed registered with the breed society  
| Rare Breeds | €300 per holding  
| Traditional Orchards | €850/ha  
| Riparian | €100/ha  
| Conservation of Wild Birds | €700/ha first ha  
| LINNET Project | €400/ha from 1 to 2.5 ha  
| Low Input Tillage Crops | €370/ha up to maximum of 2.5 ha  
| Minimum Tillage | €25/ha up to maximum of 40 ha  
| Traditional Sustainable Grazing | €50/ha up to max area of 20 ha  
| Mixed Grazing | €50/ha up to max area of 20 ha  
| Lake Catchments | €80/ha  
| Whole farm reduction in Organic N by reduction in stock numbers | €120/ha up to 2.5 ha  
| Traditional Hay Meadows | €120/ha up to 2.5 ha  
| Species Rich Grassland | €3 per 100m  
| Increased watercourse margin | €5 per ha/per drinking unit  
| Alternative drinking points | €200/ha up to max of 2.5 ha  
| Buffer zones | €30/ha up to max of 40 ha  
| Clover Swards | Details and application forms are available from the Department’s local Agricultural Environment and Structures (AES) Offices. (See Appendix 1B)
ORGANIC FARMING

Organic Farming is a specific system of farming whose aim is to produce quality food in a manner beneficial to the environment and to wildlife. Organic farmers practise farming in accordance with standards, which have been formulated for crop and livestock production. The thrust of these standards is to develop a system of farming that co-exists with other systems, sustains soil fertility and protects the environment, wildlife and non-renewable resources.

Organic production and labelling of organic products is controlled by European and national regulations, i.e. European Council Regulation (EEC) No. 2092/91 as amended, which is backed up by Statutory Instruments Nos. 112 of 2004 and 698 of 2007. The EU legislation allows Member States to use private inspection bodies to carry out the inspection and licensing system of organic operators. Two certification bodies are approved to carry out this work in Ireland, i.e. Irish Organic Farmers and Growers Association (IOFGA) and Organic Trust Limited.

ASSISTANCE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SECTOR

ORGANIC FARMING SCHEME

Since 1994, organic farmers have been supported by way of the Rural Environment Protection Scheme (REPS). Under the new Rural Development Programme, which runs from 2007 to 2013, it is now possible for organic farmers to obtain organic support payments without having to be in the REPS Scheme. Organic producers will still, of course, be able to join REPS as well.

The objective of the Scheme is to deliver enhanced environmental and animal welfare benefits and to encourage producers to respond to the market demand for organically produced food.

To be eligible for this measure, farmers must be licensed by one of the two certification bodies approved by the Department, must also register with the Organic Unit of the Department and farm organically for a minimum period of 5 years.

The payment rates, which are additional to any REPS basic payments, are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>≥ 3ha and up to 55ha</th>
<th>&gt; 55 ha</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In conversion</td>
<td>€212/ha</td>
<td>€30/ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full organic status</td>
<td>€106/ha</td>
<td>€15/ha</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Horticulture

Holdings Only

Horticulture Area ≤ 6 hectares (ha)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Horticulture Area &gt; 6ha and up to 55ha</th>
<th>Horticulture Area &gt; 55 ha</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In conversion</td>
<td>€283/ha</td>
<td>€212/ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full organic status</td>
<td>€142/ha</td>
<td>€106/ha</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SCHEMES OF GRANT-AID FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ORGANIC SECTOR

Development grants are available both to farmers and to processors under the Schemes of Grant Aid for the Development of the Organic Sector, which were approved under the National Development Plan, 2007–2013. The on-farm and off-farm Schemes provide grant aid for new equipment and facilities for production, preparation, grading, packing, storage, distribution and sale of organic products. Details are as follows:
Grant aid of 40% for investments over €1,500;

- Maximum On-farm grant aid of €60,000 payable over the duration of the scheme, which runs from 2007-2013;
- Maximum Off-farm grant aid of €500,000 payable over the duration of the scheme, which runs from 2007-2013.

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

**BIOENERGY SCHEME**

The Bioenergy Scheme provides establishment grants to farmers to grow miscanthus and willow for the production of biomass suitable for use as a renewable source of energy. The Scheme aims to increase the production of willow and miscanthus in Ireland and to encourage alternative land use options. Establishment grants are payments to cover part of the costs of establishing the crops. Eligible costs include those associated with ground preparation, fencing, vegetation control, the purchase of planting stock, planting and first year cutback, and costs associated with other approved operations.

**MAIN FEATURES**

Establishment grants are payable:

- On land used to grow willow and miscanthus under the EU Energy Crops Scheme;
- Aid will only be granted where there is evidence of linkages with existing or potential end-users, such as a letter of intent or contract between the farmer and the end-user;
- Items invoiced, delivered or purchased, and payments made, prior to the issue of Pre-Planting approval, are not eligible for grant aid;
- Applicants must adequately maintain and manage the crop as a biomass crop grown for bioenergy for a minimum of 7 years from the date of approval.

Aid is payable on 50% of the approved costs associated with establishing the crop, subject to a maximum payment rate of €1,450 per hectare, with the balance to be invested by the applicant. Areas planted with willow and miscanthus also qualify for an EU premium under the EU Energy Crops Scheme and for an National Energy Premium of €80 per hectare and adjusted payments under the REPS and Disadvantaged Areas Scheme, subject to some restrictions on the areas planted.

Applications for pre-planting approval should be submitted to Biofuels Policy Unit, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Kea-Lew Business Park, Mountrath Road, Portlaoise, Co. Laois. Telephone 057- 8692231; E-mail bioenergy@agriculture.gov.ie
5. FORESTRY

AFFORESTATION GRANTS AND PREMIUM LEVELS

The Afforestation Grants and Premium Schemes are designed to cover 100% of the cost of establishing new forests, with grants of up to €7,604.00 per hectare available for this purpose and annual premiums up to €573.86 per hectare for up to 20 years. Expenditure on these schemes is solely nationally funded. For farmers in REPS, the Forest Environment Protection Scheme (FEPS) offers a supplementary annual premium of up to €200.00 per hectare payable for 5 years in addition to the Afforestation Premium.

GRANT RATES (EFFECTIVE FROM 01.09.06)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Grant</th>
<th>€/ha</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unenclosed Land</td>
<td>3,414.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enclosed and Improved Land</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-diverse conifers</td>
<td>3,414.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20% diverse conifers</td>
<td>3,573.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diverse conifers</td>
<td>3,927.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broadleaf</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approved Species Other than Oak/Beech 100% stocking</td>
<td>5,199.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oak 75%-100% stocking</td>
<td>6,920.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beech 80%-100%</td>
<td>7,604.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The rates shown above are the maximum amounts payable. It covers the cost of the plantation to the establishment stage and is paid in two moieties, one of 75% following planting and the second instalment grants of 25% are paid 4 years later subject to satisfactory establishment.

RATES OF AFFORESTATION FOREST PREMIUM (EFFECTIVE FROM 01.01.07)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant/Premium Category (GPC)</th>
<th>Farmer Premium (annual payment, 20 years) € / ha</th>
<th>Non-farmer Premium (annual payment, 15 years) € / ha</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Plantation area</td>
<td>&lt; 6ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPC 1 - Unenclosed</td>
<td></td>
<td>240.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPC 2 - Sitka spruce/lodgepole pine</td>
<td></td>
<td>386.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPC 3 - 20% Diverse mix</td>
<td></td>
<td>449.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPC 4 - Diverse</td>
<td></td>
<td>478.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPC 5 - Broadleaf ( except oak &amp; beech)</td>
<td></td>
<td>508.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPC 6 - Oak</td>
<td></td>
<td>544.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPC 7 - Beech</td>
<td></td>
<td>544.65</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In the interests of multi-functional forestry objectives, broadleaf rates of aid may be extended to unenclosed land on a case by case basis.

**FEPS PREMIUM-ANNUAL ADDITIONAL PAYMENT YEARS 1-5**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Farm Area (including area to be planted)</th>
<th>≤30 ha planted ≥5 and &lt; 8</th>
<th>≤30 ha planted ≥ 8</th>
<th>&gt;30 ha</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GPCs 1, 3 - 7</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ENVIRONMENT**

It is a condition of grant-aid, under the 2007-2013 Programme that development be compatible with the protection of the environment. Environmental considerations at the time of application include water quality, designated habitats, archaeology, landscape and size of area. Public agencies and the general public are consulted in relation to applications for forestry grants in areas of special environmental sensitivity. Guidelines have been produced on:

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

In addition, aerial fertilisation of forests may not take place except under specific licence from the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, in accordance with a new Statutory Instrument introduced in 2006.

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 of 30% of total new planting was achieved by the end of the last programme in 2006 and is being retained as an annual target for the 2007-2013 Programme.

The Forest Environment Protection Scheme (FEPS) (the new planting module) was introduced on a pilot basis in 2007, to encourage planting of high nature value forestry on REPS farms. The scheme has proved very attractive. A Second Module (Woodland Enhancement) is also planned for release in 2008. This will support intervention in existing, primarily coniferous forests to improve environmental contribution (e.g. opening up glades, introducing broadleaves, native species, berried species, riverside broadleaf planting etc).
An Environmental Impact Assessment is mandatory for applications to afforest areas of 50 hectares or more and may also be required for smaller areas where a proposed development is perceived as having a significant environmental impact. All applications below 50 hectares in size are subject to a detailed Screening Procedure to assess the need for such an EIA.

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 Development Plan or within an area listed in the Inventory of outstanding Landscapes.

**FORESTRY PROGRAMME 2007-2013**

The following schemes are planned for the programming period 2007-2013. Many have already been introduced, while others will be launched during 2008.

- an **Afforestation Scheme** for both agricultural and (for the first time) non-agricultural land;
- the **Forest Environment Protection Scheme (FEPS): new Planting Module.** To encourage planting of high nature value forestry on REPS farms; (See below for FEPS Enhancement module);
- the **Native Woodland Scheme**, which will promote the planting and conservation of Ireland’s native woodland species;
- the **Neighbourwood Scheme**, which will now be extended beyond local authorities to create new opportunities for the establishment of amenity woodlands;
- a new **Agro-Forestry Scheme**, to encourage the planting of smallscale forestry on agricultural holdings, including fuelwoods and riparian planting;
- an extended **Woodland Improvement Scheme**, promoting the pruning, shaping and thinning of established forests in order to maximise economic potential;
- **Forest Environment Protection Scheme (FEPS) – Woodland Enhancement.** Second module of FEPS which will promote intervention in existing forestry to convert these to high nature value woodlands.
- a new **Forest Infrastructure Scheme**, incorporating the existing Forest Roads scheme but providing for a range of other infrastructural and recreational needs;
- **A Forest Protection and Reconstitution Scheme**, providing a basis for protecting the growing forest from predation and for replanting where required.

**FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT**

**FORESTRY TRAINING AND ADVISORY SERVICES SCHEME**

The overall objectives of the measure are:

- To promote knowledge on the sustainable management of forests;
- To support vocational training;
- To improve the overall performance and competitiveness of forests;
- To help forests owners to increase their knowledge of forest management plans.

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

COFORD (National Council for Forest Research and Development) is a non-statutory agency under the aegis of the Department. COFORD provides funding, under the National Development Programme 2007-2013, for research and development in the forestry sector under the following programmes:

- **Research and Development Programme:**
  Grant aid for public good research and development in support of the overall competitiveness and public good contribution of the forest sector in Ireland;

- **Networking and Knowledge Transfer Programme:**
  Grant aid for researcher training and mobility and for seminars and workshops based on research and development findings, with the overall objective of improving forest research competence and performance;

- **COFORD Information Transfer Programme:**
  Effective transfer of forest R&D findings through events publications and web media in support of the overall competitiveness and public good contribution of the forest sector in Ireland.

COFORD also provides the following services:

- **Carbon Calculator:**
  Highlights the role of forests in climate change mitigation;

- **Forest Management and Evaluation:**
  Increases the return to the state and the grower from forests

- **Hardwood Matters:**
  Increase the use and value added to native hardwoods in Ireland in support of sustainable forest management;

- **Windthrow Predictor:**
  Reduce the cost and incidence of windthrow damage in forests in support of sustainable forest management;

- **Wood Product Specification Advice:**
  Increase the use of wood products in construction, drawing on R&D findings;

- **Woodenergy Advisory Service:**
  Develop the wood energy sector in Ireland in accordance with government policy on increasing the use of renewable energy.

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

FOREST SERVICE APPEALS PROCEDURE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**CONTROL OF FELLING**

Under Section 37 of the Forestry Act 1946 it is illegal to uproot a tree over ten years old, or cut down a tree of any age, or injure a tree of any age without a Felling Licence. Notice of intention to fell or uproot trees must be given in writing on a form known as a Felling Notice. On receipt of a completed Felling Notice, an Order prohibiting the felling of the trees is issued. This protects the trees in question while consideration is given to the issuing of a felling licence. Any person uprooting or cutting down a tree without a felling licence may be prosecuted through the Courts. Penalties for illegal fellings can be severe and in addition to any fine imposed by the Court, the Minister may, by Order, also require the person convicted to replant. Landowners should note that the granting of Planning Permission does not give permission to fell trees, a felling licence still needs to be applied for before felling of any trees on the site.

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

**FOREST PEST AND DISEASE PROTECTION – IMPORT REGULATION**

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 material, 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.

For further information concerning the above please contact, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Agriculture House (3 West), Kildare Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 6072651, Fax: 01 6072545, e-mail: forestprotection@agriculture.gov.ie, web: www.agriculture.gov.ie/forestservice

WOOD PACKAGING MATERIAL (PALLETS, CRATES, ETC) – EXPORT REGULATIONS

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 material (pallets, crates, boxes etc.) made from unprocessed raw wood, and used in supporting, protecting or carrying goods of all kinds, 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 kiln operators and producers of wood packaging material;
- Advice to wood packaging producers 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, Fisheries and Food, Agriculture House (3 West), Kildare Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 6072651, Fax: 01 6072545, 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 Chapter 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, Fisheries 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
06 structural improvements
6. STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS

SCHEME OF EARLY RETIREMENT FROM FARMING

SCHEME OF EARLY RETIREMENT FROM FARMING (1994-1999)
Participants in this first Scheme receive pension payments 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. The maximum annual pension payable under this Scheme was increased to €14,075 with effect from November 2006.

SCHEME OF EARLY RETIREMENT FROM FARMING (2000-2006)
Participants in this second Scheme receive pension payments for ten years or until they reach the upper age limit under the Scheme, 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 2006. The maximum annual pension payable under this Scheme was increased to €15,000 with effect from November 2006. A new Early Retirement Scheme was introduced in June 2007.

SCHEME OF EARLY RETIREMENT FROM FARMING (2007-2013)
The current Scheme of Early Retirement to apply for the period from 2007 to 2013 was introduced on 13 June 2007. It is one of the measures provided for in Ireland’s Rural Development Programme 2007-2013. The Scheme provides for a pension for retiring farm workers in certain circumstances and is co-financed by the EU.

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE SCHEME ARE:
■ To support farmers who decide to stop their agricultural activity for the purpose of transferring their holdings to younger farmers;
■ To support farm workers who decide to stop all farm work definitively upon the transfer of the holding;
■ To complement the Young Farmers Installation Scheme.

THE MAIN FEATURES OF THE SCHEME ARE:
■ Age limits
  The retiring farmer (transferor) must be aged between 55 and 66 years. There are three categories of farming transferees under the Scheme; these must be aged between 18 and 35, 45 and 50 depending on the category of transferee.
■ Duration of Pension
  The pension will be paid for not more than 10 years or until the applicant’s 66th birthday whichever is the sooner.
■ Amounts Payable
  The pension amount will comprise a flat rate of €9,300 for the first 5 hectares plus €300 per hectare of agricultural land transferred/leased to an eligible transferee up to a maximum payment of €15,000 per annum. The workers pension is paid at the flat rate of €4,000 per annum.
Intensive Enterprises
Farmers retiring from Intensive Enterprises are eligible for this Scheme. In these cases viability and payments are based on Production Units rather than number of hectares.

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), 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).

SOW HOUSING (ANIMAL WELFARE) SCHEME
The aim of the Scheme is to assist farmers in upgrading and converting their existing sow housing to ensure compliance with EU animal welfare standards.

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

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

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

This Scheme is co-funded by the Irish Government under the Rural Development Programme 2007 - 2013 and by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development.

YOUNG FARMERS’ INSTALLATION SCHEME
The Scheme aims to encourage young people to take up farming.

ELIGIBILITY
Under the Scheme, a premium of €15,000 is payable to farmers under 35 years of age who:

- Generate a minimum of 5 production units from farming at setting up or at the latest within 12 months of that date;
- Fulfil, at the time of setting up on the farm or at the latest within two years of that date, certain requirements regarding occupational skill and competence;

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

- Have obtained title/leasehold title to at least 15 hectares of eligible lands in less favoured areas and 20 hectares in other areas;
- Have not more than €50,000 non-farm income in a designated tax year;
- Submit a preliminary application within 12 months of first setting up in farming and submit a final application within 36 months of setting up.

The Scheme is co-funded by the Irish Government under the Rural Development Programme 2007 - 2013 and by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development.

Further information and application forms for the above Schemes may be obtained from your local Agricultural Environment and Structures (AES) Office of the Department (See Appendix 1B for full details)
animal traceability
7. ANIMAL TRACEABILITY

CMMS/IRISH BOVINE ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM

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

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

■ **Tagging**

  The tagging system requires the application by the animals’ keeper of two identically numbered yellow plastic eartags to all calves born on a holding within twenty days of birth. Keepers are obliged to order their annual requirement of eartags directly from the tag supplier approved by the Department. They do this by completing the tag order card sent to them by the approved tag supplier and returning it with the appropriate fee. On application of a pair of tags to a calf, the keeper must complete a corresponding and identically numbered registration application form, which is supplied with each pair of tags.

■ **Registration and Passports**

  Keepers are required to register the birth of each calf on a central birth registration database. This can be done by registering the calf birth online or by completing the registration application form mentioned above and sending it within seven days of tagging the calf to the registration agency appointed by the Department. On receipt of a completed and valid registration application, the registration agency issues the keeper with a passport for the animal concerned. This passport must accompany the animal each time it is moved. All movements of the animal throughout its life must be recorded on the passport.

■ **Bovine Herd Registers**

  Keepers of cattle are required to maintain a herd register of all bovine animals on their holdings. The herd register must be kept up-to-date and must record information in relation to all calves born on the holding together with details of all animals entering or leaving the herd and of animal deaths on the holding.

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

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

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

**NOTIFICATIONS TO THE CMMS**

Keepers of cattle are obliged to notify the Department of the movement of cattle to and from their holdings. In the case of cattle sold privately, the keeper must obtain a pre-clearance certificate from the Cattle Movement Notification Agency prior to the movement of any animal off the holding. Both the source and recipient keepers must confirm after the event whether the movement has taken place. Keepers must also notify the Departments of on-farm deaths.
ON-LINE AND MOBILE PHONE FACILITIES AVAILABLE TO FARMERS WITH BOVINE ANIMALS

The Cattle Movement Monitoring System (CMMS) is being replaced on a phased basis by the online Animal Identification and Movement (AIM) system. A number of on-line facilities are available under the AIM system that allow farmers to -

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

A mobile phone application has also been made available covering some of these facilities. Farmers must register with the Department’s Agfood.ie facility to avail of the on-line and mobile phone services, which are available free of charge. This can be done by clicking on the Agfood icon on the Department’s website www.agriculture.gov.ie and following the simple instructions. Farmers can also contact the eService Helpdesk (lo-call number 1890 252 118) to register over the phone or to obtain a paper application (see also Chapter 1 for details of Online Services provided by the Department).

NATIONAL BEEF ASSURANCE SCHEME (NBAS)

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

■ The operation of an effective animal identification and tracing system;
■ Developing high standards of production and processing;
■ Enforcing these standards through a registration and approval system.

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

NATIONAL SHEEP IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM (NSIS)


Under NSIS, all sheep must be tagged and details of all sheep on farms and 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 Ireland has full traceability for all sheep, on an individual basis.

REGISTRATION

Any person who holds or keeps sheep 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.
IDENTIFICATION OF SHEEP

All sheep on a holding which are over the age of nine months, or on movement off the holding (whichever comes first) must be tagged in the left ear with a tag (white) showing the owner’s sheep designator number (for information about this number contact your local District Veterinary Office of the Department) and an individual number, starting at 1. When a sheep arrives on a second holding, the owner of the second holding must tag it in the right ear with a tag (white) of the new holding.

Tags must be ordered from an approved tag company – the list of such companies is on page 60.

SHEEP MOVEMENT DATABASE SYSTEM AND MOVEMENT DOCUMENTS

A Dispatch/Movement Document completed by the owner of the sheep must accompany sheep moving off the holding, throughout their movement. The Dispatch/Movement Document is a personalised three-part document issued in the name and address of the flock owner and containing a pre-printed Herd/Flock Number, Serial Number and Sheep Designator. The Dispatch/Movement Document must be signed by the Flock keeper off whose holding the sheep are being moved. In addition the blank areas of the Document must be completed by the owner of the sheep, indicating the number of sheep being moved, the individual tag number of each sheep in the consignment being moved and the Herd/Flock number of the farm or (in the case of a slaughter plant or mart) the name and address of the holding to which the sheep have been consigned.

It is important that farmers moving sheep from their holding ensure that the Dispatch Document that accompanies each load leaving the holding is the most up-to-date version of the Dispatch Document. The current version of the Dispatch Document will be recognisable as it is issued on a personalised basis. Under no circumstances should farmers use obsolete or outdated versions of the Dispatch Documents.

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.

To order Dispatch Document Books, phone 1890 252 434 (this is a 24-hour order line)

FLOCK REGISTER

Persons who hold or keep sheep on a registered holding must maintain records of the individual animal identification number attached to the animals. They must also keep a written record of the movement of animals onto or off the registered holding. To facilitate the recording of these details, Flock Registers are issued to all sheep flock owners. Details of all tag replacements must also be recorded in the flock register.

For further information on any aspect of NSIS or the new EU-harmonized system, or to order a Flock Register, contact the Sheep and Goat ID and Movement section of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Kildare Street, Dublin 2. Helpline: 1890 252 713 or Tel: 01 6072901
ANNUAL SHEEP CENSUS

Under EU Regulation 21/2004 all sheep keepers must count the sheep present in the flock on the holding, record this number in the flock register and are legally obliged to return this number to the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food once a year.

The Annual Sheep Census takes places normally in December and each flock owner will receive in the post a Census Return which he/she should complete in respect of the number of sheep on his/her holding and return it immediately in the prepaid envelope provided.

If you have no sheep at all you must complete a nil return. Failure to complete a census return will result in your sheep designator being made dormant. This will mean that you will not be eligible to order sheep tags, Dispatch/Movement Document books or Flock Registers.

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 the holding by either an ear tag or a slap mark and the identification of breeding stock with an individual number. All pig movements are recorded on a central movement database.

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

Tags and slap marks must be ordered from an approved tag company – the list of such companies is on page 60.

Pig herd owners who wish to be registered on the National Database should contact Special Projects Unit, Animal Health and Welfare Division of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Kildare Street, Dublin 2.

Helpline: 1890 504 604 or Tel: 01 6072827

NATIONAL GOAT IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM (NGIS)

Under Council Regulation (EC) No 21/2004 a system of goat identification was introduced across the EU. This was a major development for the Irish goat sector. With the introduction of NGIS Ireland has a national system of goat identification vital for disease control, traceability and consumer assurance. The system is based on:

- Double tagging of all goats by the age of six months or on movement from the holding, whichever comes first;
- Use of herd registers to record details of numbers of goats on the holding and details of movements;
- Use of dispatch documents to record movements.

REGISTRATION

Any person who holds or keeps goats in the State must apply for registration of the holding to the local District Veterinary Office of the Department for the area in which the holding is situated.
IDENTIFICATION OF GOATS

All goats on a holding which are over the age of six months, or on movement off the holding (whichever comes first) must be double tagged (i.e. a tag in each ear) with tags (white) showing the owner’s goat herd designator (available from the local DVO) and an individual number.

Tags are issued to a herd owner containing his/her 7-digit goat herd designator number (for information about this number contact your local District Veterinary Office of the Department) and an individual number, starting at 1. However the herd owner does not need to record the individual numbers on dispatch documents or in herd registers unless he/she wishes to do so.

Tags must be ordered from an approved tag company – the list of such companies is on page 60.

HERD REGISTER

Every herd owner must maintain a herd register in the format supplied by the Department. The herd register must contain details, on a batch basis (i.e. not on an individual basis) of all movements of goats on and off the holding. These records may of course be kept on an individual animal basis should the herd owner so wish.

