



IFA

YOUR ASSOCIATION. YOUR VOICE.

2017 Annual Report The Irish Farmers' Association



YOUR ASSOCIATION YOUR VOICE

IFA Mercosur Protest outside the EU offices in Dublin.





2017 Annual Report
The Irish Farmers'
Association



IFA



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PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT



"WE CAN LOOK BACK ON THE YEAR AND REFLECT ON SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN A NUMBER OF AREAS."

Dear member,

Throughout 2017, IFA continued to work hard and deliver for farmers on the many issues impacting them. We can look back on the year and reflect on significant progress in a number of areas. As the year draws to a close, significant challenges exist for farmers, particularly those in the drystock and tillage sectors and those impacted by very difficult weather conditions. We will continue to raise their issues in the year ahead.

Budget 2018

We delivered real returns for farmers in the Budget.

They included:

- €25m increase in ANC funding, which represents a 13% increase in the overall allocation.
- €25m to support the development of a Brexit response low-cost loan scheme. This builds on the €150m package secured in the previous Budget, which had an average saving of €800 on a typical one-year stocking loan of €30,000.
- Earned Income Tax Credit increased in the Budget by €200 to €1,150. This is worth €200 to any farmer with an income of more than €16,500. IFA continues to campaign to have this increased to the level of the earned income allowance of €1,650.

IFA Campaigns

This past year, we have worked hard on the following:

- Continuous lobbying and pressure on processors to pay a stronger price to farmers across all commodities by highlighting what is justified based on market returns.
- Opening new markets for live exports, including Turkey. We secured a reduction in Department charges of €1,100 per load of calves. Live exports for 2017 are up 40% to 175,000.
- Strong opposition to a Mercosur trade deal, which would be very damaging for our beef sector. We attended the WTO Ministerial in Argentina to meet the main players and have led a strong campaign at the highest level in the EU Commission, meeting Vice-President Jyrki Katainen and Commissioners Hogan and Malmstrom.
- Tillage Aid Scheme for crop losses following our sit-in, resulting in compensation of up to €10,500 per farmer. This was double what was originally on the table.

- High-level campaign at European level to retain glyphosate for our grain sector.
- Ministerial commitment to introduce a three-year cap on farm business assets under the Fair Deal scheme. IFA continues to keep the pressure on to ensure legislative change to reflect this.
- Secured changes to the Budget increase in Stamp Duty to allow the reduced rate of 1% to apply to all family farm transfers.
- 70% Basic Payment advance in October, which was worth an additional €200m in cashflow to the 111,000 farmers paid in the first week.
- Established a Credit Support team and a Payments Unit to provide direct assistance to individual farmers.
- Extension to hedge-cutting and land management measures making progress through the Oireachtas
- Legislation for NCT-style tractor test revoked following IFA campaign



IFA President Joe Healy with EU Commissioner for Agriculture & Rural Development Phil Hogan.



IFA President Joe Healy with An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar TD on Mark Maxwell's farm in Westmeath.

Challenges for 2018

Brexit

As we move to phase two of the negotiations, Brexit remains the most serious threat to Irish farming and our agri-food sector for half a century. As we have passed the halfway point since the vote and the actual leaving date for the UK of March 2019, the level of uncertainty about the future is worrying.

With 40% of our food exports going to the UK, no other Member State and no other sector is as exposed in these negotiations. Agriculture and food cannot become a battleground between Brussels and London. There are too many farm livelihoods and jobs at stake. Politics cannot be allowed override our fundamental economic interests.

The Irish Government must use the strong relationship it has with both EU and UK leaders to influence a constructive approach to these difficult negotiations.

In Brussels, the Commissioner for Agriculture, Phil Hogan, must make the retention of free trade in agriculture and food products between the EU and UK a priority.

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

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

CAP Reform

On the Common Agricultural Policy, the consultation on the future of the CAP is well underway. We will make this a key campaign issue over the next 12 months.

The CAP post 2020 must work for Irish farmers. At the heart of the IFA campaign will be a strong CAP budget, with direct payments supporting active farmers, and a well-funded Rural Development Programme.

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

I want to warn politicians against any reduction in the CAP budget as a result of Brexit. If EU solidarity means anything, then the budget shortfall must be made good so that farmers are not hit with CAP cuts when the UK leaves.

Review of the ANCs

We set out our priorities for this vital income support for farmers. These are:

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

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

Rural Development Funding

We are now in the fifth year of the Rural Development Programme.

The inclusion of the Sheep Welfare scheme and additions to TAMS are welcome.

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

Charter of Farmers Rights

The delivery of direct payments to farmers on time is critical.

While much improved in 2017, payment delays arising from satellite inspections will not be tolerated in the year ahead. Any delays with GLAS are totally unacceptable. Farmers have been very frustrated and have a right to be angry. Similarly, with TAMS, the approval and payment system in 2017 left a lot to be desired.

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

Agri-Markets Task Force

Improving the position of farmers in the food supply chain is a priority for IFA. The report from Commissioner Hogan's Agri-Market Task Force is welcome.

Now that we have had the Public Consultation, we expect the Commissioner to deliver on these recommendations early in the New Year with an EU-wide framework for legislation.

It sets out the need for increased price transparency in the food chain and for independent and effective enforcement of retail regulations.

Retail Regulation

At home, we will continue to press the Minister for Business Heather Humphreys on the appointment of an independent retail Ombudsman and a ban on below-cost selling.

Farmers need to have confidence that the Grocery regulations introduced in 2016 to protect suppliers will be enforced.

We will continue to raise the issue of labour shortages and press the Dept of Business to look at the criteria for non-EU permits.

Market Access and Trade Negotiations

As an export dependent sector, increasing market access remains critical for the growth of the Irish agri-food sector.

Efforts to diversify and grow our exports into non-UK markets, is welcome. In addition, the Department of Agriculture's market access unit must be strengthened, with increased resources to deliver new markets, for our processed and live export trade.

However, opening markets must be more than media announcements. We must be able to achieve a price return for farmers. While recognising the opportunities, we must also guard against the threats arising from trade negotiations.

The EU Commission study on the cumulative impact of future trade deals on agriculture provided a major wakeup call for EU negotiators and the Irish Government. The report clearly shows the damage to the beef sector, in particular, from a Mercosur trade deal.

In any future negotiations, the EU must take account of the cumulative impact of previous concessions on market access, such as those given for beef and pigmeat in the CETA trade deal.

Climate Change

IFA has made a real difference in reshaping climate policy, by ensuring that Ireland's 2030 climate targets are more balanced.

There is now recognition for the multiple roles of farmers, as food, fuel and energy producers in addition to meeting environmental requirements. Irish farmers are actively involved in sustainability programmes across all sectors. However, sustainability must also deliver an economic return for farm families.

We will continue to roll out the IFA-led Smart Farming programme, which has shown that average savings of €8,700 per farm can be achieved, while delivering environmental benefits.

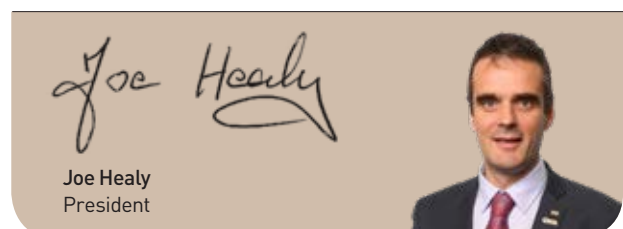
Conclusion

The issues for Irish farmers and farm incomes in 2018 are as challenging as any we have faced over the course of IFA's history. Brexit negotiations and the next CAP – these will all impact on the policy, price and trading environment for farming and our agri-food sector.

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

I want to thank all our officers, from branch level upwards, who have made an enormous contribution over the last 12 months on behalf of farm families.

Never was it more important to have a strong IFA to represent the interests of Irish farmers. We have a huge work programme ahead of us in 2018. Together we can tackle these challenges head-on and deliver real results for Irish farmers.



Joe Healy
President

DIRECTOR GENERAL'S STATEMENT

Damian McDonald speaking at the IFA Brexit event in April 2017.



Brexit

The dominant policy issue of 2017 was the outcome of the UK referendum to exit the European Union. Brexit is one of the greatest political challenges of the modern era. The Irish farming and agri food sector will be significantly impacted if we end up with a 'no deal' or a 'hard' Brexit.

IFA led the way in ensuring that the potential impact on the Irish farming and agri-food sector was at the forefront when the Irish Government and the EU 27 were formulating their position on Brexit. Our Brexit event in Goffs, addressed by Commissioner Hogan and Minister Creed, set the agenda for Ireland's involvement in the talks.

While there was some progress as 2017 ended, with the UK and EU agreeing to move to phase two of the talks, the Brexit issue is likely to continue to dominate the political agenda in 2018.

IFA has been clear from the start that we need an outcome to negotiations that will see the entirety of the UK stay within the Single Market and/or the Customs Union, or a similar arrangement. The December 2017 commitment on 'regulatory alignment' is very significant. Hopefully, 2018 will see an early commitment on a transition arrangement and subsequent progress on the future trading relationship between the EU and the UK.

Trade Talks

An issue that had farmers on the streets, outside the European Commission's offices in Dublin, was the potential trade deal between the EU and the Mercosur countries including Brazil. Projections show that after Brexit the EU is expected to be 116% self-sufficient in beef. Yet, the EU is prepared to grant extra access to the EU market to Mercosur countries. IFA resisted this at all levels.

CAP 2020

This year also saw the launch of the CAP reform process by Commissioner Phil Hogan. In November the Commissioner published a communication '*The Future of Food and Farming*', which raised a number of issues for further discussion and was described by the Commissioner himself as 'evolution rather than revolution'.

While the concepts raised have engendered a degree of debate, the key issue for the first part of 2018 will be how much member states are willing to contribute to the EU as part of the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF).

The departure of the UK from the EU will result in a net shortfall of over €3bn in CAP funding. This will need to be made up by other member states if we are to at least maintain the current CAP budget.

While there were many aspects to the CAP communication, it is clear that climate actions and environmental factors will play a larger part in the CAP post 2020. The UN Sustainable Development Goals and international climate change targets are now driving a lot of the international policy agenda.

The CAP communication describes farmers as the 'First Stewards' of the environment. While a lot of the discussion around climate and the environment has been challenging for the agriculture sector, a lot of progress has been made despite significant increases in output and exports.

Continuing with the sustainable development of our sector in the context of these policy agendas will be a major challenge in the years ahead. However, it must be remembered that there are three pillars to sustainability: economic, environmental and social. While farmers will continue to do a lot to address environmental issues, there must be a balance between all three pillars of sustainability.

Association Challenges

The Association has faced challenges arising from events in November 2015. These have manifested in a significant operational loss for the IFA to the year end March 2017. While this has been mitigated by positive returns from IFA Member Services and by a paper increase in the value of our investments, the situation is of real concern.

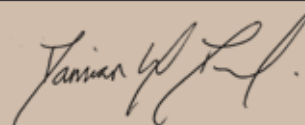
During 2017, the Council agreed three-year income and expenditure targets, with a view to wiping out the operational deficit over this period. These targets will have to be monitored closely to ensure that we stay on target to ensure the draw on the IFA reserves is kept within the quantum agreed as part of the plan.

One important point to take from this year's results is that, while there are income challenges arising from a drop off in income from levies, membership numbers and related income have held up well despite the difficult period the organisation has been through.

Members have remained with IFA and we look forward to repaying that loyalty with continued hard work and commitment in dealing with the many challenges facing the sector.

I would like to conclude by thanking the Council and the National Officers of the Association for their support during my first year in the job. The commitment these farmers and other officers at county and branch level give on behalf of their fellow farmers is remarkable.

Finally, I want to thank the IFA staff for their hard work and professionalism during 2017. I am privileged to lead such a committed and able group of people.



Damian McDonald
Director General



REPRESENTATION

IFA President Joe Healy meeting the EU's Chief negotiator on Brexit, Michel Barnier, in Brussels.

















EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 2017




EXECUTIVE BOARD

	PRESIDENT Joe Healy		NATIONAL TREASURER/ RETURNING OFFICER Jer Bergin		Ulster/North Leinster Bert Stewart
	DIRECTOR GENERAL Damian McDonald		REGIONAL CHAIRMEN Munster John Coughlan		Connacht Padraic Joyce
	DEPUTY PRESIDENT Richard Kennedy		South Leinster James Murphy		ASSOCIATION SECRETARY/ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GENERAL Bryan Barry

COUNTY CHAIRMEN

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	CAVAN James Speares		CORK WEST Cornelius Buckley		GALWAY 2ND REP Peter Gohery
	CLARE William Hanrahan		DONEGAL Michael Chance		KERRY Patrick O'Driscoll
	CORK NORTH Billy Cotter		DUBLIN Philip Maguire		KERRY 2ND REP Patrick O'Shea

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	Brian Rushe

	MAYO
	Martin Gilvarry


	TIPPERARY STH
	Simon Ryan

	KILKENNY
	John Bambrick

	MEATH
	Diarmuid Lally

	WATERFORD
	John Fitzgerald

	LAOIS
	Francis Gorman

	MONAGHAN
	Frank Brady

	WESTMEATH
	Kenneth Bray

	LEITRIM
	James Gallagher

	OFFALY
	John Keena

	WEXFORD
	James Kehoe

	LIMERICK
	Shay Galvin

	ROSCOMMON
	John Hanley

	WICKLOW
	Chris Hill

















	LONGFORD
	Sean Conefrey

	SLIGO
	John P Cowley




	LOUTH
	Gerard Melia

	TIPPERARY NTH
	Tim Cullinan




COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

	DAIRY Sean O'Leary		RURAL DEVELOPMENT & LESS FAVOURED AREAS Joseph Brady
	ENVIRONMENT & RURAL AFFAIRS Thomas Cooney		SHEEP John Lynskey
	FARM BUSINESS Martin Stapleton		PIGS Thomas Hogan
	FARM FAMILY & SOCIAL AFFAIRS Maura Canning		POULTRY Nigel Renaghan
	FARM FORESTRY Patrick Collins		POTATO Eddie Doyle
	GRAIN Liam Dunne		HORTICULTURE Gerard Reilly
	LIQUID MILK John Finn		HILL FARMING Pat Dunne
	LIVESTOCK Angus Woods		ANIMAL HEALTH Bert Stewart

OTHER SECTION CHAIRMEN

	AQUACULTURE Michael Mulloy
	FMP Larry Hannon
	MUSHROOMS Gerard Reilly

AGRI-ORGANISATIONS

	MACRANA FEIRME James Healy
	ICOS Martin Keane
	IFJ Justin McCarthy
NOTE	ICOS and IFJ are observer members of the Executive Council without a vote.

CHIEF ECONOMIST'S REPORT



Brexit

In early 2017, the IFA Economics Unit undertook a detailed sector-by-sector consultation and analysis of the implications of the UK's decision to leave the European Union. The result was the publication in early March of a major IFA policy document, *Brexit: The Imperatives for Irish Farmers and the Agri-Food Sector*. The document set out the critical importance of the Ireland-UK agri-food trading relationship for the incomes of Irish farmers and IFA's policy position: to maintain the closest possible trading relationship between the UK and EU, while preserving the value of the UK market for Irish agri-food exports.

In April, IFA held a landmark Brexit event at Goffs, which was addressed by EU Agriculture Commissioner Phil Hogan, Minister for Agriculture Michael Creed, IFA President Joe Healy and other industry leaders. Throughout 2017, the IFA Economics Unit continued to provide information, briefing notes and speeches for IFA elected officers on the implications of Brexit and the volatility of Sterling for Irish agriculture and the policy measures required by Irish farmers.

CAP 2020

During 2017, the IFA Executive Council received regular briefing and analysis as the Association developed its policy and engaged closely at official and political level in Dublin and Brussels in the EU Commission-led process on modernising and simplifying the CAP.

The Economics Unit co-ordinated IFA's detailed input into the EU public consultation in the first half of the year and IFA also participated in DG AGRI's public conference in July 2017. The Commission's communication on the CAP, *The Future of Food*

and Farming, was published at the end of November. IFA has stressed that an increased CAP Budget and the retention of the two-pillar model are essential to ensure that the CAP is fit for purpose and effective in delivering a fair standard of living for farmers and supporting the sustainable development of EU agriculture.

Mercosur

The Economics Unit co-operated with other IFA Executive Staff across all sectors, in particular the Livestock, Pigmear and Poultry Committees, in assessing the potential impact of an EU-Mercosur trade deal. IFA's position is that any trade deal providing increased product access must be strongly resisted and there are no benefits whatsoever for Irish agriculture in such a trade deal.

Budget 2018

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

Staff

Rowena Dwyer left her position as Chief Economist at end-October to pursue a new career opportunity and the recruitment of an economist was ongoing at the end of 2017.

DIRECTOR OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS REPORT

IFA President Joe Healy leads the IFA delegation into the European Commission offices at the Berlaymont to meet with the Brexit TF50 team led by Michel Barnier, in April 2017. L-R: Liam MacHale IFA Director of European Affairs, Rowena Dwyer IFA Chief Economist, Damian McDonald IFA Director General and Elaine Farrell IFA Brexit Co-ordinator.





*Face to face lobbying of key political decision makers
- IFA President Joe Healy with EU Commission
President Jean-Claude Juncker in Brussels ahead of
a European Summit meeting in April 2017*

Brussels Report

The current Commission has entered the second half of its term and the improvement in agricultural markets has focused efforts on Brexit and CAP post 2020. However, the continued uncertainty around the departure of the UK from the EU has delayed the multiannual financial framework by 6 months which in turns will delay CAP legislative proposals which seems to point towards new CAP legislation not being passed within the time frame of the current administration.

Brexit

IFA have actively highlighted the implications of Brexit for European agriculture markets with one potential eventuality being self-sufficiency of 116% in beef. It is therefore an EU-wide issue even if not all member states are actively engaged on Brexit at this point, allowing the TF50 team to lead negotiations. Throughout the last year the IFA has maintained the spotlight on this issue. IFA President Joe Healy's election as first Vice President of COPA affords him a platform to maintain pressure at a European level.

Highlights

With the issue of unfair trading practices in Retail Food Chain included on the Commission Work Programme for the first time and a public consultation having concluded in November 2017, legislative proposals on Unfair Trading Practices are now due in spring 2018. President Joe Healy is Chairman of the COPA Working Party on Food Chain and has led the European farmer lobby on this issue.

A complaint to DG Trade by 8 Farmer and COOP Groups led by the Irish Farmers' Association over the high price of EU fertilisers was accepted and DG Trade have launched an official investigation into the effect of anti-dumping measures on Ammonium Nitrate from Russia into the EU.

Concerns

The impact of cuts to the EU budget as a result of Brexit coupled with new policy areas requiring funding, such as security and defence, will add to pressure on the agriculture budget. While contributions from Member States may grow in line with better economic growth figures, the IFA have supported the call for new policy areas to be funded from new money.

The eventual decision to reauthorise Glyphosate is welcomed but it is notable that neither the risk Assessment Committee of the European Chemicals Agency nor the European Food Safety Authority have found links between glyphosate and cancer in humans yet public opinion has usurped science.

Mercosur

In the absence of the US from the table of global trade negotiations, the EU is clearly seizing the opportunity to close significant trade deals with Mercosur the most pressing. EU support for the services, spirits and automobile sectors is helping to drive the Trade Commissioner towards a deal, within agriculture however the beef sector remains very exposed. Beef farmers will suffer hugely if a deal is negotiated that includes the initial offer of 70,000t TRQ on beef, or more. On environmental, economic, traceability standards, animal welfare and control, EU beef sector viability and capacity grounds, the IFA has fought the inclusion of beef in any offer.

On the other hand the Agriculture Commissioner has continued to seek out new and better access to global export markets. EU agriculture exports have responded in record quantities and deals such as EU-Japan earlier this year were a notable win and welcomed although New Zealand and Australia are now seeking their own deal with the EU and the upside for EU agriculture is not as clear.

CAP Post 2020

Future agriculture policy will have to operate within the parameters of international commitments on sustainable development (UN's Sustainable Development Goals) and climate change (COP21 in Paris). Additional funding in research and innovation will need to be channelled into the sector to enable widespread adoption and implementation of appropriate climate smart measures.

The support necessary for the agriculture related sections of the omnibus regulation seems assured which will facilitate implementation on 1st January 2018. Simplification is to the fore, with better tools to protect against market volatility and allowing the Commission to move quicker in future during times of market crisis.

The EU Presidency will move to Bulgaria from Jan 1st 2018 as Estonia's 6th month term concludes. The Baltic country's focus on digital technology solutions has outlined the potential for many sectors including agriculture to make major advances in this area. In Estonia, remote sensing is removing the need for some on the spot audits for cross compliance measures and digitisation of agriculture is set to become a fundamental pillar for growth within the sector going forward. A high level conference on soil health is another pointer towards policy focus in future agriculture policy.

Over the year the IFA Brussels office has represented Irish farmers on a wide range of issues and looks forward to an equal challenge in the year ahead.

Liam MacHale

Liam MacHale
Director of European Affairs



2017 COMMITTEE REPORTS





NATIONAL LIVESTOCK COMMITTEE



Cattle Prices

At €4.05/kg average cattle prices in 2017 were ahead of 2016 levels. Despite an increase of 90,000 head in cattle supplies, cattle prices especially for the second half of the year held up well.

IFA campaigned hard on cattle prices through the year meeting meat factories at local level, MII, Minister Creed, Commissioner Hogan and Bord Bia demanding action on competition, market returns and access, and sterling.

IFJ mart watch data shows store bullocks and heifers prices were retained at previous year levels. Weanling bulls and heifers also maintained at last year's levels with top quality stock making more and poor quality back on 2016 levels.

IFA campaigned hard to maximise cattle price increases and highlighted the strong demand for beef, especially manufacturing beef, as well as strong prices in the UK and EU markets.

Weekly cattle price and market updates are provided by IFA through the IFA app, twitter, text and ww.ifa.ie.

In the Beef Forum and in direct meetings with Minister Creed IFA lobbied on beef prices, factory returns to farmers, low incomes in beef, live exports, competition, exchange rate issues, market access, 30-month age limit, CAP market supports, Mercosur, trim and classification issues, suckler cow payments, ANCs and low-cost loans.

Supplies

Factories supplies increased by 95,000 head in 2017. IFA highlighted that with the increased kill, lower carcase weights (down 6kgs), increased weanling exports (35,000 to Turkey), future supply numbers may be tighter than anticipated.

Markets

The main market outlets for Irish beef remained in the UK and Continental EU. The UK market continues to take up to 50% of our beef exports. France, Italy, Germany, Holland and Scandinavia are the key EU markets.

Progress was made on exports to international markets especially to the Philippines and Hong Kong. Market access was also pursued actively with some successes to Japan, Canada, the US and progress made on China.

Live Exports

IFA prioritised live exports in 2017 securing a reduction in charges on calf exports worth €1,150 per load. This boosted calf exports to 100,000 head.

Live exports are up 45,000 on last year at over 185,000 head.

IFA worked hard to open the Turkish live export market, which took 35,000 weanling's in the last year. IFA visited Turkey with Bord Bia to maximise the potential of this market.

Working with the Department of Agriculture, live exporters and Bord Bia, IFA maximised returns from the live export trade which proved essential for competition and additional market outlets.

Classification and Trim

IFA lobbied hard to get Minister Creed to honour a commitment to have AOs monitor classification and trim in the meat plants on a constant basis. Some progress was made but the Minister must now issue an instruction to the Department on the issue.

Quality Assurance

Following negotiations with Bord Bia, IFA secured significant positive changes to the Quality Assurance Scheme including making it more farmer friendly and a new close out model which allows farmers correct non-compliances without penalty.

In addition, IFA negotiated a new Protocol on Bord Bia farm audits making them more farmer friendly. Over €6m Government funding was secured to cover the cost of farm audits.

IFA and Bord Bia discuss live cattle exports with the DG of ESK in Ankara Turkey



IFA President Joe Healy and Livestock Chairman Angus Woods discuss live cattle exports with Gerard Purcell MD of Purcell Bros at the loading of a cattle boat to Turkey in Waterford Port.

