Feirmeoirí Aontaithe na hÉireann
The Irish Farmers' Association
IFA

The Irish Farmers' Association

Annual Report and Review of 2025

ifa.ie

IFA President Francie Gorman addressing the 70th IFA AGM, January 2025 in the Irish Farm Centre, Dublin

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IFA President Francie Gorman addressing the 70th IFA AGM, January 2025

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2025 will be remembered as a year of contrasts and challenges. Most farm sectors enjoyed higher prices, albeit in the context of increased costs of production. The one sector that remained hugely challenged over the last 12 months was the tillage sector. Budget '26 provided some funding for growers, but it will remain a priority for us in the coming 12 months. As the year closed, milk price has seen a very worrying decline.

The food price debate dominated the news agenda last year and very often with an alarming lack of context. Our Chief Economist Tadhg Buckley produced rolling analysis to show that food prices had flatlined since the early 2000s, while costs of production continued to increase. Global events in the last three years – specifically the invasion of Ukraine and the consequent disruption to the supply chain – have brought about higher prices and given farmers a margin not seen for decades.

The Government bedded in after the General Election in late '24, but the most interesting development last year was the return of Donald Trump to the White House. Among his many policy initiatives, he set his sights on what he perceived to be the trade imbalance between the EU and the US. Our priority was to ensure the Government took note of the impact on our food exports.

The concern in the agri-food sector centred on dairy, specifically Kerrygold, and whiskey products derived from our malting barley producers. The final outturn saw 15% imposed on goods moving from here to the US. It was seen in some quarters as a qualified success, but from the perspective of farmers, any tariff is not good news.

Our focus was on another trade issue during 2025 – Mercosur – and it will remain there as we head into 2026. We have a fundamental issue with granting preferential access to countries that do not meet our standards. The investigation carried out by IFA and the Irish Farmers Journal into practices in Brazil raises very significant public health issues. And yet the EU Commission want to proceed with the deal in spite of the overwhelming evidence of the lack of controls in Brazil.

We worked closely with MII in discussions with the Tánaiste Simon Harris about the Government's approach to the negotiations. Ultimately, it may come down to how the European Parliament votes on the matter.

It's still unresolved and we will keep the pressure on for our Government to build a blocking minority against an outcome that would be very damaging for our beef and poultry sectors. Anything less would be a disgraceful abandonment of the commitment in the Programme for Government.

The other key campaign in the last year was the retention of the Nitrates derogation. We received confirmation in December that it has been extended for three years. It provides certainty for farmers who want to plan their business in the coming years. It also comes at a time when there is a very severe downturn in the price of milk.

The unrelenting focus of everybody involved in the sector – farmers, co-ops, State agencies – to improving our water quality is something that will continue.

Beginning with the visit of the EU Commissioner for Agriculture Christophe Hansen to our 70th AGM in January, we have driven home the message at every opportunity. Commission officials visited a farm in September and early November saw the EU Environment Commissioner Jessika Roswell come to Ireland to see the progress that is happening.

Our national meeting in Corrin Mart ahead of her arrival reinforced the cross-sector initiatives that underpinned the case we have made over the last two years.

Some of those serving on National Council would have completed their terms and I want to thank them for the support over the last two years. The work that IFA does is a collective effort right across the country. The network that exists through our branch and county executive structure is unrivalled and allows members to feed in their views about what they want done on their behalf.

I have enjoyed visiting various shows and meeting so many members along the way. I'm always struck by the pride people have in putting on their local show that promotes the best of what our sector is about.

Our free health check initiative with CROÍ and the Department of Agriculture was extended to every county and once again was very successful in persuading farmers to put their own health to the forefront of their minds.

I have no doubt that 2026 will be another very busy year. I am committing to working towards the best outcome for farmers on what's ahead.

Our primary focus will be on the shape of the next CAP. It remains the single biggest policy area within the remit of the EU Commission and how it is shaped will determine the course of Irish agriculture to 2030 and beyond. The role of the EU Presidency – which Ireland will hold for the latter six months of the year – will be pivotal.

Francie Gorman

Francie Gorman
IFA President

At the IFA 70th AGM (l-r) IFA Director of Governance and Oireachtas Engagement Elaine Farrell, IFA Director General Damian McDonald, IFA President Francie Gorman and IFA Deputy President Alice Doyle

REPRESENTATION

National Council - Governing Body

Includes Macra President, ICOS President and Irish Farmers Journal Editor

16 National Commodity and Cross-Sectoral Chairs

National Officers

29 County Chairs

29 County Executives

940 Branches

Each Branch elects 4 delegates to County Executive

Over 70,000 Members

Organised through branches

Francie Gorman
President

Alice Doyle
Deputy President

Damian McDonald
Director General

Elaine Farrell
Director of Governance and Oireachtas Engagement

National Officers' Committee

Conor O'Leary
Munster Chair

Paul O'Brien
South Leinster Chair

Patrick McCormick
National Treasurer

Frank Brady
Ulster and North Leinster Chair

Brendan Golden
Connacht Chair

COUNTY CHAIRS

CARLOW

Michael Purcell

CORK CENTRAL

Matthew Hurley

GALWAY

Stephen Canavan

CAVAN

Maurice Brady

CORK WEST

Tadhg Healy

GALWAY 2ND REPRESENTATIVE

John Finn

CLARE

Stephen Walsh

DONEGAL

Joe Sweeney

KERRY

Jason Fleming

CORK NORTH

Pat O'Keeffe

DUBLIN

Paul Flynn

KERRY 2ND REPRESENTATIVE

Kathleen Herlihy

COUNTY CHAIRS

KILDARE

Denis Halpin

MAYO

John Lynskey

TIPPERARY SOUTH

Pat Carroll

KILKENNY

Brendan Hickey

MEATH

Dermot Ward

WATERFORD

John Heffernan

LAOIS

Henry Burns

MONAGHAN

Tom Treanor

WESTMEATH

Richard O'Brien

LEITRIM

Liam Gilligan

OFFALY

Pat Walsh

WEXFORD

Tom Doyle

LIMERICK

Louise Crowley

ROSCOMMON

Patrick Leonard

WICKLOW

Selena McKenzie

LONGFORD

John Sheridan

SLIGO

Michael O'Dowd

LOUTH

Kevin Sweeney

TIPPERARY NORTH

Baden Powell

COMMODITY AND CROSS-SECTORAL CHAIRS

ANIMAL HEALTH

TJ Maher

LIQUID MILK

Henry Dunne

AQUACULTURE

Finian O'Sullivan

DAIRY

Martin McElearney

LIVESTOCK

Declan Hanrahan

ENVIRONMENT AND RURAL AFFAIRS

John Murphy

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

John Curran

FARM BUSINESS

Bill O'Keeffe

SHEEP

Adrian Gallagher

FARM FAMILY AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Teresa Roche

PIGS AND PIGMEAT

Michael Caffrey

FARM FORESTRY

Padraic Stapleton

POULTRY

Nigel Sweetnam

GRAIN

Kieran McEvoy

FRESH MILK PRODUCERS

John Roche

HILL FARMING

Cáillin Conneely

HORTICULTURE

Mark Walsh

OTHERS

MACRA

Josephine O'Neill

ICOS

Edward Carr

IRISH FARMERS JOURNAL

Vacant*

NOTE: ICOS and IFJ are observer members of the National Council without a vote.