The herd register must also contain details of all goats born on the holding which are over the age of six months. Details of all tag replacements must also be recorded in the herd register.

MOVEMENT DOCUMENT

A Dispatch/Movement Document completed by the owner of the goats must accompany goats moving off the holding, throughout their movement. The Dispatch/Movement Document is a three-part document, which must be signed by the herd keeper off whose holding the goats are being moved. In addition the blank areas of the Document must be completed by the owner of the goat(s), indicating the number of goats being moved and the herd number of the farm or (in the case of a slaughter plant or mart) the name and address of the holding to which the goat(s) have been consigned.

ANNUAL GOAT CENSUS

Under EU Regulation 21/2004 all goat keepers must count the goats present on the holding, record this number in the herd register and are legally obliged to return this number to the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food once a year.

The Annual Goat Census takes places normally in December and each herd owner will receive in the post a Census Return which he/she should complete in respect of the number of goats on his/her holding and return it immediately in the prepaid envelope provided.

If you have no goats at all you must complete a nil return. Failure to complete a census return will result in your goat designator being made dormant. This will mean that you will not be eligible to order goat tags, Dispatch/Movement Document books or Herd Registers.

IMPORTS

Goats imported from another Member State will be double tagged and no further tagging is required. Existing veterinary requirements continue to apply. Imports from a country outside of the EU must be tagged with red import tags.
TAG AND TAG SUPPLIERS
A number of different tags have been approved for use under NSIS, NPITS and NGIS. Tags may only be purchased from approved tag suppliers.
Both long and short-term sheep tags have been approved but it should be remembered when ordering tags that short-term standard sheep tags can be used only for lambs going directly to slaughter. Long-term standard sheep tags can be used for sheep in all circumstances.
All sheep and goat tags are white in colour with the exception of import tags, which are red, and replacement tags, which are coloured yellow.
Pig tags are green in colour.
Tags may be ordered from a number of different suppliers and orders will be supplied only by post direct to the flock owner who has placed the order. See list of approved tag suppliers on page 60.
The following is a list of companies approved to supply animal identification eartags under the above systems.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company Name &amp; Address</th>
<th>Id. System Approved</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Fax</th>
<th>E-mail/Web Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Agrihealth Ltd.</strong></td>
<td>NSIS NPITS NGIS</td>
<td>1890 515151</td>
<td>047 71800</td>
<td><a href="mailto:eartags@agrihealth.ie">eartags@agrihealth.ie</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clones Road</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.eartags.ie">www.eartags.ie</a></td>
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<td>Monaghan</td>
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<td>Co. Monaghan</td>
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<td><strong>Co-Operative Animal Health Ltd.</strong></td>
<td>NSIS NPITS NGIS</td>
<td>059 9151251</td>
<td>059 9151856</td>
<td><a href="mailto:nbyrne@cahl.ie">nbyrne@cahl.ie</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tullow Industrial Estate</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.cahl.ie">www.cahl.ie</a></td>
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<td>Tullow</td>
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<td>Co. Carlow</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Cormac Sheep Tagging</strong></td>
<td>NSIS NPITS NGIS</td>
<td>093 28231</td>
<td>093 28019</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sheeptagging@eircom.net">sheeptagging@eircom.net</a></td>
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<td>Vicar Street</td>
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<td>Co. Galway</td>
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<td><strong>Dalton I.D. Systems (Ireland) Ltd.</strong></td>
<td>NSIS NPITS NGIS</td>
<td>074 9101962</td>
<td>074 9101959</td>
<td><a href="mailto:md@dalton.co.uk">md@dalton.co.uk</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Kiltole Quarry</td>
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<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:holden@dalton.ie">holden@dalton.ie</a></td>
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<td>Convoy</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.dalton.ie">www.dalton.ie</a></td>
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<td><strong>Eurotags</strong></td>
<td>NSIS NPITS NGIS</td>
<td>052 53357</td>
<td>052 53289</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mdwyer@mull-coop.ie">mdwyer@mull-coop.ie</a></td>
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<td><strong>Quicktag</strong></td>
<td>NSIS NPITS NGIS</td>
<td>048 2076 8696</td>
<td>028 2076 8699</td>
<td><a href="mailto:info@quicktag.co.uk">info@quicktag.co.uk</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>7A Churchfield Road</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.quicktag.co.uk">www.quicktag.co.uk</a></td>
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<td>Northern Ireland</td>
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<td><strong>Ritchey Tagg plc</strong></td>
<td>NSIS NPITS NGIS</td>
<td>0044 1765 689541</td>
<td>0044 1765 689851</td>
<td><a href="mailto:john.robinson@ritchey.co.uk">john.robinson@ritchey.co.uk</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fearby Road</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.ritcheytagg.com">www.ritcheytagg.com</a></td>
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<td><strong>Merko nv</strong></td>
<td>NPITS</td>
<td>00 32 3 360 2670</td>
<td>00 32 3 326 3398</td>
<td><a href="mailto:merko@merko.be">merko@merko.be</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leo Baekelandstraat 7 Unit 5</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.merko.be">www.merko.be</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>B-2950 Kapellen</td>
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<td>Belgium</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Shearwell Data Ltd</strong></td>
<td>NSIS NPITS NGIS</td>
<td>00 44 1643 841611</td>
<td>00 44 1643 841628</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Mike.Fletcher@shearwell.co.uk">Mike.Fletcher@shearwell.co.uk</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>PuthamFarm</td>
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<td>Wheddon Cross, Minehead, Somerset</td>
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| **NATIONAL SHEEP IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM-NSIS**
**NATIONAL PIG IDENTIFICATION AND TRACING SYSTEM – NPITS**
**NATIONAL GOAT IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM - NGIS**

**APPROVED TAG SUPPLIERS**
08 animal production/products
8. ANIMAL PRODUCTION/PRODUCTS

CATTLE

DIY A.I. LICENCES

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

SCHEME/MEASURE CONDITIONS
The following are some of the conditions attaching to the issue of a licence:

- No person other than the herdowner, or, his wholetime employee, who has satisfactorily completed an approved programme of training in the practice of Artificial Insemination, shall be approved by the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food to carry out the inseminations within that herd;
- Inseminations by the herdowner or his wholetime employee shall be confined to the herd specified in the licence;
- The amount of semen that may be supplied to any herdowner under these arrangements shall be related to the number of cows in the herd concerned and shall not exceed 2.5 straws per cow per year;
- Herdowners must book their DIY A.I. training or refresher courses with a company licensed by the Department to conduct such courses;
- Holders of DIY 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 OF SCHEME MEASURE
Field Service Licence holders provide a year round quality bovine artificial insemination service (A.I.) to farmers through a network of trained A.I. technicians.

SCHEME/MEASURE CONDITIONS
The Field Service Licence holder:

- Must ensure that good veterinary practices and procedures are adhered to by the organisation;
- Utilise semen only from approved sources;
- Maintain satisfactory records; and
- 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 OF SCHEME MEASURE
The aim of the scheme is primarily to ensure the provision of a quality bovine A.I. service through the licenced Field Service network all the while maintaining animal health and welfare standards and traceability of product.

SCHEME/MEASURE CONDITIONS
The following are some of the conditions attaching to the issue of a licence:
- A.I. technicians and sales personnel must be employed by a Field Service Licence holder;
- A.I. technicians must be fully contactable at all times;
- A.I. technicians can only be employed by the Field Service Licence holder named on their licence.

HOW TO APPLY
Applications for a Provisional A.I. Technicians Licence are made on Form AI PROV.
Applications for a Full Technicians Licence are made on Form AI FUL.
A full set of the conditions attaching to an A.I. technicians Licence is issued with each application form.

LICENCES TO DISTRIBUTE BOVINE SEMEN
GENERAL AIM OF SCHEME MEASURE
To ensure that organisations or individuals who wish to trade in bovine semen, are appropriately licensed by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food to engage in the distribution of bovine semen thereby protecting animal health and welfare and traceability of product.

SCHEME/MEASURE CONDITIONS
The following are some of the conditions attaching to the issue of a licence:
- Distributors must keep satisfactory records;
- Semen must only be supplied to holders of current DIY A.I. licences;
- The licensee is subject to the overall veterinary and zootechnical control of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries 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. 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.
A full set of the conditions attaching to the licence is issued with each application form.
APPROVAL OF BOVINE SEMEN STORAGE CENTRES

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

SCHEME/MEASURE CONDITIONS
The following are some of the conditions attaching to the issue of an approval:

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

HOW TO APPLY
Applications are made on Form SSC.

APPROVAL OF BOVINE SEMEN COLLECTION CENTRES

GENERAL AIM OF SCHEME MEASURE
To ensure that premises where semen is collected meets specified standards set out in S.I. No.112 of 1996, as amended.

SCHEME/MEASURE CONDITIONS
The following are some of the conditions attaching to the issue of an approval:

- The centre must be so constructed or isolated that contact with livestock outside is prevented;
- The centre must be so constructed that the storage facilities can be readily cleaned and disinfected;
- The Centre must comply with the conditions for approval, supervision, movement of animals, as well as routine tests and treatment to be applied to all bovine animals in the Centre;
- Any analysis required must be carried out in approved laboratories;
- The storage centre will be inspected by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries 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 OF SCHEME MEASURE
To ensure that only teams approved by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for the purpose of producing and or collecting bovine ovas/embryos operate such a service.

SCHEME/MEASURE CONDITIONS
The following are some of the conditions attaching to the issue of an approval:
- Collection, processing and storage of embryos must only be carried out by suitable qualified personnel;
- Embryo collection teams must be supervised by an official veterinarian;
- Permanent or mobile laboratories must be available.

HOW TO APPLY
Applications are made on Form ECT 1.

ON-FARM COLLECTION OF BOVINE SEMEN

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

SCHEME/MEASURE CONDITIONS
- On–farm collection of bovine semen can only be carried out by an approved bovine semen collection 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 OF SCHEME MEASURE
The aim of the scheme is to ensure that all bovine semen for use in A.I. meets all animal health requirements.

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

HOW TO APPLY
Applications are made on application Form HT 1.
**KERRY CATTLE SCHEME**

**Objective**
To encourage the maintenance of a number of separate herds of Kerry Cattle in Ireland and the creation and maintenance of a sufficient reserve of pure bred breeding stock.

Further information on the above schemes can be obtained from Livestock Breeding Section, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Government Buildings, Farnham Street, Cavan. Tel. No. 049 4368296 or 049 436 8200 Fax: 049 4361486
E-mail: 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, Fisheries 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 progeny testing through A.I. The best of these are for widespread use through A.I by pedigree breeders as sires of replacement pedigree cows and as sires of stock bulls for use in commercial suckler herds. The test period lasts approximately 120 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. 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. Website: www.icbf.com

**EU BEEF CARCASE CLASSIFICATION SCHEME**

**AIM**
The aim of the Beef Carcase Classification Scheme is to ensure a common classification standard throughout the European Union. This enables the EU to operate a standardised beef price reporting system. From late 2004, most beef carcases are classified by mechanical means. Department licensed factory employees classify the balance.
The criteria for classifying are as follows:

- Conformation (the shape and development of the carcase): is denoted by the letters E, U, R, O, P with E being the best and P the poorest;
- Fat: the degree of fat is denoted by the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 in order of increasing fatness;
- Sex category: denoted by the letters A (young bull), B (bull), C (steer), D (cow) and E (heifer).

Classification information is returned to the supplier by the slaughter plant. Over 90% of carcases are classified by machine. Machine classification makes use of Video Image Analysis to carry out various measurements of the 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, Fisheries and Food, Grattan Business Centre, Portlaoise, Co Laois. Tel: 057 869 4407

LABELLING OF BEEF

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

Under these regulations, operators or organisations involved in the marketing of beef must label beef so as to provide consumers with the following information:

- A reference number or reference code permitting the identification of the animal or group of animals from which the beef was derived;
- The approval number and country of the slaughterhouse - the indication should read: ‘Slaughtered in’ (name of the Member State or Third Country) (Approval number);
- The approval number and country of the de-boning hall - the indication should read: ‘Cut in’ (name of the Member State or Third Country) (Approval number);
- The Member State or Third Country where the animal was born, fattened and slaughtered (Origin).

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

Regulations were introduced in 2006, which extended beef labelling laws to the restaurant and catering sectors. The Health (Country of Origin of Beef) Regulations 2006 (S.I. No. 307 of 2006), require that a food business operator providing prepared beef to consumers shall not (a) advertise beef for sale or supply, (b) present it for sale or supply, or (c) sell or supply it unless the country or countries of origin of the beef is indicated at the point of advertising, presenting, sale and supply in clear legible type on the advertisement, menu or other presentation used. The regulations are being enforced by the Food Safety Authority of Ireland.

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

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

The following quota allocation schemes are operated in accordance with rules set down by the Minister:

- **Milk Quota Trading Scheme** - operated in advance of the relevant milk quota year.
  The Milk Quota Trading Scheme is the principal means by which additional milk quota is acquired by producers. The Scheme is operated by the Department but is run on a Co-op area basis. It is comprised of a priority pool and a market exchange. Under the scheme, producers are afforded the opportunity to sell and buy quota at prices they themselves decide. A maximum of thirty per cent of the quota offered for sale in a given Co-op area is made available to priority category producers at a price set by the Minister. The remainder is traded on the market exchange at a Market Clearing Price, which is calculated on the basis of the volumes and prices specified by buyers and sellers.

- **Temporary Leasing Scheme** - operated during the milk quota year.
  Under the Temporary Leasing Scheme producers can offer to lease the part of their quota which they consider they will not use during the current milk quota year into their co-operative's/dairy’s pool. A person may lease their full quota only when he/she has been granted permission to do so by the Department due to the exceptional circumstances of his/her case. Other producers, who require additional quota for that year, can apply to temporary lease quota from the pool. The period of lease expires in each case on 31 March, i.e. the end of the milk quota year.

- **Reallocation of Unused Quota** - administered after the end of the milk quota year.
  In the event of an excess of production over quota at national level, unused quota is reallocated to eligible over-quota producers. This system is known as “flexi-milk”.

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

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

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

MILK PRODUCTION PARTNERSHIPS

The Milk Quota Regulations have, since 2002, facilitated the establishment of Milk Production Partnerships (MPPs). Two types of partnership are possible: a Standard MPP, involving partnership between individual farmers, one of whom must be a milk producer, with their own holdings, and a New/Recent Entrant/Parent (also known as Family) MPP, which facilitates new and recent entrants to dairying by allowing them to farm in partnership with parents. The Scheme is overseen by the Department’s Milk Policy Division (tel. 01-6072262), and participants must register their MPP with Teagasc’s Dairy Partnership Registration Office in Fermoy, Co. Cork (tel. 025-42312).
EU STANDARDS FOR DAIRY FARMS AND FOR MILK SOLD FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

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

DAIRY INSPECTION FEE

Under the Milk (Miscellaneous Provision) Act, 1979, a levy is payable on all milk purchased for processing. The levy is intended to cover the cost of the Department’s inspection regime within the dairy sector. The rate of levy currently stands at 0.1 cent per litre.

PROMOTION/PUBLICITY

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

SHEEP

BREED IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMMES

The objective of the Pedigree Sheep Breed Improvement Programme operated by the Department is to improve lean tissue growth rate and 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.

GALWAY SHEEP BREED IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME

The objectives of the programme are:

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

and thus bring about genetic improvement for prolificacy in registered pedigree Galway flocks.

LICENCE TO PRACTICE ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION AND EMBRYO TRANSFER IN SHEEP

The practice of Artificial Insemination and Embryo Transfer in sheep is prohibited except under licence issued by the Department under the Disease of Animals Act, 1966 (Foot and Mouth Disease) (Control on Artificial Insemination and Embryo Transfer in Sheep) Order, 2001, S.I. No. 381 of 2001.

Licences to practice artificial insemination and embryo transfer in sheep may be granted only to registered veterinary surgeons.
APPROVED OVINE 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.

Please note persons intending 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.

Further information on the above services can be obtained from Livestock Breeding Section, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries 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. No. 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, Fisheries and Food, Farnham Street, Cavan. Tel: 049 4368292 Fax: 049 4361486 E-mail: zootechnics@agriculture.gov.ie

LAMB CARCASE CLASSIFICATION

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

Lamb carcases are classified by assessment of:

- Conformation (the shape and muscle development of the carcase), denoted by the letters E, U, R, O, P with E being the best and P the poorest;
- Fat: the degree of fat, denoted by the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 in order of increasing fatness.

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

Further information can be obtained from Livestock Division, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Pavilion A, Grattan Business Centre, Dublin Road, Portlaoise, Co Laois, Telephone: 057-8694406
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, Fisheries 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 Diseases of Animals Act 1966 (Salmonella in Pigs) Order 2007, 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, Fisheries and Food, Kildare Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 6072735
MEAT HYGIENE

CLEAN LIVESTOCK POLICY

The Hygiene Package, which came into force in all European Union Member States on 1 January 2006, provides the following in relation to cleanliness of livestock being presented for slaughter:


Food business operators rearing animals or producing primary products of animal origin are to take adequate measures, as appropriate and as far as possible to ensure the cleanliness of animals going to slaughter and, where necessary, production animals.


Food business operators operating slaughterhouses must have HACCP-based intake procedures to guarantee that each animal or, where appropriate, each lot of animals accepted onto the slaughterhouse premises is clean. In the event of failure to comply with any of the requirements the food business operator must notify the official veterinarian and take appropriate measures.


The official veterinarian is to verify compliance with the food business operators’ duty under Regulation (EC) No 853/2004; to ensure that animals that have such hide conditions that there is an unacceptable risk of contamination of the meat during slaughter are not slaughtered for human consumption unless they are cleaned beforehand.

The Department has issued a notice in relation to cleanliness of cattle that requires a food business operator to categorise as follows:

- Cattle that can be slaughtered, without an unacceptable risk of contaminating the meat during the slaughter process by using the standard hygienic dressing procedures routinely employed by the plant;
- Cattle that can only be slaughtered without an unacceptable risk of contamination of the meat during the slaughter process, by putting in place extra defined hygienic dressing controls;
- Cattle unfit for slaughter because of hide condition. These cattle must not be presented for ante mortem and it is the responsibility of the FBO to take the required remedial action with regard to these cattle.

MEAT HYGIENE LEGISLATION

The European Community’s food and feed hygiene legislation (the Hygiene Package) came into effect across all Member States from 1 January 2006. The Hygiene Package revises and consolidates legislation in relation to food and feed hygiene along with the production, control and marketing of products of animal origin and animal health issues in relation to the production of those products.

The Hygiene Package was motivated by the necessity to ensure high levels of public health protection in relation to food production. The Package also simplifies the range of complicated and often overlapping legislation that had evolved in this area over the past 30 or so years. The underlying philosophy is that food producers should bear full responsibility for the safety of the food they produce.
The Hygiene Package was transposed into Irish law by Statutory Instrument S.I. No.910 of 2005 (as amended by S.I. No.387 of 2006 and S.I. No. 56 of 2007). The legislation requires primary producers of food products to apply for registration and the Department is a registering authority for this purpose. Before an establishment can use an identification mark on any of its product, it must be approved by a registering authority.

The Department, through its Veterinary Public Health Inspection Service (VPHIS), supervises large establishments engaged in the slaughter of animals (cattle, sheep, pigs, poultry, goats, deer, wild game and farmed game) and the processing of meat products, minced meat and meat preparations. VPHIS carries out inspections of applicant establishments in order to verify the compliance of the Food Business Operator with the hygiene legislation before recommending approval by the Department.

These very detailed Hygiene Package inspections are carried out in addition to the regular public health monitoring and inspections that are a daily part of the remit of the VPHIS.

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

Further information on the approval process can be obtained from Meat Hygiene Division, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Grattan Business Centre, Dublin Road, Portlaoise. Tel: 057 8694101. The Section’s web-pages can be found at www.agriculture.gov.ie

POULTRY AND EGGS

POULTRY HATCHERIES AND HATCHING EGG SUPPLY FARMS

All poultry hatcheries engaged in the production of day old chicks, turkey poult 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 the relevant health certificate.

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, Fisheries and Food and keep appropriate records and are subject to official Department inspections.
EGGS MARKETING REGULATIONS

Table eggs marketed in the EU must be graded by quality and weight and be packed, labelled, stored, transported and presented for sale in conformity with EU and national legislation on the marketing standards for eggs. Eggs must be marketed and packed in a registered egg-packing centre. All registered packing centres are given a distinguishing number and are required to pay an annual fee in respect of their registration. Egg packs must indicate the farming method and bear a ‘best before’ date. This date is 28 days after laying but the latest date by which eggs must be sold to the consumer is 21 days after laying. Incubated eggs may not be sold for human consumption.

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

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

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

HORSES

STUD-BOOK APPROVAL

A stud-book is any book, register, file or data medium which is maintained by a recognised organisation, and in which equines are entered or registered with reference to all their known ascendants. The operation of a stud book is regulated by the European Communities (Equine Stud-Book and Competition) Regulations, 2004 S.I. No. 399 of 2004 as amended by the European Communities (Equine Stud-book and Competition) (Amendment) Regulations 2007 (S.I. No. 530 of 2007).

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, Fisheries and Food, Farnham Street, Cavan. Tel: 049 4368292 Fax: 049 4361486 E-mail: zootechnics@agriculture.gov.ie

HORSE REGISTRATION

All equidae (horses, donkeys, ponies, zebras, etc.) in Ireland must be identified in accordance with the European Communities (Equine Stud-book and Competition) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 399 of 2004) and the European Communities (Equine Stud-book and Competition) (Amendment) Regulations 2007 (S.I. No. 530 of 2007). These Regulations implement EU Decision 2000/68, and require 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;

All equidae 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.

Contact details for organizations currently approved by the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food to issue identity documents for equines are available on the Departments website www.agriculture.gov.ie

Further information can be obtained from Equine Infrastructures Section, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Farnham Street, Cavan. Tel: 049 4368291, Fax: 049 4361486 E-mail: equineinfrastructures@agriculture.gov.ie

IRISH HORSE BOARD

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

The objectives of the Board are:

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

From 1 January 2008, the Irish Horse Board will act as an advisory sub Board within Horse Sport Ireland (HSI) on issues relating to stud book and breeding policy.

For further details on The Irish Horse Board and application forms for membership contact:
The Irish Horse Board, Block B, Maynooth Business Campus, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.
Tel: 01 5053584, Fax: 01 5053562, email ihb@ihb.ie, website: www.irishsporthorse.com

For further details on Horse Sport Ireland contact: Horse Sport Ireland, 1st Floor, Beech House, Millenium Park, Osberstown, Naas, Co. Kildare.
Tel: 045 854744, e-mail info@horsesportireland.ie
DEVELOPMENT OF THE HORSE INDUSTRY

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (NDP) 2007-2013

Grant aid will be provided under the NDP to organisations for projects approved by the Department, aimed at supporting improvements in quality equine breeding and also in the infrastructure within which the thoroughbred and non-thoroughbred horse sectors operate. Some measures operated under the NDP will be administered by the Department in conjunction with the Irish Horse Board.

Aid will focus on:

- Quality Non-Thoroughbred Horse Production - work on the formulation of genetic indices for stallions, blood sampling/DNA testing to verify pedigree, up-grading of equine registration systems and for the promotion and marketing of 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;

- Data collection and analysis leading to the generation of information to underpin improvements in the genetic quality in the non-thoroughbred sector. Support for education and training opportunities to satisfy the needs of new entrants and those already involved in the equine and related industries.

Detailed information on equine NDP schemes are available on the Department’s website www.agriculture.gov.ie

Further information can be obtained from Equine Infrastructures Section, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Farnham Street, Cavan. Tel: 049 4368291, Fax: 049 4361486 E-mail: equineinfrastructures@agriculture.gov.ie
09 animal health and welfare
9. ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

The Diseases of Animals Act, 1966 provides the basic legislation for the control and eradication of animal diseases. The following diseases, if suspected or confirmed, must be notified to the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

GENERAL

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

CATTLE

Bovine Leukosis, BSE, Cattle Plague (Rinderpest), Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia, Lumpy Skin Disease, Warble Fly.

PIGS

African Swine Fever, Aujeszky’s Disease, Classical Swine Fever, Porcine Epidemic Diarrhoea, Porcine Corona Virus, Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome, Swine Influenza, Swine Vesicular Disease, Teschen Disease, Transmissible Gastroenteritis, Vesicula Stomatitis.

SHEEP

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

POULTRY

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

HORSES AND OTHER EQUINES

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

GOATS

Caprine Viral Arthritis-Encephalitis, Goat Pox.

