



IFA

Irish Farmers' Association

Annual Report and Review of 2023





IFA President Tim Cullinan and Chair of Limerick IFA Sean Lavery leading the protest at the Fine Gael 'think-in' as it crossed the River Shannon in Limerick in September.

President's Message **2**

Representation **4**

National Officers' Committee	5
County Chairs	5-6
Commodity Chairs	7

Director of European Affairs Report **8**

National Committee Reports **10**

Livestock	12
Dairy	14
Sheep	16

Liquid Milk	17
Pigs and Pig Meat	18
Grain	19
Farm Business	20
Potato	21
Environment and Rural Affairs	22
Poultry	24
Aquaculture	25
Hill Farming	26
Oireachtas	27
Rural Development	28
Fresh Milk Producers	30
Horticulture	31
Farm Forestry	32



Rules Privileges and Procedures	33
Animal Health	34
Farm Family and Social Affairs	37
Organisation	38
Communication	40
Project team reports	41
Direct Payment	41
SACs, SPAs and NHAs	42
Horse	43
Organic	44
Audit Committee	46

Financial Statements	48
Statement of National Council's Responsibilities	50
Independent Auditor's Report	50-51
Consolidated Income and Expenditure Account	52
Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income	52
Consolidated Balance Sheet	53
Consolidated Statement of Changes in Equity	54
Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows	55
Notes to the Financial Statements	56 - 64
Supplementary Information	65
National Council Attendance 2023	66-67
National Committees & Project Teams 2023	68-76

President's Message



IFA President Tim Cullinan addressing the 68th Annual General Meeting of the Irish Farmers' Association in the Irish Farm Centre, which was attended by the Minister for Agriculture Charlie McConalogue and Ministers of State Pippa Hackett and Martin Heydon.

The year started with our Climate Summit in Thomond Park. Following the decision to set our emissions ceiling reduction at 25%, we held the event to set down how this target could be met while maintaining the sustainable production of food. The Minister for Agriculture, Charlie McConalogue and a host of speakers from across the sector attended. The Thomond Park Declaration emerged from the discussions, which included six key principles to underpin Govt climate action policy.

The impact of climate measures would dominate for the year, with a strong IFA campaign on the move to reduce the Nitrates derogation from 250kg/ha to 220kg/ha. This will seriously and negatively impact our dairy sector and the broader land market for other sectors.

We held protests at the Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael 'think-ins' to raise the issue directly with politicians.

The Nature Restoration Law had several elements that would have been problematic for farmers. IFA campaigned here and in Brussels for changes that would remove the compulsory aspect of the regulation.

We secured some of the changes we sought and will continue to monitor any amendments.

Weather

The weather conditions proved very difficult this year, particularly for our tillage sector trying to save the harvest. While the Minister came forward with some funding from the EU Crisis Reserve, it doesn't go far enough, given the scale of the losses.

The ambition to expand the amount of tillage production will not be met unless the Govt puts in place the correct supports to restore the viability of growers' incomes.

Direct Payments

The Department of Agriculture failed to get ANC payments to farmers in September, the traditional deadline for making the payment. It created cashflow difficulties for farm families as September is an expensive month with contractor fees, co-op bills, and school expenses to be covered.

While the payment was made in October, we cannot have a situation next year where the ANC is delayed. The proper functioning of the payment system is something that farmers expect, particularly those sectors that are very reliant on direct payments for their income.

IFA held a protest outside the Dept of Agriculture to convey the frustration of farmers on a range of issues, including the delay in approving TAMS applications and the importance of having enough places for all applicants to the ACRES scheme.

TAMS and ACRES are tangible means farmers can take on the climate challenge. Any obstacles counter what farmers want to take on and official Govt policy.

Budget

The Budget did make some headway on the proposals that IFA put to the Government. Funding was provided for the suckler sector, and the increased payment to sheep farmers is a step in the right direction.

However, failing to allocate anything further from the Brexit Adjustment Reserve must be marked down as a missed opportunity.

The trade deals coming on stream between the UK and 3rd countries, particularly Australia, will impact our beef and sheep sectors.

As the sector most exposed to the impact of the Brexit vote, farmers should have been in the frontline for support.

Forestry

Following our successful forestry conference, we made some progress in dealing with the issues that continue to beset the sector. The recommendations in the report on Ash dieback will have to be implemented as speedily as possible if farmer confidence is to be restored.

IFA

2023 was a significant year, marking 50 years since our accession to the EEC. We held several events to mark EU membership's significant and positive impact on farm families.

In May, we joined forces with ICOS to host an event in Brussels that recognised a half-century of the IFA office in Brussels. The large turnout was a testament to the work of those who have worked there for IFA since the doors opened in 1973.

In November, we marked 50 years of the Irish Farm Centre and Irish farming in the European Union. EU Commissioner Mairead McGuinness was the guest of honour for members of our National Council and guests.

We have implemented rule changes to equip the Association to deal with the challenges ahead. Volunteerism is under pressure, and attracting new blood is essential if the organisation is to evolve.

We can now expand the National Officers' Committee to bring in whatever expertise is needed.

The changes conclude a process that I initiated at our 2022 AGM. We must show that we are open to new people and ideas.

For the first time, the election for IFA President had the option of returning ballots by post.

We have also agreed to limit the terms that people can serve to create space for fresh thinking.

2023 marked my final year as IFA President. Representing farmers for the last four years has been an honour and a privilege.

It has been a challenging time in office, not least because of the restrictions imposed by the pandemic. But IFA rose to the challenge and continued its important work on behalf of farmers.

I want to wish my successor well as he takes up the role.

I want to thank the membership for placing their trust in me and acknowledge the support I received from officers across the country. I do not doubt that IFA will continue its proud tradition of representing farmers to secure the best outcome on their behalf.



Tim Cullinan
IFA President

Representation



[L-R] Minister of State Martin Heydon, IFA President Tim Cullinan, Taoiseach Leo Varadkar and IFA Deputy President at the IFA AGM

National Council - Governing Body

Includes Macra President, ICOS President & Irish Farmers Journal Editor

19 National Commodity Chairs

National Committees

29 County Chairs

29 County Executives

940 Branches

Each Branch elects 4 delegates to County Executive

Over 72,000 Members
Organised through branches



Tim Cullinan
President



Brian Rushe**
Deputy President



Damian McDonald
Director General



Elaine Farrell
Director of Governance
and Oireachtas
Engagement

National Officers Committee



Harold Kingston
Munster Chair



Francis Gorman
South Leinster
Chair



Martin Stapleton*
National Treasurer
and Returning
Officer















Frank Brady
Ulster & North
Leinster Chair



Pat Murphy
Connacht Chair

COUNTY CHAIRS

CARLOW	CORK CENTRAL	GALWAY
 <p>John Nolan</p>	 <p>Conor O'Leary</p>	 <p>Stephen Canavan</p>
CAVAN	CORK WEST	GALWAY 2ND REP
 <p>Maurice Brady</p>	 <p>Donal O'Donovan</p>	 <p>John Finn</p>
CLARE	DONEGAL	KERRY
 <p>Tom Lane</p>	 <p>Joe Sweeney</p>	 <p>Kenneth Jones</p>
CORK NORTH	DUBLIN	KERRY 2ND REP
 <p>Pat O'Keefe</p>	 <p>James McGrane</p>	 <p>Mary Fleming</p>

* Stepped down as National Returning Officer, July 2023
 ** National Returning Officer, July 2023

COUNTY CHAIRS

KILDARE

Thomas O'Connor



MAYO

Jarlath Walsh



TIPPERARY STH

Pat Carroll



KILKENNY

Jim Mulhall



MEATH

Dermot Ward



WATERFORD

John Heffernan



LAOIS

John Fitzpatrick



MONAGHAN

Patrick McCormick



WESTMEATH

Richard O'Brien



LEITRIM

Liam Gilligan



OFFALY

Pat Walsh



WEXFORD

Jer O'Mahony



LIMERICK

Sean Lavery



ROSCOMMON

Patrick Leonard



WICKLOW

Thomas Byrne



LONGFORD

John Sheridan



SLIGO

Michael G O'Dowd



LOUTH

John Carroll




TIPPERARY NTH

Baden Powell



COMMODITY CHAIRS

<p>DAIRY</p> <p>Stephen Arthur</p> 	<p>RURAL DEVELOPMENT</p> <p>Michael Biggins</p> 	<p>FMP</p> <p>John Wynne</p> 
<p>ENVIRONMENT & RURAL AFFAIRS</p> <p>Paul O'Brien</p> 	<p>SHEEP</p> <p>Kevin Comiskey****</p> 	<p>HORTICULTURE</p> <p>Vacant</p>
<p>FARM BUSINESS</p> <p>Rose Mary McDonagh</p> 	<p>PIGS</p> <p>Roy Gallie</p> 	<p>MACRA NA FEIRME</p> <p>Elaine Houlihan***</p> 
<p>FARM FAMILY & SOCIAL AFFAIRS</p> <p>Alice Doyle</p> 	<p>POULTRY</p> <p>Nigel Sweetnam</p> 	<p>ICOS</p> <p>Edward Carr**</p> 
<p>FARM FORESTRY</p> <p>Jason Fleming</p> 	<p>POTATO</p> <p>Sean Ryan</p> 	<p>IRISH FARMERS JOURNAL</p> <p>Jack Kennedy*</p> 
<p>GRAIN</p> <p>Kieran McEvoy</p> 	<p>AQUACULTURE</p> <p>Michael Mulloy</p> 	<p>NOTE ICOS and IFJ are observer Members of the National Council without a vote.</p>
<p>LIQUID MILK</p> <p>Keith O'Boyle</p> 	<p>HILL FARMING</p> <p>Cáillín Conneely</p> 	<p>* Appointed Editor IFJ, February 2023</p>
<p>LIVESTOCK</p> <p>Brendan Golden</p> 	<p>ANIMAL HEALTH</p> <p>TJ Maher</p> 	<p>** Replaced James O'Donnell, June 2023</p> <p>*** Replaced John Keane, May 2023</p> <p>**** Adrian Gallagher replaced Kevin Comiskey as National Sheep Chair in November 2023</p>

Director of European Affairs Report

The year provided several unusual outcomes in terms of the legislative process, but the only surprise is that we were surprised. We shouldn't be. Farmer groups across Europe have advocated for a better consideration of the impact of recent legislative proposals on food production, a greater reliance on science in decision-making and often simply to be listened to more carefully. In the end, or rather now, towards the end of 2023, within the final 12 months of this Commission's mandate, the ask of farmers is becoming clearer, though not easier.



Michael Treacy,
Gerry Kiely, IFA President
Tim Cullinan, Alan Dukes and IFA Director of
European Affairs Liam MacHale at the event in April to mark
50 years of the IFA office in Brussels.

The Ukraine dilemma

The Commission operates as war continues to be waged within Europe, with the Middle East conflict further dividing and distracting political attention even if the food supply is less directly impacted. The breakdown of the Black Sea Grain Deal gave rise to EU market restrictions imposed by five Member States on imports of grain, rapeseed, sunflower seeds, eggs and other produce from Ukraine. On the one hand, strong solidarity for the plight of Ukrainian citizens also led to the resignation of a Minister of Agriculture in Poland over the market disruption being caused in their Member State, which borders Ukraine. Parallel political discussions discussed accelerated talks over accession to the EU for Ukraine and eight other candidate countries. The decision to enlarge would be enormous for the agriculture sector.

Environment

The European Parliament elections take place in early June 2024 and the Commission has been faced with several large files under the European Green Deal that needed to be progressed over the past twelve months. Some proposals were shelved, some amended, and others are still outstanding, but the majority have been addressed in some manner. The Nature Restoration Law survived a tight vote in Plenary in July. COPA mounted a significant campaign culminating in a farmer protest outside the European Parliament in Strasbourg, including IFA President Tim Cullinan, to defend the status quo position of the Industrial Emissions' Directive and the rejection of the Nature Restoration Law (NRL). Four months later, the Trilogue negotiations reversed some of the amendments on the Parliament NRL position that had been voted upon and agreed upon. However, rewetting of agricultural land would now be a voluntary measure. The bovine sector has been excluded from the IED proposal.

The Regulation on the Sustainable Use of Plant Protection Products was the most significant impact loser. It faced delays following the December 2022 request by the Council for additional information from the Commission, but MEPs defeated the proposal in the plenary vote in November 2023. Over ambitious targets combined with an undeniable impact on farmer income split any remaining support among MEPs. Commissioner Timmermans' statement that there would be "alternatives readily and quickly available" was not supported by reality. On the other hand, the reauthorisation of glyphosate showed the Commission in a more positive light as they endorsed the EFAS opinion, whose assessment of the impact of glyphosate on the health of humans, animals and the environment did not identify any critical areas of concern.

Irish dairy farmers currently farming under a derogation to the Nitrates Directive face a reduction of income and possible loss of stock due to the decrease in the allowance of organic nitrogen to be spread from 250kg to 170kg/ha. Despite IFA's engagement with DG Environment from February 2023, leading to meetings with Environment Commissioner Sinkevičius in Brussels and most recently in Dublin, the Commission did not waver from the reduction agreed with the Department of Agriculture based on water quality reports in Ireland over the last two years.

Trade

Negotiations in the EU-Australia Free Trade Agreement broke down after Australian negotiators pushed too hard for greater quotas in the EU's most sensitive sectors during talks on the margins of the G7 meeting in Osaka last October. EU-Mercosur talks have thus taken on greater impetus as the window for agreement closes. At this point, trade negotiators on both sides are engaged in an intense schedule of negotiations to achieve political agreement on the 2019 deal. Despite Commission assurances that concessions in agriculture are not being renegotiated, the deal still has a significant potential impact on a vulnerable EU beef market.

Ireland relies heavily on the live export of livestock, including unweaned calves from the dairy sector. The publication of the revised animal welfare legislation, specifically regarding the live transport of animals, will be scrutinised to ensure that Ireland continues to maintain unrestricted access to export markets and is disadvantaged compared to other Member States.

COPA

IFA has engaged actively in COPA during the year, including the three Vice Chair roles (Sheep, Beef and Environment) and the Food Chain working party Chair, where IFA President Tim Cullinan (COPA Vice President) was re-elected as Chair. In April, IFA celebrated the 50th year of the IFA Brussels office jointly with ICOS, coinciding with Ireland's 50-year membership of the European Union, with an event in Brussels for fellow farming and cooperative organisations, COPA COGECA secretariat, MEPs and European Commission officials.

The Future

While DG Agriculture still has competence over CAP-related issues, several other DGs have shared competence on legislation affecting farmers since the introduction of the Green Deal and the subsequent Farm to Fork strategy in 2019. The next CAP promises to bring further change as the admission to the EU of any potential new member countries will be reflected immediately in the budget available to farmers in current EU member states. The resistance to additional financial contributions shown by member states in the mid-term review of the Multi-Annual Financial Framework (MFF) needs to augur better for increased contributions when heads of state negotiate the next MFF.

While European agriculture continues to grow, note the +5% increase in the €133.5bn Agri-Food exports from the EU in January-July 2023 v's the same period in 2022, more frequent extreme climate events, an ageing farmer profile and implementation of new legislation will provide challenges into 2024 and beyond for IFA and all farming organisations.



Liam MacHale
Director of European Affairs



National Committee Reports

Livestock

Dairy

Sheep

Liquid Milk

Pigs and Pig Meat

Grain

Farm Business

Potato

Environment and Rural Affairs

Poultry

Aquaculture

Hill Farming

Rural Development

Fresh Milk Producers



IFA Director of Governance and Oireachtas Engagement Elaine Farrell, IFA President Tim Cullinan and IFA Director General Damian McDonald meeting Sinn Féin President Mary Lou McDonald, Darren O'Rourke TD and Matt Carthy TD.

Horticulture
Farm Forestry
Rules Privileges and Procedures
Animal Health
Farm Family and Social Affairs
Organisation
Communication
Project team reports

Direct Payments
SACs, SPAs and NHAs
Horse
Organic
Audit Committee

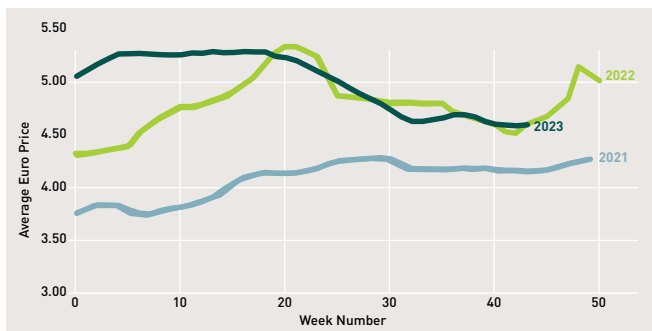
Livestock



IFA Livestock Chairman Brendan Golden, IFA President Tim Cullinan, IFA Farm Business Chair Rose Mary McDonagh and IFA Rural Development Chairman Michael Biggins attending a pre-Budget meeting with Minister McConalogue and his officials in September.

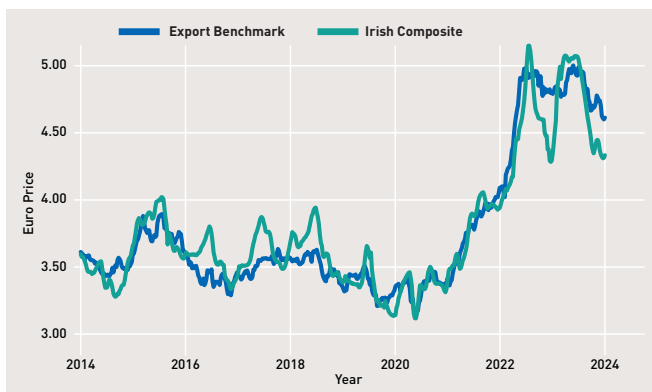
Cattle Prices

In 2023, the average price paid for R3 steers is €5.03/kg, which is 27c/kg or 5.7% higher than the same period in 2022. Steer prices for the week ending 14/10/2023 is €4.59/kg excl. VAT, which is equivalent to the corresponding week in 2022.



Source: Bord Bia

This year, the Prime Irish composite price increased 5.1% from 2022 to €4.98/kg excl. VAT. The Prime Export Benchmark price increased by 2.4% to €5.00/kg excl. VAT.



Source: Bord Bia

Supplies

Total cattle throughput has reached 1,381,842 head up to week 41 of 2023. This is a 3.6% decrease on 2022 figures to date. This reduction is evident in all categories of cattle. Steer production is back 4.1%, heifers decreased by 3.3%, cows by 1.39% and young bulls by 12%. Prime cattle categories are running 4.6% below 2022 levels. Supply forecast to year-end suggests that overall throughput for 2023 will likely show a decline of 50,000 - 60,000 head on last year.

CUMULATIVE BEEF KILL			
	W/C 09/10/2023	W/C 10/10/2022	DIFFERENCE
YOUNG BULL	93,325	106,130	-12,805
BULL	22,755	23,103	-348
STEER	544,792	568,585	-23,793
COW	307,126	311,484	-4,358
HEIFER	381,932	395,154	-13,222
VEAL - V	30,606	28,152	2,454
VEAL - Z	1,306	1,345	-39
TOTAL	1,381,842	1,433,953	120,428

Live exports

To date, 279,657 live cattle have been exported out of Ireland, representing a 15% increase from the same period in 2022. Calf exports have been robust, increasing 22% or 36,082 head from the same period in 2022. Tightening cattle numbers across Europe have contributed to a steady demand for Irish cattle during 2023, with very positive feedback from customers on the quality, health status and performance of Irish animals when they reach their destination.

IRISH LIVE CATTLE EXPORTS				
CATEGORY	2022	2023	CHANGE - HEAD	%CH
WEANLINGS	18,859	23,425	4,566	24
STORES	28,079	21,450	-6,629	24
CALVES	167,604	203,686	36,082	22
FINISHED	28,223	31,096	2,873	10
TOTAL	242,765	279,657	36,892	15

Trade Deals

IFA continue to strenuously oppose trade deals that provide additional access to our key markets for beef, including Mercosur, Australia and NZ deals that the EU are actively pursuing.

We are currently feeling the impact of the increased access provided by the UK to Australian beef, and the EU must consider this.

Our beef prices are running almost €1/kg behind UK prices, a deficit never previously encountered and can be directly attributed to the additional access granted for cheaper products.

Schemes

Suckler Carbon Efficiency programme

A funding allocation of €52m was provided for the SCEP scheme in 2023 with a payment of €150 per suckler cow available on the first 22 cows and €120/cow on the remainder. Seventeen thousand six hundred thirty-seven farmers are currently participating in the scheme with an average reference number of 25 cows. There are presently 441,346 cows eligible for payment. A further 1,510 herds are awaiting Bord Bia QA approval for the scheme and have until January 22nd January 2024, to be certified.

National Beef Welfare Scheme

A funding allocation of €28m was provided for the National Beef Welfare scheme in 2023 with a maximum payment of €50 per suckler cow. Sixteen thousand four hundred twenty-four farmers have applied to participate in the scheme. The average reference number per herd is 21 calves, with 347,607 calves eligible for payment. IFA strongly rejected the inclusion of the IBR testing measure and requested an amendment to include practical steps that avoid leakage of monies to service providers.

