



The Irish Farmers' Association

Irish Farm Centre, Bluebell, Dublin 12.

Tel: (01) 450 0266 Email: info@ifa.ie Web: www.ifa.ie Twitter: [@ifamedia](https://twitter.com/ifamedia) App: www.ifarm.ie

DOCUMENTATION FOR 59TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

OF

THE IRISH FARMERS' ASSOCIATION

JANUARY 14, 2014

The Irish Farmers' Association
59th Annual General Meeting

A G E N D A

1. Adoption of Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting
2. Adoption of Auditor's Report, Income & Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet.
3. Appointment of Auditors
4. Annual Report of National Committees and Commodity Sections
5. Reports from IFA Representatives on Outside Bodies
6. Address by outgoing President John Bryan
7. Inaugural Presidential Address by Eddie Downey
8. Election of National Treasurer/Returning Officer *
9. Election of members of National Rules, Privileges and Procedures Committee *
Joe Brady, representing **Ulster/North Leinster**, is retiring and is **eligible** for re-election.
Barry Donnelly representing **Connacht** is retiring and is **eligible** for re-election.
10. Ratification of IFA Representatives on Outside Bodies
11. Election of Honorary Life Members
12. AOB

* Nominations for these positions must be made on the attached forms and received by the General Secretary by 12 noon on Tuesday 7th January 2014.

**Minutes of 58th Annual General Meeting of the IFA Executive Council
held on Tuesday, January 15th 2013 in the Irish Farm Centre, Dublin at 11.30am**

Attendance

Chairman: President J Bryan

Members (incl. outgoing and incoming): E Downey, C Hayes, J Bergin, J Waters, P Divilly, JJ Kavanagh, S Arthur, T Brady, H Burns, T Carpenter, T Cashman, R Connell, T Cullinan, E Davitt, N Delany, M Dempsey, B Donohue, T Doyle, A Dundas, T Fadian, P Farrell, J Fitzpatrick, M Fleming, M Flynn, J Gallagher, P Gilhooley, J Gleeson, M Healy, P Hennessy, J Hill, J Hosford, A Jagoe, P Joyce, M Keane, K Kiersey, P Kinane, H Kingston, G Lyons, G Mason, J Maxwell, F McCarthy, J McCarthy, A McHugh, M McGreehan, PJ McMonagle, A Mohan, J Murphy, M Murphy, P Murphy, P Murray, J O'Beirne, P O'Driscoll, S O'Leary, B O'Reilly, J O'Rourke, J Parlon, E Scanlon, T Short, M Silke, B Stewart, M Twomey-Casey, L Ward.

County Vice Chairmen: Denis Brennan, Sean Conefrey, Tom Dunne, Tom Fitzpatrick, Francis Gorman, Frank Hemeryck, Gordon Johnston, John Keena, Michael Kelly, John Nolan, Conor O'Leary, John Joe O'Neill, Sean Quirke, James Speares, David Thompson, Brian Treanor.

County Secretaries & Others: William Burgess, Peter Cannon, Donal Glennon, Frank Grace, Bridget Horan, Ann Kieran, Sean Moran, Francis Nugent, Donal O'Donovan, Maurice Smiddy, Trevor Stanley, Breda Keane, Michael Keane, N. O'Connor

Staff: General Secretary P Smith, B Barry, T Bourke, F Conway, M Devins, R Dwyer, E Farrell, G Gunning, K Heade, J Kelly, K Kinsella, C Lascurettes, N Madigan, A McKeever, T Ryan.

Apologies Derek Deane, Frank Murphy, Robert Coburn, Catherine McCollum, Gerry Boland, Mary Murphy, Philip Maguire, William O'Gorman, Liam O'Byrne, John O'Sullivan, Dermot Ryan, Catherine Flynn.

These minutes record the formal business of the 58th Annual General Meeting of the NFA / IFA Executive Council (41st IFA). The AGM was followed by an ordinary meeting which concluded that evening, the minutes of which are recorded separately, and on the following day by an IFA Conference entitled ***Growing the Agri Food Sector Sustainably***.

**Opening
Remarks**

The President welcomed the Council members, in particular newly elected officers, together with the County Vice Chairmen and County Secretaries who had been invited to the two day AGM event.

**Votes of
Sympathy**

Before taking the business of the meeting, the President and members passed votes of sympathy to the families of the late **Minister of State Shane McEntee** and the late **Paddy O'Keefe**, Chairman of the Agricultural Trust. The meeting stood in silence as a mark of respect. Tributes to the deceased for their respective contributions to Agriculture were paid by both the President and Minister for Agriculture Simon Coveney during the Ordinary Meeting.

Minutes	The minutes of the 57 th Annual General Meeting of the Council held on January 18th 2012 were agreed and signed by the Chairman. Proposed P Divilly, seconded M Flynn.
Adoption of Auditors' Report and Financial Statements	<p>Mr Kevin Sheehan, representing the Association's auditors, Deloitte & Touche, was in attendance. A copy of the Draft Auditors' Report and Financial Statements for the year ended March 31st, 2012 had been circulated in advance of the meeting. National Treasurer/Returning Officer JJ Kavanagh said the draft audited accounts had been discussed at the December Council meeting and he thanked the Financial Controller K Heade and his staff for their efforts and support during the year.</p> <p>On behalf of Deloitte, Mr Sheehan referred to the auditors' report and read a formal statement to the meeting expressing the auditors' opinion that the financial statements gave a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Association.</p> <p>Resolved: "That the Auditors' Report and Financial Statements of the Association for the year ended March 31st, 2012 be formally ratified and adopted". Proposed G Mason, seconded B O'Reilly.</p>
Appointment of Auditors	Resolved: "That Deloitte & Touche be reappointed Auditors to the Association". Proposed JJ Kavanagh, seconded M Murphy.
Annual Report of National Committees and Commodity Sections	A copy of the Annual Report for 2012 of the National Committees and Commodity Sections had been issued in advance of the meeting. The President said the reports would be taken as read and any issues could be raised during the ordinary meeting. Proposed M Flynn, seconded N Delaney. Agreed.
Reports from IFA Representatives on Outside Bodies	Reports for 2012 from Representatives on Outside Bodies and Boards had been circulated with the documentation. The President suggested that the reports be taken as read . Proposed E Scanlan, seconded G Lyons. Agreed.
Presidential Address	<p>The following summarises the main points of the Presidential Address of Mr. John Bryan, a full copy is which is recorded separately.</p> <p>In his opening remarks, the President said 2012 had been a difficult year for farmers in terms of both weather and income, and the fodder shortage would put severe pressure on some farmers in early 2013. He outlined the main challenges facing farm families in the year ahead including CAP reform, Government support for farm schemes, especially for the low-income drystock sector, and product prices across all sectors.</p> <p>The negotiations on the EU budget and CAP were very difficult, and that was why 20,000 farmers had protested outside Leinster House the previous October. The right outcome would underpin Ireland's prospects for growth in farming and food, however, the wrong outcome would completely undermine <i>Food Harvest 2020</i> and destroy the viability of thousands of family farms. Farmers would hold the Minister and the Taoiseach responsible for ensuring a successful outcome.</p>

In a clear message to Minister Coveney, the President said he was totally **opposed to flattening and regionalisation of the Single Farm Payment** as this would cause major disruption of payments at farm level and undermine production across all sectors and in all parts of the country. It was essential that **greening** measures must be workable and flexible, and not result in extra costs or bureaucracy for farmers or take land out of production. The option of 10% **coupling** must be available to all Member States, to protect the vulnerable livestock and sheep sectors and vulnerable regions.

The **CAP Rural Development Plan 2014 – 2020** must put in place strong support measures for farmers and Minister Coveney must show the Government is serious about exchequer support for Rural Development measures by committing to **50% national co-financing**.

The President also stressed the importance of **EU market supports** and said IFA would continue to resist any one-sided **trade deals**.

The President left the Minister for Agriculture in no doubt about the depth of anger among farmers over the **Budget cuts** he had implemented on the Suckler Cow, Sheep Grassland and Disadvantaged Areas schemes, and the attack by the Minister for Social Protection, Joan Burton, on farm families depending on Farm Assist. He called on Minister Coveney to re-visit the most damaging elements of the Budget, in particular the abolition of the **Suckler Cow Welfare Scheme**, as this was unfinished business as far as IFA was concerned.

On the **dairy** sector, the President called on Dairygold and Glanbia Ingredients Ireland to work closely together and invest jointly in building scale and efficiency, and said other co-ops must do likewise. IFA would not tolerate farmers being asked to spend €1 more on processing capacity than is required to meet actual expansion in deliveries. On **live exports**, he said IFA was actively targeting the re-opening of the Libyan trade

The President strongly criticised Enterprise Minister Richard Bruton, saying that despite a commitment in the Programme for Government, the Government had failed to **regulate retailers**. He said IFA's **DNA traceability** programme for pigmeat would provide producers and consumers with certainty over the origin of product and expose misleading labelling.

In conclusion, he thanked everybody for their support and looked forward to working with them in the year ahead.

Election of National Rules, Privileges and Procedures Committee

Mr M Keane representing Munster and **Mr B Donohue** representing Council were retiring and both were eligible for re-election. The National Treasurer/ Returning Officer JJ Kavanagh said the only nominations received were for Messrs Keane and Donohue and he declared them **re-elected**.

Ratification of Representatives on Outside Bodies

The list of representatives on outside bodies and Boards had been circulated. Proposed P Divilly, seconded M Twomey-Casey. **Agreed**. It was noted that the Government was conducting a review of structures at local level and an updated list of nominees to **local boards** would be presented to Council for approval when the new structure was in place.

**Election of
Honorary Life
Members**

The following members had been nominated for Honorary Life Membership of the Association by their respective County Executives:

Denis McLaughlin	Donegal
Pat Lahiff	Galway
Dan Lynch	Kerry
Michael Fleming	Kerry
John Behan	Kildare
Johh Keoghan	Kilkenny
Noel Dolan	Leitrim
Andrew Egan	Limerick
Michael J Mc Keon	Longford
John Gallagher	Mayo
Stephen Liffey	North Tipperary
Padraig Kennedy	Roscommon
Joe Coulter	Sligo
Willie Joe Dwyer	South Tipperary
Maurice Donovan	Waterford
Alan Murray	Westmeath
Anne Farrell	Wexford
Sylvester Bourke	Wicklow
Owen V. Woods	Louth
Patrick Lappin	Monaghan
John McCullen	Meath
Patrick Lambert	Dublin
Robert Moynan	Laois
William Brennan	Offaly
Joseph White	Clare

Agreed unanimously that all nominees be elected to Honorary Life Membership. Proposed E Davitt, seconded J Hill.

**Any Other
Business**

None

Conclusion

The President thanked everybody for their co-operation and support, and this concluded the formal business of the AGM.

An **ordinary meeting** of the Executive Council followed which was attended by Mr Georg Haeusler, Chef de Cabinet to EU Agriculture Commissioner, Dacian Ciolos, and Minister for Agriculture, Simon Coveney.

The **AGM Dinner** took place that evening at which the President paid tributes and made presentations to **outgoing members of the Council**, namely National Pigs & Pigmeat Chairman Tim Cullinan, Horticulture Chairman Brian O'Reilly, National Livestock Committee Vice Chairman James Gleeson, Kerry Chairman James McCarthy, Limerick Chairman Eddie Scanlon, Monaghan Chairman Bert Stewart, Westmeath Chairman Joe Maxwell, Wexford Chairman Ger Lyons, Wicklow Chairman James Hill and *Farmers Journal* Editor Matt Dempsey.



IFA



The Irish Farmers' Association

***FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR
THE YEAR-ENDED 31st MARCH, 2013***

59th Annual General Meeting

**Irish Farm Centre
Tuesday/Wednesday 14th/15th January 2014**

The Irish Farmers' Association

Annual Report and
Consolidated Financial Statements
for the year ended
31 March 2013

DRAFT

THE IRISH FARMERS' ASSOCIATION

**CONSOLIDATED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2013**

	<i>Notes</i>	2013 €	2012 €
INCOME		12,540,305	13,454,965
EXPENDITURE		(12,630,083)	(11,545,986)
Profit/(loss) on disposal of fixed and financial assets		(3,811)	1,916
OPERATING (DEFICIT)/SURPLUS	2	<u>(93,589)</u>	<u>1,910,895</u>
Share of operating surplus in other financial assets	7	493,840	581,083
		<u>400,251</u>	<u>2,491,978</u>
Taxation	3	(66,785)	(78,969)
RETAINED SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	11	<u><u>333,466</u></u>	<u><u>2,413,009</u></u>

Results derive from continuing operations in the current and prior year.

The financial statements were approved by the Executive Council on and signed on its behalf by:

_____)	(President)
_____)	(Honorary Treasurer)
_____)	(General Secretary)

THE IRISH FARMERS' ASSOCIATION

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF TOTAL RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2013

	<i>Notes</i>	2013 €	2012 €
Retained surplus for the year		333,466	2,413,009
Increase in market value of investments	12	2,080,597	921,902
Actuarial loss in retirement benefit scheme	17	-	(913,200)
Total recognised gains for the year		<u>2,414,063</u>	<u>2,421,711</u>

DRAFT

THE IRISH FARMERS' ASSOCIATION

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2013

	Notes	2013 €	2012 €
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	4	405,600	437,184
Special reserve fund assets	5	13,040,325	10,542,535
Financial investments	6	574,797	1,443,337
Other financial assets	7	2,792,474	2,365,419
		<u>16,813,196</u>	<u>14,788,475</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	8	767,700	733,714
Cash at bank and in hand		1,816,962	2,871,185
		<u>2,584,662</u>	<u>3,604,899</u>
CREDITORS: (Amounts falling due within one year)	9 (a)	(4,950,870)	(5,543,448)
NET CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>(2,366,208)</u>	<u>(1,938,549)</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>14,446,988</u>	<u>12,849,926</u>
CREDITORS: (Amounts falling due after more than one year)	9 (b)	(350,000)	(1,167,000)
PENSION LIABILITY	17	-	-
NET ASSETS		<u><u>14,096,988</u></u>	<u><u>11,682,926</u></u>
CAPITAL EMPLOYED			
Accumulated surplus	11	9,279,542	8,946,076
Revaluation reserve	12	4,817,447	2,736,850
	13	<u>14,096,989</u>	<u>11,682,926</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Executive Council on and signed on its behalf by:

_____) (President)
 _____)
 _____) (Honorary Treasurer)
 _____)
 _____) (General Secretary)



IFA



The Irish Farmers' Association

ORGANISATION REPORT

FOR 2013

59th Annual General Meeting

**Irish Farm Centre
Tuesday/Wednesday 14th/15th January, 2014**

Organisation

Membership

In 2013, membership of the Association increased by over 300. The Association's total Membership is now approaching 90,000 members. The IFA Family membership base continues to attract interest and achieve growth. IFA Family membership is proving important in identifying members that should transition to core membership. The focus on direct debits continues to grow in importance as it allows the Association to reduce its administration costs and retain membership.

IFA Campaigns

Activity levels across the Association were at an all-time high in 2013. Thousands of farmers engaged in extensive lobbying campaigns at local, national and International level on the CAP Pillar 1 & 2 reforms, commodity prices and the campaign on Budget 2013. Members engaged frequently with all TD's and government ministers to press the importance of supporting the livelihood and income of Irish farmers.

Members of the Association's 946 branches also came out in force throughout December to attend their annual AGM and to elect a new President and other National Officers to lead the Association for the next four years.

Member activity was intense around the severe fodder crisis in the first six months of the year. IFA organised a fund of over €1m from its own resources and industry partners and over 20,000 tons of hay and fodder were imported from England, France and Holland. Thousands of local branch members engaged widely in their local communities to assist wherever possible with farmers who found themselves with a fodder shortage.

The IFA/FBD European Scholarship Tour visited Belgium, Germany and France. A delegation of 40 IFA Branch Officers met with key EU Agriculture representatives about CAP reforms in the European Commission in Brussels, visited Belgium and French farmers to assess the impact of the CAP Reforms and attended the world's biggest food fair at Anuga in Germany. IFA is very grateful for the generous sponsorship of FBD Trust towards this educational initiative.

Income: Membership & European Involvement Fund

A strong performance across the Association's main income sources saw overall budgetary targets being achieved for year-end 2013. Membership income increased due to efficiencies introduced in relation to direct debit and increased contact with members nationally and through the local offices. Shifts in prices across some commodity sectors saw the European Involvement Fund come in just under budget. Work continues within all sectors to improving the structures and collection efficiencies.

Member Services & Benefits

The benefits of IFA Membership continue to significantly outweigh the subscription cost. In 2013, we continued to review and improve existing deals and sign new deals with:

- Volkswagen Group, this deal provides members with discounts on VW, VW Commercial, Skoda and Seat brands
- Improved deal with the Carlton hotel group
- FBD young drivers discount

In early 2014, IFA will launch:

- An Improved deal with Stena Line
- Live Weather Services for members

IFA are continuously reviewing and improving existing deals and aim to develop new partnerships in 2014.

IFA Member Services has continued to make an important financial contribution to IFA and provide key savings for members in areas such as Landline and Broadband. A new and greatly improved mobile deal was negotiated with Vodafone and a new electricity power deal was developed and launched with market leader Bord Gáis Energy. To avail of any deals all members must contact Member Services to opt in for the savings.

Technology & Communications

The Association continued to invest in new innovative technology to improve communications and information channels for our members.

The main developments in IFA's communication strategy in 2013 included:

- **Text Message:** A text messaging system that allows for greater targeting of sectors and farm types.
- **New Website:** Developing a new responsive IFA website which means that the website is accessible from pc, tablets and smartphones.
- **Ifarm App:** New version of ifarm App incorporating the IFA's new Smart Farming initiative
- **AgriApps.ie:** Our Irish Farm App store to help farmers find the apps that matter

The ifarm App has been over 30,000 users to date and it achieved a high ranking in the 'Top 300 Apps' globally being voted into the Top 10 Work Apps.

The core focus for ifarm in 2014 is to further improve the digital experience for farmers through initiatives involving rural security, developing a suite of farm management tools that aim to make life easier in the home and on the farm business.

Member Training & Development – Farm Business Skillnet

IFA Farm Business Skillnet has successfully secured funding 2014. In addition to IFA Member Services, IFA has secured An Post as a partner for the 2014 IFA training and development program. The following training was delivered to IFA Volunteers over the course of 2013:

Group	Course delivered	Group	Course delivered
IFA Executive Council	Induction Training for all new members addressing communications, leadership, lobbying and public speaking skills	New County Chairmen	Leadership & Communication skills training
250 Branch Chairmen	"Training Manual" for new Branch Chairs in the Organisation which outlined their role, IFA Structure, Contact points and Policy.	35 Discussion Groups	Courses in Negotiation, taxation, financial management, planning, IT and digital skills were part funded to over 1,000 discussion group members

'Young Leaders 2012'	Increasing participation locally in IFA has been a core objective with this group and specific training was ran again in 2013 on time management, lobbying and negotiation skills	Environmental Committee	Carbon Sustainability Training
Farm Business Committee	Financial management Training	FMP Committee	IT and digital Training
Officers Galway, Mayo and Westmeath	County Officer Training	Farm Family Committee	Stress Management Training
National Dairy Committee	QA and Sustainability Audit training	Roscommon IFA	IT and digital Training
Laois/ Offaly	Rural Scheme training		

Finally on behalf of all Regional, Organisation and Member Services staff, I would like to acknowledge and thank all our voluntary officers for their help during 2013 and wish you all health and prosperity for the year ahead.

James Kelly
Director of Organisation

JJ Kavanagh
Chairman, Member Services



IFA



The Irish Farmers' Association

***ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2013
OF
NATIONAL COMMITTEES & COMMODITY SECTIONS***

59th Annual General Meeting

**Irish Farm Centre
Tuesday/Wednesday 14th/15th January, 2014**

**Annual Report for 2013 of
National Committees, Commodity Sections & Project Teams**

C O N T E N T S

Major Commodity Committees

National Livestock Committee
National Dairy Committee
National Liquid Milk Committee
National Sheep Committee
National Pigs and Pigmeat Committee
National Grain Committee

Other Committees, Sections and Project Teams

Alternative Land Use Project Team
Animal Feedingstuffs Project Team
Animal Health Project Team
IFA Aquaculture
Climate Change & Renewables Project Team
IFA Countryside Project Team
Direct Payments Project Team
Economics Section
National Environment & Rural Affairs Committee
National Farm Business Committee
National Farm Family & Social Affairs Committee
National Farm Forestry Committee
Flood Project Team
Fresh Milk Producers
Hill Farming Committee
Horse Project Team
Horticulture Committee
Inputs Project Team
Oireachtas Liaison
National Potato Committee
National Poultry Committee
Retailer, Processor and Consumer Relations Project Team
Roads Project Team
National Rules, Privileges and Procedures Committee
National Rural Development & Less Favoured Areas Committee
SACs Project Team

National Livestock Committee

Achievements and Work Done in 2013

Cattle Prices

Cattle prices increased by 6% in 2013 to average €4.28/kg for R3 grade steers. Store and weanling cattle prices were also strong in 2013 moving up towards 2012 levels for the second half of the year.

€/kg incl Vat	2010	2011	2012	2013
Steers	3.06	3.59	4.06	4.28
Heifers	3.15	3.69	4.21	4.47
Y Bulls	3.06	3.59	4.08	4.22
Cows	2.55	3.04	3.49	3.50

IFA had two strong cattle price campaigns in 2013. Prices were maximised during the spring following the horse meat scandal, with prices peaking at about €4.63 in June. When prices came under pressure from July/Aug, IFA lobbied hard against factory price cuts, exposed the unacceptable gap with the UK prices and together with retail protests stabilised the autumn price above €3.90/kg.

The main markets for Irish beef in 2013 were UK, France, Italy, Holland, Sweden, Germany, Spain and other EU countries. The main live export markets were Holland, Belgium, Northern Ireland, GB, Italy, Spain, Libya and Tunisia.

Cattle Supplies, Live Exports and Marts

Cattle slaughtering at the meat plants increased by over 100,000 head or 8% in 2012. IFA secured the reopening of the live trade to Libya in 2013 after being closed for 16 years. IFA worked closely with shippers, exporters and the DAFM to secure veterinary certificates and vessels. IFA also worked hard on opening up the UK live market including alternative ferry access. Live exports grew by over 30% or almost 50,000 head in 2013. Live exports provided a vital market outlet for calves and weanlings to EU markets. IFA worked closely with the marts in 2013 on various issues from the impact of the marts regulator to QA and the collapse of TLT.

Price Information

Throughout 2013, IFA provided vitally important price and market information through the agricultural media and bi-weekly texting as well as through the IFA app on iFarm and on twitter.

Retail

IFA worked to highlight the importance of cattle prices to farm income with retailers such as Tesco, Super Value, Aldi, Lidl and other food service customers.

Quality, QPS and Quality Assurance

IFA secured an increase in the in-spec QPS bonus from 6c to 12c/kg worth about €44 per head. IFA continues to pursue changes on quality assurance, age, marts and other issues.

New Suckler Genomic Scheme

IFA led a strong campaign for a new suckler scheme culminating in an additional €33m funding in the October budget. The new Genomic scheme will involve DNA testing and combined with the €20 Beef Data programme is worth €60 per cow. Beef discussion group funding of €5m for 2013 was also secured.

CAP Reform

The National Livestock Committee played a key role in minimising the impact of the Ciolos CAP Reform in 2013 and protecting the Single Farm Payment. IFA work focused on maintaining the CAP budget, opposing flattening and regionalisation, securing variable greening, the importance of coupling for vulnerable sectors and the need to retain strong Pillar II payments for dry stock farmers. The Livestock Committee led a strong campaign on CAP Implementation and specific payments for suckler and other vulnerable sectors backed up by a strong report commissioned from UCD on the importance of the Cattle and Sheep sectors.

Weather Crisis

IFA secured €3m Government funding in transport subsidy for the importation of over 10,000t of fodder to alleviate the fodder crisis.

Canada and World Trade

IFA drove the campaign, including national protests to minimise the damage to the beef sector from the EU/Canadian trade deal. IFA continues to highlight the threat from the US TTIP and Mercosur negotiations.

Direct Payments

IFA secured a 50% advance on the SFP from October 16th and through strong lobbying secured payments to over 122,000 farmers (99%) worth €1.2bn by year end.

Priorities for 2014

Incomes

Improving livestock farms incomes through strong cattle prices, price information and competition, buoyant markets, live exports outlets and strong direct payments.

Cattle Prices/Market/Live Exports

IFA will apply maximum pressure to optimise cattle prices and competition in 2013 including opening new beef and live cattle markets.

CAP 2013

IFA will continue its strong campaign on CAP focusing on implementation as per the June 2013 agreement and protecting the Single farm payment and livestock farm incomes.

Trade Deals

IFA will campaign strongly against the damaging aspects of EU bilateral trade deals with the US and Mercosur.

Farm Schemes/Budget

IFA will continue its strong campaign to reverse Government cuts to the Farm Schemes and secure payments targeted at vulnerable sectors including a strong suckler payment.

Direct Payments

IFA will negotiate a new Charter of Rights for Farmers and insist on full payments within the deadlines set down.