DEER

Epizootic Haemorrhagic Disease

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

**TB AND BRUCELLOSIS ERADICATION SCHEMES**

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

**EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS**

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

- annual testing (the “Round” test) of the national herd and/or designated categories of animals,
  with primary responsibility for arranging testing and paying for certain tests assigned
to farmers;
- follow-up and focused strategic additional testing, including use of blood testing in
certain circumstances;
- rapid removal of reactors to meat factories paid for by the Department;
- a range of compensation measures for farmers whose herds are effected by disease;
- improved epidemiology and feedback to farmers;
- a comprehensive research programme aimed at preventing TB spread by wildlife and the
development of blood tests, vaccines and other technological tools required to improve
effectiveness of programmes.

Responsibility for arranging and paying for the first herd tests each year rests with farmers. In
addition, farmers have primary responsibility for protecting their own herds and are also
encouraged to assist the Department’s District Veterinary Offices in research activities,
as necessary.

**BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS**

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

**Untreated raw milk from reactors should never be consumed.**

**Causes of infection in cattle**

- Breathing air contaminated by already infected animals;
- Consuming contaminated food or water;
- Movement of animals and contact with infected animals e.g. across fences;
- Inter-farm sharing of machinery (cattle trailers, muck/slurry spreaders, etc.) or farm facilities
  (cattle crushes);
- The use of dirty lorries to transport animals;
- Wildlife, especially badgers, infected with Mycobacterium Bovis may be a significant factor in
  the persistence of bovine tuberculosis in certain areas.
Precautions against TB Infection

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

The risk of spread from wildlife can be reduced by keeping cattle and infected wildlife apart and by implementing the following measures:

- Fencing off common watercourses, stagnant ponds, badger setts and badger toilet areas;
- Raising drinking and feeding troughs to over 84 cm (32 inches) in height and locating them away from walls / ditches to prevent access;
- Not providing hand feeding to cattle where deer can share it e.g. circular feeders and/or meal troughs;
- Keeping feed storage areas, cattle sheds and yards closed so that wildlife cannot gain entry;
- Checking fields regularly for badger carcasses and especially before moving cattle onto new pasture – note that manual blocks kept in fields may also be accessed by badgers;
- Being aware of unusual sightings of badgers e.g. in daytime. The badgers may be sick from TB – contact your District Veterinary Office.

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

BOVINE BRUCELLOSIS

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

The Department’s policy is to eliminate the final sources of infection by depopulating brucellosis herds with active infection.

With regard to testing requirements:

- A full round of blood testing is carried out each year to complement the monthly milk testing of dairy herds. A female animal aged 12 months or over and a bull aged more than 24 months must be presented for the annual Brucellosis test. However, young bulls between the ages of 12 and 24 months continue to be subject to all other testing requirements, including in particular, the existing 30 day pre-movement and export Brucellosis testing requirements. In addition, eligibility requirements for the Standard Rate Plus Depopulation Grant, in the event of a Brucellosis herd depopulation, are such that animals moved into the holding must have also had a Brucellosis test conducted within 30 days of entering the holding;
The Department reserves the right to request any animal to be presented for test where deemed appropriate on veterinary grounds;

- All female cattle and bulls aged 12 months or over being moved into or out of holdings (other than direct to a slaughter premises) must, in accordance with legislation, have passed a blood test within 30 days preceding the date of movement i.e. the 30 day pre-movement test;
- Bulls aged 12 months or over and female cattle aged 18 months or over 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.

Precautions against Brucellosis infection in cattle

- Breed own replacements where possible;
- If buying in replacement or additional females or bulls
  - ensure that they come from a reliable source and have been pre-movement tested within 30 days prior to movement;
  - isolate moved in animals from other females and bulls. Any pregnant bought in animals should be isolated pending completion of a post calving test;
  - ensure all blood tests are carried out promptly, including the voluntary post-movement test within 30 days of arrival at the farm – failure to do so will result in reduced rates of compensation payable in the event of a disease breakdown;
- Take precautions to ensure that disease does not enter the herd from a neighbouring herd so maintain proper boundary fences and keep susceptible animals away from boundary fences – use these areas for bullocks, fodder or non-bovines;
- DO NOT borrow/lend equipment such as calving jack, cattle trailer, slurry spreader etc.;
- Isolate all pregnant animals away from boundary fields and observe them carefully for any signs of premature calving;
- Provide adequate calving facilities.

COMPENSATION REGIME FOR T.B. AND BRUCELLOSIS

Requirements

- Even if a herd is clear, each owner/keeper should be fully familiar with the terms of the TB and Brucellosis compensation regimes.
- The main elements of the existing compensation regime are the On-Farm Market Valuation Scheme, the Income Supplement Scheme, the Depopulation Grant Scheme and the Hardship Grant Scheme. In order to qualify for payment, the owner/keeper must meet certain eligibility conditions under each Scheme.
- Entitlement to the payment of compensation is also conditional on compliance with the provisions of the Diseases of Animals Act, 1966, any Orders made thereunder and any other controls laid down under the Diseases Eradication Schemes, with identification regulations and other national/EU legislative requirements and controls relating to bovine animals administered by the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries 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 “Compensation arrangements for TB and Brucellosis - Important Information for Farmers” provides useful information in relation to the On Farm Market Valuation Scheme, Income Supplement, Depopulation Grant and Hardship Grant eligibility requirements, rates, etc. The booklet is available on request from the D.V.O.

Under the Brucellosis Eradication Scheme, all eligible animals must be tested in accordance with the rules set out above. In order to be eligible for consideration for maximum compensation payments in the event of a Brucellosis breakdown in the herd, any eligible animals that move into the holding must have also had a Brucellosis test conducted within 30 days of entering the holding.

In the case of a Brucellosis breakdown, the DVO will commence completion of Form ER 111 using all available information on eligible animals which possibly entered the herd during the specified period under review for determining compensation payment. Form ER 111 will be forwarded to the owner/keeper who may be required to furnish additional information but will be required to sign a declaration. Each owner/keeper will have a unique review period which is dependent on, inter alia, date of breakdown test and date of last full herd test prior to the breakdown.

Apart from the legal requirement to keep a herd register on all animal movements, it is absolutely imperative for the purposes of the Brucellosis compensation arrangements that the owner/keeper keeps records of all movements of eligible animals into/out of his/her herd using a herd register and keeping other relevant information as proof of purchase or sale. In the event of a Brucellosis breakdown, it will then be possible for the owner/keeper to speedily provide the additional information needed to complete the valuation and other compensation processes e.g. date of purchase. The Brucellosis valuation amount due and Depopulation Grant category cannot be determined by the DVO without the full co-operation of the owner/keeper in completing Form ER 111 as soon as possible after the breakdown and providing all the information sought. The onus is on the owner/keeper to provide all necessary information to the valuer and to the DVO. The herd register and/or original sales or other related documentation may be requested from the owner/keeper by the valuer and/or the DVO.

ON-FARM MARKET VALUATION SCHEME

Compensation for cattle removed as reactors is paid under the On-Farm Market Valuation Scheme (which replaced the Reactor Grant scheme in 2002). However, reactor grant rates continue to apply to dealer/transient herds.

For the purpose of valuations, "Market Value" is the equivalent price which might reasonably have been obtained for the animal at the time of determination of compensation from a purchaser in the open market if the animal was not affected by TB or Brucellosis or was not being removed as part of a depopulation under the disease eradication programme.

The main features of the live valuation system include:

- Valuations are carried out by suitably qualified valuers within prescribed timescales and by reference to guidelines drawn up by Department staff;
- A ceiling of €2,800 (inclusive of factory salvage price) applies to payments in respect of any single animal, except in respect of one pedigree stock bull per farm where a ceiling of €3,500 (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;
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;

If there is no agreement following an appeal, the matter is referred to an Arbitration Panel whose decision will be final and binding on both parties;

Graduated penalties apply to the final compensation payment made to the owner/keeper where s/he unreasonably delays the removal of reactors as well as for other breaches of regulations;

Valuation payments will not be paid in respect of any introduced animal (other than a stock bull, replacement suckler calf or in the case of a newly established herd) deemed reactor which was moved into the holding during the restriction period;

When farmers are requesting permission to move in animals during a restriction period, they should be aware that, in general, the movement in of cattle will render them ineligible for the Hardship Grant, Depopulation or Income Supplement schemes.

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 Reactor Compensation Regime.

DEPOPULATION GRANT

An owner/keeper whose herd is depopulated (totally or partially) in the interest of disease control may qualify for Depopulation Grants. Depopulation Grants are paid for each animal removed in the depopulation measure and for those removed as reactors since the holding was restricted, on condition that the owner/keeper agrees to depopulation at the time specified by the DVO. If this agreement is not received and depopulation takes place subsequently, the owner/keeper is excluded from eligibility for Depopulation Grants on all past, present and future reactors during the restriction period i.e. Depopulation Grants will only be paid on the in-contact animals removed at the time of any subsequent depopulation. Depopulation Grants are paid in respect of each month of the rest period specified by the DVO.
The rates currently in force are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Animal</th>
<th>Stable</th>
<th>Transient/Dealer/Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TB</td>
<td>Brucellosis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rate (€)</td>
<td>Standard rate (€)</td>
<td>Standard rate plus (€)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(i) Dairy Cows / In-Calf Heifers/Pedigree Bulls &gt; 12 months</td>
<td>228.52</td>
<td>126.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(ii) Other Cows / In-Calf Heifers</td>
<td>126.96</td>
<td>126.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(iii) Other Animals</td>
<td>76.16</td>
<td>38.09</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

**INCOME SUPPLEMENT**
Income Supplement is payable in cases where disease breakdown results in the removal of more than 10% of animals in a herd and where depopulation is not deemed appropriate. Payment is in respect of each animal removed as a reactor from a herd, subject to a maximum of 100 animals qualifying for payment.

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

Income Supplement eligibility will also cease in the event of:
- The owner/keeper failing to co-operate with Veterinary Inspectors or authorised officers in carrying out their duties under the Diseases Eradication Schemes;
- Depopulation (total or partial) of the herd being deemed appropriate by the Department;
- De-restriction of the holding.
The rates currently in force are as follows:

INCOME SUPPLEMENT MONTHLY RATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Animal</th>
<th>Stable</th>
<th>Transient/Dealer/Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TB</td>
<td>Brucellosis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(i) Other Cows</td>
<td>38.09</td>
<td>38.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(ii) Dairy Cows &amp; Other Animals</td>
<td>25.39</td>
<td>25.39</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 (e.g. from 13 September to 12 October) and, accordingly, when eligibility ceases, a pro rata payment will not issue in respect of any remaining part month.

HARDSHIP GRANT

The Hardship Grant eligibility period runs from 1 November to 30 April. This Scheme is designed to alleviate the costs difficulty of some owner/keepers whose holdings are restricted on foot of a herd re test and where animals are retained and fed during periods of restriction. Potentially eligible owner/keepers must meet certain conditions, including requirements that they (i) must not have any income from milk sales and (ii) must not have any off farm income. In addition, the general rule is that where animals (with some specific exceptions) have been moved on to a holding during a restriction period, eligibility for receipt of the hardship grants ceases for the remainder of the restriction period.

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 to 30 April.

The onus is on potentially eligible owner/keepers to ensure that they obtain and familiarise themselves with the terms and conditions document and application form ER97. Potentially eligible owner/keepers are issued with the terms and conditions document, important notice and application form ER 97 by the DVO. Supplies of the relevant documentation are also available at DVOs. The onus is on the owner/keeper to apply for a Hardship Grant.

REACTOR COLLECTION SERVICE

A key condition for compensation payment eligibility is that all reactors must be removed immediately to slaughter via the Reactor Collection Service/Meat Plant tendering arrangement only. Where herd depopulation is deemed appropriate and the owner/keeper agrees to depopulate the herd, the entire herd must be removed to slaughter promptly in consultation with the DVO.

MISCELLANEOUS

- A tax reference number (PPS) is required in advance of any payment issuing from the Department. If compensation payment/s under the scheme will exceed €10,000 in a 12 month period, a Tax Clearance Certificate is required;
In accordance with the payment targets agreed on Direct Payments to Farmers under the Charter of Rights for Farmers, payment of TB and Brucellosis compensation will normally be made within 3 weeks of the date of receipt of the required back-up documentation from the owner/keeper and the meat factory. The required back up documentation for valuation payment is detailed in the “Compensation arrangements for TB and Brucellosis Important Information for Farmers” Booklet;

The Department will pay compensation 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 1B for full list of DVO’s)

AVIAN INFLUENZA

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

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

If you are not already registered with the Department as a commercial poultry producer or processor and if, at present or in the near future, you are likely to;

- Own or trade in domestic poultry or other captive birds (such as pheasants, pigeons, sporting birds or exotic birds but not pet birds in domestic households), or
- Keep domestic poultry (even small numbers of chickens, hens, turkeys, ducks or geese for your own or local consumption),

You are required by law to register with the Department. Poultry owners should note that failure to register, as required by S.I. No. 677 of 2005, may leave them liable to prosecution under the Diseases of Animals Act 1966.

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

BACKGROUND

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

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

CONTROL AND ERADICATION MEASURES

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

Since 1 October 2003, the policy for the control and eradication of Scrapie has developed in line with the development of a harmonised regime at EU level. Its main elements are:

ACTIVE SURVEILLANCE

A comprehensive testing programme for the disease is carried out at slaughterhouses and knackeries.

INFECTED FLOCKS

Infected flocks are genotyped and the Scrapie susceptible animals are disposed of. Flock owners are subsequently required to breed with Scrapie resistant animals only and are subject to a variety of restrictions, all of which are laid down by EU legislation. The Department package includes free genotyping, market value for susceptible animals required to be disposed of, and a “hardship” payment of €84 per breeding ewe.

NATIONAL GENOTYPE PROGRAMME (NGP)

NGP assists flock owners in selecting breeding sheep that are less susceptible to Scrapie. Orchid Cellmark Ltd. is the commercial laboratory approved by the Department to provide a blood testing service to determine the genotype of the sheep.

Participation in the NGP involves a flock owner applying to the Department to have NSIS identified sheep genotyped. S/he designates a Private Veterinary Practitioner to take blood samples. A “Lab- Form” containing details relating to the flock owner, the designated PVP and the tag numbers of the sheep to be tested will be generated and issued to the designated PVP.

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

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

Payment for the genotyping service is made directly by the flock owner /PVP to the approved testing laboratory. In 2007 the Department offset this cost by paying the Laboratory a contribution of €12 towards each test sampled.
SHEEP SCAB

Under an Order made in 2006 - S.I. No. 359 of 2006 Diseases of Animals Act 1966 (Notification and Control of Animal Diseases) Order 2006, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food has responsibility for sheep scab controls. This Order provides that any person who has an affected animal in his/her possession must notify the Secretary General of the Department and also his/her local District Veterinary Office. Following receipt of notification the Department may restrict a flock for a period of time.

BSE

BSE is a fatal disease of cattle, which is potentially linked to the fatal human disease, variant CJD (vCJD). Its main route of transmission in cattle is through the consumption of feed containing or contaminated with Meat and Bone Meal (MBM) from the remains of infected animals. BSE can only be confirmed by post-mortem examination of the brain. It is most common in cows aged 11 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. The Department operates a partial depopulation regime that involves the removal of cohorts (as defined in EU legislation) and progeny animals, with compensation paid at market value.

Since 2001 all EU Member States are required to test all healthy slaughtered bovines over 30 months of age intended for human consumption and all casualty and fallen animals over 24 months of age.

Further information may be obtained from the Animal Health and Welfare Division, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Kildare Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 607 2407

BLUETONGUE

Bluetongue is a disease that affects all ruminants – cattle, sheep, deer, goats and various exotic animals, including camels, llamas etc. It is caused by a virus spread by biting midges and cannot be naturally transmitted by direct or indirect contact between animals. The midges that spread infection are active between April and October in Ireland and are commonly found around farms. Peak populations of the midges occur in the late summer and the autumn and it is at this time when bluetongue is most seen.

Bluetongue does not affect humans and this disease has no public health significance. Neither can the virus be acquired by food.

The main effect is that the virus causes severe and sometimes fatal disease (including a bluetongue, caused by bleeding) in sheep and goats and, although cattle are reservoirs, they usually do not get sick. Chronic cases may die in 3-5 weeks from secondary bacterial infections or have a prolonged recovery with hair or wool loss, growth retardation or sterility. Mild cases may make a complete recovery.
Since August 2006, a new strain of Bluetongue has been spreading across northern Europe with it being confirmed in France, Germany, Luxembourg, Belgium, Netherlands, Denmark, Czech Republic, Austria and Switzerland with its making its first UK appearance in September 2007 in East Anglia. As of February 2008 Ireland has not yet been affected by Bluetongue. In the event of an outbreak, control, protection and surveillance zones would be established with animal movement restrictions applied within and from these zones. Widespread slaughter of animals is not anticipated.

All live animals being imported from Europe from Bluetongue-restricted areas do so under defined conditions detailed in an EU Regulation. This includes the UK. These animals are subject to mandatory post-importation testing for Bluetongue.

There is currently no vaccine yet available for the particular strain of the disease currently circulating (BTV8) with development work continuing. It is hoped that it will be available by summer 2008.

Bluetongue is a notifiable disease and any suspicions must be immediately reported to the Department. Information leaflets have been sent to all farmers and veterinarians, detailing the clinical signs of which they should be aware. Further information on Bluetongue can be found on the Departments website or by visiting www.bluetongue.ie including photographs of some of the clinical signs mentioned.

WARBLE FLY

Warbles manifest themselves as bumps rising on the backs of cattle from mid February until the fly emerges between April and June. Herdowners must notify any infestation and may not move infested cattle without a certificate of treatment. There has been no evidence of warbles in the domestic herd in recent years, but they are being found in imported cattle and this may result in spread requiring area treatment. Responsible importation protects the herd: buy only from a reputable source and inform your DVO of any intended importations.

LIVER FLUKE

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

LEUKOSIS


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 herds positive for the disease implementing a control plan, which must include vaccination. Herds 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 herd owners through contact with the central pig database.

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, (S.I. No. 153 of 1985), Diseases of Animals (Feeding and Use of Swill) (Amendment) Order 1987, (S.I. No. 133 of 1987), Diseases of Animals Act 1966 (Prohibition on the Use of Swill) Order 2001, (S.I. No. 597 of 2001), Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 3rd October 2002 laying down health rules concerning animal by-products not intended for human consumption, 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. Licences are required to land international swill at and remove international swill from ports and airports under the above Swill Orders. International swill should only be landed at and removed from a port or airport by licensed operators. The feeding of such international swill/food waste to animals has always been prohibited.

FALLEN ANIMAL COLLECTION SCHEME

The Fallen Animal Collection Scheme introduced in July 2001 provides for the subsidised collection and destruction of fallen ruminant animals and is available in all 26 counties. The Scheme also subsidises the destruction of certain other non-ruminant fallen animals. Category 2 Intermediate plants offering this service to farmers must be licensed in accordance with the European Communities (Animal By-Products) Regulations, 2006 (S.I No 612/2006).

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).

It is an offence to bury dead animals on-farm, except in accordance with a licence issued by the Department.

Likewise farmers are advised that it is an offence if the carcase of an animal over 24 months of age deteriorates to the extent that the sample cannot easily be tested. In this context, the local knackery must be contacted within 24 hours of the death of an animal. A record should be kept of the time and date of notification of the death to the knackery. Carcases awaiting collection must be held in such a way that domestic animals, including farmed livestock, and wild animals cannot gain access to them. Failure to comply with these conditions may lead to prosecution under S.I. No. 612 of 2006.
Form NBAS 31D must be fully completed and signed and the animal passport available when the animal is collected. The NBAS 31D and the passport must be surrendered to the Collector who picks up the carcase from your farm. If you do not have the passport for the dead animal, then you must request a permit called the FAL 1 permit from your local DVO before the carcase is collected. This permit will be faxed directly to the knackery from the DVO.

A list of authorised knackeries is available on the Department’s website at www.agriculture.gov.ie

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

ANIMAL BY-PRODUCTS

Animal By-Products (ABP) are entire bodies or parts of animals or products of animal origin not intended for human consumption. The disposal of ABP is highly regulated in order to protect both human and animal health. The main legal requirements are set out in Regulation (EC) No. 1774/2002.

Under this Regulation approval must be sought from the Department for most operations dealing with ABP. These activities include operating:

- Rendering plants;
- Compost plants;
- Biogas plants;
- Knackeries;
- Pet food plants;
- Wool and hide stores;
- Technical plants;
- Meat and bonemeal stores;
- Knackeries;
- Transporting ABP;
- Feeding meat from fallen animals to hounds or zoo animals.

Further details and application forms for approval under the ABP regulations can be obtained from Animal By-Products Section, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Pavilion B, Grattan Business Centre, Dublin Road, Portlaoise, Co. Laois. Tel: 057 8694343/057 8694343 or 057 8693346, Fax: 057 8694385.

VETERINARY LABORATORY SERVICES

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

The Department implements a number of controls in relation to veterinary medicines in order to safeguard public health and also animal health and welfare. The European Communities (Animal Remedies) (No 2) Regulations 2007 (SI 786/2007) provide a comprehensive legislative basis for licensing of veterinary medicines and controls on their distribution. Under this regime, the Irish Medicines Board acts as the main national licensing authority for veterinary medicines (animal remedies), while the Department licenses premises engaged in the commercial distribution of veterinary medicines. All animal remedies intended for use are required to be authorised in the State and may only be used in accordance with the conditions attached to the product authorisation.

Irish legislation on veterinary medicines has been amended in recent years in light of the revised EU legislative code governing the approval and distribution of veterinary medicines. Following the successful outcome of negotiations on criteria (Commission Directive 2006/130/EC) to exempt certain veterinary medicines from a mandatory prescription requirement, the Department has reflected this in the national legislation. Other recent amendments include an extension in the maximum period of validity of veterinary prescriptions to 12 months to facilitate farmers and vets in reviewing and managing projected annual routine medicine needs and a refinement of the rules governing written prescriptions in the case of companion animals. The new Regulations also make provision for an alternative prescribing regime for intramammary animal remedies, which are available only with a veterinary prescription from 1st January 2008, where a programme designed to reduce both the incidence of mastitis and recourse to such antibiotic treatments is in place. The Regulations also embody an additional EU measure (Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1950/2006) which provides for exceptional use of certain essential substances in horses under the responsibility of a vet, subject to appropriate consumer protection safeguards.

Currently, over 1000 individual products are licensed in accordance with the detailed requirements of EU legislation. In addition, in the region of 75 wholesale and 730 retail premises are regulated and licensed in accordance with relevant legislation having been inspected by the Department to ensure that they reach the required standard. The manufacture, distribution and sale of medicated feedingstuffs and intermediate products is also subject to licensing by the Minister under the European Communities (Animal Remedies and Medicated Feedingstuffs) Regulations, 1994 as amended by the European Communities (Animal Remedies and Medicated Feedingstuffs) (Amendment) Regulations, 2003. The use of medicated feedingstuffs is prohibited except under and in accordance with the terms of a veterinary written direction issued by a registered veterinary practitioner. Medicated pre-mixes must be authorised by the Irish Medicines Board. There are currently in the region of 25 licensed medicated feed manufacturers and 8 home mixers licensed to manufacture medicated feed.

The Department also implements a comprehensive National Residue Plan designed to protect consumers from illegal residues, be they of banned products (such as growth promoting hormones) licensed medicines (these usually arise where animals enter the food chain before expiry of the prescribed withdrawal period for the medicine concerned), or environmental contaminants. The Residue Plan covers eleven food-producing species including aquaculture. During 2006, 28,000 samples were taken and tested at officially approved laboratories for 18 residue groupings. All positive results are followed up by an investigation on the farm of origin with a view to taking the necessary enforcement measures which can include prosecution in the Courts.
Since 2000, official testing has been complemented by a statutorily based regime under which primary processors are obliged to implement residue-monitoring measures. This regime, which involves annual submission to the Department for approval of individual residue plans, makes it mandatory for processors to subject suppliers, whose animals or animal products test positive, to significantly intensified monitoring. This regime of self-monitoring is subject to Department scrutiny.

PENALTIES

Severe penalties may be imposed by the Courts for breaches of the legislation imposed for the sale, possession and use of unauthorised animal remedies; a person found guilty of an offence may be prohibited from keeping animals or animal remedies. Penalties range from €1,270 to €5,000 and/or 1 year imprisonment for a person convicted on summary prosecution to €317,500 to €350,000 fine and/or 10 years imprisonment for a second conviction on indictment.

