



# IFA

YOUR ASSOCIATION. YOUR VOICE.

## 2018 Annual Report The Irish Farmers' Association



[www.ifa.ie](http://www.ifa.ie)

# YOUR ASSOCIATION YOUR VOICE



Beef farmers protesting outside the Department of Agriculture on Kildare Street.



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# IFA



# 2018 Annual Report

## The Irish Farmers' Association

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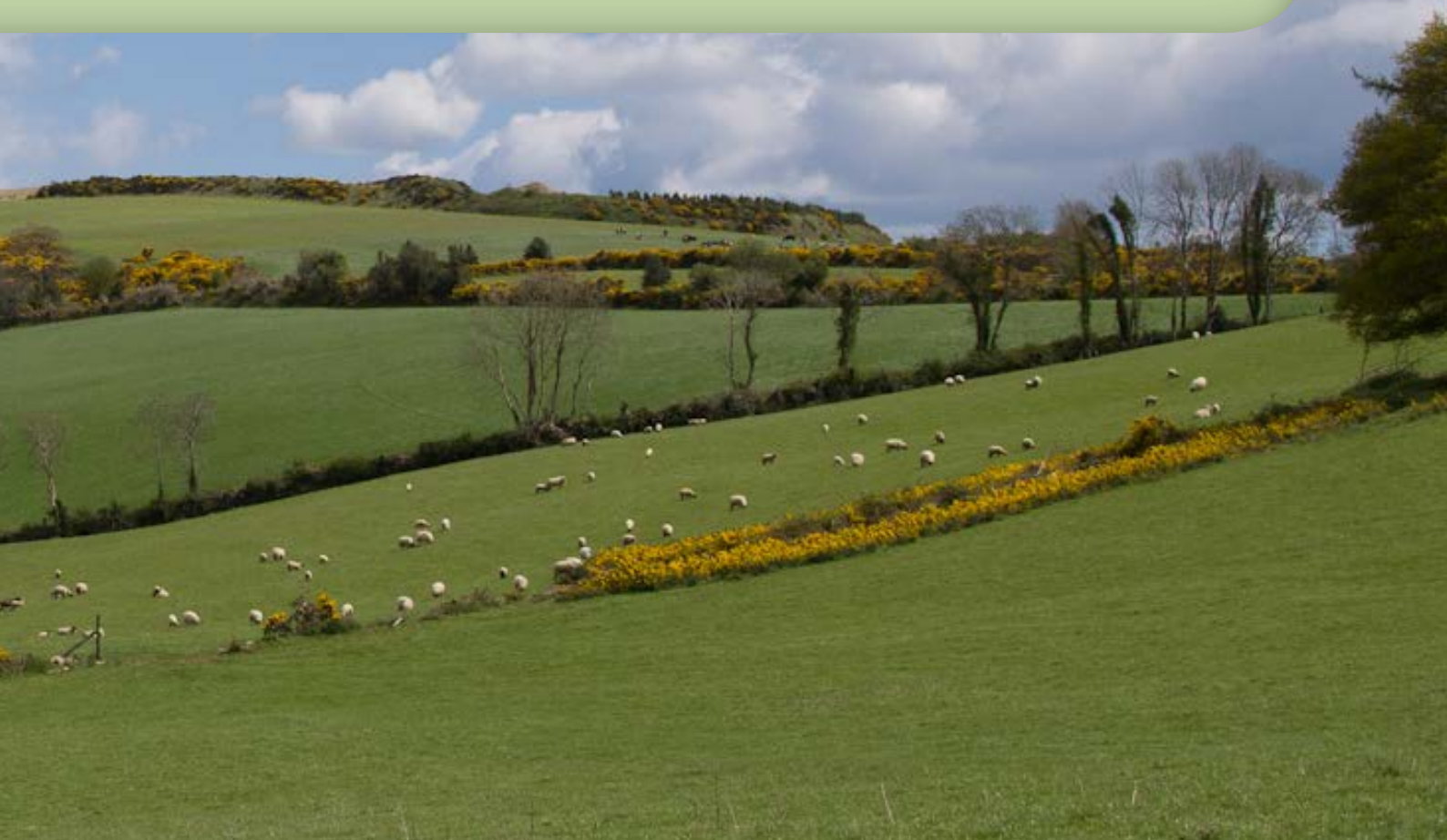
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# PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT



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

### Dear member,

2018 will be remembered as one of the toughest years in farming. The dramatic weather swings – from snow in the Spring to drought in the Summer – brought unprecedented pressures for farmers. Our focus has been to seek support from the EU, Government, agencies and the the industry to assist farmers to cope with fodder shortages, cashflow problems & lower margins.

As a result of constant lobbying, we secured schemes to cover the transport and the importation of fodder. We lobbied the Minister for Agriculture Michael Creed on the seriousness of the situation & insisted on Government support.

Over the last 12 months, IFA has continued to work tirelessly and deliver for farmers on the many issues impacting them and succeeded in achieving significant progress in many areas.

Undoubtedly, significant challenges exist for farmers, particularly those in the drystock sector and those impacted by very difficult weather conditions. We will continue to fight relentlessly for these issues in the year ahead.

### Budget 2019

We delivered real returns for farmers in the Budget.

They included:

- €23m increase in ANC, which brings the total funding to €250m and restores in full the cuts that had been imposed.
- €20m for a pilot Beef scheme to support suckler farmers.
- Earned Income Tax Credit increased in the Budget by €200 to €1,350. This is worth an extra €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.
- €1m for the horticulture sector.
- €2m additional funding for the Walks Scheme.

### IFA Campaigns

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

- Secured a fodder import scheme of €4.25m; funding of €2.75m to incentivise catch crops; extension of spreading dates; and relaxation of GLAS rules to deal with the fodder crisis
- 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 which in 2018 were up 30% to 246,000.

- We battled successfully at the highest level in the EU Commission to keep a Mercosur deal from being agreed.
- IFA secured a Government commitment to bring in legislative change for a three-year cap on farm business assets under the Fair Deal scheme.
- 70% Basic Payment advance, which was critical given the weather conditions in 2018. It was worth €200m in cashflow in October to the 111,000 farmers paid in the first week.
- Our Credit Support team and Payments Unit provided direct assistance to individual farmers in the fight against the banks and vulture funds.
- Resisted the use of CPO for the development of Greenways.
- Raised the issue of rural crime with the new Garda Commissioner and received a commitment on increased visibility of policing.
- IFA Fertiliser Campaign delivered a 30% reduction in anti-dumping duties
- IFA blocked a statutory instrument imposing an NCT type test on farm tractors.



IFA President Joe Healy & Taoiseach Leo Varadkar TD at our AGM in January.



*Joe Healy discusses the main farming issues at the IFA Stand at the Tullamore Show in August.*

## Challenges for 2019

### 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, particularly the scale of the Budget, taking account of inflation.

We will insist that this remains a priority for our Government and we expect Taoiseach Leo Varadkar to build support across Member States for a higher contribution.

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.

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.

### Brexit

Whatever the outcome of the current impasse, Brexit remains the most serious threat to Irish farming and our agri-food sector for half a century.

With 37% 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.

Any losses that are as 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.

### Review of the ANCs

As part of our campaign, we had set out our priorities for this vital income support for farmers, including;

- The allocation for ANCs in the next CAP to increase from €250m to €300m.
- Payment rates that reflect the natural handicap.

We will continue to work on behalf of farmers to achieve these aims.



## Rural Development Funding

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

There is a danger of an underspend and we have set out the action that Minister Creed needs to take to avoid this.

To ensure full drawdown of Ireland's funding allocation, there is further potential to increase ANC payments and to expand TAMS to include other works. 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

While there has been an improvement in payments, 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 it has gone through the EU Trilogues, we expect the Commissioner to deliver on these recommendations 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 2015 to protect suppliers are being enforced.

## Labour Shortages

The issue of labour shortages and the need for the Dept of Business to look at the criteria for non-EU permits will remain a priority for us.

## 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 and a reduction of up to 10% of emissions can be achieved.

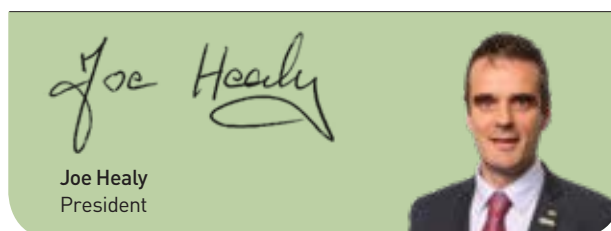
## Conclusion

The issues for Irish farmers and farm incomes in 2019 are as challenging as any we have faced over the course of IFA's history. The next CAP & Brexit negotiations – will all impact on the policy, price and trading environment for farming and our agri-food sector.

The shape of the CAP post 2020 will also have long term implications for farm incomes and structures.

Never was it more important to have a strong IFA to represent the interests of Irish farmers. We have a huge work programme ahead of us in 2019. Together we can meet these challenges and deliver real results for Irish farmers.

I want to thank all of our members, particularly our officers from branch level upwards who have made an enormous contribution over the last 12 months on behalf of farm families. I would also like to thank the staff at IFA for their commitment and dedication to the organisation.



Joe Healy  
President

# DIRECTOR GENERAL'S REPORT



## Brexit

At the end of 2018 the threat of a 'no deal' or disorderly Brexit hung over us. Irish agriculture is the most vulnerable sector to a bad Brexit. Ireland needs continued access to the UK and we cannot have a situation where the UK can do its own 3rd country trade deals.

## CAP 2020-2027

2018 also saw the publication of new CAP reform proposals by EU Commissioner Phil Hogan. The Commission also brought forward a draft EU budget for 2020-2027 through the Multi-annual Financial Framework (MFF).

While the reform proposals contain many issues of concern, the most serious proposal is to reduce the CAP budget by 5% in nominal terms. When the EU proxy inflation rate is taken into account, the real impact of the cut is up to 17%.

This 2020-2027 MFF proposal is based on an increase in the overall EU budget by way of higher contributions from the remaining 27 Member States. Yet the CAP budget is still subject to a proposed cut. It is clear that the EU political system continues to de-prioritise agriculture, with CAP falling from over 60% of the EU budget in the 80s to under 30% today. There must be an improved budget for 2027.

## Climate Challenge

The proposals of the Citizens' Assembly during 2018 received significant attention. A specially-established Oireachtas Committee on Climate Change is now considering the findings.

IFA addressed the Committee on December 12th. It has looked at matters in much more detail. We hope it will produce a more balanced set of measures. Irish agriculture has made huge changes in response to the climate and environmental challenges and we will do more. There can be win-wins when farmers reduce emissions while improving their bottom line, as demonstrated through IFA's Smart Farming programme.

Farmers are particularly frustrated with the slow progress on renewables and the bio economy. We could play a huge part if there was more joined-up thinking on behalf of the Government and the myriad of agencies involved in this space.

## The Organisation

During 2018, the legal cases from 2015 were finally settled. The scale of the settlements was hard to swallow, but it allows us to move on without further legal fees and the distractions of protracted legal battles.

Our balance sheet is still in a healthy financial state. However, the organisation incurred an operational deficit to March 31st, 2018. While almost all of this was due to finalising legal matters, we must get back to a situation where the organisation's operational income exceeds its operational expenditure.

A three-year plan was approved by the National Council in 2017 and we are in line with this. We need to continue to rebuild our income and control our expenditure.

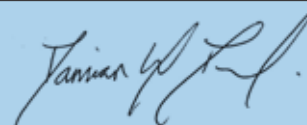
There are challenges ahead. 2018 saw a growth in the divide between the incomes of dairy farmers and almost every other sector. It was a bad year for grain and a particularly bad year for pigs.

Our beef sector faces huge challenges. This year saw poor prices and a huge increase in costs arising from the extreme weather conditions. Many beef farmers have seen their direct payments reduced following the last CAP reform. Brexit hangs over the sector like a dark cloud and the Mercosur deal hasn't gone away. Beef farmers are frustrated and angry that processors, retailers and others appear to be doing well while they are losing money.

If we want to have a vibrant beef sector in Ireland, we need to have a fundamental look at the whole industry. We must be open to new thinking and examine all possibilities. As in other countries, farmers are declining as a portion of the population. We need to work harder than ever to ensure farmers stick together and present ourselves as a strong united voice.

I want to thank all of the association's farmer officers for their commitment and leadership during 2018.

As the Director General I lead a staff team that goes well beyond the call of duty. I am very grateful for the expertise and dedication of the IFA staff in our National, Regional and Brussels offices and I want to thank them for their work during 2018.



**Damian McDonald**  
Director General



# REPRESENTATION

*IFA President Joe Healy & the National Officers Committee tackle Minister Creed on the response to the fodder crisis & put forward the measures in our Drought Action Plan.*



**Joe Healy**  
President



**Richard Kennedy**  
Deputy President



**Damian McDonald**  
Director General




**Bryan Barry**  
Association Secretary/  
Assistant Director General




National Officers Committee


**John Coughlan**  
Munster Chairman




**Tom Short**  
South Leinster Chairman




**Tim Cullinan**  
National Treasurer/  
Returning Officer



**Nigel Renaghan**  
Ulster & North Leinster Chairman



**Padraic Joyce**  
Connacht Chairman



**NATIONAL COUNCIL - GOVERNING BODY**  
Includes Macra President, ICOS President & Irish Farmers' Journal Editor

**16 National Committee Chairmen**

**29 County Chairmen**

**National Committees**

**29 County Executives**

Each Branch elects 4 delegates to County Executive

**947 Branches**










**Over 72,000 Members:  
Organised Through Branches**

# NATIONAL COUNCIL 2018













*Members of the IFA National Council listening to the 2018 AGM address by IFA President Joe Healy.*






















## NATIONAL OFFICERS' COMMITTEE

	<b>PRESIDENT</b> Joe Healy		<b>TREASURER/ RETURNING OFFICER</b> Tim Cullinan		<b>Ulster/North Leinster</b> Nigel Renaghan
	<b>DIRECTOR GENERAL</b> Damian McDonald		<b>REGIONAL CHAIRMEN</b> Munster John Coughlan		<b>Connacht</b> Padraic Joyce
	<b>DEPUTY PRESIDENT</b> Richard Kennedy		<b>South Leinster</b> Tom Short		<b>ASSOCIATION SECRETARY/ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GENERAL</b> Bryan Barry

## COUNTY CHAIRS

	<b>CARLOW</b> George Collier		<b>CORK CENTRAL</b> Harold Kingston		<b>GALWAY</b> Anne Mitchell
	<b>CAVAN</b> Elizabeth Ormiston		<b>CORK WEST</b> Cornelius Buckley		<b>GALWAY 2<sup>ND</sup> REP</b> Martin Murphy
	<b>CLARE</b> William Hanrahan		<b>DONEGAL</b> Michael Chance		<b>KERRY</b> Patrick O'Driscoll
	<b>CORK NORTH</b> Anne Baker		<b>DUBLIN</b> Philip Maguire		<b>KERRY 2<sup>ND</sup> REP</b> Kenneth Jones

## COUNTY CHAIRS

 Brian Rushe	KILDARE	 Martin Gilvarry	MAYO	 Erica O'Keeffe	TIPPERARY STH
 James Murphy	KILKENNY	 John Curran	MEATH	 Kevin Kiersey	WATERFORD
 Francis Gorman	LAOIS	 Frank Brady	MONAGHAN	 Kenneth Bray	WESTMEATH
 James Gallagher	LEITRIM	 Richard Scally	OFFALY	 James Kehoe	WEXFORD
 Shay Galvin	LIMERICK	 James O'Connor	ROSCOMMON	 Chris Hill	WICKLOW
 Sean Conefrey	LONGFORD	 John P Cowley	SLIGO		
 Gerard Melia	LOUTH	 Imelda Walsh	TIPPERARY NTH		



## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

	DAIRY		2ND LIVESTOCK REP		ANIMAL HEALTH
	Thomas Phelan		Brendan Golden		Patrick Farrell
	ENVIRONMENT & RURAL AFFAIRS		RURAL DEVELOPMENT & LESS FAVOURED AREAS		MACRA NA FEIRME
	Thomas Cooney		Joseph Brady		James Healy
	FARM BUSINESS		SHEEP		ICOS
	Martin Stapleton		Sean Dennehy		Michael Spellman
	FARM FAMILY & SOCIAL AFFAIRS		PIGS		IFJ
	Caroline Farrell		Thomas Hogan		Justin McCarthy
	FARM FORESTRY		POULTRY	NOTE ICOS and IFJ are observer Members of the National Council without a vote.	
	Vincent Nally		Andrew Boylan		
	GRAIN		POTATO		AQUACULTURE
	Mark Browne		Thomas McKeown		Michael Mulloy
	LIQUID MILK		HORTICULTURE		FMP
	John Finn		Paul Brophy		Jim Mulhall
	LIVESTOCK		HILL FARMING		
	Angus Woods		Flor McCarthy		

## OTHER REPRESENTATIVES

# ECONOMIST'S REPORT

*IFA delegation meets Ministers Paschal Donohoe TD & Michael D'Arcy TD in the Department of Finance in advance of Budget 2019.*



## Overview

This year was a challenging year for Irish farmers. While the impact of the extreme weather events in spring and summer were somewhat mitigated by the good weather conditions in the autumn, farm incomes were negatively affected. The fall in gross margins for Irish farmers was due to increased cost of inputs such as fuel, up 10% on 2017, but income was predominately affected by increase in feed use per head. These unforeseen costs eroded margins on Irish farms. Next year incomes are forecast to increase marginally, this will be driven by reduced feed costs and expected lower feed requirements. Fuel prices in 2019 are expected to change very little on 2018, however fertilizer prices are expected to increase by 16%, with fertilizer use expected to fall in 2019, assuming normal weather conditions.

## Outline of work

There was a strong focus this year on major policy proposals for the next round of CAP 2021-2027 published in June. The legislation provides the framework for CAP reform and will direct the actions and activities of farmers over the seven-year funding period of the new policy. The fundamental change in how the policy is designed is in the movement from a compliance-based model to a result and performance-based model. Other work included submissions on the Budget and the Finance Bill, these form part of national changes affecting lives of Irish farmers and their families, compensation costings for the TB forum and reviewing farm incomes for the year.

## Budget 2019

The preparation of the pre-budget submission was based on internal proposals, coming predominately through the Farm Business Committee, it was launched in early August. In advance of Budget Day the IFA held a series of meetings with officials and representatives to discuss the document. This included meetings with relevant Ministers, MEPs and DAFM to highlight specific issues for consideration. Post Budget the primary work focused on the analysis of the outcomes. This included the online publication of a summary report on Budget night and the online publication of a more comprehensive Budget report in the days after the announcement.

## Finance Bill

The Finance Bill included changes in implementation of Commission Regulation (EU) No. 702/2014. There is currently ongoing engagement with Department of Finance and DAFM on the proposed changes introduced in the Finance Bill. These changes affect young trained farmers directly but IFA also feels the changes will have an impact on farm transfers. The planned changes introduced include a ceiling to the level of reliefs.

## CAP Reform

The dedicated CAP Project Team, whose work intensified in June 2018 with the publication of the new regulations from the Commission, was set up to focus on the upcoming reform. Since then IFA members have been given frequent updates on the planned proposals and negotiations which took place. The IFA made a number of submissions on the proposals throughout the year. This included proposing regulation amendments to MEPs, circulating briefing notes on CAP and the MFF to IFA members and the submission to COPA position paper on CAP reform. At home, the IFA made submissions to DAFM through their consultations and held meetings throughout the year to discuss technical issues and practical challenges. These are facilitated with ongoing discussions with our Brussels office to keep up to date on day-to-day changes as they arise.

Throughout the year the key aim was to facilitate discussion and provide information to interested parties on key changes contained in the proposed CAP reforms. This included speaking at public events, the CAP regional/local meetings, encouraging discussion among farmers and raising awareness of farmer concerns at a political level.

The CAP team met five times since the regulations were published in June. This included a meeting with Commission officials in Brussels and Government officials in DAFM. The team also met with MEPs to discuss proposed changes and a major focus for this year was on the proposed cut to the CAP Budget.

The Budget negotiations are now at a standstill and it is anticipated that it will not be decided until October 2019. The December Council held in mid-December 2018 was due to discuss the Budget, however due to changes in Brexit negotiations priorities changed. The upcoming MEP elections also have taken precedence and consequently the MFF Budget decision is not expected until late in 2019. This essentially means the development of National Strategic Plans may be delayed and the design will be difficult in the absence of a budget. This will likely mean a rollover of the current Budget and existing CAP programmes. Analysis based on existing data to estimate impact of reform proposals and the importance of payments by county have been looked at and delivered at national meetings, this approach will continue next year with the aim of informing our members of the impact of change.

## TB Stakeholder Forum

During the year the Animal Health Committee worked hard on a range of animal health issues. Part of this included engagement with the TB Stakeholder Forum. The Bovine TB Eradication Programme was discussed in detail. In this the IFA put forward an analysis of national data, which outlined a compensation and costings analysis for farmers affected. These have been submitted to the DAFM for consideration.

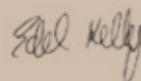
## Economic performance, farm incomes and outlook for 2019

In general, 2018 was a good year for the economy with very strong economic performance with an increase in GDP of 7.5%. This growth is set to ease for 2019 with predictions for economic growth estimated at 4%. This will be a challenge in light of the uncertainty surrounding Brexit and the wider geopolitical environment in terms of trade. The growth estimates align with the expected achievement of full employment in 2019, the current CSO seasonally adjusted unemployment rate is estimated at 5.3% for November 2018. This may present labour challenges for farmers.

In terms of agriculture, the global economy is positive however, the Brexit negotiations will remain fundamental to economic conditions for agriculture in 2019 and beyond. In the short-term exchange rate volatility is a key issue, while markets and trade negotiations present ongoing challenges. These uncertainties are challenging and the agricultural sector is very exposed, in particular the primary producer. Farm incomes are under significant pressure. Reports on agricultural output and income at the end of 2018 based on nationally published data such as by CSO, Teagasc NFS and Central Bank reflect this income difficulty. In 2019 the main focus will be on farm income given the economic uncertainty and analysis of economic data for developing policy positions.

## Wider consultation and engagement as stakeholders

- DBEI Study on the Potential Economic Opportunities and Other Impacts on Ireland from Free Trade Agreements – Stakeholder Consultations
- Civil Dialogue seat at International Aspects of Agriculture (IAA)
- Participation in National Economic Dialogue
- Consultation with NESC on Social Insurance Fund, considering future deficits challenges for self-employed and employees
- Participation in monthly POCC meetings at COPA-COGECA, providing updates on all relevant European agricultural issues
- German Embassy – Irish representatives invited to visit Germany in light of Brexit



Edel Kelly  
IFA Economist



*IFA President Joe Healy and Fianna Fáil leader Micheál Martin discuss CAP and Brexit.*



# DIRECTOR OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS REPORT

*IFA President Joe Healy and Director of European Affairs Liam MacHale at a meeting in Brussels with EU Commissioner for Agriculture Phil Hogan.*



## Brussels Report

The end of year has arrived with more questions left unanswered than issues solved. We do not know what form Brexit will take, the decision on the MFF budget has been pushed back into third quarter 2019 and CAP post 2020 reform discussions are moving slowly. We approach 2019 with elections that will certainly alter the current make up of the European Parliament and will end with a new college of Commissioners in place by November.

Agriculture is always under pressure, whether on the home front due to extreme climate events or in Brussels as we defend the sector from budgetary cuts and unreasonable demands from external interest groups.

## Brexit

IFA have participated regularly in the Brexit Task Force meetings within COPA and as COPA First Vice President, Joe Healy has consistently outlined the potential damaging effects of a no deal Brexit scenario. Political unity among the 27 Member States has strengthened the Chief Negotiator's position but much now lies in the hands of the UK Parliamentarians. Certainly, other Member State farmer associations now have a better appreciation of the politics of Northern Ireland but are equally strongly committed to the need for freely accessible markets for all.

## A Fairer Food Chain

Despite efforts to derail the progress of the European Commission Directive on UTPs through the European Parliament in Strasbourg last October and onwards to Trilogues, the work to address injustices to farmers/suppliers has continued. With little success to show before being tackled by the current Agriculture Commissioner, the EU is now on the cusp of delivering a significant political message, that unfair acts relating to business relationships carried out by retailers on farmers with little bargaining power, will no longer be tolerated. Nevertheless, final agreement at Trialogues may move from the Austrian Presidency to the Romanian Presidency in early 2019. Member States must implement any agreed Directive and enact effective legislation where appropriate in order to achieve real change. President Joe Healy was nominated to represent COPA at the High Level Forum on the Food Chain.

## Fertiliser Anti-Dumping Charges

Following a 15 month investigation by DG Trade into antidumping measures on ammonium nitrate from Russia, the Commission has implemented a reduction of 30%. This vindicates the farmer claim led by IFA with 7 other Associations and Cooperatives, that farmers were in fact the injured party. This anti-dumping duty is up for review in 2019 and IFA will have an opportunity to return to the Commission to seek its complete elimination. The EU Fertiliser market remains uncompetitive and it is planned to continue this campaign during the upcoming Romanian Presidency of the EU.

## Future

While CAP will dominate policy decisions in 2019, there are a number of related issues that have the potential to feature prominently: Food Waste and measures to address this, Anti Microbial Resistance and global action to tackle the problem, African Swine Fever which could

have a significant negative effect on the European Pigmear market, digitalisation and data ownership within agriculture, development of a European protein plan and an escalated focus on environment and commitment to climate action measures.

## Trade

With meaningful progress and efforts at reform stalling at the WTO and with global trade moving away from multilateralism, the EU continues to forge trade ties that have helped drive record agri food exports. The recent ratification of the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement is a deal supported on both sides, the modernisation of the Mexico agreement as well as progress on Vietnam and Singapore emphasise the EU's active trade agenda.

Against that, negotiations with Mercosur have failed to date, to overcome differences in EU offensive interests such as Dairy and GIs and country of origin issues in relation to industrial goods. While geopolitics continues to overshadow talks, the IFA are committed to preventing the livestock sector being used as a bargaining chip if closure of the deal becomes imminent.

## CAP post 2020

Without approval for the EU budget it is difficult to generate serious momentum around discussions on CAP reform which followed the publication of the legislative proposals on June 1st 2018. While additional funding for research and innovation ring fenced for agriculture is welcome, the 4% cut in Direct Payments and 15% reduction in Rural Development funding is a significant blow to farmers. In real terms this is a much higher cut to farmer income and at a time when increased demands are put on farmers for delivering public goods it will be the active, genuine farmer who bears the greatest burden.

Concerns over the new delivery model from other Member States have focused on fears over renationalisation of CAP and the added responsibility being put on Member States and paying agencies plus issues over capping and convergence. Preparation of strategic plans will involve many stakeholders, what will national eco-schemes look like, how to introduce a measure that will effectively address generational renewal and will targeted support schemes be provided for vulnerable sectors? These decisions will occupy IFA's representatives in the months ahead during discussions in Dublin, with the European Commission and with the European Parliament. Time pressure dictates that CAP post 2020 will be delayed from 2021 to 2022 with an adequate transition period required.

## Retirement of Anne McGrath

On a final note, I would like to acknowledge Anne McGrath's tremendous contribution to the organisation during her 36 years in the IFA office in Brussels. We wish her the very best in her retirement.



Liam MacHale  
Director of European Affairs



# 2018 COMMITTEE REPORTS







# NATIONAL LIVESTOCK COMMITTEE

*IFA President Joe Healy, Livestock Chairman Angus Woods and members of the Livestock Committee in a sit-in protest at the Department of Agriculture which secured agreement from the Minister for Agriculture Michael Creed to publish the names of the factories who committed carcase trim offences.*



## Cattle Prices

2018 was a very difficult year for livestock farm incomes. Average beef prices were slightly ahead of 2017 levels at €4.07/kg including vat for R3 grade steers. However, total cattle supplies were up 56,000 head and very difficult weather during the spring with a fodder crisis was followed by a drought throughout the summer, which resulted in significant cost increases that hit hard on farm incomes.

