

2016 Annual Report
The Irish Farmers'
Association



IFA



**UNITY
STRENGTH
DELIVERY**



MISSION STATEMENT



TO REPRESENT, ADVANCE AND PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF ALL IRISH FARM FAMILIES





IFA



2016 Annual Report

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PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT



"A STRONG AND SUSTAINED CAMPAIGN OF IFA POLITICAL LOBBYING AND PUBLIC PRESSURE THROUGH FARMERS' MEETINGS AND MEDIA COVERAGE RESULTED IN SIGNIFICANT GAINS FOR FARMERS IN THE BUDGET"

In my inaugural address as President at the Association's Annual General Meeting last April, I noted that 50 years after the Farmers' Rights Campaign of 1966-67, IFA still had a very important job to do for farmers and that was fighting for farm incomes in every sector and every part of the country.

In the talks on the formation of a new government, IFA called for the appointment of a dedicated Minister with sole responsibility for agriculture and food and I am pleased to say that this was delivered when the new minority government under Taoiseach Enda Kenny took office in early May.

At IFA's first meeting with the new Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Michael Creed, we stressed that tackling the farm income crisis must top of the agenda and that profitability at farm level is essential for growth in the agri-food sector.

With producer prices under pressure across almost all commodities, the new IFA leadership team including commodity chairmen, county officers and staff mounted a strong and focused farm income campaign throughout 2016. We worked hard and can reflect on significant delivery in a number of areas.

- Keeping the pressure on co-ops to support the milk price, and, from July, to lift prices
- Opening new markets for live exports, including Turkey
- Securing the removal of beef from the EU draft offer on Mercosur
- Protesting at the ports and exposing the quality deficiencies in imported grain
- Getting the glyphosate licence extended in Brussels, and
- Campaigning for the abolition of EU import tariffs and duties on fertiliser - prices last season fell by over 30%.

A strong and sustained IFA campaign of political lobbying and public pressure through farmers' meetings and media coverage resulted in significant gains for farmers in the Budget.

We made important progress on the farm schemes, securing an extra €107m in funding for 2017. This included:

- The new Sheep Welfare Scheme, worth €1,500 per year for a farmer with 150 ewes;
- The reopening of GLAS, to accommodate over 50,000 farmers;
- Funding of €52m for the Beef Data and Genomics Scheme, which will reopen to new entrants in 2017; and
- An increased budget for TAMS, worth €50m.

The Government also responded positively to two very specific IFA proposals in the Budget. The first was the €150m agri-cashflow loan scheme, at an interest rate of 2.95%. For a farmer with a merchant credit bill of €20,000, this could mean savings of up to €1,800 in annual interest.

The second item was introduction of a 'step-out' system from income averaging.

For low income farmers, IFA's success in achieving the reintroduction of the income and child disregards in the means test for Farm Assist will result in greater numbers of low-income farmers qualifying for this crucial payment. In addition, there will be an extra 500 places in the Rural Social Scheme.

IFA continued to work with farmers facing credit difficulties throughout 2016. I have conveyed a strong message to both the banks and other agencies dealing with distressed loans that IFA will not tolerate the 'vulture fund approach' of stripping assets, with no regard for the family farm.

Last spring, IFA identified Brexit as the most serious threat to the Irish farming and food sector for over half a century. That is why we took the extraordinary step of calling a major press

"POLITICIANS IN DUBLIN AND BRUSSELS CANNOT IGNORE THE ONGOING IMPACT OF THE STERLING DEVALUATION, AND IFA HAS STATED THAT DIRECT AID FOR THE FARMERS AND SECTORS AFFECTED MUST BE ON THE AGENDA"

conference during the UK referendum campaign, bringing together sectoral leaders and calling for a remain vote.

The referendum outcome was disappointing. With 40% of our food exports going to the UK, no other Member State and no other sector is as exposed in the forthcoming negotiations. The Irish Government must use the strong relationship it has with both EU and UK leaders to influence a constructive approach.

IFA has made it clear that agriculture and food cannot become a battleground between Brussels and London. The retention of free trade in agri-food products between the EU and the UK is essential. There are too many Irish farmers' livelihoods and jobs at stake. Politics cannot be allowed override our fundamental economic interests.

In the short term, uncertainty has led to the weakening of sterling putting serious pressure on prices and exports. It is clear that farmers have taken most of the pain resulting from the weakness of sterling. During the autumn, beef farmers took a hit of €150m from this alone and mushroom farmers saw their margins wiped out.

These losses are a direct result of a political decision outside farmers' control and cannot be tolerated.

Politicians in Dublin and Brussels cannot ignore the ongoing impact of the sterling devaluation, and IFA has stated that direct aid for the farmers and sectors affected must be on the agenda.

The Brexit decision has also raised concerns over CAP funding once the UK leaves. IFA has emphasised that, if EU solidarity means anything, then the budget shortfall must be made good so that farmers are not hit with CAP cuts when the UK leaves.

With the opening of Agriculture Commissioner Phil Hogan's consultation on the future of the CAP, IFA's position is that the CAP post 2020 must work for Irish farmers. That requires a strong CAP budget, with direct payments supporting active farmers, and a well-funded Rural Development Programme.

There must also be a reduction in bureaucracy and red tape, with supports for young farmers and improved volatility and safety net market measures.

As an export dependent sector, market access is critical for the growth of the Irish agri-food sector. IFA welcomed the increased promotional funding for Bord Bia in October's

budget, to diversify and grow our exports into non-UK markets. We have also called for the Department of Agriculture's market access unit to be strengthened to help open new markets for our processed and live export trade, always with the objective of achieving a price return for farmers.

While recognising the opportunities, IFA is constantly on guard against the threats arising from trade negotiations. In November, we described the EU Commission study on the cumulative impact of future trade deals as providing a major wakeup call for EU negotiators and the Irish Government. The report clearly showed the damage to the beef sector, in particular, from a Mercosur trade deal.

In December, IFA launched our campaign on the review of the Areas of Natural Constraint in Carrick-on-Shannon. We set out our priorities for this vital income support for farmers as follows:

- Protection of all areas currently designated,
- Reversal of cuts and restoration of funding to 2008 levels, and
- Payment rates that reflect the natural handicap.

The Government must ensure that farmers are not let down in this review.

We are now in the fourth year of the Rural Development Programme. The inclusion of the new Sheep Welfare scheme and additions to TAMS are welcome.

To ensure full drawdown of Ireland's funding allocation, there is further potential to increase ANC payments and to expand other schemes. I want to put down a clear marker to the Minister for Agriculture on RDP funding. The full €4bn of the Rural Development programme must be spent.

The delivery of direct payments to farmers in 2016 was generally much improved over the 2015 performance. However, the ongoing delays with GLAS are totally unacceptable. Farmers have been very frustrated and have a right to be angry. Similarly, with TAMS, the approval and payment system in 2016 left a lot to be desired.

IFA is Minister Creed must ensure that all payment deadlines set out in the Charter of Farmers' rights are honoured in full.

IFA has continued to work hard towards improving the position of farmers in the food supply chain. At EU level, the report from

Commissioner Hogan's Agri-Markets Task Force is welcome. It sets out the need for increased price transparency in the food chain and for independent and effective enforcement of retail regulations.

At home, the new grocery regulations came into force in April. The regulations are the first positive step in regulating retailers, but the appointment of an independent retail Ombudsman and a ban on below-cost selling are still required. Farmers and suppliers need to have confidence that abuses by retailers will be challenged.

At the IFA retail conference in November, the UK Adjudicator, Christine Tacon, clearly demonstrated that proactive enforcement can rebalance the trading relationship between suppliers and retailers.

Constructive and informed lobbying by IFA over an extended period has had a positive influence in reshaping climate policy. Ireland's 2030 climate targets announced in July are challenging but more balanced than previous targets.

There is now recognition for the multiple roles of farmers, as food, fuel and energy producers in addition to meeting environmental requirements. Irish farmers are actively involved in sustainability programmes across all sectors, including the IFA-led Smart Farming programme, which aims to achieve cost savings of at least €5,000 per farm, while delivering environmental benefits.

Renewing and rebuilding IFA requires that we put trust and transparency at the heart of our Association. Significant progress was made during 2016 on the renewal of our organisation.

Under the chairmanship of Teddy Cashman, the Lucey Implementation Committee carried out a detailed review, with the assistance of independent advice as required, and brought forward recommendations covering the key issues of:

- Governance,
- Transparency, and
- Income and Financing.

On governance, we have created the new position of Director General, and a separate role of Secretary, who will have responsibility for advising the Council on all aspects of governance.

The new Remuneration Committee has set the pay of the President, Deputy President and Director General, while the Audit Committee is doing important work and is led by an independent chairman, Martin Linehan.

On transparency, we have published the remuneration of key management personnel, and we have gone significantly

further than the accounting requirements. We have provided details on the individual payments to the President, Deputy President and Director General and aggregate payments to other senior management, senior staff and Executive Council. In addition, all pay levels in IFA have been independently benchmarked.

On IFA income, the Implementation Committee recommended the combined membership and levy model to be the fairest and most equitable system. This maintains IFA's income independence and allows all farmers to contribute equally and proportionately based on the scale of their enterprise. The Committee also made a number of important recommendations on improving the transparency and operation of the reformed levy system.

The Implementation Committee's recommendations were fully debated by the Executive Council, County Executives and Branch AGMs throughout November and December. We have now commenced putting in place the reformed levy system and other recommendations.

Our new Director General, Damian McDonald, was confirmed in November following a process overseen by KPMG. He brings with him a strong reputation for successful management of organisations, both with Horse Sport Ireland and, previously, with Macra na Feirme. He also worked with IFA, and has a great knowledge of the issues facing farming in Ireland today.

Damian took up his new role as Director General at the end of our 2017 AGM in January. I would like to thank Bryan Barry for his contribution as Acting General Secretary at a very difficult time for the Association over the previous fourteen months.

I take this opportunity to record the Association's thanks to National officers who stepped down at the Association's AGM in April. In particular, Deputy President Tim O' Leary, Munster Chairman James McCarthy and Connacht Chairman Tom Turley.

The issues for Irish farmers and farm incomes in 2017 are as challenging as any we have faced over the course of IFA's history. Brexit negotiations, elections across Europe, the Trump presidency – these will all impact on the policy, price and trading environment for farming and our agri-food sector.

The review of the Areas of Natural Constraint and the opening of discussions on the CAP post 2020 will also have long term implications for farm incomes and structures.

Never was it more important to have a strong IFA to represent the interests of Irish farmers.

I want to thank our members for their ongoing support. I can assure you that your elected officers and staff are fully committed to tackling these challenges head-on and delivering real results for Irish farmers.



Joe Healy
President

ACTING GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

2016 was a difficult year for farmers with farm incomes under pressure across all the main sectors of livestock, dairy, sheep, pigs and tillage.

In the early months of the year under the leadership of National Chairman Jer Bergin, IFA highlighted farmers' concerns over the proposed Slaney Meats joint venture, exposed below cost selling of vegetables by the German discounters Lidl and Aldi, and challenged Kerry Foods to use only Irish pigmeat in its Irish brands; while in Brussels, progress was made on CAP simplification and IFA launched a major report calling for lower fertiliser prices.

General Election

As the General Election campaign got under way, IFA launched a comprehensive manifesto setting out our policy proposals to the political parties. The Executive Council received presentations from Taoiseach Enda Kenny and Fianna Fáil leader Micheál Martin, and other politicians, and left them in no doubt about what was required from the new Government to address key issues for farm families.

When the new Fine Gael-led minority Government took office in early May, the Programme for Government contained significant commitments for farmers including a new €25m sheep welfare scheme and an additional €25m for areas of natural constraint, as well as the restoration of a dedicated Minister for Agriculture.

New IFA Leadership

2016 was also a challenging year for IFA, as the organisation set about rebuilding the trust of members. A key step was the decision of the National Officers and the Association's governing body, the Executive Council, to hold elections not just for the position of President but for all leading positions at national and county level.

The candidates for the positions of President and Deputy President engaged in a hard-fought three-month campaign reconnecting with members and officers in every county executive across the country.

Galway's Joe Healy emerged to win the position of President on the first count in the April elections, while Limerick's Richard Kennedy was elected Deputy President. The elections were an important milestone for the Association, putting IFA back on track united behind a new leadership of elected and re-elected officers with a strong democratic mandate to negotiate on behalf of farmers, with politicians and agri business leaders.

The Association owes a debt of gratitude to the unsuccessful candidates, the outgoing Livestock Chairman Henry Burns and Rural Development Chairman Flor McCarthy who contested the presidency and outgoing Kildare Chairman Pat Farrell and the Poultry Chairman Nigel Renaghan who contested the deputy position. The contribution of the outgoing National Officers must also be recognised.

Intensive Lobbying

The new IFA President Joe Healy led an intensive lobbying campaign, focussing on farm incomes, meeting with Agriculture Minister Michael Creed and several other new ministers and opposition spokesmen.

In Europe, the President engaged at the highest level with EU Agriculture Commissioner Phil Hogan and senior Commission officials, and with Irish MEPs and other European farm organisations in COPA.

In June, the President led a major IFA lobbying session for politicians in the new Dáil and Seanad and a follow-up pre-Budget lobbying session took place in September.

Budget 2017

While more details of the Association's activities and campaigns are provided in the President's message and elsewhere in this Annual Report, it is worthwhile setting out briefly how IFA's income campaign paid off for farmers in the Budget 2017 announcements, which included:

- €150m agri-cashflow support loan fund at 2.95% - the lowest rate on offer to any sector
- Income averaging flexibility allowing for a step-out in a low income year
- €107m increase RDP Farm Scheme funding
- €69m increase for GLAS to €211m and 50,000 participants
- New €25m Sheep Scheme worth €10 per ewe or €1,300 on a typical sheep farm
- Re-opening of BDGP & €52m funding
- €50m for TAMS
- €111.6m for forestry
- €5m for horticulture
- Reversal of cuts to Farm Assist & €5 per week increase with 500 extra places under the Rural Social Scheme
- Increase to the Earned Income Tax Credit means farmers pay €400 less tax in 2017

Rebuilding trust and transparency in IFA

In addition to electing a new IFA leadership team, substantial progress was made during 2016 in putting trust and transparency at the centre of the Association.

The Executive Council established an Implementation Committee, chaired by Teddy Cashman, to advance the recommendations in the Lucey Report of 2015, taking on board the views of County Executives and members' submissions.

Following extensive debate, detailed recommendations were adopted by the Executive Council in November on measures to strengthen governance in the Association, on IFA funding structures and on remuneration and transparency. This work was essential to enable IFA move forward and get on with the job of rebuilding membership and ensuring that the Association is adequately resourced to give farmers the strongest possible representation at national and European level.

As I step down from the role of Acting General Secretary at the January 2017 AGM, I take this opportunity to thank the President Joe Healy, our National Officers and all Council members for their cooperation and support over the past year. I also want to thank the IFA staff for their hard work and commitment.

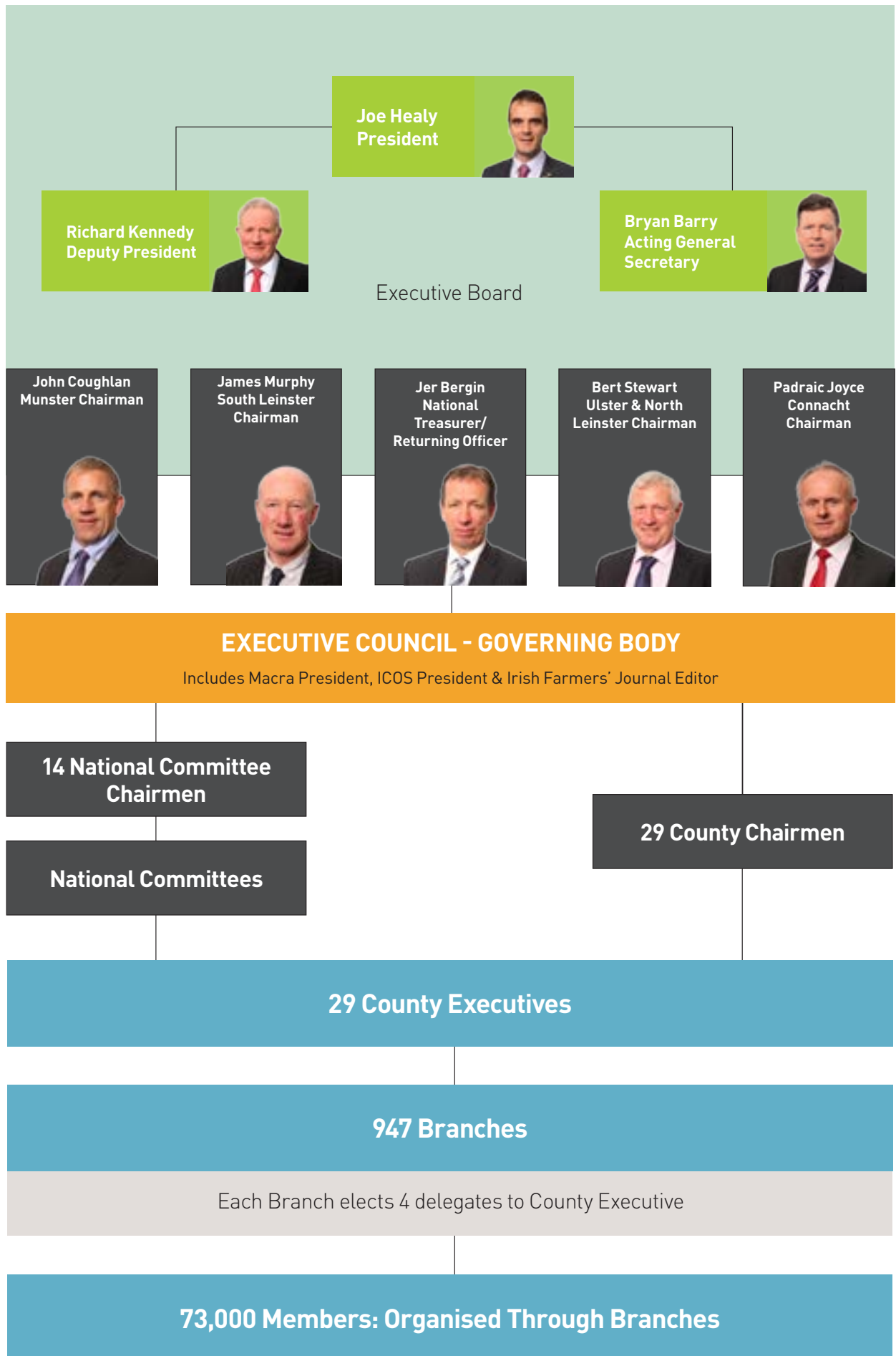
I take this opportunity to wish the Director General Damian McDonald every success in his new role, working closely with the President Joe Healy, to drive on the renewal of IFA and crucially to deliver the best possible results for Irish farmers.



Bryan Barry
Acting General Secretary





REPRESENTATION





EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 2016

EXECUTIVE BOARD


PRESIDENT	
	Joe Healy
DEPUTY PRESIDENT	
	Richard Kennedy
TREASURER/ RETURNING OFFICER	
	Jer Bergin
ACTING GENERAL SECRETARY	
	Bryan Barry


EXECUTIVE BOARD


REGIONAL CHAIRMEN	
Munster	
	John Coughlan
South Leinster	
	James Murphy
Ulster/North Leinster	
	Bert Stewart
Connacht	
	Padraic Joyce

* All details correct for period January - December 2016


COUNTY CHAIRMEN

	CARLOW
	George Collier


	CAVAN
	James Speares


	CLARE
	William Hanrahan


	CORK NORTH
	Billy Cotter


	CORK CENTRAL
	Harold Kingston


COUNTY CHAIRMEN

	CORK WEST
	Cornelius Buckley


	DONEGAL
	Michael Chance

	DUBLIN
	Philip Maguire


	GALWAY
	Pat Murphy


	GALWAY 2 ND REPRESENTATIVE
	Peter Gohery


COUNTY CHAIRMEN

	KERRY
	Sean Brosnan


	KERRY 2 ND REPRESENTATIVE
	Patrick O'Shea

	KILDARE
	Brian Rushe


	KILKENNY
	John Bambrick


	LAOIS
	Francis Gorman


COUNTY CHAIRMEN

	LEITRIM
	James Gallagher


	LIMERICK
	Aidan Gleeson


	LONGFORD
	Sean Conefrey


	LOUTH
	Gerard Melia


	MAYO
	Martin Gilvarry


COUNTY CHAIRMEN

MEATH	
	Diarmuid Lally


MONAGHAN	
	Brian Treanor


OFFALY	
	John Keena

ROSCOMMON	
	John Hanley


SLIGO	
	John P Cowley


COUNTY CHAIRMEN

TIPPERARY NTH	
	Tim Cullinan

TIPPERARY STH	
	Simon Ryan






WATERFORD	
	John Fitzgerald

WESTMEATH	
	Kenneth Bray






WEXFORD	
	Pat Murray

WICKLOW	
	Tom Short






COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

	DAIRY Sean O'Leary
	ENVIRONMENT & RURAL AFFAIRS Thomas Cooney
	FARM BUSINESS Martin Stapleton
	FARM FAMILY & SOCIAL AFFAIRS Maura Canning
	FARM FORESTRY Patrick Collins




COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

	GRAIN Liam Dunne
	LIQUID MILK John Finn
	LIVESTOCK Angus Woods
	PATRIOTIC AFFAIRS Patrick Donnelly (2 nd Representative)
	RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND LESS FAVOURED AREAS Joseph Brady


COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

	SHEEP
	John Lynskey
	POTATO
	Eddie Doyle
	HORTICULTURE
	Gerard Reilly
	PIGS & PIGMEAT
	Tomas Hogan
	POULTRY
	Nigel Renaghan

AGRI-ORGANISATIONS

	MACRA NA FEIRME
	Sean Finan
	ICOS
	Martin Keane
	IFJ
	Justin McCarthy
NOTE	ICOS and IFJ are observer members of the Executive Council without a vote.