* Jack Kennedy stepped down as Editor Irish Farmers Journal, September 2025

European Affairs Report

IFA President Francie Gorman meeting with European Commissioner for Environment, Water Resilience and a Competitive Circular Economy Jessika Roswall on her visit to Ireland in November to discuss Ireland's retention of the Nitrates Derogation

IFA President Francie Gorman with EU Commissioner for Agriculture and Food Christophe Hansen at the 70th IFA AGM, January 2025

Despite significant strides being made on agriculture related issues in 2024, it is hardly possible to say that the situation now has improved for Irish farmers, one year later. Nothing has grown as quickly as uncertainty, whether that is in terms of geopolitics, trade policy or indeed the future prospects of the sector.

What is clear is that old certainties are under threat of disappearing altogether such as the dedicated, secure CAP funding, unequivocal EU Commission support for agriculture sector and the primacy of food security. We have seen peace in Europe attacked from the East with security and defence spending dominating budget discussions unlike at any other recent time.

Amidst all of this, commodity market prices have lifted farmers out of the red in some sectors, and it is welcomed. Hopefully, it is representative of a rebalancing where food prices are such that a farmer can earn a return from the market that covers the cost of inputs and provides a margin that is fair and economically sustainable.

Not all sectors have benefited equally and the tillage sector in Ireland and across the EU continues to suffer the extreme pressures that are evident at EU and global levels. The pending introduction of the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CABM) is driving up fertiliser prices. This is an example of EU legislation negatively impacting European farmers and reducing their margins, a feature of much of the environment policy hanging over from the Green Deal priorities of the last Commission mandate.

Vision for Agriculture

In 2025, the European Commissioner for Agriculture and Food, Christophe Hansen attended the IFA 70th Annual General Meeting, having been appointed by EU President Ursula von der Leyen. His address to the IFA National Council showed a keen understanding of the challenges facing the sector and a commitment to address them through simplified regulation and supported by the Vision Document -a blueprint for the sector published within 100 days of taking office.

The European Board of Agriculture and Food (EBAF) which includes representatives of all stakeholders in the sector now deliberates on the future direction of European agriculture.

Generational Renewal is a key pillar for the sector going forward, and the threat of not delivering significantly on this priority hangs over this Commissioner, but the realisation is clearly understood that in order to make progress, it requires many actions in a holistic cross-sector strategy. The EU Commission published their generational renewal strategy in October with the aim of doubling the share of young farmers in the EU by 2040.

For Ireland, the future of the dairy sector hinges critically on a positive outcome from Ireland's request to the European Commission for a renewal of the Nitrates Derogation. No stones have been left unturned in our efforts to achieve such a decision.

Clearly the calls for simplification and improved competitiveness within the sector are sinking-in, within the European Commission, as these are critical elements needed for any sector wishing to attract talent. Improvement in competitiveness for farmers must be addressed as keenly as competitiveness for industry, farmers themselves are an SME.

European Affairs Report

IFA President Francie Gorman discusses the MFF / CAP Budget with EU Budget Commssioner Piotr Serafin

IFA President Francie Gorman presents EU Commissioner for Health and Animal Welfare, Olivér Várhelyi the IFA / IFJ findings on their trip to Brazil.

IFA President Francie Gorman discusses the Mercosur Trade Deal with EU Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security Maroš Šef čovi č

The recently agreed CAP simplification package aims to reduce administrative burden and simplify payment schemes and represents progress.

CAP and MFF

Despite calls on the European Commission from many quarters for the proposals on the new CAP post 2027 to follow the publication of the Multi Annual Financial Framework (MFF) 2028 - 2034, both proposals were announced on 18th July.

The MFF proposal included a restructuring of the EU Budget which would see a shift from the traditional two pillar structure for Agriculture and the introduction of a National and Regional Partnership Plan. This would be financed from a single fund with agriculture and rural development spending now competing with other national regional programmes.

Overall, based on the proposal, farmers would face funding cuts of over 20%. The reaction was strong and unified, both from COPA and from members of the European Parliament and opposition to the proposals has continued through the autumn leading to a farmer protest in Strasbourg in October with further action planned in Brussels.

Trade

The instability of international relationships has been heightened significantly through the threats and actions surrounding trade policy globally. The actions of the US have exposed a preference for transactional dealings with a narrow definition of what constitutes fair trade and has led to greater urgency on behalf of the European Commission in concluding the EU-Mercosur Trade Deal. The European Commission have provided a safeguard clause for the Mercosur trade agreement in order to negate French-led opposition to the deal addressing the impact to vulnerable sectors such as the livestock sector. This appears to pave the way for qualified majority support at EU Council level even if not all MEPs are similarly convinced within the European Parliament.

The IFA continues to highlight the lack of adherence to standards among Mercosur countries and why ratification of the trade deal should not be provided either by the Irish Government or Irish members of the European Parliament.

Irish Presidency of the Council of the European Union 2026

Ireland will have the Presidency of the EU, taking over from Cyprus on 1st July 2026. Ireland is currently putting in place the building blocks to deliver a successful Presidency. In the absence of significant delays, CAP negotiations might be well advanced during 2026, and the Irish Presidency could play an important steering role in concluding negotiations. The current opposition expressed by the Parliament and the ongoing deliberations with the Head of the Commission may lead to a delay in the normal legislative process.

In the meantime, we look forward to stable market prices that continue to reflect the strong global demand for meat and dairy products, which provide a fair return to producers. IFA in Brussels continue to ensure that our sector is supported and allowed to succeed so that the next generation of young farmers can take on the mantle of European and global food producers, for the next quarter of a century, and to be proud of it.

Liam MacHale
Director of European Affairs

Minister for Agriculture Food and the Marine Martin Heydon TD at the National Nitrates Derogation meeting, Corrin Mart, Fermoy in November

Commodity and Cross-Sectoral Committee Reports

Commodity and Cross-Sectoral Committee Reports
Livestock
Dairy
Environment and Rural Affairs
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Farm Family, Social Affairs and Farm Safety
Rural Development
Hill Farming
Liquid Milk
Fresh Milk Producers
Aquaculture

IFA President Francie Gorman and his son Tom (11) leaving the Irish Farm Centre, Dublin in December, on route to Rosslare Europort to get a ferry to Dunkirk, France and onwards to Brussels, Belgium to join the Copa-Cogeca protest on the MFF / CAP Budget, Trade Deals / Mercosur and Regulation.

Project Team Reports and Other Reports

Project Team Reports
SACs, SPAs and NHAs
Horse
Organic
The Shannon and Flooding
Infrastructure
Energy from Farms

Other Reports
Rules, Privileges and Procedures Committee
Audit and Risk Committee
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Livestock

IFA Livestock Chair Declan Hanrahan, Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform Jack Chambers TD, IFA President Francie Gorman and IFA Deputy President Alice Doyle at the National Livestock Show in Tullamore in August.