RECORDS

Under the European Communities (Animal Remedies) Regulations 2007, farmers are required to keep a record (the “Animal Remedies Record”) of all animal remedies coming on to the farm for administration to food producing animals. The form of record is set out below:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purchase/incoming details</th>
<th>Administration/Outgoing details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quantity</td>
<td>Authorised name of animal remedy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of receipt</td>
<td>Date of expiry of withdrawal period</td>
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<tr>
<td>Name &amp; address of Supplier</td>
<td>Name of person who administered the Animal Remedy</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Name of prescribing Veterinary Practitioner (if applicable)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Quantities of unused or expired animal remedies which were returned</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

APPROVAL AND REGISTRATION OF DEALERS

Under the European Communities (Approval and Registration of Dealers of Bovine Animals and Swine) Regulations 2007 (S.I. No. 151 of 2007) all dealers engaged in the buying or selling of cattle and pigs must be approved and registered by the Department. It is not permitted for a person to buy/acquire/source an animal from or sell/supply/dispose of an animal to a dealer unless the dealer is approved, registered and in possession of a current approval number under the aforementioned legislation.

A dealer is defined as a person who purchases and sells or supplies animals to another person within a period of 30 days. In addition if a dealer is assembling/holding animals, he/she must have a premises, which has been approved for that specific purpose.
However, the following exemptions apply:

■ A person who buys and resells within 30 days less than 100 bovine animals or 100 swine in any 12-month period is excluded from the requirement to be approved as a dealer;

■ A person who resides outside the State, who buys bovine animals or swine in the State on his or her own account;

■ A person, who selects or bids for animals (on a commission or per head basis) exclusively on behalf of others (e.g. dealers, factories, or private individuals) but who does not buy and pay for the animals, is excluded from the definition of a dealer and therefore is not required to be approved as a dealer.

The legislation requires those who buy and resell cattle or pigs within 30 days to register as dealers and to comply with arrangements relating to the welfare and transport of animals, standards and the upkeep of premises, keeping of records and compliance with animal notification and disease testing procedures.

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. (See list of DVOs at appendix 1B). If the application is for approval as dealer without premises, 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 must accompany each application.

REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE SALE OF ANIMALS AT LIVESTOCK MARTS

The Livestock Marts Act, 1967 (Date of Test and Identification of Seller) Regulations 2002 (S.I. No. 188 of 2002) came into effect on 1 July 2002. This legislation requires all livestock marts to place on view by means of an electronic display unit the following information, when the sale of an animal takes place at a mart:

■ The name and full address of the owner and the person in whose name the herd or flock from which the animal is being offered for sale is registered;

■ Where the animals has been tested for either or both bovine Tuberculosis and bovine Brucellosis under the Diseases of Animals Act, 1966 (No. 6 of 1966);

■ Where an animal is presented for sale by or on behalf of a dealer, a statement to that fact.

This information must be clearly legible to each person present at or in the immediate vicinity of the sales ring where an animal is being offered for sale. In circumstances where sheep are being sold direct from pens the Regulations require that the relevant details be publicly announced before the sale.

The purpose of this legislation is to ensure that there is greater transparency in the operations of livestock marts and that clients are provided with a uniform quality of service.

REGULATIONS GOVERNING ASSEMBLY CENTRES

The European Communities (Assembly Centres) Regulations 2000 (S.I. No. 257 of 2000) implements Council Directive 97/12/EC of 17 March 1997. An assembly centre is a holding, collection centre or market at which animals from different holdings are grouped together to form consignments of animals intended for export to other Member States of the European Union. Assembly Centres must be approved for trading purposes and meet the requirements laid down in
the aforementioned legislation. An assembly centre may only commence operations once it has been inspected and approved by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. The species, class and type of animals approved to be handled by an assembly centre may be limited to certain terms or conditions deemed appropriate by the Minister. Where the Minister approves an assembly centre an approval number will be allocated with any terms or conditions attaching.

**IMPORT AND EXPORT OF LIVE FARM ANIMALS**

Quarantine control on live farm animals coming from other EU countries has been removed and border checks are no longer applicable to such trade. Live farm animals are subject to veterinary inspection and health certification at their place of origin in the exporting country and to checks at their place of destination in the importing country. This greater freedom of movement of animals poses extra risks for Ireland’s animal health status and calls for greater vigilance by importers and farmers to ensure that costly animal diseases are not imported. In several sectors, voluntary codes of practice are in place, which set out additional measures of protection as far as imports are concerned. On the export side, farm animals going to EU destinations, including Northern Ireland, must be examined by an official veterinarian in an approved assembly centre prior to export in order to facilitate the issue of the necessary health certificates.

EU veterinary legislation imposes a wide range of requirements with which farmers have to comply. Animals have to be identified in a manner that enables their holding of origin to be traced. In several cases, farmers have to maintain records of animals kept and details of all movements of stock into and out of their holdings. All farms must be registered with the Department and they will be subject to official veterinary checks on their health status.

**IMPORT OF POULTRY**

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

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All enquiries in relation to the import of live farm animals, including poultry, should be directed to Live Trade Section, Animal Health and Welfare Division, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Kildare Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 6072466/6072709/6072698.

**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 was agreed for all of the European Union. Under this new system it is possible, subject to certain conditions, to bring pet dogs and cats directly into Ireland from a range of qualifying countries (qualifying countries include all EU Member States, other European countries and territories, and certain Third Countries) deemed low risk for rabies.
Pet dogs and cats may travel directly into Ireland provided that:

- The animal is travelling from a qualifying country;
- The animal is identified by means of a microchip;
- The animal has been vaccinated against rabies;
- The animal has, at least six months before entry, been successfully blood-tested for rabies anti-bodies;
- The animal has been correctly treated against ticks 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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_all enquiries in relation to the import of pet cats and dogs should be directed to Special Projects Unit, Animal Health and Welfare Division, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Kildare Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 607 2827._

Details are also available at www.agriculture.gov.ie/pets

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**IMPORT CONDITIONS FOR PET RABBITS, HAMSTERS, GERBILS, GUINEA PIGS, RATS, MICE, CHINCHILLAS**

The Rabies (Importation, Landing and Movement of Animals) Order 1972 (S.I. No. 16 of 1972) and the Rabies (Importation, Landing and Movement of Animals) (Amendment) Order (S.I. No. 95 of 1976) prohibits the importation of pet Rabbits, Hamsters, Gerbils, Guinea Pigs, Rats, Mice and Chinchillas into Ireland except under licence. The status of the country of export, particularly in regard to rabies will be taken into account before a licence can be issued.

The above small mammals can travel directly into Ireland provided that:

- On arrival in Ireland, the animal(s) shall be taken directly to the new place of residence;
- The pet(s) must be accompanied by a health certificate from a registered Veterinary Surgeon certified within 5 days of departure stating that at the time of inspection the pet was free of all clinical signs of a contagious or infectious disease and is fit to travel;
- The animal(s) must be accompanied by a declaration signed by the owner stating that the animals have been born in captivity and kept in captivity since birth;
- The owner or a nominated relative/friend must transit with the pet(s) to its destination.

An application form should be completed and returned, at least one month prior to the proposed date of travel.
Importation of pet and hobby birds from within EU Member States is by way of General Authorisation. This involves the completion of an Advance Notice Form, the original of which should be returned to the Department at least 24 hours in advance of importation. An owners’ declaration form is completed on the morning of export and retained by the person who is accompanying the birds.

The importation of pet and hobby birds from Third Countries is by way of import licence the conditions for which change depending on the disease status of the originating country.

All enquiries in relation to such imports should be directed to Live Trade Section, Animal Health Division, Floor 3 Centre, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Agriculture House, Kildare Street, Dublin 2, Ireland. Tel: 01 6072000.

IMPORTATION OF PRODUCTS OF ANIMAL ORIGIN

Products of animal origin fall into two main categories – those intended for human consumption and those defined as animal by-products*. Inter-community trade and import from Third Countries of both these categories of products of animal origin are harmonised in accordance with Community Regulations to ensure the protection of animal and human health.

The following are the principal conditions applying to trade and imports:

**Human Consumption:**

- For trade within the EU products must originate from approved premises in the Member States and be appropriately health labelled and packaged;
- Products being traded must be accompanied by a commercial document detailing the approved establishment of origin and the consignee for the purposes of traceability;
- Imports must originate from a Third Country approved and listed by the European Commission for the export of that species/category of product. In addition they must come from an approved establishment, e.g. slaughterhouse, cutting plant, processing plant or coldstore that has been approved and listed for export to the EU for the product concerned;
- Consignments from Third Countries may only be imported on to the territory of the Community through a EU approved border inspection post. The approved border inspection posts in Ireland are at Dublin Port and Shannon Airport;
- The importer is required to provide the Border Inspection Post with prior notification of arrival of each consignment that is to be imported;
- On arrival the consignment must be accompanied by the appropriate model health certificate required under EU law including, in the case of products derived from susceptible animal species, the required declaration with regard to BSE;
- All importers of animal products into Ireland must be registered with the Department.

**Animal By-products:**

- There is a general ban on the feeding of animal by-products to farm animals in the food chain;
- Trade and import in unprocessed animal by-products is limited to especially approved establishments;
- Animal by-products that are finished and processed products must be appropriately wrapped, labelled and transported and accompanied by a commercial document;
Imports must originate from a Third Country approved and listed by the European Commission for the export of that species/category of animal by-product. In addition they must come from an approved establishment approved for export to the EU for the animal by-product concerned;

- The importer is required to provide the Border Inspection Post with prior notification of arrival of each consignment that is to be imported;
- On arrival the consignment must be accompanied by the appropriate model health certificate required under EU law including, in the case of products derived from susceptible animal species, the required declaration with regard to BSE;
- All importers of animal products into Ireland must be registered with the Department.

Where animal disease outbreaks occur in a region or a country approval to trade in affected products may be suspended by means of Safeguard Decisions for the effected region or the whole country as appropriate until the disease risk has been eliminated.

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

Information on animal by-product establishment approvals may be obtained from the Meat Hygiene and Animal By-products Division, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Grattan Business Centre, Portlaoise, Co. Laois. Tel: 057 8694348

*Human consumption 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 and preparations, milk and milk products, eggs and egg products, animal casings, honey, frogs legs, snails, fish and fishery products.

Animal by-products include non-tanned 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 for the manufacture of petfoods or technical products, game trophies, unprocessed manure, processed manure and processed manure products, apiculture products, unprocessed wool, hair, bristles and feathers.

PERSONAL IMPORT OF ANIMAL PRODUCTS – ADVICE TO TRAVELLERS

From EU Countries
In order to maintain the high level of protection for animal and public health only animal products, which have been produced in accordance with EU rules may be imported for the purpose of own consumption and then only if contained in the personal luggage of travelers and intended for their personal or domestic consumption. Generally, this applies to animal products, which are on sale to the public in the Member State of origin that have been appropriately packaged and have an identifying EU health mark.

From Non-EU Countries
The personal import of meat and milk products for own consumption purposes from almost all non-EU countries, by means of personal baggage, is prohibited under EU and national regulations.
SAFEGUARD MEASURES

Where there are concerns with regard to the effectiveness of controls operated in a Third Country approved for export of animals or animal products to the EU or, where animal disease outbreaks occur in a country or in regions of that country, the EU introduces safeguard measures where imports of susceptible animals or animal products from the area concerned impose risks for human and animal health. These measures, introduced by means of EU Commission Decision, may ban or control imports of susceptible animals or animal products from the area until the risks to EU health are eliminated. Safeguard measures limiting or banning trade from a EU country or region are also implemented where, for example, the conditions of an animal disease outbreak could seriously affect production and trade in the EU.

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 (Welfare of farmed animals) Regulations 2008, S.I. No. 14 of 2008. These Regulations replace a series of earlier regulations in the area of animal welfare and give effect to a number of European welfare directives concerning the protection of farmed animals including laying hens, calves and pigs and animals being slaughtered. The Regulations oblige persons to take all necessary steps to ensure the welfare of an animal in their possession and sets out conditions under which an animal must be kept.

FARM ANIMAL WELFARE ADVISORY COUNCIL

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

In 2004 FAWAC introduced the Early Warning/Intervention System for Animal Welfare Cases involving the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries 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, Fisheries and Food. The role of the Garda Síochána under the Protection of Animals Act, 1911 (as amended) is also acknowledged.

In 2007 FAWAC produced a booklet entitled Best Practice for the Welfare of Animals during TRANSPORT. These guidelines have been produced to encourage and assist all those involved in the transportation of live animals to adopt and maintain the highest standards of animal welfare prior to, during and post transport. FAWAC has already produced four other Animal Welfare Guideline booklets for Beef, Sheep, Dairy and Equine farmers. It is proposed to publish similar guidelines in relation to the keeping of broiler chickens.

Copies of these publications are available from Animal Health and Welfare Division, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Kildare St, Dublin 2 - Tel. 01-6072706.

SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

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

PROTECTION OF ANIMALS DURING TRANSPORT

EU Council Regulation 1 of 2005 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations prescribe strict standards for animals handling and the state of the vehicle and hygiene and, on long journeys, standards for feeding, watering, resting period, journey times and stocking densities during transportation. The Regulation came into effect on 5 January 2007 and has been given legal effect in Ireland by the European Communities (Animal Transport and Control Post) Regulations 2006 (S.I. No. 675 of 2006). The Council Regulation applies to the transport of live animals, including cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, poultry and horses and sets out conditions as follows:

- On animal welfare, mode of transport and loading facilities to be met by all transporters of animals irrespective of distance travelled;
- Training and authorisation of person who transport live animals over a distance in excess of 65km for commercial purposes;
- Operators of assembly centres must ensure that animals are treated in accordance with the technical rules of the Regulation;
- Inspection of vehicles and maintenance of records of persons who transport animals on long journeys (defined as over eight hours). Such vehicles must have satellite based navigation systems installed within deadlines laid down in the Regulation.

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food has undertaken to increase awareness of the legal requirements of those in charge of animals during transport. A system of vehicle inspections is in place, under the above-mentioned legislation. The inspections carried out by Department staff, throughout the country, encompass all forms of animal transport.
The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food have produced a poster and information leaflets on the transport of horses and livestock, which have been made freely available. In addition the Farm Animal Welfare Advisory Council (FAWAC) at the request of the Department has produced a Best Practice for the Welfare of Animals during Transport booklet.

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

For further information on Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations and how to apply for a transport authorisation please contact National Beef Assurance Division at the contact details below or alternatively log on to our website www.agriculture.gov.ie/animaltransport.

**Further information on the Protection of Animals During Transport may be obtained from National Beef Assurance Scheme Division, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Maynooth, Co. Kildare. Tel: 01 5053300; Email: transport@agriculture.gov.ie**

**PROHIBITION ON TAIL DOCKING OF BOVINE ANIMALS**


**WELFARE OF FARMED ANIMALS, INCLUDING LAYING HENS, CALVES AND PIGS AND ANIMALS BEING SLAUGHTERED**

The European Communities (Welfare of farmed animals) Regulations 2008 (S.I. No. 14 of 2008) give effect to a series of European Directives on welfare including laying hens, calves, pigs and animals being slaughtered. The Regulations set out general conditions for the keeping of laying hens and the minimum requirements of accommodation for pigs and calves in relation to space, lighting, ventilation, veterinary treatment etc. to allow the animals to express natural behaviour. The regulations also detail requirements relating to slaughtering practices and sets out approved methods for the slaughter of animals. The regulations require that an owner take all necessary steps to ensure the welfare of an animal under his or her care and to ensure that the animal is not caused unnecessary pain or injury.

**EX-GRATIA FUNDING TO ANIMAL WELFARE BODIES**

Since the mid 1990’s the practice has been maintained of providing ex-gratia payments to a range of animal welfare bodies throughout the country to assist in their work over the succeeding 12 months in directly delivering care and welfare services to animals. These payments have been acknowledged by all concerned as having been of real practical benefit to the bodies in question and to the animals with which they come into contact.
Section 10

feedingstuff controls
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.

RESTRICTION ON THE USE OF CERTAIN PROTEINS
There is a total ban on the feeding of animal proteins to farmed animals. Farmed animals are kept, fattened or bred for the production of food. This restriction also applies to fishmeal and to dicalcium phosphate derived from defatted bones, except where authorised under EU Regulation (EC) No. 999/2001. All those who wish to import, store, incorporate or trade fishmeal or dicalcium phosphate must be authorised under the above Regulation.

Application forms for authorisation to use any of these proteins may be obtained from Crop Production and Safety Division, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Maynooth, Co. Kildare Tel: 01 5053575.

FEED HYGIENE
EU Regulation (EC) No. 183/2005 laying down the requirements for feed hygiene applies to all feed business operators from 1 January 2006. This ‘farm to fork’ approach means that it applies to all businesses including the primary production of feed materials and also the handling, transport, manufacture, marketing and use of animal feeds. The regulations aim to ensure that all involved
take the necessary precautions to ensure the safety of feed. The key elements of the regulation are as follows:

- All feed business operators are required to be approved or registered for their activities. This includes all farmers who keep livestock and/or grow crops which may be fed to livestock (Primary Producers);
- HACCP principles to be adopted by all operators other than for primary production of feed and the feeding of farmed animals;
- Application of good agricultural practice at the level of primary production of feed materials and the feeding of farmed animals;
- Operators must source feed from approved or registered operators.

Application forms for approval or registration under the above legislation can be obtained from Crop Production and Safety Division, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Maynooth, Co. Kildare Tel: 01 5053576

**ADDITIVES IN FEEDINGSTUFFS**

EU additive regulations lay down specific rules for the assessment, putting into circulation and use of additives in feedingstuffs. Only additives authorised in accordance with EU legislation may be put into circulation and they may only be used if incorporated in feedingstuffs under the conditions set out in the authorisation regulation. In the case of feedingstuffs, which contain medicinal additives and fat-soluble vitamins, farmers must be supplied with appropriate details such as name; inclusion level and expiry date of the guarantee of that level and also conditions of use, e.g. withdrawal period before slaughter.

Application forms for approval or registration under the above legislation can be obtained from Crop Production and Safety Division, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Maynooth, Co. Kildare. Tel: 01 5053576

**UNDESIRABLE SUBSTANCES**

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

**NUTRITIONAL VALUE**

The statement of the level of crude protein, crude oil, crude fibre, crude ash, and moisture content where it equals or exceeds 14% etc., is a guide to the nutritional value of the feedingstuff and should be carefully considered when purchasing feed.
SAMPLING AND ANALYSIS SERVICE TO FARMERS

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

Further details can be obtained from Crop Production and Safety Division, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Maynooth, Co. Kildare. Tel: 01 5053576
crops and horticulture
11. CROPS AND HORTICULTURE

CROPS

SEED CERTIFICATION SCHEME

Seed certification is a quality assurance system whereby seed intended for marketing is subject to official control and inspection so as to provide a guarantee to the purchaser. The immediate objective of seed certification is to supply high quality seed to farmers, which is true to identity, high in purity and germination capacity and free from certain weed species, pests and diseases. Seed quality is most important in crop production, as high quality seed is essential to minimise crop failures and ensure good crop yields and quality. Seed of barley, oats, wheat, triticale, perennial ryegrass, field beans, oilseed rape and seed potatoes were certified in 2007.

The Seed Certification Scheme is an official system supported by EU and National legislation and International protocols to ensure that seed is produced, multiplied and marketed according to predetermined standards and systems, while maintaining the genetic integrity of the product. It is part of a wider system of international trade incorporating plant breeding, plant breeder’s rights, plant genetic resources and biodiversity. Under EU and Irish law, it is illegal to market uncertified seed.

There are seven EU Seeds Directives, which provide for common standards for seed certification across the EU Member States, and, in general, the free movement of certified seed. The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food is the designated authority for implementing the Seed Certification Scheme in Ireland.

Production of certified seed of combinable crops requires the establishment of a contract between the grower and the seed merchant. Certain conditions are stipulated regarding the suitability of the site for growing a seed crop. Seed production is overseen by official inspections and sampling during the field, seed intake, packaging and labelling phases of production.

SEED POTATOES

It is a legal requirement that all seed potatoes for planting must be certified. Growers wishing to produce their own seed potatoes must enter their crops for certification. The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food is the certifying authority for seed potatoes in Ireland.

The initial source material for seed potatoes is produced under laboratory conditions in order to ensure freedom from disease. This material is multiplied over a number of generations in the field to produce seed for planting commercial crops. Certification aims to ensure that seed potatoes at all stages of this multiplication process meet specified standards. Seed potatoes must be grown on PCN (eelworm) free land. Both the growing crop and tubers must pass inspection by Department officers before seed is certified. Charges were introduced for this service in 2005.

Infected seed tubers are the primary means of spreading many serious potato diseases. Under EU and national legislation, an extensive programme of sampling and testing for certain serious potato diseases is carried out each year. Advance notification is required for all consignments of seed potatoes brought into the country.
**GRANT AID (SEED POTATOES)**

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

**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.

**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 Laboratory. A fee is charged for these tests.

Tests for a number of quarantine organisms are also carried out at the Plant Health Laboratory in Backweston.
CROP VARIETY EVALUATION PROGRAMME

In accordance with both EU Directives and National Legislation the Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Food is the competent authority in Ireland to carry out V.C.U. (Value for Cultivation and Use) trials for crop varieties. New varieties showing superior performance either for cultivation or as regards the uses, which can be made of the crops or products, derived therefrom are given positive V.C.U. status.

These trials, called **National List (NL) Trials** are carried out over a minimum of two years; mainly at the Department’s Crop Variety Evaluation Centres at Backweston Farm (Headquarters), Moorepark, Athenry, Kildalton and Raphoe. Varieties meeting acceptable standards for both VCU (and DUS*) are eligible for registration in the National Catalogue of Agricultural Plant Varieties.

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

Promising varieties from the NL trials are advanced to **Recommended List (RL) Trials**, which take a minimum 3-year period. These trials are carried out at the above centres and on commercial farms throughout the country recommended by Teagasc Development Officers. There are currently Recommended list REPS trials for spring barley varieties being evaluated. Varieties included in combined National / Recommended List trials must be tested for a minimum of 3 years before they can be considered for entry to the National Catalogue and the Recommended List.

Trials are currently undertaken for the following crops; Cereals (Wheat, Barley, Oats, Triticale), Forage Maize, Herbages (Grass and Clover), Potatoes and Oilseed Rape.

**Recommended Lists** of the most outstanding varieties in trials are issued annually for the main crop species.

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

PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES

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

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

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

REGISTRATION OF POTATO GROWERS AND POTATO PACKERS ACT

Under the Registration of Potato Growers and Potato Packers Acts, 1984 and 2004, every person who is a grower of potatoes for sale or a packer of potatoes for sale must register with the Department. A once-off registration fee of €19 is payable.

Potatoes may not be sold unless they have been grown by a registered grower and packed by a registered packer. A person may not sell potatoes in a package unless the package bears the registration number of both the registered grower and the registered packer.

Regulations made under the Act require both growers and packers to maintain detailed records of quantities sold/purchased. These records ensure that potatoes offered for sale at retail level can be traced back to individual growers or importers.

STANDARDS FOR SALE OF POTATOES

Potatoes sold or offered for sale must comply with the requirements of the Food Standards (Potatoes) Regulations. They must be of good quality, sold separately by variety and sold in the prescribed size ranges. Packages must be marked with the potato variety and the size range. Packaging must be able to absorb moisture and admit air. The Regulations do not apply to potatoes for processing or for export.

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

CONTROL OF NOXIOUS WEEDS

Under the Noxious Weeds Act, 1936, it is an offence not to prevent the growth and spread of noxious weeds. Owners and occupiers of land must ensure that they abide by the provision in the act. Noxious weeds, which must be controlled, are ragwort, thistle, dock and wild oat.

For control methods, please contact the Local Teagasc Advisor or, alternatively, consult the Teagasc fact sheet on ragwort at www.teagasc.ie

AID SCHEMES

AID FOR STARCH USERS

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

SCHEME OF AID FOR DEHYDRATED FODDER

This is a 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.
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 Single Payment 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, Fisheries and Food, Kildare Street, Dublin 2, Tel: 01 6072037

FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

SCHEME OF INVESTMENT FOR THE COMMERCIAL HORTICULTURE SECTOR

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

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

PRODUCER ORGANISATIONS

A Producer Organisation means any legal entity, which is formed on the initiative of growers of fruit and vegetables who undertake to market all their production through the organisation. To obtain recognition a Producer Organisation must have a minimum of 5 members with an annual volume of production of at least €100,000. EU financial assistance is available to recognised Producer Organisations towards the cost of implementation of approved operational programmes.