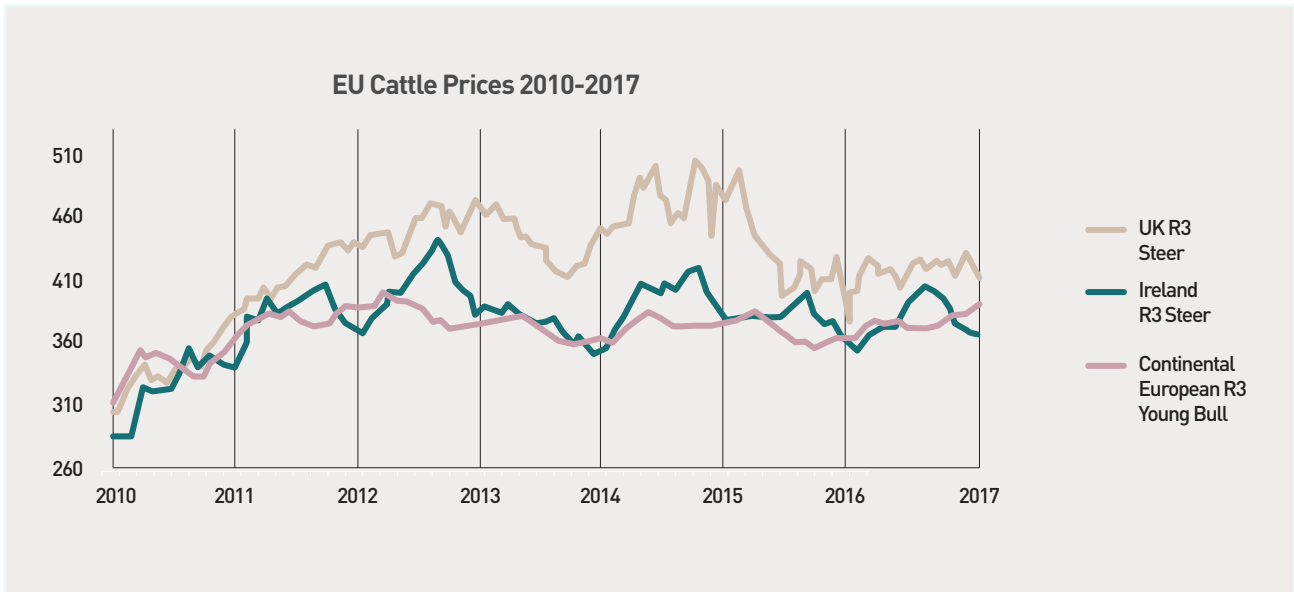




IFA President Joe Healy and Livestock Chairman Angus Woods discuss CAP and Brexit with EU Agriculture Commissioner Phil Hogan at Ploughing 2017.



IFA President Joe Healy and Livestock Chairman Angus Woods lead a strong IFA protest against a bad Mercosur deal in Dublin in October.



Beef Conference

IFA organised a major Beef Conference with Teagasc, MII and the factories late last year on beef prices, winter finishers, live exports, Brexit and other issues.

Brexit

A strong IFA campaign ensured that agriculture and the beef sector continue to be kept at the top of the Taoiseach's and Government agenda in the Brexit negotiations.

IFA has also highlighted the challenges and proposed solutions on the Brexit issues for beef in Brussels.

Working with the NFU in the UK and the FNB in France, IFA highlighted the problem for the beef sector across the EU market from a bad Brexit outcome.

Trade Deals

A strong IFA campaign in both Dublin and Brussels was conducted against a bad EU/Mercosur trade deal, including farmer protest outside the EU Commission offices in Dublin.

IFA led a strong campaign highlighting the failures of Brazil and other Latin American countries to meet EU standards on imports.

Suckler Cow Supports

IFA secured €50m in the Budget for the Suckler BDGP scheme for 2018. The scheme was reopened in 2017 and an additional 1,900 farmers joined.

IFA continues to campaign in Dublin and Brussels for an increase in targeted supports for suckler cows to a level of €200 per cow.

CAP Reform

IFA has lobbied hard at national and EU level on the importance of protecting the CAP budget and maintaining strong direct payments, which are vital to livestock farm incomes, in the reform for CAP 2020.

Direct Payments

IFA work secured a 70% BPS advance, with €700m paid out to 111,000 farmers on the first day of payments on Oct 17th.

Through the Charter of Rights IFA maximises pressure on the Department to deliver payments on time.

Budget

Strong IFA campaign in the Budget secured positive funding for farm schemes for the livestock sector including Basic Payment scheme, BDGP, ANCs, GLAS, TAMs and Knowledge Transfer.

Representation

IFA represents livestock farmers with Bord Bia, Teagasc, ICBF and FAWAC.

IFA represents livestock farmers on Department of Agriculture Groups and with the EU Commission in Brussels including chairing the EU Commission Beef Civil Dialogue group.

Angus Woods

Angus Woods
Chairman, National Livestock Committee



Kevin Kinsella

Kevin Kinsella
Director of Livestock



NATIONAL DAIRY COMMITTEE

*President Joe Healy and Dairy Committee
Chairman with the Kerry Group CEO,
Edmond Scanlan, in the Farm Centre.*



FARMERS WILL THIS YEAR AGAIN FIND THEMSELVES A COUPLE OF CENTS SHORT OF THE ANNUALISED 40C/L BREAK EVEN PRICE.

Improved Dairy Markets

The recovery in dairy markets which started in the summer of 2016 continued into 2017, largely carried by historically high butter prices as SMP prices remained depressed by overhanging intervention stocks. Towards year end, however, butter prices eased and signals by the EU Commission regarding the management of the 380,000t SMP accumulated in intervention pressured EU SMP prices down to below the intervention price despite production being down 10% and exports up 43%. IFA wrote to EU Commissioner Phil Hogan and Agriculture Minister Michael Creed to look for a less hasty approach to intervention stock disposal and a higher than buy-in price disposal price expectation. Against EU Commission's suggestions, IFA also sought the retention of current normal intervention buy-in which provides for a fixed price for a guaranteed amount, only then followed by price-setting through a tender process.

Milk Price Campaign

IFA lobbying during 2017 helped optimise returns to farmers from a fast improving market place.

Late in the year, as markets eased significantly just as volumes of milk fell seasonally, IFA sought a commitment from co-ops that they would hold prices at least till spring, and that they would consider paying end of year bonuses.

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

Low Cost Loan Package

Lobbying by the National Dairy Committee, in conjunction with the Farm Business Committee, was instrumental in delivering the low-cost cash flow loan package in Budget 2017.

The low 2.95% interest was achieved by de-risking the loan through the leverage of the EU 2016 adjusted aid Irish national envelope of €11.1m, matched by further €14m national funds, as sought by IFA. Available from January 2017, the package benefited 3,700 farmers from all sectors, of which 1,300 dairy farmers. The average loan size was €32,000.

Based on the success of the scheme IFA lobbied for and obtained a further similar low-cost loan package in Budget 2018, details of which will be made available next year.

Labour Shortages on Dairy Farms

The publication by Teagasc of the People in Dairy Project identified the need for an extra 6000 labour units on dairy farms to replace retiring farmers and provide for realistic levels of expansion in the next decade. In response, a pilot project was initiated by the FRS and Teagasc, with the involvement of the Department for Social Protection in Kilkenny/Waterford which aimed at identifying and providing training for potential dairy operatives. The scheme was supported by IFA, Macra and Glanbia and identified drystock farmers, farm women and recipients of DSP payments as potential sources of candidates. Overall over 100 possible candidates were identified between the two counties, from which around 20 were trained over 4 weeks on host farms, with 4 days classroom style training in Kildalton college.

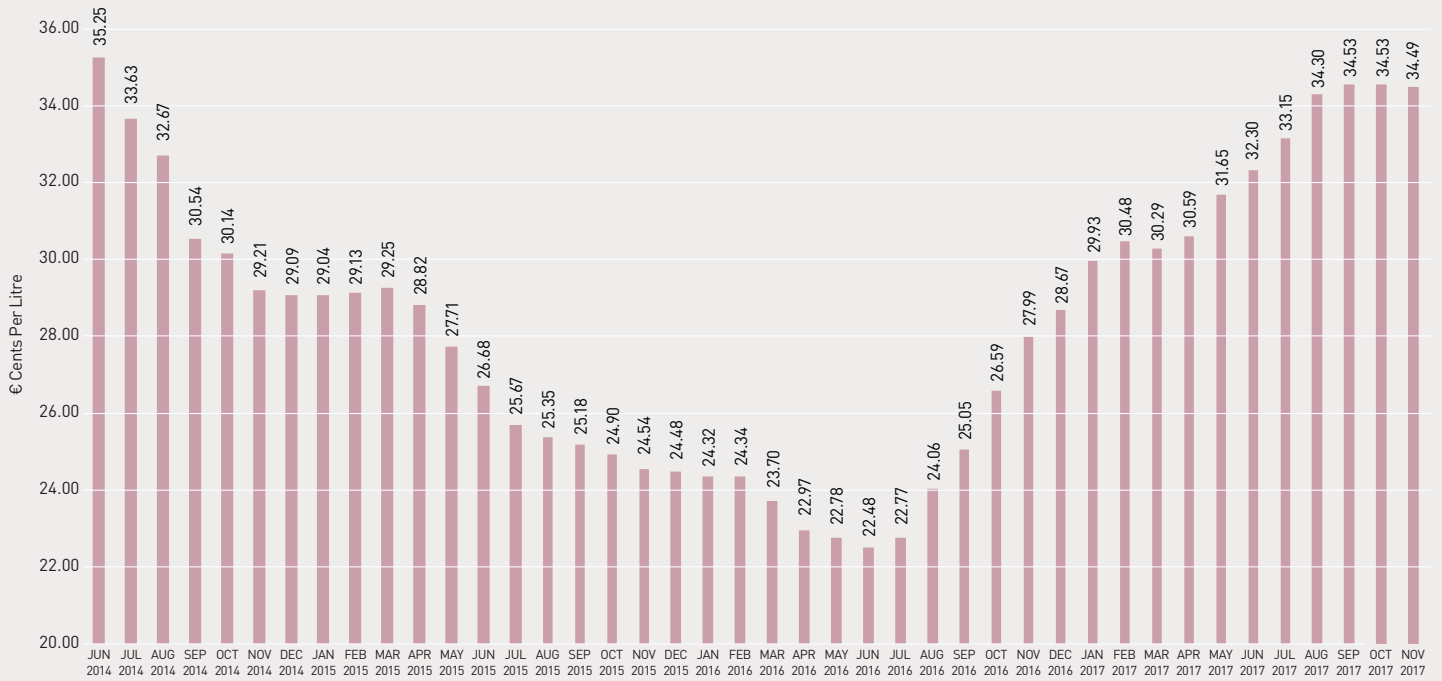
The plan is to broaden out the template to a nationwide approach.

In response to the shortages, Minister for Agriculture Michael Creed established a stakeholder working group on which IFA is represented by the National Dairy Chairman and Secretary. The group is chaired by ex-Department of Agriculture Secretary General Tom Moran and is working to make recommendations on how to achieve the six action points identified in the People in Dairy Project.

These are 1 – Promoting dairy farming as an attractive career; 2 – Excellent training, formal, informal and workplace; 3 – Farms must be enjoyable places to work (labour efficient); 4 – Employers with excellent HR skills; 5 – Provide career progression (long term models); 6 – Excellence in the industry promoted.

In addition, IFA lobbied the then Tanaiste and Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation Frances Fitzgerald TD and her officials to include farm operatives in the list of eligible occupations for non-EU/EEA labour permits. Minister Fitzgerald had stated to IFA the issue of labour shortages on dairy and horticulture farms was a priority for her Department, and committed to a review of the current list of eligible occupations. IFA has made preliminary contact on the issue with the new Minister for Enterprise, Business and Innovation Heather Humphreys TD and will have a technical meeting with her relevant officials early in the new year.

Average Milk Price as per Irish Farmers' Journal League
cents/litre, 3.3%p; 3.6%f, net of VAT, simple average



IFA National Dairy Chairman Sean O'Leary addresses the 2017 Farmers' Journal Dairy Day



COMMITTEE MEMBERS IDENTIFIED THE IMPORTANCE OF SUSTAINING A STRONG CAP BUDGET IN THE FACE OF BREXIT

Sustainable Dairy Assurance Scheme (Origin Green)

By the end of 2017, over 95% of Ireland's dairy farmers have applied under the scheme, and over 88% have been certified, some for the second, third or even fourth time.

IFA has encouraged co-ops to support farmers struggling with achieving certification to ensure they can obtain it as soon as possible and avoid any penalties.

IFA has also urged Bord Bia, Ornuia and industry to communicate clearly the value of the scheme to the sector and to leverage it fully to deliver improved markets and prices back to farmers.

Meetings with Co-ops and Ornuia

During 2017, the IFA Dairy Chairman and relevant Committee members met with most of the co-ops' and Ornuia's CEOs and Chairmen, with President Joe Healy in attendance at the main ones.

The meetings were focused on milk prices, the outlook for markets in the context of Brexit and the SMP stock overhang, and the importance of co-ops providing options for risk management, such as fixed milk price contracts – which a number of co-ops have done for 2018.

IFA stressed the importance for further industry investment not to outpace farmers' expansion efforts, but also to be done

in the most cost-effective way, jointly where possible, to avoid duplication and promote consolidation.

IFA also sought to address the need for a continued common national interest vision in the sector on issues such as sustainability, especially through Origin Green and the optimal leveraging of the Kerrygold brand.

Future of CAP and Brexit

To assess the outlook for the negotiations of the next CAP, especially in the context of Brexit, the Committee travelled to Brussels to meet Commission officials, MEPs, COPA officers and representatives of fellow-farm organisations. Committee members identified the importance of sustaining a strong CAP Budget in the face of Brexit, and ensuring that direct payments benefit active farmers as the two most pressing issues in the early stages of CAP Reform negotiations.

Irish Dairy Industry Association Water Sustainability Initiative

IFA is participating actively in this initiative, which aims to encourage better use of resources and nutrients on farms to strengthen Ireland's environmental credentials in terms of water quality. This is proving important in the context of the Nitrates derogation review.

Sean O'Leary

Sean O'Leary
Chairman, National
Dairy Committee



Catherine Lascurettes

Catherine Lascurettes
National Dairy Executive



NATIONAL LIQUID MILK COMMITTEE

IFA President Joe Healy and Liquid Milk Chairman John Finn address farmers protesting against unsustainable discounting of milk by Aldi and Dunnes Stores in August 2017



FARMERS WILL THIS YEAR AGAIN FIND THEMSELVES A COUPLE OF CENTS SHORT OF THE ANNUAL AVERAGE 40C/L

Milk Price Campaign

Stronger base creamery milk prices have allowed suppliers of fresh milk to improve their incomes this year. However, negotiating sufficient winter premiums was quite challenging, as last year's premiums or payments had been raised to offset partially at least the very low creamery prices in 2016.

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

2017/18 winter prices of around 40c/l + VAT (average of monthly pay-outs over the October to March period) were negotiated by producer groups – representing not insignificant increases on the previous winter.

However, farmers will this year again find themselves a couple of cents short of the annual average 40c/l which IFA has shown – with work from Teagasc and FDA Accountants – is required for the portion of their production which is covered by a liquid milk contract to break even (including a modest remuneration of the farmer's own labour).

Unsustainable Discounting by Retailers

Over the summer, starting with Aldi, the majority of retailers reduced the price of their 3-litre offering to 67c/l, with Iceland going even below this with limited volumes. Only SuperValu have abstained from this discounting, apparently without loss of sales. IFA, in a major retail protest, highlighted how this falls short of the cost of producing and processing the quality fresh milk required for the Irish consumer market.

With the launch in December of a Framework for the Ethical Retailing of Food, IFA also challenged retailers to a more responsible approach in their dealings with fresh food suppliers and consumers – especially on unsustainable discounting, and labelling seeking to mislead consumers on the provenance of certain fresh foods.

Autumn Calving Figures Continue to Fall

Autumn dairy calving figures, which had fallen 16% in 2015 and another 12% in 2016, have continued down another 5.5% for September to November 2017. This developing trend continues to suggest that farmers are reducing their calving pattern either to tighten supplies strictly to contracts, or because they are abandoning year-round fresh milk production and moving to a more economically sustainable spring system.

IFA has been highlighting this issue for the last couple of years, as it has the real potential to cause shortages of suitable fresh milk for the consumer trade over the winter period.

The food chain, including retailers, must take on board the economic challenges to the sustainability of fresh milk supplies in winter, and ensure that returns to farmers are adequate to cover their costs, and remunerate their labour and specialised production system, especially over the winter months.

At the launch of the IFA Milk Wise 2025 Strategy were IFA Liquid Milk Chairman John Finn, IFA President Joe Healy and Dairy and Liquid Milk Executive Catherine Lascurettes



IFA PROGRESSED ITS STRATEGY FOR IRISH PRODUCED FRESH MILK, LAUNCHED EARLY IN 2017, ON SEVERAL FRONTS.

Towards “Milk Wise 2025” – the IFA Strategy for Irish Produced Fresh Milk

IFA progressed its strategy for Irish produced fresh milk, launched early in 2017, on several fronts.

IFA engaged with Minister for Agriculture Michael Creed, his officials and the National Milk Agency (NMA) with regards to the role and powers of the Agency. Of particular interest is the basis on which the NMA determines that adequate compensation is paid to farmers, which should be purely economic, with support from an Observatory of Production Costs. The issue of the timing of signature for contracts, which currently precedes winter milk price negotiations and means farmers are signing without knowledge of the price they will receive, was also identified as a major problem.

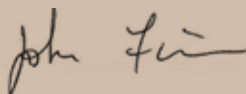
The National Milk Agency carried out the intention and succession survey of suppliers sought by IFA, and this showed just how crucial the premium farmers receive over the winter months is to their long-term commitment to their fresh milk production contracts.

IFA also met with the Department for Enterprise, Business and Innovation to deal with the enforcement and details of the Groceries Regulations, including the Liquid Milk Committee's proposal for the prohibition of 1-year procurement tenders for private label milk, which it believes to be an unfair trading practice.

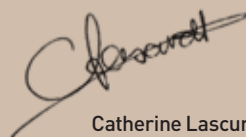
Support for Producer Groups

IFA support has helped achieve the successful consolidation of the four Aurivo liquid milk producer groups to strengthen their hand in negotiation, by securing adequate representation for all on the National Liquid Milk Committee, and facilitating an agreed representation of each producer group in a common negotiation team.

IFA also supported all other producer groups with their winter milk price negotiations.



John Finn
Chairman, National
Liquid Milk Committee

Catherine Lascurettes
National Liquid Milk Executive



NATIONAL SHEEP COMMITTEE



A STRONG IFA CAMPAIGN SECURED €25M FUNDING FOR THE NEW SHEEP WELFARE SCHEME WHICH DELIVERED A DIRECT PAYMENT OF €10 PER EWE

Lamb Prices

For the main selling season from May to September lamb prices were up by €7 to €8 per head in 2017. Average prices for the year were in the €5.05/5.10/kg range. Prices for hoggets were back on 2016 price levels.

IFA actively campaigned all year for strong prices and constantly lobbied for price increases, including meeting meat plants, MII to secure maximum market returns.

IFA provide Twice weekly updates on lamb prices on text, IFA app, www.ifa.ie and twitter.

Lamb Supplies

For 2017 total sheep supplies were up 10% or 255,000 per head, with increases in lamb, hogget and ewe slaughtering's.

Imports

IFA has highlighted the major concerns over the impact of Northern imports and weaker sterling on prices.

Live Exports

IFA encouraged and assisted the live export trade particularly in the lead up to the Muslin festival of Eid.

Working with the Department of Agriculture, Bord Bia and exporters IFA assisted the live trade to drive competition in the trade.

Spanish buyers and Bord Bia attended IFA meetings investigating the development of the live export trade for light lambs.

Promotions

IFA worked with Bord Bia to develop new markets and secure market access. IFA supported strong Bord Bia promotions on domestic and export markets. In addition, IFA lobbied with Bord Bia and others in Brussels to secure additional promotional funding for lamb.

Key Lamb Festivals

Easter and Muslim festivals are important features on the lamb market diary. Easter is on April 1st. Ramadan starts on May 15th and Eid is on Aug 21st in 2018.

Quality Assurance

IFA strongly promoted quality assurance and secured significant changes to the Bord Bia scheme including a more farmer friendly close out mechanism.

€10 per Ewe Sheep Welfare Scheme

IFA negotiated and secured €25m funding for the sheep welfare scheme. A total of 22,263 flock owners applied for the new €10 per ewe scheme consisting of 9,606 hill and 12,657 lowland flocks on about 2m ewes. Payments were made in November/December.

Additional Support for Sheep Sector

IFA lobbied Government that the €5m underspend on the welfare scheme be retained for the sheep sector.

IFA demanded Government match the unspent €5m with another €5m and bolt on an environmental/climate change option to the scheme, worth an additional incentive of €5 per ewe for all sheep farmers (lowland and hill).

EU Sheep Forum

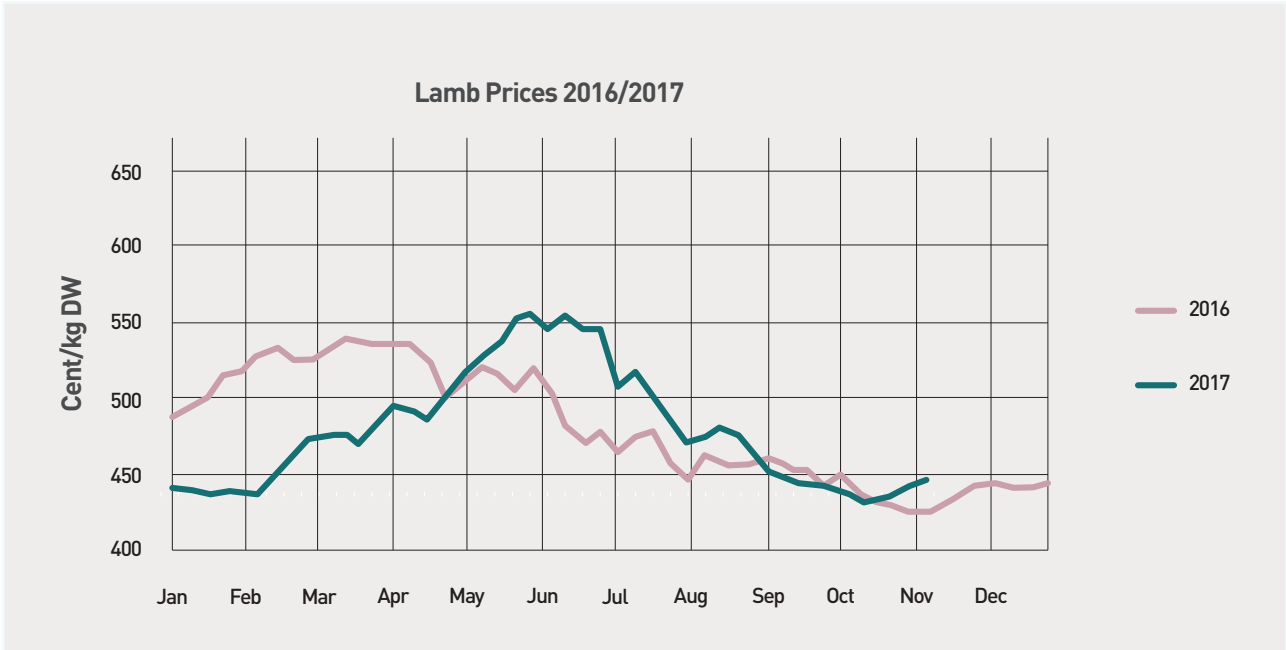
IFA lobbied hard in Brussels for increased supports for the sheep sector in Brussels through the EU Sheep Forum set up by Commissioner Hogan.

Hill Sheep Sector

IFA held a major hill sheep farmers conference in Connemara covering production, markets and policy. The Sheep Committee works closely with the Hill Committee.

IFA National Sheep Chairman John Lynskey (centre) launching the Bord Bia summer lamb promotion with Teresa Brophy and Declan Fennell Bord Bia.





Clean Sheep Policy

IFA has worked with the Department and industry to ensure that the clean sheep policy is as farmer friendly as possible.

Scrapie

IFA lobbied the Department to change the scrapie rules and reduce charges on ewe slaughtering's.

Producer Groups

IFA assisted producer groups throughout 2017.

Sheep Tagging and EID

IFA continued to support the current sheep identification system avoiding the additional costs from full EID on sheep farmers.

Dog Control

IFA highlight dog attacks on sheep flocks and worked to ensure responsible dog ownership. 85% of dogs are now chipped and IFA is demanding a central database.

Payments and Schemes

IFA worked to maximise scheme supports to sheep farmers and ensure that payments are delivered on time to farmers under BPS, ANC, Sheep Welfare, TAMs, KT, GLAS.

Outside Bodies Serving the Sheep Sector

IFA represented sheep farmers on a number of bodies including Department of Agriculture Groups, COPA and EU Commission groups in Brussels, Bord Bia, Sheep Ireland, Teagasc and FAWAC (Farm Animal Welfare Council).

John Lynskey
National Sheep Chairman



Kevin Kinsella
Director of Livestock



NATIONAL PIGS & PIGMEAT COMMITTEE

IFA Pigs Committee Chairman Tom Hogan, IFA President Joe Healy and IFA Pigs Development Officer Sean Holian launching IFA's DNA Scheme protecting the interests of Irish pig producers



IFA MET WITH PIG PROCESSORS THROUGHOUT 2017 TO DEMAND THAT THE IRISH PIG PRICES WOULD FOLLOW THE STRONG, RISING EUROPEAN PIG PRICES.