DIRECTOR OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS' REPORT



The cross sector income crisis that continued from 2015 brought increased farmer lobbying pressure in Brussels through the early part of 2016. The second major crisis package of Commissioner Hogan's tenure delivered €500m to the Agriculture Sector in July and while IFA had lobbied against a mandatory reduction in dairy production the package helped move the market in a positive direction.

IFA Activities

IFA's Commodity Chairmen and headquarter executives contribute actively on all relevant dossiers within the umbrella farming organisation COPA and also meet directly with the Commission and the relevant Irish MEPs. The experienced Anne McGrath continually updates the IFA website with EU agricultural news affecting Irish farmers.

European Parliament

A delegation of IFA Commodity Chairs and Sector experts met in March with DG Agri campaigning on rural development issues followed by briefing meetings with key Irish MEPs to update them on the ongoing income pressures across commodity sectors in addition to the pressure on emissions targets.

Food Supply Chain

As Chairman of the Food Chain Working Party IFA President Joe Healy led calls from the European Farming Associations for a rebalancing of returns from the market in favour of farmer producers. Meetings were held with the Commission, DG Agri and DG Grow in order to highlight inequalities at retail level and to request EU legislation. The publication of the Agri Markets Task Force report in November was an acknowledgement that voluntary codes had not worked and the IFA has lobbied the Commission for EU legislation to address Unfair Trading Practices.

Brexit

The meeting of Farming Association Presidents at the July Praesidium was the first such meeting since the decision of the UK electorate in the Brexit referendum. The news was as shocking as the future implications for all stakeholders who are left to face a period of uncertainty that will run parallel to negotiations and beyond. IFA have highlighted to the Commission that the effects have already taken hold in Ireland and will ensure that Irish agriculture and Irish farmers' situation is reflected among the many positions to be considered in negotiating a deal.

Trade Deals

IFA denounced the Commission's ill-judged Mercosur draft offer that included a beef TRQ of 78,000t and fought for its reversal. This offer was later amended. The US November elections ensured that progress on TTIP was halted for anything up to 6 months as regards effective progress in negotiation.

Simplification

The Omnibus Regulation proposed by the Commission in October was supported by the IFA including measures such as the sector specific Income Stabilisation Tool, access to Financial Instruments and definition of Active Farmer. IFA continues to argue in favour of simplification measures that make a difference on the ground.

Suspension of Fertiliser Tariffs

The IFA campaign for the removal of tariffs and anti-dumping measures on Fertiliser imports to the EU, has built momentum throughout the year. IFA has met with DG Agri, DG Trade, DG Grow, non-European manufacturers in addition to addressing the Board members of Fertilizers Europe. With €1bn of savings currently being withheld by European producers, the campaign continues.

Rural Development – Cork 2.0

The role of the rural environment was acknowledged by the Commission in the signing of the Cork 2.0 Declaration in Cork in September. IFA contributed to this workshop and continues to lobby across the Commission for investment support to farming livelihoods in rural areas.

Plant protection products

The increased disregard for scientific based evidence particularly in relation to plant protection products is reducing the tools a farmer can work with while affecting income with yield reductions. The IFA has positioned itself strongly in favour of decisions based on scientific findings.

Brussels' Groups

Over the course of the year, IFA groups were welcomed from Galway, Offaly, and Clare providing members with an insight into the operation of the IFA Brussels office and the Institutions.

CAP Post 2020

The autumn of 2016 saw an increase in groups discussing CAP policy post 2020. IFA's belief that securing the agriculture budget will be a key issue going forward is well founded in face of increased external budget pressures.

Year ahead, 2017

External political events are contributing to greater EU uncertainty from the commencement of Brexit negotiations to national elections in major Member States. The IFA Brussels office will continue to deliver timely and critical input to negotiations and policy that affect our members most.



Liam McHale

Liam McHale
Director of European Affairs

CHIEF ECONOMIST'S REPORT



Value of agriculture to the Irish economy – county level

An update was undertaken of the county-level information on the value of agriculture to the wider economy, measured by output, employment and exports. This information was provided to Oireachtas members and is used by IFA officers in their lobbying on local and national issues.

Brexit

Preliminary analysis on the potential impact of Brexit was undertaken in advance of the referendum vote, to inform the IFA position. Following the outcome of the vote, the IFA Economics unit has continued to provide information, briefing notes and speeches for IFA elected officers on the implications for Irish agriculture from Brexit.

CAP Reform 2014-2020

Analysis of the EU Commission 'Omnibus Regulations', which include proposed modifications to the existing CAP regulations was undertaken in late 2016. This included development of briefing documentation for IFA Executive Council, providing input into the COPA-COGECA response to the proposals and consultation with Department of Agriculture officials

Trade negotiations - CETA

A briefing paper for elected representatives and for press queries was developed, on the implications for Irish agriculture of the EU-Canada trade deal, in cooperation with IFA executive staff in relevant commodity areas.

Cost-Benefit Analysis work – Flooding

IFA met with the OPW to progress the development of an appropriate Cost Benefit Analysis measure and valuation of farm land affected by flooding. IFA further developed its position and a proposal was submitted to the OPW, which identified the published data on margins and output value that should inform the development of a new methodology.

Budget 2017

The IFA Economics Unit coordinated the preparation of the pre-budget submission, and all relevant communications and documentation that informed IFA's pre-budget lobbying campaign. Analysis of the budget outcomes and preparation of the IFA submission for the Finance Bill was provided, in association with the Farm Business Committee.

Review of Farm Incomes 2016

The annual review of farm incomes was undertaken, together with analysis of various aspects of farm income and other relevant economic and statistical data. In addition, the 2016 edition contained, for the first time, a comprehensive survey of farmer sentiment heading into 2017, and the identification of the key issues of concern to those farmers.



Rowena Dwyer
Chief Economist

COMMITTEES





**UNITY
STRENGTH
DELIVERY**

NATIONAL LIVESTOCK COMMITTEE



Cattle Prices

2016 was a difficult year for cattle farmers with prime finished cattle prices back by 4.2% , R3 steers averaging €3.97/kg and heifer's €4.12/kg. Young bulls fell 2.2% to an average of €3.90/ kg and cows were back 8.6% at €3.15/kg.

Irish cattle price (R3 steers) were on average 3.1% above the average EU (R3 Y Bull) price for 2016, but 10% below UK (R3 steer) prices for the year. Store and weanling prices reflected the lower beef prices with prices back €70 to €140 per head.

The outcome of the Brexit referendum resulted in a major shift in the sterling exchange rate, increased supplies at factories and a significant increase in cull cow slaughtering's at EU. All of these factors had an impact of cattle prices.

Cattle supplies at the meat plants were up 5.3% or 83,000, with the main increase from cull cows and young bulls.

IFA communicated the latest market and farmer cattle price information twice weekly throughout the year through agri media and text, web and twitter.

IFA challenged the processors on excessive price cuts following Brexit referendum in June and highlighted the unfair price return to farmers at a retail protest in September. IFA again called for a strong price increase from the factories at the Livestock Challenges 2017 conference in Dec.

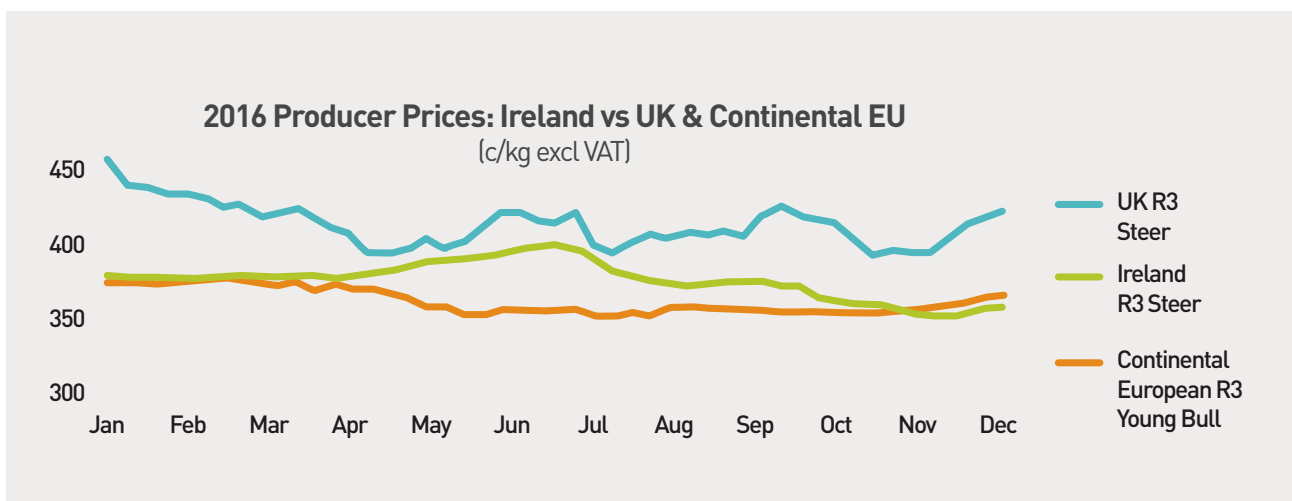
Markets

The main export markets for Irish beef were the UK, Italy, Holland, France, Germany and Scandinavia. Exports totalling 530,000 with a value of €2.4bn. IFA prioritised market access with the DAFM and several Ministerial mission were undertaken to secure market access. New market access was secured to the US and Canada, and the ban on China was lifted.

Live Exports

IFA worked hard on securing the opening of the live export trade to Turkey in 2016 resulting in 19,000 weanlings and stores being shipped, which proved vitally important for the weanling prices. Overall live exports were back 20% at 145,000 head. Calf exports fell 13,000, while finished cattle exports mainly to Northern Ireland fell 25,000. The main live markets were Spain, Holland, Northern Ireland, Italy, Turkey, France and GB.

IFA lobbied hard on live exports in 2016 focusing on market access, ferry access, welfare issues, price competition and market outlets. IFA also worked closely with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM), exporters, Bord Bia and others to maximise the export potential for all Irish livestock in 2016 and also the potential of the live export trade in 2017 particularly for calves.



IFA WORKED HARD ON SECURING THE OPENING OF THE LIVE EXPORT TRADE TO TURKEY IN 2016



IFA Director of Livestock Kevin Kinsella and National Livestock Chairman Angus Woods view cattle being loaded at Greenore port destined for the Turkish market.

Quality Assurance (QA)

IFA highlighted farmer problems with the QA scheme and has worked closely with Bord Bia on a new set of producer criteria including agreement on a new close out mechanism, which will allow farmers correct non-compliances while remaining in the scheme. In addition, IFA has insisted all specification issues have been removed and the audit time will not increase.

Almost 50,000 beef farmers are in the QA scheme, which will be extended to cover Sustainability in 2017. IFA has secured funding of over €6m from the DAFM to cover farmer inspections costs.

Competition

IFA retained a competition economist who produced a detailed report highlighting the competition issues in the beef sector and the implications for producers from the proposed Slaney/ABP JV, which in turn was submitted to Government and the EU DG Competition.

Trade Deals

TTIP and Mercosur: IFA continued to lobby and highlight the implications for the beef sector from any trade deal with the Government and EU levels. As a result of IFA pressure in Brussels, the EU Commission did not include a beef TRQ in the Mercosur offer made earlier in the year.

IFA also pushed for an EU report on the cumulative assessment of potential trade deals, which highlighted the key issues of the level of TRQ access for beef into the EU, the new tariff rates, sensitive product status and EU standards particularly on equivalence on traceability, animal health and veterinary medicines control as well as the environment, SPS measures.

IFA is determined that the Irish and EU agriculture sectors are not sacrificed in any negotiations to secure an overall trade deal.

Beef Forum

IFA continued to push beef farmers' issues and made a detailed presentation to the Beef Forum, with Minister Creed in the chair, highlighting the need for delivery on key issues such as incomes and price, market access for beef and live cattle, specifications which suit Irish production, increased funding for the suckler herd, the use of DAFM AO's to monitor carcase trim and classification in the meat plants, protecting the beef sector in EU trade deals and other issues.

Support for the Suckler Cow Herd/ Beef Genomics

IFA secured €52m in the Budget for suckler farmers for the 2017 BDGP scheme. In addition, following strong lobbying by IFA, the scheme will be re-opened again in 2017. IFA will continue to campaign for increased targeted direct support for the suckler herd of €200 per cow.

Farm Schemes

A strong IFA campaign in Budget 2017 secured positive funding for farm schemes for the livestock sector including Basic Payment scheme, BDGP, ANCs, GLAS, TAMs and Knowledge Transfer scheme. In addition, as a result of IFA work livestock farmers are eligible to qualify for the new €150m loan scheme at interest rates of 2.95% from early 2017.

IFA secured significant changes on simplification, pre-checking, tolerances, yellow card system and reduced penalties on the basic payment and greening scheme in 2016.



Angus Woods

Angus Woods
Chairman, National Livestock Committee



Kevin Kinsella

Kevin Kinsella
Director of Livestock

NATIONAL DAIRY COMMITTEE



Milk price campaign

IFA lobbying during 2015 and 2016 helped minimise milk price cuts in the context of a prolonged and extremely severe downturn, optimised supports by co-ops on prices, and merchant credit and other areas.

IFA was the first to signal the turnaround in market trends, and sought milk price increases from summer. From June to December the main co-ops had lifted prices by 5 to 7c/l – 6.19c/l on average (see graph).

A series of four IFA regional Dairy Farm Income meetings, with presentations from the main local co-ops, were held in September and October 2016 to keep the pressure up on price improvements.

The IFA lobbying effort was supported by regular blogs and monthly newsletters, sent to over 2,500 influential dairy farmers and board members by new email format or by post.

Risk management conference

The IFA organised a risk management conference in May 2016. The objective of the conference was to stress the need for the industry and the government to provide farmers with risk management tool and to identify what those tools might be.

EU aid packages

Ireland's €11.1m share of the UE adjusted aid was used to deliver a low cost loan package to support farmers' cash flow. €150m of EU funding was used for an EU wide voluntary production reduction scheme in the October to December and November to January periods. The scheme was fully subscribed within two rounds.

Once the scheme voted at EU level, IFA helped ensure that Irish dairy farmers had the fullest access to it in spite of very tight deadlines. IFA ensured accurate information was conveyed very rapidly to facilitate farmers' participation in the scheme.

Dairy Forum and Budget 2017 achievements

IFA took an active part in the Dairy Forum which met four times in 2016. IFA focused on the volatility of dairy farm incomes and the challenges to cash flow, articulating the need for volatility tools in terms of industry offers, such as the fixed milk price contracts, but also in terms of more flexible taxation and finance.

IFA also emphasised strongly the need for co-ops, Ornua, Teagasc and banks to co-ordinate their action in order to provide support to farmers in a very difficult year.

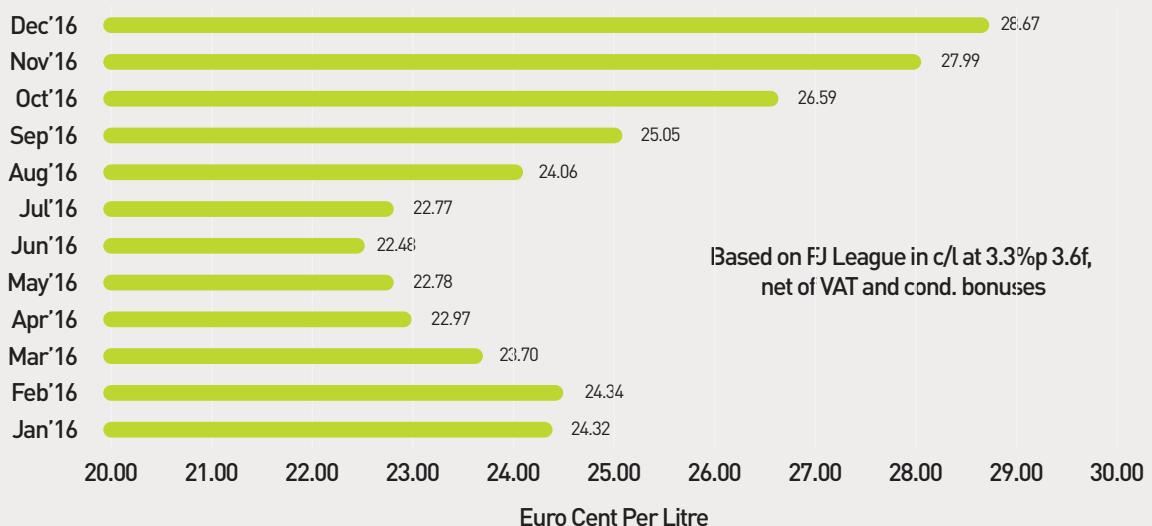
In Budget 2017, IFA lobbying, including by the National Dairy Committee, delivered a 1-year opt out from the 5-year income averaging scheme, which will be immediately available in respect of 2016 income, and will be of particular value to dairy farmers.

Low cost loan package

Lobbying by the National Dairy Committee, in conjunction with the Farm Business Committee, was instrumental in delivering the cash flow loan package, which will benefit dairy farmers and farmers in all other sectors.

The low 2.95% interest was achieved by de-risking the loan through the leverage of the EU adjusted aid Irish national envelope of €11.1m, matched by further €14m national funds, as sought by IFA. The package is to be available from January 2017.

Average Irish Milk Prices Up 6.19c/l on average since June 16



IFA WAS FIRST TO SIGNAL THE TURNAROUND IN MARKET TRENDS, AND SOUGHT MILK PRICE INCREASES FROM SUMMER. FROM JUNE TO DECEMBER, THE MAIN CO-OPS HAD LIFTED PRICES BY 5 TO 7C/L



Sustainable Dairy Assurance Scheme (Origin Green)

By the end of 2016, 92.5% of Ireland's dairy farmers applied under the scheme, and nearly 75% have been certified, some for the second time.

IFA has encouraged co-ops to use incentives rather than penalties to coax the remaining farmers to participate. IFA has also urged Bord Bia, Ornuia and industry to communicate clearly the value of the scheme to the sector and to leverage it fully to deliver improved markets and prices back to farmers.

High level meetings with co-ops and Ornuia

During 2016, the IFA Dairy Chairman met with all co-ops' and Ornuia's CEOs and Chairmen at least once and with the main milk purchasers and Ornuia a second time with President Joe Healy.

The meetings were focused on milk prices and farmer support through a difficult income crisis, as well as the need for industry to further develop its ability to provide risk management solutions for farmers into the future.

They also sought to address the future of the sector, the need to ensure industry investment does not outpace farmers'

expansion efforts, which we expect to slow down, and the need to continue with consolidation, cost control and greater co-operation.

IFA lobbied Irish Co-operative Organisation Society (ICOS) to ensure their protocol dealing with the mobility of milk suppliers provides a transparent process for farmers wishing to move from one processor to another when their Milk Supply Agreements expire.

Brexit

To investigate the possible consequences of Brexit on the Irish dairy sector and on farmers North and South, the Committee met with LacPatrick, Lakeland and the Ulster Farmers' Union in September.

Irish Dairy Industries Association's water sustainability initiative

IFA agreed to participate in Irish dairy industries association's water sustainability initiative, which aims to encourage better use of resources and nutrients on farms to strengthen Ireland's environmental credentials in terms of water quality. This will prove important in the context of the Nitrates derogation review which is to take place in 2017.



Sean O'Leary

Sean O'Leary
Chairman, National Dairy Committee



Catherine Lascurettes

Catherine Lascurettes
National Dairy Executive

NATIONAL LIQUID MILK COMMITTEE



Milk price campaign

In the last two years IFA has, with support from Teagasc and from FDC accountants, established the need for an annualised price of at least 40c/l to allow liquid milk producers to cover their costs and pay themselves a modest wage.

In the context of the prolonged dairy downturn and the very depressed creamery milk prices of spring and summer 2016, the Committee provocatively identified the winter price levels required to achieve this annualised average at 55c/l.

An article to this effect in John Finn's and local liquid milk producer group chairmen's names was syndicated to national and regional/local press and achieved excellent coverage over the summer. It also gave rise to much discussion between dairies and liquid milk suppliers, and was noted by retailers.

IFA provided all producer groups with detailed information on prices and pricing systems to help in the winter milk payment negotiation process.

2016 winter prices of between 35.6c/l + VAT and 38.5c/l + VAT (average of monthly pay-outs over the October to March period) were negotiated by producer groups representing increases on the previous winter.

