

Minutes of FMP Central Executive Meeting held in the Irish Farm Centre, Bluebell, Dublin 12 on Wednesday 14th March 2018

(postponed from Wed 7th due to Storm Emma)

Chairman	The Meeting was Chaired by Jim Mulhall.
Attendance	<p>Members; E McEnteggart, TJ Meegan, J Coyle, P Fanning, D Tierney, J Murphy, J Tynan, J Taaffe, S Bray, D O Sullivan, A Collier, J Newman, D Fagan, M O'Flaherty, A Fleming, L Hannon, W Kelly, W Lennon, P O'Scanaill, K Bray, J Maxwell, S Condren, S Condren, B Donnelly</p> <p>Guest speakers, Thomas Ryan, Environmental Executive, IFA Pat O Keefe, Supplier relations manager Glanbia</p>
Apologies	Apologies were received from P Coveney, T Hyde, M Kearney, D Murphy, N O'Connor, J O'Connor, S Arthur, E Bannon
Minutes	Proposed by L Hannon Seconded by K Bray
Matters arising	D Tierney asked for clarification on the levy income from Glanbia for the financial year 2017 as reported at the AGM in February. The FMP secretary will follow up on this with the Glanbia milk office.
Correspondence:	The ICBF responded by phone to an FMP letter voicing concerns over their fee increases. ICBF CEO, Sean Coughlan will attend and address the April FMP Central Executive meeting on 4 th April
Thomas Ryan Environmental Executive, IFA	<p>Chairman, Jim Mulhall welcomed T Ryan to the meeting. Thomas went through a detailed PowerPoint presentation covering the following areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cap Update • Nitrates review • Smart Farming • Renewable <p>On <u>Cap</u>, IFA are focused on securing an increased EU wide CAP budget. Many other lobbyists would prefer to see a significant CAP budget cut.</p> <p><u>The 4th Nitrates Action Programme:</u> Thomas Ryan who was instrumental in leading the IFA campaign on the new programme with the Department of Agriculture and the Department of the Environment, outlined the new regulations and how they will impact on dairy farmers. The importance of the nitrates derogation was paramount and cannot be taken for granted, with 7000 farmers with a derogation, and that number likely to continue to grow.</p> <p><u>Smart Farming</u> is an IFA lead initiative that has resulted in average in farm cost savings of €8700. Areas such as soil fertility, grassland management and energy usage have all lead to cost savings and a reduction in carbon and greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>On <u>Renewables</u>, recent developments in the area of solar power, and the possible opportunities that may arise from this source of renewable energy were explained by Thomas.</p> <p>A Q&A session after Thomas presentation raised some important on farm issues. The importance of the nitrates derogation was made very clear. K Bray questioned the use of forestry credits and should agriculture be looking to use them to offset out carbon emissions. Slurry storage capacity is a major area of concerns especially for farmers who apply for a nitrates derogation. Keeping stock out of waterways and the position of drinking water troughs was an</p>

	<p>issue for all dairy farmers. The chairman and all members thanked Thomas for his excellent work and his attendance at tonight's meeting.</p>
<p>FMP0-Glanbia negotiations on a new liquid milk agreement</p>	<p>Chairman, Jim Mulhall gave the Central Executive an update on the previous two meetings FMP held with Glanbia. It was still the early stages of this process, which will hopefully result in a new overall liquid milk agreement being mutually agreed in summer 2018. The deadline has been extended to the end of June 2018, and the liquid premium of 0.66cpl will be paid for April, May and June.</p>
<p>Pat O'Keefe Glanbia Supplier relation manager</p>	<p>Jim Mulhall welcomed Pat O'Keefe to the meeting. Pat gave a brief presentation on the recent weather event of "the beast from the east" and Storm Emma and the corresponded red weather warnings. Milk collection was severely disrupted and was processing and distribution of liquid milk. The volume of milk that was lost was minimised by the great effort in collecting before and after the storm. Feed deliveries were also severely affected during the 3 peak month for meal usage on farms. The Glanbia Board announced that Glanbia will pay 20cpl for lost volumes of milk where insurance does not cover the loss.</p> <p>Pat took plenty of feedback, both advice for the future and positive reports on the efforts made to get through the recent weather events.</p> <p>W Lennon gave great credit to all involved in the efforts to minimise the loss of milk and the good will Glanbia created with the announcement of the 20cpl payment for lost milk. He felt very strongly that it wasn't good enough for Glanbia to turn around one week later and cut the price by 3cpl. It went against the Co-op ethos completely and shouldn't have been done after the month that farmers endured. Other members echoed these comments and feeling of angry and disappointment at the severity of the cut at the start of the season was evident. Pat O'Keefe clarified that Glanbia Ireland are going to fund the 1c weather bonus for February.</p> <p>Board members J Murphy and E McEnteggart spoke on the 3cpl milk price cut, stating it was unpalatable, and a very tough decision but one which reflected the world markets. It was also said that more price corrections would follow. No decision on any 13th type payments have even been discussed at Board level. E McEnteggart said Glanbia will be there or there about when judged by the KPMG milk price review for the year.</p> <p>S Condron said the price cut so close to the recent announcement of an €15000 increase in Plc board members' salaries gave a terrible message to farmers. Pat O'Keefe stated that Glanbia Ireland has a target profit of 3.2% and this is what will dictate the milk price, in combination with world dairy commodity markets, not what another processor decides to do.</p>
<p>AOB</p>	<p>The working band 7-year average milk price is 29.85cpl. Centre point of WB is 30.35cpl. Upper limit is 32.85. Lower limit is 27.85</p> <p>Jim Mulhall congratulated TJ Meegan on his recent graduation from The Teagasc/Smurfit business School course in farm strategy.</p> <p>The IFA CAP budget lobbying day next Wednesday 21st was mentioned and all members were asked to contact their local TDs and request that they attend this lobbying session in the Alexander Hotel.</p>
<p>Votes of Sympathy</p>	<p>Michael Murphy, Kilkenny Joe Leech, Co Louth Nancy Brown, Kildare Maura Casey, Co Louth</p>