Henry Burns
Chairman

Kevin Kinsella
Director of Livestock

National Dairy Committee

2013 was a year of contrasts: poor weather and fodder shortages till June, high winter feeding costs into late spring, dry hot summer, and good extended grazing conditions at year end. Global milk supply shortages during 2012 and early 2013, robust demand from China and others in need of replenishing stocks caused commodity and milk prices to rise in all regions. International commodity prices peaked in April, eased slightly before rising again. Supplies started picking up from the end of summer, especially in NZ, the US and the EU, but with good demand, prices reacted only modestly to the much increased output.

Further steps were taken in the consolidation of the Irish dairy industry: the GILL development of the Belview site started, the Dairygold development plans were debated by suppliers before and at their 2013 AGM, and Wexford Milk Producers voted for a buyout by GILL in December.

Achievements and Work Done in 2013

Milk price campaign

The National Dairy Committee closely monitored market developments, and produced factual briefing documents, regularly updated, to help members lobby their co-op boards. This helped identify and maximise milk price increases made possible by buoyant markets throughout the year, in the face of the fodder crisis and rising feed costs. From January to December 13, milk prices rose by approximately 7c/l from 31 to 37c/l + VAT.

From the autumn of 2013, the Committee's campaign focused on highlighting the €80m of market buoyancy not passed back to farmers during the year, and the opportunity it creates for co-ops to pay a top up on all supplies, as well as holding current prices well into 2014.

Quality Assurance and Sustainability scheme

The Management Committee acted as backroom team to help the Chairman and Secretary, representing IFA on the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) negotiate the details of the new Dairy QA and Sustainability scheme throughout the year. The requirements of the scheme and its compliance procedures needed adjustments to ensure that no dairy farmer making a reasonable effort would fail to qualify, with multiple chances to put problems right. There were 14 meetings of the TAC over the last 18 months, and at IFA's insistence over 20 pilot audits were carried out for co-op boards and other stakeholders during the summer of 2013. All these have helped develop a practical scheme which the vast majority of dairy farmers can achieve. The scheme was approved by INAB in early December and launched on 11th December 2013. Implementation will start from the beginning of next year, and will take a couple of years. IFA emphasised very strongly with co-ops, the Irish Dairy Board and Bord Bia the crucial work of communication with ordinary farmers which now lies ahead, as well as the support which will be required from co-op field officers to help farmers prepare for the audits and close-out non-compliances.

Industry consolidation

The Committee engaged with Dairygold and obtaining clarifications and modifications of their milk supply contract to meet legitimate supplier concerns, in the weeks prior to the AGM. The Committee also engaged with Wexford Milk Producers/Creamery and with GILL to support their coming together, and to convey ordinary producers' concerns. The IFA involvement at national and local level resulted in some improvements in the proposed deal, which was passed by 57% of WMP shareholders.

Proposal for the taxation of compulsory co-op share purchases

Co-ops such as Dairygold and Carbery, and possibly GILL after 2015, are seeking to align their shareholder register with their milk supplies. This is a desirable development recommended in the last couple of years by IFA, but the cost it adds to farmer's expansion plans is not negligible. With a view to easing same, IFA has developed a strong case, presented to the Departments of Finance and Agriculture as part of our pre-budget campaign, for the treatment of compulsory co-op share purchases as necessary business expenses. While the proposed measure did not make it to the Budget 2014, it was well received by both Departments.

It will be further followed up as part of the forthcoming farm taxation review flagged by Minister Coveney.

Priorities for 2014

Milk prices

The Committee will seek the continuation of current levels of prices well into 2014. We will monitor market developments and adjust our strategy accordingly as prices ease later in 2014. The Committee will investigate strategies to mitigate the impact of margin volatility.

Implementation of QAS scheme

IFA will press for a strong industry communication effort to demonstrate to farmers the value, including financial, of the QAS scheme. IFA will monitor the early implementation of the new Dairy QAS scheme to ensure it beds down with minimum difficulties for farmers.

Taxation review and CAP Reform implementation

The Committee will feed into both the farm taxation review initiated by Minister Coveney arising from the 2014 budget, and the detailed implementation of the new CAP Pillars I and II to seek measures favouring on-farm dairy investment in all regions and on all land types.

Engagement with Discussion Groups

IFA will establish a relationship with local Discussion Groups in order to provide them with policy insights they are not currently gaining and to strengthen the links with IFA.

Kevin Kiersey
Chairman
National Dairy Committee

Catherine Lascurettes
Executive Secretary

National Liquid Milk Committee

2013 was a difficult year for liquid milk producers, many of whom covered costs only because the manufacturing milk price on which their pricing formula is based rose significantly. Increased winter feed costs in 2012/13 and the 2013 fodder crisis affected those specialist producers especially. At retail level, branded sales have continued to be displaced by retailers' private labels, with the latter's volumes exceeding 60% of sales, affecting the balance of margins available to remunerate the entire chain. However, dairies were able to obtain wholesale price increases due to significantly increased costs at production and processing levels.

The National Dairy Council campaign, which encourages retailers to offer consumers the choice of locally produced and processed milk, despite some negative publicity from NI industry, has convinced more retailers to source at least some of their Private Label product from an NDC marked supplier. Towards the end of the year, Tesco introduced a third price point in the NDC marked milk offering, with PL price at €1.69/2l, a new proprietary brand "Creamfield" at €1.49/2l (supplied by Glanbia), and a lower branded price. The impact on both chain margins and competitors' offerings will not appear until the New Year.

Achievements and Work Done in 2013

Liquid milk price campaign "We're Going Broke Supplying Milk"

The purpose of the campaign was to highlight the risk to availability of fresh, high quality, local product on supermarket shelves year-round at a time when the economic sustainability of specialist liquid milk producers is under threat;

Rising feed and other input costs were highlighted, calculations published based on work done by Dr Joe Patton of Teagasc for IFA and for NMA. IFA calculated that to cover costs and pay themselves a modest wage, liquid milk producers would need an annualised average price of 40c/l across the 12 months of 2013;

Public protests organised by the Committee saw milk producers give away free fresh milk in Dublin City Centre, interacting with consumers and the public on the theme "We're Going Broke Supplying Milk". This was followed by leafleting of retail outlets by producers in all areas producer groups could cover. Excellent media coverage and public awareness were achieved.

The IFA campaign gave rise to hearings in the Oireachtas Committee on Agriculture with producer and retailer representatives heard by the TDs and Senators, and a recommendation issuing late in the year in favour of regulation of retailers.

Committee members were all supplied with detailed price calculations to assist with individual group's negotiations, especially to help them build their argumentation with dairies to pay them the equivalent of the break-even price. The Chairman and Secretary also met with the dairies to raise our concerns on the inadequacy of prices and pricing formulae.

The IFA campaign clearly established the fact that liquid milk production is no longer remunerated at the level and through the structures it needs to be to secure year-round fresh locally produced supplies. By year end, 2013 annualised liquid milk prices averaged at close to the identified break-even point of 40c/l.

Retailer relations

The Committee Chairman and Secretary met all retailers to highlight the margin pressures on primary producers and urge them to find ways to improve distribution of chain remuneration to

help farmers reach break-even of 40c/l annualised. It is clear that our well documented case was well accepted and recognised as genuine by retailers, and contributed to helping dairies negotiate harder to secure wholesale price increases during the year. However, falling consumer spend and the priority given to maintaining retail margins and fighting for market share will clearly continue to be an issue into 2014.

A new "IFA Retail Milk Barometer" to highlight publicly the degree to which different retailers support NDC marked milk, was launched in Spring. It captured the imagination of the media, and got good press coverage.

Priorities for 2014

Milk prices and pricing formulae

With fast rising volumes of sales through private label, the average retail price of a litre of milk will continue to fall. The old formulae which were reliant on branded sales will no longer suffice but the Committee will show there is room for some margin redistribution.

The Committee will continue to support producer groups with information and PR activity to assist with their milk price negotiations and necessary changes to their pricing systems.

Retail activity

The Committee will renew its "Retail Barometer" to highlight the greater commitment from some retailers to NDC marked milk produced and processed in the Rol.

The Committee will maintain a relationship with retailers, to ensure they fully appreciate the economic realities of liquid milk production, and the importance of delivering a fair share of retail returns.

Teddy Cashman
Chairman
National Liquid Milk Committee

Catherine Lascurettes
Executive Secretary

National Sheep Committee

Achievements and Work Done

Lamb Prices and Market

At an average of €4.80/kg lamb prices were maintained at close to 2012 levels of €4.89/kg. Prices peaked at €6.00/kg in May. Mid-summer prices exceeded 2012 levels for several weeks driven by strong live export competition. Strong IFA price campaigns in April/May for early lamb and during the main summer selling months. IFA campaigned strongly on lamb prices every week in 2013 outlining the top prices being obtained by farmers through effective text, app and agri media communications. Lamb supplies increased by 9% or about 195,000 head in 2013.

Promotion and Retail

IFA worked closely with Bord Bia and retailers in 2013 maximising consumption and returns on the domestic market in a difficult austerity environment. IFA met with all of the main retailers highlighting the importance of the lamb category and issues of concern to producers and consumers. IFA strongly promoted an increase in the number of farmers involved in Quality Assurance and securing a QA bonus at factory level. IFA organised lamb forums with both the French and the UK on prices and markets. IFA assisted producer groups throughout 2013.

Live Exports

IFA succeeded in opening the live export trade for lamb to Libya for the first time ever this year. Over 21,000 lambs were exported to Libya providing strong price competition during the peak summer months. IFA worked with the Department of Agriculture, shippers and exporters to secure veterinary certificates and boats to get the trade going. In total live exports exceeded 68,000 head, double 2012 numbers. Germany, Italy and France were the main markets.

Hill Lamb

IFA organised a conference on hill farming including a session on the hill lamb market in Tuam Co Galway. Teagasc have also commenced important research work on hill lamb production, market specification and economics.

Sheep Grassland Payment

Following a strong IFA campaign, Minister Coveney restored the Sheep Grassland Scheme in Budget 2014 and increased funding by €1m to €15m. Payments are scheduled in mid-December.

Sheep Discussion Groups(STAP)

IFA secured €3m in funding for Sheep Discussion Groups in Budget 2014 at a payment rate of about €800 per producer.

CAP 2013

The National Sheep Committee campaigned for a strong for CAP for a sheep sector and a strong targeted payment for vulnerable sectors like sheep who are dependent on direct payments. IFA continues to push this issue in the CAP implementation decisions.

Sheep Ireland

IFA continued to work to develop and implement a strong Sheep Breeding Programme in 2013 including progress with the CPT and MALP flocks and Lamb Plus and STAP Programmes. Over 50% of pedigree rams had Eurostar figures at sale this year. In addition IFA Sheep Chairman was elected chairman of Sheep Ireland.

Teagasc

IFA worked with Teagasc to develop both the Sheep Advisory and Research programmes on sheep. The Sheep research programme in Athenry is now well developed and capable of delivering real research benefits to farmers. In addition a new head sheep advisor was appointed and the advisory team strengthened.

Sheep Tagging and EID

IFA continued to adopt a minimalist approach to EID on sheep identification minimising costs and bureaucracy on farmers. IFA has highlighted the problems of lack of proper tolerances, cross compliance, welfare/sore ears and the one tag for life issue with EID implementation at both Department and EU level.

Dog Control

IFA introduced an effective campaign on responsible dog control including a radio advertising campaign and media coverage. In addition IFA undertook a set of meetings with all dog wardens in association with the Department of the Environment.

TAMS for Fencing and Handling Equipment

IFA encouraged producers to apply for 40% grant aid under the TAMS on fencing and handling equipment. Payments of €225k in 2012 and €384k in 2013.

Priorities for 2013

Lamb Prices and Incomes

IFA will continue to work to ensure the strongest possible lamb prices and improve incomes for sheep farmers in 2013. New markets for both processed lamb and live lamb will be pursued.

Promotions

IFA will work to maximise the returns from both the domestic and export markets through strong promotion with Bord Bia and working with retailers and processors.

Direct Payments

IFA will insist on prompt payments of all Direct Payments to sheep farmers including SFP, DAs, SGS and STAP in 2014.

CAP 2013

IFA will insist that sheep farmers are properly protected in the CAP 2013 implementation.

James Murphy
Chairman

Kevin Kinsella
Director of Livestock

National Pigs and Pigmeat Committee

Achievements and Work Done in 2013

IFA DNA Scheme

IFA Pigs Committee launched their DNA Traceability Scheme in 2012. The aim of this scheme was to combat misleading labelling in retailers, food service, butchers and restaurants. We strongly believe that consumers should be clearly informed of the origin of the pigmeat products they are buying. This scheme will enable IFA to inform their members categorically of the origin of meat while encouraging retailers to be honest in their labelling.

DNA testing of pigmeat products began in February of this year. Initial results of the testing over a 7 month period were released in November 2013. From almost 300 samples that were tested during this period over 50% did not match the Irish DNA database and therefore were of non-Irish origin. Brands including Thurles Bacon, J.Crowe & Sons, Glensallagh, Bradleys and Templetouhy Farm Fresh Foods were all found to be using pigmeat of non-Irish origin in their products, while using branding and imagery that would suggest otherwise. Dunnes Stores, one of Ireland's two major indigenous retailers also fared poorly in relation to its own brand St.Bernard, with only half of samples tested matching the Irish boar database. IFA will continue to test those who had poor results in the initial sampling and also target others going forward. Bord Bia are also testing Quality Assured products against the Irish boar database. To date, there has been no issues with Quality Assured pigmeat products on the supermarket shelves.

IFA have met with a number of companies that are interested in carrying out self certification programmes which is positive. In July 2013, IFA agreed to work with Carty Meats to promote the use of the 'DNA Certified' Programme at store level. It was agreed that the project would be trialled for a 6 month period and therefore will come up for review in early 2014. As part of the programme Carty Meats must use the DNATraceback logo on all products that are eligible under the Bord Bia Pig Quality Assurance Scheme. For any non-Irish products, country of origin must be clearly labelled in an agreed font size. It was also agreed that an educational programme for consumers would be put in place. Musgraves have had a number of marketing campaigns to promote the DNATraceback label at store level.

Pig Prices

Irish prices averaged €1.66/kg in 2013 (to 30th Nov) compared to €1.57/kg in 2012 and 1.43/kg in 2011 for the same period (January to end Nov). Irish prices averaged just 94% of EU prices of €1.76/kg (2012 92%). The differential arose most severely in July to October when Ireland fell to 33c/kg below the EU average; this occurred when pig prices in the Europe rose to their highest level (€1.95/kg last week in August). Prices rose strongly in the EU but due to a falloff in demand and the close of various markets, prices have dropped towards the end of the year (8c/kg in November). To date (week 1-48), pig slaughter numbers in the South are approximately 2.3% (62,399) behind the previous year. Sows slaughtering are back 393 head year on year for the same period in 2012. PRRS and EU Welfare Regulations are the two main reasons that slaughter numbers have decreased in 2013.

Retail Synopsis: Over the last number of years, IFA has secured an ever increasing level of shelf space for Irish meat (i.e. product carrying the Quality Assurance logo at retail level). The most recent Bord Bia audit shows that 92% of pork products carry the QA logo, while 72% of bacon products carry the logo.

Feed Prices

The trend of high feed prices in 2012 has eased back for pig producers in 2013. In January 2013 feed alone accounted for 140c/kg of total production costs. Since then prices have 20c/kg to 120c/kg of total

production costs for November 2013. Prices have fallen gradually throughout the year with finisher rations decreasing by approximately €50/tonne since the beginning of 2013. The average cost of production in November 2013 was €1.70/kg. .

PRRS (Blue Ear)

IFA Pigs Committee held numerous meetings following the PRRS outbreak in April 2013. Following news of the outbreak, IFA met with Hermitage immediately to prevent importation of A.I. from mainland Europe in order to protect the health of the Irish pig herd. IFA have also been involved in drawing up new protocols for the testing of semen for National sale (both ROI & NI) through the National Pig Health Council. IFA held a meeting of PRRS affected farmers in November 2013 where a strategy was agreed in relation to compensation and a meeting arranged the same day with Hermitage. Following this, affected farmers received a letter of offer from Hermitage.

Welfare

Following the PRRS outbreak earlier in 2013, farmers were more conscious than ever about on farm biosecurity. This caused issues for producers to have the work completed on time to comply with EU welfare regulation. IFA secured an extension for completion of works from September 2013 to the end of February 2014 under the TAMS sow welfare scheme.

Priorities for 2014

Pig prices

IFA will focus on the margin between producer, processor and retailer to ascertain where the profit is disappearing, negotiating with all sections of the food chain to increase prices and to ensure that these prices reach producers. The pigs committee is looking at a number of options to give farmers more power in negotiations. IFAs DNA Scheme will also have an impact on pig prices as we enter 2014. Primary processors have already noted the increase enquiries by secondary processors in Irish produce following IFAs media campaign in November this year.

Feed Prices

A committee priority is to ensure costs of production are kept as low as possible. IFA will continue to negotiate with millers on behalf of pig producers to ensure costs remain as low as possible.

Promotions and Marketing

Despite the increasing level of QA product on retail shelves, retailers will take any opportunity to import product particularly at times of shortage which could be an issue this year following herd liquidations for welfare compliance. Following intensive lobbying from a number of countries including Ireland, Country of Origin labelling is being introduced. IFA will push for the early introduction of this legislation as well as an extension of the legislation to food service. IFA will continue to use the results of the DNA testing programme to expose those that are undercutting the market for pigmeat in Ireland and put pressure on companies to use more Irish pig meat.

Pat O'Flaherty
Chairman

Deirdre O'Shea
Executive

National Grain Committee

Achievements and Work Done in 2013

Harvest 2013 delivers 2.2mt

Crop yields for the 2013 harvest were up significantly for most growers compared to the dismal performance in 2012. However, spring barley yields were disappointing on the lighter drier soils in some of the traditional malting barley areas with both yields and proteins affected. Winter oilseed rape yields were disappointing following the difficult sowing conditions, poor weather and soil conditions right up until early May. Overall cereal production was up by 22% but spot harvest prices were down by 30%. Growers who had forward sold did significantly better.

Quality harvest

In a turnaround to 2012, bushel weights for the majority of cereal crops surpassed the norm with spring barley off the combine busheling from 63kph to 66kph, winter barley up over 70kph and wheat from the mid 70's to over 80kph for much of the spring crop.

Forward selling has a key role in managing price risk

Forward selling has an important role as a price risk management tool. The considerable drop in world prices at harvest saw many growers' incomes down for the second year running despite the good yields and excellent quality grain. Farmers who forward sold earlier fared much better.

Malting barley pricing mechanism secures strong price for 2013 malting barley crop

The default price of €169/t green for the 2013 crop was once again significantly ahead of EU prices which collapsed at harvest due to bountiful malting supplies across the EU. Growers who took the opportunity to forward sell a portion of their crop fared significantly better. IFA / Boortmalt funded research through UCD is focusing on resolving the protein dilemma.

Upfront pricing on ag-chemicals puts downward pressure on margins

Despite manufacturer and distributor resistance, the ongoing development of upfront pricing for agri-chemicals with Boortmalt is forcing competitors and suppliers to cut margins.

Price campaign delivers for green growers

With world prices significantly down on 2012, a strong price campaign secured €146/t to €150/t for many traditional green spring feed barley growers with €10/t to €15/t over for feed wheat. This was against the backdrop of falling maize prices and talks of €135/t off the combine for spring feed barley.

Promotion sees expansion of farm-to-farm trade boosting competition

The targeted promotion of farm-to-farm trade through the publication and distribution of over 85,000 technical feed leaflets pre-harvest saw a significant expansion of this market segment. This trade provides much needed competition particularly in a year when prices are under pressure from imports.

Input price surveys and market awareness empower growers

Publication of seed grain and agri-chemical price surveys by the IFA National Grain Committee in the national media has empowered growers to bargain for better-input prices. The bi-monthly publication of grain and wholesale feed ingredient prices creates better awareness among growers enabling them to make informed business decisions.

Priorities for 2014

Ensure that grain farmers obtain a fair deal under CAP

EU arable crop producers are the biggest losers under the Ciolas CAP reform. The imposition of greening measures solely targeted at tillage farmers is disproportionate in the extreme. The Committee has proposed numerous measures to the Department to ensure that maximum flexibility is given to growers that will allow them to comply with the greening measures but also minimise disruption and costs.

Malting business expansion

2013 saw further expansion of malt production in Ireland. The committee is working with the malsters to ensure further growth is achieved on the home front given the expansion in whiskey production but also on the export side of the business.

Promotion of price risk management

Forward selling is an important price risk management tool. The committee will be working with the trade to ensure that either party can buy or sell out of a contract at any time provided that the associated costs are met.

Development of on-line survey facility

The development of an on-line price survey facility is being investigated. This should ensure the collation of more real time information improving the quality of the service.

Farm-to-farm trade providing much needed competition

The promotion and continued expansion of farm-to-farm trade encouraging farm processing and storage of grain provides much needed competition boosting growers' incomes.

Pesticide regulations

Talks are ongoing with the PCS to ensure that any new pesticide regulations introduced will not be onerous on farmers.

Trailer / axle weights

The committee is working with the Environment Committee to ensure that the current RSA proposals are amended to reflect the increased load carrying capacity.

Lorry height restrictions

The committee is working with the Environment Committee to ensure that the restrictions are amended for the transport of agricultural produce.

Nitrates review

Scutch control in malting and seed grain crops is becoming a problem for many dedicated growers. The committee has proposed to the Department that growers would be allowed to spray up to 30% of the area post-harvest. The targeted use of phosphorous for winter sown crops and some spring sown crops on high P soils must be allowed for to boost productivity.

IFA funded Teagasc break crop research programme

This programme will commence in 2014

Noel Delany
Chairman
IFA National Grain Committee

Fintan Conway
Executive Secretary
IFA National Grain Committee

Alternative Land Use Project Team

Work Done and Achievements in 2013

National Bioenergy Strategy

IFA made a submission to the National Bioenergy Strategy, which looked for input from stakeholders on Resources, Demand Side Issues, Supply Side Issues, Support Mechanisms, District Heating and Biogas. IFA stated that without a strong coherent policy that incentivise farmers to grow and mobilise biomass resource the potential opportunities offered will not be realised and targets not achieved. The submission highlighted the negatives experience of farmers that had diversified and the substantial financial losses incurred due to the ineffective policies and supports introduced by the Department of Communication, Energy and Natural Resource (DCENR).

The submission stated that if Government is committed to achieving our 2020 renewable energy targets direct investment is required. IFA identified 4 key investment areas: Biomass Public Procurement Policy, Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme, AD Support Scheme and Biomass Mobilisation Programme.

REFIT Tariff and Structures Acting as Disincentive to Market Development

IFA met with Minister Rabbitte on the current REFIT tariffs, to highlight that the price and structured of the tariffs are acting as a disincentive to the adoption biomass technology and the achievement of the bioenergy targets. IFA stated that a market support they had proven to be completely inadequate, which has resulted in many farmers removing bioenergy crops to revert back to traditional agricultural crops due to the lack of market development.

IFA Anaerobic Digestion Position Paper

The IFA position paper focussed on the potential of small on-farm anaerobic digestion (AD) has to contribute to Ireland meeting its renewable energy targets, particularly heat and transport targets. The paper addresses the key policy issues that need to be addressed to realise the potential, which include the develop of an on-farm AD strategy and action plan, simplification and guidance in relation to regulation the development of on-farm installations and the development of a new support mechanism or re-structure of the REFIT to support adoption of AD technology.

Ireland's 6.5 million cattle produce 37 million tonnes of collectable slurry over the winter housing period every year. The 1.1 million dairy cow herd will have to increase significantly to achieve the Food Harvest 2020 goal of a 50% increase in milk production by 50%. One way to efficiently and environmental sensitively manage the increased amount of animal slurry is to install approximately 1,000 on-farm AD facilities.

Priorities for 2014

- To continue to work closely with the Department of Communication, Energy and Natural Resource (DCENR) for the development of a new National Bioenergy Strategy that supports the development of viable markets and provides supports for the mobilisation of the biomass resource.
- To work with the DCENR to develop an on-farm AD strategy and action plan.

*J.J Kavanagh
Project Team Leader*

*Geraldine O'Sullivan
Executive Secretary*

Animal Feedingsuffs Project Team

Achievements and Work Done in 2013

The spring of 2013 was one of the worst in living memory for many farmers. Winter fodder supplies were extremely tight coming into the spring due to a combination of very poor grass growth in the 2nd half of 2012, saturated / damaged soils and extremely early housing. Most farmers were banking on an early turnout to grass to save the day. Unfortunately, this did not happen and with early season grass growth running up to two months late paddocks and silage ground were grazed bare by early May. Farmers country wide were faced with an unprecedented fodder crisis and the situation was compounded by high concentrate feed costs. Even straw supplies had run out by mid-spring.

IFA imports UK, French and Dutch fodder

A decision was taken by IFA to source fodder supplies in the UK. A supply line was set up through a UK company called Ramsak. It became clear very quickly that the supplies of quality UK hay and other forages were being exhausted and that Irish buyers were getting sucked into a Dutch auction situation. At this stage a decision was taken to source hay from the continent and to supply it to farmers at first cost (€120/t). This immediately deflated the developing price bubble. All in all over 20,000t of hay (4,000t from France & 1,500t from Holland), haylage, straw and maize silage were sourced and imported through the IFA system.

