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IFA Pigs & Pig Meat Committee
February & March Newsletter

IFA National Pigs and Pigmeat Committee Meetings
January & February 2013

- 10th January: IFA National Pigs and Pigmeat Committee meeting with election of Chair & Vice Chair.
- 15th-16th: IFA AGM.
- 23rd: Environment sub committee meets on the BREF document. Submission compiled.
- 24th: Meeting with Bord Bia re the DNA Traceability Scheme.
- 24th: Meeting with the Hotels Federation of Ireland in relation to DNA programme.
- 1st February: Meeting with McCarron Meats.
- 12th: Meeting with Liam Davis, Green Pasture Meats.
- 13th: Executive Council, Irish Farm Centre.
- 15th: Pat O Flaherty attends BREF meeting in London with other EU country representatives.
- 18th: Meeting with Ulster Farmers’ Union on animal health.
- 19th: DNA meeting. With IdentiGEN and Canadian researchers.
- 25th: IRPP BREF meeting, Brussels attended by Chairman and Ger McCutcheon, Teagasc.
- 27th: Pig Health sub-group committee meeting & meeting on DNA with Ray Bowe Musgraves.

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Pig Prices corrected for VAT, Kill Out Lean Meat Percentage (ISN) €/kg

Sow welfare Compliance
DAFM Survey
According to a recent Department of Agriculture survey, there are a number of units that still need to complete works for the sow welfare legislation. It is believed that the majority of these have had difficulty securing finance and/or planning permission. The Department of Agriculture has issued letters to all non-compliant farmers.

Bord Bia
Bord Bia have also taken action by writing to farmers asking them to outline their current status. They will commence spot audits in the coming weeks. All Quality Assured farms must be compliant with relevant legislation. A farmer will be given the agreed period of time to close out non-compliance issues as per the PQAS guidelines.

The IFA Farm Business Committee have a facility in place to aid farmers that are in financial difficulty with credit and or sourcing loans from banks. This facility is open to pig farmers and anyone that needs advice should call the IFA head office. For advice and or assistance please contact your local pigs Committee representative or your Teagasc advisor.

Chairman’s Comment
It has been a busy month for the committee. All sub groups met and I am delighted that each group is taking an active interest in their own area.

Pig prices across the EU appear to be stabilising following some inconsistent price changes in January and February. The EU average price for February was €1.71/kg in comparison to an Irish average (VAT exclusive) of €1.68/kg. The EU price for the first week of March was €1.72/kg with the Irish price unchanged.

According to Teagasc compound feed prices remained high into February despite falling input prices. Therefore the feed cost per kg dead remained in February at €1.90/kg. Although we are up on the EU average, we are far from out of the water.

Regards Pat O’Flaherty

IFA Pigs Committee Chairman Pat O’Flaherty (right) pictured with IFA Staff members at the recent CAP protest at Dublin Castle.
### DNA update

Between IFA and Bord Bia, each month, almost 100 meat samples are collected and analysed under the IFA DNA certified programme. The most recent round of testing has been delayed due to the equine DNA issue taking precedence in the lab. IFA collected 48 samples in February including cooked ham, loins, back bacon joints and rashers. The products sampled came from retailers in Tipperary, Kilkenny and Laois.

The products collected range from those carrying a quality assurance logo to those that simply carry Irish sounding names. Of course a major focus is the substantially transformed ‘produced in Ireland’ products that many consumers discover at home may be ‘produced in Ireland’ but they are produced using meat from outside of Ireland. Results of the analysis are imminent.

There has been an excellent response to the programme with many suppliers in the industry finding that orders for Irish meat have increased. The aim of the programme is to ensure transparency and fairness for both consumers and producers but factories have informed the committee that the price of pigs is being supported by the programme. The collection of samples will continue each month.

IFA continues to meet with users of pig meat to educate them on the DNA tool. Carty IFA continues to meet with users of pig meat to educate them on the DNA tool. Carty IFA continues to meet with users of pig meat to educate them on the DNA tool. Carty IFA continues to meet with users of pig meat to educate them on the DNA tool. Carty IFA continues to meet with users of pig meat to educate them on the DNA tool. Carty IFA continues to meet with users of pig meat to educate them on the DNA tool. Carty IFA continues to meet with users of pig meat to educate them on the DNA tool. Carty IFA continues to meet with users of pig meat to educate them on the DNA tool. Carty IFA continues to meet with users of pig meat to educate them on the DNA tool. Carty IFA continues to meet with users of pig meat to educate them on the DNA tool. Carty IFA continues to meet with users of pig meat to educate them on the DNA tool. Carty IFA continues to meet with users of pig meat to educate them on the DNA tool. Carty IFA continues to meet with users of pig meat to educate them on the DNA tool. Carty IFA continues to meet with users of pig meat to educate them on the DNA tool. Carty
Grain Market Update—March 13th 2013

The USDA in their latest report have revised the 2012/2013 marketing year’s maize supply downwards on the back of lower estimates from the southern hemisphere’s crop and higher than anticipated animal feed use in the US. The latest news halted the slide in both old and new crop maize prices as world carryover stocks are projected to fall to 118mt, a level not seen since 2006/2007.

In a surprise development soybean supply and demand remains unchanged despite strong export demand particularly from China and potentially a slightly lower than expected harvest outturn from the Southern Hemisphere. US exports remain strong on the back of huge delays in loading at Brazilian ports.

The latest report was bearish towards wheat with stocks revised higher by 1.6mt. Old crop dried Irish wheat prices remain relatively unchanged, trading from €250/t to €252/t. Barley has moved lower trading from €237/t to €239/t last week.

New crop prices continue to slip with the markets anticipating record sowings across the world and a recovery in stock levels. New crop dried Irish wheat is being quoted from €207/t to €210/t and barley from €190/t to €193/t.

Import and Export Update

Minister Coveney announced last week that an agreement to export pork to Australia had been reached and that this would be worth a further €20m to the Irish pig meat industry, a figure they claim is conservative.

The value of Irish pigmeat exports rose in 2012 to over half a billion euro, which is an increase of almost €86m for an increase in volume of 7,369 tonnes. This equates to almost 76% of Irish production. Imports in 2012 also increased slightly (+3,509 tonnes) although. How to increase consumption of pig meat was discussed at a recent pigs committee meeting and follow up activities are planned for this year.

The Bord Bia TV advertisements were shown at the end of February and will run again at the end of April which will. The research carried out by Bord Bi indicates that the adverts are getting a favourable response from consumers. More activities are also planned.

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Source: CSO

TAMS sow welfare expenditure

According to Department officials, expenditure under the TAMS Sow Welfare Scheme, to date, has been €0.59 million.

The value, in grant terms, of applications received under the Scheme is estimated to be approx. €13 million, when applications which were submitted under the original Scheme and re-submitted under the revised Scheme introduced in July 2012 are excluded. However, approx. €2 million of this relates to applications which still have not submitted planning permission. As the funding for the Scheme has been extended to €16 million, this leaves €3 million in funding for the final tranche.

However, the Department warns that those applicants which have not yet submitted planning permission will need to do so by 2 April 2013 in order to be considered eligible for grant-aid under the Scheme.