



Have you a Plan B?

We are in the midst of a national crisis which is unprecedented in our lifetimes. IFA will do all we can through our branch and county structure to help farmers.

It's crucially important that we take all necessary precautions to reduce the risk of contracting COVID-19. For most of us who are unfortunate enough to contract the virus, it will lead to relatively mild illness, but for some it may be more severe. This could mean that we'll be unable to carry out our normal farming duties. There may also be a need for farmers to self-isolate away from their farms.

Other family members may also be required to self-isolate. In order to reduce the risk of infection, it is important that farmers follow all hygiene and self-isolation protocols and keep up to speed with HSE advice.

For any farmer who is unable to farm, it's important that someone can step in to assist. The purpose of this document is to encourage every farmer to make a 'Plan B' to cover this eventuality.

We're asking you to have a few basics about your farm written down and that you make preparations so your farm is easier to operate for someone coming in.

For most, this won't be an issue. For a farmer who needs help, we will pull together to make sure we keep your farm working. And we are asking you to make it easier for us to help you.

I would encourage you to check in on your neighbours by phone, particularly those who may live alone or are vulnerable. It is important that we don't let those who are in social isolation feel alone as this time.

For the four million people in Ireland and another 30 million around the world who rely on us for nutritious, quality food, we have to stay strong and united.



Tim Cullinan, IFA President

Your Contact Details

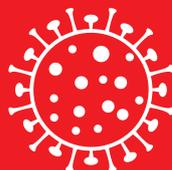
Farmer name

Contact 2

Tel No

Eircode of your farm

Complete your Plan B overleaf →



Section 1: Contact Details

If you are absent with coronavirus, who have you to help out?		
Name 1		Tel No
Name 2		Tel No
Farm Contact	Name	Tel No
AI Technician		
Contractors		
Vet		
Feed Merchant		
Local Co-Op		
Ag Adviser		
Farm Relief		
Service Person 1		
Service Person 2		

Section 2: Important Preparatory Tasks

To aid the person helping out on your farm, complete the following	Tick
Prepare a spare set of keys	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mark these keys individually	<input type="checkbox"/>
To avoid the cover person entering your dwelling house, move tags and taggers etc to the outside store or office	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have a list of expected calving dates of cows including calving history and breed of sire	<input type="checkbox"/>
Check if you have employer liability to cover anyone working on your farm	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have your animal remedies register up to date and available for the cover person	<input type="checkbox"/>
Complete your BPS form now to ensure that it is in by May 15th	<input type="checkbox"/>

Section 3: Your Farm Map

To aid the person helping out on your farm, complete the following	Tick
Sketch and attach a map of your farmyard to this document	<input type="checkbox"/>
Identify where water mains and ESB control points are	<input type="checkbox"/>
Identify on the map what stock are kept where and what feed animals are being fed	<input type="checkbox"/>
Identify the location of potentially dangerous animals including the bull stock	<input type="checkbox"/>



Take a picture of this document and store/display it prominently in your farm office.

Have you a Plan B?

Section 4: Automated Machinery

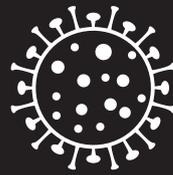
Where you have an automated machine, leave clear instructions on how it works.

Automated Machine	Operating Instructions
Milking parlour	
Scraper	
Calf Feeder	
Tractor	
Loader	
Diet Feeder	
Other	



TIP:

Make a smart phone video of you operating the machine



Protection and Prevention



Wash

your hands well and often to avoid contamination



Cover

your mouth and nose with a tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing and discard used tissue



Avoid

touching eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands



Clean

and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces



Stop

shaking hands or hugging when saying hello or greeting other people



Distance

yourself at least 2 metres (6 feet) away from other people, especially those who might be unwell

Protection Using masks is unlikely to be of any benefit if you are not sick. Sick people will be advised by their doctor when to use a mask. Healthcare workers need masks and other personal protective equipment to protect them from infection during their work (HSE).

Farm Cover Person It is important the person taking over on our farm protects themselves. Make sure Antibacterial Wipes are made available for controls in tractor, farm machinery and milking parlours etc. Hand Sanitiser dispensers located in numerous locations. Where hand sanitisers are not available, antibacterial wipes or wipes treated with an antibacterial fluid mixed with 3 parts water (HR Duo).

Persistence of Coronavirus COVID-19 on Surfaces

(Based on the most recent information in The New England Journal of Medicine)

Copper **8** HOURS

Cardboard **8** HOURS

Stainless Steel **72** HOURS

Plastics **72** HOURS

Farm Safety

Now is a good time to review your farm safety. Is there a safer way?

- Child safety is essential. Talk to you child about safety on the farm.
- Ensure minor injuries are avoided at this time. When the health service is challenged, it is particularly important to avoid any injuries on the farm.

Children on the Farm

With children off school due to the coronavirus, this is a high risk time on Irish farms. Use these points to protect children on the farm and from the coronavirus.

- Restricted movements means avoiding contact with other children, this is essential at this time.
- Have a safe and secure area for children to play.
- Where children are not in a secure play area, a high level of adult supervision must be provided.

- Children must not be supervised by their grandparents at this time. People who are 60 years of age and people over 75 are particularly vulnerable to the coronavirus.
- With increased machinery activity on farms keep children away from dangerous places.
- Keep children away from dangerous animals, especially cows with calves.
- Do not allow children under 14 to operate tractors or self-propelled machines.
- When children have to be carried in the cab, it must be fitted with a properly designed and fitted passenger seat with seat belts.

(Sources HSA, IFA)

Mental Health

The spread of coronavirus is a new and challenging event. Some people might find it more worrying than others. Contact the Pieta House helpline on 1890 130 022 or call the HSE Your Mental Health information line on 1800 111 888.