



Department of
**Agriculture,
Food and the Marine**

An Roinn
**Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara**

Annual Report **2015**

#Food Wise 2025
www.agriculture.gov.ie

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)

Mission Statement

“To lead the sustainable development of the agri-food, forestry and marine sector and to optimise its contribution to national economic development and the natural environment”



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The agriculture and food sector continued to play a vital role in Ireland's economic recovery in 2015. Total agri-food exports increased to €11.78 billion in 2015, with food and drink exports rising by c 3% to reach €10.8 billion, marking growth of over 51% since 2009. The profile of trade continues the change that has been evident in recent years, with exports of food and drink to international markets (outside of our traditional UK and EU markets) steadily increasing to a value of around €3.4 billion in 2015.

A rise of €300 million in value to US exports in 2015

The growth in exports in 2015 was led by the US, which showed a rise of almost €300 million in value, to reach €870 million for the first time. Export growth to the US was led by large increases in the dairy sector which saw €186m in exports. The opening of the beef market and the subsequent two trade missions in 2015 also helped boost the US market. The opening of new market opportunities for the Irish agri-food sector remains a priority for the Department.

Food Wise 2025 which was launched in July 2015 sets out a ten year plan for the agri-food sector and is the successor to the ambitious Food Harvest 2020 strategy.

It underlines the sector's unique and special position within the Irish economy, and it illustrates the potential which exists for this sector to grow even further. Food Wise 2025 identifies smarter and greener ways to deliver sustainable growth and recommends actions to best support the sector's development. It identifies the opportunities, challenges, advantages and constraints ahead and devises an enabling strategy that will allow the sector to grow and prosper.

- Food Wise 2025 identifies ambitious and challenging growth projections for the industry over the next ten years including an 85% increase in exports to €19bn; and
- the creation of 23,000 additional jobs all along the supply chain from producer level to high end value added product development.

Food Wise includes detailed action points – over 400 in all – setting out what needs to happen to achieve the growth projections by 2025. There are also specific action points for the various sectors including dairy, beef, sheep, pig meat, poultry and eggs, prepared consumer foods, alcoholic beverages, horticulture, cereals, seafood and forestry. These complement the cross-cutting themes of the strategy in terms of using innovation, enhancing market development, ensuring sustainability and addressing competitiveness and human capital requirements.

Food Wise 2025 Report states “*environmental protection and economic competitiveness are equal and complementary: one cannot be achieved at the expense of the other*”. Food Wise 2025 therefore sets out a range of specific recommendations aimed at managing the projected growth in a sustainable way, while protecting and improving the environment. There is a strong commitment to the measurement and monitoring of the sustainability credentials of the sector.

The Department published the Food Wise Implementation Plan in December 2015 in response to the Final Environmental Analysis Report and it forms the final part of the Food Wise strategy process. It sets out a robust implementation process, to be driven by a High Level Implementation Committee (HLIC) involving all relevant Government Departments and State Agencies, and chaired by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

Simplification of the CAP featured strongly during 2015 with Council conclusions adopted in May. The Commission subsequently announced a range of simplification measures in November and is planning further simplification measures for 2016, including a package in the area of administrative penalties, and in relation to greening.

Milk quotas in the EU were abolished in 2015

Milk quotas in the EU were abolished on 31 March 2015. Milk production in Ireland in 2015 was 6.6m tonnes, an increase of 13.3% on the 2014 annual total. The vast majority of this increase was in the post quota timeframe, with the period between April 1st and December 31st seeing an increase of approaching 17% versus the same period in 2014.

Ireland's 2014-2020 RDP was formally adopted by the EU Commission on 26 May 2015 and contains a suite of extensive measures that address all farming sectors and support community led local development by means of LEADER.

The new Forestry Programme was approved by the European Commission in February 2015 and formally launched shortly thereafter. The Programme will invest close to €0.5 billion in the forestry sector, most of which will benefit local communities living in rural areas. It will also be an important contributor to climate change mitigation as well as securing a sustainable source of raw material for a growing forest industry. In this regard, it aims to facilitate the establishment of 44,000 hectares of new forests and the development of almost 700 kilometres of forest roads during the period 2015-2020. It is anticipated that the changes in the Programme will prove attractive to those landowners not previously interested in forestry.

2015 was a year of significant market difficulties across the EU, particularly in the dairy and pigmeat sectors. Factors such as the Russian ban, reduced demand and increased stocks and production in China, increased production in New Zealand and US combined to put downward pressure on prices. In September, at a specially convened extraordinary Council of EU Ministers meeting, agreement was reached on a €500m package of measures for farmers.

In Paris in December 2015, 196 parties (195 countries and the EU) signed up to the global Climate Agreement to limit global temperature increases to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursue efforts to limit the rise to less than 1.5°C through binding commitments to cut greenhouse gas emissions.

Earlier in 2015, the countries of the world agreed a new set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). The Goals represent an ambitious plan to eradicate poverty, address environmental degradation and climate change, and build a more peaceful, fair and sustainable world. They succeed the Millennium Development Goals.

One goal (SDG2) centers on ending hunger through sustainable agriculture. The importance of sustainable agriculture (with the emphasis truly on "sustainable") is that it provides interlinkages with multiple goals. For example, it can contribute to ending poverty (SDG1), ensuring availability and sustainable management of water (SDG6), promoting inclusive and sustainable growth (SDG8), taking action to combat climate change (SDG13), and many others.

On the national front the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act was passed into law in December giving our climate policy a statutory basis for the first time.

A new set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals were set in 2015

2015 Main Achievements

The agri-food sector continued to play a vital role in Ireland's economy in 2015 with food and drink exports rising by c 3% to reach €10.8 billion, marking growth of over 51% since 2009.

Food Wise 2025 sets out a ten year plan for the agri-food sector and is the successor to the ambitious Food Harvest 2020 strategy. It was officially launched by the Taoiseach on 2 July 2015.

Ireland's European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) Seafood Development Programme was adopted by the European Commission in December 2015, paving the way for the roll-out of schemes totalling €240m providing a source of development funding for Ireland's seafood sector to 2021.

The implementation of the 'Agri-taxation Review' (published as part of Budget 2015) continued in Budget 2016 with the addition of important new measures, including:

- A 'Family Transfer Partnerships' tax credit to assist succession. It will encourage important conversations within farm families about succession planning and facilitate the earlier inter-generational transfer of family farms.
- The removal of forestry income from the 'High Earners Restriction' for active foresters and farmers is hugely significant measure in support of national forestry policy. Forestry plays a huge role environmentally, economically and socially in rural areas and this is an important change.

Significant progress was made in opening up new markets for the export of live (breeding) animals with the introduction of new markets in Lebanon, Kenya and Belarus during 2015.

The Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine visited the US in February for Bord Bia beef launch events in New York, Washington DC and Boston. In Washington, the Minister held several high-level political meetings, which allowed him to promote Irish beef access whilst acknowledging US support in lifting the BSE ban and in finalising the technical assessment. In September, Minister Coveney visited Chicago for various trade events, with the highlight being an Irish beef launch for the Mid-West market for An Bord Bia.

At the end of November, the Minister led a trade mission to Nigeria and Ghana. The mission comprised 40 companies as well as representatives from Enterprise Ireland, Bord Bia, Sustainable Food Systems Ireland, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. Of particular note were the bilaterals with the Nigerian Federal Minister for Agriculture and the Ghanaian Minister for Agriculture, a visit to the Irish Aid part-funded UNHRD depot, the key note address at the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre, and the meeting with the Embassy-supported Irish Business Network in Lagos.

Since its launch in October 2014 the Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland (SBCI) has made €750 million of lower-cost loans available for Irish Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). In its latest report, the SBCI stated that of the 4,619 loans amounting to €172 million drawn down by SMEs, 26% had been accessed by the agriculture sector.

In addition to outward trade missions, the Department hosted visiting delegations from a wide range of countries, including China, US, India, New Zealand, Iran, Kazakhstan, and Vietnam. The Department also hosted an important visit by Chinese Premier Li Keqiang who was accompanied by Minister for Agriculture Han Changfu in May 2015.

One North/South Ministerial Council sectoral meeting was held in February 2015.

2015 Main Achievements

During 2015 the Department continued its support for the vital work of the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) with a total core multilateral contribution of €9.96 million. The Department also provided a further €10m, doubling multilateral support for WFP as part of the Irish Government's response to the current refugee crisis, including that arising from the conflict in Syria.

The Africa Agri-Food Development Fund continued its work with two Irish companies, the first project is bringing new efficiency-improving crop technologies to farmers in Ethiopia and Kenya and the second is using Irish expertise and knowledge to develop sustainable pig production in Uganda. The fund took on a third project in 2015 to locally produce and market an ethical brand of Ready-to-Use Complementary Food in Malawi to help prevent Chronic Malnutrition.

At its 2015 meeting the FAO Committee on Food Security (CFS) endorsed the document "Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises". It also endorsed the fourth version of the Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition which includes new paragraphs concerning the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems and on Promoting Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems.

In addition to paying Ireland's 2015 subscription of €1.7 million to FAO, further extra budgetary funding of €730,000 was provided by the Department in support of FAO's response to the refugee crisis related to the conflict in Syria.

Ireland was one of 145 countries at EXPO 2015 in Milan, whose theme "*Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life*" embraced technology, innovation, culture, traditions and creativity and how they relate to food and diet and global issues. The Ireland Pavilion welcomed over 2.5 million visitors from May to October (25m visited Expo 2015). A digital memory of the 'Ireland Pavilion' can be found at www.irelandexpo2015milan.com

This Department and its agencies contributed to the Government's 2015 Action Plan for Jobs by undertaking 29 headline actions involving 36 tasks. All actions for 2015 were achieved.

In 2015, €19.1m in voted monies was spent on the Fishery Harbour and Coastal Infrastructure Capital Programme.

Approximately 98.5% of the national herd was tested for bovine TB in 2015. The herd incidence of bovine Tuberculosis decreased from 3.64% in 2014 to 3.37% in 2015.

Ireland obtained Official Brucellosis Free (OBF) status in July 2009, following which a reduced level of testing was implemented for a period of five years, as required. The 60 day pre-movement test was abolished in September 2015.

The number of Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) applications filed online, through BPS iNet, in 2015 increased by 13,000 to over 93,000. This represents approximately 70% of all applications.

2015 Main Achievements

The Department took the lead in delivering a Food Processing for Health Call in 2015 as part of the EU Joint Programming Initiative 'A Healthy Diet for a Healthy Life' which has resulted in the funding of two transnational research projects both with Irish participation. This was the first time the Department provided this type and level of strategic leadership and secretariat to a transnational Call on behalf of a range of member countries including Ireland.

The US-Ireland Research and Development Partnership Steering Group agreed in November 2015 to extend the scope of the Partnership to include agriculture research on a pilot basis, focused on four priority areas in plant and animal agricultural research. This will enable scientists from the US, Ireland, and Northern Ireland to develop collaborative tri-jurisdictional research applications for submission under the USDA's 2016 Agriculture and Food Research Initiative Call for Proposals – one of the US National Institute of Food and Agriculture Research's major competitive grant programmes through which it addresses critical societal issues.

SeaFest, Ireland's national maritime festival, was held on 10-11 July, 2015 in Ringaskiddy, Co. Cork and was organised by the Marine Coordination Group which is chaired by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine. As part of SeaFest, the second 'Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth' Conference reviewed ongoing progress on the implementation of the Government's Integrated Marine Plan and was attended by over 500 delegates from the public and private sector with an involvement in the marine sector. On the second day of SeaFest 2015, a programme of maritime events took place in Cork Harbour. A review of the progress in implementing *Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth* in 2014 was published at the Conference along with the Enablers Task Force on Marine Spatial Planning and the Our Ocean Wealth Development Task Force reports.

The official opening of UCC's new state-of-the-art Beaufort Building also took place during SeaFest 2015 (on Saturday 11th July). The construction phase was co funded by the Department, the Higher Education Authority (HEA), Bord Gáis Energy (BGE) and the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources.

€500m package of measures was agreed at a specially convened EU Council of Ministers meeting in September. Ireland's allocation amounted to €13.7 million, which was augmented with a further €13.7 million in national funding. Payments totalling €27.4 million were paid to dairy (€26.4m) and pig (€1m) farmers in December 2015.

A new Forestry Programme was launched in February 2015 providing financial support for forestry development in a manner which will enhance the social, environmental and economic benefits of forestry. The principal aims of the Programme are to increase forest cover and to facilitate the mobilisation of timber harvested from forests planted under previous Forestry Programmes. These objectives will be achieved through a suite of new measures and the continuation of existing schemes such as those relating to afforestation, forest roads and woodland improvement.

The European Union (FLEGT Licensing Scheme for Imports of Timber) Regulations 2015 was signed into law in June 2015. International Forestry Division is keeping in contact with Revenue to develop an efficient system for administering Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) licences in close cooperation with Customs. The FLEGT process is based on a Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) being negotiated with supplier countries that commits exporting countries to trading only legally harvested timber products. The first FLEGT Voluntary Partnership Agreement to apply will be in respect of Indonesia from whom FLEGT licences are expected to arrive in the EU in late 2016.

2015 Main Achievements

The European Timber Regulation (EUTR) is an instrument which requires timber operators to apply due diligence to consignments of timber or timber products when they are first placed on the EU market. Further down the supply chain, the Regulation requires traders to keep and maintain records for traceability purposes. During 2015, International Forestry Division, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, as Competent Authority for the implementation of the EUTR, continued to carry out appropriate on site and desk based checks to verify compliance

COFORD published “*Mobilising Ireland’s forest resource - Authored by the COFORD Wood Mobilisation Group*”, an analysis and recommendations on wood mobilisation, in March 2015.

In December 2015, as part of ongoing developments in the EU Clean air package; the Environment Council acknowledged detailed technical data and modeling from Ireland to reduce the target for ammonia (NH₃) emissions to a more achievable figure, Ireland offered to make corresponding increases in sulphur dioxide (SO₂) and fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) targets to offset the technical adjustments downwards to ammonia. Therefore, overall Ireland’s level of ambition to improve air quality is not reduced.

Legislation relating to the microchipping of dogs was introduced.

The initial steps in the application of the Discards Ban or Landing Obligation in the reformed 2013 Common Fisheries Policy began on 1 January 2015 with the commencement of the landing obligation for pelagic species and the preparation for its application to whitefish stocks in 2016.

Ireland secured whitefish quotas amounting to €131m, an increase of €10m on the 2015 figure (36,886 tonnes) for Irish fishermen at the December 2015 EU Fisheries negotiations. This was coupled with an overall 8% increase in quota for prawns, one of Ireland’s most valuable fisheries, including a quota uplift to support the introduction of the discards ban.

In Budget 2014, the Government announced that a review of the financial and taxation supports available to the Marine Sector would be carried out, to examine strategic measures which could be introduced to help Ireland as an island nation to fulfil its potential in the marine area. Phase 1 of this review involved an examination of the taxation supports available for certain sub sectors of marine, namely fishing, ports and shipping. The overall objective of this review was to ensure that there is a supportive financial environment underpinning the marine sector. This review was published in October 2015 and officials of the Department of Finance are currently working with the relevant Departments to consider options arising from the Marine Taxation Review.

The report of the Government Task Force on Non-EEA Workers in Irish Fishing Industry was published on 14 December 2015. The key recommendation of the Task Force was the introduction of a new sector specific Atypical Worker Permission system, to be administered by the Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service (INIS) which will enable employers in specific parts of the Irish Fishing fleet, under a structured and transparent framework, to source and employ workers from non-EEA countries.

The first meeting of the National Inshore Fisheries Forum (NIFF) took place on 15 January 2015 and four further meetings took place throughout the year. The NIFF is supported by a network of Regional Inshore Fisheries Forums (RIFFs) around the Irish coast. The Forum structures were set up to encourage inshore fishermen using small fishing boats to participate in the management of fisheries within six nautical miles.

Conservation measures for razor clam fisheries were introduced in 2015 including monitoring and reporting requirements and outtake limits for certain areas.

Organisation of the Department

At 31 December 2015 the Department employed a total of 2,974 full-time equivalent staff.

The senior management team is the Management Advisory Committee (MAC). This comprises seven Assistant Secretaries General/Directors, the Chief Veterinary Officer, the Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer, the Chief Inspector, the Director of Laboratory Services and is headed by Aidan O'Driscoll, Secretary General.

MAC/Director	Deputy	Function	Head of Division	Location
Brendan Gleeson <i>Livestock Products, Food</i>		Meat & Milk Policy, Food Safety Liaison	Colm Hayes	Dublin, Portlaoise
		Milk & Meat Hygiene, Fees, Animal By-Products, TSE, National Milk Agency	Tom Loftus	Portlaoise, Johnstown Castle
		Dairy Controls and Certification	Nicholas Finnerty	Dublin, Portlaoise
		Food Industry Development, Bord Bia	Marian Byrne	Dublin
		Teagasc	Kay Ryan	Dublin
		Bord na gCon, Horse Racing Ireland, Irish National Stud	Gerry Greally	Portlaoise
Brid Cannon <i>EU, Trade, Economics, Rural Development, Sustainability</i>		CAP Rural Development	Patricia Kelly	Dublin
		EU Policy and International Trade	Paul Savage	Dublin
		Embassies	Breffini Carpenter	Brussels
		Brussels, London, Paris, Rome, Geneva, Warsaw, Washington		
		Economics & Planning	Sinead McPhillips	Dublin, Portlaoise
		Climate Change and Bio Energy Policy	Paul McKiernan	Portlaoise
Ann Derwin <i>Governance</i> <i>Finance, Audit, Accounts, Legal Services, Management Services, Human Resources, Corporate Affairs including co-ordination for State Bodies</i>		Management Services, Procurement Accommodation, ISO and Health & Safety	Grainne Mulligan	Dublin, Portlaoise
		Human Resources	Sharon M. Murphy	Dublin, Portlaoise
		Corporate Affairs, FOI, State Bodies Co-ordination	Kay Ryan	Dublin, Portlaoise
		Finance	Heber McMahon	Dublin, Portlaoise
		Accounts	Geraldine Mullen	Cavan
		Internal Audit	Colm McKiernan	Dublin, Portlaoise
		Legal Services	Vacancy	Dublin, Cavan
		Agricultural Appeals	Miriam Cadwell	Portlaoise

Organisation of the Department

MAC/Director	Deputy	Function	Head of Division	Location
Sean Keevey <i>Information Management & Technology</i>		IMT- Direct Farm Payments Systems (IACS)	Alan King	Dublin, Portlaoise
		IMT- Infrastructure and Operations	Darren Murray	Dublin
		IMT- Customer, Financial, Fisheries & Animal Health Systems	Joe Hanly	Dublin, Portlaoise, Backweston
		IMT Programme Office	Vacancy	Dublin
Paul Dillon <i>Agriculture Structures Market Supports Forestry Coillte</i>		Forest Service Inspectorate	Seamus Dunne	Dublin, Regions
		Forest Service	Bridgeena Nolan	Johnstown Castle
		Forest Services- International	Stephen Fitzpatrick	Dublin,
		Agriculture Structures & Market Supports	Ronan O'Flaherty	Johnstown Castle
		Agriculture Environment and Structures	Liam Fahey	Castlebar, Regions
		Forest Sector Development/COFORD	Eugene Hendrick	Dublin
Kevin Smyth <i>Direct Payments Suckler Cow</i>		Single Payment	Gordon Conroy	Portlaoise
		Suckler Cow, Beef Genomics & Disadvantaged areas	Fintan O'Brien	Portlaoise
		Knowledge Transfer	Gordon Conroy	Portlaoise
		Single Payment Entitlement & Financial Control	Bernadette Brennan	Castlebar, Portlaoise
		Direct Payment Inspection Controls	Al Grogan	Dublin, Regions
Cecil Beamish <i>Marine</i>		Sea-fisheries Policy and Management	Josephine Kelly	Clonakilty
		Sea Fisheries Administration	Kevin Moriarty	Clonakilty
		Aquaculture & Foreshore Management	John Quinlan	Clonakilty
		Engineering	Noel Clancy	Clonakilty
		Marine Agencies and Programmes	Paschal Hayes	Clonakilty
Bill Callanan <i>Chief Inspector</i>	Vacancy <i>Deputy Chief Inspector</i>	Livestock Breeding, Production & Trade	Gerry Grealley	Backweston, Cavan, Portlaoise
		Pesticide Registration & Controls	Aidan Moody Tom Medlycott	Backweston
		Feedstuffs, Fertilisers, Grain and Poultry	Vacant	Backweston
		Crop Evaluation and Certification	Donal Coleman	Backweston
		Plant Health & Horticulture	Gabriel Roe	Backweston
		Research & Codex	Richard Howell	Dublin
		Nitrates, Biodiversity and Engineering.	Vacancy	Portlaoise
		Crop Policy, Production & Safety	Kevin Cassidy	Backweston

Organisation of the Department

MAC/Director	Deputy	Function	Head of Division	Location
	Richard Healy <i>Director of Animal Health and Welfare</i>	ERAD, Veterinary Medicines, Regional Offices Administration and Veterinary Council of Ireland	Mícheál O'Raghallaigh	Backweston
		Animal Health and Welfare	Dermot Murphy	Dublin
		Animal Identification and Movement	Martin Farrell	Backweston
Martin Blake <i>Chief Veterinary Officer</i>	Paula Barry Walsh <i>Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer</i>	Veterinary Northern Area Management Team	Thomas McTague	Regions
		Veterinary Southern Area Management Team	Pat Meskill	Regions
		Veterinary Service Internal Audit Unit, SIU	Pat Flanagan	Dublin
		Animal Health & Welfare- non ruminants, Animal Remedies	Michael Sheahan	Dublin
		Animal Health- ruminants ERAD, Animal Identification	Margaret Good	Dublin
		Veterinary Public Health Inspection Service (VPHIS) (East, SE, SW)	Peter Maher	Dublin
		Veterinary Public Health & Food Safety Policy, International Trade and Contingency planning.	Dave Nolan	Dublin
		National Disease Control Centre and Border Inspection Posts	Sally Gaynor	Dublin
Donal Sammin <i>Director of Laboratories</i>	James Choiseul <i>Head of Agriculture Laboratories</i> Vacancy <i>Head of Veterinary Laboratories</i>	Plant Health, Pesticides and Seed Testing Laboratories	Tom Keating - Pesticides, Plant Health & Seed Testing Laboratories	Backweston
		Dairy Sciences Laboratories	Eoin O'Brien	Backweston
		Veterinary Public Health Regulatory Laboratory	Montserrat Gutierrez	Backweston
		Regional Veterinary Laboratories & Blood testing Lab	Micheal Casey	Regions, Longtown



OBJECTIVE 1 - AGRI-FOOD, FORESTRY AND MARINE POLICY AND TRADE DEVELOPMENT

Objective One

Performance Budgeting for Objective One

High Level Objective: “Progress the economic development of the agri-food, forestry and marine sectors, including facilitating the achievement of Food Harvest 2020/FoodWise 2025 targets.”

INPUTS – FINANCIAL & HUMAN RESOURCES

	2015 Budget Outturn			2016 Estimate		
	Current	Capital	Total	Current	Capital	Total
	€000	€000	€000	€000	€000	€000
A.1 - ADMINISTRATION - PAY	16,331	-	16,331	17,012	-	17,012
A.2 - ADMINISTRATION - NON-PAY	4,473	193	4,666	4,347	93	4,440
A.3 - RESEARCH AND TRAINING	24,112	450	24,562	30,943	300	31,243
A.4 - DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD	5,388	4,462	9,850	4,120	4,600	8,720
A.5 TEAGASC - GRANT-IN-AID FOR GENERAL EXPENSES	109,639	1,500	111,139	113,880	2,400	116,280
A.6 - AN BORD BIA – GRANT-IN-AID FOR GENERAL EXPENSES	30,836	-	30,836	32,492	-	32,492
A.7 - MARINE INSTITUTE (GRANT-IN-AID)	7,801	8,500	26,301	19,309	10,000	29,309
A.8 - BORD IASCAIGH MHARA (GRANT-IN-AID)	12,516	6,500	19,016	27,930	11,750	39,680
A.9 - FOOD AID DONATIONS – WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME	20,000	-	20,000	20,000	-	20,000
A.10 - OTHER SERVICES	21,056	-	21,056	21,639	2,500	24,139
A.11 - HORSE AND GREYHOUND RACING FUND	58,556	9,444	68,000	64,556	9,444	74,000
A.12 - BEEF GENOMICS SCHEME	34,692	-	34,692	52,000	-	52,000
A.13 – CEDRA – RURAL INNOVATION AND DEVELOPMENT FUND	729	-	729	1,500	-	1,500
Programme Total:	356,129	31,049	387,178	409,728	41,003	450,815

Staff Numbers - Objective 1	2015	2016
DAFM	237	254
Teagasc	954	1,025
Bord Bia	91	115
Marine Institute	101	103
BIM	116	116

Objective One

Performance Budgeting for Objective One

Inputs :

PROGRAMME A: AGRI-FOOD, FORESTRY AND MARINE POLICY AND TRADE DEVELOPMENT.

Public Service Activity	2015 targets	2015 Outcomes	2016 Targets
1 Participating in policy negotiations & developments at national, EU, international levels, to support agri-food, fisheries and forestry competitiveness and development.	Secure beneficial outcomes for agri-food, forestry and fishing sectors in EU and international negotiations currently underway.	<p>Agreement was reached in September 2015 on a €500m package in response to the difficulties facing the EU agricultural sector. Following consultation with stakeholders, Ireland's total fund of 27.4 million was distributed in three ways - a flat-rate payment of €1,395 to all dairy farmers, a top-up of €800 to approx. 2,000 young dairy farmers, and a €1 million fund for pig producers.</p> <p>WTO members concluded their 10th Ministerial Conference on the 19th of December in Nairobi.</p> <p>In July 2015 the Commission announced a provisional agreement with Vietnam</p> <p>Following adoption of Council Conclusions in May 2015, the Commission announced a range of simplification measures in November. These included changes to direct payments guidelines (EFA rules in particular), greater flexibility on eligibility for voluntary coupled support for animals and in relation to the Young Farmers Scheme.</p> <p>Ireland has been successful, at EU level, in influencing the outcomes to discussions in regard to policy formulation and implementation concerning the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) arrangements and the European Timber Regulation (EUTR).</p> <p>Ireland has also effectively participated in and represented Ireland's interests in the various international fora on Forestry such as the United Nations Forum on Forests and the meetings of the pan European Forest Europe, up to and including the meetings of the Ministerial Conference.</p> <p>Agreement secured between Ireland, Belgium, UK, Spain, France & Netherlands on the first phase of the discards ban for whitefish and prawns.</p> <p>Balanced outcome to December TAC & Quota negotiations with overall stable fishing opportunities</p> <p>Ongoing progress towards achieving MSY for fish stocks of importance to Ireland</p>	<p>Secure beneficial outcomes for agri-food, forestry and fishing sectors in EU and international negotiations currently underway.</p> <p>To continue to effectively and successfully represent Ireland's interests in regard to Forestry at EU level and in the various international fora.</p>

Objective One

Performance Budgeting for Objective One

Public Service Activity	2015 targets	2015 Outcomes	2016 Targets
	<p>Continue Trade Team initiatives to facilitate trade and market access for exports of food, beverages, genomics and live animals.</p> <p>Successfully represent the interests of Irish agriculture in the development of climate and air quality policies</p> <p>Negotiate within the EU and articulate Irish position in relation to target to be assigned as part of 2030 Climate and Energy Framework</p>	<p>Incoming and outgoing trade visits and market access delegations organised (with China, USA, Nigeria, Ghana, New Zealand, Vietnam, Israel, Bangladesh, Egypt, Iran and Kazakhstan)</p> <p>Trade mission undertaken to the USA twice in 2015. There was also a trade mission to Nigeria and Ghana.</p> <p>St Patrick's day visit to Rome, Milan and Mali</p> <p>Secured technical adjustment to NECD amendments related to ammonia ceilings</p> <p>Active engagement with the Commission throughout the year to ensure proposals are in line with the agreed text on agriculture and forestry at paragraph 2.14 of the October 2014 Council Conclusions</p>	<p>Continue Trade Team initiatives to facilitate trade and market access for exports of food, beverages, genomics and live animals.</p> <p>Continue to protect this amendment in trilogue discussion during 2016</p> <p>Ensure that Appropriate burden sharing commitment for the agriculture sector is reflected in climate change policy documents.</p>
<p>2 Developing and implementing strategic policy proposals for the agriculture, food, forestry, and fisheries industry</p>	<p>Food Wise 2025, a new ten year strategy for the agri-food sector was launched in July 2015</p> <p>Progress commitments in the Programme for Government</p> <p>Implement actions in the 2015 Action Plan for Jobs (APJ)</p>	<p>Implementation of the 414 actions is driven by the High Level Implementation Committee (HLIC)</p> <p>PFG -24 of the 25 commitments have been completed or show ongoing substantive actions.</p> <p>DAFM and agencies have 29 headline actions involving 36 tasks were delivered under 2015 APJ</p>	<p>Publish Food Wise 2025 – One Year On Report</p> <p>Continue to implement the 330 Food Wise actions relevant to this year</p> <p>Implement the new Programme for Partnership</p> <p>Implement the actions in the 2016 APJ</p>

Objective One

Performance Budgeting for Objective One

Public Service Activity	2015 targets	2015 Outcomes	2016 Targets
3 Coordinating research activities and aligning research with strategic priorities for the sector's development	<p>Launch Call under DAFM research funding programmes.</p> <p>Publish the Strategic Research & Innovation Agenda for two NRPE Food related priority areas.</p> <p>Support Irish researchers to secure 2.25% of available budget over lifetime of Societal Challenge 2 of Horizon 2020.</p>	<p>Research Call launched in Oct. 2015. A new funding platform initiative was launched on a pilot basis in Dec.2015, allowing Industry to participate on a co-funded basis.</p> <p>Strategic research and innovation agenda (Sustainable Healthy Agri-Food Research Plan (SHARP) – for the 2 food priority areas was published in June 2015.</p> <p>A lifetime target of 2% of overall budget of €3.8 billion available was agreed by all agencies. This was well exceeded in the Calls in 2015 with Ireland's drawdown exceeding 3% of the available budget.</p> <p>DAFM continued to support all prospective applicants, identify / mobilise new applicants, and influence the shape of 2016/7 calls by inputting to the Commission's strategic</p>	<p>Develop new FIRM/Stimulus/CoFoRD Call for launch towards end 2016 or early 2017.</p> <p>Support Irish Researchers to secure 2% of available budget under Societal Challenge 2 of Horizon 2020.</p> <p>DAFM to continue to support all prospective applicants, identify / mobilise new applicants, and influence the shape of 2018/20 calls to suit Irish needs through active involvement in a various EU fora such as the SCAR Committee.</p> <p>Continue to support Irish researcher engagement in trans-EU and international research activities relevant to the strategic needs of the sector by participating in, and selectively providing funding for, initiatives under ERANet Cofunds, the FACCE & HDHL Joint Programming Initiatives, the US-Ireland R&D Partnership and the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural GHGs.</p>



Objective One

Performance Budgeting for Objective One

Programme A: Context Indicators

Context and Impact Indicators



Objective One EU Interactions



EU Interactions

2015 saw Latvia and Luxembourg share the role of President of the Council of the European Union – Latvia from January to June and Luxembourg from July to December. The main items discussed during 2015 included Simplification of the CAP, market developments in the dairy and pigmeat sector in particular, and the ongoing effects of the Russian ban on food imports from the EU. Discussions continued on a number of legislative proposals including the so-called four part package, organics and the merging of the school milk/school fruit & vegetable schemes.

CAP Simplification

Simplification of the CAP featured strongly during 2015 with Council conclusions adopted in May. Commissioner Hogan subsequently announced a range of measures in November, including;

- Changes to the direct payment guidelines, in particular with regard to EFAs
- More flexibility on eligibility conditions for voluntary coupled support for animals
- Greater flexibility on legal persons' eligibility for the Young Farmers' Scheme
- Changes to the IACS system, including preliminary cross checks at application stage
- Reducing the level of on-the-spot checks for 2016 in certain circumstances
- Increasing efficiency of sample selection
- Introduction of management rules for a system of collective claims under Pillar 2
- Further scope to modify declarations on the use of agricultural parcels for greening

There were calls from some Member States for the simplification initiative to be extended to include a review of the Basic Acts. The Commission focus remains on simplification of the Implementing and Delegated Acts, although Commissioner Hogan has not ruled out reviewing the Basic Acts in the future.

Common Fisheries Policy Reform

The new Common Fisheries Policy, negotiated under the Irish Presidency in 2013, which entered into force on 1 January 2014, provides the framework for the long term sustainability of fish stocks around our shores and involves significant changes to the long term approach to fisheries management and sustainability.

A key element of the new CFP is the introduction of a practical and phased discards policy. The initial step in this process began on 1 January 2015 with the commencement of the landing obligation for pelagic species. The introduction of the landing obligation for whitefish stocks will commence on a phased basis on the 1st January 2016. The phasing in period, up to 1 January 2019, means that fishermen will have time to adjust and implement changes that will allow for the avoidance of non target species.

Under the regional approach to decision making set out in the CFP, Ireland has worked with fellow Member States (UK, France, Spain, Belgium and the Netherlands) on developing appropriate measures for fisheries in the North Western Waters. The North Western Waters Member States Director's group met on 8 occasions in 2015 and there were a number of additional meetings of the North Western Waters subgroups. The group has worked closely with the Pelagic Advisory Council and has agreed a discards plan for pelagic stocks in North Western Waters which is now operational. The Joint Recommendations on the landing obligation for demersal fisheries, as agreed by all Member States of the North Western Waters Group, following consultation to the North West Waters Advisory Council, was forwarded by the Commission to the EU Scientific, Technical and Economics Committee for Fisheries (STECF) for evaluation in July 2015. Following completion of this evaluation a Commission Delegated Regulation was prepared by the Commission throughout the autumn and was subsequently published in the Official Journal of the European Union on the 23rd December 2015. This allows for the phased introduction of the landing obligation for demersal fisheries in North

Objective One EU Interactions

Western Waters from the 1st January 2016. Further work on the roll out of the landing obligation for demersal stocks will be carried out in early 2016 and will involve consultation with stakeholders in the North Western Waters Advisory Council.

The EU Fisheries Council agreed TACs and quotas for 2016 on the 15th December 2015. The Minister secured whitefish quotas amounting to a value of €131m, an increase of €10m on the 2015 figure. The Luxembourg Presidency further advanced conservation measures to support the protection of Seabass and these measures were also endorsed at the December Council.

Market situation

Market developments across the EU, particularly in the dairy and pigmeat sectors, continued to be monitored throughout 2015, taking account of factors such as the effects of the Russian ban on the importation of EU agricultural products, the continued softness of Chinese demand and the increased global production of milk. In the early part of the year, Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 2015/517 was introduced to allow Member States to arrange the payment of the super levy due in respect of the 2014/2015 milk year in three annual instalments, without interest. On pigmeat, the Commission introduced a new private storage scheme on 9 March - this was closed on 8 May amid early signs of recovery.

In September, at a specially convened extraordinary Council meeting, agreement was reached on a further €500m package of measures. The bulk of this aid - some €420M - was ring-fenced for direct, targeted aid for the dairy and pigmeat sectors. Ireland's allocation amounted to €13.7m, which was augmented with a further €13.7 million in national funding. Following consultation with stakeholders this was subsequently distributed in three ways - a flat-rate payment of €1,395 to all dairy farmers, a top-up of €800 to approx. 2,000 young dairy farmers, and a €1 million fund for pig producers. Other key aspects of the support package included funding for promotional measures on third country markets, enhanced rates and longer time periods for PSA schemes for SMP and butter, and the reintroduction of a PSA scheme for Cheese. In addition, advance payments of 70% under the direct payments scheme and 85% under rural development schemes were provided for. The package also recommended the establishment of an Agricultural Markets Task Force to examine issues such as market transparency, access for farmers to financial instruments and futures markets to hedge price risks, and options for strengthening farmers' collective actions.



Food Sector

Supporting Delegated and Implementing Acts were developed and approved in 2015. In November, the Commission increased the EU funding available for promotion programmes in the EU agri-food industry, as part of their 2016 Annual Work Programme. Funding is available for up to €30 million for the dairy and pigmeat programmes, with 70% of the funding targeted towards export markets.

Forestry Sector

International Forestry Division has responsibility for a wide range of policy issues at EU and international level and represented Ireland at various EU fora, including the European Council Working Party on Forestry, the Standing Forestry Committee and the EUTR /FLEGT Committee. A review of all aspects of the EU FLEGT Action Plan was initiated at EU level in 2015 and Ireland has inputted into this review

- International Forestry Division also represents Ireland at various international fora beyond the European Union such as the pan-European Forest Europe and the relevant United Nations groups, such as United Nation Forum on Forests and the FAO. Two Ministerial level meetings of Forest Europe were held back to back in Madrid on 20th -21st October 2015. The 7th Ministerial Conference of Forest Europe marked the 25th anniversary of Forest Europe.
- Back to back with the main Conference, an Extraordinary Ministerial Conference was convened to take note of the outcomes of the intergovernmental negotiations which were carried out from February 2012 to November 2013, for a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe. Despite the fact that all core elements linked to sustainable forest management were agreed to during the negotiation process, full consensus on the

Objective One EU Interactions

final draft agreement was not reached due to significant differences of view, mainly on institutional and compliance issues. At the Extraordinary Ministerial Conference, ministers acknowledged the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee and its outcomes, and committed to exploring possible ways to find common ground on the Legally Binding Agreement by 2020 at the latest.

- The United Nations Forum on Forestry (UNFF 11) also met successfully at UN Headquarters in New York over a two week period in May 2015. Agreement was reached on a number of important agenda items pertaining to global forestry. These included (i) a review of the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF) and (ii) the role of forests and Sustainable Forest Management in the context of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Rural Development Programme (RDP)

Ireland's 2014-2020 RDP was formally adopted by the EU Commission on 26 May 2015 and contains a suite of extensive measures that address all farming sectors and support community led local development by means of LEADER. The Programme is co-funded by the EU's European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and the national exchequer. EU support for the RDP via the EAFRD will amount to €2.19 billion over the 7-year Programme lifespan and this EU funding will be supplemented by exchequer funding to bring the total support available under the RDP to €3.9 billion. A number of schemes were launched in 2015, including the Green Low-Carbon Agri-Environment Scheme (GLAS), Targeted Agricultural Modernisation Scheme (TAMS II), the Organic Farming Scheme (OFS), the Beef Data & Genomics Programme, the Areas of Natural Constraints Scheme and the Collaborative Farming Scheme. An amendment to the RDP covering, inter alia, a new tillage investment support measure, a new Burren Scheme and changes to GLAS specifications, was formally submitted to the European Commission on 31 December 2015.

Russian Ban on EU Agriculture Products

The Russian ban on EU food imports remained in place throughout 2015 and had a direct effect on Irish exports to Russia, the value of which has significantly decreased when compared to the value of exports in 2014 (prior to the introduction of the ban in August 2014). The separate ban on the importation of pigs and pigmeat products imposed following the discovery of African Swine Fever (ASF) in wild boar in Lithuania in early 2014, also remained in place. These restrictions have had a significant impact on the EU pigmeat sector in particular, with Irish pigmeat prices falling to their lowest level in four years in 2015. Efforts to resolve the impasse are ongoing, with particular attention from an agriculture perspective focussed in the latter part of 2015 on potential progress with the Russian authorities on the ASF related ban.

Organic Farming Proposal

In March 2014, the Commission published a new Organic proposal seeking to further improve the regulation of the Organic Sector in the EU. It proposes to remove obstacles to the sustainable development of organic production in the EU, guaranteeing fair competition for farmers / operators through streamlining of production rules throughout the EU and improving consumer confidence in organic products by strengthening production rules and reinforcing controls. The overarching objective of the proposal is the sustainable development of the organic sector while maintaining consistency with the new CAP objectives.

Many technical and political meetings were held during the Greek and Italian Presidencies in 2014. The proposal proved difficult to progress. The Italian Presidency was very active in seeking to advance the proposal and agree a general approach. Many contentious issues remained unresolved in 2014 and, despite much effort and debate, progress was slow.



Objective One EU Interactions



2015 saw renewed activity at technical and political level to advance the proposal. The Latvian Presidency, despite many contentious issues remaining, succeeded in agreeing a general approach in June 2015. The Luxembourg Presidency was given a mandate in November 2015 to negotiate the proposal with the European Parliament and Commission. Two trilogies were held in late 2015. Substantial progress was made on some aspects of the proposal: scope and principles. The more contentious issues of controls, residues, and import regime etc were still outstanding. No agreement was reached by the end of 2015, with further trilogue discussions set to continue into 2016.

Three part package covering animal health, plant health and official controls

Good progress was made at technical working group meetings on the official controls proposal resulting in Coreper adopting an agreed approach to the proposal for Trilogue negotiations which are ongoing. The plant health package was agreed at Trilogue negotiations

School Schemes – Milk, Fruit and Vegetables

The Commission re-launched discussions on this proposal in the latter part of 2015, following considerable difficulties with it earlier in the year. The Luxembourg Presidency secured a deal on its final proposal in December, after securing the agreement of Council. Under the merged scheme, some €100 million per year has been allocated in national envelopes for the distribution of milk to school children, with €150 million allocated for fruit / vegetables.

Climate Energy

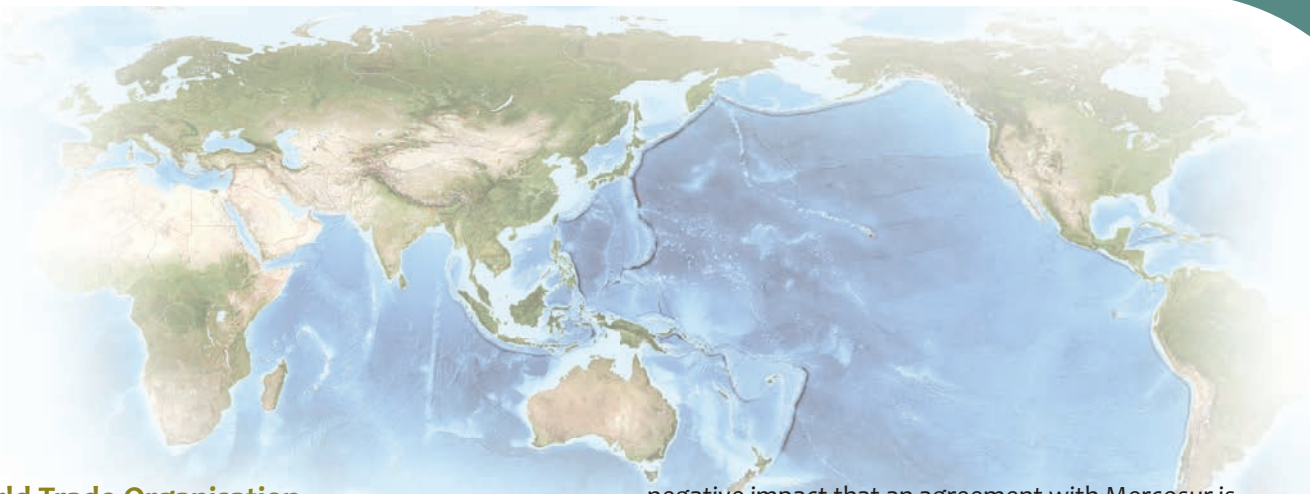
The EU Agriculture, Forests and Other Land Uses (AFOLU) team, which included representatives from DAFM, was closely involved in the preparation and negotiations for the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris in December 2015.