IFA campaigned positively on cattle prices throughout the year, with weekly reports to the media, biweekly price updates on text, twitter, IFA app and the IFA website. In addition, at local level IFA met and lobbied the factories in the September/October period and met with MII and the main factory owners on a number of occasions at national level on cattle prices, farm incomes and other related livestock issues.

An IFA livestock farmers protest outside the Department of Agriculture and the Beef Forum in early October highlighted the cattle price and income problem on farms as well as the lack of competition. IFA called for an increase in prices and a new targeted payment for sucklers in Budget 2019.

2018 was also a very difficult year for store and weaning prices. Quality stock maintained their value well but plainer type stock were under price pressure throughout the year.

## Supplies

At the factories, beef supplies were up 3.6% or 56,000 head in 2018 on top of an additional 90,000 head in 2017. Cow numbers were up 7.1% or 23,000 head.

EU beef production for 2018 was up 2%, with heifer output up 7.7% and cows up 3.9%, mainly related to the drought situation in Northern Europe.

## Markets

The UK remains Ireland's key market outlet for beef in terms of price and volume, taking more than half of all our exports. UK prices were strong in 2018, rising in the early part of the year but falling from July to mid-August and rising again from

August to September. However, UK prices fell from October into December. UK R3 steer prices averaged €4.16/kg ex vat for 2018 or €4.38/kg including 5.4% vat.

The main EU markets are France, Italy, Holland, Germany, Scandinavia and Spain. EU R3 male prices averaged €3.80/kg ex vat or €4.00 including vat, compared to €4.07/kg for Irish steer prices.

Following various high level trade delegations to China, including visits by the IFA President and National Livestock Chairman, Ireland gained access to this large market and the first exports were shipped in mid-year. In addition, as part of an EU/Japan trade deal access was gained for 50,000t of EU beef exports to Japan, with tariffs reduced to 9%.

## Live Exports

IFA worked hard with the Department of Agriculture and exporters to maximise live exports to 246,000 head for 2018, an increase of 58,000 on 2017 levels, by securing reductions in export costs and good ferry access. The main markets were Spain, Holland, France, Italy and Belgium. IFA also worked on exports to Turkey (12,870 head), which were severely hampered by currency difficulties and has put proposals to Minister Creed to provide greater support to the trade to Turkey and the EU.

## Classification and Trim

IFA secured agreement from Minister Creed that up to 150 Department AOs will monitor carcase trim in the meat plants on a constant basis from November, with full rollout in January 2019. IFA is also working to have new technology on lighting and cameras introduced for mechanical classification and increased supervision of carcase grading by the DAFM. IFA highlighted the unacceptable breaches on carcase trim and insisted on Minister Creed naming the meat plants involved.



*The IFA National Livestock Committee visited Brussels in November and undertook an intensive lobby of EU Commission officials, Commissioner Hogan's cabinet and MEPs focused on protecting direct payments in CAP, Brexit and Mercosur.*



*IFA President Joe Healy and Livestock Chairman Angus Woods present the IFA Suckler Report by Prof. Thia Hennessy and the case for increased suckler supports to Agriculture Minister Michael Creed TD at the Tullamore Show in August.*

## Additional €40 per Cow for Sucklers

IFA secured an additional €40 per cow in targeted support for sucklers or a total of €20m funding in the Budget, following an intensive yearlong campaign. This included a full lobby of Government, all TDs and politicians, the Thia Hennessy report on sucklers and the IFA/IFJ set of mart meetings. In addition, IFA secured an additional €23m in ANC payments. Combined with the €44m in annual BDGP funding also secured by IFA, participating suckler farmers can now get payments of €140 on the first 10 cows and €120 on the remainder. IFA also addressed the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Agriculture on suckler support.

## Quality Assurance Scheme

The new close out model negotiated by IFA under the Bord Bia QA scheme has dramatically reduced problem issues and made the scheme more farmer friendly.

## Brexit

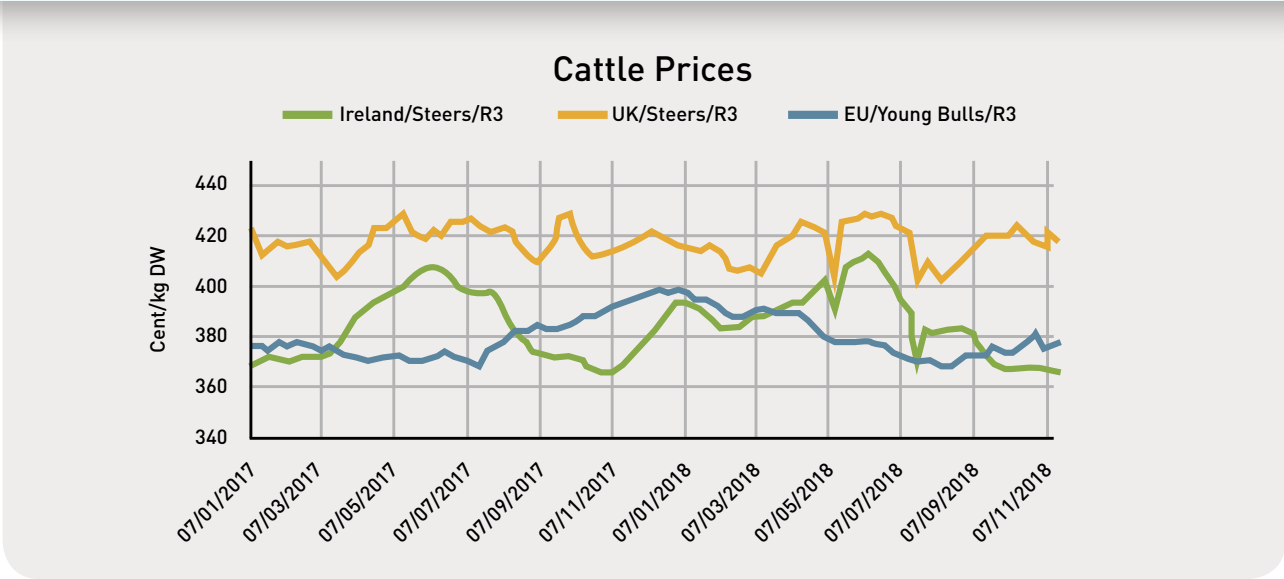
Continued pressure by IFA both at home and in Brussels has ensured that agriculture and the beef sector are kept at the top of the Taoiseach's and Government agenda in the Brexit negotiations. IFA has also highlighted the challenges and proposed solutions on the Brexit issues for beef in Brussels, working closely with the NFU in the UK and FNB in France.

## CAP Reform

IFA is leading a strong campaign to protect and increase the CAP Budget and maintain direct payments, which are critically important to the incomes of livestock farmers. Working with the IFA CAP Project Team, the National Livestock Committee has lobbied hard at local, national and in Brussels on the key CAP issues of direct payments, convergence, redistribution, simplification and subsidiarity.



*IFA President Joe Healy, EU Agriculture Commissioner Phil Hogan, Livestock Chairman Angus Woods and National Pig Meat Chairman Tom Hogan in Shanghai China in May 2018.*



## Trade and Mercosur

IFA campaigned relentlessly in Dublin and Brussels to push back a damaging EU/Mercosur trade deal by insisting that imports must meet EU standards. In addition, in a positive move on, market access was secured for Irish beef to China as well as a positive trade deal with Japan.

## Direct Payments

IFA work secured a 70% BPS advance, with €730m paid out to 114,000 farmers on October 16th. Through the Charter of Rights and IFA work, maximum pressure is kept on the Department of Agriculture to deliver all direct payment on time to farmers.

## Brussels visit

The IFA National Livestock Committee visited Brussels in November and undertook an intensive lobby of EU Commission officials, Commissioner Hogan's Cabinet and MEPs on all of the key livestock issues including CAP, prices, incomes, direct payments, Brexit, Mercosur and other trade issues.

## IFA Livestock Representation

IFA represents livestock farmers with Bord Bia, Teagasc, ICBF and FAWAC as well as various Department of Agriculture groups. In addition, IFA represents Irish livestock farmers in Brussels in COPA and with the EU Commission, including holding the Chairmanship of the important EU Commission Beef Civil Dialogue group.

## IFA Livestock Strategy

IFA has a very clear livestock policy focused on improving livestock farm incomes through increasing prices, securing additional direct payments and reducing costs. This strategy is pursued across all issues at both national and EU level.

On prices, the IFA is working to maximise prices for farmers through tackling the factories to return full market returns, increase competition through live exports and providing full market analysis and twice weekly price updates through text, [www.ifa.ie](http://www.ifa.ie) and twitter.

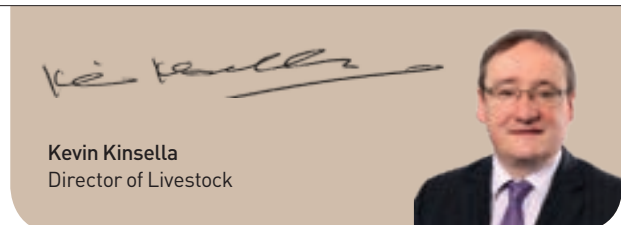
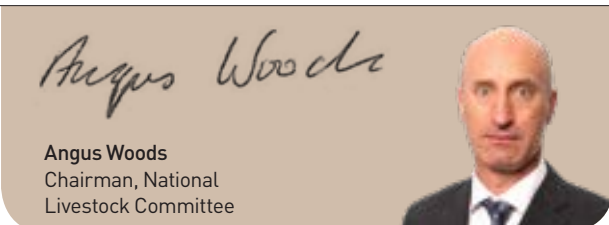
In addition, IFA is committed to a policy of rewarding farmers for quality through higher prices for better quality animals, including a premium for quality suckler beef. IFA is also pursuing price transparency and a fairer share out of the consumer price through the EU Task Force.

A strong IFA strategy is to secure increased targeted payment for sucklers through improved farm schemes (BDGP, BEEP and GLAS) and maintain our quality beef production base.

In CAP, IFA has a strong policy of increasing the CAP Budget and protecting direct payments, which are essential for all livestock farm incomes.

Maintaining unrestricted market access and protecting the value of the UK beef market for Irish exports is a key issue for IFA in Brexit. Insisting that all beef imports meet EU standards is a key IFA policy principle adopted in the Mercosur and other trade negotiations.

IFA is to the fore in highlighting the income problems and policy challenges in the livestock sector and in demanding and driving solutions geared at delivering for farmers.



# NATIONAL DAIRY COMMITTEE

*The IFA National Dairy Committee visited Shinagh Farm and ICBF in Bandon to discuss the services provided by ICBF, including the development of the Dairy Beef Index, and the issue of Jersey cross calves.*



## YEAR-END FIRMING UP OF SMP PRICES SHOW BETTER MARKET SENTIMENT.

### Lower market returns and a series of challenging weather events erode dairy margins

Weaker markets eroded milk prices in 2018, though they did not fall as much as feared – by 7% according to Teagasc – as co-ops supported prices in the early part of the year, and weather events slowed output growth in Europe at least.

Irish farmers were affected by weather challenges too, from an early and long winter in 2017, cold snowy spring in 2018, followed by a summer drought. This has reduced fodder availability and increased expenditure on feed and fodder, by 50% (Teagasc). In combination with weaker milk prices, this has eroded 2018 Irish dairy incomes by 22% (Teagasc).

### Lobbying to minimise milk price reductions, address milk price gaps and optimise supports

IFA lobbying during 2018 helped minimise milk price reductions 2018 despite more challenging markets.

Co-ops supported farmers through the weather induced fodder crisis, with free credit, deferred payments, rebates on purchases and fodder imports. This was appreciated by farmers and helped through a very severe crisis situation. However, IFA highlighted the importance for co-ops to address the milk price gaps which have been allowed to develop as approaches to farmer support through milk price top ups or other means varied from one co-op to the next. Also IFA honed in on the failure by co-ops, with the exception of West Cork, to return the milk price equivalent of the Ornuia PPI from May to September, costing a 350,000l milk producer up to €1957 over the period.

IFA also highlighted the impact into the back end of fodder and weather-related reduced milk production in France, Germany, the Netherlands and Great Britain, which together with increasingly rapid disposal of SMP out of intervention, created a slightly more benign market sentiment and caused a firming of powder prices.

While early 2019 markets continue to be challenged by the uncertainty of Brexit, international trade policy and strong output trends in NZ, lower winter supplies in Europe are likely to continue as a result of fodder shortages. Some year-end firming of European SMP prices show a level of improvement in market sentiment.

IFA has lobbied co-op boards for a commitment to at least maintain milk prices into spring 2019.

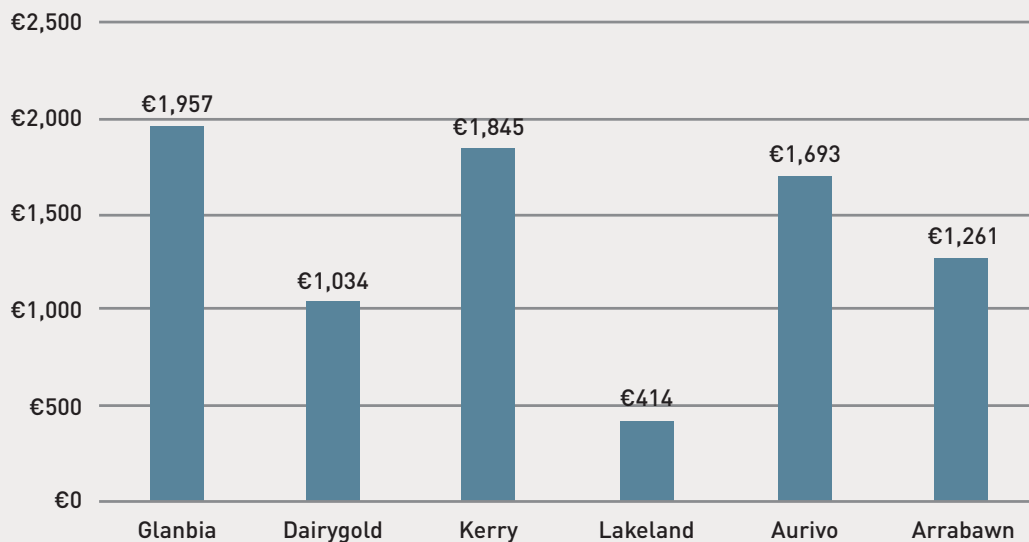
### Addressing labour shortages on dairy farms

For the last two years, IFA has been engaging with stakeholders, including the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation, Teagasc, FRS and the Department of Social Protection on the issue of labour shortages. IFA participated in the People in Dairy Group set up by Minister Michael Creed under the chairmanship of Tom Moran, which reported in early 2018 and set out a strategy to identify, recruit and train up to 6000 additional people into the dairy sector to deal with generational renewal and the needs of expanding herds. Included in this strategy was the need to create opportunities for recruitment outside the EU/EEA. IFA lobbied Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation Frances Fitzgerald, then Minister Heather Humphreys to obtain a review of the immigration policy as it concerns labour permits for farm operatives, especially for the dairy sector. In June, Minister Humphreys announced a pilot scheme making 50 labour permits available for the dairy farming sector, as well as 500 for horticulture and 250 for meat processing. IFA supported individual applicants in speeding up the processing of their applications, and lobbied DBEI and the Minister to simplify and speed up the scheme, but also to change what is currently a pilot into a more permanent labour permit scheme. A seminar targeted to farmers on farm employment was organised by IFA in December, including speakers from the Workplace Relations Commission, DBEI, Teagasc, FRS and the Revenue Commissioners, the latter to address the PAYE modernisation which is coming into play from January 2019.



IFA Dairy Committee members led by Chairman Tom Phelan meet with Dairygold CEO Jim Woulfe on outlook for milk prices and future plans for adding value to milk.

How much better off would a 350,000l supplier have been if paid the Ornuia PPI equivalent for May-Sept 2018?





# ORIGIN GREEN MUST BE LEVERAGED TO DELIVER BETTER PRICES TO FARMERS.

## Leveraging fully SDAS (Sustainable Dairy Assurance Scheme - Origin Green)

By the end of 2018, over 95.5% of Ireland's dairy farmers have been certified, some for the third, fourth or even fifth time, with 100% participation of dairy farmers in most co-ops.

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. However, with 100% certification becoming increasingly critical, co-ops have made it clear that they would cease collection in cases where farmers are not engaging and failing to secure certification.

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

At IFA's request, Bord Bia have made themselves available to address IFA Executive or Commodity meetings around the country, especially to provide one to one engagement with farmers before or after those meetings.

## Favouring an advisory over a penal approach to water sustainability – the ASSAP scheme

IFA is participating in the Agriculture Sustainability Support and Advice Programme (ASSAP), which aims to encourage better use of resources and nutrients as well as improved farmyard management on farms to strengthen Ireland's environmental credentials on water quality, in the context of the next Nitrates derogation review.

The ASSAP programme proposes to make available to farmers in specific areas identified as "areas for action", a voluntary support and advice service to act on farming practices to help improve water quality.

30 advisors have been recruited into the scheme, funded jointly by the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government and the dairy industry. 20 of those advisors will operate within Teagasc, while 10 will operate within dairy co-ops.

This scheme is part of a Water and Community engagement by local authorities, having recognised that the punitive approach of the past was not working. IFA is represented within the ASSAP Farm Consultative Group, and elected representatives at County and Branch levels are attending the Water and Community meetings organised by local authorities to present the overall new approach, to ensure farmers' voices are duly heard and heeded.

Tom Phelan

Tom Phelan  
Chairman, National Dairy Committee



Catherine Lascurettes

Catherine Lascurettes  
National Dairy Executive



# NATIONAL LIQUID MILK COMMITTEE

*The National Liquid Milk Committee met with Diarmuid O'Sullivan CEO Irish Yogurts in Clonakilty to discuss the challenge of supplying retailers in a competitive market place.*



## Milk price campaign

Weaker creamery milk prices have eroded the base price received by all liquid milk suppliers, and made it particularly challenging to negotiate the additional 2018/19 winter premiums or payments necessary to offset the lower base. Consequently, this year's winter price negotiations were difficult for all producer groups, and IFA supported them with detailed information on prices and pricing systems.

2018/19 winter prices of between 37 and 40c/l + VAT (average of monthly pay-outs over the October to March period) were negotiated by producer groups – representing some easing for most relative to last year.

Farmers will this year again find themselves 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).

## Analysis of milk payment systems

IFA undertook a major analysis of current liquid milk payment systems, based on voluntarily supplied full sets of milk statements for 2017. 2 to 4 producers per producer group kindly contributed their milk statements, and a comprehensive analysis was undertaken.

The exercise was about gaining a better understanding of the contribution to the value paid back to farmers for their contracted liquid milk from payment (or not) for constituents, from access (or not) to fixed milk price schemes, etc.

The main conclusions were 1) that regardless of systems, payment for constituents was crucial, as some suppliers could see up to 10c/l come off their contracted liquid milk price between September (a summer month) and October (a winter month subject to either premium or specific payment for many producer groups), and 2) the value over the totality of farmers' milk production (contracted for liquid milk plus creamery milk) of their liquid milk activity was relatively low, and most likely not covering the additional cost of liquid milk production over the winter months.

## Unsustainable discounting by retailers

Over the summer, IFA continued to lobby retailers to highlight the negative impact of unsustainable discounting.

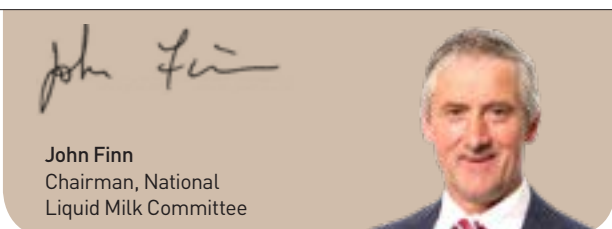
Aldi tried to again use Iceland as an excuse to generalise more unsustainable discounting – this time by selling 2 litres of milk clearly labelled from Northern Ireland at €1.30. At 65c/l this is less than break even judging by information sourced by IFA regarding the cost of processing fresh milk, over 23c/l before any profit for re-investment, added to the 40c/l needed by farmers. However this effort was short lived. IFA, together with Fresh Milk Producers, engaged with both Aldi and Iceland to encourage them to rethink their unsustainable discounting approach. Both ceased this particular offer, most likely because it proved impossible to secure milk at this truly unsustainable level of price.

The IFA Liquid Milk Committee met with most of the main retailers with representatives of the farmers whose milk is sold on their respective shelves in private label bottles and cartons. This was a highly successful strategy to get more engagement from retailers when faced by the stories told directly by farmers of the impact of discounting on their livelihoods. IFA emphasised particularly the dramatic weather impact on farmers, from the winter snow which saw shortages of milk and bread on supermarket shelves to the drought of the summer. While current levels of discounting remain concerning and questionable from the point of view of long-term sustainability, fresh aggressive actions have not taken place in any significant way since the summer.

## Payment for constituents

With most producer groups paid for their winter milk on a flat basis, IFA believes the true value of milk produced by autumn calving herds, the constituents for which have increased significantly as shown by ICBF, is understated, which is unfair to farmers. However, simply dividing up the existing pool of money available to pay for liquid milk over the winter months based on constituents is not good enough. Retail whole milk need only contain, by law, 3.5% butterfat, when the raw milk supplied by farmers delivers well in excess of that figure. Lower fat milks, the retail sales of which are rising faster compared to relatively static whole milk sales, yield an even higher percentage of butterfat, as skimmed milk must by law contain less than 0.5% fat, and semi skimmed milk around 1.5%.

The butterfat literally creamed off the milk represents additional value back to the dairy which is not currently factored into the remuneration of liquid milk producers. The Committee intends to investigate this issue further, in order to argue for higher premiums/increased remuneration over the winter months, based on actual constituents delivered by farmers, regardless of the base (creamery) milk price level.

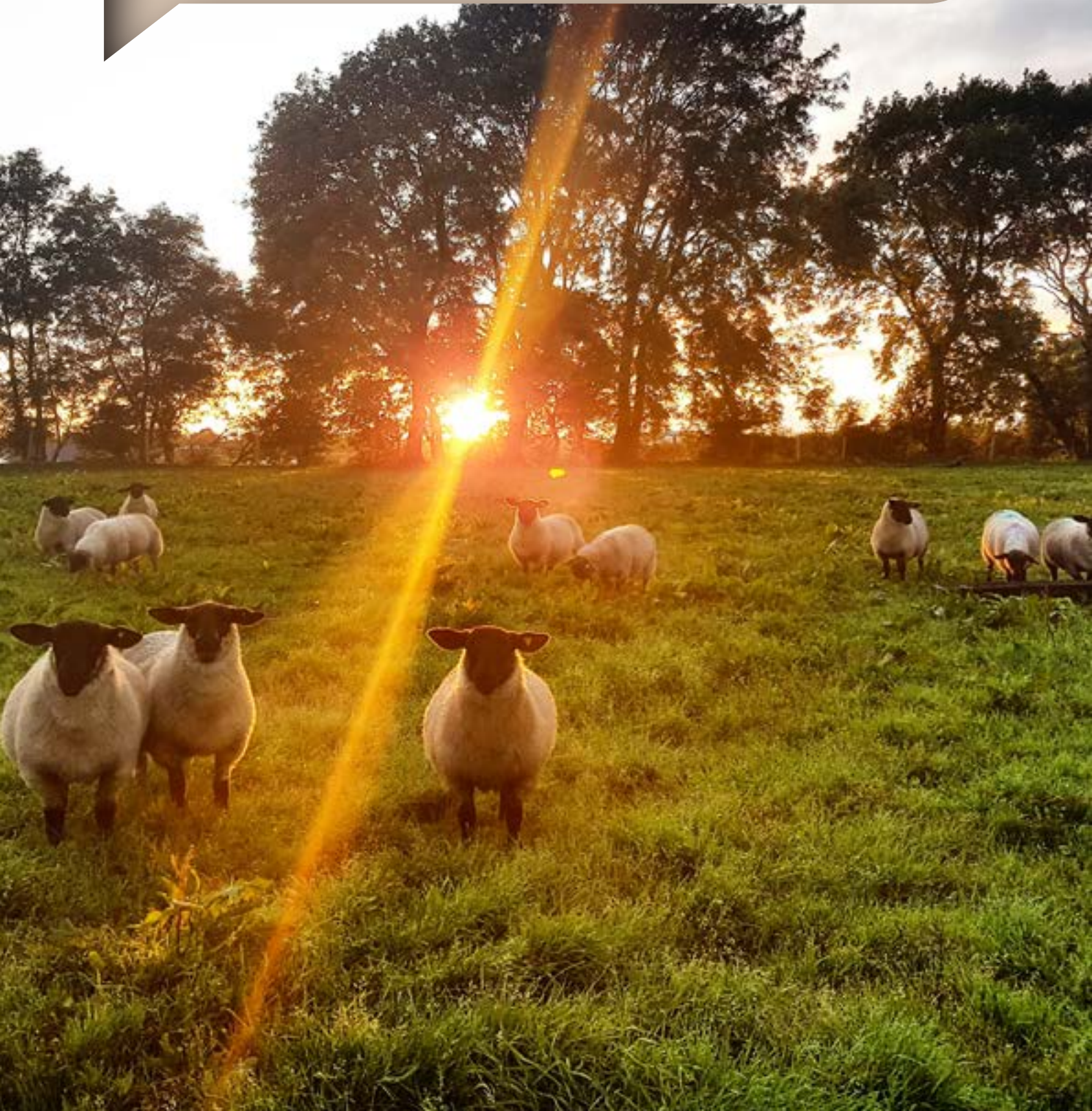


**John Finn**  
Chairman, National  
Liquid Milk Committee



**Catherine Lascurettes**  
National Liquid Milk Executive

# NATIONAL SHEEP COMMITTEE



# IFA IS DEMANDING THAT THE QUALITY ASSURANCE BONUS FOR LAMB BE INCREASED TO 30C/KG

## Lamb Prices

Lamb prices throughout 2018 were 6.5% higher than 2017 levels at an average of €5.37/kg. This was mainly related to strong prices for hoggets and early lamb and similar mid-season prices.

IFA campaigned hard on lamb price all year demanding increases to reflect market returns and meeting the meat factories and MII pushing to maximise returns back to farmers.

IFA provide twice weekly updates on lamb prices on text, IFA app, [www.ifa.ie](http://www.ifa.ie) and twitter.

## Supplies

Total supplies at the factories are up 40,000 head in 2018, mainly related to an increase in the ewe kill which is up 60,000.

## Sheep Incomes

2018 will go down as an extremely difficult year where severe spring weather and summer drought inflicted high losses and substantial increased costs, leaving margins very tight.

## Promotions

IFA worked with Bord Bia to develop new markets, secure market access, increased EU promotional funding and continued strong Bord Bia promotions on domestic and export markets.

## Lamb Festivals

Easter and Muslim festivals are important features of the lamb market. For 2019 Easter is on April 21st. Ramadan starts two weeks later on May 6th and Eid festival is on August 12th in 2019. For the next 5 years up to 2024, there will be only one to two weeks between Easter and Ramadan, which has significant market implications for the lamb trade.

## Quality Assurance

IFA is demanding that the QA bonus for lamb be increased to 30c/kg to properly reward farmers and increase participants in the Bord Bia SBLQAS.

## €10 per ewe Sheep Welfare Scheme

21,000 sheep farmers (9k hill and 12k lowland) were paid €10 per ewe or up to €19m under the Sheep Welfare scheme negotiated by IFA. A farmer with 150 ewes benefited by €1,500pa. IFA sought an additional €5 per ewe in the Budget 2019 campaign, from unspent sheep welfare monies.