Meetings with retailers and dairies

To introduce the newly elected Chairman, IFA held meetings with most retailers and all main dairies.

The IFA case for an annualised average of 40c/l and the need to reach 55c/l in winter to achieve this in the context of low base milk prices in 2016 was the main focus at all meetings.

IFA Liquid Milk Rally

A major rally was organised for October 2016, which was attended by over 300 producers. The purpose was to illustrate just how fragile the sustainability of high cost, high commitment liquid milk production is.

The rally heard that fresh milk was worth €530m at retail level to the Irish economy, and milk and dairy make very valuable contributions to the diet of Irish people of all ages, contributing including in the context of recovery after exercise.

Crucially, it also heard from a young dairy farmer who, with his father, decided to exit liquid milk in favour of spring creamery milk production. Peter Farrell from Meath gave details of his winter costs and compared them with the additional premium on offer from his milk purchaser. He said clearly this did not justify his continued involvement, and he and his father had acted accordingly.

The rally heard warnings that farmers needed sustainable remuneration if supplies were to be sustained for consumers, and the Chairman said IFA would meet Minister for Agriculture Michael Creed to present its proposed strategy on this issue.

Liquid Milk Strategy

IFA proposes that Minister Creed would gather an assembly of the relevant stakeholders in the fresh milk sector, to bring all parties to face up to the threats on the sector, and to develop a sustainable strategy for its long term future and integrate it into FoodWise 2025.

The main issues to be dealt with are as follows:

At farm level

- A survey of liquid milk producers to establish age profile, succession plans and intentions, which IFA proposes should be carried out by the National Milk Agency.
- A review of contractual arrangements including pricing systems, favouring multi annual contractual arrangements.

FRESH MILK WAS WORTH €530M AT RETAIL LEVEL TO THE IRISH ECONOMY



FARMERS NEEDED SUSTAINABLE REMUNERATION IF SUPPLIES WERE TO BE SUSTAINED FOR CONSUMERS

At retail level

- A prohibition of 1-year retail tenders for private label supplies, which have given rise to disruptive supply swings which and cannot be geared for by farmers or dairies.
- Stronger retail regulations, championed by a pro-active independent Ombudsman, including the prohibition of below-cost selling.

For the National Milk Agency

- An increase in its legal power to secure and disseminate data on milk imports.
- A change in the timing of signature of supply contracts by farmers to better match the negotiation cycle between farmers and dairies.
- Increased enforcement of "adequate compensation" beyond the current insufficient guidelines.
- Bring in better corporate governance practice around the term of office of board members, who are currently not subject to a maximum.

Support for producer groups

IFA supported the consolidation of the four Aurivo liquid milk producer groups to strengthen their hand in negotiation, by securing adequate representation for all on the National Liquid Milk Committee.

IFA also supported the negotiation process when the consolidation of the four groups did not succeed, and helped bring both sides back around the negotiation table.

The consequences of Brexit

Even for liquid milk producers, who compete with NI milk on the domestic market, a "hard Brexit" is the least desirable outcome.

The consequences of a Brexit deal which impedes UK market access for Irish dairy products would be felt by all milk producers, including liquid milk specialists, whose remuneration is based on creamery milk prices.

Whatever trade deal follows Brexit, milk imported from Northern Ireland for the consumer market must continue to meet the same standards as milk from the Republic of Ireland.



John Finn
Chairman, National
Liquid Milk Committee



Catherine Lascurettes
National Dairy Executive

NATIONAL SHEEP COMMITTEE



New Direct Payment of €10 per ewe

IFA secured an increase of €25m in direct supports for the sheep sector in 2016 through the introduction of a new €10 per ewe sheep welfare scheme under the EU RDP scheme.

Following a strong campaign by the National Sheep Committee leading up to the General Election, IFA secured a commitment on the new scheme as part of the programme for Government.

Funding was secured by IFA in the October Budget and the scheme launched in December. Requirements under the scheme have been kept simple for farmers with options on foot care, meal feeding, mineral supplementation, scanning and blow fly control.

Lamb Prices and Market

Lamb prices averaged €5.07/kg (incl.VAT) or €4.84/kg (ex vat) for 2016, on a par with 2015 prices. However, hogget prices were back in the early part of the year but for the main mid-season selling period from mid-June to mid-October lamb prices were ahead of 2015 levels.

Total slaughterings at the meat plants reached 2.67m head, an increase of 3% or 74,000 head on 2015 levels. The ewe kill was up 82,000 and the mid-season lamb kill was back approximately 47,000.

In a report to Government and the EU, IFA highlighted competition issues as part of the ABP/Slaney Meats JV, where Irish Country Meats, the largest lamb processor in the country changed ownership.

IFA campaigned actively all year for strong lamb prices outlining the returns from the market place and the top prices being obtained by farmers through effective communication by text, app and agri media including www.ifa.ie.

Promotion, Quality Assurance (QA) and Retail

IFA worked closely with Bord Bia and retailers in 2016 maximising consumption and returns on the domestic market.

On export markets IFA worked with Bord Bia on the new Generic Lamb promotional campaign involving Ireland, UK, France, worth €7m.

IFA strongly promoted Quality Assurance and securing a QA bonus of about 10c/kg at factory level. In addition, IFA negotiated a new QA scheme with Bord Bia involving a close out arrangement and the removal of specifications including EID.

IFA organised lamb forums with both France and the UK on prices and markets.

Live Exports

IFA strongly supported the live export trade for lamb in 2016. Over 46,500 lambs were exported live providing strong price competition at important times of the year. Key markets included France, Germany, Belgium and Holland.

Producer Groups

IFA held a Producer Group forum involving Bord Bia, Teagasc, ICBF and the DAFM, which addressed prices, markets, breeding and other issues.

IFA SECURED AN INCREASE OF €25M IN DIRECT SUPPORTS FOR THE SHEEP SECTOR



IFA lobby EU Commission on Sheep welfare Scheme; IFA Director of Livestock Kevin Kinsella and National Sheep Chairman John Lynskey meet Josefine Loriz-Hoffmann Head of Rural Development in DG Agriculture in the EU Commission in Brussels on the sheep welfare scheme.

Hill Lamb

IFA organised a Hill Sheep open day in Newport Mayo involving DAFM, Teagasc, Bord Bia covering all aspects of hill farming and lamb production.

The National Sheep Committee worked closely with the Hill Committee on various hill sheep issues including additional direct supports for hill sheep farmers.

Knowledge Transfer

IFA secured a new round of funding for Sheep KT groups where producers can benefit from a €750 payment and dual enterprise farmers from a €1,125.

TAMs

IFA got sheep fencing reinstated for grant aid under the New TAMs scheme. Investments in sheep housing and equipment is also eligible for TAMs grant aid.

EU Sheep Reflection Group

IFA represented Irish sheep farmers and participated in 4 meetings of the EU Sheep Reflection Group set up by Commissioner Hogan in Brussels under the Chairmanship of John Bryan and secretary Kevin Kinsella. IFA made increased direct payments and improved promotional funding the key recommendations in the outcome of the Forum, which presented its full report to Commissioner Hogan in October. This report will set the policy agenda for sheep into the next CAP.

Sheep Ireland

IFA continued to work to develop and implement a strong Sheep Breeding Programme in 2016 including progress with the Central Progeny Test and Lamb Plus and Sheep Technology Adoption Programme. Over 50% of pedigree rams had Eurostar figures at sale this year.

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.

Sheep Tagging and EID

In a DAFM working group on sheep tagging, IFA has insisted that the derogation on EID tagging direct to slaughter must remain.

Dog Control

IFA continued with an effective campaign on responsible dog control including widespread media coverage including highlighting sheep kills and compulsory microchipping.



John Lynskey

John Lynskey
Chairman, National Sheep Committee



Kevin Kinsella

Kevin Kinsella
Director of Livestock

NATIONAL PIGS AND PIGMEAT COMMITTEE



IFA MET WITH RETAILERS AND PROCESSORS AND A PRICE INCREASE WAS ACHIEVED

Pig Prices Marketing and Labelling

Despite an exceptionally strong export market in 2016, pig prices were very poor in the first 6 months of the year. IFA met with retailers and processors and a price increase was achieved in the market. There was a level of recovery in the second half of 2016 and the average pig price was 4c/kg ahead of 2015 but the percentage of the EU average was lower, 2015 - 103%, 2016 - 101%.

Some retailers were unable to source sufficient quantities of Bord Bia, Quality Assured Irish pig meat in 2016. IFA has spoken to the primary and secondary processors in this supply chain and the problem has been solved. This will see Irish pork and bacon reach almost 100% across all own brand retailers in Q1 2017.

IFA pressure has secured an "all in/all out" basis for brands carrying the Bord Bia logo on pig meat products. A report on the impact is currently being compiled and this will be rolled out in 2017.

DNA Scheme

Professor Pat Wall and former Chairman Tim Cullinan carried out a review of the DNA Scheme and a number of recommendations were made. The Pigs Committee followed up on these recommendations and the DNA scheme is fit for purpose of exposing mis-labeling in 2017. IFA have secured agreement on an all In / all out programme which will force retailers to make a decision on how meat will be sourced for these brands and how they will be labelled.

Pig Industry Stakeholder Group (PISG)

IFA secured a position for the Chairman of the IFA National Pigs and Pigeat Committee on the Pig Implementation Strategy Group.

EU Aid Package:

As a result of continuous lobbying and protests by IFA at National and European level to introduce measures to re-establish the sustainability of the Irish pig industry, the EU Commission introduced a package of which Irish pig farmers were allocated €1m.

Environment

Discussions continued in 2016 with the environmental protection agency in relation to a number of outstanding issues such as tank & pipeline assessments. The IFA Pigs Committee has requested that a technical working group with the EPA to be set up. IFA has lobbied to secure an extension to the transitional arrangements for users of pig manure. The DAFM have indicated that for a number of reasons they are unwilling to seek an extension. The pigs committee is working with the environment committee to progress this issue.

**Pat O' Flaherty was Chairman of the National Pigs Committee until he stood down in December 2016.*



Thomas Hogan
Chairman, National Pigs Committee



Amii McKeever
National Pig Executive

NATIONAL GRAIN COMMITTEE



IFA SECURED A SIGNIFICANT PREMIUM FOR GREEN GRAIN OVER SPOT MARKET PRICES FOR GRAIN DELIVERED OFF THE COMBINE THIS HARVEST.

Aid Package

The IFA campaign to secure an aid package for growers who suffered significant crop losses has put enormous pressure on Minister Creed to deliver. Successful lobbying of the Dáil's Joint Committee on Agriculture secured their support for the initiative. A comprehensive IFA survey quantifying the number of growers and the severity of crop losses has been presented to Minister Creed.

Protest

Despite burgeoning world grain stocks and collapsing prices, IFA secured a significant premium for green grain over spot market prices for grain delivered off the combine this harvest.

Protests at the ports of Foynes and Drogheda drew attention to the dire financial straits facing many grain farmers after 4 years of falling prices. In addition, it highlighted the inferior quality of some imported samples and the need for a certification scheme to stop the importation of damaging weed seeds and sub-standard quality grain.

Grain Forum

Pressure from IFA saw Minister Creed establish a National Grain Forum.

Intense lobbying of Ireland's MEPs ensured that authorisation was given for the re-licensing of glyphosate.

Low Cost Finance

Prolonged negotiations between IFA and the Department and SBCI ensured that tillage farmers will be able to access low cost EU finance.

Malting Barley

The 2016 growing season and subsequent harvest proved to be very difficult for malting barley growers and maltsters. Unusually high grain skinning levels, coupled with high proteins saw a significant increase in rejections. The issuing of an advisory text to growers to adjust combine settings, at IFA's insistence, ensured that a significant number of samples passed for malting. In addition, IFA secured a derogation both on skinning and protein levels from Boortmalt with the cut-offs raised:

- from 4% to 6% for skinning
- from 8.8% to 9.3% for distilling
- and to 11% for brewing.

In addition, €155 per tonne was secured for surplus malting barley with the default price for contract landing at €154.47. Growers who partook in the fixed price offers and hedging opportunities achieved up to €166/t.

TAMs

Significant additions have been made to the TAMS programme for tillage farmers. The promotion of farm-to-farm pre-harvest allied with the distribution of over 85,000 technical feed leaflets boosted the ever-expanding farm-to-farm trade providing much needed competition.



Liam Dunne
Chairman, National Grain Committee



Fintan Conway
National Grain Executive

NATIONAL FARM BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Budget 2017

The Farm Business Committee is responsible for developing and coordinating IFA's taxation policy. This includes the development of formal proposals annually, in consultation with other sectors, and responding to short-term taxation issues that arise.

The following taxation measures were delivered as part of Budget 2017, on foot of the IFA lobbying campaign and consultation with the Departments of Agriculture and Finance.

- Income Averaging: Farmers on income averaging will now be allowed, in a poor income year, to pay only the tax due on the current year. The deferred tax liability will be payable in equal instalments over 4 years.
- CGT Relief for Farm Restructuring: Extended to end 31st December 2019.
- Accelerated Capital Allowances for Energy Efficient Investment: This measure has been extended to sole traders and provides full capital allowance in the first year.
- Earned Income Tax credit: increased by a further €400 to €950.
- CAT: The Group A (parent to child) CAT threshold is being increased from €280,000 to €310,000, Group B from €30,150 to €32,500 and Group C from €15,075 to €16,250.

2.95% Agri-cashflow loan scheme

IFA campaigned throughout 2016 for lower cost lending to farmers to deal with short-term working capital pressures. The Agri-cashflow loan was announced in Budget 2017, providing a total loan fund of €150m, through a partnership between Department of Agriculture and SBCI.

The fund uses €11m of EU funding (Adjustment aid for livestock farmers, Sept 2016) and €14m national funding as credit guarantee for loan fund. The fund will support loans for up to six years, for amounts up to €150,000, at an interest rate of 2.95%, with potential for interest-only payments at start of loan period (first 3 years). The main purpose of the loans is to support working capital requirements, such as merchant credit conversion, overdraft conversion and buying of inputs.

***THE 2.95% AGRICASHFLOW LOAN SCHEME
WAS A DIRECT RESULT OF IFA LOBBYING
PROVIDING A TOTAL LOAN FUND OF €150M.***

Financial Information meetings

The IFA Farm Business Committee, supported by their County Executives, held a series of Financial Information meetings over the course of the autumn. Each county held its own meeting, and speakers included IFA representatives, bank representatives, taxation and accountancy service providers, and other financial advisors.

The purpose of the meetings was to provide information to farm families on aspects of their farm finances, including ensuring tax efficient practices, making a loan application, dealing with a credit difficulty, securing information on Farm Assist or ensuring access to the contributory pension. In total 27 meetings were held, with approximately 1,250 IFA members attending.

Access to Credit and Farm Credit Problems

Throughout 2016, IFA continued to assist farmers across the country with credit problems, through the IFA helpline and through the local offices, with the professional support of Mr Brendan Stafford, Financial Advisor.

IFA's role in this area has expanded to include the asset management companies that are now managing loans that have been sold on to third parties. In addition, IFA continues to engage with the banks on issues arising for the farming sector on the costs and availability of credit.

Department of Enterprise Advisory Group on Small Business

In 2016, IFA was represented on the Advisory Group on Small Business by Martin Stapleton, IFA Farm Business Chairman. This forum inputs into policy development on issues of common concern in relation to SMEs and farm businesses, including taxation, access to credit and other business costs.

As part of this forum, the IFA submission on insurance costs was discussed, which inputted into the work of the Expert Group chaired by Minister of State, Eoghan Murphy.



Martin Stapleton
Chairman, National Farm Business Committee



Rowena Dwyer
National Farm Business Executive

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT & RURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

New National Roads Agreement delivers €9m goodwill payment

IN 2016, IFA negotiated an update to the National Road Agreement, with the Department of Transport and Transport Infrastructure Ireland (formerly NRA). As part of the negotiations, IFA delivered the restoration of the Fixed Payment, at a rate of €3,000 per acre. This is an additional payment on-top of all other compensation. It will be worth approximately €9m to the landowners on the 75 schemes impacted.

The €3,000 per acre fixed payment will be paid retrospectively, for all eligible projects that did not receive any fixed payment. Buildings' replacement costs will be at the current day replacement cost, regardless of the age of the building. Land under CPO will be valued as an individual parcel, based on its size, quality and location.

A copy of the full agreement is available on the IFA website.

Farmers will not have to reduce cattle numbers, to comply with EU climate obligations

IFA President Joe Healy and Environment Chairman Thomas Cooney led a strong and successful climate campaign in 2016. This ensured Ireland's 2030 climate targets generally being no more onerous than the current 2020 targets, if all measures available are taken up. This will safeguard the national herd.

The 2030 outcome was achieved because of the unique combination of high level lobbying of Government and the European Commission by IFA.

Smart Farming cost saving programme delivers average savings of €5,000 per farm

Smart Farming continues to identify real cost savings inside the farm gate in areas that included feed, grassland management, soil fertility and energy management. Find out about some of the savings identified in 2016 at www.smartfarming.ie.

You can also register your interest in participating on the website.

Delivery of the extension of accelerated capital allowances for energy efficient equipment to farmers can save up to €3m

Government's decision to accept IFA's proposal to extend the accelerated capital allowances (ACA) for energy equipment to farmers will encourage on-farm investment in energy saving technologies.

The scheme, which is administered by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI), allows farmers to write off 100% of the purchase value of qualifying energy efficient equipment against their profit in the year of the purchase. The full list of eligible equipment is listed on the SEAI website.

IN 2016 IFA NEGOTIATED AN UPDATE TO THE NATIONAL ROAD AGREEMENT... DELIVERED THE RESTORATION OF THE FIXED PAYMENT, AT A RATE OF €3,000 PER ACRE.

Quarterly fuel survey continued to show excessive charges for farmers in counties including Kerry, Leitrim, Sligo and Roscommon

Four times each year IFA completes a quarterly fuel survey, which records agricultural diesel, home heating oil and car diesel prices; the final one for 2016 highlighted a 20% increase in fuel prices.

The survey results, which are available on ifa.ie, are used by many farmers to negotiate keener fuel prices with suppliers, as several counties continues to be charged above the national average.

Former Environment Committee Chairman appointed to EPA Advisory Committee

Following a nomination from IFA, former Environment Committee Chairman Harold Kingston was appointed to the EPA Advisory Committee.

Harold will focus on logic proofing environmental measures proposed and will seek acknowledgement of the significant efforts and investment made by farmers in improving the agri-environment.

Proposed waste tyre charge for agriculture sector parked

Environment Minister Denis Naughten agreed to defer the introduction of a recycling charge for tractor tyres when they are bought, following significant representations made by IFA.

Minister Naughten agreed to fully engage with IFA to ensure excessive recycling charges are not introduced.

Need for delivery of economic returns for farmers

IFA President Joe Healy addressed the MacGill Summer School this year, and told the packed gathering that addressing the climate challenge must include delivering economic and social sustainability for the farming and wider rural communities.

He also emphasised the need for greater support for community led renewable energy projects and the important role of farm scale renewables, in addressing the climate challenge.



Thomas Cooney

Thomas Cooney
Chairman, National Environment and Rural Affairs Committee



Thomas Ryan

Thomas Ryan
National Environment and Rural Affairs Executive

NATIONAL FARM FAMILY & SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE



Farm Health & Safety

IFA was involved in a series of campaigns in 2016 to increase awareness of health and safety on Irish farms. As a member of the Farm Safety Partnership Advisory Committee (FSPAC), IFA contributed to the publication of the Farm Safety Action Plan 2016 – 2018, which sets out goals to improve workplace safety and health performance. The objective of the plan is to reduce the level of fatalities, ill health and serious injuries in the agriculture sector

The third IFA National Farm Safety Awareness Day was held on 21st July to encourage farmers to review safety risks on farms. Farm families were encouraged to complete the IFA farm safety risk assessment planner, which was circulated to over 80,000 farmers. In addition, IFA was the lead organisation in Ireland for the UK and Ireland Farm Safety Week. The campaign focussed on different safety risks each day, and offered practical advice and guidance to farmers. The work of the campaign was recognised in the British Farming Awards and it was selected as a finalist under the Farming Partnership of the Year category.

IFA and the Irish Heart Foundation organised a national awareness campaign to encourage farmers to take better care of their heart health. The IFA funded campaign was initiated as a result of research showing that farmers are disproportionately affected by lifestyle heart diseases. As part of the campaign an IHF nurse visited County Executives to provide information and advice on heart health, and IFA provided 300 members with a free heart health check in 13 locations nationally.

IFA continued to work with See Change supporting the national Green Ribbon campaign to reduce stigma associated with mental health. The IFA organised a series of Let's Talk and Walk events in Cork, Donegal, Galway, Monaghan and Wicklow during May. 2016 was a difficult year for many farm families and the walks enabled the local communities to show support and talk about the issues affecting them. IFA and Pieta House joined forces to promote the Mind Our Farm Families phone line (1890 130 022) and counselling service for farmers and farm families that are feeling suicidal.

The Understanding Together campaign, a public support, awareness and information campaign on dementia was launched in late 2016. IFA is one of 30 partner organisations working to increase awareness and build better supports for 55,000 people living with dementia and their families.