Ireland's target under the Paris Agreement is part of the EU target of an "at least 40% reduction in domestic greenhouse gas emissions compared to 1990", which was agreed at European Council in October 2014. DAFM continued to actively engage with the Commission during 2015 on negotiations on Member State shares of the effort to ensure future proposals are in line with the agreed text on agriculture and forestry at paragraph 2.14 of the October 2014 Council Conclusions.

In June 2015 DAFM, responded to the Commission consultation on the integration of agriculture, forestry and other land use into the 2030 EU climate and energy policy framework and participated in the follow up workshop on the outcome of this consultation.

It is anticipated that a legislative proposal will issue in 2016.

Objective One International Interactions



World Trade Organisation

WTO members concluded their 10th Ministerial Conference on the 19th of December in Nairobi. The “Nairobi Package” saw a sizable portion of the DDA mandate fulfilled. The outcome on agriculture is considered to be a balanced outcome for the EU with a number of offensive interests achieved such as a timeframes for eliminating subsidies, which should benefit the Least Developed Countries. A strong development outcome was also achieved on Rules of origin and services.

EU-US (TTIP)

Four rounds of negotiations took place during 2015, with the latest taking place in Miami from 19-23 October 2015. There were no large differences reported in these latest negotiations, and significant progress was achieved in core market access aspects. Revised tariff offers were exchanged, with 97% of tariff lines offered at duty elimination and a new “T” category created as a parameter for negotiated liberalisation periods. Commission has indicated that this would be the last tariff offer submitted by the EU before the “end game”. In overall terms, the level of ambition remains very high.

Canada CETA

The Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement with Canada, which will remove over 99% of tariffs, was concluded in September 2014. The text of the agreement underwent a process of legal review during 2015.

EU MERCOSUR

The Mercosur trade negotiations had been in suspension for a number of years, but political developments in late 2015, particularly in Argentina, generated a new momentum from the Mercosur side to make progress. A number of EU Member States, including Ireland, raised concerns with the European Commission about the

negative impact that an agreement with Mercosur is likely to have on the EU’s agricultural sector, and particularly the beef sector.

EU-Singapore

The negotiations were completed on 17 October 2014, following which a process of legal review commenced. This has now been put on hold pending the outcome of proceedings in the European Court of Justice in relation to whether the Commission has exclusive competence to negotiate the agreement, or shares such competence with the Council/Member States. Ireland submitted comments supporting the Council position in late 2015.

EU-Vietnam

In July 2015 the Commission announced a provisional trade agreement with Vietnam, involving full dismantling of 99%-plus of tariffs over a period of 7 years for the EU and 10 years for Vietnam.

EU – Japan

Six rounds of negotiations occurred during 2015 with the most recent taking place from 30 November to 4 December 2015 in Tokyo. Difficulties remained in relation to SPS and sustainability. As regards procurement, market access offers were exchanged, but considerable work remained to be done in this area. Work was also ongoing on achieving consensus in relation to Technical Barriers to Trade.

EU - China

Further rounds of EU-China investment agreement negotiations took place in 2015. The aim of this agreement is to remove market access barriers to investment and provide a high level of protection to investors and investments in EU and Chinese markets. It will replace the 26 existing Bilateral Investment Treaties between individual EU Member States and China by one single comprehensive investment agreement. So far, eight rounds of negotiations have taken place.

Objective One International Interactions

TRADE MISSIONS

In 2015, the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine led trade missions to the US and West Africa, with input from Bord Bia, Enterprise Ireland (EI), other Departments and the relevant Embassies.

February 2015 - US trade mission-New York/Washington/Boston

The Minister visited the US for Bord Bia beef launch events in New York, Washington DC and Boston. The New York and Boston leg of the trade mission particularly enabled the Minister to showcase Irish Beef to an enthusiastic American attendance at several key events. The Minister also met with the board of McDonalds and with the American Ireland Fund. In Washington, the Minister held several high-level political meetings, which allowed him to promote Irish beef access whilst acknowledging US support in lifting the BSE ban and in finalising the technical assessment.

September 2015 - US Trade Mission-Chicago

Minister Coveney visited Chicago for various trade events, with the highlight being an Irish beef launch for the Mid-West market for An Bord Bia. Other engagements included meetings with McDonalds, Schnuck Markets, an Ornuá promotion event and a visit to Carbery's American flavours operation Synergy.

November/December 2015 - West Africa

The Minister led a trade mission to Nigeria (Abuja and Lagos) and Ghana (Accra) from 29 November to 4 December 2015. The mission comprised 40 companies as well as representatives from Enterprise Ireland, Bord Bia, SFSI, DAFM and DFAT. The companies were from the Agri-food (meat and dairy), ICT, Financial Services, Education, Energy and Water sectors. Of particular note were the bilaterals with the Nigerian Federal Minister for Agriculture and the Ghanaian Minister for Agriculture, a visit to the Irish Aid part-funded UNHRD depot, the key note address at the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre, and the meeting with the embassy-supported Irish Business Network in Lagos.

Inward trade visits

In addition to outward trade missions, the Department hosted visiting delegations from a wide range of countries, including China, US, India, New Zealand, Iran, Kazakhstan, and Vietnam. The Department also hosted an important visit by Chinese Premier Li Keqiang who was accompanied by Minister for Agriculture Han Changfu to Ashford, Co Mayo in May 2015.

North / South co-operation

There were two North-South Ministerial Council (NSMC) Plenary meetings and one NSMC Agriculture sectoral meeting held in 2015. During the Agriculture sectoral meeting, held in February 2015, the Ministers welcomed the collaboration between both jurisdictions to maximise the drawdown of funding under Horizon 2020. They discussed the continued work on the delivery of the All-Island Animal Health and Welfare Strategy Plan and the developments in plans for implementation of the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) reforms. Under co-operation on rural development the Council agreed the provision of funding for the 2015/16 period to support the further development and promotion of social farming.

Within the framework of the All-Ireland Chalara Control Strategy a comprehensive review of policy objectives and options in relation to Ash Dieback was initiated at the end of 2015. The review, the work for which will be undertaken by officials from the Department and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) in Northern Ireland in 2016, will focus on the development of a new strategic approach to the disease for this island and amongst other things include a review and updating where required of the policy delivery mechanisms such as the Chalara Reconstitution Scheme.

Climate Change

In December 2015, 196 parties (195 countries and the EU) signed up to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, which seeks to limit global temperature increases to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursue efforts to limit the rise to less than 1.5 degrees through binding commitments to cut greenhouse gas emissions.

Significantly, the Agreement recognises the importance of protecting sustainable food production and includes a strong recognition of the role of forests in mitigating climate change and the need to account for both emissions and removals.

Objective One Food Security



UN - World Food Programme (WFP)

During 2015 the Department continued its support for the vital work of the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) with a total core multilateral contribution of €9.96 million. The Department also provided a further €10m, doubling multilateral support for WFP as part of the Irish Government's response to the current refugee crisis, including that arising from the conflict in Syria.

Africa Agri-Food Development Fund

The Africa Agri-Food Development Fund (AADF) is a joint initiative by this Department and Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DAFT). It was launched in 2012 by its' respective Ministers. Its' objective is to develop partnerships between the Irish Agri-Food Sector and African countries to support sustainable growth of the local food industry, build markets for local produce and support mutual trade between Ireland and Africa. During 2015 the fund continued its work with two Irish companies, the first project is bringing new efficiency-improving crop technologies to farmers in Ethiopia and Kenya and the second is using Irish expertise and knowledge to develop sustainable pig production in Uganda. The fund took on a third project in 2015 to locally produce and market an ethical brand of Ready-to-Use Complementary Food in Malawi to help prevent Chronic Malnutrition

UN- Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)

The Department ensured that Ireland's position on agricultural and development matters was well represented at various Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) meetings throughout the year. In October 2015, the sixth meeting of the reformed FAO Committee on Food Security (CFS) was held. The CFS is the main global forum for discussion and policy coherence on food security issues. It includes representation from all stakeholders including civil society representatives. At its' 2015 meeting CFS endorsed the document "Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises". It also endorsed the fourth version of the Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition which includes new paragraphs concerning the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems and on Promoting Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems.

In addition to paying Ireland's 2015 subscription of €1.7 million to FAO, further extra budgetary funding of €730,000 was provided by the Department in support of FAO's response to the refugee crisis related to the conflict in Syria.

Objective One National Policy Framework



Food Wise 2025

Food Wise 2025 sets out a ten year plan for the agri-food sector and is the successor to the ambitious Food Harvest 2020 strategy.

Background:

In November 2014, Minister Coveney initiated a process to develop a new strategic plan for the Irish agri-food sector up to 2025 with the formation of a Committee made up of 35 leading figures from the main stakeholders (private sector, academia, NGOs and state agencies) under the Chairmanship of John Moloney, ex CEO of Glanbia Group. As part of a Public Consultation exercise, 15 background papers and a questionnaire were prepared and these are available on the Department's website

www.agriculture.gov.ie/2025strategy

Food Wise 2025

Food Wise 2025 was officially launched by the Taoiseach on the 2nd July 2015.

The draft Environmental Analysis of the 2025 Agri-Food Strategy was also launched by Minister Coveney at the same time. There was an 8 week public consultation on the draft Environmental Analysis of the 2025 Agri-Food Strategy with the final report of the Environmental Analysis of the 2025 Agri-Food Strategy presented to Minister Coveney the end of November.

The Department published the Food Wise Implementation Plan in December in response to the Final Environmental Analysis Report and forms the final part of the Food Wise strategy process. It sets out a robust implementation process, to be driven by a High Level Implementation Committee (HLIC) involving all relevant Government Departments and State Agencies, and chaired by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

Food Wise 2025 is a strategic plan developed by the agri-food sector. Food Harvest was all about smart green growth targets. Food Wise 2025 is too, but it starts in a different place. While Food Harvest 2020 set ambitious targets for development of the industry, and then devised a strategy to meet these targets, Food Wise 2025 completes this process in reverse.

It identifies the opportunities, challenges, advantages and constraints ahead and devises an enabling strategy that will allow the sector to grow and prosper.

Food Wise 2025 is a statement of intent. It's essential message is that if we follow the actions identified in the strategy, we can expect to achieve the following growth projections by 2025, viz

Objective One National Policy Framework

- An 85% increase in the value of exports to €19 billion
- A 65% increase in the value of primary production to €10 billion
- A 70% increase in the sector's value addition to the economy to over €13 billion
- The creation of 23,000 additional jobs all along the supply chain from producer level to high-end value-added product development

Opportunity

The report starts by identifying the opportunities ahead arising from the huge increases in the demand for food over the next 30 years, with the global population set to increase by a further 2 billion to in excess of 9 billion by 2050 and the additional 3 billion consumers set to join the middle classes in emerging economies in Asia and Africa as a result of increased economic prosperity.

But the world is not only demanding more food. It is demanding more innovative food solutions; solutions which address lifestyle choices such as convenience, health and wellness, and food solutions which address life-stage requirements be they early years nutrition or healthy food options or nutraceuticals for ageing populations.

The report concludes that Ireland is well placed to meet these emerging demands as a world leader in the production of sustainable food and our longstanding and growing capacity to develop new innovative product solutions.

Essentially, our dairy, meat, seafood and prepared consumer food sectors have huge growth opportunities whether it be:

- The removal of EU milk quota regime restrictions
- The potential to increase the availability of raw material for the fish processing sector and the expansion of that sector
- Expansion and diversification of export markets for beef and pig meat products to meet increasing global protein demand
- Development of new and innovative products and processes to meet consumer demands for new high value-added functional and healthy foods
- The growing role of food and drink culture in promoting tourism in Ireland and the positive image of Ireland in emerging markets

Hence the theme of the report – Local Roots; Global Reach; Irish food is produced by thousands of farmers, fishermen and agri-food companies around the country and this locally produced food is exported to over 175 countries around the world.

Local Roots: Ireland's agri-food sector is embedded in rural communities and regions across the whole island in a manner which no other industry can match. Agri-food is the main economic driver in many rural and coastal areas. The direct and indirect impact of this sector in all corners of the country underlines its strategic importance to the wellbeing of the country. It is Ireland's foremost indigenous industry, using more domestic inputs than any other sector and predominantly owned by Irish people. This underlines the importance of the sector in rural areas through the multiplier effects of agri-food businesses, both farm enterprises or agri-food companies, purchasing goods and services in local economies and providing employment in all regions of the country.

Global Reach: Food Wise 2025 has identified significant growth opportunities across all sub-sectors of the Agri-food industry due

- to growing global demand for food
- to growth in economic prosperity in emerging countries leading to higher demand for high quality, safe and nutritious foods
- to demand for innovative and more sophisticated food solutions to address life-stage and lifestyle consumer choices and trends

Delivering growth

Food Wise identifies a number of areas that require strategic action if the industry is to capitalise on, deliver and maximise the growth opportunities in the years to 2025. These cover human capital, competitiveness, innovation and market development.

Objective One National Policy Framework



Food Wise 2025 identifies five main themes.

1. Sustainability

Sustainability is a key issue in this Report. In fact, Food Wise 2025 dedicates a full chapter to sustainability and contains a crucial inclusion that environmental protection and economic competitiveness should be considered as equal and complementary. It focuses on a number of actions that we need to take to address the sustainability issue and to maintain our environmentally sustainable credentials.

As part of the Food Wise process, a draft Environmental Analysis Report (incorporating an appropriate Assessment and a Strategic Environmental Assessment) were carried out in parallel and these environmental assessments have been taken into account in framing the Food Wise report.

There is a commitment to the continued development and adoption of sustainable processes and technologies all along the supply chain to ensure that Ireland's natural resources are protected and enhanced.

2. Human capital

Food Wise 2025 highlights the need for the attraction, retention and development of skills and talent right along the supply chain.

At producer level, it identifies a series of actions that support the development of ongoing and lifelong education, training and knowledge transfer programmes. This will give producers the tools and skills to develop their business enterprises, maximise their

profitability and use their resources in the most productive sustainable manner by enabling them to integrate the latest technologies and processes into their day to day operations.

At processing level, the focus is on enabling Irish agri-food companies to develop to their maximum potential. This involves helping them to attract and access the human capital they need to grow their companies, people with management and leadership capability, with the technical skills to absorb new research and innovation, with financial planning expertise, with experience in marketing. The strategy is to harness the capabilities of the state agencies, educational institutes and industry to work together to develop and enhance the skill sets of the Irish agri-food sector.

There is a major emphasis on enhancing marketing skills and on improving the foreign language capability of companies to facilitate access to new markets.

3. Competitiveness

Ireland has comparative advantages in terms of our sustainable, grass-fed production system, our positive business environment, our strong foundation and reputation in science-based innovation and product development and our access to a young well-educated population. But the report identifies competitiveness challenges at farm and processing level that must be addressed.

At farm level it identifies the need to:

- Develop measures to manage the impact of price and income volatility
- Review and update agri-taxation measures to address competitiveness issues
- Aid farm restructuring and land mobility
- Prioritise sustainable productivity improvements at producer level
- Improve access to finance

At processing level, the focus is on development of scale and on improved access to finance. Of course, not all competitiveness challenges are within the purview of the agri-food sector. The report also recommends influencing national initiatives to improve cost competitiveness in the Irish economy.

Objective One National Policy Framework

4. Market development

One of the key recommendations of the committee is that market development and prioritisation must be driven by in-depth consumer demand insights. The idea is to ensure that Irish products are targeted at the right markets and at the right segments within these markets. Consumer insights are expected to help the sector understand where its opportunities lie in emerging markets, so that businesses can focus on exports that deliver the best returns.

The report then looks to the way in which the State and State agencies can support development of markets by:

- The optimal deployment of human resources in overseas locations so that they can maximise support for trade development
- Prioritisation and targeting of markets through trade missions, Bord Bia activities etc.,
- Developing complementary cross government approaches to promote Ireland's positioning in emerging markets
- Enhancement of Origin Green, and most importantly
- Continuation of support to maintain Ireland's animal health status and our reputation for producing safe, high quality food

5. Innovation

The final cross cutting theme of the report looks at innovation and the productivity improvements that can be driven by innovation and the adoption of the latest technologies. It also examines how best to achieve value addition to sustainably produced primary materials. The conclusions here are that:

- Future agri-food research should be informed by consumer insights so as to improve the translation of research outputs into commercial products on the market
- At producer level, the imperative is to prioritise research and innovation investment in processes that improve productivity and the sustainability of production
- There should be greater coordination between industry, State agencies and research institutions to support research which will deliver commercial outputs and products
- Finally, there is a need to improve the capacity of agri-food companies to absorb research and innovation output from research bodies

Implementation of Food Wise 2025

The Department is committed to designing a robust implementation process to monitor progress and deliver on the ambitious projections in Food Wise 2025. Implementation of Food Wise will be driven by the High Level Implementation Committee (HLIC), chaired by the Minister of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and with participation from MAC members, other Government Departments and relevant State agencies.

The HLIC met twice in 2015 (September and November).

Behind all of these primary recommendations, there are multiple action points – over 400 in all – setting out in detail what needs to happen to achieve the growth projections by 2025. There are also specific action points for the various sectors including dairy, beef, sheep, pig meat, poultry and eggs, prepared consumer foods, alcoholic beverages, horticulture, cereals, seafood and forestry. These specific action points complement the cross-cutting themes of the strategy in terms of using innovation, enhancing market development, ensuring sustainability and addressing competitiveness.

Environmental protection and economic competitiveness are equal and complementary: one cannot be achieved at the expense of the other. An Environmental Analysis was carried out in parallel with the development of the Food Wise strategy, and fed into the process. In response to the final Environmental Analysis Report, the Implementation Plan for Food Wise (published in December 2015) has added several new sustainability actions to the implementation process. The Implementation Plan includes a supplementary list of Food Wise 2025 sustainability actions and recommendations, in response to the final Environmental Analysis Report (27 additional actions). An Environmental Sustainability Sub Committee of the HLIC has been established to monitor and drive the implementation of the sustainability actions.



Objective One National Policy Framework

Conclusion:

Food Wise 2025 identifies the significant growth which has occurred in the sector over the last few years, and the future global growth opportunities which Ireland is well placed to benefit from including: the ending of milk quotas; our reputation for food safety and controls; our natural competitive advantage in sustainable grass-based production; and a world class agri-food industry, backed by strong State support services.

The theme of Food Wise 2025 is “Local Roots, Global Reach”, reflecting the importance of gaining a deep understanding of what consumers, often in distant markets, really want, and communicating those messages back to Irish farmers and food companies. Equally important is to communicate key messages about what makes Irish food unique to the international market.

Getting our future priorities right will be fundamental to growing our most valuable indigenous industry. Food Wise 2025 captures the considerable complexity of this sector. It underlines its unique and special position within the Irish economy, and it illustrates the potential which exists for this sector to grow even further.

Figure 1: Food Wise 2025 Actions (414 actions)

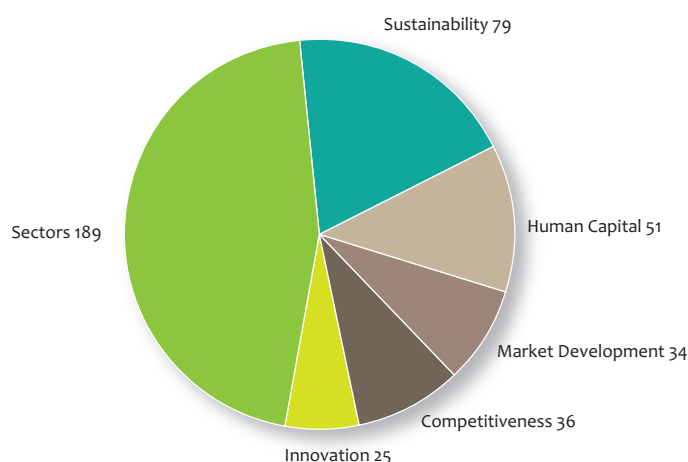
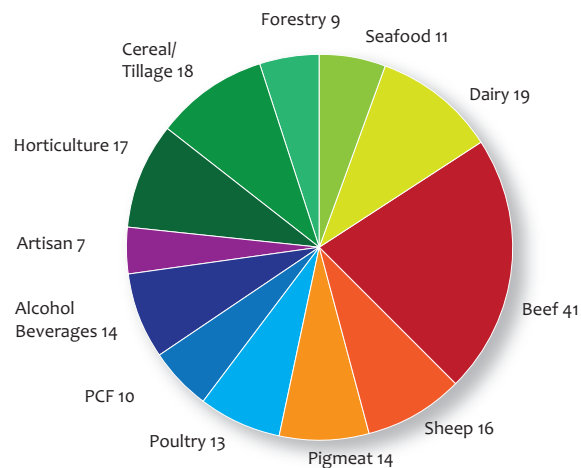


Figure 2: Food Wise 2025 Sectoral Actions (189)



Further information is available at <https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/foodwise2025/>

2015 Action Plan for Jobs

This Department and its agencies contributed to the Government's 2015 Action Plan for Jobs by undertaking 29 headline actions involving 36 tasks, on

- Establishing Food Wise 2025, a new ten year strategy for the agri-food sector
- Developing agri-food and marine SMEs
- Implementing a new Beef Genomics Scheme
- Driving innovation
- Developing Ireland's agri-food sustainability performance

Implementation of these actions is monitored by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Recovery and Jobs. All 2015 actions were achieved.

Access to Finance

There continues to be a significant take-up of the specific agri-food funds provided by the main banks. Data from the Central Bank shows that the 'primary industries' sector (consisting of primary agriculture, forestry and fishing) continues to be the largest component of new Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) lending, accounting for €725m or 22% of all new loans in the twelve months between September 2014 and September 2015. Primary agriculture accounted for €643m or 19% of the total. During the same period, new lending to Food and Beverage companies was €99m, or 3% of the total.

Objective One National Policy Framework

The Department, in cooperation with other State bodies, continues to explore additional funding mechanisms for the agri-food sector and for SMEs generally. The SBCI was established by the Government as a strategic funding company that aims to deliver lower cost, long-term, innovative and accessible funding to Irish SMEs, by offering tailored flexible products through its 'on-lending partners'. In February 2015, the SBCI announced their initial products including 'Agriculture Investment Loans', available for investment by agricultural SMEs (including farmers) involved in primary agricultural production, the processing of agricultural products or the marketing of agricultural products.

Since its launch the Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland (SBCI) has made €750 million of lower-cost loans available for Irish Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). In its latest report, the SBCI stated that of the 4,619 loans amounting to €172 million drawn down by SMEs, 26% had been accessed by the agriculture sector. This is by far the largest sector and accounts in part for a wide geographical spread in SBCI loans.

Agri-taxation

While taxation policy is primarily the responsibility of the Department of Finance and the taxation system is administered by the Office of the Revenue Commissioners, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine continuously liaise with them on 'agri-taxation' matters. There are a number of taxation measures which are exclusively aimed at farmers, while they can also avail of a number of other measures that are not exclusive to the sector. Government support to the primary agriculture sector through the taxation system has been estimated at some €350 million per annum.

The implementation of the 'Agri-taxation Review' (published as part of Budget 2015) continued in Budget 2016 with the addition of important new measures, including:

- A 'Family Transfer Partnerships' tax credit to assist succession. It will encourage important conversations within farm families about succession planning and facilitate the earlier inter-generational transfer of family farms.

- The removal of forestry income from the 'High Earners Restriction' for active foresters and farmers is hugely significant measure in support of national forestry policy. Forestry plays a huge role environmentally, economically and socially in rural areas and this is an important change.

Budget 2016 also included:

- A move towards more equity for the self-employed: as most farmers are self-employed, they will see their tax liability fall with the introduction of the 'Earned Income Credit' of €550. When combined with reduced USC rates, it will result in over €800 in additional net income, or 3.5%, based on the average 'Family Farm Income'.
- The renewal for a further three years of four important existing tax measures on stock relief and stamp duty relief and the retention of 90% Agricultural Relief on Capital Acquisitions Tax to facilitate inter-generational farm transfers.
- The publication of the Marine Taxation Review.

More information on agri-taxation, including a list of measures and the 'Agri-taxation Review', is available at www.agriculture.gov.ie/agri-foodindustry/agri-taxation/.

Legislation

In 2015, there were 60 Statutory Instruments signed into law providing legislation to underpin the Department's activities in almost all sectors within its remit. Details are available at www.agriculture.gov.ie/legislation/

In November 2015, the updated legislation on the importation of ash wood into the country was enacted. The Destructive Insects and Pests Acts 1958 and 1991 (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*) Order 2015 (S.I. No. 479 of 2015) restates the provisions contained in the previous Order as they pertain to plant and plant products but introduced a number of changes in relation to the documentary requirements around the importation of ash wood as well as the required pre-importation treatments.

¹ Average Across Sectors - €26,974, Teagasc National Farm Survey, 2014

Objective One National Policy Framework

Statistical and Analytical Reports

- **COFORD Connects Note on 'Woodflow and forest-based biomass energy use on the island of Ireland (2014)'**.
This COFORD Connects Note provides the 2014 woodflows for the Republic of Ireland and for the island of Ireland, together with an analysis of the use of forest-based biomass for energy production. It is largely based on national wood harvest and forest product trade data, compiled on behalf of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine <http://www.coford.ie/media/coford/content/publications/cofordarticles/CofordConnectsWoodflow120116.pdf>
- **Annual Forest Sector Statistics**
The Forest Service has the responsibility for the collection and publication of forest statistics. An annual forest statistics report had been published by the state since its foundation up to 1988, but was discontinued thereafter. This publication reinstates annual reporting on the forest estate and forest

industry and brings together previously published and new statistics into a single publication.

<http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/forestry/forestservicgeneralinformation/Annual%20Forest%20Sector%20Statistics%20%202015.pdf>

- **Annual Review and Outlook for Agriculture and Food 2014/2015.**
This contained a broad range of analysis and commentary relating to the performance of farm income and the agri-food sector in 2014. <http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/publications/2014/ARO2014010714.pdf>
- **Fact Sheet on Irish Agriculture.**
This regular analysis was reviewed, up-dated and disseminated widely in 2015.

Aggregate Farm Income

Table 1.1 Overview of 2015 Agricultural Output

	2014 Value €m	2015 Value €m	% change 2014/2015
Goods Output at Producer Prices	7,005.1	7,155.3	+2.1%
Contract Work		361.9	360
Subsidies less Taxes on Products	-33.7	-82.9	
Agricultural Output at Basic Prices	7,333.3	7,432.4	+1.4%
Intermediate Consumption	5,133.9	5,128.1	+0.1%
Gross Value added at Basic Prices	2,199.4	2,304.3	
Fixed Capital Consumption	729.2	729.2	
Net Added Value at Basic Prices	1,470.2	1,575.1	
Other Subsidies Less Taxes on Production	1,524.6	1,413.0	
Factor Income	2,994.8	2,988.1	
Compensation of Employees	496.0	491.0	
Operating Surplus	2,498.8	2,497.0	-0.1%

CSO - Output, Input & Income in Agriculture Preliminary Estimates, 2015

Primary production performed reasonably well in 2015 with the Central Statistics Office estimating that the value of Goods Output was €7.2bn, up over 2% on 2014. As there was very little change in the value of Agricultural Output and Intermediate Consumption, the overall result was a minimal drop (-0.1%) in operating surplus, which was valued at €2.5bn in 2015.

Objective One Innovation



Research Call and Awards 2015

A Call for Research proposals was launched in October 2015 under the three public good competitive research programmes: Food Institutional Research Measure (FIRM), Research Stimulus Fund (RSF) and the Council for Forest Research and Development (CoFoRD), including the Research Plus initiative. A new innovative industry co-funded 'Platform' Research Call was also launched in late 2015, with the aim of strengthening linkages between the research community and industry.

The content of the 2015 Call was heavily influenced by two strategic research and innovation agendas; 'Sustainable Healthy Agri-food Research Plan (SHARP)' and 'Forest Research Ireland (FORI)'. It is expected that grant awards arising from the 2015 Call will be announced in mid 2016.

In addition the Department partnered with the Irish Research Council on their 2015 Employment Based Postgraduate Programme, which resulted in the Department funding four projects in the area of agri-food. This allows companies to partner with research institutions to undertake a specific in-house programme of research part-funded by themselves and the State.

The Department continued to monitor progress on ongoing research grants previously awarded under FIRM, RSF and CoFoRD.

International Research Initiatives

In 2015 the Department continued to extend the use of competitive funding allocations to facilitate Irish researcher participation in a number of new European Research Area Networks (ERA-NETS) research calls such as ICT-Agri, which links ICT with agriculture. Work also progressed on the development of the Sumforest ERA-NET Call to be launched in March 2016.

The Department took the lead in delivering a Food Processing for Health Call in 2015 as part of the EU Joint Programming Initiative (JPI) 'A Healthy Diet for a Healthy Life' (HDHL) which has lead to the funding of two transnational research projects both with Irish participation. In 2015 the Department also agreed to support Irish research participation in another new JPI HDHL joint action, a Knowledge Hub in Malnutrition in the Elderly.

Furthermore, the Department continued in 2015 to lead Irish representation and strategically input into the ongoing progression of two agri-food relevant Joint Programming Initiatives (JPIs) with other EU Member States, namely 'A Healthy Diet for a Healthy Life' and 'Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change' (FACCE), as well as the broader Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases.

Objective One Innovation



Horizon 2020

Horizon 2020 (2014-20) is the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation. DAFM and the Marine Institute (MI) are responsible for Societal Challenge 2 (SC-2) which has a fund of €3.8 billion - including €850m allocated to the Bio-based Industries (BBI) Joint Undertaking. DAFM and MI provide National Delegates (ND) and National Contact Points (NCP) for SC-2 which covers Agri-food, Forestry and Marine activities, Rural Development and the Bioeconomy and also provides a representative to the BBI States Representative Group. Overall, the ND and NCP work actively within the Irish research community (academia, industry, local government and other rural actors) to ensure maximum drawdown of funding. The Government has set a national drawdown target of €1.25 billion for Horizon 2020 including the drawdown target of €77m (2%) from the SC2 budget. To date, Irish researchers have drawn down 3.5% of the budget in both the 2014 and 2015 calls totalling €15.6 million. There are also opportunities for North-South collaboration which has seen a total of €3.2 million drawn down collaboratively in the 2014/15 period. There are also other agri-food related opportunities in other parts of Horizon 2020.

Bioeconomy

The BioEire project, previously funded under the Department's Stimulus programme, is progressing well and is expected to shortly yield results that will point to the areas within the agri-food sector that have the most potential for development as part of Ireland's Bioeconomy. In addition, one of the areas open to applicants under the industry co-funded Innovation Platform instrument of the Department's 2015 Call was novel high value bio-refining type demonstration and scale-up activities.

Codex Alimentarius

Ireland's participation in Codex continued to be coordinated through the Irish Codex Contact Point based in the Research and Codex Division of the Department. The Department also continued to operate the Irish Codex Advisory Committee (ICAC) in 2015, which afforded the main stakeholders in Ireland an opportunity to contribute to the formulation of the Irish position on all Codex issues. Officials from the Department, other Government Departments and State Agencies represented Ireland at 8 sessions of different Codex Committee in 2015 and 12 EU Council Working Party meetings reflecting the mix of expertise needed to deal with the complex range of issues under discussion.

Competitive Research Funding Programmes

The Department operates three competitive research funding programmes, FIRM, Stimulus and the Council for Forest Research and Development (CoFoRD). Over the last five years, some €95m has been invested in agri-food, marine and forestry research by the Department and the 2015 Call for Research Proposals was launched in October 2015.

Sustainable Healthy Agri-food Research Plan

The Department published a new strategic research and innovation agenda 'Sustainable Healthy Agri-food Research Plan (SHARP)' for the agri-food sector in June 2015. This document was developed by the Department's own industry-led research and innovation advisory group (NAFRI) and endorsed by the Research Prioritisation Group (RPAG). It identifies a clear set of research priorities that will act as a blueprint to guide the funding decisions of all departments and agencies operating publicly funded research programmes over the coming years.

Objective One Food and Drinks Sector



Overview

The agriculture and food sector continued to play a vital role in Ireland's economic recovery in 2015. Total agri-food exports increased to €11.78 billion in 2015, with food and drink exports rising by c 3% to reach €10.8 billion, marking growth of over 51% since 2009. The strongest export performers were beverages, beef and seafood. Exports to the UK accounted for an estimated €4.4 billion (41% of total), other EU around €3 billion (28%) and third countries €3.4 billion (31%).

Drink Sector

Beverage exports are estimated to have increased by 10% to stand at €1.26 billion with double digit growth in Irish whiskey exports reaching a new high of €410 million and on track to deliver on the ambitious Vision for Irish Whiskey. Expansion continued with investment in existing and new distilleries.

Beer exports are estimated to have recorded volume growth to €265 million, a 10% increase on 2014 and including some craft beers. There were over 50 operational microbreweries in Ireland in 2015 with the figure set to exceed 100 by 2020.

Food Competitiveness Fund

Since 2010 the Food Competitiveness Fund has supported business transformation, lean manufacturing initiatives, management development and leadership, and innovation vouchers. Expenditure in 2015 on the measures operated by Enterprise Ireland on the Department's behalf amounted to €2.4 million.

Beef and Sheep-Meat Capital Investment Scheme

This scheme supports investment in scale and efficiency in primary processing, and added value in processing for retail, food service and manufacturing. Approvals issued in 2008. Managed by Enterprise Ireland and funded by the Department, payments in 2015 amounted to €3.3 million.

EU Co-Funded Promotion Programmes for Agricultural Products

EU funding @ 50% was available on a competitive basis in 2015 to promote agricultural products based on generic quality, safety, nutrition or production methods. Ireland had six programmes in 2015, each for three years, a seventh was approved with a 2016 start date.

■ 'Milk - A Force of Nature'

The programme, developed by 7 Member States, commenced in 2013. It aims to increase consumption by promoting milk's 'nutrient richness'. €800,000 is managed by the NDC (National Dairy Council). The interim evaluation notes that consumer perceptions of the benefits of regular consumption have increased, over 50% more consumers believing they should consume milk daily.

Objective One Food and Drinks Sector

■ 'Discover Farmhouse Cheese'

The programme, developed by Ireland, Germany and the Netherlands, commenced in 2013. It aims to increase consumption of farmhouse cheese and includes €300,000 for Ireland, funded 50:30:20 by the EU, the Department and industry (NDC, CAIS- Irish Farmhouse Cheese Association). An interim evaluation found that awareness and consumption of farmhouse cheese had risen.

■ 'Cheese up your Life'

This € 4.980 million programme developed by Ireland, France, the UK and Denmark, commenced in 2015 and aims to educate consumers about the quality and diversity of EU cheeses.

■ 'Just Add Mushrooms'

This €2.7 million programme to promote mushrooms on the UK market commenced in July 2013 and follows the earlier 'More to Mushrooms' campaign. Just Add Mushrooms aims to communicate their nutritional and culinary benefits and to increase consumption over three years. Co-ordinated by Bord Bia and funded 50:50 by the EU and mushroom producers, interim reports indicate an increase in sales and the belief that eating mushrooms counts as one of your 'five a day'.

■ 'European Lamb – Tasty, Easy, Quick'

This €6.4 million programme developed by Ireland, France and the UK. It commenced in January 2015 and it aims to establish a role for European lamb as an everyday meat and stresses the economic, social and environmental importance of sheep farming in rural areas.

■ 'Potatoes – more than a bit on the Side'

This €4.6 million programme, developed by Ireland and the UK, commenced in 2015. It aims to halt the long term decline in sales and consumption of fresh potatoes in Great Britain and Ireland.





EU Promotion Policy –

Regulation (EU) No 1144/2014

A new EU Promotion Policy for Agri-Food Products came into effect on 1 December 2015. It will have a large budget (€61m in 2013 rising to €200m in 2019) to promote opening of new markets and diversifying trading partners. With the logo 'Enjoy, it's from Europe', the policy aims to help trade professionals break into or consolidate international markets and to heighten consumer awareness of the work done by European farmers to produce quality products. Promotions must deliver added value based on European strategy. Processes are simplified and some mention of brands will be permitted. EU co-financing rises from 50% to 70-80%, there is no national funding.

Food Dudes Programme/School Fruit & Vegetables Scheme

Food Dudes is a behavior-changing programme to encourage primary schoolchildren to eat fruit and vegetables. Repeat tasting of fruit and vegetables over 16 days, role models (DVD adventures of Food Dudes Heroes) and small rewards to incentivize tasting increase consumption long term. Small red and green lunchboxes to bring fruit and vegetables regularly to school, posters and consumption charts re-inforce the impact during a follow-on period. Managed by Bord Bia, Food Dudes is funded by the Department and the EU School Fruit and Vegetables Scheme.

Fruit & Veg Repeat Tasting - Phase 1 – 16 days					
	&	Day 1	5	9	13
	&	Day 2	6	10	14
	&	Day 3	7	11	15
	&	Day 4	8	12	16
Growing the success of Irish food & horticulture					
Bord Bia					



New

The first roll-out of Food Dudes concluded in 2014 having reached 95% of all primary schools over a 10 year period. Food Dudes Boost was piloted in 2014 with a strong focus on Junior Cycle (Junior Infants to Second Class) who taste fruit and vegetables daily for 16 days. Senior Cycle students (Third Class to Sixth Class) have 8 tasting days. Food Dudes Boost reached 821 schools and 156,946 pupils in 2015.

Objective One Food and Drinks Sector

It is envisaged that over a 4 year period all 3,300 Irish primary schools will be offered the programme. Food Dudes has been evaluated several times and each evaluation has shown that it increased fruit and vegetable consumption in the target group and that this was sustained over time. An evaluation by UCD in 2011 showed that fruit consumption increased by c.20% (from 58.5% to 78.5%) and vegetable consumption by 42% (from 11.5% to 53.5%). UCD will undertake a further evaluation in 2016.

Geographical Indication Schemes for Food (GIs)

Within the EU the PDO (Protected Designation of Origin), PGI (Protected Geographical Indication) and TSG (Traditional Specialities Guaranteed) schemes offer potential to recognise quality foods that are linked to a geographical region. During 2015 the Department worked with a number of proposers to develop applications, and submitted two applications to the EU. Ireland has five food GIs - Blaa/Waterford Blaa, Clare Island Salmon, Connemara Hill Lamb, Imokilly Regato, and Timoleague Brown Pudding.

Artisan, Local and Speciality Food

In 2015, the development of artisan, local and speciality food was advanced through Bord Bia and Teagasc programmes. The Department funded €36,000 in bursaries for 20 students undertaking the Diploma in Speciality Food Production in University College Cork.. This Diploma meets skills recommendations in FoodWise 2025, combining insights into the challenges of creating a small food enterprise, the skills required to make a business successful and essential elements of food science. Students include speciality food producers, farmers who wish to add value to their farm produce, retailers who wish to expand into organic and artisan food sectors, restaurants and chefs.

Some 150 local food markets frequently provide an initial route to market for artisan producers.

Improving the European Food Supply Chain

The EU High Level Forum on the better functioning of the food supply chain completed its mandate during which a number of retailers and large companies signed up to a voluntary agreement on principles of good practice in commercial relations. Producer organisations invited the Commission to propose statutory provisions in this area. Ireland presented on the Competition and Consumer Protection Act, 2014 and planned grocery regulations. In June 2015 the Commission decided to establish a new High Level Forum to carry on the work until 2019.

Labelling

Correct labelling is important to protect both producers and consumers of quality products. EU rules on 'geographical indications' protect the names of foods, spirit drinks, wines and aromatised wines published in the EU quality register. Irish 'geographical indications' on the EU register include Connemara Hill Lamb, the Waterford Blaa / Blaa, Irish Whiskey, Irish Cream and Irish Poitín. The Department carries out annual spot retail inspections to check against misuse of such names and to ensure that fruit juices, coffee, jams and jellies are labelled in line with EU rules. On a technical note, certain plant proteins may now be used in place of gelatine in clarifying fruit juices (Commission Regulation (EU) No. 1040/2014).

A significant development in 2015 was the publication in May of FSAI Guidance Note No. 29 on the Use of the Marketing Terms " Artisan/Artisanal, Farmhouse, Traditional and Natural ". This defined Artisan food as food made in limited quantities by skilled craftspeople in a micro-enterprise ; Farmhouse as food made in a single location or farm by a micro-enterprise using characteristic local ingredients and Traditional as food produced in a particular way for at least 30 years. The term Natural may only be used where the food differs from all similar foods. The Guidance Note added to the profile given to artisan producers in FoodWise 2025.

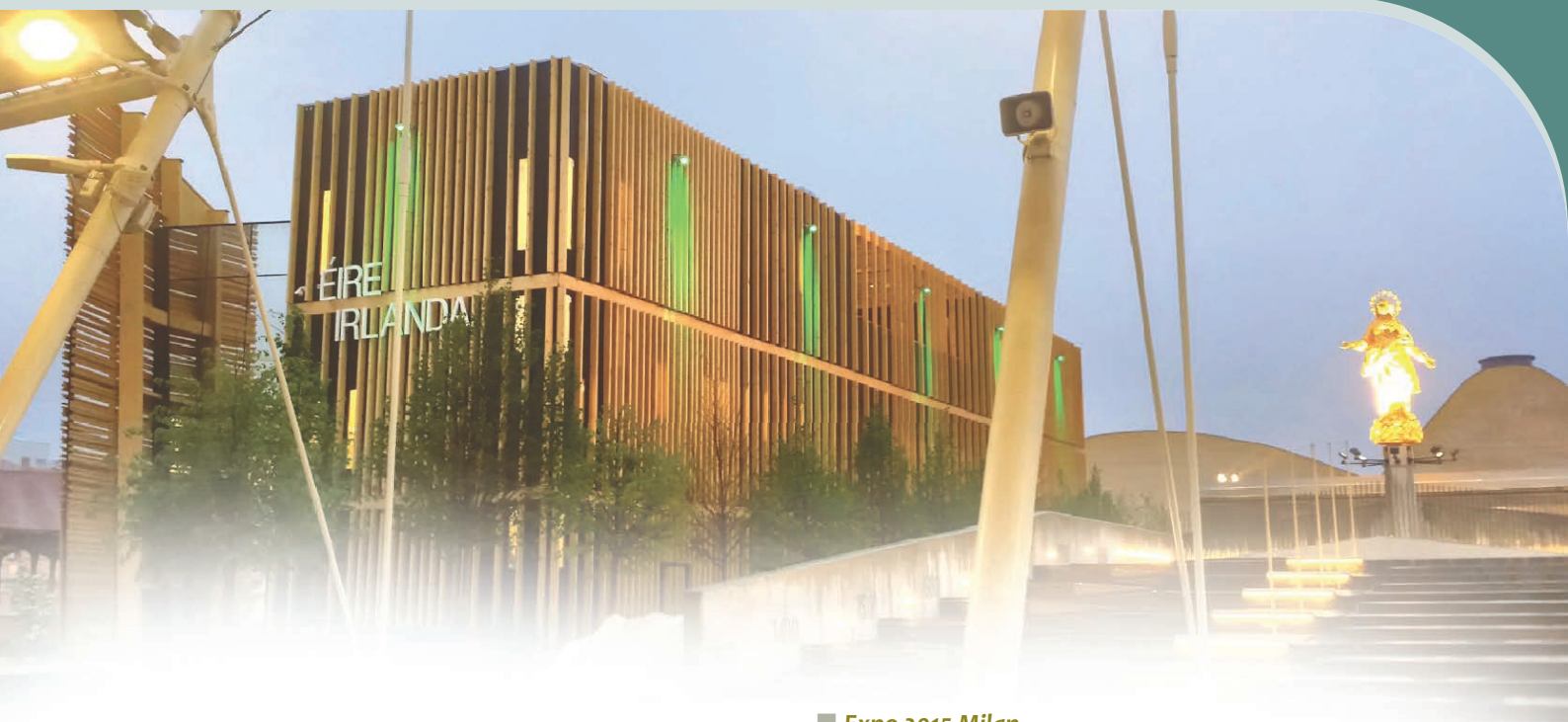
Bord Bia

Bord Bia supported Irish food and drink companies with market insight and expertise as they sought to build long-term trading relations in export markets in the UK, continental Europe and international markets. Initiatives in 2015 included :

■ **Food Academy:** a joint Bord Bia, SuperValu and Local Enterprise Offices (LEO) initiative to assist new/early-stage food business owners reached over 500 by end 2015, with a majority proceeding to SuperValu in-store trials and 24 participating in an Advance programme.