## Hill Sheep Sector

IFA held a major hill sheep farmers conference in Westport, Co Mayo, which was addressed by the Minister for Rural Affairs and the President and covered production, markets and policy. The Sheep Committee works closely with the Hill Committee.

## CAP 2020

As part of CAP 2020, IFA is demanding an increase in the CAP budget and seeking additional targeted payments for sheep as well as increased environmental scheme payments. Vulnerable sectors like sheep need targeted payments.

## EID/Sheep Tagging

IFA objected strongly to the compulsorily imposition of EID by Agricultural Minister Michael Creed, highlighting that it will cost sheep farmers an additional €2m pa. IFA succeeded in deferring the introduction of EID until June 2019 and also secured an additional €100 per farmer once off subsidy against the first purchase cost of EID tags from October 1st 2018. IFA continues to lobby to ensure that the paper work with EID will be minimised through CPR (Central Points of Recording) at factories and marts. In addition, IFA is lobbying for one single EID tag for store lambs at marts.



*IFA Sheep Chairman Sean Dennehy lobbies Minister for Agriculture Michael Creed TD against the excessive costs and charges associated with the compulsory imposition of EID tagging.*



*IFA Connacht Regional Chairman Padraic Joyce, Fine Gael MEP Mairead McGuinness, IFA President Joe Healy & IFA Sheep Chairman Sean Dennehy.*

Lamb Prices 2017/2018



## Clean Sheep Policy

IFA has lobbied hard against the overzealous imposition of the clean sheep policy and worked with the Department and industry to make changes to make it more farmer friendly.

## Charges

Sheep farmers are very frustrated with the increase in charges imposed on them. IFA is lobbying hard to reduce the charges imposed by Minister Creed and the factories through EID and the Clean Sheep Policy, as well as the unfair scrapie and SRM charges on ewes.

## Brexit and New Zealand Quota

IFA has worked with the EU Commission and the UK NFU to ensure that there is no increase in the NZ sheep quota in Brexit and that there is no downside for the Irish and EU sheep meat sector.

## Dog Control

IFA has highlighted dog attacks on sheep flocks and worked to ensure responsible dog ownership. More dogs are now chipped and IFA is demanding a central database.

## Payments and Schemes

IFA work to maximise scheme supports to sheep farmers and ensure that payments are delivered on time to farmers under the Charter of Rights. In addition, IFA secured an increase of €25m in ANC payments in Budget 2019.

## Outside Bodies serving the Sheep Sector

IFA represent 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).



# NATIONAL PIGS & PIGMEAT COMMITTEE

*IFA Pigs Chairman Tom Hogan and IFA National Treasurer Tim Cullinan lead pig farmers in a retail campaign to increase the use of Bord Bia Quality Assured Irish Pork and Bacon in 2018.*





## Pig Prices and Market Review

2018 has been a year of low pig prices. Within the first two weeks of the year, all pig factories had reduced the pig price to €1.40c/kg. Only minor fluctuations in the Irish pig price through the year have seen this price improve, €1.40c/kg, being the average price Irish pig farmers received throughout the year. Poor markets after Christmas, coupled with increased production, both domestically and across the EU were given by industry sources as the reason for the pressure on pig prices. After EU exports of pigmeat to China had seen a 26% decline in 2017, no improvement occurred in 2018 with a further 3.5% decline in volume of pigmeat exported from the EU into China up until end of October 2018. The final trading quarter of 2018 has seen increased demand in October and November from Chinese buyers in advance of the Chinese New Year festive period, and there is hope that demand and price will improve due to this increase in trade in China, the largest importer of pork in the world. 2018 saw the Irish pig price fall by 7.4% to an average of €1.40c/kg. The EU average price fell by 4.8% over the same period which leaves the Irish price trailing the EU marginally, for the year. The Philippines, Japan and South Korea are all growth markets that Bord Bia expect to continue strong growth in terms of volume and value of Irish Pork exported into these Eastern nations in the coming years. The Japanese market in particular could provide a good news story with the reduction and removal of tariffs on most pigmeat products from the EU agreed to be phased out over the coming years. The recent trade deal between the EU and Mexico allowed the importation of EU pigmeat products tariff free, but little progress has been made by Mexican Health officials on approving plants in the EU.

Sow numbers across the EU have declined slightly with a 1% reduction reported in June 2018, but the sow herd has become more productive, producing 2.4% more pigs to slaughter. This improved productivity is noticeable across the pig producing countries in the EU especially, and it has left the supply side dominating the pig market for the past 18 months.

## Feed Cost

Feed costs have increased steadily over the course of 2018, following commodity market increases especially cereal grain markets. With this increased cost in the price of pig feed adding at least 10c/kg to the cost of production, combined with the low pig price of €1.40c/kg, margins over basic feed costs have been critically low all year. At a margin of close to 20c/kg above feed price, there is a significant short fall of approximately 20c/kg, leaving pig farmers losing money on their produce all year, with the situation getting increasingly worse. A number of pig units have ceased production or scaled down production, due to the dire financial realities of the marketplace. Pig farmers are no strangers to volatility and periods of loss making, but the entire 12 months of 2018 have been without reprieve.

## DNA Scheme

Sean Holian, continued his role as administrator of the IFA Pigs DNA scheme. Compliance levels were excellent throughout 2018 in the retail sector, on both branded and own brand bacon and pork products. The scheme has resulted in compliance levels at unprecedented high levels in all main retailers. The committee has agreed to tackle the many distribution channels supplying the foodservice sector in 2019.

## Committee Activity

The Chairman, Tom Hogan lead a sustained campaign against SuperValu for blatantly stocking high amounts of imported pigmeat products in many of their stores. Despite meeting with management, no satisfactory commitment was given by SuperValu management to resolve the issue, and Tom Hogan called a campaign of action in a number of outlets in summer 2018 to highlight the importation of imported products, while local pig farmers were going out of business.

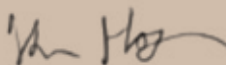
The campaign resulted in SuperValu agreeing to a full procurement policy of Bord Bia Irish pigmeat in all shops and butcher counters of Musgrave owned stores. The Chairman lead a full round of meetings with most retailers to stress the importance of stocking Irish produce, supporting local farmers and highlighting the financial crisis of pig farmers in 2018.

## 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. The new Nitrates Action Plan (NAP) which came into law on 1st January 2018 has a number of beneficial aspects for pig farmers. There is simplification applied to calculating allowed N and P allowances, based on the previous years stocking rates. Landowners can also avail of increased application rates of pig slurry following soil testing in order to address soil fertility deficits and there is a limited extension of the transitional arrangements for pig slurry.

## 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

*IFA President Joe Healy discussing the effects of the severe drought with grain growers in Co. Wicklow.*



## ***SINCE 2008, THE AREA PLANTED TO THE MAIN CEREAL CROPS HAS REDUCED BY 67,500HA, WHICH REPRESENTS A DROP OF OVER 20%.***

### **Securing viable grain prices**

Consecutive years of poor prices, reduction in CAP payments and poor weather led to a record low of cereal plantings in Ireland this year. Since 2008, the area planted to the main cereal crops has reduced by 67,500ha, which represents a drop of over 20%. The situation was further compounded by one of the worst droughts on record which led to very poor yields particularly on Spring crops. IFA ensured that grain growers received a sustainable price for their product by meeting the co-ops and buyers at the start of the harvest and demanding they purchase native grains to back up their origin green credentials.

### **CAP 2020**

IFA has campaigned on the critical importance of an increased overall CAP budget. Tillage farmers have been disproportionately affected by the current CAP due to convergence and greening issues and any continuation of these types of measures would only contribute to the further decline of the arable area in this country. IFA will lobby hard to ensure that tillage farmers are treated fairly in the new CAP negotiations. The sector needs an increase in the protein payment and other targeted coupled supports to be considered for Pillar I. Regarding Pillar II, greater flexibility is needed in farm schemes so that tillage farmers qualify for higher grant rate payments.

### **Fodder production incentive measure for tillage farmers 2018**

The IFA lobbied Minister Creed to introduce a catch crop incentive measure during the Summer. The purpose of the scheme was to reduce the fodder deficit by encouraging tillage farmers to plant catch crops with the introduction of a financial incentive. The scheme was a success with the DAFM paying out a total of €2.3million to the 1700 farmers who planted almost 20,000ha of fodder crops

### **Campaign for retention of plant protection products (PPP's)**

IFA has continued its campaign for the retention of vital plant protection products for the Irish tillage sector. IFA has lobbied hard both at home and in Brussels for the retention of Chlorothalonil a fungicide which is vital to the Irish tillage sector. The importance of the product has also been brought to the attention of all industry players such as the drinks, animal feed and mushroom industries who depend on the Irish tillage sector.

### **Straw market**

There was a shortfall of the equivalent of 564,000 8x4x4 straw bales this year compared to the 3-year average. This led to higher prices after a number of consecutive years of poor prices as straw was consistently undervalued by the end users. Members of the grain committee have met the main mushroom composters in an effort to bring more consistency to straw pricing in the future.

### **Derogation on the 3-crop rule**

Due to the poor planting conditions in the Winter of 2017 and the Spring of 2018 growers were unable to get their planned plantings completed. IFA campaigned successfully to get a derogation on the 3-crop rule for 2018 which removed the pressure on farmers to plant extra crops at a financial loss.

### **ANC Payment on Tillage Land**

As part of their ANC campaign IFA were successful in lobbying for the payment on tillage land that now qualifies for an ANC payment under the recent review of areas.



*IFA Grain Chairman Mark Browne leads an IFA delegation at a meeting with Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Michael Creed TD.*

# A FIXED PRICE OF €230 WAS AGREED FOR PART OF THE 2019 CROP IN ORDER TO INSTIL CONFIDENCE IN GROWERS TO PLANT AGAIN IN THE COMING SEASON.

## GLAS/Nitrates Flexibilities

In view of the drought situation, IFA lobbied for the relaxation of EU rules to give farmers the flexibilities they needed to maximise fodder conservation. Flexibilities were allowed under the GLAS so tillage farmers could plant certain fodder crops and could cut or graze them before the normal 1st December date. Extensions were also granted regarding the closing dates for fertiliser and slurry application under the Nitrates Regulations.

## Quality assurance testing of imported grain

IFA has looked for increased mandatory testing on imported grain. There are issues concerning the importation of invasive weed species such as blackgrass and the difference in the environmental and regulatory controls imposed on Irish grain growers compared to grains being imported from non-EU countries such as the Ukraine.

## Malting Barley

Due to low yields, IFA negotiated a top up of €30/t on the final agreement price with Boortmalt and got a further premium of €10/t on any barley that made distilling grade. This brought the top price paid for green barley to €239/t. IFA also got an increase in the allowances for protein on both malting and distilling barley at the beginning of the harvest. A fixed price of €230 was agreed for part of the 2019 crop in order to instil confidence in growers to plant again in the coming season. The planned expansion of the maltings in Athy is welcome, however, IFA will negotiate for an improved deal on 2018 to ensure a sustainable price for growers.

## TAMS Tillage

IFA has met the DAFM regarding issues with poor uptake of the TAMS tillage scheme. Topics including financing, reference costs, minimum spend, and the addition of new items to the scheme such as weigh bridges and loader weighers were discussed.

## NCT Testing of Tractors

After hard lobbying by IFA, the Association secured assurance from the Minister of Transport that farmers would not have to undergo NCTs on their tractors.

## Tribute to George Mason

The community of tillage farmers was shocked and saddened at the sudden death of our Vice-Chairman George Mason who passed away in November. George was always committed to the work of IFA on behalf of farmers and was passionate about tillage farming.

*Mark Browne*

Mark Browne  
Chairman, National Grain  
Committee



*Pat Farrell*

Pat Farrell  
National Grain Executive



# NATIONAL FARM BUSINESS COMMITTEE

*IFA Farm Business Chairman Martin Stapleton and members of the IFA Debt Support Team protest at the forced sale of farm land by vulture funds.*



## Review of the implementation of the Agri-tax Review 2014

IFA was invited to make a submission on the implementation of 2014's Agri-taxation review. Amongst IFA proposals included the implementation of the:

- Stamp Duty relief for Young Farmers being extended - this occurred in Budget 2019.
- Introduction of Stamp Duty relief for farm re-structuring - consolidation relief commenced from August 1st 2018, but could be applied retrospectively to 1 Jan 2018.
- Removal of Stamp Duty from long-term leasing - this commenced from 1 July 2018.

IFA also proposed restrictions on the CAT Agricultural Relief to lessen the attractiveness of land to non-farming investors.

## Budget 2019

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 taxation measures below were delivered as part of Budget 2019, following meetings and consultation with the Departments of Agriculture and Finance:

- Income Averaging: after intensive lobbying by IFA, it is now available to all farmers.
- Stock Relief: is being extended for 3 years until the end of 2021. This includes the general 25% stock relief on income tax; the 50% stock relief for registered Farm Partnerships and the 100% stock relief for certain Young Trained Farmers.
- Young Trained Farmer Stamp Duty Relief: is being extended until end of 2021.
- CAT: The Group A (parent to child) CAT threshold is being increased by €10,000 from €310,000 to €320,000 allowing farming assets of value up to €3.2m to be transferred before liable to CAT, if criteria are met.
- Earned Income Tax credit: increased by a further €200 from €1,150 to €1,350 from 2019.
- VRT - IFA understands that tractors and quads will be exempt from the 1% surcharge.
- Hospitality VAT rate - pertinent for anyone with an open farm as they will now be subject to 13.5% VAT, who were exempt prior to 1st January 2012.

## Other budgetary issues – agri-cashflow loan

IFA campaigned throughout 2018 for a similar low-cost loan scheme to that of 2016. In Budget 2018, €25m was allocated to a new scheme. Despite persistent lobbying throughout the year, nothing was made available by the Department. Instead, last year's €25m was rolled into Budget 2019's Future Growth Loan scheme of €300m. This will be aimed at farmers seeking unsecured capital investment loans, minimum of €50,000 up to €500,000. The loan process will be 2-tiered: 1) application to SCBI 2) apply to credit institution with approval from SCBI. IFA will continue to highlight to the Minister that low cost working capital loans are also required, particularly with the extreme disruptive weather conditions of the last year.

## Finance Bill 2018

A submission with proposed revisions was made to the Department of Finance after the announcement of the 2018 Finance Bill, this was followed by a meeting with officials from the Department. The proposals included: highlighting a step-out measure for managing income volatility; opposing the lifetime ceiling of €70,000 applying to the amount of tax relief granted to young trained farmers; the removal of VAT on farm buildings for flat-rate farmers, who presently have to charge 13.5% on top of the sale of land, which has had buildings erected on it within 5 years; and the inclusion of agricultural workers to the ROS list of employees eligible for the flat-rate expense allowance.

## Debt Support Team

IFA has continued to assist farmers across the country with credit problems, through the IFA helpline and the local offices, with the professional support of Mr Brendan Stafford. IFA's mediation role in this area has expanded to include the asset management companies that are now managing loans sold by financial institutions. In addition, IFA continues to engage with the banks on issues arising for the farming sector on the costs and availability of credit.

IFA made a submission and a presentation to the Joint Committee on Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform regarding the impact on the farming community of the sale of bank loans to unregulated entities, commonly known as Vulture Funds.

## Vacant Site Levy

After sustained pressure from IFA, Minister of State at the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government John Paul Phelan TD brought forward an amendment at Seanad Stage to the Vacant Site Levy provisions in the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015. This is aimed at ensuring that developers or speculators who purchase, or have purchased, residentially zoned land and do not bring the land forward for housing development will be liable for the levy (subject to the satisfaction of other specified criteria), while simultaneously providing that farmers who have operated a farm prior to the rezoning of the land from agricultural to residential use and who continue to farm the land in question, will not be subject to the levy.

Following enactment, the Department issued a circular on 3rd October 2018 to Local Authorities / An Bord Pleanála on the Vacant Site Levy, clarifying the amendment that "...land which was purchased for agricultural use prior to being zoned residential and which continues to be operated for farming purposes shall be exempt from the levy."

## Department of Enterprise Advisory Group on Small Business

IFA was represented on the Advisory Group on Small Business by Edel Gahan, IFA Farm Business Vice Chair. This forum inputs into policy development on issues of common concern in relation to SMEs and farm businesses, including taxation, access to credit and other business costs. As part of this forum, the IFA made a submission on pre-budget proposals, including recommending support for small businesses' market disturbance due to Brexit.

## Property Registration Authority

IFA was invited to make representation at the PRA Customer Focus Group meetings, joining the other 10 member groups who are the main stakeholders. The quarterly meetings provide an opportunity for consultation on a range of issues, as well as dissemination of information on any changes planned or being introduced.

## Revenue review of FRA

IFA is maintaining contact with Revenue and continuing to closely monitor the flat-rate addition usage review, ensuring that it is being carried out in a fair manner to the poultry sector.

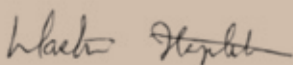
## Information meetings

The Farm Business committee organised for speakers from Revenue to present on the forthcoming changes to the PAYE system, commencing in January 2019. IFA Finance meetings were held throughout autumn and going into winter in all counties, covering a range of pertinent issues with speakers from IFA, financial institutions and accountants.

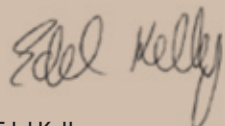
## Submissions

Various submissions were researched, compiled and put forward over 2018 by the IFA Farm Business Committee regarding:

- The Consumer Protection (Regulation of Credit Servicing Firms) (Amendment) Bill 2018
- Code of Conduct on Mortgage Arrears - Central bank
- Review of the Joint Labour Court
- European Semester 2018 - National Reform Programme
- Low Pay Commission 2018 Consultation Process
- Joint Committee on Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform – Vulture Funds



**Martin Stapleton**  
Chairman, National Farm  
Business Committee

**Edel Kelly**  
IFA Economist







# NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

With Government support, in 2018 farmers recycled the equivalent of over 500,000 used car tyres at four bring centres operated by IFFPG. These waste tyres were previously used to anchor silage pits.

*At the Tyre Collection Depot in Athenry were IFA Environment Chairman Thomas Cooney and Minister of State at the Department of the Environment Sean Canney TD.*



***EMPHASIS ON THE ENVIRONMENT IS STRONG IN CURRENT CAP PROPOSALS. HOWEVER, FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS AND INVESTMENT ON FARMS IS CONTINGENT ON FARMERS RECEIVING A FAIRER RETURN FROM THE MARKETPLACE AND AN ECONOMICALLY SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE SECTOR.***

**Farmers who participated in Smart Farming programme identified ways to reduce costs by €7,000 in 2018**

Smart Farming, the voluntary cost saving programme led by IFA, in conjunction with the EPA, had another successful year. The 50 farmers who participated in the programme identified average cost savings on their farms of €7,000 and ways to reduce their climate impact by 9%. The largest cost savings came from addressing soil fertility and better grassland management. If you are interested in having a free cost saving study done in 2019 and are prepared to share the results with your neighbours to help them, then ring the Smart Farming team on 01-4260343.

**IFA secured almost €700,000 for the recycling of waste tyres off farms**

During 2018, IFA lobbied for and secured almost €700,000 in funding for bring centres across the country to support the recycling of waste tyres, which are typically used to anchor silage pits. Due to the huge interest from farmers, the funding was fully used up for four bring centres in Cavan, Wexford, Galway and Tipperary. IFA has continued to lobby Ministers, Senators and TDs for a national roll-out of waste tyre bring centres in all counties.

**Greenways – good for rural development but must be delivered with the support of rural communities**

IFA continued its support of landowners across the country who were impacted by proposed greenways. During the summer, a national IFA protest took place outside Kerry County Council's (KCC) office in Tralee, to highlight the Council's lack of willingness to consider alternative routes and their threat of CPOs. IFA met with Ministers Ross and Griffin from the Department of Transport and successfully delivered a National Greenways Strategy, which requires an agronomist to be appointed and severance to be limited on each scheme. IFA also made a submission to An Bord Pleanála in support of the local landowners, given that KCC has ignored the requirements of the greenways strategy.

**IFA, Teagasc, Tipperary Energy Agency and Tipperary County Council delivered another successful *Energy in Agriculture* event in Gurteen**

Over 2,500 farmers travelled to Gurteen in late August to hear the latest developments and see the newest renewable technologies. The details of the new roof-top solar scheme were outlined and the overall framework of the new renewables heat incentive scheme was also set out.



*IFA delegation meeting the Minister for Transport Shane Ross TD on Greenways & tractor testing regulations.*



*IFA Deputy President Richard Kennedy & Kerry IFA Chairman Pat O'Driscoll leading IFA's campaign against the use of CPOs for Greenways.*

## IFA secured fertiliser extension to help farmers in fodder difficulties

The Association successfully secured an extension to the period during which farmers can spread fertilisers. This was a result of intense lobbying by many farmers across the country, who were in severe fodder difficulties due to the prolonged cold spring and hot summer.

## Department of Transport ends duplication of farm tractor testing

The RSA was seeking to introduce a road worthiness test for tractors used for normal farming activities, which duplicated tractor safety laws already imposed on farmers. However, having mounted a strong campaign during the year, IFA was successful in achieving the result of the Department of Transport repealing the legislation.

## Presentations at Environment & Agriculture Oireachtas Committees

In 2018, IFA President Joe Healy led a number of delegations to address both the Joint Oireachtas Committees on Environment and Agriculture on climate, environmental and renewable issues. IFA highlighted Ireland's carbon efficient grass-based model of food production, the important role of renewables in delivering on climate obligations, and farmers' investment in safeguarding Ireland's water quality and general environment.

## IFA opposed more carbon taxes and called for additional renewables support in Energy and Climate submission to Government

IFA prepared a detailed submission to the Department of Communications, Climate Action and the Environment regarding proposals to develop a National Energy and Climate Plan from 2021 to 2030. The submission highlighted the multiple and sometimes competing objectives that farmers have as food, fuel and energy producers, while at the same time being required to enhance the environment and the low climate mitigating potential of the sector. It also set out farming's carbon efficient model of food production and actions taken by farmers to enhance the rural environment. The submission called on Government to:

- Ensure that Ireland's sustainable food production is not compromised.
- Establish a cross-departmental group, including IFA, to work on delivering the carbon reductions identified in the recent Teagasc climate report.
- Oppose further carbon taxation on farming – as it would continue to reduce the competitiveness of the sector, while not reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- Fully implement IFA's plan to revitalise the farm forestry sector.
- Support IFA's joint Climate Action Fund application, which aims to increase the uptake of renewables and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Deliver IFA's proposed policy measures for the development of the bio economy and renewable energy sectors in Ireland.

The Association progressed these proposals by follow up meetings with Senators, Ministers and TDs.

*Thomas Cooney*

Thomas Cooney  
Chairman, National Environment  
Committee



*Thomas Ryan*

Thomas Ryan  
National Environment  
Executive



# NATIONAL FARM FAMILY & SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

*IFA President Joe Healy & Farm Family Chair Caroline Farrell launch the 'Let's Talk & Walk' initiative with Minister for Mental Health & Older People Jim Daly TD.*



## ***IFA EMPLOYED A FARM SAFETY EXECUTIVE IN 2018 TO IMPLEMENT THE BRANCH FARMER TO FARMERS SAFETY PROGRAMME, WHICH AIMS TO SUPPORT FARMERS TO ACTIVELY ENGAGE IN INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WHILE WALKING EACH OTHER'S FARMS***

### **Nursing Home Support Scheme**

IFA has had regular meetings with the Department of Health to expediate the changes to the Fair Deal Scheme, and ensure that as many farm families as possible benefit from the three-year cap on productive farm assets. In July 2018, Minister Daly brought a proposal before Cabinet to extend the three-year cap to farms and businesses where a family successor continues to operate the farm or business for six years. The proposal was approved by Cabinet and the Department of Health is now in the process of drafting the Heads of Bill to provide for the necessary changes to the Nursing Homes Support Scheme Act 2009.

IFA met again with the Minister in late November to express disappointment and frustration that the Heads of Bill to amend the Nursing Home Support Scheme Act were still not drafted, despite assurance during the summer that the amendments would be progressed in the Oireachtas autumn session. At the meeting IFA stressed that the three-year cap must also apply to farm businesses that were currently leased, but where a family successor was prepared to verify commitment that they would continue to farm the asset for a period of 6 years. IFA also provided assistance and representation to farm families on individual queries relating to the Fair Deal scheme. IFA will continue to meet to maintain the pressure for legislation to be enacted.

### **Pension Equality for Women**

In January 2018, the Government announced improvements to pension calculations for post 2012 pensioners, this was in relation to those who had contribution gaps due to homemaking and caring, and had been assessed under the pension rate band changes in 2012. The Total Contributions Approach (TCA) now includes a new 'Home Caring Credit' of up to 20 years, which will help address anomalies from the yearly averaging system.

Over 60,000 pensioners assessed under the 2012 rate band changes have been contacted by the Department and invited to have their pensions reviewed. The higher rates will commence from 30th March 2018. First payments at the higher rates and any arrears payable from 30th March 2018 are planned in early 2019. IFA continued to answer queries relating to contributory and non-contributory pensions from members.

### **Total Contribution Approach**

IFA made a submission to the proposal to change the method of calculating state pensions (contributory) from the current "yearly averaging" system to a Total Contributions Approach (TCA) for new pensioners from 2020 onwards. It is expected that Aggregated Contribution Method will require a person to have 40 years (2,080 weeks) of social insurance contributions to receive a full state pension (contributory). If this approach is adopted farmers and other self-employed will be discriminated against, as they were only eligible to make contributions since 1988.

### **Supportive Housing for Older People**

The IFA believes that supportive housing should be considered as one element in a continuum of accommodation options for older people living in rural Ireland. The majority of older people want to remain in their own homes for as long as possible and should be enabled to do so through the provision of supports such as an adequate Home Carers Support Scheme. However, some older people may wish to move to alternative accommodation for safety and security reasons, while others may be inappropriately placed in nursing home care, due to lack of alternative supports in the community. IFA has met with Minister Daly on this issue and suggested that a strategy be developed based on models such as the Kilmaley Voluntary Housing Association (KVHA), Co. Clare.

### **Farm Health & Safety**

There have been 22 fatalities in agriculture, forestry and fishing/aquaculture officially recorded by 18th November; this is broken down as follows: 17 in agriculture, 1 in forestry and 4 in fishing/aquaculture.

IFA employed a Farm Safety Executive, William Shortall, in 2018 to implement the branch farmer to farmers safety programme, which aims to support farmers to actively engage in informal discussions while walking each other's farms, and to benefit from the input of other farmers to increase awareness of the possible risks on their farm and potentially cooperate to build a local support network.



*IFA President and Sharon McGuinness, CEO, HSA at the launch of Farm Safety Week 2018.*





*IFA Farm Family Committee Chairperson Caroline Farrell and IFA Farm Safety Executive William Shortall at the launch of Farm Safety Week 2018.*

IFA was also involved in the UK and Ireland Farm Safety Week, with the campaign being led by the IFA in Ireland. This year's message was: *Your Health. Your Safety. Your Choice.* Rather than focusing on agriculture's poor safety record and stories of when things go wrong, Farm Safety Week 2018 started talking about when things go right, sharing good practice and demonstrating what 'good' looks like. Safety events around the country were organised and an online supporters' pack was developed to encourage wider participation of groups and companies etc. in the agri-business sector. IFA also partnered with other organisations allowing a focus on specific areas of concern: Farm Relief Services to promote safe practice with farm machinery, equipment with particular emphasis on quads; Hidden Hearing to offer free hearing checks and discounted appointments to farmers during safety week; Country Living section of the Farmers Journal to publish a Kids Safety page with a prize sponsored by FBD and Agri-Aware; and the Irish Cancer Society to promote the SunSmart code and good practice when working outdoors.

The national Green Ribbon campaign continued for its sixth year, with IFA working in conjunction with See Change to support the reduction of the 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. The success of the campaign was marked by the increased numbers attending the walks in Donegal, Wicklow, Monaghan, Galway and Laois 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 who are feeling suicidal and their families.