Dairy Beef Calf Programme

A funding allocation of €5m was provided for the Dairy Beef Calf programme for 2023. A payment of €20 per eligible calf up to a maximum of 40 is available.

National Genotype Programme

Funding for 800,000 genotype samples has been provided to the programme in year 1, with €23m of BAR funding allocated to the scheme. IFA has sought an alignment between the SCEP and the proposed National Genotyping programme regarding requirements and genotype costs to farmers.

Fodder support scheme

IFA secured a €56m fodder support package providing farmers a €100/ha payment up to a maximum of 10ha for 2023. Applicants received advanced payments of 57% in December 2022, with the balance payment to be issued in December 2023.

Food Vision Beef Group

IFA has participated in the Food Vision Beef Group throughout 2023. IFA has not signed up for the Food Vision Beef group report as the report contains no funding commitment to develop the economic viability of suckler and beef farmers. IFA made a joint Beef and Dairy submission to the Food Vision process based on providing long-term financial viability for the suckler and beef sector while addressing the concerns around dairy beef calf welfare and rearing viability.

IFA has put forward the following key points;

- The Dairy Beef Welfare Scheme incentivises farmers to rear calves from the dairy herd. The scheme must be enhanced, and the level of support increased to reflect the costs, labour and standards required.
- Direct support for suckler farmers must be increased to €300/cow to provide economic viability in the sector to ensure suckler farming is equipped to positively contribute to our climate target ambitions and continue to drive rural Ireland's socioeconomic, environmental and biodiversity sustainability.
- Farmers feeding animals for the second year of beef production will be required to play a pivotal role in achieving the climate target ambition for the sector. Farmers rearing and finishing weanling and store cattle born in suckler and dairy herds must be directly supported for this phase of the process with a minimum of €100/animal to support measures that maximise the performance of these animals.
- Young Bull finishers have the potential to positively impact the average age of slaughter of all prime cattle. They must be supported in this high-cost specialist production system to maximise the performance and viability of this livestock production system.

Budget 2024 – Minister commits to funding for €200/cow for 2023 and 2024

The Minister has committed to a payment of €200 per suckler cow for 2023 and 2024, incorporating the CAP and Nationally financed schemes. A new suckler cow scheme to run alongside the SCEP in 2024 received €20m funding, with €6.5m for a dairy beef scheme.

IFA continue to pursue €300/suckler cow payment and a minimum payment of €100 cattle rearing and finishing scheme and €100 calf rearing scheme.

PGI

The PGI application has progressed to the final stage of the process, i.e., the final consultation phase within the European Commission. Approval is expected once consultations have closed in November 2023.

Suckler Brand

The Suckler brand oversight group continues working with strategic partners to develop the brand.

Representation

The Livestock Committee represented suckler and beef farmers on several outside bodies, state agencies, and groups.

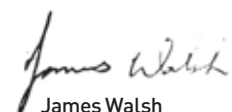
- Bord Bia
- ICBF
- FAWAC
- Beef Task Force
- Suckler Brand Oversight Group
- Farmer's Charter
- Calf Stakeholder Group
- WP on Breeding Animals
- WP on Beef and Veal
- The Meat Market Observatory
- EU Civil Dialogue on Meat and Veal



Brendan Golden
Chair, Livestock Committee



Tomas Bourke
Senior Policy Executive



James Walsh
Policy Executive

Dairy



Thousands of farmers attended a rally in Bandon, Co Cork in protest at the proposed cut in the Nitrates derogation.

Milk Price Summary

This year, dairy farmers experienced a significant correction in milk prices as commodities fell quickly in Q1 of 2023. This increased supply and weak demand was exacerbated further in the summer by poor trade with China as their economy contracted, twinned with an ample supply of milk from New Zealand at the start of their season. Since September, we have experienced some positive sentiment in the marketplace, with GDT auction and European quotes returning to positive trends. After several months of declining milk prices, the price held for September milk and returned between 33 and 36cpl (3.3% Protein and 3.6% Fat) for farmers. As quiet optimism returns to the marketplace, we hope to see a milk price rise before year-end.

2022 Milk Price Analysis

In April 2023, the 2022 Milk Price Analysis was published. This work evaluated the income generated from a typical 500,000L herd with average solids across 12 milk processors nationwide. The announcement of a 13th payment from Kerry came after our publication. The results (including the 13th payment from Kerry) are outlined in the Table below. This annual analysis has become an essential benchmarking tool for management and suppliers to assess their processor's performance. In addition to the Milk Price analysis, the monthly farmgate price at 3.3% Protein / 3.6% Butterfat is reported for several milk processors and is available to IFA members. Please get in touch with your county dairy representative to gain access to this information. Also, the interactive milk price calculator is available on the IFA website and app. This easy-to-use application allows farmers to assess how much their milk is worth in each milk processor every month based on their own constituents and milk quality results.

PROCESSOR	TOTAL REVENUE (€)	REVENUE/COW (€)	AVERAGE MILK PRICE (C/L)
DRINAGH	310,802	3614	62.16
LISAVAIRD	310,000	3605	62.00
BANDON	309,705	3601	61.94
KERRY	309,633	3600	61.93
DAIRYGOLD	309,184	3595	61.84
GLANBIA	308,451	3587	61.69
LAKELAND DAIRIES	307,481	3575	61.50
ARRABAWN	306,015	3558	61.20
AURIVO	305,243	3549	61.05
BARRYROE	304,753	3544	60.95
STRATHROY DAIRIES	303,680	3531	60.74
TIPPERARY CO-OP	300,888	3499	60.18
NORTH CORK CO-OP	295,585	3437	59.12

Table 1. Results from the 2022 Milk Price Analysis representative of the income returned from each processor for an average 500,000L supplier with average solids.

Nitrates Lobby against Stocking Rate Reductions

In securing the nitrates derogation for 2022-2025, one of the conditions agreed upon was that a reduction in stocking rate from 250kgN/ha to 220kgN/ha would be applied in areas where water quality did not improve, based on pre-determined criteria between 2021 and 2022. Since introducing this condition, the Dairy Committee has lobbied extensively to amend it due to its flawed

design. Comparing water quality results of two specific years does not consider the time lag in measuring the beneficial impact of newly introduced measures. If implemented, the proposed reduction to 220kgN/ha will be detrimental to farm incomes and disrupt the broader agricultural sector while yielding a minimal improvement in water quality. Each county lobbied their local TDs, explaining the situation's complexities in the first half of the year with the Nitrates lobby document. During the summer, we held several farm walks and county executives throughout the country with the Minister in attendance to further emphasise the toll this would have on farms. Despite a submission in August of very reasonable alternative measures proposed by IFA, the Minister failed to secure any flexibility from the Commission. The official map of areas reducing to 220kg N/ha was made available to farmers at the start of October. In November, Commissioner Sinkevicius's visit to Ireland yielded no positive news, and the 220kgN/ha stocking rate will be applied across the vast majority of the country in January 2024. At present, the Agriculture Water Quality Group is looking at revising the Nitrogen excretion rates of calves and the impact of reduced crude protein on the excretion rates of cows. If these changes are introduced in January 2024, they will provide some leverage to farmers stocked above 220kgN/ha but won't solve the entire problem.

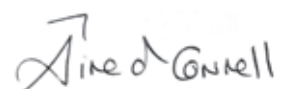
Calf Welfare

During the summer and autumn, calf welfare was put under the spotlight by the media, welfare during the transport of calves to other EU member states. As an association, we abhor any mistreatment of animals, including calves. As a dairy sector, it is essential to highlight the significant changes that have occurred on dairy farms in a short period to improve the beef genetic merit of the calves we produce and limit the number of dairy bull calves born. These include:

- The rapid uptake of sexed semen – The use of sexed semen by dairy farmers has increased by over 50% this year, which is expected to reduce the number of dairy bull calves produced by approximately 140,000 compared with the start of the decade.
- Introduction of the Dairy Beef Index in 2020 – This enables farmers to identify appropriate bulls for use on dairy dams to improve the beef genetic merit of its progeny.
- The commencement of a national genotyping scheme in 2023 – Over 600,000 dairy breeding stock are enrolled in this scheme, enabling the sector to find better animals for breeding much faster and with much greater accuracy than we do today.
- The use of the Commercial beef value figure, established in 2021, will be accelerated in 2024 as a direct outcome of the genotyping scheme. Every calf born from a genotyped dam will have a commercial beef value figure, giving buyers greater certainty of the calf's beef genetic merit.
- The inclusion of new criteria in the Bord Bia Sustainable Dairy Quality Assurance Scheme in 2024 will phase out the slaughter of newborn calves.



Stephen Arthur
Chair, Dairy Committee



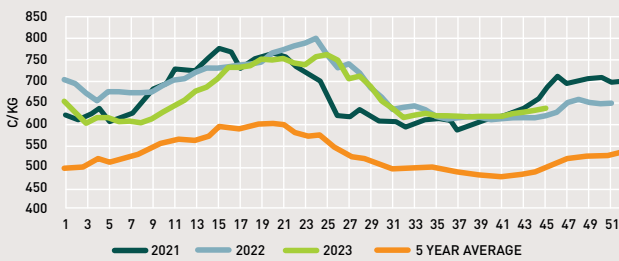
Aine O'Connell
Policy Executive

Sheep

IFA President Tim Cullinan addressing an IFA protest in Roscommon town in February seeking Government support for the sheep sector.



Irish weekly sheepmeat prices 2021-2023 against the 5 year rolling average



Prices

Lamb prices year to date in 2023 is €6.66/kg back €0.27c/kg on the 2022 average price for the first 41 weeks of the year.

Supplies

Total throughput to week 41 is 2,246,629 head, representing a 2% decrease compared to the same period in 2022. Spring lamb throughput is 7% behind, while hogget throughput increased 9% in the same period.

CATEGORY	WEEK 41							
	2023		2022		DIFFERENCE		% DIFFERENCES 2022 vs 2021	
	WEEKLY	CUMULATIVE	WEEKLY	CUMULATIVE	WEEKLY	CUMULATIVE	WEEKLY	CUMULATIVE
LAMBS/HOGGETS	265	981,227	880	901,635	-616	79,592	-70%	9%
SPRING LAMBS	49,633	1,006,224	52,167	1,083,248	-2,534	-77,024	-5%	-7%
EWES AND RAMS	10,680	259,040	12,419	299,841	-1,739	-40,801	-14%	-14%
LIGHT LAMBS	1	138	19	137	-18	1	-95%	1%
TOTAL	60,579	2,246,629	65,485	2,284,861	-4,906	-38,232	-7%	-2%

IFA Secure additional €8/ewe in Budget 2024, bringing total ewe payment to €20

It has been a challenging year for sheep farmers with high input costs on farms and lower lamb prices.

Following several IFA protests, public meetings and intense lobbying from Sheep committee members, IFA secured an additional €8/ewe payment in Budget 2024 for sheep farmers, bringing direct support to a combined €20/ewe. IFA has put forward several proposals,

including support for shearing, animal health measures, and store lamb support to be included in the new scheme. It is vital leakage of these monies from the sector is kept to a minimum.

IFA continue to seek a total payment of €30/ewe.

No Dogs Allowed

IFA met with the DAFM working group on the control of dogs and put forward many proposals to improve dog control and traceability. A report with recommendations was submitted for consideration and approval by Government.

Sheep Improvement Scheme (SIS)

Eighteen thousand six hundred twenty-seven farmers have applied to the scheme, accounting for 1.9m ewes. Payment rates are €12/ewe.

IFA secured a significant amendment to the Genotype Ram action for participants, allowing farmers to choose an alternative year if unable to secure a 4/5* star ram in the year nominated.

Early-stage support for Producer Organisations

The scheme is expected to open for producers in Q4 2023. IFA is demanding all existing lamb producer groups are eligible for this support.

Wool

IFA is actively involved in the newly established Wool Council.

Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)

Two major sheep processing plants have moved to provide EFT as a payment method option for sheep farmers following calls from IFA to provide the service.

Fodder support scheme

A €56m fodder support package provides farmers a €100/ha payment up to a maximum of 10ha for 2023. Applicants received advanced payments of 57% in December 2022, with the balancing payment to be issued in December 2023.

Bord Bia Origin Green Producer Standard (QA Scheme)

IFA is actively involved in the Bord Bia TAC reviewing the QA standard for sheep farmers.

Representation

The Sheep Committee represented sheep farmers on several outside bodies, state agencies and groups, including:

- Bord Bia
- Sheep Ireland
- Copa-COGECA WP on Sheep
- EU Civil Dialogue on Sheep
- IGWC

* stepped down in November 2023. Replaced by Adrian Gallagher

Adrian Gallagher*

Chair, Sheep Committee

*Kevin Comiskey stepped down as Chair, November 2023

Tomas Bourke

Senior Policy Executive

James Walsh

Policy Executive

Liquid Milk



Retail price of Liquid milk

After 12 years of stagnant prices, the retail price of private label milk increased from 75cpl to €1.15 per litre in 2022. Unfortunately, this price didn't hold for 2023, and the milk price dropped by 5cpl in time for the May bank holiday weekend and a further 5cpl in July to its present price of €1.05 per litre. No further cuts must be made to the retail price of milk as this inevitably erodes the farmer's margin. With a much weaker base price facing this winter, the key objective of the liquid milk committee is to increase the liquid premium. Research from Teagasc estimates that the cost of production has increased by 23% in 2023 vs 2021, yet no additional premium has been paid. While a higher base price in 2022 somewhat masked this, we are now in a position in 2023 where liquid milk farmers are operating under the cost of production.

Vulnerability of liquid milk supply

Liquid milk farmers are particularly exposed to changes in nitrates regulations. In particular, the introduction of nitrogen banding and the reduction in maximum stocking rate from 250kgN/ha to 220kgN/ha

across most of the country has forced many farmers to reevaluate their stock numbers. Alongside poor weather conditions this Autumn and higher production costs, IFA has cautioned processors that winter milk supplies will be tighter this year. Even though over 1200 registered liquid milk suppliers exist, approximately 270 suppliers supply 50% of the contracted milk. Because the milk pool has become so concentrated, the milk supply is particularly vulnerable to market shocks and policy changes over the winter months.

Liquid milk Producer Organisations

In July 2023, SI 396/2023 was published. This legislation provides for the establishment of producer organisations and, for the first time, provides a legislative framework for the establishment of producer organisations for milk and milk products. In an environment where declining food prices are constantly eroding farmer margins, this legislation could be used by farmers to fight for better prices. The potential exists for the liquid milk sector to leverage such legislation against the dominance of private-label milk, which has put downward pressure on milk prices for the past 15 years.

Keith O'Boyle
Chair, Liquid Milk Committee

Aine O'Connell
Policy Executive

Pigs & Pig Meat

IFA Pigs and Pigmeat Chairman Roy Gallie, IFA President Tim Cullinan and IFA Director General Damian McDonald launching the results of the IFA DNA survey of pigment products in the food service sector.



The Pig Meat Market

2022 was a record year with pig prices averaging at €2.10/kg, but 2023 has surpassed this to date with an average price of 216/kg and prices as high as €2.40/kg paid to producers throughout the summer months.

Feed costs for the end of summer were back from the severe highs to €1.52c/kg and non-feed costs, including energy, to 53c/kg. The pig now costs €1.98/kg to produce, back 25c/kg from the heights. Composite pig feed has risen from €301 in December 2019 to €476 in December 2022 and now sits at a relatively new norm for producers at €426 in August 2023 (Teagasc).

In April/May this year, producers returned to profitability for the first time since Summer 2021. However, there are large holes to fill, which will take a considerable amount of time. Colossal losses amounted to over €580,000 for the average family farm. If pig prices remain at their current level and the cost of production remains stable, for some producers, it will still be into the middle of summer next year before these losses are recouped. Units also require investment and maintenance as some of these works were simply unaffordable for producers for the last year or more. During this period of sustained losses, the Irish sow herd declined by circa 11% or 16,000 sows. Production figures for 2023 are back 10% as a result of this. This same trend can be observed across the EU, with pigmeat production back about 10%.

China

Irish exports to China are back by over 40% (value) and 50% (volume) for the first eight months of this year compared to last year. The value is back -€4.8m while the volume is back - 3.5m kg. The live quotation for pigs in China is poor, with today's price at 15.12RMB, equivalent to €2.54/kg dw.

Pig Committee Activity

Pig Price Increases

The IFA Pigs Committee engaged extensively with retailers, processors and secondary processors to highlight the plight of the Irish Pig Sector and the financial turmoil that pig farmers have gone through. The Committee, led by Chairman Roy Gallie, continues to meet retailers focusing on the domestic market and ensuring that the product used is of origin in Ireland and returns a sustainable margin to producers.

Employment Survey and Application for Permits

IFA surveyed the employment status of the sector in July 2023 and, as a result, has submitted to the Department of Enterprise Trade and Employment 100 work permits for the Irish pig farming sector. The survey is representative of 75% of the national sow herd. Without a pool of skilled workers, 43% of farmers have indicated that they will find it hard to keep going.

Continuous Engagement

The IFA National Pigs Committee have engaged with AHI, the EPA, Bord Bia, the Pig Roundtable and DAFM throughout 2023 on a range of issues, including the pig financial crisis, animal health & welfare, AMR, greenhouse gas emissions, pigmeat promotions and the reduction of imported pig meat. We have also had our first engagement with Niamh Lenahan, the newly appointed Food Regulator. We look forward to working with the regulator on fair trading practices, transparency, and ensuring farmers receive a reasonable margin for their produce.

DNA Programme

The pig committee endeavours to work with the hospitality sector to ensure that more BBQA Irish pigmeat is available to customers to purchase at the food service level. The increase in consumption of Irish pigmeat will, in turn, support Irish pig farmers. We are engaging with various lead companies in this area and will continue to do so throughout the coming year.

Roy Gallie
Chair, Pig Committee

Sarah Hanley
Policy Executive

Grain



IFA President Tim Cullinan and IFA Grain Chairman Kieran McEvoy on the farm of John Murphy in Wexford for the launch of the IFA campaign on fertiliser prices.

Harvest 2023

The tillage sector faced a very challenging year in 2023. Difficult weather conditions, exceptionally high input costs and a significant decline (€-100/t) in global grain prices all contributed to a considerable drop in income for tillage farmers in 2023 compared to the previous years.

Unharvested Crops

A continuation of poor weather conditions meant a significant area of spring cereal crops remained unharvested nationally by mid-October. Members of the IFA National Grain Committee conducted surveys on the extent of crops remaining unharvested and those salvaged in deplorable conditions in late September and early October. An assessment of the crisis was presented at a meeting with Minister McConalogue later in October. The National Grain Chairman called on the Minister to provide an exceptional aid package for affected farmers.

Food Vision Tillage Group

The National Grain Chairman and Grain Policy Executive represented IFA throughout the Food Vision Tillage Group meeting in 2023.

Budget 2024

The IFA National Grain Committee contributed to the IFA Pre-Budget Submission document.

- Funding for a pilot scheme to construct organic nutrient storage on tillage farms.
- Extra funding for the Straw Incorporation Measure in 2024.
- An extension of the Tillage Incentive Scheme until 2026.

Stubble Cultivation Derogation

Following unseasonably wet weather in July, IFA wrote to Minister Darragh O'Brien and Minister Charlie McConalogue requesting a review of the requirement to shallow cultivate stubbles within seven days of harvesting. A one-month stubble cultivation exemption for crops harvested until the 4th of August was granted.

Plant Protection Products

IFA were in regular contact with DAFM and lobbied in Brussels in the lead-up to the vote on the EU Commission proposal for the re-authorisation of glyphosate.

Additionally, IFA prepared detailed submissions for DAFM consultations on the following European policy proposals affecting tillage farmers.

- Public Consultation on the EU Commission's proposal for a Sustainable Use of Pesticides Regulation.
- EU Commission proposal for a Regulation on plants obtained by certain New Genomic Techniques (NGTs).

Malting Barley 2023

The poor spring and summer weather conditions negatively affected the malting barley harvest. Rejection rates were high due to poor grain germination and increased grain protein contents. For grain which met the specification, the FOB Creil pricing model, negotiated by IFA in 2019, delivered a final price of €274.75/t for brewing barley and €284.75/t for distilling, a very significant premium over feed barley.

The IFA malting barley committee engaged in dialogue with Boortmalt over the following:

- Green forward price offers of €320/t and €300/t in October 2022 and February 2023
- Removal of the €10/tonne drying and handling charge for harvest 2023.

Kieran McEvoy
Chair, Grain Committee

Max Potterton
Policy Executive

Farm Business



IFA President Tim Cullinan leading a delegation to discuss Budget 2024 with Minister Charlie McConalogue in Agriculture House.

Budget 2024

Government Ministers, TD's and Senators attended IFA's pre-budget lobbying information session (Sept 27th) in Buswell's Hotel. Pre-budget lobbying was also conducted at a local level by IFA officers. Some key taxation measures delivered in Budget 2024 following consultation with the Department of Agriculture and Department of Finance include:

- **Consanguinity Relief** extended to end 2028.
- No change in **Inheritance Tax** ceilings, **Capital Gains Tax** arrangement, rates or rules.
- **Accelerated Capital Allowance Scheme** for farm safety equipment extended to the end of 2026.