■ **Marketplace 2015:** In March 2015, some 400 international food buyers, joined by 150 Irish food and drink buyers, gathered in the Convention Centre Dublin for Marketplace 2015 for 5,000 prescheduled meetings and introductions with 185 Irish food and drink companies. By December 2015, Bord Bia had calculated the value of orders placed directly as a result of Marketplace 2015 at €9.2m, with the longer term figure expected to be a multiple of this. Buyers attending included 106 from Asia; 38 from the Middle East; 24 from North America; and 15 from Africa.

Objective One Food and Drinks Sector



■ Quality Assurance Schemes

The Bord Bia Quality logo (for beef, lamb, poultry, eggs and horticulture) denotes that the product has been produced in accordance with a Bord Bia Quality Assurance specification. Quality Symbols have grown in relevance and significance over the last number of years.

The Beef and Lamb Quality Assurance Scheme (BLQAS) received €5.8m in Department funding in 2015 to fund independent farm inspections and certification. By end 2015 the BLQAS had 45,388 members and accounted for over 90% of beef production. The Scheme measures carbon footprint and is configured to meet international standards EN 45011, ISO 17065 with accreditation by the INAB with accompanying independent verification.

■ Origin Green

Origin Green is a voluntary programme that commits Irish food and drink producers to operate in a verifiably sustainable manner. A deliverable under Food Wise 2025, it sets out Ireland's ambition to be a world leader in producing sustainable, high-quality food and drink products and is independently verified. Companies develop plans to improve sustainability in areas such as material sourcing, emissions, energy, waste, water, biodiversity. Origin Green builds on existing on-farm QA schemes

By end-2015, over 485 Irish food and drink manufacturers had signed up, with 128 companies, representing over 85% of exports, fully verified members. At farm level, over 45,000 beef farms, representing 90% of Ireland's beef production were QA members.

■ Expo 2015 Milan

Following a Government decision in 2014, Ireland was one of 145 countries at EXPO 2015 in Milan, whose theme “Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life” embraced technology, innovation, culture, traditions and creativity and how they relate to food and diet and global issues. The OPW managed the design, build and construction of the Pavilion. Origin Green, the Bord Bia sustainability initiative, was the leading theme of the exhibition and The Wild Atlantic Way featured strongly. The Ireland Pavilion won 2 awards, an Expo sustainability award (jointly with Mexico) for the sustainability of the design and materials used in the building and a Bronze medal for “theme development” for pavilions under 2,000metres. Funding was provided by the Department and Bord Bia.

Visits by President Higgins, An Taoiseach and Minister Coveney TD, the Italian Prime Minister, Matteo Renzi and Bono drew wide attention to Ireland's commitment to sustainable food with Origin Green showcasing Ireland's vision and practical commitment. Bord Bia hosted over 40 events on Origin Green with food companies, industry and farm bodies, EU and international groups. Cookery demonstrations were held for the visiting public. The Ireland Commissioner worked with Tourism Ireland (Milan) and Fáilte Ireland on tourism and cultural events.

The Ireland Pavilion welcomed over 2.5 million visitors from May to October (25m visited Expo 2015) A digital memory of the 'Ireland Pavilion' can be found at www.irelandexpo2015milan.com .

Objective One Primary Production



meat

Beef Production and Trade

The total number of cattle slaughtered at Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine approved plants in 2015 amounted to over 1.5 million head, a decrease of around 80,000 head or 5% on the 2014 figure. The number of steers slaughtered in 2015 rose by approximately 20,000 to 633,000 animals while the number of heifers slaughtered decreased significantly by 45,000 head to 413,000 animals. Young bull slaughtering decreased noticeably to 158,000, which was a drop of 30,000 and accounted for 19% of the total male adult kill in 2015. The kill for the year of young bulls has dropped significantly from 2012 when young bulls made up 30% of the male adult kill. While cow slaughtering also reduced by almost 18,000 to 320,000, it should be noted that cows accounted for 44% of the adult female slaughter².

The final CSO livestock survey for June 2015 showed that the total number of cattle in the country was stable at 6.963m, a marginal increase of 0.5% on June 2014. The beef cow herd decreased by 53,000 head or 4.7% in 2015. The dairy cow herd however, increased appreciably by 69,000 or 5.7%, a sign of confidence and expansion brought about by the abolition of quotas in April. Total male cattle numbers were up 1.1% and female cattle numbers rose slightly, 0.3%. There were marked reductions in the numbers of male and female cattle older than two years, 7 and 10%, with a smaller reduction in cattle between one and two years of age, 3.8% and

3.3%. Contrasting these figures were male and female cattle under one year old which rose by 10.3 and 7.3% respectively³.

Beef exports, excluding offal in 2015 were estimated at 503,000 tonnes and were valued at €2.41 billion, an increase of 6% on the 2014 figure. At 270,000 tonnes, beef going to the United Kingdom represented 54% of total Irish beef exports or €1.1 billion. Exports to Continental Europe were valued at €1 billion euros from 214,000 tonnes. Shipments of Irish beef to non-EU markets amounted to approximately 17,000 tonnes, down 6% on 2014. Some 98% of all Irish beef exports by volume went to EU countries rather than third country destinations⁴.

Live exports saw a 22% decrease on 2015 and stood at 180,000 head. Calf exports were strong to the Netherlands which mitigated the all but total closure of the Belgian market due to the instatement there of new rules with regards to IBR. Live exports to third countries decreased by 17,000 head due to the strong prices achieved in domestic markets and political instability in our traditional North African markets. There are currently three dedicated and three roll on-roll off vessels approved for the carriage of livestock by sea from Irish ports. Three more vessels are currently at various stages of the process for similar approval⁵.

Irish cattle prices in 2015 recovered from the difficult year previous and stood at 7.5% higher than 2014. Deadweight prices (excluding VAT) for the benchmark R3 steer grade averaged €3.98/kg for the year. Average prices for R3 Heifers in 2015 were €4.11/kg and O4 Cows were €3.37/kg. Average carcass weights increased across all categories by 1.5% or 5kg with Young bulls seeing the highest increase of 8.6kg a carcass⁶.

The costs of production for beef enterprises decreased in 2015 due to decreases in the volume of feed used attributable to a good grass growing year and also due to lower fuel prices. Combined with a price increase from 2014, this resulted in increased gross margins for beef enterprises. Overall a reduction in cattle supply coupled with some stability in consumption across the EU ensured Irish beef exports were sought after and that the price paid to producers recovered from 2014.

² Beef Carcase Classification and Price Reporting Annual Report 2015

³ Table 2 <http://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/er/clsjf/cropsandlivestocksurveyjunefinal2015/>

⁴ Bord Bia 2015-2016 Export Performance and Prospects

⁵ Annual Review and Outlook, Beef

⁶ <http://www.bordbia.ie/industry/farmers/pricetracking/cattle/pages/prices.aspx>

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Births to suckler cows in 2015 were up 2.2% on 2014 or 20,000 calves and when taken with the dairy herd led to an overall increase of 5.7% in calf registrations or 119,000 head for 2015. Interestingly, when calf registrations are examined on a breed basis the highest increase in percentage terms in 2015 came from the Angus and Hereford breeds, up 19.1% and 19.9% respectively with Friesians only increasing 3.1%⁷.

The outlook for the Irish Beef Sector in 2016 is mixed. Prices are expected to see some modest increases through the first half of the year due to a tightening of supply but forecasts suggest that supplies will recover and increase year on year by 60,000 to 80,000 head, leading to price pressure during the second half of the year. Teagasc have forecasted that fertiliser costs should remain similar to 2015 while feed prices may undergo a slight rise of 2%. This rise may be offset by a predicted reduction in fuel costs of 3% in 2016.

Beef Policy Developments

The Minister established the Beef Round Table in 2014 to consider the strategic approach needed for the development of the Beef Sector and it includes all of the main stakeholders in the sector including farm bodies, meat processors and Government Agencies. The meetings of the Roundtable in 2015 focused on long term strategic discussion for the future of the sector such as the role of Beef Producer Organisations, which will aim to rebalance the negotiating power of producers and facilitate increased knowledge transfer, with a Statutory Instrument signed in February 2016. All presentations from the Roundtable meetings are available on the Department's website at <http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmingsectors/beef/>

By the end of the year the Bord Bia Beef and Lamb Quality Assurance Scheme (BLQAS) included over 45,000 beef herds representing around 92% of national production.

The Beef Data and Genomics Programme (BDGP) was approved under article 28 of Regulation 1305/2013 on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and was launched in April 2015. Funding of €300m has been allocated for the BDGP which runs for 6 years and applies from 2015 to 2020.

The objectives of the BDGP are to:

1. To lower the intensity of GHG emissions by improving the quality and efficiency of the national beef herd.
2. To improve the genetic merits of the national beef herd through the collection of data and genotypes of selected animals which will allow for the application of genomic selection in the beef herd.

Participants are required to submit data on the cows, calves and bulls in their herd along with taking genomic samples from their animals. They will also be required to complete a training course and a carbon navigator by 31 October 2016. In 2018 and 2020, participants will be required to ensure that eligible females on their holding, equal to 20% and 50% of their reference animals, have been genotyped 4 or 5 star animals on the replacement index by the Irish Cattle Breeding Federation (ICBF) and that at least one stock bull will be 4 or 5 star, on the replacement or terminal index, by June 2019.

It is expected that through the use of genotyping and data collection that farmers will be more easily able to identify the best breeding stock from which to source their replacement animals and that the selection of these higher quality animals will ultimately lead to a reduction in emissions from the agricultural sector in Ireland.

29,865 applications were received to participate in the BDGP by the closing date of 5 June 2015. Payments amounting to €29m issued to almost 16,000 participants in December 2015 and payments will continue as herds become eligible.

Ireland's Rural Development Programme includes a provision for a new Knowledge Transfer programme which is informed by experience with the Beef Technology Adoption Programme (BTAP). The programme which commences in 2016 will move away from the task-based approach of the BTAP scheme and focus on key policy priorities including profitability, environmental sustainability, breeding and herd health, as well as allowing for more one-to-one time between the farmer and advisor. One to one engagement between the KT Facilitator and farmer will be complemented by group discussion and the sharing of experience and information between participants.

⁷ Bord Bia Supply Review and Outlook for Irish & EU Beef Sector

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Sheep sector

Overall the sheep and lamb sector in Ireland in 2015 was stable.

At 2,599,697 head slaughtered, there was a slight reduction of 0.2% in the throughput at Department-approved plants in 2015. This compares with a figure of 2,605,758 head for 2014. The number of animals imported directly for slaughter, from Northern Ireland, in 2015 was 337,381 head (adjusted calendar year figures). This compares with a figure of 372,519 head in 2014, a reduction of 9.4%.

The average factory price for the year (excluding VAT) was €4.83 /kg which represents an increase of 1.5% on the 2014 level. Lamb prices during the year followed approximately the same pattern as in 2014, with highs in April and lows in late October and early November. As a result of reduced feed and fuel prices in 2015 the costs of production for Irish mid-season lowland enterprises reduced slightly from 2014 and combined with an increase in factory prices resulted in increased gross margin for such enterprises in 2015.

As part of FoodWise 2025 a number of areas have been highlighted for the sheep sector. The viable national flock of around 3.5 million and the higher retail price of sheepmeat are pointed to as strengths for the sector while the difficulties involved in hill farming and the demographics of sheep farmers are current issues in the area. A number of actions have been set out to advance the sector in FoodWise, including a focus on adding value to exports by moving to pre-packaged cuts from entire carcasses and further work with regards to Sheep Ireland and their efforts to improve the genetic profile of the flock to drive profits on farm.

The Department has set out a number of schemes and incentives for sheep farmers to ensure their production systems remain viable and that they are made aware of the advantages of technological advances being made. STAP entered its third year in 2015 and 3850 farmers, within 259 groups, participated in it with each receiving €825 for their efforts. The scheme has been a huge success over its tenure and has given farmers an insight into some of the options available to them to increase profitability within their farms.

The Grassland Sheep Scheme was incorporated into the Basic Payment Scheme for individuals who previously received payments under the Grassland Sheep Scheme which had the effect of increasing the value of entitlements held by sheep farmers under the Basic Payment Scheme.

Under the new Rural Development Programme (RDP) provision has been made for improving efficiency and profitability in sheep production under the Knowledge Transfer measure which has a budget of €100m. The experience in STAP will inform the development of this measure. In addition to profitability, the emphasis will be on the key issues of business skills, environmental sustainability and herd health, with increased interaction between individual farmers and advisors in order to customise information exchange. The Knowledge Transfer Programme for the sheep sector will be launched in 2016 when the current STAP concludes.

Access to GLAS (Green Low-carbon Agri-environment Scheme) is on a tiered basis with those in Tier 1 receiving priority. Tier 1 participants are mainly those with Priority Environment Assets, which include Natura Land and Commonage. Many sheep farmers are commonage shareholders and will qualify for Tier 1 access. 38,000 farmers have been approved under the first two tranches of the Scheme.

Meat: Market Access

On the export front the Government continues to drive further the search for new markets for Irish meat. The Department in consultation with the meat industry and in cooperation with Bord Bia, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Irish Embassies abroad and the European Commission is constantly pushing for new markets and opportunities.

Significant progress was made on a wide range of market access issues in 2015, including:

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- The decision of the United States to lift the ban on the import of beef from Ireland to the US, which led to the reopening of the US market to Irish beef, for intact cuts of beef.
- This was followed by the approval and listing of six Irish beef establishments to export beef to the USA. An estimated 1,800 tonnes valued at €14 million was exported in 2015, which was a very positive start to the trade and with the potential for future development given that we are the first EU Member State to gain access.
- The decision of the Chinese authorities to lift the ban on the import of beef from Ireland to China and the agreement of The General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) to carry out a systems audit of Irish beef production in January 2016.
- The decision of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) to allow the import of beef from Ireland to Canada, following a detailed process involving the European Commission as well as other Member States (this process had involved an inspection visit to Ireland during 2014).
- The agreement of the authorities in the Philippines to extend Ireland's accreditation of plants permitted to export beef, sheepmeat and pigmeat to the Philippines beyond the previous deadline which was 23 August 2015.
- The agreement of the authorities in Oman to allow the import of beef and sheepmeat from Ireland.

Other developments during the year included:

- The agreement with the veterinary authorities in Hong Kong on a certificate to accompany the export of cooked meats from Ireland to Hong Kong.
- The outstanding elements of a beef questionnaire for South Korea were completed and submitted to the appropriate authorities in Korea.
- The agreement with the Maldives of veterinary health certificates for the export of Irish beef, sheepmeat and pigmeat.
- Working with the Vietnamese authorities to broaden a pigment certificate with Vietnam to include pigmeat offals.

There are continuing difficulties regarding access to Russia, an important traditional third country outlet for Irish meat, due to a combination of various factors. This includes the Russian Presidential ban, which during 2015 was extended for a further year until August 2016. Restoration of this important market remains a priority and the Department continues to support the efforts of the European Commission in this regard. The absence of

the Russian outlet has affected pigmeat exporters in particular. However, the opening of alternative markets such as Vietnam and the Philippines has mitigated this somewhat. Securing market access for live exports was also a priority in 2015 and progress was made with both Egypt and Turkey with further progress expected in 2016.



Pigmeat

The Irish pig sector experienced another challenging year in 2015, an 8% rise in domestic output, an increase of 3% in EU output and a difficult global market as a result of the Russian ban all added to the challenge. Throughput at export-approved plants totalled almost 3.16m, an increase of 6% compared to 2014 and prices dropped by an average of 9.8% during the year. While export volumes increased by an estimated 3%, values fell marginally by 2%, an estimated €570 million due to lower pig prices.

Trade to our largest single market, the UK remained stable in 2015, with the value of trade estimated at almost €350m, a rise of 2%. The shift in focus towards international markets was a feature due primarily to the absence of the Russian market. Exports of pigmeat to China, Ireland's second most important market reached over 40,000 tonnes with continuing markets in Vietnam, the Philippines, Japan and South Korea.

In total, international exports of Irish pigmeat are estimated to have grown by 3% to around 80,000 tonnes, valued at an estimated €130m

While exports performed well during 2015, it is important to note that the domestic market remains the primary volume outlet for Irish pig meat. However, domestically, it is estimated that pigmeat consumption was down by 1% at 149,000 tonnes for 2015.

Pig meat prices declined through weeks 1 to 9 of 2015 then rose each week to a 2015 peak in week 26 at €154.86 before dropping to a low of €135.67 in the last week of the year.

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In September following a call from several Member States, including Ireland, the EU Commission delivered a comprehensive package of support to address the current difficulties in the Irish and EU Pigmeat sector. The package reflected the majority of the demands presented by Ireland. An Aid to Private Storage Scheme was established for Pigmeat. In addition the Commission provided a financial package for pig (as well as dairy farmers) from which €0.5m in EU funding was provided for Irish pig farmers. The Government decided to match the EU funding for the sector thus providing for a €1m package. The funding is to be paid by June 2016.

From a disease aspect, two diseases have recently come to the fore in Europe, African Swine Fever (ASF) and Porcine Epidemic Diarrhoea (PEDv). Though neither disease has ever been recorded in Ireland, it is difficult to predict what impact they may have in the future.

However, pig meat remains the most consumed meat worldwide and this will continue to present opportunities for Irish producers, given our self-sufficiency and well-established position in key export markets.

Pig Industry Stakeholder Group

Given the strategic importance which the sector plays in Ireland's agri economy, a Pig Industry Stakeholder Group was established in 2015. It was chaired by Dr Sean Brady and membership was drawn from across the sector, including farmers and processors. This Group's remit was to address these challenges facing the sector under themes such as biosecurity, animal welfare, quality assurance, antibiotic usage, animal health, salmonella control programme, marketing, feed, non-intensive sector and other production models.

This was a very comprehensive exercise stretching over many months which also included a public consultation phase during which submissions were received and presented to the Committee by many different stakeholders.

The Group's remit was to compile a report with a view to presenting it to the High Level Implementation Committee overseeing the implementation of the Food Wise 2025 strategy.

Pig Salmonella Control Programme

The Pig Salmonella Control Programme (PSCP), co-funded between industry (€27,346) and the Department (€61,266 - signed off for payment in November 2015 but was not paid until January 2016), continued during 2015. Monthly samples are taken at factories from all producers who supply more than 200 pigs for slaughter per annum. During 2015, over 20,000 samples were taken and tested from 419 herds and this programme provides up-to-date results for both producers and processors on salmonella prevalence.

Teagasc/IFA Pig Joint Research and Advisory Programme

Launched in 2013, this programme is funded by a producer levy which was introduced that year. Through the Joint Programme, Teagasc will support Irish pig producers by providing advice, research and education across a range of issues of importance to the sector. The programme enables Teagasc to improve its services to the pig sector.



Poultry and Eggs



The poultry sector was assisted in 2015 with the easing of feed prices, however, it continued to face considerable challenges, chief among these was the significant pressure from imports. Poultry is normally reared under contract to processors, for a pre-agreed price, and therefore poultry producers are not subject to the same price fluctuations as other farmers.

Approximately 3,500 inspections were undertaken on poultry meat and egg establishments in 2015 under the Food Hygiene and Marketing Standards Legislation. Follow up action was taken, as necessary, with serious non-compliant operators targeted for an increased number of inspections. In addition, 282 egg samples were taken from food business operators and sent for various residue analyses in 2015 and all were compliant with the relevant legislative standards.

At the end of 2015, there were a total of 229 hen egg units registered with this Department, a slight increase on the 2014 figure. This total figure consisted of 159 Free Range Hen Egg Units accounting for 39% of total hen places and 37 Enriched Caged Hen Units accounting for 57.5% of total hen places. The remaining were 26 Organic Egg and 7 Barn Egg Units which made up 2.4% and 1.1% of total hen places respectively.

2015 saw Irish Egg Companies securing increased market access for hen eggs into third countries in the Middle East. There was a substantial increase in the number of consignments of Irish produced hen eggs exported by air freight for sale at retail level in the United Arab Emirates.

Under the new Rural Development Programme (RDP) provision has been made for improving efficiency and profitability in poultry production under the Knowledge Transfer measure which has a budget of €100m.

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Dairy Markets

2015 was a year of significant price volatility in the dairy sector brought about by a range of different factors. Whilst the longer term demographic and demand perspectives remain very positive, factors contributing to global dairy price volatility in 2015 included the Russian Ban and the softening of Chinese demand on one side, coupled with increased production among key global producers including the EU, US and New Zealand.

In Ireland, the weaker dairy market situation was reflected in the producer milk price, with Irish co-ops decreasing prices throughout the year. The average milk price paid to producers in 2015 was just over 30 cents per litre (inc. VAT and bonuses), which represented a decrease of over 20% on the previous year.

As was anticipated in a post quota abolition (see separate section) context, annual raw milk production in Ireland in 2015 showed a significant increase, even compared to 2014, during which a super-levy was incurred as producers ramped up supplies in advance of the April 1st final date.

Milk production in Ireland in 2015 was 6.6 Million Tonnes, an increase of 13.3% on the 2014 annual total. The vast majority of this increase was in the post quota timeframe with the period between April 1st and December 31st seeing an increase of approaching 17% versus the same period in 2014.

Notwithstanding a difficult international market context, exports of Irish dairy products and ingredients were valued at €3.24Bn, an increase of 4% on the previous year. For high value products such as infant formula and whey derivatives, and to a certain extent for butter and cheeses, the increase in value was not solely based on volume increases. This was not the case for more commoditised products, where, on increasingly competitive international markets, relative stability in aggregate value terms for milk powders and less value-added products came at the expense of significantly increased volumes compared to 2014.

EU Market Measures

The utilisation of EU Market measures, initially deployed in September 2014 in response to the Russian Federation Ban, was escalated in response to the prolonged nature of EU and Global dairy market turbulence.

SMP and butter PSA schemes have been made continuously available since September 2014, with the closing dates for applications having been extended on numerous occasions in the interim. Dates for intervention availability were brought forward in 2015 to January from March and extended from September to year end.

Whilst intervention was not utilised in the EU in the period up to the third-quarter, some 40,000 tonnes was utilised from then to year end, including some 2,000 tonnes sold in by Irish operators.

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An enhanced SMP PSA scheme was also given effect in October 2015, allowing for storage of up to one year. The initial cheese PSA scheme introduced in September 2014 was discontinued soon thereafter, given its significant utilisation in non-RF ban affected countries. Following ongoing discussions, a new revised Cheese PSA Scheme was also given effect in October 2015, amounting to 100,000 tonnes, some 30,000 of which had been utilised by year end, of which 2,000 tonnes was taken up by Irish operators.

Milk Production and Progress on Food Harvest 2020

Milk Quotas ended on 31 March 2015 and as a result the 'non adjusted' volume of milk sold to milk purchasers in 2015 increased by 3.5% year on year, from 5,470m litres in 2014 to 5,660m litres in 2015. The increase of 660m litres from the baseline of 5bn litres set out in the Food Harvest 2020 Report shows that the industry has achieved over 26% of the 2.5bn litre production increase target set in the Report. To put it in context though Ireland continues to represent a small proportion of total EU production, estimated at 4.65% for 2015, up from 3.92% in 2014. In global terms we produce less than 1% of the output.

Focus on Quota Abolition

- The dairy sector is a critical pillar of the Irish agri-food sector, accounting for more than 30% in value of agri-food exports.
- World dairy consumption is projected to rise considerably over the medium term and much of this will be driven by developing markets in Asia, the Middle and Far East and Africa.
- In this context the abolition of dairy quotas in 2015 was a key driver of the growth envisaged in successive Irish Strategy Documents for the Sector, most recently Food Wise 2025.
- The global market fundamentals for the sector remain positive, but price volatility, for both outputs and inputs, will challenge farmers, processors and others along the way.

Quota Abolition - Facts & Figures - Then & Now

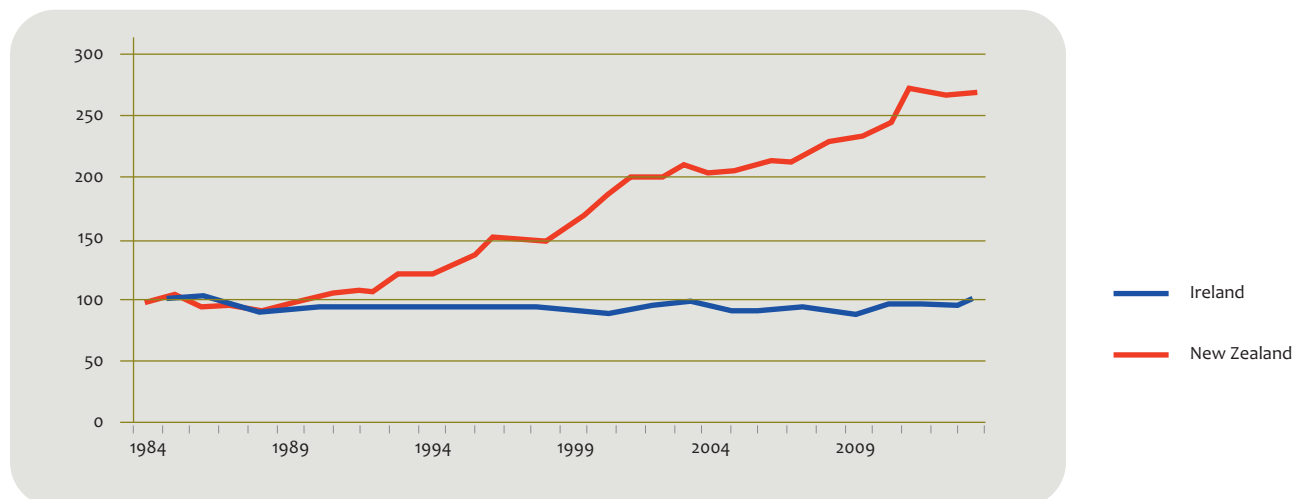
- In 1984 there were 80,000 dairy farmers, now there are 17,500.
- In 1984, the average cow produced 3,500 litres; it now produces 5,200 litres.
- In 1984, the average output per farm was 70,000 litres, it's now 330,000 litres. That's a 420% increase.
- In the period, the average herd size has almost quadrupled, from 18 cows to 64 cows.
- In 1984, milk produced per hectare stood at 6,800 litres and it now stands at approximately 10,500 litres.

Quota Abolition – Releasing Ireland's Potential

- In the years between the introduction of the EU milk quota regime in 1984 and its abolition in 2015, Ireland experienced a significant reduction in dairy farm numbers, dropping from 68,000 in the early eighties to just under 18,000 in 2013.
- This reduction reflected the reality that historic milk production in Ireland was curtailed by the milk quota regime, remaining artificially low for a country with vast dairy potential.
- This is the primary reason why the decision to abolish milk quotas with effect from 1 April 2015, which was made in the context of the CAP Health Check in 2008, was so strongly supported by Ireland.
- Dairy production in Ireland rose at a rate of 5.6% per annum in the years from 1975 to 1984, to a total of 5.2bn litres.
- Ireland's dairy production in 2013, one year prior to quota abolition, stood at approximately 5.4bn litres, which was roughly the same as it was in 1984, at quota introduction.
- In the same intervening period, production in New Zealand, with a grass-based system similar to Ireland's, increased from 7.6bn litres to about 19bn litres.
- These trends are elaborated upon in the graphic below, which represents an index of milk production for Ireland and New Zealand in the intervening years taking 1984 as a base year.

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Table 1.2
Index of Irish & New Zealand Milk Production 1984 - 2013 (1984=100)



Quota Abolition – Early EU Trends

- For the calendar year 2015, production increased in 20 EU Member States. For the April to December period post quota, increases were evident in 22 Member States.
- For Ireland, the rate of increase in production was 13.3% for the year as a whole and 16.6% for the April to December period.
- Whilst this reflected an increase of approximately 750 thousand tonnes in the year 2015, Ireland's proportion of total EU milk production remains below 4.5%.
- Tables 1.3 and 1.4 overleaf illustrate comparative increases in the top 6 EU Member States comparing both absolute and percentage changes in production when comparing 2015 with 2014 (full year).



Table 1.3 : Volume Production increase in 2015 (000 Tonnes)

COUNTRY	Total Production 2014	Total Production 2015	Absolute Increase	2015 % of Total EU Increase
Netherlands	12,473.0	13,326.0	853.0	22.5%
Ireland	5,816.2	6,590.7	774.4	20.4%
Germany	31,375.3	31,878.0	502.8	13.2%
United Kingdom	14,828.8	15,194.1	365.3	9.6%
Poland	10,581.4	10,869.2	287.8	7.6%
Belgium	3,689.4	3,955.8	266.3	7.0%

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Table 1.4 : Percentage Production increase in 2015

COUNTRY	Total Production 2014	Total Production 2015	Absolute Increase	2015 % of Total EU Increase
Ireland	5,816.2	6,590.7	774.4	13.3%
Luxembourg	305.6	332.5	27.0	8.8%
Belgium	3,689.4	3,955.8	266.3	7.2%
Netherlands	12,473.0	13,326.0	853.0	6.8%
Slovenia	531.7	553.7	22.0	4.1%
Czech Republic	2,414.1	2,500.4	86.3	3.6%
Hungary	1,470.2	1,522.7	52.5	3.6%

Statistics in Tables above taken from Eurostat Data

Super levy Instalment Scheme

Given the very high volumes of milk produced across the EU in the final year of the Milk Quota Regime, the consequent high levels of super levy incurred, and the declining milk prices, the EU Commission introduced a provision whereby Member States were permitted to facilitate the payment of the super levy by the milk producers in three annual instalments, without interest, on the understanding that the full amount of the levy was paid to the Commission by the Member State in year 1. The Department introduced a Super Levy Instalment Scheme in June 2015, backed by EU and national legislation, which allowed applicants pay at least one third of their levy by October 2015 and the Exchequer would pay the remaining on the understanding that applicants would, as per a signed written agreement, reimburse the Exchequer in ten equal instalments from the months of May to September in 2016 and 2017. Some 3,741 participants availed of the Scheme and the Exchequer contributed €35.6m to the EU Commission on their behalf. These applicants have committed to reimburse the Exchequer in the 10 equal instalments over the two years.

Dairy support package

In addition to the above and in recognition of the difficult environment milk producers are operating in, the EU Commission introduced a package of measures in October 2015 which contributed over €26m to the sector; €12.7m coming from the EU budget and the

remainder coming from the Exchequer. The package facilitated the payment of €1,395 to the 17,600 producers of milk in 2015 and also allowed the payment of a further €1,000 to c.1,600 of those producers who qualified under the Young Farmers Scheme.

Farm Partnerships

The ending of the milk quota regime saw the ending of the legal basis for the Teagasc operated Milk Production Partnerships. Given the high priority attached to the concept of partnership in Irish agriculture in enhancing efficiency, providing better work/life balance; addressing land mobility; and smoothing intergenerational succession, the Department has established a new Register of Farm Partnerships to take over from the Milk Production Partnership Register. Participation on the new register has been broadened to include enterprises in addition to dairying. Entry on the new register will be a pre condition for access to support schemes aimed at encouraging the development of farm partnerships in Irish agriculture, such as the Support for Collaborative Farming grant Scheme and the preferential stock relief for registered farm partnerships. The Department also ensures that the members of such registered partnerships are fully catered for in the implementation of the CAP Reform Schemes such as TAMS, GLAS, ANC, and BPS. By year end the number of farm partnerships on the Register stood at 1,100; 550 of which were former Milk Production Partnerships.

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crops

Cereals

The overall production of cereals for the country was estimated to be close on 2.6 million tonnes for 2015. This was up slightly from 2014 and is the highest cereal production figure since 1985. The recent trend of the increasing proportion of winter cereals being grown continued in 2015.

The total cereal area harvested in 2015 was 290,300ha. This represents a fall of 15,600ha from 2014. The area of winter barley exceeded winter wheat for the first time.

Wheat, barley and winter oats all exceeded their previous national yield records. Grain quality was also excellent reflecting an excellent growing season, a favourable grain fill period and fine weather at harvest.

Crop Variety Evaluation

Overall conditions for sowing both winter and spring crops were good. Harvesting conditions in 2015 were favourable. 316 varieties of grass, clover, barley, wheat, oats, forage maize, oilseed rape, beans and potatoes were evaluated in National, Recommended List and other trials in 2015. The varieties of each species considered most suitable for Irish producers were selected from these trials and published in *Recommended List Booklets* and on the Department's website; www.agriculture.gov.ie. The *National Catalogue of Agricultural Plant Varieties* (NCAPV) and the *National Journal of Plant Variety Rights* (PVR) were also compiled and published. In conjunction with the malting industry, DAFM continued evaluation work specifically to identify the most suitable barley varieties for malting.

Table 1.5 : Area, Yield and Production of Cereals 2015*

	Area (000 ha)	Yield (t/ha)	Production (000 tonnes)
Wheat	65.0		691
Winter	55.0	11	605
Spring	10.0	8.6	86
Barley	201.9		1,728
Winter	69.5	10.2	709
Spring	132.4	7.7	1,019
Oats	23.4		197
Winter	11.4	9.2	105
Spring	2.0	7.7	92
Totals	290.3		2,617

Source: Teagasc Harvest Report estimate

*refers to all production, which is subsequently sold or used alternatively typically for feed

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Table 1.6 : Number of Varieties Evaluated in 2015

Crop	Number
Cereals	165
Grass	83
Forage Maize	18
Oilseed Rape	18
Clover	12
Potatoes	16
Field Beans	4

* Varieties that are duplicated in different trials are excluded.

A successful Open Day was held in June in association with the Irish Seed Trade Association at one of the Department's crop evaluation centres at Kildalton Agricultural College, Piltown, Co. Kilkenny. Trial inspections and information visits for interested groups of breeders, agents, consultants and farmers were also hosted at the three DAFM centres and at other outside trial locations.

Seed Certification

For the main agricultural crops, the only seeds that may be marketed in Ireland are of those varieties listed on the *Irish National Catalogue of Agricultural Plant Varieties* (available at

<https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/publications/2014/NationalCatalogueAgriculturalPlantVarieties2014IRELAND070214.pdf>) or the EU Common Catalogue of Varieties of Agricultural Plant Species (available at http://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/propagation/catalogues/comcat_agri_2008/index_en.htm)

Seed must be certified to meet certain minimum quality standards for varietal identity, purity, germination capacity and disease levels. Certification involves inspection of growing crops and of the harvested seed or tubers, identity preservation during processing and official labelling.

Table 1.7 : Area of Crops Certified in 2015

Area of Crops Approved under the Seed Certification Scheme in 2015 (ha)	
Cereals	8,372
Potatoes	209
Winter Oilseed Rape	162
Beans	322

In 2015, all grass seed was imported as certified seed and the Department oversaw the formulation and labelling of grass seed mixtures

Seed Potato Laboratory

During 2015, 676 varieties (includes potato seedlings not yet named) were maintained in vitro at the Potato Laboratories, Tops, Raphoe, Co. Donegal. Approximately 43,000 potato mini-tubers from 32 different potato varieties and 6 unnamed potato seedlings were produced in virus-proof tunnels. Ten new potato seedlings were tested for distinctness, uniformity and stability as prescribed by the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV). A field reference collection of 558 named potato varieties was also maintained.

Following a successful audit by the Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO) in July 2015, the Entrustment Status of the Seed Potato Laboratory to perform technical examinations on its behalf for *Solanum tuberosum* L. was extended for a further 3 years.

Horticulture

Favourable overall weather conditions meant 2015 was a reasonably good year for most sectors within the Irish horticultural industry however the exceptionally mild weather from November onwards coupled with the wettest December on record made these two months very challenging for some field vegetable growers.

Competition within the retail trade for the dominant share of fresh fruit and vegetables sales remained intense during the year however, the effect of this was somewhat offset by the strength of sterling making UK imports less attractive. In 2015 the output value for the horticulture sector, excluding potatoes, was estimated at €348m.

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Table 1.8 : Horticulture Output Value at farm-gate, 2014-2015

Product	2014 € m	2015 € m	% change 2014 v 2015
Mushrooms	133.2	137.0	2.8
Field Vegetables	61.1	67.1	9.9
Protected Crops	85.3	86.1	0.9
Outdoor Fruit Crops	9.8	9.5	-2.3
Bulbs, outdoor flowers and foliage sector	5.9	8.1	38.1
Hardy nursery crops, and other horticulture sectors	40.8	40.6	-0.5
Total	336.1	348.4	3.7
Source:	DAFM estimates.		

During 2015, many Irish horticultural growers continued to make significant capital investments to improve production efficiency as well as the quality of their produce.

In total €3.96m in grant aid was paid to horticultural producers during 2015 under the Scheme of Investment Aid for the Development of the Commercial Horticulture Sector. This facilitated capital investment by growers of approximately €10m in specialist buildings and equipment.



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Cattle

DAFM provided funding of €1.01m to ICBF for projects aimed at improving profitability such as progeny testing, breeding information campaigns, research on genetic evaluations and data enhancements.

Specific highlights for ICBF in 2015 included;

- The successful operation of year 1 of the new Beef Data and Genomics Programme. This new RDP funded initiative paves the way for the implementation of Genomics into the National beef breeding programme.
- Continued high uptake of Genomically selected Dairy AI bulls, with 60% of recorded dairy inseminations being to these bulls. The results from both the Next Generation Herd in Moorepark, and the 'Daughter Proven' results continue to show that these are helping to accelerate the rate of genetic gain in the National dairy herd.
- Further enhancement of the National cattle breeding database. Large volumes of essential data from a range of sources such as commercial farms and industry stakeholders continue to be collected which are essential for the production of high quality breeding indexes.
- Increase in the number of dairy cows being milk recorded to nearly 0.65m cows, which is an increase of 8% on 2014.
- The Gene Ireland progeny test programme continues to test a range of young bulls that are suited to the unique grass based production conditions.

The Department also provided ICBF with a grant of €750,000 in 2015 to support its general operational activities.

Sheep

The National Sheep Breed Improvement Programme is operated by Sheep Ireland, working in conjunction with stakeholders. DAFM provided investment funding of €410,000 for a range of measures designed to implement a world class breeding programme. Based alongside the ICBF, significant progress was made in a range of areas in 2015 including;

livestock

- A sheep genomics project for the Irish sheep Industry called OVIGEN in partnership with Teagasc and UCD.
- Continued growth in the number of pedigree ram breeders participating in LambPlus.
- Continued growth in the proportion of performance recorded breeding rams presented for sale in 2015.
- New Terminal & Replacement Indices launched to replace the old 'Overall Sheep Value' Index.
- Expansion of the Sheep Ireland Central Progeny Test (CPT), by increasing the number of commercial ewes being performance recorded in this programme.
- Further links established with the Teagasc Better Farm sheep programme through data sharing.
- Further increase in commercial farmer awareness of the benefits of sheep genetic evaluations through many public events.
- Completely new Sheep Ireland website launched with improved data recording for LambPlus breeders.
- Launch of the Sheep Ireland Data Quality Index (DQI) – which will help to improve the quality and quantity of data recorded by LambPlus members.

The Department provided a further €190,000 to Sheep Ireland in general funding support in 2015.

Objective One Primary Production



Horse and Greyhound Racing Industries

Horse Racing Ireland was established under the 2001 Horse and Greyhound Racing Act, replacing the Irish Horse Racing Authority. Its mission statement is “to develop and promote Ireland as a world centre of excellence for horse racing and breeding”. It is estimated (in a study undertaken by Alan Dukes for the ITBA in October 2013) that the Irish bloodstock industry provides 14,000 jobs and generates €1.1bn in economic output.

The Horse and Greyhound Racing Fund was established under the 2001 Act for the purpose of giving support to the horse and greyhound racing industries. As specified in the Act, funds are distributed in an 80% -20% ratio between Horse Racing Ireland and Bord na gCon. In 2015, Horse Racing Ireland received €54.4m and Bord na gCon received €13.6m from the Fund.

Bord na gCon, a commercial state body, was established under the Greyhound Industry Act, 1958 to control greyhound racing and to improve and develop the industry. Bord na gCon estimates that the greyhound racing industry is responsible for sustaining in excess of 10,000 full and part-time jobs directly and indirectly, many in rural communities, and injects an estimated €500m into local economies. By the end of 2016, Bord na

gCon will have received more than €208m from the Fund. This allocation has contributed significantly to the improved facilities now available at greyhound tracks around Ireland.

During 2015, the Department maintained on-going liaison with Horse Racing Ireland, Bord na gCon and the Irish National Stud Company Ltd.* to oversee the compliance of each of the three Bodies with their statutory obligations and with the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies.

*The INS is a commercial State body operating under the aegis of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. Its principal activity is stud farming and related tourism. The company does not receive grant aid from the Exchequer.

Support for the non-thoroughbred horse industry

The Department recognises the very important contribution of the non-thoroughbred horse industry to the economy and to the social fabric of many communities throughout the country. The sector contributes substantially to the generation of income from a valuable alternative farm enterprise, to employment, tourism, rural development and the social community and cultural life of the country. In February 2015, the Minister launched a strategic report on the sector entitled “Reaching New Heights: Report of Irish Sport Horse Industry Strategy Committee”.

Objective One Primary Production

The report contained a wide range of recommendations for the development of the sport horse industry, including improving quality through more focussed breeding, developing the education and training structures for the transfer of knowledge to breeders, improving the marketing and sales capacity and deepening the institutional capacity to deliver on the goals of the strategy.

In 2015, the Department provided €1.820m to this sector by way of grant aid to Horse Sport Ireland for activities aimed at improving the quality of the Irish sport horse and at developing the sector. Included in this sum was an additional allocation of €600,000 to HSI to facilitate their plans to enhance marketing, to increase prize-money across a range of competitions and to stimulate some innovative events.

Equine Infrastructure Grant Scheme

Furthermore, in 2015, a total of €836,723 was provided by the Department towards equine related measures. These included

- Grant aid to the Irish Equine Centre for research on the development of mass spectrometry-based method for the detection of antibiotics in equines and Epidemiological analysis of *Clostridium difficile* in horses
- Grant aid was distributed across a variety of equine projects with the specific aim of improving equine quality. These included aid for the formulation of genetic indexes, DNA testing to verify pedigree, studbook establishment and development, performance testing and promotion of equines.
- Support for training initiatives by the Irish Thoroughbred Breeders Association (ITBA) and the Racing Academy and Centre of Education (RACE).



