

IFA National Poultry Committee

The IFA National Poultry Committee represents the main broiler grower groups, the free range egg producers and breeders in both the broiler and egg sector. The committee is charged with representation of the poultry producers in Ireland with specific interest in the price negotiations with individual processors but also in areas of EU regulation, disease control, long term growth and development through green and sustainable processes. Any allocation to the poultry sector should be targeted at improving the welfare situation and compliance of all producers in terms of EU legislation and new and proven technology which will enable the sector to become a more environmental friendly industry in terms of energy efficiency and sustainability. There is also a void in the transfer of knowledge to any potential new or recent entrants or indeed established producer to new technology and systems which are available, and this need to be address within the sector.

This sector is almost 100% Quality Assured, out-performed its original targets in the Food Harvest document and has real potential to grow. Irish consumption of poultry meat is estimated at over 30 kg per capita. This is one of the highest per capita consumptions in Europe and increasing. Ireland is almost 85% self-sufficient for eggs and is fully compliant with welfare legislation where other EU countries have failed to commit.

Industry Profile

Turnover	€1 Billion at retail level
Employment	2500 jobs primarily situated in rural Ireland
Exchequer Contribution	€200m
Contribution to local economy	€550m
Contribution to Grain Industry	€100m

Opportunities
Reduce carbon footprint
Promote Indigenous consumption

Required Support From Rural Development Plan 2014-2020

Reduce carbon footprint

Encourage investment in sustainable and environmentally friendly farming practices

- **Insulation**

Grant assistant for the provision of reinsulating existing poultry houses and reducing the usage of carbon heavy fossil fuel, namely gas.

Cost

€1000 per 1000 bird place

Alternative heating systems

- Under EU legislation, the level of CO2 must be under 3000ppm in poultry houses. Alternative heating system that produces no CO2 and fuelled by wood chip or other renewable energy sources, need to be promoted and grant assisted. This will lead the way to reaching acceptable humidity levels (<70%), in an environmental fashion.

Cost

€1500 per 1000 bird place, see additional information

Lighting Systems

- Grant assistant for the retro-fitting of modern energy efficient light systems that comply with the EU legislation requirement, will incentive the reduction in volumes of electricity consumed per poultry house.

Cost

Typically 30,000 bird broiler house- €10,000 (€7 /square metre)

Biosecurity

- The provision of grant assistant for the installation of sufficient storage capacity for poultry litter in the event of disease outbreaks which are a common feature of poultry production throughout the world. The upkeep of Ireland's high health status is paramount for the industry. (Storage facilities on poultry farms to facilitate the required 26 week storage period)

Fencing (Free Range Eggs)

- Provision of grant assistant for the maintenance and installation of fencing in the free range egg and broiler sectors. The free range sector in poultry is an increasingly important sector for the consumer perception chicken meat and eggs and needs to be assisted to ensure a sustainable consumer market and image is promoted.

Cost:

€ 20,000 for a 8,000 flock of layers- 8 hectares