One Million euro fodder fund established by IFA

A €1m plus fodder fund established by the IFA was instrumental in forcing the Minister for Agriculture to up the Government's contribution and extension of the scheme to livestock marts, other co-ops and private merchants

Project Team secures extension of Government fodder aid scheme

Lobbying by the team aided by the Livestock committee secured extension of the aid to other outlets (non-dairy co-ops) throughout the country ensuring that all livestock farmers had access to imported fodder.

Weekly grain and feed ingredient price update increase price transparency

The weekly publication of the grain and feed ingredient price information increases price transparency. It enables farmers to bargain for keener quotes for straights and compound feeds.

Technical feed information bulletin delivers cost saving options for feeders

The publication and distribution of grain processing and storage options coupled with sample feed formulations farmers allowed many farmers to purchase cereals off the combine at harvest, delivering significant savings.

Priorities for 2013

Shortening the feed supply chain

To continue working closely with the Grain Committee and the Inputs Project Team to ensure that the feed supply is shortened and unnecessary costs are removed.

Grain promotion, processing and storage options

Further promote, with the Grain Committee, on farm processing and storage options. This will facilitate increased farm-to-farm trade, maximising the use of native grain while reducing feeders' costs and improving animal performance.

Meetings with compound feed millers

Maintain relationships with the main mills and importers to ensure that excessive margins are not being sought at the expense of livestock producers.

Hedging options for feeders

Continue to advocate hedging allowing livestock farmers to hedge against adverse compound feed and feed ingredient price movements.

Eddie Downey
Deputy President

Fintan Conway
Executive Secretary

Animal Health Project Team

Achievements and Work Done in 2013

BVD

The first year of the compulsory BVD Eradication programme has been a success with 2 million calves tested, representing over 98% of all calves registered. At the end of November, less than 600 herds had not submitted a sample for testing. The programme identified over 14,000 PIs, with 10,000 removed from farms and the remaining animals restricted from movement. Costs in the scheme have been kept to a minimum and supports secured for suckler farmers who lose 2 or more calves. IFA has ensured that all farmers who took part in the voluntary programme in 2012 were given the opportunity to become fully compliant and have the year counted as one of the three years tissue testing required. IFA also secured an extension to the application date for both the 2012 and 2013 support payments ensuring all farmers who applied and met the conditions would receive payment.

TB

In the past four years the herd incidence of TB has dropped from 5.09% in 2009 to 3.55% to the end of September 2013, for the same period the APT is down from 2.66 to 1.71. The reactor numbers have dropped from 23,805 in 2009 to 10,639 to the end of September 2013. These represent the lowest figures recorded for TB in the country. IFA achieved a postponement to the Department of Agriculture proposal which prohibits the purchase in of cattle to restricted herds until the herd has undergone a TB test. This issue however will need to be addressed for 2014.

Brucellosis

Testing in 2013 was reduced to only 20% of all herds in the country with the 60 day pre-movement test 'one movement' rule removed. IFA met with the Minister for Agriculture in Northern Ireland, Michele O'Neill and received a strong commitment that Northern Ireland was pursuing brucellosis free status by 2015. This would provide the basis for further relaxation to the controls in place in the South.

Schmallenberg

IFA ensured the vaccine for the Schmallenberg virus was made available to Irish farmers without having to complete the full licensing process, this ensured farmers who deemed it necessary could implement a vaccination programme in advance of the high risk period for their animals. IFA was to the fore in information meetings being held and in communications by the Department of Agriculture with farmers and ensured the Department on a continual basis provided the most up to date advice in order to allow informed decisions to be taken in how best individual farmers could manage the risk on their farms.

BSE

All clean slaughter animals were removed from the BSE testing requirement in 2013 which is worth €5m annually in direct savings for farmers.

Fallen Animals

IFA achieved a reversal of the Department of Agriculture proposal to amend dog feeding licenses which would have impacted severely on some knacker outlets for product and as a result increased the collection charges for farmers. IFA have also strongly rejected the Department of Agriculture's recent imposition of 125km maximum distance for rendering in the TSE subsidy scheme for the collection of over 48 month old animals.

Johnes

A Pilot scheme for 1,000 farmers has been launched with €200,000 Government support and €100/participant farmer payment from co-ops. The objective of the scheme is to help in identifying the full cost of Johnes control for farmers and to test the main elements which would be included in a National programme. IFA received a commitment from all stakeholders that a national programme will not be imposed on farmers until an equitable and fair cost sharing model is developed.

Animal Health and Welfare Bill

IFA was involved in detailed discussions and lobbying of Department Officials, TDs and senators on the main issues of concern to farmers. Some concessions/relaxations achieved in particular in regard to the powers of non-Department of Agriculture AOs and disease compensation schemes.

Priorities for 2014

TB

Ensure the incidence and numbers of reactors continue to reduce and the removal of unnecessary controls and restrictions. Protect the compensation schemes.

BVD

Ensure the BVD eradication programme continues to meet its objectives and the monitoring phase returns a reduction in costs for farmers

Johnes

Establish the full cost of on farm Johnes control is identified and an equitable cost sharing model is developed for a National programme

Veterinary Medicine

Ensure the EU veterinary medicine regulations do not reduce the supply routes of medicines and single licensing of veterinary medicine products for the EU. No increase in the level of recording for farmers.

Deer management

Maintain the renewed interest shown by Government and progress the establishment of a management programme

John Waters
Chairman

Tomas Bourke
Executive Secretary

IFA Aquaculture Section

Achievements and Work Done in 2013

Aquaculture licensing

Cromane/Castlemaine in Co. Kerry became the first bay to be licensed under the Appropriate Assessment process for projects in Natura 2000 Areas. Fifty individual licences were issued. The delays caused two members to take a high court case for loss of earnings against the Minister which was appealed by the Department to the Supreme Court. The issuing of licences also generated an appeal on grounds of principle by environmental NGOs against an oyster and clam farm, delaying licences even further. IFA hopes to secure a meeting with the independent appeals board (ALAB) to assess and discuss their planned handling of a potential 600 appeals cases. Appropriate Assessments have been completed in Swilly, roaringwater and Clew bays with further work progressing in Kenmare and elsewhere. Progress to date in processing Appropriate Assessments has been delayed by the interference of far too many state bodies and agencies, with some, such as Inland Fisheries Ireland, having policies of using taxpayers money to object to every single finfish project considered by the state for licensing.

Production and Policy

Further losses associated with algal blooms and jellyfish following the warm summer of 2013 hit shellfish and finfish producers, while mortalities continued to occur in oysters. Prices for salmon and oysters remained high throughout the year with mussels remaining steady despite lower production in France. Organic certification has been extended into the shellfish sector and is paying dividends in higher margins despite higher production costs. Globally, all aquaculture continued to expand, overtaking wild fisheries as the main source of seafood. In 2013, Aquaculture overtook global beef production in volume and value terms.

Aquacomms

IFA Aquaculture was involved in a targeted communications and information campaign using social media and a specific PR plan with associated training for industry members in 2013. The two fold aim of rebutting the huge increase in anti-fish farming press generated by IFI and NGO objectors as well as producing pro-active stories is a priority and will continue with more targeted campaigning in 2014 instead of majoring on reaction to bad press only. It was particularly disappointing to see assistance to licence objections and against government policy under Harvest 2020 continued to be provided by Inland Fisheries Ireland - a state agency under the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources that acts on behalf of the angling sector. IFI also produced a report in 2013 which hugely inflated the value of angling to the economy and, despite repeated requests, refused to release detailed sectoral figures relating to game angling. The main impact of this and other lobbying has been to re-open a European Court of Justice case against the Irish Government which questions the national sea lice monitoring regime. It is expected that the case will be closed once again once the current evidence is examined early in 2014.

Common Fisheries Policy Review

The Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) reform extended throughout 2013, with key issues on Aquaculture (European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and the Common Market Organisation) not resolved until the fourth quarter. The European Commission in May 2013, following discussions with IFA and our umbrella federations in the EU issued a very positive communication on aquaculture development

calling for reduction of red tape, a level playing pitch with third country imports and more efficient licensing of aquaculture. The CFP reform also envisages a new advisory structure, the Aquaculture Advisory Council for the EU, which has been the subject of much debate within the industry which aims to continue the successful dialogue built on consensus EU predictions and detailed preparatory meetings with the Commission. IFA proposed and was centrally involved in a special “Aquaculture In Motion” event held in Brussels in October to highlight and inform member states’ responsibilities relating to national operational plans for aquaculture under the 2014-2020 EMFF funds.

Sustainability

IFA Aquaculture hosted a special meeting in Dublin in May where the European document on aquaculture succession “Streaming Sustainability” was launched by Minister Coveney and the IFA President, John Bryan. The document and launch was the initiative of IFA aquaculture and won praise from other EU member states and the European Commission for its forthright and clear promotion of the concepts of sustainability and the practical application of the policy to handing the industry onto the next generation of fish and shellfish farmers.

Projects

IFA Aquaculture was involved on behalf of members during 2012 in a number of important projects with practical application for Irish farmers:

Euroshell – following a successful workshop in Kinsale in September 2013, this project will be finalised in March 2014 resulting in a report examining diseases in molluscs and develop management strategies, in particular for oyster herpes virus

Bivalife – a joint project with Dutch and French producers looking in particular at mortality issues in Oysters

European Aquaculture Technology Platform – to introduce and modify research and technical progress internationally to apply to EU industry

Priorities for 2013

- IFA’s main priority will be to reduce the backlog and red tape associated with licence processing and achieve a more user-friendly, responsive aquaculture licencing system which is open and transparent for licensees, has clear deadlines for processing applications and is flexible enough to allow farmers to adjust holdings to accommodate new techniques and technology while working better within their physical environment. This can only be achieved through significant re-organisation within the Department of Agriculture and prioritisation of licensing and reduction in the backlog of 600 licence applications within a defined timeframe.
- To Develop Aquaculture more and use monies available under the EMFF and Horizon 2020 to achieve : A survey of public attitudes towards the industry; An assessment of costs and potential implementation of onshore finfish farming to market size in Ireland, an Antibiotic usage survey, a review of oyster production priorities in Ireland, improving prices and marketing outlets for Irish mussels.

Jerry Gallagher
Chairman

Richie Flynn
Executive Secretary

Climate Change & Renewables Project Team

Achievements and Work Done in 2013

Climate Conference Focuses on Ireland's sustainable model of Food Production

In January the Association ran a climate conference titled *Growing the Agri-Food Sector Sustainably – Developing a Sustainable Climate Plan for the Sector*. Minister for the Environment Phil Hogan T.D., IFA President John Bryan, United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation representative Alenandre Meybeck and speakers from Teagasc, the EPA, NESCC, the Department of Agriculture, Bord Bia and Glanbia addressed the conference.

This conference sent a clear message to policy makers that any proposed climate policy must recognise the emission efficient credentials of the sector and supports sustainable expansion to achieve *Food Harvest 2020* growth targets.

Joint Oireachtas Committee Provide Climate Policy Direction to Minister Hogan

In July IFA addressed the Joint Oireachtas Environment Committee, who were tasked with advising Minister Hogan regarding future climate policy. The Association's presentation highlighted the significant reduction in emissions from the sector, the emission efficient model of food production in Ireland, the importance of the agri-food sector to the national economy, the necessity to ensure that climate policy does not restrict the growth potential of the sector and the need to address the issue of food security and resource stress at international negotiations.

In November the Joint Oireachtas Committee published a detailed report, which makes the following proposals:

- To require Government departments to prepare sectoral plans, to achieve emission reductions.
- To establish an advisory Committee to Government on emission reduction strategies.

IFA has welcomed the decision of the Committee not to include diverse sectoral targets.

Wind Energy Policy Supports Landowners & Local Communities

IFA Executive Council adopted a wind energy policy to support landowners and local communities impacted by wind energy. The policy document recognises the opportunity for farm families, rural communities and the national economy where sustainable wind energy developments take place. The policy document calls for a range of measures to support communities living in the vicinity of wind energy projects, including the enactment of national legislation which sets out specific setback distances that turbines must be from sensitive properties, including houses.

Priorities for 2014

In Ireland:

- To ensure that forthcoming legislation does not hinder the sector's sustainable expansion plans, as set out in *Food Harvest 2020*.
- To continue discussions with the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Environment to ensure agriculture interests continue to be central to future policy development.

- On wind energy, to continue to represent the interests of members on whose lands turbines may be built and those who may live in the vicinity of such turbines.

Internationally:

- To work with DG Climate in Brussels to develop greater links between offsetting carbon emissions from livestock with carbon sequestration in forestry and soils
- To work for a fairer emission reduction target for Ireland.
- To lobby the Commission for equivalency of standards and the introduction of carbon border adjustment mechanisms, whereby the same greenhouse gas emission reduction targets are imposed on countries importing into Europe as are required of European farmers.
- To create a greater understanding of the link between food security, resource depletion and climate change in discussions with the UNFAO and the European Commission.

Jer Bergin
IFA South Leinster Vice-President
& Climate Change Project Team Chair

Thomas Ryan
Environment Executive

Countryside Project Team

Achievements and Work Done in 2013

Community texting initiative to support crime prevention in the countryside

Garda Commissioner Martin Callinan, IFA, Muintir na Tire and Neighbourhood Watch launched a joint initiative called *Community Text Alert* at the National Ploughing Championships. As part of this initiative, An Garda Siochana will send relevant text messages about suspicious activity to key IFA branch and county officers in an effort to prevent crime from taking place in local communities.

Branch chairmen and secretaries and county chairmen and secretaries will initially receive text messages from An Garda Siochana, as part of this texting initiative and the Association would like to make the service available to the wider membership.

Meetings with Garda Commission & Minister for Justice focuses on rural security

During 2013 IFA President John Bryan led delegations to meet with Garda Commissioner Martin Callinan and Minister for Justice Alan Shatter T.D. to highlight the need for increased Garda presence in rural Ireland and the need for a national texting initiative as set out above to support crime prevention in the countryside.

Rural Spring Clean Weekend

The Association's annual anti-litter campaign "The Countryside is Watching" did not take place, due to the urgency of delaying with the fodder shortage. However IFA intends to continue this campaign in 2014.

Priorities for 2014

- To continue to lobby and progress the policy measures proposed in the policy document *The Irish Countryside – A Place for living, working and enjoyment*.
- To seek changes to current litter legislation by:
 - Removing the threat of fines and prosecutions of farmers on whose lands others dump litter recklessly.
 - Introducing stricter fines and penalties for those who dump litter in the countryside.
- To work with An Garda Siochána to maximise the potential of the community texting initiative to prevent crime from taking place in rural Ireland.
- To increase the range of services offered to members involved in field sports.
- To lobby utilities such as Eircom, ESB and An Post to ensure services provided to rural dwellers are not impacted by internal restructuring and redundancies.
- To have continued interaction with rural field sport groups to ensure that access to land is by agreement only with the landowner and that these guest users of farmland have adequate legal liability insurance cover.

Eddie Downey
Deputy President
& Countryside Project Team Chair

Thomas Ryan
Environment Executive

Direct Payments Project Team

Achievements and Work Done

Payments

In 2013, a total of €1.742bn was paid out to farmers in Direct Payments.

Scheme	€M
Single Farm Payment	1,193
Disadvantaged Areas	195
REPS/AEOS	200
Sheep Grassland 2011 Scheme	13
Suckler Welfare Scheme	10
Early Retirement Scheme	12
Forestry	75
Disease Eradication	16
Dairy Discussion Groups	4.8
BTAP and STAP	9
Burren Scheme	1
Farm Investment Grant	10
Fodder Crisis	3
Total	1,742

Single Farm Payment

IFA secured a 50% advance payment from October 16th which resulted in €520m cash flow boost at a vital time of the year, particularly following the build-up of merchant credit as a result of the fodder crisis. By year end 121,500 farmers have received €1.18bn out of a total application of 123,000 applicants. Some delays occurred with a limited number of cases due to inspections and digitisation problems. Also problems with dual claims and over claims.

As result of the CAP budget cut 2014/2020 and the 1% crises reserve, a 2.45% financial discipline cut was applied to all SFP payments in 2013.

Disadvantaged Areas

DAS payments commenced on September 24th 2013. A total of €195m was paid out in 2013. This included a €10m carryover from 2012. The main reason for delays was stocking density, which can not be verified until year end in some cases.

REPS4/AEOS

€200m was paid out under REPS4 , AEOS 1 and 2 in 2013.

Land Eligibility Problems

IFA strongly criticised the Minister and the Department for their handling of land eligibility problems in 2013 resulting in clawback of up to €10m on farmers. Up to 20,000 farmers received letters from the Department outlining land area reductions in the middle of the year. IFA insisted that farmers payments would not be held up. IFA also demanded that there would be no retrospective penalties and insisted that Minister Coveney make strong representation to the EU Commission on the unfair imposition of clawback and penalties. IFA also insisted on an independent appeals mechanism to which Pdraig Gibbons was appointed as Chairman.

IFA held a large protest in July outside the Department of Agriculture on the significant increase in unfair penalties in recent years and the inspection regime. IFA insisted the DAFM publish the full details of all the inspections and penalties imposed on farmers.

Problem Cases

IFA effectively dealt with a large number of problem cases for farmers on SFP, DAs, REPS, AEOS, SCWS, SGP, FIS, TAMS and other Schemes in 2013.

Appeals

At both local and national level IFA assisted many farmers with appeal cases in 2012.

Charter of Rights

IFA has secured a commitment from Minister Coveney that a New Charter of Rights will be put in place in early 2014. The current Charter of Right implementation Committee met on a number of occasions in 2013. IFA highlighted issues covering inspections, penalties, payment delays and other problems for farmers. IFA also met with the Department of the Environment on Local Authority inspections on Nitrates.

Inspections

The Charter arrangements for notice of inspections are as follows.

- 14 days' notice of inspections for all cross compliance and land eligibility inspections with the exception of animal identification and registration and SMRs on animal feed, food and animal welfare.
- 48 hours' notice for inspections relating to animal identification and registration.
- No notice or on the spot inspections for SMR's relating to animal feed, food and animal welfare.

Priorities for 2013

Payments

IFA will insist on prompt payment across all schemes in 2014.

CAP Implementation

IFA will be involved in detailed discussions on the effective implementation of all CAP Pillar 1 and Pillar 2 schemes in 2014.

New Charter

IFA will negotiate a New Charter of Rights in 2014 covering all aspects of farm schemes focusing on payment delivery, notice, tolerances, and reduced levels of inspections and penalties. In addition, IFA will negotiate directly with the Department of the Environment on a protocol for local authority inspections.

Eddie Downey

Henry Burns

Flor McCarthy

James Murphy

Kevin Kinsella

Gerry Gunning

Thomas Ryan

Economics Section

Achievements and Work Done

Budget 2014

The Economics Section was involved in preparing the pre-Budget Submission, pre-Budget lobbying and the analysis of the Budget outcomes, in association with the Farm Business Committee.

Importance of Agriculture – A county breakdown

The IFA Economic section together with the livestock committee coordinated the development of the UCD Report on “The Importance of the Cattle and Sheep sectors to the Irish Economy”. This scientific report documents the value of the livestock sectors to the national economy and highlights the importance of direct payments and government support in underpinning farm incomes, production, agri-food output and the rural economy. The report was an integral part of the IFA’s wider CAP Pillar I, Pillar II and Budget campaigns in 2013.

CAP Post 2013 – Analysis of proposals

The Economics Section provided analysis through the year on proposals from the EU relevant to the CAP Post 2013. The Economics section, along with the other commodity sections of IFA has worked throughout the year at National and EU level (COPA-COGECA) to discuss and develop policy positions in response to the proposals.

Fiscal and Monetary Policy Developments in the Eurozone

The IFA Economics section provided ongoing analysis of the impacts of changes brought about by greater European integration and the development of the fiscal and monetary Union. The impacts at farm level of EU policy developments such as monetary policy changes in the form of the EU banking resolution mechanism and fiscal policy through the Troika budget restrictions in Budget 2014 were communicated to the Farm Business Committee at meetings and to the National Executive following Budget 2014 announcement.

Agricultural Statistics

The IFA Economics section has interpreted and disseminated statistical information from the CSO Census of Agriculture for development of IFA policy. Statistical information on the structure and performance of Irish Farms was interpreted and disseminated from data sources providers such as Teagasc’s National Farm Survey (NFS). This work supported the operations of the Farm Business Committee and other Commodity sections and well as providing general information for IFA members on the performance and structure of Irish agriculture over time.

Farm Family issues

The IFA Economic section provided a support role on social policy issues to the Farm Family Committee in 2013, including submissions on the Fair Deal scheme and Rural Social Scheme (RSS) through the IFA pre-Budget submission.

Priorities for 2014

Much of the work of the Economics Section is determined by the issues of the day and therefore cannot be planned far in advance. The following items are on the agenda for 2014.

CAP Post 2013

The Economics Section, in cooperation with IFA Brussels, will continue to develop the IFA policy position on CAP Post-2013 both in Ireland and at EU level, in COPA. The detailed operation of the CAP programme Post-2013 is currently being decided by the DAFM. IFA will continue to contribute to this process. In 2014 greater focus will be directed to the interpretation and disseminating the new programme and how it will impact upon IFA members and farmers on the ground.

Developments within Euro zone

The Economics section will continue to provide analysis and briefing material for IFA officers and members on policy developments at EU level, particularly in relation to the Eurozone crisis, the move towards greater fiscal and monetary coordination and deepening integration of the Eurozone economies.

Trade negotiations

The Economics section will provide analysis and support on developments in bilateral trade negotiations which may impact on agriculture and in particular the ongoing TTIP negotiations between the US and EU.

Review of Farm Incomes 2013

The Economics Section will prepare its full annual report on agricultural output and income, together with an analysis of various aspects of farm income and other relevant economic and statistical data, including a comment on the outlook for 2014

Rowena Dwyer
Chief Economist

Kevin Kilcline
Economist

National Environment & Rural Affairs Committee

Achievements and Work Done in 2013

Nitrates derogation penalties reduced

Following lobbying by the Association, the Department of Agriculture agreed to reduce the penalty from 15% to 5%, where a farmer has an approved derogation and exceeded the stocking limit of 250kgs N/ha/year, but the stocking rate is less than or equivalent to 300kgs N/ha/year. This will apply retrospectively from 2011 onwards.

Nitrates review must deliver greater flexibility and increased phosphorous allowances

In June the Government commenced a review of the existing nitrates regulations. Since then IFA made a detailed submission and met with the Departments of Environment and Agriculture, Teagasc and the Commission in Brussels and set out specific changes required. These include increased grassland soil P allowances, a reduction in the assumed availability of P in concentrates, changes to the definition of soiled water, continuation of the nitrates derogation, a more even spread of the volume of broiler litter that can be spread on tillage ground and the removal of the ban on winter ploughing for spring crops. The review is expected to be completed by early January.

Smart Farming - Resource efficiency initiative launched to reduce on-farm costs

IFA has developed an on-farm resource efficiency initiative called *Smart Farming* with Teagasc, UCD, EPA, the Grassland Association, SEAI, FTMTA and the National Federation of Group Water Schemes. This initiative has highlighted average cost savings of €5,500 on case study farms in the southeast, by improving output on farms. A bursary of €30,000 is in place for discussion groups that would like free on-farm cost saving studies during 2014. Full details are on www.ifarm.ie and www.smartfarming.ie.

Right to tow a trailer restored

Over 5,000 farmers who had a full licence before 1989 have applied to have the entitlement to tow a trailer restored, following the agreement reached between IFA and Transport Minister Leo Varadkar that this issue would be rectified.

Wind energy policy to support landowners and local communities

IFA Executive Council adopted a wind energy policy to support landowners and local communities impacted by wind energy. The policy document recognises the opportunity for farm families, rural communities and the national economy where sustainable wind energy developments take place. The policy document calls for a range of measures to support communities living in the vicinity of wind energy projects, including the enactment of national legislation which sets out specific setback distances that turbines must be from sensitive properties, including houses.

Undergrounding must be part of EirGrid's route design and planning process

EirGrid have 4 400kV electricity infrastructure projects at various stages of development, with the Laois-Kilkenny project most advanced, at oral hearing. A number of projects are at preferred route stage (Grid West and Meath-Tyrone) while a number of route options are out for public consultation in the southeast, as part of Grid Link.

The Committee and Council have approved a clear policy position which calls on EirGrid to ensure that undergrounding of the project is part of the planning and route design process.

Community texting initiative to support crime prevention in the countryside

Garda Commissioner Martin Callinan, IFA, Muintir na Tire and Neighbourhood Watch launched a joint initiative called *Community Text Alert* at the National Ploughing Championships. As part of this initiative, An Garda Síochána are making information received regarding suspicious activity available to key IFA branch and county officers in an effort to prevent crime from taking place in local communities.

Roads goodwill payment extended to schemes in Mayo, Kerry, Wexford, Louth and Cork

Following discussions with IFA, Minister for Transport Leo Varadkar T.D. agreed to extend the €5,000 per acre *goodwill* payment for all roads projects where landowners were in negotiations with the acquiring authorities and *Notice to Treat* was issued before December 2011. This was later extended to include the Macroom to Ballyvourney road project.

Environment Oireachtas committee publish climate report which recognises emission efficient food production

IFA addressed the Environment Oireachtas Committee during 2013 and highlighted the sustainable model of food production by farmers in Ireland and the reduction in emissions from the sector. Following this the Committee published a report in November accepting these points and supporting IFA's position that sectoral targets should not be introduced.