Objective Two

OBJECTIVE 2 - **FOOD SAFETY, ANIMAL** **HEALTH AND WELFARE** **AND PLANT HEALTH**



Objective Two

Performance Budgeting for Objective Two

High Level Objective: “Promote and enhance the already high standards of food safety, consumer protection, animal health and welfare and plant health.”

INPUTS – FINANCIAL & HUMAN RESOURCES

		2015 Budget Outturn			2016 Estimate		
		Current	Capital	Total	Current	Capital	Total
		€000	€000	€000	€000	€000	€000
B.1	ADMINISTRATION PAY	93,209	-	93,209	97,096	-	97,096
B.2	ADMINISTRATION NON PAY	27,436	3,425	30,860	30,688	7,092	37,780
B.3	FOOD SAFETY, PUBLIC HEALTH, ANIMAL HEALTH & PLANT HEALTH)	72,242	44	72,286	82,891	200	83,091
Programme Total:		192,887	3,469	196,355	210,675	7,292	217,967

Staff Numbers - Objective 2	2015	2016
DAFM	1591	1699



Objective Two

Performance Budgeting for Objective Two

Inputs :

PROGRAMME B: FOOD SAFETY, ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE AND PLANT HEALTH

Public Service Activity	2015 targets	2015 Outcomes	2016 Targets
1 Implementing effective food and feed safety and quality monitoring, inspection & control programmes to maintain high standards of food safety and consumer protection.	<p>To carry out: food safety and hygiene inspections: 9,400</p> <p>residue tests: 19,000</p> <p>Trichinella tests: 2,500 and other targeted audits to ensure FBO controls are comprehensive and fit for purpose</p>	<p>11,906 (Milk & Milk Product & Meat) food safety controls</p> <p>19,435 residue tests undertaken</p> <p>3,636 Trichinella tests carried out.</p> <p>Ireland's 2013 report on the Multi Annual National Control Plan sent to EU in August</p>	<p>To carry out:- 9,400 plus food safety and hygiene inspections</p> <p>19,000 residue tests</p> <p>2,500 Trichinella tests and other targeted audits to ensure FBO controls are comprehensive and fit for purpose</p>
2 Maintaining Ireland's high animal and plant health status.	<p>Number of TB tests on cattle to carry out: 8.4m.</p> <p>Retain brucellosis free (OBF) status by testing:- 20% dairy herds and 20% of non-dairy herds.</p> <p>Number of TSE tests on prescribed animals to carry out: 75,000.</p>	<p>8.4m TB tests carried out on cattle.</p> <p>Round test eliminated from beginning 2015 and pre-movement test abolished end Sept 2015.</p> <p>73,868 TSE tests were carried out on prescribed animals</p>	<p>Carry out 8.4m TB tests on cattle</p> <p>Retain brucellosis free (OBF) status by testing 250,000 samples from culled cows.</p> <p>Undertake approximately 80,000 TSE tests on prescribed animals</p>

Objective Two

Performance Budgeting for Objective Two

Public Service Activity	2015 targets	2015 Outcomes	2016 Targets
2 Maintaining Ireland's high animal and plant health status.	<p>Achieve 100% testing compliance on animals over 48 months.</p> <p>Number of on-farm and transport controls and inspections for animal health and welfare to carry out: 1,900</p> <p>Implement a plant health inspection programme including national emergency measures, if necessary</p>	<p>100% compliance was achieved on animals over 48 months.</p> <p>A total of 687 on-farm welfare inspections plus 1,619 transport inspections</p> <p>The national plant health inspection programme was fully implemented and no new national emergency measures were necessary in 2015</p> <p>Ongoing monitoring of the forest estate, including surveys undertaken in relation to Hymenoscyphus fraxineus (Ash Dieback) and Phytophthora ramorum disease outbreaks in Japanese larch respectively.</p>	<p>Carry out 600 on-farm and 1,600 transport checks for animal health and welfare</p> <p>Implement a plant health inspection programme including national emergency measures, if necessary</p>
3 Operating a secure, comprehensive and effective laboratory and research service for animals, plants and food products	<p>Maintain laboratory capacity to meet FSAI accreditation, and new service requirements from new programmes and emerging threats</p>	<p>Continued to develop and expand laboratory capacity to meet accreditation (446 tests accredited), FSAI and new service requirements from emerging threats</p>	<p>Continue to develop and expand laboratory capacity to meet accreditation (455 tests accredited), FSAI and new service requirements from emerging threats</p>



Objective Two

Performance Budgeting for Objective Two

Programme B: Context Indicators

Context and Impact Indicators



Objective Two Food Safety



Food Safety and Hygiene Controls

Food safety and hygiene standards continued to be assured in 2015 through the implementation by the Department of its service contract with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland. The Service Contract expired on 31 December 2015 but a new contract was agreed between the Department and FSAI for a three-year period. Its' ambit covers controls on

- Meat hygiene
- Milk and milk products
- Egg and egg products
- Pesticides
- Horticulture
- Organics
- Border Inspection Posts
- Residues
- Zoonoses Directive
- Certain Food labelling
- DAFM Laboratories

The Department held scheduled meetings with the FSAI during 2015 to review progress under the terms of the contract and provided quarterly and annual reports to the FSAI as required by the contract. Additionally, on an ongoing basis, it liaised closely with the FSAI on the investigation and close-out of food incidents notified on the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) as well as food safety complaints. Specifically in 2015 this Department investigated 75 food complaints of which 15 were rapid alerts on behalf of the FSAI and the European Commission. These ranged from conformance with labelling legislation, foreign objects allegedly found in products and quality issues. These investigations were in addition to the normal monitoring of food to ensure that the maximum acceptable level of residues is not exceeded.

The Directorate General for Health and Food Safety carried out two missions in 2015. Firstly an audit on Food of Animal Origin, in particular milk and milk products. It was found that the Irish control system of the dairy sector is well organised, documented procedures are in place to carry out official controls, and are implemented by the local inspectors. Official controls are carried out frequently, are risk based and well documented. Deficiencies and shortcomings are well identified. The second mission gathered information on the use of High Pressure Processing in the Food Industry and related controls. The Irish Food Business Organisations, Competent Authorities and the audit team welcomed this gathering of information approach and subsequent findings. The general conclusion was that High Pressure Processing is a promising technology with good demonstrated applications in the food industry.

Milk and Meat

Based on the fundamental principle that each food and feed business operator (FBO) is responsible for the safety of the food/feed they produce, all dairy and meat establishments must be compliant with the requirements of the European Food Hygiene Regulations (known as the “Hygiene Package”). Food Business Operators (FBOs) must also adhere to the internationally accepted HACCP (hazard analysis and critical control point) principles, which give FBOs the flexibility to adapt control systems to the specific requirements of their operation. Throughout 2015 the Department continued to monitor and verify that all such approved establishments remained compliant these principles. The Department maintains a list of approved and registered food establishments on its website.

Objective Two Food Safety

(<http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/foodsafetyconsumerissues/dafmapprovedestablishments/>)

The Department also carries out its own risk-based inspections at establishments under its supervision. 4,890 inspections were carried out on meat establishments in 2015 to verify that the relevant legislative requirements are being fulfilled at all stages of production, processing and distribution. The corresponding number of inspections in dairy establishments was 7,016. 521 notices were served on FBOs, notifying them of infringements under the Hygiene Regulations; and follow-up action was taken as necessary.

Horticulture

The Department continued to increase the number and intensity of its hygiene inspections at primary horticultural level in 2015.

In addition to the increased number of routine hygiene inspections for horticultural producers, increased sampling for microbial and chemical contaminants continued in 2015. There were 710 samples of food analysed for *Salmonella spp.*, *Listeria monocytogenes* or *E. coli* and 106 samples of water used for irrigation and washing of horticultural produce.

There were a total of 165 inspections of businesses involved in the production of horticultural food products by the Department in 2015. There were 108 Compliance Notices issued notifying FBOs of non-compliances under the Hygiene Regulations and follow-up action was taken as necessary. Five compliance notices were issued for serious non-compliances; these related to microbial pathogens found in food or serious breaches in food safety legislation. The majority of non-compliances were minor and related to general hygiene measures.

A survey of all horticultural producers was undertaken and this enabled further enhancement of the risk analysis system for this sector.

Feedingstuffs

A total of 1,154 inspections were carried out on 773 animal feed businesses in 2015. As part of this inspection programme, 955 legal notices were issued to Feed Business Operators for infringements under the Feed Hygiene and Feed Marketing legislation. None of the 955 infringements notified during inspections were deemed to be serious from a feed / food safety perspective.

Infringements associated with HACCP procedures accounted for the majority of legal notices, totalling 70%. Labelling infringements represented 10% while infringements relating to hygiene accounted for 6% and traceability for 6% of the total. The remaining 8% of infringements corresponded to various other aspects of feed production. All infringements notified to FBOs were recorded, followed up and resolved.

A total of 1,390 samples of animal feed were taken from feed business operators and sent for various analyses in 2015. There were 475 cases where the analytical results were found to be outside the tolerance levels. None of the products tested out of tolerance were deemed serious from a feed / food safety perspective. All analytical infringements, including the aforementioned, have been recorded, followed up and resolved as part of the inspection process.

Overall, the feed industry is very aware of its obligations in relation to feed and food safety legislative requirements and have invested heavily in systems to ensure that standards are met.

Residues Surveillance in Food

The Department implements a comprehensive National Residue Plan designed to protect consumers from illegal residues in food. During 2015, 19,400 samples were taken from eleven food producing species and tested for a range of substances that fall into four broad categories: banned substances such as growth-promoting hormones; approved veterinary medicines; animal feed additives; and environmental contaminants. Samples were taken on farms, at slaughter plants and at primary processing plants and packing plants. These are analysed at approved laboratories that hold accreditation to the International Standard (ISO 17025), including this Department's laboratories as well the Irish Equine Centre, the State Laboratory and the Teagasc Food Research Centre. To enhance consumer protection, analytical capability is continuously updated through the extension of the range of substances monitored and through improvements in the sensitivity of analytical methods. All positive results were investigated on the farm of origin with a view to taking the necessary enforcement measures up to and including legal action.

Official testing on animal and animal products is complemented by a statutorily based regime under which primary processors are obliged to implement residue-monitoring measures. This regime, which is subject to Department scrutiny, involves an annual

Objective Two Food Safety

submission to the Department of individual residue testing plans and makes it mandatory for processors to subject the supplier to significantly intensified monitoring, where animals or animal products test positive.

Veterinary Medicines and Residue Surveillance

Legal and proper use of approved veterinary medicines (including vaccines) plays an important part in ensuring the continued high animal health status of our food producing animals and of the health of consumers. The Department, in co-operation with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland and the Health Products Regulatory Authority (formerly the Irish Medicines Board), oversees and implements controls in these areas under SI No 786/2007 and SI No 183/2009. These deal with the approval, distribution and use of veterinary medicines, implementation of residue surveillance measures (e.g. National Residue Plan) and follow-up enforcement activities. In addition, in conjunction with Customs & Excise, the Department has in place a comprehensive surveillance plan monitoring internet-sourced imports of veterinary medicines and takes appropriate actions at import and farm level.

Pesticide Residues

In addition to the residue testing on food of animal origin, a comprehensive pesticide residue control and testing programme is undertaken by the Department. These tests, which incorporate the EU coordinated programme, are conducted primarily on cereals and horticultural products. Further details on these tests are set out in the Agricultural Laboratories section of this chapter.

Approval, Inspection and Control of Plant Protection and Biocidal Products

Pesticide active substances contained in plant protection and biocidal products are approved centrally by the European Commission on the basis of detailed assessments prepared by Member State regulatory authorities. Pesticide products containing approved active substances are authorised at national level in accordance with zonal evaluation, mutual recognition and decision-making criteria agreed at EU level. Detailed assessment and peer review work progressed for 7 active substances during 2015, with 3 substances completing the regulatory process. Detailed assessment work for 17 products was progressed during 2015 with 4 completing the evaluation process.

Only plant protection and biocidal products which are included in the Official Register may be placed on the market. Some 1,155 plant protection products (PPPs) containing 221 active substances, were included on the Register at the end of 2015. Details are available on the Department's website which may be interrogated by product name, by active substance or by function and crop. At the end of 2015, 2,642 products were included on the Biocidal Product Register in Ireland.

The Department continued to roll out various aspects of the implementation of the Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive. An online registration facility is available for advisors, distributors, professional users and inspectors of pesticide application equipment. The qualifying course to become a registered Pesticide Advisor is the Level 7 Professional Diploma in IPM and Sustainable Use of Pesticides, awarded by UCD (or equivalent). This course commenced in 2014, since when 35 people enrolled to complete the course. New pesticide advisors wishing to register must hold this Diploma or an equivalent qualification. New courses for distributors have been available from accredited training providers since 2014 and approximately 500 distributors registered with DAFM during 2015. Professional user courses are available from a number of accredited training providers and approximately 11,500 professional users applications were received in 2015. Teagasc, in conjunction with DAFM, have been delivering training for inspectors of pesticide application equipment since 2014. By the end of 2015, in excess of 160 people had participated in the training.

The Department in collaboration with the Environmental Protection Agency, Teagasc, local authorities, WEEE Ireland, European Recycling Platform, Enva Ireland Ltd. facilitated an initiative allowing the collection, recovery and disposal of hazardous waste from farms. This waste comprised largely of waste oils, pesticides, veterinary healthcare products, paint, oil filters, acids/bases as well as batteries and waste electrical equipment. In 2015, 10 collection centres were operated with over 2,000 farmers using the centres to dispose of nearly 175 tonnes of hazardous wastes and nearly 60 tonnes of batteries and waste electronic equipment in a safe and responsible manner, protecting human health, and the environment.

The Department carries out follow up actions in relation to breaches of Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) and unauthorised uses identified by the Pesticide Control Laboratory. In 2015, the surveillance programme sampled and analysed 750 food items comprising fruit &

Objective Two Food Safety

vegetables, cereals and processed products. MRLs for pesticide residues in food were exceeded in 20 of the samples analysed (2.7%). Fifteen breaches related to produce of non-Irish origin, but no consumer health risk was identified. In each instance, warning letters were issued advising these wholesaler and officials that the produce would be subjected to statutory action if a repeat infringement was detected. The remaining 5 breaches related to produce of Irish origin. No intake concern was identified for consumers of the produce. The growers in question were investigated for possible cause of the non-compliances. In addition, occurrences of unauthorised uses of PPPs were investigated and follow-up action initiated, including targeting of produce for future sampling. There were 9 additional breaches relating to import controls restrictions and follow up actions. Four consignments were refused entry or destroyed prior to being placed on the market, 3 were sent back to the point of origin, and 2 were released on the basis that the MRL was not exceeded when measurement uncertainty is applied.

Animal By-Products

Animal by-products (ABPs) are defined as 'entire bodies or parts of animals, products of animal origin or other products obtained from animals that are not intended for human consumption'. ABPs can present a risk to human and animal health and therefore their use or disposal is covered by comprehensive EU Regulations. The basic principles underlying the legislation relate to traceability, critical control points and one-way flow to prevent recontamination. The main concern relates to ABPs re-entering the human food chain and ABPs being fed inappropriately to animals. The regulations categorise ABPs by risk, specify disposal routes and set standards for premises, hygiene, processing and transport. Plants involved in ABPs are approved by this Department to handle different categories of material, with Category 3 being low risk material and Category 1 being higher risk.

Approximately 500,000 tonnes of raw ABPs are produced each year by the meat industry and are generally rendered to produce meat-and-bone-meal (MBM) and tallow. Other categories of ABPs, which do not spring directly from the meat industry, are more commonly used as feedstock for composting or anaerobic digestion. These include former foodstuffs in particular, which account for a large portion of the hundreds of thousands of tonnes of green and food waste arising in this country each year.

Statutory Instrument No. 187 of 2014 gives legal effect to EU ABP Regulations. While the EU Regulations are directly applicable, the S.I. provides for enforcement measures, appointment of authorised officers and derogations which the EU Regulations allow Member States to exercise.

Fallen Animal Testing/Disposal

The Department provides financial support for the collection of certain fallen animals, in particular bovines over 48 months of age, numbering approximately 50,000 per annum, for sampling as required under the ongoing national BSE surveillance programme.

Selected numbers of sheep (20,000 annually) and smaller numbers of goats are also being tested for scrapie.

The Department has approved 39 knackeries under the ABP regulations for the proper disposal of fallen animals.

Import Controls on Animal Products

1,383 importers of products of animal origin are registered with the Department. During 2015 there were 1,250 consignments of animal and fishery products amounting to 17.3 m kg (18.2m kg in year 2014) approved for entry into the EU through the Border Inspection Points (BIPs), of these 9 consignments were rejected.

Table 1.9 : Licences or authorisations for these products issued in accordance with national rules are as follows:

	2014	2015
Trade & Research Samples:	782	722
Non-harmonised products:	14	23
Re-imported consignments:	17	20
Pathogenic agent:	37	28
Autogenous Vaccine	3	0

To reduce risks to public and animal health, EU regulations also provide for the banning of the personal importation from most third countries of products of animal origin for personal consumption. Travellers to this country are advised not to bring such products in personal luggage and checks are carried out at airports and ports as well as on postal packages. A total of 1,805 confiscations amounting to 5,722kgs of illegal animal products were confiscated in 2015.

Objective Two Food Safety

When an outbreak of animal disease occurs in an approved third country or where a public health risk is identified, the EU can invoke safeguard measures controlling or banning import until risks to public health and to EU economic production have been removed. During 2015 safeguard measures affecting animal product imports were applicable to a number of areas including:

- Suspending imports of consignments of live fish of aquaculture from Malaysia.
- Suspending imports of fishery products intended for human consumption from the Republic of Guinea and certain bivalve molluscs from Peru.
- Suspending imports of live and chilled bivalve mollusc products intended for human consumption from Turkey.
- Testing consignments of products from a number of countries with a view to detecting the presence of the public or animal health hazard as follows:
 - Radioactivity in food and feed from Japan
 - Histamine in fishery products from Albania
 - Residues of veterinary medicines in horse meat and meat products from Mexico
 - Residues of veterinary medicines in milk powder or artificial milk replacer made from milk powder, intended for animal nutrition from Ukraine.
 - Residues of veterinary drugs, pesticides, contaminants and prohibited substances in aquaculture fishery products, shrimps, crayfish, casings, rabbit meat, poultry meat products, eggs and egg products, honey, propolis and bee pollen from China

Animal Identification and Movement (AIM) System

AIM is a generic movement system covering bovine, ovine, caprine, porcine and equine animals. The facilities for bovine animals are the most detailed as there is a requirement to register and identify individual animals and a comprehensive movement monitoring system is in place that includes clearance against the database prior to movement from holding to holding, entry into the human food chain and export. The system provides assurances to consumers regarding the safety of beef and beef products.

AIM manages the identification (issue of tags) for ovine, caprine, and porcine animals and records movements at herd level for these species. In the case of equine animals, the central equine database is updated on an ongoing basis with specific relevant information from approved passport issuing organisations. The information recorded on the central database is used as part of a series of checks conducted on equine animals in slaughterhouses and it plays an important role in providing assurances to consumers regarding the safety of product entering the human food chain.”



Objective Two Animal Health



Scheduled Diseases

Vigilance against the introduction of disease including foot and mouth disease, avian influenza, bluetongue and African swine fever, remains a priority for the Department and previous experiences have demonstrated the absolute necessity of properly regulating trade, high levels of biosecurity, surveillance, contingency arrangements and robust legislation to deal speedily and effectively with disease threats and outbreaks. During 2015, Department staff investigated six notifications of suspected disease (see table below). One outbreak of paramyxovirus in pigeons was confirmed.

Table 2.1

	Disease Number investigated	Number confirmed
African swine fever	1	0
Avian influenza	2	0
Bluetongue	1	0
Foot and mouth disease	1	0
Paramyxovirus in pigeons	1	1
	6	1

In addition 14 sero-positive equidae detected on routine screening programmes were investigated (8 equine viral arteritis, 5 equine piroplasmiasis and 1 glanders). No case of disease was confirmed.

Contingency Planning

Contingency plans are in place for such exotic diseases. These plans are based on existing EU legislation and criteria identified during outbreaks in Europe. They aim to mitigate the risk of introducing disease into Ireland and to control and eradicate them quickly if outbreaks occur. The continued focus of the Department is on constantly reviewing, refining and updating our various contingency plans and arrangements and ensuring that we have all of the necessary measures in place and tools available to us to deal with any suspect or outbreak of these diseases. A new unit specifically dedicated to Contingency Planning was established during 2015.

BSE

The Department is responsible for the effective coordination of BSE policy and surveillance, testing and compensation arrangements, and the funding of same, as provided in Regulation (EC) 999/2001 and S.I. 532/15.

The costs involved are decreasing in line with reduced positive case numbers. The incidence of BSE, since its peak of 333 cases in 2002, has declined very significantly, with just 1 case in 2013, none in 2014 and 1 in 2015.

From 4 March 2013, in line with Commission Implementing Decision No. 2013/76/EU, BSE testing of healthy slaughtered animals ceased in Ireland. As a result, a much reduced total of 50,124 bovines in 2014 and 51,689 in 2015 were BSE tested compared to 298,094 in 2012 and 108,823 in 2013, leading to significant savings for the sector.

Objective Two Animal Health

Against the background evidence of the effectiveness of the measures taken over the years to control and eradicate this disease, the World Animal Health Organisation (OIE) in May 2015 decided to recognise Ireland as a country having a negligible risk for BSE. The detection of an isolated case in Co Louth in June 2015 led the OIE to re-instate Ireland's controlled risk status. The effectiveness of the Department's ongoing controls has been recognised by the OIE and is demonstrable from the dramatic reduction in incidence since the disease's peak in 2003.

Scrapie

Scrapie is a compulsorily notifiable disease in Ireland. In accordance with EU legislation, positive flocks (classical scrapie) are genotyped and susceptible sheep removed for slaughter outside the food chain, with compensation payable to the flock owners. In recent years numbers of flock restrictions have declined. In 2015 seven new flocks were identified with atypical scrapie and one with classical scrapie.

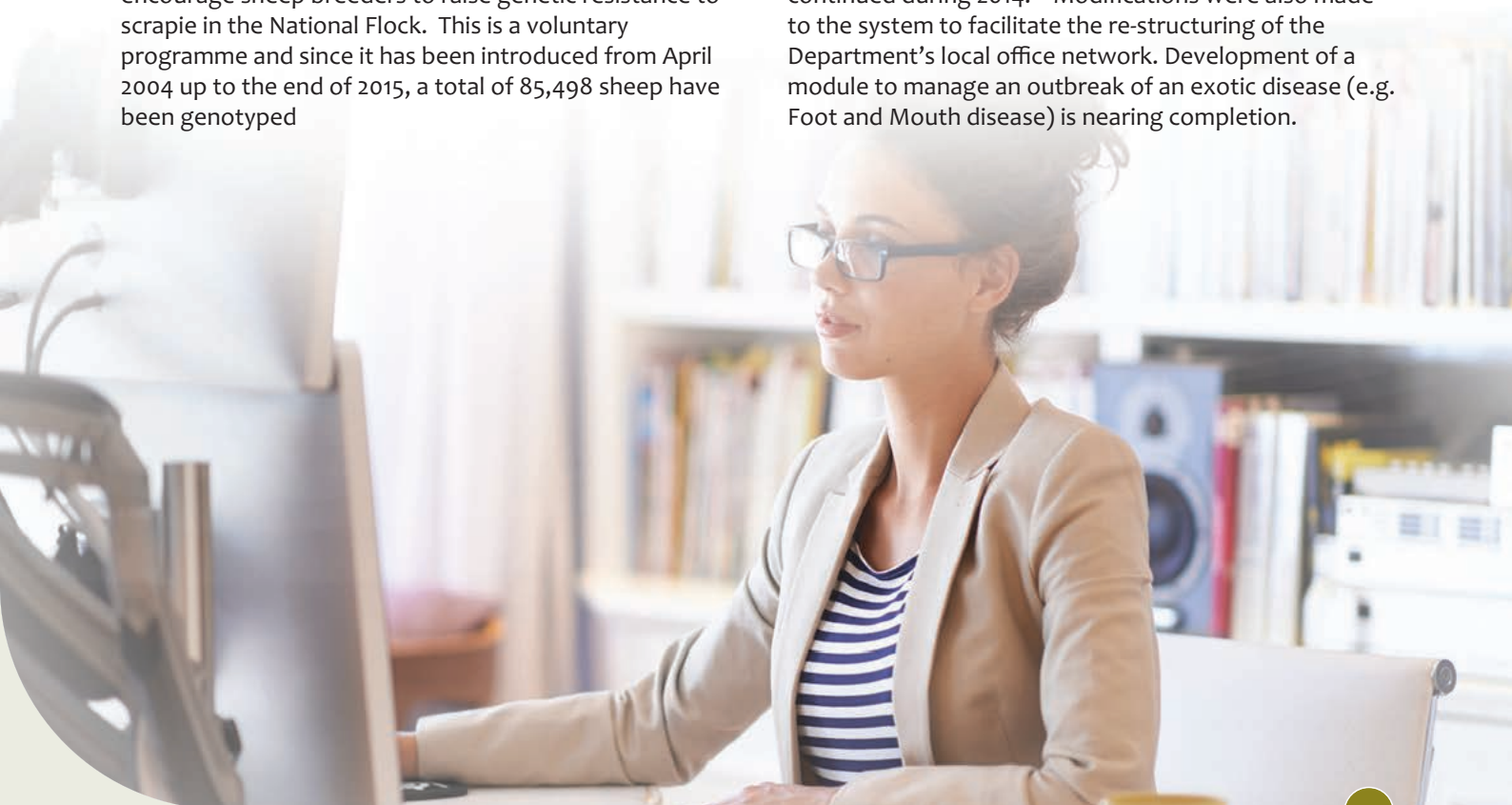
Under the Active Surveillance Programme, 22,179 scrapie tests were carried out in 2015, comprising: 10,692 sheep tested at slaughter plants; 11,223 fallen sheep; 156 depopulated sheep; and 108 fallen goats.

A National Genotype Programme (NGP) is in place to encourage sheep breeders to raise genetic resistance to scrapie in the National Flock. This is a voluntary programme and since it has been introduced from April 2004 up to the end of 2015, a total of 85,498 sheep have been genotyped

Animal Health Computer System

The Animal Health Computer System (AHCS) is used to manage a number of the Department's animal health programmes, principally the Bovine TB Eradication programme and the Brucellosis Monitoring programme. It also provides support for the operation of the national Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) testing programme. AHCS serves as the national register of premises on which farmed animals are kept and contains a database of premises keeping cattle, sheep, pigs, goats, poultry and horses. It is a mission-critical system used in each of the Department's District Veterinary Offices, HQ offices, laboratories and meat plants. Private veterinary practitioners in approximately 440 veterinary practices throughout the country also use AHCS on a daily basis as part of the operation of the national Bovine TB Eradication and Brucellosis Monitoring programmes. Almost 100% of testing under these programmes is reported electronically by private veterinary practitioners. AHCS is closely integrated with a number of the Department's other computer systems such as the Animal Identification and Movement (AIM) system; Corporate Customer System (CCS); Agriculture Field and Inspection Testing System (AFIT) and the Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS).

Development of a comprehensive module to manage Class A diseases such as Foot and Mouth disease continued during 2014. Modifications were also made to the system to facilitate the re-structuring of the Department's local office network. Development of a module to manage an outbreak of an exotic disease (e.g. Foot and Mouth disease) is nearing completion.



Objective Two Animal Health



Class B Diseases

Bovine Brucellosis

Ireland is free of Brucellosis in sheep, pigs and cattle. There has been no outbreak of Brucellosis in cattle in Ireland since April 2006 and Ireland obtained Official Brucellosis Free (OBF) status in July 2009, following which a reduced level of testing was implemented for a period of five years, as required. The 60 day pre-movement test was abolished in September 2015. Reporting and sampling obligations for all abortions in cattle remain in place, as well as risk based testing in particular for animals imported from non-OBF countries.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Approximately 98.5% of the national herd was tested for bovine TB in 2015. The herd incidence of bovine Tuberculosis decreased from 3.64% in 2014 to 3.37% in

2015. There was a decrease in the number of reactors detected, 15,317 in 2015 compared to 16,145 in 2014. This is the lowest reactor number on record. It is not possible to attribute the decline in the incidence of the disease to any single factor. Nevertheless, the main factors involved would appear to be the badger removal policy which has been in place for some years now. In addition, the integration of the Animal Health Computer System (AHCS) with the Animal Identification and Movement System (AIM) has facilitated more effective management of our TB eradication programme delivery, including enhanced quality controls of delivery of the traditional skin test (SICTT). Furthermore the increased use of blood testing to compliment the skin test has resulted in earlier identification of reactors during breakdowns, resulting in earlier de-restriction (almost 300 fewer herds remained restricted at the end of 2015, compared with the same time in 2014). Trends over the past eight years are set out in the table below.

Table 2.2: Incidence of Bovine Tuberculosis

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Herd Incidence	5.88%	5.09%	4.65%	4.18%	4.26%	3.88%	3.64%	3.37%
Number of Reactors	29,901	23,805	20,211	18,531	18,476	15,612	16,145	15,317
Number of newly restricted herds	6,837	5,860	5,304	4,780	4,856	4,430	4,111	3,823

Objective Two Animal Health

Bovine TB eradication is proving to be a rather intractable problem, mainly because of the presence of infection in wildlife (badgers) which seeds infection back into the cattle population. If only cattle were infected there is little doubt but that the programme would have been already successful. It is generally accepted that eradication is not a practicable proposition until the wildlife source of infection is removed. The current eradication programme therefore includes a badger removal strategy where TB incidence is highest. This strategy is aimed at reducing the absolute density of badgers, the incidence of TB in the species and to thereby reduce the opportunities for contact between cattle and wildlife. The sustained improvement in the disease situation, particularly the reduction in herd incidence, in recent years is felt to be attributable to the wildlife programme.

The Department's long-term objective is to develop a vaccine for badgers and considerable research has been conducted in collaboration with UCD and the Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) in the UK on the development of such a vaccine. The Department commenced preliminary work on a badger vaccination trial in late 2008, the objective of which is to provide information on the efficacy of the oral vaccine in reducing the level of TB infection in the badger population under study. Further field trials were rolled out in 2014. If the field trials are successful, the introduction of a national badger vaccination strategy will reduce the need to remove TB infected badgers as TB levels fall in both cattle and badgers. It will be some years, however, before any vaccine is available and, in the meantime, existing strategies, adjusted as appropriate, in light of disease trends, will be broadly maintained.

Compensation Schemes

The On-Farm Market Valuation Scheme is the main measure for compensating farmers for the removal of reactors. Other schemes such as Depopulation Grants, Income Supplement and Hardship Grants compensate for income losses due to restriction. Approximately €13.4m was spent during 2015 on all compensation elements of the TB Eradication and Brucellosis Monitoring Schemes.

EU Co-funding

In November 2015 the EU paid €12.7m towards the 2014 Irish bovine TB eradication programme.

Bovine Diseases Levies

Receipts from Bovine Diseases Levies amounted to €6.52m in 2015, compared with €6.63m in 2014.

Prosecutions

The Investigation Division and the Regional Veterinary Offices continued their investigations of irregularities in the Bovine TB, Brucellosis Eradication schemes and Bovine Identification and Registration regulations. Resulting from those investigations, there were five successful prosecutions during 2015, this compares to five successful prosecutions in 2014 and seven in 2013. During 2015, eight new cases were submitted to the Chief State Solicitors' Office for prosecution.

Animal Health Ireland

Animal Health Ireland (AHI) was launched in 2009 and is a private company limited by guarantee. The main role of AHI is to address what is known as "production" or "non-regulated" diseases with the aim of improving the profitability, sustainability and competitiveness of livestock farmers. In 2015, the Department provided funding of €530,000 which was matched by industry stakeholders.

AHI concentrates on a number of key programmes relating to Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD), Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis (IBR), Johnes, Beef Health Check and Mastitis. These programmes are endorsed by the Department and are referenced in FH2020.

A total of 1,300 herds were enrolled under the Johnes' disease Pilot Programme in 2015. A total of 946 Veterinary Risk Assessment and Management Plans were completed on farms in the course of the year. These Assessments are delivered by private veterinary practitioners who have undergone a full day's training on Johnes' disease provided by AHI.

AHI commenced a national voluntary BVD eradication programme in January 2012. This was followed by a compulsory phase of the programme which commenced in January 2013. The legislative basis for this is set out in S.I. 118 of 2014, and it requires all animals born after 1 January 2013 to be tested for the presence of the BVD virus. Animals found to be persistently infected (PI) with the virus cannot be sold through the mart system and must be disposed of to a knackery, abattoir or meat plant. The rate of compliance with the requirement to test for BVD is just fractionally less than 100% of calves born being tested for the disease.

Objective Two Animal Health



Farm Animal Welfare Advisory Council

The Farm Animal Welfare Advisory Council (FAWAC) is an independent advisory body to the Minister with a wide representative base including veterinary representative bodies, animal welfare organisations, farming bodies and Government Departments – North and South. Since it was established in 2002, FAWAC has become recognised for its' crucial role in promoting animal welfare. It provides considerable useful advice to the Minister and has been particularly successful in publishing a series of welfare guideline booklets on a range of areas, such as dairy, beef, pig, sheep and poultry farming. Recent publications include Animal Welfare Guidelines for Horses at Gatherings and Sales. These guidelines were produced in an effort to assist all those who are responsible for ensuring the welfare of horses at fairs, marts and sales. Further information is available on the website www.fawac.ie.

The Early Warning/Intervention System

The Early Warning / Intervention System (EWS) for animal welfare continued to operate successfully throughout the country in 2015. The objective of the system, which operates under FAWAC, is to provide a framework within which animal welfare problems can be identified and dealt with before they become critical. In many cases animal welfare cases arise as a result of issues relating to the health and personal circumstances of the herd-owner and in those circumstances EWS representatives advise farmers to consider seeking assistance from their GPs.

Scientific Advisory Committee on Animal Health and Welfare

The formation of the Scientific Advisory Committee on Animal Health and Welfare (SACAHW) was first announced in 2002. Following the foot and mouth crisis of 2001 and the important role played in the management of the crisis by the Expert Advisory Group on Foot and Mouth Disease, the aim of the SACAHW was to create an ongoing formal body of experts in a range of fields relating to animal health and welfare. The principal function of the Committee is to provide the Minister with advice from a scientific perspective on issues where independent expert opinion is warranted. The committee examined a number of animal health & welfare matters and in the course of 2015 brought forward an opinion on animal husbandry practices. One of the recommendations within this opinion relates to the castration of bull calves. The opinion is currently the subject of a consultative process involving farmers and other stakeholders. Current topics include the welfare implications of the proposed time limits for the castration of cattle and sheep, the dehorning/disbudding of cattle, and the tail docking of sheep and the relative welfare advantages/disadvantages of restraining animals, in the course of ritual slaughter in an upright position, rotated to 90 degrees, and rotated to 180 degrees.

Dog Microchipping

The Microchipping of Dogs Regulations 2015 (S.I. No 63/2015) came into force for newborn puppies in 2015. As of September 1st 2015 all pups born on or after 1st June 2015 must be microchipped and registered on one of four approved databases – all of which are privately owned. Microchips must meet an internationally approved standard as set out in the regulations. The system will facilitate speedy reunification of lost dogs with their owners and the identification of owners and reduce that threat that marauding dogs present to sheep. The legislation will be rolled out to all dogs regardless of birth date from 31st March 2016.

Objective Two Animal Health



Animal Welfare Organisations

Since 1995, the Department has made ex-gratia payments to a number of organisations directly involved in the delivery of animal care and welfare services. In 2015 the Department supported 140 organisations throughout the country with payments of €2.5 million. The funding provided is intended only as a contribution to the overall costs of an organisation. Targeted funding was also provided in 2015 to facilitate the micro-chipping, passporting and castration of equines at a reduced price to owners in both rural and urban areas. Details of organisations are available on the Department's website at:

<http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/animalhealthwelfare/animalwelfare/fundingtoanimalwelfareorganisations/>

Control of Horses

The Control of Horses Act 1996 was introduced to address the risks posed to the public by stray and abandoned horses. Under the legislation, local authorities have responsibility for implementing the act, and the Minister for Agriculture may provide financial assistance to the local authorities towards expenses incurred in control of horse activities. In 2015 the Department provided funding of €953,000 to local authorities towards expenses incurred by them under the Act. The Department continues to engage with local authorities on an on-going basis in an effort to achieve savings and efficiencies in operation of the Act.

Ireland achieved Aujeszky-Free Status

Ireland achieved Aujeszky free status in October 2012 and testing is conducted on an on-going basis to demonstrate this status. As an Aujeszky's Disease free region Irish herd owners can now export live pigs to other AD free regions without the high cost of compulsory isolation, herd surveillance and blood testing.

Rabies Control - EU Pet Passports

Dogs, cats or ferrets may be moved into and out of Ireland (for commercial purposes or as a companion animal) only if they are in full compliance with the Pet Passport Regulations (SI No 602 of 2014).

Objective Two Plant Health



Plant Health

The first occurrence in this country of *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*, previously referred to scientifically by the name *Chalara fraxinea*, and commonly known as ‘Ash Dieback disease’ was confirmed in 2012. The Department immediately introduced national emergency measures leading to intensive domestic surveys and restriction on ash movements. Legislation introduced in November 2012 restricted the movement of ash seeds, plants, or wood into or within the country from areas known to be infected with the disease. This was updated in November 2015 with a number of changes in relation to the documentary requirements around the importation of ash wood as well as the required pre-importation treatments.

Systematic and targeted surveys for disease, initiated in 2013, were repeated in 2015. By the end of 2015, when the final figures were collated and published, there were confirmed findings of the disease in 115 forest plantations distributed over 19 counties, confirmed findings of the disease in native hedgerows in 12 counties, and confirmed findings of the disease in roadside / motorway landscaping plantings in 13 counties. Taken together, this meant that, in terms of forestry plantations, private gardens, roadside / motorway landscaping plantings, and farm landscaping / agri-environment scheme plantings, by the end of 2015, the presence of the disease had been confirmed in 24 of the 26 counties in Ireland.

In addition, a comprehensive plant health action programme was implemented in 2015 to maintain Ireland’s high plant health status, including the following:

- Nurseries and garden centres were intensively inspected for quarantine pests and, where found, eradication measures were implemented to ensure continued trade from these premises.
- Surveys were carried out in public parks, private gardens and the wider environment for harmful organisms on foot of several European Commission emergency decisions.
- Sampling was carried out on farms producing potatoes, maize and beet for harmful organisms specific to these crops.
- Mandatory inspections were carried out on relevant plants and plant products imported directly into Ireland from third countries. Quarantine and harmful organisms were intercepted on a number of occasions with the result that none became established in the country.
- On-going measures to prevent the spread of the disease commonly referred to as ‘Sudden Oak Death’, caused by the fungus-like organism *Phytophthora ramorum*, were undertaken at nurseries, garden centres, public parks and private gardens.
- Ongoing surveys and measures to deal with the detection of and to prevent the further spread of the quarantine disease *Phytophthora ramorum* in Japanese larch. Further details are provided in the Forestry section in Goal 3 below.
- The annual survey for the bacterium *Erwinia amylovora*, that causes the disease known as Fireblight, was conducted and eradication measures were employed for all findings.
- No finding of the brown rot disease of potatoes was detected following ongoing intensive testing of seed and ware potatoes.
- Inspections were undertaken on plant propagating material at several locations to ensure disease free material was available.

Objective Two Laboratory Service



VETERINARY LABORATORIES

Virology

Gross testing numbers for 2015 were 73,824 with Dec, Jan and Mar having the highest monthly figures. There were 2,385 submissions which initiated in Virology accounting for 54% of test numbers and 8,834 submissions (46% of test numbers) which initiated in other parts of Laboratory Service. In 2015, Virology served 533 clients including DVOs, AI stations, PVPs, etc and had a range of 86 different tests for a variety of largely viral pathogens.

Reference Laboratory Functions

Virology is an EU National Reference Laboratory (NRL), for a number of OIE listed diseases. It is required to have a diagnostic capacity; to perform surveillance; and to participate in proficiency trials (PTs) on an annual basis. The PTs, prepared by the EU Community Reference Laboratories, consist of samples which must be tested by a wide range of serological, virological and molecular techniques. The results were presented at the annual meetings of the National Reference Laboratories throughout 2015 and were in compliance with the relevant EU legislation. Virology is also the designated NRL for BVD, supporting the National BVD eradication programme, providing confirmatory testing and other assistances to the scheme.

VIRAL DISEASES OF RUMINANTS

Surveillance for Schmallenberg virus infection

Schmallenberg virus was first identified in Germany in late 2011 and spread across northern Europe reaching southeast England in January 2012. The virus, which is transmitted by biting midges, can cause disease in infected cattle and sheep resulting primarily in the birth of malformed calves and lambs. It is not known to pose any risk to human health. The first positive case was detected in a bovine herd in County Cork in late October 2012. In 2015, 796 samples were tested for SBV antibody, with 108 (15%) found to be non-negative; 141 samples were tested using the SBV PCR, with none found to be positive.

Surveillance for Bluetongue virus infection

Bluetongue surveillance is performed on imported cattle and on any cattle or sheep presenting clinical signs consistent with the infection. In 2015, there were 749 Bluetongue Ab and 167 Bluetongue PCR tests performed. There were 8 (1%) Bluetongue Ab of cattle samples positive and zero Bluetongue PCR positive. Countries of origin include Austria, Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands and the UK.

Surveillance for Enzootic Bovine Leucosis (EBL)

In 2015, there were 1,569 EBL Ab tests performed. There were no EBL antibody positive results. There were also 57 EBL PCRs on suspicious bovine lesions, again all proving negative.

Objective Two Laboratory Service

Diagnostic testing for diseases of cattle - Respiratory virus infection

In 2015, there were 4,447 PCRs performed on nasal swab samples for bovine respiratory viral pathogens, with 149 (3.3%) detected as positive. There were 83, 5, 22, 17, and 16 positive detections for BHV1, Bovine Coronavirus, PI3, BRSV and BVD on nasal swabs, respectively. A further 2,464 PCRs were performed on other tissues, with 47 (1.9%) detected as positive. There were 13, 1, 9, 6 and 13 positive tissue detections for BHV1, Bovine Coronavirus, PI3, BRSV and BVD respectively.

A PCR for Bovine Herpesvirus 4 was introduced on a selected basis in 2015, with 28 (37.3%) out of 75 tested showing non-negative results.

Infectious bovine rhinotracheitis (IBR)

In 2015, there were 7,536 IBR gB antibody tests and 2196 gE antibody tests performed, with 6914 of samples sent related to diagnostic investigation and 2,656 related to AI station regulation. Overall, there were 2,106 (28%) IBR gB positive and 385 (17.5%) IBR gE positive results. There were 301 BVD PLA tests on bulls related to AI stations in 2015.

