To CAP Rural Development Div
DAFM
Agriculture House
Kildare St. D02 WK1Z

I have been involved with Dexter cattle for a number of years now and there are a few ideas I would like to put forward for the 2020 planned initiative:

1. Reward the value of native breeds bring to the greening obligations.
2. Dexters in particular also other native breeds are diverse grazers therefore cause LESS of a negative impact on flora (trials have been done eec).
3. Native breeds have less emissions methane etc. They should be included in trials perhaps Grange may make a major contribution to meeting the lowering of emissions obligations.
4. With the beef industry on its knees, native breeds could assist farmers with marginal land and/or poor or limited housing. They thrive on any fodder and can be finished without feed. There may be more profit per kg meat produced.

5. No beef production is viable without support, but most don't offer to assist in greening obligations as native breeds do. Therefore, native breeds could & should be included in GLAS PLUS measure rather than an action. At the moment, the numbers of Dexters that are registered in the society + Bord Bia approved need to increase in order to meet a contracted market that is opening. Therefore, the number of 10 L.U. could be increased to 25 for payment.

6. Any support from DAFM should be for society registered animals and dexter meat should only be branded dexter if it comes from purebred registered stock. If a fund was created designated to the promotion of native breed produce by Bord Bia
(7) low vet. inputs.

These breeds are naturally hardy and need very little medication. The live long productive lives, many produce over 20 calves.

(8) It may be viable in order to meet greening obligations for government departments to provide grazing blocks of public land for these low impact grazers e.g. agro forestry or parks + wildlife depts.

Bullet points in brief:

1. Reward native breed owners for greening value.

2. They are "green" - diverse grazers (UCC trials done) & low emission producers.

3. Include in Grange Trails to up results.

4. Could be answer for marginal land farmers as good converters of low grade forage also no feed required.

5. Beef farming not viable without support, but as native offer such a plus on the greening end increase L.U. from 10 to 25 as more are needed for market.

6. Must be kept purebred + registere could be helped by @ designated fund by Bord Bia.

Yours sincerely

Will O’Halloran