Priorities for 2014

- To conclude discussions with the Departments of Agriculture and Environment and the Commission as part of the current review of the nitrates regulations, to provide greater flexibility for farmers to farm based on best farming conditions rather than date of the year and to address the issue of P deficiency in soils.
- To progress discussions with the Department of Environment regarding the enactment of existing draft scrap metal legislation, and ensure it is robust enough and implemented to curb metal theft in rural Ireland.
- To continue negotiations with the Department of Transport to: 1) ensure proposed legislation regarding the use of agricultural vehicles on public roads does not impact on the competitiveness of the sector or duplicate existing legislation; 2) secure the continuation of the National Roads Agreement, which sets out additional and supplemental measures for landowners; 3) replace the existing load clearance height legislation with more workable heights and ensure additional and unnecessary costs are not added to.
- To develop the on-farm cost savings *Smart Farming* initiative by working with 30 discussion groups and highlighting ways to improve farm returns by better resource management.
- To ensure that proposed climate legislation supports the sustainable development of Ireland's emission efficient model of food production.
- To develop the community text alert initiative and other support measures for rural communities concerned about increasing crime.
- To continue to support farm families impacted by infrastructure projects such as roads, wind energy, electricity infrastructure and gas pipelines.

Harold Kingston
National Chairman

Thomas Ryan
Environment Executive

National Farm Business Committee

Achievements and Work Done in 2013

IFA Taxation Policy – Budget 2014

The Committee, together with the Economics Section and Rural Development Committee prepared a comprehensive set of taxation proposals for the IFA pre-Budget submission. This document was presented to the Department of Finance with detailed discussions held on the IFA proposals. The taxation proposals presented in the IFA pre-budget submission highlighted important tax measures that increase efficiency, encourage timely farm transfers and increase output at farm level. The key IFA proposals discussed were:

- Retention of 90% Agricultural Relief and capital acquisitions tax thresholds;
- Maintenance of current Pay and File dates for self-assessment;
- Maintenance of exclusion of productive assets, such as farmland in the calculation of income assessment for third level maintenance grants;
- Extension of long term land leasing incentives to encourage land mobility.

The proposals in this document formed the core of the IFA pre-budget taxation campaign. In Budget 2014, these tax proposals were successfully maintained or introduced and detailed in the IFA Budget Report made available on the organisations website. As announced in Budget 2014 CGT retirement relief is being extended to disposals of leased farmland where the subsequent disposal is to a person other than a child of the person disposing of the farmland. This will enable older farmers to lease out their land where the farmer has no children willing to take up farming.

Finance Bill 2013

IFA sought a number of amendments and clarifications on farm taxation policy in the Finance Bill in 2013, including the extension of CGT Relief for the dissolution of a farm partnership and the inclusion of number of legitimate transactions which are currently ineligible to avail of CGT relief for farm consolidation. The Finance bill will be published before the end of January and the IFA are awaiting further developments.

Motor Tax

IFA met with the various groups involved in the taxing and registering of agriculture vehicles (including Revenue and Department of the Environment) to address the issues associated with changes to the Motor Tax legislation through the introduction of the “Non Use of Motor Vehicles” act. While there was no extension to the deadline for declarations as requested The IFA were successful in reducing the administrative required to make successful application before the deadline. Following on from correspondence with Revenue, farmers with unregistered tractors did not receive Vehicle Registration penalties if registered in subsequent months.

Farm Credit Problems

IFA continues to be involved across the country in assisting on credit cases. Many IFA members have used the IFA helpline, along with accessing the service through the local IFA Offices. IFA has retained the services of Mr Brendan Stafford to assist with the assessment process and to develop recommendations for farmers. IFA has continued to meet with the banks to further develop policy options for dealing with arrears cases, and to highlight sector specific credit issues as they arise.

Access to and the costs of credit

Throughout the year, IFA Farm Business has engaged in a number of policy areas relating to access to credit and the costs of borrowing. These included:

- Communicating and meeting with the banks to:

- Highlight the serious cashflow implications for farm businesses exacerbated by the weather-related difficulties which stretched into the first half of 2013.
- Discuss the significant costs to farmers who will be forced to transfer banking facilities to alternative providers following the withdrawal of Danske and ACC Bank from retail banking.
- Participation by the Farm Business Committee in meetings with the Credit Review Office on issues affecting agriculture and access to Finance for SMEs.
- Participation by the Farm Business Committee in regional meetings with key commercial banks highlighting access to credit issues and local service issues of farmers.

Detailed Rules for Farm Partnerships

The IFA Farm Business Committee formulated the IFA submission to the Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine consultation on the Rules for Farm Partnerships. Members of the Farm Business Committee met with department officials to communicate the IFA's position:

- To ensure that farmers in partnership arrangements, across all enterprise types, are not discriminated against in their entitlement to farm schemes or in taxation code relative to the treatment of individual farmers operating as sole traders..

Pay and File dates for self-assessed tax returns

IFA policy, as put forward by the Farm Business Committee to the Department of Finance in its submission Consultation on 'Pay and File' Dates is that there must be no changes to the current 'pay and file' dates. Changes to the 'pay and file' dates for tax returns would undermine the tax compliance ability of Irish farmers, disrupt agricultural production at farm level, and ultimately the viability and sustainability of the family farm, which underpins the contribution of the agri-food sector to the national economy. Through its campaign the Farm Business Committee communicated with other professional representative organisations and employers groups such as the Irish Tax Institute and successfully averted any changes to the pay and file date for 2014.

Priorities for 2014

Farm Credit and Charges

The Farm Business Committee will be assessing the farm credit service, and amending as necessary, dependent on the need of IFA members. Particular attention will be given to the fallout following the withdrawal of ACC and Danske from retail banking.

Taxation Policy & Government Review

IFA Farm Business Committee will develop further farm taxation policy proposals for 2014, with a particular emphasis on measures to achieve the growth targets for *Food Harvest 2020*, whilst at the same time protecting existing measures which will come under scrutiny through the taxation review announced in Budget 2014.

This review to be undertaken by the Departments of Finance and Agriculture involves a cost-benefit analysis of the various tax relief and incentives and follows recent reviews of property, film and R&D tax expenditures. Negative changes to the current system could have significant impacts on the agri sector which is Ireland's largest primary generator of economic output. The Farm Business Committee will coordinate the IFA submission, to ensure that valuable tax reliefs, which are critical to the development of the agri sector, are maintained and the necessary improvements are sought.

Tom Doyle
Chairman
Farm Business Committee

Rowena Dwyer and Kevin Kilcline
Secretaries

National Farm Family & Social Affairs Committee

Achievements and Work Done in 2013

IFA & Pieta House Phone Line

IFA have been working with Pieta House throughout 2013, initially on the “Mind our Men” campaign. The Farm Family & Social Affairs Committee undertake a one day training course supported by Farm Business Skillnet to become designated contact person (DCPs) within their community.

Following on from this training and in recognition of the high rate of suicide, particularly among men in rural Ireland, it was agreed that a dedicated suicide phone line for farmers and farm families should be established. The money from the fodder crisis allowed this to become a reality. The dedicated suicide and self-harm phone line 1890 130 022 as well as “Mind our Farm Families” information booklet is a joint initiative between IFA and Pieta House.

The suicide and self-harm phone line 1890 130 022 is for IFA members and will put farmers and their families in direct contact with Pieta House trained therapist. The phone and “Mind our Farm Families” booklet were launched on Wednesday, 11th December. The phone line will initially operate Monday to Friday, 9am to 6pm and on Saturday, 10am to 2pm. The hours of the service will be reviewed quarterly and can be changed depending on demand for the service.

It is important to be aware that the IFA Pieta House phone line is for farmers that are feeling suicidal, if someone is suffering from depression or other mental health they should contact their doctor or Farm and Rural Stress Helpline on 1800 742 645.

Farm Safety Awareness Campaign

The official Health and Safety Authority (HSA) figures on farm fatalities is 15, of which nine involved tractors and farm machinery (19th November 2013). There have been 2 other farm fatalities since the official report but they are yet to be recorded. The main causes of death and injury on farms are; tractors and machinery (47%), livestock (13%) and falls from height (12%).

The HSA and IFA produced “Older, Wiser, Safer – A Practical Guide for Older Farmers” DVD to increase awareness of the safety risks for older farmers. The high rate of accidents and fatalities among older farmers was the driving force behind the initiative. Accidents involving farmers over 55 years of age often account for 70% of farm deaths.

A new Farm Safety Action Plan 2013-2015 has been developed by the Farm Safety Partnership Advisory Committee (FSPAC). IFA have made formal submission to the Action Plan to continue to work on promotion and education of farm safety via the IFA network through meetings, text messages, farm safety walks and press releases. The Farm Family & Social Affairs committee focus is to continue to promote the *Think Safety, Farm Safely* message to young people by working with schools and local youth groups.

The IFA Farm Family & Social Affairs committee was responsible promoting farm safety at the National Ploughing Championship by running the Children’s section at the HSA stand.

See Change Campaign

The main focus of the See Change campaign to reduce stigma associated with mental health focussed around a month long campaign in May. The Green Ribbon campaign was a national campaign to get people talking openly about mental health problems. The purpose of the Green Ribbon is to create a recognisable symbol to kick start a national conversation similar to the pink ribbon associated with breast cancer.

The Farm Family & Social Affairs committee organised a series of 4 national guided forest walks – Lets Talk and Walk - in Cavan, Galway, Limerick and Wicklow in association with Coillte and Mental Health Ireland. The walks were very well attended in each of the counties will tea and coffee provide to participants after to encourage participants to talk about mental health and increase awareness of the Green Ribbon initiative.

Fair Deal (Nursing Home Support Scheme)

The National Review of the Fair Deal Scheme has commenced and that it is expected to be completed by first quarter in 2014. The review is being coordinated by the Department of Health and all submissions are being considered as part of the review.

The 2013 budget for the Fair Deal Scheme was €974m and it is expected that the budget for the scheme will be at breakeven by year end. The scheme supports 23,533 long term residential clients, of which the HSE estimate that approximately 7% of people in receipt of NHSS support are farmers or own land. This equates to 1,650 people.

6,277 new clients were supported by the scheme in public and private nursing homes up to September 2013, this represents a net increase of 1,298 during the period. The scheme is taking on new clients as of 24th November there were 204 people on the scheme's national placement list.

Contributory State Pension

IFA have been dealing with pension queries from farmers throughout 2013, particularly among farmers that have reached pensionable age only to realise they do not have sufficient contributions paid to be entitled to a full Contributory State pension.

IFA have created an information pack to increase awareness of how eligibility for Contributory State Pension is qualified particularly the yearly average calculation. To qualify for a Contributory State Pension you need a yearly average contribution of 10 (i.e. 520 full rate contributions) for minimum pension (€115.20) and 48 for maximum pension (€230.30).

Priorities for 2014

- Promotion of the new IFA Pieta House Phone Line to IFA members.
- To campaign for the amendments proposed in the IFA submission on Fair Deal Scheme to be adopted as part of the review.
- Continuation of Think Safety, Farm Safely campaign with focus on tractors and farm machinery.
- Continued involvement with See Change campaign to reduce stigma associated with mental health issues.

Margaret Healy
Chairwoman
Farm Family & Social Affairs Committee

Geraldine O'Sullivan
Executive Secretary
Farm Family & Social Affairs

National Farm Forestry Committee

Achievements and Work Done in 2013

Forestry Programme Budget

The IFA Farm Forestry Committee lobbied to secure the continuation of funding for the forestry programme. €114.8 million was allocated to the programme (€104.8 million from the 2014 budget and €10 underspend in the 2013 capital budget). This is funding to pay all existing premium liabilities, fund approx. 7,000 hectares of new planting and construction approx.

Forestry Bill 2013

The Forestry Bill was presented to the Dail in April 2013. IFA met with Minister Tom Hayes to outline IFA's serious reservations in relation to increased red tape and restrictions being proposed in the Bill. IFA requested that the Bill be withdrawn and redrafted to allow for consultation with stakeholders to improve effectiveness of the Bill. This was not accepted by the Minister and the Bill proceeded to 2nd stage.

Following intensive lobbying the Minister invited stakeholders to meet to discuss the content of the Bill. IFA met with Minister Hayes and subsequently made formal submission highlighting key issues within the Bill including: (i) definition of forest, (ii) Forest Management Plans (FMP) and the powers conferred on the Minister to attach unspecified conditions, (iii) the power to make a registry or place a burden on land, (iv) introduction of fees and (v) the scope of the enforcement powers conferred to authorised officers.

Ash Dieback Disease

IFA has been working closely with the Department since ash dieback was first confirmed in October 2012 in a young forestry plantation in Co. Leitrim, which had been planted with imported trees. Since then there have been 101 confirmed findings of ash dieback (*Chalara fraxinea*): (i) 40 forestry plantations, 17 horticultural nurseries, 4 garden centres, 3 private gardens, 15 farming planting including REPS/AEOS, 20 roadside plantings and 2 hedgerows.

IFA secured the introduction of the Reconstitution Scheme (Chalara Ash Dieback) for forest owners affected by the disease. The scheme extended beyond the 40 confirmed findings in forest plantations to 130 associated plantations linked by the imported plants. The scheme covers all sites clearance costs in and replanting costs consistent with the Afforestation Scheme rates. Forest owners have the option to replant with any appropriate specie but their future premium will be based on specie replanted. IFA lobbied for the reinstatement of 20 year forest premium following reconstitution but this was rejected.

The control strategy for the eradication of ash dieback, has proven to be relatively successful with only two hedgerow findings, in native ash trees, since the outbreak of the disease. The two hedgerow findings in Leitrim and Tipperary are near or within infected sites. IFA secured a compensation package for the farmers in Leitrim affected by the removal of hedgerows in as part of the eradication programme.

Forest Service Policy on the Re-Digitisation of Forest Area

IFA campaigned to oppose Forest Service policy to recoup payments (grants and premiums) from forest owners that are deemed to have over claimed. The campaign has resulted in Minister Hayes seeking legal opinion from the Attorney General on the Forest Service policy.

It is IFA's view that the policy (i) reneges on a previous agreement from 2008, which recognised that a discrepancy in forest area can happen when different mapping technologies are used and (ii) that the forest area accepted and approved by the Forest Service Inspector at the application stage. IFA submitted a formal proposal to address the re-digitisation of the forest area, which is currently being considered by the Minister.

Afforestation in Hen Harrier SPAs

IFA campaigned throughout 2013 at national and European level for the re-introduction of afforestation quota in Hen Harrier SPAs as interim solution until Threat Response Plan completed by National Parks and Wildlife Service. IFA secured commitment from Minister Hayes that the forest section of the report would be priorities and completed in 2014.

Native Woodland Establishment in Acid Sensitive Areas (ASAs)

IFA secured planting in Acid Sensitive Areas (ASAs) under the Native Woodland Scheme (NWS) without the requirement for water sampling. The amendments to the protocol were agreed between the Forest Service and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and apply to the NWS on enclosed/improved land only.

Restrictions on Planting Unenclosed Land

The COFORD Land Availability Working Group was convened to investigate the issues affecting land availability for afforestation and make recommendations regarding how these issues should be addressed. There have been intensive negotiations throughout 2013 to remove restrictions to planting unenclosed land with a productive capacity to grow commercial timber. The final report is expected to be completed early in 2014 and will propose a new forestry classification system which should if adopted re-open some marginal land to forestry.

Taxation of Forestry Income

IFA campaigned, Minister Simon Coveney and Minister Michael Noonan, to allow forestry income to be declared over a number of taxable years (similar to the averaging of sugar beet restructuring payments over a six-year period).

Business of Forestry – IFA Farm Forestry National Conference

IFA hosted a national conference, which focussed on best practice when preparing to sell timber.

Priorities for 2014

- To lobby for amendments proposed in the IFA Submission on the Forestry Bill 2013 to be adopted.
- To campaign for the new forestry classification system to be adopted by the Forest Service to re-open land currently restricted under the Afforestation programme.
- To campaign for the maintenance of the Reconstitution Scheme (Chalara Ash Dieback) as part of Ash dieback control strategy.
- To campaign for the re-introduction of afforestation quota in Hen Harrier SPAs.
- To campaign for the removal of forestry income under the High Earner Restrictions as part of the review of farming tax reliefs.
- The introduction of a Farm Forestry levy in the major sawmills, for the processors to collect from the grower a levy of 0.25% on timber they produce.
- Expansion of the Farm Forestry member services.

Michael Fleming
Chairman
National Farm Forestry Committee

Geraldine O'Sullivan
Executive Secretary
National Farm Forestry

Flood Project Team

Achievements and Work Done in 2013

- The Flood Project Team dealt with a number of issues during the year mainly with state agencies and local authorities.
- A number of meetings were held with the OPW with regard to maintenance works taking place on rivers and to ensure that maintenance of the rivers was prioritised.
- IFA lobbied for the waterflow on the Shannon to be allowed to move as quickly as possible and that any impediments on its route were removed including the weir at Athlone.
- Commitments were also secured that the weir level on the Shannon at Athlone weir would be examined with a view to lowering the levels in advance of severe weather warnings. IFA highlighted the deficiencies of the agencies in not allowing water to flow in the river Shannon during drier spells leaving plenty of capacity for water when heavy rains occur. In relation to ESB, IFA had a number of meetings to get an analysis of the levels that the river could be reduced with water moved on towards Ardnacrusha.
- On specific issues IFA took up the case of farmers who are affected by the lack of progress in flood alleviation in the Lough Reane, Fenagh, Co Leitrim with the local authority.
- IFA also met with Bord na Mona with regard to the extraction of water from the river Shannon.
- Particular concern has been raised with regards to the allocation to Flood Management including capital and maintenance in the Book of Estimates for 2014. The allocation for flood maintenance is €14.8m for next year and IFA will be in discussions with the OPW in relation to where works will take place.
- Capital works have commenced on the Dunkellan, Co Galway which IFA has been pushing for some time.
- On the Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Study (CFRAMS) IFA has had ongoing discussions with Jacobs Consultants who are carrying out the initial CFRAM on the Shannon. It is expected that maps will be produced in early 2014 with a view that the plan will be ready in 2015.
- It is a requirement under the EU Floods Directive that such management plans are in place and that they will be implemented from 2015 onwards. Already discussions have commenced in other areas such as the South Galway area, the Dublin area and surrounds, the South East, the North East and the Cork area.
- IFA is particularly concerned that the CFRAMS will not come up with action plans that are necessary to deal with the ongoing problem of flooding.

Priorities for 2014

The priority for 2014 will be to ensure that all efforts are made by all the state agencies including OPW, ESB, Waterways Ireland and local authorities to make every effort to either avoid or mitigate flooding.

Michael Silke
Chairman

Gerry Gunning
Rural Development Executive

Fresh Milk Producers

Achievements and Work Done in 2013

Negotiations with Consumer Foods Ireland (Glanbia)

The Fresh Milk Producer negotiation team chaired by Mr Stephen Arthur, lead negotiations throughout the year with representatives of CFI, the liquid milk section of Glanbia PLC. FMP suppliers were in a loss making situation in the early months of 2013 due to high input costs and the relatively low base price of manufacturing milk. The FMP negotiation team lobbied exhaustively for some form of financial relief and this helped in securing a price increase during the off season which is an unprecedented move in recent years.

The FMP negotiation team regularly meet with Glanbia to campaign on behalf of all 1058 suppliers of liquid milk to Glanbia. Credit terms with Glanbia Agri Business was on the agenda and a €30 million fund dedicated to Glanbia suppliers was negotiated during the summer months and streamlined through the local Glanbia Agri stores.

IFA National Liquid Milk Campaign

FMP members turned out in force to support the IFA National liquid milk committee campaign to highlight the crisis in the liquid milk sector in February at processing facilities and a publicity demonstration in Dublin city centre. FMP continued excellent co-operation with the national committee chaired by Mr Teddy Cashman, also an FMP Supplier.

Oireachtas Joint Committee on Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

The FMP Negotiation Team consisting of Chairman Stephen Arthur, Vice Chair Denis Fagan, and delegates Laurence Hannon and Jim Mulhall were invited to present to the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Agriculture, Food and the Marine in Dáil Éireann on 21st May this year. FMP represented the problems primary producers of liquid milk face and called on the committee to request statutory regulation of retailers in its report. Chairman of the committee Mr Andrew Doyle, TD was invited to address the FMP Central Executive in December and gave delegates a great insight into the working of the committee and into the process of producing meaningful legislation.

Liquid Milk Contracts

FMP and Glanbia agreed a joint framework for the trading of contracts to produce liquid milk, supplying Glanbia in 2012 and the second round of trading was completed in October this year. Both parties were involved in the allocation of traded contracts at agreed prices. The agreement is an initiative that gives greater control on volumes of liquid milk contracts back to FMP and is operated in a very transparent manner. Individual transfers were overseen and approved by both FMP and Glanbia representatives and operated successfully.

Priorities for 2013

FMP will continue to maintain negotiation structures with Glanbia representatives in Glanbia PLC, who process and remunerate FMP members for liquid milk, to ensure fair treatment for all FMP suppliers. In light of the removal of EU quota in 2105, FMP will undertake an in-depth survey of all its members on their farming system in order to deliver a more targeted serve to levy paying members. The FMP Joint Quality committee will continue to meet on a regular basis with Glanbia representative son all milk quality issues. The introduction of a new test for thermophilic bacteria in milk is to be phased in by Glanbia on 2014 and the Joint Quality committee will be involved in ensuring the new test is a management benefit to members and not an instrument to penalise farmers. Support the National Dairy Council (NDC) in their efforts to promote Irish farmed, locally produced NDC labelled milk.

Stephen Arthur
Chairman

Robert Malone
Executive Secretary

Hill Farming Committee

Achievements and Work Done in 2013

CAP Reform

As part of the CAP debate, the Committee highlighted the concerns of hill farmers particularly in relation to the eligibility of land for payment under the new Single Farm Payment post-2015. IFA ensured that all eligible land would qualify for payment and there would be no reduction coefficient in hill areas.

15 Point Plan for Hill Areas

The Committee at the IFA Hill Farming Forum held in Tuam in September 2013 put forward a 15 Point Plan for hill areas. This included, among others the introduction of a Suckler and Sheep scheme, new stocking levels for commonages, proposals for an Upland Environmental Management Scheme in the new Rural Development Programme, compensation for SACs, higher payments in mountain areas, changes to the TAMS scheme and measures for improving the land market and changes to the burning date for Gorse.

These issues are being pursued with the Government.

Walks Scheme

The Hill Committee are actively involved in Comhairle na Tuaithe and in lobbying for an extension of the walks scheme. Over 40 walks are now established in the scheme, which IFA negotiated in 2008. Around 1,900 farmers are availing of the scheme, which is worth €1.9m annually. A further 35 farmers were brought into the scheme in 2013. As old contracts were finished and additional money was provided through savings. Where contracts have concluded these have been rolled over for a further 5 years.

AEOS 3

In the implementation of the AEOS 3 scheme, 4,500 farmers who are mainly in hill areas succeeded in getting into the scheme out of a total of 9,000 who applied. Priority was given to farmers who have SAC or commonages.

Review of Commonage Framework Plans

A number of meetings were held with the Department of Agriculture and the National Parks & Wildlife Service in 2013 to discuss the process and timeframe to introduce new stocking rates in commonages.

IFA insisted that farmers must be given a sufficient period of time in order to achieve the minimum stocking level. Where farmers achieve a maximum level of stocking on their share of the commonage, they should not be penalised where there is a significant number of dormant shares which results in under-grazing.

Disadvantaged Areas

In 2013 there was no change to the Disadvantaged Areas scheme and the number of hectares eligible was retained at 34 in mountain areas.

The new stocking rates of 0.5lu/ha for a consecutive 7 month period or an average of 0.15lu/ha over the whole 12 months ensured that most farmers in hill areas were eligible. Farmers who

had environmental contracts through REPS, AEOS or NPWS, got payment under derogation where the stocking level was at a lower level.

Control of Gorse

Submissions were made to the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Jimmy Deenihan to allow burning of gorse up to the mid-April period.

IFA is seeking amendments to the Wildlife Amendment Bill.

Upland Management Scheme

IFA held technical discussions at various levels on the introduction of a new Upland Environmental Scheme in the RDP 2014-2020.

IT Sligo provided research to IFA on the details of a new scheme which have been presented to the Department of Agriculture.

Sheep Handling & Fencing Grants

The Committee secured increased standard costings for the Sheep Handling and Fencing Scheme in hill areas given the increased costs of investment required in these areas. This was introduced under the last two tranches of the TAMS.

Priorities for 2014

- Prioritisation for hill farmers in a new Upland Environmental Management Scheme.
- To monitor changes in the stocking level requirement under the new Areas of Natural Constraint and qualification for the Single Farm Payment.
- Flexible implementation of the review of the Commonage Plans.
- Changes to the dates in which gorse can be burnt from the 1st March to 15th April.
- Ensuring that the new Forestry bill does not put onerous requirements on neighbouring hill farmers.
- Highlighting the marketing requirements for hill sheep in conjunction with the Sheep Committee.
- Continue to seek improvements to the Walks Scheme.

*Tom Fadian
Chairman
National Hill Farming Committee*

*Gerry Gunning,
Executive Secretary,
National Hill Farming Committee*

Horse Project Team

Achievements and Work Done

Thoroughbred Foal Levy – Horse Racing Ireland (HRI)

The 2013 foal levy fund collected €1.5m which was allocated by the Foal Levy Committee as follows: Equine Centre €800,000, ITBA €375,000, ITM €375,000 and Breeders' Prize Fund €23,000. The foal levy bands below will continue for 2014.

