

SCHEME FOR THE ALLOCATION OF MILK QUOTA

TO NEW ENTRANTS 2012

DETAILED RULES

As part of the so-called 'Health Check' agreement in November 2008, the Council of Agriculture Ministers agreed to increase Member States' milk quotas annually by 1 per cent over the period 2009 to 2013. The fourth of these increases will come into effect on 1st April 2012. On 13th June 2011, the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine announced his intention to allocate one quarter (0.25%) of this increase on a permanent basis to New Entrants to Dairying in the 2012 milk quota year.

These detailed rules set out the eligibility criteria and general conditions determined by the Minister for the allocation of this quota from the National Reserve with effect from the 2012/2013 milk quota year.

1. APPLICATIONS

Fully completed application forms and supporting documentation should be sent to *Ms Avril Claffey, New Entrants Scheme, Meat and Milk Policy Division, Floor 3 Centre, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Kildare Street, Dublin 2.*

2. CLOSING DATE

The closing date for receipt of applications is 4th May 2012. Applicants should ensure they allow sufficient time for applications to reach Agriculture House before this deadline.

3. NEW ENTRANT CATEGORIES

The Scheme provides for three New Entrant categories, namely,

CATEGORY A: Brand New Entrant to Dairying – An applicant under this category must never have had a milk quota, nor have been a producer previously, either in his/her own name or jointly.

CATEGORY B: Purchaser of Quota as a New Entrant through the Milk Quota Trading Scheme – An applicant under this category may be a milk quota holder, provided quota was purchased by him/her under the category of New Entrant in any of the Milk Quota Trading Schemes to-date.

However, applications in this category will not be considered if the 15-month period prescribed in the detailed rules of the Milk Quota Trading Scheme for commencement of production has expired and no exemption was granted within six months of that date.

CATEGORY C: Purchaser of Quota as a Successor through the Milk Quota Trading Scheme – An applicant under this category may be a milk quota holder, provided quota was purchased by him/her as a Successor in any of the Milk Quota Trading Schemes to-date.

4. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

In order to be eligible for consideration under one of the categories outlined in Paragraph 3, each applicant must:

- satisfy the education and training qualifications as outlined in Annex I. A copy of the relevant documentation must be submitted with the application.
- have/will have a holding comprised of lands owned and/or leased by him or her.
- have/will have his/her own separate independent herd number in which the dairy animals are/will be registered.
- have his/her own separate milking and milk storage facilities situated on his/her holding prior to commencement of milk production.
- submit a 5 year business plan addressing the following issues:
 - (i) Audit of current resources
 - (ii) Capital expenditure
 - (iii) Income and expenditure
 - (iv) Stock flow
 - (v) Source and application of funds for each year of the plan.

The applicant is required to submit, with his/her Business Plan, a map of the holding on which the quota is or will be produced, and the legal documentation regarding ownership of lands, or in the case of leased lands, the documentation which effected the land transfer to him/her. The map must clearly identify the milking and milk storage facilities that are or will be used.

It should be noted that satisfying the eligibility criteria does not in itself qualify an applicant for approval. A rigorous assessment will be carried out to establish the extent to which each applicant can demonstrate a real and long-term commitment to dairying.

5. ASSESSMENT OF APPLICATIONS

Applications that satisfy the eligibility criteria as set out above will be submitted for a detailed assessment. An independent panel has been established for this purpose. The panel will make recommendations to the Minister for approval of those applications considered to provide the best evidence of a viable and sustainable enterprise.

The assessment will focus on the following areas:

- Educational Qualifications – Preference may be given to applicants with qualifications more specific to dairying.
- Background – Extent to which applicants have any previous involvement/interest in farming, particularly in dairy farming. This will include any skills or experience already developed, and the extent of any family involvement.
- Business Plan – Applicants should present a comprehensive plan setting out their commitment to the dairy enterprise and its future development.
- Financial Input – Preference may be given to applicants on the basis of personal financial commitment to the enterprise.
- Independence – Extent to which applicants intend to run their own enterprise, without the likelihood of quota being absorbed into other existing enterprises.

Applicants may be required to attend a meeting with the panel to further assist with the assessment of the application. Full details of any such meetings will be notified in due course.

6. ALLOCATION OF QUOTA

A maximum of 50 successful applicants under Category A (**Brand New Entrant to Dairying**) will each be allocated a milk quota of 200,000 litres.

The quota remaining after allocation to Category A recipients will be divided among suitably qualified applicants under Category B (**Purchaser of Quota as a New Entrant through the Milk Quota Trading Scheme**), and Category C (**Purchaser of Quota as a Successor through the Milk Quota Trading Scheme**).

