



IFA

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Irish Farmers' Association Annual Report 2020

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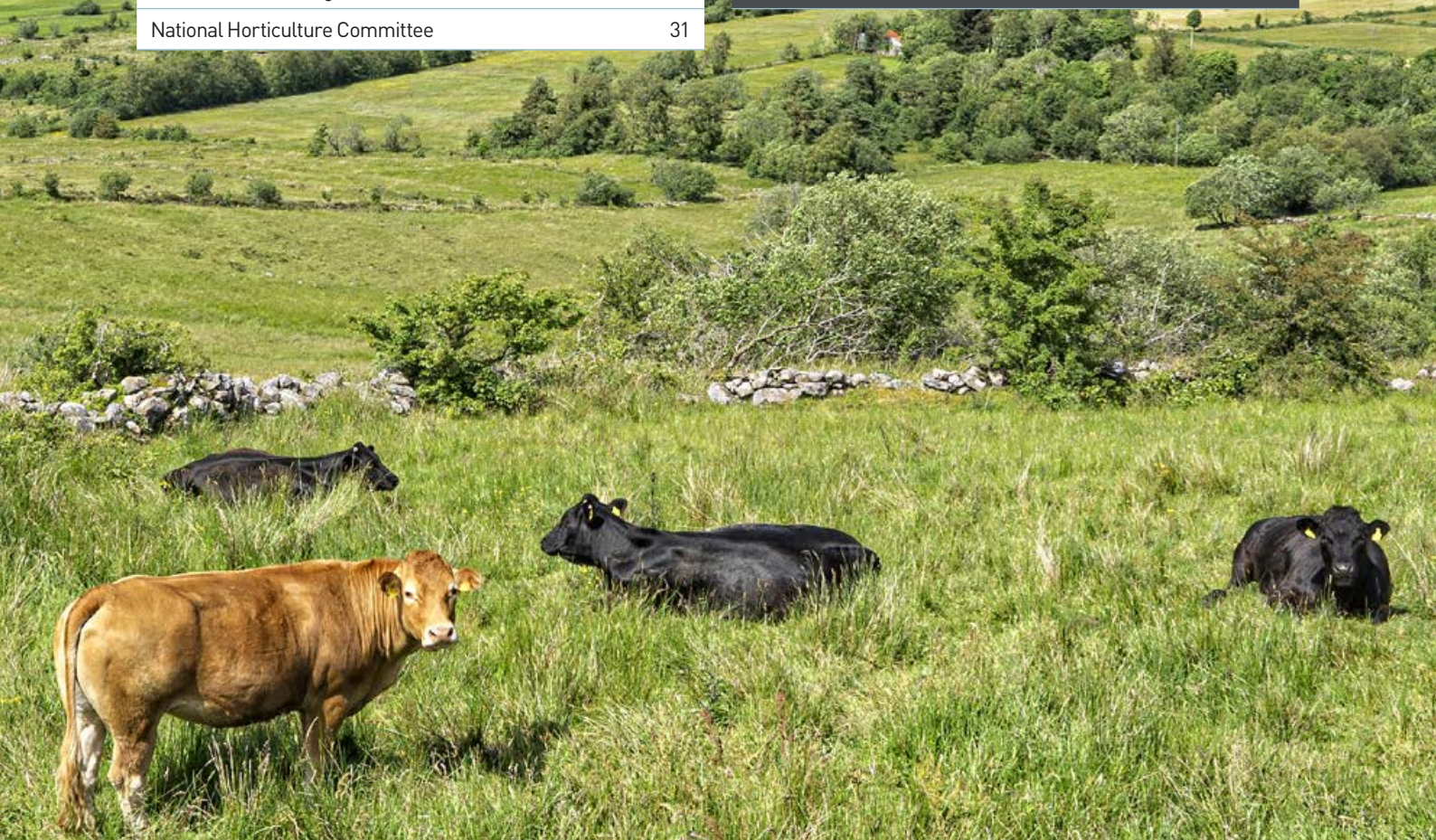


Some of the images in this Report were taken at events that preceded COVID-19 and therefore the social distancing requirements that have become the norm were not in place.



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President's Message

2020 will go down as a year that none of us will ever forget. At our AGM in January, our focus was firmly on the critical issues of Brexit, Climate and CAP.

The COVID-19 pandemic upended not just our sector, but the economy and society as a whole.

COVID-19 will continue to have a massive impact into 2021 and beyond.

It caused severe damage to the public finances, with a steep rise in spending on social protection and public health.

Actions taken by IFA to support our members in this challenging time include:

- A dedicated farmer specific COVID-19 Hub, with up-to-date information on topics such as health and safety, banking and tax and social welfare
- Distribution of our 'Plan B' document, a resource pack with guidance for farmers on how to prepare in the event of them becoming incapacitated
- Issuing health and safety guidelines, particularly around farm safety during this time
- Establishment of regional and county WhatsApp groups for speedy dissemination of factual information
- Appointment of dedicated hotlines to deal with the most common FAQs of members.
- Check-in calls with all members, beginning with those who were cocooning and most vulnerable.

We also worked to ensure that the Government put in place much-needed supports for the sector:

- A detailed set of proposals to the Government and the EU Commission in response to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Directly lobbied each member of Cabinet, the Taoiseach, opposition leaders and spokespeople, MEPs and local politicians
- Lobbied for and delivered supports for the aquaculture sector
- Sought and delivered a dedicated low-cost loan scheme for farmers
- Delivered commitments from DAFM that flexibility will be given on requirements for farm schemes and inspections

Budget 2021

Because of the restrictions imposed by COVID-19, IFA re-directed our pre-Budget campaign and we lobbied politicians up and down the country in local offices, in fields, in sheds and online.

Our priorities were:

- The rollover of all farm schemes in CAP transition - ANCs, GLAS, TAMS, Suckler Cow (BDGP & BEEP- S), Sheep Welfare and Organic.
- Renewal of all Farm Tax Reliefs

We achieved both of these. Also, we secured the long-overdue equalisation of the Earned Income Tax Credit by €150 to €1,650 and an increase in the flat rate on VAT from 5.4% to 5.6%.

- New Reps-style scheme

The Government announced a new €79m 'REPS-2' scheme in Budget 2021.

Brexit

Despite the removal of the threat of tariffs, the eventual outcome leaves little reason to celebrate.

The UK has left the Single Market and Customs Union, as well as all EU policies and international agreements. It means free movement of persons, goods, services and capital between UK and EU will end.

Trading will be very different compared to the frictionless trade within the Customs Union and the Single Market.

A Brexit Adjustment Reserve worth €5bn has been set aside to cover adverse consequences in member states and sectors that will be worst hit by Britain leaving the EU.

Farmers will have a substantial call on this funding given the disruption to our sector.

CAP

This CAP reform is different in that much more flexibility will be given to member states. Each country will have to devise its own National Strategic Plan and submit it to the EU for approval. Member states can contribute up to 57% to some schemes.

Farming must be sustainable economically as well as environmentally. The Government must deliver the maximum permissible level of co-financing.

We have looked for a full impact assessment to be undertaken of the various policies coming from Brussels.

In 2021, the IFA Office in Brussels will continue working closely with the European umbrella body COPA and our European counterparts to ensure that the views of farmers are to the fore in the European Commission.

Climate Action

Climate was once again one of the critical challenges facing our sector in 2020. Policymakers at European and national level, vested interests and elements of the media sought to exert increasing restrictions on agriculture. This was without consideration of the evolving science; the work already being done by farmers; and the commitment of the sector to do more, if supports were forthcoming.

In 2020, IFA campaigned to change the narrative and influence policy in this area.

The campaign provided evidence and experts to shape measures contained in the Climate Action Plan and the Programme for Government.

It resulted in the broad acceptance of the Teagasc Climate

Abatement Plan and an acknowledgement in national policy that emissions from the agricultural sector must be treated differently from other industries and required a unique accounting approach.

The Programme for Government and the Climate Bill both made specific reference to the treatment of methane.

Dairy

COVID-19 impacted the sector greatly in 2020. Despite producing some of the best quality milk in the world, our farmers still endure a failing milk price. A premium product should command a premium price; however, we are still receiving a milk price similar to that of 20 years ago.

Livestock/Beef

The price farmers received for their cattle remained the most pressing issue facing the sector in 2020. IFA lobbied for and secured the €50 million Beef Finishers Payment Fund.

A sustained effort by the industry ensured that processing continued and disruption was avoided, despite COVID-19.

2020 also saw much debate and discussion around the development of a PGI application and a suckler brand. IFA continues to engage on issues such as ownership/control of the brand and how the brand will be supplemented/interact with the PGI status. It is crucial the PGI and the suckler brand are not competing identities and that the PGI standard supports the suckler brand.

Sheep

IFA pushed lamb prices all year, meeting virtually with meat factories and MII, and demanding maximum returns from the market.

Easter and Muslim festivals are critical features of the lamb market. In 2020, Easter fell on April 12th. Ramadan started 11 days later on April 23rd. The Eid Al Adha festival was on July 31st. Up to 2024, there will be only one or two weeks between Easter and Ramadan, which has significant implications for the lamb trade.

Grain

Poor weather and COVID-19 hit the sector hard in 2020. IFA will continue to lobby for supports to tillage farmers most affected. CAP 2020 continues to be a significant issue for the viability of the grain sector, and the Grain Committee will be working on this in the coming year.

It will also continue to work with Bord Bia, and IGAS on a labelling standard regarding the inclusion of native grains and will continue to campaign for greater inclusion of native grains in feed rations.

€10m was allocated for a pilot scheme for straw.

Pigs

The domestic trade for pork and bacon showed remarkable resilience in 2020, and the Irish pig industry has benefited from the reduced volume of imports this year, which are down 23% according to the latest Bord Bia information. Retail sales of pork, bacon and ham have soared in 2020, on the back of foodservice restrictions, with double-digit growth in pigmeat retail sales.

While pork is a worldwide traded commodity, our local market advantages and access to premium export markets, have placed the Irish pig processing industry on a solid footing.

Forestry

The licensing system is a mess. We appeared before the Joint Oireachtas Committee to apply pressure on the political system.

We cannot stand over a situation where farmers who invested in a crop are not in a position to harvest that crop.

Retail regulation

In 2021 we will continue to press for the appointment of an independent Food Ombudsman and a ban on below-cost selling. Budget 2021 directly referenced funding for the establishment of this essential office. Farmers need to have confidence that the grocery regulations introduced in 2015 to protect suppliers will be enforced.

Adapting through COVID-19

The events of 2020 meant that the majority of IFA's meetings and events needed to move online. These included our National Council meetings and the vast majority of our national lobbying meetings.

I want to acknowledge the flexibility of our County Chairs who have maintained the link with our county officers by organising online meetings.

While we all look forward to a return to normal, there is no doubt that digital communications will continue to have an enhanced role in facilitating the business of the Association.

Among the initiatives undertaken this year:

- WhatsApps groups at regional and county level
- Postal elections
- Outdoor meetings in line with public health restrictions
- Calls to members
- New website

The Association worked closely with our elected officials to provide digital training and access, which meant that the majority of business was able to continue as usual.

I want to thank everybody for their efforts during what has been a difficult year. IFA is about supporting and representing farmers, depending what the challenges are.

I am proud of the response during unprecedented times.

To the members of staff who retired during the year, I want to thank them for their dedicated service to farmers. And I want to welcome those who have joined us.

We look forward to 2021 and we will continue to focus on the issues that matter to you.



Tim Cullinan
IFA President





Tánaiste Leo Varadkar at the 65th Annual General Meeting of the IFA in the Irish Farm Centre with IFA President Tim Cullinan and IFA Director General Damian McDonald.

Representation

NATIONAL COUNCIL - GOVERNING BODY

Includes Macra President, ICOS President & Irish Farmers' Journal Editor

19 National Committee Chairmen

National Committees

29 County Chairmen

29 County Executives

947 Branches






Each Branch elects 4 delegates to County Executive

Over 72,000 Members:
Organised Through Branches











National Officers' Committee

<p>Tim Cullinan President</p> 		
<p>Brian Rushe Deputy President</p> 	<p>Damian McDonald Director General</p> 	<p>Bryan Barry Association Secretary/Assistant Director General</p> 

National Officers Committee

 <p>Harold Kingston Munster Chairman</p>	 <p>Thomas Short South Leinster Chairman</p>	 <p>Martin Stapleton National Treasurer and Returning Officer</p>	 <p>Nigel Renaghan Ulster & North Leinster Chairman</p>	 <p>Pat Murphy Connacht Chairman</p>
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County Chairs

<p>CARLOW</p> <p>John Nolan</p> 	<p>CORK CENTRAL</p> <p>Conor O'Leary</p> 	<p>GALWAY</p> <p>Anne Mitchell</p> 
<p>CAVAN</p> <p>Elizabeth Ormiston</p> 	<p>CORK WEST</p> <p>Donal O'Donovan</p> 	<p>GALWAY 2ND REP</p> <p>Martin Murphy</p> 
<p>CLARE</p> <p>Tom Lane</p> 	<p>DONEGAL</p> <p>Brendan McLaughlin</p> 	<p>KERRY</p> <p>Patrick O'Driscoll</p> 
<p>CORK NORTH</p> <p>Anne Baker</p> 	<p>DUBLIN</p> <p>John McGrane</p> 	<p>KERRY 2ND REP</p> <p>Kenneth Jones</p> 

County Chairs

<p>KILDARE</p> <p>Thomas O'Connor</p> 	<p>MAYO</p> <p>Jarlath Walsh</p> 	<p>TIPPERARY STH</p> <p>Erica O'Keefe</p> 
<p>KILKENNY</p> <p>Jim Mulhall</p> 	<p>MEATH</p> <p>John Curran</p> 	<p>WATERFORD</p> <p>Kevin Kiersey</p> 
<p>LAOIS</p> <p>John Fitzpatrick</p> 	<p>MONAGHAN</p> <p>Frank Brady</p> 	<p>WESTMEATH</p> <p>Bernie McCarthy</p> 
<p>LEITRIM</p> <p>Desmond McHugh</p> 	<p>OFFALY</p> <p>Richard Scally</p> 	<p>WEXFORD</p> <p>James Kehoe</p> 
<p>LIMERICK</p> <p>Shay Galvin</p> 	<p>ROSCOMMON</p> <p>James O'Connor</p> 	<p>WICKLOW</p> <p>Chris Hill</p> 
<p>LONGFORD</p> <p>Gavin White</p> 	<p>SLIGO</p> <p>Kathleen Henry</p> 	
<p>LOUTH</p> <p>John Carroll</p> 	<p>TIPPERARY NTH</p> <p>Imelda Walsh</p> 	

Committee Chairs

DAIRY Thomas Phelan 	LIVESTOCK VICE-CHAIR Declan Hanrahan 	ANIMAL HEALTH Patrick Farrell 
ENVIRONMENT & RURAL AFFAIRS Paul O'Brien 	RURAL DEVELOPMENT Michael Biggins 	MACRA NA FEIRME Thomas Duffy 
FARM BUSINESS Rose Mary McDonagh 	SHEEP Sean Dennehy 	ICOS Jerry Long 
FARM FAMILY & SOCIAL AFFAIRS Caroline Farrell 	PIGS Thomas Hogan 	IFJ Justin McCarthy 
FARM FORESTRY Vincent Nally 	POULTRY Andrew Boylan 	NOTE ICOS and IFJ are observer Members of the National Council without a vote.
GRAIN Mark Browne 	POTATO Thomas McKeown 	Other Reps AQUACULTURE Michael Mulloy 
LIQUID MILK Keith O'Boyle 	HORTICULTURE Paul Brophy 	FMP William Lennon 
LIVESTOCK Brendan Golden 	HILL FARMING Flor McCarthy 	

Director of European Affairs Report



RTÉ Europe Editor Tony Connolly interviews IFA President Tim Cullinan on the EU Budget and CAP funding.

The agriculture sector is enduring greater uncertainty now than even two years ago. For farmers, that is the greatest challenge. The fallout from the Brexit agreement reached in December is still an unknown and COVID-19 has impacted food systems hugely. However, the MFF has finally been agreed and with that, the confirmation of the CAP budgets has allowed agreement within each of the Institutions. Now we will lobby on the final CAP text.

Brexit

The repeated commentary of the sides being far apart was exacerbated by the tabling in September of the Internal Markets Bill which would give the UK the power to decide unilaterally how parts of the Northern Ireland protocol should be implemented.

President von der Leyen said that peace on the island of Ireland was a priority and that the Withdrawal Agreement cannot be unilaterally changed or disapplied.

Intervention by Commissioner Šefčovič with the EU-UK Joint Committee and progress on the level playing field left fisheries, a signifier of UK sovereignty, as the final hurdle to be cleared. IFA had continually pushed in Brussels for a tariff free and quota free deal to be struck.

Finally, on Christmas Eve, a trade deal was reached that avoided tariffs. However, the UK has left the Single Market and Customs Union, which means free movement of persons, goods, services and capital between the UK and the EU will end.

The EU and the UK will form two separate markets; two distinct regulatory and legal spaces, creating barriers to trade that didn't exist – in both directions.

Trading will be very different compared to the frictionless trade within the Customs Union and the Single Market.

CAP Post 2020

IFA President Tim Cullinan came to Brussels in February seeking an increase in the CAP budget as part of the MFF. He stood shoulder to shoulder with his Belgian farming Association Presidents at rond-point Schuman demanding budget support, while the Heads of State continued negotiations in the Europa building.

Progress was made, but no compromise was achieved and a deal was only reached in July when the historic €1.824trn budget, including the EU Recovery Package, was agreed and finally ratified in December.

The German Presidency achieved Council Conclusions on the CAP in the very same week of October that the European Parliament voted in Plenary on the CAP amendments.

After a disagreement between the Environment and Agriculture committees, voting was conducted by the political groups. It didn't stop 166 MEPs in the 60th Anniversary year of the original CAP, seeking to scrap the whole CAP itself, including a number of Irish MEPs.

They failed, and the CAP is now in trilogue negotiations which will continue under the Presidency of the Portuguese Minister of Agriculture from 1st January. Consensus will be sought, not



IFA President Tim Cullinan, Director General Damian McDonald and Director of European Affairs Liam MacHale discuss the CAP Budget with the Irish Ambassador to the EU Declan Kelleher.

least on the percentage to be devoted to the Eco-Scheme in Pillar I, which is a mandatory percentage reduction in farmers' basic payment with a voluntary option available for farmers to apply for the measure, which has yet to be agreed.

Green Deal

The European Green Deal tops the list on the Commission work programme for 2021. In May this year, the Farm to Fork Strategy and the Biodiversity Strategy 2030 were launched.

The communication includes targets such as a 50% reduction in overall risk and use of chemical pesticides, 20% reduction in usage of mineral fertilisers by 2030 and an increase to 25% of EU agriculture land under organic farming (current EU average 8%).

The negative impact on productivity and associated reduction in farmer income was clearly outlined by the USDA in their study, but the Commission has so far failed to provide an impact assessment, despite calls from IFA and COPA.

Furthermore, the Commission has just published recommendations seeking Member States to incorporate Green Deal targets within their national strategic plans.

Trade

The political pressures that led to the resignation of the EU Commissioner for Trade, Phil Hogan, brought with it a significant cost to Ireland and European agriculture. He acted as an overseer for agriculture within the College, alongside the new Agriculture Commissioner Janusz Wojciechowski from Poland. Within Trade, he was responsible in a short space of time for the mutual recognition of GIs with China and the elimination of selected tariffs with the US.

Now the EU Trade Policy review will be guided by Trade Commissioner Valdis Dombrovskis and 2021 will also see the possible presentation of the Mercosur Agreement for Council and Parliament ratification.

The EU has shifted however and this is no longer a straightforward procedure. The concerns of farmers over the lack of a level playing field, particularly in the observance of environmental standards, are achieving a wider audience.

2021

The commitment of the European Union to carbon neutrality by 2050 is leading to legislative proposals on the creation of Sustainable Food Systems by 2023.

There are efforts to push the Farm to Fork targets into the current CAP. However, there is a clear lack of an impact assessment, plus an absence of firm measures to address the greatest sustainability threat of all, that of the economic viability of Irish and European farmers, whose numbers continue to fall and whose income trails that of the average European wage.