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

CERTIFICATION SCHEME

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

Further particulars may be obtained from Crop Production and Safety Division, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Maynooth, Co Kildare. Tel: 01 5053579
EUROPEAN MARKETING STANDARDS FOR FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

European Community Marketing Standards exist for a wide range of fresh fruit and vegetables. The function of the standards is to ensure that regulated produce offered to the consumer is of acceptable quality and accurately labelled. The standards concern quality, sizing, presentation and marking of regulated fresh produce. These standards apply to homegrown and imported products offered for sale at wholesale and retail levels throughout the country and to products being exported. Responsibility for ensuring that produce which is sold or offered for sale complies with the marketing standards lies with the trader. Department officials inspect produce to ensure that the standards are being observed. There are penalties for infringements of the marketing standards.

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

BEEKEEPING / HONEY

EU and national legislation regulates imports and exports of bees. Under this legislation, bees are subject to veterinary inspection for certain notifiable diseases, to health certification at their place of origin in the exporting country and to checks at their place of destination in the importing country. Foul Brood Disease, Small Hive Beetle and Tropilaelops mite are notifiable bee diseases.

Grant aid towards specialist beekeeping facilities and equipment is available under the Scheme of Investment Aid in the Commercial Horticulture Sector.

Honey offered for sale to the consumer must comply with EU Marketing Standards to ensure that it is of acceptable quality and accurately labelled, especially in terms of origin. Inspections are carried out by the Department to ensure that the standards are observed; penalties apply where infringements occur.

Teagasc provides an advisory and disease diagnostic service for beekeepers. Information is available from local Teagasc offices.

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

PLANT HEALTH AND TRADE/PESTICIDES

Ireland is free of many of the serious diseases and pests, which affect plants and crops, and consequently has a high standard of plant health. The Department operates controls under both national and EU legislation to maintain this high health status. Any unusual occurrence of disease or pest should be notified immediately to the Plant Protection Service of the Department.
EU RULES

A common system of plant health controls operates within the EU. A feature of this system is that material (certain plants, plant products and other objects), which is subject to control, must be inspected at production level to check compliance with the requirements laid down in respect of movement within the EU. Some of this material must be accompanied by a label, known as a plant passport, when being moved. This denotes eligibility for movement within the EU and specifically for movement into and within designated protected zones. Persons involved in the production and movement of relevant material must be registered with the Department and be authorised to issue plant passports, where appropriate. Material subject to plant health control originating outside the EU may only be imported by registered importers and is subject to mandatory phytosanitary inspection upon entry to the EU.

Further information and application forms for registration may be obtained from Plant Trade Section, Crops Production and Safety Division, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Maynooth, Co. Kildare. Tel: 01 5055342

PLANT PROTECTION AND BIOCIDAL PRODUCTS

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

REGISTRATION AND AUTHORISATION

Plant protection products, when correctly used, are a most valuable tool in crop production for controlling weeds, diseases and pests, enabling a good yield of top quality crops to be obtained. Biocides, when used correctly, provide effective means of disinfection and preservation of products, surfaces and materials in industry and in the home. However, being biologically active, plant protection products and biocidal products must be handled and used with care.

The Department operates statutory controls over all plant protection and biocidal products used in Ireland and only products notified under the European Communities (Classification, Packaging and Labeling of Plant Protection Products and Biocide Products) Regulations, 2001 or authorised or registered in accordance with the European Communities (Authorisation, Placing on the Market, Use and Control of Plant Protection Products) Regulations, 2003 as amended or the European Communities (Authorisation, Placing on the Market, Use and Control of Biocidal Products) Regulations, 2001 can be used. The use of plant protection and biocidal products in a manner other than that provided for on product labels is an offence which is subject to prosecution.

Regular inspection by the Department is carried out to ensure that all plant protection and biocidal products marketed and used comply with the EU regulations. Users of plant protection and biocidal products should follow the instructions carefully.

The Department publishes a list of plant protection products, which have been authorised, cleared, notified or granted permission to market under the Regulations.
RESIDUE LEVELS
It is illegal to market food products containing a higher level of pesticide residues than permitted maxima which are laid down by Regulations. The Department publishes an annual report on pesticide residues in food.

Further information can be obtained from Crop Production and Safety Division, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Maynooth, Co Kildare. Tel: 01 5053342 and Pesticides Control Services, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Backweston, Co Kildare. Tel: 01 6157552

GROUND LIMESTONE AND FERTILISERS
Legal standards are prescribed for the sale of ground limestone and fertilisers to ensure that farmers get the correct quality and formulation. The seller is required to give the purchaser a statement showing the analysis of the material. The Department carries out checks on material on sale and takes samples for official analysis. Appropriate action is taken in the event of breach of the Regulations.

ANALYTICAL SERVICE
Any farmer, who has reason to believe that a purchased ground limestone may be defective, can apply to the Department to have an official sample taken for analysis. Applications for official sampling/analysis should reach the Department within twenty-eight days of delivery of the material purchased and be accompanied by a fee of €6.35 in each case.

Further information can be obtained from Crop Production and Safety Division, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Maynooth, Co Kildare. Tel: 01 5053342
12 food and drinks industry
12. FOOD AND DRINKS INDUSTRY

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2007 – 2013

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 industry, including 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 investment 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, Fisheries and Food, Kildare St., Dublin 2. Tel: 01 6072841

FOOD DIRECTIVES AND REGULATIONS

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

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

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

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

Calls for proposals are issued in October of each year for Internal Market Programmes and in January for Third Country Programmes.

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

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 €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.

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 CPPE/Wine Section, Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Food, Johnstown Castle Estate, Wexford. Tel: 053 9163446, 9163448 or on the Department’s website: www.agriculture.gov.ie. E-mail: CPPE@agriculture.gov.ie.
13 sea fisheries
13. SEA FISHERIES

DEVELOPMENT OF THE IRISH SEA FISH AND AQUACULTURE INDUSTRIES

BORD IASCAIGH MHARA (BIM)

BIM is the State agency with responsibility for developing the Irish Sea fishing and Aquaculture industries (excluding Aquaculture industries in the Gaeltacht areas).

The programmes to pursue this mission are determined by the Board of BIM and are set out within the framework of Ministerial policy set out in the National Development Plan 2007-2013 (NDP), EU policies and available resources.

A primary objective of BIM policy is to expand the volume, quality and value of output from the fisheries and aquaculture sectors. BIM's approach is to focus on the opportunities for growth in these sectors while seeking to alleviate constraints that impede development.

BIM provides a range of services including advisory, financial, technical, marketing and training supports to all sectors of the Irish seafood industry. The four development divisions of BIM deliver these services through a number of integrated programmes. The programmes are funded from the Exchequer, the European Commission and charges for services.

NDP/EU Funded Schemes Supported By BIM:
- Fleet Decommissioning;
- Fleet Renewal & Modernisation;
- Aquaculture Development;
- Environmental Management Systems.

For further details contact: B.I.M., P.O. Box 12, Crofton Road, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. Tel: 01 2144100, Email: info@bim.ie

ÚDARÁS NA GAELTACTHA

Údarás na Gaeltachta is the regional authority responsible for the economic, social and cultural development of the Gaeltacht. Údarás encourages investment in the Gaeltacht through a range of generous incentives for new enterprises and through support and assistance for existing businesses.

Údarás is an implementing agency for the development of Aquaculture projects in the Gaeltacht areas and works closely with BIM and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in ensuring the smooth implementation and management of projects that are funded by NDP/EU funds.

For further details contact: Údarás na Gaeltachta, Na Forbacha, Co. na Gaillimhe. Tel: 091-503100; Fax: 091-503101; Email: eolas@udaras.ie
REGULATION OF THE IRISH SEA FISH AND AQUACULTURE INDUSTRIES

LICENSEING OF SEA FISHING BOATS

Commercial sea fishing is regulated by the Fisheries Acts 1959 to 2006. Any boat, which wishes to engage in such fishing, requires a licence under Section 4 of the Fisheries Amendment Act, 2003 (as inserted by Section 97 of the Sea Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act, 2006), and it is an offence to engage in fishing without this authorisation.

REGISTRATION OF SEA FISHING BOATS

All fishing boats within the meaning of the Merchant Shipping (Registry, Lettering and Numbering of Fishing Boats) Regulations, 2005 are required to be entered on the Register of Fishing Boats maintained by the Department in accordance with those Regulations. Only fishing boats licensed in accordance with Section 4 of the Fisheries Amendment Act, 2003 (as inserted by Section 97 of the Sea Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act, 2006) may be entered on the Register.

For further details contact Seafisheries Administration Division, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Block C, West Cork Technology Park, Clonakilty, Co Cork. Tel: 1890 252741, or email: fisheryharbour@agriculture.gov.ie

AQUACULTURE LICENCES

Under Section 6 of the Fisheries (Amendment) Act, 1997 it is illegal to engage in aquaculture without an appropriate Aquaculture Licence. Aquaculture includes the culture or farming of fish, aquatic invertebrates, aquatic plants or any aquatic form of food suitable for the nutrition of fish. Land-based aquaculture may also require planning permission and a discharge permit from the local authority.

Aquaculture licensing is administered through the Coastal Zone Management Division of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food; the Division also processes companion foreshore licences required for coastal aquaculture operations. The Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food decides on applications made to the Division on the approved application form and accompanied by the appropriate fees. Any person who engages in aquaculture without a licence or who breaches the terms of a licence may be prosecuted through the Courts. Penalties can be severe and in addition to any fine imposed by the Court, the Minister may, by Order, also require the person convicted to remove any structures and/or equipment.

An application form for an aquaculture licence can be received from the Aquaculture Licensing Section, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Block C, West Cork Technology Park, Clonakilty, Co. Cork; Tel: 1890 25 27 41.
AQUACULTURE LICENCE APPEALS PROCEDURES

The Appeals procedure for aquaculture licensing is handled by the independent Aquaculture Licences Appeals Board, established on 17 June 1998 under Section 22 of the Fisheries (Amendment) Act, 1997. All Board members are engaged on a part-time basis. Customers, the public or environmental organisations aggrieved by a decision of the Minister on an aquaculture licence application, or by the revocation or amendment of an aquaculture licence, may make an appeal within one month of publication (in the case of a decision) or notification (in the case of revocation/amendment).

All appeals must be made in writing on the appeals application form, setting out the grounds of appeal and addressed to: The Aquaculture Licences Appeals Board, Holbrook House, Holles St, Dublin 2. Tel: (01) 662 0331, email: info@alab.ie

FORESHORE LICENCES AND LEASES

The foreshore is classed as the land and seabed between the high water of ordinary or medium tides (shown HWM on Ordnance Survey maps) and the twelve mile limit (12 nautical miles equals approximately 22.24 kilometres). Under Sections 2 and 3 of the Foreshore Act, 1933 the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food may issue a lease or licence as appropriate for the placing of structures or the carrying on of an activity in or above the foreshore.

Applications for a foreshore lease or licence are administered through the Coastal Zone Management Division of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. The Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food decides on applications made to the Division on the approved application form and accompanied by the appropriate fees. Any person who places a structure in the foreshore without a lease or carries out an activity without a licence or who breaches the terms of a lease/licence may be prosecuted through the Courts. Penalties can be severe and in addition to any fine imposed by the Court, the Minister may, by Order, also require the person convicted to remove any structures and/or equipment.

An application form for foreshore lease or licence can be received from the Foreshore Section, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Block C, West Cork Technology Park, Clonakilty, Co. Cork; Tel: 1890 25 27 41.

DUMPING AT SEA PERMITS

Dumping at sea is regulated under the Dumping at Sea Acts, 1996 and 2004 which prohibit the dumping at sea from vessels, aircraft or offshore installations of a substance or material, and the dumping at sea of vessels, aircraft or offshore installations, unless permitted by the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. As defined in this Act, dumping means “any deliberate disposal in the maritime area (including side-cast dredging, plough dredging, water injection dredging and other such dredging techniques) of a substance or material from or in conjunction with a vessel or aircraft or offshore installation”.

Dumping at Sea Permits are granted for the disposal of dredge material from ports, harbours and marinas (in the absence of suitable alternative reuse and disposal methods).
The dumping of vessels, aircraft, offshore installations, sewage sludge, animal carcasses, animal parts, animal products and fish waste is not permitted.

Dumping at Sea Permits are administered through the Coastal Zone Management Division of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

An application form for a Dumping at Sea Permit can be received from the Foreshore Section, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Block C, West Cork Technology Park, Clonakilty, Co. Cork; tel: 1890 25 27 41.
14 state bodies and agencies
14. STATE BODIES AND AGENCIES

TEAGASC

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

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

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

Head Office: Teagasc, Oak Park, Carlow, Tel: (059) 9170200; Fax: (059) 9182097.
Director: Prof. Gerry Boyle; Website: www.teagasc.ie

AGRICULTURE RESEARCH SERVICES

Head of Directorate: Dr Seamus Crosse; email: seamus.crosse@teagasc.ie
Assistant Director of Agriculture Research: Dr Frank O’Mara; email: frank.omara@teagasc.ie

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

**Beef**
Grange Beef Research Centre,
Teagasc, Grange, Dunsany, Co Meath
Head of Centre: Dr Eddie O’Riordan
Tel: (046) 9061100; Fax: (046) 9026154
Email: edward.oriordan@teagasc.ie

**Dairying**
Moorepark Production Research Centre,
Teagasc, Moorepark, Fermoy, Co Cork
Head of Centre: Dr Pat Dillon
Tel: (025) 42222; Fax: (025) 42340
Email: pat.dillon@teagasc.ie

**Tillage**
Oak Park Crops Research Centre,
Teagasc, Oak Park, Carlow
Head of Centre: Dr James Burke
Tel: (059) 9170200; Fax: (059) 9142423
Email: jim.burke@teagasc.ie

**Sheep**
Animal Production Research Centre,
Teagasc, Athenry, Co Galway
Head of Department: Dr Seamus Hanrahan
Email: seamus.hanrahan@teagasc.ie
FOOD RESEARCH

Food research and development is carried out at two centres:

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

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

ADVISORY SERVICES

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

The Business and Technology Programme. Maintaining and sharpening the competitive edge of Ireland’s commercial farmers will be a major priority in the more open market situation post-decoupling. Clients of the Business and Technology Programme will be the principal producers of the raw material for the Irish food industry. The programme will focus on business management and the uptake of technology by farmers to ensure that they can compete internationally and avail of opportunities presented by decoupling.

The Environment and Good Farm Practice Programme. Achieving Sustainable Systems of Agriculture is one of the major goals in the Teagasc Statement of Strategy. Teagasc has developed the Environment and Good Farm Practice Programme to focus on environmental services and advice and on the technology needs of less development orientated farmers. The service will provide the best science based advice to assist farmers to reconcile the often conflicting demands of a competitive and profitable farming and the environment. While the service will focus primarily on clients, the range of activities is designed to raise environmental awareness among farmers generally.

The Rural Development Programme. This programme will deliver advice on a variety of alternative enterprises and businesses, including rural tourism, artisan food, organic farming, sport horse production, deer production, free range poultry, and goat farming. A service has been established for rural people intending to start their own business, which provides training and mentoring services and assistance in financing, business planning marketing and public relations. It is proposed that an Options Analysis Programme will become a central theme of all of the Advisory Programmes. Clients with significant developmental or viability issues to tackle will be supported through a formal planning process to deal with the challenges, which confront them.
The Adult Training and Life-long learning Programme. The increasing emphasis on the environment, animal welfare, food safety and ICT along with the need to keep abreast of the latest production and financial management technologies provide the challenge for this programme. Teagasc deliver a comprehensive training programme to meet the varied and changing needs of its clients.

Key Advisory Personnel
Head of Directorate: Pat Boyle, Teagasc Oak Park, Carlow. Tel: (059) 9170200; Fax: (059) 918 2097; Email: pat.boyle@teagasc.ie

Assistant Directors:
Pat Murphy, Teagasc Oak Park, Carlow. Tel: (059) 9170200; Fax: (059) 918 2097; Email: pat.murphy@teagasc.ie
James McGrath, Teagasc, Athenry Advisory Office, Athenry, Co Galway. Tel (091) 845800 Fax: (091) 845830; Email: james.mcgrath@teagasc.ie
Dermot McCarthy, Teagasc, Moorepark, Fermoy, Co. Cork. Tel: (025) 42244 Fax: (025) 42384; Email: dermot.mccarthy@teagasc.ie

Enterprise Programme Managers
Dairying: Matt Ryan, Teagasc, Moorepark, Fermoy, Co. Cork. Tel (024) 42244 Fax: (025) 42384; Email: matt.ryan@teagasc.ie
Drystock: Bernard Smyth, Teagasc, Grange, Dunsany, Co. Meath. Tel: (046) 906 1100; Fax: (046) 902 6154; Email: bernard.smyth@teagasc.ie
Tillage: Jim O’Mahony, Teagasc, Oak Park, Carlow. Tel: (059) 9170200 Fax: (059) 9142423; Email: jim.omahony@teagasc.ie
Environment: Sean Regan, Teagasc, Mellows Centre, Athenry, Co. Galway . Tel (091) 845200 Fax (091) 844296; Email: sean.regan@teagasc.ie
Technology & Farm Management: Dr Tom Kelly, Teagasc, Kildalton College, Piltown, Co Kilkenny. Tel: (051) 644000 Fax: (051) 643446; Email: tom.kelly@teagasc.ie
Rural Development: Gerry Scully, Teagasc, Mellows Centre, Athenry, Co. Galway. Tel: 091 845200; Email: gerry.scully@teagasc.ie

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

Head of REPS Services: Eugene Ryan, Teagasc Johnstown Castle, Wexford, Tel: (053) 9171200; Fax: (053) 9142004; Email: eugene.ryan@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 Area Managers at the Area Unit Headquarters.

**TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT**

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

**Head of Directorate:** Donal Carey, Teagasc, Kinsealy, Malahide Road, Dublin 17.  
Tel: 01 8459000; Fax: 01 8460524; Email: donal.carey@teagasc.ie

**Assistant Director:** Paddy Browne, Teagasc, Head Office, Oak Park, Carlow. Tel: 059 9170200; Fax: 059 9182097; Email: paddy.browne@teagasc.ie

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

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

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

**Head of Horticulture Development Unit:** Lorcan O’Toole, Teagasc, Kinsealy Centre, Malahide Road, Dublin 17. Tel: (01) 8459000 Fax: (01) 8459591 Email: lorcan.otoole@teagasc.ie

**ANALYTICAL SERVICES**

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

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

**Plant Pests and Diseases**  
Oak Park Crops Research Centre, Carlow, Tel: (059) 9170200; Fax: (059) 9142423

**FOOD TECHNOLOGY SERVICES**

Teagasc provides contract research and consultancy services to food companies from its food research centres as follows:

Ashtown Food Research Centre, Ashtown, Dublin 15.  
Tel: 01-8059500; Fax: 01- 8059550; and

Moorepark Food Research Centre, Moorepark, Fermoy, Co. Cork.  
Tel: 025-42222; Fax: 025-42340.

Teagasc provides pilot plant services to food companies from its subsidiary Moorepark Technology Ltd., Moorepark, Fermoy, Co. Cork. Tel: 025-42222; Fax: 025-42340.

**EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

Teagasc provides a suite of training for young entrants, farmers, rural entrepreneurs and executives/operatives in the food industry. Teagasc has a resource of over 200 teachers and trainers operating from colleges, local training centres and research centres. More than 10,000 people attend Teagasc training courses each year.
All education and training programmes have recently been evaluated, upgraded and benchmarked to the best international standards.

The important features of these new developments are:

**NATIONAL ACCREDITATION**
The accreditation of Teagasc's education and training programmes within the framework of the National Qualification Authority has raised the standing of Teagasc courses both nationally and internationally.

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

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

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

**HIGHER EDUCATION LINKS SCHEME**
The Higher Education Links Scheme enables holders of further education awards to apply for a quota of higher education courses. Specific further education courses are linked with specific higher education courses. Applicants for a higher education course, covered by the scheme, are made through the standard CAO form.

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

These courses are accredited by the Higher Education and Training Awards Council (HETAC) and graduates have the opportunity to progress up to degree level. Recruitment to the courses is through the CAO system with a number of places reserved for mature students and holders of designated Further Education and Training Awards Council (FETAC) awards.
Higher Certificate in Agriculture
The following four partnerships offer this two-year course leading to a Higher Certificate in Agriculture:

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

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

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

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

Apply through the CAO

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

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

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

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

FURTHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING
All of Teagasc's further education and training courses have been benchmarked and upgraded in recent years and are now nationally accredited by the Further Education and Training Awards Council (FETAC).
These courses are suitable for people who wish to make a career in agriculture, horticulture, horses or forestry but who do not wish to complete a third level course. There is no minimum educational entry requirement but those who have completed the Leaving Certificate are most likely to benefit. These courses open up a wide range of career options for participants. Many will return to farming either in a full-time or part-time capacity but there are excellent job prospects in the expanding amenity horticulture and forestry sectors.

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

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

**Advanced Certificate in Agriculture**
This 2 to 2½ year course, leading to a FETAC Advanced Certificate in Agriculture, is offered at six agricultural colleges - Ballyhaise, Clonakilty, Gurteen, Kildalton, Mountbellew and 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.

**Advanced Certificate in Horticulture**
This course, which extends over two years, is provided at three horticultural colleges – Botanic Gardens, Kildalton and Warrenstown.

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

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

**Advanced Certificate in Dairy Herd Management**
This two-year course is offered at Clonakilty Agricultural College and Kildalton Agricultural College. Some of the course work is delivered by Cork Institute of Technology (CIT) and Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT).

**Advanced Certificate in Machinery and Crop Management**
This course is offered at Kildalton Agricultural College, Piltown, Co Kilkenny. Some of the course work is delivered by Waterford Institute of Technology.

**Advanced Certificate in Drystock Management**
This course is offered at Gurteen Agricultural College, Ballingarry, Roscrea, Co Tipperary. Some of the course work is delivered by Athlone Institute of Technology.

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

**Advanced Certificate in Horsemanship**
This two-year course is offered at Kildalton College, Piltown, Co Kilkenny.

**Advanced Certificate in Forestry**
This two-year course is offered at the Teagasc College, Ballyhaise, Co Cavan.
ADULT AND EDUCATION TRAINING

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

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

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

Courses on:

**Agriculture**
- Advanced Certificate in Agriculture (180 hr. replacement programme);
- Technology and Business Modules;
- Information Technology Modules;
- Environment/Food Safety Modules;
- Discussion Groups.

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

**FOOD INDUSTRY COURSES**

The Irish food industry needs to be able to guarantee the quality of the product it is supplying to increasingly discriminating consumers. In order to maintain and improve market position, food companies must be committed to training their personnel in the technologies required in modern food manufacturing.

Teagasc is the leading supplier of training to the food processing and retail sector in food safety and quality systems, food innovation and new product development. Teagasc provides training in all aspects of food quality and safety with a view to assisting food businesses to meet legal obligations, customer requirements and industry best practice.

Teagasc’s main strengths are derived from broad experience in the food sector and the applied nature of the training programmes provided. Many of our programmes incorporate a practical on-the-job element to optimise the transfer of information and maximise application.

Teagasc food industry training is provided at two main centres, the Ashtown Food Research Centre, Teagasc, Ashtown, Castleknock, Dublin 15, and at Moorepark Food Research Centre, Teagasc, Moorepark, Fermoy Co Cork. Training is also provided at local level and on site where it is deemed appropriate.
INFORMATION ON COURSES
Detailed information on all Teagasc courses is available from the Training and Development Directorate, Teagasc, Kinsealy Centre, Malahide Road, Dublin 17 and Teagasc Head Office, Oak Park, Carlow as well as colleges and local Teagasc offices.
An annual Prospectus of Teagasc Courses, which also features profiles on past students, is also available from any of the above locations.
Comprehensive information on Teagasc training is also available on the Teagasc website at www.teagasc.ie

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Targeted financial assistance is available to help eligible companies to develop their marketing plans and activities. Bord Bia operates a financial grant programme called the Marketing Assistance Programme (MAP), which supports Irish SME’s aiming to improve their marketing capabilities.

Bord Bia employs 91 staff, has its Head Office in Dublin and nine strategically located offices in key export markets. The offices are located in Amsterdam, Frankfurt, London, Madrid, Milan, Moscow, New York, Paris and Shanghai.

*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.

For further information, contact the National Milk Agency, IPC House, Shelbourne Road, Dublin 4. Tel: 01 6603396; Website: www.nationalmilkagency.ie

THE VETERINARY COUNCIL OF IRELAND
The Veterinary Council of Ireland, which regulates the practice of veterinary medicine, was established on the 1 January 2006 under Section 11 of the Veterinary Practice Act 2005. The Veterinary Council of Ireland has 19 members, which reflects interests such as education, animal welfare, consumers and food safety and a balance as between veterinarians and others.