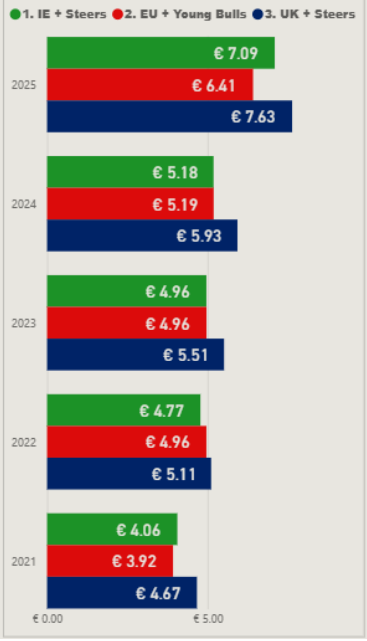
Prime Irish Composite Price vs Prime Export Benchmark Price (€/kg Deadweight excl VAT)

Country	Current Week	Same Week Last Year	% Change Previous Week	% Change Previous Year	Average Same Period Last Year	Average to Date Current Year	% Change Average to Date from Last Year
Prime Irish Composite	€ 7.41	€ 5.08	▲ 1.4%	▲ 45.8%	€ 5.10	€ 7.09	▲ 39.2%
Prime Export Benchmark	€ 7.16	€ 5.58	▲ 2.3%	▲ 28.3%	€ 5.18	€ 6.77	▲ 30.6%

R3 Prime Male Cattle (€/kg Deadweight excl. VAT)

Source: Bord Bia

Average R3 Prime Male Cattle Prices (€/kg deadweight, excl. VAT)



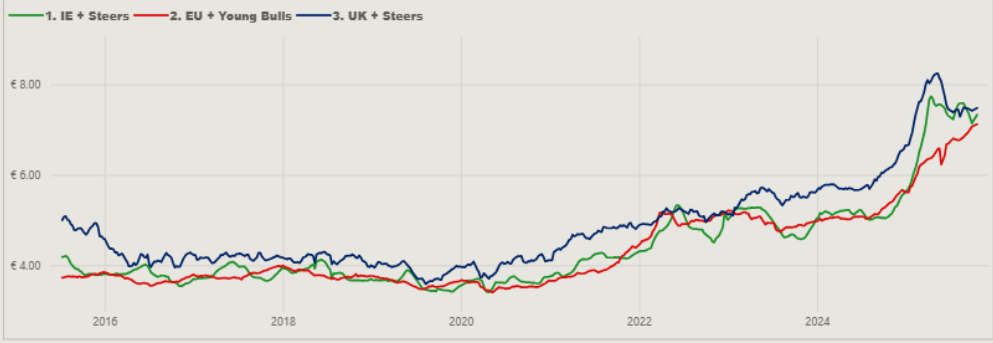
The table shows the average prices recorded for R3 prime male cattle in Ireland, the UK and across the EU for the most recent available week, and the equivalent week in the last 2 years, if available.

Euro Price for the Most Recent Week and Same Time Last Year (€/kg deadweight, excl. VAT)

Country & Type	10/14/2023	10/19/2024	10/18/2025
EU + Young Bulls	€ 4.89	€ 5.35	€ 7.12
IE + Steers	€ 4.59	€ 5.07	€ 7.33
UK + Steers	€ 5.60	€ 6.13	€ 7.48

The graph below shows the average weekly prices recorded for R3 prime male cattle in Ireland, the UK and across the EU. The timeline is displayed on a weekly basis and includes prices from 2014 up to the most recent available week.

Trend of Euro Prices for R3 Prime Male Cattle (€/kg deadweight, excl. VAT)



Declan Hanrahan
Chair, Livestock Committee

Cattle Prices

To-date in 2025 December 6th, the average price paid for R3 steers is €7.13/kg which is 2.14c/kg or 37% higher than the same period in 2024. Steer prices for week ending 06/12/2025 is €7.32/kg excl. vat which is €2.26c/kg above the corresponding week in 2024.

The average Prime Irish composite price to-date this year €7.14/kg up from €5.12/kg in 2024. The current price of €7.33/kg is up 34% on the same week in 2024 or €2.02c/kg, excl. vat. The Prime Export Benchmark price is currently €7.08/kg excl. vat.

Supplies

Total cattle throughput for 2025 is 1,718,203 head. This is a decrease of 13% on 2024 figures to date.

CUMULATIVE BEEF KILL			
	W/C 20/10/2025	W/C 21/10/2024	DIFFERENCE
YOUNG BULL	86,670	88,717	-2,047
BULL	20,367	24,549	-4,182
STEER	515,606	570,670	-55,064
COW	291,325	359,444	-68,119
HEIFER	408,314	421,466	-13,152
VEAL – V	3,159	20,336	- 17,177
VEAL – Z	1,892	1,536	356
TOTAL	1,327,333	1,486,718	-159,385

Source: DAFM

Live exports

In 2025, total of 348,272 live cattle have been exported from Ireland which is down 6.7% on 2024. Strong demand and tight supplies across Europe due to disease restrictions and price differentials have benefited the Irish trade to date.

IRISH LIVE CATTLE EXPORTS				
CATEGORY	2023	2024	CHANGE - HEAD	%CH
WEANLINGS	29,837	50,359	20,522	+69
STORES	26,559	44,719	18,160	+68
CALVES	205,266	198,379	-6,887	-3
FINISHED	37,343	46,783	9,440	+38
TOTAL	299,005	340,240	41,235	+14

Source: Bord Bia

Challenges to Live exports

IFA has continued to defend the live export trade throughout 2025. Key challenges to safeguarding this vital outlet for farmers include the proposed new EU transport regulation, the ongoing ethical farming Ireland judicial review and continued pressure from NGOs targeting policy makers and ferry companies. IFA has joined the case taken by Ethical Farming against Ireland's implementation of live export rules, as a notice party, and has provided a comprehensive statement on the matter.

Trade Deals

IFA strenuously opposed trade deals that provide additional access to our key markets for beef, including Mercosur and Australia. IFA has secured commitments from Irish political party leaders to oppose any Mercosur Trade Deal. IFA met with the Cabinet of EU Trade Commissioner Maroš Šefčovič jointly with Meat Industry Ireland (MII), to highlight the severe impact such a deal would have on Irish livestock farmers. IFA continues to engage with Irish MEPs and farming organisations across Europe to maintain a unified opposition to any agreement that threatens farm livelihoods. IFA and Irish Farmers Journal representatives travelled to Brazil to investigate beef production standards and their compliance with EU beef import requirements. The investigation found that prescription only, critically important veterinary antibiotics could be purchased freely without prescription or oversight and that there is no effective national cattle identification or traceability system in place for Brazil's national cattle herd. Farm, mart and slaughter plant visits revealed widespread deficiencies in animal tagging and record keeping. These findings fundamentally contradict claims of equivalence under the EU-Mercosur agreement and raise serious concerns regarding public health, food safety and the impact on Irish and EU livestock farmers.

Schemes

Suckler Carbon Efficiency Programme

A funding allocation of €52m was provided for the SCEP scheme in 2024 with a payment of €150/suckler cow available on the first 22 cows and €120/cow on the remainder. Over 15,800 farmers are currently participating in the scheme with an average reference number of 25 cows. There are currently over 435,000 cows eligible for payment.

National Beef Welfare Scheme

A funding allocation of €28m was provided for the NBWS in Budget 2026. A payment of €75/suckler cow is available to participants of the scheme. IFA has engaged directly with the Minister and DAFM officials to demand a reversal of the linear cuts applied, clearly outlining the serious impact these cuts will have on suckler farms. The IFA continues to put pressure on Government to ensure the full restoration of payments promised by the Minister for Agriculture to suckler farmers.

National Genotype Programme

The National Genotyping programme reopened in 2025 for new applicants. The programme simplifies the genotype requirements in the SCEP scheme. 15,000 herds are currently participating in the scheme.