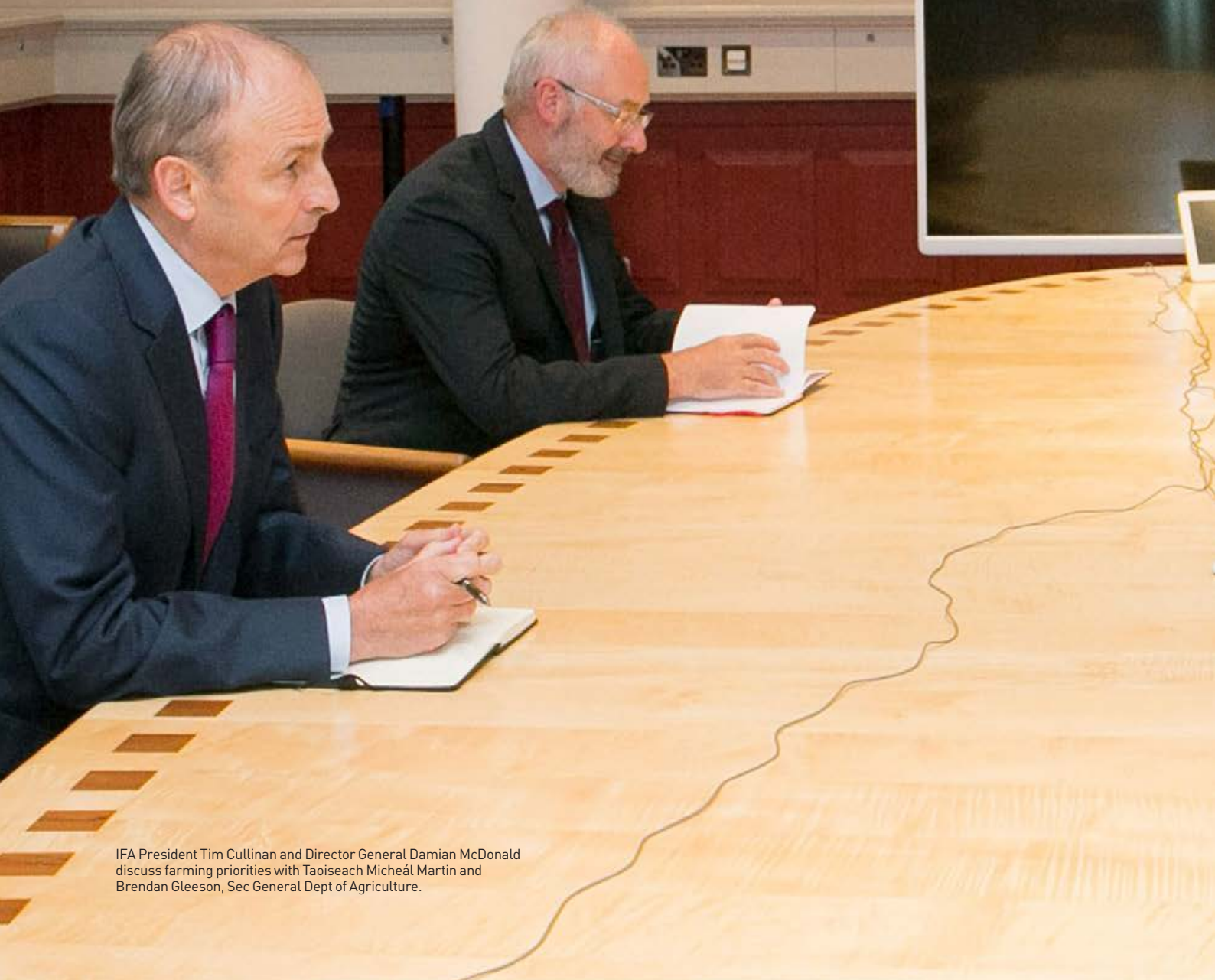
The Directive on Unfair Trading Practices will have to be transposed effectively in Ireland and we will have to fight to ensure access for financial investment in the agri-sector through the Delegated Act on Sustainable Finance proposed in December 2020.

This Directive is led by the new EU Commissioner for Financial Services and the Capital Markets Union Mairead McGuinness, who was a strong advocate for Irish farmers and agriculture on the Agriculture Committee in her role as MEP.

With IFA President Tim Cullinan elected as COPA First Vice President, our organisation is poised to defend Irish farmers as we enter a year where pandemics such as COVID-19 and African Swine Fever continue to divert the best laid plans.

Liam MacHale
Director of European Affairs

National Committee Reports



IFA President Tim Cullinan and Director General Damian McDonald discuss farming priorities with Taoiseach Micheál Martin and Brendan Gleeson, Sec General Dept of Agriculture.



National Livestock Committee

Cattle Prices

2020 was a difficult year for beef farmers, with Brexit uncertainty compounded by the COVID-19 restrictions. This resulted in huge disruption to the food service sector in the UK and throughout Europe, which is a key market outlet for Irish beef.

As purchasing habits changed due to lockdown situations, the very strong performance of beef in supermarkets underpinned the trade where both volumes and value of beef sales increased. Supermarket sales of beef in GB for the 12 months to the end of November increased in value by 12.2% and in volume by 9.7%.

Category	Price €/kg incl. vat	
	2019	2020
Steer R3	€3.80	€3.83
Heifer R3	€3.92	€3.87
Y Bull R3	€3.59	€3.64
Cow O3	€2.92	€2.98

Average price for the year, vat inclusive, R3 steers €3.83/kg, R3 heifers €3.87/kg, R3 Y Bulls €3.64/kg and O3 cows €2.98/kg.

The Prime Irish Composite Price for the year was €3.74/kg, the Prime Export Benchmark Price was €3.75/kg. (vat incl. prices)

Supplies and Markets

Despite predictions of the 2020 kill dropping below the 2019 levels by 50-60,000 head, the total kill for 2020 surpassed 2019 levels by 61,352 head at 1,798,682.

Category	Price €/kg incl. vat	
	2019	2020
STEER	627,464	700,338
HEIFER	504,089	524,841
YBULL	209,337	142,361
COW	347,777	369,703
Other	48,663	61,439
TOTAL	1,737,330	1,798,682

The UK remains the most important market for Irish beef, taking 48% of beef exports (by volume), to Oct 2020 followed by the EU27 which accounted for 38%. The Chinese market performed strongly until access was denied in May.

Live Exports

Live cattle exports in 2020 remained strong, despite the impact the COVID-19 pandemic had on demand during the spring of this year. Live exports of prime cattle for direct slaughter to Northern Ireland increased by 8,300 head, with over 21,000 animals exported to NI for processing. Overall, live exports of cattle to Northern Ireland have increased by 29,000 head this year to 64,211. (+90%)

Total exports declined by 11%, or 31,709 head, to 266,189 head. This was due to fewer calves being sent to other EU markets, which fell by over 28%, or 56,669 head, to 143,708 head.

In particular, the calf trade to the Netherlands reduced by 35,600 head (-42%). Live Exports to international markets in 2020 saw a slight increase, with over 4,100 extra animals exported to international markets.

Bord Bia Grass Fed Beef Standard

IFA was successful in reaching agreement on the Grass Fed Standard.

PGI application for Irish Grass Fed Beef

IFA secured fundamental changes to the PGI application, including a farmer majority on the oversight group ensuring farmer control of the brand. Changes included removal of travel times/distance; flexibility on days at grass; removal of factory assessment of eligibility; and inclusion of Young Bulls when they meet the criteria. The issue of the eligibility of cattle exported to Northern Ireland was also dealt with in the covering letter with the application.

Suckler Beef Brand

IFA secured €6m in funding over the next three years for the development and promotion of a brand for beef from the suckler herd.

€50m for Beef Finishers Payment (BFP)

IFA lobbied for compensation of losses suffered by beef finishers as a result of COVID-19. €50m was allocated in June to compensate beef farmers for losses, without conditions, returning €100 a head to farmers for cattle slaughtered in the reference period.

28,095 farmers applied for the Beef Finisher Payment (BFP) equating to approximately €46m. IFA has called on the Dept to include cattle slaughtered in Northern Ireland.

BREXIT

The IFA Livestock Committee highlighted the impact of a no deal/bad deal scenario for Irish beef farmers. IFA lobbied intensely at EU and national level to ensure Irish beef farmers' interests were to the fore.

IFA engaged directly with the NFU and UFU, maintaining a strong alliance against the threat of lower standards and inferior imports into the UK market, which would displace Irish beef.

The deal reached avoids the worst-case scenario, however challenges remain. IFA has highlighted to the Taoiseach and Minister for Agriculture the need to maintain our shelf space in the UK market and critically the requirement for supports directly to farmers to offset any market disturbance that may arise with administrative access issues.



Mayo IFA Chairman Jarlath Walsh and IFA Livestock Chairman Brendan Golden presenting IFA's pre-Budget submission to Fianna Fail TD Dara Calleary.

Trade Deals

IFA highlighted the double standards at EU level in accepting beef not produced to the same standards of Irish and EU farmers in trade deals such as Mercosur, and the existing allocation of beef imports from South American countries that is allowed onto the EU market.

BDGP & BEEP-S

These vital schemes for suckler farmers will be rolled over for the two-year transition period for the new CAP. The total allocation for both these schemes for 2021 is €80m. IFA is seeking direct support for Suckler cows of €300 per cow targeted payment.

CAP

Given the importance of Direct Payments for beef and suckler farmers, the IFA Livestock Committee lobbied for full protection of payments to farmers both at national and EU level.

Beef Taskforce

IFA made an increase in cattle prices the key issue at Task Force meetings and we have pushed for the three reviews by Grant Thornton to be concluded as a matter of urgency.

COVID-19

IFA made a detailed set of proposals to Government and the EU Commission on the market supports and direct payment supports needed for beef. In summary, these proposals covered the following;

- Swift action was required to support the sector, beef markets and beef farmers in order to minimise the impact of the COVID-19 crisis and protect the beef supply chain.
- The first priority was to keep the sector operational and keep routes to markets open including for live exports.
- In 2019, a total of 318,500 tonnes of beef was imported from non-EU countries, with 78% coming from Mercosur countries, which equates to the steak cuts from 45% of the EU beef kill.
- With the collapse in the steak market due to COVID-19, the EU Commission should move to protect the EU markets and prices, and suspend all non-EU beef imports.
- The EU should immediately introduce a strong pan-European promotional programme at retail level on beef targeted at higher-value steak cuts.

Marts

Following the closure of the marts, IFA worked with the marts, ICOS/ALM and the DAFM on the alternative arrangements for the sale/movement of cattle. IFA called for the marts to be re-opened as soon as possible under safe workable conditions. IFA also pushed for support for the marts.

BovINE Project

IFA is involved with Teagasc, farm organisations and research and advisory bodies across ten EU member states in an EU funded Innovation network project focused on facilitating improved knowledge exchange and co-ordinated solutions on socio-economic resilience, animal health and welfare, production efficiency and quality and environmentally sustainability for beef farmers.

Brendan Golden
Chairman

Anna Daly
Policy Executive

Tómas Bourke
Senior Policy Executive



IFA President Tim Cullinan and NFU President Minette Batters discuss the post-Brexit trade arrangements ahead of the Christmas Eve deal.

National Dairy Committee

Milk Price Summary

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent collapse of the food service market, the demand for dairy produce remained robust. To avoid disruption in the supply chain, we have seen many buyers stock pile product to overcome any delays in supply.

This kept supply and demand on an even keel. In general, farm-gate milk prices fell in Q1, 2020 at the onset of COVID-19 from a base price 31.5-33.5c/L and bottomed out at a base price of 28.5-32c/L in May.

Since then, we have seen a recovery in milk prices across all processors. Base milk price at the end of the year was in the region of 31-33.5c/L. We would like to acknowledge the efforts of dairy farmers and all staff employed on dairy processing sites to keep supply and processing capabilities up and running throughout peak which coincided with the first wave of the virus.

Campaign for the Dairy Calf Investment Scheme

As a direct consequence of our campaign to improve the management of calves in the Spring time, the Dairy Committee successfully secured a €1.5m exchequer funded scheme to support farmers to invest in calf rearing equipment. The application period was open in January, with a deadline for completion of works by September.

The scheme was over-subscribed, but no linear cuts were applied. In total 1,489 farmers drew down €1.8m to enhance rearing facilities on their farms. The most common investment was for the automatic calf feeder.

Private Storage Aid for Dairy

At the onset of the pandemic, IFA successfully sought the introduction of private storage aid. APS provides a subsidy towards the costs incurred by the operator to store product for a set period, with a stipulated period within which product may go into storage, and a minimum and maximum storage periods before released to the market.

This takes the product off the market and reduces supplies temporarily to allow for prices to recover. Ireland availed of this opportunity and placed 14,840t of butter and 2,180t of cheese into storage in May and June. By the end of November, all the cheese had been cleared with only 1,474t of butter remaining in storage.

€5m Dairy Beef Scheme

Integration of the dairy and beef sectors requires support, yet farmers who rear dairy beef have largely been excluded from support schemes. The €5m fund announced in the Budget is the first of its kind to be dedicated to this cohort of farmers. Though the details have yet to be finalised, it's proposed that farmers would be paid to weigh calves from the dairy herd in their first year of life.

IFA will continue to lobby for a fair rollout of the scheme that maximises its value to Irish dairy and beef farmers.

Protecting our Social Licence to Milk Cows

Now more than ever we are faced with increased scrutiny of our farming systems. In the past year, dairy farmers have shown how resilient the farming community is when faced with new challenges. Farmers are willing and able to adapt to do more for our environment.

- Farmers have invested €79.5m on Low Emission Slurry Equipment to optimise our use of organic fertilisers, minimise emissions and protect water quality.
- The amount of protected urea sold more than doubled in the first nine months of 2020 compared to total sales of 2019. Using protected urea will improve our Nitrogen Use Efficiency, protect our catchments and minimise emissions.
- Additional requirements have been placed on farms stocked at more than 170kgN/ha/year under the Nitrates regulations. Such requirements are intended to optimise our use of fertilisers while protecting our catchments.

- There is an average of 6km of hedgerow on every dairy farm. Additional requirements to manage these hedgerows through the Nitrates derogation will help to improve these features as quality habitats.
- To date 555 dairy farmers are enrolled in the ASSAP programme and have voluntarily made commitments specific to their own farms to improve the water quality of adjacent catchments, this number will increase further in the next year.
- We have reduced our carbon footprint by 9.7% between 2011 and 2019. Our emissions per litre of milk are 54% less than the global average carbon footprint for milk production.
- The EBI of the national herd has grown by approximately €10/year improving the genetic performance of our cows.
- Given our temperate climate we produce milk on land that is not subject to water stress, mitigating the need for irrigation.
- More than 90% of our cow's diet is home grown grass.

We have also done more to improve animal welfare on our farms

- Our calf mortality rate stands at 5-7% and is one of the lowest in Europe. Mortality on farms that have expanded has remained consistently low despite an increased workload.
- Full draw down of the dairy calf investment scheme introduced last Spring.
- The outcome of the 600 on farm inspections that took place last Spring yielded positive results.
- Veal farmers prefer to purchase calves from Ireland than other EU states because of their superior quality.

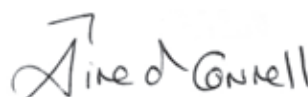
The successful efforts of dairy farms have not only provided full time incomes for farming households but they generate revenue for many rural enterprises. In 2019 alone, dairy farmers invested an average of €33,091 on their farms.

Indeed, the sector is the powerhouse of the rural economy. For every €1 exported in dairy goods, 90c is spent locally. In addition to the 17,000 directly employed in the sector, it's estimated another 30,000 work in the industry, providing highly skilled jobs in rural towns dotted throughout Ireland.

Dairy farms are engaged and willing to adapt, but adaption comes at a cost. At present dairy farmers income is less than that of an average industrial wage on a like for like per labour unit basis. Given the level of investment required on dairy farms, this is simply not sustainable.



Tom Phelan
Chairman, National Dairy Committee



Aine O'Connell
National Dairy Executive

National Liquid Milk Committee



Prof Frank Mitloehner from UC Davis was the keynote speaker at IFA's 'Climate Action in Agriculture – A Balanced Approach', which was part of IFA's campaign to have methane treated differently. He visited the farm of Larry Hannon in Moone, Co Kildare to see the emission efficiencies that Irish farmers are making.

Change of guard on the Liquid Milk Committee

The election of Keith O'Boyle as Chairman of the Liquid Milk Committee took place during the year. Because of the COVID-19 restrictions, the election was held by postal ballot.

Keith O'Boyle succeeded John Finn, who had served as Chairman for six years. The Committee would like to thank John for the significant time and effort he put in during his tenure.

Liquid Milk Consumption during COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to significant disruption of the food service market. However, this hasn't translated into a drop in dairy consumption as one would have expected at the onset of the outbreak. Figures on fresh milk sold for human consumption from the CSO up to October 2020 in Ireland (excludes imported milk) are less than 1% behind the same period in 2019. Given the upward trend of imported packaged milk from Northern Ireland, it is difficult to ascertain whether this minimal decline is due to COVID-19 or increased volumes of milk imported from Northern Ireland.

Successful protection of dairy denominations

In October, the EU Parliament voted in favour of enhancing the protection of dairy terms and prohibiting their use to describe plant-based alternatives. This builds upon the ECJ ruling in 2017 that banned the use of dairy terms such as 'milk', 'butter', 'cheese', and 'yogurt' for purely plant-based products – with the exception of coconut milk, peanut butter, almond milk and ice cream. Now, it is not lawful to use terms such as 'yoghurt style' and 'cheese substitute', and more generally any reference to dairy terms (e.g. 'creamy') in commercial communications for plant-based dairy alternatives.

Retail Recommendations

In a series of bilateral meeting with supermarkets which commenced in December, the IFA Liquid Milk Committee made the following recommendations:

- Consumers should be afforded the opportunity to trade up and buy branded milk in all supermarkets
- All supermarkets should stock ROI milk that carries the National Dairy Council logo
- In their role to enhance corporate social responsibility, all supermarkets should ensure that the primary producers of liquid milk for their supply contracts have registered contracts with the National Milk Agency
- To avoid confusion, plant-based alternatives to dairy milk should not be stocked in the "dairy aisle", given that they are not nutritionally similar.

Keith O'Boyle
Chairman Liquid Milk Committee

Aine O'Connell
Liquid Milk Executive

National Sheep Committee



IFA Sheep Chairman Sean Dennehy and Taoiseach Micheál Martin discuss increased supports for the sheep sector.

Lamb Prices

It has been a more positive year for Irish sheep meat exports. The stronger market was a welcome and badly-needed boost following a difficult year for prices in 2019, and the weather-related ewe and lamb losses experienced by sheep farmers in 2018. Average reported prices for the year to-date are €5.52 incl. vat compared to €5.02 incl. vat for 2019, representing a 10% increase.

Supplies

For the year total throughput for sheep was 2,884,480 head, which is 3% higher than the corresponding period in 2019 or 74,519 head.

Live Imports and Exports

Live imports of lambs for direct slaughter in the Republic of Ireland reached 352,124 head to mid-December. This is a decline of over 24,000 head (-6%) compared to the same period 12 months ago. IFA wrote to Minister Creed demanding that the Department of Agriculture publish the volumes and origin of all imports on a weekly basis. Live exports to the end of November reached 24,807, up from 7,161 in 2019, with 16,574 of these to France.

IFA Market Activity

IFA issued price and market reports twice weekly throughout the year, ensuring farmers were fully informed of market conditions to maximise price returns. IFA engaged directly with the sheep factories and with MII to ensure the positive market conditions were reflected in the prices paid to farmers. IFA engaged with Bord Bia to deliver timely promotion of lamb.

Sheep Welfare Scheme

The scheme has rolled over as part of the two-year transition period for CAP. New entrants will be facilitated in the scheme.

IFA is seeking a new reference year to allow flock owners who have expanded their numbers to have their payments reflect the level of activity on the farm.

Brexit and Trade Deals

IFA worked with the EU Commission and the UK NFU so as there is no increase in the NZ sheep quota in Brexit and no additional imports from any EU/NZ/Aus trade deal.

COVID-19

IFA made a detailed submission to the Government and the EU Commission on the measures needed to support the sheep sector through COVID-19. IFA made strong and continuous representation to the Minister and DAFM officials to ensure meat processors and marts were facilitated in functioning throughout the COVID-19 controls.

CAP & €30/ewe payment

IFA met DAFM officials on CAP payments for sheep farmers. We also sought a targeted payment of €30 per ewe through a combination of CAP and national funding for sheep farmers.

Wool

IFA met DAFM and sought investment in developing alternative markets and outlets for wool. Following the allocation of the €100,000 to investigate markets/opportunities, IFA met DAFM officials and the study has commenced.

Quality Assurance

IFA is continuing to lobby for an increase to 30c/kg to reward farmers and increase participation in the SBLQAS.

Electronic Transfer of Funds (ETF)

IFA met MII and sought the provision of the option of Electronic Transfer of Funds (ETF) for sheep payments to farmers from factories.

Charges

IFA continue to lobby to have costs and charges imposed on sheep farmers through EID, clipping charges and unfair scrapie and SRM charges on ewes removed.

Dog Control

IFA met Minister Malcolm Noonan on responsible dog ownership, highlighting dog attacks on sheep flocks and seeking changes on databases, warden service and penalties.

Sean Dennehy
Chairman

Anna Daly
Policy Executive

Tomas Bourke
Senior Policy Executive

National Pigs and Pigmeat Committee

Irish Pig Prices and Market Review

While 2019 was the Chinese year of the Pig and resulted in a fortuitous record high pig price for Irish farmers, 2020 was the Chinese year of the Rat and the pig price took a turn for the worse during the year.

The pig price averaged €1.96/kg until the end of February when the impact of COVID-19 in China, and delays in getting shipping containers across the world, had a huge impact. The price reduction began, falling roughly 4c/kg weekly in March, until it steadied to 4c/kg each month drop in mid-late 2020.

The price averaged €1.70/kg for 2020, finishing the year on a low of €1.56/kg. Overall, a good pig price year, albeit the immediate market outlook is for a difficult H1 followed by a price recovery in H2 of 2021. Hopefully the year of the Ox brings some much-needed cheer to the pig sector in 2021.