For further information, contact the Veterinary Council of Ireland, 53 Lansdowne Rd., Ballsbridge, Dublin 4. Tel: 6684402, Website: www.vci.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, Fisheries and Food. The company was established under the Forestry Act, 1988 which sets out its objectives and duties.

Principal Objectives:

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

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

**COFORD (NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR FOREST RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT)**

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

COFORD’s overall objectives are:

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

*For more information contact COFORD, Arena House, Arena Road, Sandyford, Dublin 18. Tel: 01 2130725, Website: www.coford.ie*
BORD IASCAIGH MHARA (BIM)

BIM is the state agency with primary responsibility for the sustainable development of the Irish seafish and aquaculture industry both at sea and ashore, and the diversification of the coastal economy so as to enhance the employment, income and welfare of people in coastal regions and their contribution to the national economy.

BIM provides a wide range of financial, technical, educational, marketing, resource development and ice supply services for the production sector through to the processing and marketing sectors.

For further details on BIM see chapter 13 on Sea Fisheries.

For more information contact B.I.M., P.O. Box 12, Crofton Road, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. Tel: 01 2144100, Website: www.bim.ie

MARINE INSTITUTE

The Marine Institute is responsible for marine research delivery and is the implementing body for Marine RTDI Measures under the National Development Plan 2007-2013, the main aim of which is to support a strong link between research and innovation and industry in order to promote sustainable economic development.

The Marine Institute also leads the new national marine knowledge research and innovation strategy “Sea Change”, launched in February 2007, which aims to ensure that Ireland fully maximises the economic, social and environmental contribution of its marine resources.

For more information contact Marine Institute, Rinville, Oranmore, Co. Galway. Tel: 091 387200, Website: www.marine.ie

SEA FISHERIES PROTECTION AUTHORITY

The Sea Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA) was established on the 1st January 2007. It is responsible for the implementation and enforcement of National and EU Regulations on Sea Fisheries Protection and Seafood Safety. Sea Fisheries Officers work closely with other Government agencies such as the Naval Service, Food Safety Authority and the Marine Institute, in the implementation of fisheries control and seafood safety programmes.

For more information contact Sea Fisheries Protection Authority HQ, West Cork Technology Park, Clonakilty, Co. Cork. Tel: 023 59300, Website: www.sfpa.ie
other government services
15. 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. It is thus charged with the overall administration, promotion and development of the horse racing industry.

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.goracing.ie
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY, RURAL AND GAELTACHT AFFAIRS
RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR IRELAND 2000 - 2013, AXES 3 AND 4

The funding available for the delivery of LEADER-type activities under the Rural Development Programme 2007 – 2013 will almost treble from €150m for the 2000-2006 period to €425.4m for the 2007-2013 period. The new Programme will complement the other funding for rural development from the Department and key components of the Programme shall be the implementation of the Countryside Recreation Strategy and the ongoing development of the small food producer, craft and rural tourism sectors.

The measures will aim to meet the key Programme objectives of improving the quality of life in rural areas and diversification of the rural economy through:

■ Increasing economic activity and employment rates in the wider rural economy through encouraging on-farm diversification into non-agricultural activities;
■ Supporting the creation and development of micro-enterprises in the broader rural economy;
■ Encouraging rural tourism built on the sustainable development of Ireland’s natural resources, cultural and natural heritage;
■ Improving the access to basic services by rural dwellers by, for example, addressing inadequate recreational facilities;
■ Regenerating villages and their surrounding areas by improving their economic prospects and the quality of life;
■ Maintaining, restoring and upgrading the natural and built heritage.

The Programme will be delivered at a local level through area-based groups. The Irish Programme was agreed by the European Commission on July 24th 2007 and it is planned that the selection process for the Groups to deliver the Programme will commence soon.

The measures to be funded under the Programme will be the following:

■ Diversification into non-agricultural activities for farm families;
■ Support for business creation and development;
■ Encouragement of tourism activities;
■ Basic services for the economy and rural population;
■ Village renewal and development;
■ Conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage;
■ Training and information on adapted and new skills.

CLÁR

The CLÁR programme was introduced in 2001 to address depopulation, as well as the decline and lack of services in rural areas. The programme co-ordinates existing sources of public and private finance and provides additional funding for the provision of small scale economic and social infrastructure to help rural communities.

Areas in 18 counties, with a population of 362,000, were selected under the programme initially. Analysis of the 2002 census data carried out by the National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis (NIRSA) at NUI Maynooth resulted in an extension of the CLÁR areas in January 2003 and again in April 2006. The CLÁR programme now operates in 23 counties and caters for a population of almost 727,000. Areas covered are on the basis of an average population loss of 35% per county between 1926 and 2002 with the exception of the Cooley peninsula which was included due to the particular difficulties suffered by that area due to Foot and Mouth disease.
CLÁR funds or co-funds, together with other Government Departments, State Agencies and Local Authorities in accelerating investment in selected priority developments. These investments support physical, economic and social infrastructure across a variety of measures. The measures introduced under the programme, reflect the priorities identified by the communities in the selected areas. The CLÁR schemes cover a wide variety of developments such as village, housing and schools enhancement, electricity conversion/installation, roads, water supply, sewerage schemes, health, coastal, sports and community projects.

In 2006 funds of €23.06m were spent on the various measures. In the years 2002 – 2006, €71m was expended on investments under the programme with related public and private expenditure in the region of €61m. A budget of €18.6m has been allocated to the programme for 2007.

Further information can be obtained from CLÁR, Rural Development Division 1, Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, Teeling Street, Tubbercurry, Co Sligo. Tel: 071 9186700

RURAL SOCIAL SCHEME (RSS)

AIM OF THE SCHEME

The aims of the scheme are to provide income support for farmers and fisherpersons who are currently in receipt of specified social welfare payments, and to provide certain services of benefit to rural communities such as environmental maintenance, energy conservation, social care and care of the elderly by harnessing the skills and talents available among the farmers and fisherpersons.

WORK UNDERTAKEN ON THE RSS

All of the work undertaken by participants on the Rural Social Scheme will be beneficial to the local community. The types of projects carried out are likely to include:

- Maintaining and enhancing waymarked ways, agreed walks and bog roads;
- Energy conservation work for the elderly and less well off;
- Village and countryside enhancement projects;
- Social care and care of the elderly, community care for both pre-school and after-school groups;
- Environmental maintenance work – maintenance and caretaking of community and sporting facilities;
- Projects relating to not for profit cultural and heritage centres;
- Any other appropriate community project identified during the course of the Scheme.

Please Note: The above categories of projects are kept under review.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

The scheme is aimed, primarily, at farmers and fisherpersons who are in receipt of certain specified social welfare payments.
To be eligible to participate on the RSS a person must be in receipt of Farm/Fish Assist
or
Meet the eligibility criteria set for either a farmer or a fisherperson, and be in receipt of one of
the qualifying payments from the Department of Social and Family Affairs.

There are certain circumstances where exceptions to the above eligibility criteria applies, i.e.
primarily in the case of a child/sibling or a dependant spouse. Details of full eligibility criteria,
including the qualifying social welfare payments and any other information required can be
obtained from the local LEADER Company or Údarás na Gaeltachta (i.e. the
Implementing Bodies), as they manage the Scheme at a local level, on behalf of
the Department.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE RSS

Participants will work 19.5 hours per week on a farmer/fisherperson-friendly schedule
subject to the requirements of the project they are working on. Annual Leave entitlement will
be calculated in accordance with the terms of the Organisation of Working Time Act, 1997.
Participants on the RSS will be permitted to undertake additional employment subject to
remaining within the income threshold, which applies to their underlying Social Welfare payment.
Earnings in excess of that limit may affect their continued participation on the RSS. Participation
on the RSS is not intended to be on a permanent basis and is reviewed annually in July.

It should be noted that participants under the RSS are employees of their Implementing Body.

HOW MUCH WILL PARTICIPANTS BE PAID ON THE RSS?

The rate of payment on the RSS is based upon the qualifying Social Welfare payment along with
family circumstances. The following table details the maximum value of the total weekly payment;

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participant Category</th>
<th>Total Weekly Payment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participant without Adult Dependant</td>
<td>€222.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participant with Adult Dependant</td>
<td>€353.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Each Child Dependant (Full-Rate)</td>
<td>€24.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Each Child Dependant (Half-Rate)</td>
<td>€12.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note; These rates are correct with effect from 1st January 2008 and are open to change in line
with any budgetary increases.

In some cases, depending on the qualifying social welfare payment, RSS participants cease to be
clients of the Department of Social & Family Affairs and are paid solely by the RSS, while in other
cases, participants will continue to receive their qualifying social welfare payment from the
Department of Social & Family Affairs and in addition receive a top-up payment from the RSS.

As any changes in circumstances may affect a participant’s rate of pay, the onus rests with the
participant to inform their Supervisor/ Implementing Body of any such changes as soon as
they arise.
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.

For further details on the Rural Social Scheme and the contact details for all Implementing Bodies:
Tel: 01 4484841, email: eolas@pobail.ie, website: www.pobail.ie
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 Inspectors from the National Employment Rights Authority. 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 NERA, The National Employment Rights Authority, O’Brien Road, Carlow Tel: 1890 808090, email: info@employmentrights.ie or on their website www.employmentrights.ie Complaints in relation to breaches of the Order and of employment legislation should be notified to NERA Inspection Services, O’Brien Road, Carlow, Tel: 1890 220100, email: inspection@employmentrights.ie
DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT,
HERITAGE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

TAXATION OF TRACTORS

The standard rate of motor taxation for a general haulage tractor is €253 per annum, but the owner of the tractor whose only or chief occupation is farming may, on payment of a substantially reduced rate of €78 per annum, use his or her tractor for the haulage of his or her own agricultural produce, articles required for his or her farm, including farmhouse and buildings, and similar goods for another farmer provided they are not carried for reward.

Further concessions available to owners of tractors taxed at the €78 rate enable such owners:

- to haul, for reward, milk to a creamery or cream separating station, separated milk from a creamery or cream separating station, and milk containers to and from a creamery or cream-separating station;
- to haul, for reward, livestock owned by a person resident not more than two miles from the haulier’s residence, to or from a farm and to or from a livestock auction, market or fair. This concession is confined to days on which the auction, market or fair takes place and is limited to distances of twenty miles by public road from the haulier’s residence.

The €78 tax rate also extends to tractors owned by agricultural co-operative societies and used for:

- the haulage for farmers, provided it is not for reward, of the produce of their farms and articles required for the farms;
- the haulage for farmers, for reward, of milk to a creamery or cream-separating station, separated milk from a creamery or cream-separating station and milk containers to and from a creamery or cream-separating station.

Cut-down trucks, vans, landrovers, jeeps and other such vehicles are not classified as agricultural tractors even if they have altered engines or gear-boxes.

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.

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

GROUP WATER SCHEMES

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

The amount of subsidy will be 100% of the qualifying expenditure as approved by the local authority, subject to a limit of:

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

**INDIVIDUAL WATER SUPPLIES**

Grants are available for the provision or improvement of individual supplies in houses, more than 7 years old, which are not connected to either a public or group scheme water supply. The maximum household grant is €2,031.58 subject to a maximum of 75% of the cost.

*Application Forms and Explanatory Memoranda governing the conditions of these schemes are available by contacting the Rural Water Programme Liaison Officer at your local County Council.*

**OTHER GRANTS**

The Department of the Environment, Heritage 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, Heritage and Local Government on 01 8882000, 096 24200 or on the Lo-call: 1890 305030*

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

*Details of the social housing options are available from your local authority*
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

TRACTOR SAFETY

Tractors are governed by normal road traffic laws on driver licensing, insurance, motor tax and vehicle lighting. All tractors used in a public place must be fitted with safety frames. The purpose of the frame is to protect the driver from being crushed underneath if the tractor overturns. The frame must comply with approved standards. It is up to the owner or driver to fit a safety cab.

Tractors must carefully transport loose material such as silage, slurry, sand or gravel, so that the material does not spill onto a public road and cause a crash. Loads of lime or other dusty materials, offal or other offensive material must be fully covered with a tarpaulin.

Farmers using agricultural tractors and trailers to haul agricultural produce must not:

- Use exceptionally high frames on trailers which could endanger the stability, steering and braking of an agricultural tractor and trailer combination, or
- Exceed the maximum legally permissible combination weight or the design gross vehicle weight.

TRACTORS ON THE ROAD

A tractor used in a public place must obey the laws governing road traffic. If you are driving a tractor, you should keep left to let faster traffic pass. Your driving mirror must provide an adequate view of the road to the back. Do not carry a passenger unless the tractor is equipped to carry one.

For further information contact the Road Safety Authority on Lo-Call 1890 50 60 80.

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.
Agriculture and construction remain amongst the top four most high-risk sectors of the Irish economy. Typically, these two sectors accounted for over 55% of all workplace fatalities in any year. Every year in the last decade there were on average 18 deaths on Irish farms. In the last 2 to 3 years over half the people killed on Irish farms were over 65 years of age. Many more people suffered serious injuries often leading to permanent disability.

The Health and Safety Authority (HSA) is determined to work in partnership with the farming community to reduce the number of fatalities and accidents on Irish farms. Good health and safety practice doesn’t just happen, it demands time and effort but the rewards are great. Make sure that you give this important task the priority it deserves and let’s all stay safe on the farm!

The starting point for good health and safety management on a farm is the preparation of a safety statement or the completion of the Farm Safety Code of Practice where there are 3 or less employed on the farm. By law all farms must have a safety statement or a completed Code of Practice. This process identifies the hazards on a farm and spells out the steps that the farmer needs to take to reduce the risks. Failure to comply with this safety statement or code of practice requirement can result in prosecution.

The Farm Safety Code of Practice was launched in 2006 and posted to every farm household. The Code of Practice contained three documents and an extensive farm safety DVD. The documents were a Code of Practice guidance document to be used as a reference document, a risk assessment document to be completed and signed by the farmer and an SSWP pictogram, which is a risk assessment in pictogram form. This Safe System of Work Plan (SSWP) is designed to be used at least once per year to keep the documentation up to date.

Farmers who either did not receive a copy or have mislaid their copy of the Farm Safety Code of Practice are advised to obtain a copy from the Publications Section on the Health and Safety Authority website; www.hsa.ie. Farmers are strongly encouraged to attend a half-day training course on how to use this Farm Safety Code of Practice. These courses are provided by Teagasc and all farmers (even those not clients of Teagasc) should contact their local Teagasc office and secure their place on the next available course.
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.

Since 4th November 2006, the Land Registry has been under the control of the Property Registration Authority. 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's online service landdirect.ie. For further information on landdirect.ie please check our website www.prai.ie.

The registered owner may apply to inspect or obtain a copy of any document filed in the central office under which a registration is made affecting his or her property. Under the terms of the Registration of Deeds and Title Act 2006, the Property Registration Authority will cease to issue or reissue Land Certificates as and from 1st January 2007. After a period of 3 years from that date, all remaining Land Certificates not already cancelled will cease to have force or effect. Please see our website www.prai.ie for further information.

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.prai.ie
**MET ÉIREANN**

**RADIO**

Detailed ‘live’ weather broadcasts are made a number of times daily on RTÉ Radio 1. The broadcast at 07.55 covers the period out to 5 days ahead. Met Éireann forecasts are also included with News Bulletins on RTÉ Radio 1, RTÉ 2FM, Today FM and most Local Radio stations.

**TELEVISION**

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

**WARNINGS**

Frost warnings for fruit-growers are included in April and May with the routine forecasts when necessary. Warnings of weather conditions suitable to the spread of potato blight are added to the main forecasts, when appropriate, between May and September. Severe weather alerts are issued for very heavy rain (flooding), strong winds and snow.

**WEATHERDIAL FROM MET ÉIREANN**

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

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

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

Calls cost €0.95 (voice) per min, €1.75 (fax). VAT incl.
S.P: iTouch, 3050 Lake Drive, Citywest Digital Park, Co Dublin. Tel: 01 411 2021

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

**NEWSPAPERS**

A forecast for a week ahead, especially for farmers, is published in a number of national farming and provincial weekly newspapers.
TAX IMPLICATIONS OF THE SINGLE PAYMENT SCHEME

The Single Payment is liable to tax as income. It will be taxed under Schedule D, either Case I or Case IV, depending on circumstances. Payment entitlement is a chargeable asset for capital gains purposes. Once acquired it may be disposed of by way of sale, gift etc. Accordingly, gains arising from transactions in payment entitlement will be chargeable to CGT in the normal manner.

Transfers of payment entitlement whether by way of gift or inheritance are liable to capital acquisitions tax as any other asset and are subject to the normal capital acquisitions tax rules. Transfers of payment entitlement will however be recognised as transfers of agricultural property for the purpose of the capital acquisitions tax Agricultural Relief.

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

A Single Payment does not represent consideration for any supply between the farmer and the State and is, therefore, outside the scope of VAT. However, as payment entitlement is transferable either with or without land, there are situations in which a VAT liability will arise.

INCOME TAX/CORPORATION TAX/CAPITAL GAINS TAX

Profits, from the trade of farming and capital gains on the disposal of certain assets, are assessable to income tax and capital gains tax, respectively where the farmer is a sole trader. Such profits and gains are assessable to corporation tax in the case of farming companies, except, where the company disposes of development land, where the charge is to capital gains tax.

AGRICULTURAL RELIEF FROM CAPITAL ACQUISITIONS TAX

Section 89 Of The Capital Acquisitions Tax Consolidation Act 2003 Applicable To Both Gifts And Inheritance

1) "Agricultural Property" is defined as "agricultural land, pasture and woodland situated in the State and crops, trees and underwood growing on such land and also includes such farm buildings, farm houses and mansion houses (together with the lands occupied therewith) as are of a character appropriate to the property, and farm machinery, livestock and bloodstock thereon, and a payment entitlement."

2) For the purposes of the relief, a "farmer" means an individual in respect of whom not less than 80 per cent of the market value of the property owned by the individual consists of agricultural property in the State, after taking the gift or inheritance. No deduction is made from the market value of property for any debts or encumbrances except debts or encumbrances in respect of a dwelling- house, which is the only or main residence of the individual. The "80%" test does not apply in the case of agricultural property, which consists of trees and under-wood.

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 disposed of or compulsorily acquired within six years of the date of the gift/inheritance and the proceeds from such disposal or compulsory acquisition are not fully expended in acquiring other agricultural property within a year of the sale or within 6 years of the compulsory acquisition or if the beneficiary is not resident in the State for any 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 Taxpayer’s Local Revenue CAT Office

**STAMP DUTIES**

Stamp Duties are taxes chargeable on certain commercial and legal documents. 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, 30c, 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 transferred. 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 exceeds €127,000</th>
<th>Rate for instruments executed on or after 5 November 2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First €125,000</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Next €875,000</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excess over €1,000,000</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
First Time Buyers are exempt from a charge to stamp duty when purchasing their principal place of residence (PPR).

**STAMP DUTY ON NON-RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aggregate Consideration</th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not exceeding €10,000</td>
<td>Exempt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>€10,001 - €20,000</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<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 30c per cheque;
- ATM Cards at €5 per annum;
- Debit Cards at €5 per annum;
- Combined ATM/Debit Cards at €10 per annum;
- Credit cards and charge cards at €30.

When property is transferred within an immediate family (list available at www.revenue.ie/revguide/stampduty.htm), stamp duty is payable but is charged at half the rate normally applying.

To take an example: if a farmer transfers his/her farm having a non–residential open market value of €200,000 to his/her son/daughter as a gift, stamp duty is chargeable on €200,000 at an effective rate of 4.5% (as opposed to the 9% quoted in the rates).

There is no stamp duty on property transferred by way of inheritances.

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

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

In general, there is no stamp duty on transfers of livestock and farm machinery but where such property is transferred together with lands, 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.
SITE TO CHILD RELIEF

Section 83B provides for an exemption from stamp duty on a transfer of a site, from parent to a child for the purposes of constructing the child’s principal private residence. The maximum value of the site must not exceed €500,000 and the size must not exceed .4047 hectare (1 acre).

YOUNG TRAINED FARMER RELIEF

Section 81AA of the Stamp Duties Consolidation 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 on or after 2 April 2007 and on or before 31 December 2008.

The relief does not apply to leases or where a power of revocation exists. The relief is by way of a 100% reduction in the stamp duty that would otherwise be payable. In order to qualify, the transferee must be a young trained farmer as defined in the Act. On the date on which the instrument was executed such persons must:

■ Be under 35 years of age;
■ Hold one of the qualifications as set out on the form SD2B (www.revenue.ie/leaflets/sd2b.pdf) 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 2B'; and
■ Furnish a declaration to the effect that he or she will, for a 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 81AA of the Stamp Duties Consolidations Act, 1999 apply to the transfer. The section also provides for refund of duty paid in a limited number of circumstances.

FARM CONSOLIDATION RELIEF

Section 81C of the Stamp Duties Consolidation Act, 1999 contains the provisions relating to Farm Consolidation Relief. The purpose of the relief is to encourage the consolidation of farm holdings in order to reduce fragmentation and improve the operation and viability of the farm(s) concerned. The relief applies to instruments executed on or after 1 July 2007 and on or before 30 June 2009 (“the relevant period”).

A Commencement Order (S.I. No. 783 of 2007) in relation to section 81C was made by the Minister for Finance on 3 December 2007. The relief also applies to gifts and exchanges where the conditions of section 81C are satisfied.
The relief provides that where there is a valid consolidation certificate issued by Teagasc in relation to the sale and purchase of lands, occurring within 18 months of each other and within the relevant period, stamp duty will only be paid on the purchase to the extent that the value of the lands purchased exceeds the value of the lands sold. If the sale takes place before the purchase, then relief will be given at the time of purchase. However, if the purchase takes place first, then stamp duty must be paid, and on the subsequent sale a claim for repayment of the duty paid can be made.

**FAMILY FARM TRANSFERS**

Section 83B of the Stamp Duties Consolidation Act provides for an exemption from stamp duty for transfers of farmland from a child to a parent in the context of certain family arrangements to which the provisions of section 599 of the Taxes Consolidation Act, 1997 (as amended by section 52 of the Finance Act, 2007) apply for capital gains tax purposes. A child for the purposes of section 599 includes a child of a deceased child, certain nephews and nieces and foster children.

Adjudication is required where this relief is claimed.

**Further information**

Further information may be obtained from the addresses and telephone numbers listed below. All leaflets/forms may also be downloaded from the Revenue website: www.revenue.ie.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lo-call:</strong> 1890 48 25 82</td>
<td><strong>Tel (021) 43 25 000</strong></td>
<td><strong>Tel (091) 53 63 00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**VALUE ADDED TAX**

Value-Added Tax (VAT) is a tax on consumer spending. VAT-registered traders collect it on their supplies of goods and services to their customers. Each such trader in the chain of supply from manufacturer through to retailer charges VAT on his/her taxable sales and is entitled to deduct from this amount the VAT paid on his/her business purchases (with some exceptions e.g. cars, petrol, meals and entertainment expenses).

For VAT purposes, a ‘farmer’ is a person who engages in agricultural production activities on land he/she owns or occupies in the State. Generally speaking, for VAT purposes, ‘agricultural production’ refers to the production of agricultural goods (e.g. crop production, general stock farming, poultry farming, forestry and fisheries) and/or the supply of agricultural services (e.g. sowing and planting, crop spraying, harvesting, stock minding, rearing and fattening and tree felling).
VAT RATES
A VAT-registered farmer is obliged to charge VAT at the appropriate rate on his/her supplies of taxable goods and services. The rates, which apply to various agricultural goods and services, are shown in the following table:

<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; Seeds, bulbs, rhizomes and similar supplies used for the agricultural production of bio fuel crops.</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 €37,500;

(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 €75,000;

(c) Supplies of retail horticultural products which exceed, or are likely to exceed €75,000;

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 €37,500

(d) Intra-Community acquisitions\(^1\) 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 €75,000;

(g) Supplies of taxable services, other than agricultural services, which exceed or are likely to exceed €35,000.

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).
If a farmer is obliged to register in respect of his/her Fourth Schedule services (paragraph (e) refers), he/she must also account for VAT in respect of his/her intra-Community acquisitions (paragraph (d) refers), regardless of the value of the intra-Community acquisitions.

If a farmer is obliged to register in respect of either his/her intra-Community acquisitions or Fourth Schedule services, such registration is effectively ‘ring-fenced’ to the intra-Community acquisitions and/or the Fourth Schedule services. The farmer is not obliged to register in respect of his/her farming activities.