Pig Prices and Market Review

Pig prices increased in the second half of 2016 and remained strong in the early months of 2017. Both the export and domestic market for pigmeat remained very strong and prices increased for the first six months of 2017. IFA met with pig processors throughout 2017 to demand that the Irish pig prices would follow the strong, rising European pig prices. Lower production due to a 2% reduction in the EU sow herd, coupled with strong demand left the market in very positive territory with pig prices rising to €1.78c/kg in July. Seasonal decline in demand, plus increased EU production in the second half of 2017 led to declining prices, to below €1.50c/kg being quoted from export plants in the first week in December. While most pig producers saw a return to profitable margins in 2017, the extreme volatility in the pigmeat market place is unsustainable in the long term.

DNA Scheme

Sean Holian was appointed DNA administrator in June 2017 and he has overseen the implementation of the recommendations of the Wall-Cullinan report. The IFA Pigs Committee agreed to concentrate on the retail sector and packaged pigmeat products, especially bacon in 2017. Positive engagement from all retailers regarding IFA testing of products in store has seen mislabelling issues at an all-time low. IFA, in conjunction with the provider of the DNA testing technology, Identigen will target the wholesale food service sector in 2018 to highlight mislabelling issues. It has long been a problem area, with cheaper imports of pigmeat being a common feature in this area, that has often been disguised as locally produced Irish product.

Labelling

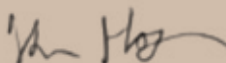
The country of Origin Labelling (COOL) was introduced for pigmeat in 2016 and enforcement of the COOL legislation remains far from ideal. The Pigs Committee, led by the Chairman Tom Hogan has highlighted numerous non-compliances. The Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI) and the Department of Agriculture have worked in unison to call out and penalise mislabelling of pigmeat products. The Pigs Chairman is a member of the IFA Retail Project Team and was heavily involved in the December campaign to highlight mislabelling of many products by retailers.

Nitrates Review

The IFA Pigs Committee made detailed submissions to both DAFM and Teagasc in advance of the negotiations at EU level to agree to Ireland's Nitrates Regulations for 2018 for the next four years. The IFA's Submission on Nitrates was taken on board by the Expert Group tasked with making recommendations which formed the basis of Ireland's negotiating position. Numerous meetings with Teagasc, independent environmental consultants and DAFM represented the interests of the pig sector in the negotiations.

AMR Antimicrobial Resistant

The IFA Pigs Committee have engaged with the current AMR debate. The IFA Pigs Chairman, Tom Hogan attended a number of meetings with the Department of Agriculture in Backweston, and is fully committed to the correct and responsible use of antibiotics in pig production. Methods to ascertain current usage levels of antibiotics by the pig sector and promotion of best practice will be encouraged by the IFA.



Thomas Hogan
Chairman, National Pigs &
Pigmeat Committee




Robert Malone
National Pigs & Pigmeat Executive



NATIONAL GRAIN COMMITTEE



STRONG IFA HARVEST CAMPAIGN DELIVERS PREMIUM FOR ALL IRISH GRAINS

Despite enormous pressure on grain prices right across the globe as the world produced the second largest harvest on record and high carryover stocks, a strong IFA harvest campaign ensured that a significant premium was paid by the trade for green grain off the combine. The increased focus on the use of native Irish cereal in compound feed rations has seen dried Irish wheat and barley trade above import parity for the first time in many years.

Department Sit-In

A 7 day sit-in by members of IFA's National Grain Committee secured a €1.5m aid package for over 200 growers who suffered serious weather-related crop losses during the 2016 harvest.

Irish Malting Industry Set for Significant Expansion

The planned 40,000t expansion of the Athy maltings sees the first major investment in malting facilities in over 30 years. It will result in existing growers being offered increased contracts and an opportunity for new growers to supply commencing crop 2018.

IFA secured an early derogation on distilling proteins for malting barley. This ensured that 33% of the 2017 crop was purchased for distilling.

Following on from negotiations after the closure of the Bagenalstown intake growers had their grain collected free of charge or where delivered a haulage allowance paid.

IFA recently negotiated a number of significant changes to the 2-year malting barley deal struck last year including: an initial fixed price offer of €167.50/t for contract green brewing malting barley, a much-reduced seed price of €520/t (delivered) for all varieties, free haulage ex-yard for growers' grain where branches were closed in recent years, retention of the current split of brewing/distilling contract per grower "as is" with the potential for additional contracts to be awarded to all growers for Crop 2018 and that that all barley purchased by Boortmalt for crop 2018 will be under contract.

Strong campaign ensures Reauthorisation of Glyphosate

IFA President spearheaded a successful campaign for the re-authorisation of glyphosate. The organisation partnered in a study published by the European Crop Protection Association showing the importance of retaining key plant protection products for arable and horticultural crop production. The EU's decision to re-authorise the use of glyphosate for 5 years is an important outcome for farmers and science. While it would have been better to have a longer renewal period, the decision does stand up to those who wanted to ignore science. The European Food Safety Agency has endorsed the use of glyphosate consistently saying it is safe.

Glyphosate is an integral part of the modern farming practice. It is a key arable / grassland crop management tool that allows farmers to produce an abundance of safe, affordable, quality food. Its judicious use allows farmers to adopt minimum tillage practices, thus preventing soil erosion and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. It is imperative that decisions to approve or not approve plant protection products are based on the best scientific evidence available and not on a political whim.

SBCI Funding Secured for Tillage Farmers

Joint lobbying by the Farm Business and Grain Committees ensured that low cost finance was secured for the tillage sector in 2017. Given that demand exceeded supply IFA has successfully lobbied for a further tranche for 2018. There is a need for scheme on a multi annual basis.

6 days and 6 nights - Grain protest at the Department of Agriculture secures crop loss support for tillage farmers



LOW INTERNATIONAL GRAIN PRICES, INCREASING INPUT PRICES, HIGH INTEREST RATES AND A REDUCED CAP PAYMENT HAS DECIMATED TILLAGE GROWERS' INCOMES OVER THE LAST 5 YEARS

Tillage Capital Investment Scheme Opens

The Department opened the Tillage scheme in July and received close on 500 applications. The scheme runs until 2020 with over €19m ring fenced for the tillage farming sector.

“Future of the Tillage Sector in Ireland” Report – Welcome First Step

Liam Dunne, National Grain Committee Chairman said that the Joint Committee on Agriculture and the Marine's report on the “Future of the Tillage Sector in Ireland” was a welcome first step in developing policy to regenerate Ireland's tillage sector. However, political action is needed to turn the report's recommendations into deliverables that will enhance growers' incomes.

“The continuing trend of low international grain prices, increasing input prices particularly for fertiliser, high interest rates coupled with a reduced CAP payment has decimated tillage growers' incomes over the last 5 years.” The report has adopted a number of recommendations made by IFA including:

1. The abolition of anti-dumping duties on ammonium nitrate and customs duties on non-EU fertilisers a key input in crop production.
2. The reintroduction of the SBCI Agriculture Cashflow Loan Support Scheme ring-fenced for tillage farmers to give greater access to competitively priced credit.

3. Retention of key active ingredients including glyphosate.
4. Stronger tillage sector support under Farm Schemes, including TAMS.
5. Greater support from all industry stakeholders for the use of native Irish grain
6. The development of a properly funded bioenergy sector.”

“Minister Creed must now act on the recommendations made in this comprehensive report and at the Grain Forum.”

Greening Changes

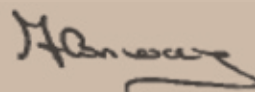
Despite strong pressure from IFA and other EU farming organisations under the umbrella of COPA the EU Commission changed rules for protein crops sown to satisfy EFA requirements. These can no longer be sprayed with plant protection products. The trade-off was that there will be no change to the 5% EFA required for the remainder of the current CAP. IFA has engaged in discussions with the Department to simplify other green cover requirements such as the introduction of flexible dates for the establishment of catch crops, allowing them to grow for a minimum of 8 weeks where a farmer wants to establish a combinable crop.

Tractor Testing

Concerted action by IFA's Farm Business and Grain committees forces Department of Transport to climb down on proposals to introduce a tractor road worthiness testing scheme for agricultural tractors mainly used on farms.



Liam Dunne
Chairman, National Grain
Committee

Fintan Conway
National Grain Executive



NATIONAL FARM BUSINESS COMMITTEE

*IFA President Joe Healy and IFA Farm Business
Chairman Martin Stapleton meet with Ministers Paschal
Donohoe TD and Michael D'Arcy TD on Budget 2018*



Agri-Cashflow Loan

The agri-cashflow loans launched in January 2017 were overall very successful and much needed. Due to the high demand, during 2017 IFA campaigned for a similar scheme to assist with lower cost lending to farmers to deal with short-term working capital pressures in 2018 - the Brexit Loan Schemes, amounting to €25m, were announced in Budget 2018. Details of these loans, which are to be made available to farmers, fishermen and food businesses, are in the process of being worked out. IFA will be seeking funding for both working capital and on-farm investment measures.

A separate €300m low-cost loan scheme has also been put in place for businesses impacted by Brexit; this includes food businesses but excludes primary agriculture and fishermen.

IFA Confidential Credit Helpline

During 2017, the services of the IFA Credit Helpline were enhanced by the creation of the Credit Helpline Team. This team of IFA experienced officers were given 2 days of training to add to their skills when helping farmers in financial difficulty. Farmers have been encouraged to call the helpline number, 1890 924 853, and once contact was made, one of the officers ensured a call was returned within 24 hours to discuss the credit situation. If needed, further assistance was provided e.g. accompanying the farmer to a meeting to discuss issues with the creditor or utilising the professional support of Financial Advisor Mr Brendan Stafford. The number of calls to the helpline have increased greatly, partly due to the media campaign to make farmers aware of the service provided. IFA is continuing to address issues such as vulture funds and engage with banks regarding access to credit.

Budget 2018

The Farm Business Committee is responsible for developing and coordinating IFA's taxation policy. This includes the development of formal proposals annually, in consultation with other sectors, and responding to short-term taxation issues that arise. The following taxation measures were delivered as part of Budget 2018, on foot of the IFA lobbying campaign and consultation with the Departments of Agriculture and Finance:

- Stamp Duty reliefs:
 - Consanguinity (inter-family) relief – to be retained at 1% with no age restrictions attached.
 - Young trained farmer – total exemption continues for farmers under the age of 35 with an agricultural qualification.
 - Transitional period – for a transaction that was agreed but not finalised by budget night (October 10th 2017), the 2% will still apply if it is completed by 1st January 2018.
- Long-term leases – legislation has been put in place to facilitate the abolition of the 1% stamp duty rate on long term leases in early 2018. Will only apply to leases commencing after final details announced.
- Consolidation – when buying land, if the new piece is closer to the farm, legislation will be put in place in early 2018 for the relief to reduce Stamp Duty to 1%.
- SEAI accelerated capital allowance scheme: this investment scheme to support energy efficient equipment is being extended for another 3 years, until end of 2020.
- Solar panels: agricultural land under solar panels is to qualify as farm land for the purposes of Capital Acquisitions Tax and Capital Gains Tax reliefs. This will only apply if the panels cover no more than 50% of the farm holding.
- Earned Income Tax credit: increased by a further €200 to €1,150 from 2018.
- Tax bands: The point at which income attracts a higher rate of income tax will increase in 2018 by €750. For a single earner - €34,550 and married couple (single income) - €43,550.

Revenue Review of FRA

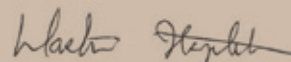
The Chairman has been in communication with both the Revenue and relevant poultry growers, at the request of IFA members. The role of IFA in this Revenue review has not been to negotiate on the specific issues in the poultry sector, or the practices therein. IFA's involvement has been to ensure that the review was being done in a manner that was fair to and provided full clarity to growers.

Kerry Shares

IFA wrote to the Revenue Commissioners seeking an extension to the time to reply for the affected farmers, and seeking clarification on the valuation that had been put on the shares and their tax treatment. Advice was given to members affected that they should respond within the 21 day deadline to ensure that they had the right to appeal the Revenue position, without penalties. A test case has been put before the Tax Appeals Commissioner and IFA is awaiting the outcome.

Staff

Rowena Dwyer left her position as Chief Economist and National Farm Business Executive at end-October to pursue a new career opportunity and the recruitment of an economist is ongoing.



Martin Stapleton
Chairman, National Farm
Business Committee



AQUACULTURE SECTION

IFA Aquaculture and Marine Institute: International Shellfish Safety Conference, Galway 2017



MINISTER CREED MUST IMPLEMENT ALL OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE IALRC REPORT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

Independent Licencing Review Major Achievement for IFA

The publication in 2017 of the Independent Review of Aquaculture Licensing (IALRC) was the result of 10 years of IFA lobbying. Internal reform of licensing had been ignored by successive governments until Minister Creed commissioned an independent review of the system that concluded by recommending urgent overhaul of the system.

The IALRC report is vital to the survival and development of the coastal economy. It addresses many problems which have cost industry millions of euro and hundreds of jobs.

Key elements of the report are:

- A 20 year licence to allow proper management and succession planning.
- Pre-application assessment and more transparency in public consultation
- Production of managerial and financial assurance before new licences are granted.
- End to penalization of farmers implementing best technology and environmental practice.
- A scientific approach to environmental management by "Standing biomass" calculation.

"Minister Creed must implement all of the recommendations of the IALRC report as soon as possible and publish an implementation strategy that assigns specific responsibility for recommendations, accountability and sets milestones for delivery, identifying the necessary resources to support the implementation process." Joe Healy

Ground-breaking New Aquabusiness Course

IFA Aquaculture delivered a ground breaking new educational course to fit the needs of the modern seafood industry in 2017. Along with vital assistance from BIM, Carlow Institute of Technology and voluntary input from our own members and former EU Commission staff, a higher diploma course was opened in September 2017, based at Wexford campus of CIT. The ethos of the course is to ensure the seafood sector is a viable and developing business, with support in training and lifelong learning to ensure the next generation of aquaculturists are prepared for the complex world of on-line business, regulation and bureaucracy.

The main outputs and modules of the course include;

- Aquabusiness law and regulatory compliance
- Strategic Analysis for market development
- Innovation and international marketing
- Management skills
- Economic pricing skills
- Financial analysis for decision making
- Communication and presentation skills
- Working in a team



Michael Mulloy
National Chairman Aquaculture




Richie Flynn
National Aquaculture Executive



FRESH MILK PRODUCERS (FMP)



THE FMP NEGOTIATION TEAM WILL STRIVE TO ACHIEVE THE BEST PREMIUM FOR DEDICATED LIQUID MILK SUPPLIERS INTO THE FUTURE

Glanbia Ireland

In May 2017, Glanbia shareholders and milk suppliers voted overwhelmingly in favour of Glanbia Ireland purchasing a majority 60% stakehold in both the Glanbia Consumer Foods Ireland business and also the Glanbia Agri, the feed section of Glanbia. FMP met with Glanbia representatives in the lead up to the vote and negotiated an extension to the agreement liquid milk payment package until the 31st March 2018. This was seen as allowing the new entity time to bed in and for managerial changes time to climatize to the new business set up. FMP have engaged positively with Glanbia Ireland in terms of the future of liquid milk and the terms and conditions regarding the supply of liquid milk to Glanbia post September 2018. These negotiations are ongoing and the FMP negotiation team will strive to achieve the best premium for dedicated liquid milk suppliers into the future.

Teagasc

FMP joined IFA dairy representatives in raising a number of issues regarding the use of the e-profit monitor data. Teagasc agreed to include labour and a number of other changes to the e-profit monitor on the back of these issues being raised. FMP supported the Teagasc Liquid /Winter Milk Conference held in Navan in October. Teagasc liquid milk specialist, Dr Joe Patton attended the FMP Central Executive in October and hosted an open day for the FMP Management Committee in July in Johnstown Castle, Co Wexford.

National Milk Agency

FMP were represented by two suppliers on the board of the NMA throughout 2017. The role of the NMA is strongly defended by FMP and improvements in reporting and auditing of the liquid milk contract system were implemented in 2017 by the NMA. FMP supported the suppliers survey in Autumn 2017 and will continue to work closely with the Agency to protect the liquid milk supply.

National Dairy Council

FMP fully supported the numerous media campaigns ran by the NDC supporting local farmers and processed fresh liquid milk.

Laurance Hannon

Larry Hannon
Chairman, FMP



Robert Malone

Robert Malone
FMP Executive



NATIONAL ANIMAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

IFA President Joe Healy and Animal Health chairman Bert Stewart lead a delegation of county chairmen to meet senior DAFM officials to highlight the importance of the Regional Veterinary Laboratories to farmers and the agri sector. L to R, JP Cowley Sligo, Willie Hanrahan Clare, John Bambrick Kilkenny.



A NUMBER OF COUNTIES CONTINUE TO EXPERIENCE UNACCEPTABLY HIGH LEVELS OF TB

TB

The reductions achieved in the levels of TB nationally are been maintained in 2017 with the key measures of Herd Incidence and APT (Animals Per ,000 Tested) similar to the previous 2 years.

A number of counties continue to experience unacceptably high levels of TB. This is primarily due to a less than effective Wildlife Control Programme implemented historically in the area by DAFM and the impact of high densities of deer interacting with cattle. IFA has engaged with the DAFM nationally and at local level to enhance the implementation of the Wildlife Control Programme, this approach is showing improvements in these areas.

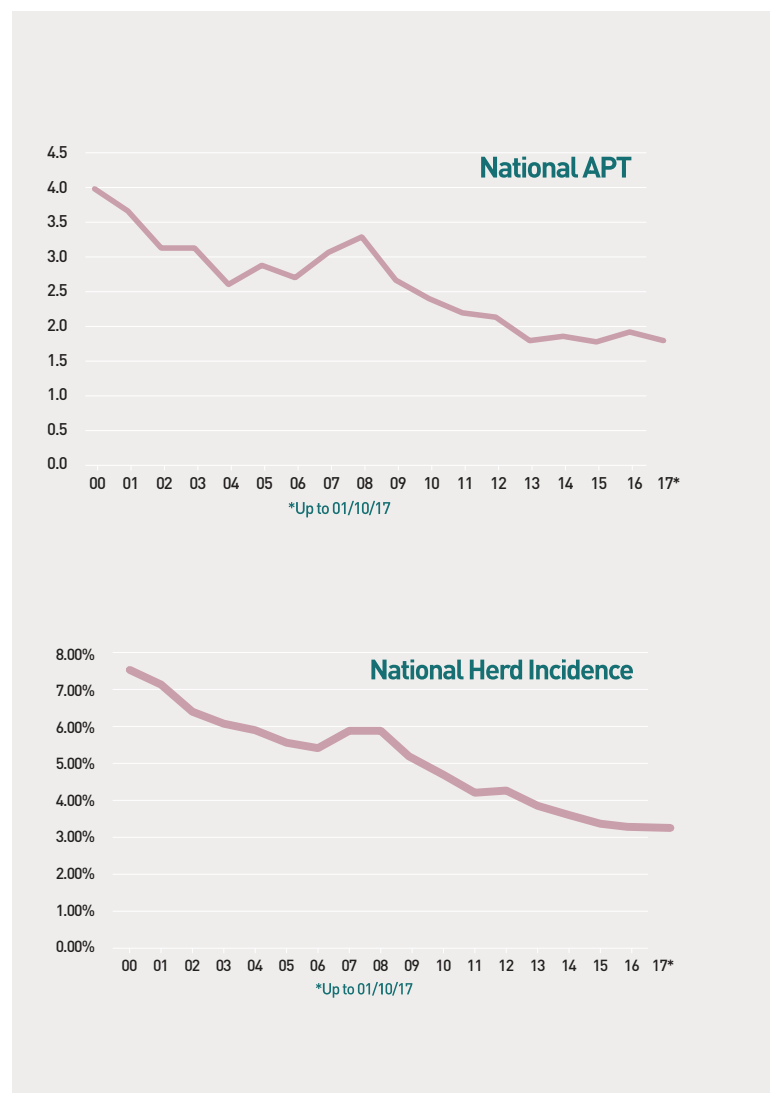
A Pilot Deer Management Programme in a TB hotspot area has commenced. If effective this approach can be implemented in other areas where deer are a disease threat to cattle or causing damage.

BVD

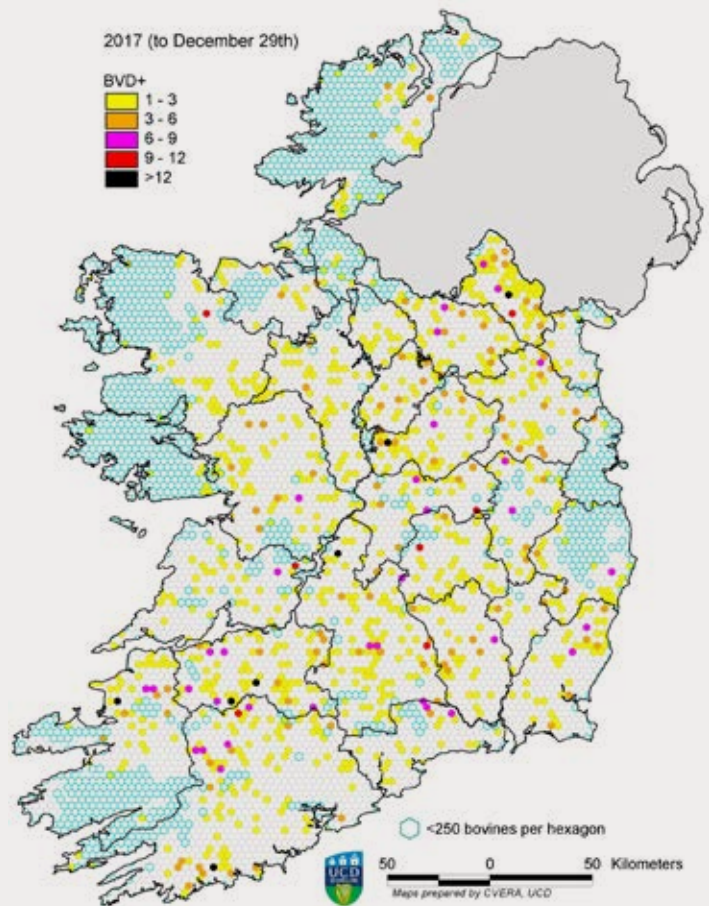
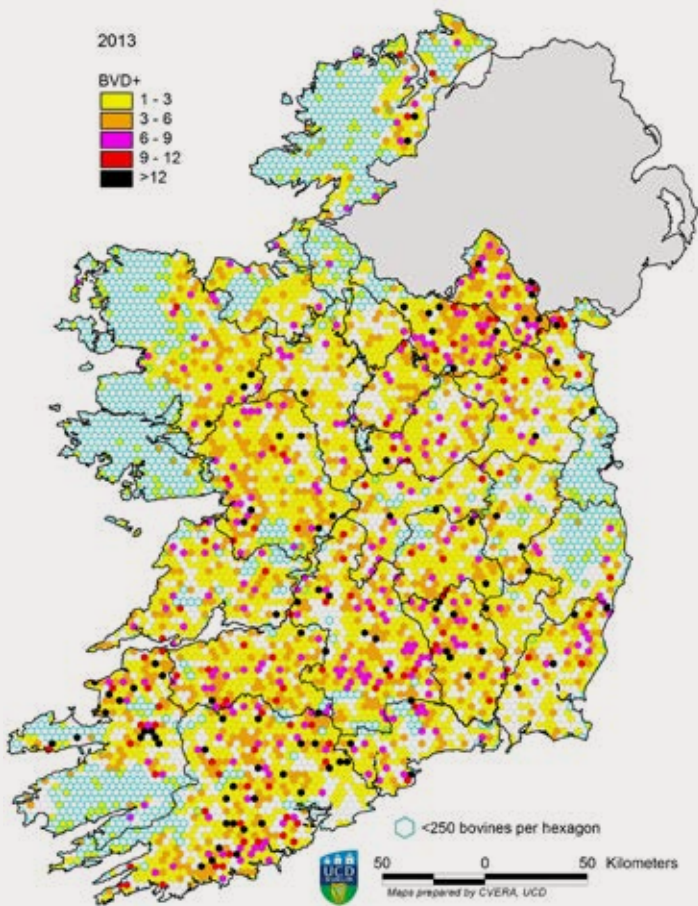
Stronger support payments for farmers disposing of PIs were provided in the BVD programme for 2017 and better implementation of controls around PI retaining farms including restrictions and neighbour notifications were applied.