Global Pigmeat Market

Pig-producing countries across the EU continue to be in turmoil since the onset of COVID-19 restrictions. Factory closures and restrictions remain a concern for the sector across Europe and for those employees who work in the industry. Pig production throughout continues to be heavily disrupted in many countries. German, Danish Belgium, Dutch and French pig processing plants had to grapple with physical distancing requirements, with outbreaks of COVID-19 among meat factory workers all too common. This delay in processing capacity, combined with depressed foodservice demand, leaves the EU average pig price at below €1.30/kg in December 2020.

African Swine Fever

The Pig Committee has continued to engage with the DAFM on raising the awareness of the threat of African Swine Fever entering Ireland.

IFA led a delegation to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Agriculture in December to highlight the importance of keeping Ireland ASF free. The discovery of ASF in wild boar in Germany in August 2020 had a negative impact, due to the loss of market access to China and other important buyers of German pigmeat.

DNA Scheme

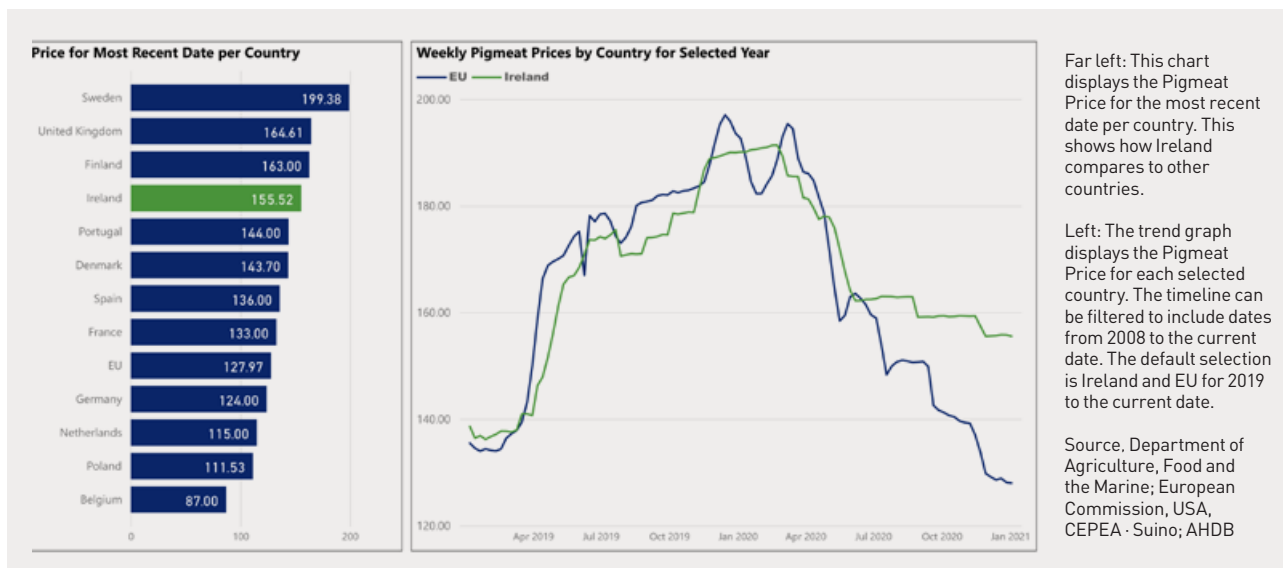
The IFA DNA traceback scheme operated a more targeted campaign throughout 2020.

Compliance levels remained at 95% in the retail sector, but results on foodservice products has highlighted labelling loopholes that providers are using to give the perception that pre-prepared food is Irish, when the pork used is not.

While within the realms of the food labelling laws of the EU, IFA as an organisation cannot let misrepresentation of food sold through the foodservice sector to continue. This is a priority area for 2021.

Pig Committee Activity 2020

The IFA Pig committee engaged with AHI, DAFM, FSAI, the EPA, and Bord Bia throughout 2020 on a range of issues including animal health, welfare, AMR and the important issue of reducing usage of antibiotics as a last resort in the treatment of humans.



Thomas Hogan
Outgoing Chairman

Robert Malone
Secretary

National Poultry Committee

Disease Pressure on the Poultry Sector

2020 was the year that COVID-19 hit the world human population, and it overshadowed the outbreak of Avian Influenza (AI) that has caused immense losses to the Irish and European poultry sector.

De minimus Compensation for Poultry Farmers Affected by LPAI

LPAI (Low Pathogen Avian Influenza) affected a total of 14 poultry flocks, mostly eggs layers, but also two fattening turkeys' flocks, in the Monaghan region in Spring 2020.

LPAI is a non-notifiable disease with no statutory compensation available to the farmer.

The reality for any flock affected by LPAI is massive production loss followed by high mortality. As LPAI is highly infectious, the only responsible option for affected flock owners is to completely depopulate and cull the entire flock, and to follow the highest bio-security measures.

Following a detailed submission from IFA seeking a fully-funded compensation scheme for the affected farmers, and lobbying led by the IFA Poultry Chairman, Andy Boylan, DAFM introduced a once off de minimus scheme for the 14 affected farmers, which gave €10,000 to each affected farmer.

Poultry Working Group (PWG)

The PWG is an industry group which was set up in March to deal with the impending disastrous situation of LPAI and its effect on the Irish poultry sector. While the loss of over 500,000 poultry birds to LPAI in March-May was a hammer blow to the sector, it has proven itself to be economically viable with very limited national or EU financial supports.

This newly-formed group, of which IFA is a member, has been proactive in providing industry sourced funding to assist in tackling LPAI outbreaks in a timely manner. Broiler groups contributed to this fund which provided financial assistance to farmers to cull LPAI positive flocks, to prevent the disease spreading further.

PWG Disease Compensation Fund Proposals

The PWG has made a draft proposal to tackle future disease incidents such as LPAI. These proposals will involve contributions from farmers and other industry stakeholders.

Ongoing dialogue on the proposal are continuing between the PWG, farmers and DAFM. In December 2020, a delegation from the PWG, including IFA, met the Minister for Agriculture Charlie McConalogue to request financial assistance from the DAFM to fund this disease compensation fund.

The PWG commissioned Professor of Economics from UCC, Thia Hennessy to compile a **Poultry Economic Report**, detailing the overall contribution that the poultry sector makes to the national economy, in terms of employment and output. The IFA Poultry Secretary along with many IFA poultry members contributed to the information in the report and funded the printing of copies for distributions to TD's and Senators in 2021.

High Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI H5N8) is present in the wild bird population in most European countries, including the island of Ireland at the end of 2020.

It has been detected in commercial flocks in Northern Ireland in recent weeks, heightening the risk of spread. The IFA has communicated the need for the strictest bio-security measures on all poultry sites.



Andy Boylan

Andy Boylan
Chairman

Robert Malone

Robert Malone
Secretary

National Grain Committee



(l-r) Tommy Keane, Production Director Irish Distillers, Conor McQuaid, Chief Executive Irish Distillers, IFA Deputy President Brian Rushe and IFA Grain Chairman at the announcement by Irish Distillers in Middleton, Co Cork of a €15 premium for malting barley growers.

Value of Tillage Sector Down 15% after Difficult Harvest

This 2020 tillage season has been extremely difficult for growers. The wet Autumn/Winter which prevented plantings was followed by drought conditions in April/May. The excessive rainfall and storms in August resulted in a broken and delayed harvest.

The situation was particularly critical right up through the midlands and into the east and northeast where growers, in some cases, had crop and straw yield reductions of over 50% above the average.

Preliminary estimates by IFA indicate that the overall farm gate value of the Irish tillage sector could drop by at least 15% compared to 2019.

Due to the difficult year, the IFA Grain Committee asked Teagasc to undertake an impact assessment on the harvest, particularly in the regions worst affected.

The IFA lobbied the Minister for Agriculture Charlie McConalogue and Department officials on potential supports available after the poor harvest.

€10m Pilot Straw Scheme

Following a campaign by the IFA, Minister McConalogue did acknowledge the difficult season for tillage farmers by ringfencing €10 million for a pilot straw incorporation scheme.

Trade Support for Sector

IFA called on the trade to return sustainable prices to farmers to prevent a further drop in farm income.

We emphasised that the price of Quality Assured Irish grain must not be undermined by third-country feedstuffs, which are

not produced to the same environmental standards as Irish grain.

Following the harvest, IFA led a campaign to follow up on merchants who hadn't paid at least a minimum harvest base price of €150/t for green barley.

Use of Native Grains

Substituting imports for Irish native grains results not only in the loss of millions of euros to the rural economy, but is undermining Ireland's credentials in relation to Origin Green, PGIs and the premium branding of Irish food and drink.

The IFA Grain Committee organised a protest at Waterford port to highlight the importation of malt, which had the potential to undermine the Irish malting barley sector, particularly during this difficult year.

The IFA is demanding that the Irish animal feed, drinks and food sectors prioritise the use of Irish grains.

Impact of COVID-19

COVID-19 has had a severe impact on the tillage sector, particularly on the feed and malting barley sectors. IFA highlighted the issues in letters to the Minister; in submissions to the Oireachtas Special Committee on Covid Response; and the EU Commission.

Straw

Members of the IFA Straw Committee have been in contact with all the mushroom composters and other stakeholders which included a meeting with Northway compost in Tyrone. The use of Irish straw and the need for sustainable long-term straw prices were emphasised. In addition, the dangers of the importation of invasive weed species in straw was discussed.

CAP Negotiations

Tillage farmers were disproportionately affected by the last CAP. The next CAP could have serious economic consequences for the sector, not least in relation to proposals regarding convergence, capping and eco schemes. In addition, funding for the protein scheme must be increased and a new Pillar II scheme introduced specifically for the tillage sector.

The IFA Grain Committee will lobby hard to ensure that tillage farmers are treated fairly in the new CAP negotiations.

Derogation on 3-Crop Rule

With many parts of the country experiencing the wettest February on record, IFA lobbying at local and EU level resulted in the derogation for exemption from the 2/3 crop rule being extended to all farmers for 2020.

EU Farm to Fork & Biodiversity Strategies

Many aspects the F2F published by the EU Commission are unrealistic and could make European arable farming uncompetitive. IFA lobbied for a comprehensive economic impact assessment of these proposals by the EU, and separately by the Irish Government.

Malting Barley

2020 was a very difficult year for the malting barley sector due to the combination of reduced demand due to COVID-19 restrictions and the subsequent impact of the weather.

The IFA Malting Barley Committee held a number of meetings with Boortmalt and the main drinks companies to discuss the issues affecting the sector.

Due to the subsequent difficult harvest, IFA were successful in obtaining derogations on protein and moisture specifications in order to maximise barley intake.

Irish Distillers pay €15/tonne Premium for Green Barley

Following meetings between IFA and Irish Distillers, the drinks company agreed to an additional payment of €15/tonne for green barley supplied.

Origin Green

During 2020, the Grain Committee warned Bord Bia that the credibility of the Origin Green scheme could be undermined by the high levels of feed and drink ingredient imports.

IFA is demanding that Bord Bia include a stipulation to prioritise Irish grain in their Quality Assurance and PGI schemes in order to support local cereal producers and safeguard the credibility of the Origin Green brand.

Plant Protection Products

IFA has met with DAFM and lobbied in Brussels regarding the authorisation and for emergency derogations on a number of vital products. IFA made a submission to the EU Commission on The Combined Roadmap for the Evaluation of the EU Legislation on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides.

IFA made a contribution to the EU Commission objecting to the decision of Austria to ban the use of glyphosate. The Commission has postponed their decision until the end of the year.

IFA Fertilizer Campaign

The European Commission has taken a decision to prolong anti-dumping measures on Ammonium Nitrate from Russia for another five years.

IFA's earlier campaign had succeeded in reducing these duties by approximately one third (€15/t).

However IFA will continue to lobby the EU Trade Commissioner on the issue.

Seed Growers

The native seed sector is an important component of the Irish tillage sector, both for economic and plant health reasons.

Following meetings with a number of seed companies, the Grain Committee was successful in securing increases on some seed premiums paid to growers.

Wood Pigeon Decision Revoked

The NPWS took a decision earlier this year to disallow the shooting of wood pigeons during the months of June, July and August.

In reaction to the decision, IFA organised a meeting with the NPWS.

On foot of the IFA intervention, Minister Josepha Madigan decided to reverse the decision.

Grain Seminars & Market Reports

IFA organised two grain seminars in early Spring.

IFA continues to issue grain market reports, to update members on local and international market developments.

Economic Impact Assessment

Tillage Industry Ireland, of which IFA is a member, launched a report on the Economic Value of the Irish Tillage Sector. The report highlights the contribution of the sector to the national economy and environmental sustainability.



Mark Browne
IFA Grain Chairman



Pat Farrell
IFA Grain Executive



IFA President Tim Cullinan and the Chair of the IFA Farm Business Committee Rose Mary McDonagh at the launch of IFA's pre-Budget submission.

National Farm Business Committee

Budget 2021

The Farm Business Committee is responsible for developing and co-ordinating IFA's taxation policy. Due to the restrictions imposed by COVID-19, pre-Budget lobbying information sessions were organised via Microsoft Teams on a regional basis.

Subsequently, pre-Budget lobbying was conducted throughout the country at a local level by IFA officers. There was strong engagement with politicians and the lobbying was well documented on social media. The taxation measures below were delivered as part of Budget 2021, following consultation with the Departments of Agriculture and Finance:

- **Consanguinity relief:** has been extended until December 2023 which provides an effective Stamp Duty rate of 1%.
- **Consolidation relief:** has been extended until December 2022 which provides an effective Stamp Duty rate of 1%.
- **VAT Flat Rate Addition:** increased by 0.2% from 5.4% to 5.6% (worth approx. €12m per annum).
- **Earned Income Tax Credit:** for self-employed tax payers, has been increased by €150 to €1,650 which is now in line with the Employee Tax Credit available to PAYE employees.
- **Carbon Tax:** increased by €7.50/tonne to €33.5/tonne from midnight 13th October 2020. This will add an extra 2c to the cost of a litre of agri-diesel from May 2021.

SBCI Schemes

€200m was ring-fenced for agriculture of the additional €500m announced under the Future Growth Loan Scheme.

The fund is aimed at farmers seeking capital investment loans, with a minimum of €25,000, up to €3m. The fact that no security is required up to €500,000 has ensured that these competitively-priced loans have been very popular with farmers, particularly for infrastructural projects on commercial enterprises.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government launched a €2bn fund under the COVID-19 Credit Guarantee Scheme which is backed by an 80% state-guarantee.

Under the scheme administered by the Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland, primary producers in agriculture were eligible for low-cost loans. Borrowings can be used for working capital, investment or the refinancing of COVID-19-related debt.

There has been low up-take among farmers. Reasons included the restrictive eligibility criteria, uncertainty surrounding the sector with Brexit on the horizon and the fact that the majority of farm businesses continued to operate unaffected by the pandemic. IFA will continue to highlight that low-cost working capital and investment loans are required.

Committee meetings with Banks

The IFA Farm Business Committee maintained regular contact throughout the year with AIB, BOI and Ulster Bank on issues surrounding the pandemic and general challenges faced by farmers. The Committee has been prioritising issues relating to access and to the cost of credit.

In the Autumn, there were reports in the media that NatWest was carrying out a strategic review of its Ulster Bank operations in the ROI. IFA wrote to the CEO of UB seeking a commitment that the bank would remain in the country. Additionally, IFA co-signed a Save Our Ulster Bank statement organised by the Financial Services Union seeking a commitment from UB to remain in operation in the Republic. In November, IFA had a meeting with UB to outline the importance of UB remaining in the ROI for the agri-sector and sustaining competition in the market. UB maintains that it continues to grow organically and safely in the Republic of Ireland.

COVID-19 Payment Breaks

In direct response to the pandemic, the EU granted a three-month moratorium from April on loan repayments to businesses negatively affected by the pandemic. The Irish Government adopted the payment breaks which were extended until the end of September 2020. Given that farming was classed as an essential service, very few farmers needed to avail of the moratorium. The banks have been arranging payment breaks on a case-by-case basis since the termination of the blanket moratorium.

IFA Debt Support Service

The IFA DSS was established in response to the prevalence of farmers in arrears following the last recession. The IFA DSS is comprised of an experienced team of IFA volunteers. IFA members in financial difficulty can avail of advice or support when negotiating with creditors. The IFA DSS has been involved in over 500 cases to date.

Currently, the IFA DSS is involved in 60 active cases dealing with banks, vulture funds and merchant debt.

A Personal Insolvency Arrangement (PIA) is a debt resolution mechanism which acts as an insolvency solution for people with unsecured and secured debts. It is a formal agreement with creditors that may write off some unsecured debt and restructure any remaining secured debt, while keeping the person in their home and retaining the farm where possible. PIAs offer a debtor protection from their creditors and the possibility of affordable repayments. A recent court judgement permitted farmland to be eligible for a PIA in certain circumstances. This sets a new precedent meaning PIAs

could be an option for some farmers in arrears. At present, the Oireachtas is considering one of two bills which will reform the area of personal insolvency. IFA will continue to put pressure on the Minister for Justice to include amendments which will improve the eligibility criteria process.

Cultivate

Cultivate is an initiative of a group of Credit Unions that provides short to medium term loan opportunities built specifically around the growing needs of farmers. The product allows for finance to be drawn down for investment/working capital/cash flow needs. Cultivate is attempting to grow its footprint and expand into more Credit Unions in the South East and Border regions. IFA will continue to support Cultivate's expansion nationwide because it is vital for competition in the agri-lending sector.

Submissions

In March, IFA made a submission on farm consolidation relief and consanguinity relief to the Department of Finance seeking an extension to both reliefs. For consolidation relief, IFA proposed that the certification process should be simplified and streamlined by the adoption of a self-certification process. Generally, IFA proposed that the stamp duty rate for agricultural land should be changed from the commercial (7.5%) to the residential rate (1%).

In relation to farm forestry, IFA proposed that for consanguinity and young farmers stamp duty reliefs it should be treated as it is with CAT agricultural relief, where it is defined as agricultural land. Finally, IFA submitted that adequate timing should be provided for in the year reliefs are due for renewal.

Central Bank Meetings

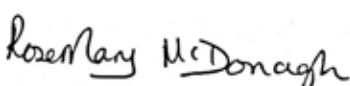
IFA was invited to participate in the Distressed Debt Stakeholder Roundtable organised by the Central Bank in order to discuss issues arising as a consequence of COVID-19.

Property Registration Authority of Ireland

IFA continued to engage with the PRA through its Customer Focus Group.

Staff

Donal Sheehan started as Farm Business Policy Executive in July. Tadhg Buckley took up the role as Director of Policy/Chief Economist in December.



Rose Mary McDonagh
Chairperson, National Farm Business Committee



Donal Sheehan
Policy Executive, National Farm Business Committee

National Environment & Rural Affairs Committee

Climate Action in Agriculture: A Balanced Approach

In January, IFA held a conference to rebalance the debate around climate action, given the high standards farmers adhere to and the quality of the food produced. The conference looked at the actions being undertaken by farmers to mitigate climate change, as well as scrutinising some of the perceived wisdom, particularly around livestock emissions.

The keynote speaker Prof Frank Mitloehner, University of California, gave an evidence-based case for treating methane differently from long-lived greenhouse gases, such as CO₂. Methane, the main greenhouse gas in livestock production, only lasts in the atmosphere for 10 years, whereas CO₂ persists for up to 1,000 years. As a short-lived gas, methane should be accounted for differently than carbon.

The need for better data on methane emissions was recognised in the EU Methane strategy, which was published in October and gave a commitment to establish of an expert group, in the first half of 2021, to analyse the life cycle of methane emissions.

EU Farm to Fork strategy

IFA made a submission in advance of the publication of the Farm to Fork strategy in May. The Farm to Fork (F2F) strategy was published alongside the EU Biodiversity strategy as part of the European Green Deal, which outlines the EU plan to be climate neutral in 2050.

The F2F strategy sets ambitious targets to transform the EU's food system including:

- (i) a reduction by 50% of the use and risk of pesticides
- (ii) a reduction by at least 20% of the use of fertilisers
- (iii) a reduction by 50% in sales of antimicrobials used for farmed animals and aquaculture and (iv) reaching 25% of agricultural land under organic farming.

IFA is seeking a comprehensive economic impact assessment of these proposals by the EU and separately by the Irish Government. The United States Department of Agriculture undertook a study on the economic and food security impacts, which found that if measures were adopted by the EU, there would be a 12% decline in food production. IFA will continue to fight aspects of the strategies which will negatively impact farmer livelihoods.

National Climate Roadmap for Agriculture

In October, the draft text Climate Action & Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Bill was published. The Bill aims to establish a legally binding carbon neutral target by 2050. There were no sector specific targets in the Bill. Under the Bill, the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine is required to develop a plan to contribute to the climate neutral target.

The Ag Climatise plan was published in December and sets out 29 actions to achieve the ambitious vision for a climate neutral agriculture sector by 2050. Some of the actions in the plan include; reduce use of chemical nitrogen by 325,000 tonnes by 2025, promote use of protected urea, maximising production of grazed grass, reduce the crude protein content of livestock, invest in novel feed additives to reduce biogenic methane, increase proportion of home-grown protein in livestock rations and maximise the opportunities from AD.