Of course, where a farmer is obliged to register for VAT in respect of supplies of any other goods or services, as outlined in paragraphs (a), (b), (c), (f) and (g) above, he/she must account for VAT in respect of all of his/her activities, including farming.

**FARMERS – OPTION TO REGISTER FOR VAT**

A farmer who is not obliged to register for VAT may opt to do so.

If a farmer who has opted to register for VAT wishes subsequently to cancel his/her registration, he/she may do so by arrangement with his/her local Revenue district. However, this may give rise to recovery by Revenue of all or some of the net VAT repaid to the farmer during the period for which he/she opted to register.

**RECORDS AND RETURNS**

A VAT-registered farmer is obliged to keep records of purchases and sales so that he/she can complete bi-monthly VAT returns (i.e. January/February, March/April, May/June, July/August, September/ October and November/December). A VAT return for each bi-monthly period is due on the 19th day of the month following the end of the relevant period. If VAT charged on sales exceeds VAT incurred on purchases, payment, as appropriate, should accompany the return. If VAT incurred on purchases exceeds VAT charged on sales, Revenue will refund the difference, as appropriate.

**‘FLAT-RATE ADDITION’**

Farmers who are not registered for VAT are not entitled to recover the VAT charged to them on their farming expenses (e.g. farm machinery, electricity etc.). Generally speaking, such farmers are compensated for these VAT charges by means of a flat-rate amount (currently 5.2%) 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’ and is not the same as the VAT rate applicable to farming activities. 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 5.2% is €52
The farmer charges the co-operative €1,052.
**VAT REFUNDS ON FARM BUILDINGS AND LAND DRAINAGE WORKS**

Generally speaking, a flat-rate farmer is entitled to a refund of VAT incurred by him/her in respect of expenditure on farm buildings and land drainage works for the purposes of his/her farming business.

Claims for refund must be completed on the appropriate form (Form VAT 58). Single claims amounting to less than €125 are not admissible. However, such claims may be represented with other claims from the same claimant once the combined value of the total claim exceeds €125.

Where the flat-rate farmer is registered for VAT in respect of intra-Community acquisitions and/or Fourth Schedule services only, he/she is still entitled to a refund of VAT incurred in respect of such works. However, rather than making a separate claim for refund, the refund must be claimed as a deduction from the amount of VAT payable by that farmer with his/her periodic VAT return.

**MILK PRODUCTION PARTNERSHIPS**

Any farmers thinking about establishing a Milk Production Partnership might find it useful to read Revenue’s information leaflet, "VAT Issues for Milk Production Partnerships" (VAT No. 1/04).

Further information may be obtained on this or any other matter from the Revenue website at www.revenue.ie or from your local Revenue district.

**FARM NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLAN (NMP) UNDER SECTION 659 OF THE TAXES CONSOLIDATION ACT, 1997**

All farmers following a Farm Nutrient Management Plan may avail of the farm pollution control allowance for capital expenditure in Section 659 of the Taxes Consolidation Act, 1997 subject to certain restrictions.

The Farm N.M.P. shall be in accordance with one of the following:

- An Agri environmental plan prepared under the Rural Environment Protection Scheme (REPS);
- A plan prepared under the Erne Catchment Nutrient Management Scheme;
- A Farm NMP prepared in accordance with guidelines issued by the Department.

The Guidelines for the preparation of a Farm N.M.P. may be obtained from the Department’s local Agricultural, Environmental and Structures (AES) Offices (see list of AES offices at Appendix 1B). Further information in relation to the provision of Section 659 of the Taxes Consolidation Act, 1997 may be obtained from the local Office of the Revenue Commissioners.
ORDNANCE SURVEY IRELAND

Ordnance Survey Ireland offers for sale a wide range of mapping in both a digital and paper format. Of principal interest to the farming community are our large scale maps of rural areas – these maps are at a scale of 1:2500/1:5000 for rural and semi-rural areas and at 1:10,000 scale for mountainous regions. Nearly all the country is covered by 1:2500 scale mapping with older 1:2500 maps now being replaced by new 1:5000 scale mapping. Each 1:2500 for example covers an area of approximately 300 hectares and it shows building, fences, drains, rivers and roads etc. As 1:2500 maps show areas of fields they are very useful as a basis for farm planning; they can be used for keeping records of cropping, of the location of underground drains or shores and of soil survey results. Aerial photography and orthography are products which can also be used as an information source to the farming community; Ordnance Survey Ireland from its sales offices in Phoenix Park can supply national coverage of Aerial photography and orthography taken in 1995 (B/W) and 2000 (colour).

Mapping can be supplied by Ordnance Survey Ireland and its network of agents as standard sheets or as a site centred on-demand service, in either a digital or 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 6 inch and 25 inch maps are also available, however the 6-inch maps do not show land parcels.

DIGITAL MAP DATA

Both Digital Image data (raster) and Digital Feature data (vector) are available in a number of industry standard formats and are supplied on a variety of media options. Digital vector and raster data can be tailored to customer’s specifications. From 2006, Ordnance Surveys Ireland’s Place Map agents network will be able to supply mapping in digital format. Digital mapping can also be purchased from Ordnance Survey Ireland main sales office in Phoenix Park, Dublin.

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY

National coverage at 1:30,000 and 1:40,000 photo-scale is available. This photography was taken in 1995 and 2000 and during 2005/06; other selected areas are also available ranging from 1:5000 to 1:20,000 photo-scale. Aerial Photography is available as prints in both black and white and colour.
HOW TO GET ORDNANCE SURVEY MAPS

There are Ordnance Survey Place Map agents in Dublin, Mullingar, Waterford, Kilkenny, Killarney, Cork, Galway, Limerick, Cavan, Athlone and Swords where mapping in both a paper or digital format can be purchased, many of these agents accept orders by telephone and fax. Failing this, mapping may be obtained from Ordnance Survey Ireland, Phoenix Park, Dublin. Tel: 01 8025349, Fax: 01 8220979. When ordering large scale maps - 1:1000, 1:2500, 1:5000, 25 inch or 6 inch scale maps, it is necessary to state the position of the holding or other features which the map is covering, preferably by specifying the townland the holding is in.

Ordnance Survey Ireland Tourist and Leisure product range can be purchased on-line from our on-line map shop www.irishmaps.ie and from all good book shops.

More information regarding our products and services can be obtained from our website www.osi.ie or by contacting our Mapsales Department - Tel: 01 8025349.

The names and addresses of our Place Map agents can be obtained on our website or by ringing our reception area in Phoenix Park. Tel: 01 8025300
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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>€</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maximum Personal Rate</td>
<td>197.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qualified Adult Allowance (*)</td>
<td>131.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Each Child Dependant Full Rate (**)</td>
<td>24.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Half Rate</td>
<td>12.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note:
(1) (*) A Qualified Adult allowance is not payable if your spouse/partner is getting a Social Welfare payment or HSE payment or on a full-time VTOS or FAS training course and getting an allowance. However, if your spouse/partner is on half rate carers allowance a full qualified adult allowance is payable.

(2) (**) An increase of €24.00 is payable for each child dependant if you are in receipt of an increase for a qualified adult. Where you do not qualify for such an increase, half rate child dependant increases may be payable.

How is it paid?
If you qualify, payment will be made on a weekly basis. You may opt to have your money paid directly into your bank account (Electronic Fund Transfer) or by Post Draft at your local Post Office.
How do I apply?
You may apply for Farm Assist by completing the application form, FARM 1, which is available from:

- Your Social Welfare Local Office;
- The Department’s LoCall Leaflet Line - 1890 20 23 23;
- Available to download from 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

Contributions Payable
From 1 January 2007 self-employed Farm Assist customers may be liable to pay PRSI contributions on their self-employed income. A self-employed Farm Assist customer who does not have a liability to pay PRSI may become a voluntary contributor if he/she meets certain conditions.

For further details contact Voluntary Contributions Section, Department of Social and Family Affairs, Social Welfare Services, Cork Road, Waterford Tel: 051 356000

PRSI FOR FARM SPOUSES
Farm Spouses & PRSI: The Current General Position
Spouses of a self-employed contributor are specifically excepted from social insurance contributions. This exclusion recognises the practical difficulties in establishing the nature of a genuine employment relationship in circumstances such as when a person employed under a contract of service (i.e. as an employee) by his or her spouse is classed as an ‘excepted’ contributor under social welfare law. As a result, farming spouses can only pay PRSI if they are involved in one of three scenarios.

Firstly, spouses who are actively engaged in a commercial partnership (as opposed to simply being the joint owners of a property) are treated as individual self employed contributors and are thus liable to social insurance contributions. These contributions, made under PRSI Class S, enable them to build up an insurance record in their own right and to receive accruing benefits. A partnership is commonly understood to be an association of two or more persons for the purpose of gain or of sharing in the work and profits of an enterprise. Liability for PRSI contributions is not contingent on the ownership of property but rather on the nature of the business arrangements between the couple. Co-ownership of property does not in itself create a partnership.

Secondly, where a family business is incorporated as a limited company, spouses involved in the business can establish a social insurance record as either employees or as self employed contributors – depending on whether a contract of service exists.

Thirdly, it is known that persons engaged in farming are increasingly taking up ‘off-farm’ employment. This enables farming spouses who might otherwise not be insured to develop a social insurance record on the basis of their ‘off-farm’ earnings. Also, farming spouses who were previously employed are able to maintain their social insurance coverage in the long-term by contributing to the voluntary PRSI contribution scheme.
The legislation that exempts spouses who assist in family enterprises, such as farming, from liability to social insurance has been the subject of review on a number of occasions. In 2002, and in recognition of the need to consider the more specific issue of social insurance contributions for farm spouses, an inter-Departmental group chaired by the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development was convened. It concluded that “…the formation of business partnerships offers an immediate route of access to social insurance cover as it is based on existing legislation. Such arrangements would not impose any significant additional administration costs on farm business: for example, couples who are liable for income tax under joint or separate assessment will continue to make one income tax return each year, the only change being that the income of the farm enterprise will be apportioned in accordance with the partnership arrangements…”.

More recently, in 2005, the ‘Fully-Inclusive Social Insurance Model’ (FISIM) group, established under the ‘Programme for Prosperity and Fairness’ – and re established under the ‘Sustaining Progress’ national agreement – to examine measures aimed at developing a fully-inclusive social insurance model noted the significance of the partnership option to enable farm workers and, in particular, spouses, to build a social insurance record in their own right. It recommended that more information on the tax and social welfare implications of working in a partnership or limited company be made available to self employed families through a joint leaflet formulated and published by both the Office of the Revenue Commissioners and the Department of Social and Family Affairs. This publication is due to be available to the public in early 2008.


There are currently no plans to change the existing provisions.

**FARM PARTNERSHIP**

Where a genuine partnership exists on a farm, both spouses can be considered to be in insurable self-employment individually for the purposes of Pay-Related Social Insurance (PRSI). Once each partner’s income from the farm enterprise exceeds a threshold of €3,174 per year, this income would be reckonable for PRSI purposes and contributions would be payable at a rate of 3%, or €253 per annum, whichever is greater, where income is below €26,000 per annum and at a rate of 5% of all income otherwise (i.e. 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 PRSI Class S benefits and pensions.

**What is a partnership?**

A partnership 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).** The Income Tax returns of each partner showing his or her share of the profits should be available. In the case of married couples who are 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 who wish 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:

- The State Pension (Contributory) – formerly known as the Old Age (Contributory) Pension;
- The Widow’s and Widower’s (Contributory) Pension;
- Maternity Benefit;
- Adoptive Benefit;
- The Guardian’s Payment (Contributory) – formerly known as the Orphan’s (Contributory) Allowance, and
- The Bereavement Grant – formerly known as the Death Grant.

Note: The schemes and programmes administered by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food do not present an obstacle to the formation of single-farm business partnerships.

For further information on these matters, please contact the Information Service of the Department of Social and Family Affairs, Aras Mhic Dhiarmada, Store Street, Dublin 1 Tel: 01-704-3274; email: info@welfare.ie; website: www.welfare.ie
WESTERN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (WDC)

The WDC was established as a statutory agency in 1999 to promote, foster and encourage economic and social development in the Western Region comprising the counties of, Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, Roscommon, Mayo, Galway and Clare.

STRATEGIC AIMS

The five strategic goals of the WDC are:

- Contribute to balanced regional development by ensuring that the western region maximises its full potential for economic and social development;
- Promote the benefits of living, working and doing business in the west;
- Support the sustainable economic and social development of the rural economy;
- Provide risk capital to SMEs and social enterprises;
- Operate the WDC as a competent and effective organisation.

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
APPENDIX 1A
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD – MAIN OFFICES

Head Office - Agriculture House, Kildare Street, Dublin 2.
Lo-call: 1890 200 510 also 01 6072000

Cavan Office - Government Buildings, Farnham Street, Cavan.
Lo-call: 1890 200 508 also 049 4368200

Maynooth Office - Maynooth Business Campus, Block B, Maynooth Co. Kildare.
Tel: 01 5053300

Portlaoise - Government Buildings, Old Abbeyleix Road, Portlaoise, Co Laois.
Lo-call: 1890 200 506 also 057 8674400

Help-Lines for Area Based and Other Related Issues arising from Single Payment Application
Lo-call 1890 252 242: Kildare, Laois, Leitrim, Longford, Waterford and Wicklow
Lo-call 1890 252 243: Carlow, Kilkenny, Louth, Monaghan, and Sligo.
Lo-call 1890 252 244: Donegal, Dublin, Offaly and Wexford.
Lo-call 1890 252 235: Clare, Cavan, and Limerick.
Lo-call 1890 252 236: Cork and Westmeath
Lo-call 1890 200 502: Galway, Kerry, Mayo, Meath, and Roscommon.
Lo-call 1890 252 598: Tipperary, Dairy Premium and Sugar Beet Compensation.

Help-Lines for Single Entitlements Issues
Lo-call 1890 252 240: Consolidation of Entitlements
Lo-call 1890 200 560: Trading and Transfers of Entitlements (2006 and 2007)
Lo-call 1890 252 051: National Reserve
Lo-call 1890 252 611: Unresolved 2005 Cases

Energy Crops and Non Food Setaside Schemes
057 867 8701 and 057 867 8709

Disadvantaged Areas Compensatory Allowances Scheme
Lo-call 1890 200 114

Wexford Office - Johnstown Castle Estate, Co Wexford.
Lo-call: 1890 200 509 also 053 9163400

Clonakilty Office - Sea Fisheries, Unit C, West Cork Technology Park, Clonakilty, Co. Cork
Lo-call: 1890 252 741 or 023 59500

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Division</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accommodation Division</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>
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<tr>
<td>Environment Section</td>
<td>053 9163400</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>
<td>Lo-call 1890 200 509</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural Environment Protection Scheme; e-mail: <a href="mailto:reps@agriculture.gov.ie">reps@agriculture.gov.ie</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aid for Private Storage Division, Wexford</td>
<td>053 9163400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture Appeals Office, Kilminchy Court, Portlaoise</td>
<td>057 8667167</td>
</tr>
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</table>
### Division

#### Animal Health and Welfare Division
- Avian Flu Help-Line: Lo-call 1890 252 283
- Animal Welfare/ Local Authority/Vet Services/ Swill: 6072049
- Vet Lab Services/ Class B Diseases/Animal Health Investigations: 6072859
- Control of Horses: 074 9145035
- Class A Diseases: 6072862
- TSE (BSE/Scrapie): 6072407/6072574
- Sheep/Pig I.D.: 6072901
- Import/Export of Cats and Dogs: 6072827
- Import/Export of Livestock, Horses, Birds - Quarantine Procedures: 6072862
- Sheep Scab: 6072000 Ext 3000
- Scrapie Payments: 6072989

#### Central Meat Control Laboratory, Backweston Laboratory Complex
- 6157368

#### Collection Division, Cavan
- 049 4361022

#### Collection of Fallen Animals Payments, Wexford
- 053 9170327

#### Corporate Affairs Division
- Press Office: 6072190
- Information: 6072802
- Co-Ordination: 6072544
- Freedom Of Information Act, Portlaoise: 057 8694327
- Quality Customer Service Unit, Portlaoise: 057 8694330
- Enquiry Unit: 6072690

#### Crops Policy and State Bodies Division
- Biofuels Policy Unit, Portlaoise: 057 8692231

#### Crop Production and Safety Division
- Animal Feedingstuffs: 5053576
- Cereal Seed Variety Testing and Seed Certification: 5053580
- Fertilisers and Plant Trade: 5053579
- Horticulture: 5053578
- NDP Grant Aid (Horticulture, Potatoes and Grain Storage): 5053580
- Pesticides: 5053579
- Potato: 5053342
- Plant Trade: 5053579

#### Crop Variety Evaluation Division, Backweston Laboratory Complex
- 6302900

#### Dairy Science Laboratory, Backweston Laboratory Complex
- 6157465

#### Economics and Planning Division
- 6072927

#### ERAD Division, Maynooth
- Licensing and Use of Veterinary Medicines: 5053318
- 5053497/5053472

#### EU Trade Division
- 6072724

#### Export Refunds Division, Wexford
- 053 9163400

#### Finance Division
- 6072799

#### Food Division
- 6072841
### Division

#### Food Safety Liaison Division
- Importation of Products of Animal Origin: 6072892/6072896
- Food Safety Liaison: 6072046/6072443

#### Forestry Division, Wexford
- Approvals, 2nd Instalment Grants, Subsequent Premiums, Pensions, Aerial Fertilisation and Native Woodland Scheme: 053 9176002
- First Grant and First Premiums: 053 9160193
- 2nd Instalment, Premiums: 053 9165533
- Operational Policy: 053 9163435
- Change of Applicant: 053 9160213
- Felling: 053 9160170
- Financial Management: 053 9160187
- Forestry Planning and Development: 053 9160180
- Policy Unit: 053 9160216
- Forestry Promotion and Training: 053 9160178
- Appeals Unit: 053 9165587
- Coillte Governance, Coillte & COFORD, Lands: 053 9160171
- Co-Ordination and Legislation Review: 053 9176013
- Cross Compliance: 053 9160184

#### Information Systems Division
- 6072922

#### Internal Audit Unit
- 6072459

#### Intervention Operations Division, Wexford
- 053 9163437

#### Irish Horse Board, Maynooth
- 5053584

#### ISO Projects Management Division
- 6072120

#### Legal Services Division
- 6072542
- Lands Division, Cavan: 049 4368259
- Examiners & Registrars Office: 6072097
- Solicitors Office: 6072814
- Records Branch, Land Commission (National Archives Premises), Bishop Street, Dublin 8: 4750766/4750767
- Survey Branch, Land Commission (National Archives Premises), Bishop Street, Dublin 8: 4750769/4750770

#### Livestock Breeding Division, Cavan
- 049 4368200

#### Management Services Division, Portlaoise
- 057 8694306

#### Meat Hygiene and Animal By-Products Division, Portlaoise
- Meat Hygiene /Meat Plants: 057 8694101
- Animal By-Products: 057 8694343

#### Meat Policy Division
- Beef Policy: 6072880
- Central Fees Unit, Portlaoise: 057 8694334
- Sheepmeat: 6072935
- Pigmeat: 6072700
- Poultry/Eggs: 6072064

#### Milk Policy Division
- 6072856/6072857
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<td>Milk Subsidies Division, Wexford</td>
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<td>National Beef Assurance Division, Maynooth</td>
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<td>On Farm Investment Schemes Division, Wexford</td>
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<tr>
<td>Young Farmers’ Installation Scheme</td>
<td>053 9170323</td>
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<td>Sow Housing (Animal Welfare) Scheme</td>
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<tr>
<td>Staff Training and Development</td>
<td>6072783</td>
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<td>Veterinary/Legal Staff</td>
<td>6072252</td>
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<td>Rural Development Division</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sea Fisheries, Clonakilty</td>
<td>023 59500 or Lo-Call 1890 252741</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coastal Zone Management</td>
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<td>Sea Fisheries Administration</td>
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<td>Fisheries Harbours/Coastal Protection</td>
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<td>Licensing /Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tops Potato Centre</td>
<td>074 9145488</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single Payment Scheme Division, Portlaoise</td>
<td>057 8674400 or Lo-call: 1890 200 506</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterinary Research Laboratory, Backweston Laboratory Complex</td>
<td>6157106</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**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.

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<th>COUNTY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CARLOW</td>
<td>Industrial Estate, Athy Road, Carlow.</td>
<td>059 9170022</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAVAN</td>
<td>Government Offices, Farnham Street, Cavan.</td>
<td>049 4368200</td>
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<tr>
<td>CLARE</td>
<td>Government Offices, Kilrush Road, Ennis.</td>
<td>065 6866042</td>
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<td>CORK</td>
<td>Hibernian House, 80 South Mall, Cork.</td>
<td>021 4851400</td>
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<td>Gooldshill, Mallow.</td>
<td>022 21153</td>
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<td>Cork Central *</td>
<td>Hibernian House, 80 South Mall, Cork.</td>
<td>021 4851400</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cork West *</td>
<td>Darrara, Clonakilty.</td>
<td>023 36200</td>
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<td>DONEGAL</td>
<td>Meeting House St., Raphoe.</td>
<td>074 9145990</td>
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<tr>
<td>AES (Donegal South)</td>
<td>Public Service Centre, Drumlonagher, Donegal Town.</td>
<td>074 9721048</td>
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<td>AES (Donegal North)</td>
<td>Govt., Offices, High Road, Letterkenny.</td>
<td>074 9122199</td>
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<tr>
<td>Veterinary (Dublin &amp;</td>
<td>St. John's House,</td>
<td>01 4149900</td>
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<td>Wicklow East*)</td>
<td>High Street, Tallaght, Dublin 24.</td>
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<td><strong>GALWAY</strong></td>
<td>Dockgate Building, Merchants Rd., Galway.</td>
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<td>The Mall, Tuam.</td>
<td>093 24257</td>
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<tr>
<td>AES (Galway East &amp; South)</td>
<td>Main St., Loughrea.</td>
<td>091 841098</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>KERRY</strong></td>
<td>Government Offices, Spa Road, Tralee.</td>
<td>066 7145052</td>
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<td>AES (Kerry North)</td>
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<td>Credit Union Building, Beech Road, Killarney.</td>
<td>064 31013</td>
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<td><strong>KILDARE</strong></td>
<td>Poplar House, Poplar Square, Naas.</td>
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<td>(Kildare &amp; Wicklow West*)</td>
<td>Spring Garden House, Sallins Road, Naas.</td>
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<td>AES</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>KILKENNY</strong></td>
<td>Government Offices, Hebron Road, Kilkenny.</td>
<td>056 7772400</td>
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<tr>
<td>AES</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>LAOIS</strong></td>
<td>Government Offices, Old Abbeyleix Road, Portlaoise.</td>
<td>057 8674400</td>
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<td>ROSCOMMON</td>
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*Area responsibilities of Veterinary and Livestock services in certain local offices

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### APPENDIX 1C

#### FOREST SERVICE INSPECTORATE

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<tr>
<th>POSITION</th>
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<th>ADDRESS</th>
<th>PHONE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chief Forestry Inspector</td>
<td>Diarmuid McAree</td>
<td>Forest Service, 3 West, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Kildare St., Dublin 2</td>
<td>01-6072651</td>
<td>01-6072545 <a href="mailto:diarmuid.mcaree@agriculture.gov.ie">diarmuid.mcaree@agriculture.gov.ie</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Inspector (Forestry)</td>
<td>John Connelly</td>
<td>Forest Service, 3 West, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Kildare St., Dublin 2</td>
<td>01-6072917</td>
<td>01-6072545 <a href="mailto:john.connelly@agriculture.gov.ie">john.connelly@agriculture.gov.ie</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divisional Inspector Division I South</td>
<td>Fergus Moore Grade I</td>
<td>Forest Service Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Johnstown Castle Estate, Wexford</td>
<td>053-91-60207</td>
<td>053-91-43834 <a href="mailto:fergus.moore@agriculture.gov.ie">fergus.moore@agriculture.gov.ie</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divisional Inspector Division II North</td>
<td>Séamus Dunne Grade I</td>
<td>Forest Service, 3 West, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Kildare St., Dublin 2</td>
<td>01- 607 2275</td>
<td>01 6072545 <a href="mailto:seamus.dunne@agriculture.gov.ie">seamus.dunne@agriculture.gov.ie</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divisional Inspector (Environmental Auditor)</td>
<td>Noel Foley Grade I</td>
<td>Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Social Welfare Building, Oliver Plunkett Road, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal</td>
<td>074 -91-21848</td>
<td>074-91-22791 <a href="mailto:noel.foley@agriculture.gov.ie">noel.foley@agriculture.gov.ie</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Divisional Inspector (Forest Inventory)</td>
<td>Christy O’Donovan Grade I</td>
<td>Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Civic Offices Dungarvan Co. Waterford</td>
<td>058-45845</td>
<td>058-45808 <a href="mailto:christy.odonovan@agriculture.gov.ie">christy.odonovan@agriculture.gov.ie</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Divisional Inspector Forest Protection, Forest Reproductive Material, ISPM 15</td>
<td>Gerard Cahalane Grade I</td>
<td>Forest Service, 3 West, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Kildare St, Dublin 2</td>
<td>01- 6072932 087-2515521</td>
<td>01- 6072545 <a href="mailto:gerard.cahalane@agriculture.gov.ie">gerard.cahalane@agriculture.gov.ie</a></td>
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**DIVISION I - DISTRICTS**

