

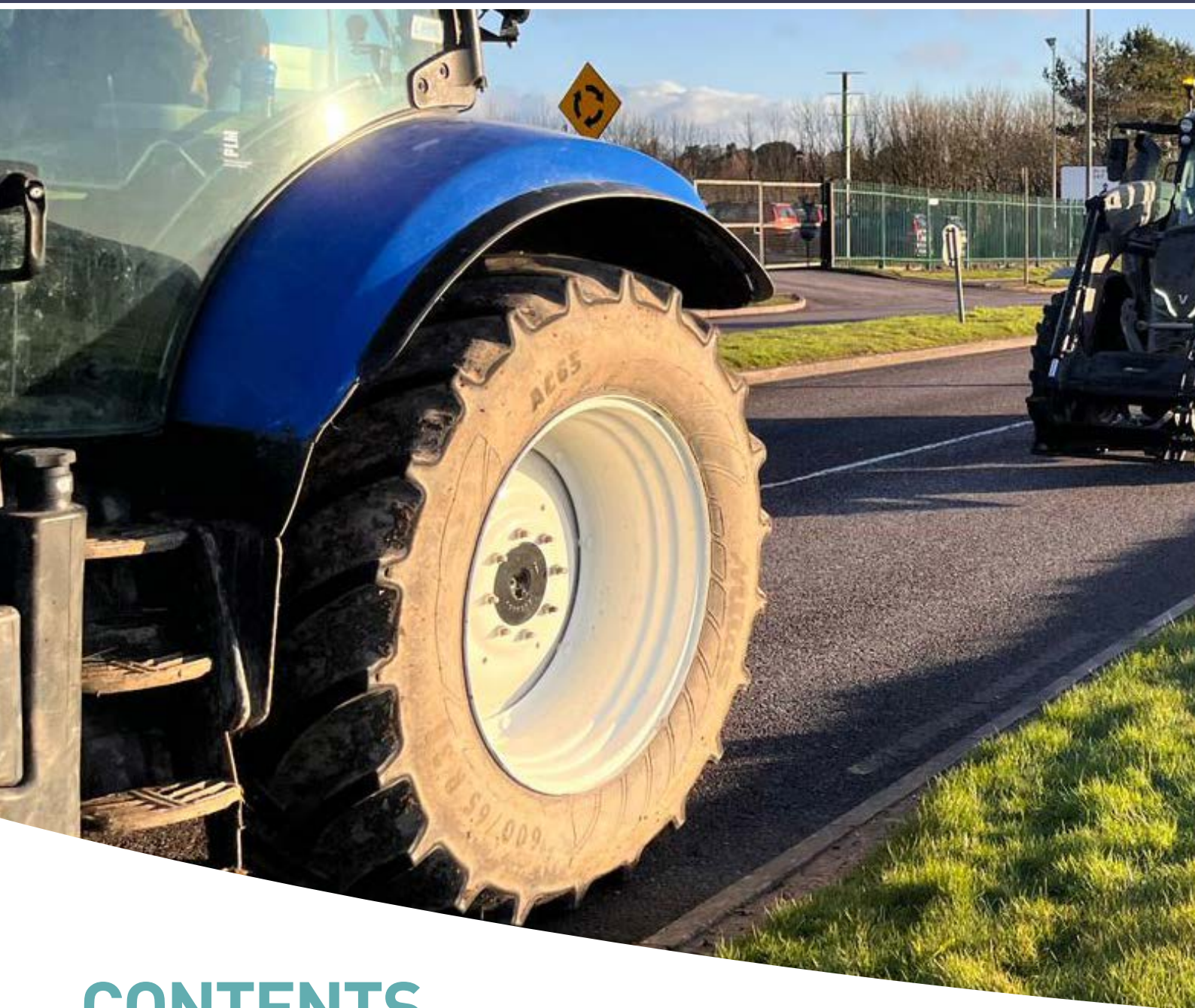


IFA

Irish Farmers' Association Annual Report and Review of 2024



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IFA Cork Central Chair Matt Hurley attending a protest in Cork as part of our Enough is Enough campaign

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A photograph of Francie Gorman, the IFA President, speaking at a podium. He is wearing a dark blue suit, a white shirt, and a patterned tie. The background is a blue wall with white and green text. The text 'Francie Gorman' is written in large white letters, and 'IFA President' is written in smaller green letters below it. The hashtag '#BackFarming' is also visible in green. The podium has a 'DENON' logo on it.

Francie Gorman
IFA President

#BackFarming

IFA President Francie Gorman addressing the conference Farming And Food Sector – A Sector Worth Backing in The Curragh Racecourse, Kildare in October

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2024 has been a significant year for the political landscape. We started the year with Leo Varadkar attending our 69th AGM as Taoiseach. The year ended with a General Election here, called by Simon Harris in his role as Taoiseach. The new Government will be formed based on the outcome of the voting in November. In June, we had elections to the European Parliament and the local elections. And Donald Trump has returned to the White House.

My opening months as IFA President were dominated by the impact of the cost of doing business and over-regulation.

The shock to the system caused by the invasion of Ukraine in early 2022 had persisted and farmers found their margins squeezed, even though some product prices had lifted.

Our Spring campaign – Enough is Enough – saw tractor protests around the country, focused on motorways.

From there, we shifted focus to the county councils as a prelude to the next phase of our campaign, which was centred around the June elections.

The local authorities have an impact on farmers in terms of inspections and the cost of regulation, so we delivered a message to their doors.

In May and June, we held two meetings in each of the Euro constituencies outside Dublin, to which we invited the candidates running for the European Parliament.

It provided our members with an opportunity to hear the pitch from the candidates and to put their issues before the candidates.

70% of those who declared to run attended our meetings, which meant our issues were front and centre for the campaign.

As an exercise, we believe those elected have a strong understanding of what is needed for Irish farming. Given the relative size of the various blocs in the European Parliament, we need Irish MEPs to be attuned to the changing landscape.

The Autumn has seen our intense engagement with the political system continue.

The early Budget on October 1st saw our officers throughout September meet with their Oireachtas members locally to identify the core issues in our pre-Budget submission.

We made progress on our key asks and we are still working through some elements of the Finance Bill, in particular the proposals around Agricultural Relief.

The biggest gathering over the last 12 months took place at Halloween, when over 500 attendees were at The Curragh Racecourse for our conference Farming and Food – A Sector Worth Backing.

With the Taoiseach Simon Harris and the Minister for Agriculture Charlie McConalogue in attendance it was about setting the agenda for the General Election that was called a week later.

The event also attracted senior agri-food sector leaders as part of our campaign to bring the concerns of farmers front and centre.

Since voting in our General Election in late November, our focus has been on what the next Programme for Government will look like.

We had encouraged our members to think carefully about who they should vote for. That extended to asking candidates where they stood on farming issues and if they would work in the next Government to address them.

For us, it's vital that the policy framework for farming is aligned with the issues we identified in our submission to the political parties and candidates.

Now that the European Parliament has bedded in, and the new EU Commission is in place, we can look to the year ahead as the beginning of the groundwork for what farm policy will look like to 2030 and beyond.

Much of our focus for the coming year will be on our campaign to block the Mercosur trade deal and the retention of the Nitrates derogation.

We are utterly opposed to a deal that doesn't recognise our standards. We will look to build alliances with other countries that oppose the deal. Given our export profile, it will have a disproportionate impact on our beef sector.

We have a unique grass-based system in this country that is the cornerstone of the quality food that we produce. Water quality is improving.

We will expect a whole-of-government approach to making the most compelling case for the extension of the derogation.

Without it, the land market will face into another period of upheaval. This will have knock-on consequences for other sectors.

We also want a proper agri-environment scheme that will pay farmers up to €15,000. ACRES has been problematic and failed to live up to its advance billing.

The Department haven't got to grips with it and farmers have been very frustrated with the scoring system

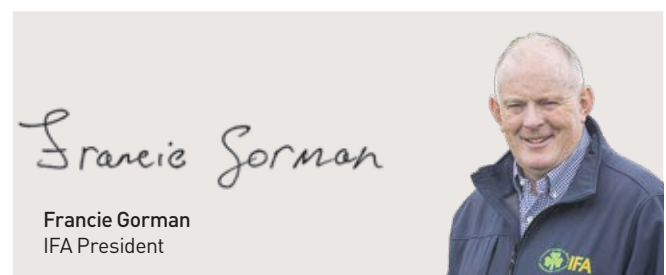
Support for the vulnerable sectors on a multi-annual basis, in line with our election manifesto is also a priority that we will pursue in the coming year.

I have enjoyed travelling to county executives and branch meetings in my first year in office.

Engaging with the members was a priority of mine during the election and I wanted to make good on that.

Without the support of members and officers, it would not be possible to be effective in representing farmers.

I will continue our work on behalf of all farmers for the coming year.





Tánaiste Micheál Martin and Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine Charlie McCConalogue meeting with IFA President Francie Gorman and IFA officers on the IFA Stand at Ploughing 2024.

REPRESENTATION

National Council - Governing Body

Includes Macra President, ICOS President & Irish Farmers Journal Editor

**16 National
Commodity and Cross-
Sectoral Chairs**

**National
Officers**

**29 County
Chairs**

29 County Executives

940 Branches

Each Branch elects 4 delegates to County Executive

Over 70,000 Members
Organised through branches

Francie Gorman
President



Alice Doyle
Deputy President



Damian McDonald
Director General



Elaine Farrell
Director of Governance
and Oireachtas
Engagement



National Officers Committee



Conor O'Leary
Munster Chair



Paul O'Brien
South Leinster
Chair



Patrick McCormick
National Treasurer



Frank Brady
Ulster & North
Leinster Chair



Brendan Golden
Connacht Chair

COUNTY CHAIRS

CARLOW

Michael Purcell



CORK CENTRAL

Matthew Hurley



GALWAY

Stephen Canavan



CAVAN

Maurice Brady



CORK WEST

Tadhg Healy



GALWAY 2ND REPRESENTATIVE

John Finn



CLARE

Stephen Walsh



DONEGAL

Joe Sweeney



KERRY

Jason Fleming



CORK NORTH

Pat O'Keeffe



DUBLIN

Paul Flynn



KERRY 2ND REPRESENTATIVE

Kathleen Herlihy



COUNTY CHAIRS

KILDARE

Denis Halpin



MAYO

John Lynskey



TIPPERARY SOUTH

Pat Carroll



KILKENNY

Brendan Hickey



MEATH

Dermot Ward



WATERFORD

John Heffernan



LAOIS

Henry Burns



MONAGHAN

Tom Treanor



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 O'Dowd



LOUTH

Kevin Sweeney



















TIPPERARY NORTH

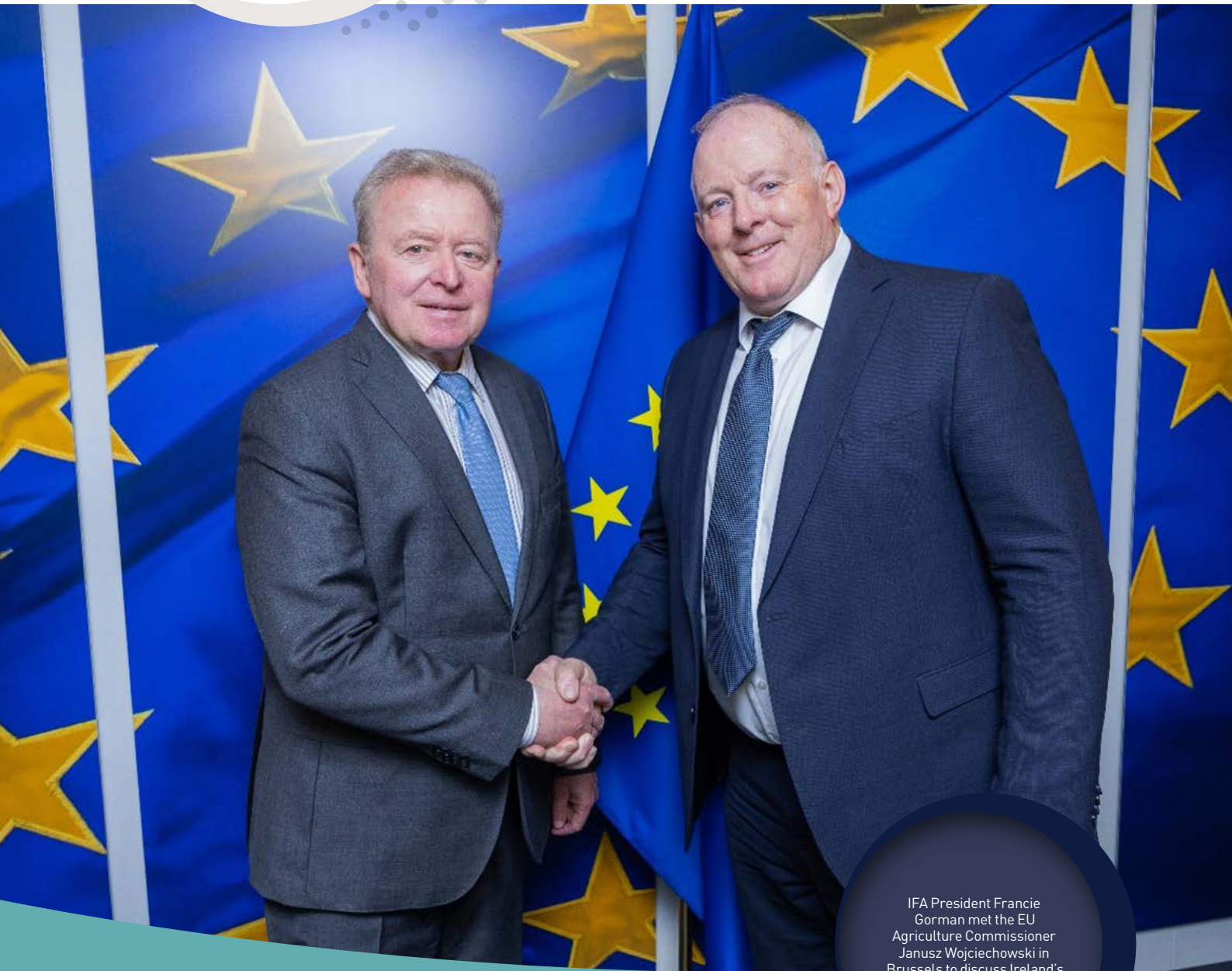
Baden Powell



COMMODITY AND CROSS-SECTORAL CHAIRS

ANIMAL HEALTH TJ Maher 	LIQUID MILK Henry Dunne 	AQUACULTURE Finian O'Sullivan 
DAIRY Stephen Arthur 	LIVESTOCK Declan Hanrahan 	MACRA NA FEIRME Elaine Houlihan 
ENVIRONMENTAL John Murphy 	RURAL DEVELOPMENT John Curran 	ICOS Edward Carr 
FARM BUSINESS Bill O'Keeffe 	SHEEP Adrian Gallagher 	IRISH FARMERS JOURNAL Jack Kennedy 
FARM FAMILY Teresa Roche 	PIGS Roy Gallie 	
FARM FORESTRY Padraic Stapleton 	POULTRY Nigel Sweetnam 	
GRAIN Kieran McEvoy 	FMP John Roche 	
HILL FARMING Cáillín Conneely 	HORTICULTURE Mark Walsh 	

NOTE: ICOS and IFJ are observer members of the National Council without a vote.



IFA President Francie Gorman met the EU Agriculture Commissioner Janusz Wojciechowski in Brussels to discuss Ireland's Forestry Programme.

DIRECTOR OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS REPORT

Although we are only midway through the CAP cycle, it has been a year of tremendous change. In the future, it will be considered a watershed year when the agriculture sector begins to reclaim some of the ground lost to ambitious regulators consumed by plans to address the perceived negative impact of food production and agriculture activity by farmers within one short political cycle.

Few regulators stood back to consider all the effects on the food producers and the farmers themselves, either socially or economically, and those who did were ignored or outvoted. It took extensive protests across Europe – remember the show of farmer strength in front of Berlin's Brandenburg Gate in early January, including 100,000 tractors across Germany - culminating in some highly visible demonstrations within sight of the European Parliament in Brussels and the European Commission's Berlaymont buildings in the early part of the year to initiate genuine engagement.

This brought about a marked response led by President Ursula von der Leyen, who sat down with farmers and met formally with COPA's representatives for the first time during her mandate. Promises of a rapid and structural response to the crisis facing the agriculture sector, simplification to the CAP, a Market Observatory on production costs, margins and trading practices in the agri-food chain culminating in the publishing of a Strategic Dialogue report. The year ends with the proposed introduction of a twelve-month delay to the European Union Deforestation Regulation, a poorly formulated legislation requiring further simplification and a delay if it is to be implemented effectively at the Member State level.

Political shift to the right

The European elections in June confirmed the moderation of the voices from the left, with the European People's Party (EPP) publicly supporting the rural areas of the EU and maintaining its leadership role among political parties in the Parliament but with a surge in support on the right for the newly created Patriots for Europe group, the Europe of Sovereign Nations Group and the European Conservatives and Reformists (ECR). The Cordon Sanitaire has cracked, and as kingpins, the EPP can now go to both sides of the house for support. The new Commissioners are soon to be officially installed, and the newly named DG Agriculture & Food will have a previous EPP MEP from Luxembourg, Mr Christophe Hansen, as its Commissioner.

Changes to CAP

The reaction to the farmer protests provided the impetus for CAP Simplification involving the removal of mandatory obligations around GAEC (Good Agricultural & Environmental Conditions) 8, which relates to non-productive areas, GAEC 7 (crop diversification as an option now to crop rotation), GAEC 6 (flexibility for the Member State in determining the sensitive period where soil cover is obligatory) and GAEC 9. Small farms under 10 hectares are exempted from controls and penalties related to compliance with conditionality, which will alleviate the administrative burden for small farms or 65% of EU CAP beneficiaries.

Why these measures were agreed upon this year in Parliament by "urgent procedure" following years of requests by farmers for simplification is a good indication of the deaf-ear approach that had operated for quite some time.

The Commission survey on the impact of the administrative burden on farmers showed that those farmers receiving CAP support spent an average of 6 days on administration per annum, including documentation for conditionality, and that 78% got outside help in completing it.

COPA

COPA COGECA appointed a new Secretary General with Elli Tsiforou from the Greek farming organisation GAIA Epicheirein taking over in September following the departure 17 years of Finland's Pekka Pesonen. In September, Massimiliano Giansanti from Italy's Confagricoltura organisation was elected President of COPA, with our IFA President Francie Gorman elected as a COPA Vice President, taking over a role filled by Tim Cullinan for the last 4 years.

Nature Restoration Law (NRL)

Widely opposed by farmers, this proposal had a particularly close vote in Parliament, with this opposition signifying that legislation negatively impacting farm families and food production would not be tolerated without a fight. The NRL survived at Council only when the Minister of Agriculture from Austria lent their support at the eleventh hour, with the Irish Minister for Environment leading fellow ministers for support from all sides to push the NRL through.

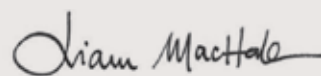
Trade

The uncertainty surrounding possible agreement on Mercosur has only served to harden the opposition of the agriculture sector across Europe, particularly the livestock sector. While political leaders endeavour to close a deal, the Taoiseach has reaffirmed Irish opposition, and IFA continues to intervene at the highest level. The direction of future trade negotiations will be clouded by the incoming US Presidency as well as ongoing tensions between the EU and China in the face of investigations of anti-dumping (pigmeat) and anti-subsidy (dairy), which will look at subsidy programmes under CAP. The EU's more retaliatory stance has seen it object to the investigations at the WTO.

Unfair Trading Practices (UTPs) Directive

The Commission will complete an evaluation of the current UTP Directive by 1st November 2025. One challenge is to increase awareness of the legislation, with 60% of respondents to a 2023 survey unaware of the existence of enforcement authorities.

While agriculture markets have shown positive signs of recovery, with price levels returning to historical averages, input prices, although declining, remain high. Challenges for farmers abound and include the Bluetongue virus, TB, 2040 climate targets, the Review of Nitrates Directive, new proposals on CAP, budget discussions, the new MFF, and the impact of EU enlargement on agriculture policy and CAP support. With the IFA Brussels office now in 6th decade, it will continue to engage with like-minded organisations to effect positive change. We hope that 2025 will deliver fair returns to farmers while politicians and policy regulators set a new trajectory that works with farmers and nature in an economically and socially sustainable and competitive manner.



Liam MacHale
Director of European Affairs



IFA President Francie Gorman and Ulster-Nth Leinster regional Chair Frank Brady with candidates from the Midlands-North-West constituency for the European Parliament at the IFA debate in Mullingar.

Commodity and Cross-Sectoral Committee Reports

Livestock

Dairy

Environment and Rural Affairs

Sheep

Animal Health

Grain

Horticulture

Potato

Pigs and Pig Meat

Poultry

Farm Business

Farm Forestry

Farm Family, Social Affairs and Farm Safety

Rural Development

Hill Farming

Liquid Milk

FMP

Aquaculture



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Horse

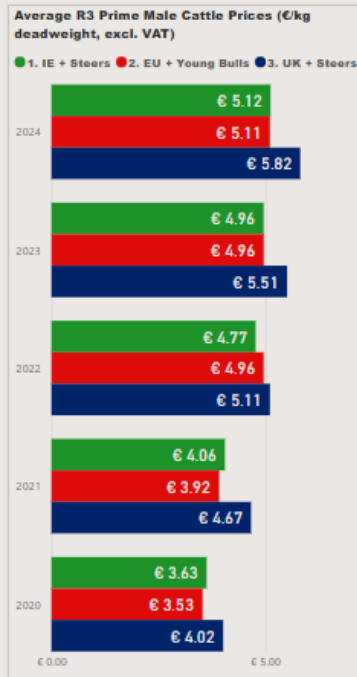
Organic

The Shannon and Flooding

Infrastructure

Livestock

R3 Prime Male Cattle (€/kg Deadweight excl. VAT)



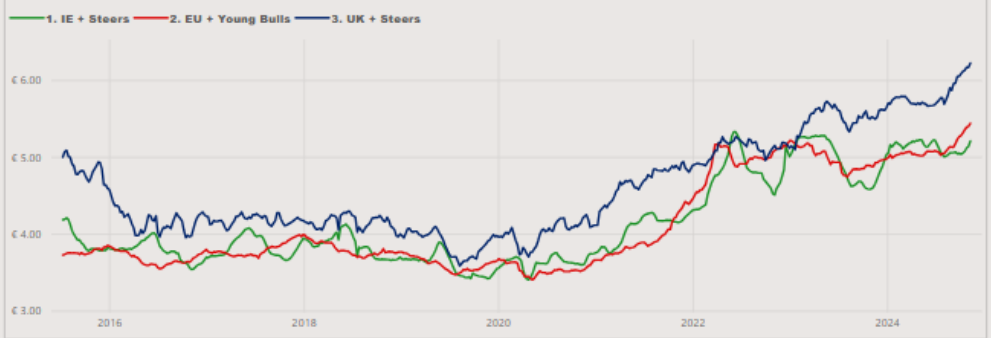
The table shows the average prices recorded for R3 prime male cattle in Ireland, the UK and across the EU for the most recent available week, and the equivalent week in the last 2 years, if available.