All farmers identifying PIs in 2017 received a free full herd investigation funded through the RDP.(TASAH)

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



MAPS SHOWING DISTRIBUTION OF PI BIRTHS IN 2013 and 2017 Source AHI



THE NUMBER OF PIs IDENTIFIED ANNUALLY HAS REDUCED FROM 13,875 IN 2013 TO 2,335 IN 2017

BVD support payments were issued more promptly in 2017. Significant progress continues to be achieved in reducing the prevalence of BVD in the National herd.

37,121 PIs have been removed since 2013, with only 5 2016 born PI animals still alive in 4 herds based on the latest AHI data.

The number of PIs identified annually has reduced from 13,875 in 2013 to 2,335 in 2017

The number of herds with PIs has reduced from 9,484 in 2013 to 1,577 in 2017. 70,824 herds have Negative Herd Status.

Johnes

Phase 1 of the National Johnes control programme was launched this year. This element of the programme is primarily based on education and awareness campaigns and workshops run by the dairy co-ops. Additional financial supports are also provided to participants in the pilot programme, towards the cost of testing by DAFM (€3.60/test) and VRAMPs supported by the co-ops.

Phase 2 of the programme will be informed by a consultancy report which will assess the various options available and the costs and effectiveness of these.

Regional Veterinary Laboratories

IFA has actively highlighted the importance of maintaining the existing RVL structure and the need to enhance the service provided to farmers by the Regional laboratories.

EU Veterinary Medicinal Products Regulation Proposals

IFA have continued to highlight the key areas of concern for farmers in the new EU veterinary medicinal products proposals. This included communications and meetings with the Minister for Agriculture Michael Creed, the Irish MEP's and senior DAFM officials.

Bert Stewart

Bert Stewart
Chairman, Animal Health
Committee



Tomas Bourke

Tomas Bourke
National Animal Health
Executive



NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT & RURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

IFA delegation meet with Michael Creed TD Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine and Simon Coveney TD Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government on the Nitrates Directive.



PROPOSED €30M CARBON TAX WILL BE OPPOSED OUTRIGHT BY IFA

IFA President Joe Healy and Environment Chairman Thomas Cooney have rejected proposal made at the Citizens' Assembly to increase carbon taxes on farming. Such proposals are impractical, will add unacceptable costs and would be unlikely to make any real environmental difference.

The carbon tax was introduced in 2010 and since 2011 overall national greenhouse gas emissions have actually increased by 4%. There is no evidence that retired Trinity Professor Alan Matthew's proposal would have any positive environmental impact. IFA will strongly resist this proposed tax.

IFA and farmers are conscious of the need to play our part in addressing climate change but a second carbon tax would be the wrong approach. Agriculture has already significant initiatives in place and agricultural emissions have fallen by 6% since 1990 while our output has increased by over 40%. However transport's greenhouse gas emissions are now out of control, having increased by 130% over the same period.

Tractor Testing to be reviewed following IFA meeting with Transport Minister Shane Ross T.D.

Following an intense lobbying campaign led by IFA, Shane Ross T.D. Minister for Transport has agreed to review plans to impose a road worthiness test for tractors used for normal farming activities.

The Department of Transport's proposals ignores the reality that farmers are already legally required under the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005 to ensure that brakes, handbrake, mirrors, lights, indicators, wipers and hitches are all in working order.

The lack of understanding by the Department of Transport of farming was highlighted by their inclusion of general farming activity and a 25km distance-from-base limit as "commercial haulage".

Retention of transitional arrangements and derogation are priorities in nitrates review

The IFA has led a campaign of reform and change to the nitrates regulations throughout 2017. This has involved meetings with the EPA, Department of Agriculture, Department of Local Government and Teagasc. In addition IFA President Joe Healy and Environment Chairman Thomas Cooney are leading on-going discussions with DG AGRI and DG ENV in the European Commission.

As discussions continue, IFA's key priorities include:

- The continuation of the nitrates derogation for the 7,000 farmers who farm at a higher stocking rate, above the 170 kg org N/ha equivalent.
- The resolution of the situation for the pig and poultry sector, following the decision to end the transitional arrangements.
- The introduction of flexibility to the rigid calendar farming regime.
- The ending of the disproportionate level of nitrates inspections being imposed on farmers.
- The introduction of a three year rolling average for organic manures, to avoid unintentionally breaching the 170 kg org N/ha stocking rate equivalent.
- The simplification of the calculation of phosphorous in concentrates.
- Extra fertilisation allowances on high pH soils and autumn cereals.

IFA's submission to national water quality plan calls for additional supports for growing agri-food sector in Ireland

In a detailed submission made to the Department of Local Government IFA has called for greater support for Ireland's agri-food sector. The Department are currently developing a national water management plan for the period 2018 – 2021.

Measures sought by IFA include:

- A progressive approach to the current review of the nitrates regulations.
- Greater focusing by state agencies on working with the farming and wider rural community to address water quality challenges, rather than mainly focusing on imposing penalties and fines.
- Increased support for locally led initiatives, such as Smart Farming, which demonstrates clear and tangible benefits to the environment and farm returns from better resource management.
- Re-opening of GLAS.
- Review of proposal to introduce a water abstraction register for agriculture.
- Compensation for set-aside areas, where lands are planted or close to a water abstraction point.

Greenway funding must be contingent on a code of practice for landowners

During 2017, IFA's Executive Council approved a greenways policy position which calls on the Department of Transport to make funding to local authorities for greenways to be contingent on the development of a Code of Practice for engaging with landowners.

The policy paper describes the level of engagement with landowners by local authorities to-date as haphazard and in some instances nonexistent. This has culminated in local authorities such as Kerry and Clare taking an adversarial approach and threatening the use of CPO for the development of greenways.

Recreational routes such as Greenways and Blueways have an important role to play in promoting agri-tourism and economic activity in rural areas. This has been seen most recently in towns such as Dungarvan and Kilmacthomas, which have benefited from the success of the Waterford Greenway project.

However, these Greenways will also have a significant impact on farming activity and rural communities. Such routes should firstly be confined to state-owned lands. Only then should they be developed by agreement on private lands, along farm boundaries and through a combination of off- and on-public roads, similar to the development of recreational routes in other countries.

Climate activation programme required to address climate challenge

IFA is currently lobbying on Government to introduce the following measures to avoid climate fines and to further reduce Ireland's greenhouse gas emissions:

1. The announcement of a biomass development programme, which would displace electricity generated from peat and coal. This would eliminate 64% of greenhouse gasses created when generating electricity.
2. The re-opening of the Green Low Carbon Agri-Environment Scheme. This would reduce greenhouse gas emissions by an additional 65,000 tonnes each year.
3. The announcement of a zero carbon electricity tariff for community based renewable projects. This should be used over time to displace electricity production from gas, which account for 35% of greenhouse gasses emitted when generating electricity.
4. The scaling up of on-farm emission reduction programmes identified in the National Mitigation Plan, such as Smart Farming, Origin Green, and the Carbon Navigator.
5. A full review by the Department of Agriculture's Forest Services division of the new forestry programme and a commitment to remove barriers, as planting is down 14% year on year.

Thomas Cooney

Thomas Cooney
Chairman, Environment and
Rural Affairs Committee



Thomas Ryan

Thomas Ryan
Environment & Rural Affairs
Executive



NATIONAL FARM FAMILY & SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE



IFA ORGANISED AND PARTICIPATED IN OVER 100 FARM SAFETY EVENTS AS PART OF THE 2017 CAMPAIGN

Nursing Home Support Scheme

IFA's secured a major boost to its campaign to secure changes to the Fair Deal Scheme to protect the future viability of the family farm model, when Minister Daly committed to introducing a three year cap on the treatment of productive assets under the scheme subject to approval from the Attorney General and cabinet. The Minister agreed to fast track the changes to the treatment of productive asset in advance of the completion of the full review of the Nursing Home Support Scheme. Any changes to the scheme will require an amendment to the Nursing Home Support Scheme Act 2009, therefore it is likely to be mid-2018 before the changes will be introduced. IFA will be meeting with the Department regularly to ensure that as many farm families as possible benefit from the three year cap on productive farm assets and that the changes are implemented as soon as possible. In addition, IFA provided assistance and representation to farm families on individual queries relating to the Fair Deal scheme.

Farm Health & Safety

IFA organised and participated in over 100 farm safety events as part of the 2017 campaign to increase awareness of health and safety on Irish farms. IFA was the lead organisation in Ireland for the UK and Ireland Farm Safety Week, which offered five days of themed practical farm safety advice and guidance for farmers. The theme of this years' campaign was farm safety is a lifestyle not a slogan. A series of farm safety demonstrations were held around the country with different partners in the marts to raise awareness of good safety practices. An online supporters' pack was developed to encourage wider participation of organisations, companies etc. in the agri-business sector to participate in Farm Safety Week.

IFA developed a policy paper, Making your farm a safer place to work and live, based on a submission made to the Joint Ministerial meeting on Farm Safety held by Minister Creed and Minister Breen. The policy paper puts forward a number of proposals to (i) reduce income volatility on farms, (ii) incentivise retirement of older farmers, (iii) reduce the spend threshold on the Farm Safety scheme, (vi) introduce an annual farm safety budget to implement the Farm Safety Action Plan, (v) introduce a PTO (Power Take Off) Scrappage Scheme; and (vi) fund a national media farm safety campaign.

IFA developed a Health and Safety training course, to assist farmers to satisfy their requirements under TAMS II. Over 350 members availed of the training course in 2017 hosted by IFA Farm Business Skillnets.

IFA continued to work with See Change supporting the national Green Ribbon campaign to reduce stigma associated with mental health. The IFA organised a series of Let's Talk and Walk events in partnership with Coillte and Mental Health Ireland. Record numbers attended the walks in Cork, Donegal, Galway, Laois, Monaghan and Wicklow during May. The walks provided a forum for communities to show their support for those affected with mental health issues. IFA and Pieta House continue to work together to promote the Mind Our Farm Families phone line (1890 130 022) and counselling service for farmers and farm families that are feeling suicidal.

IFA continued to work with the Understanding Together campaign, an information and awareness and information campaign on dementia. IFA is one of 30 partner organisations working to increase awareness and build better supports for 55,000 people living with dementia and their families.



IFA President Joe Health, Farm Family committee Chairperson Maura Canning with Minister of State at the Department of Health Helen McEntee TD



IFA President Joe Healy and IFA Farm Family Chairperson Maura Canning meet with Minister of State Jim Daly TD on the Fair Deal Scheme

National Strategy for Women and Girls 2017 – 2020

IFA made a submission to the strategy that outlined the vital role played by women farmers in the agricultural sector that is traditionally underestimated due to the predominance of male farm owners within the sector. IFA sought that the new strategy recognise the important contribution of women in agriculture and empower more women to take a central role in management of the farm and farm businesses, which will improve the viability of both family farms and rural communities. Following on from the submission IFA was invited to become a member of the strategy committee.

The National Strategy for Women and Girls 2017 – 2020 was launched in May 2017. IFA continues to have a seat on the committee to support the Department of Justice and Equality achieve the actions outlined in the strategy and ensure that the actions related to rural women are implemented.

Pension Equality for Women

IFA in association with the National Womens Council of Ireland campaigned for pension equality for women in advance of the 2018 budget. IFA sought that the introduction of the total contribution system be fast tracked from 2020 to 2018 to remove the discrimination of women farmers. In addition IFA was looking for the pension system to recognise the important role women have played and continue to play in providing unpaid care.

The gender pension gap which measures the gap between the value of pension payments to women and to men is 37%. Ireland has the fifth widest pension gap in the EU. Many women farmers are facing their old age in poverty because the State still fails to recognise their work as unpaid carers for both the families that they have raised and for other relatives. Many more are still disadvantaged by the historical legacy of the marriage bar, which barred them from work in years past. As a result of changes to the yearly average contribution categories introduced in 2012, the pension gap between women and men has widened.

Maura Canning

Maura Canning
Chairperson, National Farm
Family & Social Affairs



Geraldine O'Sullivan

Geraldine O'Sullivan
National Farm Family & Social
Affairs Executive



NATIONAL FARM FORESTRY COMMITTEE



THE UK IS THE ONLY VIABLE MARKET FOR THE MAJORITY OF TIMBER PRODUCTS PRODUCED IN IRELAND

2017 Forestry Programme

The afforestation programme declined in 2017 with only 4,670 hectares of new forests established by October 2017, this represents a 20% decline in the afforestation programme compared with October 2016. There was a budget allocation under the Forestry Programme 2014 – 2020 to plant 7,140 hectares of new forests in 2017, however it is estimated that only 5,200 hectares will be established, this represents a 30% shortfall on the annual afforestation target. Nearly €67 million was paid to private forest owners in forest premium.

The introduction of an additional grant under the Forest Road scheme for new or modified forest road entrances has resulted in a significant increase in the uptake of the scheme in 2017, with over 58,000 linear metres of new forest road constructed by October 2017, an increase of 43% on this time last year. To satisfy the strong timber for timber nearly 800 felling licences have issued to clearfell 1,140 hectares and thin 11,000 hectares.

IFA Plan to Revitalise the Farm Forestry Sector

IFA published a plan to outline some of the main pressures identified by farmers that are impeding the expansion and development of the private forest sector. The plan put forward policy changes required to encourage more farmers to plant and support existing forest owners to collectively mobilise to achieve production targets in the private forest sector.

IFA is calling for the following changes in policy to be introduced (i) remove restrictions on planting all productive marginal land, (ii) reintroduction of farmer forest premium differential, (iii) appropriately compensation farmers for all the land they are obligated to set aside for environmental enhancement, (iv) reduce red tape in the Forest Road scheme and (v) appropriate funding to establish a network of Forest Producer Groups.

Mid-term Review of Forestry Programme 2014 - 2020

IFA made a submission to review highlighting changes required in the programme to develop a supportive framework that would encourage more farmers to plant and mobilise the existing private forest estate to build a competitive, economic viable and sustainable forest sector.

The Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine in their draft proposals have proposed the following measures including a 5% increase in premium for GPC 4 – 10, 2% increase in premium across all GPCs for forests greater than 10ha, significant increases to Agro-forestry and Forestry for Fibre, increase in road density to 25m/ha, new deer and tree shelter scheme and introduction of a second thinning grant for broadleaves, subject to approval from the Department of Public Expenditure and Revenue. If these measures are approved the 2018 forestry budget will increase from €106 million to €111 million.

IFA is disappointed that the Department did not take the opportunity to re-introduce a farmer premium differential and increase the premium payment to farmers to encourage a greater take up of the scheme.

Although the proposed measures are welcomed, they do not address the key obstacle limiting the expansion of the forest sector, which is the decline in the level of farmer planting under the current programme.

Forestry & Brexit

The Irish forestry and forestry product sector contributes €2.3 billion to the Irish economy supporting 12,000 jobs. Timber production is forecast to double to 7.90 million m³ by 2035, with almost all of the increase being harvested in the private forest sector. Farmers own and manage 85% (or approximately 300,000 hectares) of the private forest estate. If the timber production forecast is realised the opportunity exists to increase the annual value of the sector to €4.5 billion and the support 22,000 jobs, predominantly in rural areas. The UK is the only viable market for the majority of timber products produced in Ireland, currently 83% of the sector's exports go to the UK. Trade must be maintained and trade barriers avoided if the forest sector is to continue to expand and create employment in rural Ireland.



IFA SOUGHT CHANGES TO THE ASH DIEBACK RECONSTITUTION SCHEME TO ALLOW AFFECTED FARMERS OF OLDER PLANTATIONS TO MANAGE INFECTED PLANTATIONS

Commencement of the Forest Act 2014

Since the 24th May 2017, forestry operates within a legal and regulatory framework of the Forest Act 2014 and the Forestry Regulations 2017 (SI No 191 of 2017). Under the new Act the following changes were brought into force:

A single felling licence process that allows for a felling period of up to 10 years, which may be extended for an additional five years. In addition the licensee shall erect a Site Notice, seven days prior to the commencement of and remain in place for the duration of harvesting operations.

There is a requirement for a site notice to be erected on sites proposed for afforestation or the construction of a forest road. The site notice must be erected for not less than five weeks.

An independent Forestry Appeals Committee will be established on a statutory basis to deal with appeals against licence applications for afforestation, forest roads, aerial fertilisation and tree felling.

Changes to Ash Dieback Reconstitution Scheme

IFA sought changes to the Ash Dieback Reconstitution Scheme to allow affected farmers of older plantations to manage infected plantations, by removing infected trees to contain the spread of the disease while optimising timber production

from the plantation. In April 2017 the Department introduced changes to the Ash Dieback Reconstitution scheme and the Woodland Improvement Scheme (Element 1: Thinning and Tending) to assist owners affected by the disease. The revisions changed the approach to managing infected plantations, the focus still remains on large scale removal and replanting for younger ash plantations, however, in older plantations the primary focus is the removal of individual infected ash trees by thinning the plantation to contain the spread of the disease. If this intervention is unsuccessful the Reconstitution scheme may still be available to the farmers depending on age and/or size of plantations. The changes aim to mitigate the most adverse economic impacts for individual farmers affected.

National Mitigation Plan & Forestry

The National Mitigation Plan published in July 2017 recognises the important role of the forest sector, through afforestation and the use of forest based biomass (FBB) and wood products for climate change mitigation. Over the period 2021 to 2030, afforestation since 1990, which has been undertaken predominantly by farmers, will remove an estimated net 4.5 million tonnes of CO₂ per annum. Under the 2016 Effort Sharing Regulation proposals, which is currently under negotiation, Ireland has the potential to contribute 2.7 million tonnes CO₂ equivalent per annum through LULUCF (land use, land use change and forestry) activities, the majority coming from the forest sector, in order to meet emission reduction requirements over the period 2021 – 2030.

Pat Collins

Pat Collins
Chairman, National Farm
Forestry Committee



Geraldine O'Sullivan

Geraldine O'Sullivan
National Farm Forestry
Executive



NATIONAL HILL FARMING COMMITTEE

A delegation from IFA who walked and surveyed Commonage in the Tinnahinch area to assess land eligibility: Francis Gorman Laois IFA Chair, Eoin Conroy, Jer Bergin IFA National Treasurer, Noel Fitzpatrick, Paddy Flanagan, Pat Dunne National Chair IFA Hill Committee, Kevin Flynn and Ger Dunne.



THE HILL COMMITTEE HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN ENSURING THAT A SIGNIFICANT PART OF THE €70M ALLOCATED TO THE LOCALLY LEAD PROGRAMME IS SPENT IN HILL AREAS.

GLAS & Commonages

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

Over 9,000 commonage farmers are in the GLAS scheme. Where there are difficulties with the GLAS stocking requirement, these are being referred to the Commonage Implementation Committee under the Chairmanship of Pdraig Gibbons.

Commonage Management plans had to be completed by October 2017 and IFA got flexibilities that the min/max stocking levels set out can be reviewed by the Planner. In addition all payments to Commonage farmers were made where there was no other issue with the GLAS plan.

Heritage Bill 2016

The Committee perused the Heritage Bill which proposes to allow burning of gorse in the month of March. IFA put significant pressure on the Minister and TD's from both Fine Gael and Fianna Fail to ensure that the bill was passed. The bill is now at the Oireachtas Committee stage.

Walks Scheme

The Hill Committee were successful in getting additional funding for the walks scheme in the recent Budget. Discussions are taking place with the Minister of State for Rural and Community affairs, Michael Ring to pursue this matter.

Over 40 walks are now established in the scheme, which IFA negotiated in 2008. Around 1,900 farmers are availing of the scheme, which is worth €1.9m annually. The scheme has been rolled over in each 8 year contract period.

GLAS Payments: A major campaign by the Hill committee ensured that most GLAS farmers are paid their 2016 and 2017

GLAS payments. The Committee participated in a Protest outside the Department of Agriculture in February regarding delayed payments.

Direct Payments Support: The committee have put maximum pressure to get all ANC, BPS and other direct payments made to Hill farmers. This is critical given the low incomes in Hill areas and the importance of direct payments.

Annual IFA National Hill Event: The IFA National Hill Forum was organised jointly by the IFA Hill Committee and the National Sheep Committee. The forum this year was held in Maan Cross, Connemara in May with over 200 Hill Farmers attended. Speakers included Light Lamb Buyers, Teagasc, Department of Agriculture as well as IFA speakers.

ANC's: The Hill Committee played a key role in getting an additional €25m of the ANC's for 2018. The decision on how this will be paid is yet to be made but IFA but the Hill Committee is insisting that the increased payment will be made to the areas that have the highest natural handicap.

Locally Led

The Hill Committee have been involved in ensuring that a significant part of the €70m allocated to the Locally Lead Programme is spent in hill areas.

Between a combination of the Hen Harrier Scheme and Up Land Scheme a significant proportion of the funding should be available to Hill farmers.

CAP Reform

The Hill Committee has been involved in discussions on the future shape of CAP.

The importance of Rural Development measure to Hill farmers has been highlighted and will form a strong part of IFA policy going into discussions.

Pat Dunne

Pat Dunne
Chairman, National Hill
Farming Committee



Gerry Gunning

Gerry Gunning
National Hill Farming
Executive



NATIONAL HORTICULTURE COMMITTEE

IFA President Joe Healy launches Celebrate Strawberry Week on Pat Clarke's Fruit Farm in Stamullen, Co. Meath with Minister of State Andrew Doyle TD and Minister Regina Doherty TD



Retailer Activity for Fresh Produce Sectors Field Vegetables, Protected Crops & Fruit

IFA's continued its campaign throughout 2017 against irresponsible promotion campaigns by retailers. The Association's campaign against Supervalu's 'free vegetable' promotion was successful, and sent a strong message to other retailers considering such practices. Continuous monitoring of retailers ensured Irish produce get priority over imports, especially with discounters Aldi and Lidl. This has resulted in both retailers now stocking an increased number of Irish fresh produce lines. IFA liaison with retail buyers ensured growers' concerns are foremost on the retailers' agenda.

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

IFA continues to liaise with the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC) to ensure rigorous enforcement of the grocery goods regulations

Brexit

Irish mushroom growers came under further pressure in 2017 as sterling continued to devalue during the summer. IFA campaigned at home and at a European level for government support for the sector.

IFA's Budget 2018 campaign delivered a €300m Brexit loan scheme and another €24m Agri-Loan Scheme which should benefit the sector. IFA lobbying has also resulted in the introduction of a lean management programme for the sector and a new approach to the administration of the EU Fruit and Vegetable Producer Organisation (PO) scheme. The Government has committed €5m in 2018 to the Commercial Horticulture Grant Scheme.

The weakness of sterling has put downward pressure on farm gate prices in the vegetable sector due to the presence of cheap UK imports. IFA has organised meetings with wholesalers and others in the sector to ensure support Irish businesses.

Bord Bia

IFA coordinated Celebrate Strawberry Week with Bord Bia and growers in the soft fruit sector. The marketing campaign

included a strawberry themed garden at Bloom this year. We are also part of a broader stakeholder group which is trying to organise an EU promotional campaign to include other Irish fresh produce lines.

IFA has continued to meet with Bord Bia on the new Sustainable Horticulture Quality Assurance Scheme. As a result they have made a number of key changes to the scheme rules. They have also organised training day's online templates, and agreed to an 18month transitional period for growers to enter the new scheme.

Nursery Stock

IFA/IHNSA, together with Bord Bia organised two plant/trolley fairs in 2017 for nursery stock producers aimed at reducing the importation of nursery stock produce.

IHNSA members again participated in the GroMor / Garden Centre Campaign and engaged with REI to ensure nursery participation in 2017 in an effort to get people back gardening.

IHNSA / IFA met with Minister for Horticulture Andrew Doyle regarding compensation for damage caused to nursery tree producers by storm Ophelia and we were successful in getting the introduction of flexibilities in the Commercial Horticulture grant scheme for these growers.

Labour Issues

IFA has highlighted the crisis facing horticulture producers regarding the shortage in suitable workers.

In 2017, IFA made two submissions to the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation on the need for the government to change the criteria regarding the introduction of work permits for the agriculture sector. IFA got a commitment from An Tánaiste Frances Fitzgerald that the criteria would be reviewed as a matter of priority by her Department.

Plant Protection Products

IFA is in constant liaison with the Department of Agriculture regarding the reduction in the number of active ingredients available to the sector. IFA was successful in getting a number of replacement products introduced for the horticulture sector. IFA Vegetable and Protected Crops Chairman Paul Brophy spoke at a seminar organised by the PCD on the issues facing Irish growers in this area.



Gerry Reilly
Chairman National Horticulture
Committee




Patrick Farrell
National Horticulture Executive



NATIONAL POTATO COMMITTEE

IFA Potato Chairman Eddie Doyle with children from Carrigeen, National School, Co. Kilkenny on his farm on National Potato Day.