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

**Caroline Farrell**  
Chairperson, National Farm  
Family & Social Affairs



**Geraldine O'Sullivan**  
National Farm Family & Social  
Affairs Executive



# NATIONAL POTATO COMMITTEE

*IFA President Joe Healy & IFA Potato Chairman Thomas McKeown at the National Potato Conference in February.*



# ***IFA ENGAGED WITH THE MAIN RETAILERS TO ENSURE THAT GROWERS WERE COMPENSATED FOR THE EXTRA VARIABLE COSTS AND SEVERE YIELD LOSSES EXPERIENCED WITH THE NEW SEASON POTATOES.***

## **Review of 2018 Season**

2018 was an extremely challenging year for potato growers. Planting of potatoes was delayed by the wet Spring and this was followed by one of the driest Summers on record. The combination of late planting and a number of years of poor returns resulted in the lowest planting area on record. In general, both early and main crop potatoes were delayed by up to 4 weeks from the norm. Growers incurred major extra costs due to irrigation in particular and in some cases where irrigation was unavailable crops were virtually worthless. According to official Bord Bia yield dig figures average yields are down 32% compared to 2017 and 22% compared to the 5-year average.

IFA successfully campaigned for growers with old season material to receive price rises to cover the extra costs of cold storage during the Summer material. Following this, IFA engaged with the main retailers to ensure that growers were compensated for the extra variable costs and severe yield losses experienced with the new season potatoes.

## **Planting Survey**

IFA's annual planting and variety survey of 180 growers was published in the autumn. The survey represented an area of 6690ha, 85% of total area planted. Main findings were:

- A decrease in area of 12% from 2017 representing the lowest planted area on record.
- Further major reduction of over 20% in the area of the traditional varieties such as Queens, Kerr Pinks and Golden Wonder.
- No reduction in the area of crisping, salad and chipping potatoes.
- Overall potato production decrease of 43% from 2017 which is the equivalent of 150,000 tonnes of potatoes.

## **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) officially finished in July of this year.

With IFA coordination, Irish growers contributed €205,000 to the three-year campaign. The campaign strategy was to increase the frequency of potato purchase and improve the consumers' health perceptions of potatoes. The initiative achieved its aim by increasing the consumption of fresh potatoes by 12% since 2015.

IFA in conjunction with Bord Bia and the IPF have agreed to a new joint EU potato promotion application with Europatat and VLAM in Belgium

## **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) 2018**

IFA was actively involved in another very successful NPD which was co-ordinated by Bord Bia. This year the focus was 'Imagine a World without Potatoes?' which highlighted the importance and value of the world's third most important food crop. A number of potato committee members hosted a farm open day for local schools and organised retail promotional events to mark the day.



*IFA potato and vegetable growers protest against the below cost selling of Fresh Produce in M&S Liffey Valley.*

## Fresh Chip Potato Project

Ireland imports over 80,000 tonnes of potatoes every year for the fresh chip sector. In comparison we currently only produce, 8000 tonnes for this market. In the past two years IFA has organised meetings of the existing growers in order to investigate the potential for import substitution in this sector.

Through the potato development group, IFA was successful in encouraging Teagasc to commit resources to this project while Bord Bia will also provide funding for the initiative in 2019. The aim of the project is to increase the area of chipping potatoes grown domestically through improved agronomy and marketing.

## Potato Conference

IFA in conjunction with Teagasc and Bord Bia organised another successful potato conference in 2018. The conference highlighted the fact that farmers receive a disproportionate amount of the retail price considering that they take all the risk. Other items on the conference agenda were the health benefits of the potato and the agronomy session looked at the optimum storage of potatoes.

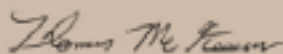
## Mislabelling of Potatoes

IFA in association with the Irish Farmers Journal launched an investigation which exposed the mislabelling of Queen potatoes in Donegal and Cork. Samples were sent for DNA testing which proved that potatoes that were labelled as Queens were in fact Accord, imported from the UK. The DAFM and the FSAI were informed of the fraud and they subsequently carried out their own investigations.

## Sustainable Horticulture Assurance Scheme (SHAS) and Origin Green

IFA has continued to meet with Bord Bia on the new Sustainable Horticulture Assurance Scheme. As a result, they have made a number of key changes to the scheme rules. Extra training days have been organised and a help line is now in place. Approximately 60% of potato growers have now moved from the old to the new SHAS.

A number of retailers and foodservice companies have become members of the Bord Bia Origin Green Scheme and IFA has met Bord Bia to ensure that these companies will be held accountable in relation to the economic sustainability for the primary producer. It is critical that Irish products are given priority when it comes to sustainable sourcing also.



**Thomas McKeon**  
Chairman National  
Potato Committee



**Patrick Farrell**  
National Potato Executive



# NATIONAL POULTRY COMMITTEE

*IFA Poultry Chairman Andy Boylan with Manor Farm Growers' Chairman Robert McBride.*



## Retailer and Processor Meetings

The Poultry Committee Chairman Andy Boylan, in conjunction with the Chair of the Pigs Committee, Tom Hogan led a campaign to all main retailers in 2018 to promote the increased use of Bord Bia Quality Assured poultry products. Bord Bia surveys have shown the continued increase in the percentage of Bord Bia Quality Assured chicken and eggs being sold, 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. Production has continued to grow, with 2018 on target to produce over 100 million birds for the first time. This represents a growth of 30% since 2014.

Andy Boylan also used these meetings as an opportunity to highlight the increasing need for growers of chicken to receive an increase in terms and conditions from their processor. The sector continues to be in expansion mode, and Brexit may present opportunities for increased growth. The increasing supply of Irish chicken is still falling short of meeting the growing consumer demand for chicken meat, especially chicken breast, which is now the most consumed meat in Ireland.

Following the lead by Supermac's in 2017 to commit to procuring 100% Irish chicken for their product offering, McDonalds expressed their desire to do likewise and the production lines are in train to achieve this in 2019. The Poultry Committee will pursue other food outlets in 2019 to follow suit and commit to using 100% Irish Quality Assured products.

## 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's 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.

The new Nitrates Action Plan (NAP) which came into law on 1st January 2018 has a number of beneficial aspects for farmers that both import and export animal manure such as poultry litter. There is simplification applied to calculating N and P allowances, based on the previous year's stocking rates. Landowners can also avail of increased application rates of imported animal fertilizer following soil testing, in order to address soil fertility deficits.

## Animal Health

A number of cases of Botulism outbreaks in the late Summer/Autumn 2018 caused great concern in a number of regions. The use of poultry litter was linked to some of these cases and IFA engaged with the local farmers involved, District Veterinary Office and DAFM officials in assisting with tracing the source of imported poultry litter. The guidelines for the poultry growers, transportation of poultry litter and for the responsible use of poultry litter by the end-user were well circulated, but the enforcement has been problematic at times. The IFA Poultry Committee have set up a meeting with the Chief Veterinary Officer, Martin Blake in early 2019 to attempt to strengthen the guidelines of codes of conduct, and initiate an information campaign on the responsible use of poultry litter.

## TAMS and Financial Investment

The Poultry Committee continued to lobby for a substantial increase in the €80,000 investment limit under TAMS. With an underspend in the Pigs and Poultry TAMS allocation, it was made very clear to Minister Creed that the scale of the operation in both intensive productive sectors of pigs and poultry require significantly more investment than the current limit allows for. With increasing 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.

## Revenue Commissioners Engagement

The Revenue Commissioners engaged in a widespread investigation in an aspect query, which involved a large number of Poultry producer meetings. IFA provided assistance to farmers in carrying out these meetings. IFA continue to support the Revenue Commissioners and Poultry sector, in providing information and clarification in the operation of the poultry sector in Ireland and will continue to do so in 2019.

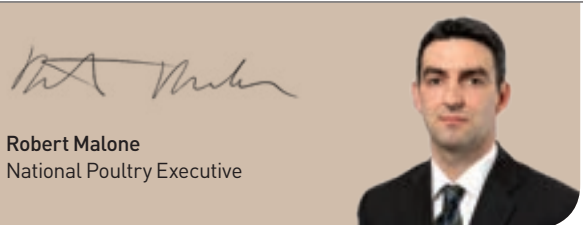
## AMR Antimicrobial Resistant

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. 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.

**Andy Boylan**  
Chairman, National Poultry Committee



**Robert Malone**  
National Poultry Executive



# AQUACULTURE SECTION

*IFA's Aquaculture team on their way to meet Minister for Agriculture, Michael Creed on licensing L-R: Gerry O'Donoghue; Richie Flynn, Kian Louet-Feisser, IFA President Joe Healy, Michael Mulloy, Jan Feenstra and IFA Director General Damian McDonald.*





# *DURING 2018, IFA CONTINUED TO WORK ON A WIDE RANGE OF ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE TO THE AQUACULTURE SECTOR AT LOCAL, NATIONAL AND EU LEVEL.*

## The key activities of IFA Aquaculture during the year included

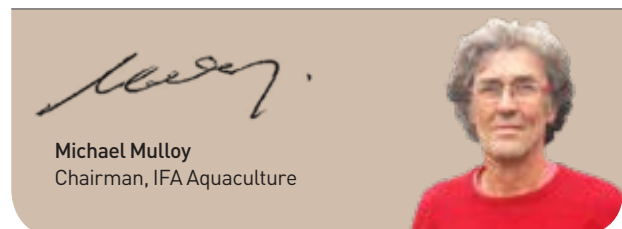
- Lobbied for the implementation of the Independent Licensing Review Report.
- Ongoing consultations with the Department of Agriculture Food and Marine to press for the issuing of 300 aquaculture licenses.
- Maintained pressure on using maximum allowable biomass, as the basis for licensing salmon farming operations with one such license issued in 2018.
- Worked with Bord Bia on developing promotions for aquaculture products on the home and export markets.
- Consulted with the Minister's Review of Trawling activity inside the Six Nautical Mile Zone.
- Attendance by IFA Director General Damian McDonald at the AGM of the Irish Shellfish Association in June 2018.
- Supported the development of the Aqua Business Course in the Carlow-Wexford Institute of Technology.
- Represented Irish Aquaculture at European level through the European Advisory Council and the Federation of European Aquaculture Producers.

## Untimely Loss of Richie Flynn

The untimely passing of our colleague Richie Flynn in August 2018 came as a great shock to all involved in the aquaculture sector at home and in Europe.

Richie had been a tireless and passionate representative of fish farmers for the past 22 years as the National Executive Secretary of the Aquaculture section of the IFA. Richie was a champion for Ireland's salmon and shellfish sectors and he was a totally committed campaigner for the industry, always striving to realise the full potential for job creation in coastal communities and demanding a fit-for-purpose licensing system.

In late 2018, broad consultations took place with members and stakeholders on the establishment and financing of a new structure led by a single national committee to continue the work of IFA Aquaculture and represent the sector.



# NATIONAL HILL FARMING COMMITTEE

*IFA Hill Farmers on the farm of Joe Schaill in Westport in advance of the IFA National Hill Forum.*



## 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, and other issues these are being referred to the Commonage Implementation Committee under the Chairmanship of Pdraig Gibbons.

These mainly involved reviews of the min/max figure, and disputes on commonage rights.

Commonage Management plans which had to be completed involved IFA getting flexibilities.

More than 90% of CMP's were completed by year end involving 3,552 commonages.

## Heritage Bill

The Committee ensured that the Heritage Bill which proposes to allow burning of gorse in the month of March and hedgcutting in August was passed in the Dail. 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 has been enacted and guidelines will be issued in early 2019.

## Walks Scheme

The Hill Committee were successful in getting an additional €2m funding for the walks scheme in the recent Budget. Discussions are taking place with the Minister for Rural and Community affairs, Michael Ring to implement the enhanced measure.

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 5 year contract period.

## GLAS Payments

A major campaign by the Hill committee ensured that most GLAS farmers were paid their outstanding 2017 GLAS payments and 2008 payments commenced on time.

## 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 Forum

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 Westport, Co. Mayo in September with over 300 Hill Farmers attending from all over the country. Speakers included Minister Michael Ring, Teagasc, Department of Agriculture as well as IFA speakers. At the Forum the IFA 10 point plan for Hill farmers was launched involving proposals for increased supports for Sheep, ANC's, GLAS, and suckler cows.

## ANCs

The Hill Committee played a key role in getting an additional €23m for ANCs in 2019.

Following Budget 2018 the Hill committee secured €13m for 32,000 farmers with Mountain Grazing land. The maximum payment was increased from €3,390 to €4,038.

This will increase further in 2019 with the additional €23m. The maximum payment in hill areas will be €4,240- an increase of €850 over 2017 and 2018.

The Hill Committee's objective is to increase the maximum payment to €6,000 into the next CAP round.

## Locally Led Schemes

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

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

## CAP Form

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

The importance of Pillar 1 BPS and Pillar 2 Rural Development measures to Hill farmers has been highlighted and will form a strong part of IFA policy going into future discussions.

*Flor McCarthy*

**Flor McCarthy**  
Chairman, National Hill  
Farming Committee



*Gerry Gunning*

**Gerry Gunning**  
National Hill Farming  
Executive



# NATIONAL HORTICULTURE COMMITTEE

*IFA Deputy President Richard Kennedy & Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture Andrew Doyle TD launch Strawberry Week on the farm of IFA Soft Fruit Chairman Jimmy Kearns in Enniscorthy, Co Wexford.*



## ***IFA SECURED AN INCREASE OF €1 MILLION IN THE GRANT SCHEME FOR COMMERCIAL HORTICULTURE IN THIS YEAR'S BUDGET.***

### **Drought Campaign**

2018 will be remembered as one of the most difficult growing seasons for field vegetable producers. Growers firstly endured the hard and late sowing conditions in spring, followed by a prolonged drought during the summer. This resulted in financial loss from yield reductions but, producers also incurred considerable extra costs trying to alleviate the worst effects of the drought through irrigation etc.

Following an intense campaign, IFA were successful in getting the retailers to relax their specifications on produce and to increase the farm gate price across the majority of lines affected by the drought.

The tough weather conditions coincided with an increase in input prices across the board this year with significant increases in labour, insurance, land rental, diesel and quality insurance costs. IFA will continue to engage with the retailers to ensure that farmers get a sustainable return on their produce.

### **Unsustainable discounting and below cost selling**

IFA continued its work throughout 2018 against irresponsible promotion campaigns by retailers. A campaign earlier in the year highlighted cases of below cost selling and the use of misleading advertising such as fake farm names to dupe the consumer. The continued trend of lower retail prices in fresh produce is sending the wrong message to consumers and devaluing the food chain.

### **Unfair Trading Practices (UTPs) and Grocery Goods Regulations**

IFA continued to liaise with the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC) to ensure rigorous enforcement of the Grocery Goods Regulations and has met Minister Humphreys in the DBEI to push for a Grocery Goods Adjudicator, similar to the UK. There is ongoing work in the EU to pass legislation in relation to UTPs and IFA is demanding that below cost selling is also included as an UTP.

### **Labour and work permits**

Following extensive lobbying, IFA was successful in getting the DBEI to grant 500 work permits as part of a pilot scheme in the horticulture sector for workers from non-EEA countries in order to meet labour demands. IFA will continue to lobby for a reduction in the minimum remuneration element of the scheme to the equivalent of the minimum wage. An information seminar in relation to work permits and general labour issues was organised by IFA in December.

IFA is part of a grouping which lobbied for the introduction of an apprenticeship scheme in Horticulture. The programme for the scheme is being finalized and the first applicants should start in September 2019.

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

IFA secured an increase of €1 million in the grant scheme for commercial horticulture in this year's budget. The annual budget for 2019 is now €6 million.

### **Sustainable Horticulture Assurance Scheme (SHAS) and Origin Green**

IFA has continued to meet with Bord Bia on the new Sustainable Horticulture Assurance Scheme. As a result, they have made a number of key changes to the scheme rules. Extra training days have been organised and a help line is now in place.

A number of retailers and foodservice companies have become members of the Bord Bia Origin Green Scheme and IFA has met Bord Bia to ensure that these companies will be held accountable in relation to the economic sustainability for the primary producer. It is critical that Irish products are given priority when it comes to sustainable sourcing also.



*An IFA delegation met the Minister for Business, Enterprise & Innovation Heather Humphreys TD to discuss labour shortages and retail regulation.*

## Producer Organisations

IFA, as part of the horticulture forum, has encouraged greater grower collaboration through the formation of Producer Organisations (POs). There will be a continued emphasis on POs in CAP 2020 however, IFA will lobby for operational programmes, which allow members to maximise the drawdown of available monies

## Nursery Stock

IFA/IHNSA, together with Bord Bia, organised two plant/trolley fairs in 2018 for nursery stock producers aimed at reducing the importation of nursery stock produce. IHNSA members again participated in the GroMor / Garden Centre Campaign, which was run in conjunction with Bord Bia and REI. IHNSA has been involved in a number of initiatives to raise awareness in relation to the importation of infectious diseases such as xylella.

## Storm damage

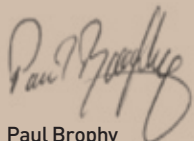
IFA met with Minister for Horticulture Andrew Doyle to lobby for the targeted reopening of the Investment scheme for commercial horticulture, to help those strawberry and nursery stock growers who were affected by the snows of storm Emma. All growers who were severely affected were successful in applying for grant aid.

## Soft fruit

IFA was again involved in the organisation of 'Celebrate Strawberry Week', along with Bord Bia and growers in the soft fruit sector. The continued importance of roadside sales to the Irish soft fruit sector was made by IFA in a submission to DBEI in relation to the Casual Trading Act

## Mushrooms sector

Brexit uncertainty and the ongoing weakness of sterling continues to have a negative effect on the mushroom sector. The increase in the price of mushroom compost due to straw shortages has added further to the financial pressure on all producers. IFA campaigned hard to lessen the impact of the compost price increases by securing farm gate prices from retailers in ROI. A meeting was also arranged with the minister to seek support for the sector.



**Paul Brophy**  
Chairman, National Horticulture Committee




**Patrick Farrell**  
National Horticulture Executive



# NATIONAL FARM FORESTRY COMMITTEE

*Members of the IFA Farm Forestry Committee at an afforestation field day hosted by Western Forestry Co-operative.*





# **ASH DIEBACK HAS HAD DEVASTATING CONSEQUENCES ON THE SURVIVAL, GROWTH AND WOOD QUALITY OF ASH TREES, AND THEREFORE HAS A DEVASTATING CONSEQUENCE ON THE COMMERCIAL VALUE OF THE TIMBER CROP.**

## **Forest Sector**

11% of Ireland is under forest, 47% of the national forest estate is privately owned predominantly by farmers, supporting a vibrant and export-oriented forest products sector. The Irish forestry and forest products sector contribute in the region of €2.3 billion to the Irish economy, as well as supporting 12,000 jobs and 21,000 private forest owners. In 2017, 3.4 million cubic metres of roundwood was harvested from Irish forests. The Irish forest products sector is export oriented, exporting 81% of its production output in 2017. Key markets are Northern Ireland, Great Britain and the Benelux countries.

## **2018 Forestry Programme**

The afforestation programme in 2018 continued to decline with 3,823 hectares of new forests established by November 2018, this represents a 26% decline in the afforestation programme compared with November 2017. Under the Forestry Programme 2014 – 2020 there was a budget allocation to plant 7,205 hectares of new forests in 2018, however estimates show that 4,000 hectares of new forests will be established in 2018, this would represent a 40% shortfall on the annual afforestation target. Over €67 million was paid to private forest owners in forest premium.

There was 64,560 linear metres of new forest road constructed by October 2018, this represents a 25% decline compared with October 2017. Driven by the strong demand for timber and high timber prices in 2018 1,440 felling licences were issued by October 2018 in the private forest sector to clearfell 5,111 hectares and thin 15,122 hectares.

## **Mid-Term Review of the Forestry Programme 2014 - 2020**

In March 2018, the mid-term review was published, but did not introduce substantive changes to address the key obstacle limiting the expansion of the forest sector, which is the decline in the level of farmers planting under the current programme.

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.

The main changes secured in the mid-term review include:

- 5% increase in all broadleaves and diverse conifer premium payments i.e. GPC 4 to GPC 10.
- A new Forest Fencing and Tree Shelter scheme to support forest owners that develop a deer/hare problem after the forest is established.
- The premium for Forestry for Fibre & Agro-Forestry schemes was increased to €510/ha and the terms of the Forestry for Fibre scheme was increased from 10 to 15 years.
- The road density has increased from 20m/ha to 25m/ha under the Forest Road scheme.
- The Woodland Improvement scheme has been opened up to non-grant aided forests and a 2nd thinning grant of €500/ha has been announced.

## **Coillte Farm Partnerships**

IFA is working with Coillte to ensure that farmers' concerns with their Coillte Farm Partnerships are being addressed, principally in relation to the level and consistency of communication with partners, as well as the transparency of commercial information and the models used to calculate annual payments. As a result of the IFA's representation on behalf of partners, Coillte has assigned significant dedicated resources to address partners' issues. They have written to all partners with contact details of their local first point of contact and have developed a detailed commercial statement that will issue in advance of first annuity payments. IFA will continue to work with Coillte to ensure that all issues raised are addressed.



*Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture Andrew Doyle TD with then Chairman Pat Collins at a meeting of the IFA Farm Forestry Committee in the Irish Farm Centre to present the changes introduced in the mid-term review of the Forestry Programme 2014-2020.*

Private forest Owners - Income from forestry



Sourced: Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine.

# IN JULY 2018, PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT (AMENDMENT) ACT 2018 EXEMPTED THE CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE OR IMPROVEMENT OF A PRIVATE ROAD SERVING A FOREST.

## Ash Dieback Policy Review

Ash dieback has had devastating consequences on the survival, growth and wood quality of ash trees, and therefore has a devastating consequence on the commercial value of the timber crop. Farmers who planted ash were encouraged and supported by the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine through higher grants and premiums. They feel aggrieved that while being incentivised to grow ash, the Department did not have adequate controls in place to stop the importation of infected plants and as a result their investment was at risk. In IFA's submission on the Ash Dieback Policy Review, it is seeking the re-introduction of the Reconstitution Scheme (Chalara) for all infected grant aided plantations and that forest premiums are paid on replanted land for 15 years according to the GPC rate. The option not to replant, without penalties, must also be available under certain circumstances.

## Forest Road Entrances

IFA has been seeking that the construction, maintenance or improvement of a private road serving a forest can be considered exempted development. In July 2018, Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2018 exempted the development except where access is provided to a national road. The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine is drafting a Statutory Instrument to bring the changes into effect, this is expected in early 2019.

## Forestry Appeals Committee

An independent Forestry Appeals Committee (FAC) was established on a statutory basis in March 2018 to deal with appeals against licence applications for afforestation, forest roads, aerial fertilisation and tree felling. As of the 31st October 2018 they had received 216 appeals against 159 licences applications and had 29 hearings for 43 appeals against 29 licences. Of the appeals heard against the 29 licences they had confirmed 15, varied 10 and cancelled 4.

## Forests & Climate Change

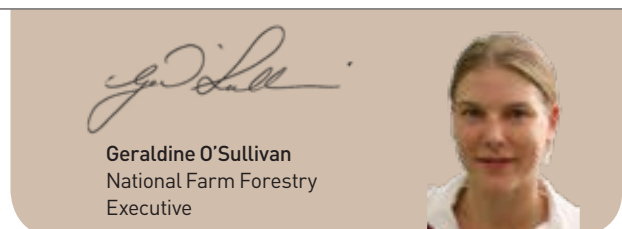
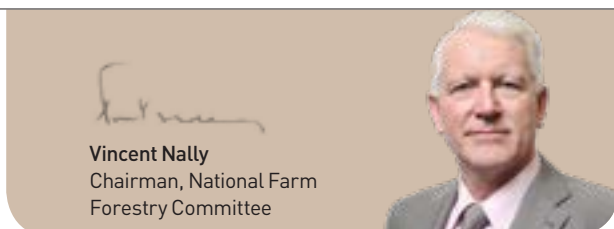
The national forest estate is an important and expanding sink for carbon, at 312 million tonnes. Based on the National Forestry Inventory data, Ireland's forests have removed an average of 3.8 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents per year from the atmosphere over the period 2007 to 2016. This carbon resource is making a significant and cost-effective contribution to the National Climate Mitigation Plan. In addition, the sector is a major contributor to the renewable energy sector in Ireland through the provision of 1.6 million cubic metres of forest-based biomass used for energy purposes (2016).

## Timber Markets

The increasing demand to construct homes using timber-frame techniques and the scarce availability of wood on the world market, has led to increasing timber prices in 2018. The UK Poyry timber index reports a 35% cumulative increase on some timber grades since the first quarter in 2016. There is increased competition for pulp, pallet and small saw logs in the market, which is creating additional pressure on timber availability. As the demand for timber grows, increasing volumes are being diverted into the bioenergy and the wider bioeconomy. The demand for timber is predicted to grow to 6.3 million cubic metres by 2020.

## Committee

Pat Collins stepped down as Chairman of the Farm Forestry Committee in November 2018 due to work and family commitments. The Committee would like to thank Mr. Collins for his hard work and dedication to farmers with forestry during his three years as Chairman of the committee. Vincent Nally was elected Chairman of the IFA Farm Forestry Committee in December 2018.



# NATIONAL RULES, PRIVILEGES AND PROCEDURES COMMITTEE



## 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 also give him responsibility for all IFA elections and election procedures.

At the IFA AGM in January, Mr Tim Cullinan was elected National Treasurer/Returning Officer on the retirement of Mr Jer Bergin.

## Rule Changes

This area of work focused on advice to Council concerning proposals for rules changes from the National Officers' Committee and County Executives as follows:

- Proposal to rename the “Executive Council” as the “National Council” and the “Executive Board” as the “National Officers' Committee” (ratified by Council)
- Proposal to remove from the IFA AGM agenda the approval of the annual accounts and instead provide for approval at an ordinary Council meeting (ratified)
- Proposal to remove from the IFA AGM agenda the ratification of representatives on outside bodies and instead provide for ratification at an ordinary meeting of the Council (ratified)
- Proposal that where neither the County Chairman nor Vice Chairman are available to attend Council, another officer be permitted to attend without a vote (not supported by the Committee)
- Proposal to remove the weighted branch delegate vote in regional elections (ongoing) and
- Proposal that the title ‘Chairman’ be replaced by ‘Chair’ in IFA positions (ongoing).

The Committee supported IFA Aquaculture in developing a new unified structure and new rules for the Fish Farming Section which is being reorganised following the untimely passing of Executive Secretary Richie Flynn in August.

## Conduct of Elections

The Committee reviewed the conduct of the Regional Chairman elections held in late 2017 and considered how procedures could be improved.

The Committee discussed issues around the timing of Branch AGMs and County Executive AGMs, and the National Council AGM and the desirability of all Council members taking office at the AGM.

The Committee supported the National Treasurer/Returning Officer in overseeing the arrangements for the end 2018 elections by County Executives of representatives to National Committees and for the election of Officers at County Executive AGMs.

## Support & Good Governance

The Rules Committee developed appropriate procedures for the inspection of the books at County Executive level in response to a request.

In response to a recommendation from Paul Turpin of the IPA, a draft Code of Conduct for National Council Members was presented and discussed at Council and is under consideration.



**Tim Cullinan**  
Chairman, National Rules Committee,  
National Treasurer/Returning Officer




**Bryan Barry**  
Secretary, National Rules Committee,  
Association Secretary



# FRESH MILK PRODUCERS (FMP)



2018 was a year of major change in FMP. Larry Hannon completed his successful two-year term as Chairman and was succeeded by Jim Mulhall from Kilkenny, at the FMP AGM in February. The main agenda item throughout the course of 2018 was negotiations with Glanbia on a new agreement for liquid milk suppliers. While it was a very time-consuming process, both sides, FMP and Glanbia, worked in unison (mostly) to agree on the Liquid Milk Supply Agreement (LMSA) in October 2018.