Farm Inputs

The Committee undertook several initiatives throughout 2023 to create awareness of the on-farm challenges and input cost crisis, including regular engagement with the Government and the need for targeted measures. A sustained campaign was undertaken in Q1 on fertiliser prices and highlighting price differential with Northern Ireland, including delivery of a load of fertiliser to Wexford, which got national media coverage. Numerous press releases were also released during the year on this issue.

Finance Providers

The Committee maintained regular contact with AIB, BOI, PTSB, SBCI, Credit Unions and the Central Bank throughout the year. The Irish Banking Culture Board also presented to the Committee. Throughout the year, the requirement for the availability of affordable credit and the need to make the process of accessing finance as simple as possible was top of the agenda in these meetings.

Residential Zoned Land Tax

The Committee continued to lobby intensively on this issue during the year. A webinar was held during the year, and numerous interactions

occurred with Ministers, TD's Senators and Government departments, along with multiple press releases on the issue. In Budget 2024, it was announced that the imposition of the tax is to be delayed by 12 months to see if a solution can be identified to remove all actively farmed land from this tax, as is IFA's position.

Concrete Levy

IFA successfully lobbied for removing all precast concrete products from this tax.

Property Registration Authority of Ireland

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

IFA Debt Support Service

IFA members in financial difficulty can offer advice or support when negotiating with creditors. The IFA DSS is involved in several active cases dealing with banks, vulture funds and merchant debt.

Inheritance and Succession Events

In conjunction with the Farm Family Committee, four regional meetings on this topic were held in the year's first half. There were large attendances at these events, and positive attendee and media coverage was received on these vents.

Submissions made to:

- Select Oireachtas Committee on Budgetary Oversight on specified Commission on Taxation and Welfare Report chapters.
- Dept. of Agriculture, Food & Marine (DAFM) on Agri Taxation.
- Dept. of Finance on Consanguinity Relief.
- Revenue on new Statement of Strategy for 2023 to 2025
- Dept. of Finance and DAFM on Residential Zoned Land Tax.

Rose Mary McDonagh
Chair, Farm Business Committee

Karol Kissane
Senior Policy Executive

Potato



IFA held a meeting of potato growers in March to discuss the very difficult situation for growers due to a combination of poor weather and input costs.

Review of the 2022 Season

This year has been incredibly difficult for potato farmers. Plantings were significantly delayed as March was recorded as the wettest, with wet weather continuing well into April. This resulted in the majority of potato plantings being late. After this, there was a small window of more settled weather; however, wet, cold conditions returned in July, further delaying crop maturation.

Not only did the weather delay crops by a minimum of 6 weeks, but it also placed a financial burden on growers forced to increase spraying regimes due to high blight pressure.

Harvest 2023 has been reported as one of the most difficult in recent memory. Problems were evident before harvest began with waterlogging, bacterial soft rots and deep tram lines. Widespread flooding in October further compounded the difficult conditions, and it is now almost inevitable that losses will occur. Yields appear to be around average, with tuber numbers reported to be lower, but size is good. However, the majority remain in the ground at the time of print.

In terms of markets, this year is the first time since the pandemic that retail sales and domestic consumption have stabilised. Last year, consumers appeared to be shopping with the short term in mind. However, more long-term patterns appear to have returned. With rising inflation, consumers seem to appreciate the value for money that potatoes offer as a staple. Stocks of old-season potatoes were low before new-season crops came onto the market, which created excellent demand for new-season varieties.

Increased input costs, especially storage costs, are immensely worrying for growers. Potatoes have increased at the retail level this year, which is welcome as they were one of the only fresh categories not to increase last year. IFA continues to arrange meetings with all retailers and merchants to ensure farmers receive a sustainable margin and discuss irrational quality parameters.

Planted Acreage 2023

CROP	2022 (HA)	2023 (HA)	CHANGE 2022 VS 2023 (HA)
POTATOES - EARLY	675	853	178
POTATOES - MAIN CROP	7,575	7,163	-412
POTATOES - SEED	208	265	57

The area of planted maincrop was reduced by 5% on 2022 acreage to 7163ha. There was a slight increase in early varieties planted. Yields to date are reported to be quite average. Official yield dig figures will be released shortly.

Market Price Reporting

Price information is collected weekly, sent to growers via text message, and published on www.ifa.ie. This information is also published in the Farmers Journal, along with information about stocks and market trends.

National Potato Day (NPD) 2023

IFA was actively involved in another successful NPD held in October, which Bord Bia coordinated.

Fresh Chip Potato Project

IFA, Bord Bia and Teagasc have been co-operating over the past four years on a key market opportunities project for chipping potatoes on both the market and technical front.

Plant Protection Products

IFA led a successful lobbying campaign to attain an emergency approval of Diquat for the 2023 harvesting season. The non-renewal of Diquat is causing grave concern for growers, and IFA will continue to work on emergency approval for 2024 and the acceptance of alternative active ingredients.

Sean Ryan

Sean Ryan
Chair, Potato Committee

Niamh Brennan

Niamh Brennan
Policy Executive

Environment & Rural Affairs



IFA President Tim Cullinan and the Minister for Agriculture Charlie McConalogue at the IFA Climate Summit in Thomond Park in January, which developed the Thomond Park Declaration on farming and climate action.

Farming and Climate Action

Following the agreement of legally binding sectoral targets in July 2022, an updated Climate Action Plan 2023 was published. The new plan provides a more detailed roadmap of actions to achieve the 25% emissions reduction target by 2030. Key measures set out in the plan include reduction in fertiliser use, increase use of protected urea, earlier finishing of beef cattle, reduce age at first calving of suckler beef cows, improved animal feeding, increased adoption of organic farming, improved breeding of animals with low methane traits, extended grazing and use of feed additives and support land use diversification options.

IFA held a Climate Summit in Thomond Park, Limerick, in January that over 400 farmers and many representatives across the sector attended in January. Minister Charlie McConalogue and representatives from Teagasc, Bord Bia, the EPA and the IFA addressed the Summit. Following the Summit, the IFA Environment Committee and the IFA National Council agreed on a Declaration summarising IFA's position on several climate and environmental issues. These focus on six key principles:

1. **Balancing Climate Action & Food Production**
2. **Environmental, Social & Economic Sustainability**
3. **Accurate Calculation of Emissions and Removals**
4. **The Risk of Carbon Leakage**
5. **Land Use Change Issues**
6. **New Funding**

In 2022, the agricultural emissions accounted for 38.4% of Ireland's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. This was a reduction of 1.2% compared with 2021. The action that lowered emissions was the 14% reduction in fertiliser use. Based on the EPA GHG emissions projections 2022 to 2040 report with the additional measures set out in CAP23, emissions could be reduced by 20%. Teagasc Marginal Abatement Cost Curve (MACC) 2023 was published in July and provides pathways to reach the 25% reduction, subject to maximising the adoption rate of mitigation measures set. Still, farmers have raised concerns about the proposed reduction in suckler cow numbers to reach targets.

A first phase of public consultation was held to develop a Carbon Farming Framework for Ireland to incentivise the adoption of mitigation measures. IFA's submission raised serious concerns, mainly that carbon payments would only be based on additionality (additional carbon removed), would not be credible in the eyes of farmers and would fail to reward farmers for the sequestration already taking place on farms.

Water Quality & Nitrates Derogation

IFA ran a national and European campaign to seek a review of the conditions of the European Commission's Implementing Decision granting Ireland a derogation, which included the requirement to conduct a two-year study of water quality (2021 and 2022) in 2023 to determine water quality trends of nitrates concentrations and eutrophic status. A condition that was introduced without consultation with stakeholders.

As part of the campaign, there has been ongoing representation with elected representatives and relevant government departments both in Ireland and Europe to brief them (i) on the economic implications of the reduction of the derogation, (ii) the need to provide time for the 30 plus new and enhanced measures adopted by farmers since 2018 to deliver, (iii) the multiple factors that impact water quality, not just stocking rate as scientifically demonstrated by the Teagasc Agricultural Catchments Programme and (iv) that the two year period was too short to determine water quality trend and that effective trend analysis requires a more extended period of data collection.

In June, the EPA water quality monitoring report on nitrogen and phosphorus concentrations in Irish waters 2022 report published in June showed that despite the 30-plus measures that farmers have adopted in recent years, there had been an increase in nitrate concentrations from 2021 to 2022 and that over 44,000 km² of land was identified as requiring additional measures to protect water quality.

Following the publication of the EPA report, several national protests were held in Cork, Dublin and Kilkenny, as well as at the Fianna Fail and Fine Gael *Think-ins* in Tipperary and Limerick, respectively. At the Fine Gael *Think-In*, IFA secured an agreement that the EU Commissioner for the Environment, Virginijus Sinkevičius, would be invited to visit Ireland to see Ireland's grass-based agricultural system. Commission Sinkevičius is expected to visit Ireland before the end of the year.

EU Nature Restoration Law

The proposed EU law aims to put in place restoration measures, which together would cover at least 20% of the EU's land and sea areas by 2030 and all ecosystems needing restoration by 2050. From the outset, IFA voiced serious concerns concerning the proposed measures, particularly those related to agricultural land. The potential impact on the area of farmland affected and the impact on food and timber production had not been quantified. Concerns were raised that no financial supports outside of CAP had been put forward to support the adoption of the proposed measures.

IFA campaigned at European and national levels to raise awareness of the potential risk of the proposed law to farming. IFA Environment Chair Paul O'Brien chaired a COPA Biodiversity & Soil Taskforce to coordinate a European response to the proposed law. As a result of the work undertaken by IFA and other European farming organisations, the European Parliament's Agriculture, Fisheries and Environment committees rejected the proposed law. In July, the European Parliament voted in favour of the law. Still, the amended text recognised the concerns raised by farmers and saw the proposed article on the restoration of agricultural lands, which includes peatland restoration, being removed from the text. The trilogue negotiations between the European Parliament, European Council and European Commission are ongoing on the amended text.

Waste Management (Prohibition of Waste Disposal by Burning) Regulations

In January 2023, the Department of Environment, Climate and Communication announced an exemption for the burning of agricultural green waste would end on the 30th November 2023. The exemption was reinstated for 2023 following representation by IFA until a feasibility study commissioned to explore the sustainable management of agricultural green waste in Ireland was completed. IFA continues to make representations for a further exemption for 2024 until the recommendations proposed within the report are acted upon and support is introduced to adopt the alternative measures.

Infrastructure

Negotiations with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) on a new national roads agreement are ongoing. Progress has been made, and a new agreement is hoped to be reached at year end. In addition, IFA is in negotiations with ESB and Eirgrid on refurbishment and uprate and forestry agreements.

Smart Farming

In 2023, after ten years, the Smart Farming programme, a partnership between IFA and EPA, concluded. It was a ground-breaking sustainability initiative launched in 2013 and has been the driver and foundation for many of the subsequent development of sustainability programmes. Before closing the programme, an impact assessment of participating farmers was undertaken, which showed that over 95% of farmers had a better understanding of the actions required to improve their farm resource efficiency and that 76% of farmers implemented the recommended actions. Farmers identified the need for positive stakeholder collaboration, ongoing farmer engagement, clear communication, well-defined metrics, and the establishment of farmer networks in any further climate initiative to be developed by the IFA.



Director of Teagasc, Prof Frank O'Mara, Prof Thia Hennessy, UCC, IFA Environment Chair Paul O'Brien and the Minister for Agriculture Charlie McConalogue taking part in a discussion at the Climate Summit in Thomond Park in January.

Paul O'Brien
Chair, Environment & Rural Affairs Committee

Geraldine O'Sullivan
Senior Policy Executive

Poultry



Market report

Like others, poultry farmers saw record-high input cost increases last year, which have mainly remained inflated for this year.

Entering 2023, the unprecedented increase in commodity grain and energy costs, primarily due to the invasion of Ukraine, has resulted in a squeeze on margins. Because of this, the IFA National Poultry Committee has been actively campaigning to achieve cost recovery for producers. The committee has engaged with the retailers, processors and egg packers.

Irish Bord Bia Quality Assured (BBQA) chicken is sold mainly on the domestic retail market, with a large percentage of brown meat exported. BBQA eggs are also sold on the domestic retail market, with some used in food service and liquid eggs. In December 2021, a Bord Bia quality assured 2kg whole chicken retailed at €4.50 c/kg. Today, the same chicken retails at circa €6.00/kg. Half a dozen free-range large eggs retailed at €1.89 in September 2022 and now retail at €2.25. Irish family farms desperately require a larger slice of the price of the retail product. Thankfully, we have made steps in the right direction to achieve this, but we have more to do.

Poultry Farmers are coming under additional regulatory and welfare standards requiring more investment and environmentally friendly production. With supermarkets demanding this at a considerably lower margin, this is simply unsustainable.

The IFA National Poultry Committee members met with the Food Regulator, Niamh Lenehan, this year. Niamh is eager to engage with

the poultry sector to ensure transparency along the food chain and that the Unfair Trading Practices rules are being enforced.

In Europe, new welfare regulations, which had the potential to wipe out domestic poultry production, have been set aside thanks to combined lobbying by farm organisations through Copa Cogeca. This is facilitated by a WhatsApp group which we set up, enabling the poultry working party to stay on top of developments and providing a platform to discuss the proposed changes and the massive potential implications they had for the sector.

Teagasc Poultry Division

IFA continues working closely with Director Frank O'Mara to secure funding to increase poultry education. We welcome the commencement of the new poultry apprenticeship following eight years of campaigning. Rebecca Tierney, the Teagasc National Poultry advisor, has organised many events for producers over the last year, including Broiler farming conferences, Energy and Biosecurity Considerations for the Poultry Industry and an online event covering Biosecurity and the Budget.

Avian Influenza

Highly Pathogenic Avian Flu infected only two flocks of turkey for the whole period of 2022. To date this year, we have been fortunate to have had no confirmed cases of HPAI in any captive flock. However, we are in a riskier period as we enter the winter months. The strictest biosecurity measures must be implemented by all stakeholders involved.

Nigel Sweetnam
Chair, Poultry Committee

Sarah Hanley
Policy Executive

Aquaculture



IFA President Tim Cullinan, Teresa Morrissey IFA Aquaculture Executive and Michael Mulloy IFA Aquaculture Chair at the IFA Aquaculture Conference in Limerick, February 2023.

National Strategic Plan for Sustainable Aquaculture Development 2030

The National Strategic Plan for Sustainable Aquaculture Development 2030 was published in October 2023 by Minister McConalogue following cabinet approval. IFA Aquaculture Chair Michael Mulloy welcomed the strategy's publication as a vital government policy document for the Irish Aquaculture sector, setting out the government policy objectives and key actions until 2030.

There are four high-level objectives and 58 key actions, including an improved online aquaculture licensing system, increasing knowledge and innovation for the sector, human capacity building and a skills gap analysis to enable career path development among the plan targets over the next seven years.

However, it must be noted that appropriate legislative changes will be required to facilitate the implementation of the strategic objectives and specific actions. The future sustainable development of the Irish Aquaculture sector can only be achieved if the proposed investment is underpinned by appropriate legislation and policy.

There is also now a valuable opportunity to convene a multi-agency stakeholder platform to facilitate the National Strategic Plan implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. IFA Aquaculture has initiated discussions with DAFM and BIM on how the industry can participate as part of such a stakeholder platform and will continue to work for the sustainable development of Irish Aquaculture.

IFA Aquaculture launched Best Practice Guidance at AGM in February 2022

IFA Aquaculture hosted its annual conference and AGM at the Kilmurry Lodge Hotel, Limerick, on Thursday 23rd February 2023. The conference was opened by IFA President Tim Cullinan, followed by an address from Minister Charlie McConalogue where he announced that he had secured €20 million in funding to deliver the Sustainable Aquaculture Growth Scheme as recommended by the Seafood Taskforce - the scheme was put in place using Brexit Adjustment Reserve funds to assist the Irish aquaculture industry in sustainably growing production, value, and employment.

As part of the AGM, IFA Aquaculture launched an industry-focused policy guide, "Best Practice Guidance & Information on Aquaculture Licensing, Legislative Responsibilities & Environmental Objectives."

The guide, developed by IFA Aquaculture in conjunction with Aquacence Consulting, aims to provide best practice guidance and information on aquaculture licensing requirements, associated legislative responsibilities and environmental objectives for aquaculture producers operating an aquaculture business.

This best practice guidance aims to bring broader awareness and knowledge of the aquaculture licensing process in Ireland, removing any uncertainty and setting out exactly what producers seeking aquaculture licence renewals and new applicants must undertake to be fully compliant. It is a living document that will be continually updated if and when legislation changes. There is also an online version available on the IFA website.

Michael Mulloy
Chair, IFA Aquaculture

Teresa Morrissey
Senior Policy Executive

Hill Farming



IFA Hill Farming Chair Caillein Conneely is pictured with Noel Grealish TD and Farm Business Chair Rose Mary McDonagh at IFA's pre-Budget Lobbying Day in Buswell's Hotel.

ACRES

Approx. Eighteen thousand six hundred applications were received to participate in the Co-operation approach of ACRES in Tranche One. Approximately 500,000ha of privately owned upland will be covered across the Co-operation areas, with approx. 268,000ha of Commonage to be included. The deadline for scoring non-commonage parcels was extended to September 29th. Approximately 170,000 scorecards were issued. IFA highlighted the need for flexibility around scoring for certain land types due to unpredictable weather conditions. Applications for Non-Productive Investments will open for CP applicants in Q4. The list of NPIs includes 50 investments across three categories. Landscape Actions will be open in early 2024 for CP teams to create annual work plans for farmers who wish to participate. IFA insist that all farmers in CP areas who make eligible applications in Tranche Two are accepted.

Breakdown of applications to CP Zones in Tranche 1:

CP AREA	NO. OF APPLICATIONS
BURREN	1,193
DONEGAL	2881
EAST/SOUTH EAST	660
MID-WEST SOUTHERN UPLANDS	3,306
NORTH CONNACHT/ULSTER	2,561
NORTH WEST CONNACHT	2,563
SOUTH MAYO	2,431
WEST CORK/KERRY	3,005

Comhairle na Tuithe

IFA continued participation in Comhairle na Tuaithe (CnaT), plus relevant sub-groups, throughout 2023.

In February 2023, Minister Humphreys announced a call for Expressions of Interest for new trails to join the Walks Scheme. The closing date for receipt of applications was extended until **October 20th, 2023**. This is a critical action in the National Outdoor Recreation Strategy to increase the number of trails under the scheme to 150 by the end of 2024. To date, **13 LDCs** have submitted EOIs for **33 trails**. Of the 80 walks announced in Budget 2021, 69 trails run on the scheme, with work plans underway for the remaining 11.

Following calls from IFA, the hourly rate for farmers/landowners on the Walks Scheme has been increased to €15.52 in line with the updated TAMS costings for 2023. IFA also participated in the Walks Scheme Review Committee.

The amendments to the Occupiers' Liability Act (1995), which came into effect at the end of July 2023, further limit the duty of care that landowners and occupiers owe to people who enter onto hills, farmland or other premises. This should reassure landowners and encourage those with recreational activity on their land to continue facilitating access.

IFA has participated in several sub-groups regarding the ongoing implementation of the National Outdoor Recreation Strategy, such as the Implementation & Oversight Group, the Responsible Behaviour Group and the Membership & Working Arrangements subgroup, where key issues/challenges faced by hill farmers were continually raised, including the lack of respect for landowners/users/nature; no dogs permitted on active farmed land (incl uplands), and no fires allowed on active farmed land (incl uplands). The IFA Hill Committee engaged with various CnaT stakeholders throughout the year to reaffirm our position, including Leave no Trace Ireland, which is currently reviewing its seven principles.

Burning

IFA Hill Committee continues to lobby the Minister for Heritage and Electoral Reform, Malcolm Noonan, to allow the managed burning of gorse in March. IFA raised concerns with the Department regarding farmers whose land was burned in the spring of 2022 & 2023. In most cases, this burning was not caused by farmers; without proof, no farmer should have a penalty imposed on them. IFA has worked successfully with farmers on several reviews and appeals over the last year.

European Innovation Projects (EIPs) & Locally-Led Schemes

European Innovation Partnership (EIP-Agri) projects under the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) Strategic Plan 2023-2027 were launched with a budget of €37m over five years. IFA participated in the public consultation seeking themes for the new projects. The LIFE on Machair project was launched in 2023. The EU funds the €7.4m nature project and is led by National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS). It will run until 2028. Over 100 farmers have registered to participate in the new LIFE on Machair Project across nine sites, totalling 5,000 hectares from west Connemara to north Donegal.

SACs

IFA Hill Committee continues to participate in the Designated Areas Monitoring Committee. IFA again insisted that there must be no new designations. Payment rates must reflect the restrictions imposed on farmers due to the designation. IFA reiterated the need for meaningful consultation with farmers on the problems of designated land and adequate compensation delivered to farmers whose income and property values are affected by designations.

IFA met with NPWS to discuss a review of the Wildlife Acts, the EU Birds and Natural Habitats Regulations and related Statutory Instruments.