National Potato Day launch

Retailer / Food Service Sector Activity

IFA continues to work with retailer buyers and potato merchants/packers to ensure growers receive a viable return for their produce.

IFA has continued to ensure that Irish produce gets retailer priority over imports, and encouraged buyers to source alternative lines such as salad and organic potatoes in the ROI. Due to cheaper imports from the UK, the foodservice sector had been using mainly imported product. However, IFA has led a campaign to ensure that these suppliers have reverted to Irish potatoes.

Planting Survey

IFA's annual planting and variety survey of 180 growers was published in the autumn. The survey represented an area of 18,200ac, 83% of total area planted. Main findings were:

- No significant increase in area from 2016
- Production increase of 2%
- Reduction in early varieties of 10%

EU Potato Promotion Campaign

The marketing campaign – "Potatoes – More Than A Bit on the Side" run in conjunction with Bord Bia and the Potato Council (UK) is now in its third and final year.

With IFA coordination, Irish growers have contributed €250,000 over this period. The campaign strategy was to increase the frequency of potato purchase and improve the consumers' health perceptions of potatoes. So far the initiative has achieved its aim by increasing consumption by 10% since July 2015.

Market Price Reporting

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

National Potato Day (NPD) 2017

IFA was actively involved in another very successful NPD which was co-ordinated by Bord Bia. A number of potato committee members hosted a farm open day for local schools and organised retail promotional events to mark the day.

Salad Potato Project

This initiative, organised with Bord Bia and Teagasc, with the objective of growing more of these varieties to substitute imports has finished this year. The project has been a success with a number of new growers now producing this potato line and acreage has increased by 40% in the past three years.

The project team will now focus on the fresh chip sector in 2018. In preparation for this, IFA has organised meetings with a number of the key players in this industry namely the major importers and the ITICA - Irish Traditional Italian Chipper Association.

TAMS Tillage Scheme

IFA representation was successful in getting potato equipment used in the harvesting of salad potatoes included in the TAMS Tillage Scheme. Other growers have been successful in getting 40% grant aid for other items included in the overall scheme.

Other Committee activities involved meeting with Bord Bia on the Sustainable Quality Assurance Scheme to ensure a workable scheme for potato growers, inclusion of the potato sector on the Horticulture Forum and the creation of a provisional agreement between IFA, and the potato merchants / packers in relation to the contentious issue of potato tare.

Eddie Doyle

Eddie Doyle
Chairman National
Potato Committee



Pat Farrell

Patrick Farrell
National Potato Executive



NATIONAL POULTRY COMMITTEE

IFA Deputy President Richard Kennedy, IFA National Environment Chairman Thomas Cooney, IFA National Poultry Chairman Nigel Renaghan and IFA Pigs Committee Chairman Tom Hughes leads a delegation to Nitrates review meeting with the Department of Agriculture



Retailer Activity

The Chairman led a campaign to all main retailers and food outlets during 2017 to promote the increased use of Bord Bia Quality Assured poultry products. Bord Bia surveys have shown the continued increase of Bord Bia Quality Assured chicken and eggs, reflecting increased awareness among consumers. This awareness combined with the ever-growing demand for locally produced, quality assured chicken and poultry products, continues to be the driver of the Irish poultry sector.

Supermacs led the way with their 100% Irish guaranteed offering to their chicken breast Burger which has been a major success. The Poultry Committee will pursue other food outlets to follow suit and commit to using 100% Irish Quality Assured products.

Labelling

The country of Origin Labelling (COOL) was introduced for poultry meat in 2016 and enforcement of the COOL legislation remains far from ideal. The Poultry Committee, led by the Chairman has highlighted numerous non-compliances with the current legislation. The Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI) and the Department of Agriculture have worked in unison to call out and penalise mis-labelling of poultry products. Continued pressure is required, especially in the wholesale foodservice where legislation enforcement remains a major issue. The Poultry Chairman, Nigel Renaghan was an active participant in the IFA Retailer Project Team and the December campaign to highlight mis-labelling of many products by retailers.

Nitrates Review

The IFA Poultry Committee made detailed submissions to both DAFM and Teagasc in advance of the negotiations at EU level to agree to Ireland Nitrates regulations for 2018 for the next four years. The IFAs submission on nitrates was taken on board by the Expert Group tasked with making recommendations which

formed the basis of Ireland's negotiation position. Numerous meetings with Teagasc, independent environmental consultants and DAFM represented the interests of the poultry sector in the negotiations.

TAMS and Financial Investment

The IFA Poultry Committee succeeded in a number of additional items for the poultry sector in early 2017. The Pigs Committee will continue to lobby for a substantial increase in the €80,000 investment limit. With the continued increase in the demand for Irish grown and processed chicken, continued investment will be required inside the farm gate. The IFA has had positive engagement with the main banks on the provision of finance to the sector at favourable terms. The IFA Poultry Committee will continue to push for lower interest rates, and favourable support from the banking sector.

Sale of Carton Bros, Manor Farm

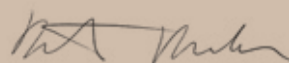
The IFA Carton Growers Group received reassurances in the immediate aftermath of the announcement of the sale of the largest poultry meat processor to Scandi Standard Plc. Management gave commitments that negotiations will continue as was with the committee representing growers and all changes to terms and conditions to be altered through an agreed negotiation process.

AMR Antimicrobial Resistant

The IFA have engaged with the current AMR debate. A revised Food Chain Information sheet was agreed after a number of meetings with the DAFM in early 2017. The Irish poultry sector is fully committed to full accountability of all medication and the responsible use of antibiotics in the production of all poultry.



Nigel Renaghan
Chairman, National Poultry
Committee

Robert Malone
National Poultry Executive



NATIONAL RULES, PRIVILEGES AND PROCEDURES COMMITTEE



THE MAJOR WORK OF THE COMMITTEE DURING THE YEAR FOCUSED ON ADVICE TO COUNCIL CONCERNING PROPOSALS FOR RULES CHANGES

Function of the Committee

The National Rules Committee deals with internal organisational matters and its 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 individual members and the authority of the Council as the governing body of the Association.

Role of National Treasurer/Returning Officer

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

Rule Changes

The major work of the Committee during the year focused on advice to Council concerning proposals for rules changes regarding:

- The new roles of Director General and Association Secretary (ratified)
- The creation of a National Animal Health Committee and a National Hill Farming Committee each with full Council representation (ratified)
- The Chairmen of the National Pigs and National Poultry Committees to each have full Council representation (ratified)

- In Regional Chairman elections, the nomination endorsement requirement to be reduced (not ratified); and the votes of the branch delegates to be weighted according to the membership of each branch (ratified)
- The voting in elections at County Executives to be by PR-STV (ratified) and
- The position of National Treasurer/Returning Officer to be returned to two separate positions (not ratified)

Conduct of Elections

The Committee also supported the National Treasurer/Returning Officer in the conduct of the 2017 IFA National Elections including issuing the time-table for elections, recommending the Code of Conduct to Council, re-affirming the tie breaker provision for Regional Chairman nominations, setting out the procedures for County Executive debates and voting for the position of Ulster/North Leinster Regional Chairman and officiating at those meetings.

In spring 2017, the National Treasurer/Returning Officer conducted National Committee elections for Committee Vice Chairmen and Management Committees, and at end 2017 oversaw the elections for Committee Chairmen.

Support & Good Governance

The National Treasurer/Returning Officer and the Association Secretary have provided advice and support for officers and staff in regard to rules and procedures, elections and candidates' campaigns, and the resolution of differences/disputes at County Executive and National Committee level.

The Committee also met with Paul Turpin of the IPA to discuss how to enhance the governance and effectiveness of the Association including the development of a code of conduct.



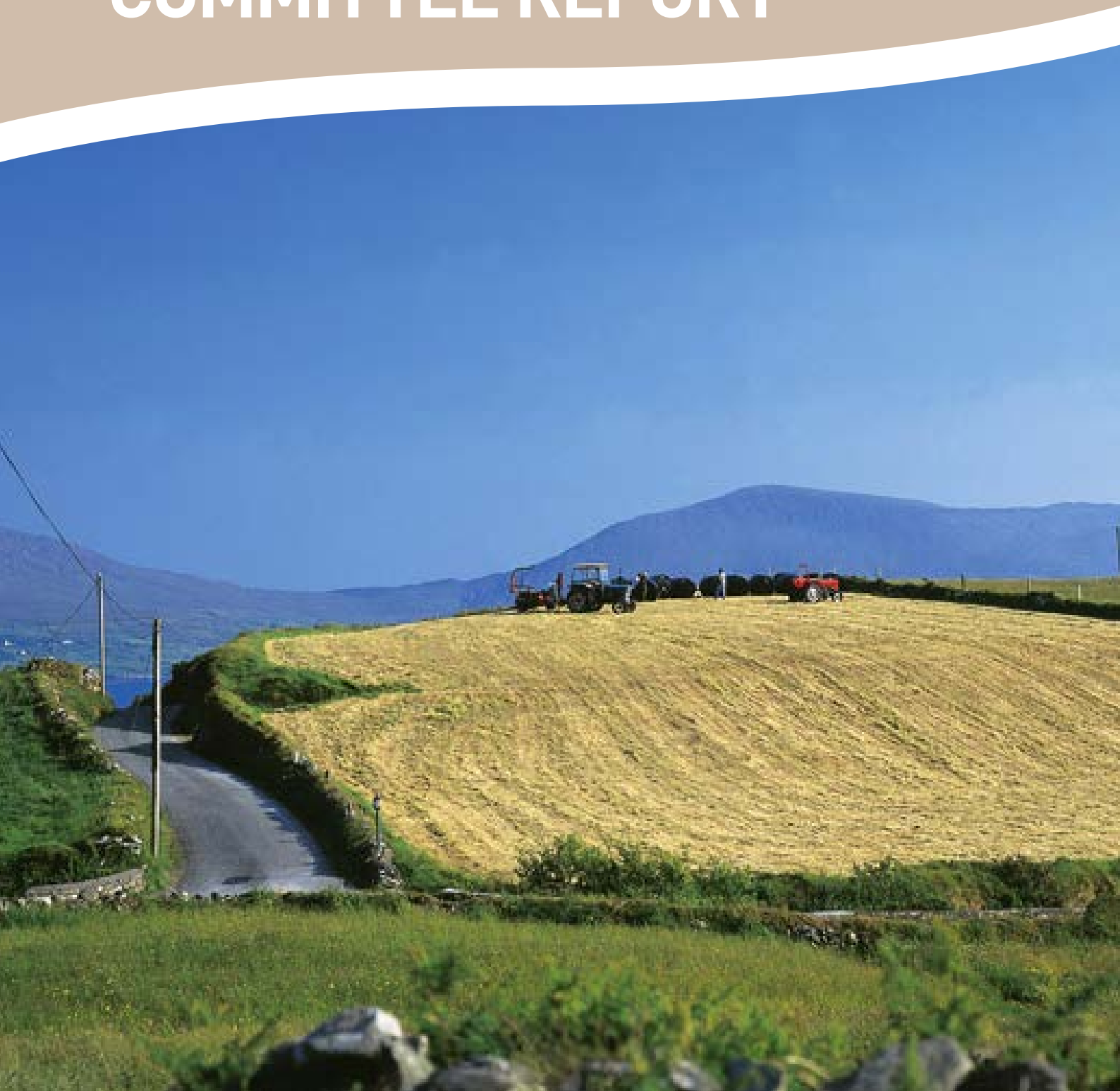
Jer Bergin
Chairman, National Rules Committee,
National Treasurer/Returning Officer




Bryan Barry
Secretary, National Rules Committee,
Association Secretary



NATIONAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND LESS FAVOURED AREAS COMMITTEE REPORT



ANCs

The Committee was involved in a major campaign on the ANC review in the early part of 2017.

A number of major regional and county meetings were held where local politicians were invited. In addition a major lobby session was held in Dublin in March.

The IFA campaign centred on protection of existing areas, an increased allocation to €250m and that payments in the review would relate to the natural handicap.

At the EU Council of Ministers meeting in April proposals to extend the timeline for the review was accepted and the review has now been pushed back until 2019.

IFA view this as important as it will allow Ireland to use all the data that is available to ensure that the new maps reflect natural handicaps.

Ongoing discussions are taking place with the department on this vital issue for 95,000 farmers.

As part of the IFA Campaign for additional funding the commitment in the Programme for Government to add €25m to the ANC allocation was pursued. This was delivered in Budget 2018.

Discussions have commenced with the Department in relation to the review of rates of payment for ANC's in 2018.

GLAS

50,000 farmers are now in the GLAS Scheme worth €230m.

The Rural Development Committee organised a protest on 2016 GLAS payment in early 2017. Following on this most payments were eventually paid out.

In relation to 2017, GLAS 1, 2 & 3 payments commenced at the end of November,

Detailed discussions took place with the Department on many of the technicalities in the scheme to ensure farmers could maximise their payments.

IFA continues to monitor GLAS fees for both Teagasc/FRS and private planners.

TAMS

Over 15,000 farmers had applied for TAMS by the end of tranche 8 with around 12,400 farmers having received approval to proceed with work.

Over 2,400 farmers who have completed work received payments worth €34.2m in 2017.

IFA put significant pressure on the department for early approval land quick payments.

An allocation has been secured for the scheme in 2018.

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

Knowledge Transfer

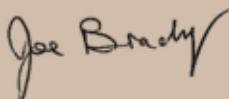
IFA secured important changes to the Knowledge Transfer measures following year one of the KT Programme. These included: farmers being allowed to attend up to two events, as well as more flexible administration,

There are 1,150 groups involving 19,100 farmers (10,000 beef farmers, 4,500 sheep farmers, 4,500 dairy farmers with the remainder in poultry and equine).

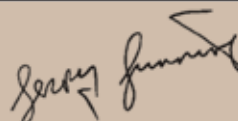
Payments commenced in October for the KT groups at the end of October in line with the Charter of rights.

The scheme is worth €23m, €14m of which goes to farmers.

IFA continues to object to the involvement of vets and the charges that result from this.



Joe Brady
Chairman, National Rural
Development Committee

Gerry Gunning
National Rural Development
Executive





IFA President Joe Healy leading a protest on behalf of farmers awaiting long overdue GLAS payments at the Department of Agriculture on Kildare Street.

Budget 2018

IFA successfully lobbied for increased funding for Rural Development measures in Budget 2018.

The allocations secured were - agri-environment schemes €234m, ANCs €227m, TAMS €70m, KT €23m. Other rural development measures include €20m for sheep welfare and €50m for BDGP.

An additional 250 places were allocated to the Rural Social Scheme to bring the total number of places to 3,350.

An additional allocation of €8m has been allocated to National Rural Development schemes including rural recreation (up 50%) and Rural Walks measures; The CLAR programme; and support for the rural plan for rural development (up 33%).

Charter of Rights

The Charter of Rights commitments have been pressed strongly by the Rural Development Committee with the Department and while there may have been slippage on some schemes, on major schemes such as BPS and ANCs payments were broadly delivered on time. Significant pressure is being made to ensure that all 50,000 farmers in GLAS are paid on time.

Leader Programme

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

The level of expenditure on the Leader programme to date is very sluggish with only €10.5m having been approved for projects to date.



Locally Led Agri-environment Schemes

The Locally Led agri-environment schemes in the Hen Harrier areas worth €25m is being introduced. IFA is insisting that most of the money goes to farmers and the farmers already in GLAS should also be eligible.

The tendering process for the Freshwater Pearl Water Mussel, upland areas and other areas has commenced. Schemes will be developed in 2018 for these areas.

CAP

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

IFA has also been involved in the EU civil dialogue discussions in Brussels and are inputting into the CAP post 2020. Also, we are represented on the RDP monitoring committee.

The key objective will be to ensure significant funding for Pillar II, higher levels of national co-financing, increase allocations for ANC's, agri-environment and farm investment measures.

PROJECT TEAMS





BREXIT PROJECT TEAM

IFA President Joe Healy leads an IFA delegation to meet Michel Barnier European Chief Negotiator on Brexit, in Brussels in April 2017.



Throughout 2017, IFA led the response of the Irish farming and food sector on Brexit, stressing that Ireland is the EU economy that will be the most impacted, and that farming and agri-food will be the most impacted sector.

IFA Brexit Publication

In March, IFA published a major policy document, **Brexit: The Imperatives for Irish Farmers and the Agri-Food Sector**, in which we identified key issues in the negotiations:

- Ireland's agri-food sector has a high dependence on the UK market, with between 35 - 40% of exports destined for the UK annually. Disruptions to this market, through the imposition of tariff barriers, border checks, certification requirements or other regulatory changes could render this trade uneconomic.
- High EU tariff protection applies to products of major importance to Irish farmers, such as beef, dairy products and lamb. A significant reduction in import tariffs by the UK for non-EU countries such as Mercosur, would fundamentally undermine the competitive positioning of Irish and EU products on the UK market, and reduce the value of the UK market.
- The existence of the land border between Ireland and Northern Ireland creates a serious challenge. Every year, thousands of animals and huge volumes of agricultural produce cross the border to Northern Ireland for further finishing or processing, as part of a highly integrated supply chain. Brexit presents a real risk of a 'hard' border, with customs checks and other regulatory controls.
- As a net contributor to the EU budget in the order of over €3bn annually, the UK's exit from the EU creates uncertainty on the size of the CAP budget post 2020. Any reduction in the CAP budget would directly and negatively impact on Irish farm incomes across all sectors.

IFA Brexit Policy

Maintaining the closest possible trading relationship between the UK and EU, while preserving the value of the UK market is essential to Irish farming.

IFA's key priorities in the Brexit negotiations are therefore as follows:

- The 'optimum outcome' is that the UK remain within the Customs Union and the Single Market, as this would address both trade and 'border' issues.
- The next best option is that there is a Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement between the EU and UK with:
 - Tariff-free trade for agricultural products and food;
 - Maintenance of equivalent standards on food safety, animal health, welfare and the environment; and
 - Application of the Common External Tariff for food imports to both the EU and the UK.

IFA is also working for a strong CAP Budget Post-2020. In the first instance, the UK must fully meet its obligations to the EU budget for the entirety of the existing CAP reform programme, which runs to the end of 2020. Post 2020, there can be no reduction in the CAP budget arising from the UK exit.



Other important requirements arising from Brexit are:

Support for Market Disturbance – IFA will require direct support for farmers (eg beef and mushrooms) through CAP Market Support or other measures in the event that sterling depreciates further during exit negotiations.

Flexibility on State Aid Rules - EU State Aid limits must be extended in Member States such as Ireland which have been disproportionately impacted by the depreciation of Sterling, and whose competitiveness versus their EU trading partners has been undermined.

Increased Support for Marketing and Promotion - Bord Bia and other state agencies require increased support for marketing and promotion of Irish agri-food products to the UK and diversification into other markets.

Structural and Adjustment Support - the EU must make available funding to the farming and food sectors which are negatively impacted due to changes due to the UK exit from the EU.

Future Trading Relationship

The most straightforward way of keeping the current border arrangements for Northern Ireland and between Ireland and Britain and minimising trade disruption, is to agree a future trading relationship that does not require customs and regulatory checks, and avoids regulatory divergence.

UK and EU Negotiations

IFA welcomed the agreement reached in December, by the EU and the UK, to avoid a hard border and that sufficient progress has been made to move to Phase 2 of the negotiations.

The text in the joint report from the negotiations that the UK will maintain full alignment with those rules of the Internal Market and the Customs Union is significant in that it deals with the EU-UK relationship in its entirety.

IFA's position remains that regulatory alignment must restrict the UK's ability to do trade deals with third countries in agriculture and food products, by aligning their standards to EU standards and applying the same tariffs as the EU's common external tariffs



Stakeholder Engagement

The IFA Brexit event held at Goffs in April was attended by over 700 farmers and industry representatives and was addressed by EU Agriculture Commissioner Phil Hogan, Minister for Agriculture, Michael Creed, Mairead McGuinness, MEP and UFU President Barclay Bell, among others.

At EU level, IFA met with the EU Chief Negotiator Michel Barnier and Task Force members on a number of occasions. In Brussels, IFA is a leading participant in the COPA / COGECA Brexit Task Force Group and we have mounted on a campaign

of information and persuasion with other EU farming organisations, and with government representatives of other EU member States.

At home, IFA engaged with key stakeholders and highlighted the very real threats posed to farmers' livelihoods in presentations to the Oireachtas and meetings with all of the main political parties, the British Ambassador to Ireland, Robin Barnett, IBEC, IIEA, the British Irish Chamber of Commerce, European Movement and others.

Joe Healy
Chairman, Brexit Project Team



Elaine Farrell
Brexit Co-ordinator



DIRECT PAYMENTS PROJECT TEAM



Richard Kennedy

Richard Kennedy
Chairman, Direct
Payments Project Team



Angus Woods

Angus Woods
Chairman, National
Livestock Committee



Kevin Kinsella

Kevin Kinsella
Director of Livestock



IFA INSIST THAT PAYMENTS ARE DELIVERED WITHIN THE DEADLINES SET DOWN IN THE CHARTER OF FARMERS RIGHTS.

Direct Payments

In total €1.8bn was paid out to farmers in Direct Payments, the majority within the payment deadlines set down in the Charter of Farmers' Rights.

IFA secured a 85% SFP advance payment from October 16th, resulting in a €715m cash flow boost at a vital time of the year.

By year end, IFA pressure had secured Basic payments in excess of €1bn to 122,000 farmers out of total applicants of 123,284.

Outstanding cases were held up due to changes under the new payment regime, digitisation from satellite inspections.

ANCs payments commenced in the third week of September and IFA secured delivery of over €197m to 91,640 farmers by year end. Remaining payment will be made in early 2018.

Beef Data and Genomics Scheme. IFA secured payments to 20,000 farmers to the value of €36m.

1,100 Farmers received €4m under the 2016 scheme.

9,500 applicants were paid €20m under the Young farmers top up scheme.

85% of AEOS/GLAS paid in first instalment to 35,000 farmers, worth €130m.

KT Payments were paid in October / November.

2017 GLAS payments commenced at the end of November to 40,000 farms – 85% advance followed by 15% in early 2018.

Sheep welfare payment worth €16m to 21,000 sheep farmers in November / December.

CAP Implementation and Simplification

IFA participates on the EU direct payments Civil Dialogue Committee on direct payments along with COPA in Brussels.

As well as the key budget and policy issues, a priority in the next CAP will be simplification.

113,000 farmers made online applications in 2017. Next year all farmers will have to make applications online.

The IFA made submissions as part of the Omnibus regulation which has implemented new simplification rules for Direct Payments and inspections.

Charter of Rights Monitoring Committee

The Charter of Rights Monitoring Committee met on 3 occasions in 2017, under the Chairmanship of Dr. Sean Brady.

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

IFA insured that the commitments on payments and inspections set out in the charter are met. In addition, IFA raise several other issues of concern to farmers on inspections and payments to farmers at the Charter Committee.

Submission on Inspections

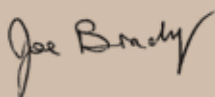
IFA made a detailed submission to the Department of Agriculture for a fairer and more farmer friendly inspection regime and to reduce penalties imposed on farmers. This followed from a campaign on inspections by North Tipperary IFA.

Agricultural Appeals Office

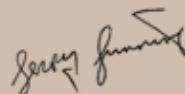
IFA made a detailed submission to the Department of Agriculture on the review of the Agricultural Appeals office. IFA is seeking a better process for the appeals system with an independent Chairman. A review of the Department inspection regime also took place following problems in the Nenagh Office.

IFA Direct Payments Unit

IFA assisted thousands of farmers with individual direct payment queries across all of the schemes at both national and local level throughout 2017. IFA set up a specialised Direct Payment Unit to deal with all cases with the Department of Agriculture.



Joe Brady
Chairman, National Rural
Development Committee

Gerry Gunning
National Rural
Development Executive



FLOOD PROJECT TEAM

An IFA delegation meeting with then Minister for Office of Public Works, Sean Canney and current Minister Kevin 'Boxer' Moran, TD on flooding. Standing (l-r) John Keena, Offaly IFA Chairman; Richard O'Brien, Westmeath; Pat Gilhooly, Leitrim; John Hanley; Roscommon IFA Chairman. Seated (l-r): Willie Hanrahan, Clare IFA Chairman; Kevin 'Boxer' Moran, TD; Minister Sean Canney; and, Padraic Joyce, IFA Flood Project Team Chairman.



IFA HAS INSISTED THAT PROJECTS WHICH HAVE BEEN PREVIOUSLY TURNED DOWN FOR SUPPORT WOULD NOW BE ELIGIBLE

Following the severe flooding in 2015/16, IFA has had several meetings with the Ministers for the Office of Public Works Sean Canney and Boxer Moran to secure greater resources to alleviate flooding.

A river Shannon flood risk coordinating group was established. IFA met them on numerous occasions to ensure that the action plan took into account work that farmers would benefit from.