Euro Price for the Most Recent Week and Same Time Last Year (€/kg deadweight, excl. VAT)

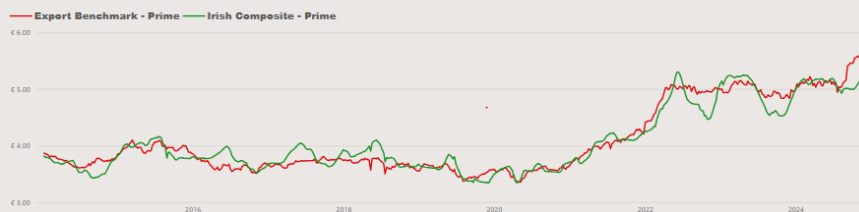
Country & Type	11/5/2022	11/4/2023	11/9/2024
EU + Young Bulls		€ 4.87	€ 5.44
IE + Steers	€ 4.51	€ 4.59	€ 5.21
UK + Steers	€ 5.15	€ 5.52	€ 6.22

The graph below shows the average weekly prices recorded for R3 prime male cattle in Ireland, the UK and across the EU. The timeline is displayed on a weekly basis and includes prices from 2014 up to the most recent available week.

Trend of Euro Prices for R3 Prime Male Cattle (€/kg deadweight, excl. VAT)



Prime Irish Composite Price vs Prime Export Benchmark Price (€/kg Deadweight excl VAT)



Country	Current Week	Same Week Last Year	% Change Previous Week	% Change Previous Year	Average Same Period Last Year	Average to Date Current Year	% Change Average to Date from Last Year
Prime Irish Composite	€ 5.18	€ 4.54	▲ 1.1%	▲ 14.2%	€ 4.95	€ 5.10	▲ 2.9%
Prime Export Benchmark	€ 5.63	€ 4.84	▲ 1.1%	▲ 16.4%	€ 4.99	€ 5.19	▲ 4.0%



Declan Hanrahan
Chair, Livestock Committee

Cattle Prices

To date, November 11th, 2024, the average price paid for R3 steers is €5.12/kg, which is 16c/kg or 3% higher than the same period in 2023. Steer prices for the week ending 9/11/2024 are €5.21/kg excl. VAT, which is 62c/kg above the corresponding week in 2023.

The average Prime Irish composite price to date this year of €5.10/kg is up from €4.95/kg. The current price of €5.18/kg is a 14.2% increase on the same week in 2023 or 64c/kg, excl. VAT. The Prime Export Benchmark price is currently €5.63/kg excl. VAT.

Supplies

The total cattle throughput for 2024 is 1,599,208 head, an increase of 1.4% from the 2023 figures.

CUMULATIVE BEEF KILL			
	W/C 11/11/2024	W/C 13/10/2023	DIFFERENCE
YOUNG BULL	93,553	102,378	-8,825
BULL	25,897	25,317	580
STEER	613,068	624,273	-11,205
COW	388,573	358,824	29,749
HEIFER	455,802	433,705	-22,097
VEAL - V	20,605	30,706	-10,101
VEAL - Z	1,710	1,456	254
TOTAL	1,599,208	1,576,659	22,549

Source: DAFM

Live exports

Live exports reached record levels in 2024, with 340,240 live cattle exported from Ireland, representing a 14% increase compared to the same period in 2023. Tighter cattle supplies across the EU and firm international trade, combined with growing demand from key EU markets, have underpinned the trade for the year.

IRISH LIVE CATTLE EXPORTS				
CATEGORY	2023	2024	CHANGE - HEAD	%CH
WEANLINGS	29,837	50,359	20,522	+69
STORES	26,559	44,719	18,160	+68
CALVES	205,266	198,379	-6,887	-3
FINISHED	37,343	46,783	9,440	+38
TOTAL	299,005	340,240	41,235	+14

Source: Bord Bia

Challenges to Live exports

IFA has vigorously defended live exports throughout the year. The new EU Transport Regulation, the Ethical Farming Ireland judicial review and persistent NGO lobbying of policymakers and ferry companies are the challenges to protecting this vital trade for farmers.

Trade Deals

IFA strenuously opposed trade deals that provide additional access to our key markets for beef including Mercosur and Australia. The Australia deal has stalled for now, but Mercosur remains a huge threat and cannot be supported by our elected representatives.

Schemes

Suckler Carbon Efficiency programme

A funding allocation of €52m was provided for the SCEP scheme in 2024, with a payment of €150 per suckler cow available on the first 22 cows and €120/per cow on the remainder.

SCEP training—IFA raised concerns with DAFM regarding the ease of access to the platform for a significant cohort of suckler farmers and sought the provision of additional means for participants to complete the training course. Following calls from IFA to provide additional SCEP training events, the DAFM provided 11 in-person SCEP training events across four provinces in October and November. 16,450 herds are currently participating in the scheme.

National Beef Welfare Scheme

An AA funding allocation of €20m was provided for the NBWS in budget 2024. The scheme offers a payment of €50 per suckler cow to participants. IFA ensured the scheme was practical to implement on farm and included measures that added value for farmers. The measures included meal feeding and vaccination. 23,720 herds are currently participating in the scheme.

National Genotype Programme

The National Genotyping programme reopened in 2024 for new applicants. The programme simplifies the genotype requirements in the SCEP scheme, particularly. 14,897 herds are currently participating in the scheme.

Changes to ICBF Indices

IFA participated in the ICBF stakeholder forum meetings throughout 2024 to address concerns about the new indices.

- IFA secured significant flexibilities to SCEP requirements related to the indices, ensuring the changes in November do not negatively impact on farmers.
- Effectively, animals now benefit from both indices to meet the criteria.
- Female calves born in herds since the new indices were published where they do not meet SCEP eligibility; these animals will be

deemed SCEP eligible if the dam is 3,4, or 5 stars and the sire 4 and 5 stars on the replacement index. They will carry this eligibility when purchased from a SCEP or non-SCEP herd.

- Any female animals whose star rating on the September 2023 index was 4 or 5 stars and subsequently dropped on the new index will retain SCEP eligibility when purchased from SCEP and non-SCEP herds for the scheme's duration.
- The same criteria were applied to Pedigree Bulls, which had a 4- or 5-star rating in the September index and dropped on the new index. These animals will remain SCEP eligible when purchased from SCEP and non-SCEP farms.
- As with the previous scheme, animals that attained SCEP eligibility at any point retain this while remaining within the participant's herd.
- The lower weights issue in the indices has also been addressed. The minimum weight is set at 520 kg 200 days after calving, which equates to a mature cow weight of 570 kg. This will now be incorporated into the indices.
- Work is progressing on the development of an index that reflects weanling production systems.
- IFA will continue to work with ICBF to deliver an index that suckler farmers and pedigree breeders trust and have confidence in.

Budget 2025

IFA has secured €28m in funding for the national exchequer suckler cow scheme in 2025. This increase in funding will provide a payment of €75/cow, which, when combined with the SCEP, returns up to €225/suckler cow for 2025. The scheme must be designed to ensure minimal leakage of funds from participant farmers and remove the 40-animal maximum.

Additional funding has been provided for Dairy Beef Calves. IFA is seeking the provision of a calf-rearing scheme with this funding.

IFA sought €300/suckler cow in the Budget, €100 calf rearing scheme and €100 beef sustainability payment.

Bord Bia Origin Green Producer Standard (QA Scheme)

IFA is actively involved in the Bord Bia TAC, which reviews the QA standard for livestock farmers. IFA has raised concerns about the direction of travel of the Bord Bia proposals concerning all elements of the standard and the inspection process. IFA is seeking a simplified farmer-friendly audit process.

PGI

The European Commission awarded Irish grass-fed beef all-island PGI status in 2024, putting Irish beef in a premium position across key markets globally.

Representation

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

- 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

Declan Hanrahan, Chair, Livestock Committee
Tomas Bourke, Senior Policy Executive
James Walsh, Policy Executive

Dairy




Stephen Arthur
Chair, Dairy Committee



Market Overview

The first six months of 2024 were challenging for Irish dairy farmers. Adverse weather conditions reduced milk output, and this, coupled with a poor milk price at the end of Q2, caused significant cashflow issues on many dairy farms. Our committee members lobbied their local Co-Op board members, which resulted in much-needed hardship bonuses being paid in March and April.

From June onwards, positive sentiment returned to the markets, driven by concerns around butter and cheese supply, lower stock levels at the beginning of 2024, and a reduction in imports from third countries, which helped to lift all EU dairy commodities. The gradual improvement in retail sales also provided more certainty around demand. For 2025, milk prices look stable for Q1 and Q2, but influences such as US policy changes and geopolitical shifts have the potential to impact the price paid to Irish dairy farmers.

Milk Price Analysis 2023

The IFA analysis of the thirteen largest dairy processors analysed the milk price data for 2023. Data from the monthly milk statements was provided by IFA members within each processor's area. A special word of thanks to those farmers who shared their information with us, as their contribution is critical to our work.

For accurate and effective comparison, the following assumptions were made.

- Revenue received based on a supply of 500,000 litres from a spring calving herd.
- Teagasc Moorepark spring calving supply curve.
- Monthly constituents as recorded by the CSO.
- Where processors paid a '13th' payment, it was included in the total revenue for that processor.
- Bonuses paid on trading activity or sustainability actions were excluded.
- Fixed milk or forward-price milk contracts were excluded.

Since the publication of the Milk Price Analysis in March, there have been two 'top-up' payments made by processors for milk supplied in 2023. Kerry Dairy Ireland paid 0.9c/litre, including VAT, on all milk supplied in 2023, adjusted for their average solids, while North Cork Co-Op paid 1c/litre, excluding VAT, on all milk supplied in 2023.

Dairy

Breakdown of Individual Processor Milk Receipts

PROCESSOR	TOTAL REVENUE (€)	REVENUE PER COW (€)	AVERAGE MILK PRICE (C/L)
BANDON CO-OP	223,779	2,572	44.76
DRINAGH CO-OP	223,733	2,572	44.75
BARRYROE CO-OP	223,318	2,567	44.66
STRATHROY DAIRIES	223,081	2,564	44.62
LISAVAIRD CO-OP	222,942	2,563	44.59
KERRY DAIRY IRELAND1	220,821	2,538	44.16
ARRABAWN CO-OP	218,651	2,513	43.73
NORTH CORK CO-OP	217,995	2,506	43.60
TIPPERARY CO-OP	212,399	2,441	42.48
AURIVO CO-OP3	211,877	2,435	42.38
DAIRYGOLD CO-OP2	211,764	2,434	42.35
TIRLAN	209,447	2,407	41.89
LAKELAND DAIRIES	209,399	2,407	41.88

1. Includes two retrospective payments from Kerry Dairy Ireland based on milk supplied from January to March and July to December.
2. Includes a '13th' payment from Dairygold Co-op.
3. Includes a '13th' payment from Aurivo Co-op.

This milk price analysis is also being conducted for 2024; the final analysis will be published in Q1 2025 after all required information is received.

Bord Bia SDAS Review

The review and evaluation of the Bord Bia Sustainable Dairy Assurance Scheme (SDAS) continued in 2024. This review is being undertaken in conjunction with a Technical Advice Committee (TAC), which comprises representatives of the dairy processors under the auspices of ICOS, Teagasc, Animal Health Ireland, Food Safety Authority of Ireland, and the Farm Organisations. IFA is represented on the TAC by its Dairy Chair and Policy Executive. A change in the approach to the audits is being proposed with a risk-based approach, which should reduce the time required for preparation and time spent completing such audits. While we acknowledge the market requirement for such a quality assurance programme, it must be balanced and cannot impose additional burdens on Irish dairy producers. IFA has undertaken significant work to ensure a smooth and efficient process will be put in place that will meet both the demands of the marketplace while not adding further workload for our dairy farmers.

The review and trialling of the new SDAS audits will continue in 2025 before final agreement and sign-off.

Calf Health and Welfare

Calf exports

Calf exports to the Netherlands fell from 100,000 calves in 2023 to approximately 70,000 in 2024. Indications are that exports to the Netherlands will contract further during 2025 with a real risk to the long-term prospects. This is due to the Dutch's move to no longer accept Irish calves, owing to concerns they have put forward relating to travel time and the need for an IBR control programme in Ireland. However, the level of calf export in 2024 was the second highest in the last decade, with some market diversification observed. Bord Bia reports increasing numbers of calf exports are beef sired, which aligns with the type of calves available for export. Positive feedback continues to be evident on the health and quality of Irish calves from customers across existing and newly established Eastern European markets. Spain has become an essential market for our beef-sired calves, while Italy has remained an important market for dairy-sired calves for veal production.

While the short-term outlook is positive, the longer-term outlook is more challenging. The proposed legislative changes on the protection of animals during transport had its first reading in the Commission. The proposed changes have the potential to severely disrupt live animal exports from the Island, including calves and weanlings. IFA continues to represent our members' interests on this vital issue nationally and in Brussels through our European representatives.

Nitrates Review

On January 1st, 2024, changes to nitrates regulations were introduced, which resulted in a maximum stocking rate of 220 kg N/ha reduced from 250kg being implemented on c. 90% of Ireland's agricultural area. These changes were made despite continued lobbying by our Dairy Committee members during 2023 opposing this move. Against this backdrop, several initiatives were undertaken by the organisation during the year to influence the narrative and ensure we retain our nitrates derogation beyond 2025. Before the European elections in June, several regional meetings were held with the potential MEPs. We outlined the absolute need to retain the nitrates derogation and sought commitments from each of them to work towards this end to ensure the sustainability of Irish dairy farmers and the wider rural economy.

In September, IFA, in conjunction with ICMSA, Macra na Feirme, ICOS, DII & MII, launched the document 'Retaining Ireland's Nitrates Derogation – Common Objectives'. This coincided with the visit by two senior members of the Commission responsible for the environment to Ireland. This joint declaration was presented to them on a visit organised by the IFA to the farm of David Kerr, a derogation dairy farmer in Laois. At the farm, they saw examples of actions undertaken by Irish farmers to protect water quality and improve biodiversity.

IFA, through the Agriculture Water Quality Group, secured notable changes to the nitrates regulations, which will somewhat moderate the impact of the reduction to a max organic N level of 220kg per hectare. These include a decrease in the excretion rates of young calves and the capacity to reduce the excretion rate of a farmer's dairy cows if they commit to feeding a lower crude protein concentrate level annually.

Public consultation on the 6th Nitrates Action Programme (2026-2029) will commence in January 2025.

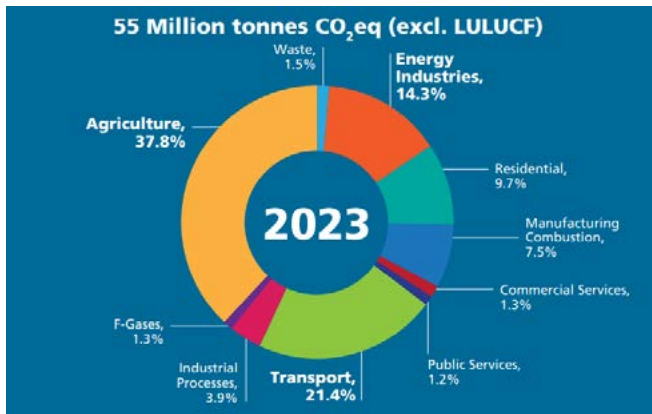
Stephen Arthur, Chair, Dairy Committee
Grainne Dwyer, Policy Executive

Environment & Rural Affairs



- Bonus payments to incentivise farmers to reduce the age of finishing.
- A sector-specific Just Transition Dialogue with farmers, rural workers and communities.
- Urgent implementation plan for the Biomethane Strategy in Q1 2025 to underpin the business case for biomethane production and use.

Agricultural Emissions



Source: EPA Ireland's Provisional Greenhouse Gas Emissions 1990-2023 Report

According to the EPA Ireland's Provisional Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions 1990-2023 report, national emissions are estimated to be 55 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (Mt CO₂eq) in 2023. This is a 6.8% or 4 Mt CO₂eq reduction in emissions compared with 2022.

Agricultural emissions accounted for 38% and reduced by 4.6% (see Table 1). The decrease in emissions was attributed to an 18% reduction in fertiliser use and lower milk production (-4.1%). This is the second consecutive year that agricultural emissions reduced. Agriculture has legally binding targets to reduce emissions by 25% (or 5.75 Mt CO₂eq) from the 2018 baseline (23 Mt CO₂eq) to 17.25 Mt CO₂eq by 2030.

MT CO ₂ EQ	2022	2023	% CHANGE
Agriculture	22	21	-4.6%
National	59	55	-6.8%

Table 1. GHG Emissions in 2023 compared with 2022 (source EPA 2024).

Climate Change Advisory Council Annual Review

The Annual Review report was published in September 2024 and put forward a series of recommendations to support the implementation of measures set out in the Climate Action Plan 2024. These include:

- The need to incentivise the rapid uptake of the high-impact and cost-effective measures from the Teagasc marginal abatement cost curve to reduce agricultural emissions, specifically (i) increased uptake of protected urea fertilisers and (ii) use of approved feed additives and the incorporation of additives in slurry that reduce methane emissions.

Land Use Review Phase 2

The Land Use and Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) sector is currently a net source of emissions and is projected to continue as a source over the next decade. Phase 2 of the Land Use Review is underway, and the draft report is expected to open for consultation shortly. The report will propose a possible framework for sustainable multifunctional land use to meet measures set out in Climate Action Plan 2024.

Climate KIC – DAFM Deep Demonstration project

The Department of Agriculture, Food, and the Marine (DAFM) has partnered with EIT Climate KIC (Europe's largest climate innovation initiative) to work with public and private stakeholders in the Irish land and agri-food system to help accelerate its pathways to climate neutrality. IFA is a member of the Consultative Committee and participated in a series of Agri-Vision 2050 workshops during 2024. Phase 2 of the project started in March 2024 with a greater emphasis on delivering flagship initiatives, including Carbon Farming, Diary, Vision 2050 and Circular Bioeconomy.

EPA Advisory Committee

Geraldine O'Sullivan, Senior Policy Executive Environment, was nominated to represent IFA on the EPA Advisory Committee. The Committee has a wide range of advisory functions, including making recommendations to the EPA or the Minister regarding the EPA's functions.

Water Quality

Significant work has been done in the water quality space during 2024. The EPA Indicator Report 2023, published in June 2024, shows that Agriculture is the most prevalent significant pressure in over 1,000 waterbodies or approximately 60% of all waterbodies. The most common water quality issue is the loss of excess nutrients (phosphorus and nitrogen) from organic and inorganic fertilisers. Several initiatives are ongoing to support and encourage adoption of measures on farms to improve water quality:

- The Better Farming for Water campaign aims to support actions on all farms to improve all water bodies through the adoption of 8 Actions for Change, which involve better nutrient, farmyard, and land management measures.
- Farming for Water EIP, a €60 million project for farmers in the Priority Areas for Action (PAA). The ambition of the project is to support approx—15,000 farmers to undertake measures to protect water quality.
- Waters for Life is an EU LIFE Integrated Project (IP) that aims to help reverse the deterioration of Ireland's most pristine waters. Six sub-catchments have been chosen, and funding is available for interested farmers to undertake measures to improve water quality.

Environment & Rural Affairs

Nitrates Directive

IFA submitted to the European Commission's public consultation on the Nitrates Directive evaluation in March 2024. The submission set out that farmers need to be placed at the centre of the Directive, that it should be grounded in the core principle of "the right nutrient in the right place at the right time," and that wider socio-economic impacts need to be considered.

Nitrates Action Programme (NAP)

The Agriculture Water Quality Working Group (WQG) has continued to meet regularly throughout 2024. In August the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine published 'Water and agriculture - a collaborative approach', a plan to support the retention of the derogation post 2025. The WQG met with the Nitrates European Commission Team in September on a farm to discuss Ireland's NAP and emphasise the importance of the derogation to Irish farming. In advance of meeting the Commission, IFA, with five other organisations, issued Retaining Ireland's Nitrates Derogation – Common Objectives – A Joint Declaration from Farm Organisations, Co-operatives and the Dairy and Meat Processors. It sets out common objectives that the sector believes will deliver the renewal of the Nitrates derogation while also protecting water quality. IFA submitted to the public consultation on an interim review of the 5th NAP consultation and raised serious concerns about some of the proposed measures to be introduced in 2025.

Air Quality and Ammonia Emissions

Under the National Emissions Ceiling Directive (NEC), Ireland's ammonia emissions are required to reduce by 1% by 2020 and 5% by 2030 below 2005 baseline level. The EPA Ireland's Air Pollutant Emissions 1990 to 2022 report published in May shows that ammonia emissions in 2022 were 3% above the 2005 baseline figure, therefore Ireland is non-compliant with the Directive. Agriculture accounts for 99.4% of the ammonia emissions in Ireland. Ammonia emissions declined by 1% in 2022; the reduction was driven by lower pig and poultry populations, increased use of low-emission slurry spreading and increased use of protected urea.

EU Nature Restoration Law

After months of delays and resistance, the EU Nature Restoration Law came into force in August 2024. The new regulation legally binds EU Member States to restore at least 20% of the EU's land and sea areas by 2030 and all ecosystems needing restoration by 2050.

Almost 9% of Irish land is expected to be directly affected by the EU Nature Restoration Law. To achieve the targets Ireland is required to submit a draft National Restoration Plan by September 2026. The plan needs to set out measures that will:

- Restore at least 30% of habitats covered by the law (forests, grasslands, wetlands, rivers, and lakes) from poor to good condition by 2030 and 90% by 2050.
- Improve biodiversity in agricultural ecosystems, including the grassland butterfly index; the share of agricultural land with high-diversity landscape features; the stock of organic carbon in cropland mineral soil.
- Restore at least 30% of drained peatlands by 2030 (at least a quarter shall be rewetted), 40% by 2040 and 50% by 2050 (where at least one-third shall be rewetted).