3. Carlow, Kilkenny North (OS. 1-21), Laois East (O.S. 5, 9, 14, 19, 20, 25, 26, 31, 32, 36, 37), Kildare

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<tr>
<td>Billy Murren Grade II</td>
<td>Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Church Street, Graiguecullen, Carlow</td>
<td>059-91- 42710 087-2536563</td>
<td>059 –91- 42711 <a href="mailto:billy.murren@agriculture.gov.ie">billy.murren@agriculture.gov.ie</a></td>
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4. Waterford, Kilkenny South (O.S. 22- 47)

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<tr>
<td>Robert Hamilton Grade III</td>
<td>Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Customs House The Quay, Waterford</td>
<td>051-858722 087-6697072</td>
<td>051-858710 <a href="mailto:robert.hamilton@agriculture.gov.ie">robert.hamilton@agriculture.gov.ie</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Brian Mahoney Grade II</td>
<td>Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Irish Life Building, South Mall, Cork</td>
<td>021-4274233 087-6395423</td>
<td>021-4272114 <a href="mailto:brian.mahoney@agriculture.gov.ie">brian.mahoney@agriculture.gov.ie</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Eugene Curran Grade II</td>
<td>Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, 27 Townsend Street Skibbereen, Co. Cork</td>
<td>028-23400 087-2536576</td>
<td>028-23401 <a href="mailto:eugene.curran@agriculture.gov.ie">eugene.curran@agriculture.gov.ie</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>John Madden Grade II</td>
<td>Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Houston Hall, Ballycummin Avenue, Raheen Industrial Estate, Raheen, Limerick</td>
<td>061-306819 087-2536561</td>
<td>061-306815 <a href="mailto:john.madden@agriculture.gov.ie">john.madden@agriculture.gov.ie</a></td>
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<td>9. Clare</td>
<td>Kevin Keary</td>
<td>Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Francis Street, Ennis, Co. Clare</td>
<td>065- 6865986 087-6331852</td>
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<td>15. Tipperary South and Central (O.S. 12,17, 18, 22-24, 28-30, 33-36, 39-91)</td>
<td>Seamus Kennedy Grade III</td>
<td>Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, ACC House, Liberty Square, Thurles, Co. Tipperary</td>
<td>0504- 90599 087-6468522</td>
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<tr>
<td>17. Kerry North/West (O.S. 1-68, 76-77)</td>
<td>Ciarán Nugent Grade III</td>
<td>Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Island Centre Castleisland, Co. Kerry</td>
<td>066-7142706 087-9682040</td>
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<tr>
<td>18. Wexford South (O.S. 18 –54) Cross Compliance / Indicative Forest Strategy /GIS.</td>
<td>Frank Barrett Grade III</td>
<td>Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Johnstown Castle Estate, Co. Wexford</td>
<td>053- 91- 60217 087 - 2191029</td>
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DIVISION II – DISTRICTS

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<th>1.Dublin North (O.S. 1-19), Louth, Monaghan, Meath (except O.S. 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16, 22, 23)</th>
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<td>2. Dublin South (O.S. 20-28) Wicklow, Wexford North (O.S. 1-17)</td>
<td>Kevin Collins Grade II</td>
<td>Forest Service, 3 West, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Kildare St, Dublin 2</td>
<td>01-6072502 087-2229200</td>
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<td>8. Offaly/Laois West (except O.S. 5, 9, 14, 19, 20, 25, 26, 31, 32, 36, 37) Tipperary North (O.S. 1-8)</td>
<td>Charles Fahy</td>
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<td>Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Hamilton House, Emmet Street, Birr, Co. Offaly.</td>
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<td>10. Galway</td>
<td>Donal Keegan</td>
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<td>Forest Service Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Ross House Merchant’s Road, Galway</td>
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<td>11. Mayo</td>
<td>Tom Kavanagh</td>
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<td>12. Sligo, Leitrim, Cavan West (O.S. 1-16, 19)</td>
<td>Senan Kelly</td>
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<td>Martin Regan</td>
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<td>14. Cavan (except O.S. 1-16, 19), Longford, Westmeath, Meath West (O.S. 8-10, 14-16, 22-23)</td>
<td>Eddie Healy</td>
<td>Grade II</td>
<td>Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Bellview, Dublin Road, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath</td>
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<tr>
<td>16. Roscommon</td>
<td>Matt Fallon</td>
<td>Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Church Street, Roscommon</td>
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<td>090 66-27269 <a href="mailto:matt.fallon@agriculture.gov.ie">matt.fallon@agriculture.gov.ie</a></td>
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**FOREST PROTECTION, FOREST REPRODUCTIVE MATERIAL, ISPM 15**

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<th>Tom McDonald</th>
<th>Forest Service 3 West Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Kildare Street, Dublin 2.</th>
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<td>01-6072545 <a href="mailto:tom.mcdonald@agriculture.gov.ie">tom.mcdonald@agriculture.gov.ie</a></td>
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<tr>
<th>Forest Protection, Forest Reproductive Material, ISPM 15</th>
<th>Cormac O’Flynn</th>
<th>Forest Service Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Terminal Building, Tivioli Port, Cork</th>
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<td>021- 4501633 <a href="mailto:cormac.oflynn@agriculture.gov.ie">cormac.oflynn@agriculture.gov.ie</a></td>
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<th>Cathal Ryan</th>
<th>Forest Service, 3 West, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Kildare Street, Dublin 2.</th>
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<td>01- 6072545 <a href="mailto:cathal.ryan@agriculture.gov.ie">cathal.ryan@agriculture.gov.ie</a></td>
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<td>090 66-27269 <a href="mailto:matt.fallon@agriculture.gov.ie">matt.fallon@agriculture.gov.ie</a></td>
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<td>090 66-27269 <a href="mailto:matt.fallon@agriculture.gov.ie">matt.fallon@agriculture.gov.ie</a></td>
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### ENVIRONMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Environment</th>
<th>Pat O’Callaghan</th>
<th>Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, The Mill, Church St, Cahir, Co. Tipperary</th>
<th>052-45768 087-2536564</th>
<th>052-45771 <a href="mailto:pat.ocallaghan@agriculture.gov.ie">pat.ocallaghan@agriculture.gov.ie</a></th>
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<tr>
<td>Forest Ecologist</td>
<td>Orla Fahy</td>
<td>Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Davitt House Castlebar, Co. Mayo</td>
<td>094- 90- 35393 087-6206458</td>
<td>094- 90-23633 <a href="mailto:orla.fahy@agriculture.gov.ie">orla.fahy@agriculture.gov.ie</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archaeologist</td>
<td>Emmet Byrnes</td>
<td>Forest Service, 3 West, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Kildare St, Dublin 2</td>
<td>01-6072229 087-2283697</td>
<td>01-6072545 <a href="mailto:emmet.byres@agriculture.gov.ie">emmet.byres@agriculture.gov.ie</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### FOREST INVENTORY AND LANDSCAPE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Forest Inventory</th>
<th>Mark Twomey</th>
<th>Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, 2A Irish Life Building, South Mall, Cork</th>
<th>021- 4905334 087-2786095</th>
<th>021- 4272114 <a href="mailto:mark.twomey@agriculture.gov.ie">mark.twomey@agriculture.gov.ie</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Forest Inventory</td>
<td>John J. Redmond</td>
<td>Forest Service Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Johnstown Castle Estate, Co. Wexford</td>
<td>053-91- 60215 087 9956782</td>
<td>053- 91- 76010 <a href="mailto:Johnj.redmond@agriculture.gov.ie">Johnj.redmond@agriculture.gov.ie</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landscape and Design</td>
<td>Pat Farrington</td>
<td>Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Johnstown Castle Estate, Co. Wexford</td>
<td>053-91- 53501 087-2283696</td>
<td>053- 91- 76010 <a href="mailto:pat.farrington@agriculture.gov.ie">pat.farrington@agriculture.gov.ie</a></td>
</tr>
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### APPENDIX 1D

#### LABORATORIES AND FIELD STATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Telephone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blood Testing Laboratory</td>
<td>Model Farm Road, Cork</td>
<td>021 4545377</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Meat Control Laboratory</td>
<td>Backweston Laboratory Complex, Backweston, Celbridge, Co. Kildare</td>
<td>01 6157368</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Veterinary Research</td>
<td>Backweston Laboratory Complex, Backweston, Celbridge, Co. Kildare</td>
<td>01 6157106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laboratory</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crop Variety Evaluation</td>
<td>c/o Teagasc, Ballyderown Farm, Moorepark, Fermoy, Co. Cork</td>
<td>025 27530</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy Science Laboratory</td>
<td>Backweston Laboratory Complex, Backweston, Celbridge, Co. Kildare</td>
<td>01 6157465</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy Science Laboratory</td>
<td>Model Farm Road, Bishopstown, Cork</td>
<td>021 4543300</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dairy Science Laboratory</td>
<td>Killeely Road, Limerick</td>
<td>061 452444</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Crop Variety Evaluation</td>
<td>Backweston Farm, Leixlip, Co. Kildare.</td>
<td>01 6302900</td>
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<tr>
<td>Centre</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pesticides Control Service</td>
<td>Backweston Laboratory Complex, Backweston, Celbridge, Co. Kildare</td>
<td>01 6157552</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plant Health Laboratory</td>
<td>Backweston Laboratory Complex, Backweston, Celbridge, Co. Kildare</td>
<td>01 6157504</td>
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<tr>
<td>Potato Farm &amp; Laboratory</td>
<td>Tops, Raphoe, Co. Donegal</td>
<td>074 9145490</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regional Veterinary Laboratory</td>
<td>Model Farm Road, Bishopstown, Cork</td>
<td>021 4543931</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regional Veterinary Laboratory</td>
<td>Leggetsrath, Hebron Road, Kilkenny</td>
<td>056 7721688</td>
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<td>Regional Veterinary Laboratory</td>
<td>Knockalisheen, Limerick</td>
<td>061 452911</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Veterinary Laboratory</td>
<td>Fawcetts Bridge, Doonally, Sligo</td>
<td>071 9142191</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Veterinary Laboratory</td>
<td>Coosan, Athlone, Co Westmeath</td>
<td>0906 475514</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seed Testing Laboratory</td>
<td>Backweston Laboratory Complex, Backweston, Celbridge, Co. Kildare</td>
<td>01 6157518</td>
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</table>
## APPENDIX 1E

### SEED POTATO CERTIFICATION TECHNICAL STAFF

Mr Michael Murray, Area Superintendent  
National Crop Variety Evaluation Centre,  
Backweston Farm, Leixlip, Co. Kildare.

Tel: 01 6302925/086 8123679

### SEED INSPECTORS AND DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS (D.S.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Name and Address</th>
<th>Telephone</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr R Treacy (D.S.)</td>
<td>Dunwiley, Ballybofey, Co Donegal</td>
<td>074 9131069</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newtoncunningham/Ballybofey</td>
<td>Mr H Gallagher, 41 Orchard Grove, Letterkenny, Co Donegal.</td>
<td>074 9126362</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lifford No. 1</td>
<td>Mr T Patton, Gallows Lane, Lifford, Co Donegal.</td>
<td>074 9141542</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lifford No. 2</td>
<td>Mr S Given, Burnview House, Rossigier, Lifford, Co Donegal.</td>
<td>074 9141060</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr P Clarke (D.S.)</td>
<td>Government Offices, High Road, Letterkenny, Co Donegal</td>
<td>074 9122591</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fanad</td>
<td>Mr J.V. Kelly, Ballyboe, Rathmullan, Co Donegal</td>
<td>074 9158311</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ramelton</td>
<td>Mr J.P. Crawford, The Ards, Ramelton, Co Donegal</td>
<td>074 9151187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moville/Muff/Buncrana</td>
<td>Mr H Holmes, Ballyratten, Moville, Lifford, Co Donegal.</td>
<td>074 9382602</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burnfort</td>
<td>Mr P Gallagher, Government Offices, High Road, Letterkenny, Co Donegal.</td>
<td>074 9122591</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District</td>
<td>Name and Address</td>
<td>Telephone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr R. Kirby (D. S.)</td>
<td>Department of Agriculture, Fisheries &amp; Food</td>
<td>046 9082975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Athlumney, Kilcarn, Navan, Co Meath</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kildare, Dublin and North Wicklow</td>
<td>Mr T Cunniffe, 3 Knockcullen Rise Knocklyon, Dublin 16.</td>
<td>01 4944613</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louth and Monaghan</td>
<td>Malachy Quigley, Edenkell Hackballscross, Dundalk, Co. Louth</td>
<td>042 93775413</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dublin and Meath</td>
<td>(Vacant)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. M. Mc Donagh (D. S.)</td>
<td>Ballintoher Road, Lahassaragh, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary</td>
<td>067 41664</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carlow, Wexford, South Wicklow, Kilkenny, Tipperary and East Waterford</td>
<td>(Vacant)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roscommon, Clare Galway, Sligo, Mayo Laois, Offaly, Westmeath, Longford, N.Tipperary</td>
<td>Mr P Finnerty, Palmerstown Oranmore, Co Galway</td>
<td>091 794561</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waterford, East Cork and S. Tipperary</td>
<td>Mr J Casey, Blood Testing Laboratory, Model Farm Road, Cork</td>
<td>021 4545377</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kerry, West Cork and Limerick</td>
<td>Mr M Stafford, Malindi, Farnahoe Innishannon, Co Cork.</td>
<td>021 4775518</td>
</tr>
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</table>
## APPENDIX 1F

### PLANT HEALTH INSPECTORS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Inspector</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Tel</th>
<th>Fax</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>01 5053355</td>
<td>01 5053564</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kildare, Laois, Offaly</td>
<td>Sheila Nolan</td>
<td>Backweston Farm, Leixlip, Co. Kildare.</td>
<td>01 6302914</td>
<td>01 6280634</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cork, Kerry, Limerick, Clare</td>
<td>William Larkin</td>
<td>Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Blood Testing Laboratory, Model Farm Road, Bishopstown, Cork.</td>
<td>021 4545377</td>
<td>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>051 644554</td>
<td>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>01 5053360</td>
<td>01 5053564</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, Mayo and Galway</td>
<td>Christy Quinn</td>
<td>Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Government Buildings, Shannon Lodge, Carrick on Shannon</td>
<td>078 20095</td>
<td>078 21810</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Engineering Division provides an advisory, inspectorial and design and construction service on all aspects of Marine Engineering to the Department and to Central Government generally.

The service provided by the Engineering Division ranges across environmental work in the marine and fresh-water environments, fisheries related work in rivers and lakes, aquaculture related work, work on foreshore development applications, coast protection work and an advisory, design and construction service in relation to harbour developments.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Head Office</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leeson Lane</td>
<td>Leeson Lane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dublin 2</td>
<td>Dublin 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tel: 01 6782000</td>
<td>Tel: 01 6782000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fax: 01 6616798</td>
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<table>
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<th>West Region</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ross House</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merchants Road</td>
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<tr>
<td>Galway</td>
<td>Co. Donegal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tel: 091 564514</td>
<td>Tel: 071 9852561</td>
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<td>Fax: 091 568316</td>
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<table>
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<th>Southwest Region</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 Greenview Terrace</td>
<td>Oak House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Princes Quay</td>
<td>Bessboro Rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tralee</td>
<td>Mahon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Co. Kerry</td>
<td>Cork</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tel: 066 7127235</td>
<td>Tel: 021 4515100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fax: 066 7128213</td>
<td>Fax: 021 4515122</td>
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APPENDIX 2 - TEAGASC
AGRICULTURAL AND HORTICULTURAL COLLEGES

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES

Agricultural College, Ballyhaise, Co Cavan.
Tel: 049 4338108, Fax: 049 4338540
Principal: Mr Felix McCabe
felix.mccabe@teagasc.ie

Agricultural College, Darrara, Clonakilty, Co Cork
Tel: 023 33302, Fax: 023 34449
Principal: Mr JJ Harty
jj.harty@teagasc.ie

Kildalton Agricultural College, Piltown, Co Kilkenny
Tel: 051 644400, Fax: 051 643797
Principal: Mr Frank Murphy
frank.murphy@teagasc.ie

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

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

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

HORTICULTURAL COLLEGES

Kildalton Horticultural College, Piltown, Co Kilkenny.
Tel: 051 643105, Fax: 051 643797.
Assistant Principal: Mr Ciaran Walsh
ciaran.walsh@teagasc.ie

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

Salesian College of Horticulture, Warrenstown, Drumree, Co Meath.
Tel: 01 8259392, Fax: 01 8259632.
Principal: Harold Lawlor
hlawlor@warrenstowncollege.ie
NATIONAL ADVISORY SERVICES DIRECTORATE

CAVAN/MONAGHAN AREA UNIT
OFFICES:
- Teagasc Advisory Office, Ballyhaise College, Ballyhaise, Co. Cavan [Headquarters]
  Tel: 049 4338300 Fax: 049 4338304.
- Teagasc, Mart House, Granard Road, Ballyjamesduff, Co. Cavan
  Tel: 049 8544499 Fax: 049 8544063
- Teagasc, Coolshannagh, Monaghan
  Tel: 047 81188/81170 Fax: 047 81408
- Teagasc, Lakeview, Castleblaney, Co. Monaghan
  Tel: 042 9740072 Fax: 042 9746659

CLARE AREA UNIT
OFFICES:
- Teagasc, Station Road, Ennis, Co Clare [Headquarters]
  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 AREA UNIT
OFFICES:
- Teagasc, Farranlea Road, Cork [Headquarters]
  Tel: 021 4545055/4545489 Fax: 021 4343598
- Teagasc, Knockgriffen, Midleton, Co Cork.
  Tel: 021 4631898/4631184 Fax: 021 4631745
- Teagasc, Moorepark, Fermoy, Co Cork
  Tel: 025 42244 Fax: 025 42384
- Teagasc, Sandfield, Mallow, Co Cork.
  Tel: 022 21936/21898 Fax: 022 42657
- 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 AREA UNIT

OFFICES:  Teagasc, Kilbarry Road, Dunmanway, Co Cork. *Headquarters*
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 AREA UNIT

OFFICES:  Teagasc, Cavan Lower, Ballybofey, Co Donegal. *Headquarters*
Tel: 074 9131189/9131520/9131733 Fax: 074 9132062
Teagasc, Carnamuggagh, Letterkenny, Co Donegal.
Tel: 074 9121555/9121595/9121053 Fax: 074 9126659
Teagasc, Doonan, Donegal.
Tel: 074 9721231 Fax: 074 9721918
Teagasc, Public Services Centre, Malin road, Carndonagh, Co Donegal.
Tel: 074 9373700 Fax: 074 9374233

GALWAY AREA UNIT

OFFICES:  Teagasc, Resource Centre, Athenry, Co Galway. *Headquarters*
Tel: 091 845800 Fax: 091 845830
Teagasc, Terryland Retail Park, Headford Road, Galway.
Tel: 091 562101 Fax: 091 561353.
Teagasc, c/o M Keady, The Square, Headford, Co Galway.
Tel: 093 35563 Fax: 093 35210
Teagasc, Deerpark, Ballinasloe, Co Galway.
Tel: 090 9642456 Fax: 090 9642973
Teagasc, Brendan Street, Portumna, Co Galway.
Tel: 090 9741124/41369 Fax: 090 9741118
Teagasc, Upper Dublin Road, Tuam, Co Galway.
Tel: 093 28123 Fax: 093 28895
KERRY AREA UNIT

OFFICES:
Teagasc, The Pavilion, Austin Stack Park, Tralee, Co Kerry. [Headquarters]
Tel: 066 7125077 Fax: 066 7125558
Teagasc, Cleeney, Killarney, Co Kerry.
Tel: 064 32344/32345 Fax: 064 32366
Teagasc, Courthouse, Caherciveen, Co Kerry.
Tel: 066 9472452. Fax: 066 9472937

KILKENNY/WATERFORD AREA UNIT

OFFICES:
Teagasc, Kells Road, Kilkenny. [Headquarters]
Tel: 056 7721153 Fax: 056 7721852
Teagasc, Mullinavat, Co Kilkenny.
Tel: 051 898137 Fax: 051 898204
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 53522
Teagasc, Unit 101, Dunhill Enterprise Centre, Dunhill, Co. Waterford.
Tel: 051 396688 Fax: 051 396522

LAOIS/KILDARE AREA UNIT

OFFICES:
Teagasc, 1 Park Villas, Portlaoise, Co Laois. [Headquarters]
Tel: 057 8621326/8621507 Fax: 057 8622974
Teagasc, Knockiel, Rathdowney, Co Laois.
Tel: 0505 46451/46169 Fax: 0505 46601
Teagasc, Friary Road, Naas, Co Kildare.
Tel: 045 879203/897205 Fax: 045 879093
Teagasc, Rathstewart, Athy, Co Kildare.
Tel: 059 8631719/8631710/8631256 Fax: 059 8639261

LIMERICK AREA UNIT

OFFICES:
Teagasc, Parnell Street, Limerick. [Headquarters]
Tel: 061 415922 Fax: 061 310835
Teagasc, Kilmallock, Co Limerick.
Tel: 063 98039 Fax: 063 98580
Teagasc, Gortboy, Newcastlewest, Co Limerick.
Tel: 069 61444 Fax: 069 61094
MAYO AREA UNIT
OFFICES:  Teagasc, Michael Davitt House, Castlebar, Co Mayo. [Headquarters]
Tel: 094 9021944/9021132 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 9541125/9541342 Fax: 094 9541869
Teagasc, Lower James Street, Claremorris, Co Mayo.
Tel: 094 9371360/9371434 Fax: 094 9371913
Teagasc, Bridge Street, Swinford, Co Mayo.
Tel: 094 9251157 Fax: 094 9252305
Teagasc, Shore Road, Belmullet, Co Mayo.
Tel: 097 81104 Fax: 097 82302

MEATH/DUBLIN/LOUTH AREA UNIT
OFFICES:  Teagasc, Kells Road, Navan, Co Meath. [Headquarters]
Tel: 046 9021792/9021793 Fax: 046 9022811
Teagasc, Willowfield, Navan Road, Kells, Co Meath.
Tel: 046 9240039/9240895 Fax: 046 9240312
Teagasc, Grange Advisory Office, Grange, Dunsany, Co Meath.
Tel: 046 9025214 Fax: 046 9026154
Teagasc, Dublin Advisory Office, Kinsealy Centre, Malahide Road, Dublin 17.
Tel: 01 8460644 Fax: 01 8461218
Teagasc, Dublin Road, Dundalk, Co Louth
Tel: 042 9332263 Fax: 042 9332316
Teagasc, Slane Road, Drogheda, Co Louth
Tel: 041 9833006 Fax: 041 9838024

ROSCOMMON/LONGFORD AREA UNIT
OFFICES:  Teagasc, Abbey Street, Roscommon. [Headquarters]
Tel: 090 6626166 Fax: 090 6625494
Teagasc, St Patrick’s Street, Castlerea, Co Roscommon.
Tel: 094 9620160/9620486 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 9662586
Teagasc, Town Centre, Longford
Tel: 043 410214 Fax: 043 41025
SLIGO/LEITRIM AREA UNIT
OFFICES: Teagasc, Riverside, Sligo. [Headquarters]
Tel: 071 9142286/9145903 Fax: 071 9142677
Teagasc, Carrownanty, Ballymote, Co Sligo.
Tel: 071 9183369/9183101 Fax: 071 9183246
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

TIPPERARY AREA UNIT
OFFICES: Teagasc, Carrigeen, Clonmel, Co Tipperary. [Headquarters]
Tel: 052 21300/21548 Fax: 052 21199
Teagasc, Davis Road, Tipperary.
Tel: 062 51844/51845/31003 Fax: 062 51180
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

WESTMEATH/OFFALY AREA UNIT
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