Changes to ICBF Indices

IFA participated in the ICBF stakeholder forum meetings to address the concerns with the new indices.

- IFA secured significant flexibilities to SCEP requirements related to the indices, ensuring no farmers were negatively impacted by the changes in November 2023.
- The lower weights issue in the indices has been addressed, with the minimum weight set at 520kgs at 200 days after calving which equates to a mature cow weight of 570kgs. This is incorporated into the indices.
- Work is progressing on the development of an index that reflects weanling production systems.
- IFA will continue to engage with ICBF with the objective of delivering an index that has the trust and confidence of suckler farmers and pedigree breeders.
- The Economic Model for the indices was updated this year to better reflect the increased beef prices.
- Farmer submitted SCEP weights are now incorporated into the indices with validity checks.

Budget 2026

IFA has secured €28m for the continuation of a suckler scheme in Budget 2026 with payment rates average €75/cow, maintaining total payments of €225/cow, when including the suckler carbon efficiency programme for 2026. IFA has secured the continuation of a dairy beef calf scheme for 2026 worth €4m.

IFA will be engaging with the DAFM on both schemes to ensure the schemes are practical to implement. IFA sought €300/suckler cow in the Budget 2026, €100 calf rearing scheme and €100 beef sustainability payment.

Bord Bia Origin Green Producer Standard (QA Scheme)

IFA is actively engaging with Bord Bia through the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) on the review of the QA Standard for livestock farmers. IFA has raised concerns about the proposed changes to both the standard and the inspection process, calling for a more straightforward, farmer-friendly audit system. Committee members are currently completing pilot audits and will provide feedback when concluded. IFA's position remains clear: nothing is agreed until everything is agreed.

EUDR

IFA has been actively engaging with relevant bodies, pushing for simplified EUDR requirements for farmers in low-risk countries. In response, the European Commission has proposed targeted amendments to streamline implementation and ease compliance. The changes would reduce reporting by requiring due diligence only at the first market entry point, removing the need for traders and manufacturers to file separate statements. Micro and small operators from low-risk countries would just submit a one-off declaration. The revised application dates are 30 December 2025 for large and medium companies, and 30 December 2026 for micro and small enterprises (farmers). Further engagement is required with DAFM and at EU level on this issue.

Representation

The Livestock Committee represents suckler and beef farmers on the following outside bodies:

- Bord Bia
- ICBF
- FAWAC
- Beef Task Force
- Suckler Brand Oversight Group
- Farmers' Charter of Rights
- Calf Stakeholder Forum
- Copa-Cogeca Working Party on Breeding Animals
- Copa-Cogeca Working Party on Beef and Veal
- The Meat Market Observatory
- EU Civil Dialogue on Meat and Veal

Declan Hanrahan, Chair, Livestock Committee
Tomás Bourke, Senior Policy Executive
James Walsh, Policy Executive

Dairy

IFA Dairy Chair Martin McElearney and members of the IFA Dairy Committee at the National Nitrates Derogation meeting in Cork Marts, Corrin, County Cork in November

Martin McElearney
Chair, Dairy Committee

Milk Price Summary

2025 will be remembered as a year of high milk prices and good weather which resulted in national milk supply growth of 5.7% (January to October YTD). The value of dairy exports has increased by 19% compared to the previous year (January to September YTD). Reacting to the buoyant milk prices and agreeable weather conditions global milk supply, particularly from the US and New Zealand (2.5% and 2.1% growth, respectively) started to outweigh demand in Q3. Butter prices saw a reduction of over €2000/tonne in six weeks. Thus, the farmgate milk price experienced significant cuts from September onwards. For 2026, farmgate prices are likely to remain challenged unless milk supply tightens in key exporting regions.

Dairy

2024 Milk Price Analysis

In May 2025, the 2024 Milk Price Analysis was published. This work evaluated the income generated from a typical 500,000L herd with average solids across 12 milk processors from around the country.

2024 MILK PRICE ANALYSIS INCOME RETURN FROM A 500,00-LITRE SPRING CALVING SUPPLIER WITH SOLIDS		
PROCESSOR	TOTAL REVENUE	REVENUE/COW
DRINAGH	262693.4	2855.363
LISAVAIRD	262289	2850.968
BANDON CO-OP	262208.8	2850.096
BARRYROE	262123.6	2849.169
KERRY*	257043.6	2793.953
NORTH CORK CO-OP***	260084.1	2827.001
LAKELAND DAIRIES*	259510.6	2820.768
AURIVO*	257276.2	2796.481
STRATHROY	256845.5	2791.799
ARRABAWN	255606.2	2778.329
TIRLAN	254413.1	2765.36
DAIRYGOLD*	253710.3	2757.72
TIPPERARY CO-OP	246784.8	2682.444

* Includes a 13th top up payment

** Includes a stability fund payment based on milk supplied in 2021

*** Excludes payment from the sustainability programme operated by Kerry as it is paid independently of milk price

In addition to the Milk Price Analysis, the monthly farmgate price at 3.3% protein / 3.6% butterfat is reported for several milk processors and is available to IFA members. In 2025, the total milk payments YTD have been calculated each month for every processor based on an average 500,000L spring calving herd. This gives farmers a real time up to date indicator of processor performance in terms of farmgate price.

Given that milk statements can be difficult to read a series of videos was developed to explain the layout of statements for several of the milk processors. These are readily available on www.ifa.ie

An analysis of out of season bonuses – are they worth chasing?

Building on the Dairy Committee's commitment to provide greater transparency to farmers on milk pricing we conducted an analysis of the true value of out-of-season bonuses. Such bonuses have become popular in recent years with five of the major processors offering them.

To evaluate whether they were worth optimising IFA examined a 500,000L herd under five different scenarios of different calving patterns. The analysis indicated that in all cases the bonuses did not cover the additional input costs required. Should processors wish to flatten the supply curve they must provide premiums that cover the additional production costs and labour required on farms.

Calf Welfare

In 2025, over 217,000 calves were exported from Ireland, mainly to Spain and the Netherlands. The welfare of calves during transport continues to be scrutinised.

IFA is a notice party to the Judicial Review, initiated by Ethical Farming Ireland in 2022, which is still ongoing. It is vital that the live export of calves continues but existing regulations must be upheld. IFA presented to Copa-Cogeca and MEPs in Brussels on Ireland's performance and current research investigating ways to improve conditions during transport.

A review of the animal transport regulations (EC 1/2005) is also ongoing. It is possible that trilogue discussions on some chapters of the regulation will commence during Ireland's Presidency of the Council of the European Union (1st July – 31st December 2026).

Bord Bia Sustainable Dairy Assurance Scheme

Following over 2 years of review the new standard is nearing completion. A pilot phase of the new audit was conducted in 2025 with a number of farms providing feedback on the process. It is likely that the new scheme will commence in 2026. Many of the additional requirements reflect the legislative changes that have been introduced on farms since the standard was introduced 12 years ago. One other significant change is the requirement to provide pain relief for the disbudding of dairy calves.

US Tariffs on Irish dairy exports

Ireland dairy exports to the US have increased by 13% compared to 2024 (January to October YTD) mainly due to increased butter exports. While some of these exports were front loaded to avoid potential tariffs, the rate of 15% announced in July was tolerable.