- During the negotiations, IFA secured important amendments, including a softening of the language that provides considerable flexibilities to Member States, rewetted will be voluntary for farmers, and an emergency brake for agricultural ecosystem targets if they severely reduce the land needed for EU food security. The lack of a dedicated funding package to support the implementation of the law remains a key concern, and this needs to be resolved before plans can be implemented.

National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP)

Ireland's 4th NBAP was published in January 2024 and sets the biodiversity agenda for the 2023-2030 period. The plan recognises the scale of the work that farmers are currently doing to improve biodiversity; however, it lacks long-term financial support. In meetings with the National Park and Wildlife Service (NPWS), the necessity that the plan be adequately funded, independent of the CAP budget, to incentivise farmers to implement measures was stressed and acknowledged by the NPWS.

Wildlife Legislative Review

IFA made a submission to Phase 1 of the public consultation on the Wildlife Legislation Review in September 2024. To ensure meaningful stakeholder engagement and consultation IFA has called for the establishment of a multi-stakeholder Wildlife Legislation Review Group to support the review of legislation process to deliver effective regulatory framework to deliver conservation targets.

COPA Environment Working Group

In September, John Murphy, IFA Environment Chair was elected to Vice Chair of the COPA Environment Working Group. Under the new Chairmanship Mr. Murphy has been allocated responsibility for Nitrates and Climate Adaptation.

Water Charges

IFA made a submission to the Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU) public consultation on the Non-Domestic Tariff Framework in February and met with representatives to raise concerns with regard to the proposed increases to water charges. It highlighted that the proposed increases disproportionately impact low-volume users with multiple connections and will exacerbate the disparity for the most economically vulnerable farmers. In September, the CRU approved the charges which are applicable from 1st October 2024. IFA has met with Uisce Eireann to seek a review of the proposed increased charges for farmers with multiple connections, and negotiations are ongoing.

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Scheme for Agricultural Tyres

IFA made a submission to the public consultation EPR Scheme in October which proposes to introduce an environmental levy on Agricultural Tyres in Q1 2025. In preparation for the consultation IFA surveyed members better to understand the volume of waste tyres on farms. There were over 1,100 responses to the survey. IFA is seeking an extension to the proposed introduction until the legacy issues are addressed and farmers are provided further opportunities to input into the design of the scheme.

John Murphy, Chair, Environment & Rural Affairs Committee
Geraldine O'Sullivan, Senior Policy Executive

Sheep



Adrian Gallagher
Chair, Sheep Committee



Prices

Lamb prices to date in 2024 are €7.74/kg up €1.12c/kg on the 2023 average price for the first 45 weeks of the year.



Supplies

Total throughput to week 45 is 2,223,774 head, which represents a 10% decrease compared to the same period in 2023. Spring lamb throughput is back 10%, while hogget throughput is back 9% compared to the same period in 2023.

CATEGORY	WEEK 45				DIFFERENCE		% DIFFERENCES 2022 vs 2021	
	2024		2023		WEEKLY	CUMULATIVE	WEEKLY	CUMULATIVE
LAMBS/HOGGETS	64	897,861	196	982,324	-132	-84,463	-67%	-9%
SPRING LAMBS	36,534	1,079,708	52,668	1,199,111	-16,134	-119,403	-31%	-10%
EWES AND RAMS	4,441	246,091	8,422	293,193	-3,981	-47,102	-47%	-16%
LIGHT LAMBS	2	114	11	149	-9	-35	-82%	-23%
TOTAL	41,041	2,223,774	61,297	2,474,777	-20,256	-251,003	-33%	-10%

Engagement with Processors

In 2024, IFA met with the three major sheep processing plants, highlighting the need for farmers to receive sustainable prices. Discussions at the Dawn Meats Kildare meeting included the Dawn Meats acquisition of Kildare chilling.

Bord Bia Origin Green Producer Standard (QA Scheme)

IFA actively participated in the Bord Bia TAC meetings, reviewing the QA standard for sheep farmers. IFA is seeking a more farmer-friendly simplified audit system.

Agri-Food Regulator

IFA met with the Agri-Food Regulator and has sought significantly more transparency in the food supply chain between the farm gate

and the consumer. IFA has called on the regulator to provide a detailed analysis of lamb prices at all points in the chain and a more accurate and transparent price reporting mechanism for lamb prices, similar to the system that exists for beef prices on a weekly basis.

Budget 2025

IFA secured €22m in National exchequer funding for sheep farmers in Budget 2025. The new scheme will provide payment rates of €13/ewe bringing total ewe payments to €25/ewe including the €12/ewe SIS. IFA have called for the scheme to be practical with funding leakage kept to a minimum by supporting established good farming practises.

National Sheep Welfare Scheme 2024

IFA secured €15m for a new scheme in 2024. Participants were paid €8/ewe bringing the total direct support for sheep farmers to €20/ewe for 2024. Payments are available for over 1.87m ewes. IFA ensured the scheme was a practical easy to comply with scheme with minimal leakage of funds. 17,159 farmers participated in the scheme.

Sheep Improvement scheme

€20m annual funding is provided for the scheme over the five years of the CAP. Payment rates of €12/ewe are available to farmers in the scheme. There are 17,147 farmers currently participating in the scheme.

IFA are seeking changes to the retention period in the scheme.

Early-stage support for Producer Organisations

IFA met and engaged with the DAFM throughout 2024 on the proposed scheme. The scheme is anticipated to be open to producers before the end of 2024. DAFM has confirmed all existing lamb producer groups will be eligible for the funding.

No Dogs Allowed

IFA continue to engage in the Dog Control Stakeholder Group. Advancements to date include banning of certain dog breeds and a targeted neutering scheme. IFA has set out a number of key proposals to Government to ensure more responsible dog ownership. IFA continued its 'No Dogs Allowed' campaign.



Wool

IFA is actively involved in the newly established Wool Council. However, concerns remain about the value this process will add to wool prices at the farm gate.

Representation

The Sheep committee represented sheep farmers on a number of outside bodies, state agencies and groups incl.

- Bord Bia
- Sheep Ireland
- Copa-COGECA WP on Sheep
- EU Civil dialogue on Sheep
- IGWC
- Dog Control stakeholder group

Adrian Gallagher, Chair, Sheep Committee

Tomas Bourke, Senior Policy Executive

James Walsh, Policy Executive

Animal Health

National Bovine Tuberculosis Statistics

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

Herds Restricted

5,906

(29 Oct 2023 – 27 Oct 2024)

4,914

(30 Oct 2022 – 29 Oct 2023)

Confirmed Slaughterhouse Cases

2,753

(29 Oct 2023 – 27 Oct 2024)

2,490

(30 Oct 2022 – 29 Oct 2023)

5-year herd Incidence

2023 - 4.94% 2022 - 4.31% 2021 - 4.33% 2020 - 4.38% 2019 - 3.72%

27 October 2024

Reactors

39,339

(29 Oct 2023 – 27 Oct 2024)

26,581

(30 Oct 2022 – 29 Oct 2023)

Herd Incidence

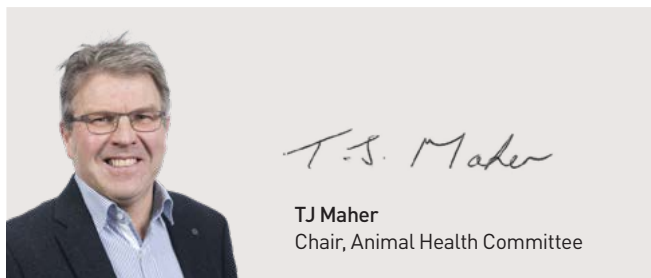
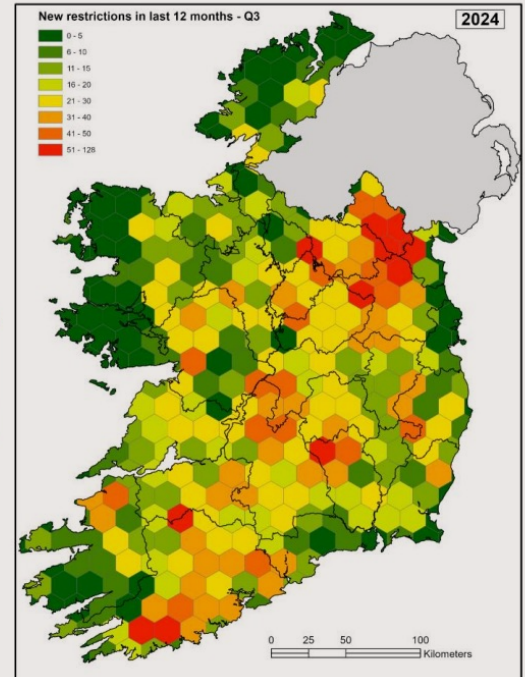
5.81%

27 Oct 2024

4.77%

29 Oct 2023

New restrictions in the last 12 months Q3 2024



TB

TB levels continue to increase, with 12-month rolling averages rising monthly. DAFM has suggested increased controls on higher-risk breakdown farms, which IFA has rejected. IFA has called on DAFM to address the shortcomings in the wildlife control programme in terms of policy and resources.

IFA has held a number of meetings at county and regional levels throughout the country, bringing national and local DAFM staff out on the ground to hear first-hand the exasperation and frustration of farmers with the impacts of TB on their farms and lack of DAFM willingness/ability to implement an effective TB programme.

IFA has discussed the potential role and the progress to date of a vaccine for cattle and the development of a test to identify vaccinated animals with the leading academics with experience in this area and the NFU who are actively involved in trials in the UK.

The new rate of income supplement is being paid to farmers who entered a breakdown since 29th February 2024. The top-up to the old rate of payments farmers received since 1st February 2023 has yet to commence. IFA raised this unacceptable delay with DAFM. They are targeting all payments to be processed by the end of the year.

IFA, as part of the TB FWG, are involved in discussions on reviewing several aspects of TB supports, including the recent change to the EBI price coefficient, which DAFM reduced from €1.05/€ EBI to 75c/€ EBI, a review of OFMV categorisation and summary price compilation, elements of the Income Supplement, Hardship Grant and Depopulation Grant schemes.

Discussions are ongoing on developing a standard RMP (Risk Management Plan) template.

Work has recommenced in the TB Communications group on reviewing the tone of letters sent to farmers as part of the TB programme.

Animal Health

IFA has consistently set out the areas that must be addressed as a matter of urgency to reduce the levels of TB and reduce the burden of the controls and the programme on farmers; these include;

- The Wildlife Control Programme must revert to density reduction around all TB outbreaks
- DAFM must provide the staff resources to implement density reduction programmes in a timely and effective manner;
 - » Around all TB outbreaks and,
 - » In advance of all significant infrastructural works
- Any additional animal movement controls must be practical, proportionate and proven to make a meaningful difference to TB levels
- The impact of TB controls on farms must be fully recognised, and the economic implications supported
- DAFM must continue to engage in the development of an authorised test and vaccine for cattle
- DAFM must up their game in implementing the programme on the ground and in their communications with restricted farmers

Irish Deer Management Strategy Group: The IDMSG has issued a tender to employ a manager to implement the strategy of deer reduction; seven other staff will be hired following the hiring of the manager. IFA has called for meaningful actions from the group this Autumn.

BVD

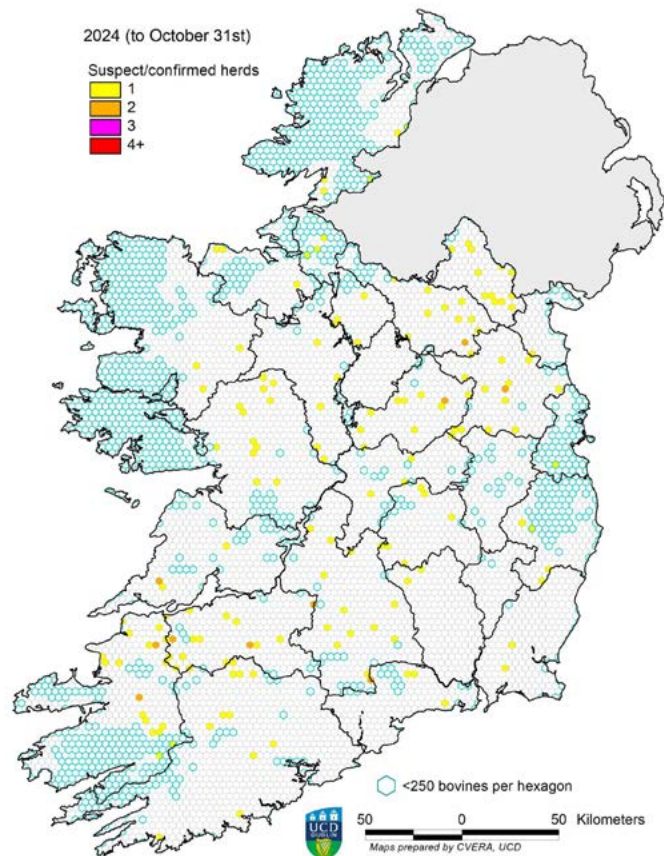
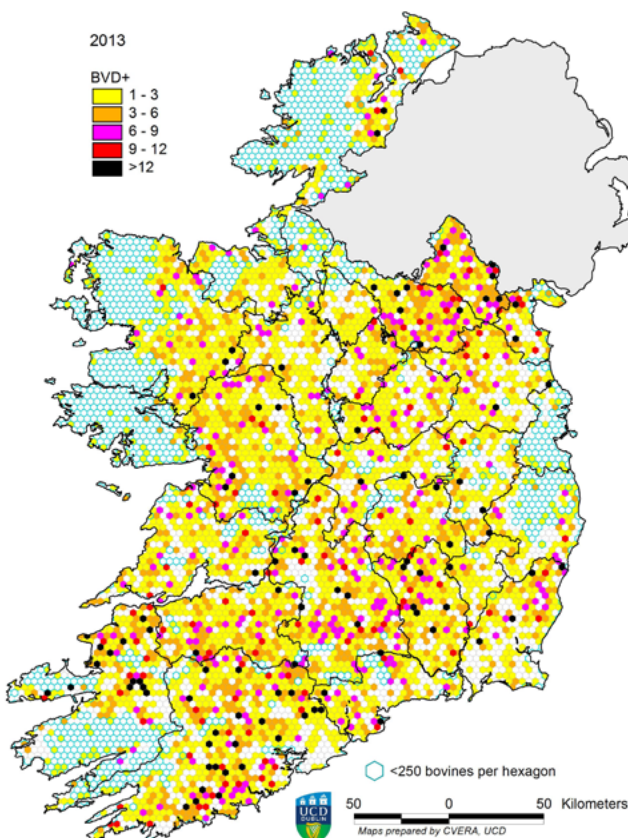
We are currently on track to obtain BVD-free status under EU Animal Health Law.

Key Considerations

- On attainment of recognised freedom, vaccination would be prohibited
- Proof of freedom monitoring required

IFA Position

- Must protect the progress made
- DAFM must seek facilitation of vaccination for a period after attainment of Free Status
- Proof of Freedom testing must also be effective case detection
- Tissue Tag Testing is the most effective and cost-effective case detection approach
- DAFM must pay for all remaining testing in the BVD programme Est €7.5million
- €3.75m provided for 2024 - €2.40/calf – max 25 calves



Animal Health

Johnes Programme

Phase two of the Johnes programme ended in 2023. IFA is currently engaging with DAFM, ICOS and AHI to develop a funding model for the next phase of the programme.

IFA is seeking full financial and technical support for farmers with herds positive for Johnes. The BTM screening for Johnes has proven to be an effective screening tool for all dairy farms in the country, allowing targeted communication with potentially infected herds in a cost-efficient way.

IBR

AHI proposed a program that will cost €40 million per year and have a 16-year timeline to achieve eradication, along with some movement controls on farms. The funding model remains a critical issue that must be addressed to advance a programme.

Veterinary Medicines

The Minister for Agriculture has signed the Veterinary Medicinal Products Regulation.

- It is to come into effect in June 2025 for antiparasitic products
- Until then, antiparasitic products can continue to be purchased without a prescription
- IFA engaged proactively with all stakeholders throughout the process and continued to raise concerns with the recently signed Regulation
- IFA made a detailed submission to the Minister and his officials identifying the key issues to be addressed in the Regulation, which all stakeholders broadly supported.

Background

- Antiparasitic products became Prescription Only Medicines following the publication of the EU Veterinary Medicines Regulation in 2019 and the subsequent HPRA review of these products.
- Before this, Ireland was the only country in the EU where these products were not POMs
- The SI provides for vets on behalf of licenced merchants and Co-ops to prescribe for these outlets on completion of a Proper Assessment Protocol
- The farmer's vet will continue to prescribe based on their knowledge of the farm and its animals as is current practice.
- There is a missed opportunity to broaden the supply base for farmers sourcing vaccines categorised as POM(E) medicines.
- These products have always been available only through veterinary pharmacies and vets without a prescription and will continue to be available through these outlets.

The validity period for prescriptions for non-antimicrobial products has been set at six months.

Availability of Vaccines

There continues to be issues around the availability of key animal vaccines. IFA has called on the Minister for Agriculture to ensure the current supply issues for vaccines are addressed urgently.

Fallen Animals

The current infrastructure provided by DAFM does not offer a guaranteed collection service for all farmers in the country and does not have a competitive cost structure for the service. IFA has engaged with DAFM on the issue and called for the entire fallen animal disposal system to be reviewed.

Maximum fees allowed under the DAFM Subvention Scheme;

	CATEGORY	MAXIMUM COLLECTION FEE
BOVINE	Over 48 months	€54.03
	24-48 months	€100
	12-24 months	€80
	6-12 months	€50
	3-6 months	€35
	0-3 months	€30
SHEEP		€30

Representation

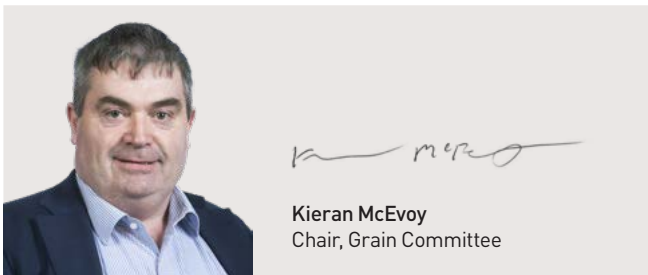
- TB Forum
- TB Implementation Group
- TB Finance Working Group
- TB Technical Working Group
- TB Communications Group
- BVD IG
- Johnes's Disease IG
- IBR IG
- Interdepartmental INAP Stakeholder Group (AMR)
- INAP Animal Health Committee
- Antiparasitic Stakeholder Group
- FAWAC and FAWN
- Copa-Cogeca WP on Animal Health & Welfare
- Veterinary Council of Irelands Workforce Review Group
- Bluetongue virus stakeholder group

TJ Maher, Chair, Animal Health Committee

Tómas Bourke, Senior Policy Executive

Donal Callaghan, Policy Executive

Grain



Kieran McEvoy
Chair, Grain Committee

The tillage sector faced another very challenging season in 2024. A wet spring compounded a difficult autumn in 2023 in which the planted area of winter cereals dropped by 30% to 94,000ha, the lowest since 2013.

Teagasc forecast that tillage farm incomes would remain in the low €20,000s for the second consecutive year,

Tillage Survival Policy

Heavy rainfall in March and for much of April meant concern amongst tillage farmers and the wider industry was extremely high. IFA prepared a Tillage Survival Proposal document highlighting the precarious position facing the tillage sector and the urgent need for a financial support package.

Straw Incorporation Measure

Minister for Agriculture Charlie McConalogue announced a deferral of the Straw Incorporation Measure on the 17th of July 2024, citing concerns over the availability of straw for winter 2024. This decision was met with shock and outrage from the wider tillage sector, which faced a potential drop in scheme income of up to €10,000 overnight. In the following days, the IFA Grain Chairman and National Grain Committee initiated a nationwide lobbying campaign, applying

pressure on all Councillors, Senators and TDs to get the Minister to reverse his decision. This proved successful with IFA securing a meeting with the Minister on the 23rd of July. The SIM was reinstated in full for all applications, with the introduction of a Baling Assistance Payment with a budget of €2 million.

Budget Lobbying

Ahead of Budget 2025, IFA Grain Committee members lobbied TDs, Senators and MEPs in Cork, Carlow-Kilkenny, Dublin-Fingal, Laois, Meath and Wexford to highlight the need for a €250/ha tillage survival payment over the next five years.

Malting Barley 2024

Despite the difficult spring weather resulting in significant delays in planting all spring barley crops, favourable conditions in the remaining months produced much better grain yield and quality than had been expected. The final FOB Creil price for brewing barley was €247.69/t with distilling at €257.69/t.

- In May, the IFA President and the National Grain Chairman travelled to Antwerp to meet Yvan Schaeapman, CEO of Boortmalt to discuss the company's future strategy for malting barley production in Ireland.
- IFA engaged with Boortmalt over introducing a €25/t deduction for barley with a KPH of 60-63.

Meetings with Merchants

Post-harvest meetings were held with the two largest co-operatives, (i) Tirlan and (ii) Dairygold, to highlight the need for the best possible price to growers for harvest 2024. The National Grain Chairman also spoke with larger independent merchants.

Consultations

A submission was prepared for the DAFM consultation on adding and classifying Blackgrass as a weed under the Noxious Weeds Act of 1936.

Kieran McEvoy, Chair, Grain Committee
Max Potterton, Policy Executive

Horticulture



IFA President Francie Gorman, IFA Horticulture Chair Mark Walsh, IFA Fruit & Vegetable Chair Niall McCormack and Enterprise, Trade and Employment Minister Peter Burke with a delegation of horticultural growers in Longford discussing IFA's pre-Budget priorities.



Mark Walsh
Chair, Horticulture Committee

Horticulture Review of the 2024 Season

The 2024 season for horticulture was challenging for several reasons. Difficult weather conditions combined with challenges such as labour costs and availability, market challenges, land availability and growing media shortages led to challenges for the entire season.

Spring 2024 was challenging for all subsectors of horticulture and prolonged wet weather conditions caused delays across the board. Field conditions severely affected and, in some cases, eliminated early plantings of vegetable crops. The vegetable season ran approximately four to six weeks behind normal years due to the loss of early plantings. The protected crops and strawberry sectors were significantly impacted by poor light levels throughout the season, which on average were 6% reduced on last year. The poor spring weather affected the pollination of crops such as apples and the demand for ornamental plants was also significantly reduced. The cost and availability of straw, which is above the European average, severely hampered the competitiveness of the mushroom sector.