Agricultural emissions down by nearly 4% in 2019

The provisional EPA inventory data shows that greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture in Ireland decreased by 3.9% in 2019. The decrease is attributed to a reduction in nitrogen fertiliser use and liming. The reduction reflects the work that is ongoing at farm level to increase efficiency and reduce emissions.

The report emphasises the importance of improving the data collection in agriculture, so an evidence-based approach can be taken that accurately reflects the actual emissions and sequestration in the sector.

Nitrates Action Programme

IFA held an online farmers' meeting in December to provide clarity on the new measures to be introduced by 1st January 2021 due to the level of queries being received by farmers. Poor communication by the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine had failed to prepare farmers and advisors for the changes to be introduced. IFA has sought a commitment from the Department that no farmers will be penalised in 2021.

A public consultation on the fourth review of Ireland's Nitrates Action Programme was announced in November. The European Union (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2017 (S.I. No. 605 of 2017), commonly referred to as the nitrates regulation will expire at the end of 2021 and a new Nitrates Action Programme (NAP) must be published at the beginning of 2022.

Smart Farming

Despite the restrictions imposed by COVID-19, Smart Farming continued its good work throughout 2020.

Although the number of farm visits were curtailed, the Smart Farming agronomist visited 25 farms and completed resource efficiency assessments for each farm.

Farmers who took the Smart Farming challenge in 2020 identified ways to reduce their costs by €5,600 and their climate impact by 9%.

The Spring Seminar and Farm Talk took place online and expert speakers shared ways to improve farm returns with better resource management, topics included; multispecies swards, benefits of LESS, fertiliser planning, and organic farming. All presentations are available online at www.smartfarming.ie.

Smart Farming is a voluntary resource efficiency programme led by the IFA in conjunction with the EPA. If you would like to take the Smart Farming challenge then please email smartfarming@ifa.ie.



In advance of public consultation, IFA met with the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine to stress the critical importance of maintaining the current nitrates derogation to the sector. Farmers have invested heavily based on the derogation and the viability of these family farms must not be undermined. In addition, IFA wants the lag time between the implementation of improved management practices/measures, and the water quality response, to be fully recognised.

Actions to reduce Ammonia emissions on farms

Teagasc published an updated ammonia reduction roadmap, which identified 13 measures that if implemented could reduce ammonia emissions by on average over 15,000 tonnes per annum by 2030.

80% of the mitigation potential could be achieved through the use of protected urea formulations instead of traditional chemical fertilisers, and switching from slurry application by the splash plate method to low emission slurry spreading (LESS) techniques.

Farmers are already scaling up actions to reduce ammonia and adopting the measures set out in the Teagasc roadmap. Sales of protected urea increased significantly in 2020, with almost 40,000 tonnes sold between January and June this year; compared to 21,000 tonnes in 2019. In addition, they have invested with grant support an estimated €79.6 million in LESS equipment.

Positive actions by farmers to improve water quality

IFA made a submission to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage on the Significant Water Management Issues for the Third Cycle River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2022 – 2027. The submission highlighted the positive actions being taken by farmers - such as GLAS and ASSAP - to benefit water quality.

It acknowledges the significant investment farmers have made to ensure compliance with nitrates regulations and stresses the importance of avoiding a top-down approach to policies. It also highlights the need for support schemes to reduce nutrient losses to waters, such as liming, as per the Programme for Government commitment.

Code of Practice best approach for Greenway development

IFA continues to work with Transport Industry Ireland on the development of a Code of Best Practice and Guide for National Greenway projects. The decision by An Bord Pleanála to approve the South Kerry Greenway subject to certain conditions highlights the importance of a Code. The Code must work with farmers, with the involvement of a professional agronomist, which ensures that farmers are fully and fairly compensated.

Paul O'Brien
National Environment Chairman

Geraldine O'Sullivan
Senior Environment Executive

National Farm Family & Social Affairs Committee

COVID-19

Given the challenges presented by COVID-19, IFA lobbied successfully for farmers to qualify for the Pandemic Unemployment Payment and COVID-19 enhanced Illness Benefit.

The Pandemic Unemployment Payment (PUP) is a social welfare payment available to self-employed and employees who lost their job due to COVID-19. Farmers who incurred a substantial loss of income or who had to cease trading as a result of restrictions qualified for the payment.

The payment will be paid until such a time as this emergency passes. Farmers that are diagnosed with COVID-19 or are told by a doctor or the Health Service Executive (HSE) to self-isolate or restrict your movements are eligible for the COVID-19 Illness Benefit.

A dedicated advice and support service was established to support farmers applying for the PUP and to make representations to the Department of Social Protection on their application.

The farming population remains highly vulnerable to COVID-19 mainly due to their older age profile, with underlying conditions and/or poor health status. IFA is urging farmers to remain vigilant and to continue to take the necessary COVID-19 precautions.

Nursing Home Support Scheme

The redeployment of health service employees as part of the HSE's response to COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacted progress on the Nursing Home Support Scheme (Amendment) Bill. In the latter part of 2020, additional resources were allocated and since then progress is being made on drafting the legislation.

In a meeting in December with Mary Butler, Minister of State for Older People, she advised IFA that she hoped to have the legislation enacted by Spring 2021.

The proposed changes to the Nursing Home Support Scheme, Fair Deal are to introduce a 3-year cap on farm business assets subject to the person receiving care meeting the following criteria:

- The farmer, partner or spouse, or a family successor must have worked on the farm for three out of the previous five years.
- A family successor must commit to continue to farm for a period of not less than six years. (This excludes farms that are

leased to third parties as these are classified as an investment asset rather than a productive asset).

The proposed changes do not go as far as IFA would have liked, but for those farm families that meet the criteria, it will significantly reduce the financial burden and will allow farm families to plan for the cost of nursing home care.

It has been a long and arduous journey for the farm families that have been waiting several years for the changes to be introduced, with many false starts along the way. IFA will continue to work with the Minister and the Department to ensure that the Nursing Home Support Scheme (Amendment) Bill is enacted in early 2021.

Farm Health & Safety

There were 21 fatalities in agriculture, forestry and fishing/aquaculture officially recorded by the Health and Safety Authority in 2020, the breakdown is as follows: 19 in agriculture and 3 in fishing/aquaculture.

IFA was involved in a number of initiatives during 2020 to promote health and safety, these included:

- **Farmer to farmer safety programme.** Due to continued COVID-19 restrictions, IFA wasn't in a position to implement phase 2 of the pilot farmer-to-farmer peer farm safety programme at county and branch level. The initiative aims to advise farmers about potential risks and educate them to become safety ambassadors within their counties and communities.
- **Farm Safety Week.** 2020 marked the eighth annual UK & Ireland Farm Safety Week, an initiative that is led by the IFA in Ireland. The aim is to reduce the number of accidents on farms and bring about a change in culture that makes unsafe practices socially unacceptable. This year's message was Its Time to Take Farm Safety Seriously. Due to restrictions, we were not in a position to host our normal safety demonstration events around the country, so instead IFA redirected promotion efforts on online. Two key elements of the week were (i) the publication by the National Office of Clinical Audit of a research paper entitled Trauma on Farms in the Republic of Ireland, the first significant study concerning this topic in Ireland and (ii) IFA sponsored a farm safety video and competition with CBS Nenagh. The Open Your Eyes to Farm Safety video has been viewed over 1/2 million times on YouTube.
- **Farming resilience.** IFA partnered with Mental Health Ireland and Teagasc to develop the online resource to support farm

families to face the challenges and uncertainty caused by the pandemic. The webpage focussed on (i) stress management and mindfulness, (ii) five ways to wellbeing, (iii) supporting ourselves, supporting others and (iv) mental and physical health.

- Resilience training.** In response to an increasing number of calls from farmers that were feeling overwhelmed, due to financial pressures as a result of COVID-19 and/or poor market prices or increased levels of loneliness as normal routines are interrupted due to restrictions. IFA facilitated a resilience training, which has been shown to help farmers identify realistic, practical wellness activities to better cope with the multitude of work stresses. Resilience is a learned process that can help to protect against professional stresses and mental illness. These workshops were offered to members during October.
- Road Safety Strategy 2021 – 2030.** IFA made a submission to the public consultation on the development of the Government’s road strategy. Since the first strategy was published in 1998 the number of deaths on Irish roads have fallen from 458 in 1998 to 140 in 2019. The submission focussed on increase investment in rural roads networks to improve safety for all road users.
- Mind Our Farm Families phonenumber (1890 130 022).** IFA and Pieta House continued to provide support and counselling to farmers who are feeling suicidal and their farm families.
- Safeguarding Ireland.** IFA is a member of the National Safeguarding Advisory Committee. Safeguarding Ireland promotes safeguarding of vulnerable adults to protect them from all forms of abuse by persons, organisations and institutions and to develop a national plan for promoting their welfare. IFA presented to the Committee examining how demographics and social factors affect vulnerable adults in rural Ireland.

Diversity Strategy

The ratification of a number of rule changes including limiting the term an officer can sit on National Council as County Chair or National Committee Chair, has been postponed until there has been an opportunity to develop the talent bank and train interested farmers at County level.

IFA is committed to the strategy to create a more diverse and inclusive organisation that empowers and encourages more women and younger people to get involved.



SAVE LIVES
Let's take farm safety seriously

Elizabeth's story

"The next memory I have is waking up in a private room, no recollection of being moved. I was told what happened and that I was very lucky to have survived. There had been one day during the previous week, they had not expected me to pull through."

ELIZABETH ORMISTON, CO. CAVAN

Elizabeth Ormiston, a beef farmer from Co. Cavan suffered a farm accident in 2009 that resulted in her being placed in an induced coma. To watch Elizabeth's story and for resources on farm safety visit ifa.ie/farm-safety

#farmsafetyweek

Carroll
Caroline Farrell
 Farm Family & Social Affairs Chair

Geraldine O'Sullivan
Geraldine O'Sullivan
 Senior Policy Executive

National Potato Committee



IFA Potato Chairman Thomas McKeown, John Spink of Teagasc and Lorcan Bourke of Bord Bia at the National Potato Conference.

Review of 2020 season

The planting and growing season was generally quite favourable, despite some drought concerns early in the season. Most of the crop is out of the ground, with the exception of some areas in Donegal. In terms of markets, it has been a mixed year for potato growers.

Due to the various lockdowns because of the COVID-19 pandemic, retail sales have overperformed. On the other hand, growers supplying the food service sector have had one of the worst years on record.

Tare levels are also reported to be excessively high which could lead to a shortage before new crop comes onto the market. IFA continued to arrange meeting with all retailers and merchants to ensure that farmers receive a sustainable margin and to discuss irrational quality parameters.

Planting Survey

IFA's annual planting and variety survey contacted 172 potato growers which represents an area of 6,909 ha (17,072ac). The main findings of survey were:

- Increase of 575 Ha (1421ac) in 2020 from 8044Ha (19'877ac) in 2019. This represents an increase of 7% from 2019 plantings.
- Due to a 17% reduction in yield, overall potato production will be down 10% compared to 2020.
- There was a small increase in the fresh chip & crisping, Kerr Pinks and Queen varieties.

EU Potato Promotion

The first year of the 2nd EU funded potato promotions campaign is now complete, following two successful activations.

To recap, the overall budget for the campaign is €1.95M and is 80% EU funded. Overall, the campaign has had a very successful start, reaching almost two million millennials.

IFA is corresponding with all potato growers in order to collect the proportion of the campaign funding required from the producers.

Potato Conference

The National Potato Conference took place in February in conjunction with Teagasc and Bord Bia. The title of the conference was 'Potatoes – The Food of The Future'. The conference had the highest ever attendance and it was well supported by growers and industry.

Market Price Reporting

Price information is collected weekly and sent to growers via text message and published on www.ifa.ie.

This information is also published in the Farmers Journal along with information in relation to stocks and market trends.

National Potato Day (NPD) 2020

IFA was actively involved in another very successful NPD which was co-ordinated by Bord Bia. The main aim of this year's event was to help cooks to expand their knowledge and cooking skills when it comes to potatoes as a meal component.

Fresh Chip Potato Project

IFA, Bord Bia and Teagasc have been co-operating on a key market opportunities project over the past two years, for chipping potatoes, on both the market and technical front. With co-operation from IFA, Bord Bia has launched a video promoting the use of Irish potatoes in the fresh chip sector.

Plant Protection Products

IFA led a major successful lobbying campaign to attain an emergency approval of Diquat for the 2020 harvesting season. The non-renewal of Diquat and CIPC is causing grave concern for growers and IFA will continue to work an emergency approval for 2021 and the approval of alternative active ingredients.

Thomas McKeown
National Potato Committee Chairman

Patrick Farrell
National Potato Executive

Niamh Brennan
Policy Executive



National Aquaculture Committee

IFA secures COVID-19 Aquaculture Support Scheme

The announcement of the COVID-19 Aquaculture Support Scheme worth €1.5m was made by Minister for Agriculture Charlie McConalogue at IFA Aquaculture's AGM in October 2020. It came almost six months after the EU Commission amended regulations to allow Member States to redirect available EMFF funds in response to the COVID-19 crisis.

IFA Aquaculture made numerous submissions and representations seeking adoption of these urgent measures in order to assist with the loss of production and sales due to the COVID-19 crisis. The scheme was welcomed by both IFA President, Tim Cullinan and IFA Aquaculture Chairman, Michael Mulloy. These payments will help to alleviate at least some of the losses suffered by the shellfish industry during 2020, but will by no means alleviate the continued uncertainty in the sector.

IFA Aquaculture AGM Online

In October 2020 IFA Aquaculture proceeded with the first online AGM for its members with the meeting being addressed by IFA President Tim Cullinan and Minister Charlie McConalogue. The online event was well attended by IFA members with presentations on IFA's Employment service, as well as an update on markets trends from BIM and Bord Bia.

Of the notable discussions among members was the matter of the national marine planning framework and the concern that the aquaculture sector is currently not aligned with the forthcoming legislation underpinning the planning framework.

As well as Minister McConalogue's announcement of the COVID-19 Aquaculture Support Scheme, he also engaged with members and addressed the aquaculture licensing review, the ongoing progress to address the backlog of finfish licence renewals and gave a commitment to the sustainable development of Irish aquaculture with increased stakeholder engagement.

Fish Health 'High level of compliance'

In July 2020, IFA Aquaculture welcomed the release of the Marine Institute's Fish Health inspection and monitoring activities in 2018/2019 which cited Irish aquaculture businesses as having 'a high level of compliance with statutory requirements in the EU Fish Health Directive and associated national legislation'.

The report summarises the activities undertaken by the Fish Health Unit of the Marine Institute in 2018/2019. Ireland continues to maintain its high health status for aquatic animals, with 98% of the 384 aquaculture sites inspected had 'no compliance issues or compliance issues that were categorised as minor'.

Agreement on EMFAF 2021-2027

In early December 2020, the European Parliament, the Council of the EU and the European Commission reached an informal political agreement on the text of the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) for the period of 2021-2027.

This structural fund will be aligned with the objectives of the EU Green Deal and will have a budget of €6.10bn.

The EMFAF is expected to further support European aquaculture by encouraging investments in the sector and promoting the quality and added value of its products contribute while contributing to food security and reducing dependence on third-countries for fishery products.

The new EMFAF includes grants to aquaculture production and provisions to respond to exceptional crises that cause market disruptions.

Teresa Morrissey
IFA Aquaculture

Michael Mulloy
Chairman, IFA Aquaculture

National Hill Farming Committee

CAP Transition

The Hill Committee met with the Department of Agriculture to press for an extension of GLAS under CAP transitional rules. With a GLAS and GLAS+ extension secured, the Hill Committee successfully worked with the Rural Development Committee to ensure that the GLAS and commonage plans were extended, payments maintained and that there are no extra costs put on farmers including planning costs.

Locally-Led Schemes

The Locally-Led schemes, nine of which operate in Hill and Mountain areas, are worth around €10m per year. The biggest ones are the Hen Harrier and Pearl Mussel areas where up to 2,000 farmers benefit to the tune of €5m annually, with an additional €0.5m being paid out in 2020 as part of the bonus payment in Hen Harrier areas.

IFA will be insisting that participation by farmers in the schemes must be voluntary and it must be in addition to existing environment schemes. They must be open to all farmers in the identified areas and engagement is absolutely critical as the locally led schemes must be developed with the people who are farming in the areas.

Burning

IFA raised concerns with the Department that farmers whose land was burned in the spring of 2020 should not be penalised. Unless the Department has proof, no farmer should have a penalty imposed on them. There are a number of reviews and appeals in progress and this will be monitored closely over the coming months.

Comhairle na Tuaithe

At Comhairle na Tuaithe meetings, IFA raised the indemnification for farmers who allow their lands to be used for recreational purposes. The Minister has promised legislation which will protect landowners.

Currently, there are 2,000 farmers in the Scheme, and with the additional walks this will increase to 4,000 and will be worth €4m annually. Ten new walks are now included in the Walk Scheme as part of an extension which was secured by IFA.

CAP

The Hill Committee is involved in all CAP discussions within IFA. Direct payments make up a significant part of farm income in Hill areas and a successful outcome to the discussions on the budget and the details at EU levels are of huge importance.

SACs

IFA is insisting that there must be no new designations and that compensation payments must be enhanced to the NPWS Farm Plan Scheme, and EU agri-environmental programmes.

Following the increased allocation of €0.5m for the NPWS farm plan scheme, IFA met with the Department in March to discuss details. 78 out of 95 applications received were deemed of sufficient standard to take forward plans. The applications were assessed based on priority habitat and species targeted, whether site was in a designated area, the significance of the site locally, regionally and nationally.

IFA met the Minister for Heritage Malcolm Noonan in September. We strongly reiterated our opposition to any more designated land. Reports on designations were grossly exaggerated, according to the Minister, and he said there are no plans to further increase areas from the current level of 13.5%.

We raised in particular the EU Life Nature project where funding of €20m is provided over nine years. The Minister confirmed to IFA that this project would not proceed without the necessary consultation.

IFA also raised the NPWS farm plan scheme, compensation for farmers where rewetting of bogland is planned, and easing the restrictions on afforestation in Hen Harrier areas.

IFA had been raising for some time the issue of Natura land for eligibility for BPS.

IFA also participated in the Peatland Council to ensure farmers who have turfcutting restrictions are properly compensated.



Flor McCarthy

Flor McCarthy
Chairman, National Hill Farming Committee

Denis Griffin

Denis Griffin
Senior Policy Executive

National Horticulture Committee



IFA Horticulture Chairman Paul Brophy addressing the IFA collective growers meeting held in February.

It was undoubtedly one of the most difficult years for horticultural growers with respect to market disruptions and labour issues as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

There is huge potential for the sector to expand given the current trends in eating habits; the need for on-farm diversification; and the emphasis on local, sustainable production.

IFA continued to lobby the government to implement policy which will expand the horticultural sector. The Committee continued to meet with retailers to convey the increase in input and labour costs for growers. However, retailers are slow to offer increases at farm level to cover these additional costs.

In 2021, IFA will be demanding that growers receive sustainable prices which recognise the ever-high standards of Irish food production.

Unsustainable discounting and below cost selling

IFA's continued its work throughout 2020 against irresponsible promotion campaigns by retailers. We are demanding that the government install an independent retailer regulator now that the budget is allocated.

Labour and Work Permits

Both the cost and availability of labour remain major issues in horticulture businesses compounded by the pandemic. IFA have undertaken the following initiatives:

- IFA made representations at government and EU level to classify seasonal horticulture workers as essential workers.
- IFA was involved in the development of the Help2Harvest initiative.

- IFA made a submission to the Low Pay Commission regarding the impact on the sector of consecutive rises in the minimum wage.
- IFA presented a submission to DAFM and DBEI requesting an immediate extension to the pilot work permit scheme.
- IFA made a submission on the Introduction of Statutory Sick Pay.
- Most recently an IFA delegation met with Minister Damian English.

Scheme of Investment Aid for the Development of the Commercial Horticulture Sector

IFA successfully lobbied for an increase in the Horticultural Investment scheme from €6m to €9 million. The scheme is essential for the continued development and competitiveness of the Irish horticulture sector.

Importance of Peat to the Irish Horticulture sector

The use of peat in horticulture is coming under increased scrutiny. IFA completed a detailed submission and wrote to Ministers Eamonn Ryan and Malcolm Noonan. Most recently, IFA met with Bord na Mona.

Nursery Stock

A successful trolley fair was held on Kelly's Nursery, Mullingar in February before restrictions were imposed. The IHNSA has lobbied for garden centres to be classified as essential in light of lockdown restrictions and support for those most affected by restrictions imposed by the pandemic. The Green Cities promotion which is 80% funded by the EU will begin this year.

Soft Fruit

IFA were again involved in the organisation of "Celebrate Strawberry Season" along with Bord Bia and growers in the soft fruit sector. Overall consumer demand for Irish strawberries continues to increase however, growers are fearful for their future due increased input costs.

Mushrooms Sector

IFA lobbied for full compensation for any losses arising from Brexit including Sterling volatility for the mushroom sector detailed in IFA's Brexit Emergency Plan.