*Figures correct at time of writing

Caillein Conneely

Caillein Conneely
Chair, Hill Farming Committee

Shane Whelan

Shane Whelan
Senior Policy Executive

Rachel Moloney

Rachel Moloney
Policy Executive

Oireachtas



Sinn Féin spokeswoman on agriculture Claire Kerrane TD discussing Budget 2024 priorities for farmers with the IFA President Tim Cullinan and the delegation from Roscommon IFA.

Lobbying

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

- Building relationships with the Government, Taoiseach and Government advisers.
- Engaging with all political parties in advance of Government formation, seeking to influence and progress key issues for farmers in the Programme for Government.
- Devising/executing IFA's political operation at national/constituency/county level.
- Briefing front bench spokespersons in Opposition parties.
- Presenting to Oireachtas Committees on key policy issues

Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015 – IFA Compliance

Since 2015, IFA is a registered lobbyist and has published 2,554 lobbying returns. IFA annually publishes lobbying activities for three different periods, which sees the Organisation at the very top of the lobbying register in terms of activity.

Lobbying Campaigns on behalf of farmers in 2023 included:

- Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) 2023 - 2027 - Strategic Plan
- Sectoral Emissions Ceiling for Agriculture
- IFA Thomond Park Declaration on Climate Action
- Nitrates Derogation - maintaining the derogation at 250kg N/ha
- Brexit - EU and UK Protocol - Brexit Adjustment Reserve (BAR)
- Agricultural Food Supply Chain Act 2023/Office of Fairness and Transparency/ Retail Forum
- EU Nature Restoration Law (NRL)
- Industrial Emissions Directive (IED)
- Budget 2024 - IFA Submission to Government
- Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT)
- Beef Environmental Efficiency Programme - Suckler/ Beef Welfare Scheme
- Tillage Farming Crisis / Food Vision 2030 Tillage Forum
- Food Vision 2030 - Dairy Report
- Straw Incorporation Measure Scheme
- Farmers' Charter of Rights
- National Community Engagement Week
- Pig Exceptional Payment Scheme (PEPS)
- EU Animal Welfare Legislation
- Live Exports
- Sheep Crisis / Dog Control Campaign - *No Dogs Allowed*
- Basic Income Support for Sustainability (BISS)

- Agriculture Water Quality Working Group
- National Liming Programme
- Farm Safety Week
- Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES)
- Targeted Agricultural Modernisation Scheme (TAMS)
- Flooding on the River Shannon
- Citizens' Assembly on Biodiversity Loss
- Commission on Tax and Welfare Report
- Work permits for Horticultural Sector
- Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive (SUD)
- Firearms Expert Committee
- European Food Safety Authority New Regulations for Poultry Producers
- New Ash Dieback Scheme / New Forestry Programme
- Commercial Rates on Farm Buildings
- Land Value sharing & Urban Development Zones Bill 2022
- Derelict & Vacant Houses on Farmland

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

- Crisis in the Sheep Sector
- Fertiliser Prices
- Revitalising Derelict & Vacant Houses on farmland
- Consolidation in Horticultural Grower Numbers
- Water Quality Monitoring Report on Nitrogen and Phosphorous Concentrations in Irish Waters 2022
- Challenges in the Irish Fruit and Vegetable Sector with a focus on Food Waste

IFA made a presentation to the **Select Committee on Budgetary Oversight** to examine the Commission on Taxation and Welfare Report

IFA made a presentation to the **Joint Oireachtas Committee on Environment and Climate Action** on Nature Restoration Law and Land Use Review

IFA Submissions included:

- To Department of Housing and Department of Finance on Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT);
- To Oireachtas Select Committee on Agriculture, Food and the Marine on the Agricultural and Food Supply Chain Bill 2022 - Committee Stage;
- To Department of Agriculture on New School of Veterinary Medicine in Ireland;
- Submission on the Rural Social Scheme (RSS);
- Budget 2024;
- Submission on Finance (No. 2) Bill 2023;
- Submission to the Department of Justice on the Consultation on the Reports of the Firearm Expert Committee;
- Roadside Ash Dieback - Support Scheme to Safely Remove Trees Is Needed;
- Citizens' Assembly on Biodiversity Loss.
- Carbon Farming Framework for Ireland

Elaine Farrell

Director of Governance and Oireachtas Engagement

Rural Development



IFA Farm Business Chair Rose Mary McDonagh, IFA Farm Business Executive Karol Kissane, IFA President Tim Cullinan, IFA Rural Development Executive Shane Whelan and IFA Rural Development Chairman Michael Biggins at the launch of the IFA pre-Budget submission.

Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)

The new CAP Programme (2023-2027) commenced on January 1st, and the Committee raised many issues concerning its implementation. One example was the unrealistic GAEC 6 grazing regulations of catch crops, where we secured a 30% grass/stubble lie-back area rather than the impractical 50% grass-only lie-back, which would have decimated the store lamb trade.

IFA participates in the CAP Strategic Plan (CSP) Monitoring Committee and the CSP Stakeholders Forum and will continue to engage with the Department of Agriculture on CAP-related issues.

The Committee, through COPA, made representation at various EU events/initiatives, including, amongst others, the EU CAP Civil Dialogue Group; EU Commission discussions, the 'Initial Reflections

post CAP 2027' document, where our key and core message consistently has been the need for farmers to be put at the centre of CAP negotiations; an increased CAP budget and greater focus on economic sustainability; reducing the leakage, complexity and bureaucracy of CAP, and ultimately greater protection for active farmers.

Farmers Charter of Rights

The new CAP Programme and mix of new schemes required the initiation of Farmers Charter of Rights 'negotiations' in late January, involving IFA, other farm organisations and DAFM staff. While the Charter has achieved much for farmers, what materialised in this instance was a charade, culminating in IFA removing itself from proceedings after the DAFM unilaterally chose to delay farm payments and failed to deliver an Independent Chair to oversee proceedings as promised. IFA continually highlighted its opposition to the delayed payments, including holding several protests. See Direct Payment Report for more information.

Farm Schemes:

Area of Natural Constraint (ANC)

The ANC scheme, worth €250m per annum, is an essential farm income support for farmers in designated disadvantaged areas. It is the first payment received annually, but it was the biggest casualty to the Department delays despite being essentially unchanged from previous years.

An 85% advance payment, with a value of €179m, commenced for 85,000 farmers on October 17th (almost a month delayed), with the balancing payment (15%) expected in early December.

BISS/CRISS/Eco-Scheme

The Basic Payment / Greening payments of old were reconfigured into BISS/CRISS/Eco-scheme payments under the new CAP. The application period spanned February 28th to May 29th (2 weeks later than usual), with 128,712 applications and 96% of farmers participating in the voluntary Eco-scheme measure.

DAFM confirmed 37,946 farmers applied online to transfer payment entitlements before the June 14th deadline (+ c.5,000 vs 2022).

Advance (70%) BISS / CRISS payments are due to commence on October 24th, with advance eco-scheme payments due from October 31st. Balancing payments are expected in early December.

IFA insists that uncompleted inspection cases do not result in payment delays and that they be cleared for payment.

ACRES

The Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES) is the new €1.5bn flagship agri-environmental scheme under CAP 2023-2027. The scheme replaces GLAS and operates under two approaches. ACRES Co-Operation, with a maximum payment of €10,500, applies for farmers working within one of the eight Department identified high geographical areas, and ACRES General, with a maximum payment of €7,300, for all other farmers.

Tranche 1 opened for applications in October, with 46,000 applications made for 30,000 available places. Following intense IFA lobbying, all 46,000 applications were accepted, comprising 18,600 in ACRES Co-Operation and 26,600 in ACRES General.

Tranche 2 opened for application in November 2023, with 4,000 made available in Budget 2024. IFA estimate this allocation will fall well

short of expected demand and has lobbied hard for the Department to secure the necessary funding to accommodate all interested in joining the scheme. IFA also insists that no downward revision of measures/ payments is implemented.

Throughout 2023, IFA engaged with the Department and secured several vital changes to ACRES timelines, including, amongst others, an extension to scoring deadlines given the penalties involved; an extension to the Winter Bird Food planting date to May 31st and arable-based actions to October 31st due to wet weather and challenging ground conditions.

TAMS

TAMS III opened for applications, on a phased basis, from February 22nd 2023, with higher investment ceilings (€90,000) and reference costs (+5 to 15%); new schemes (Solar Investment Scheme; Health & Safety; Women Capital Investment Scheme) and higher grant rates (60% for Health & Safety Equipment, Women's Capital Investment Scheme, Organics & Young Farmers) made available. In addition, over 100 new items were added to the investment items list, such as cattle fencing, heat detection aids and underpasses, all lobbied for in the IFA submission.

The improved scheme, however, came at a cost, as TAMS, for most, was a non-event in 2023. Delayed scheme opening and delayed issuing of approvals removed any opportunity that there may have been.

Over 8,200 applications (50% mobile) were received in Tranche 1, which closed at the end of June, at an estimated value of €70m. In Q4 2023, very few formal approvals have been issued. The Department provided farmers planning water quality, animal welfare or slurry/manure storage type investments a short window in September to submit a request for priority applications (receiving c.200 applications). Still, even now, these are only starting to issue. IFA will press the DAFM to issue approvals immediately across all schemes so farmers can proceed with planned works.

Tranche 2 opened on July 1st and is ongoing.

Leader Programme

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

Following calls for expressions of interest, 46 applicant groups were successful under Stage 1 of the 2023-2027 LEADER programme, moving on to Stage 2 to create their LEADER Local Development Strategies.

€180 million has been committed for LEADER from 2023 to 2027 in line with the CAP Strategic Plan.

Agriculture Appeals Office

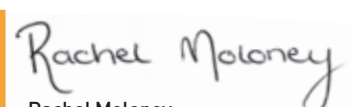
The Committee has made representation for members at various agricultural appeals throughout 2023 and continues to push that the recommendations of the Independent Review of the Department appeals system be implemented.



Michael Biggins
Chair, Rural Development Committee



Shane Whelan
Senior Policy Executive



Rachel Moloney
Policy Executive

Fresh Milk Producers

IFA President Tim Cullinan addressing the Kilkenny rally Farmers' Futures Matter in Kilkenny in July



John Wynne continued as chair of FMP for the second year of his two-year term. Part Chair Willie Lennon retired from the FMP negotiating team, and Henry Dunne from Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford was elected as the newest member of the FMP Negotiation team at the FMP AGM in February 2023.

FMP Central Executive meetings throughout the year included speakers from Tirlán, IFA and Teagasc. Tirlán consumer food business director Jim O'Neill and Miriam Walker, senior commercial marketing director, Tirlán, gave valuable insight into the Liquid Milk business and the challenges and opportunities that faced liquid milk. Unprecedented increases in agriculture and business input prices severely strained the liquid milk processing business in 2022. The retail sector responded, but only after substantial losses were incurred in the liquid milk supply in 2022. 2023 presented an opportunity to return to profit, and Jim O'Neill, Director of Operations in Tirlán, said this was essential for the long-term sustainability of the liquid milk business. FMP and IFA had engaged with retailers throughout the previous 12 months and will continue to do so to ensure the viability of primary producers and FMP members.

National Dairy Council (NDC) support

The Central Executive agreed that FMP would invest in liquid milk's (NDC) promotion. Following engagement with NDC CEO Zoe Kavanagh, FMP financially supported Gary Ringrose, Irish and Leinster rugby player, as a public ambassador for the NDC and Irish dairy on a two-year agreement.



FMP Chair John Wynne and NDC Ambassador and Irish rugby player Gary Ringrose filmed an NDC campaign on John Frames Farm in Co Wicklow in 2023

Teagasc support

The committee agreed to support any future relevant research on winter milk production that will benefit FMP members. FMP will engage with Teagasc winter removal specialist James Dunne, the research team in Teagasc Johnstone Castle, and the Teagasc winter milk steering group. Dennis Fagan, past FMP Chairman, is the current chair of this group, and it was agreed that any relevant proposals that would benefit FMP liquid milk suppliers would be considered for support. FMP members supported several Teagasc on-farm events held in late 2022 and 2023, including on the farm of past FMP chairman Donal Murphy, County Wexford. The Winter Milk open day on 6th September in Johnstown Castle was also supported. James Dunne and the Teagasc research team presented some compelling information on winter milk cost increases over the past two years and a valuable update on recent research in cow nutrition.

Pennies Fund donation

FMP Donated €5000 to support the Meath & Louth Branch of Down Syndrome Ireland Artistic swimming team.



FMP Chairman John Wynne and Vice-Chair Patrick Tuite with Gold medal winners from the Irish Artistic swimming team who won a team gold medal in Italy at the European Games.

John Wynne

John Wynne
Chair, Fresh Milk Producers

Robert Malone

Robert Malone
Policy Executive, Fresh Milk Producers

Horticulture



IFA Horticulture Executive Niamh Brennan, IFA President Tim Cullinan and IFA Fruit & Vegetable Chair Niall McCormack on the farm on John and Simon Gormley in Garristown, Co Dublin for the launch of IFA's Christmas campaign.

Horticulture Review of the 2023 Season

It has been another challenging year for horticulture growers. The combination of difficult weather conditions throughout the year, staffing shortages, market challenges, land availability and lack of growing media created a challenging backdrop for 2023. Planting conditions were difficult for growers this spring, with March being the wettest on record. This was followed by a dry period in early summer with required irrigation, then a return to cold, wet conditions for July and August. This led to yield reductions for many crops, and low light intensity for much of the season made it difficult for strawberry and protected crop growers. It has been described as one of the most difficult harvest seasons on record.

The area of field vegetables, in particular, contracted again this year by some 7%, according to Teagasc. This downward trend has been evident for some years and is very worrying. IFA engaged with all packers and retailers in the supply chain to convey these difficulties. Some small increases were achieved; however, these increases come on the back of historically low prices.

Weather events on the continent have caused shortages of imports from countries such as Spain and Morocco, indicating how retailers cannot rely on the importation of produce to secure their orders. Subsequently, retailers and packers must support Irish growers to ensure that this preventable situation does not continue to occur in the sector. Such conditions this year should bring to light the value of domestic Irish production and the necessity to support Irish growers.

The appointment of Niamh Lenehan as the National Food Regulator is welcome, and the Committee looks forward to working with the office in 2024.

Labour and Work Permits

The cost and availability of labour remain to the fore in horticulture businesses. The increase in the Minimum wage by €1.40 in the Budget will put a tremendous financial strain on the low-margin sectors.

IFA made further submissions on the Seasonal work permit scheme to have horticulture workers classified as critical work and for an extension of the General Employment Permit Scheme.

Horticulture Payment Scheme

IFA lobbied for extending the Horticulture Exceptional Aid Payment in 2022 to help alleviate some inflated production costs. A fund of €2.383 million was announced under the EU Agriculture Reserve. The fact that most strawberry and white mushroom growers were excluded is unacceptable, and IFA continues to lobby for the scheme to be co-funded to include all sectors.

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

IFA successfully lobbied for the Horticultural Investment scheme to be maintained at €10 million. The scheme is essential for the continued development and competitiveness of the Irish horticulture sector.

Importance of Peat to the Irish Horticulture Sector

IFA will continue to lobby for peat for the domestic Irish market until alternatives are available.

Nursery Stock

A successful online trolley fair was held in Whites Agri in February. The Green Cities promotion (which is 80% funded by the EU) continued this year, and the Committee is actively involved in the rollout of this successful initiative.

Niall McCormack
Chair, Soft Fruit & Vegetable

Niamh Brennan
Policy Executive

Farm Forestry

IFA held a Farm Forestry Conference in Tullamore in June



New Forestry Programme 2023 to 2027

After months of delays, the new forestry programme was approved by Cabinet in September 2023. A budget of €1.3 billion secured in November 2022 sees forest premium payments increased by up to 66%, ranging from €746/ha to €1,142/ha depending on the established forest type. Forest premiums were also extended to 20 years for farmers. A new Native Tree Area Scheme has been launched that allows farmers to plant up to a maximum of 2 hectares in smaller plots without a licence.

The new forestry programme is a lost opportunity. Despite the annual premium payment increases, it will not persuade farmers to plant at the scale required to meet the 8,000ha per annum afforestation targets in Climate Action Plan 2023. The Government needs to do more to de-risk the investment and ensure it will be protected irrespective of policy changes that reduce timber production capacity.

Ash Dieback Independent Review

Before attending the IFA National Farm Forestry conference in June, Minister Hackett announced the independent review of ash dieback supports for landowners and the approach taken by the Department to the disease since 2013. As part of the consultation process and to garner support for IFA's position, a lobbying document was published outlining the supports required for farmers to address the devastating consequences of the disease adequately. These included a 100% reconstitution grant, reinstatement of a 20-year forest premium, compensation for the value of the timber crop and the option not to replant under certain circumstances. IFA met with the independent review group and made a comprehensive submission in August.

In October, the independent review group published its report, which stated that urgent action was required and that the Department's response to the disease was ineffective. It recommended the following actions (i) a simplified approval process for site clearance, (ii) the total cost of site clearance and regeneration should be covered by grant aid, with additional support available for clearance of challenging sites, (iii) a review of re-establishment and maintenance costs, taking account of need for more intensive and regular maintenance associated with re-establishment forests, (iv) the introduction of a be-spoke re-establishment annual payment consistent with the general rates available under the new Forestry Programme and (v) explore the potential for a one-off ex gratia payment in recognition of the absence of an effective scheme between 2018 and 2023. The Department is currently developing an implementation plan based on the pending recommendations.

Jason Fleming
Chair, Farm Forestry Committee

Geraldine O'Sullivan
Senior Policy Executive

National Farm Forestry Conference

IFA held a National Farm Forestry Conference 2023 – A Path Forward for Farm Forestry in Tullamore Court Hotel in June. Minister Hackett gave the closing address at the conference and participated in a Q&A with IFA President Tim Cullinan. The topics discussed concerned the proposed draft forestry programme, ash dieback, agro-forestry and forest carbon. At the conference, farmers voiced their anger on a wide range of issues impacting the management of their forests, mainly focusing on the lack of payment on non-productive areas despite the ecosystem services being provided and the lack of proper support for farmers with ash dieback.

Ireland's Forest Strategy (2023 – 2030)

The overriding objective of the strategy is to urgently expand the national forest estate on both public and private land in a manner that will deliver lasting benefits for climate change, biodiversity, water quality, wood production, economic development, employment and quality of life. The strategy sets out several strategic enablers to achieve the objectives, including improving regulatory and legislative processes, new incentives for forest creation and management, improving sustainable forest management and protecting forest health.

Timber Market

IFA publishes quarterly timber market prices reports with prices sourced from forest owners, forestry companies and sawmills and an annual Review of Timber Market 2022-2023. Prices have remained relatively stable in 2023. However, the outbreak of spruce bark beetle in Scotland and increased harvesting has impacted Irish prices.

The Irish timber market is anticipated to continue to show a positive outlook. According to a report published by the COFORD Council in March 2023, Wood Supply and Demand on the Island of Ireland to 2030, there is a significant projected increase in the demand for roundwood and wood residue across various sectors such as sawmilling, wood-based panel manufacturing, and wood energy.

Bark Beetle

IFA wrote to Minister Hackett to seek the immediate establishment of a Spruce Bark Beetles Taskforce, given the threat posed following the recent findings of bark beetles in Scotland's Pest Free Area (PFA). Given the potential risk, IFA is seeking that a temporary cessation of the importation of timber from Scotland is introduced until the task force is established and a full review of current monitoring and surveillance programmes both here and in Scotland is undertaken. It is also vital that a contingency plan is developed to set out the procedures and the measures to be taken in the event of an outbreak.

Rules, Privileges and Procedures



Elaine Larrissy from An Post and IFA National Returning Officer Brian Rushe discuss the introduction of postal voting for the IFA Presidential Elections. Each member received an election pack in the post and they had the option to vote in person at their branch AGM or return their ballot by post.

Function of the Committee

The Committee's function under the rules is 'to advise Council for Council to decide' on all matters concerning the Constitution and Rules of IFA and on all matters of voluntary organisational procedure and discipline at all levels within IFA.

On a day-to-day basis, this work involves upholding and applying the rules of IFA while always respecting members' rights and the authority of National Council.

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

The Committee welcomed one new member, Michael Biggins, elected from Connacht. He joined Billy Cotter, Kevin Kiersey, Caroline Farrell, Brendan McGlaughlin and Jim O'Connor.

Review of 2023

National Returning Officer

The Rules designate the National Treasurer/Returning Officer as Chair of the Committee and give him responsibility for all IFA Elections and Election procedures. Martin Stapelton served in this role until 7th July before announcing his IFA Presidency candidature. Since then, IFA Deputy President Brian Rushe took over the functions of National Returning Officer.

Conduct Of Elections

The Committee and the Secretary supported the National Returning Officer in the conduct of the 2023 IFA National elections, including:

- Issuing the timetable for elections.
- Recommending the Election Code of Conduct to National Council.

- Calling for nominations for all positions.
- This year, the voting procedure for the Election of President and Deputy President changed to a hybrid model where each member received their ballot papers by post and had the option to attend their branch AGM to cast their ballot or return it by post.
- Setting the recommended formats for the IFA Presidential Debates and County Executive debates, voted for the positions of Regional Chair in Munster, Connacht, and South Leinster, and officiated at the latter meetings.
- Publishing IFA Election newsletters providing candidate material.
- Publishing the meeting details of the 944 Branches participating in the elections and
- Carrying out the IFA National Count to declare the Election results.