IFA engaged with all packers and retailers in the supply chain and held a national meeting in March to convey these difficulties. Some small increases were achieved; however, not in line with inflationary pressure. IFA continues to lobby for funds to be put in place to combat inflationary challenges, especially labour costs.

Weather events on the continent have caused shortages of imports, indicating how retailers cannot rely on the importation of produce to secure their orders. Retailers and packers must support Irish

growers to ensure that this preventable situation does not continue to occur in the sector. IFA, in conjunction with the Horticulture Industry Forum, launched the Retail Charter and is engaging with retailers. IFA worked closely with the office of the Agri-Food Regulator throughout 2024.

Labour and Work Permits

The cost and availability of labour remain to the fore for all horticulture businesses. The increases in rates for the General Employment Permit (GEP) with no industry consultation and the proposed roadmap, have put tremendous strain on all sectors. Budget 2025 announced an 80c increase in the minimum wage, which will put additional financial strain on the low-margin sectors. IFA met with all relevant Ministers and Departments on the GEP and seasonal work permit scheme to ensure that growers are represented fairly.

Horticulture Grant Scheme

The cut in the budget for the horticulture grant scheme was very disappointing, decreasing by 25% to €8.5M. IFA outlined that the budget cut will jeopardise the Horticulture Strategy's ambition to increase farm gate value by 30% by 2027. Lobbying is ongoing to restore the budget.

Residential Zoned Land Tax

IFA led a campaign opposing the introduction of Residential Zoned Land Tax for genuine farmed land. It was announced in budget 2025 that it will be deferred for another year.

IHNSA

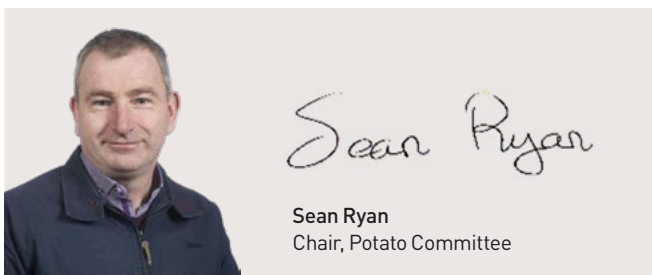
A successful trolley fair was held in Whites Agri in February to mark the beginning of the season. There were record-breaking numbers in attendance. IHNSA/IFA attended the GLAS trade show in July 2024. Val Farrell attended ENA meetings representing the industry throughout 2024.

Mark Walsh, Chair, Horticulture Committee
Niamh Brennan, Senior Policy Executive

Potato



Lorcan Bourke, Bord Bia, IFA President Francie Gorman, IFA Potato Chair Sean Ryan and Shay Phelan, Teagasc at the IFA National Potato Conference.



Sean Ryan
Chair, Potato Committee

Review of the 2024 Season

Looking back to the 2023 season, the harvest was described by many growers as one of the most difficult in living memory. Widespread flooding in October '23 caused challenging conditions. Growers managed to get the majority of crops out of the ground, which many called a 'salvage operation'. Some growers could not harvest their 2023 crops, and frost damage led to crop losses, which caused significant financial losses for affected growers. As a result of these challenges, there was a shortage of potatoes towards the end of the 2023 season, compounded by very late plantings. Inflated input costs remained a key factor for growers' decisions on 2024 planting, coupled with the availability of quality seed and land. The main factors driving the costs were the increased cost of fertilisers, pesticides, harvest machinery, seed and land access.

On a positive note, the retail price point of potatoes increased in all five main retailers this year, which was long overdue. Potatoes were one of the few produce items not to see a significant food chain value increase in the months following the energy & agri input inflation crisis in 2022 caused by the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Potatoes remain a key staple in the consumer's weekly shop, and many retailers have had to re-evaluate the difference between the value of potato supply and price. We cannot ignore this, and they must play their part in ensuring that the cost of producing local and sustainably grown potatoes is recognised and that the primary producer gets paid for their product.

Office of the Food Regulator

The office of the Food Regulator 'An Rialálaí Agraibhia', established in December 2023, has been in operation for almost 12 months. IFA is calling on the Minister for Agriculture to enact a Statutory Instrument to give the office additional powers to ensure this data is

made available on request. The office must also ensure that the big players—the five main retailers in particular—operate a sustainable pricing model for potatoes.

Potato Conference

IFA, in conjunction with Teagasc and Bord Bia, held a successful Potato Conference in November at the CityNorth Hotel, Gormanston. The theme of the conference was Potatoes—Looking to the Future.

Seed Potato

IFA continues to lobby for a temporary derogation for seed imports following Brexit. The cost and availability of seed for the 2025 season, especially for processing varieties, will be a limiting factor.

Planted Acreage 2023

CROP / HA	2021	2022	2023	2024	CHANGE 23 V 24
EARLY	694	674	853	867	14
MAIN CROP	7,976	7,575	7,163	8,171	1,008
SEED	167	208	265	250	57

The area of planted maincrop increased slightly this year to 8,171ha. Yields to date are reported to be reduced, especially on later planted crops. Official yield dig figures will be released shortly.

Market Price Reporting

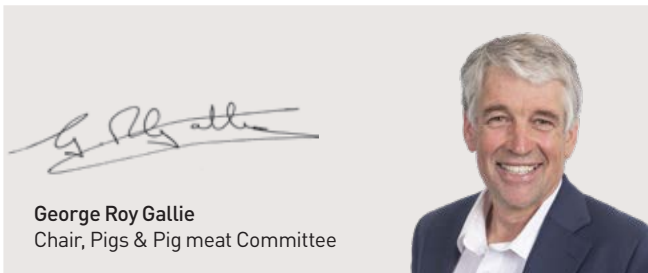
Price information is collected weekly, sent to growers via text, and published on www.ifa.ie. It is also published in the Farmers Journal, along with information about stocks and market trends.

Plant Protection Products

IFA led a successful lobbying campaign to attain emergency approval of Diquat for the 2024 harvesting season. Diquat's non-renewal is causing grave concern for growers, and IFA will continue to work on emergency approval for 2025 and the acceptance of alternative active ingredients.

Sean Ryan, Chair, Potato Committee
Niamh Brennan, Senior Policy Executive

Pigs & Pig Meat



George Roy Gallie
Chair, Pigs & Pig meat Committee

2024 has been a good year for Irish pig farmers, albeit after the sector's most challenging period. A milestone for pig farmers was reached with record-high prices that provided much-needed financial relief to the industry.

Pig prices peaked at €2.50/kg with an average year-to-date price of €2.22/kg. More recently, pig prices have declined, with the average price paid for grade E pigs reaching €2.08/kg at the end of October 2024.

The throughput of pigs in Irish export meat plants is up 1% on the corresponding period last year, with 67,110 pigs killed in the previous week of October 2024. Recovery is coming back into production as the year progresses. However, it is worth remembering that the national pig slaughtering declined by 9% in 2023 and 2% in 2022. Also, 320,000 live pigs were exported to Northern Ireland this year, a substantial rise of 13%, partly driven by strong demand and prices in the UK.

Pig feed costs during 2024 averaged €1.36/Kg dwt, dropping from €1.43/kg dwt in October 2023 to €1.31/Kg dwt in October 2024. Composite feed prices have also reduced over the period from €399/tonne to €369/tonne. Thus, the important figure of "margin over feed" improved significantly, averaging 85c/kg deadweight for the year with a high of 109c/kg in August 2024, offering much-needed profitability for producers following the crisis period when pig farmers lost considerable amounts of money (Teagasc).

Bord Bia's latest data shows Irish pig meat exports performing well, up in both value and volume by 5.5%. China and the UK remain our two most significant export markets for pig meat with the UK up 15%. Kantar data indicates good domestic performance at the retail level.

The Pig Committee has actively engaged with the Nitrates section of the Department of Agriculture, Food, and the Marine (DAFM) to address the proposed 4-day notification rule for nutrient transfers. We have highlighted the impracticality of the rule for pig farmers due to the complexity of operations and the administrative burden it imposes. Pig Committee meetings were held to discuss the rule's implications, leading to a unanimous rejection of the 4-day rule. We proposed a biannual reporting timeframe, aligning it with existing verification dates. The DAFM has yet to offer an alternative workable solution, but we continue to lobby on this important issue.

The committee has engaged with the TAMS Division of DAFM, to ensure that the minimum specification for upgrading pig houses be revised without delay, stressing the absolute importance that these specifications be workable on commercial pig farms and insisting that DAFM engages further with the Teagasc Pig Department ahead of their release.

The IFA Pigs Committee continued to meet processors and retailers, focusing on the domestic market to ensure that products used in Ireland are origin green and that returns to primary producers are maximised and sustainable.

We have engaged continuously with AHI, the EPA, Bord Bia, the Pig Food Vision Group, DAFM, the food regulator and the agricultural appeals office throughout 2024 on a huge range of issues including, animal health & welfare, AMR, salmonella control, nitrates, TAMS specifications, emissions, pigmeat promotions and the reduction of imported pig meat into Ireland.

The DNA programme has continued, focusing on the hospitality sector to ensure that more BBQA Irish pigmeat is available to consumers at food service outlets. We will continue to engage with lead companies in this area in 2025, given that DNA testing is averaging 92% assigned Irish for the five leading retailers but only 55% overall when you include food service.

George Roy Gallie, Chair, Pigs & Pig meat Committee
Sarah Hanley, Policy Executive

Poultry



Market report

The poultry industry continues to grapple with rising input costs, including feed, energy, and labour, which have not fully been recovered at farm gate level. The increased labour costs felt by the industry in 2024 and the increase in January 2025 will further strain farm-level margins. Despite these pressures, poultry and egg prices have shown mixed trends over the past year. CSO data shows poultry prices decreased by 2.9%, while egg prices rose slightly by 0.8%. Retail demand for poultry and eggs remains strong, yet occasional shortages on shelves, particularly for eggs, highlight supply chain challenges. Lidl were met with a significant issue over the later summer months where they were unable to source enough quality assured eggs to meet their demand and imported eggs from Germany - thankfully, due to several engagements and pressure posed by the IFA Lidl stopped importing German eggs.

According to the European Commission, the latest average price for broiler breast meat is €5.77/kg carcass weight (October 24). This was €5.60/kg in July and €5.42/kg carcass weight in May. At the same time, the average EU egg price was €1.56/ dozen for all classes of eggs in July, which has now increased to €1.76/dozen for October 14th, 2024. Irish free-range egg prices reported to the commission are €2.02/ dozen wholesale (unchanged), while the EU average for those eggs has increased from €2.12/dozen in August to €2.17/dozen free-range.

IFA Poultry Committee Activity

We continue to engage with retailers, packers, processors, EPA, DAFM, nitrates, AHI, Teagasc and Bord Bia on matters relating to the sector on an ongoing basis. The IFA National Poultry Committee remains steadfast in advocating for fair pricing and reinvestment opportunities for farmers. We continue to emphasise that any reductions in retail pricing must not come at the expense of farm gate prices, as this undermines farmer sustainability and industry viability. The breeders have shown immense unity and have made progress in some groups in recent weeks. All breeders nationwide will attend a meeting in Portlaoise in early December.

Food Regulator

Poultry committee representatives have closely engaged with the office of the food regulator over the past 18 months, and they welcome upcoming meetings around 30D payment terms and advocate for more transparency in the food chain.

Teagasc Poultry Division

IFA continues to work closely with Director Frank O'Mara on securing funding to increase poultry education, which there has been some movement on, and it is expected that additional resources will be allocated for the poultry sector. Rebecca Tierney, the Teagasc National Poultry advisor, has organised many events for producers over the last year, including Broiler and layer farming conferences, Energy and Biosecurity Considerations for the Poultry Industry and an upcoming biosecurity event in November 2024.

Avian Influenza

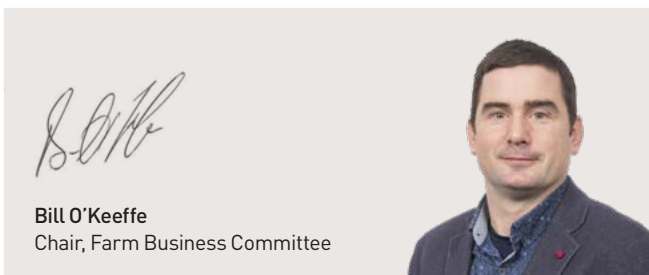
To date this year, and since 2022, we have been fortunate to have had no confirmed cases of HPAI in any captive flock. However, we are entering a riskier period as we enter the winter months. There have been 2 outbreaks confirmed in the UK, and the strictest biosecurity measures must be implemented by all stakeholders involved.

Nigel Sweetnam, Chair, Poultry Committee
Sarah Hanley, Policy Executive

Farm Business



Farm Business Chair Bill O'Keeffe addressing the Farm Finance meeting in Kilkenny organised during the Autumn.



Bill O'Keeffe

Bill O'Keeffe
Chair, Farm Business Committee

Budget 2025

Budget 2025 was on the earlier date of 1st October this year. IFA submitted a comprehensive Budget submission outlining the financial assistance required to support our agricultural sectors and specific taxation needs. IFA officers and committee representatives lobbied in advance of the budget in every county. Elected representatives, including the Minister for Finance, Jack Chambers, and the Minister for Public Expenditure, Paschal Donohoe, met with IFA on our Budget submission and the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Charlie McConalogue.

Some key agri-taxation measures were delivered in Budget 2025.

- Stock Relief extended until the end of 2027
- Accelerated Capital Allowance Scheme- additional farm safety items added
- Increased Inheritance Tax ceilings- Category A CAT threshold from €335,000 to €400,000. From
- Increase in VAT Flat Rate Refund- 4.8% to %1.1% from 1st January 2025
- Proposed change to criteria to qualify for Agricultural Relief from Capital Acquisition tax (CAT) postponed following engagement by IFA.
- Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT) exemption in 2025 for farmers who seek to have their land rezoned

Agricultural Relief

Budget 2025 proposed adding a 6-year active farmer test on the disposer of lands immediately before the transfer. This proposed new test could have had many unintended consequences, with some farmers not being eligible for Agricultural Relief on the inheritance of agricultural lands from disponents who are genuine farmers but failing to meet this proposed new 6-year active farmer test. IFA's

position is that Agricultural Relief must be retained, as it is a vital tax relief, reducing the taxable value of farmland by 90% from Capital Acquisition Tax (CAT). This Relief allows for the transfer of farms from one generation to the next without sizeable tax liabilities

Following engagement by IFA, Taoiseach Simon Harris announced that the changes to Agricultural Relief announced in the Budget would be postponed, allowing for further time to analyse the consequences before any changes are implemented.

Farm Finance

The Farm Business Committee maintained regular contact throughout the year with AIB, BOI, PTSB, SBCI, Credit Unions, the Central Bank and the Irish Banking Culture Board. It was evident from IFA members around the country that there were emerging cashflow difficulties on many farms throughout 2024 due to the problematic weather and poor grass growth. Following engagement with the leading banking institutions, the IFA Farm Business Committee arranged four regional Farm Finance meetings. All mainstream banks and credit unions presented at these meetings with a technical update on grass growth and costs from Teagasc to IFA members. This series of meetings allowed excellent feedback from farmers directly to financial institutions on what they were experiencing on the ground and the need for additional cash flow finance to assist farmers in the challenging 2024 year. A typical call from farmers was the need for greater accessibility to meet a person in the bank who could manage a credit application, and most institutions have taken this on board with a direct meeting available on request.

Residential Zoned Land Tax

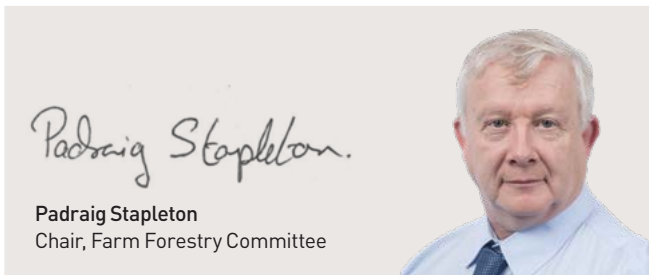
The committee continued to lobby intensively on this issue during the year. Numerous interactions occurred with ministers, TD's senators, and government departments, and multiple press releases were issued. In Budget 2025, it was announced that landowners will have an exemption from submitting a rezoning application for their lands in 2025. IFA's position remains that all actively farmed land must be removed from the scope of this tax.

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 involving banks, non-lending funds, and merchant/Co-op debt.

Bill O'Keeffe, Chair, Farm Business Committee
Robert Malone, Senior Policy Executive

Farm Forestry



IFA Farm Forestry Chairman Padraig Stapleton and Amy Mulchrone, IFA Farm Forestry Executive, met with Ciaran Mullooly MEP to discuss current forestry issues.

Forestry Programme 2023 to 2027

A budget of €1.3 billion secured in November 2022 sees forestry 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.

The Government has significant ambition for the forestry sector as set out in the Climate Action Plan 2024, which aims to increase annual planting rates to 8,000 hectares per annum to deliver an additional 28,000 hectares of new forest by the end of 2025. To date (15th November 2024), 1,475ha of new forestry has been established.

The total Budget 2025 allocation for forestry is €91m, compared with €110m last year. The Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine (DAFM) will undertake a mid-term review of the current Forestry Programme in 2025.

Ash dieback Action Plan

The DAFM opened an Ash Dieback Action Plan in August 2024. The scheme includes an additional €79.5 million of funding to pay a new Climate Action Performance Payment (CAPP) of €5,000 per hectare to those impacted ash plantation owners who apply under the Ash Dieback Reconstitution scheme. The Ash Dieback Reconstitution scheme provides a €2,000 clearance grant. The overall package for ash plantation owners is more than €230 million.

Climate Resilient Reforestation Pilot Scheme

The DAFM opened a Climate Resilient Reforestation Pilot Scheme in July 2024. Three elements are available: Reforestation for Continuous Cover Forestry, Reforestation for Native Forests and Reforestation for Biodiversity and Water. In addition to grant aid, approved applicants can also avail of Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) premia over a 7-year period, which applies for each of the three elements of the Scheme.

Bark Beetle

The export of conifer logs from the Pest Free Area of Scotland into Ireland is paused as of the 30th of August 2024 on a precautionary basis following the finding of larch bark beetles at a port in Cork. The Department found three Ips embrace beetles in one of its pheromone traps in Passage West Port in Cork. IFA had lobbied since January 2024 for the cease importation of timber from Scotland. IFA will continue to lobby for a contingency plan to be developed to set out the procedures and the measures to be taken in the event of an outbreak.

Timber Market

Prices have remained relatively stable in 2024. However, the pause in timber imports from Scotland and increased harvesting has impacted Irish prices.

IFA Proposal for Roadside Ash Dieback Removal Scheme

IFA submitted a proposal to develop a Roadside Ash Dieback Removal Scheme. IFA is seeking to introduce a financial support package for farmers and landowners administered by the local authorities, which will be responsible for coordinating the safe removal of diseased ash dieback trees.

Hen Harrier Threat Response Plan 2024-2028

IFA successfully proposed and lobbied to develop the Hen Harrier Threat Response Plan launched on the 10th of September 2024.

Plan to Establish National Forest Certification Scheme

DAFM published the National Forest Certification Business Plan in May following consultation with IFA and other stakeholders. IFA will continue to lobby for the agenda to move forward at pace to address the certification challenges in the industry.

Padraig Stapleton, Chair, Farm Forestry Committee
Amy Mulchrone, Policy Executive

Farm Family, Social Affairs and Farm Safety



Minister of State Martin Heydon, IFA Farm Family Chair Teresa Roche and IFA President Francie Gorman launching IFA's Farm Safety Week 2024.



Teresa Roche
Chair, Farm Family and Social Affairs



Minister Charlie McConalogue availing of the Health Check service run by IFA in conjunction with CROI and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

Farm Safety

2024 marks the twelfth 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 PJ Fitzsimons spoke about how his father lost his life in a farm accident. A farm safety leaflet featuring statistics on farm fatalities was published in partnership with FBD, and a dedicated farm safety hub was developed on the IFA website.

IFA held three farm safety events in Galway, Monaghan and Cork. These events enabled farmers to see and practice safety protocols directly in their work environment, increasing engagement and helping ensure farm safety practices are remembered and applied.

As part of Farm Safety Week 2024, IFA nominated Dr John McNamara as Farm Safety Hero 2024. John is the national Health and Safety Specialist with Teagasc, the Irish State agency responsible for agricultural and food-related research, training, and education. John's thirst for knowledge, international reach, and genuine commitment to making a difference in Ireland's safety record make him a true Farm Safety Hero.

Quad Safety Training

IFA held a quad safety training information webinar. The purpose of the webinar was to inform farmers of the requirements to complete quad safety training under new regulations. Regulations governing the safe use of ATV/ Quad Bikes in all workplaces (SI 619/2021) came into effect on 20 November 2023. These regulations have 2 essential requirements 1. Training is to be undertaken with a registered training provider according to a QQI standard or equivalent 2. Use of helmets to a (generally) prescribed standard.

Farmer Health Check Project

The Farmer Health Check Programme, run by the Irish Farmers' Association (IFA) and Croí, and funded by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, provided a FREE mobile health service for farmers and their families across Ireland. This initiative was dedicated to promoting health and well-being among farmers, offering essential health assessments and tailored advice to support them in managing the demands of farming life.

The Medical Assessment Included:

- Blood Pressure Check
- Cholesterol Check
- Blood Sugar Test
- Waist Circumference Test
- Well-being Evaluation

The IFA attended various marts and agricultural events in October and November, completing health checks for over 1,200 farmers. IFA also published a Farmer Health Checks Information Pack covering cardiovascular health, cancer risk awareness, healthy eating, physical and mental health, and bereavement, including loss of animals. This information pack is available at www.ifa.ie/healthcheck.

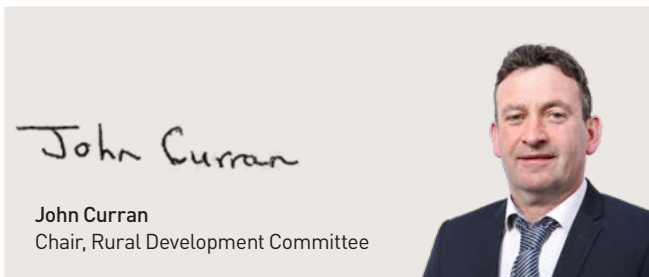
Teresa Roche, Chair, Farm Family and Social Affairs Committee
Claire McGlynn, Policy Executive

Rural Development



"Farming for Water" event, on the farm of David Fay, Dysart, Westmeath with Joan Martin from Lawpro and David Webster, Sustainability Advisor with Teagasc.