From this, certain projects are now taking place as part of the strategic management plan for the river Shannon.

A number of natural restrictions on the river Shannon in the Banagher area are being removed. These include pinch points which will allow a better flow of water and help to avoid summer floods.

Funding and work continues on the Dunkellan area of south Galway.

IFA has insisted that designations of the river must not result in works being stopped.

A relocation scheme has been introduced for houses which consistently flood. In addition farmers can make a case for farm yards which are continually under threat in flooding situations.

On the Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Study (CFRAMS), IFA has had ongoing discussions with Jacobs Consultants on a number of areas throughout the country.

It is a requirement under the EU Floods Directive that such management plans are in place for all areas. IFA has had

representation in South Galway area the Dublin area and surrounds, the south-east, the north-east, Neagh Bann area and the Cork area.

IFA is particularly concerned that the CFRAMS will not come up with action plans that are necessary to deal with the ongoing problem of flooding.

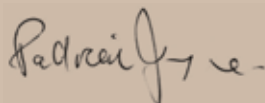
Several meetings were held with local authorities who were in charge of the minor work scheme, to prioritise the protection of coastal areas, banks on rivers, as well as remedial work to alleviate flooding.

IFA made a submission for a change to the cost benefit analysis under the minor work scheme. As a result the cap on projects being accepted has increased from €500,000 to €750,000.

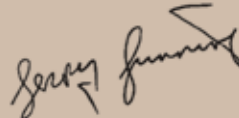
In addition, farm yards were considered for assessment like all other businesses and a calculation for land was done on the basis of standard outputs.

IFA has insisted that projects which have been previously turned down for support would now be eligible.

IFA has inputted into National Flood Forum debates to ensure that farmers and land owners are considered in whatever action is taken by the Government to alleviate flooding.



Padraig Joyce
Chairman, Flood Project Team

Gerry Gunning
National Rural Development
Executive



HORSES PROJECT TEAM

IFA South Leinster Regional Chairman James Murphy was telected Chairman of the COPA Horse Working Party in 2017.



Thoroughbred Foal Levy Committee (HRI)

As agreed with IFA, the 2018 foal levy bands will continue as were for 2017. IFA sits on the Horse Racing Ireland (HRI) Thoroughbred Foal Levy Committee. 2017 foal levy fund amounted to €1.85m (€1.753m in 2016) and was allocated as follows: Irish Equine Centre €900K, ITBA (Irish Thoroughbred Breeders' Association) €450K, ITM (Irish Thoroughbred Marketing) €450K. The ITBA also got a once-off grant of €25K towards hosting an Expo in 2018.

Actual Stallion Fee

IFA continues its campaign for a fairer way to collect the foal levy and has proposed the option of collecting the levy on the actual stallion fee paid by the breeder. The resistance to IFA's proposal by HRI / Foal Levy Committee is an administrative one, which is an unacceptable reason not to provide for equity to all breeders.

Foal Levy Committee

IFA has made representation to the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine Michael Creed on the composition of the Foal Levy Committee. This Committee currently comprises of representation of the Irish Thoroughbred Breeders' Association (ITBA), Horse Racing Ireland (HRI) and the IFA.

IFA does not consider it appropriate, and has pointed out to Minister Creed and HRI that the current composition of the committee is at odds with all corporate governance norms, in that organisations that are major beneficiaries of the levy, have direct representation on the committee to decide how the funds are dispersed.

IFA, on behalf of breeders, has also questioned the appropriateness of a voluntary membership organisation being funded through a Statutory Levy.

Brexit

IFA engaged with HRI, ITBA and ITM in accessing the implications of Brexit for the Irish Equine Industry. IFA made a presentation to COPA / COGECA highlighting the following key priorities for the Irish equine industry:

- Maintaining UK Market Access and Value
- Movement of horses and stable staff between Ireland and Northern Ireland. The horse racing and breeding industries of the UK and Ireland operate as one, with horses, trainers, riders regularly moving between both jurisdictions.
- Movement of horses between Ireland, the UK and France. Both Ireland and the UK operate as a single entity for stud book purposes (i.e. British and Irish foals are both registered in the one stud book) and together with France, there exists

a historic tripartite agreement between the respective Departments of Agriculture to facilitate free movement of thoroughbred horses between the three countries. It is vital that this is retained.

- Equine Exports. 65% of Ireland's annual foal crop is exported and 80% of these exports are to Britain. UK is the single biggest market for Irish bloodstock and a major source of overseas revenue to Ireland. Ireland's exports of thoroughbreds are worth €225m each year, 80% of which will be at risk due to reduced trade flows as a result Brexit.
- Flexibility on State Aid Rules. EU State Aid limits must be extended in Members States that have been disproportionately impacted by the depreciation of Sterling, and whose competitiveness versus their EU trading partners has been undermined. The equine industries in Britain and Ireland, while complimentary to each other, are also in competition for global investment, sale of media rights of racing, location of bloodstock and training operations etc.
- Support for Market Disturbance. From 2019 to 2023 the Irish media rights deals for racing will be paid in Sterling creating a significant risk to the income streams of racecourses in particular.

Horse Sport Ireland

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

Horse Passports

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

Equine Liaison Group

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

COPA-COGECA

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

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

James Murphy

James Murphy
Chairman, Horse Project Team



Elaine Farrell

Elaine Farrell
National Horse Executive



INPUTS PROJECT TEAM



THE COST-PRICE SQUEEZE IS HAMMERING FARMERS AND DAMAGING THE COMPETITIVENESS OF IRISH AND EU AGRICULTURE

IFA Intensifies its International Fertiliser Campaign

Following on from an international campaign, initiated by IFA President Joe Healy and inputs Project Team Chairman John Coughlan, for the abolition of anti-dumping duties on ammonium nitrate and customs tariffs on non-EU fertiliser imports the Commission's DG Trade division launched an investigation 17 August 2017 on the basis of a dossier collated and submitted by IFA on behalf of a number of major EU farming organisations.

The IFA detailed submission clearly demonstrates the dysfunctionality of the EU's nitrogen market given the dominance of a number of major players and their ability to manipulate prices in the absence of any meaningful competition due to the application of anti-dumping duties and customs tariffs.

The case is progressing rapidly with the EU commencing detailed on-site investigations at a number of major nitrogen manufacturing plants across the EU. On 29 September 2017, the European Commission issued its decision regarding the final sample of Union producers, which is composed as follows: Yara France, Yara Sluiskil B.V., AB Achema, CF Fertilisers UK Limited and Neochim PLC.

The Commission commenced separate oral hearings in late November/ early December with Fertilizer Europe and its members (all of whom are fertiliser manufacturers) and a consortium of EU farming organisations led by IFA.

Meanwhile, major nitrogen manufacturers led by Yara, Europe's largest nitrogen producer, have announced a series of price hikes for CAN and ammonium nitrate since the commencement of the current fertiliser marketing year last June.

Yara Protest

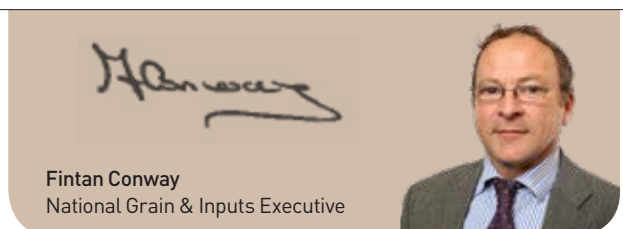
Research by IFA shows that after the introduction of anti-dumping duties in 1994, Irish and EU fertiliser prices have increased at almost double the rate compared to other inputs. IFA President told Yara that "the cost-price squeeze is hammering farmers and damaging the competitiveness of Irish and EU agriculture. Fertiliser is the second largest expenditure item on Irish farms, costing Irish farmers €505m last year".

Increased concentration of the EU's fertiliser industry due to the imposition of anti-dumping duties and customs tariffs have resulted in a lack of competition in the EU fertiliser market and European fertiliser manufacturers have profited from this protection over the last decade, while farm incomes decline.

The abolition of anti-dumping duties and tariffs on non-EU fertiliser imports would save Irish farmers an estimated €35m per annum and European farmers close on €1bn.



John Coughlan Munster Regional Chair being interviewed at the protest outside Yara's Ringaskiddy plant in Cork over the 50% increase in nitrogen prices.



RENEWABLES & ALTERNATIVE LAND USE PROJECT TEAM

IFA delegation meet with Denis Naughten TD, Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment on Climate Change and Renewable Energy.



James Murphy

James Murphy
Chairman, Renewables Project Team



Thomas Ryan

Thomas Ryan
National Environment Executive



Renewable Electricity Scheme

IFA is seeking that 20% of the energy levy paid by all homeowners is ring-fenced, to develop a prosumer strategy which encourages homeowners and farmers to replace their fossil fuels with renewable sources. IFA is calling for a clear change in the direction of Ireland's energy policy. In a recent submission to Government IFA has called for 20% of the levy paid by all consumers, which is equivalent to €100m, to be ring-fenced to support the development of farm scale, roof-mounted and farmer led community energy projects.

The current plan of exclusively using this public service obligation levy, as it is known, to support the construction of thousands of large scale wind turbines across our natural landscape is no longer acceptable to rural communities. It has also resulted in the transfer of millions of euros paid by Irish citizens to enrich multi-national energy companies.

Some of the other measures being sought by IFA include a generation feed-in tariff of 17c/kWh, guaranteed for 20 years and linked to CPI for farm scale and micro-energy projects, a 2.5c/kWh premium for renewable projects that include community participation and a grid connection and planning preference for community renewable projects.

The Government has an obligation to use their best endeavours to address the environmental and renewable obligations, in a fair and balanced way. The development of a prosumer strategy, as proposed by IFA, places the citizen at the centre of future energy needs by making it possible for them to displace fossil fuel use and become sustainable renewable energy producers.

Solar Energy Projects

IFA provided an information and advisory service to individual farmers that were approached by solar energy developers so they were informed prior to making any decisions with their land.

Renewable Heat Incentive

IFA is seeking the introduction of a RHI that is embedded in the local economy and optimises the economic benefits by creating new revenue streams and valuable new job and business opportunities in rural areas, where job opportunities

are limited. The RHI must support farmers and forest owners to integrate renewable energy production into their farming activities, which will have a direct benefit for farm incomes and the rural economy.

The demand for heat energy is the largest source of energy use in Ireland, accounting for 45 per cent of all primary energy usage and 33 per cent of CO2 emissions. In 2014, Ireland's energy import dependency was 85 per cent, the cost of all energy imports is approximately €6 billion. It is imperative from both an economic and an environmental perspective, that we reduce our reliance on these imports.

In the submission IFA proposed that a percentage of the RHI budget be ring-fenced for agricultural and rural community based projects and a tariff premium is made available to larger scale projects that provide a minimum of 25% shareholding for community ownership. This will support the rural economy and ensure that the profits are more fairly shared with the community.

National Policy Statement for the Bioeconomy

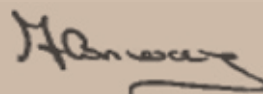
IFA made a submission to the development National Policy Statement on the Bioeconomy, where it stated clearly that the transition to a bio-based economy can only be successful if the primary food sector is supported to increase production and efficiency against the backdrop of growing environmental challenges.

IFA sought the establishment of inter-agency working group to support the exchange of information and co-ordinate policy development between various Departments with regard to the bioeconomy. Such a complex concept demands a long-term vision, supported by the entire Irish government. The working group should have responsibility for developing a comprehensive bioeconomy strategy, to address the competing claims to land use for the production of food and feed, as well as production for renewable raw material.

Other policy measures identified to develop the bioeconomy included; public awareness campaign, demonstration projects, measurable targets, training and development programmes, market stimulus and supports to develop biomass trade and logistics centres.



Geraldine O'Sullivan
National Farm Forestry Executive

Fintan Conway
National Grain Executive



RETAILER, PROCESSOR AND CONSUMER RELATIONS PROJECT TEAM

*IFA President Joe Healy in Brussels with EU
Commissioners Margrethe Vestager (Competition)
and Phil Hogan (Agriculture & Rural Development) on
the functioning of the Food Supply Chain*



Engagement with Retailers

IFA regularly meets with all CEO/senior management of the major retailers and there is on-going engagement with retail product buyers in all categories.

Grocery Goods Regulations

The Groceries Goods Regulations 2016 provide for more formalised relationships between suppliers and retailers, including written contracts, and the right for suppliers to negotiate timely payment for supply and to avoid unilateral demands for unfair financial contributions.

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

CCPC

Dominance in the food chain by retailers continues. There is a need for greater enforcement of these Regulations by the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC), the competent authority.

Independent Retail Ombudsman

Key demand continues to be the appointment of an Independent Ombudsman to oversee the implementation of the regulations.

IFA Ethical Framework for the Retail Sector

IFA launched a *Fairness for Farmers, Honesty for Consumers* campaign in the run up to Christmas. This campaign highlighted the various forms of aggressive and unsustainable discounting and misleading labelling by some retailers on their own-label offerings, as part of loss-leader strategies, which have been shown to cost farmers' livelihoods.

This campaign was a preview of the IFA Ethical Framework to be launched in the new year.

IFA met with An Tánaiste and Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation Frances Fitzgerald TD and the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation Mary Mitchell O'Connor TD on the Grocery Goods Regulations and overseeing of their enforcement.

UK Groceries Adjudicator

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

COPA/COGECA Food Chain Working Group

IFA President Joe Healy chaired four COPA/COGECA meetings on the Food Chain and made interventions on two occasions at European Parliament Agriculture Committee meetings attended by Commissioners Phil Hogan and Margrethe Vestager (Competition), addressing Unfair Trading Practices in the Food Supply Chain and on the recommendations of the Agri-Markets Task Force Report.

IFA President met with DG Agri and DG Grow on Unfair Trading Practices and EU legislation.

Agricultural Markets Task Force (AMTF)

The Agricultural Markets Task Force (AMTF) Report commissioned by EU Commissioner Phil Hogan contains important recommendations on increased price transparency and independent enforcement of legislation to strengthen farmers' position in the food chain.

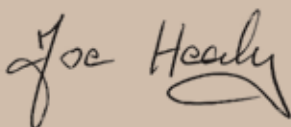
EU Public Consultation – Initiative to Improve the Food Supply Chain

IFA made a submission to the EU public consultation Initiative to Improve the Food Supply Chain which builds on the work of the AMTF. IFA has sought a fairer food supply chain, highlighting the importance of a Retail Ombudsman, similar to that in the UK, and price transparency.

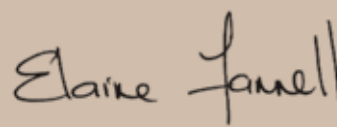
IFA believes that enforcement must be overseen by an Independent Regulator in each Member State and that any EU framework legislation must specifically set this out to ensure effective enforcement at Member State level.

Price discovery and transparency is a key requirement to improve the overall functioning of a market, and improving the overall cooperation and understanding between stakeholders in the supply chain. IFA believes that the absence of a wholesale price reporting system for food produce is undermining the competitive functioning of the food supply chain.

IFA awaits the next phase of this campaign, which will see an EU-wide legislative approach, with proper enforcement mechanisms.



Joe Healy
Chairman, Retail Project Team

Elaine Farrell
National Retail Executive



SMART FARMING

Smart Farming Cost Saving Challenge began in 2017 in Carlow. Smart Farming participant William Cassidy, IFA President Joe Healy and Smart Farming Project Leader Thomas Cooney.



ADDRESSING THE DUAL CHALLENGES OF IMPROVING FARM RETURNS WHILE ENHANCING THE RURAL ENVIRONMENT.

What is Smart Farming?

Smart Farming is a voluntary resource efficiency programme led by IFA in conjunction with the Environmental Protection Agency.

The programme collates existing knowledge and expertise from Ireland's leading academic and advisory bodies, state agencies and technical institutions. It communicates this knowledge in a targeted way, to deliver on the double dividend of improving farm returns and enhancing the rural environment through better resource management.

The development of the Smart Farming resource efficiency programme and identification of the eight focus areas (Figure 1.1) of the programme were strongly influenced by Teagasc research.

Smart Farming Results for 2017

In October 2017, Smart Farming's Progress Report 2017 was published. Figure 1.2 provides a summary of the results, with the average cost savings target of €5,000 being exceeded by 74% and the target to identify greenhouse gas emissions reductions of 5-7% also being exceeded.

Smart Farming – Farmers Making the Real Difference

The most important part of the Smart Farming programme is that farmers themselves continue to lead the programme's evolution.

The National Environment Committee comprises of farmer representatives from every county in Ireland, has taken an adaptive leadership approach when developing this programme and dealing with the agri-environmental challenges facing the sector.

Figure 1.1

Smart Farming focus areas

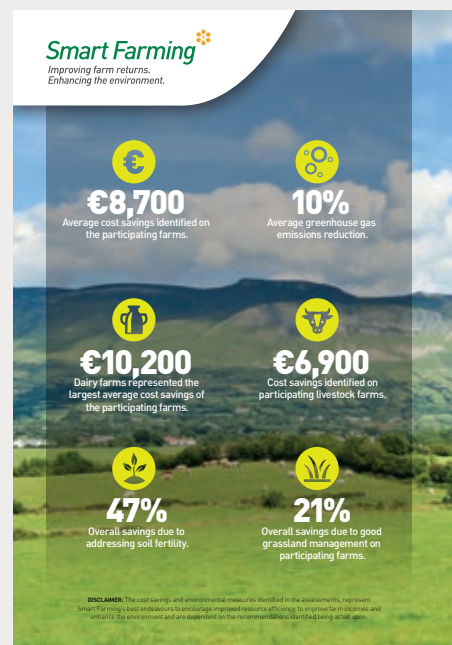
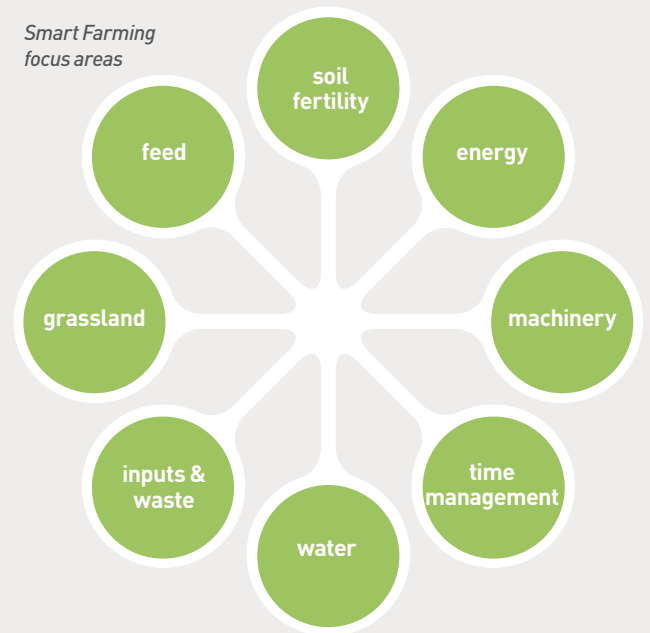


Figure 1.2

Results from the 2017 Smart Farming programme

Smart Farming Project Team Leader Thomas Cooney and Sligo IFA County Chairman JP Cowley congratulate liming competition winner Trevor Boland, Dromard, Sligo.



ARE YOU READY TO TAKE THE SMART FARMING CHALLENGE? WE ARE CURRENTLY SEEKING FARMERS, WHO MAY BE INTERESTED IN TAKING PART IN 2018



Figure 1.3: IFA National Environment Committee at water mini-catchments study trip and planning meeting in Teagasc Johnstown Castle.

The Committee recognise the issues in terms of air, water, soils, climate and other areas within farming and have moved beyond a standard enforcement and compliance approach.

The Committee established the eight focus areas (Figure 1.1) of the Smart Farming programme; expanded the initial cost saving focus of the programme to incorporate environmental indicators; proofed the guide and all national communications; as well as participated in the studies. They also support the Smart Farming Programme Leader and Manager in continuing the collaboration with others to deliver on better resource management, which will improve farm returns while enhancing the rural environment

Ready to Take the Smart Farming Challenge?

Smart Farming is one means by which the agriculture sector in Ireland, and in particular farmers themselves, are endeavouring to provide leadership in addressing climate change. The programme draws on the expertise of the sector and complements Origin Green and other knowledge transfer programmes such as Better Farms, PastureBase Ireland and Dairy Sustainability Ireland.

Are you ready to take the Smart Farming challenge? We are currently seeking farmers who may be interested in taking part in 2018. Let's talk smartfarming@ifa.ie and 01 426 0343.

Thomas Cooney

Thomas Cooney
Programme Leader, Smart Farming



Thomas Ryan

Thomas Ryan
Programme Manager, Smart Farming



SPECIAL AREAS OF CONSERVATION (SACs) PROJECT TEAM

IFA President Joe Healy and IFA Regional Chairman Padraic Joyce with farmers from the Shannon Callows protesting at the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.



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

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

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

As part of the ongoing campaign on designations IFA has presented a detailed submission to the NPWS to honour previous commitments,

IFA participated in a protest in November outside Minister Humphreys office in Kildare street in relation to compensation being required on the Shannon callows.

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

A meeting of Hen Harrier farmers was held to discuss the new locally lead Agri environment scheme for Hen Harrier areas.

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

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

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



IFA Hill Chairman Pat Dunne, SAC Project Chairman Padraic Joyce and Gerry Gunning outside Dail Eireann prior to addressing the Joint Oireachtas Environment Committee on the 2016 Heritage Bill.

Padraic Joyce

Padraic Joyce
Chairman, SACs Project Team



Gerry Gunning

Gerry Gunning
National Rural Development Executive



COMMUNICATIONS, OIREACHTAS LIAISON & ORGANISATION





COMMUNICATIONS

IFA President Joe Healy addressing the media following the successful outcome to IFA's sit-in on behalf of grain farmers who had lost crops during the harvest of 2016



THE INCREASING DIGITAL FOOTPRINT CONTINUES TO PUT PRESSURE ON THE PRINT MEDIA AND HAS ALTERED THE WAY WE PORTRAY OUR MESSAGE

National and Regional Media

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

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

Developments in Media Personnel & Coverage

Jim Breen has been appointed Editor of Agriland and Claire McCormack has been appointed News Editor of Agriland.

We have maintained our presence in TV news coverage during 2017.

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

IFA Website

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

Content was updated and refreshed in all sections of the website during 2017.

More than 200,000 users accessed the IFA website during 2017 - almost half of these were new users. In total, the website

was accessed more than 350,000 times during the year. The most popular content on the website during 2017 included: market reports, latest news, schemes and payments, sector pages, and member benefits. More than half of the website users access the website on mobile or tablet devices.

IFA App

The IFA App has enjoyed strong growth since its launch in April 2017. The number of page views has increased fourfold and the unique sessions have had similar levels of growth in the six-month period since it was launched.

Social Media

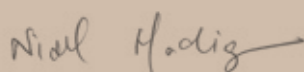
IFA has continued to develop its presence and impact on social media, increasing to over 13,000 Twitter followers. This represents an increase of 30% during 2017. On average, 10,000 people view IFA tweets each day. IFA also maintains a Facebook account, which has grown its followers by 50% during 2017.

Email

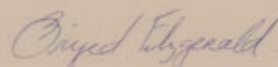
During 2017, IFA expanded our member email programme, including issuing member updates and a Budget report to general membership. In addition, a monthly Dairy Newsletter is issued via email to dairy membership. We plan to continue to build on and expand email communications during 2018.

Internal Communications

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



Niall Madigan
National Press Officer

Brigid Fitzgerald
Press and Digital Media Officer



OIREACHTAS LIAISON

Officers from Donegal County Executive meet Charlie McConalogue TD Fianna Fáil spokesperson on Agriculture, Food & the Marine at one of IFA's lobbying days in 2017.



IN TOTAL, IFA HAS MADE 552 LOBBYING ENTRIES OVER SIX RETURN PERIODS, ON A VERY BROAD RANGE OF ISSUES COVERING ALL SECTORS.

Lobbying

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

- Building relationships with the Taoiseach and Government Advisers, Government Ministers / TDs / Senators
- Devising / executing IFA's political operation at national / constituency / county
- Briefing / lobbying front bench spokespersons in the Opposition parties
- Organisation/preparation of IFA presentations to Oireachtas Committees
- Developing a good working relationship with Oireachtas Committee Chairmen / Clerks to Committees
- Co-ordination / organisation of presentations to County Councils (where relevant)
- Ensuring Government backbenchers and all-party Oireachtas Committees are aware of IFA's position / policy on relevant issues
- On-going liaison with Political Parties' Press Offices and Advisors
- IFA presence at Ard Fheiseanna.

