

CAP Rural Development Monitoring Committee

Progress and Delivery in 2015

- The Monitoring Committee which is made up of various organisations is part of the European legislation in the implementation of the Rural Development Programme.
- The Committee met on one occasion in 2015 but approvals for amendments are being done by written procedure.
- The Committee agreed a number of changes to the RDP for 2015 which included: TAMS, GLAS specifications, technical changes on Leader, Knowledge Transfer Measures, inclusion of the Burren programme in the Locally Led Scheme and some other technical changes.
- The Committee has to be consulted on all aspects of the RDP. In early 2016 the Rural Development network was awarded to a consortium whose role is to ensure the Rural Development Programme get sufficient publicity and to highlight where money is being spent.
- The Committee is also required to move around funding if necessary from underspent areas to areas where there is high demand. This is particularly relevant to IFA to ensure that the vast majority of the Rural Development fund is spent on farm schemes.
- Competing demands are put forward at the Monitoring Committee but the importance of IFA's continuing dialogue with the Department of Agriculture ensures that 93% of the RDP funding goes to farmers and farm related schemes.

Priorities for 2016

- With one amendment to the RDP being made every year, IFA will be ensuring that it is made in sufficient time that the changes are relevant to schemes as quickly as possible.
- The priority for IFA will be to ensure that all EU funding allocated in the RDP is fully used up. The €580m per annum of EU/National funding allocated is fully utilised on farmer programmes over the next 7 years.

Flor McCarthy
Chairman
Rural Development Committee

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