Band	Stallion Nomination	2014 Levy €
A	0 to €1,000	35
B	€1001 to €2,500	50
C	€2,501 to €5,000	100
D	€5,001 to €7,500	150
E	€7,501 to €10,000	200
*F	€10,001 to €12,500	250
G	€12,501 to €15,000	300
H	€15,001 to €17,500	350
I	€17,501 to €22,500	450
J	€22,501 to €30,000	600
K	€30,001 +	650
	*Foreign breeders pay at band F	250

Horse Sport Ireland (HSI)

IFA met with HSI for discussions on the sport horse industry. The issue of traditional breeding versus warm blood horses was discussed. HSI's on line database, CapallOir, continues to provide the sport horse industry with a record of horses and their achievements in the industry.

Budget 2014

The Horse and Greyhound Racing Industries received €54.2m (normally 80% HRI and 20% Bord na gCon) in Budget 2014, down from €55m in 2013.

VAT on Bloodstock Sales

The sale of bloodstock in Ireland falls into the same VAT category as livestock, at 4.8%. In March, the ECJ found that the supply of horses and greyhounds, the hire of horses and insemination services could not be deemed necessary to cover basic social needs. The judgement implies that a higher VAT rate will be applied to some or all bloodstock sales.

IFA's Budget Submission proposed that the reduced livestock VAT rate (4.8%) should continue to apply to horse sales, as the rearing and breeding of bloodstock is primarily an agricultural activity. Until such time as the animal enters the training cycle/ leaves the agricultural production cycle, it should be treated the same as all other livestock for VAT purposes.

Following Budget 2014, the Department of Finance issued a briefing as follows:

- The rate of 4.8% will no longer apply to supplies of horses not intended for use in the preparation of foodstuffs or in agricultural production. The 9% rate will apply to these supplies from 1 May 2014.
- The Revenue Commissioners will provide clarification on how the new arrangements will apply. The delayed introduction of the new VAT treatment will facilitate a proper consultation between Revenue and the industry concerned in relation to this leaflet. IFA has already met

with the Revenue Commissioners on this issue and will be meeting the Department of Finance early in 2104.

Horse Identification and Traceability

Horse identification should reside solely with the Department of Agriculture. A number of Bodies have approval by the Department to issue identification documents for equidae. The Department needs to take control of the identification process and the issuing of passports for equidae. IFA supports the recommendation in the '*Equine DNA & Mislabelling of Processed Beef Investigation*' report to "establish a central passport issuing authority for which the Department will have direct control and under which agents will be approved to issue passports".

Horse Passports / Unwanted Horses

Horse registration / passports are a requirement under EU regulation since 1st July 2009. Horses will not be considered for slaughter for human consumption unless they have a passport. There is an increasing problem in Ireland with horses that have not been registered before they are 6 months old, do not possess a passport and consequently cannot be slaughtered to enter the human food chain.

There are a number of different categories of horses - : horses that were never registered; horses registered after 6 months of age and their passport is stamped "not intended for human consumption"; horses whose parentage is not known, horses with duplicate passports i.e. where passports were lost / mislaid etc. these are also stamped "not intended for human consumption". In all of these cases, it is assumed the horses may at some point have been treated with a medication that would exclude them from entry into the food chain.

IFA has lobbied for the owners of these horses to have the option of blood-testing for any such substances / medications at an abattoir and if found negative, should then be allowed to enter the food chain. In the event that blood-testing shows up positive for such medication(s), then they should then these animals should be rendered.

Equine Slaughter Facilities/ Horse Welfare

A matter of on-going concern is the availability of slaughter facilities for horses in the country. IFA believes that this will contribute to animal welfare issues and needs to be addressed urgently by the Department.

Premises Registration

IFA has raised the lack of awareness by horse owners of the requirement to register equine premises introduced in 2012. The number of premises registered to date is far short of the number of farms/premises with horses/ponies/donkeys.

COPA-COGECA

Horse Chairman James Murphy was elected Vice-Chairman COPA-COGECA working party.

Traditional Irish Horse Association

IFA met with the Traditional Irish Horse Association on issues relating to retaining the identity of the traditional Irish horse. TIHA believe more needs to be done to promote the indigenous breed.

James Murphy
Chairman – Horse Project Team

Elaine Farrell
Executive

Horticulture Committee

Achievements and Work Done 2013

Field Vegetables & Protected Crops

- Growers reporting good yields across the range of crops. Wholesale market prices of most vegetables are back up by 20% in some cases on 2012. Combination of plentiful supply and sluggish demand, primarily due to very mild weather. Salad lines, apart from butterhead lettuce are also back on last year.
- Irish produce coming under pressure from cheap imports, especially with the discounters.
- Cost increases continue to affect viability of production in Ireland - discussions with retailers
- Supermarkets continued with discounting strategy:
 - Lidl supplying imported produce in favour of Irish (Parsnips, sprouts etc.)
 - Supply volumes reduced this season across all products, reducing grower output / ha.
- A number of direct interventions for growers with specific merchants/retailers on a variety of issues including credit/quality of produce.
- Committee chairmen met with all Retail Buyers.
- Wholesale and catering sectors continue to be dominated by cheaper imports.
- The field vegetable sector, under the Investment Aid for the Development of the Commercial Horticulture Sector 2012 received €758,885 in 34 approved projects and has been allocated €1,175,000 for 58 projects under this scheme in 2013.

Soft Fruit

- Growing season proved difficult despite warm weather conditions.
- Supermarkets - committee chairman met all retail buyers.
- Continued discussions with retail buyers re cost of production increases.
- Imports were a problem particularly in wholesale and catering sectors during the season.
- Growers need to make the following decisions:
 - Production volumes – are there any changes?
 - Collection of statistics from this past season
 - Price points for start middle and end of season
 - Specifications and punnet sizes
 - Action required if cheaper imports are available
 - Meetings during the season to discuss volumes.
- The soft fruit/protected crops sector, under the Investment Aid for the Development of the Commercial Horticulture Sector 2012 received €1,240,808 in 23 approved projects and has been allocated over €1,671,000 for 33 projects under this scheme in 2013.

Mushrooms

- 77 producers now in Ireland of which 50 are CMP Producers.
- Accounts for 40% of all horticultural production with an output value of over €120m p.a.
- 80% of mushrooms produced in Ireland are exported to the UK, accounts for over half of total UK market.
- Due to short shelf life (recommended 5 days after harvesting) the UK is the only practical and economically viable export market for Irish mushrooms.
- The Commercial Mushroom Producers Co-operative Society (CMP) was established in 1999. CMP aims to focus on competitiveness and sustainability of the mushroom industry – concentration of supply and placing its members' product on the market.

- CMP is a Producer Organisation and is recognised under the EU Fruit and Vegetable Producer Organisation Scheme. CMP received €5.85m in 2010 and €3.8m in 2011. 2012 amount not paid yet.
- CMP has 65% Irish producers; 54,788 tonnes (79% CMP) produced in Ireland; CMP members employ 2,181 people.
- Irish mushroom growers supply 62% of the UK multiple market with both Monaghan and Walsh Mushrooms owning UK farms also.
- The Mushroom sector, under the Investment Aid for the Development of the Commercial Horticulture Sector 2012 received €636,720 in 15 approved projects and has been allocated almost €1,000,000 for 28 projects under this scheme in 2013.

Nursery Stock

Nurseries have experienced a dramatic fall in sales over the last 5 years as a result of the downturn in the economy, primarily in the construction and landscaping industries. Inclement weather this spring and the fine weather in the summer had a dramatic effect on sales in 2013.

IFA/IHNSA teamed up with Bord Bia to produce a Pot Sticker – ‘Grow Me I’m Irish’ for IHNSA members. Two plant fairs were organised in 2013, supported by Bord Bia, aimed at reducing the importation of nursery stock produce. 2014 Trolley Fairs will take place on 25 Feb and 1 April.

The nursery crop sector, under the Investment Aid for the Development of the Commercial Horticulture Sector 2012 received €145,275 in 15 approved projects and has been allocated almost €343,000 for 18 projects under this scheme in 2013.

EU Fruit & Vegetable Producer Organisations

Ireland has three Producer Organisations (POs) under the EU Fruit and Vegetable Scheme – (1) CMP, (2) Wexford Fruit and (3) Quality Green, and for 2013 is expected to qualify for in excess of €6m under the terms of the scheme.

IFA Horticulture Levy

Packers and merchants continued to collect, on behalf of IFA, the IFA Horticulture Levy system whereby growers pay 0.25% of the farm gate price of their produce.

Imports

IFA has successfully minimised the importation of fruit and vegetable produce. IFA monitors the amounts and location of produce in Ireland and liaises with retail buyers.

IFA continues to provide regular and up-to-date market information to veg and fruit growers.

Priorities for 2014

Predatory Pricing by Retailers

Retailers’ predatory pricing is the single biggest threat to the vegetable and fruit industry. Retailers continue to abuse their dominant market power. Growers cannot survive in the current environment. IFA will continue its campaign on this and will continue liaising with all retailers to ensure that Irish produce is stocked in preference to imports.

Gerry Reilly
Chairman

Elaine Farrell
Executive

Patrick Farrell
Potatoes & Fresh Produce
Development Officer

Inputs Project Team

Achievements and Work Done

Advance pricing pays dividends

The Project Team's advice to farmers to continually price all products before purchasing delivers real dividends. There are substantial price differences between credit and cash quotes as evidenced in IFA price survey results. Farmers who seek out cash prices and negotiate favourable credit terms achieve considerable savings.

Price awareness empowering growers to bargain for better deals

The publication of numerous price surveys including: agri-chemical, veterinary medicines & testing fees, knackery charges, seed, grain, feed ingredient, fuel and fertiliser price surveys by the Animal Health and the Inputs Project Teams and the National Grain Committee in the national media creates price awareness among farmers and the trade. This generates increased competition among the trade and empowers farmers to bargain for better deals.

Weekly IFA fertiliser surveys saves farmers millions

The publication of weekly fertiliser price bulletins on-line and in the farming press during the peak buying season, has forced the industry to cut their margins saving farmers millions of euros per annum. The advice to farmers to streamline purchasing and deliveries substantially reduces costs by taking unnecessary links out of the supply chain.

Farm-to-farm trade expands

Its continued expansion is forcing compound feed mills and merchants to become more competitive.

Grain, feed ingredient and fuel price update increases price transparency

The weekly publication of wholesale feed ingredient prices allows farmers to benchmark prices bringing more transparency to compound feed pricing and forcing compounders to reduce margins.

Ongoing price surveys empower farmers to bargain for keenest prices

- Grain & feed ingredient (weekly)
- Fuel price surveys (weekly)
- Fertiliser (weekly during peak season)
- Seed (winter and spring)
- Agri-chemical (over 400 prices on herbicides, fungicides and insecticides)
- Veterinary medicine (anthelmintics & vaccines)
- Knackery charges (spring)
- TB testing fees (spring / early summer).

Priorities for 2014

Surveys for 2014

The successful fertiliser, feed ingredient, agri-chemical, fuel, and veterinary medicine price campaigns will be repeated in 2014. The number of areas covered by surveys will be increased as an on-line survey facility is developed.

Price risk management tools

The Grain Committee and Project Team will continue to promote the use of hedging and forward purchasing / selling mechanisms as a means of price risk management for both the buyer and the seller. Fertiliser manufacturers are at last engaging in talks to look at a system that would allow farmers to hedge fertiliser prices.

Group purchasing delivering real savings

Group organisation and discipline is the key to success. The IFA Skillnet programme can provide expert training. Substantial cost savings can be achieved through group / volume purchasing and the co-ordinated deliveries of inputs and services. Volume orders are attractive to retailers and an increasing number of suppliers are prepared to supply purchasing groups directly.

Expansion of farm-to-farm trade critical

The Project Team, in conjunction with the Grain Committee, will continue to vigorously promote and develop farm-to-farm trade as a means of boosting grain growers' incomes while reducing livestock farmers feed costs for the 2014 season.

*Chris Hayes,
Project Team Leader
Inputs Project Team*

*Fintan Conway
Executive Secretary
Inputs Project Team*

Oireachtas Liaison

Achievements and Work Done in 2013

Lobbying

IFA seeks to advance the position of farmers by communicating the members' case to Oireachtas members/relevant Government Departments through:

- building relationships with key relevant Government Ministers/TDs
- devising/executing IFA's political operation at national/constituency/county level
- briefing/lobbying front bench spokespersons in the Opposition parties
- organisation/preparation of IFA presentations to Oireachtas Committees. Developed a good working relationship with Committee Chairmen/Clerks to Committees
- co-ordination /organisation of presentations to County Councils (where relevant)
- ensuring Government backbenchers and all-party Oireachtas Committees are aware of IFA's position on relevant issues
- on-going liaison with Political Parties' Press Offices and Senior Government Advisors.

Register of Lobbyists

- In April, Government published General Scheme of the Regulation of Lobbying Bill 2013.
- In November, the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform published its report on hearings in relation to the Bill. This report reviewed the submissions made to the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER) and had one oral hearing with the OECD.
- The Bill is expected to be published in early 2014 and will going through the normal legislative stages in the Houses of the Oireachtas.
- IFA has strongly resisted Government proposals to list all contacts between IFA officers and staff and public representatives/officials under the proposed regulation of lobbyists.
- In its submission to DPER, IFA outlined its mandate as a voluntary organisation of farmers with a democratic structure of representation to ensure the views of members are effectively represented at local, county and national level.
- IFA's submission points out, that membership organisations, such as IFA have a public profile and accountability in respect of their positions on legislative and policy development, which is not the case for bodies/individuals lobbying privately for commercial gain. IFA has argued that the burden of reporting must rest with the public officer, as is the case with the current Ethics in Public Office legislation.
- IFA is prepared to make an annual return including a list of national officers and professional executive staff engaged in lobbying, and a statement of the organisation's structure, objects and policies.

Priorities for 2014

- CAP Reform Implementation.
- Budget 2014 - Review of Taxation in Agriculture – Departments of Finance & Agriculture.
- Priority legislation for IFA:
 - Consumers & Competitions Bill (Retail Code of Practice)
 - Regulation of Lobbyists Bill
 - Forestry Bill 2013
 - Climate Change Bill.

- EPP – European Elections Congress – Dublin – 6/7 March 2014.
- EU & Local Elections – May 2014 – Preparation of IFA Manifesto.
- Attending Ard Fheiseanna and Political Conferences.
- Regular meetings with Fine Gael Internal Agricultural Committee.
- Continue with relationship building of backbenchers; Oireachtas Committee Chairmen.
- Continue to brief Opposition Spokespersons on Agriculture.

Legislation Monitoring

IFA will continuously monitor legislation coming before the Dáil and Seanad in the new-year and will keep regular contact with the Chief Whip's Office where legislation being brought before the Dáil and Seanad is decided on.

Oireachtas Committees

IFA will continue to meet with and make presentations to the Chairman and members of the Agriculture Oireachtas Committee and other relevant committees.

IFA Lobby Days

IFA will continue to organise lobby days on specific issues as they arise. One to one contact between IFA officers and their local representatives is critical to the success of these days.

Dáil and Seanad Éireann resume on Wednesday 15th January 2014

Elaine Farrell

Oireachtas Liaison Executive

National Potato Committee

Achievements and Work Done in 2013

The Irish potato market held strong during the year until November, when the new crop yields showed greater returns than had been expected and supply to the market increased. The circumstances that led to this market turnaround were unpredictable and underline the difficulties growers face in predicting market requirements. At the end of the old crop, last season Rooster had risen to as much as €450/t.

IFA National Potato Survey 2013

An IFA survey shows that the acreage of potato production in this country, which had fallen by 25% in the previous two years, had increased by approx. 15% in 2013. The estimated area for 2013 is 10,000ha (25,000 ac). Main areas of change are:

- 14% increase in Rooster; 10% increase in Queens; 20% increase in other earlies; 17% increase in Kerrs pink.

Irish crops are variable in yield this season with some quality issues (common scab and secondary growth) associated with the dry spell in June. Bord Bia pre-harvest digs showed the following national average marketable yield results:

- Rooster - 14.83t/ac - +38.2% on 2012
- Kerr's Pink – 14.15t/ac.

EU markets are showing yields below the 5 year average, but overall are up 10-15% on 2012, with significant quality problems relating to irregular growing conditions. Current market situation is stable, with significant pressure coming from trade to reduce farm gate values.

Since 2009, the Potato Committee has collected information from growers to measure the size of the industry, including areas produced, variety breakdown, county breakdown and seasonality. This data, coupled with total area plantings from the DAFM/SFP system and Bord Bia/Teagasc yield digs, give an annual comprehensive view of the production profile.

Potato Grower Registration Numbers & Traceability

IFA is actively involved in monitoring the use of grower registration numbers on potatoes for sale in Ireland. Only by regular monitoring and reporting of issues to the DAFM can a resolution to non-identifiable produce be achieved. There are a number of key issues here including:

- All potatoes for sale in Ireland must be clearly labelled with Variety, Country of Origin and a Grower's Registration number
- Where potatoes are packed by a non-grower, the pack must contain the packer's registration number and also the grower's registration number
- Where only the packer's number is present, it is assumed that these potatoes are imported and if imported should not have country of origin as Ireland on the label; and
- Registration numbers can be checked online at www.pots.agriculture.gov.ie.

Market Price Reporting

Market price information is collected weekly and sent to growers via text message and published on *ifarm.ie*. This information is also published in the market section of the Irish Farmers' Journal along with information in relation to stocks and market trends.

Potato Promotions Group

Market research shows a continuing decline in fresh potato consumption. In 2012, IFA, Bord Bia and the Potato Packers/Merchants formed the Potato Promotions Group. The Group's mission is to stabilise potato consumption in the short-term and to rebuild it in the medium to longer-term. A key objective is to develop a system to collect a fund of money from growers and all industry stakeholders, which would in turn support a joint funding promotions application to the EU Commission. Following grower support for this initiative, IFA explored the idea of collecting a statutory levy from growers, similar to that in the UK and Belgium. IFA has presented detailed proposals to Horticulture Minister Tom Hayes, on how best to establish a funding mechanism from growers and all industry stakeholders to support the initiative.

In the absence of a statutory levy, potato industry stakeholders have seized the opportunity of making a submission to the EU in 2014 for a €1,000,000 promotions campaign. The Irish Potato Federation and Growers have committed to raising a fund of €410,000 over 2014, 2015 and 2016. The Department of Agriculture has committed €90,000, with the EU co-financing €500,000, subject to a successful application. IFA has written to all potato growers asking them to make an €8/ac contribution over the next three years. The intention is that Bord Bia will submit this proposal to the Dept in April 2014, for onward submission to the EU Commission.

Priorities for 2014

Issues with Retailers

Retailers continue to use their dominance to influence grower returns. IFA will continue to watch and target supermarkets' use of food as a loss leader and expose producer exploitation.

Opportunities in Peeling Sector

Growers must explore the opportunities in the peeling sector for under-sized potatoes/tare.

Market Co-Ordination / Grower Communication

IFA will continue meeting with growers to discuss problems in the market place. More efficient and accurate communications between the industry and growers is essential. IFA is continuously working towards better market co-ordination from growers, right through to consumer. Main focus is to ensure growers are in best possible trading position.

Potato Promotions Group

IFA will continue to work closely with Bord Bia and the Potato Packers/Merchants to advance the initiative undertaken in 2013 taken by the group.

Wholesale Market

The wholesale market has been dominated by imports and low pricing. IFA will work closely with key players in this industry in 2014 in an attempt to reverse this trend.

Potato Conference 2014

IFA, along with Bord Bia and Teagasc will host the Potato Conference on Tuesday 18th February in the Red Cow Hotel, Dublin.

Thomas Carpenter
Chairman

Elaine Farrell
Executive

Patrick Farrell
Potato & Fresh Produce Development Officer

National Poultry Committee

Achievements and Work Done in 2013

Broiler Market and Price Negotiations

The EU broiler meat price remained relatively steady through the summer months and into the autumn of 2013. The market increased in early 2013 to over €2.00/kg on the back of rising input costs, namely feed and energy. Year on Year (July 12-13) the price has risen by €49/tonne. The EU price has fallen in recent months but is still substantially improved compared to recent years. All groups remained on current price agreements settled with their processors in the early part of the year or earlier, although attempts to improve pricing deals have been met with negativity from all processors. Negotiations with the main companies are ongoing to attempt to improve margins to all growers. Poultry processors informed producers that retailers were not willing to increase prices for wholesale chicken and competition from the lower cost base of Northern Irish chicken namely Moy Park.

Industry Still in Difficulty

Despite the increases achieved by some, the poultry sector is still in a period of difficulty. Representatives from the sector led by the IFA National Poultry Chairman Alo Mohan were invited to present to the High Level Implementation Committee of the Food Harvest 2020 Strategy during 2013. The Minister has agreed to progress a number of the issues that were raised as an impediment to growth for the sector, these include labelling, legislation on the nitrates regulations, promotion and marketing as well as progressing research and development.

Cappoquin

Unfortunately Cappoquin have ceased production. Attempts to find a buyer in the chicken processing industry failed. The company was purchased by Boyd International, a Scottish company that deals in food and food processing equipment. The assets of Cappoquin are in the process of being stripped and 100 workers have been made redundant. A small number of ex Cappoquin growers have continued broiler production for Western Brand and Shannon Vale but the majority of growers have left the poultry sector.

IFA National Campaign

The Poultry Committee undertook a national campaign to highlight the seriousness of the situation amongst all poultry producers in 2013. A campaign was agreed with the full support of IFA and all Groups, Broilers and eggs producers were involved. A protest took place outside of the two main processors (Cartons and Western Brand) as well as the main egg packers (Greenfield Foods) which all received media coverage at regional and national level. Meetings were held with most of the main retailers to varying degrees of success but all agreed that it was a very worthwhile campaign.

Egg Production report

The situation of free range egg producers was in crisis in early 2013 but the reduction in feed prices in the region of €50/tonne has helped to alleviate some of the financial pressure on producers. With falling feed prices, some egg packers have reduced the price per dozen eggs paid to farmers. All main packers were met or contacted by IFA and the threat of a protest was diverted with constructive meetings with both Greenfield and Annalittin in early October. Negotiations are currently ongoing with Greenfield, the largest packer of eggs in ROI and the threat of IFA action is still imminent if a resolution cannot be found. The suggestion by IFA, of index linking the price of eggs directly to the price of the inputs was greeted warmly by packers but has not yet been implemented.

Disease Issues

ILT (Infectious Laryngotracheitis)

There has been a serious outbreak of ILT in a confined area in North Antrim in both egg laying hens and broilers. There is no effective treatment and Moy Park, the largest processor of poultry in NI, took the decision to implement a vaccination programme for all its poultry in September this year. Vaccinated birds can still spread the disease and this is a major threat to the ROI poultry sector. An IFA delegation led by Chairman Alo Mohan, met the department of Agriculture on the issue and the Department is monitoring the situation on an on-going basis but no decision to vaccinate, or not has been taken, as there is no outbreak in ROI to date.

Botulism

Chairman Alo Mohan met with DAFM on the Botulism issue and the document has been amended to reflect the cooperation of the animal health and welfare division (a copy of which was circulated to all council members). Other items are being progressed such as meetings with Cropsure and other non-broiler sectors such as the hatcheries.

Priorities for 2014

Broiler Margins and Costs

Every group will be pushing for a margin increase in 2014 to recover lost margin over the past two years. The volume of Irish chicken stocked in retailers is broadly satisfactory (apart from Tesco). Attention in relation to use of Irish product will be turned to other sectors, catering and food service especially.

Margins to Egg Suppliers

Egg packers involved in the Bord Bia "Origin Green", programme have undertaken to set up Producer-Packer forums. The objective that IFA will focus on in this forum will be the achievement of a gross margin of €10 per laying hen over its life to the farmer. The suggestion by IFA, of index linking the price of eggs directly to the price of the inputs was greeted warmly by packers but has not yet been implemented. This will be further examined by the poultry committee and egg producer groups in 2014.

Environmental

The issue of storage facilities on poultry sites for litter is looming over all producers and will need the IFA to push this agenda at political level. The review of the nitrate regulation is of particular concern and the re-evaluation of phosphorous will result in the land area required for litter being dramatically increased. The committee will attempt to pursue this issue at all levels, to avoid leaving unworkable conditions for farmers and litter contractors alike.

Biosecurity and Diseases Issues

The committee will maintain regular lines of communication with top level Department of Agriculture official on all areas relating to poultry associated diseases. Informing all producers on best practice and any advances in biosecurity methods to safeguard the future of the sector is a necessity.