Paul Brophy
National Horticulture Committee Chairman

Patrick Farrell
National Horticulture Executive

Niamh Brennan
Policy Executive

National Farm Forestry Committee



Nicholas Sweetman, Minister Pippa Hackett, IFA President Tim Cullinan and IFA Forestry Committee Chairman Vincent Nally discuss the crisis caused by delays in issuing licences.

2020 Forestry Programme

Planting in 2020 represented a 33% drop on 2019 and is less than 30% of the target in Ireland's Climate Action Plan. The decline can be attributed to excessive delays in the forestry licence system; increasing costs associated with getting a licence; and a lack of confidence in forestry as a viable land use.

By November 2020, over €56.6 million was paid to private forest owners in forest premiums, nearly 90 kms of new forest roads were constructed, with over €3.6 million paid out in grant aid. Over 1,500 felling licences were issued to clearfell 10,369 hectares and to thin 6,812 hectares.

IFA has warned successive Governments that farmers were disengaging from forestry due to excessive bureaucracy and increasing costs. Failure to address our concerns has led to the current crisis.

Ash Dieback Reconstitution and Underplanting Scheme (RUS)

The handling by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine of the ash dieback disease outbreak, particularly the level of support and communication with forest owners affected, has been scandalous. The new scheme is wholly inadequate to compensate for the financial loss and is unworkable at farm level.

IFA's position is that the supports do not recognise the financial losses incurred by forest owners. A new scheme must be introduced that supports owners to reconstitute all infected plantations and that removes the replanting obligation under certain circumstances.

Forestry Licence Crisis

2020 saw the forestry licence system enter into a state of emergency. There is a backlog of over 4,500 licences with the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine. Almost 500 other licences are under appeal. As a result, thousands of farmers are unable to get a licence to manage their forest, with many having to wait in excess of two years for a felling licence.

In response to the crisis, IFA launched a campaign to put pressure on Pippa Hackett, Minister of State for Land Use and Biodiversity, to adopt a number of emergency measures, based on the principle that no farmer has to wait longer than four months for a forestry licence as set out in the Forestry Act 2014. Forest road and felling/thinning licence applications that are in the system for longer should be automatically approved under an amnesty provision.

In addition, IFA wants new exemptions for activities, such as forest road construction and thinning operations, under a management plan. The current appropriate assessment (AA) screening process, associated rules and thresholds and a cost-based planning support grant should be introduced.

Finally, an external Project Manager should be appointed to implement the operational changes recommended in the Mackinnon report to develop an appropriate and effective licensing system.

Agriculture Appeals (Amendment) Bill 2020

IFA made a submission to amend the Agricultural Appeals Act to ensure efficiency in the forestry appeals system so it can function properly and farmers can plant and manage their forests. Farmers must have confidence that their appeal will be heard within a two-month timeframe.

Vincent Nally
Farm Forestry Chair

Geraldine O'Sullivan
Farm Forestry Executive

National Rules, Privileges and Procedures Committee



IFA President Tim Cullinan with the candidates for the South Leinster Regional Chair James Kehoe and Francie Gorman. The election was the first of its scale held by IFA via postal ballot.

Function of the Committee

The Committee's function under the rules is 'to advise Council for Council to decide' on all matters concerning the Constitution and Rules of IFA, 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 members and the authority of Council.

The IFA rules designate the National Treasurer/Returning Officer as Chairman of the National Rules Committee and also give him responsibility for all IFA elections and election procedures.

Martin Stapleton was elected to this position at the IFA AGM in January 2020.

Review of 2019 IFA Presidential Elections

The Committee reviewed all aspects of the 2019 Presidential Elections, with the participation of former Deputy President/National Returning Officer Richard Kennedy, and is examining how the rules and procedures might be improved in future elections.

Diversity Recommendations

Having met with Diversity Group Chair Amii McKeever, the Committee drafted rule changes to implement the group's recommendations, while also expressing some reservations. The National Officers' Committee has not yet asked Council to decide on the proposals in view of the difficulties of having the kind of debate that would be desirable.

Implications of COVID-19 for IFA operations

Responding to the public health restrictions on meetings, the Committee devised solutions and made recommendations to Council to ensure that IFA could continue to operate legitimately at all levels, as follows:

- **Remote meetings:** Council adopted a resolution confirming that remote meetings of the Council and all other Committees, County Executives and Branches were valid meetings. This resolution did not change IFA's rules. It was adopted under rule 93 whereby any matter not provided for by the rules, such as restrictions on meetings, can be determined by the Council by two-thirds majority.
- **Elections by National Committees by Postal Ballot:** Council implemented a recommendation making provision for postal ballots. Elections were conducted for the positions of Liquid Milk Chairman, Livestock Vice Chairman and Pigs Chairman.
- **County Executive Elections & Branch AGMs:** Council decided that elections at County Executive level would take place as they fell due and be held by postal ballot; and extended the latest date for holding Branch AGMs to 31st July 2021.
- **Election of National Committee Representatives:** A full round of nominations and elections by postal ballot was carried out for all Committees taking office from January 2021, with the counting of votes at County Executive level observed by members of the Committee.
- **South Leinster Chairman Election:** This was the first major IFA election to be held using a postal ballot modelled on Seanad Eireann elections with safeguards for the secrecy and security of the ballot.

Support & Good Governance

The National Treasurer/Returning Officer and the Secretary delivered dedicated induction training for new Council members. Ongoing advice and support was provided to officers and executives at county executive and national level.

Martin Stapleton
Chairman, National Rules Committee National Treasurer/Returning Officer

Bryan Barry
Secretary, National Rules Committee, Association Secretary

National Rural Development Committee



IFA President Tim Cullinan led a delegation to a meeting with the Bord na Móna Chief Executive Tom Donnellan to discuss the implications for farmers of the re-wetting of bogs.

Common Agriculture Policy (CAP)

The Committee took up many issues under all schemes in Pillar I and Pillar II and addressed many technical issues in the course of the year. The Committee worked to secure the CAP transition period, and ensured the rollover of the schemes which protected farm family incomes with the minimum of paperwork.

IFA participates in the EU Civil Dialogue meetings in Brussels which is inputting into the CAP reform discussions.

The priority for the 2021-2027 RDP is to ensure national co-financing is maximised to increase the funding from €4bn to €5bn to support farm schemes and ensure the 'REPS'-type scheme promised in the Programme for Government is delivered, with a €10,000 maximum payment per farm, and with higher payments for designated Natura SAC and SPA lands.

Areas of Natural Constraint (ANC)

The ANC scheme is a vital support to up 100,000 farmers farming land in designated disadvantaged areas, and is worth €250 million per annum in essential farm income support with up to 77% of Ireland now designated ANC.

Having delivered on the ANC review in 2018, this was implemented effectively in 2019. As well as protecting existing areas, the review brought in an additional 2,154 townlands, with 4,000 farmers benefitting for the first time. 699 townlands were excluded and IFA ensured that there was an appeals process set up to deal with townlands which were unfairly taken out.

The ANC appeals took place in 2020. 308 of these townlands appealed their exclusion. This included some townlands which were not part of the original scheme. Of those appeals, 73 were successful, while 235 were unsuccessful. Of the 73 successful applications, 22 were not part of the original scheme.

2020 payments commenced in mid-September with an 85% payment made. The remaining 15% was paid in early Dec.

IFA's is campaigning to increase the allocation for the scheme to €300m per annum and this will be one of the priorities in the next RDP.

Green, Low-carbon, Agri-Environment Scheme (GLAS)

48,500 farmers are now in the GLAS Scheme, worth over €200m per annum.

IFA worked to ensure that payments were made on time, with over 38,000 paid in early November which was two weeks ahead of schedule. The 15% balance is due to be paid in May 2021.

Detailed discussions took place with the Department on many of the technicalities in the scheme to ensure problems with the scheme were ironed out.

For the CAP transition period, IFA stressed the need for a simple process without additional cost for farmers to extend plans, and payment levels to be maintained in full for all farmers.

Where land leases are due to expire and a renewal of the lease is not possible, flexibility must be given to farmers to move options to another parcel.

Targeted Agricultural Modernisation Schemes (TAMS)

34,485 farmers applied for TAMS and received approval to proceed with work.

19,171 farmers who have completed work have payment applications submitted. 18,091 farmers have received payment worth €259.7m up to the end of 2020.

IFA put significant pressure on the Department for early approval and quick payments. Also, we raised the issue of farmers who were turned down on the selective criteria and most farmers were accepted by year end.

For derogation farmers, spreading slurry using Low Emission Slurry Spreading (LESS) is mandatory since April 15th 2020. Under CAP rules, mandatory measures cannot be funded. Therefore, farmers who are in nitrates derogation are not eligible to receive TAMS Grant Aid for LESS equipment.

A one-year grace period has been granted which means derogation farmers planning to Purchase LESS equipment and avail of TAMS grant aid must have TAMS approval prior to 14 April 2021.

Once approval is received before 14 April 2021, farmers have 12 months from date of approval to complete purchase.

An allocation of €80m has been secured for the scheme in the Budget 2020,

IFA continues to make the case for additional items in TAMS and to get an ongoing review of standard costings.

The amendment to TAMS to increase the investment ceiling for pigs and poultry investment from €80,000 to €200,000 will come in under transitional arrangements in 2021

Locally Led Agri-environment schemes

The Locally Led agri-environment schemes in the Hen Harrier areas, Pearl Mussel, and other EIPs were available in 2020. IFA is insisting that the maximum amount of the funding goes to farmers and the farmers already in GLAS should also be eligible.

Proposed New 'REPS'

The Government has promised a new REPS-style scheme for farmers to be its flagship agri-environmental scheme in the coming years. It will see farmers rewarded for reducing emissions from their farm; enhancing biodiversity; improving water, air and soil quality; and planting forestry rich in native species.

In Budget 2021, €79m was allocated to the scheme and the Minister of Agriculture Charlie McConalogue has indicated that a new REPS pilot scheme will be targeted at farmers not already in GLAS.

IFA has insisted that it is critical to put details around this REPS scheme as soon as possible and have the new scheme open for applications early in 2021 to ensure farmers get payment for these in 2021.

RDP 2014 – 2020

The Committee is represented on the 2014-2020 RDP monitoring committee. IFA's main objective in 2020 was to ensure that there must be a simple process to transpose plans for the CAP transition period.

IFA had as an ongoing objective that the RDP budget 2014-2020 would be fully spent or committed by the end of 2020. In October 2020, 78.3% of funds had been spent compared to an EU average of 59%.

Charter of Rights

The Charter of Rights commitments have been pressed strongly by the Rural Development Committee, particularly in the light of the difficult situations on farms and severe income problems facing farm families from the COVID-19 crisis this year.

On major schemes - such as BPS and ANCs, GLAS - they were broadly delivered on time.


Significant pressure is being applied to ensure that all farmers are paid in the year to which the scheme applies. Following ongoing demands from the IFA, the Department confirmed that they have now secured flexibility from the EU Commission to make payments on inspection cases where they are not fully complete, compared to previous years. The Charter of Rights will continue on for 2021.

Leader Programme

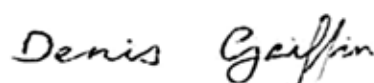
IFA is involved in the new Leader structure through the LCDCs at local level.

The level of expenditure on the Leader programme has had a significant increase in activity for the last two years.

To date 3,716 projects have been approved with a value of €147.6m, €112m has been paid out (€32.4 in 2020) and 399 applications are being processed. This is out of a total allocation of €250m.



Michael Biggins
Chairman, Rural Development Committee



Denis Griffin
Senior Policy Executive, Rural Development Committee

National Animal Health Committee



IFA Animal Health Chairman Pat Farrell leads the IFA 'Burn It' campaign of TB Herd Risk Letters supported by Deputy President Brian Rushe and President Tim Cullinan.

TB

Following IFA's successful campaign of highlighting farmers rejection of the Herd Risk TB Letter's issued by the Department of Agriculture, the Minister for Agriculture Charlie McConalogue reconvened the TB Forum.

Following a number of bilateral meetings between IFA and the Department of Agriculture, a TB strategy has been agreed.

The key areas included in the strategy which were highlighted by IFA include; meaningful farmer involvement in the design and implementation of the programme; recognition of farmer's labour and financial contribution; revisiting of the herd risk letters; herd categorisation and pre-movement testing; an enhanced Wildlife Control Programme; better on-farm investigation of TB breakdowns; and the recognition of the importance of financial supports to farmers whose farms are under TB controls.

Latest DAFM statistics for 2020 show from the end of September 2019 to the end of September 2020, 4,492 herds have been restricted. In the same period the number of reactors identified through a combination of Skin Testing and Gamma Interferon Testing (GIF) was 21,289, which was a significant increase in the numbers of reactors and herds restricted for the year. At end-September 2020 National Herd Incidence was 4.25%.

There are higher levels of TB in the north-east of Ireland (Monaghan, Cavan, Louth and North Meath) as well as parts of Clare, Cork, Galway and Wicklow.

A targeted High Impact TB Control Plan has been in place in Monaghan and parts of Cavan, Meath, Louth, Westmeath, Offaly, Cork and Clare.

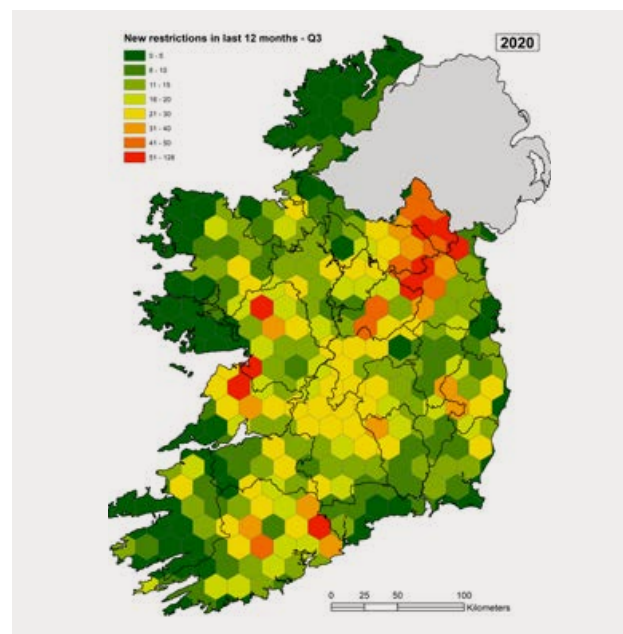
While TB disease is low relative to historical levels, TB herd incidence and reactor numbers have been gradually increasing since 2016. The pace of deterioration has accelerated in 2020. Herd incidence is now at its highest level since 2012 and reactor numbers are now at 2009 rates.

COVID-19 TB testing protocol

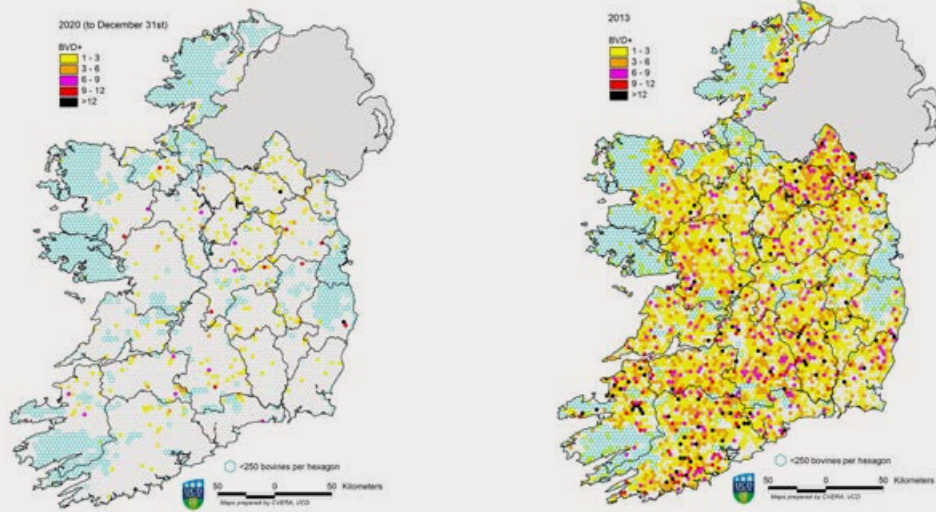
IFA secured significant flexibilities for TB testing for farmers throughout the COVID-19 controls. These included;

- The exemption of calves under 120 days from the test requirement with the facilitation of trade of calves up to 120 days without needing a TB test for internal movements. Farmers who wished to test calves under 120 days are permitted to do so.
- The facilitation to delay testing without sanction and the provision of a 28-day grace period after test due date where trade is allowed.

Permanently moving to a facilitation of exempting calves up to 120 days from TB test requirements for internal movements remains IFA policy.



Maps showing PI births in 2013 and 2020



BVD

The total number of PI births in 2020 was 707 animals in 392 herds, which is significant progress from the 13,877 PI births in 2013 in 9,484 herds.

An enhanced BVD Programme for 2021 with the objective of attaining EU recognised BVD Free Status by 2023 and the ending of Tissue Tag Testing has been agreed.

The enhanced programme includes;

- No confirmatory testing of PI's and immediate removal
- Herd restrictions for a minimum of three weeks or until the Whole Herd has had a blood test for BVD whichever is later.
- Neighbour notification when PI's are identified
- Two years of vaccination with a live vaccine of all female animals over 12 months of age
- A full TASAH investigation to identify the source of the virus
- DAFM will pay for the Whole Herd blood test, vaccination of the females over 12 months of age for the 2 years and the TASAH investigation

Movements to non-breeding herds will be permitted during the restriction and movements in on a case-by-case basis is provided for.

IBR

IFA is actively involved in the IBR Implementation Group where discussions are ongoing with AHI in relation to the potential for a national IBR programme.

Johnes

IFA is actively involved in the JDIG with the key objective of driving participation in the johnes programme.

Veterinary Medicines

The HPRA has decided antiparasitic and anthelmintic products (doses) will become POM in 2022 under the new EU Veterinary Medicine Regulations.

IFA's campaign focused on the Minister for Agriculture, our MEPs and the Department of Agriculture to recognise the unique situation on the island of Ireland by facilitating the prescribing of these products by Suitably Qualified Persons in the ROI.

IFA has called for the derogation that applies to NI and the UK to be provided for in the sale and supply of these products to avoid putting Irish farmers at a competitive disadvantage and jeopardising the future viability of licensed merchant stores and veterinary pharmacies who play a crucial role in supporting farmers and rural economies.

IFA is an active participant in the National Antiparasitic Stakeholder Group chaired by DAFM where this issue is under discussion.

IFA is progressing the development of a disposal system for farmers for unused veterinary medicines and containers.

AMR (Antimicrobial Resistance)

IFA, in conjunction with VI, Teagasc, APHA and DAFM compiled and distributed Codes of Good Practice regarding responsible use of Antimicrobials on Suckler and Beef Farms and for Sheep farms during the year. This followed the publication of similar guidelines for dairy farms in 2019.

Fallen Animals

IFA rejected the DAFM support package for Knackeries in the Fallen Animal Collection Scheme because it does not deliver on the key areas for farmers of guaranteed collection and reduced charges.

DAFM has agreed to engage in a detailed review of the scheme with IFA and all other stakeholders as a result.

Pat Farrell

Pat Farrell
Chairman

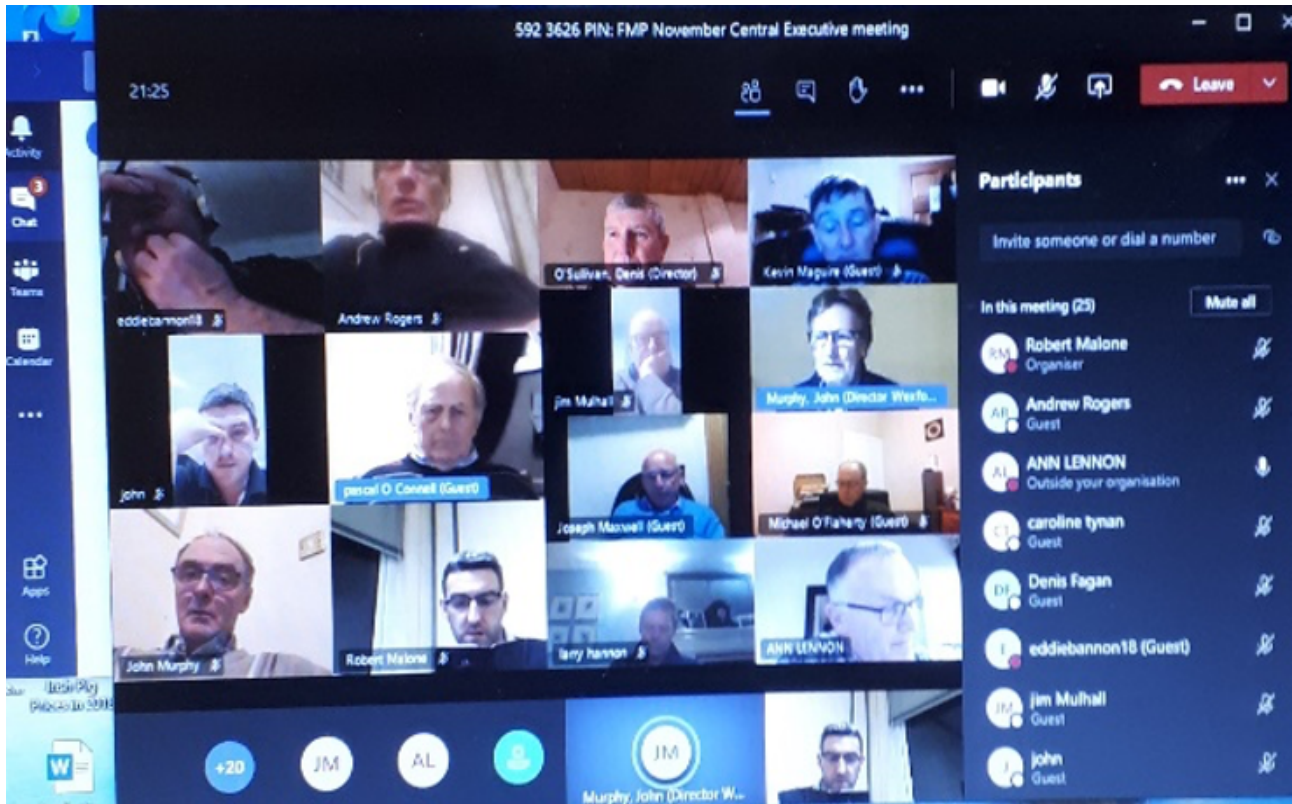
Anna Daly

Anna Daly
Policy Executive

Tomas Bourke

Tomas Bourke
Senior Policy Executive

Fresh Milk Producers



2020 was a year completely dominated by COVID-19 restrictions for FMP.