Regulation of Lobbying Act – IFA Compliance

This Regulation is designed to provide information to the public about:

- Who is lobbying
- On whose behalf lobbying is being carried out
- The issues involved in the lobbying
- The intended result of the lobbying
- Who is being lobbied.

The Act aims to make the process more transparent by providing for:

- Establishment and maintenance of a publicly accessible register of lobbying
- The Standards in Public Office Commission to be the regulator of lobbying
- Obligations on lobbyists to register and to provide information about their lobbying activities.

Lobbying Register Returns

Since 2015, IFA is a registered lobbyist. In a calendar year, IFA submits our lobbying activities at three different periods. In total, IFA has made 552 lobbying entries over six return periods, on a very broad range of issues covering all sectors, which saw IFA at the very top of the lobbying register in terms of activity.

IFA sits on a Regulation of Lobbying Advisory Group, made up of relevant experts/key stakeholders, to provide information and guidance to assist in the implementation of legislation.



Fianna Fáil leader Micheál Martin TD with IFA President Joe Healy at the 2017 Ploughing Championships.



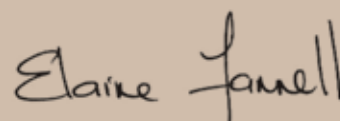
IFA Briefing of TDs on Budget 2018 Submission – seen here with Peter Burke TD and Willie Penrose TD.

IFA Lobbying Campaigns in 2017 included:

- Brexit
- EU Omnibus Regulations and the future of the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) structure
- Climate Change
- Live cattle exports
- Review of the Areas of Natural Constraints (ANCs)
- Heritage Bill 2016
- River Shannon Maintenance Programme / Flooding
- Budget 2018
- Finance Bill 2017
- Rural Crime Prevention and Farm Security
- Charter of Farmers' Rights
- Review of the Nitrates Regulations
- Transitional Provisions for Pig and Poultry Producers under the review of the Nitrates Regulations
- Insurance Costs
- Vacant Site Levy
- Beef Data and Genomics Programme
- Targeted Agricultural Measures (TAMS) II
- Mercosur Trade Deal / Brazilian Meat Fraud
- Agricultural Markets Task Force (AMTF) Report / Unfair Trading Practices (UTPs) / Retail Legislation / Grocery Goods Regulations
- Women in Agriculture
- Hen Harrier Threat Response Plan
- Rural Development Programme (RDP) 2014 – 2020
- Aid Scheme for Cereal / Oilseed Crops damaged by Extreme Weather Events
- Independent Aquaculture Licence Review
- Contributory Pensions
- Fair Deal Scheme
- Mushroom Industry - implication of Sterling Devaluation
- ABP Purchase of Slaney Meats
- Agri-cashflow loans
- Solar Energy
- Deer Management
- Glyphosate
- Scheme of Investment Aid for the Development of Commercial Horticulture Sector
- Johnes Disease Control Programme
- Vulture Funds
- Milk Wise 2025 Liquid Milk Strategy
- Mental Health - 'Let's Talk and Walk' Campaign
- Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) Scheme
- Review of the Regional Veterinary Laboratories (RVL)
- Work Permits for Non-EU Nationals
- Veterinary Medicines
- Competition in the EU Fertiliser Market
- Thoroughbred Foal Levy
- Sheep Welfare Scheme
- TB Eradication Programme
- Donegal Flooding and Weather Damage
- Fodder shortage in North West

IFA made lobbying returns in 2017 to the following Joint Oireachtas Committees:

- Agriculture, Food & the Marine (Tillage, Farm Inspections and Nitrates Review)
- Communications, Climate Action and Environment's (Waste Tyre Management)
- European Affairs (Brexit and White Paper on Europe),



Elaine Farrell
Oireachtas Liaison Executive



ORGANISATION

Colin Bebbington from Bord Gáis Energy, Orlagh Ní Stásaigh, IFA Marketing Manager and James Kelly IFA Director of Organisation at the launch of the new Bord Gáis Energy offer



THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VOTING MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION IS 72,346



2017 Young Leaders group participating in the Farm Business Skillnets Business & Leadership course.

Membership

The total number of voting members of the Association is 72,346. The total Association membership when taking all membership channels into account (main member, family, associate and countryside) was over 74,000 at year end.

Membership income represented approximately 65% of operational income and supports a wide range of services for members including the local office support structure, member communications (membership card / pack, newsletters, web, social media), personal accident & legal liability insurance, voluntary officer structure and participation, the member benefits programme, member supports (direct payments, legal, credit, Pieta House) and all major activity on campaigns.

European Involvement Fund

The European Involvement Fund (EIF) income represents over 35% of the Association's operational income and significantly contributes towards ensuring all farmer interests are professionally and comprehensively represented at European & International level. The income from EIF decreased in the year to March 2017 due to variances in price, volumes and the efficiency levels. IFA commenced an engagement campaign with levy collectors to introduce improved structures between the Association and collectors.

Member Benefits & Services

The benefits of IFA Membership continue to significantly outweigh the membership subscription cost. The member benefits and services package has a variety of deals which can save members over €750. This is also backed up by unrivalled service and support. The Member Benefits package include:

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



IFA President Joe Healy and National Treasurer Jer Bergin at the launch of the 2017/2018 winter crime prevention campaign in conjunction with Superintendent Noreen McBrien Community Engagement Bureau and Assistant Commissioner Pat Leahy from An Garda Síochána.

In addition, IFA Member Services continued to engage with our members. Welcome calls are made to members to thank them for their on-going support for the Association and advise them of the exclusive deals with some of Ireland's leading brands. The range of offers and services continue to be reviewed and updated including;

- An exclusive range of IFA Telecom packages and bundles to suit members needs
- IFAT broadband and fibre from only €10 per month
- 17% savings on the range of Vodafone mobile phone packages saving €240 on the most popular Vodafone contract, handset and upgrading offers
- Improved Bord Gais savings – with 10% discount off standard rates for 18 months plus €140 cash-back
- New Sky TV affinity deal guaranteeing up to 30% saving of standard rates and offering the widest range of sports, movies and family entertainment
- Welcome calls per annum acknowledging member support and advising of exclusive offers
- Service calls answered dealing with member queries and no complex IVR to talk directly to an agent

Member Education and Development

IFA provided training through Farm Business Skillnet to many groups:

- Young Leaders 2017
- Discussion Groups and IFA Branches focusing on; Health & Safety, First Aid, People Management, Strategic Planning, Agri Law
- Executive Council – New Members (Leadership & Media Skills)
- New County Chairman Training & Networking with Branch Chairs
- Pre AGM Training for Branch Chairs & Secretaries
- Commodity Committees – Communication & Presentation Skills



Members of IFA Monaghan County Executive at the IFA/ Open eir broadband information workshop in December 2017.

Rural Security / Crime Prevention

IFA were proactive and worked through its 946 branch and county network with An Garda Síochána on a number of crime prevention campaigns and initiatives such as Crimestoppers, Community Text Alerts and Theftstop. Theft of valuables from rural homes and of livestock and machinery from farms continues to be a real concern to the farming and rural communities.

Rural Communities have become very concerned at the volume of crime related incidents in rural areas. This has led to increased fear among farmers and rural dwellers.

IFA made representations to the Government seeking additional Garda resources for rural areas and called for the laws to be reformed around sentencing and repeat offenders.

Rural Broadband

The rollout of high speed broadband for rural areas continued to be highlighted by the Association. IFA urged the Government to push ahead with the National Broadband Plan and ensure that rural farms and businesses can access similar services to those that are available in urban areas.

IFA ran information workshops to update and receive feedback from members on the National Broadband Plan and the rollout of fibre broadband in their areas.

Jer Bergin

Jer Bergin
Chairman, Member Services



James Kelly

James Kelly
Director of Organisation



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS





STATEMENT OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL'S RESPONSIBILITIES

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

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



INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE IRISH FARMERS' ASSOCIATION

We have audited the consolidated financial statements of The Irish Farmers' Association for the year ended 31 March 2017 which comprise the Consolidated Income & Expenditure account, the Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income, the Consolidated Balance Sheet, the Consolidated Statement of Changes in Equity, the Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes 1 to 20. The relevant financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland ("relevant financial reporting framework").

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

Respective Responsibilities of the Executive Council & Auditors

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

Scope of the Audit of the Financial Statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Executive Council's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the Executive Council; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the Annual Report and Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2017 to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

Opinion on Financial Statements

In our opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland, of the state of the affairs of the Association as at 31 March 2017 and of the surplus for the year then ended.

Deloitte
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm
Dublin

Date: 16 January 2018

CONSOLIDATED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017

	Notes	2017 €	2016 €
INCOME	3	16,199,650	18,977,049
EXPENDITURE	4	(17,717,516)	(18,004,061)
Profit/(loss) on disposal of fixed and financial assets		75,162	(61,846)
Interest Receivable		3,132	51,264
OPERATING (DEFICIT)/SURPLUS	5	(1,439,572)	962,406
Share of operating surplus in associate undertakings	10	102,843	131,211
Gain/(loss) on financial assets through profit and loss	9	2,152,790	(2,894,416)
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) BEFORE TAXATION		816,061	(1,800,799)
Taxation (charge)/credit	7	(290,006)	475,669
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR		526,055	(1,325,130)

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

The financial statements were approved by the Executive Council on 16/01/2018 and signed on its behalf by:



Joe Healy (President)



Jer Bergin (Treasurer)



Damien McDonald (Director General)

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017

	Notes	2017 €	2016 €
Retained surplus/(deficit) for the year		526,055	(1,325,130)
Share of associate property revaluations		-	-
Total surplus/(deficit) for the year		526,055	(1,325,130)

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2017

	Notes	2017 €	2016 €
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	8	432,984	443,527
Financial investments	9	15,854,283	13,401,929
Other investments	10	2,035,610	1,811,841
		18,322,877	15,657,297
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	11	1,148,209	1,609,814
Cash at bank and in hand		4,387,719	5,853,545
		5,535,928	7,463,359
CREDITORS: (Amounts falling due within one year)	12	(6,234,675)	(5,901,365)
NET CURRENT (LIABILITIES)/ASSETS		(698,747)	1,561,994
Provision for Liabilities	13	(1,305,357)	(1,426,573)
NET ASSETS		16,318,773	15,792,718
CAPITAL AND RESERVES			
Accumulated surplus		16,318,773	15,792,718
		16,318,773	15,792,718

The financial statements were approved by the Executive Council on 16/01/2018 and signed on its behalf by:



Joe Healy (President)



Jer Bergin (Treasurer)



Damien McDonald (Director General)

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017

	Notes	Accumulated surplus €	Total €
At 1 April 2015		17,117,848	17,117,848
Total Comprehensive Surplus for the year		(1,325,130)	(1,325,130)
At 31 March 2016		15,792,718	15,792,718
Total Comprehensive Deficit for the year		526,055	526,055
At 31 March 2017		16,318,773	16,318,773

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017

	Notes	2017 €	2016 €
NET CASH INFLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	14	(1,172,688)	289,867
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Interest received		3,594	7,799
Dividends and investment income received		194,743	332,736
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets		(24,304)	(152,129)
Payments to acquire investments		(2,136,945)	(1,547,092)
Receipts on disposal of investments		1,669,774	2,245,330
INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN CASH AND BANK OVERDRAFT		(293,138)	886,644
INCREASE IN CASH AND BANK OVERDRAFT		(1,465,826)	1,176,511
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT BEGINNING OF THE YEAR		5,853,545	4,677,034
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF THE YEAR		4,387,719	5,853,545

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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

General Information and Basis of Accounting

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

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

The prior year financial statements were restated for material adjustments on adoption of FRS 102 in the current financial year.

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 (€698,747) (2016: net current assets of €1,561,944) at the balance sheet date. The Executive Council, having considered financing arrangements currently in place, the ability to generate cash from special reserve fund assets, likely funding requirements in the short term and given a net asset position of €16,318,773 (2016: €15,792,718), have a reasonable expectation that the association and the group have adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the annual financial statements.

Tangible Fixed Assets

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

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

Financial Instruments

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

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

(i) Financial assets and liabilities

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

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2017 (continued)

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

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

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

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

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

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

(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.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2017 (continued)

Taxation

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Income

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

Retirement Benefits

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

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

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2017 (continued)

2. CRITICAL ACCOUNTING JUDGEMENTS AND KEY SOURCES OF ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY

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

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

Critical Judgements in Applying the Group's Accounting Policies

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

Key Source of Estimation Uncertainty

Voluntary Member expense

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

Legal claims and costs

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

3. INCOME

An Analysis of the Group's Income by Class of Business is set out Below.

Turnover:	2017 €	2016 €
Broadband and phone service sales	6,580,898	7,376,994
Affiliation fees	5,698,624	5,922,205
European involvement fund levies	2,956,428	4,183,761
Trust fund contributions	380,000	1,059,045
Investment dividend income	71,212	229,336
Other income	512,488	205,708
	16,199,650	18,977,049

All group income was earned in the Republic of Ireland.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2017 (continued)

4. EXPENDITURE

An Analysis of the Group's Expenditure is set out Below.

Expenditure:	2017 €	2016 €
IFA Telecoms expenses	5,955,609	6,606,205
Total staff costs	5,197,802	5,297,064
Voluntary costs	1,572,586	1,507,681
Premises	464,232	492,626
Communications	510,660	478,875
Research	64,334	35,344
Public relations	602,982	617,264
Professional fees	977,822	616,442
Affiliation fees	141,451	135,813
Financial charges	245,362	348,930
Foreign travel	55,760	33,678
Brussels office	535,840	597,284
Membership recruitment	404,521	416,075
Membership promotion	413,219	439,619
Other overheads	12,261	23,013
Extraordinary expenditure	563,075	343,428
Loss on Disposal	-	14,720
	17,717,516	18,004,061

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2017 (continued)

5. DEFICIT/(DEFICIT) ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE TAXATION

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

	2017 €	2016 €
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	150,491	144,126
Interest received	(3,132)	(51,264)
Grant income (i)	-	72,462
	147,359	165,324

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

The analysis of the auditors' remuneration is as follows:

Auditors' remuneration for work carried out for the group

In respect of the financial year is as follows:

	2017 €	2016 €
Audit of group accounts	36,546	32,500
	36,546	32,500

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2017 (continued)

6. REMUNERATION OF KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

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

	2017 €	2016 €
General Secretary		
Salary	-	197,292
Employer pension contribution	-	109,628
	-	306,920
President		
Salary	111,846	98,333
Deputy President		
Salary	33,295	35,000
Director General		
Salary	46,337	-
Employer pension contribution	6,951	-
	53,228	-
Executive Management		
Salary	479,071	481,290
Employer pension contribution	103,851	110,361
Key Management compensation	582,922	591,651
Executive Management		
Labour replacement payments	247,517	238,805

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

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

Salary	103,823	103,912
Employer pension contribution	21,733	23,773
	125,556	127,685

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2017 (continued)

7. TAX ON PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES

The tax charge comprises:	2017 €	2016 €
Current tax on profit on ordinary activities		
Irish corporation tax	411,222	56,384
Credit movement in deferred tax liability (Note 13)	(121,216)	(532,053)
Total tax on profit on ordinary activities	290,006	(475,669)

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

	2017 €	2016 €
Surplus/(deficit) on ordinary activities	816,061	(1,800,799)
Before tax 12.5% (2016:12.5%)		
Tax if charged at standard corporation rate	102,008	(225,100)
Capital allowances in excess of depreciation	257	(355)
Income/Expenses not taxable in determining taxable profit	187,741	281,839
Group tax charge for the period	290,006	56,384

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2017 (continued)

8. TANGIBLE ASSETS (GROUP)

	Office Equipment €	Fixtures and Fittings €	Motor Vehicles €	Total €
Cost:				
At 1/04/2016	575,326	754,776	162,888	1,492,990
Additions	70,725	3,396	79,700	153,821
Disposals	-	-	(18,500)	(18,500)
31/03/2017	646,051	758,172	224,088	1,628,311
Depreciation:				
At 1/04/2016	377,497	598,482	73,484	1,049,463
Charge	83,432	33,251	33,808	150,491
Disposals	-	-	(4,627)	(4,627)
31/03/2017	(460,929)	(631,733)	(102,665)	(1,195,327)
Net Book Amount:				
31/03/2017	185,122	126,439	121,423	432,984
31/03/2016	197,829	156,294	89,404	443,527

9. FINANCIAL INVESTMENTS

	2017 €	2016 €
Quoted investments at market value	15,854,283	13,401,929
Opening balance	13,401,929	17,041,920
Net Additions/(Disposals) during the financial year	299,564	(745,575)
Movement in the fair value of investments	2,152,790	(2,894,416)
Closing balance	15,854,283	13,401,929

Quoted investments represent shares held by the Group in publicly quoted companies or other publicly quoted investment funds. The cost of these investments was €10,315,282 (2016: €9,717,205).

Special Reserve Fund:

€12,487,721 (2016: €10,569,662) of the above balance relates specifically to the special reserve fund assets.

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

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2017 (continued)

10. OTHER INVESTMENTS

	2017 €	2016 €
Unquoted Investments:		
Irish Farm Centre Limited (i)	1,974,729	1,750,749
Other Investments (ii)	60,881	61,092
	2,035,610	1,811,841

(i) Irish Farm Centre Limited

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

During the year, the associate undertaking recorded an operating profit of €542,265 (2015: profit of €298,533) before a taxation charge of €39,066 (2015: €26,029). Included in the operating profit is an amount of €264,750 (2015: €Nil) in respect of a building revaluation. The associate undertaking had combined net assets of €4,102,613 at year end (2015: €3,636,031). The carrying value of the investment in associate undertakings represents investments in associate together with a share of the associates' profit/(loss) to date, being €1,974,729 (2015: €1,750,749).

(ii) Other Investments

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

11. DEBTORS: (Amounts due within one year)

	2017 €	2016 €
Debtors	1,102,605	1,490,823
Accrued income and other receivables	45,604	118,991
	1,148,209	1,609,814

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2017 (continued)

12. CREDITORS

	2017 €	2016 €
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade creditors	871,581	970,500
Pension, voluntary and other staff expense accruals	1,978,840	2,224,100
Professional/ Legal and other accruals	1,899,295	1,389,811
Trade Accruals	1,296,022	1,135,514
PAYE/PRSI/VAT	188,937	181,440
	6,234,675	5,901,365

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

13. PROVISION FOR LIABILITIES

Deferred tax is provided as follows:	2017 €	2016 €
The deferred tax balance is analysed		
Deferred tax arising in relation to quoted investments	1,305,357	1,426,573
Provision for deferred tax		
Opening balance	1,426,573	1,958,626
Movement for the current financial year (Note 7)	(121,216)	(532,053)
Balance at end of year	1,305,357	1,426,573

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2017 (continued)

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

	2017 €	2016 €
Operating deficit	526,055	(1,325,130)
Interest received	(3,594)	(7,799)
Dividends and investment income received	(194,743)	(332,736)
(Loss)/ Profit on disposal of investments	(73,837)	47,127
(Profit)/Loss on disposal of fixed assets	(1,325)	14,828
Depreciation and amortisation	150,491	144,126
Decrease/(Increase) in debtors	765,384	(200,568)
(Decrease) in creditors	(91,688)	(187,347)
Fair value movements on financial assets	(2,249,431)	2,763,205
Add back corporation tax credit	-	(475,669)
Tax paid	-	(150,170)
Net cash (Outflow)/inflow from operating activities	(1,172,688)	289,867

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2017 (continued)

15. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

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

	2017 €	2016 €
Financial assets		
<i>Measured at undiscounted amounts receivable</i>		
Trade and other debtors (note 11)	1,102,604	1,375,172
<i>Measured at fair value through profit or loss</i>		
Investments in listed equity instruments (note 9)	15,854,283	13,401,929
<i>Measured at cost less impairment</i>		
Other investments (note 10)	2,035,610	1,811,841
Financial liabilities		
<i>Measured at undiscounted amounts payable</i>		
Trade and other creditors (note 12)	831,513	970,500

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

	2017 €	2016 €
Financial assets		
On financial assets measured at fair value through profit or loss	(2,152,790)	2,894,416
Interest or other income on financial assets measured at amortised cost	3,132	51,264

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2017 (continued)

16. PENSIONS

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

As a result, the Association has no further liability to the defined benefit scheme as at 31 March 2017 (2016: €Nil) and defined benefit scheme disclosures required by FRS 102 will no longer be required. The scheme is in the process of being wound up by the Trustees.

Prior to the closure of the defined benefit scheme in 2012, the Association agreed to defined benefit scheme termination payments to supplement the value of members' entitlements on transfer out of the scheme. At year end an amount of €Nil (2016: € Nil) remains outstanding.

The Association now operates a defined contribution pension scheme covering certain employees. The net assets of the scheme are held in a separate trustee administered fund. The amount payable to the scheme for the year was €596,679 (2016: €342,187). The amount owed to the scheme at year end is €31,284 (2016: €27,037).

17. SUBSIDIARIES AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

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

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

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

18. COMPARATIVE AMOUNTS

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

19. EVENTS AFTER REPORTING DATE

There were no significant events since the financial year end.

20. ULTIMATE CONTROL

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

(NOT COVERED BY THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017

	Notes	At 31 March 2017				At 31 March 2016			
		IFA 2017 €	IFA Telecom Limited 2017 €	Consolidation adjustment 2017 €	Total 2017 €	IFA 2016 €	IFA Telecom Limited 2016 €	Consolidation adjustment 2016 €	Total 2016 €
FIXED ASSETS									
Tangible assets		377,788	55,196	-	432,984	379,646	63,881	-	443,527
Special reserve fund assets		12,487,939	3,366,344	-	15,854,283	10,569,662	2,832,267	-	13,401,929
Financial investments		2,035,610	-	-	2,035,610	1,811,841	-	-	1,811,841
Other financial assets	1	5,786,625	-	(5,786,625)	-	3,807,260	-	(3,807,260)	-
		20,687,962	3,421,540	(5,786,625)	18,322,877	16,568,409	2,896,148	(3,807,260)	15,657,297
CURRENT ASSETS									
Debtors		748,996	399,213	-	1,148,209	1,401,866	207,948	-	1,609,814
Cash at bank and in hand		1,617,743	2,769,976	-	4,387,719	2,913,026	2,940,519	-	5,853,545
		2,366,739	3,169,189	-	5,535,928	4,314,892	3,148,467	-	7,463,359
CREDITORS: (Amounts falling due within one year)		(5,136,026)	(1,098,649)	-	(6,234,675)	(4,598,467)	(1,302,898)	-	(5,901,365)
NET CURRENT ASSETS/ (LIABILITIES)		(2,769,287)	2,070,540	-	(698,747)	(283,575)	1,845,569	-	1,561,994
Provision for Liabilities	2	(1,117,242)	(188,115)	-	(1,305,357)	(492,105)	(934,468)	-	(1,426,573)
NET ASSETS		16,801,433	5,303,965	(5,786,625)	16,318,773	15,792,729	3,807,249	(3,807,260)	15,792,718
CAPITAL AND RESERVES									
Capital		-	127	(127)	-	-	127	(127)	-
Accumulated surplus		16,801,433	5,303,838	(5,786,498)	16,318,773	15,792,718	3,807,133	(3,807,133)	15,792,718
		16,801,433	5,303,965	(5,786,625)	16,318,773	15,792,718	3,807,260	(3,807,260)	15,792,718

Notes

1 The consolidation adjustment relates to the elimination of the equity accounting shown in the IFA

2 The deferred tax adjustments recognised on the change in the accounting policies to FRS 102 have been recognised in this schedule.

