

FIGHT for the FUTURE of FAMILY FARMING

SUPPORTING

300,000 Jobs



€9bn Exports

Today, farmers are taking a stand to fight for the future of family farming. In the next few months, critical decisions will be taken in Europe on funding for the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), which will have a fundamental impact on the future ability of Irish farm businesses to survive and grow. Farmers are demanding that our Government secures a full CAP budget for Ireland.

Since 2008, farmers have had to accept repeated and totally disproportionate Government cuts to vital farm schemes that have hit low-income farmers very hard. And like all other working families, farmers have had to find the money to pay significantly higher charges and taxes. Today, farmers are saying 'Enough is Enough' and demanding that the Government stops hitting work and productivity, and supports indigenous sectors that can grow output, exports and jobs.

Ireland's farming and food sector has real potential for growth. Ireland already produces enough food for 35 million people and, with the right policies, has the potential to feed more than 50 million people sustainably.

The challenge for the Government is to support the productive sector and deliver on 5 key issues:

1. No cuts in CAP budget for 2014-2020

With the EU Budget set to be decided within weeks, An Taoiseach Enda Kenny must steadfastly resist strong pressure from some Member States for cuts in CAP funding and ensure the full annual EU allocations for Ireland of €1.25bn for the Single Farm Payment and €350m for Rural Development schemes with 50:50 national co-financing.

2. SFP & Rural Development payments must be protected

The existing Commission proposals would decimate the incomes of many average-sized farmers by cutting their SFP by up to 50%. **Figures released by Minister Coveney last week are seriously misleading because they grossly understate the very real threat posed by the Commission proposals. Farmers will hold Minister Coveney to account for any reductions in their SFP or Rural Development payments.**

3. No more cuts in Farm Schemes in Budget 2013

Farm schemes have been unfairly targeted for cuts since 2008, with cuts of over 40% in the Agriculture budget, compared to 10% across all Government departments. In last year's budget alone, farm schemes were cut by 17%, compared to a 6% cut across the entire Agriculture budget and 3.5% across other Government departments. Farmers have had to accept these cuts, but Minister Coveney must now maintain full funding for all remaining farm schemes.

4. No more costs or taxes on the productive sector

Extra costs and taxes on work and productivity are damaging our competitiveness and hindering recovery. The productive sector of the economy can take no more. It's time to fight back.

5. Retailers must be regulated to ensure they pass back a fair margin to farmers

Enterprise Minister Richard Bruton must deliver on the Government's commitment to regulate the retail sector and ensure equity in the food chain.

Thank you for Your Support