The Liquid Milk Supply Agreement (LMSA), which FMP agreed over a long negotiation process with Glanbia Ireland, is fully operational and the supply of liquid milk to Glanbia is now produced from a restructured supply base of fully dedicated, year-round liquid milk dairy farmers.

The only in-person meeting that took place in 2019 was the AGM, held in early February in the Irish Farm Centre. Little did anyone at that meeting realise it was the last time the FMP Central Executive, or FMP Management Committee, would meet as a group for the remainder of the year.

Willie Lennon who served as Vice Chairman to outgoing Chair Jim Mulhall, was elected to a two-year term as FMP Chairman at the 2020 AGM and he has successfully continued to communicate with FMP members and local groups through online meetings during 2020.

Patrick Tuite, North Co Dublin was elected onto the FMP Negotiation Team, replacing Michael O'Flaherty. It was a difficult year for all concerned, but the structures that have served FMP members well for the past 80 years - the negotiating team, Management Committee, the Central Executive and local

groups - continue to communicate with grassroots members and represent them on all matters concerning liquid milk to Glanbia.

A number of FMP farm meetings and Management Committee excursions that would normally have taken place had to be put on hold due to the COVID-19 restrictions. Participation at online Microsoft Teams meetings grew steadily as FMP members got to grips with the technology and the monthly Central Executives have been as engaging in recent months as if they were held in person in the Farm Centre.

FMP would like to warmly welcome Aine O'Connell to her position as IFA Dairy Executive. She has attended and made a great contribution to the monthly Central Executives, since joining IFA.

FMP Milk Quality Awards were held in December at a virtual online meeting. This award is presented to the FMP member who records the best overall score across all milk quality tests for quality liquid milk, over the previous 12 months. Gordon Foster, Enfield Co Meath was presented with the trophy for the second year running.

FMP successfully used Microsoft Teams to continue to meet virtually and communicate throughout 2020.

Willie Lennon
Chairman

Robert Malone
Executive Secretary

Communications



Media Coverage

2020 was a busy 12 months on the media front, with COVID-19 and Brexit dominating media coverage.

Over half a million articles were published in the Irish press and online sources relating to COVID-19 in 2020. Farming/forestry led over every other key sector (incl. retail) in volume. 3 in 10 press and online articles this year were COVID-19-related. (source: Truehawk).

Analysis of our broadcast coverage in 2020 shows that our message on the key issues reached an audience of over 58.8 million people (Source: Truehawk).

COVID-19 Communications

COVID-19 presented an unprecedented disruption to our regular model of engagement with members. It required an innovative, flexible and speedy response to ensure that the Association maintained contact with members in an unprecedented situation. Some of the measures implemented include:

- Establishment of a dedicated farmer specific COVID-19 Hub on IFA.ie, with up-to-date information on topics such as health and safety, banking and tax and social welfare
- Weekly member updates from the IFA President via email and WhatsApp
- Distribution of our 'Plan B' document, a resource pack with guidance for farmers on how to prepare in the event of them becoming incapacitated
- Establishment of regional and county WhatsApp groups for speedy dissemination of factual information
- Increase of video messaging from elected chairs for distribution on social media
- Establishment of virtual National Council, County and Commodity Meetings
- The holding of socially-distant, outdoor meetings in line with Government guidelines

IFA website

IFA's central online platform - www.ifa.ie, is updated daily with news on IFA campaigns, prices and policies.

Just under 240,00 users accessed the IFA website during 2020 – a 10% growth from 2019. In total, the website was accessed more than 575,000 times during the year, with nearly 2 million page views.

The most popular content on the website during 2020 included: our COVID-19 hub market reports across all sectors, schemes and payments, sector-specific sections, and member benefits.

2020 resulted in considerable changes to our digital audience, and work continued at pace on the development of a new website in direct response to this.

2020 saw for the first time, farmers aged 55-64 as the largest user group of IFA.ie. 68% of users access the site from smartphones, up from 54% at the end of 2019.

The new site is due to launch in early 2021.

IFA App

The IFA app had over 11,800 downloads representing a year-on-year growth of 25%. The app was launched over 2,500 times daily, with approximately 12,000 daily page views during 2020.

Social media

IFA has continued to develop its social media presence and impact. We increased our Twitter following to over 22,700, up from 19,600 at the end of 2019.

On average, 11,000 people view IFA tweets each day. IFA also maintains a Facebook account, which has grown its followers by 50% during 2020.

Niall Madigan

Niall Madigan
Head of Communications

Ethel Horan

Ethel Horan
Communications Manager



IFA President Tim Cullinan meets with members of the Meath Executive and the Commissioner of An Garda Síochána Drew Harris as part of the National Community Engagement Day, where members in over 500 branches met with their local Gardai.

Organisation

Member Benefits & Services

The member benefits and services package associated with IFA Membership significantly outweighs the membership subscription cost. Our membership saving is worth up to €750 annually.

IFA Member Services continues to act as an important point of contact with members to thank them for their membership. During the COVID-19 restrictions, the team in Member Services assisted with a 'check in' call to over 60,000 of our members to provide re-assurance.

In addition, our customer service department which offers the opportunity to talk directly to an agent rather than to recorded messages, dealt with over 100,000 calls, member queries and other membership related issues in 2020.

A continuous effort is maintained around reviewing and improving the benefits package and services we have for our members.

In 2020, members continued to avail of the recently increased FBD voucher of €85 and an improved Personal Accident Policy. In addition, a new deal was signed with Phone Watch Ireland; a new Employment Service was launched with our HR Partner, HR Duo; and a commercial solar project assessing the business case around rooftop Solar PV was embarked upon.

Farm & Home Business

- Personal Accident Cover with FBD
- €85 off motor, home & farm insurance with FBD
- Exclusive savings on home phone/broadband & exceptional customer service with IFA Telecom
- High speed fibre broadband for members with IFA Telecom
- 10% off and €140 cash back with Bord Gáis Energy
- Exclusive discounts and a wide range of mobile handsets with

Vodafone

- Competitive mobile phone and mobile broadband price plans with Vodafone
- Exclusive mobile upgrade offers with Vodafone
- Up to €300 off with IFAC
- New home security deal with Phone Watch
- Discounted Employment Service with HR Duo

Leisure/Travel/Lifestyle

- 15% off Original Irish Hotels
- 15% off motorist fares with Stena Line
- 10% off global car hire and 15% off van hire with Hertz
- 12% off health screening with the Mater Private

Personal Development

Farm Business Skillnet training programmes for individuals, IFA branches and discussion groups.

Member Support Helplines

As the needs of the Association's members grow, so do the range of free member helplines and support services. Some of the most popular services include:

- Legal helpline
- Direct Payments and Inspections
- Debt support service
- Pieta House helpline
- Health and safety
- Prime prevention
- Training and development



Protecting your Farm Business

Employment law legislation is every changing and impacts all areas from hiring to employee exit. IFA's Employment Service enables members to become and remain compliant with employment law legislation.

www.ifa.ie/employmentservice

In partnership with **HRDUO**
POSITIVE EMPLOYEE RELATIONS

Membership

The total number of voting members of the Association is approx. 71,600. The total Association membership when taking all membership channels into account (main member, family, associate and countryside) was 74,000 at year end March 2020.

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 insurance; voluntary officer structure and participation; the member benefits programme; member supports (Debt Support Service, Direct Payments and Inspections, Legal Helpline, Pieta House); and all major activity on campaigns.

European Involvement Fund – IFA Levy

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

The income from EIF is influenced by changes in price, volumes and efficiency levels.

IFA continued to engage with all levy collectors to introduce improved structures between the Association and collectors, and to maximise levy returns to the Association.

Member Education and Development

The IFA's training division, Farm Business Skillnet, provided training in 2020 to many farmers, including:

- IFA Executive Council
- National Commodity Committees
- COVID-19 leadership training
- Officer Teams training

Crime Prevention

IFA's Crime Prevention Office had a busy 2020 helping members and rural communities combat the threat of loss and business interruption. Through awareness campaigns, practical crime prevention tips were provided at critical periods to give IFA members a reminder and to encourage them to be to be proactive in security matters and to enable them to secure and their property.

IFA raised rural crime and security matters through a number of specific Member initiatives and engagements in partnership with An Garda Síochána including:

- National Community Engagement day
- Engagement with Rural crime prevention officers
- Joint Chairmanship of the National Rural Safety Forum

Martin Stapleton
Chairman, Member Services

James Kelly
Director of Organisation

Oireachtas

Lobbying

IFA continued to advance the position of farmers by communicating issues to Oireachtas members/relevant Government Departments.

- Building relationships with the new Government, Taoiseach and Government advisers,
- Engaging with all political parties in advance of Government formation, seeking to influence and progress key issues for farmers in the Programme for Government
- Devising/executing IFA's political operation at national/constituency/county level
- Briefing front bench spokespersons in Opposition parties
- Organisation/preparation of IFA presentations to Oireachtas Committees
- Developing a good working relationship with Oireachtas Committee Chairmen/Clerks
- Ongoing liaison with Press Offices, researchers and advisers of political parties

Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015 – IFA Compliance

Since 2015, IFA is a registered lobbyist and has published 1,582 lobbying returns. In a calendar year, IFA publishes lobbying activities on three different periods, which sees us at the very top of the lobbying register in terms of activity.

Lobbying Campaigns in 2020 included:

- IFA Submission to the Political Parties and Dáil Candidates for **2020 General Election**
- **Brexit** – EU/UK Future Trading Relationship - IFA '3-Step' Emergency Plan - €5bn EU Brexit Contingency Fund
- EU Multi-Financial Framework Post 2020 / **CAP Budget** / CAP in Transition
- **COVID-19 Pandemic** – Keeping the Supply Chain Open – IFA COVID-19 Hub – IFA Submission to the European Commission *Supporting Irish Farmers & the Agri-Food Sector through the COVID-19 Emergency* - €50m Beef Finishers Payment (BFP) Scheme - Marts: restriction to trade - Farmers' qualification under Pandemic Unemployment Payment (PUP) – Farm Assist Scheme - Young Trained Farmer Relief - Mental Health of the farming community during the pandemic
- **Programme for Government** – *Our Shared Future*
- **Budget 2021**
- Climate Change / Climate Action – **Climate Bill**
- **EU Green Deal** - including Farm to Fork and Biodiversity Strategies
- EU Directive on Unfair Trading Practices (UTPs) / **National Food Ombudsman**

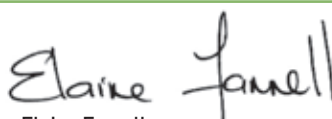
- Agri-Food Strategy 2030
- Scheme of financial assistance for avian influenza outbreaks of the H6N1 subtype in poultry flocks 2020
- BEAM – Beef Emergency Aid Measure
- Live cattle exports
- River Shannon Maintenance Programme/Flooding
- Rural Crime Prevention/Farm Security
- Charter of Farmers' Rights
- Beef Data and Genomics Programme
- Targeted Agricultural Measures (TAMS) II
- Mercosur Trade Deal – Implication for Beef Sector
- Rewetting of Peatlands
- Independent Aquaculture Licence Review
- Nursing Home Support Scheme (Amendment) Bill 2019 / Fair Deal Scheme
- Scheme of Investment Aid for the Development of Commercial Horticulture Sector
- Mental Health - 'Let's Talk and Walk' Campaign
- Work Permits for Non-EU Nationals
- Veterinary Medicines
- Water Environment (Abstraction) Bill 2018
- Competition in the EU Fertiliser Market
- Sheep Welfare Scheme
- Greenways
- TB Eradication Programme
- Organics Farm Scheme
- Agriculture Appeals (Amendment) Bill 2020
- Property Rights / Cap on Market Value of Land

In October, the Joint Oireachtas Committees under the 33rd Dáil and the 26th Seanad were established.

IFA made presentations to the Agriculture, Food & the Marine Committee on:

- Challenges Facing the Forestry Sector, Licensing Issues and Ash Dieback
- Brexit – Its Impact on the Agri-Food Industry
- African Swine Fever and the threat to the Irish Pig Sector

In July, IFA made a submission to Oireachtas Special Committee on COVID-19 Response - *Re-opening the Economy – the State's Response and Support for Businesses*.



Elaine Farrell
Oireachtas Executive



Above: IFA Assistant Director General Bryan Barry, IFA President Tim Cullinan and Deputy Jackie Cahill, Chair of the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Agriculture and the Marine, at the presentation of IFA's Brexit Emergency Plan.

Left: As 1st Vice-President of COPA, Tim Cullinan and the President of COPA Christiane Lambert discussed the CAP Budget with EU Commissioner for Financial Services and the Capital Markets Union Mairead McGuinness.

Project Team Reports

IFA President Tim Cullinan surveying the damage following a mudslide at Drumkeeran in Co Leitrim in June with Pat Gilhooly, the former Chairman of Leitrim IFA. Pat Gilhooly passed away in November and had served in a number of roles with IFA. Tim Cullinan said he had given outstanding service to farmers in Co Leitrim and was hugely committed to the work of IFA.







CAP & Brexit

The CAP & Brexit Project Team continued to devise policy recommendations for Council to protect Irish farmers' interests in Brexit, and on the CAP Budget and the operation of CAP post-2020.

IFA engaged with stakeholders in Ireland, Northern Ireland, Britain and the EU in order to avoid a no-deal outcome and minimise the impact of Brexit on Irish farmers.

The IFA President attended meetings of the Brexit Stakeholders' Forum convened by Minister for Foreign Affairs Simon Coveney and lobbied the Government and EU for adequate funding to cope with all scenarios up to and including no deal, as well as full compensation for any losses arising from Brexit uncertainty, sterling volatility and COVID-19 impact.

IFA also pressed for Ireland to receive a major allocation from the EU €5bn Brexit Adjustment Reserve Fund. IFA's Brexit Emergency Plan called for full respect of the Northern Ireland Protocol to ensure no trade border on the island of Ireland and set out the

market measures, direct supports and long-term structural adjustment funding required by Irish farmers.

As the year ended, a catastrophic no-deal was avoided as the EU and UK concluded a Trade and Co-operation Agreement based on zero tariffs and zero quotas. However, frictionless trade ended with the UK's exit from the Single Market and the UK has maintained its ambition to develop its own independent trade policy.

Member States agreed to a two-year CAP 'transitional period' while CAP Reform is being finalised. This involves the 'roll-over' of the existing CAP Pillar I and Pillar II for 2021 and 2022. The arrangement has been described as 'old rules, new money'. The European Commission, European Council and European Parliament have published their draft proposals for the new CAP. In Trilogues, the three institutions will negotiate a compromise between their individual positions. An agreement on the new CAP is expected by end June. Member States must submit their CAP Strategic Plans to the Commission by the end of 2021.

Tim Cullinan
Chairman

Bryan Barry
Association Secretary/
Assistant Director General

Elaine Farrell
Brexit Co-ordinator

**All National Committee Chairs
& Executives**

Organics

The IFA organic project team successfully secured increased funding of €4M for the Organic Farm Scheme bringing total funding to €16M for the scheme.

This will allow the scheme to re-open to approx. 500 new entrants. The project team will continue to work to ensure that the re-opening of the scheme is managed correctly.

Nigel Renaghan
Chairman, Organic Agriculture Project Team

In respect to the Farm to Fork Strategy, the project team has a clear view that all production/demand must be market driven.

IFA will continue to lobby for all aspects of organic farming and will engage with all Irish retailers regarding stocking more Irish organic produce.

Niamh Brennan
National Organic Agriculture Executive



Above: IFA Deputy President Brian Rushe and Deputy Garda Commissioner Paula Hillman meet to discuss the ongoing partnership between IFA and An Garda Síochana in tackling rural crime and developing community policing.

Direct Payments

Progress on Direct Payments in 2020

- IFA pressed strongly for the delivery of all direct payments on time in 2020. This was particularly important given the difficulties posed by COVID-19.
- Participation in three Charter of Farmers Rights meetings was crucial, with the Department accountable for the commitments in the Charter.
- Higher advance payments under BPS (70%) was secured and paid mid-October, with the balancing 30% being paid on the first week in December. By year end, most of the 122,510 eligible farmers were paid €1.147bn.
- GLAS advance payment (85%) was paid the first week in November, with the balancing 15% payment due in 2021. By the end of the year, over 45,500 farmers had received their advance GLAS payment.
- ANC advance payments (85%) commenced in the 3rd week of September, with the balancing 15% paid in early December. ANC payments issue weekly for farmers as they meet the required stocking density and retention period required as per the ANC terms and conditions. By the end of the year over 95,500 farmers had received their full ANC payment.
- AMS payments are issued weekly as farmers submit payment claims.
- BDGP payments were made to 19,992 farmers in mid-December totalling €35.9 million.
- BEEP-S payments were made in the first week of December. €40.46million in total was paid out to 24,400 farmers.
- BFP was issued to 27,000 farmers in mid-November, coming to a total of €46.566million.
- FA called on DAFM to issue up-to-date statements for farmers that are easy to follow to measure compliance for the BEAM scheme 5% reduction.

IFA has been involved at both EU and national level on details on all farm schemes to ensure farmers could fully avail of them to support farm income.

IFA Direct Payments Unit

IFA assisted thousands of cases of farmers who have individual direct payment problems across all schemes. The specialised unit dealing with queries is headed by Anna Daly.

Brian Rushe
IFA Deputy President

Michael Biggins
Chairman, National
Rural Development
Committee

Brendan Golden
Chairman National
Livestock Committee

Anna Daly
Policy Executive

Tómas Bourke
Senior Policy
Executive

Denis Griffin
Senior Policy
Executive



An aerial photograph of a rural landscape. In the top left corner, there are several white farm buildings with red roofs. A large, dark brown field of reeds or marshland occupies the central and right portions of the image. To the left of this field, there are several rectangular plots of tall green reeds. The bottom right corner is filled with a dense cluster of green trees. The overall scene is a mix of agricultural and natural elements.

Financial Statements

Annual Report and Consolidated Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 March 2020

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Statement of National Council's Responsibilities

The constitution and rules of the Association require the National 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 National 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 Auditor's Report to the National Council of the Irish Farmers' Association on the Consolidated Financial Statements

Report on the audit of the consolidated financial statements

Opinion on the financial statements of The Irish Farmers' Association

In our opinion the group financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the consolidated assets, liabilities and financial position of the group as at 31 March 2020 and of the consolidated loss of the group for the financial year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the relevant financial reporting framework.

The financial statements we have audited comprise:

- the Consolidated Income and 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, including a summary of significant accounting policies as set out in note 1.

The relevant financial reporting framework that has been applied in the preparation of the group financial statements is FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" issued by the Financial Reporting Council ("the relevant financial reporting framework").

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland) (ISAs (Ireland)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are described below in the "Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements" section of our report.

We are independent of the group in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Ireland, including the Ethical Standard issued by the Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which ISAs (Ireland) require us to report to you where:

- the National Council use of the going concern basis of accounting in preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the National Council have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the group's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

The National Council are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report and Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2020, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are expected to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are expected to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of National Council

As explained more fully in the Statement of National Council's Responsibilities, the National Councils are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the National Council determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the National Council are responsible for assessing the Association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the National Council either intend to liquidate the Association's entity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (Ireland) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

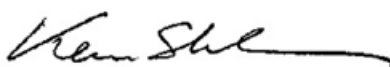
As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (Ireland), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the group's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the National Council.

- Conclude on the appropriateness of the National Council use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the group's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of the auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the entity (or where relevant, the group) to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the business activities within the group to express an opinion on the (consolidated) financial statements. The group auditor is responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the group audit. The group auditor remains solely responsible for the audit opinion.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that the auditor identifies during the audit.