Alo Mohan
Chairman

Robert Malone
Executive

Retailer, Processor and Consumer Relations Project Team

Achievements and Work Done in 2013

- President/General Secretary met with CEO/senior management of all of the major retailers.
- IFA continued to press for effective regulation of retailers through legislation. The Government's current list of priority legislation includes a 'Consumer and Competition Bill' which has not yet been published.
- The Programme for Government committed in *Government for National Recovery 2011- 2016* to "enact the Fair Trade Act" (Fine Gael 2009), "which will ban a number of unfair trading practices in the retail sector such as 'hello money' which suppliers have to pay to secure a place for their goods on supermarket shelves". Commitments to publish this legislation by end 2011 and end 2012 and now end of 2013 did not materialise.
- IFA made presentation to Joint Oireachtas Committee on Agriculture, Food & the Marine on the imbalance in the food supply chain. Submissions were also heard from most of the retailers, FDII, RGDATA, Competition Authority and the National Consumer Agency.
- The Oireachtas Committee published its report '*Increasing equity and transparency in producer-processor-retailer relationships*' in October and IFA welcomed its recommendations which included - statutory legislation and an independent supermarket Ombudsman.
- IFA President met with the Minister for Enterprise, Jobs and Innovation Richard Bruton on the huge imbalance between the price farmers get and the prices being charged by retailers and the requirement for regulation.
- President/Commodity Chairmen met with retail buyers on many occasions in 2013.
- IFA retail activity has continued to expose mislabelling of potatoes/fresh produce/pigmeat.

EU Legislation

- UK – Appointment of Groceries Code Adjudicator – Christine Tacon.
- European Parliament Conference on Food Supply Chain – December 2013 – UK Adjudicator outlined UK Code and implementation.
- EU Green Paper on Unfair Trading Practices/Proposals to set up a European Retail Action Plan
- IFA raised retailer difficulties for producers at COPA and EU Commission DG Agri.

Priorities for 2014

- Progress effective retailer legislation including Code of Practice.
- Meet with UK Grocery Code Adjudicator – February 2014.
- Continue to monitor Irish supermarkets on their commitment to Irish produce.
- IFA will continue to campaign as a supermarket watchdog to tackle and expose mislabelling.
- Continue to campaign to increase percentage of Irish produce on-shelf.
- Country of Origin Labelling for all fresh produce.
- More transparency in labelling between ROI/NI especially in pigmeat, poultry, fresh produce.
- Address excessive discounting of food products at farmers' expense.
- Progress EU legislation.

Elaine Farrell - Retailer Liaison Executive

Roads Project Team

Achievements and Work Done in 2013

CPO Roads' Activity

During 2013 a number of new public private partnership road schemes commenced, including:

- The dualing of a section of the N11 between Arklow and Rathnew.
- The upgrading of Newlands Cross.
- The construction of an online service station near Gorey has started detail design and construction
- Land acquisition on the Gort to Tuam scheme is well advanced and the procurement of the New Ross bypass and Gorey to Enniscorthy upgrade, which includes the Enniscorthy bypass, is also under way.

National Roads Agreement

In Budget 2011, Minister for Transport Leo Varadkar T.D. announced the retrograde step of removing the goodwill payment for landowners affected by compulsory land acquisition, as well as completely reconsidering the future of the national roads agreement.

Despite this decision, the Association entered into discussions with Minister Varadkar and he agreed to extend the goodwill payment to additional schemes, including the

- N22 Ballyvourney to Macroom scheme
- N86 Camp to Dingle Scheme
- Other national and secondary road projects on the N56 and N59 roads.

Currently negotiations are taking place with the Department of Transport to endeavour to extend the Goodwill payment for other landowners and to ensure the continuation of the National Roads Agreement.

Priorities for 2014

- To lobby to ensure funding is in place for proposed land acquisition in 2014.
- To ensure that consultants working for landowners use all parts of the IFA negotiated National Roads Agreement to maximise compensation paid to farmers.
- IFA will continue negotiations with the NRA and the Department of Transport to safeguard the entitlements for landowners in the National Roads Agreement and ensure its continuation beyond 2013.

Jer Bergin
IFA South Leinster Vice-President
& Roads Project Team Chair

Thomas Ryan
Environment Executive

National Rules, Privileges and Procedures Committee

The National Rules Committee deals with internal organisational matters concerning the Association. Under the IFA Rules, the Committee's function is **"to advise Council for Council to decide"** on all matters concerning the Constitution and Rules of the Association and on all matters of voluntary organisational procedure and discipline at all levels within IFA.

The National Treasurer/Returning Officer is designated under the Rules as Chairman of the Rules Committee and is also given direct responsibility for all **elections** and election procedures within the Association.

Mr JJ Kavanagh served in the dual role of National Treasurer/Returning Officer until 30th June 2013, when, in order to ensure the integrity of the elections and avoid any perception of conflict of interest, he stepped aside from his duties as Returning Officer/Rules Committee Chairman. The Rules Committee recommended and Council agreed to appoint Committee member **Michael Keane** to carry out the duties of National Returning Officer/Rules Committee Chairman and report to the Council and Executive Board, as necessary, until the 2014 AGM.

Council subsequently undertook a **review** of this decision, in which the Association's legal advisor James Staines advised he was satisfied that the procedures followed were lawful and would withstand a legal challenge. The Council concluded that the decision stood.

Achievements and Work Done in 2013

During 2013, the main work areas relating to the responsibilities of the National Rules Committee and the National Returning Officer were as follows:

- **Rules changes** proposed by the Rules Committee were adopted by the Council in February, as follows:
 - New title for Regional Vice President, ie Regional Chairman, and election by the members of the County Executives within the region with weighted votes for branch delegates.
 - Extension of weighted voting in IFA elections to reflect higher Branch turn-outs
 - National Committee Chairmen to have a single 4-year term with the possibility of a mid-term challenge
 - Authorisation of proxies to attend National Committee meetings and
 - Authority for notice to be given by text message, email or fax
- **Conduct of elections in National Committees** in Spring 2013 for Committee Vice Chairmen and Management Committees, and before the 2014 AGM for Committee Chairmen.
- **Implementation of four-year rule for Branch officers**, including facilitating branch EGMs where necessary to refresh officers
- **Advised and supported** officers, county executives and staff on various rules and procedures, Branch affiliation/amalgamation and the resolution of differences/disputes.

- **Conduct of 2013 IFA National Elections** and support for candidates, officers and staff including:
 - Producing register of 946 Branches eligible to vote
 - Code of Conduct for candidates, adopted by Council
 - Controlled release of officer/member information to candidates protecting sensitive data and IFA's interests as far as possible
 - Nominations procedure and declaration of candidates
 - 13 County/Regional Presidential and Deputy Presidential debates
 - Briefing of Munster officers and Development Officers on new system of election for Munster Chairman and attendance by Rules Committee members at County Executive meetings/debates at which voting took place
 - Briefing all County officers on Presidential elections procedures for branch meetings
 - Production of IFA Newsletters for Presidential/Deputy Presidential candidates and Munster Chairman candidates
 - Publication of 946 IFA Branch AGMs meeting dates in *Farmers Journal* and *Sunday Independent* and
 - National Count at FBD Castleknock Hotel, Dublin on 17th December with relay of results in the hotel and on IFA.ie, and publication in the *Farmers Journal*.

Work Agenda for 2014

- Review of IFA Presidential and Regional Chairman Elections including feedback from County Executives and candidates, with a view to reporting and making recommendations to Council as appropriate
- Co-ordination of elections by County Executives of members to National Committees in November - December 2014, including producing list of retiring National Committee members.

The National Returning Officer and the Committee will continue to uphold and apply the Rules of IFA, while at all times respecting the rights of individual members and the authority of the Council as the governing body of the Association.

Michael Keane
 Chairman &
 National Returning Officer

Bryan Barry
 Secretary /
 Assistant General Secretary

Rural Development & Less Favoured Areas Committee

Achievements and Work Done in 2013

Pillar II Rural Development Campaign

The Committee were involved in a major lobbying campaign for Pillar II Rural Development funding for the next 7 years up to 2020. €313m of EU funding has been secured and IFA's campaign has been mainly centred on the government commitment for 50:50 co-financing with national top-ups.

In discussions with the EU commission, IFA has ensured that there is sufficient flexibility in the Rural Development regulations for most of the support to be directed to farmers. The Committee made detailed proposals to the Department across the wide range in measures which will form part of the next RDP.

CAP Campaign

The Committee was involved with all other relevant Committees in the details on the Pillar I negotiations.

Disadvantaged Area Review

During the course of the new negotiations of the new regulations, IFA had on-going discussions with both the European Commission and the Department of Agriculture with regards to the review of the Disadvantaged Areas at EU level. Progress has been made with more flexibilities being acceptable to the Commission. The review now has been pushed back to around 2017/2018.

AEOS 3

The new AEOS 3 scheme was introduced with closing date of mid-May. 6,000 farmers were deemed eligible for a scheme worth €20m. IFA lobbied for all farmers who had applied to be eligible.

Budget 2014

IFA campaigned vigorously for funding for key farm schemes in 2014 such as DAS, REPS 4, AEOS, Farm Assist and Farm Investment Aid under TAMS. The allocation for DAS was set at €195m and agri-environment schemes at €185m.

IFA made a strong case for the 13,000 farmers who will finish REPS 4 contracts at the end of 2013. These farmers have been promised a scheme in the course of 2014 and IFA will be campaigning for an early start-up.

Disadvantaged Area Payments

Following the new criteria for stocking rate FIA was involved in detailed discussions with the Department to ensure that as many farmers as possible became eligible for payment in 2013. IFA lobbied for concessions at individual level and the payments in 2013 were worth €195m.

TAMS

IFA secured additional funding for the farm investment schemes that were in demand such as the Dairy Equipment Scheme. The allocations were increased and all farmers who have applied for the Dairy Equipment Scheme, the Sheep Fencing and Handling Scheme will now get approval for Grant Aid. The timespan for pig farmers to finish work under to Sow Welfare

scheme was increased from end of September until end of February 2014. IFA campaigned that monies be moved around within the TAMS to ensure that the €45m of EU money is fully utilised.

REPS 4/AEOS Payments

Significant pressure was applied on the Department to ensure that the maximum level of payments was paid in 2013. As a result the full allocation of €200m will be spent and the level of carryover from 2013 into 2014 will be significantly less than in previous years. Many problem cases were sorted out in the course of the year.

Leader Programme

The Committee had a number of discussions with the Department of the Environment and local companies in the context of the new alignment proposals for local development in the Local Authorities. IFA ensured that agriculture is a vital element of these new structures and has sought full representation on the new structure.

Priorities for 2014

Rural Development Plan 2014-2020

The Committee will be engaged in detailed discussions with the Department of Agriculture in ensuring that meaningful schemes are put in place in the RDP. This will include a strong agri-environment scheme, a revamped disadvantaged areas scheme, a broad-based farm investment scheme covering all sectors, support for young farmers, the enhancement of discussion groups, and other measures which have an impact in the development of rural areas.

The implementation of CAP Pillar I complimented by Pillar II will be a key objective of the Rural Development 2014.

Charter of Rights

In the context of a review of the Charter of Rights, the Committee will be ensuring that payments across all schemes including REPS, AEOS, DAS, SFP, TAMS are made in a timely fashion, the number of inspections is reduced and the level of penalties is mitigated with increased tolerances and the yellow card system.

Disadvantaged Areas Review

The technical discussions in relation to the classification of Disadvantaged Areas will commence in 2014. IFA will be ensuring that when this issue concludes in a number of years that the existing areas are maintained.

Farm Assist

IFA will be making a strong case to the Department of Social Protection that the assessment process for Farm Assist is eased to take account of the fact that the income and child disregards have been removed.

Flor McCarthy
Rural Development Executive

Gerry Gunning
Executive

SACs Project Team

Achievements and Work Done in 2013

The SAC Project Team dealt with a number of issues which have a serious impact on farming and other developments which are restricted in designated areas which cover 13% of the land area of Ireland. The issues vary from habitat to habitat but IFAs primary objective is to ensure that the area for designation is minimised and that where designation proceeds and restrictions apply compensation must be made.

SAC Monitoring Committee

As part of the 2004 SAC Agreement, the Monitoring Committee, to oversee this agreement, met on 2 occasions in the course of 2013. Other meetings on specific issues were held with the National Parks & Wildlife Service and the Department of Agriculture mainly relating to compensation issues, designations, restrictions etc.

Turf Cutting

The problem surrounding turf cutting was again to the fore in 2013. And IFA continued to argue for increased compensation (see Peatland Council report).

Designated Areas Appeals Advisory Board

The appeals Board was set up to deal with objections of farmers to designations. The IFA representative is Martin Gavin from Mayo (see separate report). In the course of the year problems with the working arrangements of the Board was taken up by IFA particularly with regard to the input of the independent technical advisor to the board. IFA took the view that this individual had too much of a sway and called for equal representation from the appellant. This was agreed.

NPWS Farm Plan Scheme

Annual allocation is now €4m. Some of these plans have concluded. IFA has sought a roll-over of the plans. The average payment for farmers is €8,500 per annum (including Planner fees).

Shannon Callows

IFA had a number of meetings with the NPWS regarding a new Shannon Callows scheme. IFA expressed dissatisfaction of the proposal put forward by the Department of Agriculture and farmers in these areas do not have to abide by the grazing and cutting dates until such a time as the new plan is put in place. In the course of 2013 IFA secured earlier cutting dates to ensure that farmers on the Shannon Callows could conserve as much fodder as possible.

Priorities for 2014

- Ensuring that farmers are fully compensated for designations.
- The SAC Appeals Body works effectively.
- That there are no turf-cutting restrictions on blanket bogs and NHAs.
- That there are no further designations of SACs / SPAs.
- That an effective scheme is put in place in Natura areas in a new agri-environment scheme in the RDP 2014 2020.

Padraig Divilly
Chairman

Gerry Gunning
Executive Secretary



IFA



The Irish Farmers' Association

***REPORTS FOR 2013
FROM
REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES***

59th Annual General Meeting

**Irish Farm Centre
Tuesday/Wednesday 14th/15th January, 2014**

**Reports for 2013
from Representatives on Outside Bodies**

C O N T E N T S

Agri Aware
An Bord Bia
CAP Rural Development Monitoring Committee
COFORD
Comhairle na Tuaithe
Designated Areas Appeals Advisory Board
Farm Animal Welfare Advisory Council
Fertiliser Association of Ireland
Inland Fisheries Ireland
Institute of International & European Affairs
Irish Cattle Breeding Federation & Sheep Ireland
Irish Dairy Board
Irish Farm Films Producer Group Ltd
National Dairy Council
National Economic and Social Council (NESC)
National Milk Agency
National Peatlands Council
Sheep Ireland
Teagasc

Agri Aware

Agri Aware would like to thank the IFA most sincerely for their continued support in 2013.

Farm Walk and CAP Talk 2013

Agri Aware's nationwide communication campaign on the benefits of the EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) began in April 2013, entitled 'Farm Walk and CAP Talk'. It will run until March 2014 and is focused on explaining the benefits of the CAP to urban and rural dwellers of all ages. This major campaign, co-financed by the European Commission, was awarded to Agri Aware following a competitive bidding process. Agri Aware wishes to acknowledge and thank the IFA and FBD for funding this campaign to communicate the benefits of CAP to the general public. Agri Aware is delivering a comprehensive campaign to consumers of all ages in order to convey the importance of the CAP in delivering safe, quality, traceable and sustainably produced food that is affordable for consumers, in addition to the role of CAP in ensuring a clean countryside and waterways for the Irish public and tourists to enjoy each day. Another aspect of the CAP campaign involved the selection of two 'CAP Agri Ambassadors' who were based in Family Farm, developed by Agri Aware and Dublin Zoo. Some 2,300 students from 100 secondary schools across Ireland participated in 'Farm Walk and Talk' 2013 in seven agricultural colleges and research centres.

Family Farm, developed by Agri Aware and Dublin Zoo

With over 1 million visitors expected to Dublin Zoo in 2013, Family Farm is a key attraction to communicate the importance of our agri-food industry to the Irish general public, the next generation and visitors from abroad, from both urban and rural areas. The EU Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, Dacian Cioloș, visited Family Farm in March, as part of an official visit to Ireland. In December 2012, when Agri Aware won the European Commission's 'CAP50 Communication Award' for Family Farm, the Chairman and Executive Director of Agri Aware invited the Commissioner to the farm. IFA President, Mr. John Bryan spoke at this event. A number of Agri Aware's projects were launched in Family Farm in 2013 and several interactive educational themed events were also delivered in conjunction with industry patrons. In August 2013, Lisa Minogue, a teacher from Co. Tipperary joined the Agri Aware and Dublin Zoo teams in Family Farm. Lisa will deliver curriculum-linked educational programmes in Family Farm for pre-school, primary and second level students.

Farm and Countryside Safety

Agri Aware's Farm and Countryside Safety campaign, supported by the IFA, FBD and ESB challenged students from across Ireland to draw or paint a picture that depicted danger on a farm, as part of Agri Aware's competition entitled 'Give farm and countryside safety some welly!' Some 5,500 entries were received for the competition and 5 winning entries will receive wellies for their class depicting their winning design and accompanying farm safety slogan.

Agricultural Science and Home Economics Study Guides

Agri Aware in conjunction with IASTA and the Irish Farmers' Journal delivered the Agricultural Science and Home Economics study guides along with six key resources: Pastures New Agricultural Science Textbook for leaving certificate students-Second Edition, Dictionary of Agricultural Science Terms, Book of Agricultural Science Experiments, Guide to the Agricultural Science Practical Assessment, Dictionary of Home Economics Terms and Home Economics posters.

European commission

The Chairman and Executive Director of Agri Aware met with members of the European Commission and Michael Treacy, IFA, to update them on Agri Aware's work. Agri Aware entered the 'CAP 50 Communication Awards' 2013 and their two entries were shortlisted in the 'Communication to the public' category for the 'Farm Walk and CAP talk' CAP communication campaign and in the 'Innovative Communication' category for the role of the CAP Agri Ambassadors communicating CAP in an innovative way at Family Farm. Agri Aware also submitted a bid to the European Commission for funds to communicate the CAP to the general public and farmers in 2014, entitled 'Follow the Farmer', which comprises a significant social media element.

Agri Aware's 'CAP Mobile Farm'

The Mobile Farm travelled to schools and shows across the country in 2013.

Incredible edibles

A total of 865 primary schools across Ireland participated in the 2013 Incredible Edibles project to grow fruit and vegetables in school, with a view to increasing consumption.

Bloom 2013, National Ploughing Championships 2013 and Tullamore Show

Agri Aware delivered large interactive exhibits at Bloom and the National Ploughing Championships. Agri Aware's 'CAP Mobile Farm' visited Tullamore.

World Food Day – Food for thought

Agri Aware worked in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture and Gorta in delivering an insert in The Irish Times, which was aimed at raising awareness among school children and the general public about the difference between Irish agriculture and agriculture in Africa.

Dig In! Learning about life on the farm and in the countryside

Agri Aware launched an updated curriculum-linked educational resource for primary schools across Ireland called 'Dig In'. This key resource enables primary level students to learn about life on the farm and in the countryside and the importance of the Irish agri-food industry in delivering safe, quality and traceable food that is affordable and of the highest standards via CAP.

Christmas Radio advertisement

Agri Aware delivered a Christmas radio advertisement across national and regional radio, with the key messages being to support local quality and sustainably produced Irish food this Christmas and to remind the public about the importance of CAP in delivering this food.

Agricultural Science syllabus

Agri Aware and IASTA met with Taoiseach Enda Kenny with regard to updating the Agricultural Science syllabus in April 2013. As a consequence of this meeting, the NCCA will now produce a paper for consultation in early 2014, with regard to the development of a new syllabus. Agri Aware will play a key role in shaping a new syllabus in conjunction with the NCCA and patrons.

Media outputs from 1 January 2013 to 12 December 2013

357 articles from Agri Aware were published in the national and regional press, while 13 radio interviews and 3 television features were broadcast: 2 x News2day features and 1 x Nationwide.

James Kelly
Secretary

Bernard Donoghue
Chairman

Richard Moeran
Vice-Chairman

Bord Bia

In addition to the ongoing Bord Bia meat programmes, including market development, market information, trade fair participation and promotions, the main activities in 2013 included:

Promotions

Generic Quality Assurance Promotion

To increase understanding and loyalty to the Quality Mark, the TV advert on the Mark was aired for nine weeks during 2013.

Neven Maguire Home Chef TV Series: The 'Home Chef' series ran from 6th February 2013 for 13 weeks. This series featured Neven Maguire and other chefs using quality assured ingredients in their kitchens. Viewership numbers started at a record high of 471,000 for the first episode and settled at an average of 270,000 weekly viewers.

PR Campaign: A ten month communications campaign (ie Quality Kitchen) ran on Facebook from March to December.

Egg Promotion 2013

The main objective of the egg promotions in 2013 was to increase the frequency of consuming Bord Bia quality assured eggs at both breakfast and the main meal occasion. Targeting the 25 to 45 year old female shoppers, a range of new activities reflected the 'Your Food is our Passion theme' including a new 30 second TV advertisement supported by PR and online activities.

Beef Promotion 2013

The beef market in 2013 continues to be characterised by tight supplies and subdued consumer demand. A further tightening in EU beef output has helped offset the increase in EU imports, reflecting unfavourable exchange rates and weak consumer demand.

The premiumisation and differentiation of Irish beef in our key export markets continues to progress despite difficult economic conditions. In 2013, 53% or 250,000 tonnes of beef was exported to the UK with continental Europe accounting for 214,000 tonnes or 45.5 and international markets accounting for 8,000 tonnes or 1.5% of total exports. We again promoted Irish beef with over 75 higher value customers of Irish beef across 14 European markets, building consumer awareness and securing a preference for over 220,000 tonnes of Irish beef across these markets.

Pigmeat Promotion

The main focus of the 2013 Bord Bia Quality Assured pigmeat promotions on the domestic market was quality assured ham and bacon. There were three TV campaigns in 2013 which promoted ham and bacon. The first took place for 10 days in March. The next two featured for four week's which aired in May/June, with the last one taking place November. Other areas that were used to promote the bacon and ham campaign included point of sale advertising, (posters in shopping centres and entrances to Tesco and Dunnes stores) while radio promotional activities on radio (Today FM) and digital channels were also used to support the campaign.

Sheepmeat Promotion

The main objective of the lamb campaign was to increase frequency of purchasing of lamb among relatively heavy lamb purchasers during peak season and to encourage them to choose lamb with the Quality Mark when shopping. Targeting higher income female shoppers aged 40-55 years; the key messages are lamb's unique flavour, the range of lamb cuts to suit every meal occasion and to choose lamb with the Bord Bia Quality Mark. Activities included TV advertising, PR and online activities (1 June - 15 September).

The Agneau Presto promotion, a generic lamb campaign co-funded by Bord Bia, Interbev and Eblex concluded in December 2013.

Following the decision of the Commission enabling sheep meat to be eligible for funding support under EU co-funded Promotion of Agricultural Products Scheme, Bord Bia together with Interbev and Eblex will coordinate a joint application for the promotion of sheep meat 2015 – 2017. In the interim, the Agneau Presto campaign will continue into 2014.

Livestock promotion

Bord Bia supported the export of live animals in 2013 by providing up to date weekly reports providing up to-date information on the major markets, including supply data, trade prices for young stock, beef and veal. Bimonthly market updates with more detailed information on Italy, Spain and the Netherlands was also provided. Irish livestock was promoted by advertisement in specialist trade magazines while Bord Bia's DVD / YouTube footage of high quality Irish weanlings and calves is also valuable in promotion. Organisation of annual Bord Bia seminars as well as organisation and support of "Irish livestock" stand at relevant livestock shows was also provided.

Just Ask

Just Ask, a public awareness campaign that encourages consumers to look for information on where the food (particularly meat) on their plate comes from, continued to build awareness through PR and online activities.

Education Programme

Bord Bia's Education Programme continued in 2013 with 60 cookery demonstrations and healthy eating presentations to 10,000 consumers taking place throughout the country.

Market Access Highlights

In early December, An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny and Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Simon Coveney T.D welcomed the announcement by Japan that it is re-opening its beef market to Irish exports.

In October Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, led a delegation of 60 representatives of the Irish agri-food industry on a week-long trade mission to the Gulf States of Abu Dhabi, Qatar, Dubai and Saudi Arabia to build closer commercial linkages between Irish and local businesses, and to develop relationships with key Government Ministries and agencies, in this critically important target region for Irish exports.

Through the year Bord Bia and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine hosted inspections from the Gulf region and Japan as well as visits by official delegations from Russia, China and Vietnam.

In January United Arab Emirates (UAE) authorities opened the UAE market to exports of sheepmeat from Ireland. The decision by the UAE follows agreements reached last summer on the lifting of the age restriction for Irish beef destined for the UAE and on a veterinary health certificate allowing for the export of poultry meat and poultry meat products to the UAE. Also in January the resumption of the live- export trade to Libya was also announced.

In July the GCC announced the lifting of the ban of Irish beef and sheepmeat following a decision by the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Food Safety Committee.

In November the United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) announced that it is changing the regulations which restricted the importation of beef from the European Union due to BSE. The Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine will continue discussions with the USDA Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) to seek approval as soon as possible of Irish meat plants interested in supplying the US market with beef.

In December Japanese authorities announced the re-opening of the Japanese beef market to Irish beef.

Potatoes and Horticulture Promotions

The Potato Promotions Group which includes representatives from Bord Bia, IFA, Irish Potato Federation & Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine has agreed following discussions with Industry stakeholders to submit in 2014 an application to the EU to seek joint funding for a three year promotion of potatoes from 2015 to 2017.

National Potato Day was organised by Bord Bia at the end of August and it was jointly funded by Bord Bia, IFA/Growers and the IPF/Packers.