Pictured (l-r) John O'Hanlon; David Webster, David Fay; Brendan Coffey, Joan Martin; John Curran, Richard O'Brien, and Willie Dolan.



Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)

The CAP Programme (2023-2027) entered its second year with the Committee through the CAP Strategic Plan (CSP) Monitoring Committee and proposed amendments to Ireland's CSP, raising many issues about its implementation. Among those realised include were:

- All farmers who applied for ACRES in Tranche 1 and 2 were accommodated;
- Derogation from the implementation of GAEC-2 for 2024 secured;
- No penalty to apply where penalty is €100 or less per beneficiary and per calendar year;
- Number of eligible animals in Dairy Beef Welfare Scheme up from 40 to 50 per beneficiary;
- Higher grant rate and independent ceiling for nutrient storage investments;
- A postponement of the introduction of clawback of entitlements for 2025.

IFA participates in the CAP Strategic Plan (CSP) Monitoring Committee, CAP Agricultural Knowledge & Information System (AKIS) Co-Ordination Group, 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; CAP post-2027 Working Group meetings; DG Agri Study on Simplification and Administrative burden for farmers and other beneficiaries under the CAP; and 'Vision for EU Agriculture' document, where our key and core message consistently has been: the need for greater simplification and for farmers to be put at the centre of CAP discussions; 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.



IFA Rural Development Chair John Curran representing COPA at the Civil Dialogue Meeting with the European Commission on CAP in Brussels

The Committee engaged with representatives of the 'Breeding Waders' EIP and 'Farming for Water' EIP and organised a well-attended informative farm walk on the farm of David and Roisin Fay on the banks of Lough Ennell, Co. Westmeath, in June to learn more about the Farming for Water EIP, the support available and what on-farm measures could be made to protect, preserve, and improve water quality.

Election Manifestos

The Committee provided input into the development of the Copa-Cogeca EU Election Manifesto, the IFA European Parliament & Local Government Elections Manifesto, and the 2024 IFA General Election Manifesto.

Rural Development

Farmers Charter of Rights

After extended, often protracted negotiations, IFA secured a stronger Farmers Charter of Rights in July 2024. Among key new components were:

- A return to traditional payment dates – ANC 3rd week Sept; BISS/CRISS mid-Oct, etc;
- The Department will fully consult with the Farming Organisations on all scheme details and discuss any changes to terms and conditions in a timely manner. This principle was relied upon to establish the 2024 Baling Assistance Scheme.
- In exceptional circumstances where it appears scheme payment deadlines and/or approvals will not be met in accordance with agreed Charter deadlines, the Department will convene a meeting of the Monitoring Committee in a timely manner and outline proposed corrective strategies or possible options to resolve outstanding issues quickly. Such a meeting can also be convened upon the request of a Farming Organisation.
- Commitment to pay 100% of cleared cases and 90% of all eligible applications by the agreed payment deadline extended to include ANC; Protein Aid; Eco-schemes; SCEP; Dairy-Beef; SIS; Organics; SIM [Previously was only BISS]
- Following completion of the inspection, the farmer/representative of the farmer, if present, will be provided with a preliminary report of the inspection; inspections in the main are announced with generally 48 hours' notice given.



IFA Rural Development Chair John Curran sets out the farm scheme priorities as part of the IFA pre-Budget presentation to the Minister for Finance Jack Chambers and the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform Paschal Donohoe.

Farm Schemes:

Area of Natural Constraint (ANC)

The ANC scheme, worth €250m per annum, is essential farm income support for farmers in designated disadvantaged areas. On September 17th, 95,000 farmers received an 85% advance payment worth €203m. Balancing payments (15%) commenced early December.

BISS/CRISS/Eco-Scheme

The BISS/CRISS/Eco-scheme application period reverted to normal (closing May 15th), with 128,712 applications and 96% of farmers participating in the voluntary Eco-scheme measure.

70% advance BISS / CRISS payments, worth €535m, to over 114,000 farmers commenced October 16th, with €201m Eco-scheme payments commencing October 21st to 112,000 farmers.

Balancing payments commenced early December.

ACRES

Implementing the Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES) continued to prove challenging and cause frustration among many participants through 2024, most notably among those in Cooperation zones, where delayed payments, uncertainty surrounding scoring and Non-Productive Investments were standard.

Following intense IFA lobbying, all Tranche 1 and Tranche 2 applications were accepted, with a €4,000 and €5,000 interim payment provided to ACRES General and ACRES Co-Operation participants in February/March to mitigate delayed payments, where required. IFA also secured a commitment from DAFM that maximum flexibility would apply, and a series of options provided, spanning multiple years, toward recoupment of Interim payments, were required.

IFA has regularly engaged with DAFM on individual ACRES cases and has been moving toward simplifying ACRES more broadly. The Committee have developed and shared a series of proposals for an improved ACRES with DAFM and will engage further in the DAFM ACRES review session at the end of the process. Given the complexity, lack of trust and often lower ACRES payments received, IFA has and will call for a complete overhaul of the ACRES and a new, simplified agri-environmental scheme to be introduced, delivering up to €15,000 per farmer.

The Minister has also suggested, as proposed by IFA, that farmers interested in an agri-environment scheme should be accommodated and not forced to wait until a new CAP programme in 2028.

TAMS

After a challenging 2023, improvements in TAMS III administration, approvals and payments were evident. Mid-November, almost ninety (88%) of the 21,112 TAMS Tranche I, II, and III applications had been approved. IFA continues to press for further improvements, particularly regarding the issuing of payments; however, through 2024, IFA secured further advances in grant rates and investment ceilings for nutrient storage investments and has received assurances from DAFM that reference costs will be reviewed mid-2025 to assess and better ensure they reflect market realities. IFA also continues to press for additional eligible items, such as dribble bars and rubber mats. Tranche 5 closed on December 6th.

Strategic Policy Committees

IFA, through newly formed Strategic Policy Committees, assists and advises Local Authorities regarding functions and policies of a strategic nature (planning, infrastructure, climate action, housing, economic development, etc.) linked to their corporate plans at a local level.

Agriculture Appeals Office

The Committee has made representation for members at various agricultural appeals through 2024. They engaged with the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Agriculture, Food & Marine regarding the long-awaited establishment of the Independent Agriculture Appeals Panel, securing the need for an Independent Chair and delegates with practical knowledge and experience in agriculture. IFA will continue to press for its scope to be extended to all cases, not just those about the law and new facts being presented.

John Curran, Chair, Rural Development Committee

Shane Whelan, Senior Policy Executive

Rachel Moloney, Policy Executive

Hill Farming



IFA Hill Farming Chair Cáillín Conneely making the case for hill farmers during the National Council meeting with the leaders of the three main political parties during the General Election campaign in November.



ACRES

Persistent payment delays, lower than expected payments, I.T challenges, recoupment of funds, lack of parcel scoring transparency, low scoring and excessive 100m buffers around turbary plots and delayed Non-Productive Investment approvals dominated discussions around ACRES for 2024. Following a delay in 2023 advance payments for over 18,000 ACRES CP applicants, the Minister delivered an interim payment of €5,000 (€4,000 for ACRES General participants) to those impacted in February/March 2024. Balancing payments issued from July, as well as scorecards.

Four thousand five hundred farmers applied for Non-Productive Investments (c.44k actions) in December 2023. However, approvals only issued in December 2024. IFA has pressed DAFM to issue approvals quickly so farmers can complete work and receive payment. A second window for NPI applications for 2024 closed in November, with approvals expected at the end of Q1 2025.

Following intense lobbying by the IFA, all eligible applications made under Tranche 2 of ACRES were accepted. This includes approximately 2,300 additional farmers to the scheme's Cooperative approach, bringing the total number of farmers participating in the Cooperative areas to over 20,000. The total number participating in ACRES is 55,000, exceeding the 50,000 limits originally outlined in the CAP Strategic Plan (CSP).

The Minister for Agriculture announced that a review of the ACRES scheme will take place in late 2024, focusing on improving the experience of farmers who may have received lower scores and, therefore, lower payments than they might have expected. The Committee, in conjunction with the Rural Development Committee, have developed and shared a series of proposals on an improved ACRES with DAFM and will engage further with DAFM officials on the matter.

Comhairle na Tuaithe

IFA continued participation in Comhairle na Tuaithe throughout 2024.

The National Outdoor Recreation Strategy 2023-2027, Embracing Ireland's Outdoors, includes a commitment to increase the number of

trails covered by the Walks scheme to 150. In 2024, 62 new trails were approved to join the Walks scheme. The new trails cover 17 counties, including five trails on two offshore islands. Adding the new trails brings to 142 the number of trails that have approval in principle to join the scheme. An additional 30 expressions of interest were received during the 2024 call. An assessment panel will be convened to review these applications before making recommendations to the Minister.

To date, 86 trails have been brought onto the scheme with 2,509 participants/landowners now signed up.

A new Rural Recreation Officer position was also approved in 2024, bringing the total number to 22.

The participant returns for the January - June 2025 period began with payments of over €1.7 million made this year.

IFA provided feedback on proposals relating to the development of the Sustainable Uplands Recreation Scheme, as well as on guidance documents for the Mountain Access Project and the Responsible Behaviour in the Outdoors Guidance Document. At every opportunity, it raised the importance of Dog Control, the banning of non-working dogs on uplands, and the need for greater respect for farmers, their rights, and their wishes.

IFA also participates in various Comhairle na Tuaithe subgroups covering issues such as:

- Visitor Management
- Responsible Behaviour
- Sustainable Uplands Recreation Scheme
- Strategy Implementation & Organisation

Burning

IFA has raised concerns with the Department that farmers whose land was burned in the spring of 2023 and 2024 should not be penalised. Several reviews and appeals are in progress, which IFA will work on with farmers over the coming months.

SAC's

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

Cáillín Conneely, Chair, Hill Farming Committee

Shane Whelan, Senior Policy Executive

Rachel Moloney, Policy Executive

Liquid Milk




Henry Dunne
Chair, Liquid Milk Committee



Committee Changes

Henry Dunne, a Tirlan liquid milk supplier from Enniscorthy Co Wexford, succeeded Keith O'Boyle as Chair of the IFA National Liquid milk committee and will be supported by Mervyn Helen from Clonakilty, Co Cork, as vice-chair. The liquid milk committee comprises representatives from supplier groups to liquid milk processors. This includes representatives from Tirlan, Aurivo, Lee Lakelands, Strathroy and Clona, and liquid milk suppliers to Arrabawn; while Arrabawn has left the liquid business, suppliers remain contracted for the coming years.

Liquid Milk Premium Increase

Negotiations by individual supplier groups with their processors were finalised in late 2023, resulting in significant premium increases for all the supplier groups in 2024. This increase was seriously needed as the costs incurred in producing liquid milk relative to spring milk production have not been adequately compensated for in recent years. Many farmers have left the liquid milk business because of economic challenges, and overall supplier numbers have reduced from over 2000 in 2012 to circa 1350 in 2024. Outgoing Liquid Milk chair Keith

O'Boyle paid tribute to the Fresh Milk Producers (FMP) negotiation team, which initiated negotiations with Tirlan and FMP and achieved a significant price increase over several years for FMP members.

Liquid Milk Food Chain Value

Following on from increased premiums agreed with supplier groups and the IFA in 2023 and 2024, engagement with retailers and food service providers increased the value of liquid milk right through the food chain in 2024. This increase was necessary to pay the farmers as the primary producers and all associated costs associated with the collection, pasteurisation, packaging, transport and distribution of liquid milk to the final consumer.

Engagement with Agri-Food Regulator

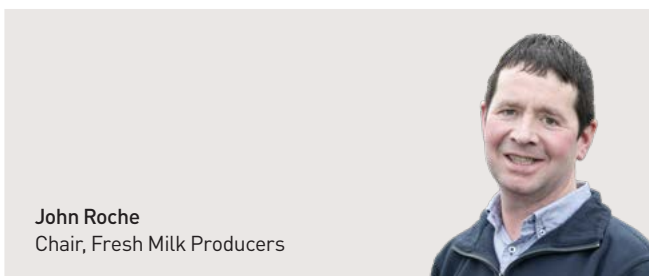
The IFA, including representatives from the liquid milk committee, has engaged proactively with the Agri-Food Regulator to ensure that all the stakeholders, particularly the large retailers, comply with the UTP directive. The liquid milk committee will continue to engage with the Agri-Food Regulator and ensure that a breakdown of value distribution within the liquid milk market is published in the near future as part of the Agri-Food Regulators market data analysis remit.

National Dairy Council

IFA liquid committee members engaged proactively with NDC, some as members of the board of the National Dairy Council in 2024. The Fresh Milk Producers (FMP) group of suppliers to Tirlan provided additional funding directly to the National Dairy Council for the promotion of liquid milk, targeting young consumers in particular.

Henry Dunne, Chair, Liquid Milk Committee
Robert Malone, Senior Policy Executive

Fresh Milk Producers



John Roche
Chair, Fresh Milk Producers

2024 was a year of significant change for fresh milk producers. The implementation of a negotiated restructuring of the FMP liquid supply pool was initiated in early 2024, with approximately 90 FMP members choosing to avail of a voluntary exit scheme from the liquid milk business.

FMP has a reduced membership base of 433 dedicated year-round liquid suppliers. The exit scheme was negotiated with the FMP Negotiation Team in late 2023 led by Chair John Wynne. This negotiation also saw a significant uplift in the liquid milk premium paid to FMP members as part of a new liquid supply agreement.

Several high-profile liquid suppliers involved with FMP over the years were among the farmers who opted to exit liquid milk, including the outgoing FMP vice-chair, Patrick Tuite. As John Wynne's second term as Chair had ended in early 2024, John Roche from Co Carlow was elected as Chair, and Henry Dunne from Enniscorthy was elected Vice

Chair in 2024 for a two-year term. 2024 also saw Linda Hansbidge elected to the FMP negotiation team, the first woman to hold a position on the negotiation team in the 87-year history of FMP.

FMP Central Executive meetings throughout the year included speakers from IFA, Teagasc, and the National Dairy Council (NDC). FMP was involved in the activities of the IFA liquid milk committee, and 2024 saw an increase in the value of liquid milk throughout the food supply chain.

National Dairy Council (NDC) support



The Central Executive agreed that FMP would invest in promoting liquid milk (NDC). Following engagement with NDC CEO Zoe Kavanagh, FMP agreed to financially support Gary Ringrose, an Irish and Leinster rugby player, as a public ambassador for the NDC and Irish dairy on a two-year agreement in 2023/2024.

Teagasc support

FMP central executive agreed to support future relevant research on liquid milk production that will benefit FMP members. FMP have engaged with Teagasc winter removal specialist James Dunne and the research team at Teagasc, Johnstone Castle, Co Wexford, and the Teagasc winter milk steering group. Past FMP chair, Denis Fagan is the current chair of this steering group, and a proposal has been approved to see FMP assist in a research programme that will benefit FMP members. FMP members supported several Teagasc on-farm events in 2024, and FMP held an on-farm event on the farm of FMP member Tom Ryan, Clane, Co Kildare, facilitated by James Dunne and Teagasc in September.

John Roche, Chair, Fresh Milk Producers
Robert Malone, Senior Policy Executive, Fresh Milk Producers

Aquaculture

IFA Aquaculture Executive Teresa Morrissey, Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine Charlie McConalogue and Michael Mulloy IFA Aquaculture at the IFA Aquaculture conference in Limerick.



Finian O'Sullivan
Chair, IFA Aquaculture

IFA Aquaculture Welcomes Launch of National Strategic Plan

The National Strategic Plan for Sustainable Aquaculture Development 2030 was launched by Minister Charlie McConalogue at the IFA Aquaculture annual conference and AGM in February 2024.

Addressing the event, the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Marine Charlie McConalogue acknowledged the vital role Aquaculture plays in producing high-quality Irish Seafood, with the sector producing around 40,000 tonnes of high-value finfish and shellfish while directly employing around 1,800 people, mainly in rural locations as a significant contributor to national seafood production and food security.

The National Strategic Plan for Sustainable Aquaculture Development 2030 sets the path for the Irish Aquaculture sector so that it is resilient, competitive, and a global standard in sustainability and quality. With this plan's implementation, the aquaculture sector can build and maintain its competitive edge in the future.

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 following years.

However, it must be noted that considerable investment and appropriate legislative changes will be required to facilitate the implementation of the strategic objectives and specific actions. If the National Strategic Plan is to be most effective for the development of the Irish aquaculture industry, there must be an immediate effort made to reform, modernise, and improve the aquaculture licensing system. The future sustainable development of the aquaculture sector can only be achieved if the proposed investment is underpinned by appropriate legislation and policy.

Finian O'Sullivan appointed as IFA Aquaculture Chair

At the IFA Aquaculture AGM, there were some updates to the IFA Aquaculture Committee following the AGM, with a new Chair being appointed in Finian O'Sullivan. Finian will be well known to many in the aquaculture and wider marine sector, having been involved in the rope mussel sector in Bantry, West Cork, for many years and having started operating in the early 80s. He has served on numerous committees at the local and national levels for the industry, including being a founding member of the Molluscan Shellfish Safety Committee, where he continues to be active. He is also involved in the Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG) and is a member of the EMFAF Monitoring Committee.

Finian O'Sullivan, Chair, IFA Aquaculture
Teresa Morrissey, Senior Policy Executive



PROJECT TEAM REPORTS

Rules, Privileges and Procedures



John Carroll
Chair, Rules, Privileges & Procedures Committee

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 issues 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 respecting the rights of members and the authority of the Council.

The IFA rules designate the National Returning Officer as Chairman of the National Rules Committee and this also gives him responsibility for all IFA elections and election procedures. At a National Council meeting held in December 2023, Mr John Carroll was elected as the National Returning Officer, and he took up this position at the AGM in January 2024.

Review of 2024

The National Rules & Privileges Committee reviewed the conduct of the National and Regional Elections held in late 2023 and considered how procedures could be improved.

Rules Committee member Mr. Billy Cotter retired from the Committee, and Mr. Dermot Ward was elected at the National AGM, filling the Council seat position on the Committee.

The Rules Committee also provided advice and support for officers, County Executives and staff on rules and procedures, elections and resolving differences/disputes.

Commodity Committee Elections

All Commodity Committee positions were up for election before the end of 2024. Nominations were received through the branch AGMs, with county commodity representatives being elected at the county executive meetings.

Support & Good Governance

The National Returning Officer provided ongoing advice and support to officers and executives at county executive and national level, in Elections of County & Commodity Officers.

John Carroll, Chair, Rules, Privileges & Procedures Committee
John Mulhall, Secretary, Rules, Privileges & Procedures Committee

Oireachtas

Lobbying

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

- Build relationships with the government, Taoiseach and government advisers.
- Engaging with all political parties before Government formation, seeking to influence and progress critical issues for farmers in the Programme for Government.
- Devising/executing IFA's national/constituency/county political operations.
- 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 3004¹ 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 2024 included:

- Retaining the Nitrates Derogation
- Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) 2023 - 2027 - Strategic Plan
- Flat Rate VAT Refund to the Poultry Sector
- Sheep farmers on Cooley Peninsula – compensation for foot and mouth
- Vacant Homes Tax (VHT)
- Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES)
- Planning and Development Bill 2023
- General Employment Permits – Horticulture Sector
- Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU) increase of non-domestic water tariffs.
- Farm Plan Scheme
- Fodder availability
- Supports the Irish Aquaculture sector
- Changes to timeframes for notification and verification of livestock organic nutrient movements between holdings

- Basic Income Support for Sustainability (BISS) – entitlement clawback rule
- Low Emission Slurry Spreading (LESS) on farms with a stocking technology
- Shannon Callows Flood Compensation Scheme
- Flooding – Lough Funshinagh, Co. Roscommon
- Cooley Peninsula Flooding
- Suckler Carbon Efficiency Programme (SCEP)
- Spruce Bark Beetle / Health of Irish Forests
- Climate Resilient Reforestation Pilot Scheme
- EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR)
- Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT)
- Budget 2025 - IFA Submission to Government
- National Liming Programme
- Hen Harrier Programme
- Salmonella outbreaks in poultry flocks
- Nursing Home Support Scheme / Home Support Scheme
- Unharvested potato crops
- Straw Incorporation Measure Scheme / Baling Assistance Payment
- Live Exports
- Sheep Crisis / Dog Control Campaign - No Dogs Allowed
- Firearm Proficiency Course for Enhanced Legislative Understanding and Safety
- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) – agricultural tyres
- Plant protection products / Emergency authorisation
- Farm Safety Week
- Targeted Agricultural Modernisation Scheme (TAMS)
- Ash dieback scheme

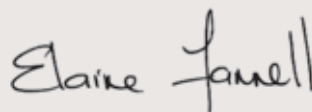
- Farmers' Charter of Rights
- An Rialálaí Agraibhia (Agri-Food Regulator)

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

- Threat posed by Spruce Bark Beetles to the health of Irish forests
- Compliance with the Nitrates Directive: Implications for Ireland
- The impact of means testing on Farm Assist and other Social Welfare schemes

IFA Submissions included:

- Retaining Ireland's Nitrates Derogation – Common Objectives A Joint Declaration from Farm Organisations, Co-operatives and the Dairy and Meat Processor
- CAP Strategic Plan Stakeholder Forum re-implementation of GAEC 2 (Protection of wetlands and peatlands).
- Office of Revenue Commissioners on non-registered farmer VAT refund
- Budget 2025
- Finance Bill 2024
- Manifesto for 2024 European Parliament and Local Government Elections – IFA held Candidate meetings in Ireland South and Midlands North West Constituencies
- Political Parties and Dáil Éireann Candidates for the 2024 General Election – Simon Harris, Leader Fine Gael, Micheál Martin Leader Fianna Fáil and Mary Lou McDonald, President Sinn Féin addressed the IFA National Council in advance of the General Election 2024
- Agriculture Appeals (Amendment) Bill 2024
- Funding Proposals for the Tillage Sector
- Horticulture Sector
- Impact of the review on the Minimum Remuneration of General Employment Permits for Horticulture
- Programme for Government



Elaine Farrell
Director of Governance and Oireachtas Engagement

Organisation



IFA Deputy President Alice Doyle and Dublin IFA chair Paul Flynn launching the property marking initiative with An Garda Síochána at a meeting in Fingal, Co Dublin.



Member Benefits & Services

IFA not only provides members with strong and unrivalled representation, but our member services division and benefits programme gives each member access to genuine professional support and exclusive offers to realise farm business cost savings. We continuously negotiate and partner with some of Ireland's top companies to ensure our members receive discounts on the highest-quality services, support, and products.