The National Returning Officer also conducted National Committee elections for Vice Chair and Management Committees in the early part of the year and officiated at the election of Chairs at the end of the year. Advice was also provided to county executives regarding the procedures for the elections of representatives to national committees.

Rules & Procedures

The Committee provided advice as follows:

Made recommendations on the rule changes necessary for the structural review that National Council adopted in July 2023.

Support & Good Governance

The National Returning Officer and the Rules Secretary provided ongoing advice and support for officers, executive secretaries, and regional staff on various issues at the county and national levels.

Brian Rushe*
Chair, Rules Committee and IFA Deputy President

John Mulhall
Secretary, Rules, Privileges & Procedures Committee

*Replaced Martin Stapelton in July 2023.

Animal Health

TB

Statistics.

National Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication Programme Disease Trends to end Q3 2023



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine

Herds Restricted

4,868

(02 Oct 2022 – 01 Oct 2023)

4,324

(03 Oct 2021 – 02 Oct 2022)

Reactors

25,916

(02 Oct 2022 – 01 Oct 2023)

21,183

(03 Oct 2021 – 02 Oct 2022)

Herd Incidence

4.73%

01 Oct 2023

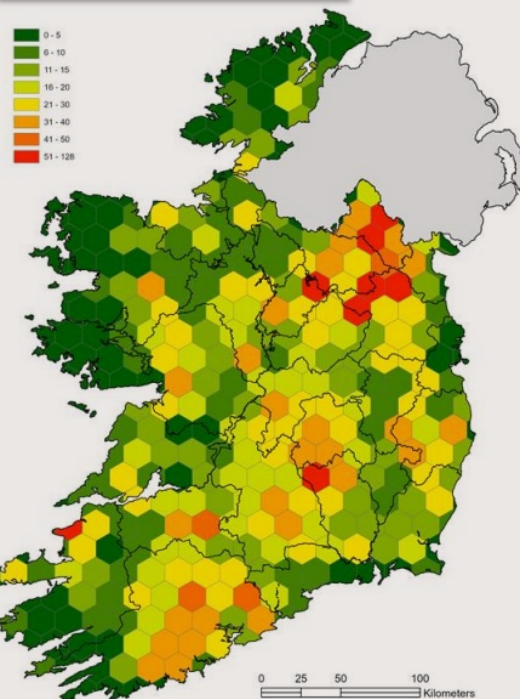
4.12%

02 Oct 2022

5-year herd Incidence

2022 - **4.31%** 2021 - **4.33%** 2020 - **4.38%** 2019 - **3.72%** 2018 - **3.51%**

New restriction in the last 12 months Q3 2023



New Arrangements TB Programme

Agreement was reached on several key areas in the TB Programme that will contribute to reducing the TB programme's burden on farmers while implementing measures that will expedite the eradication of the disease from the National Herd.

The new measures apply from 1 February 2023, resulting in farmers receiving supplementary payments when the systems are operational.

Wildlife

Deer

The Deer Management Strategy Group has commenced work with a mandate to put in place structures that will reduce the numbers of deer Nationally.

Wildlife Control Programme

An additional €3.3m has been allocated to the wildlife programme, bringing the budget to over €9m. DAFM has also committed to hiring 26 additional FRS operatives for the programme.

Over 10,000 badgers received treatment in the programme to date in 2023.

Compensation Arrangements

Live Valuation Oversight of Valuers

The penalty points system which DAFM previously applied to valuers, impeding their independence, has been formally removed from the scheme.

Ceilings

The ceilings for pedigree stock have increased from €3,000 to €5,000 for in-calf pedigree females and cows.

Up to 3 stock bulls will now be eligible for payment up to €5,000. The €3,000 ceiling applies to all other animals.

Income Supplement New Rates

The income supplement scheme rates have been increased for all animals.

Animal Health

ANIMAL TYPE	
Dairy Cow	Old rate €55/month
	New rate €
	1st five months post calving: €100
	6-10 months post calving: €65
	2 months x € 0
Suckler Cow	Old rate € 38.09/month
	New rate €
	1st seven months post calving: €52
	8-12 months post calving: €40
Other Categories	Old rate € 25.39/month
	New rate € 30

Eligibility

Herds now become eligible for Income Supplement on the date the reactors are identified on the farm

and the income supplement payments are now payable on partial months.

Depopulation Grant

Depopulation grant scheme rates have been increased and aligned with Income supplement rates on a 12-month basis.

Hardship Grant

Eligibility

The off-farm income impediment to eligibility has been removed, with eligibility now based on increased numbers of animals retained on the holding due to the restriction.

New Rates

The maximum payment has increased from €250/month to €300/month for the four months of the scheme.

Purchase In Facilitation

Farmers experiencing a TB restriction can now purchase in animals to replace those lost from the herd while retaining their entitlement to Live Valuation for the purchased in animals and Income Supplement entitlement for the herd.

Contract Rearing

Movements in and out for contract rearing herds are facilitated with a full live valuation for those animals and income supplement entitlement retained for the herd.

EU Animal Health Law 30-day TB Pre/Post Movement Testing Requirement

The requirement for a 30-day pre or post-movement is only applied to all cows and males over 36 months that are over six months tested and moving from herds over six months since their annual test, and due to the administration of this requirement, it will only apply to these animals when moving to another herd for breeding.

Cull cows moving to Controlled Finishing Units do not require this test.

Cull cows moving to other herds for further feeding that will be slaughtered within 90 days of movement will not require a test.

This approach focuses on the higher-risk animals, as 66% of all TB reactors are cows.

Payment for the Pre/Post Movement Test

The Department of Agriculture has agreed to pay farmers where this test is carried out either pre or post-movement a maximum of €70

Movement of Annual TB Test to align with sale time

DAFM will allow farmers to move their annual herd test out by up to 3 months each year for the next two years.

Funding

Achieving these measures required agreement on a funding model for the next two years. This agreement has Department of Agriculture and farmer funding commitments.

The Department of Agriculture funding commitment includes;

- An additional €3.3M for the Wildlife Control Programme brings total committed funding to over €9m a year, including funding for 26 new FRS staff.
- Any increased costs of the Live Valuation Scheme
- €70 payment for 30-day pre/post movement test requirement

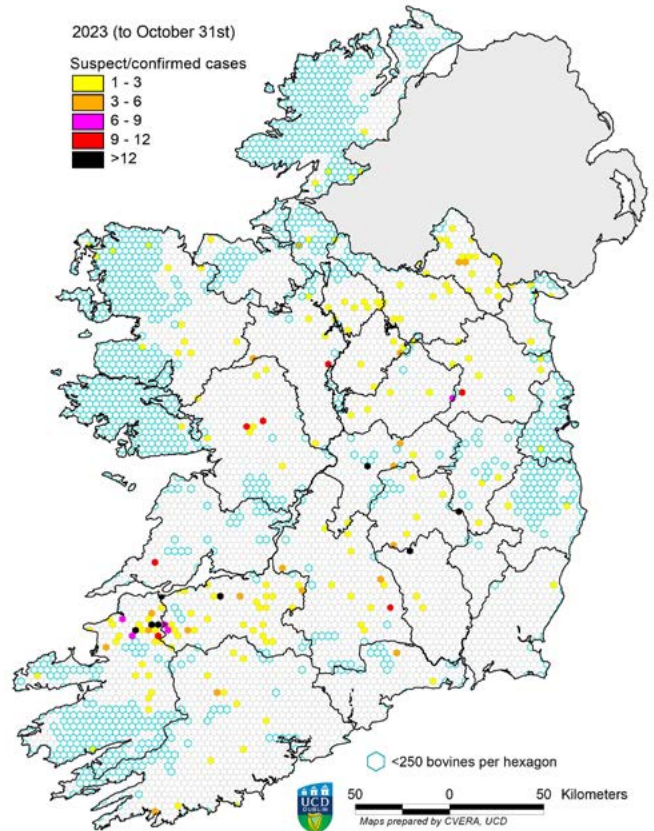
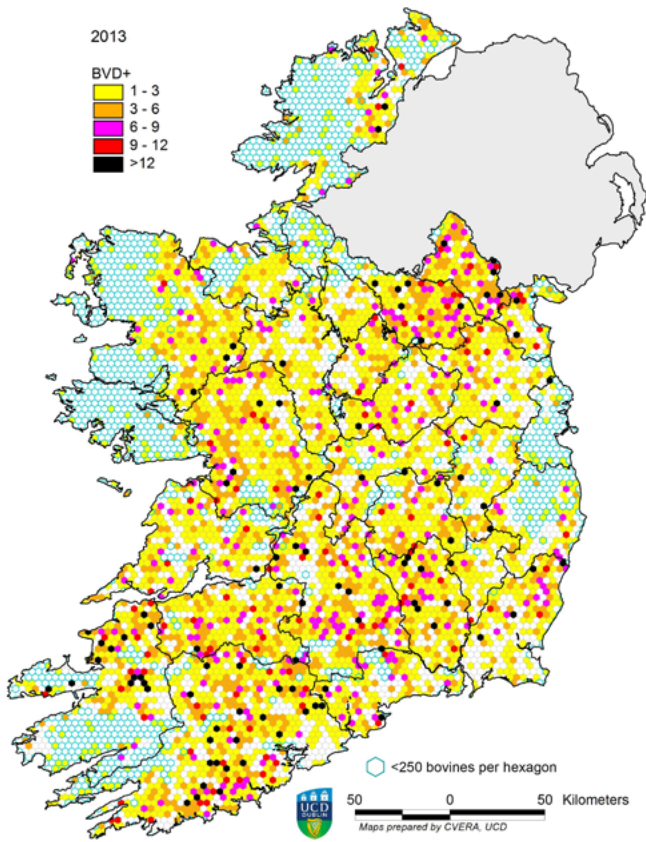
Farmers' financial commitment relates only to any additional monies paid directly to farmers in the enhanced Income Supplement, Depopulation Grant and Hardship Grant Schemes above the 2022 total costs of these schemes.

- Payment will be retrospective in the following year through the Disease Levy mechanism.

New EU Veterinary Medicines Bill

As a result of the concerns raised by IFA concerning the competitive supply of antiparasitic products, implementation of the prescribing requirement for these products has been deferred. Discussions are ongoing.

Animal Health



BVD

The programme identified 13,877 PLIs in 8,936 herds in 2013. The 2023 figures to week 47 show 576 initial positive animals were identified in 240 herds.

The programme is on track to attaining recognised "BVD Free" status under EU Animal Health Law. Vaccination would be prohibited upon reaching recognised freedom, with proof of freedom monitoring required.

IFA POSITION

DAFM must pay for all remaining testing in the BVD programme - €2.25m provided towards testing in 2023. This must be increased to total testing costs

Johnes Programme

Low levels of participation in the programme have led to discussions regarding its future direction.

IBR Programme

AHI has proposed an IBR programme that would take 16 years to complete, require movement controls and cost €40m a year. The lack of clarity on a funding model has impacted progress on advancing the programme.

Fallen Animal Collection Scheme

IFA has called on DAFM to have a full review of the Fallen Animal Collection Scheme.

Representation

- TB Forum
- TB Implementation Group
- TB Finance Working Group
- TB Technical Working Group
- TB Communications Group
- BVD IG
- Johne's Disease IG
- IBR IG
- Interdepartmental INAP Stakeholder Group (AMR)
- INAP Animal Health Committee
- Antiparasitic Stakeholder Group
- FAWAC and FAWN
- Copa-Cogeca WP on Animal Health & Welfare

TJ Maher
Chair, Animal Health Committee

Tómas Bourke
Senior Policy Executive

Farm Family and Social Affairs



IFA Deputy President Brian Rushe, Minister of State Mary Butler and IFA Chair of Farm Family and Social Affairs Committee Alice Doyle at the launch of the Green Ribbon campaign.

Farm Safety

2023 marked the eleventh annual Farm Safety Week. The collaborative campaign, initiated by the Farm Safety Foundation (Yellow Wellies) in the UK and led by the IFA within Ireland, brings together farming organisations from Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Northern Ireland, and Britain on farm safety. As part of the week, a video featuring farm accident survivor Ella Casey was produced, a farm safety leaflet was published in partnership with FBD featuring statistics on farm fatalities, and a dedicated Farm Safety Hub was populated on ifa.ie.

As part of Farm Safety Week 2023, IFA nominated Embrace FARM – Brian and Norma Rohan as Farm Safety Heroes 2023. Embrace FARM is a support network for farm families who have lost a loved one or suffered severe injury in a farm-related accident.

IFA is a partner organisation in the Farm Family Continuous Professional Development (CPD), a European Innovation Partnerships (EIP) Project, which will provide online farm safety training for all age groups in farm families. This training is free of charge until the end of November due to the funding provided by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine through the European Innovation Partnership (EIP) Initiative. Training is farmer- and family-friendly and can further develop the capacity for behaviour change on farms.

Succession & Inheritance Roadshow

IFA organised four succession and inheritance regional meetings. This roadshow aimed to raise awareness about the pressing issues around succession and inheritance and provide reliable information from professional bodies about succession and inheritance. Guest speakers on the night were Aisling Meehan Agri Solicitor, Gordon

Pepard/Kevin Connolly Teagasc, Martin Clarke/Tommie Fallon/Connell IFAC & Clare O'Keefe Succession Ireland.

Health and Wellbeing

IFA ran several campaigns concerning farmer health during 2023. These included:

- Sixteen walks were organised in partnership with See Change, Coillte and Mental Health Ireland throughout the country for the Green Ribbon campaign to reduce mental health associated stigma.
- A press release and promotion of the HSE SunSmart campaign were developed to increase awareness of skin cancer risks.
- At the National Ploughing Championship 2023, IFA organised a Prostate Cancer awareness campaign with consultants, nurses, and farmers battling this disease available in the IFA stand to speak to people and encourage them to check their health regularly.
- A leaflet, 'Ending Suicide, Beginning Hope', was published in partnership with Pieta House to support farmers and signpost them to Pieta's mental health service.

Education

As part of the Agriculture Consortium Group, IFA contributed to developing three farm-based apprenticeship programmes: Farm Technician, Horticulture and Farm Manager. Farm Technician, Horticulture, and Farm Manager apprenticeship programmes are now open for applications, with up to 100 farms registered to take on their first farming apprentices this year.

Alice Doyle
Chair, Farm Family and Social Affairs

Claire McGlynn
Policy Executive

Organisation



Matt Bowden of TU Dublin and IFA Deputy President Brian Rushe launching the Farm Crime Survey, a joint initiative between IFA and TU Dublin, on the Kildare farm of Henry O'Connor in June.

Member Benefits & Services

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

IFA Member Services continues to act as an important point of contact with members to thank them for their membership.

In addition, our customer service department, which offers the opportunity to talk directly to an agent rather than an automated system, dealt with over 100,000 calls, member queries, and other membership-related issues in 2023.

A continuous effort is maintained to review and improve the benefits package and services we have for our members.

In 2023, members continued to avail of the recently increased FBD voucher of €85 and a valuable Personal Accident Policy.

Farm & Home Business

- Personal Accident Cover with FBD
- €85 off motor, home & farm insurance with FBD
- Exclusive savings on home phone/broadband & exceptional customer service with IFA Telecom
- High-speed fibre broadband for members with IFA Telecom
- 20% off and €120 cash back with Bord Gáis Energy
- Exclusive discounts on price plans, an exclusive farm family plan, and a wide range of mobile handsets with Vodafone
- Competitive mobile broadband price plans with Vodafone

- Exclusive mobile upgrade offers with Vodafone
- Up to €300 off with IFAC
- Home security deal with Phone Watch
- Discounted Employment Service with HR Duo

Leisure/Travel/Lifestyle

- 15% off Original Irish Hotels
- 15% off motorist fares with Stena Line
- 10% off global car hire and 15% off van hire with Hertz
- Member Education and Development

Member Support Helplines

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

- Legal helpline
- Direct Payments and Inspections
- Debt support service
- Pieta House helpline
- Health and Safety
- Prime prevention
- Training and leadership development with Farm Business Skillnet



Dave Kirwan, Managing Director Bord Gáis Energy and Teresa Purtill Director of Services and Solutions, pictured in the Irish Farm Centre with IFA President Tim Cullinan and Director of Organisation, James Kelly.

Membership

The total number of voting members of the association was approx. 72,000. Considering all membership channels (main member, family, associate, and countryside), the entire Association membership was 76,000 at the end of March 2023.

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 significant activity on campaigns.

European Involvement Fund – IFA Levy

2023 marked the 50th year of IFA's permanent representation in the EU (See the Director of European Affairs report on pg 8). The EIF / IFA Levy is instrumental in ensuring Irish farmers' interests are professionally and comprehensively represented at European and international levels.

The European Involvement Fund (EIF) income represents approximately 35% of the association's operational income. The income from EIF is influenced by changes in price, volumes, and efficiency levels.

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

Member Education and Development

IFA's training division, Farm Business Skillnet, provided training in 2023 to over 2,000 farmers, including:

- IFA Executive Council – with Leadership, Media, Management Development and Communications modules
- National Officers' Committee – Corporate Governance
- County and Branch Officer training in several counties around leadership and meeting skills
- Future Leaders – Leadership and Communication Modules for young officers showing potential at branch level in the association.

FBS also provided farmers with a range of heavily subsidised practical training courses, including online TAM's Health & Safety training to over 800 farmers and Hoofcare, Sheep Shearing, etc. We also introduced new courses on biodiversity and carbon farming awareness.

Discussion Groups continued to engage in training across various areas, such as time and people Management and Group Purchasing.

FBS also sponsored a well-attended Forestry Conference and four regional "Family Farm Succession & Inheritance" workshops – which drew large crowds.

The Network has secured 2024 funding and looks forward to further engagement with farmers across a broad range of training and skills as required.

Solar

In 2021, IFA partnered with Bord Gáis on a solar energy pilot. This important partnership with Bord Gáis Energy has resulted in a successful pilot and the launch of a solar energy delivery partnership in March 2023. The initial response has been extremely positive, with the first installations already complete. The farming community wants to play an active part in the green agenda, and this is a genuine demonstration of this commitment, which also reduces cost inputs for farmers and helps the government deliver on the 2030 carbon reduction targets.

Crime Prevention

IFA's Crime Prevention Office had a busy 2023, 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 remind IFA members, encourage them to be proactive in security matters, and enable them to secure their property.

IFA raised rural crime and security matters through several specific member initiatives and engagements in partnership with An Garda Síochána, including:

- National Community Engagement Day
- Engagement with rural crime prevention officers
- Joint chairmanship of the National Rural Safety Forum

Martin Stapleton
National Treasurer

James Kelly
Director of Organisation

Communications



Taoiseach Leo Varadkar addressing the media at the 68th AGM of IFA in January.

The Press Office supported high-profile campaigns with a full communications plan during the year, including the Nature Restoration Law; the Nitrates derogation; climate action; and the election process.

The trend towards digital media continued in 2023

Our weekly e-newsletter continues to have a very high reach. It is sent to over 20,000 members each week and the average open rate is 39%, which is well above established metrics.

We have seen growth on X (formerly Twitter) by 10% in the last two years. Our other platforms have also seen growth in the last 12 months.

Our media monitoring sentiment barometer shows that IFA is viewed either neutrally or positively by 75% of those who interact with our messaging.

IFA.ie

IFA's central online resource - www.ifa.ie - is updated daily with news on IFA campaigns, policies and market prices and reports along with providing a library of policy submissions, sectoral and cross-sectoral resources and membership benefits, supports and services.

IFA.ie was redesigned this year, including a new 'Spotlight' menu to surface and promote trending and important topics, along with new features for our sectoral and cross-sectoral sections.

IFA has continued to operate online meetings, events and seminars as a valuable part of our membership outreach. IFA.ie facilitates the promotion and registration of these activities, allowing members to keep updated on the key policy topics that affect them.

Approximately 285,000 people accessed the site during 2023, representing a 20% growth in web visitors, generating over 1.2 million pageviews.

The most popular web content over the last 12 months included our redesigned Farm Schemes hub; the new IFA Solar section; and our campaign pages and policy publications.

IFA App

We have close to 17,000 downloads of the IFA App across the Apple and Google Play app stores.

The IFA App contains all the latest IFA news, videos, price updates, scheme info and access to our other tools and services. Details on downloading the IFA App can be found at IFA.ie/App.



IFA President Tim Cullinan meeting US President Joe Biden in Dublin Castle in April during the State dinner to mark the visit of the US President to Ireland.

Niall Madigan
Head of Communications

Ethel Horan
Communications Manager

Sean Hennessy
Communications Executive

Direct Payments Project Team



Farmers' Charter of Rights

Negotiations for a new Farmers' Charter for the CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027 began in late January. At a meeting in early March, the Department presented revised payment dates for the new CAP 2023-2027 schemes. Significant changes included the Areas of Natural Constraint (ANC) payment being pushed back by one month to October 17th and the new BISS payment delayed by a week to October 24th.