However allocations to successful applicants in Category B and Category C will be capped so that the applicant's total permanent quota, in addition to any quota allocated under this scheme, does not exceed 200,000 litres.

7. COMMENCING PRODUCTION

Successful applicants under Category A and Category C above will be required to commence milk production by 1st April 2014. Category B applicants are expected to comply with the existing Milk Quota Trading Scheme commitment to commence production within 15 months of receiving their Trading Scheme allocation.

Before commencing production any new entrant's holding must be registered as a food business operator under the European Communities (Food and Feed Hygiene) Regulations 2009, S.I. No. 432 of 2009, and the milk production holding must comply with the requirements of these regulations before milk is delivered to the Milk Purchaser.

All new entrants to dairying must notify the Co-operative and the Department of their intention to commence milk deliveries 30 days prior to the date of commencement.

The holdings of all milk producers, including those allocated quota under this scheme may be subject to unannounced inspections by officials of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine to check compliance with the Milk Quota Regulations.

8. GENERAL CONDITIONS

Quota allocated under this scheme is for the use of the successful applicant only, for as long as he/she remains in milk production, and is subject to the normal conditions in relation to transfer, disposal or temporary leasing that attach to allocations of National Reserve quota.

If quota acquired under this scheme is produced on leased lands, such quota shall not, on expiry or earlier determination of the lease agreement, transfer with the lands.

Successful applicants who acquire quota under this scheme will be eligible to apply to purchase additional quota in the Milk Quota Trading Scheme. However this provision does not extend to the purchase of quota from the priority category of Successor for a period of 3 years, or until the end of the milk quota regime.

Applicants under Category A above who receive quota under this scheme may not:

- merge with another enterprise in any form for a period of 3 years, or until the end of the milk quota regime.
- benefit from the transfer of quota for a period of 3 years, or until the end of the milk quota regime, except through inheritance following the death of the transferor.
- transfer the quota except to a successor in the event of the death of the producer, provided the successor remains in milk production.

Successful applicants will be required to submit a financial statement to the Department at the end of each year. They will also be required to attend training, facilitated by Teagasc, which will take place over a two-day period initially and will be followed by three one-day sessions thereafter. Full details will be made available in due course.

Application Forms and sample Business Plans can be requested by:

Post: Ms Avril Claffey,
Meat and Milk Policy Division,
Floor 3 Centre,
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Phone: (01) 6072329

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.
February, 2012.

ANNEX I

List of Agricultural Qualifications

(NB: Evidence of the Award of the Exact Qualification as Listed Below Must be Provided)

Further Education Award Titles (Major)	
GENERAL AGRICULTURE	ACOT/Teagasc Certificate in Farming or NCVA Certificate in Rural Enterprise FETAC Certificate in Farming FETAC National Vocational Certificate in Rural Enterprise – Level 2 FETAC National Vocational Certificate in Rural Enterprise – Level 5 FETAC Level 6 Advanced Certificate in Farming FETAC Level 3 Vocational Certificate in Agriculture FETAC Level 6 Vocational Certificate in Agriculture FETAC Level 6 Advanced Certificate in Agriculture
EQUINE	Teagasc Certificate in Horse Breeding and Training (Part 2) FETAC (Teagasc) Certificate in Horse Breeding and Training (Part 2) FETAC Level 3 Vocational Certificate in Horse Breeding and Training FETAC Level 6 Vocational Certificate in Horse Breeding & Training – Equitation or Stud Management FETAC Level 6 Advanced Certificate in Horsemanship FETAC Level 6 Advanced Certificate in Stud Management
HORT	FETAC Level 3 Vocational Certificate in Horticulture FETAC Level 6 Vocational Certificate in Horticulture FETAC/Teagasc Diploma in Horticulture FETAC Level 6 Advanced Certificate in Horticulture
FORESTRY	FETAC Level 3 Vocational Certificate in Forestry FETAC Level 6 Vocational Certificate in Forestry FETAC Level 6 Advanced Certificate in Forestry
DAIRYING	Teagasc/FETAC Advanced Certificate in Agriculture– Dairy Herd Management FETAC Diploma in Agriculture (Teagasc) – Dairy Herd Management FETAC Level 6 Advanced Certificate (Teagasc) in Agriculture - Dairy Herd Management FETAC Level 6 Advanced Certificate in Dairy Herd Management
MACHINERY	Teagasc/FETAC Advanced Certificate in Agriculture– Farm Machinery Teagasc Diploma in the Operation, Care and Maintenance of Farm Machinery Teagasc/FETAC Diploma in Agriculture – Farm Machinery FETAC Level 6 Advanced Certificate (Teagasc) in Agriculture – Farm Machinery FETAC Level 6 Advanced Certificate in Agricultural Mechanisation
MACH/CROPS	FETAC Advanced Certificate in Agriculture– Machinery and Arable Crops FETAC Diploma in Agriculture (Teagasc) – Machinery and Arable Crops FETAC Level 6 Advanced Certificate (Teagasc) in Agriculture – Machinery and Arable Crops FETAC Level 6 Advanced Certificate in Machinery and Crop Management
DRYSTOCK	FETAC Advanced Certificate in Agriculture – Drystock Management FETAC Level 6 Advanced Certificate in Agriculture – Drystock Management FETAC Level 6 Advanced Certificate in Drystock Management