The value of the IFA Member Services and benefits part of the membership proposition continues to significantly outweigh the membership cost. Our membership savings are worth up to and can exceed €2,000 annually. Our customer service department is unique as a member can talk directly to an agent rather than an automated system, dealing with over 100,000 calls, member queries, and other membership-related issues in 2024.

Member Benefits and Services include:

- Personal Accident Cover with FBD • €85 off motor, home & farm insurance with FBD • Exclusive savings on home phone/broadband & and exceptional customer service with IFA Telecom • High-speed fibre broadband 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 offer with Vodafone • Up to €300 off with IFAC • Home security deal with Phone Watch • 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

In 2024, members continued to avail of the recently increased FBD voucher of €85 and the valuable Personal Accident Policy.

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 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,); and all significant activity on campaigns.

Organisation



FBD Trust Chair Michael Berkery, IFA Deputy President Alice Doyle and IFA President Francie Gorman at the launch of the Ready to Lead programme which will give training and mentorship to young farmers interested in taking up a position in IFA.

IFA Levy

The farming sector is complex and has many stakeholders. IFA provides a unified, independent, impartial voice to lobby and advocate for Irish farm businesses. The IFA levy is essential in funding this farmer representation at all levels to support farmers and their farm businesses. The IFA levy represents approximately 35% of the association's operational income—changes influence the income from the IFA levy in price, volumes, and efficiency levels. IFA has increased its focus on engagement with all levy collectors to introduce improved structures between the association and collectors and to maximise levy returns to the association.

Solar

In 2024, IFA continued to expand our solar footprint. This important partnership with Bord Gáis Energy has resulted in farmers from all sectors and every county investing in solar. 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 2024, 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



Pictured at the solar installation on the farm of Andrew McHugh, Co Longford is John Cussen, Bord Gáis Energy, Christina Ngo, Bord Gáis Energy and Peter Clarke, IFA.

Member Education and Development

The IFA's training division, Farm Business Skillnet, provided training in 2024 to almost 2,000 farmers, including:

- **IFA Executive Council** – with Leadership, Media, Management Development and Communications modules
- **County Officer** training and team building: FBS developed a new course for County Officers, and this was delivered in eleven counties – with further dates planned for 2025
- **Future Leaders**: in association with the FBD Trust, Farm Business Skillnet launched an exciting new "Ready to Lead" programme. This programme will be rolled out in 2025 across three modules – and includes Industry speakers, political speakers at the Irish and European levels and a comprehensive introduction to Lobbying – and is targeted at identifying younger farmers with an interest in policy and how farmers can influence – who are prepared to take leadership positions in IFA in the future.

FBS also provided a range of heavily subsidised practical training courses to farmers, including online TAM's Health & Safety training for over 500 farmers and Hoofcare, Sheep Shearing, etc. We also introduced new courses this year around Sustainability.

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 National Potato Conference and Kerry farmers' "Family Farm Succession & Inheritance" workshop, which drew large crowds. Our final event in 2024 was as silver sponsor of the "Dairy Women Ireland" conference in Charleville, where over 200 female dairy farmers met with key industry speakers and an excellent panel discussion introduced by IFA Deputy President and Farm Business Skillnet Chair Alice Doyle.

The Network has 2025 funding secured and looks forward to further engagement with farmers across a broad range of training and skills as required.

Patrick McCormick, National Treasurer
James Kelly, Director of Organisation

Communications



The Press Office supported high-profile campaigns with full communications plans during the year, including the Enough is Enough campaign; the European and local elections; our pre-Budget submission and the General Election submission.

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 45%, which is far in excess of established metrics in other sectors.

We have seen growth on X (formerly Twitter). Our other platforms - TikTok and Instagram - have also seen growth in the last 12 months.

Our media monitoring sentiment barometer shows that IFA is viewed either neutrally or positive by 79% 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.

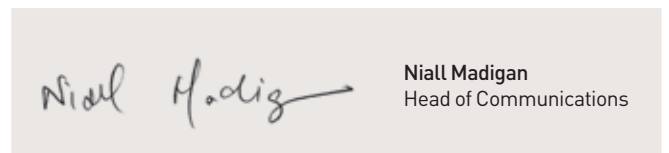
Approximately 400,000 people accessed the site during 2024, representing a 40% growth in web visitors compared to the previous year, generating over 1.5 million page views.

The most popular web content over the last 12 months included the specialised online hubs for the General and Local & European Elections, our Farmer Health Check programme; and our campaign pages and policy publications.

IFA App

To date, there has been 18,500 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.



Ethel Horan, Communications Manager
Sean Hennessy, Communications Executive

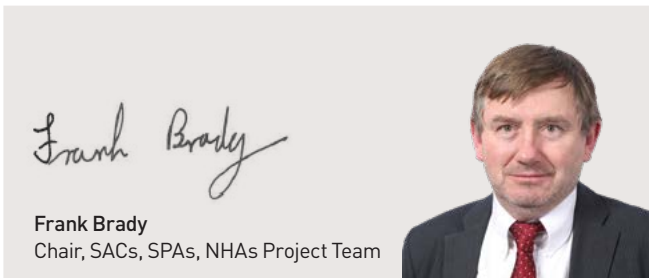


PROJECT TEAM REPORTS

SACs, SPAs and NHAs Project Team



Alongside Barry Cowen, MEP, IFA SAC Project Team Chair Frank Brady met with DAFM officials to resolve issues surrounding the Shannon Callow Fodder Compensation Scheme. Also at the meeting were (l-r): Claire McGlynn, IFA Policy Executive; Brendan Golden, IFA Connacht Regional Chair; Paul O'Brien, IFA South Leinster Regional Chair; Pat Walshe, Offaly IFA Chair; Willie Dolan, IFA Regional Executive and Joe Daly, IFA SAC Project Team.



Following calls from the IFA, the NPWS Farm Plan scheme opened for 2025 applications in October. Currently, there are 327 active Farm Plans across the country. It is anticipated that approximately 200 additional plans will be designed in this tranche. This new call sees a new approach within the scheme, where applicants can apply for either the traditional approach (typically five-year ongoing management plans) or one-off 'Actions for Nature' (for example, nature pond creation, access management, fencing). The deadline for submission of application is December 5th 2024.

The IFA SAC Project Team was established in late 2022. It 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 project team attended the launch of several important initiatives, including the Breeding Wader EIP and the Hen Harrier Threat Response Plan. The group also engaged with the FarmPEAT EIP operational team and members of Bord na Mona to discuss ongoing rehabilitation works on bogs. In addition, they met Minister McConalogue and various DAFM representatives on multiple occasions to resolve the unfair exclusion of farmers from the Shannon Callows Fodder Compensation Scheme.

Throughout the year, the team actively addressed the growing economic and operational challenges of approximately 35,000 farm families managing designated land. Key issues included the impact of land-use restrictions, income loss, property devaluation, and lack of meaningful long-term compensation.

The Project Team continues to be represented on the Designated Area Monitoring Committee, which has convened twice in 2024.

Members of the project team, joined by the IFA President, met with Minister Malcolm Noonan to discuss the Hen Harrier Threat Response Plan, ongoing designation-related issues, and topics such as the NPWS Farm Plan Scheme and controlled burning practices.



The SAC Project Team further contributed to public consultations on the draft Hen Harrier Threat Response Plan and a review of the Wildlife Act legislation, ensuring farmer perspectives were included in these critical discussions. Key proposals include;

IFA President Francie Gorman, SAC Project Team Chair Frank Brady and members of IFA's SAC Project Team meet with Minister of State Malcolm Noonan and the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

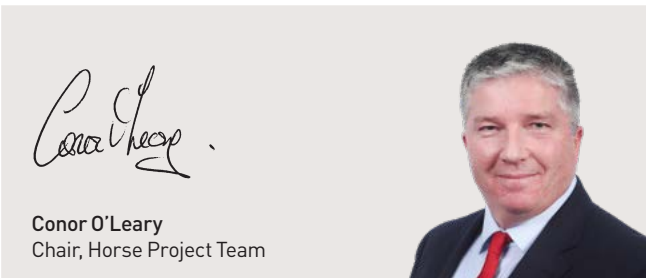
- Oppose any further designations on farmland until current designations have been adequately compensated for and existing system inefficiencies redressed
- A separate stand-alone EIP be established for the Hen Harrier that is locally, led, created by farmers for farmers, which must not be confined to budgetary/CAP cycles
- To ensure success, open and transparent communication with farmers is needed throughout every stage of the plan's implementation.

Frank Brady, Chair, SACs, SPAs, NHAs Project Team
Shane Whelan, Senior Policy Executive
Rachel Moloney, Policy Executive

Horse Project Team



Horse Project Team Chair Conor O'Leary opening the Equine TAMS information meeting in Raddison Hotel Athlone.



The newly appointed Chair of the IFA Horse Project Team (HPT), Conor O'Leary, held several meetings throughout 2024. Priorities identified included additional items for equine farmers under TAMS grant funding, financial support for breeders of both thoroughbred and sport horses, and improved traceability of all Irish horses. Issues such as delays in Horse Sport Ireland (HSI) and end-of-life options were also issues facing many IFA members in the equines sector throughout 2024.

Following the successful campaign in 2023 to have equine measures included in TAMS grant funding, financial support for breeders was a main campaign for 2024 and beyond. IFA submitted a detailed proposal to DAFM that 15% of all prize funding for thoroughbred racing and sport horse events would go directly to the breeder of the winning horse. This proposal is with the Minister for Agriculture and will remain a key priority for the IFA Horse Project team until delivery. Key industry stakeholders such as Horse Racing Ireland (HRI), Horse Sport Ireland (HSI) and Irish Thoroughbred Marketing (ITM) have been made aware of the IFA proposal, and while views differ, it is clear that the grassroots breeder sector does need support.

RDS Horse Show Sponsorship

IFA sponsored a breeder's prize for the top-placed Irish-bred horse in the Grand Prix at the RDS Dublin Horse Show, Ireland's sole Five Star event. This prize aimed to raise the profile of Irish breeders and give something back for their invaluable efforts. Without breeders, we would not have top-quality horses produced in Ireland that are showcased worldwide.

Meeting National Stud

Conor O'Leary led a delegation to meet Cathal Beale, CEO of the National Stud, in Tully, Co Kildare. IFA would like to see the National Stud return to its initial role when it was purchased by the State in 1943: supporting more farmer breeders with good-quality stallions at a price point that farmers can afford. A construction engagement with the National Stud is underway on possible areas of mutual benefit that could fulfil this objective.

Traceability

The HPT continues to engage with DAFM officials on traceability and Brexit issues relating to the transport of horses to and from the UK for breeding. This issue arose in 2024 with an exposé programme uncovering substandard practices at the slaughter facility in Straffan, which has since been closed down by DAFM. IFA fully supports the highest welfare and traceability standards for all farm animals but the closure of this facility has left horse owners with limited options for end of life of horses.

Conor O'Leary, Chair, Horse Project Team
Nimah Brennan, Senior Policy Executive

Organic Project Team



John Fitzpatrick
Chair, Organic Project Team

Organic Farm Scheme

Ireland has approximately 225,000ha hectares under organic production, representing 5% of total agricultural land. The Government has an ambitious target of 10% of agricultural land to be farmed organically by 2030. Budget 2025 allocated €67 million for the organic sector.

IFA successfully lobbied to re-open the Organic Farm Scheme (OFS). In addition to the per-hectare payment, an annual participation payment will continue to be paid to all OFS participants to cover administrative costs. Both payments will be incorporated into the annual OFS payment.

National Organic Strategy

The National Organic Strategy 2024-2030 was launched at the National Ploughing Championships in September 2024. The overarching ambition of the strategy is to increase the organic sector's value to €750 million by 2030, tripling its current wholesale value.

Organic Strategy Sub-Group on Leakage

IFA is involved in the Organic Strategy Sub-Group on Leakage. IFA has raised the issue that leakage from the livestock sector is the most critical issue limiting the growth of organic output. IFA will continue to lobby for support to prevent the leakage of organic stock to conventional markets.

Research and Development

The sector must be better resourced in research and development, education and knowledge transfer. IFA continues to liaise with Teagasc to discuss future research for the sector, the provision of specialist organic advisors and knowledge transfer groups.

Ploughing Organic Village

The IFA Organic Project Team took a stand in the Organic Village at the National Ploughing Championships in 2024.

Markets

IFA continues to liaise with Bord Bia on new market opportunities for the sector. IFA representatives on the Organic Forum raise market issues at each meeting. Over the past 12 months, it is very concerning that the farm gate prices of organic produce were marginal compared to conventional prices.

IFA continues to attend regular Copa-Cogeca Organic Working Party meetings in Brussels. IFA met with Brussels Commission officials to discuss the future of the organic sector. IFA representatives met with the Office of Government Procurement to discuss the Green Public Procurement Strategy and Action Plan 2024-2027. The target is that a minimum of 10% of food purchased via public procurement must

be certified organic in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2018/848. However, the food does not have to be of Irish origin. IFA will request an analysis of how much of the food is Irish organic.

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 on their shelves in 2025.



John Fitzpatrick, Chair, Organic Project Team with Amy Mulchrone and Niamh Brennan, IFA Policy Executives, at the National Ploughing Championships 2024 in the Organic Village.



John Fitzpatrick - Chair, Organic Project Team in Brussels.



IFA President Francie Gorman joins Minister Charlie McConalogue, Minister of State Pippa Hackett and Teagasc Director Frank O'Mara at the launch of Organic Strategy 2024-2030

John Fitzpatrick, Chair, Organic Project Team
Niamh Brennan, Senior Policy Executive

The Shannon and Flooding Project Team



Brendan Golden, Chair of the Shannon and Flooding Project Team and Claire McGlynn, IFA policy executive, pictured with Minister of State Kieran O'Donnell in the Office of Public Works.



Over the course of the year, IFA has met with the Minister for Office of Public Works, Kieran O'Donnell, to secure greater resources to alleviate flooding.

Certain projects have been proposed by a River Shannon flood risk coordinating group as part of the river's strategic management plan.

Limerick City and County Council, in conjunction with the OPW, has signed the main contract for the King's Island Flood Relief Scheme. The King's Island Flood Relief Scheme aims to prevent such events by enhancing flood defences, thereby safeguarding the community, social amenities, environment, and landscape character. Two thousand two hundred metres of 2.5-metre-high earthen flood embankment with a 3-metre-wide footpath/cycleway and public lighting. Flood defence upgrades to existing quay walls, including deconstruction of existing quay walls and parapets, lime mortar repointing, lime grouting, and stonework repair. Construction of flood

defence walls: 290 metres with glass panels and 810 metres of stone-clad reinforced concrete walls. Associated works: including 600m of access routes with a new fisherman's access. Road resurfacing, railings, public lighting, topsoiling and landscaping.

The Shannon Flood Risk State Agency group has invested €72 million in 13 completed schemes to date, which have protected 2,600 homes. There are currently 26 flood relief schemes in progress.

As part of the Shannon Flood Risk State Agency Co-ordination Working Group Work Programme 2024, 937kms of channels and embankments will be maintained, management of water levels at 9 structures including Knockvicar, Jamestown, Rooskey, Tarmonbarry & Clondra. IFA has insisted there must be live sensors at these Locks/Weirs.

The ongoing flooding crisis at Lough Funshinagh in County Roscommon has remained a pressing issue, and recent statements from the Office of Public Works (OPW) suggest that progress is on the horizon. Kieran O'Donnell, the Minister for the OPW, recently confirmed that a plan for a permanent solution to address the recurrent flooding will be submitted for planning approval early next year. This development follows years of severe flooding affecting local communities, lands, and homes, with temporary measures only offering limited relief. IFA has been actively engaging with the relevant authorities to address the ongoing crisis at Lough Funshinagh.

Brendan Golden, Chair, The Shannon and Flooding Project Team
Claire McGlynn, Policy Executive

Infrastructure Project Team



Paul O'Brien
Chair, Infrastructure Project Team

Infrastructure Project Team

The IFA Infrastructure Project Team, chaired by Paul O'Brien and consisting of the President, Director General, John Murphy, National Environment Chair Geraldine O'Sullivan, and IFA Infrastructure advisor Kevin Kinsella, held two meetings in 2024 to discuss and progress various issues on infrastructural policy and projects.

ESB/Eirgrid

IFA has concluded a new build agreement for 110/220kV lines, which was applied successfully on the Kilkenny to Ratheniska line in 2024. Significant progress has been made in advancing negotiations on the 110/220kV Uprate and Refurbishment agreement and a new cable package. Financial details have been agreed, and the final agreement is pending. Negotiations are also advancing on a new 38kV line agreement. Future work will focus on a new forestry agreement, 110/220 refurbishment only, code of practice and mast interference payments.

Uisce Éireann

IFA has negotiated a new draft Memorandum of Understanding with Uisce Éireann to advance discussions on the proposed 172km Parteen to Peamount water pipeline, which will impact approximately 500 farmers/landowners. So far, discussions have taken place on a code

of practice, which also involves the ICMSA. Discussions are expected to advance in early 2025.

Greenways

Various county councils have progressed a number of Greenway projects across the country. Difficulties have arisen where there is an absence or limited availability of public lands. IFA has highlighted this to Transport Industry Ireland (TII) and County Councils. The Greenway code of practice provides an alternative for landowners to the CPO process and additional sustainability/goodwill payments ranging from €96/€50 per linear metre, equivalent to €22,500 per acre, in addition to the regular compensation claim.

Roads

The IFA/TII roads agreement provides extensive benefits to landowners in assessing compensation for national and regional road projects, as well as an additional €6,000/ac goodwill payment. IFAs assisting farmers on major road projects include Adare/Foynes, Donegal, Wexford/Rosslare, Cork/Limerick, Monaghan, and others.

Gas Networks Ireland (GNI)

IFA negotiated with GNI on a new gas line spur, including Rochfortbridge and Westmeath, and proposals for a new line to the Edenderry Bord na Mona plant.

Range of infrastructural members' services

IFA provide a selection of advisory services to members, including (i) advice on solar and wind farm projects as well as battery and cable projects, including offshore developments, (ii) telecoms masts and (iii) other infrastructure projects such as Irish Rail lines, Cliffs of Moher etc.

Paul O'Brien, Chair, Infrastructure Project Team



Audit Committee



On behalf of the Audit & Risk Committee, I am pleased to present its report for the year ended 31 December 2024. The purpose of this report is to describe the activities of the Audit & Risk Committee in carrying out its responsibilities during the year.

The Role of the Audit & Risk 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 Audit & Risk Committee's work is set out in its Terms of Reference which were reviewed and approved by the National Council on 26th March 2024:-

- 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.
- To review whether the Association has followed appropriate accounting standards and made appropriate estimates and judgements.
- To assess the clarity of disclosures in the Association's financial reports.
- To review the internal financial controls of the Association and to assess the potential for fraud.
- To review the risk management policies of IFA in particular serious legal, financial and reputational risks and ensure compliance with all necessary regulations.
- To review the external auditor's terms of engagement, annual audit plan and to review the effectiveness of the audit.
- To oversee the relationship with the external auditor, recommend on his/her appointment or re-appointment, recommend remuneration and review whether any other work carried out by the external auditor impinges on his/her independence and objectivity.

Audit Committee

- 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.
- To make observations and recommendations on the Governance of the Association

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

Composition

The membership of the Audit & Risk Committee comprises Eamonn Looney (Committee Chairman), Patrick McCormick (Treasurer), Brian Rushe (former Deputy President) and Ken Heade (Former Financial Controller). The Executive Council is satisfied that both the Chairman and Mr. Heade meet the requirements for recent and relevant financial experience.

Committee Meetings

In addition to members of the Audit & Risk committee, any voluntary officer or employee of IFA may be invited to attend for particular items at the discretion of the Chair.

The Committee met on four occasions during the year with all members attending each meeting.

The Director General, Director of Governance, Financial Director, Director of Organisation as well as representatives of the external auditor attended a number of meetings during the year.

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 opportunity for open dialogue and feedback.

The Committee dealt with the following matters during the year:

- Received and approved the External Audit Plan 2024
- Received the RBK 2024 External Audit Report and reviewed its findings:-
 - » Clean Audit Report.
 - » Audit approach and procedures in line with the approved Audit Plan.
 - » Reviewed areas of Audit emphasis and Audit findings
 - » Reviewed the Consolidated and IFA Telecom Financial Highlights.
 - » No issues of concern had arisen during testing and no significant deficiencies had been identified in accounting or internal controls.
 - » RBK would be issuing a clean Audit Opinion for the year ended 31 March 2024.


- » RBK would review post Balance Sheet events before final signoff.
- » RBK confirmed their independence and objectivity.
- Reviewed the Draft Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2024.
- Met with representatives of RBK without executives being present.
 - » RBK confirmed that there were no issues which they wished to raise and thanked management team for their help in responding to all queries in a timely manner.
- Recommended 2024 Consolidated Financial Statements to National Council for approval.
- Reviewed the Investment Strategy and Investment performance.
- Reviewed the draft IT Risk Register and risk mitigation measures and made a number of recommendations.
- Reviewed the IFA Risk Register and recommended to National Officers Committee for approval. (Approved 30th September 2024).
- Reviewed Business Continuity Planning and made a number of recommendations.
- Reviewed Insurance cover.
- Reviewed the draft Management Accounts / projected Outlook to March 2025.
- Received a report on the background and outcome of the ComReg investigation.
- Received updates on ongoing governance and disciplinary issues.
- Received a report on internal review of the 2023 Elections Processes.

Finances of the Association

Following from concerns raised in the 2023 Audit & Risk Committee Report, the Committee welcomed the implementation of the Membership Fee increase from March 2024 which addresses the operational deficits of the Association.

Appreciation.