For butter and cheese exports the difference between the new rate and the existing rate was negligible. However, the 15% rate on casein exports is damaging and IFA continues to lobby for its removal. The reality is that the weak dollar has more impact on exports than the tariffs themselves.

Nitrates

The Dairy Committee has been supporting the Environment and Rural Affairs Committee in its lobbying to secure a nitrates derogation for the 2026-2029 review period.

In July, it was announced that Ireland would have to adhere to committing appropriate assessments at catchment level to ensure that Natura 2000 sites are protected in line with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive. Despite declines in nitrogen loads in almost all our catchments, this request has the potential to threaten our nitrates derogation application in some areas.

IFA has engaged legal experts to advise on how to navigate this complex and lengthy process. IFA will continue to work with the DAFM, elected officials and the EU Commission to find a workable solution on the appropriate assessment process.

In December, a three year extension of the existing derogation was provided with additional conditions.

Martin McElearney, Chair, Dairy Committee
Áine O'Connell, Senior Policy Executive

Environment and Rural Affairs

IFA Environment and Rural Affairs Chair John Murphy addressing the National Nitrates Derogation meeting in Cork Marts, Corrin, Fermoy in November

John Murphy
Chair, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee

Campaign to Retain a Workable Nitrates Derogation

On 9 December, the European Commission approved a three-year extension of Ireland's nitrates derogation, providing certainty for farmers to 2028. The extension is subject to additional conditionality, including the requirement to undertake catchment-level Appropriate Assessments to demonstrate compliance with the Habitats Directive.

Sixth Nitrates Action Programme (NAP 2026–2029)

The Agriculture Water Quality Working Group (WQG) continued to meet regularly throughout 2025. The draft Sixth Nitrates Action Programme (2026–2029) opened for public consultation in late October and remains under review at the time of drafting this report. Some of the key regulatory proposals include (i) a mandatory requirement on derogation farms to know the farm's nutrient balance, and it will be encouraged for other farms, (ii) improved nutrient distribution on fragmented dairy farms with stocking rate on the holding based on the milking platform, increased slurry and soiled water storage capacity requirements based on latest Teagasc research and expansion of Departments organic nutrient movement database to include all organic manures (including sludge and biosolids).

Carbon Budgets and Climate Neutrality

In December 2024, the Climate Change Advisory Council submitted its proposal for the second programme of carbon budgets in the Carbon Budget Proposal Report 2031-2040 to the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications. The report interprets climate neutrality as stabilising Ireland's warming impact through net zero CO_2 emissions, alongside deep cuts in methane (CH_4) and nitrous oxide (N_2O)—referred to as temperature neutrality. This differs from the provisional Carbon Budget 3 (2031–2035) adopted in 2022, which was based on net zero GHG emissions (CO_2 and non-CO_2 gases) by 2050. These proposals are currently under consideration by the Minister.

The IFA supports this net-zero CO_2 plus temperature neutrality approach, considering it scientifically sound, economically prudent, and achievable for Irish farmers, while addressing the Paris temperature goal and reducing reliance on large-scale CO_2 removal technologies.

International Call for Split Gas Approach

The IFA joined farmers, processors, and sector organisations from 14 nations in calling on Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to adopt a split gas approach when reporting long-lived and short-lived greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. This method better reflects agriculture's true impact on climate change. Long-lived gases like CO_2 must reach net zero, while short-lived gases such as biogenic methane only need gradual reductions to achieve climate stability.

Postponement of Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)

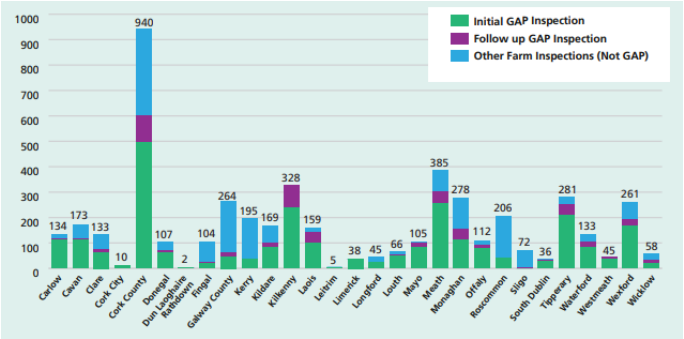
IFA led a coordinated campaign with ICOS, Irish Fertiliser Manufacturing and Blenders Association (IFMBA) and Acorn Independent Merchant to seek a postponement to the implementation of Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) on fertilisers, which is due to be introduced in January 2026, as part of the campaign a representation was made to Minister Heydon for Agriculture, Food and Marine, Commissioner Wopke Hoekstra for Climate, Net Zero and Clean Growth and Commissioner Christophe Hansen for Agriculture and Food. This initiative reflects the IFA's commitment to ensuring fair and practical policies for Irish farmers in the context of emerging EU climate regulations.

Agricultural Emissions

In July 2025, the EPA published Ireland's Provisional Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions 1990–2024 report, showing that for the second consecutive year, national emissions remain below the 1990 baseline. Total national GHG emissions (excluding Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry) are estimated at 53.75 Mt CO_2eq (million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent) in 2024, a 2% decrease compared to 2023.

Agriculture accounted for 38% of national emissions. There was a 1.7% reduction in emissions compared to 2023, which was largely due to a 2.9% reduction in the cattle herd. However, a 10.6% increase in inorganic fertiliser use partially offset the emissions reduction from lower cattle numbers. Biogenic methane is the dominant source of agriculture emissions, contributing approximately 71% of the sector's emissions.

Environment and Rural Affairs



Types of farm inspections undertaken by each local authority in 2024

Protecting and Enhancing Water Quality

The EPA Water Quality in Ireland 2019–2024 report, published in October 2025, showed that 52% of surface waters are in satisfactory ecological health (good or high status), a slight decline from 54% in the previous assessment. Despite this small drop, nitrate concentrations have decreased at 39% of monitored sites compared with 2016–2021, and total nitrogen levels fell significantly over the 2019–2024 period, with 2024 levels 25% lower than in 2019. Significant work continued in 2025 to support farm-led improvements in water quality, including the Better Farming for Water Campaign, the Farming for Water EIP and Waters for Life (EU LIFE Integrated Project). Under the Farming for Water EIP as of 30th October, 4,708 applications had been received, 4,226 approved, with an average application value of €14,453.

These initiatives highlight the ongoing commitment to safeguarding water quality while supporting practical farm-based solutions.

National Agricultural Inspection Programme

The EPA's National Agricultural Inspection Programme 2024 report, published in July, showed 2,598 initial farm inspections were conducted by local authorities — more than double the 2023 figure. The non-compliance rate was 42%, mainly due to issues with soiled water control and farmyard manure management. The 2025 target is 4,500 farm inspections.

Planning Exemption for Nutrient Storage Facilities

In December, new agriculture planning exemption regulations were signed into law that increased in size the limits for farm buildings and introduced a new exemption for stand-alone slurry and soiled water storage up to 1,000m³ subject to a farm limit of 1,500m³. It is important to note that while planning permission might be exempt, all developments will still be required to meet all relevant building and environmental regulations and all relevant agriculture standards.