Support for industry-led disease control – Bovine Viral diarrhoea (BVD) eradication

Virology Division carries out a range of BVD testing as part of its official NRL function, including confirmatory testing of samples from animals which tested positive through private laboratories under the auspices of the national BVD eradication scheme. In 2015, as part of AHI/VLS confirmatory testing and in conjunction with Sligo RVL there were 3,924 submissions with 3,200 (82%) of submissions having only 1 or 2 samples per submission. Overall, there were 2,384 calves tested using BVD Ag ELISA, 665 of which went on for BVD PCR testing. Overall, 1,872 (79%) of calves tested positive for BVD virus, by ELISA (1,699) or PCR (173). In addition there were 3,298 dams tested using Ag ELISA, 162 (4.9%) of which were found to be BVD virus positive. Additionally, 5,090 “other” animals were tested using BVD Ag ELISA, 1,918 of which went on to BVD PCR testing. This group includes among others imported animals, animals born pre-2013 and animals born post-2013 with no assigned BVD status. Of them, 583 (11%) were BVD positive and 7 were inconclusive.

In non-programme BVD virus testing, there were 3,898 BVD Ag tests of which 96 (2.4%) were BVD virus positive. In non-programme BVD virus testing, there were 2,354 BVD PCRs of which 66 were BVD virus positive.

Virology Division also continue to support the Johnes Disease Pilot Programme and conducted 7,296 Mycobacterium Screening antibody and 873 Mycobacterium Verification antibody tests in 2015. 764 (10.4%) of those serology samples proved non-negative.

Viral diseases of pigs

Porcine respiratory and reproductive syndrome (PRRS) is still a significant problem for the industry after the 2013 country-wide outbreak. Virology Division continues to provide a diagnostic facility to the pig industry and supports monitoring programmes in boar AI stations, and during the course of 2015 over 4,871 samples were tested by ELISA for PRRS antibody and 2,810 samples by PRRS PCR. A total of 464 (9.5%) samples tested positive by ELISA. The positive results may have been caused by either natural infection or vaccination. A total of 134 (4.7%) samples tested positive by PRRS PCR in 2015. The positive PCR results are indicative of current infection. No evidence of infection was detected in samples submitted from boar AI stations.

Virology Division also assist the industry testing notifiable diseases for export, certification and monitoring purposes. Aujeszky's disease (AD) amounted for over 2,645 ELISA samples tested in 2015, with a further 18 negative AD PCRs. Other notifiable porcine diseases tested include African Swine Fever (94 PCR tested samples), Porcine Epidemic Diarrhoea (137 PCR tested) and Classical Swine Fever (1787 ELISA tested). There were no positives in 2015 for any of them. Of 400 Swine Influenza samples PCR tested, 86 (21.5%) were positive.

Viral diseases of equidae

Virology examined 473 equine pre-and-post vaccination serum samples for surveillance for equine viral arteritis and approved the issue of Artervac vaccine for use in stallions when appropriate. Serological surveillance allowed the antibody status of stallions to be investigated with a view to the detection of potential “shedder stallions”. In addition, semen samples were tested by PCR/VI whenever a positive serological result could not be demonstrated to have been caused by vaccination. A further 705 tests were performed on equine samples for a variety of agents, including equine influenza (85), equine piroplasmiasis (86), equine infectious anaemia (44), contagious equine metritis, dourine (64), glanders (43) and equine herpes virus (194) for either surveillance purposes or in support of exports.

Objective Two Laboratory Service

Viral diseases of poultry

The Poultry Virology Section tested 21,773 samples from commercial poultry flocks for avian influenza virus (AIV) antibodies as part of two major national surveys, and to satisfy requirements for movement and trade. In total, 882 tests for avian influenza virus were done using real time RT-PCR and 177 virus isolation tests were performed. Two low pathogenic, non-H5 non-H7 avian influenza viruses were detected in 2015; a H16N3 virus in a gull, and a H3N8 virus in a duck. During this period, 463 PCR tests and 2907 serological tests were performed for Newcastle disease virus. One isolate of pigeon paramyxovirus was detected in a wild woodpigeon, while a vaccine strain of PMV1 was detected in a broiler which had been vaccinated. As part of the national antibody surveillance programmes for *Mycoplasma* species and for trade purposes: 36,473 sera were tested for *M. gallisepticum*, 14,746 sera were examined for *M. synoviae* and 2,099 sera screened for *M. meleagridis*. The poultry virology workload also comprised tests (serology and PCR), requested by the industry and veterinary practitioners, for various enzootic diseases such as infectious bronchitis, egg drop syndrome, reo virus syndrome, chicken anaemia, Marek's disease and avian rhinotracheitis.

Bacteriology/Parasitology

This laboratory hosts a number of EU National Reference Laboratory functions for zoonotic pathogens of food, feed and animal origin. These include *Salmonella*, *Campylobacter*, *Escherichia coli*, *Mycobacteria*, Antimicrobial Resistance and Parasites. Completion of all proficiency trials organised by the EU Community Reference Laboratories was achieved.

A total of 1,416 poultry farm samples, 424 compost or related samples, 872 meal or feed mill related samples, 444 poultry carcass samples were cultured for *Salmonella* during 2015. A further 720 samples were received from external laboratories for serotyping. A representative selection of isolates was screened for antimicrobial resistance to a panel of up to 13 antibiotics. The Division participated in a number of research projects on antimicrobial resistance and monitored microbiological test in some private laboratories providing testing for food business operators.

Antibodies were detected in 4,395 (21.6%) of the 20,354 muscle juice samples from slaughtered pigs tested under the *Salmonella* National Control Programme for pigs.

As the NRL for parasites, this laboratory continued its work with UCD and Irish Water in 2015 to address gaps in the national diagnostic and typing services for controlling *Cryptosporidium* spp. *Cryptosporidium* spp. were detected in over 7 out of 95 water samples tested. Genotyping was also undertaken on all *Cryptosporidium* spp. detected included those submitted from private laboratories.

The mandatory national sampling according to Regulation 1152/2011 of foxes undertaken in 2015 showed Ireland's continuing freedom from *Echinococcus multilocularis*, one of the most lethal parasitic zoonoses in temperate and arctic regions of the Northern Hemisphere. Over 300 samples from all counties were examined for the parasite.

The Division undertakes the genotyping of scrapie positive and cohort animals for the National Genotype Programme. In 2015 a total of 1,090 serum samples and a further 6 muscle samples were tested to determine the genotype of sheep for susceptibility to scrapie. These samples comprised official samples from scrapie-positive cases as well as those randomly collected from flocks throughout the country. These results comprise a component of the surveillance and testing required by the EU Commission for Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies.

In addition to standard samples for respiratory disease diagnosis, samples tested for *Mycoplasma bovis* also included either joint fluid or milk samples from dairy cows in 2015 and a number of dairy herds reported multiple cases of adult dairy cows which displayed clinical signs of arthritis or mastitis associated with *Mycoplasma bovis*. This pattern of significant clinical disease in adult dairy cows in several herds in Ireland had first been diagnosed in 2013 and a very similar pattern was observed affecting a variable number of cows in individual dairy herds in 2014 and 2015.

In support of the TB eradication programme, samples collected in meat plants from 4,720 bovine animals, were tested for evidence of tuberculosis. There were 3,578 histopathological tests and 2,063 cultures performed on these tissues. Over 2,350 cultures were applied to badger tissues collected as part of badger removal following bovine TB outbreaks or badger vaccine trials. *Mycobacterium bovis* was isolated from 31 of 280 deer tissues cultured. Sixteen of 99 wild deer were infected with *Mycobacterium bovis*. Over 770 mycobacterial speciation tests were performed. There were 904 sera

Objective Two Laboratory Service

tested in TB ELISA in support of herd investigations. *Mycobacterium avium* subspecies paratuberculosis was isolated from 135 of 1,049 samples submitted for Johne's disease diagnosis and an additional 750 cultures were performed on samples collected from herds participating in a research study.

PATHOLOGY

Pathology Division hosts two National Reference Laboratories (NRLs) and provides a further three national referral laboratories. The laboratory has two PC-3 bio-containment facilities as part of its infrastructure.

The primary role of this Division is to provide expert pathology capability in support of the Department and its' associated initiatives. This laboratory works closely with national and international peers, creating critical mass and enhancing preparedness and diagnostic surveillance capabilities of the Veterinary Laboratory services.

National Reference Laboratories and Specialist Referral Laboratories:

TSE National Reference Laboratory

The National Reference Laboratory for Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (BSE and Scrapie) is accredited to ISO 17025. The scope of accreditation by INAB currently covers tests for confirmatory diagnosis of BSE and scrapie by Western Blot,

immunohistochemistry, Hematoxylin and Eosin (H&E) and the scrapie strain discrimination Western Blot. From 1 July 2013 it became a statutory requirement for discriminatory testing of all future cases of BSE (EU Reg 999/2001). To increase efficiency the laboratory has validated a double immunoblot method for TSE testing to replace the confirmatory WB, the ovine discriminatory WB and the bovine strain typing WB.

The TSE NRL is also responsible for the approval and monitoring of private rapid-testing laboratories (RTLs) carrying out screening tests for TSEs. All aspects of the NRL annual monitoring plan were completed. PTs involve the preparation and delivery of coded brain tissue homogenate samples to all RTLs, and subsequent analysis and reporting of the results. All RTL results were satisfactory. The NRL also implements an inspection program to ensure that sub-sampling for rapid testing is maintained to an adequate standard. As well as inspecting cutting technique during regular visits to the RTLs, the NRL oversees a programme of monitoring sampling technique in each RTL.

All three confirmatory TSE tests (Western Blot, immunohistochemistry and H&E) and the scrapie strain discrimination Western blot are accredited by INAB.

The Laboratory completed a retrospective BSE strain typing study in 2015. All were tested by the Two-Blot Protocol for Classifying Bovine TSE Isolates. Atypical BSE was not identified in samples tested.

Table 2.3 : Figures for TSE Submissions

Ovine

NRL Result	Surveillance Category	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Atypical Scrapie	Active	2	1	4	4	7	6
Classical Scrapie	Active	19	38	8	7	17	1
Classical Scrapie	Passive	3	1	0	0	2	0
Negative	Active	0	0	1	0	1	1
Negative	Passive	4	2	5	2	1	1
Negative	SMFS	8	1	0	0	4	0
Total		36	43	18	13	32	9

Objective Two Laboratory Service

Bovine

NRL Result	Surveillance Category	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
BSE Positive	Active	2 (1 H-type, 1 Classical)	3 (1 H-type, 2 Classical)	3 (2-Classical)	1 – Atypical H-type	0	1 (Classical)
BSE Positive	Passive	0	0	0	0	0	0
Negative	Active	0	0	0	1	1	0
Negative	Passive	35	22	14	12	14	11
Unsuitable	Passive	0	0	1	0	0	0

Department Referral Laboratory for Veterinary Histopathology

The Histopathology Laboratory provides expert histopathology referral and support to the Department and the Regional Veterinary Laboratories (RVLs). Areas covered include referral of diagnostic surveillance cases, forensic cases such as poisonings and interference with tuberculin assay, applied research and surveillance studies. This laboratory also provides the histological processing and immunohistochemistry capability for the Veterinary Laboratory Service. It processes approximately 30,000 slides annually with standard staining methods and special staining techniques including immunohistochemistry.

National Pig Pathology and Diagnostics Referral laboratory

Pathology Division provides pig veterinary pathology expertise and diagnostics capability for surveillance of pig diseases in Ireland. Its specialist pig pathology services works closely with virology division, consultant pig veterinarians and RVLs. To enhance capability and improve surveillance footprint, the division commenced a large multi-partnered (UCD, Teagasc, CIT, Pathology Division, Cork RVL) study of endemic pig disease in Ireland. This study is examining the types and causes of post weaning disease (particularly respiratory). The study will also provide development of next generation diagnostic technologies for surveillance. Another detailed targeted surveillance project, on *porcine neonatal enteritis* and in conjunction with consultant pig specialists) is ongoing. This project has been able to demonstrate freedom from PED virus in the diarrhoea outbreaks studied. In 2014 three novel conditions of pigs has been identified by Pathology division studies on these are ongoing.

Anatomic Pathology Laboratory

The post-mortem facility within pathology Division (known as the Dublin Regional Veterinary Laboratory) provides veterinary laboratory diagnostic and anatomic pathology services for surveillance in its catchment area. Details of findings are included in the All-Island Disease Surveillance report. The post mortem facility also provided support for the Department's statutory disease control, eradication and monitoring schemes, including TSEs, tuberculosis, brucellosis, *Trichinella spiralis* and *Echinococcus multilocularis*. In 2015 it carried out a study on TB in wildlife (Deer) in east Co. Wicklow in response to local concerns.

There were 1,595 carcass submissions and 208 foetus submissions to the laboratory for post mortem examination, in 2015.

Clinical Microbiology (DRVL) and National Reference Laboratory for Contagious Equine Metritis

The clinical microbiology laboratory of Pathology Division hosts the 17,025 accredited CEM National Reference Laboratory in conjunction with virology Division. CEM is a contagious venereal condition of horses caused by the bacterium *Taylorella equigenitalis*. In co-operation with Virology division, this laboratory organised a Proficiency Trial for eleven private laboratories. All participating laboratories passed. This laboratory also assists assessment of private laboratories for commercial testing.

As well as routine diagnostic work, the laboratory is aligned with the CLSI standard for antimicrobial susceptibility testing of bacterial isolates. It also provides toxin testing for *Clostridia difficile* and *clostridia perfringens*.

Objective Two Laboratory Service

This laboratory continues to develop new test packages, such as the porcine enteritis package, as part of development and innovation remit.

In 2015 the laboratory was successful in external proficiency trials organised by the AHVLA. The laboratory performed 5,810 tests in 2015.

Clinical Chemistry/Chemical Pathology Laboratory

Clinical Chemistry/Chemical Pathology provides expertise in testing and the laboratory investigation of economic animal diseases or potential toxicities arising from suspected environmental and industrial pollution or feed contaminants. In addition to providing specialist support to the RVLs and DAFM, the unit liaises with other State agencies such as the FSAI, HSE and the EPA to provide expert advice on environmental animal health. The Section was central to the large inter-Agency investigations in Askeaton, Silvermines and has been involved in several other investigations of animal health problems with an environmental component in counties Kerry, Kildare, Kilkenny and Tipperary.

This laboratory also performs metal (macro, trace and heavy) and metabolites and enzyme activity analyses on animal samples. The laboratory is currently in method development for multi-element analysis including iodine. In 2015, it performed in excess of 5,000 tests including heavy metal analysis on blood and tissue samples from animals with production diseases or suspect toxicities.

Development

Immediate priority in the Division has been given to innovation, test (e.g. multi-element analysis such as wider scope of heavy metals) and expertise development in diagnostic pathology for the respective animal industries. One S/RO has been assigned to develop specific expertise in each of the pig and poultry species. These activities have improved surveillance efforts in those industries and have helped develop productive collaborations between the division, PVPs, academic institutions, Teagasc and industry.

Audits and Delegations:

Members of staff from the TSE NRL were involved with a number of visiting delegations to the laboratory during 2015 most notably a Chinese delegation in November 2015.

Veterinary Public Health Regulatory Laboratory

The Veterinary Public Health Regulatory Laboratory (VPHRL) is accredited by INAB to ISO 17025:2005, with more than 30 analytical tests covering residues, contaminants, microbiological and parasitological analysis currently on its scope.

VPHRL is the National Reference Laboratory (NRL) for 6 groups of residues (Antithyroid agents, Beta-agonists, Chloramphenicol and Dapsone, Antibacterial substances including sulphonamides and quinolones, Carbadox and Chemical Elements) and also for *E. coli* and *Trichinella*. As part of its NRL responsibilities VPHRL provided ring trials for official laboratories under its supervision and performed audits of *Trichinella* and Verotoxigenic *E. coli* testing laboratories. Expert advice regarding the approval of Official Laboratories was provided to the Competent Authority when required. EU-Reference Laboratory (EURL) meetings were attended with relevant information disseminated to official laboratories. The VPHRL successfully completed proficiency tests organised by the EURL and other commercial proficiency testing schemes.

National Residue Plan

The testing under the National Residue Plan (NRP) covers 18 distinct residue groups (each residue group is in turn comprised of a number of sub-groups) which fall into three broad categories: banned substances such as growth-promoting hormones and beta-agonists, approved veterinary medicines and finally, environmental contaminants.

During 2015, in excess of 12,000 samples from food of animal origin were tested under the NRP at the VPHRL. The majority of these samples were taken on the basis of standard targeting criteria with further samples taken where a residue positive outcome is suspected. In these latter cases, the animals concerned are withheld from the food chain, pending the outcome of the test. As an example of this VPHRL provides a valuable antibiotic testing service for casualty animals and animals suspected of antibiotic usage on *ante mortem* inspection. More than 3,000 carcasses were detained and muscle samples tested under this heading, with samples reported to Departmental officials in the meat plants generally within 24 hours.

A breakdown of the total number of samples screened under the 2015 National Residue Plan at the VPHRL is as follows:

Objective Two Laboratory Service

Table 2.4: National Residue Plan

Compounds analysed	No. and type of samples
Thyrostats	299 urine 20 serum
Trenbolone	438 urine
Zeranol	404 urine
Beta-Agonists	491 retina 581 urine 28 water 338 liver
Chloramphenicol, Florfenicol and Thiamphenicol	150 urine 383 muscle 30 eggs
Antibiotics	6985 muscle 303 kidney 332 milk 118 eggs 15 honey
Sulphonamides (including Dapsone)	550 muscle
Carbadox	91 liver
Chemical elements	441 muscle 57 milk 19 honey
Total	12,073

In 2015, the number of non-compliant samples was 23. This continues the trend of low levels of residues in Irish produced food of animal origin over the past number of years. The breakdown of non-compliant samples is 10 for Antibiotics, 9 for Thyrostats and 4 for Chemical Elements.

Table 2.5

Substance Group	Details of non-compliant samples
	Antibiotics Oxytetracycline in 3 bovine and 1 ovine muscle samples Sulfamethazine in 2 bovine muscle samples Penicillin G in 1 porcine muscle sample Chlortetracycline in 1 bovine muscle and 1 honey sample Dihydrostreptomycin in 1 bovine muscle sample
Thyrostats	Thiouracil in 9 bovine urine samples
Chemical Elements	Lead in 3 wild duck muscle and 1 honey samples

Objective Two Laboratory Service

Ireland's Residue Plan for 2015 was approved by the relevant European Commission services within the deadlines specified under the Directive.

Microbiology

VPHRL provides laboratory support to the inspectorate based at meat plants and to import controls, ensuring compliance with national and international standards of food safety and hygiene. Over 1,700 official samples of meat and meat products were taken at the point of manufacture and at the border inspection points and tested for a range of microbiological parameters in 2015. Of these samples, 1 exceeded permitted levels for *E. coli* and 2 were positive for *Salmonella* (imported poultry).

In 2015 VPHRL continued the testing of beef carcasses for Shiga-toxin *E. coli* (STEC) bacteria to support the exporting of Irish beef to the US market with a total of 368 samples analysed and all were found negative.

VPHRL carries out water testing with a total of 332 official samples of tested in 2015 for a range of physico-chemical and microbiological properties. Of these 11 samples were found to contain microbiological contamination of *E. coli*, Coliforms, Faecal *Enterococci* and/or *Clostridium perfringens*.

In addition VPHRL supports the certification of animal by-products. A total of 740 official samples of rendering products were enumerated for levels of *Enterobacteriaceae* while 115 samples from composting plants were checked for levels of *E. coli*. Results showed that 2 samples had levels of >300 cfu/g of *Enterobacteriaceae*

Trichinella

Testing on 3,436 samples of porcine and 200 horse muscle samples was carried out in 2015 as part of the official monitoring programme, and all of them were negative.

AGRICULTURE LABORATORIES

Dairy Science Laboratories

The Dairy Science Laboratory service comprises three laboratories, located at Backweston, Cork and Limerick. These provide microbiological and chemical testing services for milk/ milk product samples taken mainly from dairy food business operators. The work of the laboratories also underpins the certification of dairy products for export.

Official control samples – Microbiology

In 2015, the Dairy Science Laboratory service carried out 20,000 microbiological analysis tests on 10,050 samples from milk processing establishments for monitoring under food safety, water and animal-by-product legislation. As a result, the following notifications were issued:

- 18 Food Safety hazard notifications
- 55 Process Hygiene criteria non-conformances
- 5 Phosphatase/peroxidase criteria non-conformances
- 0 antibiotic residue non-conformances
- 22 non-conformance reports in relation to water samples
- 5 non-conformances reports in relation to animal-by-products samples

The Dairy Science Laboratory service carried out analysis on a further 939 samples from liquid milk processors, horticultural food producers, VPHIS and border inspection posts under food safety and water legislation. As a result, the following notifications were issued:

- 4 Food Safety hazard notifications
- 0 Process Hygiene criteria non-conformances
- 15 non-conformance reports relating to water samples

In addition to food safety testing, the Dairy Science Laboratory Cork analysed 929 potato samples for Ring Rot and Brown Rot and 1,386 samples for *Erwinia amylovora* (fireblight) with 19 detections of fireblight.

The three laboratories have Quality Management Systems in place based on the ISO17025:2005 standard to meet the requirements of the National Accreditation Board (INAB). In 2015, these laboratories continued to maintain and extend their scopes of accreditation to this ISO17025:2005 standard with DSL Backweston receiving

Objective Two Laboratory Service

accreditation for 4 additional methods for the compositional analysis of Infant formula. Collectively the three laboratories have 54 accredited test methods across several matrices.

Participation in inter-laboratory trials organised by European Union Reference Laboratories were also undertaken.

Official control samples – Chemistry

The Dairy Science Laboratories in both Limerick and Backweston conduct compositional analysis of dairy products to verify compliance with the labelling and marketing standards requirements set out in Regulation (EC) No 1169/2011 and Regulation 1308/2013. In addition DSL Backweston carries out analysis of infant formula and follow on formula to confirm compliance with the compositional parameters set out in Directive 2006/141 EC.

Due to poor returns for dairy products on international markets 2015 saw the return of market support measures in the dairy sector. This resulted in DSLs having to carry out a range of microbiological and compositional analysis to confirm that these products meet the detailed specifications set out in EU legislation.

In 2015 1928 samples were analysed to confirm compliance with the requirements of the EU legislation detailed above.

Participation in inter-laboratory trials organised by European Union Reference Laboratories were also undertaken.

National Reference Laboratory (NRL)

The Backweston Dairy Science Laboratory operates as the National Reference Laboratory (NRL) for *Listeria monocytogenes*, Coagulase-positive staphylococci in food products, phosphatase in milk and Total Bacterial Count and Somatic Cell Count in raw milk.

The NRL participated in working groups on the preparation of technical guidance documents and revised ISO standards. It also contributed to the development of the EURL *Listeria monocytogenes* database.

As part of its function to coordinate and provide oversight of the activities of official laboratories, the NRL conducted a survey on proficiency testing in official control laboratories. It also organised and funded a

proficiency testing round for all official microbiology laboratories carrying out analysis for coagulase positive staphylococci.

The NRL offers a molecular typing and characterisation service for *Listeria monocytogenes* isolates, in 2015 conventional typing was carried out on 150 isolates, PFGE was conducted on 480 isolates and PCR analysis on 1285 isolates. This typing information is returned to the submitting laboratories and can be of benefit to food business operators in tracing sources of contamination and determining if there are persistent strains in particular premises.

The NRL also carries out analysis for the detection of Staphylococcal enterotoxins in food; DSL Backweston is the only laboratory in the country to provide this service. Molecular typing is also carried out to determine if CPS isolates carry the genes necessary for enterotoxin production. In 2015 the laboratory participated in a multi agency investigation into a food poisoning incident that involved the USA and provided analytical and molecular typing services to the agencies involved.

In its role as NRL for SCC and TBC in raw milk the laboratory liaises closely with Dairy Controls and Certification Division to ensure the accuracy of the analysis carried out in laboratories operated by milk purchasers, this is achieved by organising and assessing proficiency testing schemes for these raw milk acceptance criteria.



Objective Two Laboratory Service

Plant Health Laboratory

The Plant Health Laboratory (PHL) provides an analytical service for regulated plant pests and diseases. The Laboratory also tests animal feedingstuffs for contamination by meat and bone meal and other prohibited materials.

The Plant Health Laboratories provide tests for a very wide range of plant pathogens, including fungi, viruses and bacteria on different matrices, such as plant samples, water samples and soil samples. The service ranges from targeted detection of one specific pathogen up to eleven different pathogens in the same sample. In addition, the Plant Health Laboratories expanded the service to allow direct identification of the causal agent of specific symptoms. Therefore, a wide range of methods and specialised knowledge need to be developed and implemented on a daily basis. During 2015, the number of plant health tests available to the horticulture and forestry sector increased from 32 to 36, including traditional pathology methods, microscopy, serological and molecular methods. The demand of new detection methods constantly increases, one more method is currently under development.

The total number of samples processed in 2015 (2,100 samples) doubled compared to the samples counted in the previous years (approximately 1,000-1,300, depending on the year). Molecular detection of *Hymenoscyphus pseudoalbidus*, the causal agent of the ash dieback, was the main test conducted in 2015 (1321 samples). The number of positive findings showed a significant increase in 2015, going from 2.6% in 2014 to 25% in 2015. 326 samples were processed for *P. ramorum* and *P. kernoviae* on woody ornamentals and tree species.

Testing for pathogens of beet, citrus, strawberry, solanaceous crops and various tree species was also undertaken.

The entomology service, introduced in 2011, undertook the analysis of 439 samples in 2015 of which 17 were positive for quarantine pest species. The service works in close co-operation with the authorities in Dublin Airport and Dublin Port, which is a significant entry point for horticultural produce into Ireland. The identification of arthropod parasites of honey bees was added to the tests provided by the entomology service in 2014 and this was further expanded in 2015 by the introduction of the Sentinel Monitoring Programme to monitor for the presence of the small hive beetle (*Aethina tumida*) which is compulsorily notifiable in the EU.

The Feed Microscopy Laboratory is the designated National Reference Laboratory (NRL) for the detection of animal protein in feedingstuff under Article 33 of Regulation 882/2004. In 2015 the Laboratory analysed c. 241 samples for the presence of animal protein, 19 samples for prohibitive material and 20 samples for botanical impurities. The Feedingstuff Laboratory carries out the following tests on material; Microscopy of animal feed, minerals and Fat/oils, Prohibited Materials and botanical Impurities. In addition, the laboratory carries out testing for the detection of Animal Protein in feedingstuff by Real-Time Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR). It is currently participating in a validation project with the European Reference Laboratory (EURL) for the detection of Porcine DNA in animal feed.

The PHL continued to develop co-operation with other organisations within Ireland and abroad, through involvement in the FP7 funded EUPHRESCO ERA-NET. The PHL is the lead organisation in a CoFoRD-funded research project investigating the aspects of the larch-Phytophthora complex. The laboratory continued to deepen its involvement with organisations such as the European Plant Protection Organisation (EPPO), through participation in working groups and expert panels.

Seed Testing Laboratory

The Seed Testing Laboratory provides a seed testing service to other divisions within the Department, seed merchants, farmers, growers and forest nurseries. It is accredited by the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA). Most agricultural and horticultural seeds are required to meet minimum legal standards for germination, analytical purity and other seeds content before they are placed on the market. A total of 9,345 seed tests, on cereals, grasses, forage crops, oilseeds, pulses, vegetables, trees, etc. were completed during 2015. Approximately 61% of these tests were for germination, 25% for analytical purity, 5% for seed viability (tetrazolium), 4% for seed health with the remaining 5% of tests comprised of advisory tests such as moisture, other seed determination, thousand seed weight, etc. The quality of cereal seed harvested in Ireland during 2015 was above average due to the favourable growing season and weather conditions at harvest.

Objective Two Laboratory Service

Pesticide Laboratory

The pesticide laboratories are the accredited National Reference Laboratories for pesticides in fruit and vegetables, cereals, food with high fat content and for single residue methods.

Residues

In 2015, the Pesticide Residue Laboratory (PRL) carried out the testing required under the pesticide residue control programme agreed under the Departments' service contract with the FSAI. This involved analysing 750 samples of fruit, vegetables, cereals and processed products for residues of up to 470 pesticides and metabolites, including 69 border control samples. 397 samples of food of animal origin for residues of up to 340 different pesticides and marker PCB's. Analysis of 34 infant formulae samples for up to 470 pesticides and metabolites was also carried out. The Maximum Residues Level (MRLs) for pesticide residues in food were exceeded in 29 samples.

Also in 2015, 97 samples of animal feed were analysed for seven PCB's used as markers for the presence of dioxins and 30 samples of animal feed were analysed for a limited scope of pesticide residues and metabolites (169).

Formulations

The Pesticide Formulation Laboratory (PFL) provides the analytical support necessary to assure the quality of plant protection products on the Irish market. In 2015, the laboratory participated successfully in 1 collaborative study aimed at developing and validating methods for the analysis of these products. 82 samples of plant protection products were analysed to check that the composition of these products complied with the authorised product specifications. Of the samples analysed, some 3 (3.7%) were out of specification.



OBJECTIVE 3 RURAL AND MARINE ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT



Objective Three

Performance Budgeting for Objective Three

High Level Objective: “Promoting economic, social and environmentally sustainable farming, fishing and forestry.”

INPUTS – FINANCIAL & HUMAN RESOURCES

		2015 Budget Outturn			2016 Estimate		
		Current	Capital	Total	Current	Capital	Total
		€000	€000	€000	€000	€000	€000
C.1	ADMINISTRATION PAY	34,135	-	34,135	35,559	-	35,559
C.2	ADMINISTRATION NON PAY	9,477	485	9,962	9,703	233	9,936
C.3	RURAL ENVIROMENT	131,232	-	131,232	196,244	-	196,244
C.4	LAND MOBILITY (EARLY RETIREMENT/INSTALLATION AID SCHEMES)	7,143	-	7,143	5,016	-	5,016
C.5	DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD	626	29,990	30,616	845	41,702	42,547
C.	6 FORESTRY AND BIOENERGY	1,360	102,785	104,145	1,775	112,029	113,804
C.7	FISHERIES	1,873	21,223	23,095	4,810	17,475	22,285
C. 8	SEA FISHERIES PROTECTION AUTHORITY	9,830	750	10,580	11,460	1,000	12,460
C.9	OTHER SERVICES	465	-	465	1,866	-	1,866
C.10	HAULBOWLINE	-	3,672	3,672	-	8,000	8,000
Programme Total:		196,141	158,905	355,045	267,278	180,439	447,717

Staff Numbers - Objective 3	2015	2016
DAFM	494	527
SFPA	86	116

Objective Three

Performance Budgeting for Objective Three

Inputs :

Programme C: RURAL AND MARINE ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT

	Public Service Activity	2015 targets	2015 Outcomes	2016 Targets
1	Development and implementation of Ireland's Rural Development Programme 2014-2020	Development, finalisation and agreement with the Commission of the Rural Development Programme 2014 – 2020	1,317 payments issued Formal approval received by Commission on 26 May 2015.	Effective ongoing management of Ireland's Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 Finalisation and formal agreement with the Commission of 1st Amendment of the RDP
2	Promoting & implementing specific measures supporting environmentally sustainable agriculture	<p>Pay circa 21,366 REPS, AEOS and Organics applicants</p> <p>Make payments in respect of at least 6,000 hectares of afforestation</p> <p>Complete all 1,350 cross-compliance inspections within the calendar year</p>	<p>A total of €31.077m was paid out in 2015 under REPS (€5.242m to 634 under 2015 applications and €25.835m re 2014 and earlier applications.)</p> <p>€79.8m paid out in AEOS (€42.873m for 2015 scheme to 14,390 participants and €36.928m in respect of previous years)</p> <p>A total of €8.16m million was paid to a total of 1,148 applicants under the Organic Farming Scheme in 2015</p> <p>Payments made in respect of 6,293 hectares of afforestation</p> <p>1,368 Full Cross Compliance inspections were completed in 2015</p>	<p>Number of applicants to pay under REPS , AEOS and Organics: 10,405</p> <p>Make payments in respect of at least 6,660 hectares of afforestation</p> <p>Complete 1,370 cross-compliance inspections within the calendar year</p>

Objective Three

Performance Budgeting for Objective Three

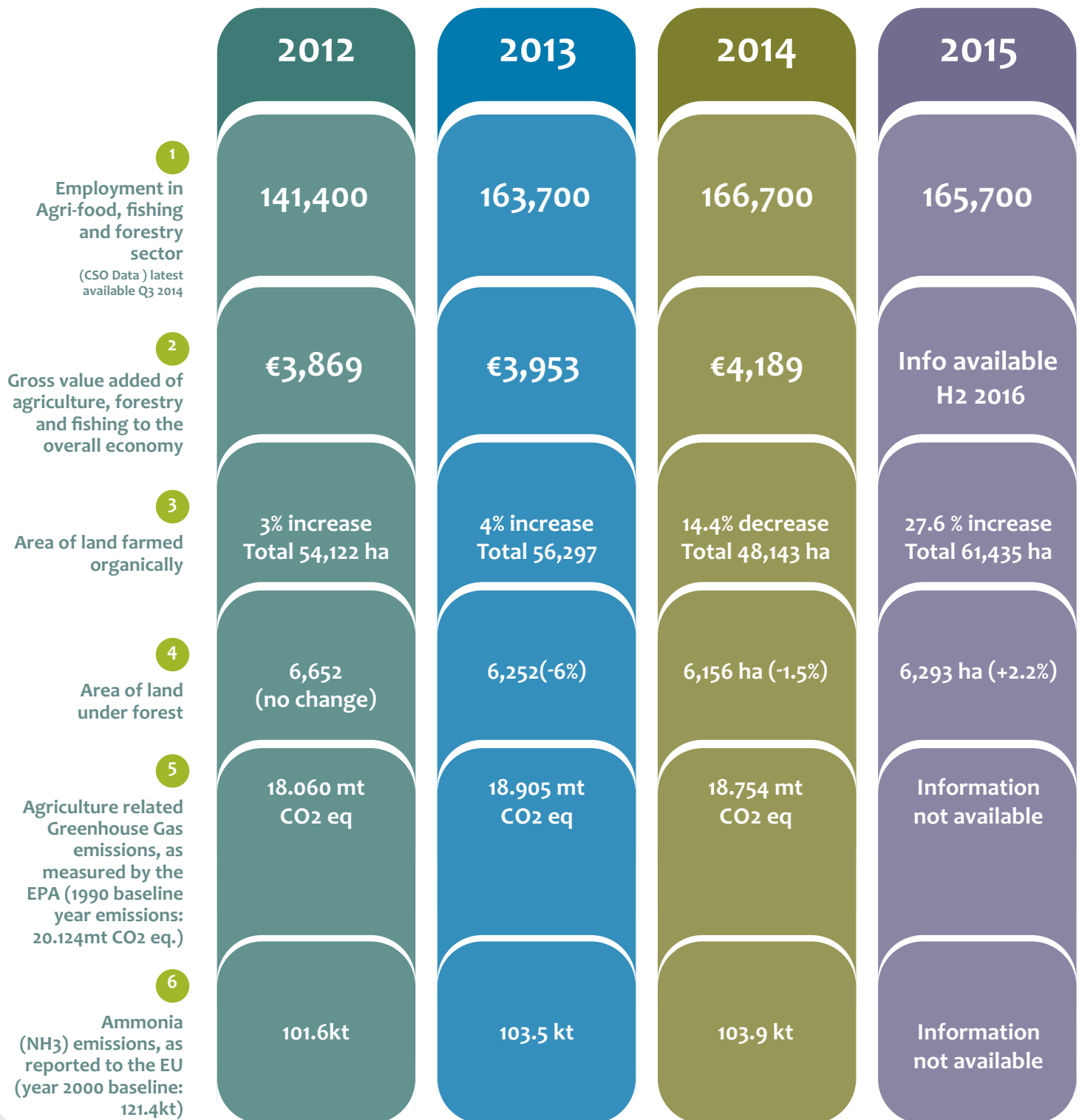
Public Service Activity	2015 targets	2015 Outcomes	2016 Targets
3 Progress development of fisheries sector including the Harbour Development Programme	<p>Complete essential safety & maintenance works at the six FHCs</p> <p>Address priority development works at the FHCs within available budget.</p> <p>Make up to 150 licence determinations</p> <p>Support the seafood processing sectors</p>	<p>All of the 35 projects in the 2015 programme at the 6 FHC's including Safety and Maintenance were progressed including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Dredging project at Dunmore East ■ Installation of Small Craft Pontoon in Howth ■ Removal of old boatyard slipway in Dingle ■ Phase 2 of the Small Craft Harbour in Killybegs ■ Expenditure on Cape Clear of €1.286m on Bull Nose ■ Design and €770k in major sheet pile repairs to Duffys Pier following storm damage in 2014. <p>€1.528m was spent on Safety and Maintenance works at the six FHCs)</p> <p>104 aquaculture licence determinations made</p> <p>An investment programme of €9.0 million, involving grants of €2.7 million was approved by BIM in 2015 for 18 seafood companies combined. The supported projects are projected to deliver 145 Jobs and €41 million in additional sales by 2017.</p>	<p>Within available budget, complete safety works and progress priority developments at the 6 FHCs</p> <p>Based on current estimates, licence determinations of order of 200 are planned for 2016</p> <p>Publish a new Seafood Development Programme 2014-2020 and complete the 2007-2013 Programme.</p>



Objective Three


Performance Budgeting for Objective Three

Programme C: Context Indicators



Objective Three

Performance Budgeting for Objective Three



Changes in water quality as indicated by EPA Water Quality in Ireland Report 2007-2009 and EPA Water Quality Report 2010-2012 (Most recent Report available)

2007-2009

Waterbodies at high or good WFD Status-EPA

- 68.9% of river channel length monitored
- 47.3% of monitored lakes
- 49.5% of transitional and coastal waters
- 84.7% of the area of groundwater aquifers

2010-2012

Waterbodies at high or good WFD Status-EPA

- 73% of river channel length monitored
- 42% of monitored lakes
- 45% of transitional and 93% of coastal waters
- 99% of the area of groundwater aquifers

Outlook

- Seriously polluted/bad WFD status rivers have been virtually eliminated.
- Nutrient inputs to rivers, particularly from the agriculture sector, have seen 18.7% and 37.7% reductions in Nitrogen and Phosphorus sources, respectively.
- Levels of Nitrogen and Phosphorus in rivers and groundwaters have been mostly decreasing or stable since 2007.
- Riverine inputs of Nitrogen and Phosphorus to transitional and coastal waters have shown declines since 2007.
- 5% reduction in lake quality is not understood and requires further investigation.
- Measures taken to address river pollution will be the key to improving lake water quality.
- Site-specific, targeted interventions are needed in high status sites; the number of high status sites has declined significantly in recent decades

Objective Three Promoting Sustainable Farming



Rural Development Programme 2014 – 2020

Ireland's 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme (RDP) was formally adopted by the EU Commission on the 26th of May 2015 and contains a suite of extensive measures that address all farming sectors and support community led local development by means of LEADER. The Programme is co-funded by the EU's European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and the national exchequer. EU support for the RDP via the EAFRD will amount to €2.19 billion over the 7-year Programme lifespan and this EU funding will be supplemented by exchequer funding to bring the total support available under the RDP to €3.9 billion.

First Amendment to Ireland's 2014-2020 RDP

The first amendment to Ireland's RDP was formally submitted to the European Commission in December 2015 and includes a range of adjustments and additions to the existing RDP Measures. Approval in 2016, is expected to introduce:

- Changes to GLAS 2, on foot of a review of GLAS 1
- The Burren Programme
- An amendment to TAMS II to introduce a tillage scheme, rainwater harvesting and sheep fencing
- Changes to the Organic Farming Scheme to allow for the extension of 'old' contracts and the inclusion of additional land
- Permission to be a member of 2 Knowledge Transfer Groups
- LEADER clarifications in relation to use of second-hand equipment, use of payment costs instead of simplified cost options and inclusion of reference to advance payments

Rural Environment Management Scheme (REPS)

REPS was an agri-environment measure to encourage farmers to go beyond basic good farming practices and to farm in a way that benefits the landscape, biodiversity and water quality. REPS schemes delivered enhanced environmental benefits through improved biodiversity and supplementary measures. Participants had to comply with 11 basic compulsory measures and also engage in at least two out of a range of 25 undertakings designed to increase biodiversity at farm level. Farmers could also choose up to two supplementary measures targeted at enhancing the environment. These measures covered a range of activities such as conservation of wild bird habitats, planting of traditional Irish orchards, riparian zones, minimum tillage, sustainable grazing.

The final REPS4 Scheme ended at the end of December 2015. The final 833 participants in the scheme finished at that date. In 2015, a total of €31.077 million was paid under the REPS Scheme to the remaining participants. The average REPS4 payment was €5,700.

REPS also helped to preserve the built heritage in rural Ireland in the Traditional Farm Buildings Scheme by ensuring that a number of buildings of historical and architectural value were maintained into the future. The Heritage Council administered the measure on behalf of the Department. In 2015 just over €130,000 was paid to 11 farmers towards the restoration of traditional buildings on their farms.

Objective Three Promoting Sustainable Farming

Agri Environment Options Scheme (AEOS)

Under this Scheme, farmers are paid to undertake actions that address the environmental challenges of loss of biodiversity, improvement of water quality and combating climate change. The Scheme is based on a menu of actions, from which farmers select those best suited to their individual circumstances. Farmers with commonage land or designated Special Areas of Conservation or Special Protection Areas are in a special category and must follow a Sustainable Management Plan prepared by a planner. The overall objective of the scheme is to deliver the maximum environmental benefit for funds available.

AEOS 1 had 7,387 active participants at an average payment of €3,900 per annum. The end date for the AEOS1 scheme was 31 December 2015.

AEOS 2 has 5,860 active participants at an average payment of €3,300 per annum. The end date for the AEOS2 scheme is 31 December 2016.

AEOS 3 has 5,736 active participants at an average payment of €3,300 per annum. The end date for the AEOS1 scheme is 31 December 2018.

In 2015 €79.801 million was spent on the three AEOS Schemes. €42.873 million of that was in respect of the 2015 Scheme year, while the remaining €36.928 million was in respect of previous Scheme years.

Targeted Agricultural Modernisation Schemes (TAMS)

The TAMS Farm Safety Scheme opened on 22 October 2014 and closed for applications on 9th January 2015. The objective of the Scheme is to improve the standard of safety on Irish farms by providing grant-aid for a number of specified investment items. A total of 6,299 applications were received (4,417 in 2014 and 1,882 in 2015). 4,618 projects were approved and by the 31st of December 2015 1,187 payments had been made to a value of €3.131m.

The total expenditure in 2015 for the other Schemes under TAMS I, the Dairy Equipment Scheme, the Sheep Fencing/Handling Scheme, the Loose Housing - Sows Scheme and Rainwater Harvesting Scheme amounted to €21.699m.

2015 saw the launch of the TAMS II suite of Schemes under the 2014–2020 Rural Development Programme for Ireland, these include:-

- Young Farmers' Capital Investment Scheme
- Low Emission Slurry Spreading Equipment Scheme
- Animal Welfare, Safety and Nutrient Storage Scheme
- Dairy Equipment Scheme
- Pig and Poultry Investment Scheme
- Organic Capital Investment Scheme

The Schemes have proved popular with farmers with a total of 5,205 applications submitted under the first two tranches. A further scheme aimed specifically at Tillage Farmers is proposed and will be put in place following Commission approval.

