

Direct Payments

Online Applications

- At the close of applications in mid-May over 100,000 farmers out of a total of 130,000 applied online this year. This compares with 93,000 in 2015 and 80,000 in 2014.
- It is intended by 2018 that all farmers will be making online applications. IFA has argued that where there is poor broadband that technical help must be provided by the Department of Agriculture.
- Farmers had until the end of May to amend their applications.

Pre-checking

- IFA had pressed for the new pre-checking arrangement which was part of the CAP Simplification to be introduced in 2016. This new arrangement is now in place.
- Farmers who have a problem with their application are being notified by text if they are on the Department of Agriculture system. Farmers and advisors must check their BPS online account to determine if there is an issue.
- Otherwise farmers will be written to where there is an issue. Farmers have until 20th June to resolve any problems.
- The pre-checking will also include paper applications which have been scanned in by the Department of Agriculture.
- Pre-checking will deal with dual claims, overclaims and overlaps. No penalty will arise where the non-compliance is fully rectified.

Outstanding 2015 payments

- In completing the payments for 2015 all farmers will be issued with a final statement shortly.
- This will be followed by the 3% balancing payment worth around €36m.
- Following on this, the crisis reserve/financial discipline/unused National Reserve fund will be paid.
- All payments worth around €50m will be made by the end of June.

2016 payments

- IFA will be insisting that a significant increase in first stage payments for ANCs on the third week of September, BPS in the middle of October and GLAS and AEOS payments in late October.
- IFA has also sought that the BPS advance is set at 70% this year given the severe income crisis being experienced on many farms.

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