FMP then embarked on a communication project to all FMP members. Every Local FMP group held meetings and Jim Mulhall along with members of the FMP Negotiation team, Vice Chair Willie Lennon, Michael O'Flaherty and Larry Hannon, presented details on the LMSA and took feedback to Glanbia. The LMSA is a radical new agreement with a major restructuring of the supply base contained in the agreement. The agreement is to run for 5 years starting on 2019. It will give dedicated liquid milk supplier clarity and security on both liquid volumes and liquid premium for a 5-year period. The conversion of all winter schemes to the Glanbia Autumn Calving Scheme is also a major component of the LMSA as the majority of FMP members supply winter scheme milk currently. While FMP did not historically have a right to negotiate on winter scheme milk terms and conditions, as it was such an important element within the new LMSA, FMP negotiated a number of flexibilities and concessions into the ACS specifically for FMP members supplying liquid milk.

The main points of the 5-year new Liquid Milk agreement takes effect from 1st October 2019 and contains the following:

- a restructuring element for suppliers wishing to exit liquid milk, with associated 3-year restructuring contribution
- Liquid milk premium adjustment
- Liquid milk volumes
- conversion of all winter schemes into Autumn Calving Scheme ACS with optional growth element
- Growth option for all supplier wishing to expand winter milk production
- Liquid fixed milk price

## Retail Activity

Summer 2018 saw a number of retailers using milk to attract consumers. Discounting and special offers on milk were becoming more common and the entire retail milk market was under treat. FMP chairman conjunction with IFA, highlighted the unethical and opportunistic tactics being used by certain retailers and this negative publicity had an effect. After many interactions by FMP and IFA, the milk market stabilised. FMP members produce a food product that is extremely close to the market, often being collected from farm and on the retail shelf with 24 hours. This close link to the Glanbia branded milk is of uppermost importance to FMP members and the chairman has undertaken to take every opportunity to highlighting the importance of supporting local and sustainably produced milk in 2019, with both consumers and retailers.



*2018 FMP Milk Quality Award Winner, Paul Morrin from Dunshaughlin Co Meath accepting the award from FMP Chairman Jim Mulhall, at the December FMP Central Executive.*

**Jim Mulhall**  
Chairman, FMP



**Robert Malone**  
FMP Executive



# NATIONAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE





# PROGRESS AND DELIVERY IN 2018

## ANCs

The Rural Development Committee was involved in a major campaign throughout the year at EU and National level on the ANC review.

A number of meetings were held with the EU Commission, Department of Agriculture and politicians to ensure that existing areas stayed in using maximum flexibility with the new bio-physical criteria, areas excluded in the past were included, that funding be increased to €250m and that new higher payment rates would reflect the natural handicap.

In advance of the Review being completed IFA secured an additional €23m for the scheme in Budget 2019. This was additional to the €25m secured in Budget 2018 bringing the total allocation for the scheme for 2019 to €250m.

The rates of payment for 2018 were increased with €13m going to 32,000 with Mountain Grazing land, €9m to 59,000 in More Severely Handicapped Areas, and €3m to Less Severely Handicapped Areas. There was no change for Off Shore Islands as already they receive the maximum payment.

The Minister for Agriculture Michael Creed announced the outcome of the review in Nov.

IFA's campaign succeeded in ensuring that the vast majority of areas remained in the ANC scheme benefitting around 98,000 farmers in 2019. Up to 77% of Ireland is now in the ANC.

An additional 2,000 townlands were added to the ANC's, with around 750 losing out. Also there are still areas that are excluded.

IFA has ensured that an independent appeals mechanism has been set up with an independent chairman to review these areas under the new criteria.

Higher payments will now apply in 2019 with the highest payment going to those areas with the worst land. €9m to mountain areas, €4m to MSH, €0.75m to LSH and €10m to new areas benefiting 4000 farmers for the first time.

The 750 farmers who are taken out of ANC will get an 80% payment in 2019. However, in the appeal system IFA will be endeavoring to maintain these farmers in this scheme.

IFA's campaign to increase the allocation for the scheme to €300m per annum in the next CAP will be ramped up in 2019 and beyond.

## GLAS

49,000 farmers are now in the GLAS Scheme worth €215m.

Following problems with payments in 2016/2017, IFA ensured that payment would be made on time.

In Nov 2018 payments commenced and by year end a significant number of farmers had secured their 85% advance payment

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

Among the issue taken were the situation where Teagasc/FRS service was broken to the farmer due to personnel changes.

By year end €205m had been paid out to GLAS farmers.

Due to the Fodder crisis concessions were secured on various measures so that farmers could maximise their conservation of fodder.

## TAMS

Over 18,000 farmers had applied for TAMS by the end of tranche 12 with around 17,221 farmers having received approval to proceed with work.

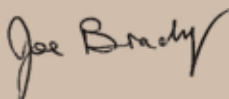
5,000 farmers who have completed work received payments worth €65m in 2018.

IFA put significant pressure on the Department for early approval and quick payments.

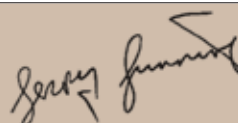
An allocation of €70m has been secured for the scheme in Budget 2019.

IFA secured increases in standard cost which will ensure that actual costs are reflected in the grant aid paid.

IFA continues to make the case for additional items in TAMS and such as meal bins, solar panels and underpasses.



**Joe Brady**  
Chairman, National Rural  
Development Committee

**Gerry Gunning**  
National Rural Development  
Executive





*IFA Rural Development Chairman Joe Brady at the launch of our pre-Budget submission in August.*

## 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 19,200 farmers (10,000 beef farmers, 4,500 sheep farmers, 4,500 dairy farmers with the remainder in poultry and equine).

Year 2 payments commenced in October for the KT groups 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 their charges.

## Budget 2019

IFA successfully lobbied for increased funding for Rural Development measures in Budget 2019.

The allocations secured were - agri-environment schemes €234m, ANC's €250m, TAMS €70m, KT €23m. Other rural development measures include €19m for sheep welfare, €44m for BDGP.

An additional allocation of €8m has been allocated to National Rural Development schemes including rural recreation and Rural Walks measures: The CLAR programme: and support for the rural plan for rural development.



## Charter of Rights

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

## 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 €50m having been approved for projects to date.

The Committee now believes that Leader should be taken out of the RDP and be supported by the Regional Development and Social Fund.

## Locally Led Agri-environment schemes

The Locally Led agri-environment schemes in the Hen Harrier areas, Pearl Mussel, and other EIP's have been introduced. IFA is insisting that most of the money goes to farmers and the farmers already in GLAS should also be eligible.

## 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 participates in the EU civil dialogue discussions in Brussels which is inputting into the CAP post 2020 discussions.

The priority in the current RDP is to ensure all funding is spent.

# NATIONAL ANIMAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

*IFA Animal Health Chairman Pat Farrell, Conor Geraghty, VI, Minister for Agriculture Michael Creed TD, John Keogh, APHA at the launch of the Code of Good Practice Regarding the Responsible Prescribing and Use of Antibiotics in Farm Animals.*



## TB

The Minister for Agriculture Michael Creed has established a **TB Forum** involving all stakeholders to develop the next phase of the TB eradication programme with the objective of eradication of the disease by 2030.

IFA has set out the key areas that must be addressed in the programme to reduce the unacceptable costs and losses imposed on farm families currently with TB controls.

These include;

- Restoration of the independence of the live valuation scheme
- Full income loss/costs incurred compensation payments
- The removal of controls that do not contribute to eradication of the disease but impact severely on the day to day management of farms
- Proactive wildlife response to reduce the risk of disease spread
- IFA has strongly rejected the DAFM proposal to categorise herds and restrict trading options based on TB history

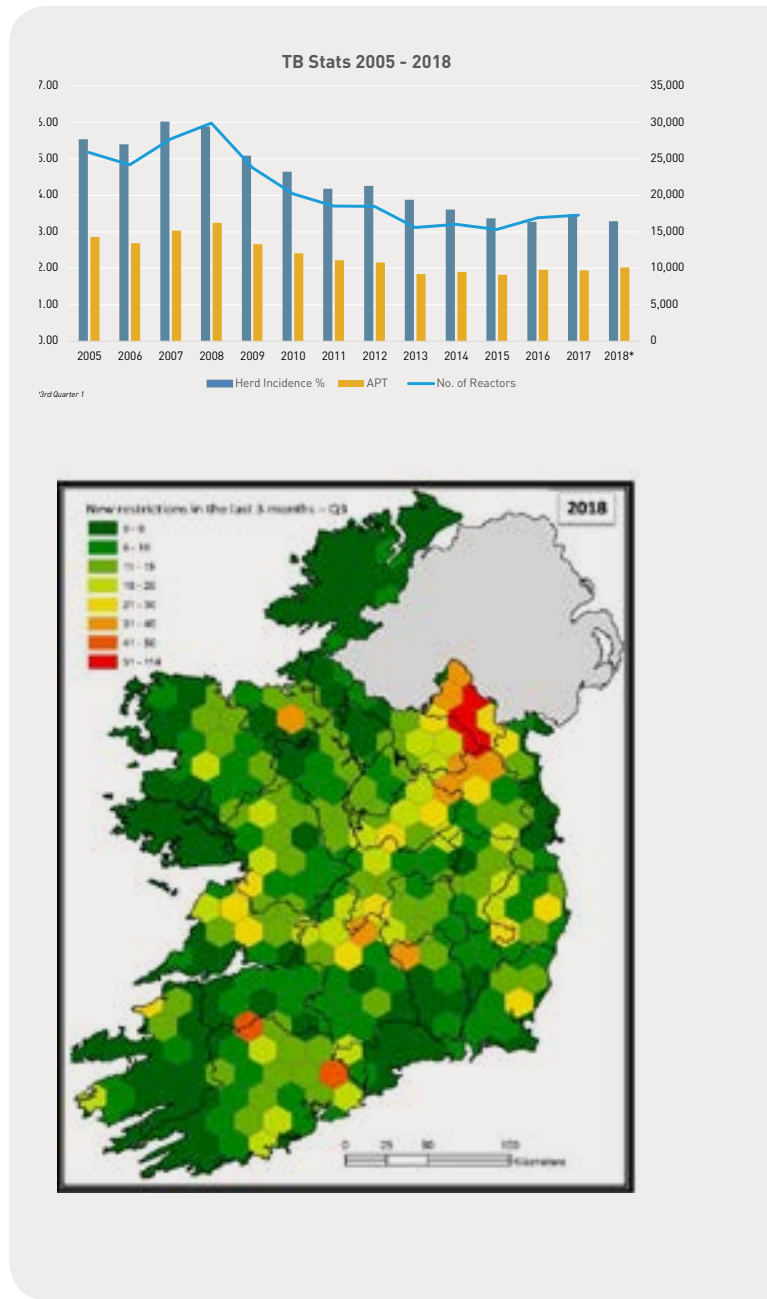
**TB figures** nationally have increased to-date in 2018, but remain broadly in line with the levels recorded since 2013 when viewed across the 3 key measures of Herd Incidence, APT and number of reactors. Serious concern has been raised by IFA in relation to the deterioration of the situation in Monaghan, particularly in view of the fact Monaghan is one of the areas where vaccination of Badgers has been trialled. IFA has sought a complete review of the TB issue in Monaghan and a suspension of the roll out of the vaccination programme until this is complete.

IFA has engaged with the DAFM nationally and at local level where significant TB outbreaks have occurred to ensure all measures are being applied correctly and farmers in these areas are kept fully briefed on DAFM activities to resolve the issue.

A number of **Pilot Deer Management Programmes** continue to operate in Wicklow/Kildare. If proven effective these can be implemented in other areas where deer are a disease threat to cattle or causing damage.

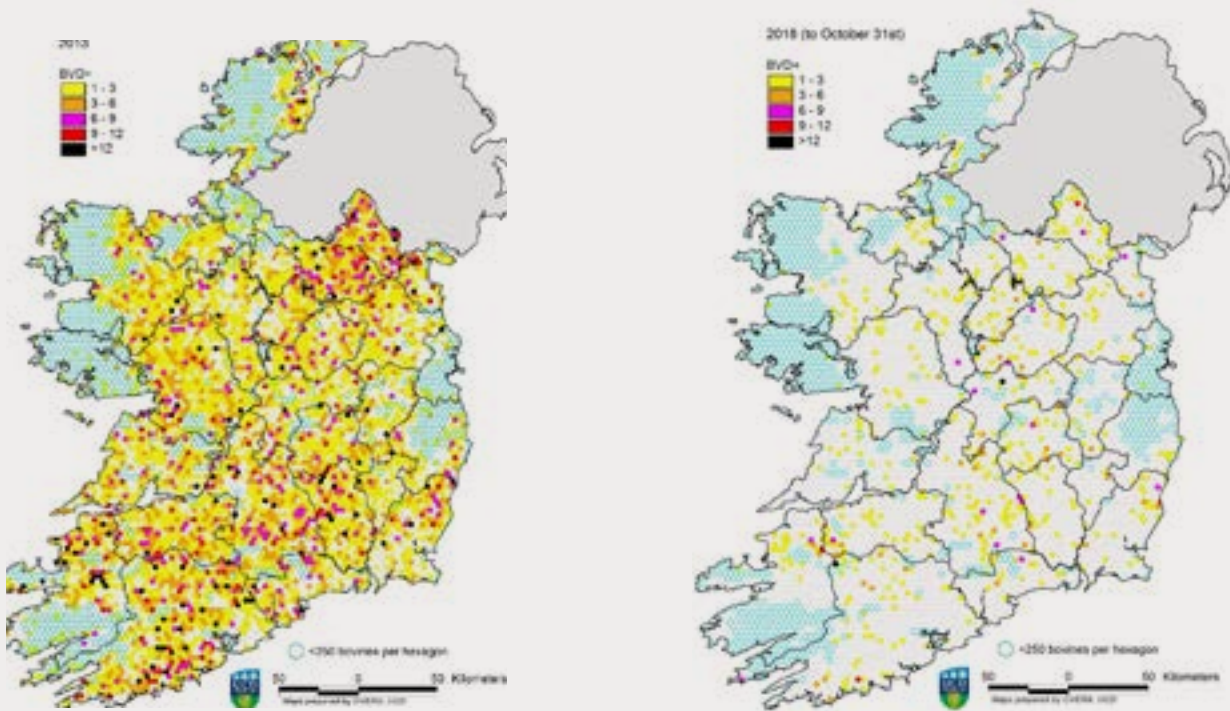
In addition, IFA has compiled an information pack for farmers encountering problems with deer encroaching onto their land. The pack includes the relevant licence applications and best practice advice.

IFA in conjunction with DAFM organised 7 **Regional information meetings on TB**. The meetings provided farmers with the opportunity to raise their concerns with senior DAFM personnel and to get detailed information on the testing approach and compensation schemes of the current TB programme. Over 1,000 farmers attended the meetings.



Colm Forde PO, DAFM, Pat Farrell IFA, Pat O’Keeffe IFA, Tomas Bourke IFA, Philip Breslin SVI, DAFM at the Fermoy TB information meeting.

## MAPS SHOWING DISTRIBUTION OF PI BIRTHS IN 2013 and 2018\* (\* Oct. 31st)



Data Source and maps - AHI

**38,429 PI'S HAVE BEEN REMOVED SINCE 2013, WITH NO PI ANIMALS BORN PRE-2018 ALIVE IN THE NATIONAL HERD BASED ON THE LATEST AHI DATA.**

### BVD

Significant progress continues to be achieved in reducing the prevalence of BVD in the National herd.

38,429 PI's have been removed since 2013, with no PI animals born pre-2018 alive in the National herd based on the latest AHI data.

The number of PI's identified annually has reduced from 13,877 in 2013 to 1,244 to week 48 in 2018

The number of herds with PI's has reduced from 9,485 in 2013 to 799 to week 48 in 2018

74,814 herds have now attained Negative Herd Status.

IFA is pursuing a compensation fund for farmers who have identified False Negative animals for BVD on their farms.

IFA is seeking a resolution from the Department of Agriculture to the unacceptable number of empty samples being reported in the BVD programme

The BVDIG is currently assessing the appropriate timing of moving from Tissue Tag testing of all calves born to higher level national screening.

## Johnes

**Phase Two of the Irish Johnes Control Programme (IJCP)** will commence on the 1st of January 2019 and it will be open to all dairy farmers across the country, based on voluntary participation. In addition, the Department of Agriculture will provide a national screening component through Bulk Tank Milk testing of all herds.

This is a significant development for farmers following lengthy discussions with all stakeholders.

The programme delivers on the key objectives set out by IFA, which included support for farmers who identify the disease on their farms, cost effective national screening and incentives for farmers to participate in what will be a voluntary programme.

The agreed funding for Phase Two (over a four-year period) is summarised below:

1. Processors will provide 3 years of support for herds in the test negative pathway at the following levels- year 1: €2.75 per animal, Year 2: €2.06 per animal and Year 3 €1.38 per animal. This represents 100%, 75%, 50% of the testing costs for farmers using milk recording testing.
2. DAFM will fund the cost of VRAMPs, ancillary testing and TASAH investigations on all participant farms as required.
3. DAFM will fund the National Bulk Tank Milk Screening (BTM)
4. For herds in the test-positive pathway, processors will provide €2.75 per eligible animal for 4 years.
5. For herds that enter the test-positive pathway following a positive BTM result and conduct a WHT, DAFM will provide additional funding on top of the €2.75 per animal provided by the processor to cover the testing cost, if necessary.
6. Herds will not be categorised in the programme; however, participants will receive regular herd progress reports

## Regional Veterinary Laboratories

IFA met with and made a detailed submission to the consultant carrying out the cost benefit analysis of the Regional Veterinary Laboratories. IFA highlighted the vital role the laboratories play both in terms of supporting farmers and the broader agri-sector and the importance of maintaining the laboratories and enhancing the service they provide to farmers.

## New EU Veterinary Medicinal Products Regulation

IFA highlighted to the Minister for Agriculture, MEP's and senior DAFM officials' key aspects of the new regulations that had the potential to impact negatively on the availability of medicines for Irish farmers to treat their animals.

Key areas that must be protected include the supply routes and categorisation of products, availability of products and the validity period for prescriptions for standard management products such as vaccines.

## AMR Guidelines

IFA has been actively involved in the Irish National Action Plan for Antimicrobial Resistance. The Animal Health Committee in conjunction with other stakeholders have developed the first **Code of Good Practice Regarding the Responsible Prescribing and Use of Antibiotics in Farm Animals**. This is available through your local office and on [www.ifa.ie](http://www.ifa.ie). The committee will be developing more detailed sector specific guidelines in 2019.

## VAT on Vaccines

IFA has identified savings of approximately €10m for farmers if VAT rates were reduced from the current 23%. IFA has sought a reduced VAT rate on vaccines in the past two budgets and is currently pursuing the issue with the Department of Agriculture.

## Veterinary Services

IFA has sought a review of large animal veterinary services in the country to address the growing lack of large animal veterinary practitioners available to provide a competitive service to farmers. This has been raised with the Minister for Agriculture and his senior officials. IFA has also met with the Dean of the Veterinary faculty in UCD, Professor Michael Doherty on the issue.

*Pat Farrell*

**Pat Farrell**  
Chairman, National Animal Health Committee



*Tomas Bourke*

**Tomas Bourke**  
National Animal Health Executive



# PROJECT TEAMS & SPECIAL COMMITTEES







# BREXIT PROJECT TEAM

*The Tanaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade Simon Coveney TD addresses the IFA National Council on the Brexit negotiations in October.*

Our overall objective is: no hard border on the island of Ireland, no border in the Irish Sea and no scope for the UK to pursue a cheap food policy - Joe Healy



# *IFA CONTINUED OUR EXTENSIVE STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT ON BREXIT AT EU AND NATIONAL LEVEL DURING THE YEAR STRIVING TO ENSURE THAT THE INTERESTS OF IRISH FARMERS WERE CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD AND PROTECTED.*

## Stakeholder Engagement

At EU level, IFA met with EU Chief Negotiator Michel Barnier and TF50 members on a number of occasions. In Brussels, IFA is a leading participant on the COPA-COGECA Brexit Task Force Group and we participated in a major event in London in early November with the farming organisations from the UK, Germany, France, Netherlands and Denmark. We also discussed Irish farmers' concerns over Brexit with a delegation of MEPs from the European Parliament Agriculture Committee on a visit to Ireland.

At home, IFA engaged with the Taoiseach Leo Varadkar, Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Simon Coveney, Minister for Agriculture Michael Creed, Minister for European Affairs Helen McEntee, other political leaders and senior officials. Tánaiste Simon Coveney also addressed the IFA National Council meeting in October.

The Association is an active participant in the Tánaiste's Brexit Stakeholder Forum which met nine times during the year and played a prominent role in the All-Island Civic Dialogue attended by Michel Barnier, as well as liaising closely with the Ulster Farmers' Union. IFA Committee Chairs participated in the Department of Agriculture Stakeholder Consultative Group on Brexit.

IFA continued to engage closely with the British Ambassador to Ireland Robin Barnett and met with Deputy Prime Minister David Lidington MP, Labour's Shadow Farming and Rural Affairs Spokesman David Drew MP, the House of Lords EU Committee, Liberal Democrat peers and former Northern Ireland Minister Shailesh Vara MP.

## EU-UK Negotiations

After long and difficult negotiations, in November 2018 the EU Council and UK cabinet endorsed a draft Withdrawal Agreement and Political Declaration on the future EU-UK relationship, which at time of writing is to be put to a vote of the House of Commons on 15th January 2019.

The draft Withdrawal Agreement is a legally-binding treaty which establishes the terms of the UK's departure from the EU.

- It covers issues including citizens' rights, the financial settlement by the UK and a transition period during which the UK would remain in the Single Market and Customs Union.
- The transition period would run from Brexit Day on 29th March 2019 to end-December 2020 or if an extension was agreed possibly up to end-December 2022.

The draft agreement also provides for a legally operational backstop to ensure there would be no hard border on the island of Ireland.

- The backstop would apply from the end of the transition period unless and until it is superseded by a subsequent EU-UK agreement.
- Under the backstop, the UK will be in a single customs territory with the EU, with no freedom to apply lower tariffs, but outside the single market.
- Northern Ireland would remain aligned to single market rules on goods and sanitary and phytosanitary controls and its traders would have full access to both the EU market and to the rest of the UK. To maintain the integrity of the single market, products entering Northern Ireland from Britain would have to be checked for compliance with EU standards.

The Withdrawal Agreement is accompanied by a non-legally binding Political Declaration on the future EU-UK relationship.

- This includes aspirations for future trade and economic co-operation.
- It notes that the future relationship must respect the integrity of the single market and the customs union, and that the UK's commitments on customs and regulatory cooperation will determine the application of related checks and controls.



*IFA President Joe Healy and Ulster Farmers' Union President Ivor Ferguson discuss the implications for farmers north and south with An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar TD.*

## IFA's Brexit Policy

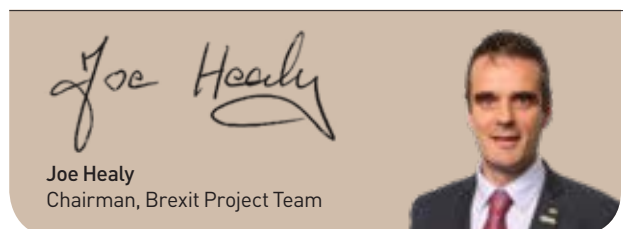
The IFA policy position is that the optimum outcome of the Brexit negotiations is that the UK would remain in the Customs Union and the Single Market, as this would address both the trade and border issues which arise from the UK's departure from the EU.

If this is not possible, our objectives for any new EU-UK trading relationship include:

- Tariff-free and quota-free trade for agricultural and food products;

- Full UK regulatory alignment to current and future EU standards, including food safety, animal health/welfare and environmental standards and full guarantees of a level playing field; and
- Full UK application of the EU's Common External Tariff and tariff rate quotas to ensure no increase in third country imports of agri-food products.

Our overall objective is: no hard border on the island of Ireland, no border in the Irish Sea and no scope for the UK to pursue a cheap food policy.





*IFA President Joe Healy with EU Brexit Chief Negotiator Michel Barnier at the All-Island Civil Dialogue on Brexit in Dundalk.*



*IFA President Joe Healy & Minister for European Affairs Helen McEntee TD discuss the importance of a Brexit deal that safeguards Irish farming.*

## Contingency Planning

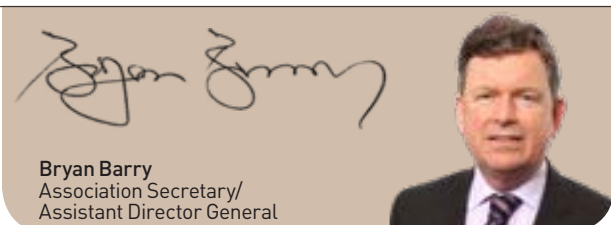
During 2018, IFA called on the Government and EU to prepare for all possible Brexit scenarios, up to and including a “no deal” exit by the UK from the EU.

IFA stressed that the farming and food sector would require extensive Government and EU support measures including:

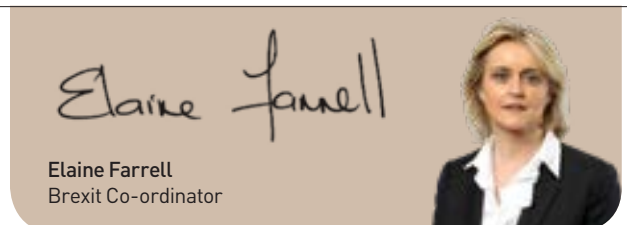
- Direct income aid to compensate Irish farmers for any Sterling devaluation beyond 90p;
- A special purpose package including where necessary emergency market supports and direct producer payments as well as long term structural adjustment support to take full account of the devaluation of our position on the UK market;

- An increased CAP Budget to make up for the shortfall arising from Brexit so that the real value of the budget is protected and
- Opposition to Mercosur and any other trade concessions by the EU which would damage Irish farmers.

IFA challenged Minister for Agriculture Michael Creed to bring forward urgently the detail of his support plans for farmers including the aid he is seeking at EU level, and the specific measures that will be put in place around market supports and cattle prices to protect livestock farmers’ incomes.



**Bryan Barry**  
Association Secretary/  
Assistant Director General



**Elaine Farrell**  
Brexit Co-ordinator

# CAP PROJECT TEAM

*Members of the IFA CAP Project Team meeting with Department of Agriculture Officials.*



The CAP project team actively engaged with relevant representatives and have held technical meetings with the Department of Agricultural and Teagasc to discuss the proposed changes introduced in the regulation during the year. Furthermore, the team participated in DAFM consultations on CAP and next year a further consultation is planned by DAFM, which the team will also contribute to.

The team met with political representatives at national and at EU level. We have also coordinated IFA submissions and responses to proposed CAP regulations, including proposals and amendments to MEPs, circulating briefing notes on CAP and the MFF, as well as a submission to the COPA position paper on CAP reform. The IFA drafted a draft policy paper and it is an evolving document, which will form part of our position on CAP reform. This also forms the basis for discussion at regional meetings on CAP.

## CAP reform

The MFF sets out long-term EU spending, usually covering a seven-year period. The EU budget outlines the maximum financial allocation given to major categories of spending, with an annual budget. On 2nd May 2018 the Commission published the legal proposal and explanatory documents entitled "A Modern Budget for a Union that Protects, Empowers and Defends – The Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027".

The Commission proposed €1.13 trillion (2018 prices) 1.11% of GNI for the next MFF 2021-2027 spending period with changes to the headings under which funding is allocated. Noting the impact of the late adoption of the 2014-2020 MFF, the Commission called for agreement before the May 2019 Parliament elections. This however is not likely and is expected in late 2019.