Air Quality and Ammonia Emissions

Under the National Emissions Ceiling Directive (NEC), Ireland's ammonia emissions are required to reduce by 1% by 2020 and 5% by 2030 below 2005 baseline level. The EPA Ireland's Air Pollutant Emissions 1990 to 2023 report published in May that Ireland is compliant with current and future emission reduction commitments for ammonia. The report shows that ammonia emissions in 2023 were 6% below 2005 emissions and Ireland is in compliance with the 2020-2029 emission reduction commitments.

EU Nature Restoration Law

The EU Nature Restoration Law came into force in August 2024. The new regulation legally binds EU Member States to restore at least 20% of the EU's land and sea areas by 2030 and all ecosystems in need of restoration by 2050. The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) have been appointed by Government to coordinate the development of a national Nature Restoration Plan (NRP). Ireland is required to submit a draft National Restoration Plan by September 2026. Four mechanisms have been established to support stakeholder participation in the development of the plan.

- Independent Advisory Committee (IAC) who are tasked with providing advice to the Minister on the content of the Nature Restoration Plan (NRP) met regularly throughout 2025. Paul O'Brien, South Leinster Chair is the IFA representative on the committee.
- Leaders' Forum met in March, with another meeting pending. John Murphy, Environment and Rural Affairs Chair and Geraldine O'Sullivan, Senior Policy Executive are IFA representatives on the forum. In addition, a dedicated Farming for the Future Leaders' Forum took place in July, an IFA delegation of fifteen farmers attended the meeting, and one participated as a panellist.
- The Community Conversation Programme ran during September and October 2025, but farmers were concerned by the lack of detailed information provided at these meetings.
- A dedicated website www.restorenature.ie has been established to keep stakeholders informed and encourage engagement.

The lack of a dedicated funding package to support the implementation of the law continues to be a key concern, and this needs to be resolved before plans can be implemented.

EU Soil Monitoring and Resilience Directive

The Directive commonly known as the Soil Monitoring Law, passed in October 2025, aims to ensure all EU soils are in a healthy condition by 2050 through monitoring, data collection, and management. Implementation includes national monitoring frameworks (2026–2028), first soil health mapping in Ireland (2028–2030), and ongoing five-year reporting with restoration actions (2030 onwards). The IFA stresses that implementation should not impose additional costs or administrative burdens on farmers, ensuring measures are practical to adopt on the ground.

Water Charges

The Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU) introduced an 9% increase on standing charges under the Non-Domestic Tariff Framework (NDTF) on the 1st October 2025. In advance of the increase IFA made a submission and met with the CRU and Uisce Éireann to voice the unfairness of the proposed increases to farmers, particularly farmers with multiple connections. It was agreed that IFA would work with Uisce Éireann and CRU to investigate opportunities to introduce flexibilities under the Water Framework Directive to reduce costs for farmers.

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Scheme for Agricultural Tyres

IFA met with Alan Dillion, Minister of State for Circular Economy in April to seek a continuation of the derogation on the introduction of an environmental levy on Agricultural Tyres until substantive issues are addressed including legacy issues of waste tyres on farms, greater transparency on costs as well as cross border. Circol ELT, the body set to manage the scheme, hosted a Bring Back Tyre Centre in Cork in November, with additional collection events planned for Spring 2026.

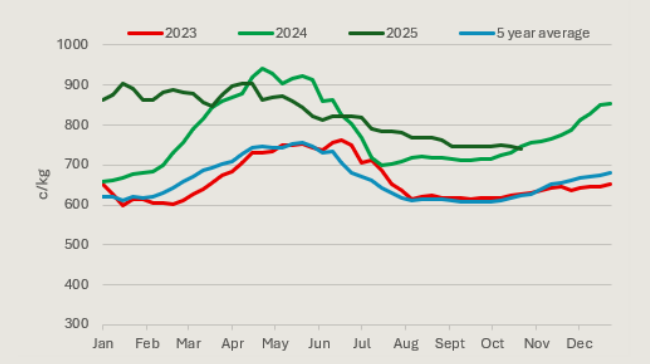
John Murphy, Chair, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee
Geraldine O'Sullivan, Senior Policy Executive

Sheep

Adrian Gallagher
Chair, Sheep Committee

Prices

Lamb price year to date in 2025 is €8.16/kg up 41c/kg on the 2024 average price for the first 49 weeks of the year.



Supplies

Total throughput to week 49 is 1,943,238 head which represents a 18% decrease when compared to the same period in 2024. Spring lamb throughput is back 18%, while hogget throughput is back 16% in comparison to the same period in 2024.

WEEK 49								
CATEGORY	2024		2025		DIFFERENCE		% DIFFERENCES 2024 vs 2025	
	WEEKLY	CUMULATIVE	WEEKLY	CUMULATIVE	WEEKLY	CUMULATIVE	WEEKLY	CUMULATIVE
LAMBS/ HOGGETS	100	897,651	83	759,951	-17	-137,700	-17%	-15%
SPRING LAMBS	38,899	1,005,901	33,773	789,863	-5,126	-216,038	-13%	-21%
EWES AND RAMS	5,465	236,954	4,916	165,637	-549	-71,317	-10%	-30%
LIGHT LAMBS	1	112	0	130	-1	-18	-100%	-16%
TOTAL	**44,465**	**2,140,618**	**38,772**	**1,715,581**	**-5,693**	**-425,037**	**-13%**	**-20%**

Engagement with Processors

IFA met with the three main sheep processing plants to address ongoing price concerns, to highlight the challenges to the viability of the sheep sector and emphasise the need for fair and sustainable pricing to secure its long-term future.

Bord Bia Origin Green Producer Standard (QA Scheme)

IFA continues to engage with Bord Bia on the review of the Origin Green Producer Standard, with committee members currently conducting pilot audits on their farms and set to provide feedback once completed. The key priority for the IFA in this process is achieving a simplified on-farm audit system, and its position remains clear: nothing is agreed until everything is agreed.

Agri-Food Regulator (An Rialálaí Agraibhia)

IFA met with the Agri-Food Regulator and has sought the provision of significantly more transparency in the food supply chain between the farm gate and the consumer. IFA has called on the Regulator to provide detailed analysis of lamb prices at all points in the chain and the provision of a more accurate and transparent factory price reporting mechanism for lamb prices similar to the system that exists for beef prices on a weekly basis.

Budget 2026

IFA secured €22m in National Exchequer funding for sheep farmers in Budget 2026 for the continuation of the national sheep scheme in 2026. IFA will be engaging with the DAFM to ensure the new scheme is practical to implement and reflects the number of ewes on farms and avoids unnecessary leakage of funds or administration bureaucracy for farmers.

National Sheep Welfare Scheme 2025

IFA secured €22m for a new scheme in 2025. IFA ensured that the scheme was practical, straightforward to comply with, and designed to minimise any leakage of funds. There are 17,028 farmers currently participating in the scheme, accounting for almost 1.9m ewes. IFA engaged directly with the Minister and DAFM officials to demand a reversal of the linear cuts applied, strongly outlining the impact it will impose on sheep farms. IFA continues to apply pressure on Government to secure full restoration of payments promised by the Minister for Agriculture .

Sheep Improvement scheme

€20m annual funding is provided for the scheme over the five years of the CAP, with payment rates of €12/ewe available to farmers in the scheme. There are 17,147 farmers currently participating in the scheme. IFA is seeking changes to the retention period in the scheme.

Early-stage support for Producer Organisations

IFA engaged with the DAFM throughout 2025 on the new scheme, which opened for applications in May. The second tranche will open for application in Q4 2025. All existing lamb producer groups are eligible to apply. Funding over three years of up to €30,000 is available to groups in addition to application process financial supports.