Burren Farming for Conservation Programme (BFCP)

This agri-environmental programme is open to farmers who farm in the Burren region in north Clare and south Galway. The Programme is implemented in conjunction with the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and the Burren Life Project. Payments, which are made from unspent single farm payment funds, average €6,900 to 159 farmers. Farmers are paid on the basis of work done and outputs generated and all works are co-financed by the farmer.

These developments protect sensitive limestone springs from pollution and allow the Burren's rare flora to emerge every spring. In addition, a new network of paths were opened up - which will assist in keeping the landscape open and accessible while protecting some of Europe's rarest grasslands and landscape.

Locally-led schemes

These schemes promote local solutions to specific environmental issues and complement the much more broadly-based GLAS measure under the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020. The expansion of the Burren conservation scheme is the first such locally-led scheme and applications for the first tranche were received by 21st December, 2015; it is expected to recruit some 200 into the scheme from this. Further tranches will increase participation to at least double that number. Other projects which will in due course be funded include a specific complementary hen harrier scheme for farmers with large tracts of hen harrier land and a specific Freshwater Pearl Mussel scheme. A number of themes will be identified following an Open Call, one of which will be the preservation of upland peats, and proposals will be invited by public call in 2016.

2015 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

Objective Three Promoting Sustainable Farming

The Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) Regulations were introduced by the Department in October 2011 to implement the EU Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive in relation to restructuring of rural land holdings, commencing to use uncultivated land or semi-natural areas for intensive agriculture and land drainage works on lands used for agriculture.

In 2015, 149 Screening applications were received under these Regulations. A breakdown of the activities covered by these applications is as follows.

- 76% - field boundary/hedgerow removal
- 6% - recontouring (within farm holding)
- 8% - commencing to use uncultivated land or semi-natural areas for intensive agriculture
- 10% - land drainage activities

Two applications did not come under the remit of these Regulations.

Details of Screening application decisions are available on the Department's website.

Cross Compliance Checks

EU cross compliance requires that farmers must comply with 13 Statutory Management Requirements (SMRs) and 7 Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition (GAEC) standards, relating to climate change, good

agricultural condition of land, public, animal and plant health and animal welfare. These requirements are monitored by mandatory inspections on between 1-3% of farms annually and are an effective means of protecting the environment and ensuring that farmers comply with a wide range of public goods regulations concerned with food and animal welfare.

The areas where most breaches of the cross compliance regulations are found continue to be in the areas of bovine and ovine identification and registration, nitrates and good agricultural and environmental condition (GAEC). Payment reductions under the bovine statutory management requirements arise from missing tags, database errors, animal passport errors and errors in the herd register. Breaches under the ovine requirements relate to missing tags, database/census errors, dispatch docket errors and flock register errors. With regard to the nitrates requirements, the management of livestock manures and soiled water and their storage are the main areas where irregularities are found. Poaching of pasture land, the encroaching of invasive/noxious species on eligible land and the damage and/or removal of designated landscape features are the primary areas giving rise to irregularities under the good agricultural and environmental condition requirements.

Table 2.6 Fertiliser Consumption (tonnes nutrient)

Year	Nitrogen	Phosphorus	Potassium	Total (N+P+K)
2006	345,154	37,209	92,880	475,243
2007	321,588	32,415	84,737	438,740
2008	308,960	26,350	69,584	404,894
2009	306,806	20,231	52,403	379,440
2010	362,395	29,339	74,899	466,633
2011	313,649	28,775	72,995	415,419
2012	296,536	27,421	81,179	405,136
2013	353,044	36,986	92,790	482,820
2014	331,782	35,584	93,812	461,178
2015	330,959	36,551	94,242	461,752
Mean (10 yr)	327,087	31,086	80,952	439,126

Objective Three Promoting Sustainable Farming

Fertiliser Usage

Overall fertiliser usage in 2015 was largely static when compared to 2014 levels. There was a slight decrease in N use, P use was similar, with K use slightly increased when compared to 2014. NPK use was 5% above the ten year average. Table 3.2 shows the NPK nutrient use from 2006 to 2015 as well as the mean use over the ten years. Ground limestone usage was 893,729 tonnes in 2015, which was an increase of 3% over the 2014 usage.

In 2015, the Department's inspection programme included taking samples of fertiliser for nutrient composition. In addition, samples of ground limestone were taken and tested for neutralising value, moisture and particle size. Analyses of fertiliser and liming materials are carried out by the State Laboratory. All instances of significant non-compliance are notified to suppliers. Suppliers with a high incidence of non-compliant products are targeted for increased inspection and sampling in the following years.

2015 Nitrates Derogation

The Nitrates Directive requires that farmers comply with a stocking rate limit of 170 kgs of Nitrogen (N) per hectare per year (the equivalent of two dairy cows/ha). Over 6,300 farmers applied for the derogation in 2015, a 9% increase on 2014 figures, allowing them to farm at a higher stocking rate, up to 250 kgs N/ Ha subject to additional conditions. The application system is now 100% on-line.

Nitrogen and Phosphorus Data

DAFM provide farmers with detailed N and P statements reflecting stocking rates on the holding. The frequency of the Nitrogen and Phosphorus (N&P) statements increased in 2015, with statements now available online for end June, August, October and December periods. In addition advisors can also receive nitrogen and phosphorus data for their clients at intervals during the year.

2015 Agricultural Catchment Programme

The Agricultural Catchments Programme (ACP) is a joint research and advisory programme operated by Teagasc in six agricultural catchments across the country. It was established to evaluate the effectiveness and impact of the Good Agricultural Practice measures that Irish farmers are required to implement under the Nitrates Directive. Phase 2 of the Programme was completed in December 2015. New scientific knowledge coming from the ACP to date is indicating a positive response to Ireland's Nitrates Regulations, i.e. reduced nutrient inputs, increased nutrient management and some evidence of reduced nutrient losses from agricultural land to water. As a result, water quality trends are showing signs of recovery although this is affected by time lags between the introduction of measures and measureable improvements in water quality.

Furthermore, the ACP has developed sustainability indicators for tracking the environmental and economic performance of agriculture within the regulatory environment. The findings from the ACP verify that Irish farmers are producing milk, meat and crops in an environmentally sustainable manner. This scientific verification, in turn, bolsters Ireland's green credentials in the context of anticipated pressures under Food Wise 2025.

Forestry

Forests cover 10.5% of the land area of the country. This is one of the lowest levels in Europe, as the European (EU-27) average is about 33%. Forest cover in Ireland has increased by nearly 312,000 hectares since 1990, one of the highest levels of increase in forest cover among developed countries. The level of afforestation (new planting) over the period 2007-2015 is shown below.

Table 2.7 Afforestation levels 2008-2015 (hectares)

2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
6,249	6,648	8,314	6,653	6,652	6,252	6,156	6,293

Objective Three Promoting Sustainable Farming

The planting and growing sectors have been supported by grant and premium schemes to the value of €920.3 million during the period 2007 to 2015. The schemes have led to the establishment of close to 29,000 private forest plantations since 1980, the majority of which are owned by farmers. Forestry activity enhances the rural environment and provides employment in areas where there can be few alternatives while visits to forests generate an estimated €268 million annually in local communities.

Consideration of the recommendations of the Forest Policy Review

The review of forest policy, 'Forests, products and people – Ireland's forest policy – a renewed vision', published in July 2014, will be considered by the COFORD Council who will report thereon to the Department. The review and the accompanying environmental report are available at <http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/forests/forests-service/forest-service-general-information/forest-policy-review-forests-products-and-people/>

Roundwood Harvest and Trade

In 2015:

- the total roundwood harvest (including firewood) was 3.20 million cubic metres, which was the highest on record. Seventy seven percent of this harvest came from Coillte, with the balance from the private forest sector. Roundwood available for processing, which excludes firewood, and includes imports (mainly from Northern Ireland and Scotland) was 3.02 million cubic metres. This material was processed into sawnwood, wood-based panels and products such as wood chip and pellets.
- During 2015, consumption of sawn timber in the Republic of Ireland grew by 10%, driven by an improvement in construction markets.

Exports of forest products reached €355 million, a 4% decline on 2014, mainly comprising wood-based panels and sawn timber. The annual COFORD Woodflow, available on the Department's website, provides a full report on harvest levels and trade in wood products in the preceding year.

Table 2.8 : Timber and Paper Products Trade 2011 – 2015



The National Forest Inventory

During 2015, field data collection on the third NFI cycle commenced and is due for completion in 2017. The third NFI will facilitate the on-going monitoring of the national forest estate, including the assessment of change over time. In particular the evaluation of volume increment and harvesting volume will facilitate the monitoring of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM).

All Ireland Roundwood Production Forest

The Department convened a Roundwood Production Forecast Group in 2014, comprising the Forest Service of the Department, Coillte, the Northern Ireland Forest Service and a number of grower and sawmilling representatives. The work was largely completed by the end of 2015, resulting in a new All Ireland Roundwood Production Forecast for the period 2016-2035. It foresees that Net Realisable Volume production on the island will increase from 3.95 million cubic metres in 2016 to 7.87 million cubic metres by 2035. The full forecast and accompanying tables are available at www.coford.ie.

COFORD

A new COFORD research and development advisory council was appointed at the end of 2015 for the 3-year period 2016-2018. It began work on establishing working groups in areas such as forest genetic resources, and afforestation. Reports on land availability for afforestation and wood mobilisation, developed under the previous Council, were issued in 2015. The Council also reissued the Forestry 2030 series of information papers. Further information on the work of the Council and COFORD publications and working group reports are available at www.coford.ie.

Objective Three Promoting Sustainable Farming

Forest Protection

The Forest Service implements the provisions of the Council Directive 2000/29/EC relating to timber, wood packaging material (pallets, crates etc.) and surveys of the national forest estate for quarantine pests and diseases. In 2015, both *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* (previously referred to scientifically by the name *Chalara fraxinea* and commonly known as 'Ash Dieback disease') and *Phytophthora ramorum* disease outbreaks in Japanese larch continued to be of major concern and cause for action by the Department.

In relation to Ash Dieback, the Department repeated its systematic and targeted plant health surveys over the summer months. These included a targeted survey of forestry plantations with imported ash, a systematic survey of National Forest Inventory points across the country, as well as surveys in horticultural nurseries, garden centres, private gardens, roadside landscaping and farm landscaping/agri-environment scheme plantings. By December 2015, there were confirmed findings of the disease in 115 forest plantations distributed over 19 counties. In the course of the year, 52 individual samples taken from trees in native hedgerows proved positive as did 76 individual samples taken from trees in roadside /motorway landscaping plantings. The effect of this was that, by December 2015, there were confirmed findings of the disease in native hedgerows in 11 counties and confirmed findings of the disease in roadside / motorway landscaping plantings in 13 counties. Taken together, by the end of 2015, the presence of the disease had been confirmed in planted ash sites in 24 of the 26 counties in Ireland.

By the end of 2015, under the Reconstitution Scheme (Chalara Ash Dieback) (introduced in March 2013), some €2.6 million had been paid out by the Department and over 715 hectares of infected and associated ash plantations had been cleared and replanted or were in the process of being replanting with alternative species. In addition, eradication measures involving the removal and destruction of several thousand ash trees had also been undertaken in roadside/motorway landscaping plantings, farm landscaping/agri-environment scheme plantings, and horticultural nurseries/garden centres.

Since the first finding in Ireland of *Phytophthora ramorum* in Japanese larch in 2010, the Forest Service has continued to conduct annual ground and aerial surveys of larch with the assistance of the Air Corps and Coillte. At the start of 2015, the disease had been confirmed present in Japanese larch at 44 locations, up

from 26 at the start of the previous year. By the end of 2015, the disease has been confirmed present at an additional 3 locations, bringing the total number of confirmed locations in Ireland to 47, and affecting approximately 311 hectares of forestry. These sites are mainly in the south-west, south-east and east of the country.

Since 2010, the Forest Service has worked with Coillte (as the principal landowner affected) in undertaking sanitation felling of infected larch in an effort to limit spread and continued to do so in 2015. Four statutory disposal notices were issued in 2015 in relation to forest properties infected with the disease. Other tree species have been affected at these Japanese larch sites including beech, noble fir and Spanish chestnut. Invasive wild rhododendron, where it is infected, is a major source of inoculum.

In 2015, the Forest Service also made a significant finding in relation to *Phytophthora pseudosyringae*, with the first confirmed detection of the pathogen in Japanese larch in a forest in County Louth.

The promotion of native forests by the Department represents a key biodiversity component of Ireland's national forest policy. As well as contributing to the visual and ecological diversity of a landscape, these woodlands also play an important role in protecting water quality. Native woodlands are supported through a number of measures within the Forestry Programme launched in 2015 as follows:

- Native Woodland Establishment funds the planting of new native woodland on open 'greenfield' sites;
- Native Woodland Conservation, promotes the appropriate restoration of existing native woodland, including the conversion of non-native forest to native woodland;
- Seed Stand and Seed Orchard scheme, encourages the registration of seed stands comprising of native species on the National List of Basic Material. The Scheme also supports the improvement and management of sessile oak and pedunculate oak seed stands within ancient woodlands.

Agro Forestry and Forestry for Fibre measures were also introduced in 2015 to provide farmers with options for diversifying their income stream while contributing to the environment. Agro-forestry is a land use system in which trees are grown in combination with agriculture on the same land. The system gives land owners the

Objective Three Promoting Sustainable Farming

flexibility to graze and even cut silage and hay while growing trees for timber in the same field. Trees planted close to sensitive waterways can help filter surface runoff and reduce the amount of sediment that enters these streams and rivers, protecting vulnerable aquatic species. There are also biodiversity benefits through the creation of new habitats and also in animal welfare where the trees provide shelter. The Forestry for Fibre Scheme allows for harvesting after 10-15 years rather than 35-40 years as is the case with other types of forestry. The main output from this type of planting is the replacement of fossil fuels with a renewable source of energy, firewood.

Recommendation 23 of the Agri-taxation Review, published as part of Budget 2015, was to 'Examine the scope for extending income averaging to forestry clear-felling profits'. At the time, forestry profits for the clear-felling of timber were subject to the upper tax exemption limits of the High Earners Restrictions rules. This was considered to have a disproportionate impact on forest owners as the majority of income comes at a single point in time i.e. at clear-felling of the timber crop. The forestry sector is a unique investment in agriculture terms as the majority of the revenue is realised at the end of an extended growing cycle of 35 to 100 years. It was considered that this classification impacted on long-term decision making and afforestation planting targets and also influenced behaviour in that harvesting might take place over a two or three year period in order to reduce the tax liability. In order to offset the impact of the high earner restriction rules on the forestry sector, Budget 2016 announced that the restriction was to be removed for active foresters and farmers; this now means that clear-felling income will be tax-free.

Organic Farming

While showing a steady growth over the past number of years, there was a sharp increase in the area under organic production in 2015 due to the introduction of a new Organic Farming Scheme, which encouraged a large number of farmers to convert to organic farming methods. The land area under organic production methods equated to 1.4 % of agricultural land. The Irish organic retail market was estimated to be worth approximately €109 million in 2015.

Table 2.9 Organic Farming Operators and Hectarage

2012	2013	2014	2015
1,760	1,668	1,587	2,084
(54,122ha)	(56,297ha)	(48,143ha)	(61,435ha)

A range of organic events took place in 2015 to raise awareness on organic farming. In February 2015 Bord Bia and BIM co-ordinated Ireland's participation at Biofach. Biofach is a most important international trade event for organic food industry professionals and companies. Those attending the event, both from Europe and further afield, are predominantly purchasing decision-makers from the retail, food service and distribution sectors.

Other events included the demonstration organic farms programme organised by Teagasc, which involved 12 farms covering a range of different enterprises.

Organic capital grant schemes under the RDP continued to provide grant aid for investments by farmers and processors in facilities and equipment. Grant aid of 40% of the cost up to a maximum of €60,000 in the case of on-farm investments and €0.5m for investments off-farm is available. Grant aid amounting to just over €796,000 was awarded in 2015.

Genetic Resources

The National Advisory Committee for Genetic Resources in Food and Agriculture publishes an annual call for proposals in relation to the conservation of plant, animal, forestry, microorganisms and invertebrates and aquatic genetic resources and allocates funding to successful projects from a budget provided by this Department. The Advisory Committee comprises experts representing stakeholder bodies from a broad spectrum of backgrounds in Ireland including government Departments, research and third level institutes, non-government organizations and farming bodies. In 2015, 8 projects on conservation of plant and animal genetic resources were awarded a total of €62,730.

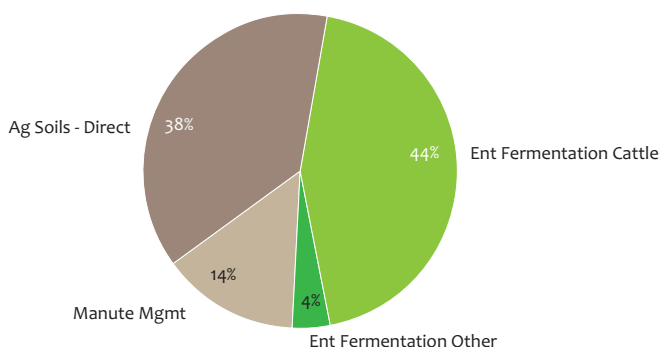
Objective Three Climate Change

It is widely accepted that climate change is one of the major challenges of our generation. This is particularly so for the agriculture sector given that it is both a source of emissions and that productive output can be adversely affected by global warming and consequent changes to weather patterns. Agriculture is also a major driver of land use change which can influence the dynamics of soil carbon pools to be either a source or sink of emissions.

It is estimated that agriculture, forestry and other land use (AFOLU) is responsible for 20-24% of the world's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. In Ireland, the agriculture sector alone is responsible for 19.29Mt CO₂ eq. or approximately 33% of national GHG emissions. This figure reflects the huge importance of agriculture to the Irish economy and the significance of the livestock industry. The impacts of increasing temperatures on water, ecosystems, food supply and coastal regions will become more severe if emissions continue to increase. On the other hand the forest sector, through afforestation, the use of forest-based biomass and wood products offers considerable scope for climate change mitigation and has a role to play in adaptation measures such as reducing flood risks.

During 2015 a public consultation process was launched on a discussion document in preparation for the agriculture and forest sector mitigation plan. This was followed by further consultation in the form of a stakeholder workshop. Feedback received will inform the sector contribution to the National Mitigation Plan, which is being developed under the Climate Change and Low Carbon Development Act. Work also commenced on developing an agriculture and forest sector adaptation plan.

Table 3.1 Distribution of Irish agriculture emissions



Ammonia Emissions: Clean Air Package

Discussions continued during the year on the revisions to the National Emissions Ceiling Directive (NEC). Ireland held detailed technical discussions with the Commission given the importance of the issue for Ireland where our ammonia emissions are almost completely from agriculture. In order to reduce the target for ammonia (NH₃) emissions to a more achievable figure Ireland offered to make corresponding increases in sulphur dioxide (SO₂) and fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) targets, which was accepted by the Presidency. Discussions on the NEC will continue into 2016.

Overall the EU wide adjustments to ammonia targets has reduced the EU ambition from 27% by 2030, as tabled by the original Commission proposal, to 18%, although most MS continue to argue the ammonia reduction commitments are still too tough.

Ireland at EU and International level

Following the October 2014 Council Conclusions on the EU's new climate and energy policy framework Ireland continued to take a whole of government approach to negotiations with the Commission and other Member States to examine the best means of encouraging the sustainable intensification of food production, while optimising the sector's contribution to greenhouse gas mitigation and sequestration, including through afforestation and other forest sector activities.

The Department has actively participated in meetings and conferences of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) through the EU Agriculture, Forests and Other Land Uses (AFOLU) group. The Climate Change Agreement reached in Paris in December included recognition for food production and of the role of forests in mitigating climate change and the need to account for both emissions and removals.

Ireland attended the Convention's Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) Bonn session, in June 2015 an Irish case study featured as part of the EU submission. DAFM will continue to support discussions on agriculture under the SBSTA.

Objective Three Bio Energy



Bioenergy is the term used to describe renewable energy derived from biomass, (the biodegradable portion of products and residues from agriculture), forestry and related industries. Ireland's agriculture and forest sectors have the potential to provide significant quantities of biomass materials that can be utilised to contribute to meeting the EU 2020 targets. Sources include forest-related biomass from thinnings, harvesting and sawmilling residues as well as dedicated energy crops such as miscanthus and willow. Agriculture residues, including manures, straw, poultry litter, mushroom compost and tallow can also be used for energy production.

The Department encourages and facilitates the innovative use of animal by-products for energy production in accordance with EU regulations, including through combustion and as biogas. Relevant government departments and agencies continue to work together in the Cross Agency Animal By-products Group and in cooperation with industry, through appropriate structures, including through the Consultative Forum on the Use of Animal By-products. DAFM will engage with the agri-food sector, particularly with regard to new agri-food enterprises in terms of using their waste product for energy production.

During 2015, a farm-based Anaerobic Digestion (AD) facility in Nurney, Co. Kildare commenced operation with the help of grant-aid from DAFM under the 2006 Pilot Waste Processing Facilities Scheme. Feedstock includes local pig manure and food waste. The biogas produced in the AD process is used as fuel in a Combined Heat & Power (CHP) unit. Teagasc also commenced preparations for building an AD plant at its Grange research centre.

Bioenergy use in Ireland is dominated by forest-related biomass, due primarily to the extensive use of processing residues to produce thermal energy in the wood processing sectors and the increasing use of wood fuels for heat in industrial, commercial and residential buildings as a result of the switch to renewable energy heating systems.

The price supports for bioenergy under REFIT 3, which opened in February 2012, will support Anaerobic Digestion CHP and non-CHP, Biomass CHP and Biomass Combustion technologies. REFIT 3 has the potential to underpin the development of bioenergy in the agriculture and forestry sectors by providing long term sustainable markets for bioenergy crops, forest thinnings and residues from agriculture and forest harvesting operations. Applications closed in December 2015 and will be processed in 2016.

Objective Three Bio Energy

Demand for energy wood will depend largely on the level of co-firing of wood biomass for electricity generation, installed biomass-based heating and CHP capacity and the impact of any new measures aimed at stimulating the increased use of energy wood. A growing international trade in wood fuels is also likely to impact on demand for locally produced fuels.

On the supply side, the new *All Ireland Roundwood Production Forecast 2016-2035* foresees that wood available (in the Republic) for bioenergy use will more than double over the forecast period, from 1.8 million cubic metres in 2016 to 4.2 million cubic metres in 2035. The bulk of this material is likely to come from privately-owned farm forests. Depending on market conditions there is potential to augment these supplies through increased recovery of harvesting residues on suitable sites, higher intensities of thinning, and through the planting of fast growing tree species.

The Department continued to support the development of the Wood Fuel Quality Assurance scheme and the provision of advice on forest-based biomass supply chains and fuels at www.woodenergy.ie

The Department was represented on the Bioenergy Steering Group (BSG) established by the Department of the Communications, Energy and Natural Resources to oversee the finalisation and implementation of the draft Bioenergy Plan. It also provided input to the four working groups established under the BSG.

Bioenergy (Willow) Scheme 2015

The Bioenergy (Willow) Scheme 2015 was launched 24th March 2015 with a closing date for applications of 30th April 2015. The purpose of the scheme is to develop a renewable wood biomass resource that will also contribute to farm incomes and rural development.

This scheme commenced in 2007 on a nationally funded pilot basis and continued until 2010. The scheme was co-funded under the Rural Development Programme for Ireland (RDP) 2007-2013 for the years from 2011 to 2014. The Scheme was nationally funded in 2015. A full review is being undertaken of the Scheme to address the low take-up and no further Schemes have been announced pending completion of this review.

The Department launched a new Forestry for Fibre scheme in 2015 as part of the new Forestry Programme 2014 – 2020. The aim of this scheme is to grow trees such as eucalyptus and aspen on short rotations of between 10-15 years primarily for use as fuel.

Objective Three Sea Food



Overview

The Irish seafood industry comprises of the commercial sea fishing industry, the aquaculture industry and the seafood processing industry. The seafood industry is based on the utilisation of a high quality, indigenous natural resource, which has excellent potential for added value and makes a significant contribution to the national economy in terms of output, employment and exports. The sector generated sales of €911 million in 2015; this represents a 7% increase on €850 million in 2014 and provided approximately 11,000 jobs in coastal regions around the country. Almost 60% of the employment and added value created in the marine sector is located outside the most developed regions of the country, making the seafood sector hugely important to maintaining economic viability in rural coastal communities.

The prospects for seafood, both at a global and European level, are very favourable, especially in the medium to long term. The world's population is growing strongly and is not expected to stabilise until around 2050 when there will be more than nine billion people on the planet, representing a massive new market for food. As a consequence, it is inevitable that demand for seafood will continue to grow for the foreseeable future.

Geographically, the fisheries industry is predominantly concentrated on the western seaboard and the harbour towns of the south and east coastline areas. In terms of the fish catching sector, fish and shellfish are landed at six major fishery harbour centres (Killybegs, Castletownbere, Howth, Rossaveal, Dunmore East and Dingle / Daingean Uí Chúis), at 40 secondary ports and a

further 80 piers and landing places where fish landings are recorded. The main industry stakeholders are the primary production sectors of fish catching and aquaculture, the primary and secondary processing sectors, the marketing sectors and ancillary industries such as net making, vessel repair, transport and a number of other services.

Seafood exports

Irish seafood exports were valued at €565 million in 2015. This represents an 8% increase on €520 million in 2014. In volume terms, exports at 257,693 tonnes are estimated to be down 2% to 263,169 tonnes in the previous year.

Trends in the main seafood categories in 2015 were as follows:

Salmon production recovered in 2015 and is on track to lead to direct growth in the value of salmon exports to €77 million from €47 million in 2014. The unit price of fresh whole Irish salmon at €7.9 per kg was above the average EU market price in this period and is accounted for by the market position of organic salmon. Exports of other freshwater fish were valued at €10 million in the same period.

Pelagic trade was valued at €204 million and amounted to 174,570 tonnes in 2015. This represents a 7% decrease in value from €221 million with a corresponding 6% decrease in volume from 185,474 tonnes in 2014. This decrease in value is due mainly to a reduction in the trade in mackerel which was valued at €86 million in the year under review down 22% from €111 million in 2014 combined with a 16% fall in the market price of mackerel in the same period.

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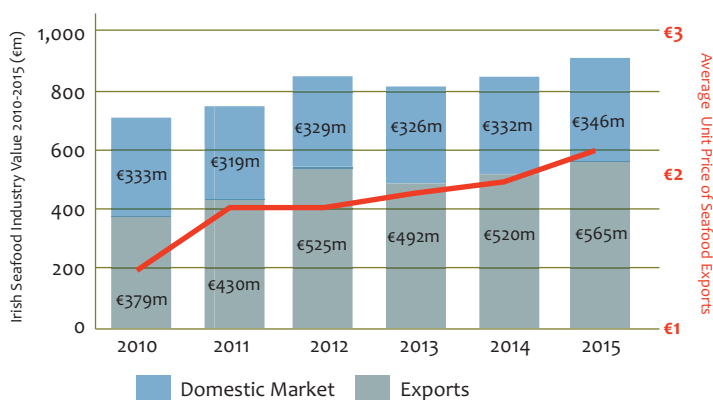
Whitefish exports were valued at €54 million in 2015 an increase of 10% on €50 million in 2014. This increase is due to additional quotas in this year, in addition to the new trade developments in whitefish, specifically hake estimated at €3 million, megrim €13 million (+15%), and monkfish €16 million (+9%).

Shellfish exports valued at €194 million were up 11% on the 2014 value of €175 million. This growth is due to a recovering EU market for, high value shellfish products, including shrimp and prawns at €58 million (+17%), crab €38 million (+6%) and mussels €14 million (+6%) year on year. The market for Irish oysters at €25 million is on a par with 2014.

Exports to the Asian markets are estimated to grow to €17 million for whelk and €8 million for clams for the full year 2015.

Note: the 2015 export includes fish meal and oil valued at €26 million.

Table 3.2



Main Markets

Exports to the European Union (EU) were estimated at €398 million in 2015 which represents a 14% increase on €349 million in 2014.

Trade to the main EU markets grew with France valued at €128 million (+7%), Great Britain €73 million (+11%), Spain €71 million (+23%), Italy €30 million (+17%) and Germany €21 million (-2%).

Exports to countries outside the EU are expected to decrease by 5% to €167 million in 2015 from €176 million in 2014. Nigeria, Cameroon and Egypt remain the leading African markets with combined pelagic exports valued at €105 million.

The value of the Asian market grew by 13% to €47 million in 2015. The Chinese market (including Hong Kong) was valued at €26 million due mainly to increased shellfish and pelagic trade. Exports of Whelk to South Korea grew to €17 million in 2015.

The main EU markets, namely France, Spain, UK, Italy and Germany continue to dominate seafood exports, accounting for around 55% of total export values. France remained the largest export market showing strong growth of over 5% on the back of unit price increases of over 14%. The Spanish market continued to show strong signs of recovery with exports up by over 18% against a backdrop of a 1% volume decrease. Exports to Italy increased by 11% in value terms while exports to the UK increased by 6% in value terms. Trade to Germany fell by 5% in value terms due to a sharp fall in mackerel and herring shipments in the early part of 2015.

Seafood exports to International markets reached approx. €160m, equating to around 31% of exports. Exports to the four main markets in Africa – Nigeria, Cameroon, Egypt and Ghana accounted for a total of 20% of total seafood export values. The Nigerian market showed export value growth of 48% on the back of a 30% lift in export volumes. Seafood exports to Cameroon fell by 13% in value terms while shipments to Egypt were 18% lower.

Exports to the four main Asian markets (China, Hong Kong, South Korea and Japan) increased by 20% in value terms up to November 2015. Strong value rises were recorded to China (+14%); South Korea (+39%), Hong Kong (+11%) and Japan (+3%) during the period.

Main product trends

The pelagic sector experienced a challenging 2015 due to depressed demand globally. This reflects the ongoing restrictions in trade to Russia. Pelagic volumes exported from Ireland were running 7% lower up to November with the value of trade 6% lower during the period. The pelagic sector currently accounts for 39% of total seafood export values and up to 73% of the total volume exported.

Total whitefish exports increased by 9% in value against a backdrop of falling volumes, which are estimated to have fallen by 4%. This reflects a unit price increase of over 14% for the period. Export values to Spain, our main market for whitefish increased by 15% largely driven by increased volumes (+5%) but also significant unit price increases during this period while shipments to the UK fell by 5% with trade to France 2% lower.

Objective Three Sea Food

Total shellfish exports recorded a strong performance during 2015 with export values rising by 10% driven by a 4% increase in export volumes and a 6% increase in unit prices. France, the largest export market for Irish shellfish, accounting for over 33% of value, eased slightly during the period. However, this was more than offset by a rise in trade to Spain and Italy, which recorded growth of 24% and 17% respectively. Shellfish exports to Asia performed extremely well during this period. Exports to South Korea increased by 39% whilst exports to China increased by 152%.

Salmon exports had another successful year with unit prices increasing by around 6% and export values growing by 62% on the back of a 54% increase in volumes during this period. The French market continues to dominate Irish salmon exports, accounting for over 50% of total value. The German market also demonstrated very strong growth increasing by 65% in value and 69% in volume. Salmon exports to the UK increased by almost 100% while trade to Canada and Belgium also showed strong growth during the period.

Up to November 2015, oyster exports stood at just over €20m, reflecting a decrease in value of 5% against a backdrop of retracting volumes (down 14%). Stock levels were high at the beginning of 2015 and this put some pressure on prices, which persisted throughout the year despite the return to a normal growth season. This was due to the carry-over of stock from late 2014 on the back of the Russian embargo and reduced promotional activity.

The French market continues to dominate Irish oyster exports accounting for over 75% of total sales. However, the value of trade was 15% lower up to November due to an oversupply of large sized oysters since 2014 as well as an increased focus by Irish exporters on finding new markets outside of France for premium grade oysters. As a result, oyster exports have shown very strong growth, albeit from a relatively low base, to markets such as China and Hong Kong, Singapore, UAE and the UK.

Total mussel exports were up by 4% for the first 10 months of 2015. This increase in value was driven by a 28% rise in mussel volumes over the period. Mussel exports to France increased by 4%, exports to Holland were static whilst the UK and Italian markets showed modest growth of 3% and 6% respectively. Exports to Spain performed strongly growing by 32% during this period.

Developing the Seafood Industry

Food Harvest 2025 identifies three priorities for the seafood sector:

- Expand the raw material base
- Enhance the industry's structure and skills
- Optimise product added value, export markets and environmental sustainability

Specific actions in FW2025 target key areas to support future growth, ranging from strategic planning to improved environmental sustainability and renewed priority on R&D into seafood based product development.

In 2015, the Department provided development supports to the seafood sector through its agencies Bord Iascaigh Mhara and Bord Bia, co-funded by the Exchequer and European Fisheries Fund through the €66 million Seafood Development Programme which was closed on 31 Dec 2015. A new €240 million Seafood Development Programme which will run up to 2021 was adopted in 2015, co-funded by the Exchequer and European Maritime and Fisheries Fund. The new Programme will represent a doubling of supports to the sector.

Government Task Force on Non-EEA Workers in Irish Fishing Industry

The report of the Government Task Force on Non-EEA Workers in Irish Fishing Industry was published on 14 December 2015. The high level inter Departmental Task Force which was set up following reports of alleged abuses of migrant workers on board Irish fishing vessels was chaired by Minister Coveney, and Minister Ged Nash, Minister of State for Business and Employment and involved senior officials from relevant Government Departments and Agencies. It received presentations and submissions from a number of relevant stakeholders. The key recommendation of the Task Force was the introduction of a new sector specific Atypical Worker Permission system, to be administered by the Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service (INIS) which will enable employers in specific parts of the Irish Fishing fleet, under a structured and transparent framework, to source and employ workers from non-EEA countries. The scheme developed provides that employees will be guaranteed, at a minimum, the national minimum wage and statutory terms and conditions in accordance with national law, which will be underpinned by the requirement for

Objective Three Sea Food

employers to provide a legally binding contract of employment. The scheme was launched on 15th February 2016.

Common Fisheries Policy

The new Common Fisheries Policy has been in force since 1 January 2014 and the contributions below in 2015 have continued to lend themselves to the overarching goal of the new Common Fisheries Policy - to end overfishing and to make fishing sustainable – environmentally, economically and socially thus resulting in a competitive and viable seafood sector for all.

The Landing Obligation (Discards Ban)

A key element of the new CFP is the introduction of a practical and phased discards policy. The initial step in this process began on 1 January 2015 with the commencement of the landing obligation for pelagic species. The introduction of the landing obligation for whitefish stocks will commence on a phased basis on the 1st January 2016. The phasing in period, up to 1 January 2019, means that fishermen will have time to adjust and implement changes that will allow for the avoidance of non target species.

At national level, the Minister established a national Discards Implementation Group in November 2013. The group met on 6 occasions in 2015 with the primary aim of ensuring that the Irish fishing Industry were fully prepared for, and engaged in, the implementation of the discards ban. Under the regional approach to decision making set out in the CFP, Ireland has worked with fellow Member States (UK, France, Spain, Belgium and the Netherlands) on developing appropriate measures for fisheries in the North Western Waters. The North Western Waters Member States Director's group met on 8 occasions in 2015 and there were a number of additional meetings of the North Western Waters subgroups. The group has worked closely with the Pelagic Advisory Council and has agreed a discards plan for pelagic stocks in North Western Waters which is now operational. The Joint Recommendations on the landing obligation for demersal fisheries, as agreed by all Member States of the North Western Waters Group, following consultation to the North West Waters Advisory Council, was forwarded by the Commission to the EU Scientific, Technical and Economics Committee for Fisheries (STECF) for evaluation in July 2015. Following completion of this evaluation a Commission Delegated Regulation was prepared by the Commission throughout the autumn and was subsequently published in the Official Journal of the European Union on the 23rd

December 2015. This allows for the phased introduction of the landing obligation for demersal fisheries in North Western Waters from the 1st January 2016. Further work on the roll out of the landing obligation for demersal stocks will be carried out in early 2016 and will involve consultation with stakeholders in the North Western Waters Advisory Council.

Maximum sustainable yield (MSY)

Progress is being made in moving towards this objective given in 2015, 32 stocks (out of the MSY assessed total of 62) are being fished at or below MSY in the Atlantic EU waters, the North Sea and the Baltic Sea. The aim of the CFP is to achieve MSY for all stocks by 2020 at the latest.

Technical measures

BIM, in consultation with industry, carried out trials during 2015 on more selective fishing gears. The application of these gears within the Irish fleet will be considered further during 2016.

Hague Preferences

The Hague Preferences have been maintained and given increased reference in this agreement. The Hague Preferences have traditionally given Ireland an increased share of traditional whitefish stocks such as cod, haddock and whiting in the waters off our coast when stock levels are decreasing.

Fish quotas remain a public asset

The reformed Common Fisheries Policy delegates the responsibility for the management of quotas to individual Member States. In Ireland, quotas continue to be treated as a public asset and are managed by the Minister in a way that does not lead to the privatisation of quotas which would result in their concentration in large international companies. This will protect family owned fishing vessels and coastal economies dependent on fishing.

Objective Three

Fisheries Management and Conservation

Fish Quota Management 2015

In 2015 this Division was responsible for managing over 227,960 tonnes of fish quotas. As part of this management process, under the Sea-Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006, 2,321 authorisations and amendments were issued. Amendments arise where there are agreed changes to the rules of a particular management scheme. In addition, 50 Fisheries Management Notices and 18 Statutory Instruments were brought into effect by the Minister to support the management of Ireland's fisheries.

In 2015, 40 separate Demersal (whitefish) fish stocks were managed in consultation with the Quota Management Advisory Committee. The periodic, usually monthly, catch limits set out in the Fisheries Management Notice are then displayed on the Departments web-site and circulated to industry representative organisations.

There are five principal managed pelagic stocks (Mackerel, Herring, Horse Mackerel, Blue Whiting and Atlanto-Scandian Herring) and the particular management of each is further subdivided between various sectors of the fleet. Qualifying vessels are authorised and the available quotas are distributed in the agreed ratios to the qualifying vessels. Landing figures are constantly monitored during the fishing periods. Remaining quota is often reallocated to ensure that all available quotas are landed. The Sea Fisheries Policy & Management Division also operates a number of particular management schemes, each with its own set of requirements, in respect of Monkfish, Scallops, Albacore Tuna, and a variety of Deep Sea Species. The fish quota management system is designed to

ensure, having regard to fishing patterns and market conditions, the best possible spread both between fishermen and also in terms of take up of quota during the year.

2016 Total Allowable Catches & Quotas

In the context of preparing for the annual EU negotiations, a Sustainability Impact Assessment on Total Allowable Catches (TACs) and quotas for 2016 was presented to the Dáil by the Minister on the 8th December, 2015. The Minister's consultations were informed by the Assessment and the Dáil debate. The Minister met and discussed the Commission proposals with all stakeholders and discussed and consulted on the issues arising with them during the Fisheries Council negotiations. The EU Fisheries Council agreed TACs and quotas for 2016 on the 15th December 2015. The Minister secured whitefish quotas amounting to a value of €131m, an increase of €10m on the 2015 figure.

The rolling out of the new discards ban for a number of Irish fish stocks from the 1st January 2016 added to the complexities of this year's negotiations but following intensive discussions additional quota to cover the increased landings was secured for Irish fishermen.

The Council also agreed measures to strengthen conservation measures for the endangered sea bass stock, including the introduction of a catch and release recreational angling fishery for the first half of 2016, with a one fish bag limit for the second half of the year. These conservation measures, for the endangered seabass stock, are important for the seabass angling tourism business.

Objective Three

Fisheries Management and Conservation

Aquaculture Licensing

During 2015 significant progress was made in a number of key areas which will enable the continued sustainable growth of the industry.

The Department has continued to work to address the backlog in the processing of aquaculture licence applications in 2015. The background to the backlog is that in 2007 the European Court of Justice issued a negative judgement against Ireland for breaches of the EU Birds and Habitats Directives. A large element of the judgment concerned a failure by the State to put in place adequate assessment of aquaculture licence applications in 'Natura 2000' areas. In the negotiations to address this judgment, a process was agreed in 2009 with the EU Commission (DG Environment) and this is being implemented. The process includes data collection, the setting of Conservation Objectives, carrying out of Appropriate Assessments and appropriate licensing, taking account of, among other things, Natura requirements. The process is ongoing and considerable progress has been made.

Appropriate Assessments have now been received by the Department in respect of fifteen bays – Castlemaine Harbour, Roaringwater Bay, Dundalk Bay, Lough Swilly, Donegal Bay, Dungarvan Harbour, Ballycotton Bay, Kenmare Bay, Valentia Harbour/Portmagee Channel, Galway Bay, Clew Bay, Drumcliff Bay, Kilkiernan Bay, Gweedore Bay and Islands, North Innishowen Coast SAC/Trawbreaga SPA.

In 2015 the Minister made 104 licence determinations. It is expected that in the order of 200 licence determinations will be made in 2016.

The enhanced licence application templates, which were developed in recent years, are being implemented as existing licences fall to be renewed. Key features of the licence templates include:

- enhanced provisions on environmental monitoring
- greater clarity on the requirements for operators in relation to operational conduct and monitoring
- the possibility of group-marking of sites for navigational purposes
- specific provisions covering company registration/dissolution, tax certificates, payment of fees etc.
- species specific licence templates

Shot Head Licence Application

An application by Marine Harvest Ireland (MHI) for an aquaculture licence for the cultivation of finfish near Shot Head in Bantry Bay was received by the Department in 2011. The application and its accompanying Environmental Impact Statement were considered under the provisions of the 1997 Fisheries (Amendment) Act and the 1933 Foreshore Act. The decision to award the licence was made by the Minister in September 2015.

The legislation provides for an appeal of the Minister's decision to the independent Aquaculture Licences Appeals Board (ALAB). ALAB has notified the Department that fourteen appeals were received. Copies of all material considered by the Minister in making his determination have been forwarded to ALAB at their request. The outcome of the appeal process is awaited.

National Strategic Plan for Sustainable Aquaculture Development

Article 34 of the Common Fisheries Policy Regulation (1380/2013) requires Member States to prepare multi-annual national strategic plans for aquaculture. The national plans are intended to inform investment priorities for aquaculture under Member States' operational programmes under the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund. They are also intended to identify measures to reduce the administrative burden on operators, to secure sustainable development and growth of aquaculture through coordinated spatial planning, to enhance the competitiveness of the aquaculture sector and to promote a level playing field for EU operators by exploiting their competitive advantages.

Ireland's National Strategic Plan for Sustainable Aquaculture Development was finalised on 23 October 2015, following public consultation earlier in 2015. The Plan was submitted to the European Commission on 23 October 2015.

The National Strategic Plan for Sustainable Aquaculture Development proposes 24 actions to be implemented over the period up to 2020.

Objective Three

Fisheries Management and Conservation

Deep Sea Aquaculture

An application by Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM), for an aquaculture licence for the cultivation of finfish near Inis Oirr in Galway Bay, was received by the Department in 2012. On the 21 December 2015, the Department was informed by BIM that the Board of BIM had decided to withdraw its Aquaculture and Foreshore Licence application with immediate effect.