On the 1st June 2018 the Commission's legislative proposals on the future of the common agricultural policy (CAP) were published. They include three proposals: a regulation setting out rules on support for CAP strategic plans; a regulation on the single common market organisation (CMO) and a horizontal regulation on financing, managing and monitoring the CAP.

The proposal for a regulation on CAP strategic plans introduces a new delivery model, described by the Commission as a fundamental shift in the CAP, involving a shift from compliance towards results and performance. It changes responsibilities between the EU and Member States in terms of a designing

a CAP National Strategic Plan covering both Pillar I (direct payments) and Pillar II (rural development).

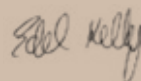
Currently the European Parliament adopted a position on the Commission text. The Parliament proposed amendments to the draft MFF regulation calling for the next MFF to allocate €1.32 trillion (1.3%) of GNI. The text welcomes proposals for increased flexibility to support more ambitious reform and also called for the restoration of resources for agriculture. The Budget Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development also put forward a detailed position on the MFF 2021-2017.

These points all reflect the position that funding for the CAP budget needs to be revised upwards. These are part of ongoing discussions on the EU Budget, now not expected until October 2019.

The CAP team will continue to coordinate the IFA campaign on the CAP reform 2020-2027 – this will involve responding to Commission consultation and Parliamentary requests, including liaising closely with Government and EU officials on the development of the policy, as well as EU farming representatives.

Next year the focus will be on the Budget at EU level and nationally we will focus on making contributions to National Strategic Plans. We will participate in the planned DAFM consultations and make submissions to all forums available nationally and at European level. This will include working with other stakeholders to identify appropriate solutions to the key challenges for Irish farmers in the next round of CAP.

Continued engagement with our members on CAP and identification of their future concerns on reform remain a priority for the team. We will achieve this through facilitating and providing information on key changes proposed regarding CAP reform at public events, and also encourage discussion among farmers in attaining the most appropriate outcomes for the Irish farming sector.



Edel Kelly  
IFA Economist



# SMART FARMING

*Minister for Justice & Equality Charlie Flanagan TD at the Smart Farming Summer Farm Talk in Offaly in August with Joe Healy IFA President and Thomas Cooney IFA Environment Chairman.*





# SMART FARMING EXCEEDS COST SAVING TARGET BY 43% AND IDENTIFIES WAYS TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS BY 9%

Smart Farming, the voluntary programme led by IFA, in conjunction with the Environmental Protection Agency, announced its 2018 results in October. They demonstrate the successful delivery of the Programme's dual roles - identifying ways to improve farm returns while enhancing the rural environment.

Each year Smart Farming works with farmers to identify average cost saving of at least €5,000 and ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 5%-7% on participating farms. Both these objectives were surpassed in 2018.

The 2018 overall results are in Figure 1, with the headline results being:

- Average cost saving identified on farms of €7,170
- 9% average greenhouse gas emissions reduction identified
- 42% of the savings identified came from addressing soil fertility
- 17% of the savings identified came from better grassland management

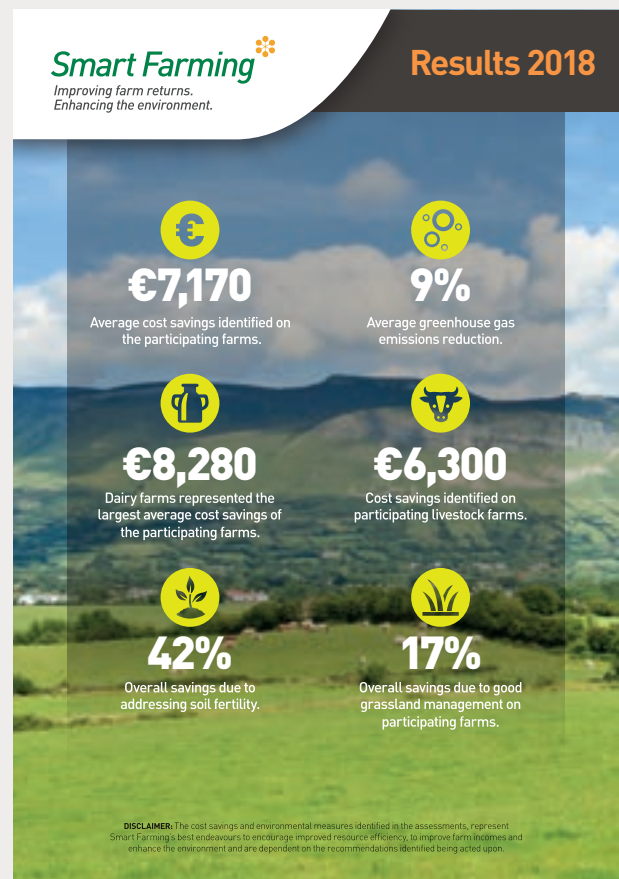


Figure 1: Results from the 2018 Smart Farming Programme.



*IFA President Joe Healy with Smart Farming Participants at the Programme's spring seminar in Portlaoise in April.*

# THE SUCCESS OF SMART FARMING IS SHOWN BY THE GROWING NUMBER OF FARMERS WANTING TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROGRAMME. IT IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR THEM, THEIR FAMILIES AND THE WIDER COMMUNITY



Teagasc's David Wall assesses the quality of soil structure during Smart Farming's Summer Farm Talk using the GrassVESS system, in Geashill, Co. Offaly.

## Ready to take the Smart Farming challenge?

Are you ready to take the Smart Farming challenge and identify cost savings and ways to improve the environment on your farm? We are currently seeking farmers who may have an interest in taking part in 2019.

Let's talk [smartfarming@ifa.ie](mailto:smartfarming@ifa.ie) and 01 4260343.

*Thomas Cooney*

Thomas Cooney  
Programme Leader, Smart Farming



*Thomas Ryan*

Thomas Ryan  
Programme Manager, Smart Farming



# DIRECT PAYMENTS PROJECT TEAM

*IFA Deputy President Richard Kennedy leads the IFA Direct Payments Project Team to a meeting with Dr Sean Brady Chairman, Charter of Farmers' Rights Monitoring Committee.*



# ***IFA LOBBIED HARD TO ENSURE THE DELIVERY OF ALL PAYMENTS ACROSS ALL SCHEMES, WHICH WAS ESSENTIAL TO FARM INCOMES IN A VERY DIFFICULT YEAR***

## **Delivery of Direct Payments in 2018**

- IFA lobbied hard for the delivery of all direct payments on time to farmers in 2018. This was particularly important given the very difficult weather which led to a fodder crisis in the west and northwest in the Spring and drought conditions in the South and East in the middle of the summer.
- IFA pressure secured higher advance payments under BPS (70%) and GLAS (85%) as well as concessions under various farm schemes which allowed farmers conserve greater quantities of fodder.
- At the Charter of Rights Monitoring Committee, the IFA held the Department to account to ensure that the majority of payments were delivered within the tight Charter deadlines.

## **Basic Payment Scheme**

- The BPS, which is the main direct payments scheme under CAP, commenced payments on Oct 16th with the remaining 30% paid on Dec 1st.
- On Oct 16th, the first day of payments 113,064 farmers received €732m.
- On Dec 3rd, the date of the final instalment, 120,602 farmers had received €1.123bn
- By year end most of the 122,000 eligible farmers were paid €1.13bn.

## **Areas of Natural Constraint**

- ANC payments commenced in the 3rd week of September when a full payment was made and which included the higher rates of payment secured in Budget 2018.
- By year end around 95,000 farmers were paid a total of €225m.

## **GLAS**

- 2018 GLAS payments commenced in mid Nov which was a marked improvement on 2017.
- By the end of Dec about 45,000 had been paid their 85% advance. Remaining cases were held up due to various issues such as some paperwork missing such as LESS, Rare Breeds, Commonage Plans, or training course not been completed.
- Payments worth €210m were paid out in the course of 2018. This included residual payments from 2017, as well as the final 15% which was paid in June.
- The remaining 2,200 AEOS farmers were paid in full by year end. This scheme is now finished.

## **Sheep Welfare Scheme**

- Sheep Welfare advance payments commenced from the end of Nov. The scheme is worth €19m over a full payment year.



## Beef Data and Genomics Scheme

- The BDGP scheme payments commenced in mid Dec and are worth €44m to 24,000 farmers.

## Young Farmers Top Up

- 9,520 young farmers received €23m under the Young Farmer Top up scheme and these payments were made in early Dec.

## National Reserve

- Under the National Reserve up to 900 qualified for either full or top up payments worth about €3.5m. IFA has secured a scheme for 2019.

## Knowledge Transfer

- Year 2 KT payments worth €14m commenced to 19,000 farmers in mid Oct.

## TAMS

- IFA put significant pressure on to TAMS approvals issued. Over 18,000 approvals have been issued after 12 Tranches of the scheme. Payments claims have been lodged where work has been completed and payments worth €103m has been paid out to 7,037 farmers who have completed work under the scheme. The targets under the Charter of Farmers Rights has been met under this scheme in 2018 and has improved greatly compared to other years.

## CAP Simplification and Inspections

- IFA has been lobbying hard at both EU and National level to get greater simplification in all schemes.
- All farmers made their BPS on line in 2018 and IFA ensured that the Department of Agriculture ran a roadshow to help those farmers who have difficulty making such applications.

*Richard Kennedy*

Richard Kennedy  
Deputy President  
and Chairman, Direct  
Payments Project Team



*Angus Woods*

Angus Woods  
Chairman, National  
Livestock Committee



*Joe Brady*

Joe Brady  
Chairman, National Rural  
Development Committee





## Charter of Rights Monitoring Committee

- IFA represented farmers at all 3 meetings of the Monitoring Committee held in 2018 under the Chairmanship of Sean Brady.
- The Department reported to IFA at each meeting on progress on payments, inspections and administration of various schemes.
- IFA also ensured that commitments on payments and inspections set out in the Charter are met. In addition IFA raised several issues regarding the attitude of some inspectors. These were taken up with the Department on a case by case basis.
- Following submissions by IFA for a fairer inspection regime progress has been made in some areas.
- Presentations were also made to the Charter on the Agricultural Appeals Office, GDPR, and the review of the LIPIS system.

## IFA Direct Payments Unit

- IFA assisted thousands of cases of farmers at National and Regional level who have individual direct payment problems across all schemes.
- The specialised IFA unit dealing with queries is run by Mary Jenner and Niamh Brennan.

**Kevin Kinsella**  
Director of Livestock



**Gerry Gunning**  
National Rural  
Development Executive



# FLOOD PROJECT TEAM

*IFA Flood Project Team Chairman Padraic Joyce and IFA representatives from the Shannon River area with Minister of State at the OPW Kevin 'Boxer' Moran TD, pressing for the acceleration of maintenance work and targeting pinch points to alleviate flooding on the river.*





# INVESTMENTS ON FLOOD DEFENCES A PRIORITY.

Following the severe flooding over the last number of years, IFA has had several meetings with the Minister for the Office of Public Works, Boxer Moran, to secure greater resources to alleviate flooding.

A river Shannon flood risk coordinating group presented a report on the CFRAMS (Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management).

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

22 natural restrictions or pinch points (28- 16 of which are significant) between Athlone and Meelick are being proposed to be removed. This will allow a better flow of water and help to avoid summer floods. It will also increase the ability of the Shannon to take more water.

Dredging of part of the Shannon is also being carried out around the Carrick-on-Shannon area.

Funding and work continues on the Dunkellan river in South Galway, Crossmolina and Claregalway. These are among other projects that will have a particular impact on farmland.

On Lough Funshinagh in Co. Roscommon the water levels of the turlough have not gone down since the flooding 3 years ago. A report has been commissioned by Roscommon Co. Council to look for a solution to reducing water levels.

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

The relocation scheme introduced for houses which consistently flood, is now available. In addition farmers can make a case for farm yards which are continually under threat in flooding situations.

It is a requirement under the EU Floods Directive that such flood management plans are in place for all areas. IFA has had representation in the South Galway area, the Dublin area and surrounds, the South-East, the North East, Neagh Bann area and the Cork area.

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

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.

118 Flood Relief projects were planned in 2018. €14m was allocated to 19 local authorities under the Minor Works Scheme, involving 31 projects each costing less than €1m. €6.8m was spent.

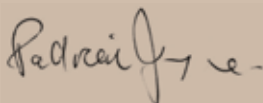
The cap on projects being accepted has increased from €500,000 to €750,000 and this is now available following a submission from IFA.

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

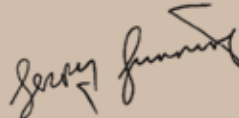
IFA has insisted that projects which have been previously turned down for support would now be eligible.

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.

IFA continues to liaise with Minister Boxer Moran and his officials to ensure that Flood projects alleviate flooding on farmland. In addition, ongoing discussions with ESB and Waterways Ireland are taking place to ensure better management of our river systems.



**Padraig Joyce**  
Chairman, Flood Project Team

**Gerry Gunning**  
National Rural Development  
Executive



# HORSES PROJECT TEAM



## Thoroughbred Foal Levy Committee (HRI)

As agreed with IFA, the 2019 foal levy bands will continue as were for 2018. IFA sits on the Horse Racing Ireland (HRI) Thoroughbred Foal Levy Committee.

2018 foal levy fund amounted to €1.9m and was allocated as follows: Irish Equine Centre (IEC) €900K, ITBA (Irish Thoroughbred Breeders' Association) €450K, ITM (Irish Thoroughbred Marketing) €450K. The IEC also got also got a once-off allocation of €100k for a scanner.

## Foal Levy Review

IFA has called for a review of the Thoroughbred Foal Levy Regulation (S.I. No. 735 of 2011), specifically to look at the wording on how stallion fees are arrived at, so that a levy can then be deducted. The existing Regulation refers to the "advertised value of the nomination fee".

IFA's position has always been that a fairer option is to collect the levy on the actual stallion fee paid by the breeder, as there can be a vast difference between the advertised fee and the actual fee paid. This statutory levy is paid by breeders on all thoroughbred foals born in Ireland. IFA met with Department of Agriculture Officials to discuss breeders' concerns with the

existing Thoroughbred Foal Levy and raised a number of key issues around the Regulation, which the Department are now considering.

IFA is also proposing that any such review should focus on the transparency on collection and allocation of the funding. For the most part, breeders are unaware of who the beneficiaries are and more importantly how their money is actually spent on their behalf by the three main beneficiaries – IEC, ITM and ITBA.

## 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.

## Brexit

IFA engaged with HRI, ITBA and ITM on the implications of Brexit for the Irish Equine Industry. IFA has highlighted to the Brexit Task Force Team in COPA / COGECA 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

IFA continues to liaise with Horse Sport Ireland (HSI) for discussions on the industry with the Traditional Irish Horse Association (TIHA) on issues relating to retaining the identity of the traditional Irish horse.

## 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.

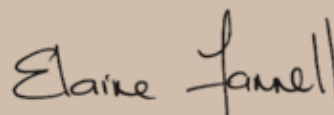
## COPA-COGECA

James Murphy continued in his role as Chairman of the COPA-COGECA Horse Group representing Irish horse breeders in Brussels where the following were the key issues were covered.

- Much consultation on the Guide to Good Animal Welfare Practice for the Keeping, Care, Training and Use of Horses – where COPA argued for more common sense and flexibility. Concern expressed from Member States that this Guide would become law on horse welfare in individual countries or would overrule existing national legislation. COPA sought and got clarification that this document is only ever intended to be a guide on animal welfare. COPA established the overriding point that the owner / handler must be recognized as knowing what works best for each individual horse.
- Spoke at EU Parliament Brexit event to highlight the risks Brexit posed to the horse sector including Border Controls, movement of horses and staff and the importance of retaining the Tripartite Agreement.
- Meeting with DG Sante in imported horse meat controls and likely AMR (Anti-Microbial Resistance) Regulations
- Meeting with DG Agri on ensuring the horse sector is not discriminated against in the 2020 – 2027 CAP reform



Richard Kennedy  
Chairman, Horse Project Team

Elaine Farrell  
National Horse Executive



# INPUTS PROJECT TEAM

*IFA Inputs Project Team Chairman John Coughlan & Renewables Executive Fintan Conway meeting with David Hopkins MD, CF Industries, the largest nitrogen manufacturer in the world, seeking support for the abolition of anti-dumping duties on non-EU ammonium nitrate fertiliser imports.*



# FERTILIZERS EUROPE AND ITS MEMBERS NEED TO WAKE UP AND REALISE THAT WITHOUT A VIBRANT EU AGRICULTURE THEY HAVE NO FUTURE

## IFA Fertiliser Campaign Delivers 30% Reduction in AD Duties

IFA 2-year fertiliser campaign secured a 30% reduction in anti-dumping (AD) on Russian ammonium nitrate imports. IFA President Joe Healy said, "The €15/t reduction on ammonium nitrate antidumping (AD) duties by the Commission is a welcome move. The move should realign CAN price downwards by €12/t. The reduction vindicates IFA's case that EU farmers are the injured party and not the fertiliser industry. DG Trade's investigation rightly concluded that:

- The EU industry had restructured significantly since the 2002 review.
- There was no evidence of undercutting from Russia.
- No injury to the EU industry was found under the last 2 reviews.
- The EU industry retains an unusually high market share of greater than 90%

John Coughlan, Project Team Leader said, "However, the current measure does not go far enough. EU and Irish nitrogen prices are much more expensive than world prices. Lack of competition has allowed EU fertiliser producers to push through very significant price increases over the last 5 months. New season CAN is up by over 50 EUR per tonne and ammonium nitrate by almost 75 EUR per tonne. DG Trade must now terminate the AD measure in the upcoming 2019 expiry review. The resulting reduction of €32/t will bring EU prices more in line with world prices. The Commission must also conduct a full Union Interest Test. This will clearly show that more needs to be done to align EU fertiliser prices to world prices. They must now move to abolish the 6.5% customs duty on certain non-EU fertiliser imports."

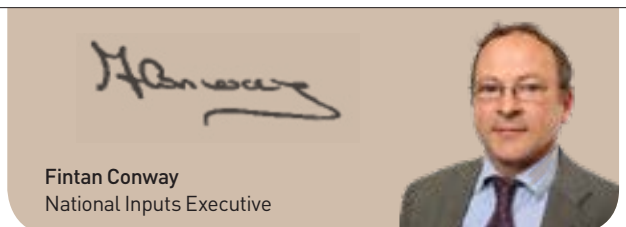
Fertilizers Europe and its members need to wake up and realise that without a vibrant EU agriculture they have no future. And that farmers also are entitled to earn a decent income. IFA will continue its campaign for the termination of all fertiliser import duties and tariffs.

## Insurance costs

Insurance costs have soared over recent years to exorbitant levels and are threatening the viability of many farms, contracting businesses and SMEs. Several studies have shown that awards under the Irish court system are significantly higher than across many other EU jurisdictions and this is resulting in excessive premiums. IFA will be campaigning for a reform of the system to ensure that awards are brought into line with the EU norm.



*COPA delegation led by IFA attending oral hearing with DG Trade TDI Defence Team articulating the case for the abolition on AD duties on nitrogen imports.*



# SPECIAL AREAS OF CONSERVATION (SACs) PROJECT TEAM

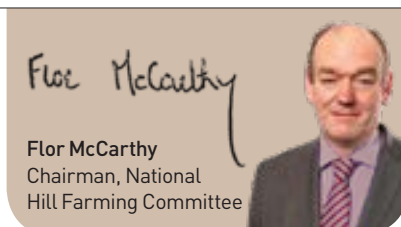


## The SAC Project deals with all aspects on the implementation of the Habitats Directive including SACs, SPAs and NHAs to protect farmer's rights.

- The priority issue for the Project Team was the review of the 1997 and 2004 Agreements.
- Several meetings were held throughout 2018 with the National Parks and Wildlife Service where IFA set out our key priorities.
- These included a proper compensation scheme through the restoration of the NPWS Farm Plan Scheme
- Farmers should have choice to include land that is designated in this scheme with the remaining land having the option to be put into GLAS or a similar type Agri – environment scheme.
- IFA has clearly pointed out that the current arrangements under GLAS Natura measure is inadequate and does not properly compensate farmers.
- Further meetings are planned on this vital issue with a view to getting compensation for the restrictions imposed by designation.
- The Project Team were also involved along with the Hill Committee in getting the 2018 Heritage Bill through the Dail. Intensive lobbying resulted in getting the period to burn gorse from the end of Feb to the end of March and the hedge cutting date extended in certain instances to include August.
- The Hen Harrier threat response group met during the year and IFA criticised the delay in getting a farm scheme up and running as well as allowing planting of forestry which has been banned since 2010.
- IFA had been raising for some time the issue of Natura land for eligibility for BPS. Under the BPS terms and conditions Article 32 has been allowed where land was eligible in 2008 but due to the restrictions imposed the land has become ineligible. Following on inspections over a number of years the Department of Agriculture reported to the Charter of Rights the results. A total of 41 cases were allowed in 2016 and 13 cases in 2017. This was out of a total of 1,300 inspections during that period. Successful farmers will be due a refund. IFA will be continuing to pursue this issue.
- The project team are engaged in the CAP discussions and will be ensuring that Natura land is supported.
- In the ANC review Natura land was taken into account in determining natural handicap.
- IFA also participates in the Peatland Council to ensure farmers who have turfcutting restrictions are properly compensated. 3,500 farmers get compensation worth €5m each year.



*Joe Healy IFA President and Padraic Joyce IFA SAC Project Team Chairman with farmers from the Shannon Callows protesting outside the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht on a compensation scheme for designations.*



# RENEWABLES & ALTERNATIVE LAND USE PROJECT TEAM

*IFA Renewables Project Team Chairman Tom Short & IFA commodity chairs on a tour of C & F Green Energy Ltd.*





# GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS MUST BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR ON FARM MICROGENERATION OF ELECTRICITY FROM WIND, ROOF TOP SOLAR PV ETC. AS THIS WILL BE KEY COMPONENT IN DECARBONISING IRELAND'S ECONOMY.

IFA Renewables Project Team Leader Tom Short said, "Government supports are critical for the sustainable development of renewables. If Ireland is to meet its EU renewable targets and address security of supply issues it is important that the full range of renewable technologies available are deployed and adequately supported under grant aid / tariff schemes. Microgeneration is an important component in meeting renewable energy targets and must be facilitated. In Germany 31% of renewable electricity is produced from microgeneration."

The successful development of renewable energy projects across much of EU has been predicated on providing the proper financial supports as green energy generation is more expensive than that from fossil fuels. Investing in Ireland's circular bioeconomy will generate significant high value employment in the regions while dramatically reducing agriculture's carbon footprint. In addition it will help reduce our over dependence on imported energy.

## Community involvement key to the success of Ireland's circular bio-economy.

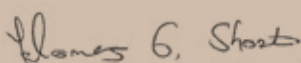
Farm scale community-based biobased / renewable energy projects deliver significant value added to rural communities as they utilise local resources, including labour. This results in a significant spin off into local communities, as has been the experience across many EU Member States. In addition, farm-based projects will help to decarbonise food production. "Numerous EU studies have shown that rural employment and development thrives on the back of a dynamic bioeconomy

/ bioenergy sector. By their nature biomass / bioenergy feedstocks are for the most part relatively high volume and low value. As a result, collection and processing facilities must be located close to the feedstock source. This in turn leads to significant employment in the wider rural economy. Further investment in Ireland's bioeconomy, particularly the bioenergy sector, will greatly expand employment opportunities in the regions taking pressure off urban centres. More importantly it will allow for the sustainable expansion of primary agriculture and Ireland's agri-food sector through the further decarbonisation of food production and the abatement of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions."

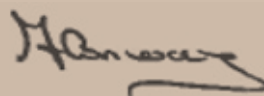
The financial viability of medium sized farm scale community-based projects is very much dependent on certainty around income generation. Financial institutions and investors will not become involved in or back off these projects unless there is a guaranteed cashflow."

## Building the circular bioeconomy will deliver a win-win for Ireland

Investing in the development of Ireland's rural bioeconomy / bioenergy sector is a win-win situation. It will enable Ireland to meet its renewable energy targets, enhance energy security, further decarbonise food production while creating sustainable high value employment in the regions.



**Tom Short**  
Chairman, Renewables Project Team

**Fintan Conway**  
National Renewables Executive



# RETAILER, PROCESSOR AND CONSUMER RELATIONS PROJECT TEAM

*IFA President Joe Healy, Horticulture Chairman Paul Brophy and Dairy Chairman Tom Phelan discuss with Minister for Business, Enterprise & Innovation Heather Humphreys TD, the enforcement of the Grocery Goods Regulations by the CCPC and the appointment of an Independent Retail Regulator for the food sector.*



## 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.

## EU Directive on Unfair Trading Practices (UTPs) in the Food Supply Chain

IFA has welcomed the initiative by Phil Hogan EU Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development in prioritising the imbalance in the food supply chain and recognising the vulnerability of producers in it.

The Directive, provides for the introduction of a common European framework, giving a minimum level of protection for farmers and other suppliers of agri-food products, banning 16 UTPs. It also provides to have agreed fairer contractual relations in the agri-food chain, so that farmers and medium-sized producers in the agri-food sector will be able to count on stronger protection against abuses coming from their bigger trading counterparts, such as processors and retailers.

The agreed measures will complement those already existing in member states, which will be able to take further measures in the future. The Directive includes a review clause set at 4 years.

## Designation of a Public Authority

The EU Directive provides for the designation of 'a public authority' for the purpose of enforcement. IFA's experience is that an Independent Retail Regulator with a specific remit is required, similar to the UK Grocery Code Adjudicator which has proved to be a game-changer.

In Ireland's case, this function is being subsumed in the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC), where its effectiveness is lost. The proposed Directive holds up the UK model as best practice, and this is the model that IFA wants the Irish Government to follow.

## Grocery Goods Regulations

In Ireland, 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 and no regulation on annual tendering continue to be the serious weaknesses in the Regulations.

## CCPC

Dominance in the food chain by retailers continues. There is a need for greater enforcement of these Regulations by the CCPC, the competent authority. IFA meet with the CCPC on two occasions during the year on the area of enforcement of the Regulations.

IFA met with Heather Humphreys TD Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation on the Grocery Goods Regulations and overseeing of their enforcement.

## EU High Level Forum for a Better Functioning Food Supply Chain

IFA President Joe Healy has taken up the COPA position on the EU High Level Forum for a Better Functioning Food Supply Chain where he is representing Irish and European farmers. He joins other EU non-governmental associations and federations representing agriculture production, food processing, trade, retail and distribution.



*IFA President Joe Healy in Brussels attending the EU High Level Forum for a Better Functioning Food Supply Chain with Elzbieta Bienkowska European Commissioner for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs.*

## COPA/COGECA Food Chain Working Group

IFA President Joe Healy as Chairman of the COPA and COGECA Group on the Food Supply Chain, has led the campaign on behalf of European farmers on retail dominance and UTPs. During the year, he chaired four COPA/COGECA meetings in Brussels on the Food Chain and made interventions at the European Parliament Agriculture Committee meeting when Commissioner Phil Hogan published the draft Directive on UTPs.

## Agriculture Markets Task Force (AMTF) - Market Transparency & Price Reporting

IFA President also met with DG Agri and DG Grow on the proposals in the AMTF Report. Following on from the proposed EU Directive to address UTPs, Commissioner Hogan is now working towards bringing in an Implementing Act, which will address Market Transparency, with the aim of having mandatory price reporting by Member States.

IFA has called for greater market transparency at all levels in the food chain, so that margins and profitability of processors and retailers are clearly visible.

## UK Groceries Adjudicator

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

## Joint Oireachtas Committee on Agriculture, Food and the Marine

IFA President Joe Healy presented to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on the draft EU Directive and the need for a better functioning food supply chain. He outlined to the Committee, the need for the Irish Government to transpose, without delay, the EU Directive when adopted in Brussels.