This report is made solely to the National Council, as a body, in accordance with our engagement letter. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the National Council those matters we are expected to state to them in an auditor's 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 entity and the entity's National Council as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Kevin Sheehan
For and on behalf of Deloitte Ireland LLP

Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm
Deloitte & Touche House
Earlsfort Terrace
Dublin 2
Date: 14 December 2020

Consolidated Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 March 2020

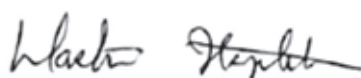
	Notes	2020 €	2019 €
INCOME	3	15,191,778	15,990,214
EXPENDITURE	4	(16,269,252)	(16,231,899)
Exceptional items – Provision for restructuring costs	5	(1,134,628)	-
Profit / (Loss) on disposal of fixed and financial assets		239,656	(5,610)
Interest Receivable		426	330
OPERATING DEFICIT	6	(1,972,020)	(246,965)
Share of operating surplus in associate undertakings	11	85,153	91,703
Loss on financial assets through profit and loss	10	(2,430,155)	(1,100,425)
DEFICIT BEFORE TAXATION		(4,317,022)	(1,255,687)
Taxation credit	8	763,326	322,380
DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR		(3,553,696)	(933,307)

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

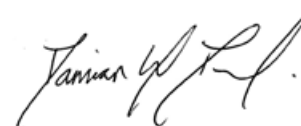
The financial statements were approved by the National Council on December 1st 2020 and signed on its behalf by:



Tim Cullinan (President)



Martin Stapleton (National Treasurer/
Returning Officer)



Damian McDonald (Director General)

Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income for the year ended 31 March 2020

	Notes	2020 €	2019 €
Retained deficit for the year		(3,553,696)	(933,307)
Share of associate property revaluations		-	-
Total deficit for the year		(3,553,696)	(933,307)

Consolidated Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2020

	Notes	2020 €	2019 €
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	9	541,919	448,856
Financial investments	10	11,079,120	13,032,320
Other investments	11	2,719,244	2,303,182
		14,340,283	15,784,358
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	12	891,444	1,276,101
Cash at bank and in hand		1,586,468	3,214,202
		2,477,912	4,490,303
CREDITORS: (Amounts falling due within one year)	13	(4,534,986)	(3,596,033)
NET CURRENT (LIABILITIES)/ASSETS		(2,057,074)	894,270
Provision for Liabilities	14	(923,016)	(1,764,739)
NET ASSETS		11,360,193	14,913,889
CAPITAL AND RESERVES			
Accumulated surplus		11,360,193	14,913,889
		11,360,193	14,913,889

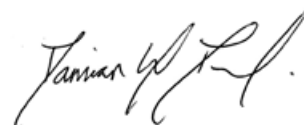
The financial statements were approved by the National Council on December 1st 2020 and signed on its behalf by:



Tim Cullinan (President)



Martin Stapleton (National Treasurer/
Returning Officer)



Damian McDonald (Director General)

Consolidated Statement of Changes in Equity for the year ended 31 March 2020

	Notes	Accumulated surplus €	Total €
At 1 April 2018		15,847,196	15,847,196
Total Comprehensive Deficit for the year		(933,307)	(933,307)
At 31 March 2019		14,913,889	14,913,889
Total Comprehensive Deficit for the year		(3,553,696)	(3,553,696)
At 31 March 2020		11,360,193	11,360,193

Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 March 2020

	Notes	2020 €	2019 €
NET CASH INFLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	15	(1,209,095)	(2,473,932)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Interest received		436	237
Dividends and investment income received		362,442	178,788
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets		(211,180)	(249,819)
Payments to acquire investments		(4,271,649)	(461,926)
Receipts on disposal of investments		3,701,312	1,761,989
NET CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		(418,638)	1,229,269
DECREASE IN CASH AND BANK OVERDRAFT		(1,627,734)	(1,244,662)
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT BEGINNING OF THE YEAR		3,214,202	4,458,864
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF THE YEAR		1,586,468	3,214,202

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2020

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 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 liabilities of €2,057,074 (2019: net current assets of €894,270), however the association remained in a net asset position of €11,360,193 (2019: €14,913,889) at the balance sheet date.

During the year the National Finance Committee, on the direction of National Council, agreed to set aside some of the reserves of the Association to fund a program to reduce staff costs. It is anticipated that this once-off cost will generate ongoing savings to the Association which, coupled with other measures, will restore the organisation to a surplus position.

The Association has also assessed the impact of the global Covid19 Pandemic on the going concern assumption. Since February, the association has continued to function and deliver services to members, particularly as agricultural activity is deemed an essential service by Government. Although the full impact of Covid19 cannot be fully assessed, management are satisfied that any negative experience to date, and expected future impact on the financial impact to the Association is not sufficient

to cause any significant risk over the ability of the Association to continue as a going concern. The National 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 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%
Buildings	4%

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 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:

- 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.

(i) Financial assets and liabilities (continued)

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.

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 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.

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:	2020 €	2019 €
Broadband and phone service sales	5,723,071	6,152,983
Affiliation fees	5,663,000	5,715,919
European involvement fund levies	2,775,361	3,116,707
Trust fund contributions	330,000	430,000
Investment dividend income	296,577	178,788
Other income	403,769	395,817
	15,191,778	15,990,214

All group income was earned in the Republic of Ireland.

4. Expenditure

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

Expenditure:	2020 €	2019 €
IFA Telecoms expenses	5,402,638	5,761,769
Total staff costs	5,585,739	5,349,625
Voluntary costs	1,131,997	1,312,255
Premises	437,151	482,992
Communications	496,872	429,870
Research	23,278	40,697
Public relations	549,009	515,602
Professional fees	301,548	160,277
Affiliation fees	70,144	108,347
Financial charges	260,352	301,739
Foreign travel	63,173	64,483
Brussels office	424,681	508,871
Membership recruitment	326,416	393,135
Membership promotion	408,153	311,057
Other overheads	141,120	36,256
Extraordinary expenditure	646,981	454,924
	16,269,252	16,231,899

5. Exceptional Item

Deficit on ordinary activities before taxation is stated after charging/ (crediting):	2020 €	2019 €
Provision for restructuring	1,134,628	-

During the year, the association provided the above amount to support a restructuring program to reduce staff costs.

6. Deficit on Ordinary Activities before Taxation

Deficit on ordinary activities before taxation is stated after charging/ (crediting):	2020 €	2019 €
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	104,552	104,608
Interest received	436	237

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:	2020 €	2019 €
Irish Farmers Association	26,500	24,000
IFA Telecom	16,520	16,300
ISGA	1,265	1,150
Total Group	44,285	41,450

7. 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:

	2020 €	2019 €
President (Cullinan)		
Gross Salary	21,310	-
President (Healy – Up to 31 December 2019)		
Gross Salary	48,358	57,896
Net amount charged	69,668	57,896

The Remuneration Committee agreed that the salary of the President should be €120,000. This amount would be reduced by any directors' fees payable by outside bodies that came as a consequence of the IFA office.

Deputy President (Rushe)		
Gross Salary	6,506	-
Deputy President (Kennedy – Up to 31 December 2019)		
Gross Salary	19,192	17,387
Net amount charged	25,698	17,387

The Remuneration Committee agreed that the salary of the Deputy President should be €35,000. This amount would be reduced by any directors' fees payable by outside bodies that came as a consequence of the IFA office.

Director General		
Salary	185,350	185,350
Employer pension contribution	27,802	27,802
	213,152	213,152
Executive Management		
Salary	412,989	412,639
Employer pension contribution	106,204	105,919
Key Management compensation	519,193	518,558
National Council		
Labour replacement paid in Financial year	209,370	246,150
Effect of accrual release	(66,642)	(61,968)
Net amount charged	142,728	184,182

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

Salary	100,235	99,047
Employer pension contribution	21,413	23,327
	121,648	122,374

8. Tax Credit on Ordinary Activities

The tax credit comprises: Current tax on profit on ordinary activities	2020 €	2019 €
Irish corporation tax	52,908	55,578
(Debit) / Credit movement in deferred tax liability (Note 14)	(841,723)	(398,635)
Other taxes incurred	25,489	20,677
Total tax credit on ordinary activities	(763,326)	(322,380)

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

	2020 €	2019 €
Loss on ordinary activities	(4,317,022)	(1,255,687)
Before tax 12.5 % (2019: 12.5%)	(539,628)	(156,961)
Tax if credited at standard corporation rate		
Capital allowances in excess of depreciation	1,919	308
Income/Expenses not taxable in determining taxable profit	(311,781)	(377,958)
Impact of other tax rates	86,164	212,231
Group tax credit for the period	(763,326)	(322,380)

9. Tangible Assets

	Office Equipment €	Fixtures and Fittings €	Motor Vehicles €	Buildings €	Total €
Cost:					
At 1/04/2019	666,413	764,953	120,140	219,206	1,770,712
Additions	17,883	148,296	45,000	-	211,179
Disposals	(424,830)	(8,580)	(44,000)	-	(477,410)
31/03/2020	259,466	904,669	121,140	219,206	1,504,481
Depreciation:					
At 1/04/2019	565,564	673,205	74,319	8,768	1,321,856
Charge	37,179	36,791	21,814	8,768	104,552
Disposals	(407,886)	(30,522)	(25,438)	-	(463,846)
31/03/2020	194,857	679,474	70,695	17,536	962,562
Net Book Amount:					
31/03/2020	64,609	225,195	50,445	201,670	541,919
31/03/2019	100,849	91,748	45,821	210,438	448,856

10. Financial Investments

	2020 €	2019 €
Quoted investments at market value	11,079,120	13,032,320
Opening balance	13,032,320	15,451,590
Net Additions/(Disposals) during the financial year	476,955	(1,318,845)
Movement in the fair value of investments	(2,430,155)	(1,100,425)
Closing balance	11,079,120	13,032,320

Quoted investments represent shares held by the Group in publicly quoted companies or other publicly quoted investment funds. The cost of these investments was €8,119,630 (2019: €7,568,137).

Special Reserve Fund:

€7,677,976 (2019: €9,531,879) of the above balance relates specifically to the special reserve fund assets.

The Special Reserve Fund was established by the National 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.

11. Other Investments

	2020 €	2019 €
Unquoted Investments:		
Irish Farm Centre Limited (i)	2,658,152	2,242,090
Other Investments (ii)	61,092	61,092
	2,719,244	2,303,182

During the year the Association participated in a share issue in the Irish Farm Centre Limited to contribute to the cost of necessary repairs and renovations. The cost of purchasing these shares was €385,231 and as a result has marginally increased the share of the Farm Centre owned by IFA.

(i) Irish Farm Centre Limited

	Holding	Business	Registered Office
Irish Farm Centre Limited	48.76%	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 €174,638 (2019: profit of €245,732) before a taxation charge of €39,345 (2019: €31,746). Included in the operating profit is an amount of €0 (2019: €55,280) in respect of a building revaluation. The associate undertaking had combined net assets of €5,451,502 at year end (2019: €4,656,470). 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 €2,658,152 (2019: €2,242,090).

(ii) Other Investments

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

12. Debtors: (Amounts due within one year)

	2020 €	2020 €
Debtors	848,962	1,230,917
Accrued income and other receivables	42,482	45,184
	891,444	1,276,101

13. Creditors

Amounts falling due within one year:	2020 €	2019 €
Trade creditors	481,171	348,980
Pension/ staff and voluntary expense accruals	1,141,168	1,388,030
Provision for restructuring	1,134,628	-
Professional/ Legal and other accruals	123,593	290,738
Trade Accruals	1,312,719	1,404,917
PAYE/PRSI/Vat	341,707	163,368
	4,534,986	3,596,033

14. Provision for Liabilities

Deferred tax is provided as follows:	2020 €	2019 €
The deferred tax balance is analysed		
Deferred tax arising in relation to quoted investments	923,016	1,764,739
Provision for deferred tax		
Opening balance	1,764,739	2,163,374
Movement for the current financial year (Note 8)	(841,723)	(398,635)
Balance at end of year	923,016	1,764,739

15. Reconciliation of Operating Surplus to Net Cashflow from Operating Activities

	2020 €	2019 €
Operating deficit	(3,553,696)	(933,307)
Interest received	(436)	(237)
Dividends and investment income received	(362,442)	(178,788)
Profit on disposal of investments	(253,580)	(7,837)
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	13,924	13,447
Depreciation and amortisation	104,552	104,608
Decrease in debtors	384,657	383,767
Decrease/(Increase) in creditors	97,230	(2,879,593)
Fair value movements on financial assets	2,345,002	1,008,722
Tax paid	15,694	15,286
Net cash outflow from operating activities	<u>(1,209,095)</u>	<u>(2,473,932)</u>

16. Financial Instruments

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

	2020 €	2019 €
Financial assets		
<i>Measured at undiscounted amounts receivable</i>		
Trade and other debtors (note 12)	848,962	1,230,917
<i>Measured at fair value through profit or loss</i>		
Investments in listed equity instruments (note 10)	11,079,120	13,032,320
<i>Measured at cost less impairment</i>		
Other investments (note 11)	2,719,244	2,303,182
Financial liabilities		
<i>Measured at undiscounted amounts payable</i>		
Trade and other creditors (note 13)	481,171	348,980

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

	2020 €	2019 €
Financial assets		
On financial assets measured at fair value through profit or loss	(2,430,155)	(1,100,425)
Interest or other income on financial assets measured at amortised cost	436	237

17. Pensions

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 €614,081 (2019: €617,073). The amount owed to the scheme at year end is €72,728 (2019: €66,528).

18. 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.

The Remuneration Committee decided that it was reasonable to allow outgoing President Joe Healy to retain his car at the end of his tenure. The value of the car in the books of IFA was €13,921

Under normal circumstances the Association would provide a new vehicle for the incoming President at the start of his tenure. As an alternative, the Remuneration Committee agreed to purchase a vehicle already in use by the President. Tipperary Milling Company Limited of which Tim Cullinan is a director, were therefore paid €45,000 to acquire the car based on an independent valuation.

19. Comparative Amounts

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

20. Events After Reporting Date

Since year end as reported in note 5, the voluntary headcount program was substantially completed. There were no other significant events since the financial year end.

21. Ultimate Control

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

Supplementary Information

(NOT COVERED BY THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT)

	Notes	At 31 March 2020				At 31 March 2019			
		IFA 2020 €	IFA Telecom Limited 2020 €	Consolidation adjustment 2020 €	Total 2020 €	IFA 2019 €	IFA Telecom Limited 2019 €	Consolidation adjustment 2019	Total 2019 €
FIXED ASSETS									
Tangible assets		411,067	130,852	-	541,919	429,319	19,537	-	448,856
Special reserve fund assets		7,677,976	3,500,359	(99,216)	11,079,120	9,531,878	3,833,635	(333,193)	13,032,320
Financial investments		2,719,244	-	-	2,719,244	2,303,182	-	-	2,303,182
		10,808,287	3,631,212	(99,216)	14,340,283	12,264,379	3,853,172	(333,193)	15,784,358
CURRENT ASSETS									
Debtors		736,628	2,241,313	(2,086,500)	891,441	1,079,051	1,682,280	(1,384,307)	1,276,101
Cash at bank and in hand		1,160,844	572,696	(147,069)	1,586,471	1,642,088	1,144,301	333,193	3,214,202
		1,897,472	2,814,009	(2,233,569)	2,477,912	2,721,139	2,826,581	(1,051,114)	4,490,303
CREDITORS:									
(Amounts falling due within one year)		(6,350,785)	(516,989)	2,332,788	(4,534,986)	(1,516,173)	(655,437)	1,384,307	(3,596,033)
NET CURRENT (LIABILITIES)/ ASSETS		(4,453,313)	2,297,020	99,219	(2,057,074)	1,204,966	2,171,144	-	894,270
Provision for Liabilities		(923,016)	-	-	(923,016)	(1,764,232)	-	-	(1,764,739)
NET ASSETS		5,431,958	5,928,232	3	11,360,193	11,705,113	6,024,316	-	14,913,889
CAPITAL AND RESERVES									
Accumulated surplus		5,431,961	5,928,232	-	11,360,193	8,933,758	6,027,057	-	14,913,889
		5,431,961	5,928,232	-	11,360,193	8,933,758	6,027,057	-	14,913,889

Breakdown of Results for the year ended 31 March 2020

	Notes	IFA 2020 €	SRF 2020 €	Others 2020 €	IFAT 2020 €	IFC 2020 €	TOTAL 2020 €
Operating Results		(2,954,743)	435,058	112,086	435,580	85,153	(1,886,866)
Tax		(6,305)	-	-	(52,909)	(19,184)	(78,398)
Operating (Deficit)/ Surplus		<u>(2,961,048)</u>	<u>435,058</u>	<u>112,086</u>	<u>382,671</u>	<u>65,969</u>	<u>(1,965,264)</u>
Movement in Investments		(35,138)	(1,976,865)	-	(418,153)	-	(2,430,156)
Deferred Tax		-	706,577	-	135,147	-	841,724
Net Result/ Retained Funds		<u>(2,996,186)</u>	<u>(835,230)</u>	<u>112,086</u>	<u>99,665</u>	<u>65,969</u>	<u>(3,553,696)</u>

IFA National Committees 2020

Animal Health

MEMBERS 2020		
Name	County	Branch
Patrick Farrell	Chairperson Kildare	Athy
TJ Maher	Vice Chairperson Tipperary (S)	Killenaule
Tony Jackson	Carlow	Tynock-Kiltegan
Maurice Brady	Cavan	Laragh
Michael Davoren	Clare	Carron-Noughaville
John Kingston	Cork (C)	Carrigaline
Pat O'Keeffe	Cork (N)	Kildorrery
Derry Scannell	Cork (W)	Rossmore
Lawrence McNamee	Donegal	Convoy-Raphoe
Brendan O'Donoghue	Dublin	St. Margaret's
Stephen Canavan	Galway	Corofin-Ballyglunin
Kenneth O'Connell	Kerry	Lixnaw
Joseph Morrissey	Kildare	Manor Kilbride
Jim Fitzpatrick	Kilkenny	Mullinavat
James Walsh	Laois	Durrow
Liam Gilligan	Leitrim	Manorhamilton
Pius Horgan	Limerick	Abbeyfeale
Tony Bohan	Longford	Ballinamuck
Edward O'Malley	Louth	Ardee
Padraic Joyce	Mayo	Islandeady
John McEnroe	Meath	Ballinacree
Lawrence Deery	Monaghan	Clones
George Grant	Offaly	Clareen-Fortal
Louis Martin	Roscommon	Kiltoom
Seamus Cummins	Sligo	Calry
Matthew Mounsey	Tipperary (N)	Toomevara
Joe Harty	Waterford	Dungarvan
James Fox	Westmeath	Kinnegad
Liam O'Byrne	Wexford	Tagoat
Amanda Mooney	Wicklow	Ashford
Bert Stewart	Co-Opted	Drumgole
Michael Biggins	Co-Opted	Glencorrib
Paddy Donnelly	Co-Opted	Sonna

Aquaculture

MEMBERS 2020		
Name	County	Branch
Michael Molloy	Chairperson Mayo	Westport
Kian Louet-Feisser	Vice Chairperson Louth	Cooley
Cliona Mhic Ghiolla Chuda	Waterford	Dungarvan
Ed Gallagher	Donegal	Rosses
Mag Kirwan	Kilkenny	Thomastown
John Harrington	Cork	Bere Island
Liam Roche	Mayo	Fahy Kilmeena
Jan Feenstra	Donegal	Fanad
Gerry O'Donohue	Galway	Connemara
Finian O'Sullivan	Cork	Bantry
Emmet Casey	Kerry	Cromane
Patrick T Sullivan	Kerry	Cromane

IFA National Committees 2020

Dairy

MEMBERS 2020		
Name	County	Branch
Thomas Phelan	Chairperson Laois	Mountrath
Stephen Arthur	Vice Chairperson Wicklow	Rathdrum
Seamus Dolan	Cavan	Templeport
Andrew Dundas	Clare	Parteen
Jamie Kealy	Carlow	Ballon
Mary Twomey-Casey	Cork (N)	Glanworth
Alan Jagoe	Cork (C)	Carrigaline
Gerard Lehane	Cork (W)	Timoleague
Rory Dwyer	Dublin	St Margaret's
PJ McMonagle	Donegal	Convoy-Raphoe
Michael O'Dowd	Kerry	Castkemaime
Billy Barrett	Kildare	Dunlavin
James Barber	Laois	Rathdowney
Brendan Hickey	Kilkenny	Johnstown
Noel Murphy	Galway	Ballymacward
Daniel Kelly	Leitrim	Drumahair
Patrick O'Neill	Longford	Mostrim
Nicholas Cooney	Louth	Monasterboice
Michael Leo Morrin	Mayo	Cross
Edward J. Bannon	Meath	Culmullen
James F. O'Connor	Monaghan	Inniskeen
Adrian Leonard	Offaly	Killoughey
Sean Connaughton	Roscommon	Boyle
John Hannon	Limerick	Clarina
Padraig Mulligan	Sligo	Templeboy
Pat Carroll	Tipperary (S)	Cahir
Mark Connors	Waterford	Kilmacthomas
Michael Kennedy	Tipperary (N)	Nenagh
Michael Gahan	Wexford	Boolavogue
Keith O'Boyle	Liquid Milk Chairman	Hollymount
Enda Burke	Westmeath	Kinnegad