BIM is investigating the suitability of sites off the coast of Mayo and it is understood that an Aquaculture Licence application will be submitted to the Department shortly in respect of a site off Inis Turk.

Developing Sustainable Inshore Fisheries

The National Inshore Fisheries Forum (NIFF), created by the Minister in 2014, held its first meeting in January 2015; a total of five NIFF meetings were held during the year. The NIFF is supported by a network of six multi-stakeholder Regional Inshore Fisheries Forums, which involve representation from inshore fisheries together with other marine stakeholders including tourism, leisure and environmental interests. The Forum structures were established by the Minister to facilitate the discussion of inshore fisheries issues and to foster industry-led development of proposals for these fisheries (i.e., within six nautical miles of the coast).

A public consultation on non-commercial pot fishing took place in summer 2015. The results of the consultation were discussed with the NIFF, and an agreed set of measures was being developed into regulatory proposals, with the aim of implementing the measures in 2016.

Management measures were also developed for the razor clam fishery in 2015 and introduced through statutory instruments. New measures for the national fishery included weighing and reporting requirements, particularly the need for sea-fishing boats to carry GPS monitoring devices while fishing razor clams in Irish waters. Boats were also restricted to fishing for razor clams only in shellfish production areas classified for razor clam fishing. Given the high level of activity in the north Irish Sea fishery, measures were introduced here as well, including a weekly outtake limit for participating boats and a restriction on fishing during the summer spawning period.

Management of the all-island mussel seed fishery continued throughout 2015. There were a number of short-term localised fishing events during the year in addition to the normal autumn fishing season. A second surveillance audit of the mussel seed fishery was carried out in September as part of the fishery's conditional MSC (Marine Stewardship Council) certification. The audit, completed by SAI Global Assurance Services, found that the fishery is operating in a well-managed and sustainable way and provided for its continued conditional certification.

Implementation of Natura 2000 Directives

In the summer of 2015, the Marine Institute finalised a risk assessment of unplanned sea-fisheries interactions with protected species and habitats along the south and west coasts of Ireland. This assessment is being made under Article 6.2 of the Habitats Directive. A similar risk assessment was completed by the Institute in 2013 for fishing activities in Natura 2000 sites in the Irish Sea, from Carnsore Point to Carlingford Lough. This approach of undertaking risk assessments of sea-fishing activities under Article 6.2 of the Habitats Directive, rather than appropriate assessments under Article 6.3, was agreed in 2013 with DG Environment.

Objective Three

Fisheries Management and Conservation

The Institute also prepared a schedule for addressing the risks identified based on the type of fishery and the nature of the risk posed. Working with the National and Regional Inshore Fisheries Forums, DAFM has commenced actions to address risks posed by sea-fisheries activities which come under the Sea-Fisheries & Maritime Jurisdiction Act. Some risks will require the development of mitigation responses, a process that will be subject to consultation with stakeholders.

A new Fisheries Natura Declaration, prohibiting fishing using dredge and trawling gear in certain sensitive habitats in Roaringwater Bay, Co. Cork, was issued by the Minister in April 2015 and took effect on 1 May 2015. The Declaration also set down reporting and notification requirements for certain types of fishing in the bay. In particular, it requires sea-fishing boats using dredge or trawling gear in the bay to carry GPS monitoring devices. The GPS monitoring devices will be used to demonstrate compliance and to contribute to data for scientific purposes. The devices were funded, on a limited basis, by the Marine Institute.

Two similar Fisheries Natura Declarations were issued by the Minister in July and September for Blacksod Bay, Co. Mayo. These Declarations restrict fishing with dredges for scallops in the bay, which can pose risks to sensitive habitats. The measures implemented in the Declarations were part of a risk mitigation plan prepared in partnership by the Marine Institute, the North West Regional Inshore Fisheries Forum and representatives of the fishing interests in Blacksod Bay. As in Roaringwater Bay, sea-fishing boats fishing for scallop in Blacksod Bay now must carry GPS monitoring devices, which are being funded, on a limited basis, by the Marine Institute. A closed fishing season was also introduced.

The mussel seed fishery in Castlemaine Harbour, Co. Kerry, took place in 2015. Environmental factors in the harbour delayed the opening of the fishery, however, the Minister agreed, following a request from the industry, to extend the season there into January 2016. In Dundalk Bay, the cockle fishery met the biomass levels for a fishery to operate in 2015, but the fishery remained closed due to anticipated low market prices.

Continued preparations took place during 2015 for the Marine sector climate change adaptation plan in keeping with the National Climate Change Adaptation Framework. Further public consultation on the sectoral adaptation plans is due to take place in 2016.

Fishery Harbour Centres (FHC's)

The Department has responsibility for the management and development of the six Fishery Harbour Centres (FHC's), located at Killybegs, Castletownbere, Dunmore East, Howth, Dingle/ An Daingean and Rossaveal/Ros a' Mhíl. Located strategically around the coast of Ireland, each of the Fishery Harbour Centres provides an essential service for the fishing fleet and its fishermen. In addition they

- Accommodate various fishing related industries which generate local employment
- Provide facilities for the repair and maintenance of the shipping fleet
- Provide facilities for the support of passenger and cargo ferries to the islands
- Play an important role in the Irish tourist and marine leisure industry

Fish Landings

In 2015, a total of 226,224 tonnes of fish was landed into the six Fishery Harbour Centres, this represents approximately 84% of all fish landings into Ireland. The value of first point of sale fish landed into the Fishery Harbour Centres was €264 million in 2015. The volume of landings going through the Fishery Harbour Centres is enabled by the infrastructure and the services operated and managed in the Fishery Harbour Centres. The Fishery Harbour Centres support the Government Strategy to further develop a modern offshore Irish fishing fleet and to attract large numbers of landings by foreign vessels into our Fishery Harbour Centres. This drives the development of a modern on shore processing industry, underpinning Ireland's growing seafood exports sector.

Objective Three Fishery Harbour and Coastal Infrastructure Capital Development Programme



The strategic objective of this programme is to ensure the future viability of the fishing industry, to bring the Fishery Harbour Centres (FHCs) up to international practice, to reduce congestion at the harbours and to improve safety for the fisheries sector. The Department also has responsibility for North Harbour at Cape Clear Island and for maintaining a range of piers, lights and beacons around the coast in accordance with the 1902 Ex-congested Districts Board Piers, Lights and Beacons Act.

In 2015, the total voted expenditure on this programme was €19.1 million, of which €15.5 million was spent on the FHCs and other Department-owned marine infrastructures. The significant investment on these works is project managed by the Department's Engineering Division which also provides technical support and advisory and inspectorial services on all fishery harbour developments.

The Department has also, in the past, provided funding under the programme for small scale development and repair of local authority owned harbours, piers and slipways. In 2015 all coastal local authorities were invited to submit applications in respect of harbour development projects for inclusion in the Fishery Harbour and Coastal Infrastructure Capital Development Programme and also the Marine Leisure and Marine Tourism Programme. Funding was approved for qualifying projects that had been identified as priorities by the local authorities. The overall expenditure on these projects was €2.37 million in 2015.

In 2014, as part of the overall Government response to the extreme weather conditions in late 2013 and early 2014, as a once-off exceptional measure an additional €7m was allocated for a Storm Damage Programme for the repair of the public pier harbour and slipway network linked to fisheries and aquaculture. The total expenditure on this programme was €5.3million in 2014. To complete the projects that commenced in 2014, a further €1.23 million was expended in 2015.

KEY PROJECTS IN FISHERY HARBOUR CENTRES IN 2015

Dunmore East

The flagship project under the 2015 Fishery Harbour Capital Development Programme run by the Department was the €6.3 million dredging project at Dunmore East. It was the single largest capital investment in the FHC's in 2015 and has resulted in facilitating larger vessel landings, greater manoeuvrability and less restricted access to the ports facilities, including the re-opening of the synchrolift which was closed for several years due to the build-up of siltation. The entire fishing and local community have reacted very positively to the project.

Howth

A project to provide a Small Craft Pontoon consisted of the installation of a floating pontoon berthing facility approximately 90 metres long restrained by 11 vertical tubular piles with an access gangway to the root of the middle pier. It was progressed through design, planning

Objective Three Fishery Harbour and Coastal Infrastructure Capital Development Programme

and site Investigation in 2014. Tendering for and installation of the piles, floating pontoons and associated equipment and services was progressed in 2015 at a cost of €705,220. The facility, which will primarily facilitate the half-decker and smaller fishing vessels at Howth will be commissioned and brought into service in 2016.

Dingle

A project to remove the old boatyard slipway was completed in 2015. The old boatyard slipway was a navigation hazard within the eastern basin of the Dingle Fishery Harbour Centre and restricted vessel manoeuvrability and navigation within the basin. The dredging works were substantially completed in 2015 which involved the dredging of approximately 8,000m³ of material, some of which was contaminated and needed to be removed off-site to an appropriately licensed waste facility. Some of the bedrock material was reused on site within an existing re-investment. Expenditure on the project in 2015 amounted to €1,455,746.

Killybegs

Phase 2 of the Small Craft Harbour commenced in 2013 with the installation of some of the required floating breakwater units. Following planning permission, site investigations and detailed design was undertaken in 2014. In 2015 phase two of the contract for the fabrication and installation using anchors and chains, of the main walkway and finger berths was completed, including, infilling of the foreshore for a car park at cost of €1,069,988. Phase three of the project will be progressing in 2016 which will include installation of piles and breakwater pontoons.

KEY PROJECTS IN OTHER DEPARTMENT-OWNED MARINE INFRASTRUCTURES

Cape Clear

The Cape Clear project involved the re-construction of the Bull Nose which was in eminent danger of collapse, with the potential exposure of the entire harbour to catastrophic failure in the event of a major storm. The project also included the fabrication of a lock gate which can be closed to protect the harbour from exposure to large waves propagating into the harbour during storms. This design together with the fact that the entire precast concrete structure to house the storm gate was precast on the mainland at Cork Dockyard and towed to Cape Clear and sunk into position at the Bull Nose entry to the

harbour was innovative and attracted a lot of interest, due to the design and innovative approach to construction adopted. The 2015 expenditure on this element of work amounted to €1,285,979

A decision was also made in 2015 to avoid future mobilisation and disruption to progress dredging within the outer harbour basin. This dredging work is greatly facilitated by being able to close the newly installed gate to the harbour and dry out the basin. The expenditure on this element of the work amounted to €116,706 in 2015. The completion works, snagging and demobilization will be completed in 2016.

Storm Damage in 2014 to Duffy's Pier in the harbour resulted in major sheet pile repairs having to be carried out, amounting to €770,023 in 2015.

Local Authority Harbour Infrastructure

In 2015 a total of €3.3 million was approved for works at local authority owned harbours under the Fishery Harbour & Coastal Infrastructure Capital Development Programme and the Marine Leisure & Marine Tourism Programme (excluding storm Damage). A total of 55 projects from coastal local authorities around the country benefited from the funding. Altogether €2,375,689 was expended on projects under this programme in 2015.

Storm Damage Programme

On the 20 March 2014, as part of the Government's overall co-ordinated response to the impacts of the winter storms of 2013/2014 the Minister approved a total of €8.5 million in funding under a once off Storm Damage Programme for the repair of the public pier, harbour and slipway network linked to fisheries and aquaculture. €1.23 million was expended in 2015 to complete 8 projects which had commenced in 2014.



OBJECTIVE 4 - SCHEMES AND SERVICES

Objective Four

Performance Budgeting for Objective Four

High Level Objective: “Deliver schemes and services effectively and efficiently, provide a quality service to all our clients and adhere to the highest standards of good corporate governance.”

INPUTS – FINANCIAL & HUMAN RESOURCES

		2015 Budget Outturn			2016 Estimate		
		Current	Capital	Total	Current	Capital	Total
		€000	€000	€000	€000	€000	€000
D.1	ADMINISTRATION PAY	22,305	-	22,305	23,235	-	23,235
D.2	ADMINISTRATION NON PAY	8,247	377	8,624	8,737	182	8,919
D. 3	INCOME AND MARKETPORT	89,156	-	89,156	12,351	-	12,351
D.4	INCOME SUPPORT IN DISADVANTAGED AREAS	205,906	-	205,906	202,000	-	202,000
D.5	OTHER SERVICES	72	-	72	97	-	97
Programme Total:		325,686	377	326,063	246,420	182	246,602

Staff Numbers - Objective 4	2015	2016
DAFM	652	695



Objective Four

Performance Budgeting for Objective Four

Inputs :

PROGRAMME D: SCHEMES AND SERVICES

	Public Service Activity	2015 targets	2015 Outcomes	2016 Targets
1	Delivering schemes and services to citizens in accordance with agreed quality principles and targets	<p>Deliver in excess of €1.4billion in direct payments to farmers.</p> <p>Complete a control inspection Programme on time in respect of Cross Compliance, Basic Payment Scheme, Greening, ANC, Young farmer and Coupled Support Scheme to ensure correct and timely delivery</p>	<p>A total of €1,144 m paid under BPS to 125,676 cases</p> <p>A total of €203million paid in ANC to 95,815 applicants</p> <p>1,368 Full Cross Compliance inspections were completed.</p> <p>7,838 Eligibility inspections (both ground & remote sensing) were completed across all schemes.</p> <p>Inspections are integrated, where feasible</p>	<p>Complete a control inspection Programme on time in respect of Cross Compliance, Basic Payment Scheme, Greening, ANC, Young farmer and Coupled Support scheme to ensure correct and timely delivery of payments</p>
2	Improving the quality of service delivery for citizens by enhanced ICT and other service focused initiatives	<p>Deliver suite of ICT systems to implement revised CAP and CFP proposals.</p> <p>Continue to improve online services</p> <p>Reduce overtime costs by 2%</p>	<p>Development work well advanced on the delivery of ICT services to support the CAP Reform measures.</p> <p>Improvements made to BPS online system to assist applicants submit BPS applications and to ensure compliance with Greening Measures/GLAS plans.</p> <p>While the overtime expenditure/outturn in 2015 (€3.296m) was 5% higher than the corresponding 2014 overtime outturn (€3.138m), the 2015 overtime outturn was some 9% lower than the actual 2015 overtime allocation (€3.508m) provided for in the REV2015. The overtime expenditure in 2015 includes a number of factors over and above the 2014 requirements including: the introduction of the new CAP Reform Schemes - Pillar 1- such as Greening and Young Farmers, requiring the development of IMT systems to support these new CAP Reform Schemes as well as significant additional processing requirements; the introduction of the new Beef Data and Genomics Scheme and commencement of payments under these schemes. Also in 2015 there were increased certificate requirements in support of increased product exports.</p>	<p>Deliver suite of ICT systems to support implementation of CAP and CFP measures</p> <p>Ensure that additional staff are recruited to support market access for industry, food safety, export certification, ISO standards, CAP schemes and all EU audit requirements.</p>

Objective Four

Performance Budgeting for Objective Four

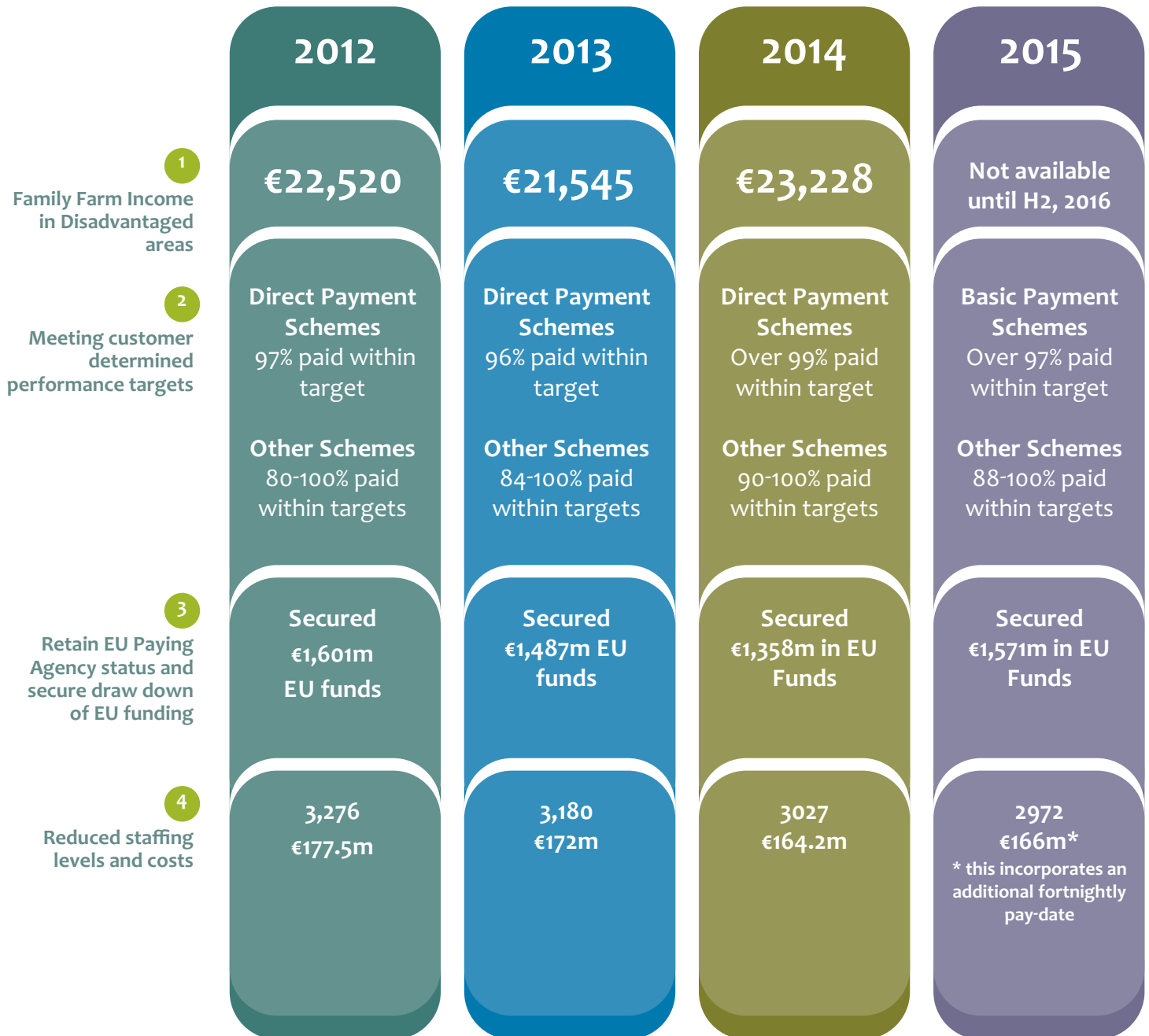
Public Service Activity	2015 targets	2015 Outcomes	2016 Targets
3 Maintaining high standards of financial management as verified by external agencies.	<p>Retain DAFM status as an accredited EU paying agency.</p> <p>Maintain required financial management standards inc. compliance with the Single Euro Payments Area (SEPA)</p>	<p>The annual EAGF and EAFRD accounts for 2014 were submitted to, and approved by, the European Commission in 2015. This necessitated certification of the accounts by external auditors</p>	<p>Retain status as an accredited EU paying agency.</p> <p>Produce CAP monthly and annual accounts/ claims to a standard that ensures EU payment.</p>



Objective Four

Performance Budgeting for Objective Four

Programme D: Context Indicators



Objective Four

Scheme Operations

Table 3.3 and 3.4 beneath gives operational details on the main schemes operated by the Department in 2015

Table 3.3 : 2015 Payments to Farmers

Scheme	Applications received in 2015	Applications processed in 2015	Payments made* € M
Basic Payment Scheme/Greening	126,193	125,676	1,144
Areas of Natural Constraints	102,635	95,815	203.1
Rural Environmental Protection	0	836	31.08
AEOS	18,983	14,390	79.801
Farm Waste Management	0	0	0
Afforestation Grant	1,813	2,182	25.2
Forestry Premium	20,263	20,947	74.27
Early Retirement	0	0	7.14
Farm Improvement	0	1	0.0004
TB and Brucellosis Compensation	4,039	4,001	13.4
BSE Compensation	0	21	0.171
Scrapie Compensation	0	8	0.048
Beef Genomics Scheme	0	7508	2,690
Beef Data and Genomics Programme (BDGP)	29,865	15,914	29.091
Investment Aid for Commercial Horticulture	141	141	3.96
Scheme of Organic Grant Aid	0	73	0.80
TAMS (exc. Bioenergy)	1,882	6,299	24,830

*This column refers to all payments made in 2015 which can involve commitments over and above applications processed in that year.

Table 3.4: Trader Payments in 2015

Scheme	Applications processed	Payments made €m
Marketing and processing	0	0.0
Food Competitiveness	0	2.407
Food Investment Schemes		
Beef / Sheepmeat	6	3.27
Export Refunds		
• Dairy	0	0.00
• Beef	0	0.00

Objective Four Scheme Operations



Direct Payments

2015 was a challenging year with the introduction of new schemes under the reformed CAP and the introduction and development of enhanced IT systems to support the administration of these schemes. This led to some challenges for customer service systems particularly in relation to farmer contact with the Department. Despite the challenges annual expenditure of almost €1.6 billion, on the Basic Payment, Areas of Natural Constraints and Rural Environment Protection and Agri-Environment Options schemes, was made by this Department to help achieve the objective of protecting farmers' incomes and of maintaining the optimal number of family farms. Over €1,144 billion was paid to over 125,600 farmers under the 2015 Basic Payment Scheme. These direct payments to farmers in 2015 were paid within the service delivery targets of the Farmers Charter and Action Plan.

Beef Data and Genomics Programme (BDGP)

The Beef Data and Genomics Programme (BDGP) was approved under article 28 of Regulation 1305/2013 on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and was launched in April 2015. Funding of €300m has been allocated for the BDGP which runs for 6 years and applies from 2015 to 2020.

The objectives of the BDGP are to

1. To lower the intensity of GHG emissions by improving the quality and efficiency of the national beef herd.
2. To improve the genetic merits of the national beef herd through the collection of data and genotypes of selected animals which will allow for the application of genomic selection in the beef herd.

Participants are required to submit data on the cows, calves and bulls in their herd along with taking genomic samples from their animals. They will also be required to complete a training course and a carbon navigator by 31 October 2016. In 2018 and 2020 participants will be required to ensure that eligible females on their holding, equal to 20% and 50% of their reference animals, have been genotyped 4 or 5 star animals on the replacement index by the Irish Cattle Breeding Federation (ICBF) and that at least one stock bull will be 4 or 5 star, on the replacement or terminal index, by June 2019.

It is expected that through the use of genotyping and data collection that farmers will be more easily able to identify the best breeding stock from which to source their replacement animals and that the selection of these higher quality animals will ultimately lead to a reduction in emissions from the agricultural sector in Ireland.

29,865 applications were received to participate in the BDGP by the closing date of 5 June 2015. Payments amounting to €29m issued to almost 16,000 participants in December 2015 and payments will continue as herds become eligible.

Licensing and Export Refunds

At the World Trade Organisation conference on 21st December 2015, a ministerial decision was taken that developed members should eliminate their remaining export subsidy entitlements as and from the 1st January 2016 for exports to least developed countries. Other developments in the EU in recent years have resulted in the zero rating of export refunds and their disappearance from use.

Objective Four Scheme Operations

Import licence applications for 2015 increased by 29% over 2014 figures to 20,327. This was mainly due to new companies applying for poultry import tariff quota licences and new poultry products requiring licences.

Green Low-carbon Agri-Environment Scheme

In 2015 the Green Low-Carbon Agri-environment Scheme (GLAS) was approved by the European Commission as Ireland's agri-environment measure under the Rural Development Programme 2014 – 2020 (RDP). GLAS will deliver overarching benefits in terms of the rural environment whilst addressing the issues of climate change mitigation, water quality and the preservation of priority habitats and species.

GLAS is structured in a hierarchy of three tiers, with Tier 1 receiving priority over Tier 2, and Tier 2 over Tier 3. This structure is designed to ensure the targeted and prioritised delivery of environmental benefits drawing from the extensive preparatory analysis underlying the RDP.

Tier 1 is the most important Tier, comprising of all the Priority Environmental Assets identified for support through GLAS, targeting vulnerable landscapes (including commonages), important bird-species and protection of high-status watercourses. Tier 1 also identifies a series of Priority Environmental Actions for specific cohorts of farmers, targeting climate change mitigation and farmland birds.

Tier 2 is the next most important tier and focuses on water-quality, through protection of predetermined vulnerable water-courses, while also accepting proposals from other farmers who are prepared to take on predetermined actions again targeting climate change mitigation and supporting farmland birds.

Tier 3 comprises a menu of complementary environmental actions for applicants approved into Tiers 1 and 2, as well as a channel for entry to the Scheme in its own right. It consists of actions such as the protection of traditional hay meadows, species-rich pastures, important landscape features like archaeological monuments, hedgerows and stone-walls, as well as provision of bird, bat and bee nesting facilities and the planting of small groves of native trees.

GLAS offers a maximum payment of €5,000 per applicant per full calendar year, except where GLAS+ applies. In this case, some farmers undertaking particularly challenging actions may qualify for GLAS+ and for a top-up payment of up to €2,000 per year. Typically GLAS+ will apply where more than one Priority Environmental Asset exists on the farm and the combined cost of addressing these exceeds €5,000. However, in the case if the various bird-species identified as at risk it will be possible to drawdown payment of up to €7,000 a year on these alone.

Roll out of the scheme in 2015 involved the development by the Department of a dedicated online application system which identifies and profiles environmental assets at individual farm level.

During 2015 two tranches of GLAS were open and almost 41,000 farmers submitted applications to the Scheme, a record number of applications to any agri-environment scheme in a single year.

26,935 applications were submitted and processed under Tranche 1 with 26,263 farmers approved and some 21,000 farmers in payment by year end. A further 14,041 applications were submitted in 2015 under Tranche 2.



Objective Four Customer Service

Table 3.5 indicates the progress achieved on the targets specified in the Customer Service Action Plan. Achievement of service delivery targets is predicated on correct scheme requirements and documentation being available.

Table 3.5 : 2015 Performance on Customer Service Delivery Targets

SERVICE	TARGET DELIVERY TIME	2015 PERFORMANCE
Basic Payment Scheme	EU Regulations provide that payments shall be made once a year within the period 1 December to 30 June of the following year. However, EU regulations also allowed for 70% advance payments from 16.10.2015. Balancing payments commenced on 1.12.2015 with a final balancing payment to issue in May 2016 following the definitive establishment of entitlements.	Advance payments commenced on 16.10.2015 with balancing payments on 1 December. By end 2015 €1.072 billion had been paid to over 97% of applicants
Areas of Natural Constraints	While there is no regulatory payment date, it is generally that mid/late September is the earliest date by which payment can start issuing; this is acknowledged in the Farmers' Charter.	Payments commenced on 23.9.2015 and approx €193.8m was paid to 88% of all valid applicants by 31.12.15
Beef Data and Genomics Programme	Payments for a scheme year to commence in December of the scheme year	Payments amounting to €29m issued to almost 16,000 participants in December 2015
Farm Safety Scheme	<p>Issue of approval following receipt of valid application within 3 months</p> <p>Approval for payment following receipt of notice of completion of works and valid supporting documents within 3 months</p> <p>Issue of payment following approval for payment within 6 weeks</p>	100%
Forest Service Grant Schemes	Annual forestry premium payments were paid from 1st January to applicants who used the Department online system. The Annual bulk payment run for paper based applications was carried out in April and payments in respect of both types of applications continued throughout the year.	The vast majority of valid applications for approval and payments are made within the targets as set out in the Farmers' Charter
Forestry Premium Scheme		<p>€35.5 m paid by end March in respect of online applications</p> <p>€23.7m paid in April 2015 in annual premium bulk payment run (paper forms)</p> <p>The total value of Premium Payments paid in 2015 amounted to €74.27m of which: €37.7m was paid in respect of applications made online and €32.1m in respect of paper based applications.</p>

Objective Four Customer Service

SERVICE	TARGET DELIVERY TIME	2015 PERFORMANCE
Compensation – Bovine TB Eradication and Brucellosis Monitoring Schemes	TB and Brucellosis compensation to be paid within 3 weeks of the date of receipt of the required correct documentation or of eligibility as per terms and conditions.	94.4% of Reactor Grant Valuation compensation payments were made within 3 weeks of receipt of all the required documentation and over 99% were made within 8 weeks. 94.3% of <i>Income Supplement, Depopulation and Hardship Grant</i> payments were made within 3 weeks of receipt of the required documentation and over 99% were made within 8 weeks.
BSE Scrapie	BSE Compensation - 100% paid within 21 days of receipt of completed documentation Scrapie Compensation - 100% paid within 14 days of receipt of final documents	All applicants paid within the required time-frame All applicants paid within the required time-frame
Cereals Import licences	24 hours	100%
Milk & Milk Products Export licence Import licences	24 hours	100%
Tariff quota for unspecified countries of origin	5 working days	100%
Non-quota preferential licence	5 working days	100%
Tariff quota licence for specified countries	5 working days	100%
General import licences	1 working day	100%

Objective Four Customer Service

Press and Information Office

The Press and Information Office is responsible for the management and processing of general information and media queries as well as the issuing of Press Releases on behalf of the Department. In 2015, the Office issued 243 Press Releases and coordinated the responses to 1,135 media queries. The Department also processed over 6,000 queries via the Departments' [info@agriculture.gov.ie mailbox](mailto:info@agriculture.gov.ie). The Press and Information Office co-ordinated a number of Media events during the course of the year including an event to mark the to abolition of Milk Quotas, Budget 2016 and a Climate Change briefing.

The Department's Twitter account increased its follower numbers by a thousand over the course of the year. Social media was also increasingly used to publicise new and existing schemes, staff contributions at Agriculture related events and Press Releases.

Inheritance Enquiry Unit

The Inheritance Enquiry Unit continues to advise and assist the families and legal representatives of deceased farmers in the process of transferring agricultural schemes and the issuing of outstanding payments. In 2015, it responded to requests for assistance from over 2,302 families and released a total of €10.1m in payments to the estates of deceased farmers.

Service to Assist Bereaved Farm Families

In 2014 the Minister announced a single point of contact within the Department's Quality Service Unit for families who have suffered a sudden loss and who may not have experience in dealing with the type of day-to-day issues that might bring them into contact with the Department in relation to schemes and services. An Assistance Liaison officer was appointed within the unit to ensure that queries relating to any area of the Department are managed at this single point of contact and they will maintain contact with families until all issues have been brought to a conclusion. Three calls were received in 2015.

Complaints Procedure

The Department continued to operate a formal complaints procedure in 2015. The 43 complaints received in 2015 were examined and responded to in accordance with the Ombudsman's guidelines on principles of good practice in public administration.

Office of the Ombudsman

The Department responded to a total of 83 complaints from the Office of the Ombudsman.

Freedom of Information (FOI)

A total of 319 FOI applications were received during 2015. This represents a 56% increase from 2014. A total of 40 requests were subject to internal review and 7 requests were appealed to the Information Commissioner.

Farmers' Charter of Rights

The Farmers' Charter of Rights 2015-2020 was agreed in 2015 following discussions with the farming organisations. The Charter sets out specific delivery targets to our farmer customers and covers the various schemes operated by the Department.

The Farmers' Charter continues our commitment to the principles of Quality Customer Service set out in our Customer Charter and Action Plan. Progress under the Charter is monitored by a review committee under an independent chairman. The committee is comprised of representatives of farm organisations and Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine staff.

Customer Charter and Customer Action Plan

The Customer Charter and Customer Action Plan 2015-2020 was also put in place in 2015. This Customer Charter is a clear statement describing the level of service our customers can expect from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. Our Customer Action Plan describes in detail how the commitments and standards set out in our Customer Charter, and other customer service improvements, will be delivered and evaluated by the Department.

Schemes and Services

As part of its ongoing customer service the Department produced a "Schemes and Services" Booklet which outlines the various schemes operated and services run/provided by the Department. This booklet which spans the period up to 2020, coinciding with the lifetime of Pillar 1 and Pillar 11 schemes, is a comprehensive guide to the various payment schemes administered by the Department; it highlights important dates, covers matters relating to animal health and welfare, the numerous support measures that are in place, food safety controls and many other services.

Objective Four Customer Service

The booklet is available on the Department's website at www.agriculture.gov.ie. Copies are also available from the Department's main offices in Backweston, Cavan, Clonakilty, Portlaoise and Johnstown Castle, Wexford as well as from Teagasc Offices.

The Agriculture Appeals Office

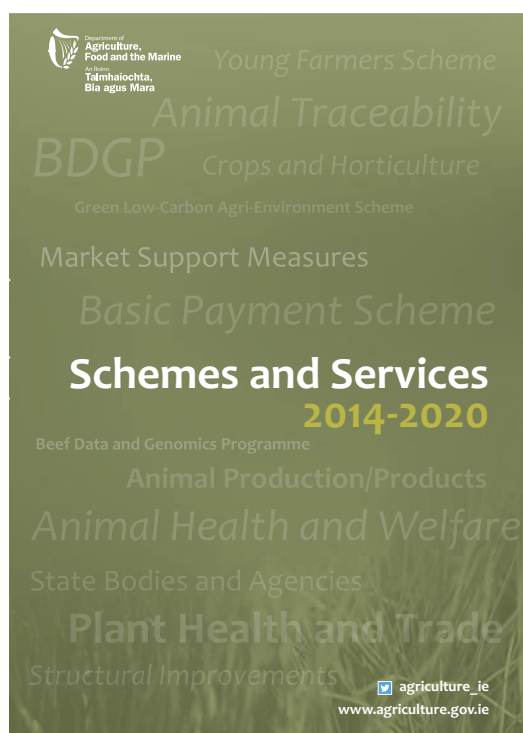
The Agriculture Appeals Office provides a free, independent, statutory appeals service to farmers who are dissatisfied with decisions in relation to their entitlements under the schemes set out in the Schedule to the Agriculture Appeals Act 2001. The Office's Annual Reports are on the website; www.agriappeals.gov.ie

In 2015, the Office received 619 appeals, a small increase on 2014. 675 cases were closed in the same period which included appeals outstanding from the previous years. A summary of the outcome of cases received and decided in 2015 is as follows:

Table 3.6 : Outcome of appeals received in 2015

Appeals Allowed, Partially Allowed or Revised by the Department	41%
Appeals Withdrawn, Invalid and Out of Time	14%
Disallowed	45%

In addition to statutory functions, the office examined appeals in relation to the Land Parcel Identification System (LPIS) of the Single Payment scheme. The LPIS Appeals Committee, with an independent Chairman, issued recommendations to the Department in relation to 232 cases.



Objective Four Financial Management

Overall Expenditure

The Department was responsible for Voted expenditure of over €1264 million in 2015. In addition, the Department spent a net amount of €1075 million in EU EAGF funded schemes, bringing total expenditure to almost €2340 million (see table 3.7 for details).

Table 3.7 : Expenditure on Irish Agriculture, 2015

€m		
EAGF Guarantee Direct Expenditure		1075
Direct Payment Scheme/Single Farm Payment	1122	
Grassland Sheep, Burren Life, Beef Data Programme	11	
Export Refunds	0	
Intervention/Aid to Private Storage (1)	13	
Other Market Supports	5	
Superlevy	-71	
Other	-5	
Voted Expenditure (excluding Administration)		1044.5
*Programme A – Agri-Food Policy Development & Trade	366.2	
*Programme B – Food Safety, Animal Health, Plant Welfare	72.3	
*Programme C – Rural Economy and Environment	310.9	
*Programme D – Delivery of Client Focussed Schemes & Services	295.1	
Administration		220.1
Total Voted Expenditure		1264.6
Total Expenditure		2339.6

EU Receipts

The Department claimed and received funding from the EU in 2015 in respect of measures financed from the following EU Funds:

- EAGF (European Agriculture Guarantee Fund)
- EAFRD Rural Development 2014-2020
- Veterinary Fund and
- Fisheries Funds.

Objective Four Financial Management

See Table 3.8 following for summary of EU receipts in 2014 and 2015

Table 3.8 : Summary of EU Receipts

	2014 €m	2015 €m
EAGF Guarantee – Agriculture	1,220	1,216
EAFRD Rural Development 2014-2020	0	364
Veterinary Fund	12	13
Fisheries - FIGG, EFF, EAGF fish markets and Conservation and Management	2	3
Other	0	3
Total	1,234	1,599

EAGF receipts are the amounts received in calendar year. These are received in arrears in respect of claims in EAGF year (16 October to 15 October) and thus do not directly relate to expenditure claims in a given calendar year.

EAGF finances CAP expenditure on direct payments to farmers and certain market support schemes.

EAFRD co-finances a range of agricultural policies on rural development and environmental protection measures under Ireland's Rural Development Programmes (RDP). Receipts in 2015 of €364m included EU funding in respect of expenditure on schemes in 2014 which could not be claimed until 2015 when the RDP was formally adopted by the European Commission.

Through the Veterinary Fund, the European Commission contributes towards the cost of measures to monitor and eradicate certain animal diseases and zoonoses. This funding is provided as part of the approved eradication and monitoring programmes operated by the Department.

Financial Controls

The Department operates a comprehensive range of financial management, control and accounting systems to comply with EU, national accounting and governance requirements.

In accordance with stringent EU accreditation requirements, the Department submitted its independently certified annual accounts of expenditure to the EU Commission. The Department's performance as a national paying agency continued to be monitored in 2015 by the Accreditation Review Group (ARG). The Secretary General chaired this group which includes representatives from the Department of Public Expenditure & Reform and the Revenue Commissioners. It met on four occasions during 2015. One of the Group's key duties is to ensure that the recommendations of the

Certification Body for the previous year are implemented and that all EU audit findings are followed up appropriately.

Audit Committee

The membership of the Department's Audit Committee at the end of 2015 was Bill Cunningham, (Chair) former partner of PricewaterhouseCoopers Ireland, Leo Martin, former Chief Operating Officer of Grafton Group, Dairine Walsh, formerly of Beauchamp Solicitors, Aidan Dunning, former Secretary General of the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, Finbarr Kelly of the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform and Brendan Gleeson of this Department.

The Audit Committee advises on the operation of the internal audit function and examines and monitors the implementation of the Department's risk management strategy.

The Committee met four times in 2015 and the Chairman met regularly with the Secretary General. Its Annual Report for 2014 expressed satisfaction with the controls operated by the Department and the Chairman cited the valuable contribution which the Internal Audit Unit makes to the overall governance environment in its evaluation and improvement of controls in the Department.

Internal Audit

The Internal Audit Unit completed a substantial body of internal and scrutiny audit work during 2015 to help maintain the highest standards of corporate and financial management and accountability.

Objective Four Financial Management

Seventeen internal audit reports were completed and issued during the year. All regulatory requirements on audit and control were completed in accordance with the prescribed timescales of the EU Scrutiny and European Fishery Fund Regulations. The IT audit group, assisted by specialist external consultants, completed a significant amount of audit coverage.

Staff from the IAU also undertook a significant amount of training during the year as part of their continuous programme of skills development.

Risk Management

The Risk Management system was in operation in the Department and was reviewed and upgraded as required during 2015.

CAP Beneficiaries Website

In accordance with EU Regulation 1306/13 Member States must ensure annual ex-post publication of the beneficiaries of CAP funding both legal and non-legal persons. Material must be published no later than 31 May each year. The Department published the following information:-

- The name of the beneficiary, unless the amount of payment under CAP funds was less than €1,250 in which case the individual was identified by a code
- The municipality where the beneficiary is resident
- The amount of payment corresponding to each measure (scheme) received by a beneficiary
- The nature and description of each measure

The above requirements are directly applicable and binding in their entirety and the Department does not have any discretion as to how or what might be published.

Prompt Payment

During 2015 a total of 61 invoices were paid outside the 30 day period provided for in regulations made under the Prompt Payment of Accounts Act, 1997 and incurred late interest penalties. The total interest plus penalties paid amounted to €3,018. The value of all invoices that were paid late amounted to €48,066 which represents 0.03% of the €136,442,459 total payments falling within the terms of the Regulations. The average delay in excess of the 15 day payment period was 26.81 days. There is also a requirement since 2009 for Government Departments to pay Irish suppliers within 15 days. Details of this Department's compliance with this requirement are set out in the following table:

Table 3.9 : Jan-Dec 2015

Payments made	Number	Value	Percentage
Within 15 days	22,007	€117,409,586.00	86.63%
Within 16 to 30 days	3,218	€16,002,692.00	12.67%
In excess of 30 days*	180	€3,030,181.00	0.70%
Total	25,405	€136,442,459.00	100%

* This figure is considerably inflated by invoices where suppliers delayed submitting valid tax clearance certificates in accordance with Revenue requirements. Late interest does not apply to these cases.

Objective Four Staff and Organisational Management



Re-organisation and Reform

As well as co-ordinating the Department's response to public service reform the Department's Management Services Division (MSD), also provides the Department with analysis and advice on organisational development, business process improvement, resource deployment and change management. The Division is the 'Change Delivery Unit' for the Department and also supports and facilitates Line Divisions implementing organisational changes.

Business Process Improvement

The Department's change management programme has been a key enabler in reducing both running costs and staffing levels over the past decade. Increased use of digital services and processes, changes in the Department's various schemes and reductions in disease levels together with improved business processes and greater operational efficiency enabled the Department to reduce its staffing levels from 4,800 in 2005 to less than 3,000 at the end of 2015, a reduction of 37%. In addition this change management programme facilitated reduction in our local office network from 58 public offices in 2009 to 16 public offices.

Public Service Reform and Delivery

During 2015 the Department continued to improve its strategic approach to work practices in order to enhance productivity and service quality in line with the Public Service Agreement 2010 – 2014, the Public Service Stability Agreement 2013 – 2018, and the Civil Service Renewal Plan. The Renewal Plan - which sets out a new direction for the Civil Service - is focussed on driving change and action in the areas of cross collaboration, maximising staff performance, becoming a more agile and transparent organisation.

The Departments' Secretary General, Aidan O'Driscoll, sits on the Civil Service Management Board, which drives implementation of the actions set out in the plan. During 2015 the Secretary General acted as on co-sponsor on Action 17 (improving project management capacity in the Civil Service) and Action 8.5 (improving gender balance at each level) and work commenced on developing proposals for each of these actions. The Department also submitted its fourth version of our Integrated Reform Delivery Plan (IRDP) which sets out the Department's response to the Public Service Reform Plan 2014-2016. The IRDP is completed annually by each government department and sets out departmental action in relation to priority reform objectives at both a departmental and cross-cutting level.

Training and Development

The Department provided a wide range of formal training and development opportunities for staff in 2015. Subject areas included management, interpersonal and communication skills, finance, IT, law, and health and safety.

In addition the Department delivered a range of specialised training for technical, veterinary, engineering, scientific and laboratory staff.

In 2015 the Department continued to expand its use of technology in delivering learning content through multi-site broadcasting of presentations on a range of topical issues, video recording of a variety of learning events, and the production of a number of promotional videos.

Performance Management & Development (PMDS)

In line with "One Vision" the Civil Service Renewal Plan, the Department is committed to strengthening the performance management process and supports the use

Objective Four Staff and Organisational Management

of PMDS as a key tool in monitoring and assessing individual performances. In that regard, the following enhancements to PMDS have been agreed and developed:

- An enhanced performance review process for Assistant Secretaries was developed and piloted by four Government Departments in 2015. It will be fully rolled out in 2016.
- A performance review process for Secretaries General has been approved and will be introduced in the performance year 2016.
- A new two tier staff ratings system was agreed in 2015 and will be introduced in 2016.