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



Eamonn Looney
Chair, Audit Committee

22 November 2024



Annual Report and Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2024



Statement of National Council's Responsibilities

Independent Auditor's Report

Consolidated Income and Expenditure Account

Consolidated Balance Sheet

Consolidated Statement of Changes in Equity

Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows

Notes to the Financial Statements

Supplementary Information

NATIONAL COUNCILS' RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Association will continue in business and
- The National Council is responsible for ensuring that the Association keeps or causes to be kept adequate accounting records which correctly explain and record the transactions of the Association, enable at any time the assets, liabilities, financial position and profit or loss of the Association to be determined with reasonable accuracy and enable the financial statements to be audited. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the 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 2024, which comprise the consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income, the consolidated Balance Sheet, the consolidated Statement of Changes in Equity, the consolidated Statement of Cash Flows and the 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 2024 and of its loss 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 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:

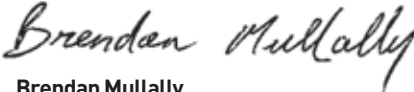
- We have obtained all the information and explanations which we consider necessary for the purposes of our audit.
- In our opinion the accounting records of the group were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited.
- The financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records.
- In our opinion the information given in the National Councils' 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





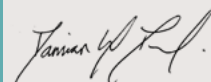
Date: 17th December 2024

Consolidated Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Notes	2024 (€)	2023 (€)
Income	3	16,140,623	17,142,328
Expenditure	4	(17,040,707)	(16,950,188)
Other interest receivable and similar income		4,871	2,047
Operating (deficit) / surplus	5	(895,213)	194,187
Share of operating surplus/(deficit) in associate undertakings	11	90,694	7,941
Fair value gain on investments	10	630,005	1,574,345
Profit on disposal of investments		22,136	384
(Deficit) / surplus before taxation		(152,378)	1,776,857
Taxation charge	8	(277,223)	(458,526)
(Deficit) / surplus for the financial year		(429,601)	1,318,331
(Deficit) / surplus for the financial year attributable to: Members of the Association		(429,601)	1,318,331
		(429,601)	1,318,331

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

The Financial Statements were approved by the National Council on 17th December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

  Francie Gorman President	  Patrick McCormick National Treasurer	  Damian McDonald Director General
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Consolidated Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2024

	Notes	2024 (€)	2023 (€)
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets	9	494,516	509,002
Financial investments	10	16,514,572	15,738,490
Other investments	11	3,136,800	3,058,965
		20,145,888	19,306,457
Current assets			
Debtors: amounts falling due within one year	12	893,712	758,164
Cash at bank and in hand	13	2,948,269	3,919,387
		3,841,981	4,677,551
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(3,979,871)	(3,748,277)
Net current (liabilities)/assets		(137,890)	929,274
Total assets less current liabilities		20,007,998	20,235,731
Provision for liabilities	16	(2,747,093)	(2,545,225)
		(2,747,093)	(2,545,225)
Net assets		17,260,905	17,690,506
Capital and reserves			
Accumulated surplus		17,260,905	17,690,506

The Financial Statements were approved by the National Council on 17th December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



Francie Gorman

Francie Gorman
President



Patrick McCormick

Patrick McCormick
National Treasurer



Damian McDonald

Damian McDonald
Director General

Consolidated Statement of Changes in Equity for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Accumulated surplus (€)	Total (€)
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 1 April 2023	17,690,506	17,690,506
Comprehensive income for the year		
Deficit for the year	(429,601)	(429,601)
Other comprehensive income for the year	-	-
At 31 March 2024	17,260,905	17,260,905

The notes on pages 58 to 66 form part of these Financial Statements.

Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 March 2024

	2024 (€)	2023 (€)
Cash flows from operating activities		
Operating (deficit) / surplus	(895,213)	194,187
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation of tangible assets	121,420	168,451
Gain on disposal of assets	(22,136)	(384)
Dividend and investment income received	(926,748)	(527,759)
Interest received	(4,871)	(2,047)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(139,926)	187,878
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	231,594	(63,179)
Corporation tax	(70,977)	(143,417)
Net cash generated from operating activities	(1,706,857)	(186,270)
Cash flows from investing activities		
Payments to acquire investments	(1,213,255)	(3,329,748)
Receipts on disposal of investments	1,124,309	3,186,642
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets	(145,472)	(74,080)
Receipts from disposal of tangible fixed assets	38,538	6,738
Interest received	4,871	2,047
Dividend and investment income received	926,748	527,759
Net cash from investing activities	735,739	319,358
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents	(971,118)	133,088
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	3,919,387	3,786,299
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of year	2,948,269	3,919,387
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of year comprise:		
Cash at bank and in hand	2,948,269	3,919,387
	2,948,269	3,919,387

The notes on pages 58 to 66 form part of these Financial Statements.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

1. Accounting policies

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 company 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 Association 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 liabilities of €137,890 (2023: net asset €929,274) and the Association remained in a net asset position of €17,260,905 (2023: €17,690,506) 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 reserve fund assets, have a reasonable expectation that the Association and the Group have adequate resources to continue in operational existence for a period of at least twelve months from the date of 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%	Motor vehicles	25%
Fixtures & fittings	10%-20%	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 judgement 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	2024 (€)	2023 (€)
Broadband and phone services	5,251,913	5,540,014
Membership contributions	6,349,129	6,351,521
European Involvement Fund levies	3,087,635	3,983,038
Trust fund contributions	330,000	663,757
Investment dividend income	854,931	435,540
Other income	267,015	168,458
	16,140,623	17,142,328

All group income was earned in the Republic of Ireland.

4. Expenditure

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

Expenditure:	2024 (€)	2023 (€)
IFA Telecom expenses (including staff costs)	5,221,432	5,516,878
Total staff costs	6,123,466	5,770,522
Voluntary costs	993,556	1,036,552
Premises	460,939	483,048
Communications	427,296	434,210
Research	30,218	27,029
Public relations	529,209	657,055
Professional fees	232,879	583,031
Affiliation fees	116,518	170,615
Financial and IT charges	344,436	395,595
Foreign travel	63,546	46,873
Brussels office	580,376	535,122
Membership recruitment	493,721	506,154
Membership promotion	516,761	504,456
Other expenditure	906,354	283,048
	17,040,707	16,950,188

5. (Deficit)/surplus on ordinary activities before taxation

(Deficit) / surplus on ordinary activities before taxation is stated after charging/ (crediting):	2024 (€)	2023 (€)
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	121,420	168,451
Exchange differences	(774)	(1,725)
Defined contribution pension cost	511,366	481,410

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:	2024 (€)	2023 (€)
Irish Farmers Association	28,000	27,000
IFA Telecom	13,000	12,000
ISGA	1,000	1,000
Total Group	42,000	40,000

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:

	2024 (€)	2023 (€)
President (Cullinan) Gross Salary	52,727	67,866
Net amount charged	52,727	67,866
President (Gorman) Gross Salary	32,487	-
Net amount charged	32,487	-

The Remuneration Committee agreed that the salary of the President should be €140,000. 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	23,162	30,777
Net amount charged	23,162	30,777
Deputy President (Doyle) Gross Salary	9,282	-
Net amount charged	9,282	-

The Remuneration Committee agreed that the salary of the Deputy President should be €40,000. This amount would be reduced by any directors' fees payable by outside bodies that came as a consequence of the IFA office.

Director General		
Salary	215,998	215,998
Employer pension contribution	32,400	32,400
	248,398	248,398
Executive management		
Salary	601,347	569,093
Employer pension contribution	106,243	97,489
Key management compensation	707,590	666,582
National Council		
Labour replacement paid in Financial year	188,040	150,850
Effect of accrual release	2,020	11,012
Net amount charged	190,060	161,862

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

Salary	102,010	92,077
Employer pension contribution	12,671	11,503
	114,681	103,580

7. Interest receivable

	2024 (€)	2023 (€)
Other interest receivable	4,871	2,047

8. Tax on ordinary activities

The tax credit comprises:	2024 (€)	2023 (€)
Corporation tax	37,411	49,645
Debit movement in deferred tax liability (Note 16)	201,868	353,863
Other taxes incurred	37,944	55,018
Total tax charge on ordinary activities	277,223	458,526

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:

	2024 (€)	2023 (€)
(Deficit) / surplus on ordinary activities	(152,378)	1,776,857
	(152,378)	1,776,857
Before tax 12.5% (2023: 12.5%)		
Tax if charged at standard corporation rate	(19,042)	222,107
Expenses not taxable in determining taxable surplus	(53,440)	34,021
Impact of other taxes	349,705	202,398
Group tax charge for the period	277,223	458,526

9. Tangible Assets

Group	Buildings (€)	Motor Vehicles (€)	Fixtures and Fittings (€)	Office Equipment (€)	Total (€)
Cost or valuation					
At 1 April 2023	219,206	217,503	885,896	398,794	1,721,399
Additions	-	61,400	8,848	75,224	145,472
Disposals	-	(45,000)	(5,059)	(64,893)	(114,952)
At 31 March 2024	219,206	233,903	889,685	409,125	1,751,919
Depreciation					
At 1 April 2023	43,841	108,552	810,900	249,104	1,212,397
Charge for the year	8,768	39,028	25,006	48,618	121,420
Disposals	-	(30,762)	(1,213)	(44,439)	(76,414)
At 31 March 2024	52,609	116,818	834,693	253,283	1,257,403
Net book value					
At 31 March 2024	166,597	117,085	54,992	155,842	494,516
At 31 March 2023	175,365	108,951	74,996	149,690	509,002

10. Financial investments

	2024 (€)	2023 (€)
Quoted investments at market value	16,514,572	15,738,490
Opening balance	15,738,490	14,037,311
Net additions / (disposals) during the financial year	146,077	126,834
Movements in fair value of investments	630,005	1,574,345
	16,514,572	15,738,490

Quoted investments represent shares held by the fund in publicly quoted companies. The cost of these shares was €7,093,590 (2023: €6,853,934).

Reserve Fund:

€13,064,588 (2023: €12,780,121) of the above balance relates specifically to the reserve fund assets.

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

11. Other investments

Unquoted Investments	2024 (€)	2023 (€)
Irish Farm Centre Limited (i)	3,081,399	2,994,499
Other investments (ii)	55,401	64,466
	3,136,800	3,058,965

	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 a profit €186,001 (2023: €16,286) before a taxation charge of €7,781 (2023: taxation credit €20,256). The associate undertaking had combined net assets of €6,319,524 at year end (2023: €6,141,304). 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 €3,081,399 (2023: €2,994,499).

(i) Irish Farm Centre Limited	2024 (€)	2023 (€)
Valuation as at 1 April 2022	2,994,499	2,976,681
Share of associate's profit / (loss) before taxation	90,694	7,941
Share of associate's taxation credit	(3,794)	9,877
Valuation as at 31 March 2023	3,081,399	2,994,499

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

12. Debtors

	2024 (€)	2023 (€)
Debtors	818,116	686,799
Accrued income and other debtors	26,520	25,047
Corporation tax repayable	10,425	14,803
VAT repayable	38,651	31,515
	893,712	758,164

13. Cash and cash equivalents

	2024 (€)	2023 (€)
Cash at bank and in hand	2,948,269	3,919,387

14. Creditors

	2024 (€)	2023 (€)
Trade creditors	1,005,905	837,584
PAYE/PRSI/VAT	230,839	189,531
Professional / legal and other accruals	200,178	300,178
Trade accruals	1,326,243	1,466,744
Pension / staff and voluntary expense accruals	1,216,706	954,240
	3,979,871	3,748,277

15. Financial instruments

Financial assets	2024 (€)	2023 (€)
Measured at fair value through profit or loss	16,514,572	15,738,490
Measured at undiscounted amounts receivable	844,636	711,846
Measured at cost less impairment	3,136,800	3,058,965

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

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

Financial assets measured at cost less impairment comprise other investments.

Financial liabilities	2024 (€)	2023 (€)
Measured at undiscounted amounts payable	1,005,905	837,584

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:

	2024 (€)	2023 (€)
On financial assets measured at fair value through profit or loss	630,005	1,574,345
Interest or other income on financial assets measured at amortised cost	4,871	2,047

16. Provision for liabilities

Deferred tax is provided as follows:	2024 (€)	2023 (€)
Deferred tax arising in relation to quoted investments	2,747,093	2,545,225
Opening balance	2,545,225	2,191,362
Movement for the current financial year (Note 8)	201,868	353,863
Balance at end of year	2,747,093	2,545,225

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 €511,366 [2023: €481,410]. The amount owed to the scheme at year end is €66,565 [2023: €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 17 December 2024.

Supplementary information

	At 31 March 2024				At 31 March 2023			
	IFA 2024 (€)	IFA Telecom Limited 2024 (€)	Consolidation adjustment 2024 (€)	Total 2024 (€)	IFA 2023 (€)	IFA Telecom Limited 2023 (€)	Consolidation adjustment 2023 (€)	Total 2023 (€)
FIXED ASSETS								
Tangible assets	395,922	98,594	-	494,516	432,772	76,230	-	509,002
Financial investments	13,064,588	3,449,984	-	16,514,572	12,780,121	2,958,369	-	15,738,490
Other investments	3,136,800	-	-	3,136,800	3,058,965	-	-	3,058,965
	16,597,310	3,548,578	-	20,145,888	16,271,858	3,034,599	0	19,306,457
CURRENT ASSETS								
Debtors	949,279	3,282,557	(3,338,124)	893,712	921,823	3,366,189	(3,529,848)	758,164
Cash at bank and in hand	1,505,709	1,442,560	-	2,948,269	2,204,905	1,714,482	-	3,919,387
	2,454,988	4,725,117	(3,338,124)	3,841,981	3,126,728	5,080,671	(3,529,848)	4,677,551
CREDITORS: (Amounts falling due within one year)	(6,601,751)	(716,244)	3,338,124	(3,979,871)	(6,263,141)	(1,014,984)	3,529,848	(3,748,277)
NET CURRENT (LIABILITIES)/ASSETS	(4,146,763)	4,008,873	-	(137,890)	(3,136,413)	4,065,687	-	929,274
Provision for liabilities	(2,344,787)	(402,306)	-	(2,747,093)	(2,545,225)	-	-	(2,545,225)
NET ASSETS	10,105,760	7,155,145	-	17,260,905	10,590,220	7,100,286	-	17,690,506
CAPITAL AND RESERVES								
Accumulated surplus	10,105,760	7,155,145	-	17,260,905	10,590,220	7,100,286	-	17,690,506
CAPITAL EMPLOYED	10,105,760	7,155,145	-	17,260,905	10,590,220	7,100,286	-	17,690,506

	IFA 2024 (€)	SRF 2024 (€)	Others 2024 (€)	IFAT 2024 (€)	IFC 2024 (€)	TOTAL 2024 (€)
Operating (Deficit) / Surplus	(1,736,567)	853,423	(65,142)	53,073	-	(895,213)
Profit before tax from Associate	-	-	-	-	90,694	90,694
Profit on disposal of investment	-	10,180	-	11,956	-	22,136
Movement in Investments	-	200,524	-	429,481	-	630,005
Operating (Deficit)/Surplus before Taxation	(1,736,567)	1,064,127	(65,142)	494,510	90,694	(152,378)
Tax	(25,712)	(8,438)	-	(37,411)	(3,794)	(75,355)
Deferred Tax	-	(90,178)	-	(111,690)	-	(201,868)
Net Result/Retained Earnings	(1,762,279)	965,511	(65,142)	345,409	86,900	(429,601)

IFA National Council Attendance 2024

Key

✓	Present
A	Apology
P	Proxy
V	Vacant

Notes on Council

*	Jason Fleming was elected Kerry County Chair on 26th June, and stepped down as Farm Forestry Chair.
**	Padraig Stapleton was elected Farm Forestry Chair on 16th July
***	Eligible to attend two out of three meetings, Horticulture Chair eligible to attend third meeting

Attendance at IFA National Council Meetings 2024

SURNAME	FIRST NAME	POSITION	69TH AGM 09 JAN	31 JAN MS TEAMS	13 FEB	26 MAR	14 MAY	14 MAY SPECIAL MEETING	02 JUL MS TEAMS	23 JUL	23 JUL SPECIAL MEETING	03 SEP	03 OCT	05 NOV MS TEAMS	12 NOV	17 DEC
Gorman	Francie	President	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Doyle	Alice	Deputy President	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Brady	Frank	Ulster / North Leinster Chair	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓
Golden	Brendan	Connacht Chair	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
O'Brien	Paul	South Leinster Chair	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓
O'Leary	Conor	Munster Chair	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	A	✓	A	✓	✓	✓
McCormick	Patrick	Treasurer	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Nolan	John	Carlow Chair	✓	✓	✓	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Purcell	Michael	Carlow Chair	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓
Brady	Maurice	Cavan Chair	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	P	✓	✓	✓
Lane	Thomas	Clare Chair	✓	✓	✓	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Walsh	Stephen	Clare Chair	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hurley	Matthew	Cork Central Chair	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	P	✓	P	✓
O'Keefe	Pat	Cork North Chair	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	P	✓
O'Donovan	Donal	Cork West Chair	✓	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Healy	Tadhg	Cork West Chair	N/A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sweeney	Joe	Donegal Chair	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	A	✓
Magrane	James	Dublin Chair	✓	✓	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Flynn	Paul	Dublin Chair	N/A	N/A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	A	A	✓	✓
Canavan	Stephen	Galway Chair	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓
Finn	John	Galway 2nd Representative	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	A	✓
Jones	Kenneth	Kerry Chair	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Fleming	Jason	Kerry Chair	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fleming	Mary	Kerry 2nd Representative	✓	✓	A	✓	A	A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Herlihy	Kathleen	Kerry 2nd Representative	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
O'Connor	Thomas	Kildare Chair	✓	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Halpin	Denis	Kildare Chair	N/A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓
Mulhall	Jim	Kilkenny Chair	✓	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hickey	Brendan	Kilkenny Chair	N/A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fitzpatrick	John	Laois Chair	✓	✓	✓	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Burns	Henry	Laois Chair	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓

IFA National Council Attendance 2024

SURNAME	FIRST NAME	POSITION	69TH AGM 09 JAN	31 JAN MS TEAMS	13 FEB	26 MAR	14 MAY	14 MAY SPECIAL MEETING	02 JUL MS TEAMS	23 JUL	23 JUL SPECIAL MEETING	03 SEP	03 OCT	05 NOV MS TEAMS	12 NOV	17 DEC
Gilligan	Liam	Leitrim Chair	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lavery	Sean	Limerick Chair	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sheridan	John	Longford Chair	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sweeney	Kevin	Louth Chair	V	V	V	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	A	✓
Walsh	Jarlath	Mayo Chair	✓	✓	✓	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Lynskey	John	Mayo Chair	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓	✓	✓	✓	P	P	✓	A	✓	✓	✓
Ward	Dermot	Meath Chair	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓
Treanor	Tom	Monaghan Chair	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Walsh	Pat	Offaly Chair	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓
Leonard	Patrick	Roscommon Chair	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓
O'Dowd	Michael	Sligo Chair	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	A	✓	✓
Powell	Baden	Tipperary North Chair	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓
Carroll	Pat	Tipperary South Chair	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓
Heffernan	John	Waterford Chair	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	A	✓	A	✓	✓	✓
O'Brien	Richard	Westmeath Chair	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	A	A	✓	✓
O'Mahony	Jer	Wexford Chair	✓	P	✓	✓	P	P	✓	P	P	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Byrne	Thomas	Wicklow Chair	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓
Maher	TJ	Animal Health Chair	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓
Arthur	Stephen	Dairy Chair	✓	✓	P	✓	✓	✓	✓	P	P	✓	A	A	✓	✓
Murphy	John	Environment & Rural Affairs Chair	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	P	P	P	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
O'Keeffe	Bill	Farm Business Chair	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓
Roche	Teresa	Farm Family & Social Affairs Chair	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fleming	Jason	*Farm Forestry Chair	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Stapleton	Padraig	**Farm Forestry Chair	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	V	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A
McEvoy	Kieran	Grain Chair	✓	✓	A	✓	A	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Conneely	Caillin	Hill Farming Chair	✓	A	✓	A	✓	✓	A	✓	A	✓	A	A	✓	A
O'Boyle	Keith	Liquid Milk Chair	✓	✓	V	V	V	V	V	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Dunne	Henry	Liquid Milk Chair	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓	✓	A	✓	A	✓	✓
Hanrahan	Declan	Livestock Chair	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Haverty	Micheál	Livestock Vice-Chair	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Gallie	Roy	Pig & Pig meat Chair	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	A	✓	A	✓	A	✓
Ryan	Sean	***Potato Chair	✓	✓	A	✓	N/A	N/A	✓	A	A	N/A	✓	A	N/A	A
Walsh	Mark	***Horticulture Chair	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓	✓	N/A	N/A	A	✓	N/A	N/A	✓	N/A
Sweetnam	Nigel	Poultry Chair	✓	✓	A	✓	A	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	A
Curran	John	Rural Development Chair	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	P	✓	✓	✓
Gallagher	Adrian	Sheep Chair	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Kennedy	Jack	IFJ	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	A	A	A	A	✓	A	A	A	✓
Carr	Edward	ICOS	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	A	✓	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Houlihan	Elaine	MACRA	✓	✓	✓	A	A	A	A	✓	A	A	A	A	✓	A

IFA Commodity and Cross-Sectoral Committees & Project Teams 2024*

Livestock

MEMBERS 2024		
Name	County	Branch
Declan Hanrahan	Chair, Laois	Borris in Ossory
Michael Haverty	Vice-Chair, Galway	Clonberne
George Hatton	Carlow	Bennekerry-Tinryland
Thomas Leonard	Cavan	Crossdoney
Joseph O'Connell	Clare	Parteen
Ivor Jeffery	Cork (C)	Cloyne
Denis G. O'Leary	Cork (W)	Ballingeary
Kevin O'Flynn	Cork (N)	Kildorrery
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
Patrick Wilson	Laois	Vicarstown
John Winters	Leitrim	Mohill-Boornacoola
Denis Duggan	Limerick	Doon
Paul Molihan	Longford	Ardagh
Edward O'Malley	Louth	Ardee
T.J. Duffy	Mayo	Westport-Aughagower
Eamonn Meade	Meath	Nobber
Michael Flood	Monaghan	Truagh Upper
Thomas Woulfe	Offaly	Bracknagh-Clonbullogue
Kevin Hartigan	Roscommon	Ballaghderreen
Trevor Boland	Sligo	Skreen
Joseph O'Dwyer	Tipperary (N)	Upperchurch
Edmond Burns	Tipperary (S)	Kilross
Padraig Daly	Waterford	Kinsalebeg
Chrostopher Dolan	Westmeath	Sonna
Sean Doran	Wexford	Adamstown
Sean Cooney	Wicklow	Ashford

Dairy

MEMBERS 2024		
Name	County	Branch
Stephen Arthur	Chair, Wicklow	Rathdrum
Alan Jagoe	Vice-Chair, Cork (C)	Carrigaline
Jamie Kealy	Carlow	Ballon
Raymond Brady	Cavan	Mullahoran
Ciaran O'Connell	Clare	Parteen
Alan Jagoe	Cork (C)	Carrigaline
Gerard Lehane	Cork (W)	Timoleague
Noel Hurlley	Cork (N)	Kildorrery
Ian Witherow	Donegal	Convoy-Raphoe
James Scully	Dublin	St. Margaret's
Noel Murphy	Galway	Ballymacward
Owen O'Sullivan	Kerry	Currow
Stephen Byrne	Kildare	Kildare
Eamon Mooney	Kilkenny	Castlecomer
Thomas J. Meade	Laois	Mountrath
Daniel Kelly	Leitrim	Clarina
John Hannon	Limerick	Clarina
Padraig O'Farrell	Longford	Longford
Thomas J. Meegan	Louth	Knockbridge
Padraig Joyce	Mayo	Islandeady
Denis Fagan	Meath	Kildalkey
Martin McElearney	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. Scallon	Wexford	Ballymurn
Jack Keegan	Wicklow	Aughrim

* Members of IFA Commodity and Cross-Sectoral Committees & Project Teams as of 1st December 2024.