Brucella Ovis test requirement for exported intact male lambs

IFA has written directly to the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine calling for a resolution to the Brucella Ovis testing requirements for intact male lambs not going directly to the point of slaughter on export certificates.

Sheep

IFA President Francie Gorman and IFA Sheep Chair Adrian Gallagher together with IFA Wicklow Hill Farming Chair Peter Behan, IFA Wicklow Vice-Chair Selena McKenzie and IFA Wicklow Chair Tom Byrne at the launch of the 2025 IFA 'No Dogs Allowed' campaign.

No Dogs Allowed

IFA continues to engage in the dog control stakeholder group. Formal proposals are to be submitted to the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine in Q4 with the aim to strengthen dog legislation. The DAFM has now taken full responsibility for policy and legislation for the control of dog's act. The IFA and the Ulster Farmers' Union (UFU) have agreed to work jointly on improving dog control in border regions, advocating for coordinated measures and the development of an integrated database that links licensing and microchipping records to clearly identify dog owners.

Wool

IFA is actively involved in a newly established Wool Council. However, concerns remain as to the value this process will add to wool prices at the farm gate.

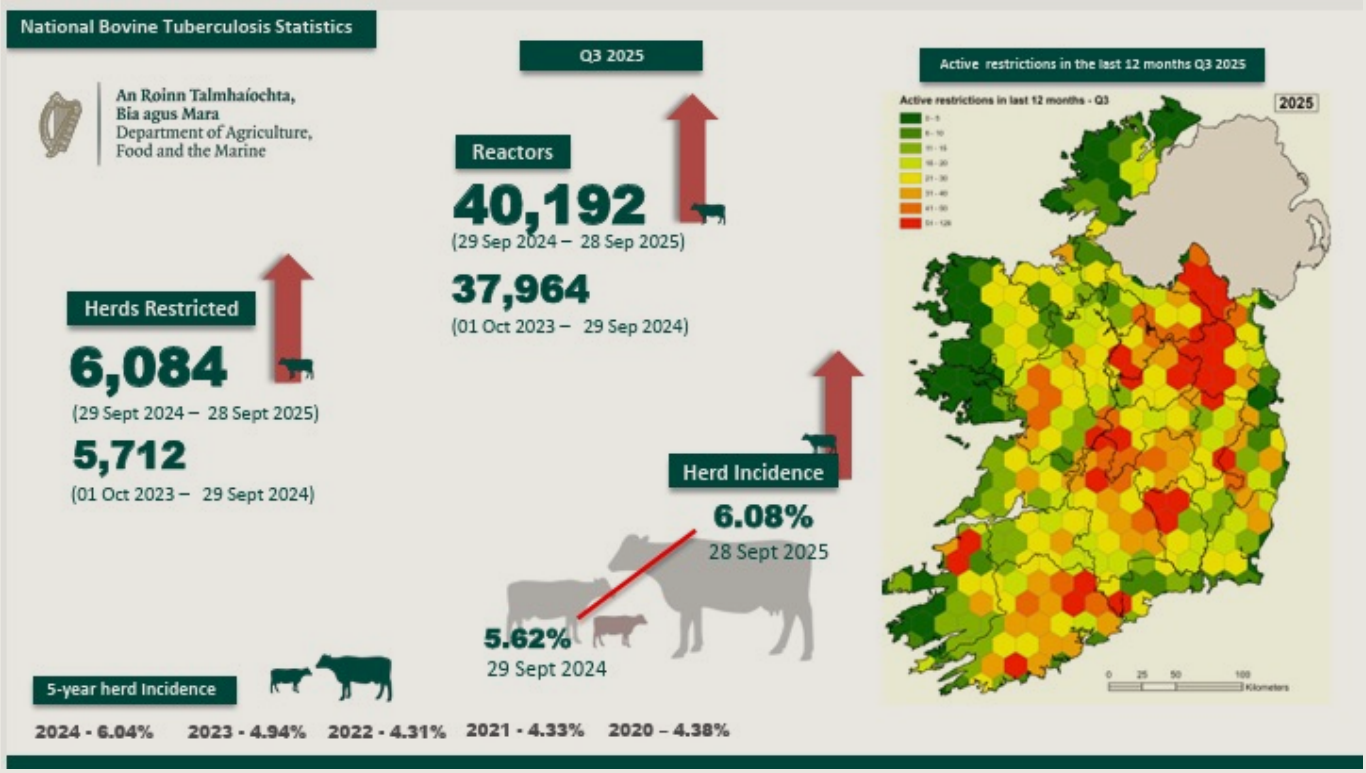
Representation

The Sheep Committee represent sheep farmers on a number of outside bodies:.

- Bord Bia
- Sheep Ireland
- Copa-Cogeca Working Policy on Sheep
- EU Civil dialogue on Sheep
- Irish Grown Wool Council (IGWC)
- Dog Control stakeholder group

Adrian Gallagher, Chair, Sheep Committee
Tomás Burke, Senior Policy Executive
James Walsh, Policy Executive

Animal Health



TJ Maher
Chair, Animal Health Committee

TB

In 2025, the TB Action Plan was launched by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine Martin Heydon on the 9th of September. The plan lacks detail on how measures will work and be implemented at farm level. Further engagement is needed with the DAFM to iron out the details of each proposal. There is no date confirmed yet as to when these new measures will be in place.

IFA Reaction

- Significant progress in proposals to address wildlife. These proposals must be accompanied with a fully staffed wildlife programme
- Some measures will be difficult on farmers and must be quantified
- More detail needed from the DAFM on some of the proposals

The Plan will not reduce TB levels or have the support of farmers unless:

- Funding and resources are provided to implement the programme effectively and consistently throughout the country
- All compensation schemes are reviewed for fitness for purpose
- The outdated arbitrary ceilings of €3,000 and €5,000 in the live valuation scheme are reserved

Budget 2026 has allocated €157m to the TB programme, an increase of €85m on the 2025 programme is estimated to cost €130m in total, requiring a significant supplementary allocation to Budget 2025's €72m.

IFA commissioned an analysis of the full extent of the cost of the TB eradication programme for farmers to counter the narrative put forward earlier this year by the Minister for Agriculture, Food, and the Marine and his officials of the costs of the programme to the exchequer, while ignoring the cost and full extent of farmers contribution to the programme. This analysis showed the programme costs on farmers to be over €150m annually.

Animal Health

Expenditure to end Q3 September 2025

An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

Expenditure Year to date ('000)

On Farm Market Valuation
€40,843 Q3 2025
€33,758 Q3 2024
21%

Wildlife
€5,983 Q3 2025
€7,289 Q3 2024
-18%

Valuer Fees
€765 Q3 2025
€769 Q3 2024
-1%

Compensation*
€10,488 Q3 2025
€6,528 Q3 2024
61%

Supplies and Tuberculin
€4,279 Q3 2025
€3,409 Q3 2024
26%

Other Costs
€2,716 Q3 2025
€2,196 Q3 2024
24%

Vet Fees
€13,129 Q3 2025
€10,740 Q3 2024
22%

Research
€1,243 Q3 2025
€1,507 Q3 2024
-18%

Total Expenditure end of Q3 2025
€79,446 Q3 2025
€66,196 Q3 2024
20%

* Includes Financial Working Group Income Supplement Balancing Payments

Financial contribution of farmers to Bovine TB eradication in 2024

Introduction

The cost of Bovine TB breakdown, and efforts to eradicate it, is a large cost burden on Irish agriculture. While costs incurred by the state, such as for on farm valuations, vet fees, compensation schemes and the wildlife programme are published, the direct and indirect contribution of the farmer up to this point has not been quantified. This document attempts to place a value on that contribution.