Environment & Rural Affairs

MEMBERS 2020		
Name	County	Branch
Paul O'Brien	Chairperson Kilkenny	Mullinavat
Chris Hayes	Vice Chairperson Cork (W)	Rosscarbery
George F. Byrne	Carlow	Bennekerry - Tinryland
Paddy Denning	Cavan	Laragh
Kieran Woods	Clare	Tradaree
Tony Mullins	Cork (N)	Mitchelstown
Gerard O'Connell	Cork (C)	Carrigaline
Francis Burns	Donegal	Buncrana
Seamus McGrath	Dublin	Rolestown - Oldtown
Henry Walsh	Galway	Oranmore
John O'Sullivan	Kerry	Churchill
Austin Morrin	Kildare	Naas - Caragh
James Murphy	Kilkenny	Mullinavat
Owen Conroy	Laois	Clonaslee
Eddie Mitchell	Leitrim	Ballinamore
Barry Murphy	Limerick	Clarina
Damien O'Reilly	Longford	Ballinalee
Breeda Tuite	Louth	Tullyallen
John G. Davitt	Mayo	Park - Burren
Seamus McGee	Meath	Ballinlough
Bernard Treanor	Monaghan	Tydavnet
Enda Bracken	Offaly	Killoughey
Ned O'Connor	Roscommon	Kiltoom
Bernard Finan	Sligo	Achonry
Eamon Cleary	Tipperary (N)	Ardcrouney
Peter Farrell	Tipperary (S)	Cahir
John J. Byrne	Waterford	Cappoquin
Adrian Elliott	Westmeath	Tubberclair
James Brennan	Wexford	Rathnure
David Johnson	Wicklow	Barndarrig
Thomas Cooney	Co-Opted	Barryroe

IFA National Committees 2020

Farm Business

MEMBERS 2020		
Name	County	Branch
Rose Mary McDonagh	Chairperson Galway	Caherlistrane
Joe Parlon	Vice Chairperson Offaly	Aghancon
Gilbert Smyth	Carlow	Bagnelstown
Owen Brodie	Cavan	Maghera - Mu'Connaught
Rosaleen O'Reilly	Clare	Doora
Jeremiah O'Sullivan	Cork (W)	Leap
Liam O'Donerty	Cork (N)	Mitchelstown
John Murphy	Cork (C)	Inniscarra
George E. Starrett	Donegal	Finn Valley
Padraic McMahon	Dublin	Rolestown - Oldtown
Deirdre Mongan	Galway	Caherlistrane
Brendan Lawlor	Kerry	Ballybunion
Robert Greene	Kildare	Athy
Bill O'Keefe	Kilkenny	Clara
Pat Hennessy	Laois	Borris - in - Ossory
David Notley	Leitrim	Annaduff
James English	Limerick	Oola
Roy McCormack	Longford	Newtownforbes
Riona Meehan	Louth	Kilsaran
Aidan Munnally	Mayo	Ardagh - Ballina
David Hannon	Meath	Kiltale
Patrick McCormack	Monaghan	Threemilehouse
Gerard Fallon	Roscommon	Knockcroghery
John P. Cowley	Sligo	Easkey
Michael Leonard	Tipperary (N)	Ballingarry
Bernadette Quinn	Tipperary (S)	Fethard
James Power	Waterford	Kilmacthomas
Paul Slevin	Westmeath	Turin
John Kelly	Wexford	Camolin
John Mallick	Wicklow	Tinahely
Martin Stapleton	Co-Opted	Oola

Farm Family & Social Affairs

MEMBERS 2020		
Name	County	Branch
Caroline Farrell	Chairperson Kildare	Athy
Bernadette O'Driscoll	Vice Chairperson Kerry	Valentia
Sinead Brophy	Carlow	Tullow
Elizabeth Tilson	Cavan	Sheelin
Geraldine O'Connell	Clare	Parteen
Ann Moore	Cork (C)	Midleton
Ann O'Connor	Cork (N)	K'Vullen-Ct'Roche - Shanballymore
Martina Casey	Cork (W)	Macroom
Mary Isabella Russell	Donegal	Letterkenny
Elizabeth McCarthy	Dublin	Bohernabreena
Teresa Roche	Galway	Abbey
Marion Dunne	Kildare	Athy
Gemma Sherman	Kilkenny	Mullinavat
Mary Barber	Laois	Rathdowney
Ann Winters	Leitrim	Mohill
Mary Breen	Limerick	Oola
Sheena Cassidy	Longford	Ballinamuck
Breda Brennan	Louth	Kilsaran
Diane Petrie	Mayo	Islandeady
Sheila Fitzpatrick	Meath	Trim
Mary Deery	Monaghan	Clones
Mary Parlon	Offaly	Aghancon
Frances Keane	Roscommon	Dysart
Margaret Gormonly	Sligo	Tubbercurry
Kathleen Hogan	Tipperary (N)	Toomevara
Mary J Heffernan	Tipperary (S)	Tipperary
Elizabeth Coughlan	Waterford	Kinsalebeg
Mary Geraghty	Westmeath	Kinnegad
Alice Doyle	Wexford	Camolin
Ann Jennings	Wicklow	Arklow

IFA National Committees 2020

Farm Forestry

MEMBERS 2020		
Name	County	Branch
Vincent Nally	Chairperson Westmeath	Sonna
Charles Doherty	Vice Chairperson Donegal	Newtowncunningham
Michael Doyle	Carlow	Tullow
Cathel Rudden	Cavan	Clifferna
Martin Murphy	Clare	Kilmihill
Tadhg Healy	Cork (W)	Clonakilty
John Magner	Cork (N)	K'Vullen - Ct'Roche - Shanbalymore
John O'Brien	Cork (C)	Barryroe
Derek McGrath	Dublin	Bohernabreena
Enda Monaghan	Galway	Caherlistrane
Jason Fleming	Kerry	Annablaha
Karl Matuschka	Kildare	Moone
Andrew O'Carroll	Kilkenny	Clara
Thomas Cosby	Laois	Stradbally
James Brennan	Leitrim	Kinlough
John O'Connell	Limerick	Kildimo
Francis Smith	Longford	Colmcille
John Roche	Louth	Tullyallen
John Granahan	Mayo	Keenagh
Willie Fallon	Meath	Summerhill
James Corr	Monaghan	Smithboro
Murtagh Connor	Offaly	Walsh Island
Ambrose Kilcline	Roscommon	Roscommon
Michael O'Dowd	Sligo	Achonry
Patrick Ryan	Tipperary (N)	Upperchurch
Francis Connolly	Tipperary (S)	Tipperary
Gabriel Foley	Waterford	Dungarvan
Claudia Marl	Westmeath	Collinstown
Nicholas Sweetman	Wexford	Carnew
Charles Tottenham	Wicklow	Ashford

Fresh Milk Producers

MEMBERS 2020		
Name	County	Branch
Willie Lennon	Chairperson Kilkenny	Goresbridge- Paulstown
John Wynne	Vice Chairperson Wicklow	Baltinglass
Larry Hannon	Kildare	Moone
Jim Mulhall	Kilkenny	Kilkenny City
Denis Fagan	Meath	Kildalkey
Kevin Healy	Wicklow	Aughrim
Walter Crowley	Kilkenny	Mooncoin
Derek Tierney	Kildare	Timahoe
Kevin Maguire	Longford	Newtownforbes
David Bennett	Laois	Abbeyleix
Michael O'Flaherty	Meath	Trim

IFA National Committees 2020

Grain

MEMBERS 2020		
Name	County	Branch
Mark Browne	Chairperson Wexford	Caim
Kieran McEvoy	Vice Chairperson Laois	Durrow / Portarlinton
George Hatton	Carlow	Bennekerry- Tinryland
David O'Brien	Cork	Ardfield
Liam Dorgan	Cork	K'Vullen-CT'Roche- Shanballymore/ Fermoy
James Hegarty	Cork	Glenville / W'Grasshill / Glanmire
Peter Lynch	Donegal	Newtowncunningham
Patrick Dehaene	Dublin	Rolestown - Oldtown / Lucan
John Daly	Galway	Tynagh
Eamonn Mc Elligott	Kerry	Lixnaw
Robert Chambers	Kildare.	Athy
Edward Delahunty	Kilkenny	Freshford - Gathabawn
Anthony Reynolds	Longford	Edgeworthstown
John Carroll	Louth	Dunleer
James Murray	Mayo	Keellogues / Balla
Dermot Ward	Meath	Navan
Joe Bracken	Offaly	Eglish - Drumcullen
Mervyn Auchmuty	Roscommon	Knockcroghery
Philip Tierney	Tipperary (N)	Terryglass
Gavin Delaney	Tipperary (S)	Fethard
Edward Morrissey	Waterford	Dunhill
Christopher Dolan	Westmeath	Sonna
Isaac Wheelock	Wexford	Davidstown
John Murphy	Wexford	Monageer
James Hill	Wicklow	Barndarrig
Brian Lazenby	Kildare	Athy

Hill Farming

MEMBERS 2020		
Name	County	Branch
Florence McCarthy	Chairperson Kerry	Kenmare
Stephen Walsh	Clare	Feakle
Neilie O'Leary	Cork	Coomhola
Bernard C Duffy	Donegal	Rosses
Eamonn Nee	Galway	Connemara
Patrick O'Shea	Kerry	Castlegregory
Denis Halpin	Kildare / West Wicklow	Manor Kilbride
Padraig McGowan	Leitrim	Drumshanbo
Peter Shields	Louth	Cooley
Tommy Mulchrone	Mayo	Derrada
Peter Hennessy	Waterford/ Tipperary (S)	Kilross
Gabriel O'Neill	Wexford	Kiltealy
Peter Murphy	Wicklow	Rathdrum / Tinahely
Benedict Gallagher	Sligo	Templeboy
Michael Biggins	Galway (Co-opted NMA)	Glencorrib

IFA National Committees 2020

Liquid Milk

MEMBERS 2020		
Name	County	Branch
Keith O'Boyle	Chairperson Mayo	Hollymount
Laurence Hannon	Vice Chairperson Kildare	Moone
Denis Fagan	FMP	Kildalkey
Michael O'Flaherty	FMP	Trim
James Mulhall	FMP	Kilkenny City
Kevin Maguire	FMP	Newtownforbes
David Bennett	FMP	Abbeyleix
Derek Tierney	FMP	Timahoe
Willie Lennon	FMP	Goresbridge/ Paulstown
Walter Crowley	FMP	Mooncoin
Kevin Healy	FMP	Aughrim
Charles McCandles	Aurivo	Culdaft
Gareth Porter	Aurivo	Finn Valley
Paul Merrick	Aurivo	Riverstown
Keith O'Boyle	Aurivo	Hollymount
Patrick O'Donovan	CLMP	Aghad
Dan Buckley	Clona	Glanmire
John Galvin	KLMP (Dawn Moate)	Moate
Michael O'Connor	Limerick/Clare	Adare
Austin Grealy	KLMP (Dawn Galway)	Clonakilty
Padraig Coughlan	Arrabawn	Fardrum
Liam Grady	Arrabawn	Gurteen
Pat Murphy	Arrabawn	Ardrahan
Mervyn Helen	Clona West Cork	Clarinbridge
Paul Hyland	Co-Opted Glanbia Winter Suppliers Group	Clough
Aidan Casey	Co-Opted NMA	Horseleap
Padraig Mulligan	Co-Opted NMA	Templeboy
Kieran Savage	Lee Strand	Tralee
Tom Treanor	Lakeland	Clones

Livestock

MEMBERS 2020		
Name	County	Branch
Brendan Golden	Chairperson Mayo	Killala
Declan Hanrahan	Vice Chairperson Laois	Borris-in-Ossory
Paul Balfe	Carlow	Rathvilly
Thomas Leonard	Cavan	Crossdoney
Joseph O'Connell	Clare	Parteen
Robert Ellis	Cork (W)	Cloyne
Sheena McCarthy	Cork (N)	Buttevant
Ivor Jeffery	Cork (C)	Drinagh
Frank McClean	Donegal	Letterkenny
Laurence Ward	Dublin	Rolestown-Oldtown
Michael Flynn	Galway	Kilnadeema
Helen O'Mahony	Kerry	Castleisland
David Egar	Kildare	Manor-Kilbride
Laurence McEvoy	Kilkenny	Ballyragget
Adrian Kelly	Leitrim	Cloone
Denis Duggan	Limerick	Doon
Padraic Gerety	Longford	Kenagh
Peter McEneaney Jnr	Louth	Tallanstown
Anthony McDonnell	Mayo	Killala
Eamonn Meade	Meath	Nobber
Eamon Markey	Monaghan	Killanny
James Bennett	Offaly	Bracknagh- Clonbullogue
John O'Beirne	Roscommon	Strokestown
John H Graham	Sligo	Riverstown
Tim Harty	Tipperary (N)	Ballywilliam
Edmond Burns	Tipperary (S)	Gortnahoe
Pat Keane	Waterford	Kilmacthomas
Donal Kenny	Westmeath	Turin
JJ Kavanagh	Wexford	Ballywilliam- Templeudigan
Sean Cooney	Wicklow	Ashford

IFA National Committees 2020

Pigs & Pigmeat

MEMBERS 2020		
Name	County	Branch
Thomas Hogan	Chairperson Limerick	Anglesboro
Oliver Leddy	Vice Chairperson Cavan	Redhills
Georg Roy Gallie	Kildare	Cadamstown- Carbury
Con O'Kelly	Carlow	Borris
Michael O'Doherty	Cork (N)	Mitchelstown
Richard Norton	Tipperary (S)	Ballingarry
John Ryan	Tipperary (S)	Ardfinnan Grange
Richard Kingston	Cork (N)	Lombardstown
Luke Bogue	Cavan	Crossdoney
Jonathan Marry	Meath	East-Meath
Colm Ryan	Clare	Ennis
Kevin Riordan	Wexford	Glynn
Michael O'Shea	Tipperary (N)	Roscrea
William Murphy	Westmeath	Collinstown
Michael Caffrey	Cavan	Castlerohan- M'Nugent
Shane McAuliffe	Kerry	Knocknagoshel
Maurice O'Brien	Cork (N)	Mitchelstown
Darren Brady	Westmeath	Killucan
Christopher Brady	Monaghan	Aughnamullen
John Horan	Limerick	Glin
David N Tyndall	Tipperary	Roscrea
Tom O'Keeffe	Cork (N)	Kildorrery
Philip O'Brien	Cork (N)	Mitchelstown

Potato

MEMBERS 2020		
Name	County	Branch
Thomas Mckeown	Chairperson Meath	Nobber
Nora Sheehan	Vice Chairperson Cork (N)	K'vullen-Ct'roche- Shanbalymore
John Griffin	Cork	Carrigaline
Jimmy Rankin	Donegal	Newtown Cunningham
William Monagle	Donegal	Newtown Cunningham
David Garrigan	Dublin	Swords
John Stephens	Galway	Corofin-Ballyglunin
Bridget O Connor	Kerry	Moyvane
Bart Maertens	Kildare	Clane-Prosperous
John Doody	Kilkenny	Mooncoin
Brendan Lynch	Louth.	Ardee
Andrew Sheridan	Meath	Kilbeg
Barry Mitchel	Meath	Oristown
Shane Howell	Offaly	Killeigh
Michael Healy	Tipperary	Moycarkey-Borris
Sean Ryan	Wexford.	Ballywilliam- Templeudigan
Tom Delahunt	Wicklow	Ashford

IFA National Committees 2020

Poultry

MEMBERS 2020		
Name	County	Branch
Andrew Boylan	Chairperson Monaghan	Tullyvaragh
Derek Good	Vice Chairperson Cork (C)	Innishannon
Eoin Cunningham	Limerick	Broadford-Kantoher
Nigel Sweetman	Cork Central	Kinsale
Pat O'Connell	Limerick	Feoghanagh
Ann Gernon	Louth	Louth Village
Eugene McGinnity	Monaghan	Aughnalshavey
Michael O'Hea	Cork (W)	Clonakilty
Mark McElvaney	Monaghan	Threemilehouse
John McCabe	Monaghan	Threemilehouse
Padraic Kiely	Mayo	Brickens
Vincent Quinn	Monaghan	TullyCorbett
Thomas Daly	Cavan	Mullagh
Thomas Fitzsimons	Cavan	Billis
Sean McKenna	Monaghan	Tydavnet
Edward Keane	Waterford	Kinsalebeg
Robert McBride	Monaghan	Tyholland
David Abbott	Cavan	Killeshandra
Warren O'Connell	Cork Central	Carrigaline
Edmond Murphy	Waterford	Dunhill
Nigel Flynn	Monaghan	Clones
Enda Connolly	Monaghan	Clones
D Scott	Monaghan	Newbliss
Michael Murphy	Waterford	Cappoquin
Andrew Keating	Monaghan	Newbliss

Rules & Privileges

MEMBERS 2020		
Name	County	Branch
Martin Stapleton	Chairperson Limerick	Oola
Patrick Donnelly	Westmeath	Sonna
John Fitzgerald	Waterford	Kilmeaden
Pat Hennessy	Laois	Borris in Ossory
Matthew McGreehan	Louth	Cooley
James Gallagher	Leitrim	Kinlough
Billy Cotter	Cork	Castletownroche

Horticulture

MEMBERS 2020		
Name	County	Branch
Paul Brophy	Chairperson Kildare	Naas-Caragh
Thomas McKeown	Meath	Nobber
Val Farrell	Dublin	North Fingal
James Kearns	Wexford	Ballindaggin
Gerard Reilly	Westmeath	Drumrainey
Cornelius Traas	Tipperary	Cahir
Billy Cotter	Cork	Castletownroche

IFA National Committees 2020

Rural Development & ANCs

MEMBERS 2020		
Name	County	Branch
Michael Biggins	Chairperson Galway	Glencorrib
Denis Tuohy	Vice Chairperson Clare	Whitegate
Marian Dalton	Carlow	Tullow
John Beglan	Cavan	Mullahoran
Donal O'Donovan	Cork (W)	Dunmanway
Tom O'Keefe	Cork (N)	K'vullen-CT'Roche - Shanballymore
Donal Howard	Cork (C)	Kilcorney
Andrew McShea	Donegal	Mitchelstown
Liam Hopkins	Dublin	Bohernabreena
Eamonn Burke	Galway	Corrandulla - Annaghdown
Dermot Kelly	Kerry	Kilcummin
Des Gray	Kildare	Castledermot
Richard Meaney	Kilkenny	The Rower
Henry Burns	Laois	Mountmellick
James Gallagher	Leitrim	Kinlough
Roger Keogh	Limerick	Cappamore
Emmet Duffy	Longford	Ballinalee
Matthew McGreehan	Louth	Cooley
Maria Ryan	Mayo	Shrule
Tom Finnegan	Meath	Oristown
Brian Treanor	Monaghan	Traugh Upper
Pat Walsh	Offaly	Cloghan
John Hanley	Roscommon	Creggs
Edward Davitt	Sligo	Clonacool
Con Mackey	Tipperary (N)	Newport
Simon Ryan	Tipperary (S)	Emly
John Heffernan	Waterford	Ballymacarbry
Richard O'Brien	Westmeath	Fardrum
Jer O'Mahony	Wexford	Bannow
Joseph Gahan	Wicklow	Ballyconnell
Padraic Joyce	Co-option SACS	Islandeady
Flor McCarthy	Co-options	Kenmare

Sheep

MEMBERS 2020		
Name	County	Branch
Sean Dennehy	Chairperson Cork (C)	Crookstown
Kevin Comiskey	Vice Chairperson Leitrim	Drumahair
John H. Hanbidge	Carlow	Tynock-Kiltegan
Floyd McNeill	Cavan	Billis
Tom Holmes	Clare	Ennistymon
Denis O'Leary	Cork (W)	Glanmire
Edmond Roche	Cork (N)	K'vullen-Ct'roche - Shanballymore
Frank O'Driscoll	Cork (C)	Ballingeary
Adrian Gallagher	Donegal	Letterkenny
Richard Ryan	Dublin	Bohernabreena
David Harney	Galway	Ahascragh
Francis Foley	Kerry	Castlemaine
Liam Heaney	Kildare	Dunlavin
Brian Nicholson	Kilkenny	Johnstown
Joseph Burke	Laois	Borris-in-Ossory
Sean Lavery	Limerick	Shanagolden
Luke Casey	Longford	Ballymahon
Ciaran Sheelan	Louth	Cooley
Patrick (Jnr) Chambers	Mayo	Derrada
Ronan Delany	Meath	Dunshaughlin
Sean Brennan	Monaghan	Tullycorbett
Marita Phelan	Offaly	Geashill
Michael Glennon	Roscommon	Moore
Rose McDonnell	Sligo	Templeboy
JP Ryan	Tipperary (N)	Borrisoleigh
John Crosse	Tipperary (S)	Cashel
Kieran Sullivan	Waterford	Kilmacthomas
William Fox	Westmeath	Tubberclair
Patrick Murray	Wexford	Monaseed
Selena Mackenzie	Wicklow	Barndarrig



Above: Tim Cullinan takes over as IFA President from Joe Healy at the 65th AGM in January.



Left: IFA Deputy President Brian Rushe, IFA President Tim Cullinan and IFA Director General Damian McDonald launch IFA's General Election submission to the political parties at Dáil Éireann.



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