Higher Education Award Titles	
GENERAL AGRIC	NCEA/HETAC/Individual IT College National Certificate in Agriculture HETAC/Individual IT College Higher Certificate in Agriculture HETAC/Individual IT College National Diploma in Agriculture HETAC/Individual IT College Bachelor of Science in Agriculture
HORT	NCEA/HETAC/Individual IT College National Diploma in Horticulture HETAC/Individual IT College Ordinary Bachelor Degree in Horticulture HETAC/Individual IT College Bachelor of Science in Horticulture
ATHLONE IT	NCEA/HETAC National Certificate in Business in Equine Studies HETAC Higher Certificate in Business in Equine Studies HETAC Bachelor of Business in Equine Studies
LIMERICK IT	HETAC National Certificate in Technology in Agricultural Mechanisation HETAC Higher Certificate in Technology in Agricultural Mechanisation
WATERFORD IT	NCEA/HETAC National Certificate in Science in Agricultural Science HETAC/Individual IT College Higher Certificate in Science in Agricultural Science NCEA/HETAC National Diploma in Science in Agricultural Science HETAC/WIT Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Science HETAC/WIT Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Land Management, Agriculture HETAC/WIT Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Land Management, Horticulture HETAC/WIT Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Land Management, Forestry HETAC/WIT National Diploma in Forestry HETAC/WIT Bachelor of Science in Forestry
GALWAY-MAYO IT	NCEA/HETAC National Certificate in Business in AgriBusiness HETAC/GMIT Higher Certificate in Business Studies (Agri-Business) HETAC/GMIT Bachelor of Business in Rural Enterprise and Agri-Business HETAC/GMIT Bachelor of Science in Agriculture and Environmental Management
UCD	Degree in Agriculture/Horticulture/Forestry from UCD Primary Degrees awarded by the Faculty of Agriculture at UCD – NUI Bachelor of Agricultural Science – Animal & Crop Production – UCD Bachelor of Agricultural Science – Animal Science – UCD Bachelor of Agricultural Science – Food & Agribusiness Management – UCD Bachelor of Agricultural Science – Forestry – UCD Bachelor of Agricultural Science – Horticulture, Landscape & Sportsturf Management – UCD Bachelor of Agricultural Science – Agri-Environmental Science
VET UCD	Degree in Veterinary Science Bachelor of Veterinary Science – UCD
LIMERICK	Bachelor in Science in Equine Science Degree – UL Diploma in Equine Science – UL
DAIRY SCIENCE	Degree/Diploma in Dairy Science plus a FETAC Award for an 80-hours Teagasc approved training programme*
RURAL SCIENCE	Degree/Diploma in Rural Science plus a FETAC Award for an 80-hours Teagasc approved training programme* Degree/Diploma in Science (Education) in Biological Science plus a FETAC Award for an 80- hours Teagasc approved training programme* Bachelor of Science (Education) in Biological Sciences plus a FETAC Award for an 80-hours Teagasc approved training programme*
OTHER	Non-agricultural awards or qualifications (FETAC/HETAC/IT Colleges/Universities/foreign awards) placed at or equivalent to Level 6 or higher on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) and a FETAC award for a 180 hours Teagasc approved training programme.**

* The Teagasc approved Training Programme will comprise a minimum 80 hours course in farm management. In addition, applicants must achieve the minimum stipulated standards for assessments in the course and achieve the appropriate FETAC certificate.

An applicant who is 35 years of age or over on 31st March 2012 and who does not possess any of the educational qualifications listed above may apply if they have completed courses of recognised training in agriculture of at least 180 hours as outlined below:

**The FETAC Certificates for 100 Hours and/or 80 Hours Teagasc approved training programme comprise the following:

Course	Certificate Title
100 hours - Agriculture	FETAC Certificate in Agriculture (100 hours)
	FETAC Level 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Animal & Crop Production
80 hours – Farm Management	FETAC Certificate in Farm Management (80 hours)
	FETAC Level 6 Specific Purpose Certificate in Farm Business