For this Directive to be effective, it will require the appointment by Government of an Independent Retail Regulator with a specific remit, to be expanded to provide the European Commission with the mandatory price reporting required, to comply with the transparency legislation that is to follow in the coming months.

Joe Healy  
Chairman, Retail Project Team



Elaine Farrell  
National Retail Executive



# DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

*IFA Farm Family Chair Caroline Farrell, IFA North Tipperary Chair Imelda Walsh & IFA North Cork Chair Anne Baker discussing the work of IFA's Diversity Committee at the Women and Agriculture Conference in Killarney.*



# IN IRELAND 12% OF THE AGRICULTURAL WORKFORCE ARE WOMEN COMPARED WITH THE EU AVERAGE OF 35%.

IFA established the Diversity Committee to look at measures that would increase women's involvement within the Association. The terms of reference for the project team are as follows:

- Examine the current measures designed to increase the involvement of women within the Association.
- Seek submissions from members and the wider agricultural community.
- Develop proposals, for presentation to National Council, to improve the involvement of women.

The Committee is chaired by Amii McKeever, Editor of Irish Country Living with the Irish Farmers Journal and is comprised of the five female IFA County Chairs, the Farm Family & Social Affairs Chair, Caroline Farrell, Jer Bergin (former Treasurer) and John Hanley (former Roscommon Chair), Tom Collins, Educational Policy Analyst and Chair of DIT and Orla O'Connor, Director, National Women's Council of Ireland.

In Ireland 12% of the agricultural workforce compared with the EU average of 35% are women. 27% of Ireland's farm workforce are women, of these women workers, only 22% or 16,200 were holders of the farm. This shows a significant

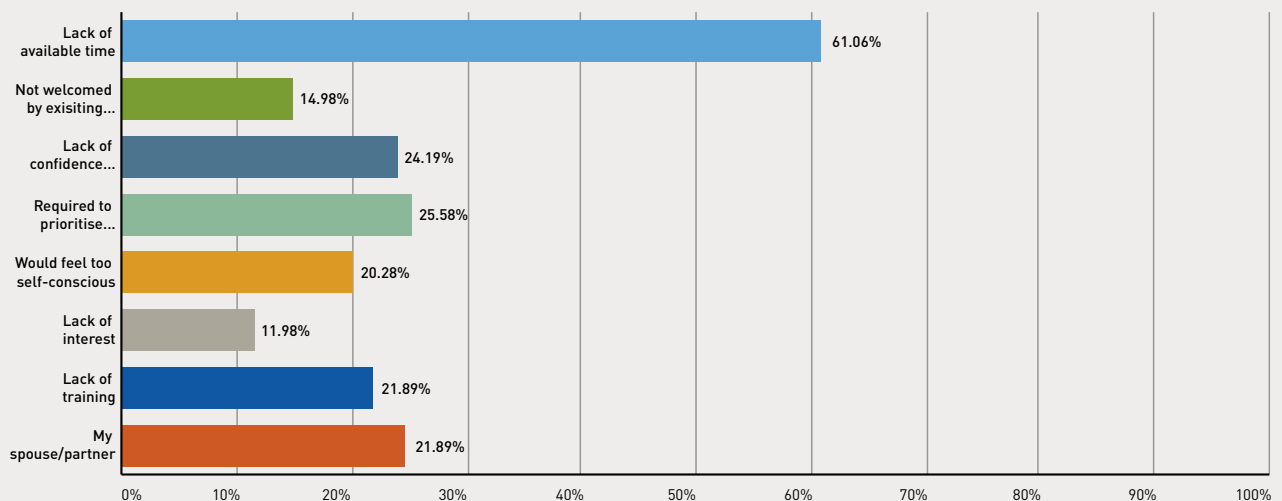
gender imbalance within agriculture with 78% of farm holders being male.

As part of the work of the project team, analysis of the membership of the Association was undertaken. The results showed that women make up 15% of the total membership of IFA. Women's representation in the leadership of the Association is as follows: 9% of the officers on National Council, 17% of County Officers, 20% of Branch Officers, while women's representation on Commodity committees is 12%.

A Diversity in Agriculture survey was undertaken with over 1,000 people completing the survey during the National Ploughing Championships and online. The overall findings indicated that 95% believe women play an important role on farms; 90% believed women should be involved in the leadership of farming organisations, with 85% either agreeing or strongly agreeing there was under-representation in farming organisations due to family/off farm family commitments. The main barrier cited by women regarding getting involved in farming organisations was time (see Figure 1).

The Committee are currently developing recommendations, which will be presented to National Council in early 2019.

Figure 1. Barriers to women's involvement in the Association.



*Amii McKeever*

Amii McKeever  
Chairperson, Diversity  
Committee



*Geraldine O'Sullivan*

Geraldine O'Sullivan  
National Diversity  
Executive



# ORGANIC AGRICULTURE PROJECT TEAM

*IFA Organic Chairman Nigel Renaghan representing Irish organic farmers at an Organic conference in Amsterdam in 2018.*





Following his election to position of Regional Chairman for the North Leinster and Ulster region, Nigel Renaghan was appointed Chairman of the newly formed IFA Organic Project Team in 2018. Organic agriculture is a relatively fledgling sector within Irish agriculture, and is not as developed as most other EU member states.

Consumer demand for certain agricultural produce, vegetables in particular, but also dairy, and meat to a slightly lesser extent, is growing at an exponential rate. Certified organic animal feed is a limiting factor in producing extra dairy and meat, to meet the year-round growing demand for these products.

Under the chairmanship of Nigel Renaghan, a group of certified organic producers, covering all areas of production was assembled through the IFA Commodity Committee structure system and two meetings of the Project Team were held in May and June of 2018. The current DAFM Organic Support Scheme was closed to new entrants and for participants to re-enter the scheme. Re-opening the scheme was the top priority of the IFA Project Team and the Chairman Nigel Renaghan led lobbying efforts to reopen the organic scheme in 2018.

The Organic Scheme is a financial aid to farmers to convert and to maintain organic agricultural production. In June 2018, The Department of Agriculture announced a consultation

period for all stakeholders in organic agriculture to make a detailed submission on all aspects of the organic scheme, should it reopen, and where stakeholders would prefer to see the scheme directed in the future. Following another meeting of the IFA Organic Project Team, a submission was sent to the Minister requesting a meeting in an effort to re-open this scheme.

In advance of the announcement of the Organic Scheme being reopened for a limited period in November 2018, the Chairman Nigel Renaghan led a delegation to meet Minister Andrew Doyle to discuss the IFA organic submission and details of the new scheme. Ongoing issues will be raised at upcoming meetings of the Organic Project Team and followed up with relevant certified bodies, Bord Bia, and the DAFM.



**Nigel Renaghan**  
Chairman, Organic Agriculture  
Project Team




**Robert Malone**  
National Organic Agriculture  
Executive



# COMMUNICATIONS, OIREACHTAS LIAISON & ORGANISATION





# COMMUNICATIONS

*IFA President Joe Healy discusses the IFA-commissioned report on the beef sector written by Professor Thia Hennessy with RTE's Agriculture Correspondent George Lee at the Tullamore Show.*



# ANALYSIS OF THE MAIN BROADCAST NEWS PROGRAMMES DURING 2018 SHOWS THAT OUR MESSAGE ON THE KEY ISSUES REACHED AN AUDIENCE OF OVER 24.5 MILLION PEOPLE (SOURCE: JNLR)

## 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 main issue during the year was the impact of the fodder crisis. Analysis of the main broadcast news programmes during 2018 shows that our message on the key issues reached an audience of over 24.5 million people (Source: JNLR).

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].

## Appointment

Ethel Horan has been appointed Communications Manager. She succeeds Brigid Fitzgerald who played a central role in building up our communications, particularly online, since 2014. We wish her well in her new role.

Ethel has strong experience in the internal communications area & she will be leading out a revamp of our regional communications during the first half of 2019.

## IFA website

IFA's main online platform - [www.ifa.ie](http://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 2018.

More than 220,000 users accessed the IFA website during 2018 – almost 80% of these were new users. In total, the website was accessed more than 430,000 times during the year, with nearly 1.2m page views. The most popular content on the website during 2018 included: market reports, latest news, schemes and payments, sector pages, and member benefits. 65% 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, with over 6,000 downloads in total, with the app launched 2,700 times daily. It has 10,000 daily page views.

## Social media

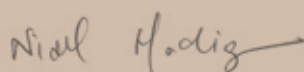
IFA has continued to develop its presence and impact on social media, increasing to over 16,400 Twitter followers. This represents an increase of 28% during 2018. On average, 10,000 people view IFA tweets each day. IFA also maintains a Facebook account, which has grown its followers by 50% during 2018.

## Email

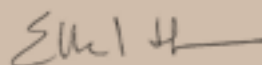
A monthly Dairy Newsletter is issued via email to dairy membership. We plan to continue to build on and expand email communications during 2019.

## Internal communications

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



Niall Madigan  
National Press Officer

Ethel Horan  
Communications Manager



# OIREACHTAS LIAISON

*Officers from Cork IFA go through the main priorities of our pre-Budget submission with Minister for Older People Jim Daly & Senator Tim Lombard.*



# IFA HAS MADE 923 LOBBYING ENTRIES OVER NINE 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 2015 – 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 923 lobbying entries over nine 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.

## Lobbying Regulation – Code of Conduct

In 2018, IFA made a submission to the 2018 Code of Conduct for Persons Carrying on Lobbying Activities (effective from 1st January 2019)

### IFA Lobbying Campaigns in 2018 included:

- Brexit
- EU Multi-Financial Framework Post 2020 / Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) Budget
- Climate Change / Climate Action
- Live cattle exports
- Review of the Areas of Natural Constraints (ANCs)
- Heritage Act 2018
- River Shannon Maintenance Programme / Flooding
- Stamp Duty Relief for Farm Consolidation - Finance Act 2017
- Budget 2019



*Martin Kenny TD Sinn Féin Spokesperson on Agriculture at IFA's Budget 2019 briefing of Oireachtas Members.*

*Lisa Chambers TD Fianna Fáil Brexit Spokesperson in discussions with Mayo IFA on the challenges for the Farming and Agri-Food Sector in Brexit.*



- Finance Bill 2018
- Rural Crime Prevention and Farm Security
- Charter of Farmers' Rights
- Transitional Provisions for Pig and Poultry Producers under the review of the Nitrates Regulations
- 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



- Hen Harrier Threat Response Plan
- Rural Development Programme (RDP) 2014 – 2020
- Industrial Development (Amendment) Bill 2018
- EU Citizens' Dialogues on the Future of Europe
- National Emergency Response Group - Storm Emma
- Independent Aquaculture Licence Review
- Contributory Pensions
- Fair Deal Scheme
- Mushroom Industry - implication of Sterling Devaluation
- Agri-cashflow loans
- Solar Energy
- Deer Management
- Glyphosate
- Scheme of Investment Aid for the Development of Commercial Horticulture Sector
- Johnes Disease Control Programme
- Consumer Protection (Regulation of Credit Servicing Firms) (Amendment) Bill 2018 - Vulture Funds
- 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
- Water Environment (Abstraction) Bill 2018
- Competition in the EU Fertiliser Market
- Thoroughbred Foal Levy
- Sheep Welfare Scheme
- Compulsory Electronic Identification of Sheep (EID)
- Greenways
- TB Eradication Programme
- Organics Scheme
- Incentive Scheme to Grow Catch Crops

**IFA made presentations in 2018 to the following Joint Oireachtas Committees:**

- Agriculture, Food & the Marine on
  - Climate Change,
  - draft EU Directive on UTPs,
  - IFA Beef Report The Economic and Societal Importance of the Irish Suckler Beef Sector
- Communications, Climate Action and Environment on
  - Climate Change
  - Waste Tyre Management
- Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform on
  - Vulture Funds
- Justice and Equality on
  - Community Policing and Rural Crime
- Climate Action –
  - IFA response to the 3rd Report of the Citizens' Assembly

**IFA made submissions to the following:**

- Joint Oireachtas Committee on Agriculture, Food & the Marine on the Impact of Brexit on Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
- Joint Oireachtas Committee on Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform on the Consumer Protection (Regulation of Credit Servicing Firms) (Amendment) Bill 2018
- Initial Public Consultation – National Energy & Climate Plan 2021 – 2030 Ireland
- review of the provisions to both the Casual Trading Act 1995 and the Occasional Trading Act 1979
- Seanad Public Consultation Committee on the issue of fostering and sustaining the Irish Small and Medium sized business sector.
- Standards in Public Office Commission on Consultation on "Code of Conduct for persons carrying on lobbying activities"
- Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government on the Water Environment (Abstraction) Bill 2018
- Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine on the development of the organic sector in Ireland



Elaine Farrell  
Oireachtas Liaison Executive

# ORGANISATION

*An evening celebrating IFA corporate partnerships. IFA Director of Organisation James Kelly, Vodafone CEO Anne O'Leary, IFA President Joe Healy, FBD CEO Fiona Muldoon and eir CEO Carolan Lennon discussing the range of benefits and services available to IFA members.*



## IFA MEMBERS SAVE UP TO €750 FROM THEIR BENEFITS PACKAGE.



Chairman of IFA Member Services Tim Cullinan with IFA Marketing Manager Jessica McGrath and IFA Director of Organisation James Kelly announcing that 15,000 members can now access fibre broadband with IFA Telecom.

### Member Benefits & Services

The member benefits and services package associated with IFA Membership significantly outweighs the membership subscription cost with over 70% of members saving up to €750 annually.

IFA Member Services continues to act as an important check in with members to thank them for their membership. In addition our customer service department which offers the opportunity to talk directly to an agent dealt with over 100k calls, member queries and other membership related issues in 2018. A continuous effort is maintained around reviewing and improving the benefits package and services we have for our members including:

#### Farm & Home Business

- Personal Accident Cover with FBD
- €75 off motor, home & farm insurance with FBD
- Exclusive savings on home phone / broadband & exceptional customer service with IFA Telecom
- High speed Fibre broadband for members with IFA Telecom
- 10% off and €140 cash back with Bord Gáis Energy

- Exclusive discounts and a wide range of mobile handsets with Vodafone
- Competitive mobile phone and mobile broadband price plans with Vodafone
- Exclusive mobile upgrade offers with Vodafone
- Up to €300 off with ifac

#### Leisure/Travel/Lifestyle

- 15% off with Original Irish Hotels
- 15% off motorist fares with Stena Line
- 20% off family tickets for Dublin Zoo
- 10% off global car hire and 15% off van hire with Hertz
- 12% off health screening with the Mater Private

#### Personal Development

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



*IFA President Joe Healy and IFA Director General Damian McDonald lead an IFA delegation at a meeting with An Garda Síochána Commissioner Drew Harris. Issues such as increased Garda visibility in rural areas; the establishment of a dedicated rural crime task force; and reform of the trespass and legal system were raised.*

## Member Support Helplines

As the needs of the Associations members grow, so do the range of free member helplines and support services. Some of the most popular regularly subscribed services include:

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

## Membership

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

Membership income represented approximately 60% of operational income and supports a wide range of services for members including the local office support structure, member communications (membership card/pack, newsletters, web, social media), personal accident insurance, voluntary officer structure and participation, the member benefits programme, member supports (Debt Support Service, Direct Payments and Inspections, Legal Helpline, Pieta House) and all major activity on campaigns.

## European Involvement Fund – IFA Levy

The European Involvement Fund (EIF) income represents approximately 40% of the Association's operational income and contributes towards ensuring all farmer interests are professionally and comprehensively represented at European & International level. The income from EIF is influenced by changes in price, volumes and efficiency levels. IFA continued to engage with all levy collectors to introduce improved structures between the Association and collectors and to maximise levy returns to the Association.



*IFA President Joe Healy and Chairman of the Farm Business Skillnet Project Team Nigel Renaghan with some of the 2018 Future Leaders group. This event hosted 21 young IFA members and was held over three days.*

## Member Education and Development

The IFA'S training division – Farm Business Skillnet – provided training in 2018 to many including;

- IFA Executive Council
- National Commodity Committees
- 2018 IFA Future Leaders Programme
- Pre AGM Skills training
- Discussion Groups and IFA Branches on Health & Safety, First Aid, People Management, Strategic Planning, Agri Law, Dairy Business Seminars, Farm Safety Statements preparation, Labour Management

## Crime Prevention

IFA's Crime Prevention Office had a busy 2018 helping members and rural communities combat the threat of loss and business interruption. Through awareness campaigns, practical Crime Prevention tips were provided at critical periods to give IFA Members a reminder and to encourage them to be to be proactive in security matters and how to secure and protect property.

IFA raised rural crime and security matters through engagements with the following:

- Justice and Equality Committee of the Oireachtas
- An Garda Siochana Police Commissioner
- The Garda Inspectorate
- The Policing Authority
- Rural crime prevention officers

Tim Cullinan  
Chairman, Member Services



James Kelly  
Director of Organisation



# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS





# STATEMENT OF NATIONAL COUNCIL'S RESPONSIBILITIES

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

- Select suitable accounting policies for the Association Financial Statements and then apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the relevant financial reporting framework, identify those standards, and note the effect and the reasons for any material departure from those standards; and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Association will continue in business.
- The National Council is responsible for ensuring that the Association keeps or causes to be kept adequate accounting records which correctly explain and record the transactions of the Association, 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 NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE IRISH FARMERS' ASSOCIATION

We have audited the consolidated financial statements of The Irish Farmers' Association for the year ended 31 March 2018 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 National Council, as a body. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the National 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 National Council as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

### Respective Responsibilities of the National Council & Auditors

As explained more fully in the Statement of National Council's Responsibilities the National 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 National Council's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the National 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 2018 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 2018 and of the deficit for the year then ended.



Kevin Sheehan  
For and on behalf of Deloitte Ireland LLP  
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm  
Dublin

**Deloitte.**

Chartered Accountants &  
Statutory Audit Firm

Date: 21/12/2018

# CONSOLIDATED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018

	Notes	2018 €	2017 €
<b>INCOME</b>	3	<b>16,252,849</b>	16,199,650
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	4	<b>(17,527,079)</b>	(17,717,516)
(Loss)/profit on disposal of fixed and financial assets		<b>(236,412)</b>	75,162
Interest Receivable		<b>1,030</b>	3,132
<b>OPERATING DEFICIT</b>	5	<b>(1,509,612)</b>	(1,439,572)
Share of operating surplus in associate undertakings	10	<b>98,626</b>	102,843
Gain on financial assets through profit and loss	9	<b>2,129,021</b>	2,152,790
<b>SURPLUS BEFORE TAXATION</b>		<b>718,035</b>	816,061
Taxation charge	7	<b>(1,189,612)</b>	(290,006)
<b>(DEFICIT)/SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR</b>		<b>(471,577)</b>	526,055

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

The financial statements were approved by the National Council on 20/12/2018 and signed on its behalf by:



Joe Healy (President)



Tim Cullinan (Honorary Treasurer)



Damian McDonald (Director General)

# CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018

	Notes	2018 €	2017 €
Retained (deficit)/surplus for the year		<b>(471,577)</b>	526,055
Share of associate property revaluations		-	-
Total (deficit)/surplus for the year		<b>(471,577)</b>	526,055

# CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

## AS AT 31 MARCH 2018

	Notes	2018 €	2017 €
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
Tangible assets	8	317,092	432,984
Financial investments	9	15,451,590	15,854,283
Other investments	10	2,200,148	2,035,610
		<b>17,968,830</b>	18,322,877
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Debtors	11	1,659,868	1,148,209
Cash at bank and in hand		4,458,864	4,387,719
		<b>6,118,732</b>	5,535,928
<b>CREDITORS:</b> (Amounts falling due within one year)	12	<b>(6,076,992)</b>	(6,234,675)
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)</b>		<b>41,740</b>	(698,747)
Provision for Liabilities	13	<b>(2,163,374)</b>	(1,305,357)
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>15,847,196</b>	16,318,773
<b>CAPITAL AND RESERVES</b>			
Accumulated surplus		15,847,196	16,318,773
		<b>15,847,196</b>	16,318,773

The financial statements were approved by the National Council on 20/12/2018 and signed on its behalf by:



Joe Healy (President)



Tim Cullinan (Honorary Treasurer)



Damian McDonald (Director General)

# CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018

	Notes	Accumulated surplus €	Total €
At 1 April 2016		15,792,718	15,792,718
Total Comprehensive Surplus for the year		526,055	526,055
At 31 March 2017		16,318,773	16,318,773
Total Comprehensive Deficit for the year		(471,577)	(471,577)
<b>At 31 March 2018</b>		<b>15,847,196</b>	<b>15,847,196</b>

# CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018

	Notes	2018 €	2017 €
<b>NET CASH INFLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	14	<b>(2,268,224)</b>	(1,172,688)
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Interest received		1,040	3,594
Dividends and investment income received		157,753	194,743
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets		(33,873)	(24,304)
Payments to acquire investments		(3,396,985)	(2,136,945)
Receipts on disposal of investments		5,611,434	1,669,774
<b>NET CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		<b>2,339,369</b>	(293,138)
<b>INCREASE IN CASH AND BANK OVERDRAFT</b>		<b>71,145</b>	(1,465,826)
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT BEGINNING OF THE YEAR</b>		<b>4,387,719</b>	5,853,545
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF THE YEAR</b>		<b>4,458,864</b>	4,387,719

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018

### 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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

#### General Information and Basis of Accounting

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

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

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

#### Basis of Consolidation

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

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

#### Going Concern

The financial statements are prepared on the going concern basis. The Association had net current assets of €41,740 (2017: net liabilities of €698,747) at the balance sheet date. The National Council, having considered financing arrangements currently in place, the ability to generate cash from special reserve fund assets, likely funding requirements in the short term and given a net asset position of €15,847,196 (2017: €16,318,773), 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

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2018 (continued)

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

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

- (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 2018 (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 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 2018 (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:	2018 €	2017 €
Broadband and phone service sales	6,381,334	6,580,898
Affiliation fees	5,662,854	5,698,624
European involvement fund levies	3,196,378	2,956,428
Trust fund contributions	330,000	380,000
Investment dividend income	157,753	71,212
Other income	524,530	512,488
	<b>16,252,849</b>	<b>16,199,650</b>

All group income was earned in the Republic of Ireland.

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2018 (continued)

### 4. EXPENDITURE

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

Expenditure:	2018 €	2017 €
IFA Telecoms expenses	<b>5,896,673</b>	5,955,609
Total staff costs	<b>5,385,689</b>	5,197,802
Voluntary costs (net of Accrual release - €390K)	<b>1,181,223</b>	1,572,586
Premises	<b>477,616</b>	464,232
Communications	<b>396,198</b>	510,660
Research	<b>20,157</b>	64,334
Public relations	<b>484,085</b>	602,982
Professional fees	<b>1,415,280</b>	977,822
Affiliation fees	<b>108,595</b>	141,451
Financial charges	<b>301,583</b>	245,362
Foreign travel	<b>43,276</b>	55,760
Brussels office	<b>503,936</b>	535,840
Membership recruitment	<b>379,100</b>	404,521
Membership promotion	<b>299,655</b>	413,219
Other overheads	<b>22,088</b>	12,261
Extraordinary expenditure	<b>611,925</b>	563,075
	<b>17,527,079</b>	17,717,516

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2018 (continued)

## 5. SURPLUS ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE TAXATION

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

	2018 €	2017 €
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	123,841	150,491
Interest received	1,040	3,132

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:

	2018 €	2017 €
Group Audit Fees	21,000	19,000
	<u>21,000</u>	<u>19,000</u>

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2018 (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:

	2018 €	2017 €
<b>President</b>		
Gross Salary agreed	120,000	111,846
Less Director's fees from outside bodies	(58,518)	-
<b>Net amount charged</b>	<b>61,482</b>	111,846
<b>Deputy President</b>		
Gross Salary agreed	35,000	33,295
Less Director's fees from outside bodies	(22,000)	-
<b>Net amount charged</b>	<b>13,000</b>	33,295
<b>Director General</b>		
Salary	185,350	46,337
Employer pension contribution	27,802	6,951
	<b>213,152</b>	53,288
<b>Executive Management</b>		
Salary	458,260	479,071
Employer pension contribution	105,566	103,851
Key Management compensation	563,826	582,922
<b>National Council</b>		
Labour replacement paid in Financial year	306,840	290,040
Effect of accrual release	(190,538)	(46,523)
<b>Net amount charged</b>	<b>116,302</b>	243,517

The average remuneration for the top 15 staff in the Organisation, excluding Management was:

Salary	99,304	103,823
Effect of once-off legacy adjustment*	7,186	-
Employer pension contribution	25,049	21,733
	<b>131,539</b>	125,556

\* A new pay agreement was reached with staff during 2017 and was implemented during this financial year. This involved pay reductions for these staff. As part of this agreement certain legacy arrangements for some staff were resolved.

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2018 (continued)

### 7. TAX ON PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES

The tax charge comprises:	2018 €	2017 €
<b>Current tax on profit on ordinary activities</b>		
Irish corporation tax	<b>97,040</b>	99,294
Credit movement in deferred tax liability (Note 13)	<b>858,017</b>	190,712
Other taxes incurred	<b>234,555</b>	-
Total tax on profit on ordinary activities	<b>1,189,612</b>	290,006

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:

	2018 €	2017 €
Surplus on ordinary activities	<b>718,035</b>	816,061
Before tax 12.5% (2017:12.5%)		
Tax if charged at standard corporation rate	<b>89,754</b>	102,008
Capital allowances in excess of depreciation	<b>395</b>	257
Dividend withholding tax	<b>160,000</b>	-
Income/Expenses not taxable in determining taxable profit	<b>870,593</b>	187,741
Impact of other tax rates	<b>68,870</b>	-
Group tax charge for the period	<b>1,189,612</b>	290,006

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2018 (continued)

### 8. TANGIBLE ASSETS (GROUP)

	Office Equipment €	Fixtures and Fittings €	Motor Vehicles €	Total €
<b>Cost:</b>				
At 1/04/2017	646,051	758,172	224,090	1,628,313
Additions	32,628	1,244	-	33,872
Disposals	(28,826)	-	(61,450)	(90,276)
<b>31/03/2018</b>	<b>649,853</b>	<b>759,416</b>	<b>162,640</b>	<b>1,571,909</b>
<b>Depreciation:</b>				
At 1/04/2017	460,929	631,733	102,665	1,195,327
Charge	76,768	24,448	22,625	123,841
Disposals	(28,826)	-	(35,525)	(64,351)
<b>31/03/2018</b>	<b>508,871</b>	<b>656,181</b>	<b>89,765</b>	<b>1,254,817</b>
<b>Net Book Amount:</b>				
<b>31/03/2018</b>	<b>140,982</b>	<b>103,235</b>	<b>72,875</b>	<b>317,092</b>
31/03/2017	185,122	126,439	121,423	432,984

### 9. FINANCIAL INVESTMENTS

	2018 €	2017 €
Quoted investments at market value	<b>15,451,590</b>	15,854,283
Opening balance	<b>15,854,283</b>	13,401,929
Net (Disposals)/Additions during the financial year	<b>(2,531,714)</b>	299,564
Movement in the fair value of investments	<b>2,129,021</b>	2,152,790
Closing balance	<b>15,451,590</b>	15,854,283

Quoted investments represent shares held by the Group in publicly quoted companies or other publicly quoted investment funds. The cost of these investments was €8,155,504 (2017: €10,315,282).

#### Special Reserve Fund:

€12,184,591 (2017: €12,487,721) of the above balance relates specifically to the special reserve fund assets.