Nursing Home Support Scheme

In recognition of IFA's ongoing campaign to secure changes to the Fair Deal Scheme to protect the future viability of the family farm model, the programme for a new partnership Government gave a commitment to introduce changes to remove discrimination against family farms as soon as possible. Throughout 2016, IFA continued to provide assistance to farm families on individual queries as well as representation at a national level to secure the following changes to the scheme: (i) a reduction in the charge on the farm assets, similar to Agricultural Relief, (ii) assets transferred 3 years or more to be excluded from financial assessment and (iii) a broadened interpretation of 'sudden illness or disability'.



Lets Talk and Walk Green Ribbon campaign, Lough Muckno Forest.

COPA Women's Committee

IFA inputted into the publication of a strategic vision to foster the status of women farmers in Europe. The vision recognises that women are key players, working to ensure the economic sustainability of the family farm, be it through their work on or off the farm. It rightly recognises that many women farmers have transformed the traditional role by developing a wide range of rural businesses. The strategy wants to empower more women living in rural areas to unlock their potential. It wants EU policy measures to support women farmers to create new opportunities, to encourage entrepreneurial skills and to support projects that will lead to new and innovative farming and farm businesses.

State pension advisory service

In response to the level of queries on State Pensions (Contributory and Non-Contributory) an information leaflet to increase understanding of the eligibility criteria of the State pension was produced. IFA continued to provide an advisory and information service, as well as representation for farmers that have issues relating to State pensions and Farm Spouse pensions.

Right: Maura Canning, Chairwoman Farm Family & Social Affairs with Women Farmers Innovation Award of Copa winner, Margaret Farrelly, Mairead Lavery, IFJ and Liam McHale Director of European Affairs.



Maura Canning

Maura Canning
Chairperson, National Farm Family & Social Affairs



Geraldine O'Sullivan

Geraldine O'Sullivan
National Farm Family & Social Affairs Executive

NATIONAL POTATO COMMITTEE



Retailer Activity

A robust campaign throughout the year resulted in increased farm gate prices when compared to 2015. Liaison with retail buyers and potato merchants / packers ensured growers' concerns were foremost on their agendas.

IFA continued to ensure Irish produce gets retailer priority over cheaper imports, especially with discounters Aldi and Lidl. IFA led a campaign on sustainable prices to growers with the main retailers, documenting producer costs of bringing crop to market.

Planting Survey

IFA's Planting survey of 173 growers was published in the autumn. The survey represented an area of 17,804ac, 81% of total area planted. Main findings were:

- increase of 1095ac (5%) from 2015
- tonnage reduction of 1%
- early varieties increased by 5% over 2015.

EU Potato Promotion Campaign

IFA worked tirelessly with Bord Bia and the Potato Council (UK) on the EU funded Potato Promotion Campaign – "Potatoes – More Than a Bit on the Side" of €1m over the next three years in ROI aimed at putting potatoes back on the plate of Irish consumers.

Irish growers will contribute €250,000 over this period. The campaign strategy is to grow the retail potato market by 28,000t, increase the frequency of potato purchase by 6% and increase the health perceptions of potatoes by 8% with consumers over the three years of the campaign.

Market Price Reporting

Price information was collected weekly and sent to growers via text message and published on ifarm.ie. This information was also published in the Farmers' Journal along with information in relation to stocks and market trends.

National Potato Day (NPD) 2016

IFA was actively involved and participated in NPD which was co-ordinated by Bord Bia. Potato Chairman Eddie Doyle hosted seven primary school classes to his farm on NPD.

Salad Potato research programme

Worked with Bord Bia and Teagasc on a Salad Potato research programme, which included growers trialling some varieties.

Seed Potato Industry

To promote our indigenous seed industry, IFA organised a field study trip for growers to Donegal. IFA continues to be part of a working group, along with other stakeholders seeking to improve the seed industry in Ireland.

Other Committee activities included: monitoring the use of grower registration numbers on potatoes for sale, continued to work with Bord Bia on the Quality Assurance Scheme for potato growers, established forum between IFA, growers and merchants/packers to progress issues and improve structure of the industry, with a priority to get an agreement on tare and in conjunction with Teagasc and Bord Bia, IFA hosted the Potato Conference in February.



Eddie Doyle

Eddie Doyle
National
Potato Committee



Elaine Farrell

Elaine Farrell
National Potato Executive



Pat Farrell

Patrick Farrell
Potato Development Officer

NATIONAL POULTRY COMMITTEE



Income

The full implementation of negotiated price increases across main broiler groups came into effect in 2016.

Environment

The IFA National Poultry Committee reached agreement with the EPA on the reduction in cost of transfer of environmental protection agency licences in 2016.

Schemes

Under the Rural Development Programme, the poultry committee achieved the inclusion of the poultry sector under knowledge Transfer discussion groups. These groups are now set up and functioning by independent facilitators across the country. Under the Targeted Agricultural Modernisation Scheme, the committee gained a number of clarifications and simplifications to the scheme.

Health Issues

The IFA contributed and liaised with all stakeholders in the Campylobacter forum under the chairmanship of Professor Patrick Wall. In late 2016, the IFA was proactive in calling all stakeholders together and proposed common policies in terms of biosecurity measures to minimise the risk of an Avian Influenza outbreak among the commercial flock.

Labelling

The Country of Origin Labelling (COOL) was introduced for poultry meat in 2016, which the IFA had lobbied for at EU and National level for some time. Country of Origin labelling for poultry products. In the lead up to the Christmas trade, the committee successfully engaged with, and reached agreement with Department of Agriculture in relation to the packaging and labelling required for import whole turkeys in Ireland in 2016



Nigel Renaghan
Chairman, National Poultry Committee



Robert Malone
National Poultry Executive

AQUACULTURE SECTION



IFA is represented on a wide range of bodies of importance to the aquaculture sector – in addition to ad hoc committees we work with on a daily basis dealing with health, environmental and legislative issues at national and regional level, we formally represent the sector at European level and Internationally through the Federation of European Aquaculture Producers, the European Mollusc Producers' Association and the International Salmon Farmers' Association.

IFA currently holds the position of presidency of the formal sectoral dialogue group – the European Aquaculture Advisory Council to represent member states directly to the EU Commission and Parliament. IFA is the first standard bearer for this office and it is a huge honour for the Association to achieve this.

Nationally, the important bodies for us are the Molluscan Shellfish Safety Committee – chaired by the Food Safety Authority, IFA is represented by farmer members on the stakeholder committee for the Seafood Protection Authority and on Fisheries Local Action Groups

IFA's campaign for an independent review of the licence processing system for aquaculture resulted in the announcement in December by Minister Creed of a full review which is due to report in April 2017.

IFA's unique and globally recognised report on Recirculation Aquaculture Systems for salmon farming formed the basis for an international study on the same subject launched by the International Salmon Farmers Association. This has been published and communicated and is now the industry standard.

EMFF Grant programmes – IFA members who had received licences following renewal applications were eligible from January 2016 for 40% capital aid under a €34m annual scheme to invest in upgrading technology, improve environmental monitoring and control and reduce costs through more efficient methods. IFA is constantly working with farmers at local level and with the Department to relieve the backlog of applications.



Michael Mulloy
National Chairman
Aquaculture



Richie Flynn
National Aquaculture
Executive

HORTICULTURE COMMITTEE



Retailer Activity for Fresh Produce Sectors (Field Vegetables, Protected Crops and Fruit)

Predatory pricing by retailers continued to be the single biggest threat to the vegetable and fruit industry and retailers continued to abuse their dominant market power.

IFA's robust campaign throughout 2016 prevented any repeat of irresponsible promotion campaigns by retailers. The Association's campaign against the method for procurement was successful, and outcomes of the discussions with the retailer continue to be implemented with meetings continuing to ensure progress. Our Fresh Produce growers made a presentation to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Agriculture on Below Cost Selling by retailers. We continually monitored retailers to ensure Irish produce got priority over cheap imports. Our constant liaison with retail buyers ensured growers' concerns are foremost on the retailers' agenda.

IFA continues to push for recognition of growers' costs of production by retailers as deflation in retail prices continues due to intense competition in the marketplace, exerting downward pressure on the farm gate price.

IFA has successfully minimised the importation of fruit / vegetable produce, continually monitoring the amounts of produce and mislabelling and through liaison with retailers.

Brexit

Our mushroom growers made a presentation to the Oireachtas Agriculture Committee outlining the turmoil that their industry experienced, demonstrating that growers are in continuous and unsustainable loss-making territory, resulting from the sudden and significant weakening of sterling.

IFA representation to the DAFM and at EC level assisted CMP in their Producer Organisation bid for 2015.

Bord Bia Promotional Campaigns

IFA coordinated the following campaigns with Bord Bia:

- **National Strawberry Week** contributed to the domestic market benefiting from the continuous rise in consumption, up 5% year on year.
- The inaugural **National Summer Salads' Week**, called on retailers to support Ireland's 75 salad growers, with crops at farm gate value of 45m.

IFA has raised issues with Bord Bia on the new Horticulture Quality Assurance Scheme.



Sectoral issues raised with Minister for Horticulture

IFA's Horticulture Chairmen met with Minister for Horticulture Andrew Doyle on a range of issues affecting the sector including:

- Predatory pricing by retailers and the continued abuse of their dominant market power
- Need for Grocery Goods Regulations to be strengthened to provide for an Independent Ombudsman
- Brexit – sterling devaluation implications for the mushroom sector
- The need for an increased allocation for nurseries under the NDP Commercial Horticulture Grant
- Scheme in Budget 2017
- Support for wholesale nurseries with stocks of Ash trees restricted for sale by the Ash Dieback suspension
- That orchards (apple trees) would be included in GLAS Tier 1.

Nursery Stock

IFA/IHNSA, together with Bord Bia organised two plant/trolley fairs in 2016 for nursery stock producers aimed at reducing the importation of nursery stock produce.

IHNSA members again participated in the GroMór / Garden Centre Campaign and engaged with REI to ensure nursery participation in 2016 in an effort to get people back gardening.

IHNSA / IFA has proposed in its submission to the Department of Agriculture on the 2nd Amendments to the CAP Rural Development Plan 2014 – 2020, the restoration of the Hedge Planting measure in GLAS for the next phase of the scheme.

Grocery Goods Regulations 2016

Fresh produce growers met with the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC) on the enforcement and compliance of the Grocery Goods Regulations 2016.

Plant Protection Products

Liaison with DAFM on introducing replacement Plant Protection Products for the industry.

IFA Horticulture Levy

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



Gerry Reilly

Gerry Reilly
Chairman, National Horticulture Committee



Elaine Farrell

Elaine Farrell
National Horticulture Executive



Pat Farrell

Patrick Farrell
Fresh Produce Development Officer

NATIONAL FARM FORESTRY COMMITTEE



2016 Forestry Programme

The afforestation programme remained relatively static in 2016 with 6,500 hectares of new forests established in the private forest sector. Approximately €72.5 million was paid to private forest owners in forest premiums. Nearly 50,000 linear metres of new forest roads were constructed to access and mobilise the private timber resource. There continues to be strong demand for wood fibre largely driven by export markets in the UK. To satisfy the demand for wood 1,150 General Felling licences were issued to thin 15,000 hectares and clearfell 1,300 hectares in the private forest sector.

Forest Roads

A new Technical Standards for the Design of Forest Road Entrances from Public Roads has been developed, this is intended to replace the existing requirement of getting planning permission from the Local Authority and return planning consent for forest road entrances to the Forest Service. The cost of forest road construction continued to be an issue in 2016 and to address farmers' concerns the Forest Service introduced a number of changes to the Forest Road Scheme: a single payment of forest road grant following construction was introduced; and an increased grant where a new entrance to the public road is being created or modified, subject to a maximum of €800 per plantation.

Windblow Reconstitution Scheme

Over the winter of 2013 and 2014 Storm Darwin destroyed thousands of hectares of private forests. Since 2014 IFA has been looking for a Reconstitution Scheme for those farmers affected by the storm. The scheme was introduced in 2016 and provides grant aid to cover some of the cost of replanting, up to a maximum of €1,700/ha for both conifer and broadleaf forests. The total eligible area is 10 hectares per contract number, up to a maximum payment of €17,000. The scheme is open to all forests established after 1st December 1989. Forests that were not insured will be eligible to apply for full costs associated with reconstitution, whereas forests that were insured can apply for funding up to the excess limit imposed by their policy.

Land Types for Afforestation

Land Types for Afforestation sets out the eligibility of the type of land supported under the Afforestation Scheme. The document assesses land based on ground vegetation to determine productive capacity to grow a sustainable commercial timber crop of timber. The Forest Service intends to remove the 20% rule on unenclosed land by using the Lands Types for Afforestation and the Environmental Requirements for Afforestation to determine suitability of land for forestry. The immediate benefit of the scoring system is that some land that was previously classed as a GPC1, which has a premium rate of €185 per hectare, has been re-categorised to GPC3, which has a premium rate of €510 per hectare.



Environmental Requirement for Afforestation

The Environmental Requirements for Afforestation replaces the existing suite of environmental guidelines. IFA has substantial concerns about the prescriptive nature of some of the measures, and the lack of opportunity to agree an operational and management plan appropriate to the site that satisfies both environmental and economic objectives of farmers. Of particular concern is the potential loss of productive area on certain sites, beyond the 15% Areas of Biodiversity Enhancement, that can be claimed under the under the Afforestation and Woodland Creation Scheme. It is IFA's position that a forest owner must be paid on all the land he is obligated to set aside for environmental purposes to compensate for the loss of earnings and additional management costs that they will be incurred due to these requirements.

Hen Harrier Threat Response Plan

IFA has continued to work with the industry and Government to highlight other management options available that would permit afforestation in the SPAs. The ban on afforestation in the Hen Harrier SPAs has marginalised farmers and damaged their perception of conservation, who see the sterilisation of their land the reward for protecting the Hen Harrier. The HHTRP must permit appropriate afforestation as part of larger landscape management that would provide a mosaic of different forest age classes, so the hen harrier has sufficient favoured habitat.

Forestry and climate change

The central element of the Paris Agreement on climate change is the long-term temperature goal, which reaffirms the need to limit global temperature increase to well below 2 degrees celsius, while pursuing efforts to limit the increase to 1.5 degrees. To achieve this goal biological sinks, including forests, will play an increasing role in tackling climate change post 2020. This means that Ireland will be able to use afforestation as an offset measure for greenhouse gas emissions.

IRISH FOREST SECTOR	2016
Forestry Programme budget	€114 million
Area of private forests	352,665 ha (47% of total forest estate)
Number of private forest owners	19,500
Area afforested	6,500 ha
New Forest Roads constructed	50,000 linear metres
Harvest of commercial roundwood (2015)	3.02 million m3
Value of forestry & forest products sector to economy (2012)	€2.3 billion
Forest sector employs	12,000 people



Pat Collins

Pat Collins
Chairman, National Farm Forestry Committee



Geraldine O'Sullivan

Geraldine O'Sullivan
National Farm Forestry Executive

FRESH MILK PRODUCERS (FMP)



Negotiations with Glanbia Consumer Foods Ireland

In early 2016, FMP achieved an additional 1 cent per litre on liquid milk for January, February and March, due to the low base price of manufacturing milk. This was worth approximately €520,000 to FMP members. FMP negotiated the inclusion of the Ornuu payment on liquid milk which was worth over 1 cent per litre for one month's liquid supply. All Glanbia Co-op payments were matched by Consumer Foods Ireland (CFI) during 2016 which totalled 16 cent across the year. An additional ten million litres was offered and taken up in the optional liquid fixed price scheme during 2016.

On the overall liquid milk premium negotiations, the current liquid milk premium of 46 cent/litre was extended until Dec 2017. FMP resisted any movement in terms of liquid milk payment, away from the current constituents' payment. All FMP liquid milk will continue to be paid according to constituents, the same as manufacturing milk.

FMP continued to represent all 1050 liquid suppliers to Glanbia in regular meetings and communications with Glanbia management and milk managers on various liquid milk issues. The FMP Glanbia joint milk quality committee continued to meet to discuss current topics of interest and many issues were discussed and problems solved at this forum.

Outside Bodies

FMP continued its close relationship with liquid milk specialists in Teagasc, and collaborated on an FMP publication in late 2016 on breeding guidelines for liquid milk herds. FMP maintained close links with the National Milk Agency and the National Dairy Council throughout the year.



Larry Hannon

Larry Hannon
Chairman, FMP



Robert Malone

Robert Malone
FMP Executive

HILL FARMING COMMITTEE



GLAS & Commonages

The Committee had several meetings with the Department of Agriculture to ensure that flexible arrangements were put in place for commonage farmers under the new stocking arrangements required.

Over 10,000 commonage farmers have now joined the GLAS scheme. Where there are difficulties with GLAS on commonages, these are being referred to the Commonage Implementation Committee. The Minister for Agriculture recently appointed Pdraig Gibbons as the new Chairman of the Commonage Implementation Committee to replace IFA President, Joe Healy.

Commonage plans have to be completed by March 2017 and IFA has got guarantees that the min/max stocking levels set out can be reviewed by the Planner. IFA ensured that Planners are not asked to determine the eligible area.

Heritage Bill 2016

The Heritage Bill was presented to the Senate in early 2016 and again in late 2016. The Bill proposes to allow burning of gorse in the month of March. IFA put significant pressure on the Minister to ensure that this is pursued.

Walks Scheme

The Hill Committee were successful in getting a commitment in the Programme for Government for an additional €2m to the Walks Scheme. Discussions took place with the Minister of State Michael Ring to pursue this matter.

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.

TAMS Sheep Fencing Scheme

The Committee put a lot of pressure on to ensure that the Sheep Fencing Scheme was included in TAMS. Applications were accepted from June 2016.

Policy Agenda for Hill Farmers

A policy agenda was put forward by the Hill Committee at a major meeting in Ballycroy, Co. Mayo in June 2016.

- **New €25m Sheep scheme:** To be introduced in Budget 2017. Simple and effective, with minimal costs and bureaucracy on farmers, involving a menu of optional measures, including options that suit hill farmers.
- **GLAS:** Increase in payments under GLAS. The €5,000 cap



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

removed from the general scheme as well as the €7,000 limit for GLAS+. Increase in Commonage and Natura payment to €150/ha with greater flexibilities in Management Plans.

- **Areas of Natural Constraint:** €25m ANC increase: Programme for Government increase brought forward to Budget 2017. Increase payments up to a maximum of €6,000 in hill areas to better reflect the natural handicaps in upland areas.
- **Knowledge Transfer:** Special Hill Sheep Knowledge Transfer measure, with a payment of €1,000 per participant. This would help hill farmers embrace the most up-to-date Teagasc research and should also include a Bord Bia initiative on market requirements and promotion for light lamb.
- **Beef Data and Genomics Programme:** Payment of €200/cow should apply for hill farmers
- **Targeted Agri-environment Output Scheme:** A special upland environmental scheme similar to the Burren to reward farmers for collectively managing their farms under the locally led targeted Environmental scheme.

- **Eligible Land:** Recent flexibilities on eligible land must allow farmers to claim land where they are not allowed to improve such as Natura land.
- **TAMS:** Increase in standard costings to reflect the higher investment costs in hill areas where planning approval and other Natura restrictions apply
- **Designated Land:** Where restrictions are imposed on farming in designated land, compensation must be paid through the NPWS Farm Plan Scheme.

Farm Assist

To support low income farmers, the restoration of the income and child disregards in the means test for Farm Assist must be a priority in the current review of the scheme. These changes were secured in Budget 2017. Also in the related Rural Social Scheme, more places were secured which will help low income farmers in peripheral areas where economic opportunities are limited.



Pat Dunne

Pat Dunne
Chairman, Hill Farming
Committee



Gerry Gunning

Gerry Gunning
Hill Farming
Executive

NATIONAL RULES, PRIVILEGES AND PROCEDURES COMMITTEE



Function of the 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.

On a day-to-day basis, this work involves upholding and applying the Rules of IFA, while at all times respecting the rights of individual members and the authority of the Executive Council as the governing body of the Association.

Role of National Returning Officer

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 Jer Bergin was re-elected as National Treasurer/Returning Officer at the IFA AGM in April 2016.

Spring 2016 Presidential Elections

Following the resignation of President Eddie Downey in late November 2015, the National Treasurer /Returning Officer, the Committee and the Secretary ensured that Council was properly advised and IFA rules were fully respected in organising National Elections and making necessary/appropriate rule changes to accommodate a full round of

elections. The above matters were covered in detail in the last annual report.

Areas of Work

The newly elected and re-elected national officers took up their positions at the April 2016 AGM and the main work of the Committee for the remainder of the year focussed on the following areas:

- Resolving the Connacht Chairman nomination impasse;
- Conduct of the Connacht Chairman election;
- Review of the Presidential and Regional Chairmen elections; and
- Procedures for County Executives' elections to National Committees in autumn 2016 for the new Committees' term running from January 2017 to December 2018.

The National Treasurer/Returning Officer and Secretary supported the National Pigs Committee and the Boortmalt Sub-Committee of the National Grain Committee on matters relating to rules and procedures.

