

**Minutes of FMP Central Executive Meeting held in the Irish Farm Centre, Bluebell,  
Dublin 12 on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

<b>Chairman</b>	The Meeting was Chaired by Jim Mulhall.
<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Members;</b> E McEnteggart, TJ Meegan, S Arthur, J Cullen, K Healy, S Killoran, P Fanning, D Tierney, S O'Loughlin, J Murphy, J Mulhall, J Tynan, T Carberry, E Bannon, D Fagan, A Fleming, L Hannon, W Kelly, P O'Scanaill, K Bray, S Condren, S Condren, N O'Connor, J O'Connor, T Jackson, K Maguire, A Collier, J Murphy Guest speakers, Sean Coughlan, CEO ICBF
<b>Apologies</b>	Apologies were received from P Coveney, T Hyde, M Kearney, M O'Flaherty, W Lennon
<b>Minutes</b>	Proposed by K Bray Seconded by D Tierney
<b>Matters arising</b>	FMP secretary gave the meeting clarification on the levy income from Glanbia for the financial year 2017 as reported at the AGM in February. 6 weeks FMP levy collection were not paid over FMP in time and were carried into the next financial year. There was a natural decline in subscribing members due to reducing liquid suppliers to Glanbia, but volumes per suppliers were up, in line with expansion post the cessation of EU quotes in 2015.
<b>Sean Coughlan CEO, ICBF</b>	<p>Chairman, Jim Mulhall welcomed Sean Coughlan, CEO of ICBF to the meeting. The Chairman explained that FMP wrote to ICBF after the March Central Executive meeting to outline the views expressed at that meeting by members in relation to the increased fees for ICBF Dairy HerdPlus. Before Sean got into his ICBF presentation, he gave the meeting a summary of the GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) regulations that will become law in Ireland on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018. He explained the value of data and that farmers, like all business people and consumers need to be aware of the value of their data, and who they allow their data to be used by. It was suggested that FMP would invite Ethan Cleary, IFA digital expert to address a future FMP Central Executive on the topic of GDPR and the whole area of farmers data.</p> <p>Sean Coughlan started his presentation by outlining the current HerdPlus fees and the new, increased rates that members will be charged when their subscription dates come for renewal over the next year. The current blanket introduction fee of €60 was unsustainable and should not have been left at this rate for the past 12 years. Sean explained the new rates, of a set fee per herd and €0.50/cow will be a fairer system and go towards generating the income necessary to provide the service to ICBF HerdPlus members.</p> <p>Mr Coughlan outlined the past, current and future work agenda and achievements of ICBF. Virtually all dairy farmers members have gained financially in recent years from increased solid production in their dairy herds, on the back of ICBF work. Breeding for high fertility has improved cow longevity and had a real positive effect on profitability. ICBF provides independent analysis of genetics available to farmers to give them the tools to make the best and most profitable long-term breeding selections on their herds. Sean said that with out doubt that famers who use genomic bulls and selected for high fertility are financially better off as a result and there is a huge return on the investment. New developments include a greater focus on the beef index's, in order to produce a bull calf that is a viable proposition to go into a full beef system. Health and disease resistance status has been proven to be heritable and will be an important factor in the future of breeding. Cull cow values, cow maintenance costs, and the provision of the most accessible interfaces such as mobile apps for farmers to upload data in real time, are in constant development. Precision breeding or gene editing is a development that will in time become more significant in breeding programmes, giving genetics companies the ability to edit existing genes to get a more desirable natural outcome, such as producing polled offspring.</p> <p>Sean recently visited New Zealand and he gave a summary of his key observations on the NZ dairy sector. Dairy agriculture in NZ is facing big challenges in the form of environment restraints due to water pollution, excess nitrates production, and welfare issues associated with intensive dairy production. NZ has 11,700 dairy herds with average herd size at 414 stocked at 2.91 cows/Ha. It is recognised that this number will remain relatively static, with slight production</p>

	<p>increases due to improved genetics and higher supplementary feeding over the next few years. The NZ on-farm breeding policy is moving away from both Frisians and Jerseys and breeding a NZ crossbred cow that is 500kg live weight and will produce 500kg of milk solids/years.</p> <p>Jim Mulhall Chaired an excellent Q&amp;A session with Sean on many tropics. Ownership of data, accuracy of data supplied topic, welfare issue in dairy, the ICBF app</p> <p>Denis Fagan and asked if ICBF could compare data on liquid herds that supply co-ops that pay a flat constituent system, in the winter period, (Aurivo) and see what effect this has on the breeding and resulting herd profiles of these herds. Denis and Shane O'Loughlin also asked that ICBF gave an option to remove dry cull cows out of the dairy data figures, as they were giving a watered-down picture of actual dairy production. On the new fees, Larry Hannon felt it was irresponsible of ICBF to introduce such a massive % increase in 2018 on the back of a good milk year in 2017, and that ICBF have lead the way for other service providers to follow suit. Other members felt the increase was excessive, and many farmers have no option but to pay, as derogation farmers are required to be a in a KT group which requires HerdPlus membership. He, along with other members asked for an email only service (no post) from ICBF in an effort to reduce costs. Tony Jackson voiced strong concerns on the accuracy of data submitted to ICBF by some famers, new entrants that have expanded rapidly in particular, and he asked Sean and ICBF to have greater control and oversight on this type of poor data that is diluting the effectiveness of the information as a whole. Members called for one tag for collation a BVD tissue sample and a ICBF genotype sample should be made available.</p> <p>(It was agreed after Sean had left the meeting that FMP would make submission to DAFM, IFA and ICBF to call for the breed of the dam to be printed on the id card of all calves born in Ireland). The chairman and all members thanked Sean Coughlan for presentation and attendance at tonight's meeting.</p>
<p><b>FMP-Glanbia negotiations on a new liquid milk agreement</b></p>	<p>Chairman, Jim Mulhall gave the Central Executive an update on negotiations with Glanbia, with little activity since the last FMP CE. FMP have requested further information relating to the breakdown of suppliers into categories and information on supply of winter milk in conjunction with liquid milk. Recent changes in management at Glanbia were announced recently and the</p>
<p><b>AOB</b></p>	<p>Jim Mulhall asks all farmers to go to meetings and watch out for your neighbouring farmers in this tough time. Jim mentions the IFA memo on lobbying on March milk price, "the price has to be about more than milk markets". There is a high level of stress and pressure on farms with poor grass growth, short supply of forage, increased input cost and falling milk price. This is the longest winter in memory and farmers are deeply tired. Glanbia Vice Chairman, John Murphy state that Glanbia Ireland recognise the huge crisis on farms and he explained the €50/ton rebate for all ruminant feed purchased in April. Glanbia have source high quality alpha alpha in Spain and this forage is due to be in stores from next Monday 9<sup>th</sup> April. He said milk deliveries for March were predicted to be 5% above 2017 volumes, but in fact fell by 7%</p> <p>Jim Mulhall mentions the excellent article on liquid milk by Larry Hannan non Agriland during the week, <a href="https://www.agriland.ie/farming-news/dairy-focus-dedicated-to-liquid-milk-production-in-co-kildare/">https://www.agriland.ie/farming-news/dairy-focus-dedicated-to-liquid-milk-production-in-co-kildare/</a></p> <p>Jim Mulhall was joined by many members in calling on GI to not consider any cut to the March milk price.</p> <p>Jim offered his and the FMP Central Executives congratulations to Stephen Arthur on his election to Vice Chair of the IFA Dairy Committee</p>