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

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2018 (continued)

### 10. OTHER INVESTMENTS

	2018 €	2017 €
<b>Unquoted Investments:</b>		
Irish Farm Centre Limited (i)	<b>2,139,056</b>	1,974,729
Other Investments (ii)	<b>61,092</b>	60,881
	<b>2,200,148</b>	2,035,610

#### (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 €348,151 (2016: profit of €542,265) before a taxation charge of €8,280 (2016: €39,066). Included in the operating profit is an amount of €144,720 (2016: €264,750) in respect of a building revaluation. The associate undertaking had combined net assets of €4,442,484 at year end (2016: €4,102,613). The carrying value of the investment in associate undertakings represents investments in associate together with a share of the associates' profit/(loss) to date, being €2,139,056 (2016: €1,974,729).

#### (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)

	2018 €	2017 €
Debtors	<b>1,609,703</b>	1,102,605
Accrued income and other receivables	<b>50,165</b>	45,604
	<b>1,659,868</b>	1,148,209



## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2018 (continued)

### 12. CREDITORS

	2018 €	2017 €
<b>Amounts falling due within one year:</b>		
Trade creditors	<b>1,160,759</b>	871,581
Pension/ staff and voluntary expense accruals	<b>1,868,200</b>	1,978,840
Professional/ Legal and other accruals	<b>784,037</b>	1,899,295
Trade Accruals	<b>1,364,213</b>	1,296,022
PAYE/PRSI/VAT	<b>899,783</b>	188,937
	<b>6,076,992</b>	6,234,675

### 13. PROVISION FOR LIABILITIES

Deferred tax is provided as follows:	2018 €	2017 €
The deferred tax balance is analysed		
Deferred tax arising in relation to quoted investments	<b>2,163,374</b>	1,305,357
Provision for deferred tax		
Opening balance	<b>1,305,357</b>	1,426,573
Movement for the current financial year (Note 7)	<b>858,017</b>	(121,216)
Balance at end of year	<b>2,163,374</b>	1,305,357

Notes to the Financial Statements for the  
Year Ended 31 March 2018 (continued)

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

	2018 €	2017 €
Operating deficit	<b>(471,576)</b>	526,055
Interest received	<b>(1,040)</b>	(3,594)
Dividends and investment income received	<b>(157,753)</b>	(194,743)
Loss/(profit) on disposal of investments	<b>210,488</b>	(73,837)
Loss/(profit) on disposal of fixed assets	<b>25,929</b>	(1,325)
Depreciation and amortisation	<b>123,841</b>	150,491
(Increase)/Decrease in debtors	<b>(511,659)</b>	765,384
Increase/(Decrease) in creditors	<b>700,333</b>	(91,688)
Fair value movements on financial assets	<b>(2,227,652)</b>	(2,249,431)
Tax paid	<b>40,865</b>	-
Net cash inflow from operating activities	<b>(2,268,224)</b>	(1,172,688)

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2018 (continued)

15. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

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

	2018 €	2017 €
<b>Financial assets</b>		
<i>Measured at undiscounted amounts receivable</i>		
Trade and other debtors (note 11)	1,609,703	1,102,605
<i>Measured at fair value through profit or loss</i>		
Investments in listed equity instruments (note 9)	15,451,590	15,854,283
<i>Measured at cost less impairment</i>		
Other investments (note 10)	2,200,148	2,035,610
<b>Financial liabilities</b>		
<i>Measured at undiscounted amounts payable</i>		
Trade and other creditors (note 12)	1,160,759	871,561

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

	2018 €	2017 €
<b>Financial assets</b>		
On financial assets measured at fair value through profit or loss	2,129,021	2,152,790
Interest or other income on financial assets measured at amortised cost	1,030	3,132

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2018 (continued)

### 16. PENSIONS

The Association now operates a defined contribution pension scheme covering certain employees. The net assets of the scheme are held in a separate trustee administered fund. The amount payable to the scheme for the year was € (2018: €652,748). The amount owed to the scheme at year end is € (2018: €154,054).

### 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;
- 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 National Council there is no ultimate controlling party or parent.

# SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

**(NOT COVERED BY THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018**

	Notes	At 31 March 2018				At 31 March 2017			
		IFA 2018 €	IFA Telecom Limited 2018 €	Consolidation adjustment 2018 €	Total 2018 €	IFA 2017 €	IFA Telecom Limited 2017 €	Consolidation adjustment 2017 €	Total 2017 €
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>									
Tangible assets		292,064	25,028	-	317,092	377,788	55,196	-	432,984
Special reserve fund assets		12,184,591	3,266,999	-	15,451,590	12,487,939	3,366,344	-	15,854,283
Financial investments		2,200,148	-	-	2,200,148	2,035,610	-	-	2,035,610
Other financial assets		-	-	-	-	5,786,625	-	(5,786,625)	-
		<b>14,676,803</b>	<b>3,292,027</b>		<b>17,968,830</b>	20,687,962	3,421,540	(5,786,625)	18,322,877
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>									
Debtors		1,266,320	393,548	-	1,659,868	748,996	399,213	-	1,148,209
Cash at bank and in hand		1,850,204	2,608,660	-	4,458,864	1,617,743	2,769,976	-	4,387,719
		<b>3,116,524</b>	<b>3,002,208</b>	-	<b>6,118,732</b>	2,366,739	3,169,189	-	5,535,928
<b>CREDITORS:</b> (Amounts falling due within one year)									
		(5,134,469)	(942,523)	-	(6,076,992)	(5,136,026)	(1,098,649)	-	(6,234,675)
<b>NET CURRENT (LIABILITIES)/ ASSETS</b>		<b>(2,017,945)</b>	<b>2,059,685</b>	-	<b>41,740</b>	(2,769,287)	2,070,540	-	(698,747)
Provision for Liabilities		(2,000,335)	(163,039)	-	(2,163,374)	(1,117,242)	(188,115)	-	(1,305,357)
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>10,658,523</b>	<b>5,188,673</b>	-	<b>15,847,196</b>	16,801,433	5,303,965	(5,786,625)	16,318,773
<b>CAPITAL AND RESERVES</b>									
Capital		-	-	-	-	-	127	(127)	-
Accumulated surplus		10,658,523	5,188,673	-	15,847,196	16,801,433	5,303,838	(5,786,498)	16,318,773
		<b>10,658,523</b>	<b>5,188,673</b>	-	<b>15,847,196</b>	16,801,433	5,303,965	(5,786,625)	16,318,773

# SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

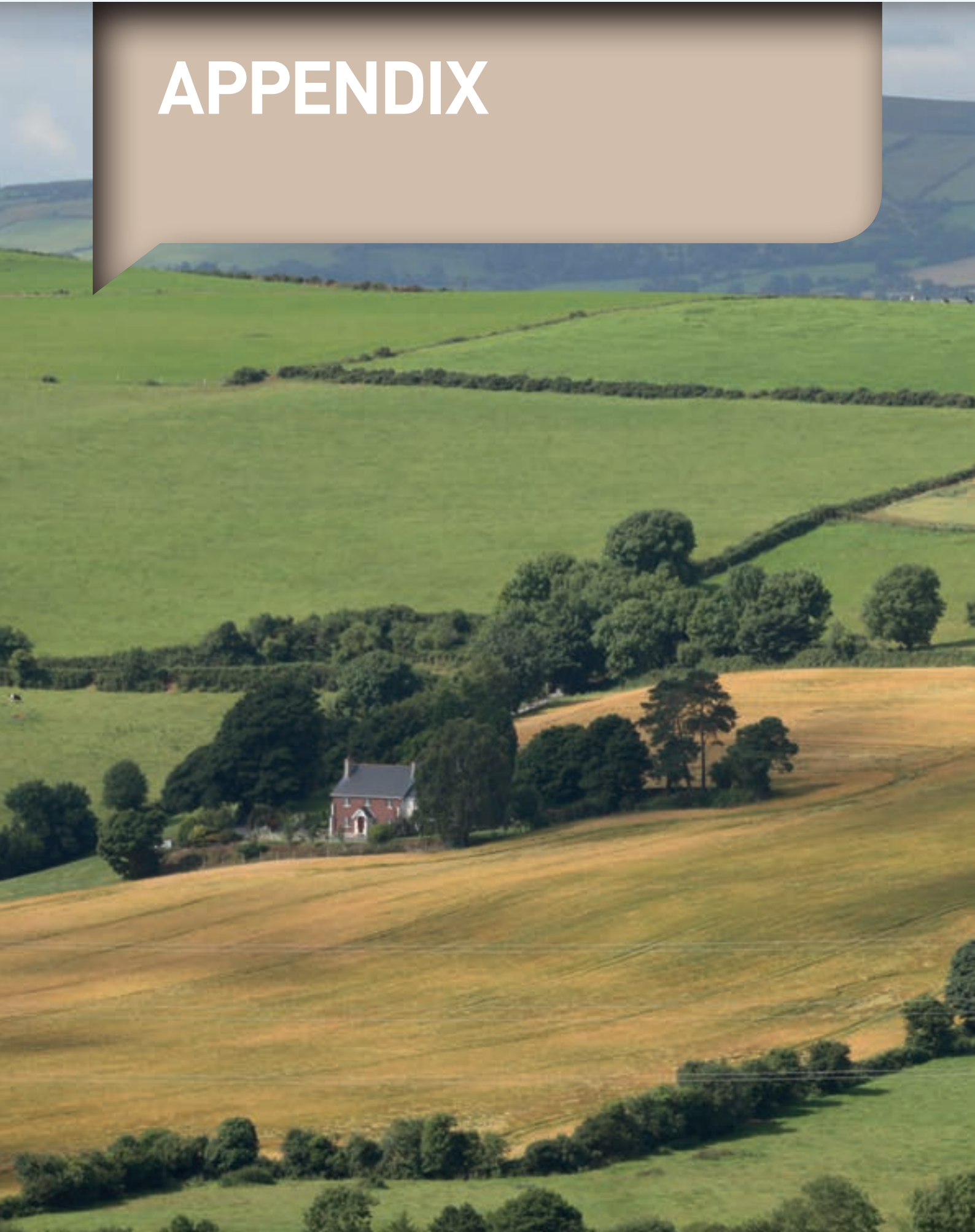
## BREAKDOWN OF RESULTS

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018

	Notes	IFA 2018 €	SRF 2018 €	Others 2018 €	IFAT 2018 €	IFC 2018 €	Total 2018 €
Operating Results		(1,965,989)	(150,229)	69,089	537,516	98,631	(1,410,982)
Tax		(51,901)	(18,666)	-	(257,040)	(3,987)	(331,594)
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)		(2,017,890)	(168,895)	69,089	280,476	94,644	(1,742,576)
Movement in Investments		-	2,092,071	-	(32,733)	69,683	2,129,021
Deferred Tax		-	(694,946)	-	(163,070)	-	(858,016)
Net Result		(2,017,890)	1,228,230	69,089	84,673	164,327	(471,571)
Dividend		640,000	-	-	(640,000)	-	-
Retained Funds		(1,377,890)	1,228,230	69,089	(555,327)	164,327	(471,571)



# APPENDIX







# REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS

DUBLIN, MEATH, LOUTH, CAVAN



Anthony Clinton

KILDARE, WEXFORD, WICKLOW



Declan Phelan

LAOIS, OFFALY, WESTMEATH



William Dolan

TIPPERARY NORTH & SOUTH, CLARE



Marcus O'Halloran

CORK CENTRAL, CORK WEST, CORK NORTH



Sean Clarke

LIMERICK, KERRY



Denis Griffin

LEITRIM, LONGFORD, ROSCOMMON, SLIGO



Adrian Leddy

DONEGAL, MONAGHAN



Turlough Slaney

CARLOW, KILKENNY, WATERFORD



Joe Kelly

GALWAY, MAYO



Roy O'Brien

# 2018 IFA COMMITTEES

## Livestock

MEMBERS 2018		
Name	Branch	County
Angus Woods	Barndarrig	Chairperson
Brendan Golden	Killala	Vice Chairperson
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 McEaney	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 2018		
Name	Branch	County
Thomas Phelan	Mountrath	Chairperson
Stephen Arthur	Rathdrum	Vice-Chairperson/Wicklow
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 Whiriskey	Kiltullagh	Galway
Michael O'Dowd	Castkernane	Kerry
Billy Barrett	Dunlavin	Kildare
James Barber	Rathdowney	Laois
Brendan Hickey	Johnstown	Kilkenny
Paddy Kennedy	Gortlettragh	Leitrim
Thomas Cooke	Hospital	Limerick
Patrick O'Neill	Mostrim	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	Boolavogue	Wexford
John Finn	Oranmore	Liquid Milk Chairman
Sean O'Leary	Mourneabbey	Co-Opted Outgoing Chairman

# IFA NATIONAL COMMITTEES

## Liquid Milk

MEMBERS 2018		
Name	Branch	County
John Finn	Oranmore	Chairperson
Eamon McEnteggart	Knockbridge	Vice-Chairperson
Denis Fagan	Kildalkey	FMP
Laurence Hannon	Moone	FMP
Michael O'Flaherty	Trim	FMP
James Mulhall	Kilkenny City	FMP
Kevin Maguire	Newtownforbes	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 2018		
Name	Branch	County
Sean Dennehy	Crookstown	Chairperson
Kevin Comiskey	Drumahair	Vice-Chairperson
John Hanbidge	Tynock-Kiltegan	Carlow
Bernard Lynch	Castlerahan- Mountnugent	Cavan
John Fitzgerald	Cratloe	Clare
Frank O'Driscoll	Glanmire	Cork (C)
Sheena McCarthy	Buttevant	Cork (N)
Denis O'Leary	Ballingeary	Cork (W)
Dessie Cunningham	Carrick	Donegal
James McGrane	North Fingal	Dublin
David Harney	Ahascragh	Galway
Francis Foley	Castlemaine	Kerry
Liam Heaney	Dunlavin	Kildare
Brian Nicholson	Johnstown	Kilkenny
Joseph Burke	Borris-in-Ossory	Laois
Kevin Comiskey	Drumahair	Leitrim
Sean Lavery	Shanagolden	Limerick
Gerard Belton	Abbeysrule	Longford
Eoin White	Cooley	Louth
Patrick Chambers, Jnr	Derrada	Mayo
Edward Cassidy	Nobber	Meath
Colm McKenna	Aughnamullen	Monaghan
Enda Bracken	Killoughey	Offaly
Michael Glennon	Moore	Roscommon
Rose McDonnell	Templeboy	Sligo
J.P. Ryan	Borrisoleigh	Tipperary (N)
John Crosse	Cashel	Tipperary (S)
Patrick Cooney	Ballymacarbry	Waterford
William Fox	Tubberclair	Westmeath
Patrick Murray	Monaseed	Wexford
Selena MacKenzie	Barndarrig	Wicklow

# IFA NATIONAL COMMITTEES

## Pig & Pigmeat

MEMBERS 2018		
Name	Branch	County
Thomas Hogan	Anglesboro	Chairperson
Vincent Conefrey	Ballinalee	Vice-Chairperson
Oliver Leddy	Redhills	Cavan
Michael Maguire	Billis	Cavan
Brendan Doherty	Malin	Donegal
Donal Brady	Abbeysrule	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 2018		
Name	Branch	County
Mark Browne	Caim	Chairperson
George Mason	Ardfinnan-Grange	Vice-Chairperson (R.I.P.)
George Hatton	Bennekerry- Tinryland	Co. Carlow
David O'Brien	Ardfield	Co. Cork
Liam Dorgan	K'Vullen-CT'Roche-Shanballymore/Fermoy	Co. Cork
James Hegarty	Glenville / W'Grasshill / Glanmire	Co. Cork
Peter Lynch	Newtowncunningham	Co. Donegal
Patrick Dehaene	Rolestown - Oldtown / Lucan	Co. Dublin
John Daly	Tynagh	Co. Galway
Eamonn Mc Elligott	Lixnaw	Co. Kerry
Robert Chambers	Athy	Co. Kildare
Timmy Bryne	Kilkenny City	Co. Kilkenny
Anthony Reynolds	Edgeworthstown	Co. Longford
John Carroll	Dunleer	Co. Louth
James Murray	Keellogues / Balla	Co. Mayo
Dermot Ward	Navan	Co. Meath
Joe Bracken	Eglisli - Drumcullen	Co. Offaly
Mervyn Auchmuty	Knockcroghery	Co. Roscommon
Philip Tierney	Terryglass	Co. Tipperary
Edward Morrissey	Dunhill	Co. Waterford
Christopher Dolan	Sonna	Co. Westmeath
Isaac Wheelock	Davidstown	Co. Wexford
James Hill	Barndarrig	Co. Wicklow
Kieran McEvoy	Durrow / Portarlinton	Co. Laois
Brian Lazenby	Athy	Co. Kildare
Liam Dunne	Athy	Co. Kildare
John Murphy	Monageer	Co. Wexford

# IFA NATIONAL COMMITTEES

## Farm Business

MEMBERS 2018		
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 Mc Cormick	Threemilehouse	Monaghan
Joseph Parlon	Aghancon	Offaly
Patrick Leonard	Kiltoom	Roscommon
Kathleen Henry	Skreen	Sligo
Michael Kennedy	Nenagh	Tipperary (N)
Bernadette Quinn	Fethard	Tipperary (S)
James Power	Kilmacthomas	Waterford
Paul Slevin	Turin	Westmeath
John Mallick	Tinahely	Wicklow
Thomas Doyle	Camolin	Co-opt

## Environment & Rural Affairs

MEMBERS 2018		
Name	Branch	County
Thomas Cooney	Laragh	Chairperson
George F 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
Eamon Cleary	Ardconey	Tipperary (N)
Peter Farrell	Cahir	Tipperary (S)
Eleanor Kiely	Old Parish	Waterford
Adrian Elliott	Tubberclair	Westmeath
James Brennan	Rathnure	Wexford
David Johnson	Barndarrig	Wicklow
Harold Kingston	Barryroe	Co Opt

# IFA NATIONAL COMMITTEES

## Farm Family & Social Affairs

MEMBERS 2018		
Name	Branch	County
Caroline Farrell	Athy	Chairperson
Bernadette O Driscoll	Valentia	Vice Chairperson
Sinead Brophy	Tullow	Carlow
Elizabeth Tilson	Sheelin	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 Mc Carthy	Bohernabreena	Dublin
Anne Mitchell	Menlough	Galway
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 Gacquin	Curraghboy	Roscommon
Margaret Gormonly	Tubbercurry	Sligo
Kathleen Hogan	Toomevara	Tipperary
Breda Keane	Kilmacthomas	Waterford
Mary Geraghty	Kinnegad	Westmeath
Alice Doyle	Camolin	Wexford
Martha Mitchell	Arklow	Wicklow
Maura Canning	Mullagh	Co-opt

## Potato

MEMBERS 2018		
Name	Branch	County
Thomas Mckeown	Nobber	Chairperson
Nora Sheehan	K'vullen-Ct'roche-Shanballymore	Vice- Chairperson
Neville Caldbeck	Tullow	Co. Carlow
Nora Sheehan	K'vullen-Ct'roche-Shanballymore	Co. Cork
John Griffin	Carrigaline	Co. Cork
Jimmy Rankin	Newtown Cunningham	Co. Donegal
William Monagle	Newtown Cunningham	Co. Donegal
David Garrigan	Swords	Co. Dublin
Barry Stephens	Corofin-Ballyglunin	Co. Galway
Bridget O Connor	Moyvane	Co. Kerry
Bart Maertens	Clane-Prosperous	Co. Kildare
John Doody	Mooncoin	Co. Kilkenny
Brendan Lynch	Ardee	Co. Louth
Thomas Sheridan	Kilbeg	Co. Meath
Pat Reynolds	Navan	Co. Meath
Thomas Mckeown	Nobber	Co. Meath
Shane Howell	Killeigh	Co. Offaly
Michael Healy	Moycarkey-Borris	Co. Tipperary
Sean Ryan	Ballywilliam-Templeudigan	Co. Wexford
Tom Delahunt	Ashford	Co. Wicklow
Eddie Doyle	Mooncoin	Co-opt

# IFA NATIONAL COMMITTEES

## Poultry

MEMBERS 2018		
Name	Branch	County
Andrew Boylan	Tullyvaragh	Chairperson
Nigel Renaghan	Clontibret	Monaghan
Eoin Cunningham	Broadford-Kantóher	Limerick
Nigel Sweetman	Kinsale	Cork Central
Pat O'Connell	Feoghanagh	Limerick
Ann Gernon	Louth Village	Louth
Eugene McGinnity	Aughnalshavey	Monaghan
Michael O'Hea	Clonakilty	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	Tyolland	Monaghan
David Abbott	Killeshandra	Cavan
Warren O'Connell	Carrigaline	Cork Central
John Hurley	Kildorrery	Cork North
Nigel Flynn	Clones	Monaghan
Enda Connolly	Clones	Monaghan
D Scott	Newbliss	Monaghan
Michael Murphy	Cappoquin	Waterford
Andrew Keating	Newbliss	Monaghan

## Fresh Milk

MEMBERS 2018		
Name	Branch	County
Larry Hannon	Moone	Kildare
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 McEntegart	Knockbridge	Louth

## Aquaculture Section

MEMBERS 2018		
Name	Branch	County
<b>IRISH SHELLFISH ASSOCIATION</b>		
Michael Molloy	Westport	Mayo
Kian Louet-Feisser	Cooley	Louth
Colin Whooley	Aughadown	Cork
Jerry Gallagher	Carrigart	Donegal
Tony O'Sullivan	Cromane	Kerry
Finian O'Sullivan	Bantry	Cork
Jackie Sullivan	Bere Island	Cork
<b>IRISH SALMON GROWERS' ASSOCIATION</b>		
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

## Hill Farming

MEMBERS 2018		
Name	Branch	County
Florence McCarthy	Kenmare	Chairperson
Denis Halpin	Manor Kilbride	Co. Kildare / West Wicklow
Pat Dunne	Rathdrum	Co. Wicklow
Peter Murphy	Rathdrum/Tinahely	Co. Wicklow
Richard Meaney	The Rower/Kilkenny	Co. Carlow / Kilkenny/ Wexford
Declan Mills	Cooley	Co. Louth
Frank Cunningham	Kilrossanty	Co. Waterford/ South Tipperary
Eamonn Nee	Connemara	Co Galway
Stephen Walsh	Feakle	Co Clare
Bernard C Duffy	Rosses	Co. Donegal
Shane McKeon	Drumshanbo	Co Leitrim
Benedict Gallagher	Templeboy	Co. Sligo
Tommy Mulchrone	Derrada	Co. Mayo
Teddy Creedon	Ballyvourney/ K'vullen-Ct'roche-Shanballymore	Co. Cork
Joseph Brady	Laragh	Co. Cavan



# IFA NATIONAL COMMITTEES

## Horticulture

MEMBERS 2018		
Name	Branch	County
Paul Brophy	Naas-Caragh	Chairperson
Val Farrell	North Fingal	Co. Dublin
Eddie Doyle	Mooncoin	Co. Kilkenny
James Kearns	Ballindaggin	Co. Wexford
Gerard Reilly	Drumrainey	Co. Westmeath
Cornelius Traas	Cahir	Co. Tipperary

## Rules & Privileges

MEMBERS 2018		
Name	Branch	County
Timothy Cullinan	Toomevara	Chairperson
Patrick Donnelly	Sonna	Westmeath
John Fitzgerald	Kilmeaden	Co Waterford
Pat Hennessy	Borris in Ossory	Laois
Matthew McGreehan	Cooley	Louth
James Gallagher	Kinlough	Leitrim
Billy Cotter	Castletownroche	Co Cork

## Farm Forestry

MEMBERS 2018		
Name	Branch	County
Vincent Nally	Sonna	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 Condrón	Cloghan	Offaly
Ambrose Kilcline	Roscommon	Roscommon
Michael G O Dowd	Achonry	Sligo
Patrick Ryan	Upperchurch	Tipperary (N)
Michael Ryan	Tipperary	Tipperary (S)
Kieran Mansfield	Kinsalebeg	Waterford
Nicholas Sweetman	Carnew	Wexford
Charles Tottenham	Ashford	Wicklow
Patrick Collins	Ballintubber	Mayo

# IFA NATIONAL COMMITTEES

## Rural Development

MEMBERS 2018		
Name	Branch	County
Joseph Brady	Laragh	Chairperson
Patrick Gilhooley	Ballinamore	Vice- Chairperson
Michael Eustace	Tullow	Co. Carlow
John Beglan	Mullahoran	Co. Cavan
Denis Tuohy	Whitegate	Co. Clare
Donal O'Donovan	Dunmanway	Co. Cork
Martin O'Doherty	Mitchelstown	Co. Cork
Donal Howard	Kilcorney	Co. Cork
Andrew McShea	Mitchelstown	Co. Donegal
Liam Hopkins	Bohernabreena	Co. Dublin
Eamonn Burke	Corrandulla - Annaghdown	Co. Galway
Patrick O'Connor	Ballyhar	Co. Kerry
Michael Dunne	Castledermot	Co. Kildare
Sean Fitzpatrick	Threecastles	Co. Kilkenny
Henry Burns	Mountmellick	Co. Laois
Roger Keogh	Cappamore	Co. Limerick
Emmet Duffy	Ballinallee	Co. Longford
Matthew McGreehan	Cooley	Co. Louth
Michael Biggins	Glencorrib	Co. Mayo
Tom Finnegan	Oristown	Co. Meath
Brian Treanor	Traugh Upper	Co. Monaghan
Pat Walsh	Cloghan	Co. Offaly
Padraic Corcoran	Knockcroghery	Co. Roscommon
Edward Davitt	Clonacool	Co. Sligo
Billy Collins	Cappawhite	Co. Tipperary (S)
John Heffernan	Ballymacarbry	Co. Waterford
Richard O'Brien	Fardrum	Co. Westmeath
Edward Lyng	Ballywilliam - Templeudigan	Co. Wexford
Joseph Gahan	Ballyconnell	Co. Wicklow
Padraic Joyce	Islandeady	Co-option SACS
Flor McCarthy	Kenmare	Co-options
Pat Dunne	Rathdrum	Wicklow
John Mallick	Tinahely	Wicklow

## Animal Health

MEMBERS 2018		
Name	Branch	County
Patrick Farrell	Athy	Chairperson
T.J. Maher	Killenaule	Vice- Chairperson
Shane Caroll	Rathvilly	Carlow
Maurice Brady	Laragh	Cavan
Michael Davoren	Carron-Noughaville	Clare
John Kingston	Carrigaline	Cork (C)
Pat O'Keeffe	Kildorrery	Cork (N)
Gerard Lehane	Timoleague	Cork (W)
Brendan McLaughlin	Newtowncunningham	Donegal
Brendan O'Donoghue	St. Margaret's	Dublin
Stephen Canavan	Corofin-Ballyglunin	Galway
Kenneth O'Connell	Lixnaw	Kerry
Thomas O'Connor, Jnr	Moone	Kildare
Jim Fitzpatrick	Mullinavat	Kilkenny
James Walsh	Durrow	Laois
Liam Gilligan	Manorhamilton	Leitrim
Pius Horgan	Abbeyfeale	Limerick
Tony Bohan	Ballinamuck	Longford
Edward O'Malley	Ardee	Louth
Martin Shaughnessy	Hollymount	Mayo
John McEnroe	Ballinacree	Meath
Laurence Deery	Clones	Monaghan
George Grant	Clareen-Fortal	Offaly
Louis Martin	Kiltoom	Roscommon
Seamus Cummins	Calry	Sligo
Matthew Mounsey	Toomevara	Tipperary (S)
T.J. Maher	Killenaule	Tipperary (N)
Joe Harty	Dungaravan	Waterford
Bernie MacCarthy	Kilbeggan	Westmeath
Liam O'Byrne	Tagoat	Wexford
Reg Armstrong	Ashford	Wicklow





# IFA

**The Irish Farmers' Association**

Irish Farm Centre, Bluebell, Dublin 12.

T: +353 (0)1 450 0266

E: [info@ifa.ie](mailto:info@ifa.ie)

# Your Association. Your Voice.

[www.ifa.ie](http://www.ifa.ie)