IFA completely rejected the proposals and made it very clear to the Department on the day that these were unacceptable. IFA also requested that an independent chair be appointed to oversee the negotiations. Despite this, the Department acted unilaterally and wrote to all farmers days after the Charter meeting, advising them of the new payment schedule. It later transpired that these letters were drafted and printed at the end of February, weeks before the issue was raised or discussed with the farm organisations.

IFA wrote to the Minister for Agriculture seeking an urgent meeting to address and resolve these issues. However, this did not happen. IFA decided not to attend the Charter of Rights meeting scheduled in early April until the Minister intervened.

Rather than meet and discuss the IFA bilaterally, a meeting of the Charter was held on April 27th, chaired by Minister McConalogue, which an IFA delegation attended. The Minister confirmed that an Independent Chair would be put in place to oversee the remaining negotiation process and that his Department would make every effort to ensure payments were made to farmers as early as possible. However, this did not materialise. IFA decided to stay out of the remaining Charter negotiations until previous commitments had been upheld.

In September, the Minister decided to cancel the final meeting of the Farmers' Charter group and instead hold a meeting with Farm

Organisations to 'discuss' payments for 2023 alongside the potential loss of the Nitrates Derogation after it had later transpired. After weeks of non-action and false promises from the Department, the IFA decided the time for talking was over and organised a picket for the final meeting of the Charter (supported by most Farm Organisations). To build momentum and highlight the seriousness of the issues at hand, plus the maltreatment of farmers' interests, the IFA held protests outside the Finna Fail & Fine Gael think-ins, where meetings were held with the Minister for Agriculture, the Tánaiste & An Taoiseach. IFA would like to thank the many farmers who participated in these IFA demonstrations.

IFA has continually examined the draft documentation from the proposed Charter meetings and continues to do so. Despite all the talking, no progress has been made on the 2023 payment dates. Under the Charter of Rights, the Department has committed to revert to previous payment dates in 2024.

Agricultural Appeals Office

IFA successfully supported members in several appeals with the Agriculture Appeals Office across many different farm schemes in 2023. IFA liaised with the appeal office officials on the ongoing review of the Agriculture Appeals Act, 2001 and operations of the Agricultural Appeals Office. The legislation will be in place in late 2023/ early 2024. IFA also engaged in the design of the online system for submitting appeals to the Office.

Direct Payment Problems

IFA assisted thousands of farmers with individual direct payment problems across all of the schemes at both national and local levels throughout 2023.

Brian Rushe
IFA Deputy
President

Michael Biggins
Chair, Rural
Development
Committee

Brendan Golden
Chair, Livestock
Committee

Tomas Bourke
Senior Policy
Executive

Shane Whelan
Senior Policy
Executive

Rachel Moloney
Policy Executive

SACs, SPAs and NHAs Project Team



The IFA SAC Project Team was established in late 2022. The project team consists of representatives from Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs), with new members appointed by the IFA National Officer Committee. The Committee held its first meeting in November 2022 and outlined its key priorities:

- Secure additional funding for the Farm Plan Scheme- ensure it is available to all who apply.
- Compensation for those whose land is designated- No new designations until current designations are compensated for
- Need recognition for challenges faced by designation
- Establish a 'One-Stop Shop' where farmers can seek information and make applications to one body- reduce being moved from billy to jack

The team met with National Parks & Wildlife Services to discuss designations, the NPWS Farm Plan Scheme and upcoming calls for European Innovation Partnerships (EIPs). Communication is ongoing. The team is also represented on the Designated Area Monitoring Committee.

One hundred fifty-seven applications were received for the NPWS Farm Plan call in 2023. Currently, there are 357 farm plans, and with this new tranche and sites included, there will be over 400 Farm Plans in operation in 2024. NPWS has committed a budget of just over € 3 million to support the projects, with additional support to the NPWS for an enhanced Farm Plan in Budget 2024.

IFA has engaged with representatives from Bord na Mona to discuss ongoing peatland habitat restoration measures on Brown Bog Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Co. Longford lands.

Pat Murphy

Pat Murphy
Chair, SACs, SPAs, NHAs Project Team

Shane Whelan

Shane Whelan
Senior Policy Executive

Rachel Moloney

Rachel Moloney
Policy Executive

Horse Project Team



Richard Kennedy opening the Equine Tams information meeting in Raddison Hotel Athlone.

Richard Kennedy, chairman of the IFA Horse Project Team (HPT), held many meetings throughout 2023. Following the revival of the IFA HPT in September 2021, the priority objective was to ensure that equine farmers were included in future TAMS/on-farm investment schemes by the Department of Agriculture.

The IFA Horse Project Team consists of representatives of both the thoroughbred and sport horse sectors, predominately involved in the breeding of horses. A 2017 Deloitte economic report commissioned by Horse Racing Ireland (HRI) showed that 92% of the country's registered horse breeders have five broodmares or less. The vast majority of this core of Irish horse breeders are involved in farming alongside their horse enterprise. The IFA has always strived to represent all sectors of the farming community, and the HPT will work within IFA to influence policymakers in promoting and assisting all areas of the Irish equine sector.

Following initial meetings with DAFM officials, the IFA HPT intensified local and Ministerial lobbying efforts. Following this intensive campaign, IFA successfully included equine farmers for grant

assistance in 2023. The IFA HPT continue to engage with DAFM and other stakeholders, Horse Sport Ireland (HSI) and Horse Racing Ireland (HRI), on achieving greater recognition for breeders.

The HPT continue to engage with DAFM officials on traceability and Brexit issues relating to the transport of horses to and from the UK for breeding. The HPT has proposed to Horse Racing Ireland (HRI) to offer an innovative thoroughbred breeder incentive scheme; this campaign is ongoing.

IFA Horse Project Team held two public information meetings in March 2023 to update members on the grant assistance measures available in TAMS 2023.

Richard Kennedy
Chair, Horse Project Team

Robert Malone
Policy Executive

Organic Project Team

IFA Director General Damian McDonald and IFA Organic Project Team leader John Curran at one of three information walks organised by IFA to inform farmers about the options available in organic farming.



Organic Farm Scheme

The IFA Organic Project Team continues to lobby for the Organic Farm Scheme (OFS) to be re-opened for new entrants. The OFS re-opened in October 2022, and over 2000 new applicants entered the scheme, doubling the number of organic farms in Ireland. Ireland has approximately 180,000 hectares under organic production, representing 4% of total agricultural land. There was a 54% increase in this year's OFS budget, with funding now standing at €57 million. The scheme is due to re-open again in October (2023).

National Organic Strategy

The next National Strategy for Organic Farming will be published in late 2023. IFA completed a detailed submission in August on proposals for the new Strategy. Some of these proposals included:

- Any target aiming for production increase must be market-driven, flexible, and follow demand, not anticipate it.
- There is a need for specific production research and advisory support for farmers on the same basis as their conventional counterparts in dairy or beef, for example.
- The new office of the Food Regulator must engage with organic stakeholders to bring about more transparency in the food chain.
- An Irish organic logo to recognise Irish products globally needs to be established as a main priority in the new Strategy.
- Measurement of actual consumer behaviour, as opposed to intention, when it comes to the purchase of organic produce would also help establish what is a sustainable price premium for various organic produce.
- Continuing to explore the potential for organic food procurement.

Research & Development

The sector remains under-resourced in research & development, education and knowledge transfer despite several appointments in 2023. The Project Team continues to liaise with Teagasc to discuss future research for the sector, the provision of specialist organic advisors and knowledge transfer groups.

Markets

IFA continues to liaise with Bord Bia on new market opportunities for the sector. In February, representatives from the project team travelled to BioFach – the world's largest trade fair for organic food and agriculture. IFA continues to engage with Bord Bia on market opportunities for the sector, and IFA representatives on the Organic Forum raise the issue of markets at each meeting. The announcement of the €1.5 million BAR funding for Organic produce and the new Bord Bia promotion campaign is welcome.

IFA Organic Farm Information Walks

IFA held three organic farming events to inform farmers of options available in organic farming. The three events took place ahead of the re-opening of the Organic Farm Scheme in October. The events took place in Laois, Monaghan and Donegal. Stakeholders, including the Department of Agriculture, Teagasc, the Irish Organic Association, the Organic Trust and the Agriculture Consultants Association, contributed to the events. Over 400 farmers attended the three events.

The project team will continue to lobby for all aspects of organic farming and will engage with all Irish retailers regarding stocking more Irish organic produce. The organics project team will meet virtually and in person throughout 2024.

John Curran

John Curran
Chair, Organic Project Team

Niamh Brennan

Niamh Brennan
Policy Executive



The IFA Live Animal Crib returned to the Mansion House in December, when Lord Mayor Daithí de Roiste decided to re-instate the Nativity scene.



Juliet Greene, wife of the late Juan Greene (the first President of NFA) pictured with Tim Cullinan on the occasion of her 100th birthday.



An IFA guard of honour at the funeral of former IFA President, Padraig Walshe.

Audit Committee

On behalf of the Audit Committee, I am pleased to report on the activities of the Audit Committee for the year ending 31st December 2023. The purpose of this report is to describe the activities of the Audit Committee in carrying out its responsibilities during the year. The role of the Audit Committee is to provide an additional layer of oversight and assurance concerning the financial and risk management of the association, including compliance with the statutory audit and other reporting requirements.

Scope

The scope of the Committee's work is set out in the Terms of Reference of the Audit Committee, which were approved by the Executive Council on 1st December 2020:-

- To monitor the integrity of the financial statements of the association, including the management accounts and any other formal reports to the National Finance Committee and the National Council relating to financial performance
- To review significant financial reporting issues and the judgements they are based on.
- To review the methods used to account for significant or unusual transactions where different approaches are possible.
- Review whether the association has followed appropriate accounting standards and made reasonable estimates and judgements.
- To assess the clarity of disclosures in the association's financial reports.
- To review the association's internal financial controls and assess the potential for fraud.
- To review the risk management policies of IFA relating to legal, financial, and reputational risks and ensure compliance with all necessary regulations.
- Review the external auditor's terms of engagement, annual audit plan and the audit's effectiveness.
- To oversee the relationship with the external auditor, recommend their appointment or re-appointment, recommend remuneration and review whether any other work carried out by the external auditor impinges on their independence and objectivity.
- To review the auditor's report, the letters of representation and the management letter.

- To review any areas where there may be legal implications involved and significant financial or reputational risk to IFA from the organisation's activities or actions.
- To review any other regulatory audit of the association.

The independence of the Audit Committee is fundamental to its operation.

Composition

The membership of the Audit Committee comprises Eamonn Looney (Committee Chairman), Martin Stapleton (Treasurer), Richard Kennedy (former Deputy President) and Ken Heade (Former Financial Controller). The Executive Council is satisfied that the Chairman and Mr. Heade meet the requirements for recent and relevant financial experience.

Committee Meetings

The Committee met on seven occasions during the year. Typically, the Director General, Director of Governance, Financial Director, as well as representatives of the external auditor are invited to attend meetings. In addition, the President attends meetings at the invitation of the Committee.

The external auditor has direct access to the Committee chairman at all times and meets the Committee without executives being present on a formal basis at least annually to provide additional opportunities for open dialogue and feedback.

The Committee dealt with the following matters during the year:

- Reviewed progress on IT upgrades, training and risk mitigation measures.
- Reviewed progress on Audit handover to RBK, newly appointed external auditor.



- Reviewed the Management Accounts / projected outlook as presented.
- Discussed the Internal Audit Plan.
- Received updates on ongoing disciplinary issues and issued a memo to the National Council highlighting the risks to the association.
- Reviewed implementation of the investment strategy and investment returns.
- Received updates on the Elections Process 2023.
- Received updates on IFA Structural Review.
- Received updates on draft 3-year plan 2024-2026.
- Received and approved the External Audit Plan 2023.
- Reviewed the performance and outlook for Member Services
- Received the RBK 2023 External Audit Report and reviewed its findings:-
 - » Clean Audit Report.
 - » Audit approach and procedures in line with Audit Plan as approved.
 - » Reviewed areas of Audit emphasis and Audit findings.
 - » No concerns arose during testing, and no significant deficiencies were identified in accounting or internal controls.
 - » RBK would issue a clean audit opinion for the year ending 31st March 2023.
 - » RBK will review post-balance Sheet events before the final signoff.
 - » RBK confirmed their independence and objectivity.
- Reviewed the Draft Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2023.
 - » Higher Income in 2022 – higher EIF Levies, higher Agricultural Trust contribution received in the year and higher Dividend Income.
 - » Higher costs resulting from the resumption of activities post-COVID-19 – mainly in staff costs, voluntary expenses, public relations, and membership recruitment.
 - » Significant increase in investment values from March 2021.

- Recommended 2023 Consolidated Financial Statements to National Council for approval.
- Met with representatives of RBK without executives being present.
 - » RBK expressed their gratitude to the management team for their help in ensuring a smooth handover and promptly responding to all queries.
 - » RBK highlighted the need to address the projected financial deficits following the full resumption of activities post-COVID and acknowledged the options available to the association.
- Directed the commencement of an internal audit program.
- Reviewed internal audit reports on telecom data retention and investment reporting.
- Reviewed the Election 2023 processes to ensure the highest standards of governance and integrity of the system.

In addition to the above, Messrs. Looney and Heade worked with RBK to provide audit assurance and an independent overview of the processes leading up to the counting of Election ballot papers on 12th December 2023.

KEY ISSUES AND CONCERNS

Finances of the Association

The initiatives implemented in 2020 have provided financial stability for the association with declining Operating surpluses in the Accounts for each of the years ended 31st March 2021, 31st March 2022 and 31st March 2023. However, it must be noted that the return to full operational activity from 2022 and inflationary cost increases to date have created further ongoing financial challenges to the finances of the association, which must be addressed.

Appreciation

As Chairman, I want to thank my fellow members of the Audit Committee, the Executive and the National Council for their commitment and contribution to the work of the Audit Committee.

Eamonn Looney
Chair, Audit Committee



Annual Report and Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023



Statement of National Council's Responsibilities	50
Independent Auditor's Report	50-51
Consolidated Income and Expenditure Account	52
Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income	52

Consolidated Balance Sheet	53
Consolidated Statement of Changes in Equity	54
Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows	55
Notes to the Financial Statements	56-64
Supplementary Information	65

National Council's responsibilities statement for the year ended 31 March 2023

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

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

Independent Auditor's Report to the National Council of The Irish Farmers' Association

Report on the audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the Financial Statements of The Irish Farmers' Association (the 'Association') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') for the year ended 31 March 2023, which comprise the consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income, the consolidated Balance Sheet, the consolidated Statement of Cash Flows, the consolidated Statement of Changes in Equity and the notes to the Financial Statements. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', issued by the Financial Reporting Council.

In our opinion, the accompanying Financial Statements:

- give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the Group as at 31 March 2023 and of its Surplus for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland) (ISAs (Ireland)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Group and the Association in accordance with the ethical requirements that are

relevant to our audit of Financial Statements in Ireland, including the Ethical Standard issued by the Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority (IAASA), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the Financial Statements, we have concluded that the Councils' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the Financial Statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Group's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the Financial Statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the National Council with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The National Council are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual review, other than the Financial Statements and our Auditors' report thereon. Our opinion on the Financial Statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of National Council

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

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

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the Financial Statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditors' Report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (Ireland) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate,

they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these Financial Statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the Financial Statements is located on the IAASA's website at: <https://www.iaasa.ie/Publications/Auditing-standards>. This description forms part of our Auditors' Report.

Opinion on other matters

Based solely on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, we report that:

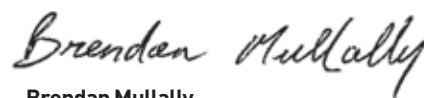
- We have obtained all the information and explanations which we consider necessary for the purposes of our audit.
- In our opinion the accounting records of the group were sufficient to permit the Financial Statements to be readily and properly audited.
- The Financial Statements are in agreement with the accounting records.
- In our opinion the information given in the National Council' report is consistent with the Financial Statements and the National Councils' report has been prepared accordingly.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

Based on the knowledge and understanding of the group and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the National Councils' report

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the Association's Council, as a body, our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Association's Council those matters we are required to state to them in an 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 group and the Association and the Association's Council, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Brendan Mullally
for and on behalf of
RBK Business Advisers

Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm
Termini, 3 Arkle Road, Sandyford, Dublin 18

Date: 19th December 2023

Consolidated Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 March 2023

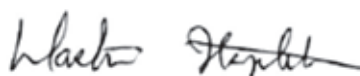
	Notes	2023 €	2022 €
Income	3	17,165,600	15,717,873
Expenditure	4	(16,973,460)	(15,189,562)
Profit on disposal of investments		384	118,798
Other interest receivable and similar income		2,047	528
Operating surplus		194,571	647,637
Share of operating surplus/(deficit) in associate undertakings	11	7,941	(123,060)
Fair value gain on investments	10	1,574,345	2,156,890
Surplus before taxation	5	1,776,857	2,681,467
Taxation charge	8	(458,526)	(808,853)
Surplus for the financial year		1,318,331	1,872,614
Other comprehensive income		-	-
Total surplus for the year		1,318,331	1,872,614

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

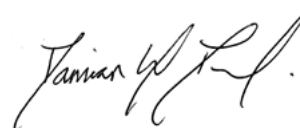
The Financial Statements were approved by the National Council on 19th December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



Tim Cullinan
(President)



Martin Stapleton
(National Treasurer)



Damian McDonald
(Director General)

Consolidated Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2023

	Notes	2023 €	2022 €
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	9	509,002	609,727
Financial investments	10	15,738,490	14,037,311
Other investments	11	3,058,965	3,034,368
		19,306,457	17,681,406
Current assets			
Debtors: amounts falling due within one year	12	758,164	931,239
Cash at bank and in hand	13	3,919,387	3,786,299
		4,677,551	4,717,538
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(3,748,277)	(3,835,407)
Net current assets		929,274	882,131
Total assets less current liabilities		20,235,731	18,563,537
Provision for liabilities	16	(2,545,225)	(2,191,362)
		(2,545,225)	(2,191,362)
Net assets		17,690,506	16,372,175
Capital and reserves			
Accumulated surplus		17,690,506	16,372,175

The financial statements were approved by the National Council on 19th December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



Tim Cullinan
(President)



Martin Stapleton
(National Treasurer)



Damian McDonald
(Director General)

Consolidated Statement of Changes in Equity for the year ended 31 March 2023

	Accumulated surplus €	Total €
At 1 April 2021	14,499,561	14,499,561
Comprehensive income for the year		
Surplus for the year	1,872,614	1,872,614
Other comprehensive income for the year	-	-
At 1 April 2022	16,372,175	16,372,175
Comprehensive income for the year		
Surplus for the year	1,318,331	1,318,331
Other comprehensive income for the year	-	-
At 31 March 2023	17,690,506	17,690,506

The notes on pages 9 to 24 form part of these Financial Statements.

Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 March 2023

	2023 €	2022 €
Cash flows from operating activities		
Operating surplus	194,571	647,637
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation of tangible assets	168,451	159,306
Gain on disposal of assets	(384)	(118,798)
Dividend and investment income received	(527,759)	(150,823)
Interest received	(2,047)	(528)
Decrease in debtors	187,878	242,143
(Decrease) in creditors	(63,179)	(39,764)
Corporation tax	(143,417)	(78,352)
Net cash generated from operating activities	<u>(185,886)</u>	<u>660,821</u>
Cash flows from investing activities		
Payments to acquire investments	(3,329,748)	(1,510,606)
Receipts on disposal of investments	3,186,258	1,527,120
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets	(74,080)	(222,284)
Receipts from disposal of tangible fixed assets	6,738	9,000
Interest received	2,047	528
Dividend and investment income received	527,759	150,823
Net cash from investing activities	<u>318,974</u>	<u>(45,419)</u>
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	133,088	615,402
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	3,786,299	3,170,897
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of year	<u>3,919,387</u>	<u>3,786,299</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of year comprise:		
Cash at bank and in hand	3,919,387	3,786,299
	<u>3,919,387</u>	<u>3,786,299</u>

The notes on pages 9 to 24 form part of these Financial Statements.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2023

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.

1.1 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 entity operates.

1.2 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 18, 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.

1.3 Going concern

The Financial Statements are prepared on the going concern basis. The Association had net current assets of €929,274 (2022: €882,131) and the Association remained in a net asset position of €17,690,506 (2022: €16,372,175) at the balance sheet date.

The National Council, having considered budgets prepared by management and the ability to generate cash from various options if required which may include an affiliation fee increase or a disposal of financial assets, have a reasonable expectation that the Association and the Group have adequate resources to continue in operational existence for a period at least twelve months from the signing of the Financial Statements. Thus, they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the annual Financial Statements.