Bord Bia also supported the promotion of fresh produce to school children through jointly supporting with packers and growers the Incredible Edibles Schools programme. 900 national schools participated in the 2013 programme.

In terms of the mushroom industry, the UK "More to Mushrooms" three year promotion campaign which was valued at €2.4ml and funded jointly by the Mushroom Industry (Ireland/UK) and the EU was completed in the Autumn.

Horticultural Trade & Consumer Events

Bord Bia provided sponsorship and support for a number of key trade events in the Horticulture calendar during the year.

The Bord Bia garden festival, **Bloom 2013**, took place in the Phoenix Park over the June bank holiday weekend, which attracted a record 110,000 visitors to Ireland's biggest horticulture consumer event of the year.

John Bryan (Main Board & Chairman Livestock Board)

Henry Burns (Livestock Board)

James Murphy (Livestock Board)

Pat O'Flaherty (Livestock Board)

Alo Mohan (Livestock Board)

Michael Doran (Quality Assurance)

CAP Rural Development Monitoring Committee

Achievements and Work Done in 2013

- The Monitoring Committee deals with the implementation of the €7bn CAP Rural Development Plan 2007 – 2013. The Committee is made up of various Departments and various stakeholders with around 40 members.
- The EU Commission attends every meeting and the structure is part of the legislative process for each member state in the implementation of their Rural Development Plan.
- IFAs objective is to ensure that all EU funding is fully used up and that the measures contained in the Plan are fully implemented in line with the agreement reached with the EU Commission in 2007.
- One meeting was held in the course of 2013. At this meeting the Department of Agriculture and the EU Commission briefed the Monitoring Committee on the update of all measures.
- At the end of October €2.270bn of EU money had been spent out of a total of €2.46bn.
- The main underspend is Leader, where around 50% of the funding has been spent to date.
- The Monitoring Committee also dealt with changes to the Rural Development Programme. These included an extension on the date to complete work under the Sow Welfare Scheme from end of September 2013 to end of February 2014.

Priorities for 2014

- Ensuring that all EU funding allocated in the Rural Development Plan is fully used up by commitments which have already been entered into through TAMS, Leader and other programmes where EU transition rules apply.
- That the new RDP does not have the changes which have taken place in the current one which have been affected by budget cuts and closure to schemes since 2008.
- That the €313m per annum of EU money allocated is fully utilised on farmer programmes over the next 7 years.

Flor McCarthy
Chairman
Rural Development Committee

Gerry Gunning
Executive
Rural Development Committee

COFORD **(Programme of Competitive Forestry Research for Development)**

The COFORD council is a representative body of the forestry sector, appointed by the Minister of State for Forestry to decide research and development policy and priorities, oversee annual budgets and spending, and provide direction to the executive. The members of the COFORD Executive are appointed to implement and administer the programme on behalf of the Council. IFA is a member of the COFORD Council.

There have been five meetings convened of the COFORD council in 2013 where the council discussed Ash Dieback, Forestry Bill 2013, Forest Policy Review and Climate Change.

There were also two external field days to see ongoing research projects in the Timber Engineering Research Group in NUI Galway and None So Hardy Nursery in Wicklow.

The Council has convened groups in the following areas: Land Availability, Forest Management Planning, Wood Mobilisation and Forest Research. IFA is represented on the Land Availability, Forest Management Planning and Wood Mobilisation Working Group. The groups reported to COFORD council throughout 2013 and all groups are nearly completion and final reports are expected early 2014.

COFORD produced *Synopsis of roundwood harvest, timber trade and wood-biomass use in 2012* report which was also presented to the Council.

Michael Fleming
National Farm Forestry Chairman

Comhairle na Tuaithe

Achievements and Work Done in 2013

Comhairle na Tuaithe was established in 2004 to develop a national strategy for leisure use of land and waterways, dealing with conflicts where it exists and bring about a satisfactory resolution and to agree a countryside code between recreational users and landowners.

The representation is broad including tourism bodies, recreational users, relevant departments and farm organisations. The Department of the Environment is the lead Department.

Comhairle na Tuaithe met on 3 occasions in 2013 and issues discussed was a National Indemnity Scheme, the Walks Scheme, public Rights of Ways, Land Access Bill and Mountain Access Scheme.

In relation to the National Indemnity Scheme, IFA had expressed reservations and had separate meetings with the Department of the Environment so ensure that national indemnity would not give rights of access to the public.

On the Land Access Bill, which was supported by Labour TD Robert Dowds, IFA lobbied the main Government party, Fine Gael to ensure that this Bill was not taken on the floor of the Dáil. The Bill has now been transferred to the Oireachtas Committee on the Environment.

In the 2014 Budget, the allocation for the Walks Scheme was maintained. This level of funding will support the current scheme, the Rural Recreation Officers as well as the promotion of the scheme.

The Lissadell judgement in County Sligo was monitored by Comhairle and the outcome in the Supreme Court was welcomed by IFA and other landowners organisation such as Coilte at the Comhairle meetings.

The Rural Social Scheme continues to play a key role in the creation of walks and it is estimated that 400 farmers support the walks under the RSS.

From Tourism Ireland's analysis, the Walks Scheme has added greatly to tourism numbers in the areas where it is in operation.

IFA's participation in CnaT has been vital in ensuring that the rights of farmers are fully protected.

Priorities for 2014

- Seeking additional funding for the development of new walks.
- Resisting any attempts to change legislation in land access.
- Meeting with the Oireachtas Committee on the Land Access Bill if necessary.
- Input into further discussions on a National Indemnity Scheme.
- Promoting the development of walks through various tourism organisations.

Tom Fadian
IFA Representative

Gerry Gunning
Rural Development Executive

Designated Areas Appeals Advisory Board

Achievements and Work Done in 2013

The Designated Areas Appeals Advisory Board was set up following the implementation of the EU Habitats Directive in 1997. Its purpose is to hear appeals by landowners of lands designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs). Landowners have 3 months to appeal once notification of designation is issued by the National Parks & Wildlife Service.

There are two appeals Boards. One chaired by Sean Duignan dealing with SACs and the other one chaired by Ciana Campbell which deals with SPAs. The Board is made of farm organisations, IBEC where relevant and environmental organisations. The cost of each appeal is about €5,000 which covers the cost of the Board as well as the grant to the environmental consultant to make the case for the appellant.

As a result of objections by IFA in relation to the undue influence of the independent advisor to the board at the Appeals Board meeting, it was felt by IFA that the advisor was favouring the environmental NGOs and therefore IFA sought equality at a technical level in the final discussion. Because of this there have been no appeals heard since June 2013. These matters are now being resolved and IFA has ensured that the appellant's advisor is present at the technical discussions which will take place before a final decision is made.

In the early part of 2013, a large number of appeals were heard on Inishboffin island (10) and the Derryveigh/Glendown mountain range in Donegal (5). The Inishboffin designations have not yet been decided, on the other sights, 5 were partially reduced and 2 were unsuccessful in other areas.

There are 286 appeals outstanding mainly related to recent SPA designations. The main bulk of these are 160 sites in the Connemara bog complex.

IFA continues to resist the 3-month time period imposed by the last Government by which an appeal must be made following a notification of designation.

Priorities for 2014

- To ensure that the impasse that has developed at Board level is resolved.
- To ensure that any farmer who has had land designation imposed on his land is given ample opportunity to appeal the designation.
- That the number of appeals dealt with in 2014 is greater than those dealt with in 2013.
- That the grant of €1,350 to appellants is increased to fully reflect the cost of doing a scientific report.
- That the farmer representation on the Board is fully maintained.
- That the influence of the Environmental NGOs is strongly challenged.

Martin Gavin
IFA Representative

Farm Animal Welfare Advisory Council

The FAWAC held 4 meetings throughout 2013 under the chairmanship of Professor Patrick Fottrell .Key issues dealt with during 2013 included the following:

- Early Warning System and the severe fodder crisis in respect of animal welfare problems on farms
- Animal Health & Welfare Bill
- Finalisation of the Code of Practice on Equine Fairs, Marts and Markets
- Sow Housing
- Tail docking of cows
- Equine Welfare and Identification
- Animals in Transit
- EuroFAWC
- Slaughter without stunning
- Fur Farming
- Acutely injured animals on farm – project research involving IFA, UCD and Veterinary Ireland
- Other animal welfare issues

In 2013 FAWAC became patron members of Agri Aware following work and assistance by IFA at the Board.

IFA was also represented on a number of the FAWAC working groups in 2013. IFA utilised the Committee and Project Team structure within the Association on these working groups which included:

- Education sub-group
- Equine sub-group

IFA continue its valuable input and work at county level with the Early Warning System in respect of welfare issues and problem cases at county level.

*Henry Burns
Kevin Kiersey
Kevin Kinsella*

Fertilizer Association of Ireland

The Fertilizer Association of Ireland comprises of members from the agri-business industry, with an interest in research, use and retail of fertilizers. The Association was established to promote the efficient use of fertilizer through technical meetings, field visits, conferences and the publication of technical seminars.

Nutrient Wheel Calculator

In 2012 the Association launched a 'Nutrient Wheel' calculator, which help farmers and advisors with grassland and crop nutrient advice. The nutrient wheel is a field ready reckoner for estimating the phosphorus and potassium offtakes from grassland and tillage crops in Ireland.

Following on from this, during 2013 the Fertilizer Association launched an online version which can be accessed via smartphone and on the organisation's website (www.fertilizer-assoc.ie).

The on-line calculator estimated offtake of phosphorus and potassium, based on simple input values of stocking rate, concentrate feed usage and crop yield. It also includes useful field notes on soil test results and fertility levels, organic manures, lime, sulphur and magnesium.

Spring Scientific Meeting

The Spring Scientific Meeting took place in February. Three papers were presented at the seminar:

- *The Impact of Achieving Targets set out in Food Harvest 2020 on Nitrogen and Phosphorous Usage* by Dr. Noel Culleton.
- *Maintaining Optimum Soil Fertility – Focus on Offtake* by Stan Lalor, David Wall and Mark Plunkett. Teagasc.
- *Recent Technological Developments in Fertilizer Spreading* by Emmanuel Piron and Denis Miclet. Instea, France.

Annual Spring Supplement

The annual spring supplement was published in the *Irish Farmers' Journal*.

Nitrates Review

The Association made a strong submission to the Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government emphasizing the need for an extra phosphorus allowance on grassland, the importance of the nitrates derogation and other flexibilities to allow maintenance of soil fertility and to meet crop requirements.

Smart Farming

The Association contributed information on soil fertility to the IFA resource efficiency initiative Smart Farming, and Stan Lalor, President, spoke at the launch seminar.

Harold Kingston
IFA Representative

Thomas Ryan
Executive Secretary
Environment & Rural Affairs Committee

Inland Fisheries Ireland

The main role of Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) is the protection and conservation of the State's inland fisheries resource. It is also required to promote, support, facilitate and advise the Minister on the conservation, protection, management, marketing, development and improvement of the inland fisheries resource.

Fisheries Research and Development

IFI continues to be involved in fisheries research and monitoring activities including water chemistry, aquatic vegetation, coarse fish, pike and salmonids. Many of the projects are applied fisheries management projects dealing with diverse issues such as measuring the attainment of salmon conservation limits, management of invasive aquatic species and reporting the conservation statuses of EU Habitats Directive designated species.

Court cases

IFI also took a number of court cases successfully through the courts, including:

- Two convictions for illegal fishing at Whitewood Lake in Kilmainham Wood, County Meath.
- A conviction for illegal salmon fishing in Dundalk.

Public consultations

A number of public consultations also took place including:

- Wild Salmon and Sea Trout Tagging Scheme Regulation and Conservation Measures
- River Suir commercial snap net salmon fishing

Salmon Farm in Galway Bay

IFI has claimed that the accompanying environmental impact statements to the proposed Bord lascaigh Mhara (BIM) salmon farm in Galway Bay are inadequate. Ifl is of the view that BIM failed to conduct baseline studies of salmonoid stocks and sea lice, before cages were first introduced to sheltered bays and that this was a major mistake.

Brendan O'Mahony
Chairman
Inland Fisheries Ireland

Thomas Ryan
Executive Secretary
Environment & Rural Affairs
Committee

Institute of International and European Affairs

The Institute of International and European Affairs is Ireland's leading think-tank on European and International Affairs. The Institute was established in 1991 and is an independent not-for-profit body that undertakes analysis on the EU and global policy agenda which impacts on Ireland.

Research

Its extensive research programme aims to provide its members with high-level analysis and forecasts of the challenges on the global and EU policy agendas which impact on Ireland. It acts as a catalyst for new thinking, new solutions and policy options, which give its members from the private and public sector a significant competitive advantage.

Activity during 2013

During 2013, the Institute hosted over 100 events which afforded its members unparalleled access to senior European and International political and administrative office-holders, and thought-leaders at national, EU and global level. These events covered a wide range of topics of relevance to the EU and internationally including the Euro crisis, the Irish EU Presidency, the future of Europe, the CAP, water and resource efficiency, and energy and climate change policy

While most IIEA events take place at its office in Dublin, recordings of the presentations can be viewed on the website www.iiea.com.

The Executive Committee of the Institute is representative of all sectors of the economy, the main political parties and independent academics. The IIEA is funded mainly by corporate sponsors and individual membership. The IFA, FBD and the *Farmers Journal* agreed in combination to be a corporate sponsor of the Institute.

The Institute operates Confidential Briefings, following major EU events such as Summit meetings and important Council meetings. These briefings can be of significant value to IFA.

Programme for 2014

The Institute will be continuing with its main work areas in 2014.

Bryan Barry
IFA Representative on IIEA

Irish Cattle Breeding Federation

2013 began as a very challenging year for farmers in Ireland, with extremely poor weather conditions in the first half of the year. Thankfully, there was dramatic improvement in weather conditions in the second half of the year. There is a general feeling of optimism for the medium term, especially on the dairy side. However, there are undoubtedly big challenges that we are facing on the suckler side. We continue to be focused on providing a breeding infrastructure that will facilitate the achievement of the ambitious Food Harvest 2020 targets for both dairy and beef.

The headline project at ICBF early in the year was Sexed Semen. Despite a number of very significant challenges (poor weather, late start), the project was successfully executed. Sexed Semen has the potential to have a major impact on the dairy and beef industries into the future, and can play a key role in meeting the 2020 targets.

Genomics continues to evolve at a significant pace. In 2013 over 50%, up from 48% in 2012, of some 650,000 recorded dairy inseminations were from genomically selected bulls. In 2012 our efforts in genomics have included a number of very significant developments including

- (a) The launch of a custom genomic chip for Ireland (the first commercially available in the World), as part of a joint venture between Teagasc, Illumina, Weatherbys, and ICBF
- (b) The dairy and beef herdbooks coming on board to genotype all their 2013 born pedigree male calves
- (c) A significant increase in the number of dairy male calves being genotyped.
- (d) A couple of key additions to the ICBF team in the area of genomics

Our genetic evaluation activities are at the very heart of ICBF's role in dairy and beef. The extra data collected through the suckler cow welfare scheme, and now the Beef Data Programme and other initiatives coupled with improvements in our evaluation methods has resulted in a substantial improvement in the accuracy of our beef genetic evaluations. The evaluations continue, however, to be at the mercy of good quality data for real progress to be made. We have also seen good uptake of the Eurostars on the terminal side, but there is still significant progress to be made in terms of using the Eurostars to help choose female replacements.

The Best Practice in Cattle Breeding campaign was continued this year. This year's campaign featured weekly installments, covering a wide range of useful and practical breeding information on a dedicated page in the Farmers Journal.

The G€€ IRELAND® dairy progeny test program continued in 2013. The implementation of a revamped G€€ IRELAND® beef programme began in 2013, and the roll-out of this will continue in 2014. One element that has continued to make great strides in 2013 is the Tully Performance Test station. There are some very compelling results coming from the centre in relation to the costs of finishing beef animals, that can benefit all beef farmers in the country.

HerdPlus® membership has exceeded 17,000 dairy and beef herds. These herds have access to a wide range of valuable breeding information which farmers can use to breed more profitable cattle. Despite a very difficult breeding season, ICBF's service income has held up well. Our Bull Search facility (on www.icbf.com) continues to be the facility on our website that farmers and breeders find most useful with over 1,000,000 searches in the last twelve months.

Significant development work was completed in conjunction with Animal Health Ireland (AHI) in the area of IT infrastructure for management of the compulsory phase of the BVD programme. Significant progress was also made in relation to the CellCheck and Johnes programmes. ICBF's ability to generate genetic evaluations for animals in relation to disease resistance will become an area of increasing importance in the coming years. Initial results are showing significant potential for genetics to assist with national animal health programmes. As such, our relationship with AHI will continue to be extremely important.

Our role in the international community of animal recording and animal breeding continues. In particular, INTERBEEF, which will allow international evaluations for beef animals has made great progress. The integrated nature of our data recording and evaluation systems gives us significant advantages, and we need to continue to exploit those.

2013 saw the OptiMIR partnership (www.optimir.eu) involving ICBF, Teagasc and 15 other partners in UK, France, Germany, Belgium and Luxembourg continue. The project is focusing on making good use of the extra data (the MIR spectra) that can be collected from milk sample testing. This project is an example of European collaboration with a focus on delivering benefits for dairy farmers and the wider industry. It is partially funded by Interreg.

Irish farming benefits greatly from the unique partnership that exists between Government and the industry. The ability of ICBF to put DAFM funding to good use is widely acknowledged and in 2013 was particularly evident again through the progress being made in Dairy and Beef evaluations, and adoption by farmers. Without DAFM support it would be much more difficult for ICBF to deliver so much benefit to the industry and wider community.

Summary

2013 has been a year where ICBF has continued to exploit the new cattle breeding technologies for the benefit of Irish farmers. We have been able to achieve growth in most of our activities. We have been able to achieve this extra output without an increase in resources and ICBF's financial situation is in line with budgets. The key to ICBF's success remains the same - the application of good science, a focus on the needs of farmers, working closely with our stakeholders and a 100% commitment to delivering by a talented and dedicated team. We are most fortunate to operate in an environment where ICBF's vision is shared by our Board, our members, DAFM, our sponsors, Teagasc, and, most importantly, Irish Farmers.

*Michael Doran
Joe Brady
Kevin Kiersey
Kevin Kinsella*

Irish Dairy Board

2013 was a year of two halves, with difficult production conditions, including a major fodder crisis, and low milk prices in the first half, followed by a major recovery in weather conditions from early summer. Tight global supplies and strong demand saw significant dairy market price increases during the year, eventually reflected in strong milk price lifts in the second half.

Strong commodity prices, and consequent global milk price increases, were fostered by the short supplies of 2012 and early 2013, and by robust demand from China, Russia, SE Asia and generally from customers with stocks to replenish. Despite a strong recovery in production from summer, especially in Oceania and the US, international and EU commodity prices remained quite strong well into year-end, with some easing in the last couple of months.

The IDB index, which reflects the returns from the IDB's entire product mix, including over 40% of cheddar cheese, increased dramatically during the year, reaching an unprecedented high of 133.7 points in September, easing to 131.1 points for October, and expected to ease some more by year-end. Despite this, for mid-November, we estimate that the gross (before processing cost) returns of SMP/butter as reported to the EU Commission as the average Irish market price is approximately 45c/l.

The outlook for 2014 is for a rebalancing of supply and demand leading to easier commodity and milk prices, though this is expected to be progressive rather than sudden, and continued strong demand should allow co-ops to sustain current prices well into spring.

Dairy products representing around 60% of the milk produced in Ireland are traded by the Board each year. This includes around 80% of butter and cheese, and around 70 % of powders. The Irish Dairy Board has subsidiaries in the UK, Belgium, the Netherlands and the US providing valuable distribution channels for Irish products.

During 2013, the Irish Dairy Board have announced their plan to invest in new route-to-market facilities in Saudi Arabia, costing €20m. This will build a cheese plant to which Irish and other dairy ingredients will be shipped for local processing. The IDB also bought out from First Milk their right to pack cheese for some of the retailers the IDB does not currently interact with (Morrison's, The Co-op, etc.) in the UK. While this will currently primarily concern mostly UK cheese – First Milk getting out of cheese packing and selling altogether - it does create opportunities for Irish cheese into new outlets for the short, medium and longer terms.

The IDB have also announced plans to extend their butter processing facility in Germany, to optimize their ability to export Kerrygold butter to new central European markets, including Poland.

The IDB has engaged in extensive strategic work with milk processors to identify products and markets which can be profitably tackled with growth milk after 2015.

To further promote Ireland's marketing edge on the global scene, the IDB are also engaging closely with Bord Bia's Origin Green sustainability campaign, and have pressed very strongly for the prompt implementation of the dairy QA and S scheme.

Kevin Kiersey
Chairman
National Dairy Committee

Catherine Lascurettes
Executive Secretary
National Dairy Executive

Irish Farm Films Producer Group Ltd. (Farm Plastic Recycling Scheme)

During 2013 the Irish Farm Films Producer Group Ltd. (IFFPG) continued collecting and recycling increased volumes of farm plastics, with the support and assistance of many IFA Officers. Over 27,000 tonnes of film plastic was collected in 2013, an increase of 17% on the previous year.

Farmers and IFFPG once again exceeded the farm plastic national recycling target for 2013 set by the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government.

Contribution to IFA Fodder Fund

The spring of 2013 proved extremely challenging for farmers, with many enduring fodder shortages. In response to this the IFFPG board agreed to make a €100,000 contribution to the fodder fund established by IFA to support farmers affected.

Farm Plastic Recycling

IFFPG's partnership with the other not-for-profit company called Farm Plastic Recycling Ltd. is operating well. Farm Plastic Recycling Ltd. collects and recycles meal and fertilizer bags and chemical containers at the 200 IFFPG bring centres.

Approximately 525 tonnes of material was collected by Farm Plastic Recycling Ltd. during 2013.

Farmers are no longer required to buy an outer bag in their co-op, when bringing empty meal and fertilizer bags for recycling. These materials can be stored and brought to bring centres in larger fertilizer bags. The recycling cost is €15 per full bulk fertilizer bag.

However, chemical drums must still be brought to bring centres in the recycling bags. This bag costs approximately €7 RRP in the co-op and the recycling charge is €30 at the bring centre.

Collection of Old Electrical Goods at Bring Centres

IFFPG bring centres are proving to be a popular recycling location for farmers.

During 2013, IFFPG ran pilot bring centres in Clare, Limerick, Offaly and Laois, at which several hundred tonnes of electrical goods such as old drills, fridges and other items such as batteries were collected free of charge. This two year pilot project will continue into next year, with a view to rolling it out nationwide.

*Aidan Larkin
IFA Representative
& Board Member of IFFPG Ltd*

*Thomas Ryan
Environment Executive
& Board Member of
IFFPG Ltd*

National Dairy Council

The NDC mark campaign was, during 2012 and into 2013, refocused on emphasising that 1 litre in every four consumed on the Irish market is not local, and the importance for consumers to choose NDC marked milk to support Irish jobs and the economy. A number of online tools have been developed which allow consumers to calculate the contribution they make to the economy by purchasing NDC marked milk.

This led to a strong political response by the NI dairy industry, who lobbied NI MEPs and Ministers, challenging in their statements the legality of the campaign. However, a response from the RoI Competition Authority confirmed that it considers the campaign to have no question to answer from a competition legislation point of view.

The plan for 2013 and onwards is to refocus again the NDC mark/guarantee campaign towards quality related considerations, rather than just provenance. The NDC have commissioned an audit of current co-op practices with regards to milk quality to substantiate this. For the longer term, and encouraged by IFA, the NDC are engaging in discussions with Bord Bia to examine how the NDC might become the domestic market face of the new dairy QA and Sustainability scheme over the coming years.

2013 saw the first ever “Dairy Week” in early May, which saw the promotion of NDC marked milk in the main supermarkets, and a number of dairy related public events, including the NDC annual conference. The 2014 Dairy Week will take place from 12th to 18th May 2014.

The National Dairy Council also deals with misinformation on matters relating to nutrition and health. Among other things, the NDC had a relatively high profile exchange with model and “qualified nutrition therapist” Rosanna Davison.

The National Dairy Council’s promotional activity includes nutritional education to schools through the medium of competitions and advertising campaign awards, and is very active on social media. It also targets the medical profession with specifically developed nutrition regular bulletins.

The NDC is hosting every year, in co-operation with local dairy co-ops, Health and Wellbeing Evenings around the country. Those have been well received, attracting large numbers of women to inform them on issues around health, nutrition and lifestyle, and the place of dairy products in their diet.

The NDC is now involved in the totally revamped national School Milk Scheme, in which 1000 new fridges were disseminated to schools.

The NDC now co-operate with the IDB in a joint Quality Milk Awards, and 2013 was the second year it was awarded.

IFA representatives for 2013 on the National Dairy Council are Kevin Kiersey and Teddy Cashman, with Eamonn McEntegert representing the National Milk Agency. Catherine Lascurettes also represents IFA on the nutrition issues subcommittee of the NDC.

Kevin Kiersey
Chairman
National Dairy Committee

Teddy Cashman
Chairman
National Liq Milk Committee

Catherine Lascurettes
Executive Secretary

National Economic and Social Council (NESC)

NESC is the consultative body to Government and is responsible for strategic analysis of major economic and social policy issues. The membership includes the five Social Pillars, senior representatives of a number of Government Departments, and a number of independent members nominated by Government.