They also provided advice and support for officers, County Executives and staff on rules and procedures, elections and the resolution of differences/disputes.

Strengthening Governance

In late 2016, the Committee began to consider its role in advising Council on the necessary changes in IFA rules and procedures following the adoption by Council in November of the recommendations of the Lucey Implementation Committee around governance.



Jer Bergin

Jer Bergin
Chairman, National Rules Committee/
National Treasurer/Returning Officer



Bryan Barry

Bryan Barry
Secretary, National Rules Committee/
Acting General Secretary

NATIONAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT & LESS FAVOURLED AREAS COMMITTEE



GLAS

The third phase of GLAS opened in November 2016. The total number of farmers who joined the scheme from 1st January 2017 will be in excess of 50,000. IFA ensured that flexibility was given so that farmers could maximise their payments either for the GLAS+ of €7,000 or the basic scheme of €5,000. In total around €107m of GLAS payments was paid out in 2016.

Detailed discussions took place with the Department on many of the technicalities in advance of the scheme opening to ensure farmers maximised their payments. From 1st January 2016, 38,000 farmers were in GLAS. The Committee also secured a €22m pay-out for first phase payment of 3 months in 2015. Also, IFA negotiated reduced charges for GLAS plans with Teagasc.

Targeted Agricultural Modernisation Schemes II

By the end of 2016 over 9,000 farmers had applied for TAMS by end of 2016 with around 6,000 having secured approval to proceed with work. The Rural Development Committee put significant pressure on the Department to ensure payments were made through the online system. The payments system was up and running from August and despite many difficulties being highlighted by IFA, farmers were paid towards the end of the year.

In the course of 2016, the Sheep Fencing Scheme was added before the end of 3rd Tranche.

A grain storage and tillage equipment scheme is being introduced in early 2017.

Knowledge Transfer

IFA secured important changes to the Knowledge Transfer measure which included: two payments where a farmer has two enterprises, double payment for partnerships and a practical payment system for farmers.

The Knowledge Transfer groups involve Beef, Sheep, Dairying, Poultry, Grain and Equine. So far 1,190 groups have been set-up involving 20,000 farmers (10,000 beef farmers, 4,500 sheep farmers, 4,500 dairy farmers with the remainder in poultry and equine).

Areas of Natural Constraints

The payment of ANCs increased to over €205m in 2016. Discussions have commenced with the Department in relation to the review of the ANC which must be completed by 2018. IFA launched an ANC Review campaign in Carrick-on-Shannon on December 2nd in 2016 which will be maintained throughout 2017.

Budget 2017

IFA successfully lobbied for increased funding for Rural Development measure in Budget 2017. The increased allocations will apply for GLAS, TAMS and Knowledge Transfer.

A major success in the Budget was the full restoration of the income and child disregards on the assessment of Farm Assist. An additional 500 places were secured in the Rural Social Scheme.



Charter of Rights

The Charter of Rights commitments have been pressed strongly with the Department and while there may have been slippage on some schemes, on major schemes such as Basic Payment Scheme and Areas of Natural Constraints payments were broadly delivered on time.

Leader Programme

IFA is involved in the new Leader structure through the LCDCs at local level. Most contracts have now been signed.

Locally Led Agri-environment schemes

The tendering process to operate the Locally Led Agri-environment schemes in the Hen Harrier and the Freshwater Pearl Mussel areas has commenced. This will be extended out to other areas in the course of 2017.

CAP

The Committee took up many issues under all schemes under Pillar I and Pillar II and addressed many technical issues in the course of the year.



Joe Brady
Chairman, National Rural Development Committee



Gerry Gunning
National Rural Development Executive

PROJECT TEAMS





**UNITY
STRENGTH
DELIVERY**

COUNTRYSIDE PROJECT TEAM



Sustaining Rural Communities

During 2016 the Association addressed the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs on the topic of *What it takes to sustain a viable rural community*.

Lobbying

In addition, meetings took place with policy makers, state bodies and elected representatives including Ministers Heather Humphreys and Michael Ring on this important issue.

As part of the presentation to the Joint Oireachtas Committee, IFA set out key policy priorities, to sustain rural communities. These included the importance of a high quality rural fibre broadband network across the countryside, to support farm business, job creation, investment and rural development. Whilst a three-year exemption from local authority rates for new business start-ups, to boost local enterprise development in rural areas would also be essential.

Tax Incentives

Addressing taxes, measures such as tax-credits, to encourage employers to take on apprentices and create long term employment, as well as tax incentives for businesses to locate in villages and town centres, which have been decimated during the recession, would help re-vitalise the rural economy.

An increased and ring-fenced annual rural roads budget from the Department of Transport each year, allocated to local authorities as part of a planned repair and maintenance programme is also critical. In regard to tourism, to support its development an increase in the number of voluntary rural walk schemes is needed.

Tourism

Also required is a package of measures to facilitate the development of proposed Greenway projects, which works in co-operation with landowners impacted and protects their rights.



Richard Kennedy

Richard Kennedy
Deputy President &
Chairman, Countryside
Project Team



Thomas Cooney

Thomas Cooney
Chairman, National
Environment & Rural
Affairs Committee



Thomas Ryan

Thomas Ryan
National Environment
& Rural Affairs
Executive

DIRECT PAYMENTS PROJECT TEAM



Richard Kennedy

Richard Kennedy
Deputy President



Angus Woods

Angus Woods
Chairman, National
Livestock Committee



Kevin Kinsella

Kevin Kinsella
Director of Livestock

IN TOTAL €1.6BN WAS PAID OUT TO FARMERS IN DIRECT PAYMENTS IN 2016

Direct Payments

In total €1.6bn was paid out to farmers in Direct Payments in 2016. IFA secured a 70% BPS advance payment from October 17th resulting in a €700m cash flow boost in a very difficult year on farm incomes. By year end, IFA pressure had secured Basic payments in excess of €1.18bn to 124,000 farmers out of total applicants of 126,000. Outstanding cases were held up due to technical issues, outstanding entitlement problems, inheritance cases etc.

ANC payments commenced in the third week of September and IFA secured delivery of €205m to 95,000 farmers by year-end. On the Beef Data and Genomics Scheme, IFA secured payments of €29m to 16,000 farmers in Dec 2015 and a further €14.5m during 2016. For the 2016 scheme payments of €36m to 19,500 are in process from mid-Dec 2016 into 2017 as data is received.

8,500 young farmers received €35.5m under the National Reserve Young Farmer top-up. 85% of AEOS/GLAS paid in first instalment to around 40,000 farmers, worth €160m. GLAS payments worth €124m were paid out in 2016.

All the details on Farm Schemes and Payments on www.ifa.ie

Land Eligibility Issues

IFA campaigned against land eligibility penalties at farm level and worked with the DAFM in resolving many cases as well as national penalties at EU level.

CAP Implementation and Simplification

Strong lobbying by IFA at EU and national level secured significant simplification changes which were introduced

in 2016 including a pre-checking arrangement for basic payment, a new yellow card system, increased tolerances and reduced penalties for land eligibility issues.

IFA met with EU Commission officials on a number of occasions throughout 2016 to discuss direct payments and farm schemes including on Greening. IFA participates on the EU Civil Dialogue Committee on Direct Payments along with COPA in Brussels.

Charter of Rights Monitoring Committee

The Charter of Rights Monitoring Committee met on 3 occasions in 2016, under the Chairman Sean Brady.

The Department of Agriculture reported to each meeting on progress on payments, inspections, and administration of various schemes ensuring that and commitments laid out in the Charter are met.

Appeals

At both local and national level, IFA assisted many farmers with difficult appeal cases throughout 2016. A meeting with the new Director of the Appeals Office, Angela Robinson, took place in early October.

Direct Payment Problems

IFA assisted thousands of farmers with individual direct payment problems across all of the schemes at both national and local level throughout 2016. Critical to this, is the structure and process which IFA has set up at national level to deal with these cases through direct contact with the relevant people in the Department of Agriculture.



Joe Brady

Joe Brady
Chairman, National Rural Development Committee



Gerry Gunning

Gerry Gunning
National Rural Development Executive

ANIMAL HEALTH PROJECT TEAM



TB

IFA secured the first fundamental changes to the TB compensation schemes in over 20 years following a prolonged campaign. These changes were implemented on 1st May 2016. The changes represent a significant first step in reducing the enormous financial loss associated with TB breakdowns.

Improvements to the Income Supplement Scheme include an increase to the rate of income supplement for dairy cows from €25.39/cow/month to €55/cow/month. The 10% threshold for scheme eligibility is retained as a general rule but extended to include herds which lose at least 10% of their dairy cows. The 100-animal ceiling in the scheme is also abolished.

The rate of the Depopulation Grant for dairy cows is fixed at the same rate as that for the Income Supplement with the grant rate for suckler cows increased from €31.74 to bring it into line with the Income Supplement rate of €38.09.

INCOME SUPPLEMENT	STABLE HERDS
Animal type	Rate (€/month)
Dairy Cows	55.00
Suckler Cows	38.09
All other Animals	25.39

DEPOPULATION GRANT	STABLE HERDS
Animal type	Rate (€/ 4 months)
Dairy Cows /In-Calf Heifers / Pedigree Bulls > 12 months	220.00
Suckler Cows / In-Calf Heifers/ Pedigree Bulls>12 months	152.36
All Other Animals	76.16

The Hardship Grant scheme is extended to dairy farmers even when producing milk.

Ceilings on payments under the On-Farm Valuation scheme have increased from €2,800 to €3,000 for a bovine, from €3,500 to €4,000 for a stock bull and €5,000 for a pedigree bull. Separate categories will be introduced for served and maiden heifers with recognition of beef heifers with breeding potential. The EBI top-up co-efficient for dairy cows was reduced to 50c/€ EBI, but following the reduction in the baseline EBI figures on 11th September the co-efficient increased to €1.05/€ EBI.

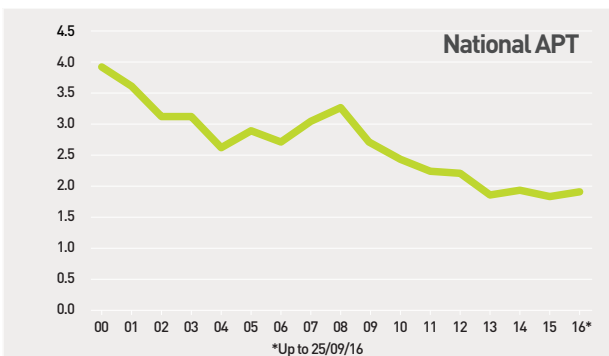
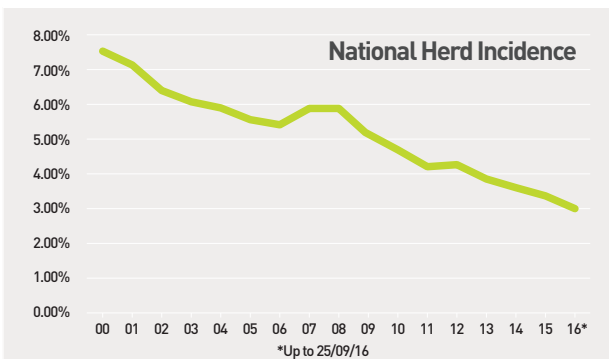
IFA secured commitment from the Department of Agriculture to alleviate the problems arising from the prohibition in EU legislation on buying in to restricted herds by adopting as flexible an approach to feedlots as possible. The Department of Agriculture will also allocate herd numbers to farmers with separate land parcels, in order to facilitate the purchase of cattle.

IFA secured a more practical approach to the medication of animals following notification to test, focusing on the withdrawal period as opposed to the administration date of products.

IFA has ensured the liability to pay for TB tests has been clearly established in the TB SI, reflecting the one test per year and 10-month rule between farmer pay tests

The establishment of a pilot Deer Management Programme surrounding TB outbreaks has been progressed.

The reduction in TB levels nationally, which has occurred since the introduction of the Wildlife Control Programme in the early 2000's, continues for the key measures of Herd Incidence and APT (Animals Per 1,000 tested), see graphs on the following page.



BVD

Stronger support payments for farmers disposing of persistently infected animals (PIs) will be provided in the BVD programme for 2017. The Department of Agriculture has also committed to a more proactive role in supporting the programme through more effective implementation of controls.

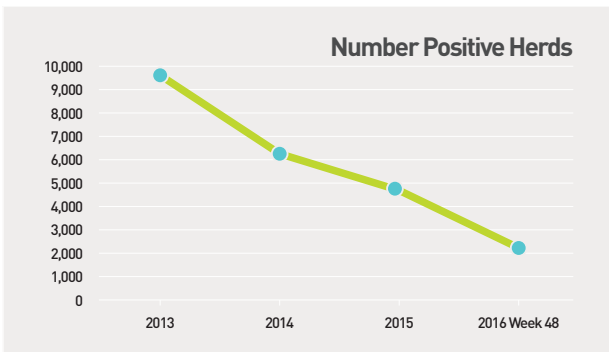
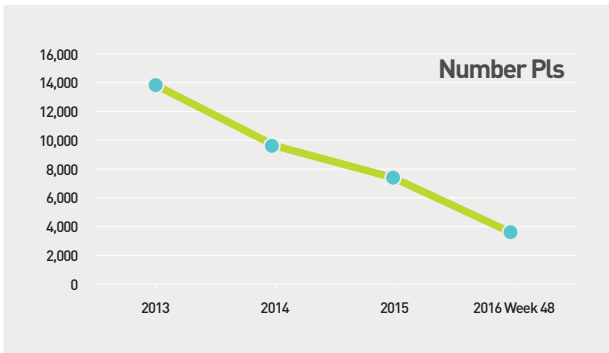
2017 support payments

TYPE	REMOVED WITHIN 21 DAYS OF THE FIRST POSITIVE OR INCONCLUSIVE TEST	REMOVED BETWEEN DAY 22 & 35 OF THE FIRST POSITIVE OR INCONCLUSIVE TEST
Beef calf	€185	€60
Female dairy and dairy cross calves	€150	€35
Dairy bull	€30	

IFA also secured a continuation of the higher level ex-gratia payments for farmers losing a disproportionate number of calves as PIs in 2015 and 2016. Commitment has also been secured from the Department of Agriculture that the unacceptable delays associated with BVD payments in previous years will be resolved.

Significant progress has been achieved in reducing the prevalence of BVD in the National herd. 34,376 PIs have been removed since 2013, with only 327 identified PI animals still alive in 117 herds based on the latest AHI data.

The number of PIs identified annually has reduced from 13,875 in 2013 to 2,461 to-date in 2016. The number of herds with PIs has reduced from 9,484 in 2013 to 2,461 to-date in 2016. 64,574 herds have now attained Negative Herd Status.



Johnes

The completion of the cost benefit analysis of the pilot Johnes Control Programme, which was a key demand of IFA, has resulted in a more equitable cost distribution model being developed by AHL for the programme, reducing farmers' exposure to Johnes control costs.

Fallen Animals

IFA has sought significant changes to the current fallen animal collection system in order to provide a more effective and competitive collection system for farmers, including the establishment of maximum fees and the provision of a full cost effective collection service in all areas.

EU Animal Health law and Veterinary medicines proposals

IFA met with Irish MEP's and senior DAFM officials to highlight the key areas of concern for farmers in the new animal health law and veterinary medicine proposals.

Tags

In the new Bovine Identification Tag supply system implemented by DAFM, IFA ensured the costly and impractical approach of compelling all farmers to purchase dual purpose tissue sampling tags was averted.



Bert Stewart

Bert Stewart
Chairman, Animal Health Project Team



Tomas Bourke

Tomas Bourke
National Animal Health Executive

FLOOD PROJECT TEAM



Following the severe flooding in December - January of 2016, IFA has had several meetings with the Minister for the Office of Public Works Sean Canney, to get a commitment for greater resources to be put in place to alleviate flooding problems around the country.

Funding and work commenced for the Dunkellan area of south Galway, the lowering of Lough Rynn in County Leitrim and flood alleviation works in south Leitrim. A task force has been set up to deal with the Shannon, which IFA has insisted must not be a "talking shop". Commitments were secured to fund maintenance work on the River Shannon. This will also be extended to other areas. IFA ensured that screening can take place rather than outright planning where rock has to be removed. A relocation scheme has also been announced with details to emerge in 2017.

On the Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Study (CFRAMS), IFA has had ongoing discussions with Jacobs Consultants who are carrying out the initial study on the River Shannon. It is a requirement under the EU Floods Directive that such management plans are in place and that they will be implemented from 2016 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, Neagh Bann area 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. A protest took place in August in Athlone to highlight farmers concerns at the CFRAMS Public Consultation. Several meetings were held with local authorities who were told to prioritise the protection of coastal areas, banks on rivers, as well as remedial work to alleviate flooding.

Ongoing meetings are taking place with ESB in relation to flood levels on the Shannon. Weekly reports are being made available. On a pilot basis, lake levels in Lough Allen were reduced by up to 2m, this will add capacity when heavy rain occurs.

IFA also ensured that an examination of turloughs be undertaken following severe flooding problems in Lough Funshinagh in Roscommon and areas of Co Longford. IFA also made proposals for changes to the calculation of farm losses under the cost-benefit analysis formula used by OPW.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Padraig Joyce".

Padraig Joyce
Chairman, Flood Project Team



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gerry Gunning".

Gerry Gunning
National Rural Development
Executive

HORSE PROJECT TEAM



2016 FOAL LEVY FUND AMOUNTED TO €1.753M (€1.683M IN 2015) AND WAS ALLOCATED AS FOLLOWS: EQUINE CENTRE €870,000, ITBA €425,000, ITM €425,000

Foal Levy

As agreed with IFA, the 2017 foal levy bands will continue as were for 2016. IFA sits on the Horse Racing Ireland (HRI) Thoroughbred Foal Levy Committee. In 2016, the foal levy fund amounted to €1.753m (€1.683m in 2015) and allocated as follows: Equine Centre €870,000, ITBA €425,000, ITM €425,000.

The 2016 General Election Manifesto looked for the foal levy to be collected on the actual stallion fee and that the State contribution towards the Irish Equine Centre would continue.

IFA made representation to Ministers Creed and Doyle on issues surrounding the mechanism of how the foal levy is collected.

Horse Racing Ireland

IFA met with the HRI Chairman and CEO on the following issues:

Equine Discussion Groups' funding and the need to include thoroughbred horse breeders in the scheme,

- breeders' prizes,
- fillies programme,
- equine centre funding and sales based levy.

IFA monitored the passage of the Horse Racing Ireland Act 2016 through the Houses of the Oireachtas.

Horse Sport Ireland

Meeting with Horse Sport Ireland for discussions on the industry including a meeting with the Traditional Irish Horse Association on issues relating to retaining the identity of the traditional Irish horse.

Horse Passports

IFA continued to address the Horse Passports and Unwanted Horse registration issue, both with the Department of Agriculture and with COPA in Brussels.

Equine Liaison Group

IFA continued its representation of farmer breeders on the Equine Liaison Group coordinated by the Department of Agriculture, where issues being addressed included: unwanted horses, registration, equine health and welfare.

COPA-COGECA

COPA-COGECA Horse Vice-Chairman James Murphy continued to represent Irish horse breeders in Brussels where animal welfare, unregistered horses and transport of equidae are high on the agenda.

IFA made a presentation to the European Parliament on the challenges in the Irish equine sector, covering topics as follows: lack of profitability in the sector, knowledge transfer/discussion groups, purchasing groups, impact of regulation and bureaucracy on the sector and horse welfare and transport.

IFA made a presentation to the European Parliament on Responsible Horse Ownership.



James Murphy

James Murphy
Chairman, Horse Project Team



Elaine Farrell

Elaine Farrell
National Horse Executive

INPUTS PROJECT TEAM



THE PROJECT TEAM STEPPED UP ITS LOBBYING CAMPAIGN TO FORCE THE EU COMMISSION TO ELIMINATE IMPORT TARIFFS AND ANTIDUMPING DUTIES ON NON-EU FERTILISER IMPORTS.

The project team stepped up its lobbying campaign to force the EU Commission to eliminate import tariffs and anti-dumping duties on non-EU fertiliser imports.

High level meetings were held with various Commission DGs including Agriculture, Trade, Competition and Grow.

Letters outlining the justification for the elimination of duties and tariffs and requesting Member State support were sent to the 28 relevant Ministries in their native language.

Similarly, all of the EU main fertiliser manufacturers were written to outlining the IFA position on the need for tariffs and duties to be eliminated.

Meetings were held between IFA and key Ministry personnel in a number of Member States as well as a number of major EU and non-EU fertiliser manufacturers.

IFA met with the Board of Fertilizer Europe as part of its campaign.

In addition, IFA lodged a 43-page technical/legal submission to DG Trade for the abolition of anti-dumping duties. This was co-signed by a number of major EU farming organisations and co-operatives.

The Project Team's advice to farmers is to continually shop around for all products before purchasing which delivers real dividends. Farmers who check out prices and/or negotiate favourable credit terms can achieve considerable savings.

The publication of IFA price surveys and price information bulletins throughout 2016 highlighted the significant price differences between cash and credit quotes.

The publication of fertiliser prices online and in the farming press during the peak buying season saw fertiliser prices fall by a third.