1.4 Tangible fixed assets

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

Office equipment	10% - 25%
Fixtures and fittings	10% - 20%
Motor vehicles	25%
Buildings	4%

1.5 Financial instruments

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

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

(i) Financial assets and liabilities

All financial assets and liabilities are initially measured at transaction price (including transaction costs), except for those financial assets classified as at fair value through profit or loss, which are initially measured at fair value (which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs), unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction. If an arrangement constitutes a finance transaction, the financial asset or financial liability is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

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

- Returns to the holder are (i) a fixed amount; or (ii) a fixed rate of return over the life of the instrument; or (iii) a variable return that, throughout the life of the instrument, is equal to a single referenced quoted or observable interest rate; or (iv) some combination of such fixed rate and variable rates, providing that both rates are positive.
- 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 period.
- 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 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.
- There are no conditional returns or repayment provisions except for the variable rate return described in (a) and prepayment provisions described in (c).

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

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

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

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

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

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

(ii) Investments

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

(iii) Fair value measurement

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

1.6 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 associates' profit/(loss) to date.

1.7 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.

1.8 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.

1.9 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.

1.10 Retirement benefits

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

2. Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the Group's accounting policies, which are described in note 1, the National Council 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 National Council 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 estimates 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 on consultation with legal counsel and their best estimate or settlement of such claims.

3. Income

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

Income	2023 €	2022 €
Broadband and phone services	5,540,014	5,662,248
Membership contributions	10,334,559	9,460,075
Trust fund contributions	663,757	330,000
Investment dividend income	458,812	108,329
Other income	168,458	157,221
	17,165,600	15,717,873

All group income was earned in the Republic of Ireland.

4. Expenditure

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

Expenditure:	2023 €	2022 €
IFA Telecom expenses (including staff costs)	5,540,150	5,491,612
Total staff costs	5,770,522	5,079,732
Voluntary costs	1,036,552	587,369
Premises	483,048	435,009
Communications	434,210	482,786
Research	27,029	2,785
Public relations	657,055	340,194
Professional fees	583,031	559,774
Affiliation fees	170,615	129,788
Financial and IT charges	395,595	306,980
Foreign travel	46,873	10,733
Brussels office	535,122	477,327
Membership recruitment	506,154	390,433
Membership promotion	504,456	395,176
Other expenditure	283,048	499,864
	16,973,460	15,189,562

5. Surplus/(deficit) on ordinary activities before taxation

Surplus on ordinary activities before taxation is stated after charging/ (crediting):	2023 €	2022 €
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	168,451	159,306
Exchange differences	(1,725)	(2,680)
Defined contribution pension cost	481,410	501,577
	168,136	157,203

The analysis of the auditor's remuneration is as follows:

Auditor's remuneration for work carried out for the Group in respect of the financial year is as follows:	2023 €	2022 €
Irish Farmers Association	27,000	32,000
IFA Telecom	12,000	16,520
ISGA	1,000	1,265
Total Group	40,000	49,785

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:

	2023 €	2022 €
President (Cullinan)		
Gross Salary	67,866	54,591
Net amount charged	67,866	54,591

The Remuneration Committee agreed that the salary of the President should be €139,836. This amount is reduced by any directors' fees payable by outside bodies that came as a consequence of the IFA office.

Deputy President (Rushe)		
Gross Salary	30,777	16,280
Net amount charged	30,777	16,280

The Remuneration Committee agreed that the salary of the Deputy President should be €40,785. This amount would be reduced by any directors' fees payable by outside bodies that came as a consequence of the IFA office.

Director General		
Salary	215,998	193,012
Employer pension contribution	32,400	28,952
	248,398	221,964

Executive management		
Salary	549,093	522,060
Employer pension contribution	97,489	94,806
Key management compensation	646,582	616,866

National Council		
Labour replacement paid in Financial year	150,850	108,020
Effect of accrual release	11,012	(10,760)
Net amount charged	161,862	97,260

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

Salary	92,077	86,345
Employer pension contribution	11,503	10,493
	103,580	96,838

7. Interest receivable

	2023 €	2022 €
Other interest receivable	2,047	528
	2,047	528

8. Tax on ordinary activities

The tax credit comprises:	2023 €	2022 €
Corporation tax	49,645	64,332
Debit movement in deferred tax liability (Note 16)	353,863	597,356
Share of associate's tax credit	(9,877)	-
Other taxes incurred	64,895	147,165
Total tax charge on ordinary activities	458,526	808,853

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

	2023 €	2022 €
Surplus on ordinary activities	1,776,857	2,681,467
	1,776,857	2,681,467
Before tax 12.5% (2021: 12.5%)		
Tax if charged at standard corporation rate	222,107	335,183
Expenses not taxable in determining taxable surplus	34,021	13,230
Impact of other taxes	202,398	460,440
Group tax charge for the period	458,526	808,853

9. Tangible Assets

Group	Buildings €	Motor Vehicles €	Fixtures and Fittings €	Office Equipment €	Total €
Cost or valuation					
At 1 April 2022	219,206	205,203	897,474	404,413	1,726,296
Additions	-	48,000	-	26,080	74,080
Disposals	-	(35,700)	(11,578)	(31,699)	(78,977)
At 31 March 2023	219,206	217,503	885,896	398,794	1,721,399
Depreciation					
At 1 April 2022	35,072	101,582	783,722	196,193	1,116,569
Charge for the year	8,769	36,316	38,756	84,610	168,451
Disposals	-	(29,346)	(11,578)	(31,699)	(72,623)
At 31 March 2023	43,841	108,552	810,900	249,104	1,212,397
Net book value					
At 31 March 2023	175,365	108,951	74,996	149,690	509,002
At 31 March 2022	184,134	103,621	113,752	208,220	609,727

10. Financial investments

	2023 €	2022 €
Quoted investments at market value	15,738,490	14,037,311
Opening balance	14,037,311	11,782,157
Net additions / (disposals) during the financial year	126,834	98,264
Movements in fair value of investments	1,574,345	2,156,890
	15,738,490	14,037,311

Quoted investments represent shares held by the fund in publicly quoted companies. The cost of these shares was €6,853,934 (2022: €6,746,905).

Special Reserve Fund:

€12,780,121 (2022: 10,957,893) of the above balance relates specifically to the special reserve fund assets.

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

11. Other investments

	2023 €	2022 €
Unquoted Investments		
Irish Farm Centre Limited (i)	2,994,499	2,976,681
Other investments (ii)	64,466	57,687
	3,058,965	3,034,368
(i) Irish Farm Centre Limited		
Valuation as at 1 April 2022	2,976,681	3,099,741
Share of associate's profit / (loss) before taxation	7,941	(123,060)
Share of associate's taxation credit	9,877	-
Valuation as at 31 March 2023	2,994,499	2,976,681

	Holding	Business	Registered Office
Irish Farm Centre Limited	48.76%	Office rental and related services	Irish Farm Centre, Bluebell, Dublin 12

During the year, the associate undertaking recorded an operating profit of €16,286 (2022: loss of €252,377) before a taxation credit of €20,256 (2022: €Nil). The associate's results include a property fair value adjustment of (€83,500) in respect of a building revaluation. The associate undertaking had combined net assets of €6,141,304 at year end (2022: €6,104,762). 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 €2,994,499 (2022: €2,976,681).

(ii) Other unquoted investments are held at cost less impairment.

12. Debtors

	2023 €	2022 €
Debtors	686,799	852,584
Accrued income and other debtors	25,047	28,355
Corporation tax repayable	14,803	-
VAT repayable	31,515	50,300
	758,164	931,239

13. Cash and cash equivalents

	2023 €	2022 €
Cash at bank and in hand	3,919,387	3,786,299

14. Creditors

Amounts falling due within one year:	2023 €	2022 €
Trade creditors	837,584	791,247
Corporation tax	-	23,951
PAYE/PRSI/VAT	189,531	163,123
Professional / legal and other accruals	300,178	318,593
Trade accruals	1,466,744	1,496,126
Pension / staff and voluntary expense accruals	954,240	1,042,367
	3,748,277	3,835,407

15. Financial instruments

Financial assets	2023 €	2022 €
Measured at fair value through profit or loss	15,738,490	14,037,311
Measured at undiscounted amounts receivable	711,846	880,939
Measured at cost less impairment	3,058,965	3,034,368

Financial assets measured at fair value through profit and loss comprise investments in listed equity instruments.

Financial assets measured at undiscounted amounts receivable comprise debtors and accrued income and other debtors.

Financial assets measured at cost less impairment comprise other investments.

Financial liabilities	2023 €	2022 €
Measured at undiscounted amounts payable	837,584	791,247

Financial liabilities measured at undiscounted amounts payable comprise trade and other creditors.

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

	2023 €	2022 €
On financial assets measured at fair value through profit or loss	1,574,345	2,156,890
Interest or other income on financial assets measured at amortised cost	2,047	528

16. Provision for liabilities

Deferred tax is provided as follows:	2023 €	2022 €
Deferred tax arising in relation to quoted investments	2,545,225	2,191,362
Opening balance	2,191,362	1,594,006
Movement for the current financial year (Note 8)	353,863	597,356
Balance at end of year	2,545,225	2,191,362

17. Pensions

The Association 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 €538,550 (2022: €557,229). The amount owed to the scheme at year end is €0 (2022: €0).

18. Subsidiaries and related activities

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

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

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.

19. Comparative balances

Where necessary, comparative balances have been reclassified on the basis of current year presentation.

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.

21. Approval of Financial Statements

The National Council approved these Financial Statements for issue on.

Supplementary information

	At 31 March 2023				At 31 March 2022			
	IFA 2023 €	IFA Telecom Limited 2023 €	Consolidation adjustment 2023 €	Total 2022 €	IFA 2022 €	IFA Telecom Limited 2022 €	Consolidation adjustment 2022 €	Total 2022 €
FIXED ASSETS								
Tangible assets	432,772	76,230	-	509,002	456,828	152,899	-	609,727
Special reserve fund assets	12,780,121	2,958,369	-	15,738,490	10,957,894	3,272,609	(193,192)	14,037,311
Financial investments	3,058,965	-	-	3,058,965	3,034,368	-	-	3,034,368
	16,271,858	3,034,599	0	19,306,457	14,449,090	3,425,508	(193,192)	17,681,406
CURRENT ASSETS								
Debtors	921,823	3,366,189	(3,529,848)	758,164	691,131	3,436,362	(3,196,254)	931,239
Cash at bank and in hand	2,204,905	1,714,482	-	3,919,387	2,515,292	1,327,957	(56,950)	3,786,299
	3,126,728	5,080,671	(3,529,848)	4,677,551	3,206,423	4,764,319	(3,253,204)	4,717,538
CREDITORS: (Amounts falling due within one year)	(6,263,141)	(1,014,984)	3,529,848	(3,748,277)	(6,397,693)	(884,111)	3,446,397	(3,835,407)
NET CURRENT (LIABILITIES)/ASSETS	(3,136,413)	4,065,687	-	929,274	(3,191,270)	3,880,208	193,193	882,131
Provision for liabilities	(2,545,225)	-	-	(2,545,225)	(2,191,362)	-	-	(2,191,362)
NET ASSETS	10,590,220	7,100,286	-	17,690,506	9,066,458	7,305,716	1	16,372,175
CAPITAL AND RESERVES								
Accumulated surplus	10,590,220	7,100,286	-	17,690,506	9,066,458	7,305,716	1	16,372,175
CAPITAL EMPLOYED	10,590,220	7,100,286	-	17,690,506	9,066,458	7,305,716	1	16,372,175

	IFA 2023 €	SRF 2023 €	Others 2023 €	IFAT 2023 €	IFC 2023 €	TOTAL 2023 €
Operating Results	(336,282)	333,105	138,468	59,280	7,941	202,512
Tax	(64,895)	-	-	(49,645)	9,877	(104,663)
Operating (Deficit) / Surplus	(401,177)	333,105	138,468	9,635	17,818	97,849
Movement in investments	-	1,789,295	-	(214,950)	-	1,574,345
Deferred Tax	-	(460,653)	-	106,790	-	(353,863)
Net Result/Retained Earnings	(401,177)	1,661,747	138,468	(98,525)	17,818	1,318,331

National Council Attendance 2023

SURNAME	FIRST NAME	POSITION	24 Jan 68th AGM	07 Mar	19 Apr	16 May	26 June	27 Jul	27 Jul Special Meeting	05 Sep	11 Oct MS Teams	14 Nov	19 DEC
Leonard	Patrick	Roscommon Chair	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓
O'Dowd	Michael	Sligo Chair			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Henry	Kathleen	Sligo Chair	✓	✓									
Powell	Baden	Tipperary North Chair	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓
Carroll	Pat	Tipperary South Chair	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Heffernan	John	Waterford Chair	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓
O'Brien	Richard	Westmeath Chair		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	A	✓	P	✓
MacCarthy	Bernie	Westmeath Chair	✓										✓
O'Mahony	Jer	Wexford Chair	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Byrne	Thomas	Wicklow Chair	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Maher	TJ	Animal Health Chair	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Arthur	Stephen	Dairy Chair	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	A	✓	✓	✓	✓
O'Brien	Paul	Environment & Rural Affairs Chair	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	P	✓
McDonagh	Rose Mary	Farm Business Chair	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Doyle	Alice	Farm Family & Social Affairs Chair	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	P	P	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fleming	Jason	Farm Forestry Chair	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
McEvoy	Kieran	Grain Chair	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	P	P	A	✓	✓	✓
Conneely	Caillin	Hill Farming Chair	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	A	A	✓	✓
O'Boyle	Keith	Liquid Milk Chair	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	A	A	✓	✓	✓	✓
Golden	Brendan	Livestock Chair	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hanrahan	Declan	Livestock Vice-Chair	✓	A	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	A	✓	✓
Gallie	Roy	Pig & Pigeat Chair	✓	A	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓
Ryan	Sean	***Potato Chair	✓	A	N/A	A	A	N/A	A	A	✓	A	✓
Vacant	Vacant	****Horticulture Chair	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
Sweetnam	Nigel	Poultry Chair	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓
Biggins	Michael	Rural Development Chair	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓
Comiskey	Kevin	Sheep Chair	✓	✓	A	✓	A	✓	✓	P	✓	✓	
Gallagher	Adrian	****Sheep Chair	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓
Kennedy	Jack	IFJ		✓	✓	✓	A	A	A	✓	A	A	✓
O'Donnell	James	ICOS	✓	A	✓	✓	A						
Carr	Edward	ICOS						✓	A	✓	A	✓	A
Keane	John	MACRA	A	A	A								
Houlihan	Elaine	MACRA				A	A	A	A	A	✓	A	A

IFA National Committees & Project Teams 2023*

Animal Health

MEMBERS 2023		
Name	County	Branch
T J Maher	Chair, Tipperary	Killenaule
Anthony Jackson	Carlow	Tynock-Kiltegan
Amanda Mooney	Vice Chair, Wicklow	Ashford
Declan Hanrahan	Co-Opted - Livestock Committee Rep	Borris-in-Ossary
Darragh Scott	Co-Opted - Dairy Committee Rep	Gortnahoe
Bert Stewart	Co-Opted - AHI BVDIG member	Drumgole
Paddy Donnelly	Co-opted - AHI JDIG member	Sonna
Patrick Farrell	Co-Opted - Outgoing Chair	Athy
Thomas Cooney	Cavan	Laragh
William Hanrahan	Clare	Doonbeg
Maurice Smiddy	Cork (C)	Ballymacoda
Derry Scannell	Cork (W)	Rossmore
Timmy Lane	Cork (N)	Fermoy
George E Starrett	Donegal	Finn Valley
Seamus McGrath	Dublin	Rolestown - Oldtown
Maura Canning	Galway	Mullagh
Shane Mcauliffe	Kerry	Knocknagoshel
Joseph G Morrissey	Kildare	Manor Kilbride
Brendan Hickey	Kilkenny	Johnstown
Noreen Cahill	Laois	Spink
Jason Commiskey	Leitrim	Drumahair
Edmond Scanlan	Limerick	Clarina
Mervyn Waters	Longford	Killashee
Conor Taafe	Louth	Ardee
Thomas Fitzpatrick	Mayo	Robeen
Patrick Horgan	Meath	Ballinacree
David Hall	Monaghan	Newbliss
John P Keena	Offaly	Ferbane
Sean Connaughton	Roscommon	Boyle
Barry Convey	Sligo	Gurteen
Eamonn Cleary	Tipperary (N)	Ardcroney
Erica O'Keeffe	Tipperary (S)	Cashel
Luke Casey	Waterford	Kilmacthomas
Bernie McCarthy	Westmeath	Kilbeggan
Patrick Murray	Wexford	Monaseed

Aquaculture

MEMBERS 2023			
Name	County	Branch	Role
Michael Molloy	Chair, Mayo	Westport	Chair & Rope Mussels
Kian Louet-Feisser	Vice-Chair, Louth	Cooley	Vice-Chair & Oysters
Cliona Mhic Ghiolla Chuda	Waterford	Dungarvan	Oysters
Mag Kirwan	Kilkenny	Thomastown	Trout
John Harrington	Cork	Bere Island	Rope Mussels
Liam Roche	Mayo	Fahy Kilmeena	Salmon
Gerry O'Donohue	Galway	Connemara	Salmon
Catherine McManus	Donegal	Fanad	Salmon
Finian O'Sullivan	Cork	Bantry	Rope Mussels/ Shellfish Safety
Patie O'Sullivan	Kerry	Cromane	Bottom Mussels
Cindy O'Brien	Galway	Rahoon-Bearna	Other Species
Lee Hunter	Donegal	Dungloe	Oysters

* Members of IFA National Committees & Project Teams as of 1st December 2023

IFA National Committees & Project Teams 2023*

Dairy

MEMBERS 2023		
Name	County	Branch
Stephen Arthur	Chair, Wicklow	Rathdrum
Seamus Dolan	Vice-Chair, Cavan	Templeport
Keith O Boyle	Chair, Liquid Milk	Hollymount
Jamie Kealy	Carlow	Ballon
Raymond Brady	Cavan	Mullahoran
Ciaran O'Connell	Clare	Parteen
Alan Jagoe	Cork (C)	Carrigaline
Gerard Lehane	Cork (W)	Timoleague
Noel Hurley	Cork (N)	Kildorrery
Ian Witherow	Donegal	Convoy-Raphoe
James Scully	Dublin	St. Margarets
Noel Murphy	Galway	Ballymacward
Owen O'Sullivan	Kerry	Currow
Stephen Byrne	Kildare	Kildare
Eamon Mooney	Kilkenny	Castlecomer
James Barber	Laois	Rathdowney
Daniel Kelly	Leitrim	Drumahair
John Hannon	Limerick	Clarina
Padraig O Farrell	Longford	Longford
Thomas J Meegan	Louth	Knockbridge
Padraic Joyce	Mayo	Islandeady
Denis Fagan	Meath	Kildalkey
Martin Mcearney	Monaghan	Ballybay
Fearghal Sullivan	Offaly	Daingean
Miriam Gunn	Roscommon	Strokestown
Padraig Mulligan	Sligo	Templeboy
Michael Kennedy	Tipperary (N)	Nenagh
Darragh Scott	Tipperary (S)	Gortnahoe
Laura O'Brien-Forbes	Waterford	Tallow
Enda Burke	Westmeath	Kinnegad
M J Scallan	Wexford	Ballymurn
Jack Keenan	Wicklow	Aughrim

Environment & Rural Affairs

MEMBERS 2023		
Name	County	Branch
Paul O'Brien	Chair, Kilkenny	Graignamanagh
John Murphy	Vice-Chair, Cork (C)	Inniscarra
John Duffy	Carlow	Clonmore / Hacketstown
Seamus Dolan	Cavan	Templeport
Kieran Woods	Clare	Tradaree
John Murphy	Cork (C)	Inniscarra
Pat Coakley	Cork (N)	K'vullen-Ctroche-Shanballymore
John Beechinor	Cork (W)	Clonakilty
Michael O Chance	Donegal	Newtowncunningham
Philip Maguire	Dublin	Enniskerry
Henry Walsh	Galway	Oranmore
Tommy Culloty	Kerry	Tralee
Thomas Kelly	Kildare	Manor Kilbride
Eamon Sheehan Jnr	Kilkenny	Danesfort
Liam Delaney	Laois	Portlaoise
David Notley	Leitrim	Annaduff
Barry Murphy	Limerick	Clarina
Emmet Duffy	Longford	Ballinalee
Peter Dunne	Louth	Dunleer
John G. Davitt	Mayo	Park - Burren
Martin Heaney	Meath	Oristown
Niall Mcmeel	Monaghan	Traugh Upper
Enda Bracken	Offaly	Killoughey
James O'Connor	Roscommon	Boyle
Bernie Finan	Sligo	Achonry
Seamus Hayes	Tipperary (N)	Toomevara
Michael Tobin	Tipperary (S)	Cahir
Mark Connors	Waterford	Kilmacthomas
James Geoghegan	Westmeath	Rathugh
Thomas Doyle	Wexford	Camolin
David Johnson	Wicklow	Barndarrig