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Environment & Rural Affairs

MEMBERS 2024		
Name	County	Branch
John Murphy	Chair, Cork (C)	Inniscarra
Mark Connors	Vice-Chair, Waterford	Kilmacthomas
John Duffy	Carlow	Clonmore-Hacketstown
Seamus Dolan	Cavan	Templeport
Kieran Woods	Clare	Tradaree
Paraic Browne	Cork (C)	Carrigaline
John Beechinor	Cork (W)	Clonakilty
Pat Coakley	Cork (N)	K'vullen-CtRoche-Shanballymore
Michael Chance	Donegal	Newtowncunningham
Philip Maguire	Dublin	Enniskerry
Henry Walsh	Galway	Oranmore
Tommy Culloty	Kerry	Tralee
Thomas Kelly	Kildare	Manor Kilbride
Eamon Sheehan	Kilkenny	Danesfort
Liam Delaney	Laois	Portlaoise
David Notely	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	Truagh Upper
Enda Bracken	Offaly	Killoughey
James O'Connor	Roscommon	Boyle
Bernard 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

Sheep

MEMBERS 2023		
Name	County	Branch
Adrian Gallagher	Chair, Donegal	Letterkenny
Jude P. Ryan	Vice-Chair, Tipperary (N)	Borrisoleigh
Marion Dalton	Carlow	Bagenalstown
Bernard Lynch	Cavan	Castlerahan Mt Nugent
Tom Holmes	Clare	Corofin
Frank O'Driscoll	Cork (C)	Glanmire
Edmond Roche	Cork (N)	K'vullen-Ct-roche-Shanballymore
James Daly	Cork (W)	Kilcrohane
Tommy Mullin	Donegal	Malin
Richard Ryan	Dublin	Bohernabreena
David Harney	Galway	Ahascragh
Eamon Horgan	Kerry	Kilgarvan
Henry O'Connor	Kildare	Ardclough
Leeson Neale	Kilkenny	Castlecomer
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
Jude P. Ryan	Tipperary (N)	Borrisoleigh
John Crosse	Tipperary (S)	Cashel
Martin Linnane	Westmeath	Ballinagore-Castletowngeoghan
George Graham Jnr	Wexford	Camolin
Owen Brady	Wicklow	Roundwood

* Members of IFA Commodity and Cross-Sectoral Committees & Project Teams as of 1st December 2024.

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Animal Health

MEMBERS 2024		
Name	County	Branch
T.J. Maher	Chair, Tipperary (S)	Killenaule
Amanda Mooney	Vice-Chair, Wicklow	Ashford
Anthony Jackson	Carlow	Tynock-Kiltetgan
Thomas Cooney	Cavan	Laragh
William Hanrahan	Clare	Doonbeg
Mitchel Hayes	Cork (C)	Blarney
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
Gerard Buckley	Kerry	Ballybunion
Joseph G. Morrissey	Kildare	Manor Kilbride
Jim Mulhall	Kilkenny	Kilkenny City
Noreen Cahill	Laois	Spink
Jason Comiskey	Leitrim	Drumahair
Edmond Scanlan	Limerick	Clarina
Mervyn Waters	Longford	Killashee
Conor Taaffe	Louth	Collon
Thomas Fitzpatrick	Mayo	Robeen
Patrick Horgan	Meath	Nobber
David Hall	Monaghan	Newbliss
John P Kenna	Offaly	Ferbane
Sean Connaughton	Roscommon	Boyle
Barry Convey	Sligo	Gurteen
Eamonn Cleary	Tipperary (N)	Ardcroney
Erica O'Keffe	Tipperary (S)	Cashel
Luke Casey	Waterford	Kilmacthomas
Bernie McCarthy	Westmeath	Kilbeggan
Patrick Murray	Wexford	Monaseed
Amanda Mooney	Wicklow	Ashford

Grain

MEMBERS 2024		
Name	County	Branch
Kieran McEvoy	Chair, Laois	Portarlinton
John Murphy	Vice-Chair, Wexford	Monageer
George F Byrne	Carlow	Tallow
Edward Gus Murphy	Cork (W)	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
James Brennan	Kildare	Athy
Edward Delahunty	Kilkenny	Freshford-Gathabawn
Shay Galvin	Limerick	Croom-Meanus
Patrick Brennan	Longford	Rathline-Lanesboro
Michael Kieran	Louth	Knockbridge
Rory Doyle	Laois	Mountmellick
Fintan Murray	Mayo	Balla
Thomas McKeown	Meath	Nobber
Mark Duffy	Monaghan	Drumhowan
Thomas Loonam	Offaly	Cloghan
Michael Beattie	Roscommon	Rahara
Joseph Egan	Tipp (N)	Templemore
Denis Large	Tipp (S)	Gornahoe
William Shanahan	Waterford	Kilmacthomas
Ralph Tyrrell	Westmeath	Killucan
Isaac Wheelock	Wexford	Davidstown
James Hill	Wicklow	Barndarrig
Brian Lazenby	Peas & Beans/ Kildare	Athy

* Members of IFA Commodity and Cross-Sectoral Committees & Project Teams as of 1st December 2024.

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Horticulture

MEMBERS 2024		
Name	County	Branch
Mark Walsh	Chair, Wexford	Gorey
Val Farrell	Hardy Nursery Stock /Dublin	North Fingal
Niall McCormack	Fruit & Vegetable / Longford	Abbeyshrule
Sean Ryan	Potatoes / Wexford	Ballywilliam - Templeudigan
Cornelius Traas	Apples / Tipperary (S)	Cahir

Potato

MEMBERS 2024		
Name	County	Branch
Sean Ryan	Chair, Kilkenny	Ballywilliam-Templeudigan
Barry Mitchell	Vice-Chair, Meath	Oristown
Colin Buttimer	Cork (N)	Fermoy
John Griffin	Cork (C)	Carrigaline
Donald Logue	Donegal	Muff
Peter 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
Shane Howell	Offaly	Killeigh
Michael Healy	Tipp (N)	Moycarkey-Borris
Tom Delahunt	Wicklow	Ashford

Pigs and Pig Meat

MEMBERS 2024		
Name	County	Branch
George Roy Gallie	Chair, Kildare	Cadamstown-Carbury
Paul Tully	Vice-Chair, Laois	Ballinakill
Dermot Healy	Carlow	Tullow
Gary Pepper	Cavan	Cootehill
Shane Brady	Cavan	Redhills
James Bogue	Cavan	Crossdoney
Ronan Caffrey	Cavan	Castlerahan-Mt Nugent
Tom Sherman	Cork (N)	Mallow
Thomas Finn	Cork (N)	Mitchelstown
Cathal O'Donovan	Cork (W)	Timoleague
Martin Doherty	Donegal	Clonmany
Jimmy Mooney	Donegal	Malin
Cormac Minnock	Kildare	Rahan
Thomas Hogan	Limerick	Anglesboro
John Horan	Limerick	Glin
Alaistair McCormack	Longford	Newtownforbes
Sinead Brady	Longford	Abbeyshrule
Gareth Marry	Meath	Slane
Christopher Brady	Monaghan	Aughnamullen
Mattie Moore	Offaly	Croghan
Hannah Ryan	Tipperary (S)	Clogheen
John Ryan	Tipperary (S)	Ardfinnan-Grange
Martin Purtill	Tipperary (N)	Toomevara
Richard Norton	Tipperary(S)	Ballingarry
David N Tyndall	Tipperary (N)	Roscrea
Darren Brady	Westmeath	Killucan
Bernard Gilsenan	Westmeath	Multyfarnham

IFA Commodity and Cross-Sectoral Committees & Project Teams 2024*

Poultry

MEMBERS 2024		
Name	County	Branch
Nigel Sweetnam	Chair, Cork (C)	Kinsale
Brendan Soden	Vice-Chair, Cavan	Lavey
Garrett Bannon	Cavan	Templeport
Enda Connolly	Monaghan	Clones
Ann Gernon	Louth	Louth Village
Eugene McGinnity	Monaghan	Aughnalshavey
Warren O'Connell	Cork (C)	Carrigaline
Michael Murphy	Waterford	Cappoquin
Edmond Murphy	Waterford	Dunhill
David Abbott	Cavan	Killeshandra
Mark McElvaney	Monaghan	Threemilehouse
Derek Good	Cork (C)	Innishannon
Pat O'Connell	Limerick	Feoghanagh
Edward Keane	Waterford	Kinsalebeg
Michael O'Hea	Cork (W)	Clonakilty
Robert McBride	Monaghan	Tyolland
Eamon Clerkin	Monaghan	Rockcorry
Vincent Quinn	Monaghan	Tullycorbett
John McCabe	Monaghan	Threemilehouse
Thomas Fitzsimons	Cavan	Bitis
Eoin Cunningham	Limerick	Broadford-Kantoher
Padraig Kiely	Mayo	Bekan-Brickens
Proinsias McKenna	Monaghan	Truagh Upper
Andrew Keating	Monaghan	Newbliss
Nigel Flynn	Monaghan	Clones

Farm Business

MEMBERS 2024		
Name	County	Branch
Bill O'Keeffe	Chair, Kilkenny	Clara
Fergal Hennessy	Vice-Chair, Meath	Ballinacree
John Nolan	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
Patrick O'Driscoll	Kerry	Valentia
Eugene Lawler	Kildare	Moone
Sean Cummins	Kilkenny	Clara
Anne-Maria Aird	Laois	Portlaoise
Seamus Quinn	Leitrim	Manorhamilton
Pius Horgan	Limerick	Abbeyfeale
Anne Tully	Longford	Ballinalee
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
Margaret Gormonly	Sligo	Tubbercurry
Michael Leonard	Tipperary (N)	Ballingarrt
Bernadette Quinn	Tipperary (S)	Fethard
John Byrne	Waterford	Cappoquin
Paul Slevin	Westmeath	Turin
John Kelly	Wexford	Camolin
Thos Short	Wicklow	Ashford

* Members of IFA Commodity and Cross-Sectoral Committees & Project Teams as of 1st December 2024.

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Farm Forestry

MEMBERS 2024		
Name	County	Branch
Padraig Stapleton	Chair, Tipperary (N)	Upperchurch
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
Fergus Minihan	Cork (W)	Clonakilty
John Magner	Cork (N)	K'Vullen-Ct'Roche-Shanballymore
Ross Buchanan	Donegal	Carndonagh
Christopher Keogh	Dublin	Bohernabreena
Pat Lyons	Galway	Looscaun/Woodford
George O'Neill	Kerry	Blackwater
John McDonald	Kildare	Athy
Andrew O'Carroll O'Keeffe	Kilkenny	Clara
Michael McEvoy	Laois	Sping
Patrick Munday	Leitrim	Manorhamilton
Simon White	Limerick	Askeaton
Michael Lennon	Longford	Drumlisk
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
Padraig Stapleton	Tipperary (N)	Upperchurch
Michael Ryan	Tipperary (S)	Hollyford
Gabriel Foley	Waterford	Dungarvan
Claudia Marl	Westmeath	Collinstown
Andrew McCann	Wexford	Camolin
Charles Tottenham	Wicklow	Ashford

Farm Family, Social Affairs and Farm Safety

MEMBERS 2024		
Name	County	Branch
Teresa Roche	Chair, Galway	Abbey
Claire O'Keeffe	Vice-Chair, Cork (C)	Glensouth
Faith Jackson	Carlow	Tynock-Kiltegan
Elizabeth Tilson	Cavan	Sheelin
Caroline Lynch	Clare	Bridgetown
Claire O'Keeffe	Cork (C)	Glensouth
Michael Looney	Cork (W)	Macroom
Catherine Fox	Cork (N)	Mitchelstown
Christine Friel	Donegal	Kilmacrennan
Elizabeth McCarthy	Dublin	Bohernabreena
Anne Mitchell	Galway	Menlough
Mary McCarthy	Kerry	Kenmare
Diana Massey	Kildare	Athy
Gemma Sherman	Kilkenny	Mullinavat
Mary Barber	Laois	Rathdowney
Mary McGovern	Leitrim	Carrigallen
Peggy Cooke	Limerick	Hospital
Greta Tynan	Longford	Granard
Concepta Quigley	Louth	Kilkerley
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
Elizabeth McDonald	Wexford	Monaseed
Anne Jennings	Wicklow	Arklow

* Members of IFA Commodity and Cross-Sectoral Committees & Project Teams as of 1st December 2024.

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Rural Development

MEMBERS 2023		
Name	County	Branch
John Curran	Chair, Meath	Kells
James Gallagher	Vice-Chair, Leitrim	Kinlough
Jay Kelly	Carlow	Borris
Paddy Denning	Cavan	Laragh
Thomas Lane	Clare	Parteen
Cornelius Buckley	Cork (W)	Caheragh
Tom O'Keefe	Cork (N)	K'Vullen-CT'Roche-Shanballymore
Timothy Twomey	Cork (C)	Glensouth
Peter Cannon	Donegal	Carrick
Frank Hemeryck	Dublin	Lucan
P.J. Conroy	Galway	Looscaun-Woodford
Dermot Kelly	Kerry	Kilcummin
Desmond Gray	Kildare	Castledermot
Richard Meaney	Kilkenny	The Rower
Harry Lalor	Laois	Clough
John Maher	Limerick	Doon
John Coyle	Longford	Edgeworthstown
Kevin Sweeney	Louth	Ardee
Maeve Larney	Louth	Louth Village
Patrick Egan	Mayo	Knock
Thomas Gibbons	Meath	Navan
Mark Joseph Gillanders	Monaghan	Ardaghy
George Grant	Offaly	Cloghan
John Hanley	Roscommon	Creggs
Gearoid O'Connor	Sligo	Castlealdwin
Liam Coffey	Tipp (N)	Toomevara
Simon Ryan	Tipp (S)	Emly
Seamus Power	Waterford	Dunhill
Brendan Coffey	Westmeath	Turin
Anna Kehoe	Wexford	Ballycullane
Caillin Conneely	Co-Opted, Galway	Connemara
Selena McKenzie	Wicklow	Barndarrig
Michael Biggins	Co-Opted, Outgoing Chair	Glencorrib

Hill Farming

MEMBERS 2024		
Name	County	Branch
Cáillín Conneely	Chair, Galway	Connemara
Paul Ryan	Carlow/Kilkenny/Wexford	Graigueanamagh
Michael Davoren	Clare	Carron/Noughaville
Patrick O'Rourke Jnr	Connemara/Galway	Ballinakill
Neilie O'Leary	Cork (W)	Coomhola
Dessie Cunningham (NEW)	Donegal	Carrick
Pat O'Shea	Kerry	Castlegregory
Kevin Hanlon	Kildare/Wicklow (W)	Manor Kilbride
Padraig McGowan	Leitrim	Drumshanbo
Peter Shields	Louth	Cooley
Tony O'Donnell	Mayo	Derrada-Glenhest
Adrian McIntyre	Sligo	Cloonacool
Peter Hennessy	Waterford/Tipperary (S)	Kilross
Peter Behan	Wicklow	Tinahealy
John Curran	Co-opted	Kells

* Members of IFA Commodity and Cross-Sectoral Committees & Project Teams as of 1st December 2024.

IFA Commodity and Cross-Sectoral Committees & Project Teams 2024*

Liquid Milk

MEMBERS 2024		
Name	County	Branch
Henry Dunne	Chair, Wexford	Bree - Galbally
Mervyn Helen	Vice-Chair, Cork (W)	Clonakilty
Pat Coveney	Cork (C)	Glanmire
Austin Grealay	Galway	Clarinbridge
Jane O'Connor	Galway	Kiltullagh - Attymon
Kevin Healy	Wicklow	Aughrim
Kevin Maguire	Wexford	Ballycanew
John Roche	Carlow	Clonmore-Hacketstown
Walter Crowley	Kilkenny	Mooncoin
Donal Kelleher	Cork (C)	Glanmire
Tom Paul Keane	Kerry	Ballymacelligott
James Hurson	Monaghan	Smithboro
Liam Grady	Galway	Gurteen
Michael Freaney	Galway	Athenry
Paul Merrick	Sligo	Riverstown
David Bennett	Laois	Abbeyleix
Gareth Porter	Donegal	Finn Valley
Charles McCandles	Donegal	Culdaff
John Wynne	Carlow	Baltinglass
Edward Breen	Kerry	Abbeydorney
John Stone	Westmeath	Moate
Padraig Mulligan	Sligo	Templeboy
Jim Kavanagh	Wicklow	Kiltealy
Keith O'Connor	Mayo	Hollymount

Fresh Milk Producers

MEMBERS 2024		
Name	County	Branch
John Roche	Chair, Carlow / West Wicklow	Clonmore-Hacketstown
Henry Dunne	Wexford	Bree-Galbally
John Wynne	West Wicklow	Baltinglass
John Murphy	Louth	Termonfeckin
Seamus Killoran	Wicklow	Arklow
Linda Hanbidge	West Wicklow	Kiltegan
Denis Fagan	Meath	Kildalkey
Eddie Bannon	Meath	Culmullen
James Tynan	Kilkenny	Kilkenny City
Jim Mulhall	Kilkenny	Kilkenny City
Derek Tierney	Kildare	Timahoe
Patrick Coveney	Cork	Glanmire

Aquaculture

MEMBERS 2024			
Name	County	Branch	Role
Finian O'Sullivan	Chair, Cork (W)	Bantry	Rope Mussels/ Shellfish Safety
Catherine McManus	Vice-Chair, Donegal	Fanad	Salmon
Michael O'Neill	Cork	Cahermore	Other Species - Seaweed
John Harrington	Cork (W)	Kenmare	Rope Mussels
Lee Hunter	Donegal	Dunloe	Oysters
Des Moore	Donegal	Ballintra	Oysters
Gerry O'Donohue	Galway	Connemara	Salmon
Tony O'Sullivan	Kerry	Cromane	Bottom Mussels
Mag Kirwan	Kilkenny	Thomastown	Trout
Kian Louet-Feisser	Louth	Cooley	Oysters
Liam Roche	Mayo	Connemara	Salmon
Michael Mulloy	Mayo	Westport / Aughagower	Rope Mussels
Cliona Mhic Ghiolla Chuda	Waterford	Dungarvan	Oysters

* Members of IFA Commodity and Cross-Sectoral Committees & Project Teams as of 1st December 2024.

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Rules, Privileges & Procedures

MEMBERS 2024		
Name	County	Branch
John Carroll	Chair, National Returning Officer, Louth	Dunleer
Brendan McLaughlin	Donegal	Newtowncunningham
Kevin Kiersey	Waterford	Kilmacthomas
Caroline Farrell	Kildare	Athy
Michael Biggins	Mayo	Glencorrib
Dermot Ward	Meath	Navan
Jim O'Connor	Roscommon	Boyle

SAC/SPA/NHA Project Team

MEMBERS 2024		
Name	County	Branch
Frank Brady	Chair, Monaghan	Aughnamullen
John Curran	Meath	Kells
Cáillín Conneely	Galway	Connemara
Joe Daly	Offaly	Cloghan
Pat Hennessy	Laois	Borris-in-Ossary
Charlie Killeen	Galway	Eyrecourt
Martin Gavin	Mayo	Drummin
Pat O'Shea	Kerry	Castlegregory
William Hanarahan	Clare	Doonbeg
Alan McCabe	Monaghan	Traugh-Lower
Matthew McGreehan	Louth	Cooley

Horse Project Team

MEMBERS 2024		
Name	County	Branch
Conor O'Leary	Chair, Cork (C)	Donoughmore
Michael Doherty	Sligo	Ballymote
Dan O'Loughlin	Kildare	Kildare
Maurice Smiddy	Cork	Ballymacoda
Pat Downey	Meath	Slane
Thomas (Tommy) Lane	Clare	Parteen
Eamon Sheehan Jnr	Kilkenny	Danesfort
Anne Marie Burke	Roscommon	Kilmore
James Murphy	Kilkenny	Inistioge

Organic Project Team

MEMBERS 2024		
Name	County	Branch
John Fitzpatrick	Chair, Laois	Kells
Mark Duffy	Laois	Spink
Eamon Horgan	Donegal	Muff
Ian Witherow	Wicklow	Barndarrig
Padraig Fahy	Monaghan	Ardaghy
John Curran	Galway	Aughrim
John Liston	Clare	Feakle
T.J. Duffy	Mayo	Westport- Aughagower
Selene McKenzie	Wicklow	Barndarrig

The Shannon & Flooding Project Team

MEMBERS 2024		
Name	County	Branch
Brendan Golden	Chair, Mayo	Killala
Tommy Lane	Clare	Parteen
Pat Walsh	Offaly	Cloghan
Claire Fitzpatrick	Cavan	Dowra
Pauric Reilly	Leitrim	Mohill-Bornacoola
Michael Beattie	Roscommon	Rahara

Infrastructure Project Team

MEMBERS 2024		
Name	County / Position	Branch
Paul O'Brien	Chair, Kilkenny	Graiguenamanagh
Francie Gorman	IFA President	Ballinakill
Damian McDonald	IFA Director General	n/a
John Murphy	Chair, Environment & Rural Affairs Committee, Cork (C)	Inniscarra
Geraldine O'Sullivan	Policy Executive, Environment & Rural Affairs Committee	n/a

* Members of IFA Commodity and Cross-Sectoral Committees & Project Teams as of 1st December 2024.



In 2024, the IFA calendar was distributed to over 760 primary schools around the country. This initiative promoted the work of farm families among schoolchildren who may not be familiar with farming. To mark this, IFA President Francie Gorman paid a visit to principal Finbar McDermott from St. Cillian's National School, Robinhood Road, Bluebell, Dublin 12.

Mainséar na n-Ainmhithe

Live Animal Crib



Pictured at the Live Animal Crib launch at the Mansion House in Dublin, the Deputy Lord Mayor of Dublin, Cllr Donna Cooney and the President of the Irish Farmers' Association, Francie Gorman. Also pictured is 3rd class student Amy O'Flaherty from Belclare NS, Tuam, Co Galway who was the winner of an Agri Aware competition run in conjunction with the live animal crib.



IFA

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