The promotion of farm-to-farm trade for grain, through the publication and distribution of 100,000 technical feed bulletins, empowers livestock farmers to cut their feed costs by pressurising compound feed mills to cut their margins.

The publication of feed ingredient prices brings greater transparency to compound feed pricing, enabling farmers to benchmark prices while forcing compounders to reduce margins.



John Coughlan

John Coughlan
Chairman, Inputs
Project Team



Fintan Conway

Fintan Conway
National Grain &
Inputs Executive

SPECIAL AREAS OF CONSERVATION (SACs) PROJECT TEAM



The SACs Project Team dealt with most of the issues resulting in the designations of land under the EU Habitats and Birds Directive. Several meetings were held with the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Heather Humphreys where IFA called for the honouring of all compensation agreements where designations are imposed.

The main issues were in relation to the SACs 1997 and 2004 Agreements and pressing that the deal is honoured. IFA is represented on the Designated Areas Appeals Board by Pat Dunne which deals with appeals to the designation of land.

In relation to flooding, IFA raised the restrictions in relation to dredging and river maintenance on designated rivers.

As part of the ongoing campaign on designations and related matters on restrictions, IFA launched a poster campaign entitled "National Parks and Wildlife and Bird Watch - Keep off our land, no designation without compensation". This was launched in Shannon Harbour.

This campaign was extended to highlight the lack of proper compensation for designations.

The Hen Harrier threat response group has met on several occasions and IFA has criticised the delay in getting a farm scheme up and running as well as allowing forestry to continue in these areas.

IFA got clarification on Natura SACs/SPA sites with regards to eligibility. Under the Basic Payment Scheme terms and Conditions Article 32 (2)(b)(i) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 in the case of Natura sites where similar lands that are not designated may be deemed ineligible for payment. Article 32 declares that the Natura land is eligible for payment under the Basic Payment Scheme, provided it:

- was claimed under the 2008 Single Payment Scheme;
- was eligible for payment under the 2008 Single Payment Scheme;
- has since become ineligible as a result of the management requirements or ecological objectives of the Natura site.

At a Charter of Rights meeting, the Department confirmed that there were 110 potential Article 32 cases following ground inspections and 336 following remote sensing. 30 cases required further examination and 244 have gone for processing. It is still unclear as to the number of extra hectares that were included.



Padraic Joyce
Chairman, SACs Project Team



Gerry Gunning
National Rural Development
Executive

RENEWABLES & ALTERNATIVE LAND USE PROJECT TEAM



Questionable solar energy rush continues

In July 2016 IFA organised a seminar, which attracted a full-capacity crowd, to support landowners approached by solar development companies. Considerable concern was expressed at the seminar regarding the speculative prospecting by solar energy development companies. It has reached a new milestone, with more than 25,000 acres of land now under some form of a solar energy contract.

In addition, the march of the solar developers continued, with conditional promises of significant annual sums being offered if farmers sign exclusivity agreements, which included a right to apply for grid connection.

Government must give clarity

IFA has called on Government to come forward with their long-awaited policy clarity and answer some key questions. These include: how many megawatts of solar energy will receive financial support; what tariff premium will be provided where communities are involved in the renewable projects; will all those who have signed contracts get access to the new solar tariff and if not, what is going to happen to the thousands of farmers who have signed contracts with legitimate expectation?

It was stressed that it is wrong of Government to allow this flux to continue. Clarity of these basic questions, in particular the financial support - or REFIT tariff as it is called - was demanded as a matter of urgency.

Consider carefully before you sign

The advice from the solar seminar was clear, any farmer who had been approached by a solar development company and had not yet signed an exclusivity agreement or other paperwork needed to think carefully. These farmers were at the back of a long queue.

It was also highlighted how it is important that farmers understand that exclusivity agreements are unnecessary and only buy time for the development company. Instead, a full suite of option and lease contracts should be sought, and the term of the option should be no longer than 3-5 years - if a project has not progressed by then it is unlikely to happen. The contract must also include a clause stating that if the project is not developed on the lands, the associated grid reverts back to the landowner.

Above everything else the message was conveyed that it is vital that farmers get good independent legal advice before signing anything.



James Murphy

James Murphy
Chairman, Renewables
Project Team



Thomas Ryan

Thomas Ryan
National Environment
Executive

RETAILER, PROCESSOR & CONSUMER RELATIONS PROJECT TEAM



Engagement with Retailers

The President met with CEO/senior management of the major retailers and there continues to be on-going engagement and meetings with retail product buyers in all categories with all retailers.

Grocery Goods Regulations 2016

The Grocery Goods Regulations (Statutory Instruments) were signed into law and published in February - the effectiveness of the regulations will depend on robust monitoring and oversight by the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC).

The Regulations contain important safeguards for suppliers, including the prohibition on a requirement to pay for promotion; contracts in writing; and payment within 30 days.

The absence of a ban on below-cost selling is a serious weakness in the Regulations.

Met with Minister Mary Mitchell O'Connor, Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation on the Grocery Goods Regulations and overseeing of their enforcement.

IFA General Election 2016 Manifesto – key demand was the appointment of an Independent Ombudsman to oversee the implementation of the regulations.

Raised issue of Below Cost Selling by retailers with Minister for Agriculture Michael Creed and Minister for Horticulture Andrew Doyle.

CCPC

IFA met with the CCPC twice, including with some fresh produce growers to outline to the CCPC the circumstances under which they supply retailers and wholesalers.

UK Groceries Adjudicator

Attended GSCOP (Grocery Supply Code of Practice) Conference in UK and met with Christine Tacon UK Adjudicator.

COPA/COGECA Food Chain Working Group

IFA President Joe Healy chaired three COPA/COGECA Working Group on the Food Chain meetings, one of which was attended by UK GCA Christine Tacon.

President met with DG Agri and DG Grow on Unfair Trading Practices and EU legislation and with Food and Drinks Europe on the Supply Chain Initiative (SCI).

President participated in European Parliament event on Unfair Trading Practices.

Proposals to increase transparency rules for multinationals

IFA made a submission and welcomed the Commission's proposals to increase transparency rules for multinationals on taxation, turnover and profit and urged the Irish government and MEPs to support their passage through the European Council and the European Parliament.

Retail Conference

IFA organised a conference in November Regulating the Retail Landscape for Suppliers – Tackling Unfair Trading Practices, which was addressed by UK Groceries Code Adjudicator Christine Tacon and CCPC Director of Regulation John Shine.

IFA staged a campaign in the run up to Christmas, warning retailers against discounting fresh produce, where growers are used as pawns in a vicious battle over market share.

Agricultural Markets Task Force (AMTF)

The AMTF Report was welcomed by IFA as it contains important recommendations on increased price transparency and independent enforcement of legislation to strengthen farmers' position in the food chain.

IFA made a presentation to European People's Party in Brussels on Unfair Trading Practices and the AMTF Report.

We have been in discussions with Fianna Fáil on a draft Food Ombudsman Bill.



Joe Healy

Joe Healy
Chairman, Retail Project Team



Elaine Farrell

Elaine Farrell
National Retail Executive

COMMUNICATIONS, OIREACHTAS LIAISON & ORGANISATION



**UNITY
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COMMUNICATIONS



National and Regional Media

Our priority over the last 12 months has been to secure the maximum coverage of IFA issues across all media platforms, with a particular focus on the Farmers Journal. We also worked to promote our policies and campaigns in all national and regional print, broadcast and online media. The IFA page in the Farmers Journal provides a weekly opportunity to highlight IFA activities and events.

The development of digital continues to put pressure on the print media and has altered the way we portray our message (see below the details on the growth of our online communications).

Developments in media personnel & coverage

Catriona Murphy has been appointed Deputy News Editor of the Farmers Journal.

We have maintained our presence in TV news coverage during 2016.

FarmIreland has been established as an online news service by INM. It is led by Margaret Donnelly, formerly the Editor of Agriland.

IFA website

IFA's main online platform - www.ifa.ie - is updated daily with news on IFA campaigns and policies, and with information and updates relevant to agriculture, farming and IFA member interests.

Content was updated and refreshed in all sections of the website during 2016. In addition, new sections on Farm Finance and the IFA Election were developed.

More than 220,000 users accessed the IFA website during 2016 - 50% of these were new users. In total, the website was accessed more than 350,000 times during the year. The most popular content on the website during 2016 included: market

reports, latest news, schemes and payments, sector pages, and member benefits. About half of the website users access the website on mobile or tablet devices.

Social media

IFA has continued to develop its presence and impact on social media, increasing to over 10,000 Twitter followers. On average, 14,800 people view IFA tweets each day. IFA Member Services also maintains a Facebook account.

iFarm

The IFA app, iFarm, is undergoing a redevelopment to ensure it is more responsive to users' needs. iFarm continues to be updated weekly with price updates for each sector and users receive notifications to their phone when new content is published.

Email

During 2016, IFA expanded our member email programme, including issuing a number of member updates and a Budget report to general membership. In addition, a monthly Dairy Newsletter is issued via email to dairy membership. We have initiated a similar grain update and continue to expand to other sectors. We will continue to develop frequent communication to a wider audience during 2017.

Internal communications

IFA communicates with members via online and offline communications including via email, text messaging, newsletters and advertising.

In 2016, IFA produced member newsletters in spring, summer, and autumn to update members on IFA work across all sectors. IFA also produced an information newsletter sent to all members ahead of Branch AGMs. In addition, IFA campaign and delivery updates were published periodically during the year.



Niall Madigan

Niall Madigan
National Press Officer



Brigid Fitzgerald

Brigid Fitzgerald
Press and Digital Media Officer

OIREACHTAS LIAISON



Lobbying

IFA continued to seek 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.
- 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.

Regulation of Lobbying Act

This Act commenced on 1 Sept 2015. In total, IFA has made 267 entries over three return periods, on a very broad range of issues covering all sectors, which saw IFA at the very top of the lobbying register in terms of activity.

IFA made a submission to the DPER on the Public Consultation on the Regulation of Lobbying Act included the following comments/recommendations:

- that the new legislation has placed a heavy administrative and costly burden on the Association.

- short-comings in the web register/programme are making it very difficult for organisations like IFA to file a concise accurate return, without duplications.
- that the review of the legislation must take into account the difference between an organisation of the size of IFA, carrying out legitimate lobbying, and other lobbyists, to reflect the magnitude of the lobbying being carried out.
- IFA is seeking simplification and a reduction of the compliance burden for registered lobby representatives.
- that the review of the legislation must not result in any extension of the DPOs to Principal Officers and others and that this matter can be reviewed again in 2019.
- In the interests of fairness to all lobbyists, that sectoral groups with no official status and no employees, would be covered by the legislation and be responsible for reporting their lobbying.

IFA met with Minister Paschal Donohoe on the Regulation of Lobbying Act and raised issues of concern with him.

IFA made presentations in 2016 to the following Joint Oireachtas Committees:

- Agriculture, Food & the Marine,
- Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs (Rural Ireland),
- Justice (Rural Crime).
- Education and Skills (Educational Grants).

2016 General Election

IFA lobbied extensively both at county and national level on issues identified in the manifesto.



Elaine Farrell

Elaine Farrell
Oireachtas Liason Executive

ORGANISATION



Membership

The total number of voting members of the Association at the end of the membership year March 2016 stood at 73,546. The total Association membership when taking all membership channels into account (main member, family, associate and countryside) was at 75,829 at year end.

Membership income represented approximately 60% of operational income and supports a wide range of services for members including the local office support structure, member communications (membership card / pack, newsletters, web, social media), personal accident & legal liability insurance, voluntary officer structure and participation, the member benefits programme, member supports (direct payments, legal, credit, Pieta House) and all major activity on campaigns.

European Involvement Fund

The income from EIF decreased by 12% represented by variances in price, volumes and the impact of events in IFA.

The European Involvement Fund (EIF) income represents approximately 40% of the Association's operational income and significantly contributes towards ensuring all farmer interests are professionally and comprehensively represented at European & International level.

Member Services & Benefits

The benefits of IFA Membership continue to significantly outweigh the membership subscription cost. The Member Benefits continue to include:

- Personal Accident & Legal Liability Cover with FBD
- €75 off FBD motor, home & farm insurance
- 25% off with Irish Country Hotels
- Up to €1000 discount off finance options with Seat and Skoda
- 12% off health screening with the Mater Private
- 20% off family tickets for Dublin Zoo
- 15% off motorist fares with Stena Line
- Up to €300 off with IFAC
- 10% off global car hire and 15% off van hire with Hertz.
- Up to 50% off commission charges with Goodbody Stockbrokers
- Farm Business Skillnets programme.
- 10% off global car hire and 15% off van hire with hertz.



IFA President Joe Healy, James Kelly, IFA Director of Organisation with the Vodafone Ireland CEO Anne O'Leary and at a 2016 meeting to discuss Vodafone's service for IFA members.

IFA Member Services continued to act as an important check in with members to thank them for their membership. In addition, member services continued to review and improve the services proposition for members including:

- Exclusive savings with IFA Telecom.
- 10% off and €100 cash back with Bord Gáis Energy.
- Exclusive discounts with Vodafone.
- Launch of fibre broadband to IFAT customers
- Increase of range of mobile handsets and discounts available to members
- Exclusive offers for new mobile customers including free handsets and one month's bill
- New mobile price plans for members
- New TV affinity deal with SKY Ireland
- Exclusive mobile upgrade offers for members
- Continued Bord Gáis Energy deal: 18 months, 10% off + €100 cashback
- Improvements in telecom & broadband fault handling

Member Education, Training and Development

IFA provided training through Farm Business Skillnets the following groups:

- Executive Board
- Executive Council – New Members
- New County Chairman Training & Networking with Branch Chairs
- Young Leaders 2016
- Pre AGM Training for Branch Chairs & Secretaries
- Commodity Committees
- Discussion Groups



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jer Bergin".

Jer Bergin
Chairman, Member Services



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Kelly".

James Kelly
Director of Organisation

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**UNITY
STRENGTH
DELIVERY**



The Irish Farmers' Association

Annual Report and Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2016



STATEMENT OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The constitution and rules of the Association require the Executive Council to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Association and the results of the Association for that period. In preparing those financial statements, it is necessary to:

- select suitable accounting policies for the Association Financial Statements and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the relevant financial reporting framework, identify those standards, and note the effect and the reasons for any material departure from those standards; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Association will continue in business.
- The Executive Council is responsible for ensuring that the Association keeps or causes to be kept adequate accounting records which correctly explain and record the transactions of the company, enable at any time the assets, liabilities, financial position and profit or loss of the Association to be determined with reasonable accuracy and enable the financial statements to be audited. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE IRISH FARMERS' ASSOCIATION

We have audited the consolidated financial statements of The Irish Farmers' Association for the year ended 31 March 2016 which comprise the Consolidated Income & Expenditure account, the Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income, the Consolidated Balance Sheet, the Consolidated Statement of Changes in Equity, the Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes 1 to 21. The relevant financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland ("relevant financial reporting framework").

This report is made solely to the Executive Council, as a body. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Executive Council, those matters we are required to state to them in our auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Executive Council as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of the Executive Council and auditors

As explained more fully in the Statement of Executive Council's Responsibilities the Executive Council are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements giving a true and fair view. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with Irish law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of the audit of the financial statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Executive Council's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the Executive Council; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the Annual Report and Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2016 to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

Opinion on financial statements

In our opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland, of the state of the affairs of the Association as at 31 March 2016 and of the deficit for the year then ended.



Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm
Dublin

Date: 17/01/2017



Chartered Accountants &
Statutory Audit Firm

CONSOLIDATED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2016

	Notes	2016 €	2015 €
INCOME	3	18,977,049	20,187,698
EXPENDITURE	4	(18,004,061)	(19,254,064)
(Loss)/profit on disposal of fixed and financial assets		(61,846)	354,264
Interest Receivable		51,264	15,783
OPERATING SURPLUS	5	962,406	1,303,681
Share of operating surplus/(deficit) in associate undertakings	10	131,211	(180,563)
Loss on financial assets through profit and loss	9	(2,894,416)	(2,504,046)
DEFICIT BEFORE TAXATION		(1,800,799)	(1,380,928)
Taxation credit	7	475,669	275,419
DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR		(1,325,130)	(1,105,509)

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

The financial statements were approved by the Executive Council on 17/01/2017 and signed on its behalf by:



(President)



(Treasurer)



(Acting General Secretary)

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2016

	Notes	2016 €	2015 €
Retained deficit for the year		(1,325,130)	(1,105,509)
Share of associate property revaluations		-	1,178,670
Total (deficit)/surplus for the year		(1,325,130)	73,161

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2016

	Notes	2016 €	2015 €
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	8	443,527	450,453
Financial investments	9	13,401,929	17,041,920
Other investments	10	1,811,841	1,680,420
		15,657,297	19,172,793
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	11	1,609,814	1,409,246
Cash at bank and in hand		5,853,545	4,677,034
		7,463,359	6,086,280
CREDITORS: (Amounts falling due within one year)	12	(5,901,365)	(6,182,599)
NET CURRENT ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)		1,561,994	(96,319)
Provision for Liabilities	13	(1,426,573)	(1,958,626)
NET ASSETS		15,792,718	17,117,848
CAPITAL AND RESERVES			
Accumulated surplus		15,792,718	17,117,848
		15,792,718	17,117,848

The financial statements were approved by the Executive Council on 17/01/2017 and signed on its behalf by:



(President)



(Treasurer)



(Acting General Secretary)

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2016

	Notes	Accumulated surplus €	Revaluation reserve €	Total €
At 1 April 2014 as previously stated		11,318,411	8,052,975	19,371,386
<i>Changes on transition to FRS 102:</i>				
- Revaluation reserve reclass	21	8,052,975	(8,052,975)	-
- Recognition of deferred tax liability	21	(2,326,699)	-	(2,326,699)
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		17,044,687	-	17,044,687
Total Comprehensive Surplus for the year		73,161	-	73,161
At 31 March 2015		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		17,117,848	-	17,117,848
Total Comprehensive Deficit for the year		(1,325,130)	-	(1,325,130)
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 March 2016		15,792,718	-	15,792,718

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2016

	Notes	2016 €	2015 €
NET CASH INFLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	14	289,867	1,354,825
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Interest received		7,799	15,783
Dividends and investment income received		332,736	405,301
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets		(152,129)	(160,178)
Payments to acquire investments		(1,547,092)	(1,935,126)
Receipts on disposal of investments		2,245,330	1,509,840
Receipts on disposal of fixed assets		-	18,497
NET CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		886,644	(145,883)
INCREASE IN CASH AND BANK OVERDRAFT		1,176,511	1,208,942
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT BEGINNING OF THE YEAR		4,677,034	3,468,092
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF THE YEAR		5,853,545	4,677,034

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2016

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The principal accounting policies are summarised below. They have all been applied consistently throughout the financial year and the preceding financial year.

General Information and Basis of Accounting

The objective of the Irish Farmers Association is to protect, foster and advance the interests of all farmers and to do all things necessary for, incidental or ancillary to the protection, fostering and advancement of the interests of such farmers or farming, and to have all the powers necessary or incidental or ancillary to the achievement of such objectives. The association's address is the Irish Farm Centre, Bluebell, Dublin 12.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value, and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS 102) issued by the Financial Reporting Council.

The prior year financial statements were restated for material adjustments on adoption of FRS 102 in the current financial year. For more information see note 21.

The functional currency of The Irish Farmers Association is considered to be euro because that is the currency of the primary economic environment in which the company operates.

Basis of Consolidation

The financial statements of the Association incorporate the financial statements of all core activities and entities controlled by the Association, as outlined in Note 17, together with those of all county executives. Transactions between the General Fund and the other entities have been eliminated in the Consolidated Income and Expenditure Account and the Consolidated Balance Sheet.

The results of associates are included in the consolidation using the equity method.

Going concern

The financial statements are prepared on the going concern basis. The Association had net current assets of €1,561,994 (2015: net current liabilities of €96,319) at the balance sheet date. The Executive Council, having considered financing arrangements currently in place, the ability to generate cash from special reserve fund assets, likely funding requirements in the short term and given a net asset position of €15,792,718 (2015: €17,117,848), have a reasonable expectation that the association and the group have adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the annual financial statements.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment. Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets, at rates calculated to write off the cost or valuation, less estimated residual value, of each asset on a reducing balance basis over its expected useful life, as follows:

Office equipment	10% - 25%
Fixtures and fittings	10% - 20%
Motor vehicles	25%

Financial instruments

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the Group becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the Group after deducting all of its liabilities.

(i) Financial assets and liabilities

All financial assets and liabilities are initially measured at transaction price (including transaction costs), except for those financial assets classified as at fair value through profit or loss, which are initially measured at fair value (which is normally the transaction price excluding

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2016 (continued)

transaction costs), unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction. If an arrangement constitutes a finance transaction, the financial asset or financial liability is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Non-current debt instruments which meet the following conditions are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method:

- (a) Returns to the holder are (i) a fixed amount; or (ii) a fixed rate of return over the life of the instrument; or (iii) a variable return that, throughout the life of the instrument, is equal to a single referenced quoted or observable interest rate; or (iv) some combination of such fixed rate and variable rates, providing that both rates are positive.
- (b) There is no contractual provision that could, by its terms, result in the holder losing the principal amount or any interest attributable to the current period or prior periods.
- (c) Contractual provisions that permit the issuer to prepay a debt instrument or permit the holder to put it back to the issuer before maturity are not contingent on future events, other than to protect the holder against the credit deterioration of the issuer or a change in control of the issuer, or to protect the holder or issuer against changes in relevant taxation or law.
- (d) There are no conditional returns or repayment provisions except for the variable rate return described in (a) and prepayment provisions described in (c).