During 2013, the work of NESC was concentrated in a number of areas including:

- Analysis of economic crises 5 years on
- Employment recovery of the Irish economy
- Addressing Climate Change commitments

Our Association took a very pro-active approach with NESC especially in the development of the Climate Change Policy. IFA is satisfied that the final NESC report "Towards Ireland's Low Carbon Future" largely accommodates the concerns of Farming and Agriculture.

The Irish Farming and Agriculture Sectors were well represented in all debates.

Participants in NESC, policymakers in Government and other bodies use NESC publications to inform policy development.

Pat Smith

National Milk Agency

Established 16 years ago by the National Milk Supply Act, the National Milk Agency's role is to ensure a quantitatively and qualitatively adequate year – round supply of milk for the liquid trade. It does this by ensuring that liquid milk producers are duly contracted to their dairies and are adequately compensated for the additional cost of year round/winter production.

The Agency has 6 staff. Three inspectors audit all processors nationally each month to see that liquid milk is used and liquid price is paid. The NMA's 3 inspectors carried out numerous inspections aiming at ensuring that liquid milk is being paid for at liquid milk prices, and that manufacturing milk is not used in lieu of liquid milk. In 2013 the NMA have found that 99.5% of milk supplies are compliant on prices, and 99% of supplies on contracts. These are very high levels of compliance. Prosecution will be used where necessary to ensure compliance.

Three administrative staff deal with around 2,000 contracts each year and work with other organisations including IFA, Department of Agriculture, National Dairy Council and the Consumers Association of Ireland. They also maintain a Register of Producers, a Register of Processors and a Register of Contracts.

In 2013, the NMA pursued further advocacy on behalf of the specialist liquid milk producers, because of the threat their failing economic sustainability poses to the year-round supply of fresh milk for the trade. They highlighted with an update of the work carried out last year by Dr Joe Patton of Teagasc the increasingly less profitable nature of specialist liquid milk production systems. This independent work has proven invaluable in helping IFA make the case for a need to improve primary producer remuneration with retailers and dairies during the year.

Having rationalized costs further in 2013, the NMA reduced the 0.145 c/l total levy by 25% from April 2013. Most dairies collect half of the levy from farmers, and pay the balance centrally.

Representatives of the processing industry on the NMA board include one from Glanbia, one from Kerry, and the Chairman and Secretary of the NDA.

The current farmer board members are now Pdraig Mulligan, Jerome Crowley, Teddy Cashman, Denis Fagan, Eamonn McEntegert.

Teddy Cashman
Chairman
National Liquid Milk Committee

Catherine Lascurettes
Executive Secretary

National Peatlands Council

Achievements and Work Done in 2013

- The remit of the council is to come forward with a strategy for Ireland's peatlands and to oversee the implementation of the SAC Habitats Directive on 55 raised SAC raised bogs and 75 NHA bogs.
- The work of the Committee, to date, has been mainly dealing with the turf-cutting restrictions on the raised SAC bogs where turf-cutting was forced to cease early from 2012.
- The Council members include IFA, Environmental NGOs, Irish Rural Link and Bord na Mona as well as the relevant Department of the Environment officials mainly from NPWS.
- The IFA representation on the Board is vital as the environmental NGOs want to restrict cutting of turf not just on SAC bogs but on all bogs including Blanket bogs throughout the country.
- IFA has insisted on a proper compensation scheme and successfully secured a compensation package which includes €1,500 for 15 years with a €500 top up in the first year that is currently being offered.
- Alternatively farmers can opt for the delivery of turf or relocation.
- The IFA proposal that turf would be purchased for people affected was accepted and tenders were put out for suppliers to provide this turf which over 400 farmers have taken up. The financial compensation has been taken up by over 2,000 farmers.
- The relocation to alternative bogs is a slow process with only around 2 bogs, Clara and Mountbellew having been successfully concluded.
- There has been a major discussion at the Council in relation to NHAs where turf cutting restrictions could apply in 2014. IFA has argued for the de-designation of these bogs.
- A Peatland review strategy is due to be sent to the Government in early 2014 which will take areas out of NHA designation.
- Where restrictions apply, IFA will be insisting that certain levels of turf cutting are allowed and that those people who wish to take compensation or relocation should be facilitated.
- At the board, IFA has strongly argued that where flooding results from blocking of drains to preserve the bog that farmers lands must be protected.
- IFA continues to take up the cases of farmers who have had problems with getting paid where the necessary paperwork may not be up-to-date. A meeting was held in Ballinagare, Co Roscommon on this issue to sort out the problems in that region.

Priorities for 2014

- In 2014 IFA will be insisting that the number of NHA raised bogs is reduced.
- That turf cutting is allowed on designated bogs for domestic purposes.
- That bogs are part of an agri-environment scheme under the new RDP.

Padraic Divilly

Joe Parlon

Gerry Gunning

Sheep Ireland

2013 has been a very challenging year for Sheep Ireland farmers in Ireland, with extremely poor weather conditions in the first half of the year, and weak farm gate prices. There are undoubtedly big challenges that we are facing on the sheep side, and at Sheep Ireland, we continue to be focused on providing a breeding infrastructure that will facilitate improved profitability through better sheep genetics.

Sheep Ireland (www.sheep.ie) continued to make very good progress in 2013 under its new permanent board structure. It has also successfully implemented an industry funding model (20% farmer, 80% DAFM), putting it on a much more sustainable footing.

The commercial farms that make up the CPT and MALP programmes have again put in a huge amount of work this year, and data coming from these farms is hugely valuable in generating accurate genetic evaluations for Sheep.

LambPlus has expanded significantly in 2013, and numbers are continuing to rise. This means that around 20% of all rams (and 50% of pedigree rams) sold this year would have EuroStar figures available. We expect this number to rise again in 2014, and current indications are that this is very achievable.

STAP has had a major impact in terms of raising the awareness of Eurostars on Sheep, especially rams, and the fact the Eurostar concept is similar to that in cattle also helps in this regard. It is critical for the success of Sheep Ireland that (a) farmers use the indexes in their purchasing decisions and (b) that the performance of the sheep correlate with the indexes – i.e. high index sheep perform more profitably than low index sheep.

The Eurostar indexes are currently undergoing a major revamp, which will split them into a 'Replacement Index' and a 'Terminal Index', similar to what has happened in cattle. This has evolved out of extensive industry consultation, and very good levels of engagement have been achieved.

The Team at Sheep Ireland has been significantly enhanced this year, with Eamon Wall now supported by Michael McHugh (part-time) and Kevin McDermott. This will help us to continue to accelerate the progress in 2014, and continue to become more relevant to ordinary commercial sheep farmers.

Irish Sheep farming is benefitting from the unique partnership that exists between Government and the sheep industry. The ability of Sheep Ireland to put DAFM funding to good use is widely acknowledged and in 2013 was particularly evident again through the LambPlus and STAP programmes. Without DAFM support it would be impossible for Sheep Ireland to deliver to the industry and wider community.

Summary

2013 has been a year where Sheep Ireland made significant progress. We have been able to achieve growth in all of our activities. The key to Sheep Ireland's success remains the same - the application of good science, a focus on the needs of farmers, working closely with our stakeholders and a 100% commitment to delivering by a talented and dedicated team. We are most fortunate to operate in an environment where Sheep Ireland vision is shared by our Board, DAFM, Teagasc, and, most importantly, Irish Farmers.

*James Murphy
Kevin Kinsella*

Teagasc

Budget

The Organisation's budget in 2013 was €112 million. In Budget 2014 the allocation has not changed. This funding should be sufficient given the number of people that have retired as a result of the incentivised Government programme for people to retire in the last few years. However, the pension bill for the retirees still has to be met by Teagasc and the number of people on pensions is greater than those in employment in the organisation.

Education

There were increased numbers of students enrolled in Teagasc agricultural courses in 2013. 1,900 enrolments in September 2013 this was on a par with the previous year. The total number of students on Teagasc run courses is now 3,600. The new professional diploma in Dairy Farm Management established by Teagasc in conjunction with UCD is in its second year.

Advisory Services

In light of a reduced budget, the loss of staff through retirements and the non-renewal of staff contracts, the focus of the advisory service has been on maintaining a quality service to farmers. The development of discussion groups has helped to re-focus the advisory service. This has been supported by the BTAP and STAP. IFA will be working with Teagasc in the development of discussion groups.

IFA pressed Teagasc to establish special clinics and meetings to deal with farmers who experienced severe fodder shortages in the late spring of 2013. An intensive information programme on feeding animals was initiated through the various media outlets.

Teagasc helped 40,000 farmers with their SFP applications in 2013. However, due to reduced personnel the number of AEOS 3 plans submitted was not high. The advisory service also dealt with the problems farmers encountered with the eligible land issue.

Research

A comprehensive research programme has been maintained to service the important dairy, beef, tillage, pigs, sheep, food and horticulture sectors. In addition research to find practical solutions to environmental challenges facing farmers is on-going. The Teagasc Beef Carbon Navigator has been developed in association with Bord Bia. This can be developed further and could be used as a good marketing tool for Irish product. The second phase of the Teagasc/IFJ Better Farm Beef Programme continued in 2013 with 26 farms and 2 college farms involved.

Concluding Comments

In the context of the *Harvest 2020 Report* Teagasc have a key role to play in providing the agriculture industry with the necessary research and advice to achieve the ambitious targets set out.

IFA's role on the Board is crucial to ensure that Teagasc focuses on the aspects of the industry crucial for primary producers.

Eddie Downey
IFA Representative



IFA



The Irish Farmers' Association

***LIST OF REPRESENTATIVES
ON
OUTSIDE BODIES & BOARDS FOR 2014***

59th Annual General Meeting

**Irish Farm Centre
Tuesday/Wednesday 14th/15th January, 2014**

IFA Representatives on Outside Bodies and Boards for 2014

Section 1 - COPA Working Parties & Other European Producer Organisations:

WORKING PARTY	NOMINEE(S)	CONTACT POINT
Praesidium	E. Downey/P. Smith/M. Treacy	Executive Council
Policy Group	M. Treacy/B. Barry/R. Dwyer	Executive Council
Beef	H. Burns/K. Kinsella	Livestock Committee
Cereals	N. Delany*/F. Conway	Grain Committee
Eggs & Poultry	A. Mohan*/A. McKeever	Poultry Committee
Feedingstuffs	J. McCarthy/F. Conway/A. McKeever	Inputs & Feedstuffs Project Team
Fertilisers & Pesticides	H. Kingston/T. Ryan	Environment Committee
Flowers & Plants	G. Reilly/E. Farrell	Horticulture Section
Forestry	M. Fleming/G. O'Sullivan	Farm Forestry Section
Fruit & Vegetables	G. Reilly/E. Farrell	Horticulture Section
Horses	J. Murphy/E. Farrell	Horse Project Team
Milk	S. O'Leary/C. Lascurettes	Dairy Committee
Pigmeat	P. O'Flaherty/A. McKeever	Pigs Committee
Potatoes	T. Carpenter*/E. Farrell	Potato Committee
Quality & Promotion	F. Conway	Grain Committee
Rural Development (incl Less Favoured Areas)	F. McCarthy/G. Gunning	Rural Development Committee
Sheep	J. Murphy*/K. Kinsella	Sheep Committee
Taxation & Legal Questions	R. Dwyer	Farm Business Committee
Veterinary Questions	-/T. Bourke	Animal Health Project Team
Women	M. Canning	Farm Family Committee
Fed. of European Aquaculture Producers	R. Flynn	Aquaculture Section
European Mollusc Producers' Assoc.	R. Flynn (President)	Aquaculture Section
European Nurserystock Association	V. Farrell/E. Farrell	IHNSA/Executive Council
GEPC (Mushrooms)	G. Reilly/E. Farrell	Mushroom Committee

* New Committee Chairman will succeed automatically once elected.

Section 2 – European Commission Advisory Groups:

ADVISORY GROUP

NOMINEE(S)

CONTACT POINT

Common Agricultural Policy	E. Downey/P. Smith	Executive Council
Milk	S. O’Leary	Dairy Committee
Beef	H. Burns/K. Kinsella	Livestock Committee
Pigmeat	P. O’Flaherty/A. McKeever	Pigs Committee
- Pigmeat Forecast Working Group	A. McKeever	Pigs Committee
Sheep	J. Murphy*/K. Kinsella	Sheep Committee
Cereals	N. Delaney*/F. Conway	Grain Committee
Poultry & Eggs	A. Mohan* /R. Malone	Poultry Committee
- Poultry & Eggs Forecast Working Group	A. Mohan*/R. Malone	Poultry Committee
Fresh Fruit & Vegetables	G. Reilly/E. Farrell	Horticulture Section
Agriculture and Environment	H. Kingston/T. Ryan	Environment Committee
Rural Development	F. McCarthy/G. Gunning	Rural Development Committee
Feedingstuffs	J. McCarthy/F. Conway/A. McKeever	Inputs & Feedstuffs Project Team
Forestry	M. Fleming	Farm Forestry Section
Fisheries and Aquaculture	R. Flynn	Aquaculture Section
GEOPA Employers’ Group	G. Gunning	Rural Development Committee

* New Committee Chairman will succeed automatically once elected.

Section 3 - International Representation:

ORGANISATION	NOMINEE(S)	CONTACT POINT
European Economic & Social Committee	P. Walshe to September 2014	Executive Council
World Farmers Organisation	E. Downey/P. Smith/M. Treacy	Executive Council
International Salmon Farmers' Association International Committee on Molluscan Shellfish Safety	R. Flynn R. Flynn	Aquaculture Section Aquaculture Section

Section 4 - National Representation:

ORGANISATION

Teagasc
NESCA
Agricultural Trust (IFJ)
Farmer Business Developments plc.
FBD Trust Company Limited
Macra Council
Agri Aware
Irish Farm Centre

An Bord Bia
- Meat & Livestock board

- Quality Assurance board

Irish Dairy Board
National Dairy Council (NDC)

Dairy Research Trust
National Milk Agency

Department of Agriculture
- Milk Quota Appeals Tribunal
- Milk Quota Review Group
- Charter Review Group
- Farm Animal Welfare Council

NOMINEE(S)

T. O'Leary
P. Smith
E. Downey/P. Smith/M. Treacy/D. Browne
J. Bryan/P. Smith /D. Lally/K. Kiersey/B. Donnelly
E. Downey/P. Smith
A. Gleeson
B. Donohue (Chair)/ R. Moeran/J. Parlon/J. Kelly (Sec)
P. Smith/B. Barry/K. Heade

E. Downey
H. Burns
J. Murphy*
P. O'Flaherty
A. Mohan*
H. Burns

S. O'Leary
S. O'Leary/T. Cashman
- (via National Milk Agency)
S. O'Leary/ **/T. Cashman
T. Cashman/J. Crowley/D. Fagan/E. McEnteggart/
P. Mulligan (all elected by producers)

M. Murphy/M. Slattery
S. O'Leary /C. Lascurettes
T. O'Leary/H. Burns/F. McCarthy/K. Kinsella/G. Gunning
H. Burns/ S. O'Leary /K. Kinsella

CONTACT POINT

Executive Council
Executive Council
Executive Council
Executive Council
Executive Council
Executive Council
Executive Council
Executive Council

Executive Council
Livestock Committee
Sheep Committee
Pigs Committee
Poultry Committee
Livestock Committee

Dairy Committee
Dairy/Liquid Milk Committees

Dairy/Liquid Milk Committees

Liquid Milk Committee

Executive Council/Dairy Committee
Dairy Committee
Executive Council
Executive Council

* New Committee Chairman will succeed automatically once elected

** New Committee Dairy Vice Chairman will succeed once elected

Section 4 - National Representation: (Continued)

ORGANISATION	NOMINEE(S)	CONTACT POINT
Department of Agriculture Continued - BVD IG - Johnes IG - Early Warning System Steering Group - Animal Remedies Consultative Committee	- M. Biggins/T. Phelan/T. Bourke - S. O'Leary/P. Donnelly/T. Cashman/T. Bourke M. Flynn/P. Murray/ S. O'Leary/ E. Tilson -	Executive Council/Animal Health Executive Council/Animal Health Executive Council/Animal Health Executive Council/ Animal Health
Irish Cattle Breeding Federation Sheep Ireland	M. Doran (V Chair)/H. Burns/K. Kiersey/ S. Kinsella J. Murphy (Chair)/K. Kinsella	Executive Council/Livestock/Dairy Cttees Executive Council
Cereals Association of Ireland Malting Industry Steering Committee	N. Delany*/T. Short/L. Dunne/F. Conway (Sec.) F. Conway/T. Julian/T. Phelan/M. Brown/P. Gowing	Grain Committee Grain Committee
COFORD	M. Fleming	Farm Forestry Section
National Women's Council Foras Eireann	M. Canning M. Canning/ M. Scahill	Farm Family Committee Farm Family Committee
Fertiliser Assoc. of Ireland Irish Farm Films Producers Group	T. Ryan M. Slattery (Chairman)/A. Larkin/T. Ryan	Environment Committee Environment Committee
Horse Racing Ireland - Foal Levy Committee Agricultural Statistics Liaison Group (CSO)	J. Murphy R. Dwyer	Horse Project Team Executive Council
European Movement - Ireland IIEA EPA Advisory Committee	E. Downey/P. Smith/R. Dwyer B. Barry P. Farrell	Executive Council Executive Council Environment Committee

Section 4 - National Representation: (Continued)

ORGANISATION	NOMINEE(S)	CONTACT POINT
IFAC	T. Doyle/J. Kane /J. Kelly	Farm Business/Executive Council
Pobal Rural Development Forum	B. O'Malley F. McCarthy	Rural Development Committee Rural Development Committee
Comhairle na Tuaithe Peatland Council	T. Fadian*/G. Gunning P. Divilly*/G. Gunning/J. Parlon	Hill Committee Executive Council
Inland Fisheries Ireland	B. O'Mahony/K. Ward/M. Biggins/J.Doyle/T. Ryan	Environment Cttee/ Aquaculture Section
Molluscan Shellfish Safety Committee (FSAI) Bottom Grown Mussel Consultation Forum (BIM) Global Trust Certification – QA Committee	R. Flynn/J. Harrington/F. O'Sullivan R. Flynn R. Flynn	Aquaculture Section Aquaculture Section Aquaculture Section
Co-operation Ireland	-	Executive Council
Self Help Africa	-	Executive Council

Section 5 - County Development Boards

County :	Representative :	Organisation:
Carlow	Hugh McDonnell	
Cavan	John Beglan	ICOS *
Clare	Pat Talty	IFA
Cork County		IFA
Donegal	-	-
Dublin Fingal	Padraig McMahon	IFA
Dublin South	Donie Anderson	IFA
Dun Laoghaire / Rathdown	Philip Maguire	IFA
Galway County	Pat Hardiman	IFA
Kerry	James McCarthy	IFA
Kildare	Tom Malone	IFA
Kilkenny	Joan Fitzpatrick	Macra *
Laois	Michael Bergin	IFA
Leitrim	Pat Monahan	IFA
Limerick County	Mike O'Flynn	IFA
Longford	-	IFA
Louth	Liam Woods	IFA
Mayo	Seamus Heverin	Macra *
Meath	Pat Coogan	IFA
Monaghan	Seamus Traynor	IFA
Offaly	Tom Loonam	IFA
Roscommon	John O'Beirne	IFA
Sligo	-	IFA
Tipp. North	Philip Kinane	IFA
Tipp. South	-	-
Waterford	Peter Kiely	Macra *
Westmeath	Dermot Leavy	IFA
Wexford	Tom Doyle	IFA *
Wicklow	Chris Hill	IFA/ICOS *

* Supported by IFA

Under the reform of local Government, County Development Boards are being abolished and will be replaced by the Socio-Economic Committees (SECs) within the Local Authority structure in line with the alignment proposals. It is expected that farming will get a seat on the new 15 man structures with appointments being made in the course of 2014 following the Local Authority elections.

Section 6 - County Council Strategic Policy Committees

FARMING PILLAR REPRESENTATIVES SPC's

County	HOUSING, SOCIAL, CULTURAL and COMMUNITY	PLANNING and ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	ROADS, TRANSPORTATION and EMERGENCY SERVICES	ENVIRONMENT and WATER SERVICES
Carlow	ICOS	Eric Driver (Finance, Health, Agriculture) Thomas Cooney	George Collier	John Brennan
Cavan			Dermot Ryan Macra/IFA (Sean Lyons)	Raymond Brady Macra
Clare			Con O'Leary (Economic Development) William Monagle	T. Brooks (ICOS) Seamus Murphy
Cork	ICOS	David O'Brien Macra	Martin Callimane ICOS	Tom Dunne
Donegal		Padraig McMahon	Michael Rice Francis Gorman (Transport/Emergency Services)	Patrick Kelly
Dublin Fingal		Donie Anderson	Aidan Gleeson	David Rodgers
Dublin South	John Murphy	Chris Keogh (Water and Waste)	ICOS John Farrell (Transportation, Road Development & Road Safety)	Pat Lee
Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown		Michael Healy James McCarthy ICOS	Denis Brennan (IFA)	
Galway			Brendan O'Mahony (Water Supply & Sewage) IFA (Infrastructure)	Barry Donnelly
Kerry		Michael McEvoy	Michael Kenny	Pat Farrell
Kildare	Elizabeth Rogan	Michael McGovern	Gerard Gilligan Padraig Moran	John Bambrick
Kilkenny		Gerard Quain	IFA J.J. Farrell	
Laois			Liam Curtis (Transportation)	
Leitrim				
Limerick	John Walsh	Colin Marry (Macra)		
Longford		John O'Donnell (Planning, Environ. and Emerg. Services)		
Louth		Dominic Carroll Dermot Kelly		
Mayo		George Mason		
Meath		Pat Flynn		
Monaghan		James Hill		
Offaly				
Roscommon	ICOS			
Sligo	Declan O'Mara			
Tipp. North				
Tipp. South	John Leahy (Macra)			
Waterford				
Westmeath				
Wexford				
Wicklow				

The SPCs will also change in the course of 2014 and a new appointments system will be put in place. Some members may have not attended meetings and as a result the SPC could have vacancies in some counties. IFA nationally may not have been notified in many cases of these vacancies. The structures will change again in the context of the Local Authority Alignment and the establishment of SACs.

Section 7 - County Enterprise Boards

County	Representative *
CARLOW	David Richardson
CAVAN	Jim Maguire
CLARE	-
CORK North	Emer Howard
CORK Central	John Coleman
CORK West	James Hurley
DONEGAL	Ivan Grier
DUBLIN	-
GALWAY	Michael Flynn
KERRY	-
KILDARE	Tom Malone
KILKENNY	-
LAOIS	-
LEITRIM	Pat Monahan
LIMERICK	-
LONGFORD	Pat Brennan
LOUTH	Liam Woods (Chair)
MAYO	Padraig Joyce
MEATH	Pat Coogan
MONAGHAN	John Morris
OFFALY	Aidan Larkin
ROSCOMMON	Tom Mannion
SLIGO	Declan Lavin (Chair)
TIPPERARY North	Philip Kinane
TIPPERARY South	-
WATERFORD	Eleanor Kiely
WESTMEATH	Eunan Bannon
WEXFORD	Ger Lyons
WICKLOW	-

* Where IFA is represented.

Legislation to wind up Enterprise Boards and replace them with Local Enterprise Offices under the realignment of structures within Local Authorities is currently before the Oireachtas. The Enterprise Boards are expected to cease to exist from sometime in 2014 once legislation is passed through the Dáil.

Section 8 - Local Development Companies (inc. Leader)

Integrated Company	Representative	Other IFA Member on Board
Carlow	Frank Corcoran	
Cavan	Padraig Young	Catherine McCollum
Clare	Seamus Murphy	
Blackwater	Donal Kelleher	
Duhallow	John Linehan	Don Crowley*
East Cork	Maurice Smithy	
West Cork	David O'Brien	
Donegal	John Starrett	
Inishowen	Patrick McLaughlin	
Dublin (Fingal)	David Rodgers	
Kerry South	Pat Driscoll	
Kerry North	John Foley	
Kildare	Michael Dempsey	Ger Smith*
Kilkenny	Joan Fitzpatrick	
Laois	Michael Bergin	John Miller*
Leitrim	Pat Monahan	James Gallagher*
Roscommon	John O'Beirne	Tom Gunning*
Louth	Seamus Lambe	Colum Markey*
Mayo – Mid/North	Seamus Heverin	
Mayo – South	Michael Biggins	
West		
Meath	Tom Hennessy	
Monaghan	Bernard Treanor	
Offaly	Noel Conroy	
Tipperary North	Michael Ryan	
Tipperary South	Dermot Ryan	
Wexford	Pat Murray	
Wicklow	Chris Hill*	Amanda Mooney*
Islands	Jack Sullivan	
	IFA Fish Farming	
Galway	Padraic Divilly	
North Connemara	Hugh Musgrave	Emmett McGloin*
West Limerick	Tom Madigan	
Ballyhoura	Aidan Gleeson	
Longford	Sean Hannon	
Sligo	Sean Tempaney	
Waterford	Margaret Leahy	
Westmeath	Paddy Donnelly	Dermot Leavy*

*IFA supported with other organisations

Under the alignment proposals for local Government, local development (Leader) will come under the Socio-Economic Committees (SECs) in the course of 2014. There is still no clarity in relation to the new structure for local development and whether they will be separate entities to the SECs.

Already some front-runner SECs are being established and IFA will be seeking representation.