GENERAL FUND INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017

	Notes	2017 €	2016 €
Income		9,550,354	11,300,614
Expenditure		(10,981,900)	(11,327,756)
Profit/(loss) on disposal of fixed asset		1,325	(14,720)
Operating result		(1,430,221)	(41,862)
Taxation		(197,225)	(36,766)
(Deficit)/ Surplus for year		(1,627,446)	(78,628)

SPECIAL RESERVE FUND INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017

	2017 €	2016 €
Investment income	145,676	253,428
Expenditure	(74,463)	(70,105)
Gain/Loss on disposal of financial assets	54,348	(14,240)
Surplus for year	125,561	169,083

IFA TELECOM INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017

	Notes	2017 €	2016 €
Revenue		6,531,369	7,376,993
Cost of Sales		(4,246,051)	(5,021,355)
Gross Profit		2,285,318	2,355,638
Administrative Expensive		(1,709,557)	(1,584,373)
Operating profit		575,761	771,265
Investment Income		69,016	18,309
Interest Receivable		317	45,611
Amount written off/back on investments		356,140	(250,206)
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation		1,001,234	584,979
Taxation		(92,781)	(113,404)
Profit for year		908,453	471,575



APPENDIX





REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS

DUBLIN, MEATH, LOUTH, CAVAN



Anthony Clinton

KILDARE, WEXFORD, WICKLOW



Declan Phelan

LAOIS, OFFALY, WESTMEATH



William Dolan

TIPPERARY NORTH & SOUTH, CLARE



William Shortall

CORK CENTRAL, CORK WEST, CORK NORTH



Sean Clarke

LIMERICK, KERRY



Denis Griffin

LEITRIM, LONGFORD, ROSCOMMON, SLIGO



Adrian Leddy

DONEGAL, MONAGHAN



Marcus O'Halloran

CARLOW, KILKENNY, WATERFORD



Joe Kelly

GALWAY, MAYO



Roy O'Brien

2017 IFA COMMITTEES

Livestock

MEMBERS 2017		
Name	Branch	County
Angus Woods	Barndarrig	Chairman
Brendan Golden	Killala	Vice Chairman
Paul Balfe	Rathvilly	Carlow
Billy Reilly	Ballyhaise	Cavan
Tom Lane	Parteen	Clare
Tim Mulcahy	Glanmire	Cork (C)
Pat Mullins	Kildorrery	Cork (N)
Robert Ellis	Drinagh	Cork (W)
Frank McClean	Letterkenny	Donegal
Laurence Ward	Rolestown-Oldtown	Dublin
Michael Flynn	Kilnadeema	Galway
Helen O'Mahony	Castleisland	Kerry
David Egar	Manor-Kilbride	Kildare
Joe Costelloe	Kilkenny City	Kilkenny
Peter Luttrell	Vicarstown	Laois
Adrian Kelly	Cloone	Leitrim
Eddie Scanlan	Clarina	Limerick
Padraic Gerety	Kenagh	Longford
Peter Jnr McEneaney	Tallanstown	Louth
Brendan Golden	Killala	Mayo
John Curran	Kells	Meath
Eamon Markey	Killannev	Monaghan
James Bennett	Bracknagh-Clonbullogue	Offaly
John O'Beirne	Strokestown	Roscommon
John Graham	Riverstown	Sligo
Tim Harty	Ballywilliam	Tipp North
Denis Large	Gortnahoe	Tipp South
Pat Keane	Kilmacthomas	Waterford
Donal Kenny	Turin	Westmeath
J.J. Kavanagh	Ballywilliam-Templeudigan	Wexford
Eugene Clune	Arklow	Wicklow

Dairy

MEMBERS 2017		
Name	Branch	County
Sean O'Leary	Mourneabbey	Chairman/Cork
Tom Phelan	Killala	Vice Chairman/Laois
Seamus Dolan	Templeport	Cavan
Andrew Dundas	Parteen	Clare
Derry Scannell	Rossmore	Cork (W)
Mary Twomey-Casey	Glanworth	Cork (N)
Gerard O'Connell	Carrigaline	Cork Central
Lawrence McNamee	Convoy-Raphoe	Donegal
Rory Dwyer	St Margaret's	Dublin
Charlie Whiskey	Kiltullagh	Galway
Michael O'Dowd	Castkemaime	Kerry
Billy Barrett	Dunlavin	Kildare
Brendan Hickey	Johnstown	Kilkenny
Paddy Kennedy	Gortletragh	Leitrim
Thomas Cooke	Hospital	Limerick
Bernard Casey	Newtowncashel	Longford
Nicholas Cooney	Monasterboice	Louth
Michael Leo Morrin	Cross	Mayo
Edward J. Bannon	Culmullen	Meath
James F. O'Connor	Inniskeen	Monaghan
Adrian Leonard	Killoughey	Offaly
Sean Connaughton	Boyle	Roscommon
Gearoid O'Connor	Castlebaldwin	Sligo
James A. Finn	Holycross	Tipperary (N)
Pat Carroll	Cahir	Tipperary (S)
Mark Connors	Kilmacthomas	Waterford
James Fox	Kinnegad	Westmeath
Michael Gahan	Booavogue	Wexford
Stephen Arthur	Rathdrum	Wicklow
John Finn	Oranmore	Liquid Milk Chairman
Thomas Phelan	Mountrath	Laois

2017 IFA COMMITTEES

Liquid Milk

MEMBERS 2017		
Name	Branch	County
John Finn	Oranmore	Chairperson
Laurence Hannon	Moone	Vice-Chairperson
Denis Fagan	Kildalkey	FMP
Michael O'Flaherty	Trim	FMP
James Mulhall	Kilkenny City	FMP
Kevin Maguire	Ballycanew	FMP
David Bennett	Abbeyleix	FMP
Derek Tierney	Timahoe	FMP
Willie Lennon	Goresbridge/ Paulstown	FMP
Walter Crowley	Mooncoin	FMP
Kevin Healy	Aughrim	FMP
Charles McCandles	Culdaft	Aurivo
Gareth Porter	Finn Valley	Aurivo
John G. Gilvarry	Cooneal	ALMP (Mayo)
Keith O'Boyle	Hollymount	ALMP (Mayo)
Patrick O'Donovan	Aghad	CLMP (Cork)
Dan Buckley	Glanmire	CLMP (Cork)
John Galvin	Moate	KLMP (Dawn Moate)
Michael O'Connor	Adare	KLMP (Limerick/ Clare)
William Donohue	Clostoken	KLMP (Dawn Galway)
Padraig Coughlan	Fardrum	Arrabawn
Liam Grady	Gurteen	Arrabawn
Pat Murphy	Ardrahan	Arrabawn
Vivian T. Buttimer	Ballinscarthy	Clona West Cork
Paul Hyland	Clough	Co-Opted Glanbia Winter Suppliers Group
Aidan Casey	Horseleap	Co-Opted NMA
Padraig Mulligan	Templeboy	Co-Opted NMA
Kieran Savage	Tralee	Lee Strand
Tom Treanor	Clones	LacPatrick
Teddy Cashman	Glanmire	Co-Opted Outgoing Chairman (NMA)

Sheep

MEMBERS 2017		
Name	Branch	County
John Lynskey	Hollymount	Chairperson
Sean Dennehy	Crookstown	Vice-Chairperson
John Hanbridge	Tynock-Kiltegan	Carlow
Bernard Lynch	Castlerahan- Mounnugent	Cavan
John Fitzgerald	Cratloe	Clare
Sean Dennehy	Crookstown	Cork (C)
Sheena McCarthy	Buttevant	Cork (N)
Denis O'Leary	Ballingeary	Cork (W)
Dessie Cunningham	Carrick	Donegal
James McGrane	North Fingal	Dublin
Michael Murphy	Cummer-Belclare	Galway
Francis Foley	Castlemaine	Kerry
Liam Heaney	Dunlavin	Kildare
Brian Nicholson	Johnstown	Kilkenny
Joseph Burke	Borris-in-Ossory	Laois
Comiskey	Drumhair	Leitrim
Sean Kevin Lavery	Shanagolden	Limerick
Gerard Belton	Abbeysrule	Longford
Eoin White	Cooley	Louth
Patrick Jnr Chambers	Derrada	Mayo
Edward Cassidy	Nobber	Meath
Colm McKenna	Aughnamullen	Monaghan
Enda Bracken	Killoughey	Offaly
Michael Glennon	Moore	Roscommon
Rose McDonnell	Templeboy	Sligo
Erica O'Sullivan	Cashel	Tipperary (S)
James Long	Upperchurch	Tipperary (N)
Patrick Cooney	Ballymacarbry	Waterford
William Fox	Tubberclair	Westmeath
Patrick Murray	Monaseed	Wexford
Selena MacKenzie	Barndarrig	Wicklow

2017 IFA COMMITTEES

Pig & Pigmeat

MEMBERS 2017		
Name	Branch	County
Thomas Hogan	Anglesboro	Chairperson
Pat O'Flaherty	Maynooth	Kildare
Oliver Leddy	Redhills	Cavan
Michael Maguire	Billis	Cavan
Brendan Doherty	Malin	Donegal
Donal Brady	Abbeyshrule	Longford
Vincent Conefrey	Ballinalee	Longford
Georg Roy Gallie	Cadamstown-Carbury	Kildare
Con O'Kelly	Borris	Carlow
Paul Tully	Ballinakill	Laois
Rosemary Fryday	Ballyboy	Offaly
Tom Sherman	Mallow	Cork North
Denis Nyhan	Ballinascarthy	Cork Central
Michael O'Doherty	Mitchelstown	Cork North
Richard Norton	Ballingarry	Tipp South
John Ryan	Ardfinnan Grange	Tipp South
Richard Kingston	Lombardstown	Cork North
Luke Bogue	Crossdoney	Cavan
Jonathan Marry	East-Meath	Meath
Colm Ryan	Ennis	Clare
Kevin Riordan	Glynn	Wexford
Michael O'Shea	Roscrea	Tipp North
William Murphy	Collinstown	Westmeath
Michael Caffrey	Castlerohan-M'Nugent	Cavan
Shane McAuliffe	Knocknagoshel	Kerry
Maurice O'Brien	Mitchelstown	Cork North

Grain

MEMBERS 2017		
Name	Branch	County
Liam Dunne	Athy	Chairperson
Robert Chambers	Athy	Kildare
Brian Lazenby	Athy	Kildare
Patrick Dehaene	Rolestown-Oldtown / Lucan	Dublin
James Hill	Barndarrig	Wicklow
George Hatton	Bennekerry-Tinryland	Carlow
Timmy Byrne	Kilkenny City	Kilkenny
Mark Browne	Caim	Wexford
John Murphy		Wexford
Dermot Ward	Navan	Meath
John Carroll	Dunleer	Louth
Anthony Reynolds	Edgeworthstown	Longford
Christopher Dolan	Sonna	Westmeath
Edward Morrissey	Dunhill	Waterford
James Hegarty	Glenville / W'Grasshil / Glanmire	Cork
Eamonn Mc Elligott	Lixnaw	Kerry
Shay Galvin	Croom-Meanus	Limerick
George Mason	Ardfinnan-Grange	Tipperary S
Kieran McEvoy	Durrow / Portarlinton	Laois
Joe Bracken	Eglisk-Drumcullen	Offaly
John Daly	Tynagh	Galway
Philip Tierney	Terryglass	Tipperary N
Peter Lynch	Newtowncunningha	Donegal
James Murray	Keellogues / Balla	Mayo
Mervyn Auchmuty	Knockcroghery	Roscommon
David O'Brien	Ardfield	Cork
Liam Dorgan	K'vullen-Ct'roche-Shanballymore / Fermoy	Cork

2017 IFA COMMITTEES

Farm Business

MEMBERS 2017		
Name	Branch	County
Martin Stapleton	Oola	Chairperson
Edel Gahan	Boolavogue	Vice Chairperson
Gilbert Smyth	Bagnelstown	Carlow
Raymond Brady	Mullahoran	Cavan
Adrian Brooks	Doora	Clare
John Murphy	Inniscarra	Cork (c)
Tadhg Healy	Clonakilty	Cork (w)
Liam O'Doherty	Mitchelstown	Cork (n)
George E Starrett	Finn Valley	Donegal*
Padraic McMahon	Rolestown-Oldtown	Dublin
Rosemary McDonagh	Caherlistrane	Galway
Brendan Lawlor	Ballybunion	Kerry
Ian Hamilton	Manor Kilbride	Kildare
Henry ConnollyRice	Ballyragget	Kilkenny
Pat Hennessy	Borris-in-Ossory	Laois
David Notley	Annaduff	Leitrim
James English	Oola	Limerick
Roy McCormack	Newtownforbes	Longford
Peter Shields	Cooley	Louth**
Michael Johnston	Knock	Mayo
David Hannon	Kiltale	Meath
Patrick McCormick	Threemilehouse	Monaghan
Joseph Parlon	Aghancon	Offaly
Patrick Leonard	Kiltoom	Roscommon
Kathleen Henry	Skreen	Sligo
Michael Kennedy	Nenagh	Tipperary(N)
Dermot Ryan	Hollyford	Tipperary(S)
James Power	Kilmacthomas	Waterford
Joseph Henson	Rathugh	Westmeath
Edel Gahan	Boolavogue	Wexford
John Mallick	Tinahely	Wicklow
Thomas Doyle	Camolin	Co-opt

* Changed in March from Peter Cannon

** Peter Shields

Environment & Rural Affairs

MEMBERS 2017		
Name	Branch	County
Thomas Cooney	Laragh	Chairperson
Eleanor Kiely	Old Parish	Vice-Chairperson
George Byrne	Bennekerry-Tinryland	Carlow
Pat Denning	Laragh	Cavan
Joseph O Connell	Parteen	Clare
Chris Hayes	Rosscarbery	Cork (W)
Anne Keohane	Innishannon	Cork (C)
Tony Mullins	Mitchelstown	Cork (N)
Francis Burns	Buncrana	Donegal
Seamus McGrath	Rolestown-Oldtown	Dublin
Bertie Roche	Abbey	Galway
John O Sullivan	Churchill	Kerry
Austin Morrin	Naas-Caragh	Kildare
Paul O Brien	Mullinavat	Kilkenny
Owen Conroy	Clonaslee	Laois
Eddie Mitchell	Ballinamore	Leitrim
Simon White	Askeaton	Limerick
Damien O Reilly	Ballinalee	Longford
Breeda Tuite	Tullyallen	Louth*
Thomas Fitzpatrick	Robeen	Mayo
Peter Farrelly	Carnaross	Meath
Bernard Treanor	Tydavnet	Monaghan
Joseph Deverell	Geashill	Offaly
Ned O Connor	Kiltoom	Roscommon
Padraig Mulligan	Templeboy	Sligo
Eamonn Cleary	Ardcroney	Tipperary (N)
Peter Farrell	Cahir	Tipperary (S)
Eleanor Kiely	Old Parish	Waterford
Adrian Elliott	Tubberclair	Westmeath
James Brennan	Rathnure	Wexford
Michael Byrne	Ashford	Wicklow
Harold Kingston	Barryroe	Co Opt

2017 IFA COMMITTEES

Farm Family & Social Affairs

MEMBERS 2017		
Name	Branch	County
Maura Canning	Mullagh	Chairperson
Caroline Farrell	Athy	Vice-Chairperson
Sinead Brophy	Tullow	Carlow
Colette Reilly	Kingscourt	Cavan.
Geraldine O'Connell	Parteen	Clare.
Ann Moore	Midleton	Cork (C)
Ann O'Connor	K'vullen-Ct'roche-Shanballymore	Cork (N)
Martina Casey	Macroom	Cork (w)
Mary Isabella Russell	Letterkenny	Donegal.
Elizabeth Mccarthy	Bohernabreena	Dublin
Anne Mitchell	Menlough	Galway.
Bernadette Driscoll	Valentia	Kerry
Caroline Farrell	Athy	Kildare
Breda McDonald	Mullinavat	Kilkenny
Noreen Cahill	Spink	Laois
Ann Winters	Mohill	Leitrim.
Mary Breen	Oola	Limerick
Sheena Cassidy	Ballinamuck	Longford.
Riona Meehan	Kilsaran	Louth.
Margaret Fergus	Islandeady	Mayo.
Sheila Fitzpatrick	Trim	Meath
Janet Hill	Mullyash	Monaghan.
Mary Parlon	Aghancon	Offaly
Carmel Parlon	Curraghboy	Roscommon.
Margaret Gormonly	Tubbercurry	Sligo.
Kathleen Hogan	Toomevara	Tipperary
Breda Keane	Kilmacthomas	Waterford
Mary Geraghty	Kinnegad	Westmeath.
Marie Redmond	Clonroche	Wexford
Martha Mitchell	Arklow	Wicklow

Potato

MEMBERS 2017		
Name	Branch	County
Eddie Doyle	Luffany, Mooncoin, via Waterford	Chairperson
Nora Sheehan	Lisnagourneen, Castletownroche	Vice-Chairperson
Neville Caldbeck	Tullowphelim, Tullow	Carlow
Nora Sheehan	Lisnagourneen, Castletownroche	Cork (N)
John Griffin	Boycetown, Carrigaline	Cork (C)
William Monagle	Kildrum, Carrigans	Donegal
Jimmy Rankin	Cloon, Carrigans, Co Donegal	Donegal
David Garrigan	Baldurgan Farm, Ballyboughal	Dublin
Barry Stephens	Corofin, Tuam	Galway
Bridget O'Connor	Kilbaha, Moyvane	Kerry
Bart Maertens	Loughanure, Clane	Kildare
John Doody	Ballincur, Mooncoin, via Waterford	Kilkenny
Brendan Lynch	Oberstown, Ardee	Louth
Thomas Sheridan	Hollybrook House, Carlanstown, Kells, Co. Meath	Meath
Paddy Reynolds	Gerrardstown, Garlow Cross, Navan	Meath
Thomas McKeown	Laggagh, Castletown, Navan	Meath
Shane Howell	Killurin, Killeigh, Tullamore	Offaly
Michael Healy	Coolcroo, Two-Mile-Borris, Thurles	Tipp. North
Michael O'Keefe	Roseville, Tallow	Waterford
Sean Ryan	Ballindoney, Ballywilliam, Enniscorthy	Wexford
Tom Delahunt	Ballinaclough, Wicklow	Wicklow

2017 IFA COMMITTEES

Poultry

MEMBERS 2017		
Name	Branch	County
Nigel Renaghan	Clontibret	Chairperson
Eoin Cunningham	Broadford-Kantohar	Limerick
Nigel Sweetman	Kinsale	Cork Central
Pat O'Connell	Feoghanagh	Limerick
Ann Gernon	Louth Village	Louth
Eugene McGinnity	Aughnalshavey	Monaghan
Michael O'Hea	Clonkilty	Cork West
Mark McElvaney	Threemilehouse	Monaghan
John McCabe	Threemilehouse	Monaghan
Padraic Kiely	Brickens	Mayo
Vincent Quinn	TullyCorbett	Monaghan
Thomas Daly	Mullagh	Cavan
Thomas Fitzsimons	Billis	Cavan
Sean McKenna	Tydavnet	Monaghan
Edward Keane	Kinsalebeg	Waterford
Robert McBride	Tyholland	Monaghan
David Abbott	Killeshandra	Cavan
Warren O'Connell	Carrigaline	Cork Central
John Hurley	Kildorrery	Cork North
Nigel Flynn	Clones	Monaghan
Enda Connolly	Clones	Monaghan
Michael Murphy	Cappoquin	Waterford
Andrew Keating	Newbliss	Monaghan

Fresh Milk

MEMBERS 2017		
Name	Branch	County
Larry Hannon	Moone	Chairperson
Jim Mulhall	Kilkenny City	Kilkenny
Willie Lennon	Goresbridge-Paulstown	Kilkenny
Denis Fagan	Kildalkey	Meath
Kevin Healy	Aughrim	Wicklow
Walter Crowley	Mooncoin	Kilkenny
Derek Tierney	Timahoe	Kildare
Kevin Maguire	Newtownforbes	Longford
David Bennett	Abbeyleix	Laois
Michael O'Flaherty	Trim	Meath
Eamon McEnteggart	Knockbridge	Louth

Acquaculture Section

MEMBERS 2017		
Name	Branch	County
IRISH SHELLFISH ASSOCIATION		
Michael Molloy	Westport	Chairperson
Kian Louet-Feisser	Cooley	Louth
Colin Whooley	Aughadown	Cork
Shay Harty	Dungarvan	Waterford
Arthur McCathy	Cromane	Kerry
Finian O'Sullivan	Bantry	Cork
Jackie Sullivan	Bere Island	Cork
IRISH SALMON GROWERS' ASSOCIATION		
Jan Feenstra	Fanad	Donegal
John Power	Castletownbere	Cork
Paul Sommerville	Connemara	Galway
Patrick Gallagher	Ardara	Donegal
Gerry O'Donohue	Connemara	Galway
Damien O'Keefe	Thomastown	Kilkenny

2017 IFA COMMITTEES

Hill Farming

MEMBERS 2017		
Name	Branch	County
Pat Dunne	Rathdrum	Chairman
Denis Halpin	Manor Kilbride	Kildare / West Wicklow
Peter Murphy	Rathdrum / Tinahely	Wicklow
Richard Meaney	The Rower / Kilkenny	Carlow / Kilkenny / Wexford
Declan Mills	Cooley	Louth
Frank Cunningham	Kilrossanty	Waterford / South Tipperary
Florence Mccarthy	Kenmare	Kerry
Eamonn Nee	Connemara	Galway
Stephen Walsh	Feakle	Clare
Bernard C Duffy	Rosses	Donegal
Shane Mckee	Drumshanbo	Leitrim
Benedict Gallagher	Templeboy	Sligo
Tommy Mulchrone	Derrada	Mayo
Teddy Creedon	Ballyvourney / K'vullen-Ct'roche-Shanballymore	Cork

Horticulture

MEMBERS 2017		
Name	Branch	County
Gerard Reilly	Drumrainey	Chairperson
Paul Brophy	Naas-Caragh	Kildare
Val Farrell	North Fingal	Dublin
Eddie Doyle	Mooncoin	Kilkenny
James Kearns	Ballindaggin	Wexford
Cornelius Traas	Cahir	Tipperary

Rules & Privileges

MEMBERS 2017		
Name	Branch	County
Jer Bergin	Clough	Chairperson
Patrick Donnelly	Sonna	Westmeath
Anne Keohane	Innishannon	Cork Central
Timothy Cullinan	Toomevara	Tipp North
Pat Hennessy	Borris in Ossory	Laois
Matthew McGreehan	Cooley	Louth
James Gallagher	Kinlough	Leitrim

Farm Forestry

MEMBERS 2017		
Name	Branch	County
Patrick Collins	Ballintubber	Chairperson
Charles Doherty	Newtowncunningham	Vice-Chairperson
Michael Doyle	Tullow	Carlow
Cathel Rudden	Clifferna	Cavan
Martin Murphy	Kilmihill	Clare
Michael Murphy	Ballinhassig	Cork (C)
Denis O'Brien	Mitchelstown	Cork (N)
Fergus Minihane	Schull	Cork (W)
Charles Doherty	Newtowncunningham	Donegal
Derek Mcgrath	Bohernabreena	Dublin
Enda Monaghan	Caherlistrane	Galway
John Nolan	Abbeydorney	Kerry
Karl Matuschka	Moone	Kildare
Ger Woodcock	Danesfort	Kilkenny
Thomas Cosby	Stradbally	Laois
James Brennan	Kinlough	Leitrim
John O'Connell	Kildimo	Limerick
Francis Smith	Colmcille	Longford
John Roche	Tullyallen	Louth
John Granahan	Keenagh	Mayo
Charles Flattery	Summerhill	Meath
Alan Mullen	Clontibret	Monaghan
Jimmy Condron	Cloghan	Offaly
Ambrose Kilcline	Roscommon	Roscommon
Michael G O Dowd	Achonry	Sligo
Michael Ryan	Tipperary	Tipperary (s)
Patrick Ryan	Upperchurch	Tipperary (n)
Kieran Mansfield	Kinsalebeg	Waterford
Vincent Nally	Sonna	Westmeath
Nicholas Sweetman	Carnew	Wexford
Charles Tottenham	Ashford	Wicklow

2017 IFA COMMITTEES

Rural Development

MEMBERS 2017		
Name	Branch	County
Joseph Brady	Tullyco	Chairman
Pat Gilhooley	Aughnasheelin	Vice-Chairman
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Michael Biggins	Headford	Co Galway
Eamonn Burke	Currandulla	Co Galway
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Padraic Corcoran	Lecarrow	Co Roscommon
Eddie Davitt	Tubbercurry	Co Sligo
Emmett Duffy	Ballinallee	Co Longford
Michael Dunne	Castledermot	Co Kildare
Pat Dunne	Glenmalure	Co Wicklow
Michael Eustace	Tullow	Co Carlow
Tom Finegan	Donaghpatrick	Co Meath
Sean Fitzpatrick	Rathmoyle	Co Kilkenny
Joe Gahan	Shillelagh	Co Wicklow
John Heffernan	Ballymacarbry	Co Tipperary
Liam Hopkins	Tallaght	Co Dublin
Donal Howard	Rathcoole	Co Cork
Padraic Joyce	Castlebar	Co Mayo
Roger Keogh	Cappamore	Co Limerick
Ned Lyng	Ballywilliam	Co Wexford
Matthew McGreehan	Riverstown	Co Louth
Andrew McShea	Ballyshannon	Co Donegal
William Moloney	Silvermines	Co Tipperary
Richard O'Brien	Athlone	Co Westmeath
Patrick O'Connor	Ballyhar	Co Kerry
Martin O'Doherty	Mitchelstown	Co Cork
Donal O'Donovan	Dunmanway	Co Cork
Brian Treanor	Emyvale	Co Monaghan
Denis Tuohy	Whitegate	Co Clare
Pat	Ballyshiel	Birr

Animal Health

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Name	Branch	County
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Bernie McCarthy	Kilbeggan	Westmeath
Liam O'Byrne	Tagoat	Wexford
Tom Short	Ashford	Wicklow



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