Debt instruments that are classified as payable or receivable within one year and which meet the above conditions are measured at the undiscounted amount of the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received, net of impairment.

Other debt instruments not meeting these conditions are measured at fair value through profit or loss.

Commitments to make and receive loans which meet the conditions mentioned above are measured at cost (which may be nil) less impairment.

Financial assets are derecognised when and only when a) the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expire or are settled, b) the Group transfers to another party substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of the financial asset, or c) the Group, despite having retained some significant risks and rewards of ownership, has transferred control of the asset to another

party and the other party has the practical ability to sell the asset in its entirety to an unrelated third party and is able to exercise that ability unilaterally and without needing to impose additional restrictions on the transfer.

Financial liabilities are derecognised only when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expires.

(ii) Investments

Investments in non-puttable ordinary or preference shares (where shares are publicly traded or their fair value is reliably measurable) are measured at fair value through profit or loss. Where fair value cannot be measured reliably, investments are measured at cost less impairment.

(iii) Fair value measurement

The best evidence of fair value is a quoted price for an identical asset in an active market. When quoted prices are unavailable, the price of a recent transaction for an identical asset provides evidence of fair value as long as there has not been a significant change in economic circumstances or a significant lapse of time since the transaction took place. If the market is not active and recent transactions of an identical asset on their own are not a good estimate of fair value, an entity estimates the fair value by using a valuation technique.

Associates

In the Group financial statements investments in associates are accounted for using the equity method. Investments in associates are initially recognised at the transaction price (including transaction costs) and are subsequently adjusted to reflect the Group's share of the profit or loss and other comprehensive income of the associate. Goodwill arising on the acquisition of associates is accounted for in accordance with the policy set out above. Any unamortised balance of goodwill is included in the carrying value of the investment in associates.

The carrying value of the investment in associate undertakings represents investments in associate together with a share of the associates' profit/(loss) to date.

Impairment of assets

Assets, other than those measured at fair value, are assessed for indicators of impairment at each balance sheet date. If there is objective evidence of impairment, an impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2016 (continued)

Taxation

Current tax, including Irish corporation tax, is provided at amounts expected to be paid (or recovered) using the tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the balance sheet date. The current tax also comprises of capital gains tax based on the disposal of shares and deposit interest retention tax (DIRT) suffered on interest income.

Deferred tax is recognised in respect of all timing differences that have originated but not reversed at the balance sheet date where transactions or events that result in an obligation to pay more tax in the future or a right to pay less tax in the future have occurred at the balance sheet date. Timing differences are differences between the Group's taxable profits and its results as stated in the financial statements that arise from the inclusion of gains and losses in tax assessments in periods different from those in which they are recognised in the financial statements.

Unrelieved tax losses and other deferred tax assets are recognised only to the extent that, on the basis of all available evidence, it can be regarded as more likely than not that there will be suitable taxable profits from which the future reversal of the underlying timing differences can be deducted.

When the amount that can be deducted for tax for an asset (other than goodwill) that is recognised in a business combination is less (more) than the value at which it is recognised, a deferred tax liability (asset) is recognised for the additional tax that will be paid (avoided) in respect of that difference. Similarly, a deferred tax asset (liability) is recognised for the additional tax that will be avoided (paid) because of a difference between the value at which a liability is recognised and the amount that will be assessed for tax. The amount attributed to goodwill is adjusted by the amount of deferred tax recognised.

Deferred tax liabilities are recognised for timing differences arising from investments in subsidiaries and associates, except where the Group is able to control the reversal of the timing difference and it is probable that it will not reverse in the foreseeable future.

Deferred tax is measured using the tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the balance sheet date that are expected to apply to the reversal of the timing difference. Deferred tax relating to property, plant and equipment measured using the revaluation model and investment property is measured using the tax rates and allowances that apply to sale of the asset.

The tax expense or income is presented in the same component of comprehensive income or equity as the transaction or other event that resulted in the tax expense or income.

Current tax assets and liabilities are offset only when there is a

legally enforceable right to set off the amounts and the Group intends either to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are offset only if: a) the Group has a legally enforceable right to set off current tax assets against current tax liabilities; and b) the deferred tax assets and deferred tax liabilities relate to income taxes levied by the same taxation authority on either the same taxable entity or different taxable entities which intend either to settle current tax liabilities and assets on a net basis, or to realise the assets and settle the liabilities simultaneously, in each future period in which significant amounts of deferred tax liabilities or assets are expected to be settled or recovered.

Income

- (i) Affiliation fees are accounted for in the financial year during which they are received.
- (ii) All other income is accounted for in the financial year in respect of which it is receivable.

Retirement benefits

The Association operated a defined benefit pension scheme which terminated in 2012. The scheme was administered by trustees and was independent of the Association's finances. Contributions were paid to the scheme in accordance with the recommendations of independent actuaries to enable the trustees to meet from the scheme the benefits accruing in respect of current and future services. The Trustees have placed the scheme in wind-up.

The Association participates in a defined contribution scheme for certain employees which is funded by the payment of contributions to a separately administered fund. The assets of the funds are held separately from those of the Association. For the defined contribution schemes the cost of providing benefits is charged to operating profit as incurred.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2016 (continued)

2. CRITICAL ACCOUNTING JUDGEMENTS AND KEY SOURCES OF ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY

In the application of the Group's accounting policies, which are described in note 1, the directors are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

Critical judgements in applying the Group's accounting policies

The following are the critical judgements, that the directors have made in the process of applying the Group's accounting policies and that have the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements.

Key source of estimation uncertainty

Voluntary Member expense

Due to the nature of the voluntary member expense accruals and the time lag noted around members claiming expenses that they have incurred but not yet claimed; management note that there is a greater degree of estimation uncertainty associated with these expenses. Management estimate the expense based on estimated amounts incurred and historical claim patterns.

Legal claims and costs

Legal claims and their associated costs by their nature are uncertain, where there is a potential expense this is accrued based on consultation with legal counsel and their best estimate of settlement of such claims.

3. INCOME

An analysis of the Group's income by class of business is set out below.

Turnover:	2016 €	2015 €
Broadband and phone service sales	7,376,994	7,386,041
Affiliation fees	5,922,205	5,996,784
European involvement fund levies	4,183,761	4,692,386
Trust fund contributions	1,059,045	1,308,333
Investment dividend income	229,336	346,770
Other income	205,708	457,384
	18,977,049	20,187,698

All group income was earned in the Republic of Ireland.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2016 (continued)

4. EXPENDITURE

An analysis of the Group's expenditure is set out below.

Expenditure:	2016 €	2015 €
IFA Telecoms expenses	6,606,205	7,003,286
Total staff costs	5,297,064	5,730,086
Voluntary costs	1,507,681	1,809,488
Premises	492,626	480,267
Communications	478,875	689,869
Research	35,344	29,565
Public relations	617,264	767,595
Professional fees	616,442	338,408
Affiliation fees	135,813	144,931
Financial charges	348,930	427,523
Foreign travel	33,678	45,399
Brussels office	597,284	581,692
Membership recruitment	416,075	422,487
Membership promotion	439,619	291,081
Other overheads	23,013	16,033
Extraordinary expenditure	343,428	476,354
Loss on Disposal	14,720	-
	18,004,061	19,254,064

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2016 (continued)

5. DEFICIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE TAXATION

Deficit on ordinary activities before taxation is stated after charging/ (crediting):

	2016 €	2015 €
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	144,126	153,858
Interest received	(51,264)	(15,783)
Grant income (i)	72,462	65,372

(i) The grant income was received during the year, all conditions associated with the granting of the income were met during the period.

The analysis of the auditors' remuneration is as follows:

Auditors' remuneration for work carried out for the group

In respect of the financial year is as follows:

	2016 €	2015 €
Audit of group accounts	32,500	32,500
	32,500	32,500

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2016 (continued)

6. REMUNERATION OF KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

The salaries and payments paid to key management personnel analysed under the headings required by company law are set out below:

	2016 €	2015 €
General Secretary		
Salary	197,292	295,000
Employer pension contribution	109,628	145,197
	<u>306,920</u>	<u>440,197</u>
President		
Salary	98,333	147,500
Deputy President		
Salary	35,000	35,000
Executive Management		
Salary	481,290	540,217
Employer pension contribution	110,361	103,363
Key Management compensation	591,651	643,580
Executive Management		
Labour replacement payments	238,805	354,032

The Lucey Implementation Committee retained Mercer Consultants to benchmark the salaries of the IFA staff positions and committed to disclosing the average remuneration of the top 15 salaried positions after Executive management. This average does not form part of the key management personnel data

The average remuneration for the top 15 staff after the executive management was:

Salary	103,912	103,299
Employer pension contribution	23,773	23,000
	<u>127,685</u>	<u>126,299</u>

The benchmarking process carried out by Mercer noted "Overall remuneration levels were broadly in line with what we would expect from an organisation such as the IFA. However there did seem to be a wider range of salaries than we would have expected at an executive secretary level (which we understand reflects the value of the sector an individual represents and the experience this requires)".

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2016 (continued)

7. TAX ON PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES

The tax charge comprises:	2016 €	2015 €
Current tax on profit on ordinary activities		
Irish corporation tax	56,384	92,654
Credit movement in deferred tax liability (Note 13)	(532,053)	(368,073)
Total tax on profit on ordinary activities	(475,669)	(275,419)

The differences between the total tax charge shown above and the amount calculated by applying the standard rate of Irish corporation tax to the profit before tax is as follows:

	2016 €	2015 €
Deficit on ordinary activities	(1,800,799)	(1,380,928)
Before tax 12.5%(2015:12.5%)		
Tax if charged at standard corporation rate	(225,100)	(172,606)
Capital allowances in excess of depreciation	(355)	(267)
Income/Expenses not taxable in determining taxable profit	281,839	265,527
Group tax charge for the period	56,384	92,654

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2016 (continued)

8. TANGIBLE ASSETS (GROUP)

	Office Equipment €	Fixtures and Fittings €	Motor Vehicles €	Total €
Cost:				
At 1/04/2015	610,890	733,107	144,388	1,488,385
Additions	108,950	24,471	18,500	151,921
Disposals	(144,514)	(2,802)	-	(147,316)
31/03/2016	575,326	754,776	162,888	1,492,990
Depreciation:				
At 1/04/2015	422,822	571,428	43,682	1,037,932
Charge	84,468	29,856	29,802	144,126
Disposals	(129,793)	(2,802)	-	(132,595)
31/03/2016	377,497	598,482	73,484	1,049,463
Net Book Amount:				
31/03/2016	197,829	156,294	89,404	443,527
31/03/2015	188,068	161,679	100,706	450,453

9. FINANCIAL INVESTMENTS

	2016 €	2015 €
Quoted investments at market value	13,401,929	17,041,920
Opening balance	17,041,920	18,664,798
Net (Disposals)/Additions during the financial year	(745,575)	881,168
Movement in the fair value of investments	(2,894,416)	(2,504,046)
Closing balance	13,401,929	17,041,920

Quoted investments represent shares held by the Group in publicly quoted companies or other publicly quoted investment funds. The cost of these investments was €9,717,205 (2015: €9,891,171).

Special Reserve Fund:

€10,569,662 (2015: €13,759,162) of the above balance relates specifically to the special reserve fund assets.

The Special Reserve Fund was established by the Executive Council in December 1985, to maintain a financial reserve for the organisation that could only be drawn down into the general fund under exceptional circumstances.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2016 (continued)

10. OTHER INVESTMENTS 2016 2015

	2016 €	2015 €
Unquoted Investments:		
Irish Farm Centre Limited (i)	1,750,749	1,619,538
Other Investments (ii)	61,092	60,882
	1,811,841	1,680,420

(i) Irish Farm Centre Limited

	Holding	Business	Registered Office
Irish Farm Centre Limited	48.15%	The principal activity of the company is office rental and related services	Irish Farm Centre Bluebell Dublin 12

During the year, the associate undertaking recorded an operating profit of €298,533 (2014: profit of €879,855) before a taxation charge of €26,029 (2014: €7,167). The associate undertaking had combined net assets of €3,636,031 at year end (2014: €3,363,527). The carrying value of the investment in associate undertakings represents investments in associate together with a share of the associates' profit/(loss) to date, being €1,750,749 (2014: €1,619,538).

(ii) Other Investments

Other unquoted investments are held at cost less impairment because their value cannot be reliably measured.

11. DEBTORS: (Amounts due within one year)

	2016 €	2015 €
Debtors	1,490,823	1,286,034
Accrued income and other receivables	118,991	123,212
	1,609,814	1,409,246

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2016 (continued)

12. CREDITORS

	2016 €	2015 €
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade creditors	970,500	707,423
Pension and staff expense accruals	2,224,100	2,660,593
Professional/ Legal and other accruals	1,389,811	1,022,030
Trade Accruals	1,135,514	1,604,958
PAYE/PRSI	181,440	187,595
	5,901,365	6,182,599

Amounts accrued for litigation and related costs in respect of the departure of the former General Secretary are not disclosed on the grounds that disclosure could, in the opinion of Council, be seriously prejudicial to the outcome of the case.

13. DEFERRED TAX

Deferred tax is provided as follows:	2016 €	2015 €
The deferred tax balance is analysed		
Deferred tax arising in relation to quoted investments	(1,426,573)	(1,958,626)
Provision for deferred tax		
Opening balance	1,958,626	2,326,699
Movement for the current financial year (Note 7)	(532,053)	(368,073)
Balance at end of year	1,426,573	1,958,626

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2016 (continued)

14. RECONCILIATION OF OPERATING SURPLUS TO NET CASHFLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2016 €	2015 €
Operating deficit	(1,325,130)	(1,105,509)
Interest received	(7,799)	(15,783)
Dividends and investment income received	(332,736)	(405,301)
Profit/ (Loss) on disposal of investments	47,127	(347,957)
Loss/ (Profit) on disposal of fixed assets	14,828	(6,308)
Depreciation and amortisation	144,126	136,939
Decrease/(Increase) in debtors	(200,568)	358,957
(Decrease)/Increase in creditors	(187,347)	423,251
Fair value movements on financial assets	2,763,205	2,684,609
Add back corporation tax credit	(475,669)	(275,419)
Tax paid	(150,170)	(92,654)
Net cash inflow from operating activities	289,867	1,354,825

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2016 (continued)

15. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The carrying values of the company's financial assets and liabilities are summarised by category below:

	2016 €	2015 €
Financial assets		
<i>Measured at undiscounted amounts receivable</i>		
Trade and other debtors	1,375,172	1,286,034
<i>Measured at fair value through profit or loss</i>		
Investments in listed equity instruments (note 9)	13,401,929	17,041,920
<i>Measured at cost less impairment</i>		
Other investments (note 10)	1,811,841	1,680,420
Financial liabilities		
<i>Measured at undiscounted amounts payable</i>		
Trade and other creditors	970,500	707,423

The company's income, expense, gains and losses in respect of financial instruments are summarised below:

	2016 €	2015 €
Financial assets		
On financial assets measured at fair value through profit		
Or loss	2,894,416	2,504,046
Interest or other income on financial assets measured at amortised cost	51,264	15,783

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2016 (continued)

16. PENSIONS

In the year end 31 March 2012 the Association closed its defined benefit pension scheme. The Association had operated a defined benefit pension scheme for its employees which exposed the employer to substantial current and future financial liabilities. Following a strategic review and consultations with members, the Association terminated its contributions to the defined benefit scheme and a new defined contribution scheme was implemented for both past and future service benefits.

As a result, the Association has no further liability to the defined benefit scheme as at 31 March 2016 (2015: €Nil) and defined benefit scheme disclosures required by FRS 102 will no longer be required. The scheme is in the process of being wound up by the Trustees.

Prior to the closure of the defined benefit scheme in 2012, the Association agreed to defined benefit scheme termination payments to supplement the value of members' entitlements on transfer out of the scheme. At year end an amount of €Nil (2015: €350,000) remains outstanding.

The Association now operates a defined contribution pension scheme covering certain employees. The net assets of the scheme are held in a separate trustee administered fund. The amount payable to the scheme for the year was €342,187 (2015: €687,550). The amount owed to the scheme at year end is €27,037 (2015: €70,883).

17. SUBSIDIARIES AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

The Association holds investments in or has an interest in subsidiary and related undertakings as follows:

- Fresh Milk Producers Association;
- B.V.G. Trustee Company Limited;
- Irish Salmon Growers Association Limited;
- Potato Fund;
- ICHA;
- IFA Telecom Limited; and
- Irish Farm Centre Limited
- Buywayz Limited

The Association has provided letters of support to certain subsidiaries indicating that it will provide financial assistance where necessary to ensure the going concern of that entity.

18. COMPARATIVE AMOUNTS

Comparative amounts have been regrouped/restated where necessary on the same basis as those for the current year.

19. EVENTS AFTER REPORTING DATE

There were no significant events since the financial year end.

20. ULTIMATE CONTROL

The group is controlled by its members as a group. In the opinion of the Executive Council there is no ultimate controlling party or parent.

21. EXPLANATION OF TRANSITION TO FRS 102

This is the first year the Association has presented its financial statements under Financial Reporting Standards 102 (FRS 102) issued by the Financial Reporting Council. The following disclosures are required in the year of transition. The last financial statements under previous Irish GAAP were for the year ended 31 March 2015 and the date of transition to FRS 102 was therefore 1 April 2014. As a consequence of adopting FRS 102, a number of accounting policies have been changed to comply with that standard. The most material changes have been outlined below.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2016 (continued)

Revaluation reserve

As the fair value movements of the listed investments are now treated as fair value through profit and loss the revaluation reserve is not required under FRS 102 and has been reclassified to accumulated reserves.

Inclusion of IFA Telecom Limited on consolidation

Under the previous accounting policies IFA Telecom Limited was excluded from the consolidation on the basis that the inclusion of the IFA Telecom Limited with activities so different from those of other undertakings included in the consolidation that it would impair the true and fair view of the financial statements. In the previous financial statements the results of the telecom entity was accounted for under the equity method. In line with FRS 102 Ch 9.6 IFA Telecom Limited has been consolidated.

Deferred tax

A deferred tax liability has been recognised on the potential taxes that would be incurred if the Association was to dispose of its investments. Under previous Irish GAAP this potential liability was disclosed as a contingent liability.