Equality and Diversity

The Department actively supports and promotes equality in all aspects of its activities. The statutory employment target for people with disabilities is 3% and in 2015 the Department was well in excess of that target at 4%. Following on from success in previous years the Department participated again in the Job Shadow Initiative and facilitated work placements under the Willing, Able and Mentoring (WAM) programme. In 2015 an independent consultant was commissioned to undertake a Culture and Gender Review of the Department.

HR Strategy

During 2015, the Department continued developing a new HR Strategy in line with Civil Service Renewal and 'One Vision'. The strategy sets out the Department's overarching core values and culture and other HR principles such as Workforce Planning, Performance Management, Staff Development, Communication etc. A draft Strategy was submitted to the Department's Management Board, and other internal stakeholders during December 2015 for consultation. The HR Strategy will provide the basis for a broad range of HR functions including staff mobility, absence management, underperformance, Promotion and Recruitment, and learning and development.

Recruitment and Competitions

Following the re-evaluation of the Public Sector recruitment moratorium, the Department secured Sanction from the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform in 2015 which provided flexibility to fill critical human resource needs within specified parameters. 50 permanent staff joined the Department in 2015 following competitive recruitment processes run by the Public Appointments Service.

The Department continued to fill vacancies by way of recruitment and internal promotion. A total of nineteen competitions were undertaken throughout 2015. As part of the restructuring of Personnel division, both the recruitment and promotion functions were centralised in the Department's Competitions Section in the latter half of the year.

Health and Safety

During 2015, work continued on implementing the Health and Safety Risk Management System (HSRMS), which is designed to control and mitigate against risks and to continually improve health and safety performance whilst also ensuring the Department meets its legislative requirements. Nominated staff attended briefings and seminars hosted and delivered by the Health and Safety Section on their particular role in implementing the HSRMS.

Over 600 staff attended health and safety training covering 22 different course types. The courses covered such topics as first aid, manual handling and forklift training. Manual handling training was provided internally by staff in the Section. The Health and Safety Section worked with Divisions in designing bespoke training for particular Department tasks and activities e.g. water safety training and emergency first aid training while the Hearing Surveillance Programme is continuous. All training was evaluated and recorded on Human Resource Management System. Display Screen Assessments were also conducted by staff in the Section. Health and Safety Risk Management progressed with specific training and action taken on emergency preparedness and response in DAFM locations.

The Health and Safety Section continue to work with Divisions on risk management for their areas in particular compiling risk assessments for DAFM activities and identification of control measures. Staff conducting inspections on third party properties including farms was a focus for 2015.

2015 Farm Safety

Farm safety is one of the most important issues facing farming today. Statistics show that accidents on farms cause more workplace deaths than all other occupations combined. 2014 proved to be the worst year for fatal farm accidents since 1992 with 30 deaths on Irish farms. In 2015 there were 19 fatal farm accidents.

Objective Four Staff and Organisational Management

While the Health and Safety Authority (HSA) is the organisation with primary responsibility for securing health and safety at work, the Department has taken a number of steps over recent years, in tandem with some of the other State and industry organisations, to raise awareness of the problem and educate farmers and their families on the dangers of working in this industry.

During the last year, the Department issued text messages alerts to farmers at critical busy periods on the farm alerting to the need to consider farm safety. These messages reach approximately 100,000 farmers.

Farm safety also forms an integral part of all building specifications drawn up by the Department, and significant additional safety elements were included during the revision of a number of specifications in 2015. These specifications set out the minimum standard to which all work must be completed and include safety related requirements such as all slurry agitation points being external and guidelines on the safe agitation of slurry. These specifications are freely available to all farmers.

Most significantly, the Department ran a Farm Safety Scheme with a budget of €12.2 million, in 2015. There was a very high level of interest in this scheme with over 6,300 applications received. This scheme provided financial support in a very practical way to farmers addressing safety issues on their farms. Examples of items supported include the provision of safety fencing around slurry stores, the construction of external agitation points, replacement of damaged slats and improving electrical installation and lighting on farms. In 2015 a new Farm Safety Scheme was opened as part of the TAMS II round of on-farm investment schemes under the 2014-2020 RDP. This new scheme incorporates all the elements in the first Farm Safety Scheme as well as an increased range of fixed safety items, such as fixed cattle handling units and fixed sheep handling units. A budget of €170 million has been assigned to this scheme.

A mandatory Health and Safety element has been included in all Knowledge Transfer Groups under the 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme. These groups will directly engage in the region of 27,000 farmers with farm safety.

ISO 9001:2008

The Department's commitment to independent quality assurance verification and enhancement of customer service delivery was demonstrated in 2015 with continued certification to the ISO 9001 quality management systems standard in several areas of the Department.

During 2015 certification to the standard was retained following audits by the National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI) in:

- Veterinary Medicines Section, Backweston
- Livestock Breeding, Production and Trade, Cavan
- Input Section, Cash Office and Payments Section of Accounts Division, Cavan
- Training and Development Unit, Dublin and Portlaoise
- ISO 9001 Project Management Division, Portlaoise
- Inheritance Enquiry Unit, Portlaoise

In the future, the Department will strive to retain certification in the above areas.

Accommodation

The Department continued its participation in the OPW lead Steering Group on Property Asset Management established to drive forward initiatives under the Public Sector Reform Plan. The Group set out an Action Plan and a progress report on the Action Plan was published in 2015. The Department continues to give effect to the range of measures set out in the plan and coordinates the responses of State Bodies under its aegis. The measures include population of data on the State Property Register and participation in Property Managers Network workshops. The Department continued to consolidate its property portfolio seeking out opportunities for shared facilities and services with other Public Sector Bodies and identifying areas for additional savings in the accommodation area. The Division also focussed on realising savings through the continued use of the Office of Government Procurement contracts and retendering for other contracts.

Asset Management

During 2015, asset management focus was largely concentrated on updating the Asset Register and in carrying out targeted audits.

Objective Four Staff and Organisational Management

Energy

The Department has been participating in the OPW Energy Efficiency Programme for public sector bodies – “Optimising Power at Work” for the last number of years. This programme is generating savings and environmental benefits from greater energy efficiency through staff awareness programmes. The Department is committed to energy efficiency and has established an energy team to drive forward initiatives in this area. This team commenced an SEAI Energy MAP Training Programme in 2015. The team will continue to work closely with OPW in 2016 to increase energy efficiency across the Department.

Public Procurement

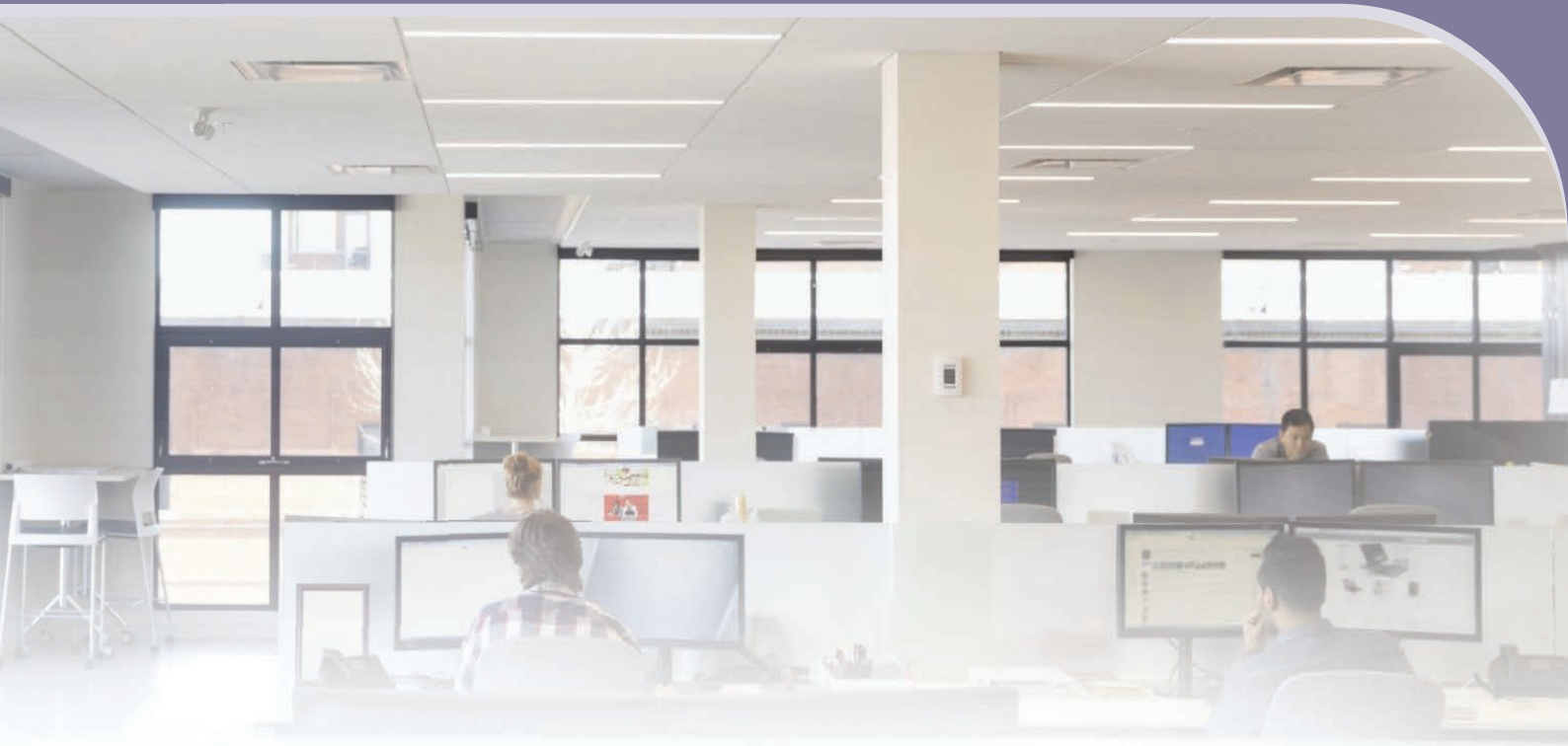
The Central Procurement Unit (CPU), established in October 2011 from existing resources within the Department, reports to the Head of Finance Division.

Throughout 2015, the CPU provided on-going advice and support to the Department on all aspects of the procurement cycle. This included assisting in the preparation of 106 tenders, processing numerous procurement related queries and appraisals and enforcing compliance where necessary. The CPU has facilitated the implementation of category management strategies across the Department. These and other initiatives seek to ensure the Department delivers optimum value for money and savings in procurement expenditure.

In 2015 the CPU continued to roll out new public sector reform requirements in procurement and has facilitated participation by the Department in Office of Government Procurement initiatives. The CPU also continued with its project to improve the recording of contracts and financial information relating to purchasing with the objective of allowing greater visibility and hence control of procurement expenditure.



Objective Four Developing IT Capability



Major ICT developments in 2015

The Department is critically dependent on information and communication technology (ICT) for the delivery of its' schemes and services. The major ICT developments in 2014 included the following:

Information Security

The Department is planning to achieve ISO 27001:2013 Information Security certification by 16th October 2016. All DAFM Information Systems which are linked to the EU delegated regulation (No. 907/2014 of 11 March 2014) shall be included in the scope for the ISO/IEC 27001:2013 Information Security standard.

ISO 27001:2013 is an internationally recognised Information Security Standard. Information Security protects information from unauthorised access, use, disclosure, disruption, modification, inspection, recording or destruction. Upon certification this standard will allow the Department to, inter alia:

- Preserve the Department's good reputation with regards to information security and standing among industry leaders.
- Provide assurance to our customers and partners about the Department's commitment to protecting data.
- Ensure that the Department is adhering to all of its contractual and legislative requirements.

- Ensure that the Department is following an internationally best practice standard for Information Security.

In 2015 the ISO implementation team have introduced a number information security provisions, namely:

- Enhanced encryption facilities on mobile devices (e.g. USB keys and mobile phones)
- Enhanced access control/security measures
- Carried out Information Security Awareness seminars
- Established and successfully piloted a Data Classification policy

As part of the Department's annual accreditation process and our certification process two separate ISO Gap Analyses were carried out in Q4 2015 by BDO and Certification Europe. Resulting from these formal ISO appraisals the implementation team have a comprehensive list of action points to carry out before Q1 2016.

The main action points arising were:

- The introduction of a Data Retention Policy in the Department
- The introduction of a formal Change Management Process
- Enhanced Mobile Device Management
- Establishment of a Data Transfer agreement
- Increased physical and environmental security
- Continue the rollout of the Data Classification policy

Objective Four Developing IT Capability

The ISO certification will involve two further stages. The Stage 1 audit will be carried out in April 2016 and Stage 2 will be conducted by Q2 2016. The ISO project is on track to receive certification by the October 2016 deadline however there are a lot of milestones to reach before this can be achieved.

ICT Shared Services

In line with the Public Service ICT Strategy the Department further expanded its provision of ICT infrastructure shared services during 2015 which includes:

Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (DCENR): Full ICT infrastructure support is provided in DCENR, including hosting of various DCENR and GSI websites.

Since the service commenced in June 2011 over 10,800 Help Desk calls have been successfully managed in that period with a monthly average of approximately 189 calls managed by DAFM staff in 2015. (This is a reduction on the previous average for 2014.) The Shared Centralised Management system linking DCENR's Video conferencing to the DAFM Video Conferencing Infrastructure is now successfully deployed.

In line with the Government directive on the provision of printing facilities in the Civil/Public service, a Managed Print Service is now provided to both DCENR and this Department.

Department of the Taoiseach (DoT): This Department continued to provide a network support to Department of the Taoiseach. The bulk of phone services in DoT are now provided via a DAFM-hosted Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) phone system, which is managed internally by our ICT staff.

Payroll Shared Service (Department of Public Expenditure and Reform): This Department continues to provide ongoing support, including server maintenance and security for the Government's central payroll facility implemented in 2014. By the end of 2015 this environment paid circa 78,000 current and former civil servants, and this number is expected to rise to 120,000 by the end of 2016.

Shared services are provided for the Department's Non-Commercial State Sponsored Bodies (NCSSB's) at various levels, such as:

- Full ICT email, DFS and network support for the Sea Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA) and provision of software development and maintenance of catch and inspection software systems
- Data centre hosting for Teagasc
- Network support and sharing of telecommunication links with Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM) and the sharing of content management facilities and technical infrastructure to host and update their redeveloped website
- Redesign of several internet web sub-sites including the FHCs (Dingle, Killybegs, etc.) maintenance of Woodspec, Woodenergy, FAWAC, and Fishingnet. Assistance and use of the Departments content management system (CMS) provided to BIM

Basic Payment Scheme (BPS)

This scheme replaced the Single Payment Scheme in 2015. A new system was successfully implemented to support the determination of entitlements and the processing of applications. The system was delivered on a phased basis to support the operation of the BPS/Greening and related schemes. Advance payments began on 16th October with the balancing payments made in the first week in December. The total amount issued in respect of 2015 BPS claims is now over €1.144bn to 125,676 farmers

BPS- iNet

The number of BPS applications filed online, through BPS iNet, in 2015 increased by 13,000 to over 93,000 cases. This represents approximately 70% of all applications. An on-line mapping facility on the 2015 iNet allows farmers or their agents to submit maps online. This dispenses with the need to submit paper maps. In 2015 16,484 applicants used this facility.

RDP 2014-2020

A considerable amount of analysis and development work was been carried out in regards to systems support for the new RDP Schemes under CAP 2014-2020. The Department provided IT support to a large number of schemes launched in 2015. This was a massive undertaking by the Department and once again demonstrated the role that IT has to play in underpinning its activities.

Objective Four Developing IT Capability

RASS – Ranking and Selection System

Under the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 a number of new schemes require Ranking and Selection Functionality. The ranking and selection application developed under the RDP Programme 2007-2013 was enhanced to provide this functionality for a number of business units to select applications based on pre-determined assessment criteria. This selection process determined which applications were entitled to proceed to the approval process of the various schemes.

Areas of Natural Constraint (ANC)

New facilities delivered for this new scheme. The scheme was successfully delivered with payments issued on schedule.

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

The Departments generic claims processing system (GCPS) was used to provide facilities to enable farmers by way of farm advisors to submit applications for the scheme which was mandatory online.

Targeted Agricultural Modernisation Schemes (TAMS II)

Six new schemes were launched in 2015 as follows:

- Young Farmers Capital Investment Scheme (YFCIS)
- Dairy Equipment Scheme (DES)
- Organic Capital Investment Scheme (OCIS)
- Low Emission Slurry Spreading Equipment Scheme (LESS)
- Pig and Poultry Investment Scheme (PPIS)
- Animal Welfare Safety and Nutrient Storage Scheme (AWNSS)

The Departments generic claims processing system (GCPS) was used to provide facilities to enable farmers and / or the advisors to submit applications for these schemes which were mandatory online.

Organic Farming Scheme (OFS)

Once again the Departments generic claims processing system (GCPS) was used to provide facilities to enable farmers and / or the advisors to submit applications for this scheme which was mandatory online.

Knowledge Transfer Schemes (KT)

Six new schemes were launched in 2015 as follows:

- Dairy
- Beef
- Equine
- Sheep
- Tillage
- Poultry

Similarly, the Departments generic claims processing system (GCPS) was used to provide facilities to enable farm advisors to submit applications for this scheme which was mandatory online.

Agri-Environment Options Scheme (AEOS)

Functionality to deliver AEOS I, II & III payments was provided.

De Minimis Schemes

Facilities for payment of the following schemes were implemented:

- Sheep Technology Adoption Programme (STAP) Scheme
- Bovine Viral Diarrhoea Scheme (BVD) Beef
- Bovine Viral Diarrhoea Scheme (BVD) Dairy
- Super Levy Instalment Scheme
- BLQAS Scheme

REPS

Functionality to deliver REPS payments was provided.

Inspections

The Departments generic Agriculture Field and Inspection Testing (AFIT) was developed to support the Inspections aspect of the Department role. Further development work was undertaken in 2015 as follows:

Basic Payment Scheme (BPS/Cross Compliance)

- The roll-out continued of ruggedized laptops to Inspectors to facilitate recording of inspection results in the field and reduction in duplication and paper recording.
- Training continued in the use of new enhanced data capture technology and the roll-out of GPS devices continued for ground inspections.
- A number of enhancements were delivered to facilitate new BPS requirements

Objective Four Developing IT Capability

Veterinary Public Health Inspection Service (VPHIS)

- An animal welfare module was included in the Anti-Mortem facilities.
- New functionality to support ante-mortem checks in relation to a Clean Livestock Policy and Food Chain Information.

District Veterinary Office (DVO)

- Addition of new inspections particularly around Animal Welfare.
- Cross Divisional Reporting module introduced.

Rural Environmental Protection Scheme (REPS)

- Re-development of OFS including Penalty appeals and introduction of new letters.
- Introduced a new EIA Inspection

Dairy Certification

- Enhancements in relation to Planned Inspections.
- SOP 1 and SOP 26 developed
- Introduction of new letters to system.
- Commencement of development of SOP 23 functionality

Rural Development Programme (RDP)

- AEOS I, II & III – new facilities delivered for data capture of inspection results.
- TAMS II: Dairy Equipment & Sheep Handling– functionality provided.
- GLAS I - new facilities delivered for data capture of inspection results

Remote Data Capture (RDC) Project

The Remote Data Capture (RDC) Project is an innovative project which aims to enable Department Inspectors to record and capture information in the field. Utilisation of the latest technology, coupled with ruggedized laptops, is key to the success of this project. A total of 120 Pillar I and 35 Pillar II Inspectors are now fully trained and using the RDC technology. Functionality added to RDC in 2015 included Bar-code readers, validation of Inspection data entry in the field reducing data entry errors and access to AFIT remotely for key Inspectors where broadband is available. GPS and new Ground Inspection features have been added improving accuracy of Inspections. The elimination need of paper

files for both BPS and AEOS/GLAS Inspections is now nearer to becoming a reality.

Geographical Information Systems (GIS)

The core software package used to access the GIS system used by the Department's BPS system was upgraded. The newer technology provided a more efficient and user friendly mapping interface for farmers and agents in applying for the scheme. A new GIS system was developed for the GLAS scheme that facilitated online mapping. As part of the development, the Department's spatial data was checked against environmental data provided by the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Environmental Protection Agency which facilitated the prioritisation of environmental areas for the scheme.

The core software package used to access the GIS data used by the Department's Forestry systems was also upgraded.

Forestry systems

New functionality was added to facilitate the processing of applications under the new Forestry Program 2014-2020. 50% of all Forestry subsequent premiums approved in 2015 were submitted online, an increase of 4% on 2014.

PRS – Product Registration System

Work on a new public facing facility to allow the general public to search for products was undertaken in 2015 with a view to delivery in Q1, 2016.

Agfood.ie

There has been a continued promotion of the Department's online services Portal agfood.ie in 2015. The number of Farmers registered to use online services (agfood.ie) either as individuals or through their Agents grew significantly in 2015 to approximately 123,000 which represents in excess of 92% of farmers.

Bulk SMS

In continuing the use of the SMS as a cost effective and efficient means of communication 1,602,762 Text Messages issued to customers in 2015 on a wide range of issues.

At end of 2015 almost 120,000 customers have provided Mobile Phone numbers and permit their use for DAFM messages and alerts.

Objective Four Developing IT Capability

Transactional SMS

A new facility enabling the linking of farmers to their Agents for numerous schemes using agfood.ie and interactive SMS was introduced in 2015. This resulted in successful linking of more than 42,000 farmers to Agents using this method.

Corporate Customer System (CCS)

To facilitate the introduction of almost 20 new CAP and RDP schemes in 2015 there was significant development on the Customer Systems. The BPS scheme involved the automatic linking of Farmers to their Agents from the SPS scheme without the need for completion of a new tranche of paperwork.

The underlying work to enable Agent linking to Farmers for the new schemes including GLAS, Commonage, Knowledge Transfer, Partnerships, TAMS II and EMS was significant and provided the necessary infrastructure for the effective operation of these schemes. In particular for the schemes which were 100% online and involved the use of Planners.

There was significant preparatory work to facilitate the Introduction of Eircodes in 2015 and it is hoped that through the use of many publicity methods the uptake of Eircodes will increase in 2016.

Websites

The continued maintenance and development of the Departments Website www.agriculture.gov.ie in 2015 included the introduction of many new areas and alerts on issues of major concern to the user community. The Search facility and Website publishing was also upgraded in 2015 to bring an improved service and experience to the users.

Our continued commitment to accessibility led to a number of behind the scenes developments to improve the standard of documentation and availability to a wider audience. The deployment of Browsealoud on all our websites is designed to facilitate improved access for those customers with visual impairments.

Financial System – SAP

A number of key system enhancements and business process improvements were delivered during 2015 to meet evolving business requirements.

- A new Debt and Collections Management solution for Accounts Payable and Accounts Receivables debts was implemented in the main business units responsible for the collection and management of debts. Further enhancements are planned for 2016.
- New solutions were implemented for the billing of (a) Meat Plants and Abattoirs for animal slaughter levies/fees and (b) Customers for the Biocide & Pesticide Plant Protection registration fees.
- The Intervention solution was reactivated for intervention purchasing and processing.
- The Vendor & Customer master data module was enhanced to facilitate the introduction of Eircodes and electronic Tax Clearance Certification (E-TCC).

The rollout of the Financial Self-Services application to the Department's clients continued during 2015 with additional farmers and Private Veterinary Practitioners being provided with access. At the end of 2015, the application was available to circa 85,000 clients with usage figures indicating that 38% of the clients have accessed the application. This online service allows the Department's clients to carry out the following activities:

- View their accounting data, including open invoices/overpayments and historical invoices and payments.
- Pay invoices/overpayments electronically with Debit/Credit Card.
- View/Download & Print Payment Remittances.
- View/Download & Print Account Statements (including annual Farmer Statements).

During 2015, the SAP system processed over 850,000 payments to farmers/vendors with a gross value of circa €2.15bn. In excess of 15,000 purchase orders were created for goods/services received and some 30,600 sales invoices were issued for services provided.

CAP Beneficiaries Website

At the end of May 2015, the Department published details on its website of CAP payments processed during the previous financial year to all beneficiaries.

Objective Four Developing IT Capability

FISHERIES SYSTEMS



DAFM IMT develops and maintains the fisheries IT systems to support the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy. DAFM IMT commenced analysis and development works on these activities in 2014/2015 as part of a project under the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF). Analysis/development work will be on-going over the life of the EMFF Operational Programme. Activities implemented in 2015 include –

- ieCatch – the on-Vessel Software used by sea fishers was enhanced to allow for the recording of catches below minimum size as part of the initial phased implementation of the EU Discard Ban on below size and non-quota fish caught
- Implementation of an infringement register and a points management system within the Integrated Fisheries Information system (IFIS) for assigning and management of penalty points assigned to vessel licence holders
- Integration of the Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) with vessel catch detail in IFIS to provide a consolidated view of vessel position and catch information
- Exchange of information with European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA), as required, under joint deployment plans
- Enhancements to inspection system (ieInspect)
- Improved and more timely process implemented for the transmission of information with the Marine Institute
- Implemented a process for the transmission of catch details to Producer Organisations

In addition to the above initiatives implemented during 2015, work was commenced on other EMFF related projects such as the EU Fleet/Licence project and on the EU/CEFACT format for the exchange of data between EU Member States and Norway.

Following a public tender process, a technical review of the IFIS application was initiated in December 2015, to ascertain its suitability in providing innovation through new technologies for the management of data, conducting risk analysis and to identify future support options for the various sea fisheries services including the central hub application (IFIS), the vessel tracking services (VMS & AIS) and the daily reporting of catch information (ERS). A report is due in late January 2016.

ANIMAL HEALTH COMPUTER SYSTEM (AHCS)

AHCS is the primary computer system concerned with supporting the Department in managing its disease testing programmes for animal diseases such as TB, Brucellosis, BSE and BVD in cattle and Aujeszky's disease in Pigs. It is used for

- Scheduling tests
- Recording test results
- Restricting herds based on disease status
- Managing other statuses on herds, animals etc.
- Issuing movement permits
- Generating all necessary documentation
- Processing animal valuations
- Generating payments for Farmers, PVPs, Valuers, Hauliers & Creameries
- Producing management and statistical reports

Approximately 1,200 Department staff and 1,000 Private Veterinary Practitioners use the application on a daily basis.

Objective Four Developing IT Capability



AHCS has been progressively developed and enhanced over a period of 13 years and during 2015, it was considered prudent to conduct a technical evaluation of the application. Following a public tender process a contract was awarded and the technical assessment commenced in December 2015. This assessment is to examine the current state of the application from a technological perspective and to identify options and to make recommendations for the medium to long term support of the application given its critical importance to the disease management activities of the Department. A report is due in late January 2016.

Animal Identification and Movement (AIM) System

Food Safety

AIM is a generic movement system covering bovine, ovine, caprine, porcine and equine animals. The facilities for bovine animals are the most detailed as there is a requirement to register and identify individual animals and a comprehensive movement monitoring system is in place that includes clearance against the database prior to movement from holding to holding, entry into the human food chain and export. The system provides assurances to consumers regarding the safety of beef and beef products.

AIM manages the identification (issue of tags) for ovine, caprine, and porcine animals and records movements at herd level for these species. In the case of equine animals, the system receives information of animals registered from the passport issuing organisations and records it on a central database. The information recorded on the central database is used as part of a series of checks conducted on equine animals in slaughterhouses and it plays an important role in providing assurances to consumers regarding the safety of product entering the human food chain.

During 2015, the equine registration facilities were enhanced and Passport Issuing Organisations are now required to notify new registrations of animals born in Ireland to the central database within 15 days of their registration of the animal. The Passport Issuing Organisations must also notify the central database within 15 days of the registration of an animal introduced into Ireland.

New facilities were introduced for the recording of sheep exports electronically.

Additional BVD animal statuses were implemented on AIM to control movements of animals from herds with a retained PI (Persistently Infected) animal and from herds that did not participate in the BVD testing programme.

Objective Four Appendix A - State Bodies

Aquaculture Licences Appeals Board

Kilminchy Court
Dublin Road
Portlaoise
Co. Laois
R32 DTW5
Tel: 057 863 1912
Email: info@alab.ie

This is an independent board which handles the appeals process for aquaculture licensing. All Board members are engaged on a part-time basis. A person aggrieved by a decision of the Minister on an application for an aquaculture licence or by the revocation or amendment of an aquaculture licence may, make an appeal to the Board in writing within one month of the publication or notification of such a decision, revocation or amendment.

Bord Bia

Clanwilliam Court
Lower Mount Street
Dublin 2
D02 A344
Tel: 01 668 5155
Website: www.bordbia.ie

Bord Bia promotes, assists and develops the marketing of Irish food including drink, seafood and livestock and the production, marketing and consumption of horticultural produce.

It operates quality assurance schemes for beef, pork and bacon, horticultural and egg products. In response to growing demand from international customers for quality assured, sustainable food and drink products, Bord Bia developed Origin Green – a world-first, nationwide sustainability programme for the entire Irish food and drink industry, introduced in 2012. By the end of 2016, Ireland aims to have all Irish food and drink producers on the journey to sustainability.

With its headquarters in Dublin, Bord Bia has a network of overseas offices in Amsterdam, Madrid, Paris, Dubai, Milan, Shanghai (Asia Office), Dusseldorf, Moscow, London, New York and Stockholm.

Bord Iascaigh Mhara

Crofton Road
Dun Laoghaire
Co. Dublin
A96 E5AO
Tel: 01 214 4100
Website: www.bim.ie

Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM), the Irish Sea Fisheries Board, is the Irish State agency with responsibility for developing sustainable Irish Sea Fishing and Aquaculture industries. BIM was established under the Sea Fisheries Act 1952. BIM provides a range of services including advisory, financial, technical, marketing and training supports to all sectors of the Irish seafood industry. BIM's primary objective is to expand the volume, quality and value of output from the seafood and aquaculture sectors by focusing on the opportunities for growth in these sectors.



Objective Four Appendix A - State Bodies

Bord na gCon

Green Park
Dock Road
Limerick
V94 Y17X
Tel: 061 448000
Website: www.igb.ie

Bord na gCon is a commercial state body, established under the Greyhound Industry Act, 1958, chiefly to control greyhound racing and to improve and develop the greyhound industry. Bord na gCon regulates all aspects of greyhound racing in Ireland including the licensing of the different tracks, the issuing of permits to officials, bookmakers, trainers and the implementation of the rules of racing.

Coillte Teoranta

The Irish Forestry Board
Newtownmountkennedy
Co Wicklow
A63 DN25
Tel: 01 201 1111
Website: www.coillte.ie

Coillte Teoranta is a private limited company, which operates in forestry and related activities on a commercial basis. The company is co-owned by the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform and the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine. The company was established under the Forestry Act, 1988 which sets out its objectives and duties.

Horse Racing Ireland

Ballymany
The Curragh
Co Kildare
R56 XE37
Tel: 045 455455
Website: www.goracing.ie

Horse Racing Ireland (HRI) is a commercial state body, established under the Horse and Greyhound Racing Act 2001. Horse Racing Ireland is the national authority for horse racing in Ireland and is responsible for the overall administration, promotion and development of the industry.

Irish National Stud Company Ltd

Tully
Kildare
R51 DD56
Tel: 045 521251
Website: www.irish-national-stud.ie

The Irish National Stud Co. Ltd keeps a range of top class stallions with a view to making quality bloodlines available to the thoroughbred horse industry in Ireland. The Japanese Gardens and St. Fiachra's Garden, both of which are located on the grounds of the Stud, plus the opportunity for visitors to view the horses standing at the Stud have proven to be a major tourist attraction through the years. The Stud also engages in farming activities and trains people for employment in the bloodstock sector.

Marine Institute

Rinville
Oranmore
Co. Galway
H91 R673
Tel: 091 387200
Website: www.marine.ie

The Marine Institute (MI) is the national agency with responsibility for Marine Research, Technology Development and Innovation (RTDI). The Institute was established under the 1991 Marine Institute Act. The role of the MI is to promote the sustainable development of marine industry through strategic funding programmes and essential scientific services that safeguard the marine environment through research and environmental monitoring. The Institute undertakes and co-ordinates marine research and development that has the potential to promote economic development create employment and protect the marine environment.

Objective Four Appendix A - State Bodies

National Milk Agency

IPC House
Shelbourne Road
Dublin 4
D04 A4E0
Tel: 01 660 3396
Website: www.nationalmilkagency.ie

The National Milk Agency was established in 1994 under the Milk (Regulation of Supply) Act, 1994 and is responsible for the regulation of the supply of milk for liquid consumption throughout the State. It is funded by means of a statutory levy on milk used for liquid consumption.

The chairman of the Agency is appointed by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine. Five members of the Agency are directly elected by registered producers while the other members are appointed by the Minister following nominations from designated organisations.

Teagasc

Agriculture and Food Development Authority
Oak Park
Carlow
R93 XE12
Tel: 059 917 0200
Website: www.teagasc.ie

Teagasc was established by the Agriculture (Research, Training and Advice) Act 1988 to provide integrated research, advisory and training services to the agriculture and food industry and rural community. Its mission is to support science-based innovation in the agri-food sector and wider bio-economy so as to underpin profitability, competitiveness and sustainability. It is governed by an eleven-member authority comprising Ministerial appointments and nominees from designated organisations.

The Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA)

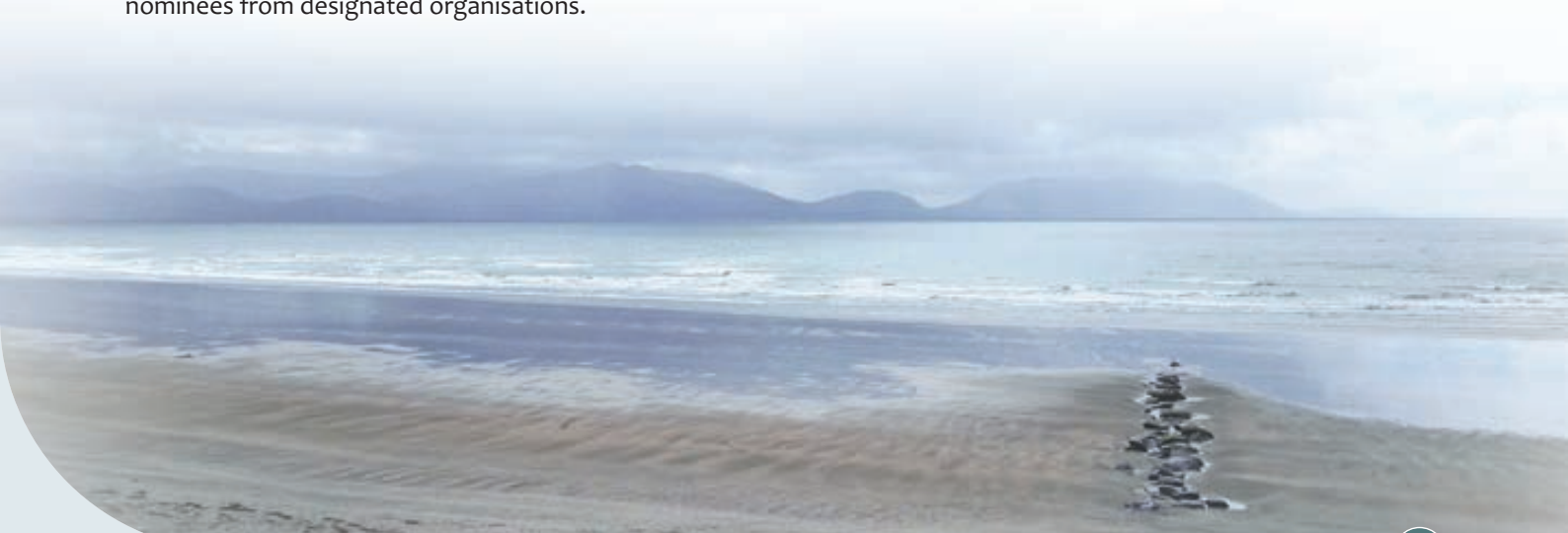
National Seafood Centre
Clonakilty
Co. Cork
P85 TX47
Tel: 023 885 9300
Website: www.sfpa.ie

The SFPA is the statutory authority responsible for the enforcement of sea-fisheries protection and seafood safety legislation in the Republic of Ireland and throughout Ireland's exclusive fishing limits. It was established on 1 January 2007 under the Sea-Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006 and its principal responsibilities are to enforce Sea Fisheries legislation and Seafood Safety legislation fairly and consistently and to ensure that the marine fish and shellfish resources from the waters around Ireland are exploited sustainably and may be consumed safely for the long term benefit of all.

Veterinary Council of Ireland

53 Landsdowne Road
Ballsbridge
Dublin 4
D04 NY29
Tel: 01 668 4402
Website: www.vei.ie

The Veterinary Council of Ireland which regulates the practice of veterinary medicine was established on 1 January 2006 under section 11 of the Veterinary Practice Act 2005. It has 19 members which reflects interests such as education, animal welfare, consumers and food safety and a balance as between veterinarians and others. The principal function of the Council is to regulate and manage the practice of veterinary medicine and veterinary nursing in the State in the public interest.



Objective Four Appendix B - Vote 30 -2015

		€m
	Administration	220.09
i	Salaries, Wages and Allowances	165.98
ii	Travel and Subsistence	6.97
iii	Training and Development and Incidental Expenses	5.49
iv	Postal and Communication Services	4.55
v	Office Equipment and External IT Services	24.59
vi	Office Premises Expenses	6.11
vii	Consultancy Services and Value for Money Policy Reviews	0.11
viii	Supplementary Measures to Protect the Financial Interests of the EU	0.60
ix	Laboratory Equipment	5.73
A.	Agri Food Policy Development & Trade	366.18
A.3	Research & Training	24.56
A.4	Development of Agriculture & Food (farm grants).	9.85
A.5	Teagasc Grant-in-Aid	111.14
A.6	Bord Bia Grant-in-Aid	30.84
A.7	Marine Institute Grant-in-Aid	26.30
A.8	Bord Iascaigh Mhara Grant-in-Aid	19.02
A.9	Food Aid Donations - World Food Programme.	20.00
A1 0	Other	21.06
	Food and Horticultural Promotion Programme	2.80
	Quality Assurance Scheme	5.60
	Misc. Pension Payments	1.75
	International Cooperation	3.14
	Non-Thorough Bred Horses	1.82
	Legal	0.68
	Beef efficiency/adaptation groups	4.83
	Other	0.43
A.11	Horse and Greyhound Racing Fund	68.00
	HRI	54.40
	Bord ná gCon	13.60
A.12	Beef Data & Genomics Scheme	34.69

Objective Four Appendix B - Vote 30 -2015

	€m
A.13 CEDRA Rural Innovation and Development Fund	0.73
B. Food Safety, Animal Health, Plant Welfare	
B.3 Food Safety, Animal Health / Welfare, Plant Health	72.29
Temporary Veterinary Inspectors	18.14
Veterinary Testing and Research	4.20
TB & Brucellosis Eradication	30.25
National Beef Assurance	5.29
Fallen Animals Scheme	5.14
Animal Welfare	3.80
BSE Compensation & Testing	0.98
Scrapie	0.25
Other	4.24
C. Rural Economy and Environment	310.95
C.3 Rural Environment Protection Scheme	131.23
REPS	32.01
Agri Environment Options Schemes (AEOS)	79.80
Green Low-Carbon Agri-Environment Scheme (GLAS)	11.45
Organic farming Scheme	7.97
C.4 Land Mobility (Early Retirement Scheme Installation Aid)	7.14
Early Retirement Scheme	7.14
Installation Aid/YFIS	0
C.5 Development of Agriculture & Food (farm grants).	30.62
TAMS	24.83
Development of Commercial Horticulture	3.96
Development of Organic Sector	1.43
Other	0.40
C.6 Forestry and Biofuels	104.15
Afforestation	98.70
NDP Support Schemes	4.60
Forestry Development	0.42
Bio Energy	0.10
Other	0.32
C.7 Fisheries	23.10
Fisheries Harbours	18.96
Fish Processing	1.80
Seafood Development Programme	1.31
Other	1.03
C.8 Sea Fisheries Protection Authority	10.58

Objective Four Appendix B - Vote 30 -2015

	€m
C.9 Other	0.48
C.10 Haulbowline Remediation Project	3.67
D. Delivery of Client Focussed Schemes and Services	295.13
D.3 Market Supports Operational Costs	89.16
IACS	6.50
Short-Term FEOGA Financing	0.43
Clearance of Accounts	68.13
School Milk Scheme	0.62
Market Volatility Programme	13.45
Other	0.03
D.4 Income Support in Disadvantaged Areas	205.90
D.5 Other	0.07
Total Gross Voted Expenditure	1,264.64
Receipts	
E Appropriations in Aid	
E.1 Recoupment of Salaries	-0.62
E.2 Forfeited Deposits & Securities under EC intervention	-0.03
E.3 Refunds Vets Fees	-18.17
E.4 Receipts of Vet Fees for Live Exports	-0.92
E.5 Dairy Inspection Fees	-6.46
E.6 Receipts from Sale of Vaccines etc.	-0.70
E.7 Receipts from Seed Testing, certification etc.	-2.40
E.8 Receipts from bovine disease levies	-6.53
E.9 Land Commission receipts	-0.89
E.10 Other Receipts	-2.07
E.11 Market Intervention co funding receipts	-0.02
E.12 Intervention Stock Losses	-1.10
E.13 EAFRD co funding (Rural Development)	-363.58
E.14 Veterinary Fund	-13.30
E.15 Other Guarantee Receipts (Agriculture)	-1.65
E.16 Other Guarantee Receipts (EAGF Fisheries)	-0.00
E.17 Fines/Forfeitures for Sea Fishery Offences	-0.78
E.18 Foreshore Act / State Property Act Receipts	-0.08
E.19 EU Receipts - Conservation & Management of Fisheries	-0.30
E.20 Aquaculture Licence Fees	-0.34
E.21 EU FIFG Receipt Aquaculture Development	0
E.22 EFF Receipt	-2.94
E.23 Sustainable Foods Systems Ireland	-0.05
E.24 Pension Levy	-15.75
Total Receipts	-438.68
Net Expenditure	825.96

Objective Four Appendix C – EAGF/EAGGF Guarantee Expenditure 2015

The following shows the payments made in Ireland from the Guarantee section of the EAGF and EAGGF funds during the 2015 financial year

EU-funded expenditure managed by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

EAGF Guarantee (measures fully funded by the EU)	2015 €m
Direct payment Scheme/Single Farm Payment	1122
Grassland Sheep, Burren Life, Beef Data Programme	11
Export refunds	—
Intervention/Aid to private Storage	13
Other market Supports	5
Milk Superlevy	(71)
Other	(5)
Co-funded receipts (measures co-funded by EU)¹	2015 €m
Agriculture	
EAFRD Rural Development Programme 2014-2020	364
Veterinary Fund	13
Market intervention	—
Other co-financing receipts	3
Fisheries	
FIFG - aquaculture development/fisheries development	-
EFF - European Fisheries Fund 2007-2013	3
	1,458

¹ Only the EU co-funding on these programmes is shown in this table.