* Members of IFA National Committees & Project Teams as of 1st December 2023

IFA National Committees & Project Teams 2023*

Farm Business

MEMBERS 2023		
Name	County	Branch
Rose Mary Mc Donagh	Chair, Galway	Caherlistrane
Bill O'Keefe	Vice-Chair, Kilkenny	Clara
Gilbert Smyth	Carlow	Bagenalstown
Owen Brodie	Cavan	Maghera-Mu'Connaught
Rosaleen O Reilly	Clare	Doora
Marie Mccarthy	Cork (C)	Innishannon
Jeremiah O Sullivan	Cork (W)	Leap
Donal Buckley	Cork (N)	Mallow
Andrew McShea	Donegal	Ballyshannon
Laurence Ward	Dublin	Rolestown-Oldtown
Deirdre Mongan	Galway	Kinvara
Helen O'Mahony	Kerry	Castleisland
Eugene Lawler	Kildare	Moone
Bill O'Keefe	Kilkenny	Clara
Anne-Maria Aird	Laois	Portlaoise
Eddie Mitchell	Leitrim	Manorhamilton
Pius Horgan	Limerick	Abbeyfeale
Roy McCormack	Longford	Newtown Forbes
Gerard Meegan	Louth	Termonfeckin
Martin Gilvarry	Mayo	Ardagh-Ballina
Fergal Hennessy	Meath	Ballinacree
Martin Connolly	Monaghan	Threemilehouse
Noel Keyes	Offaly	Rahan
Gerard Fallon	Roscommon	Knockcroghery
John P. Crowley	Sligo	Easkey
Michael Leonard	Tipperary (N)	Ballingarrt
Bernadette Quinn	Tipperary (S)	Fethard
John J. Byrne	Waterford	Cappoquin
Paul Slevin	Westmeath	Turin
John Kelly	Wexford	Camolin
Thos G. Short	Wicklow	Ashford

Farm Family & Social Affairs

MEMBERS 2023		
Name	County	Branch
Alice Doyle	Chair, Wexford	Camolin
Teresa Roche	Vice-Chair, Galway	Abbey
Michael Purcell	Carlow	Old Leiglin
Elizabeth Tilson	Cavan	Sheelin
Caroline Lynch	Clare	Bridgetown
Claire O'Keefe	Cork (C)	Glensouth
Catherine Fox	Cork (N)	Mitchelstown
Michael Looney	Cork (W)	Macroom
Victoria Boyd	Donegal	Rosses
Elizabeth McCarthy	Dublin	Bohernabreena
Teresa Roche	Galway	Abbey
Kathleen Herlihy	Kerry	Ballymacelligot
Diana Massey	Kildare	<i>Athy</i>
Gemma Sherman	Kilkenny	Mullinavat
Mary Barber	Laois	Rathdowney
Mary McGovern	Leitrim	Carrigallen
Peggy Cooke	Limerick	Hospital
Greta Tynan	Longford	Granard
Concepta Quigley	Louth	Kilkerley
Amy Mulchrone	Mayo	Islandeady
Fiona Curran	Meath	Kells
Mary Deery	Monaghan	Clones
Richard Scally	Offaly	Kilmurray
Frances Keane	Roscommon	Dysart
Kathleen Henry	Sligo	Skreen
Margaret Mounsey	Tipperary (N)	Cloughjordan
Mary Jo Heffernan	Tipperary (S)	Tipperary
Elizabeth Coughlan	Waterford	Kinsalebeg
Eithne Scally	Westmeath	Killucan
Mary Fitzharris	Wexford	Ballycullane
Anne Jennings	Wicklow	<i>Arklow</i>

IFA National Committees & Project Teams 2023*

Farm Forestry

MEMBERS 2023		
Name	County	Branch
Jason Fleming	Chair, Kerry	Annablaha
Simon White	Vice-Chair, Limerick	Askeaton
John Hanbidge	Carlow	Tynock-Kiltegan
Richard Moeran	Cavan	Castlerahan / M'Nugent
John Fitzgerald	Clare	Cratloe
John O'Brien	Cork (C)	Barryroe
John Magner	Cork (N)	K'Vullen-Ct'Roche-Shanballymore
Tadhg Healy	Cork (W)	Clonakilty
Ross Buchanan	Donegal	Carndonagh
Christopher Keogh	Dublin	Bohernabreena
Pat Lyons	Galway	Looscaun / Woodford
Francis Foley	Kerry	Castlemaire
John McDonald	Kildare	Athy
Andrew O'Carroll	Kilkenny	Clara
Michael McEvoy	Laois	Spink
Patrick Munday	Leitrim	Looscaun / Woodford
Michael Lennon	Longford	Drumlish
John Roche	Louth	Tullyallen
Kevin Carey	Mayo	Belmullet
Willie Fallon	Meath	Summerhill
James Corr	Monaghan	Smithboro
Murtagh Connor	Offaly	Walsh Island
Padraig Corcoran	Roscommon	Knockcroghery
Brendan Queenan	Sligo	Easkey
Padraic Stapleton	Tipperary (N)	Upperchurch
Dermot Ryan	Tipperary (S)	Hollyford
Gabriel Foley	Waterford	Dungarvan
Claudia Marl	Westmeath	Collinstown
Andrew McCann	Wexford	Camolin
Charles Tottenham	Wicklow	Ashford

Grain

MEMBERS 2023		
Name	County	Branch
Kieran McEvoy	Chair, Laois	Portarlington
John Murphy	Vice-Chair, Wexford	Monageer
George F Byrne	Carlow	Tallow
Edward Gus Murphy	Cork	Macroom
Paul O'Brien	Cork (N)	Liscarroll
John Jeffrey	Cork (C)	Aghada
Hugh Kelly	Donegal	Ballindrait
David Rodgers	Dublin	Swords
Mervyn Cooke	Galway	Aughrim
Kevin Leahy	Kerry	Causeway
Brian Lazenby	Kildare	Athy
James Brennan	Kildare/West Wicklow	Athy
Edward Delahunty	Kilkenny	Freshford-Gathabawn
Rory Doyle	Laois	Mountmellick
Shay Galvin	Limerick	Croom-Meanus
Patrick Brennan	Longford	Rathline-Lanesboro
Michael Kieran	Louth	Knockbridge
John Lynskey	Mayo	Hollymount
Thomas McKeown	Meath	Nobber
Mark Duffey	Monaghan	Drumhowan
Thomas Loonam	Offaly	Cloghan
Michael Beattie	Roscommon	Rahara
Joseph Egan	Tipperary (N)	Templemore
Gavin Delaney	Tipperary (S)	Fethard
William Shanahan	Waterford	Kilmacthomas
Ralph Tyrrell	Westmeath	Killucan
Isaac Wheelock	Wexford	Davidstown
James Hill	Wicklow	Barndarrig

* Members of IFA National Committees & Project Teams as of 1st December 2023

IFA National Committees & Project Teams 2023*

Hill Farming

MEMBERS 2023		
Name	County	Branch
Cáillín Conneely	Chair	Connemara
Michael Biggins	Co-Opted NMA	Glencorrib
Michael Davoren	Clare	Carron / Noughaville
P.J. Conroy	Connemara/ Galway	Looscaun-Woodford
Neilie O'leary	Cork (W)	Coomhola
David Boyd	Donegal	Rosses
Pat O'Shea	Kerry	Castlegregory
Kevin Hanlon	Kildare / Wicklow (W)	Manor Kilbride
Padraig MCGowan	Leitrim	Drumshanbo
Peter Shields	Louth	Cooley
Pat Jnr Chambers	Mayo	Derrada
Adrian Mcintyre	Sligo	Cloonacool
Peter Hennessy	Waterford / Tipperary (S)	Kilross
Peter Behan	Wicklow	Tinahealy
Adrian Hayden	Carlow / Kilkenny / Wexford	Graiguenamannagh

Liquid Milk

MEMBERS 2023		
Name	County	Branch
Keith O Boyle	Chair, Mayo	Hollymount
Laurence Hannon	Vice-Chair, Kildare	Moone
Pat Coveney	Cork (C)	Glanmire
Dan Buckley	Cork (C)	Glanmire
Mervyn Helen	Cork (W)	Clonakilty
Gareth Porter	Donegal	Finn Valley
Charles Mccandles	Donegal	Culdaff
Patrick Tuite	Dublin	Ardcath
Michael Freaney	Galway	Athenry
Austin Grealay	Galway	Clarinbridge
John Finn	Galway	Oranmore
Liam Grady	Galway	Gurteen
Jane O'Connor	Galway	Kiltullagh-Attymon
Walter Crowley	Kilkenny	Mooncoin
David Bennett	Laois	Abbeyleix
James Hurson	Monaghan	Smithboro
Padraig Mulligan	Sligo	Templeboy
Paul Merrick	Sligo	Riverstown
Kenneth J Bray	Westmeath	Delvin
John Stone	Westmeath	Moate
Kevin Maguire	Wexford	Ballycanew
Kevin Healy	Wicklow	Aughrim
John Wynne	Wicklow	Baltinglass
Edward Breen	Kerry	Abbeydorney
Donal Kelleher	Cork	Glanmire
John Roche	Carlow	Clonmore-Hacketstown
Henry Dunne	Wexford	Bree-Galbally
James Kavanagh	Wicklow	Arklow

IFA National Committees & Project Teams 2023*

FMP

MEMBERS 2023		
Name	County	Branch
John Wynne Chair	Wicklow	Baltinglass
Patrick Tuite Vice Chair	Dublin	Ardcath
John Roche	Carlow	Clonmore-Hacketstown
Henry Dunne	Wexford	Bree- Galbally
Willie Lennon	Kilkenny	Goresbridge-Paulstown
Kenneth Bray	Westmeath	Delvin
Denis Fagan	Meath	Kildalkey
Eddie Bannon	Meath	Culmullen
Jim Mulhall	Kilkenny	Kilkenny City
Derek Tierney	Kildare	Timahoe
Patrick Coveney	Cork	Glanmire
Seamus Killoran	Wicklow	Arklow
Pat O'Hanlon	Kilkenny	Kilmacow
Tommy Carberry	Louth	Collon

Horse Project Team

MEMBERS 2023		
Name	County	Branch
Richard Kennedy	Chair, Limerick	Clarina
Michael Doherty	Sligo	Ballymote
Daniel O'Loughlin	Kildare	Kildare
Anne Marie Burke	Roscommon	Kilmore
Francis Gorman	Laois	Ballinakill
Eamon Sheehan	Kilkenny	Danesfort
Pat Todd	Offaly	Kilmurray
Thomas Lane	Clare	Parteen
Maurice Smiddy	Cork (C)	Ballymacoda

Livestock

MEMBERS 2023		
Name	County	Branch
Brendan Golden	Chair	Kilalla
Declan Hanrahan	Vice-Chair, Laois	Borris-in-Ossary
George Hatton	Carlow	Bennekerry / Tinryland
Thomas Leonard	Cavan	Crossdoney
Joseph O'Connell	Clare	Parteen
Ivor Jeffery	Cork (C)	Cloyne
Kevin O' Flynn	Cork (N)	Kildorrey
Pdraig O' Driscoll	Cork (W)	Skeagh
Neville Myles	Donegal	Ballyshannon
Derek McGrath	Dublin	Bohernabreena
Michael Haverty	Galway	Clonberne
James Kieran O'Shea	Kerry	Beaufort
Paul McDonald	Kildare	Athy
Thomas Mulhall	Kilkenny	Kilkenny City
John Winters	Leitrim	Mohill-Bornacoola
Denis Duggan	Limerick	Doon
Paul Molihan	Longford	Ardagh
Edward O'Malley	Louth	Ardee
TJ Duffy	Mayo	Aughagower-Westport
Eamon Meade	Meath	Nobber
Michael Flood	Monaghan	Traugh Upper
Thomas Woulfe	Offaly	Brachnagh-Clonbullogue
Kevin Hartigan	Roscommon	Ballaghderreen
Trevor Boland	Sligo	Skreen
Joseph O' Dwyer	Tipperary (N)	Upperchurch
Edmond Burns	Tipperary (S)	Kilross
Pdraig Daly	Waterford	Kinsalebeg
Christopher Dolan	Westmeath	Sonna
James Kehoe	Wexford	Ballywilliam-Templeudigan
Sean Cooney	Wicklow	Ashford

* Members of IFA National Committees & Project Teams as of 1st December 2023

IFA National Committees & Project Teams 2023*

Pigs & Pigmeat

MEMBERS 2023		
Name	County	Branch
George Roy Gallie	Chair, Kildare	Cadamstown-Carbury
Paul Tully	Vice-Chair, Laois	Ballinakill
Dermot Healy	Carlow	Tulloo
James Bogue	Cavan	Crossdoney
Shane Brady	Cavan	Redhills
Gary Pepper	Cavan	Cootehill
Ronan Caffrey	Cavan	Castlerahan / M'Nugent
Cathal O Donovan	Cork	Timoleague
Thomas Finn	Cork	Mitchelstown
Tom Sherman	Cork	Mallow
Jimmy Mooney	Donegal	Malin
Martin Doherty	Donegal	Clonmany
Paul Tully	Laois	Ballinakill
Thomas Hogan	Limerick	Anglesboro
John Horan	Limerick	Glin
Cormac Minnock	Meath	Cadamstown-Carbury
Gareth Marry	Meath	Slane
Christopher Brady	Monaghan	Aughnamullen
Mattie Moore	Offaly	Croghan
John Ryan	Tipperary	Ardfinnan-Grange
Richard Norton	Tipperary	Ballingarry
David N Tyndall	Tipperary	Roscrea
Hannah Ryan	Tipperary	Clogheen
Martin Purtill	Tipperary	Toomevara
Darren Brady	Westmeath	Killucan
Bernard Gilsenan	Westmeath	Multifarnham
Sinead Brady	Longford	Abbeyshrule
Alistair McCormack	Longford	Newtownforbes

Potato

MEMBERS 2023		
Name	County	Branch
Sean Ryan	Chair, Wexford	Ballywilliam-Templeudigan
Barry Mitchel	Vice-Chair, Meath	Oristown
Colin Buttimer	Cork (N)	Fermoy
John Griffin	Cork (C)	Carrigaline
Donald Logue	Donegal	Muff
David Garrigan	Dublin	Swords
John Stephens	Galway	Corofin-Ballyglunin
Bridget O Connor	Kerry	Moyvane
Bart Maertens	Kildare	Clane-Prosperous
John Doody	Kilkenny	Mooncoin
Tony McGuinness	Louth	Dunleer
Andrew Sheridan	Meath	Kilbeg
Barry Mitchell	Meath	Oristown
Shane Howell	Offaly	Killeigh
Michael Healy	Tipperary (N)	Moycarkey-Borris

SAC/SPA/NHA Project Team

MEMBERS 2023		
Name	County	Branch
Pat Murphy	Connacht Regional Chair, Galway	Ardrahan
Michael Biggins	RD Chair, Mayo	Glencorrib
Cailin Conneely	Hill Chair, Galway	Connemara
Joe Daly	Offaly	Cloghan
Pat Hennessy	Laois	Borris-in-Ossory
Charlie Killeen	Galway	Eyrecourt
Pat Chambers	Mayo	Derrada-Glenhest
Pat O'Shea	Kerry	Castlegregory
Finn O'Mahony	West Cork	Kilcrohane
Alan McCabe	Monaghan	Traugh-Lower
Matthew McGreehan	Louth	Cooley

IFA National Committees & Project Teams 2023*

Poultry

MEMBERS 2023		
Name	County	Branch
Nigel Sweetnam	Chair, Cork	Kinsalebeg
Brendan Soden	Vice-Chair, Cavan	Lavey
Ann Gernon	Dundalk	Louth Village
Thomas Fitzsimons	Cavan	Billis
Garret Bannon	Cavan	Templeport
David Abbott	Cavan	Killeshandra
Andrew Keating	Monaghan	Newbliss
Eugene Mcginnity	Monaghan	Aughnalshavey
Ann O'Harte	Monaghan	Clones
Nigel Flynn	Monaghan	Clones
Eamon Clerkin	Monaghan	Rockcorry
John Mccabe	Monaghan	Three Mile House
Mark Mcelvaney	Monaghan	Three Mile House
Proinsias Mckenna	Monaghan	Traugh Upper
Vincent Quinn	Monaghan	Tullycorbett
Robert McBride	Monaghan	Tyholland
Andrew Boylan	Monaghan	Donaghmoynce
Edmond Murphy	Waterford	Dunhill
Edward Keane	Waterford	Kinsalebeg
Michael Murphy	Waterford	Cappoquin
Derek Good	Cork	Inishannon
Nigel Sweetnam	Cork	Kinsalebeg
Warren O Connell	Cork	Carrigaline
Eoin Cunningham	Limerick	Broadford-Kantoher
Pat O Connell	Limerick	Feoghanagh
Padraic Kiely	Mayo	Brickens
Michael O Hea	Cork	Clonakilty

Rules, Privileges & Procedures

MEMBERS 2023		
Name	County	Branch
Brian Rushe	Chair, Kildare	Cadamstown/Carbury
Michael Biggins	Galway	Glencorrib
Billy Cotter	Cork	Castletownroche
Kevin Kiersey	Waterford	Kilmacthomas
Caroline Farrell	Kildare	Athy
Jim O'Connor	Roscommon	Boyle
Brendan McLoughlin	Donegal	Newtowncunningham

Horticulture

MEMBERS 2023		
Name	County	Branch
Sean Ryan	Wexford	Ballywilliam / Templeudigan
Val Farrell	Dublin	North Fingal
Niall McCormack	Longford	Abbeysrule
Mark Walsh	Wexford	Gorey
Cornelius Traas	Tipperary	Cahir

Organic

MEMBERS 2023		
Name	County	Branch
John Curran	Meath	Kells
John Fitzpatrick	Laois	Spink
Donald Logue	Donegal	Muff
Selena McKenzie	Wicklow	Barndarrig
Mark Gillanders	Monaghan	Ardaghy
Padraig Fahy	Galway	Aughrim
Stephen Walsh	Clare	Feakle
John Liston	Limerick	Croom-Meanus
Andrew McShea	Donegal	Ballyshannon
Enda Monaghan	Galway	Castlelitrane

* Members of IFA National Committees & Project Teams as of 1st December 2023

IFA National Committees & Project Teams 2023*

Rural Development

MEMBERS 2023		
Name	County	Branch
Michael Biggins	Chair	Glencorrib
James Gallagher	Vice-Chair, Leitrim	Kinlough
Jay Kelly	Carlow	Borris
Paddy Denning	Cavan	Laragh
Stephen Walsh	Clare	Feakle
Timothy Twomey	Cork (C)	Glensouth
Tom O'Keeffe	Cork (N)	K'vullen-Ct'roche-Shanballymore
Cornelius Buckley	Cork (W)	Caheragh
Peter Cannon	Donegal	Carrick
Frank Hemeryck	Dublin	Lucan
Peter Gohery	Galway	Eyrecourt
Dermot Kelly	Kerry	Kilcummin
Des Gray	Kildare	Castledermot
Richard Meaney	Kilkenny	The Rower
Harry Lalor	Laois	Clough
John Maher	Limerick	Doon
John Coyle	Longford	Edgeworthstown
Kevin Sweeney	Louth	Ardee
Patrick Egan	Mayo	Knock
John Curran	Meath	Kells
Mark Joseph Gillanders	Monaghan	Ardaghy
George Grant	Offaly	Cloghan
John Hanley	Roscommon	Creggs
Gearóid O'Connor	Sligo	Castlebalwin
Liam Coffey	Tipperary (N)	Toomevara
Simon Ryan	Tipperary (S)	Emly
Seamus Power	Waterford	Dunhill
Brendan Coffey	Westmeath	Turin
Anne Kehoe	Wexford	Ballycullane
Selena McKensie	Wicklow	Barndarrig
Caillin Conneely	Co-Opted	Connemara

Sheep

MEMBERS 2023		
Name	County	Branch
Adrian Gallagher	Chair, Donegal	Letterkenny
Marion Dalton	Carlow	Bagenalstown
Bernard Lynch	Cavan	Castlerahan-M'Nugent
Tom Holmes	Clare	Corofin
Frank O'Driscoll	Cork (C)	Glanmire
Edmond Roche	Cork (N)	K'vullen/Ctroche/Shanballymore
James Daly	Cork (W)	Kilrohane
Richard Ryan	Dublin	Bohernabreena
David Harney	Galway	Ahascragh
Eamon Horgan	Kerry	Kilgarvan
Denis Halpin	Kildare	Manor Kilbride
Leeson Neale	Kilkenny	Castlecomber
Peter Luttrell	Laois	Vicarstown
Mark Gallagher	Leitrim	Kinlough
Edward P Moriarty	Limerick	Anglesboro
Luke Casey	Longford	Ballymahon
Matthew McGreehan	Louth	Cooley
Martin Shaughnessy	Mayo	Hollymount
Ronan Delaney	Meath	Dunshaughlin
Marcus Stewart	Monaghan	Drumgole
Marita Phelan	Offaly	Croghan
Michael Glennon	Roscommon	Moore
Sean Crummy	Sligo	Gurteen
JP Ryan	Tipperary (N)	Borrisoleigh
John Crosse	Tipperary (S)	Cashel
Frank Cunningham	Waterford	Kilrossanty
Martin Linnane	Westmeath	Ballinagore/Castletown Geoghegan
George Graham Jnr.	Wexford	Camolin
Owen Brady	Wicklow	Roundwood
Kevin Comiskey*	Leitrim	Drumahair

* Stepped down as Chair, 16th November 2023



IFA

**YOUR ASSOCIATION.
YOUR VOICE.**



www.ifa.ie