Reconciliation of Equity

	31/03/2015 €	01/04/2014 €
Equity reported under previous Irish GAAP	19,076,474	19,371,386
Adjustments to equity on transition to FRS 102		
Recognition of deferred tax (Opening Adjustment)	(2,326,699)	(2,326,699)
Recognition of deferred tax adjustment	368,073	-
Equity Reported under FRS 102	17,117,848	17,044,687
1) Recognition of deferred tax on investments		

Reconciliation of profit or loss for 2015

	31/03/2015 €
Profit for the financial year under previous Irish GAAP	1,204,723
Changes in the market value of investments	(2,504,046)
Deferred tax	368,073
Other	6,304
Reclass of associate loss from OCI	(180,563)
Deficit for the financial year under FRS 102	(1,105,509)


APPENDIX





**UNITY
STRENGTH
DELIVERY**




REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS


GALWAY, MAYO	
	Roy O'Brien


CARLOW, KILKENNY, WATERFORD	
	Joe Kelly


DUBLIN, MEATH, CAVAN, LOUTH	
	Anthony Clinton


KILDARE, WEXFORD, WICKLOW	
	Declan Phelan


LAOIS, OFFALY, WESTMEATH	
	William Dolan

TIPPERARY NORTH & SOUTH, CLARE	
	William Shortall

CORK CENTRAL, CORK WEST, CORK NORTH	
	Sean Clarke

LIMERICK, KERRY	
	Denis Griffin

LEITRIM, LONGFORD, ROSCOMMON, SLIGO	
	Adrian Leddy

DONEGAL, MONAGHAN	
	Davie Keith

2016 IFA COMMITTEES

National Livestock Committee

MEMBERS 2016		
Name	Branch	County
Woods, Angus	Barndarrig	Chairman
Donnelly, Paddy	Sonna	Vice Chairman
Kehoe, John P	Rathvilly	Carlow
Reilly, Billy	Ballyhaise	Cavan
Lane, Tom	Parteen	Clare
Mulcahy, Tim	Glanmire	Cork (C)
Mullins, Pat	Kildorrery	Cork (N)
Ellis, Robert	Drinagh	Cork (W)
Monagle, William	Newtowncunningham	Donegal
Ward, Laurence	Rolestown-Oldtown	Dublin
Flynn, Michael	Kilnadeema	Galway
O'Mahony, Helen	Castleisland	Kerry
Egar, David	Manor-Kilbride	Kildare
Costello, Joe	Kilkenny City	Kilkenny
Luttrell, Peter	Vicarstown	Laois
Gilligan, Liam	ManorHamilton	Leitrim
Scanlan, Eddie	Clarina	Limerick
Gerety, Pdraic	Kenagh	Longford
Brennan, John	Darver-Dromiskin	Louth
Golden, Brendan	Killala	Mayo
Curran, John	Kells	Meath
Markey, Eamon	Killaney	Monaghan
Bennett, James	Bracknagh-Clonbullogue	Offaly
Donohue, Bernard	Kilmore	Roscommon
Graham, John	Riverstown	Sligo
Harty, Tim	Ballywilliam	Tipp North
Large, Denis	Gortnahoe	Tipp South
Keane, Pat	Kilmacthomas	Waterford
Kavanagh, JJ	Ballywilliam-Templeudigan	Wexford
Clune, Eugene	Rathvilly	Wicklow

National Dairy Committee

MEMBERS 2016		
Name	Branch	County
Sean O'Leary	Mourneabbey	Chairman
Martin Gilvarry	Killlala	Vice-Chairman
Patrick A. Leddy	Milltown	Cavan
Andrew Dundas	Parteen	Clare
Derry Scannell	Rossmore	Cork (W)
Mary Twomey-Casey	Glanworth	Cork (N)
Gerard O'Connell	Carrigaline	Cork Central
Lawrence McNamee	Convoy-Raphoe	Donegal
Rory Dwyer	St Margaret's	Dublin
Charlie Whiskey	Kiltullagh	Galway
Kenneth Jones	Tralee	Kerry
Billy Barrett	Dunlavin	Kildare
Thomas Prendergast	Thomastown	Kilkenny
Paddy Kennedy	Gortlettragh	Leitrim
Thomas Cooke	Hospital	Limerick
Seamus Treacy	Ballinalee	Longford
Nicholas Cooney	Monasterboice	Louth
Edward J. Bannon	Culmullen	Meath
James F. O'Connor	Inniskeen	Monaghan
Matthew O'Byrne	Cloneygowan	Offaly
Martin Dowd	Rathcrogan/Ballinagare	Roscommon
Gearoid O'Connor	Castlebaldwin	Sligo
James A. Finn	Holycross	Tipperary (N)
Pat Carroll	Cahir	Tipperary (S)
Joe Harty	Dungarvan	Waterford
James Fox	Kinnegad	Westmeath
Michael Gahan	Boolavogue	Wexford
Stephen Arthur	Rathdrum	Wicklow
John Finn	Oranmore	Liquid Milk Chairman
Thomas Phelan	Mountrath	Laois

National Liquid Milk Committee

MEMBERS 2016		
Name	Branch	County
John Finn	Oranmore	Chairperson
Denis Fagan	Kildalkey	FMP
Laurence Hannon	Moone	FMP
Michael O'Flaherty	Trim	FMP
James Mulhall	Kilkenny City	FMP
Andrew Fleming	Timahoe	FMP
Eamon McEntegart	Knockbridge	FMP
John G. Gilvarry	Cooneal	ALMP (Mayo)
Patrick O'Donovan	Aghad	CLMP (Cork)
John Galvin	Moate	KLMP (Dawn Moate)
Michael O'Connor	Adare	KLMP (Limerick/ Clare)
Padraig Coughlan	Fardrum	Arrabawn
John Mannion	Monivea	Arrabawn
Vivian T. Buttimer	Ballinscarthy	Clona West Cork
Paul Hyland	Clough	Co-Opted Glanbia Winter Suppliers Group
Aidan Casey	Horseleap	Co-Opted NMA
Padraig Mulligan	Templeboy	Co-Opted NMA
Stephen Arthur	Rathdrum	FMP
Donal Murphy	Ferns	FMP
Derek Tierney	Timahoe	FMP
Willie Lennon	Goresbridge/ Paulstown	FMP
Walter Crowley	Mooncoin	FMP
Kieran Savage	Tralee	Lee Strand
Tom Treanor	Clones	LacPatrick
Teddy Cashman	Glanmire	Co-Opted Outgoing Chairman (NMA)

National Sheep Committee

MEMBERS 2016		
Name	Branch	County
Lynskey, John	Hollymount	Chairman
Shields, Peter	Cooley	Louth / Vice Chairman
Hanbridge, John	Tynock-Kiltegan	Carlow
Lynch, Bernard	Castlerahan- Mountnugent	Cavan
Fitzgerald, John	Cratloe	Clare
Dennehy, Sean	Crookstown	Cork (C)
McCarthy, Sheena	Buttevant	Cork (N)
O'Leary, Denis	Ballingearry	Cork (W)
Cunningham, Dessie	Carrick	Donegal
McGrane, James	North Fingal	Dublin
Murphy, Michael	Cummer-Belclare	Galway
O'Sullivan, Kevin	Caherdaniel	Kerry
Heaney, Liam	Dunlavin	Kildare
Quirke, Sean	Coon-muckalee	Kilkenny
Burke, Joseph	Borris-in-Ossory	Laois
Comiskey, Kevin	Drumhair	Leitrim
Lavery, Sean	Shanagolden	Limerick
Belton, Gerard	Abbeysrule	Longford
Chambers, Pat	Derrada	Mayo
Cassidy, Edward	Nobber	Meath
McKenna, Colm	Aughnamullen	Monaghan
Bracken, Enda	Killoughey	Offaly
Glennon, Michael	Moore	Roscommon
Gallagher, Benedict	Templeboy	Sligo
O'Sullivan, Erica	Cashel	Tipperary (S)
Long, James	Upperchurch	Tipperary (N)
Cooney, Patrick	Ballymacarbery	Waterford
Fox, William	Tubberclair	Westmeath
Kehoe, James	Monageer	Wexford
MacKenzie, Selena	Barndarrig	Wicklow

National Pig & Pigeat Committee

MEMBERS 2016		
Name	Branch	County
Thomas Hogan	Angelsboro	Limerick
Howard McCollum	Behy	Cavan
Oliver Leddy	Redhills	Cavan
Michael Maguire	Billis	Cavan
Brian Brady	Crossdoney	Cavan
Brendan Doherty	Malin	Donegal
Michael McDonnell	New Inn	Galway
Donal Brady	Abbeyshrule	Longford
Vincent Conefrey	Ballinalee	Longford
Joseph Healy	Glenbrien	Wexford
Georg Roy Gallie	Cadamstown-Carbury	Kildare
Con O'Kelly	Borris	Carlow
Paul Tully	Ballinakill	Laois
Rosemary Fryday	Ballyboy	Offaly
Bernard Gilsenan	Multyfarnham	Westmeath
Tom Sherman	Mallow	Cork North
David N Tyndall	Roscrea	Tipp North
Denis Nyhan	Ballinascarthy	Cork Central
Michael O'Doherty	Mitchelstown	Cork North
Thomas Hogan	Anglesboro	Limerick
Richard Norton	Ballingarry	Tipp South
John Ryan	Ardfinnan Grange	Tipp South
Richard Kingston	Lombardstown	Cork North

National Grain Committee

MEMBERS 2016		
Name	Branch	County
Liam Dunne	Athy	Kildare
Gilbert Smyth	Bagenalstown	Carlow
James Hegarty	Glanmire	Cork (C)
David O'Brien	Ardfield	Cork (W)
Liam Dorgan	Killavullen-Castletownroche	Cork (N)
David McKeague	Culdaff	Donegal
Patrick Dehaene	Rolestown-Oldtown	Dublin
John Daly	Kilconnell	Galway
Eamonn McElligott	Ballybunion	Kerry
Robert Chambers	Athy	Kildare
Brian Lazenby	Athy	Kildare
Paul Delaney	Portlaoise	Laois
Shay Galvin	Croom-Meanus	Limerick
Pat Brennan	Lanesboro	Longford
John Carroll	Dunleer	Louth
Danny Dolan	Hollymount	Mayo
Mark Sheridan	Oristown	Meath
Stuart Wallace	Durrow	Offaly
Mervyn Auchmuty	Knockcroghery	Roscommon
Timothy Connolly	Thurles	Tipperary
George Mason	Ardfinnan-Grange	Tipperary
Edward Morrissey	Dunhill	Waterford
Mark Maxwell	Ballinagore	Westmeath
Mark Browne	Caim	Wexford
John Murphy	Monageer	Wexford
James Hill	Barndarrig	Wicklow

Acquaculture Section

MEMBERS 2016		
Name	Branch	County
IRISH SHELLFISH ASSOCIATION		
Jerry Gallagher	Creeslough/Dunfanahy	Donegal
Arthur McCathy	Cromane	Kerry
Finian O'Sullivan	Bantry	Cork
Jackie Sullivan	Bere Island	Cork
Michael Mulloy	Westport	Mayo
Colin Whooley	Balitore	Cork
Kian Louet-Feisser	Carlingford	Louth
Shay Harty	Dungarvan	Waterford
IRISH SALMON GROWERS' ASSOCIATION		
Gerry O'Donohue	Connemara	Galway
Martin Lee	Kilkieran-/Carna	Galway
Jan Feenstra	Fanad	Donegal
John Power	Castletownbere	Cork
Paul Sommerville	Connemara	Galway
Damien O'Keeffe	Goatsbridge	Kilkenny
Patrick Gallagher	Killybegs	Donegal

National Environment & Rural Affairs Committee

MEMBERS 2016		
Name	Branch	County
Thomas Cooney	Laragh	Cavan
George Hatton	Bennekerry-Tinryland	Carlow
Paddy Denning	Laragh	Cavan
Joe O'Connell	Parteen	Clare
Chris Hayes	Rosscarbery	Cork
Tony Mullins	Mitchelstown	Cork
Anne Keohane	Innishannon	Cork
Francis Burns	Buncrana	Donegal
Seamus McGrath	Rolestown-Oldtown	Dublin
Bertie Roche	Abbey	Galway
John O'Sullivan	Churchill	Kerry
Tom Malone	Naas-Caragh	Kildare
Breda McDonald	Mullinavat	Kilkenny
Owen Conroy	Clonaslee	Laois
Des McHugh	Ballinamore	Leitrim
Simon White	Askeaton	Limerick
Damien O'Reilly	Ballinalee	Longford
Michael Smyth	Knockbridge	Louth
Tom Fitzpatrick	Robeen	Mayo
Peter Farrelly	Carnaross	Meath
Kathleen Ward	Annyalla	Monaghan
Joe Deverell	Geashill	Offlay
Louis Martin	Kiltoom	Roscommon
Padraig Mulligan	Templeboy	Sligo
Matthew Mounsey	Toomevara	Tipperary
Michael Tobin	Cahir	Tipperary
Eleanor Kiely	Old Parish	Waterford
John Hughes	Drumrainey	Westmeath
James Brennan	Rathnure	Wexford
Michael Byrne	Ashford	Wicklow
Harold Kingston	Barryroe	Cork

National Farm Business Committee

MEMBERS 2016		
Name	Branch	County
Martin Stapleton	Oola	Limerick
Michael Keane	Kilmacthomas	Waterford
David Ashmore	Bagenalstown	Carlow
Raymond Brady	Mullahoran	Cavan
Adrian Brooks	Doora	Clare
John Murphy	Inniscarra	Cork
Tadhg Healy	Clonakilty	Cork
John Magner	Killavullen-Ct'Roch	Cork
Peter Cannon	Carrick	Donegal
Frank Hemeryck	Lucan	Dublin
Brendan Lawlor	Ballybunion	Kerry
Richard J Farrell	Ardclough	Kildare
Henry Connolly Rice	Ballyragget	Kilkenny
Pat Hennessy	Borris-in-Ossory	Laois
Michael McGovern	Carrigallen	Leitrim
James English	Oola	Limerick
Roy McCormack	Newtownforbes	Longford
Daniel Woods	Dunleer	Louth
Michael Johnston	Knock	Mayo
John Hatton	Trim	Meath
Patrick McCormick	Threemilehouse	Monaghan
Joseph Parlon	Aghancon	Tipperary
Patrick Leonard	Kiltoom	Westmeath
Kathleen Henry	Skreen	Sligo
Michael Kennedy	Nenagh	Tipperary
Dermot Ryan	Hollyford	Tipperary
Adrian Elliott	Tubberclair	Westmeath
Edel Gahan	Boolavogue	Wexford
Chris Hill	Arklow	Wicklow
Thomas Doyle	Camolin	Wexford

National Rules Committee

MEMBERS 2016		
Name	Branch	County
Jer Bergin	Clough	Laois
Patrick Donnelly	Sonna	Westmeath
Anne Keohane	Innishannon	Cork Central
Timothy Cullinan	Toomevara	Tipp North
Pat Hennessy	Borris in Ossory	Laois
Barry Donnelly	Abbey	Galway
Matthew McGreehan	Cooley	Louth

National Farm Family & Social Affairs Committee

MEMBERS 2016		
Name	Branch	County
Maura Canning	Mullagh	Galway
Sinead Brophy	Tullow	Carlow
Collette Reilly	Kingscourt	Cavan
Ann Moore	Midleton	Cork(C)
Anne Baker	Michelstown	Cork(N)
Marie Harnedy	Drimoleague	Cork(W)
Mary Russell	Letterkenny	Donegal
Anne Mitchell	Menlough	Galway
Bernadette O'Driscoll	Valentia	Kerry
Caroline Farrell	Athy	Kildare
Elizabeth Regan	Castlecomer	Kilkenny
Noreen Cahill	Spink	Laois
Ann Winters	Mohill	Leitrim
Mary Vaughan Mullane	Newcastlewest	Limerick
Marion Twaddle	Longford	Longford
Riona Meehan	Kilsaran	Louth
Margaret Fergus	Islandeedy	Mayo
Sheila Fitzpatrick	Trim	Meath
Janet Hill	Mullyash	Monaghan
Mary Parlon	Aghancon	Offaly
Carmel Gacquin	Curraghboy	Roscommon
Kathleen Henry	Skreen	Sligo
Sally Slattery	Kildangan	Tipp.nth
Breda Keane	Kilmacthomas	Waterford
Marie Redmond	Clonroche	Wexford
Alice Nerney	Rathowen	Westmeath
Martha Mitchell	Arklow	Wicklow

National Farm Forestry Committee

MEMBERS 2016		
Name	Branch	County
Patrick Collins	Ballintubber	Roscommon.
Liam O'Byrne	Tagoat	Wexford.
Michael Doyle	Tullow	Carlow.
William Woods	Kildallon	Cavan
Michael Coghlan	Lissycasey	Clare
Denis O'Brien	Mitchelstown	Cork
Michael Murphy	Ballinhassig	Cork
Fergus Minihane	Schull	Cork.
Charles Doherty	Newtowncunningham	Donegal
Derek McGrath	Bohernabreena	Dublin
Gerard Nally	Corofin-Ballyglunin	Galway
John Nolan	Abbeydorney	Kerry.
Eugene Lawler	Moone	Kildare.
Ger Woodcock	Danesfort	Kilkenny
Eamonn Kennedy	Ballinakill	Laois
James Brennan	Kinlough	Leitrim.
John O'Connell	Kildimo	Limerick
Francis Smith	Colmcille	Longford
John Roche	Tullyallen	Louth.
John Granahan	Keenagh	Mayo
Charles Flattery	Summerhill	Meath.
Alan Mullen	Clontibret	Monaghan.
Jimmy Condrón	Cloghan	Offaly
Michael O'Dowd	Achonry	Sligo.
Martin Ryan	Tipperary	Tipperary.
Patrick Ryan	Upperchurch	Tipperary.
Kieran Mansfield	Kinsalebeg	Waterford
Vincent Nally	Sonna	Westmeath.
Victor Dunne	Carnew	Wexford.
Michael Fleming	Gneeveguilla	Kerry.

Fresh Milk Producers

MEMBERS 2016		
Name	Branch	County
Larry Hannon	Moone	Kildare
Jim Mulhall	Kilkenny City	Kilkenny
Willie Lennon	Goresbridge-Paulstown	Kilkenny
Denis Fagan	Kildalkey	Meath

Hill Farming Committee

MEMBERS 2016		
Name	Branch	County
Teddy Creedon	Ballyvourney	Cork
Bernard Duffy	Rosses	Donegal
Eamonn Nee	Connemara	Galway
Sean O'Donoghue	Clahane-Glenflesk	Kerry
Shane McKeown	Drumshanbo	Leitrim
Declan Mills	Cooley	Louth
Thomas Mulchrone Jnr	Derrada	Mayo
Tom Fadian	Achill	Mayo
Mary O'Boyle	Achonry	Sligo
Frank Cunningham	Kilrossanty	Waterford
Pat Dunne	Rathdrum	Wicklow
Denis Halpin	Manor Kilbride	Wicklow
Peter Murphy	Rathdrum	Wicklow

National Horticulture Committee

MEMBERS 2016		
Name	Branch	County
Val Farrell	North Fingal	Dublin
Paul Brophy	Naas-Caragh	Kildare
Eddie Doyle	Mooncoin	Kilkenny
Cornelius Traas	Cahir	Tipperary
Gerard Reilly	Drumrainey	Westmeath
James Kearns	Ballindaggin	Wexford

National Potato Committee

MEMBERS 2016		
Name	Branch	County
Eddie Doyle	Mooncoin	Kilkenny
Neville Caldbeck	Tullow	Carlow
John Griffin	Carrigaline	Cork (C)
Nora Sheehan	Killavullen-Ct'Roche	Cork (N)
Desmond Harkin	Fahan-Inch	Donegal
David Garrigan	Swords	Dublin
Barry Stephens	Corofin-Ballyglunin	Galway
Neilus O'Connor	Moyvane	Kerry
Bart Maertens	Clane-Prosperous	Kildare
Brendan Lynch	Ardee	Louth
Thomas McKeown	Nobber	Meath
Pat Reynolds	Navan	Meath
Thomas Sheridan	Kilbeg	Meath
Shane Howell	Killeigh	Offaly
Michael Healy	Moycarkey-Borris	Tipperary
Michael O'Keefe	Tallow	Waterford
Sean Ryan	Ballywilliam-Templeudigan	Wexford
Tom Delahunt	Ashford	Wicklow

National Poultry Committee

MEMBERS 2016		
Name	Branch	County
Nigel Renaghan	Clontibret	Monaghan
Eoin Cunningham	Broadford-Kantohar	Limerick
Nigel Sweetman	Kinsale	Cork Central
Pat O'Connell	Feoghanagh	Limerick
Leo Brennan	Ballybay	Monaghan
Ann Gernon	Louth Village	Louth
Eugene McGinnity	Aughnalshavey	Monaghan
Michael O'Hea	Clonakilty	Cork West
Edmond Murphy	Dunhill	Waterford
Mark McElvaney	Threemilehouse	Monaghan
John McCabe	Threemilehouse	Monaghan
Padraic Kiely	Brickens	Mayo
Andrew Boylan	Donaghmoynne	Monaghan
Vincent Quinn	TullyCorbett	Monaghan
Thomas Daly	Mullagh	Cavan
Thomas Fitzsimons	Billis	Cavan
Raymond Brady	Clontibret	Monaghan
Sean McKenna	Tydavnet	Monaghan
Edward Keane	Kinsalebeg	Waterford
Robert McBride	Tyholland	Monaghan
David Abbott	Killeshandra	Cavan
Warren O'Connell	Carrigaline	Cork Central
John Hurley	Kildorrery	Cork North

National Rural Development & Less Favoured Areas Committee

MEMBERS 2016		
Name	Branch	County
Michael Eustace	Tullow	Carlow
John Beglan	Mullahoran	Cavan
Joe Brady	Laragh	Cavan
Seamus Murphy	Clondegad	Clare
Donal Howard	Kilcorney	Cork (C)
Martin O'Doherty	Mitchelstown	Cork (N)
Donal O'Donovan	Dunmanway	Cork (W)
Andrew McShea	Ballyshannon	Donegal
Liam Hopkins	Bohernabreena	Dublin
Eamonn Burke	Corrandulla-Annaghdown	Galway
Patrick O'Connor	Ballyhar	Kerry
Flor McCarthy	Kenmare	Kerry
Mary Waters	Naas-Caragh	Kildare
Sean Fitzpatrick	Threecastles	Kilkenny
John Fitzpatrick	Spink	Laois
Patrick Gilhooly	Ballinamore	Leitrim
Noel Woulfe	Abbeyfeale	Limerick
Emmet Duffy	Ballinalee	Longford
Matthew McGreehan	Cooley	Louth
Michael Biggins	Glencorrib	Mayo
Padraic Joyce	Islandeady	Mayo
Tom Hennessy	Ballinacree	Meath
Bernard Treanor	Tydavnet	Monaghan
Pat Walsh	Cloghan	Offaly
Donal Greene	Moore	Roscommon
Eddie Davitt	Cloonacool	Sligo
Michael Ryan	Borrisoleigh	Tipperary (N)
Billy Collins	Cappawhite	Tipperary (S)
John Heffernan	Ballymacarbry	Waterford
Richard O'Brien	Fardrum	Westmeath
Edward Lyng	Ballywilliam-Templeudigan	Wexford
Pat Dunne	Rathdrum	Wicklow
John Mallick	Tinahely	Wicklow



IFA

The Irish Farmers' Association

Irish Farm Centre, Bluebell, Dublin 12.

T: +353 (0)1 450 0266

E: info@ifa.ie



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