Financial Analysis

Activity	Farmer financial contribution 2024	
Direct cost of testing to farmer	€	36,024,950
Levy contribution by farmer	€	7,958,902
Labour cost in facilitation of testing	€	55,544,142
Lost production due to breakdown	€	14,789,805
Future loss of production due to a breakdown	€	23,392,342
Power washing and disinfection following breakdown	€	9,151,580
Cost of buying (time, mart charges, haulage etc)	€	3,493,482
Administrative time involved with dealing with a breakdown	€	1,203,832
Loss of production due to testing*	€	6,429,300
Total financial contribution of farmers to Bovine TB eradication in 2024	**€**	**151,559,035**

3

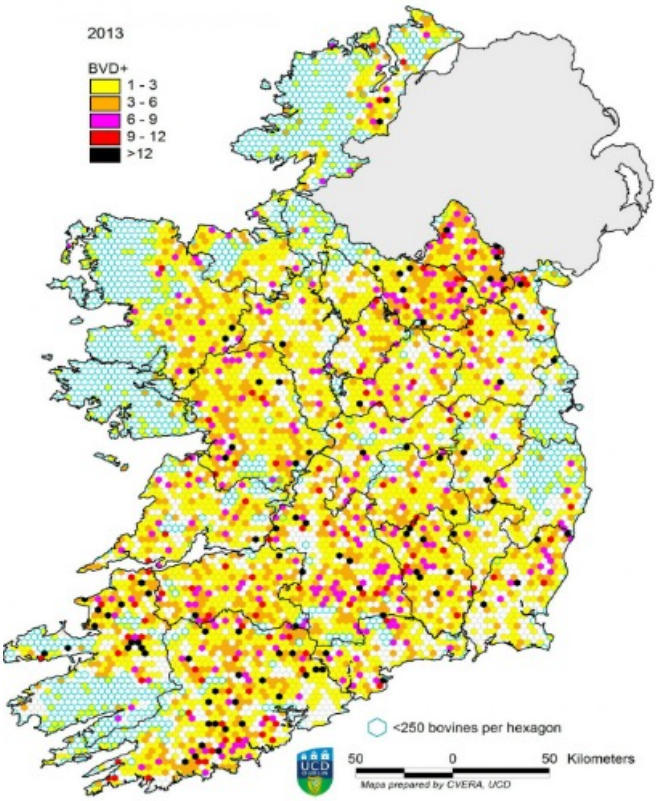
Key Findings

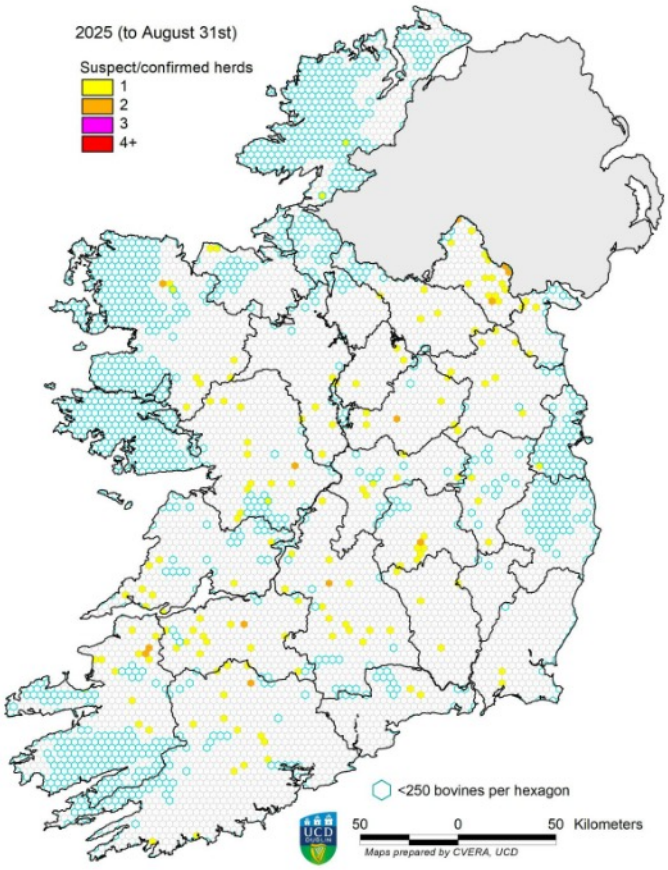
- The full financial contribution of farmers to the Bovine TB eradication scheme is estimated to be in excess of €150 million.
- Costs related to labour required by farmers for testing and reading animals are substantial and in this calculation is estimated to have a value of over €55 million for 2024.
- A further large cost that is often overlooked is the effect of reduced production of a herd in the years subsequent to a breakdown. The fact that many years of genetic gains can be lost in a breakdown cannot be ignored and is valued at over €23 million in this calculation.
- As this calculation is done for 2024, such losses if calculated using current market prices for milk and beef would be higher.

Notes

*** This amount is not included in the total figure due to fact that there was insufficient verifiable data available. The figure outlined is based on reasonable assumptions and, with further investigation, may be confirmed in the future.**

Animal Health





BVD

There is an increase in BVD rates year on year with some large breakdown on farms this spring. The reduction in disease prevalence and reduced vaccination levels has led to increasingly naive herds. The DAFM must ensure that there are increased levels of vaccination available for farms surrounding outbreaks. Irish farmers have worked to reduce this disease to near eradication, and this progress must be protected. In 2025, the DAFM provided €3.75 million equating to €2.40 per calf for a max of 25 calves.

IBR

Animal Health Ireland (AHI) proposed a program that will cost €40 million per year and have a 16-year timeline to achieve eradication, along with some movement controls on farms. The funding model remains the critical issue that must be addressed to advance a programme.

Johnes

Phase two of the Johnes programme ended in 2023. IFA is currently engaging with the DAFM, ICOS and AHI to develop a funding model for the next phase of the programme. IFA is seeking full financial and technical support for farmers with herds positive for Johnes. The Bulk Tank Milk (BTM) screening for Johnes has proven to be an effective screening tool. AHI has proposed a new scheme for farmers that has identified two BMT positive in the last three years. The current administrative delays in farmers being informed of a BTM positive test is hindering any progress in this scheme being launched.

Veterinary Medicines

The Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine has signed the Veterinary Medicinal Products Regulation, it is to come into effect on 1st December 2025, for antiparasitic products. Until then antiparasitic products can continue to be purchased without prescription. IFA engaged proactively with all stakeholders and made a detailed submission to the DAFM identifying the key issues that should be addressed in the Regulation, failing to incorporate these is a missed opportunity and the issue should be revisited.

National Veterinary Prescribing System (NVPS)

During meetings with the DAFM on the NVPS, IFA raised several issues. The need for an on-farm supply of emergency use medicines, an agreement previously secured by IFA. The lack of visibility of the prescription to farmers, the timeline that prescriptions must be uploaded to NVPS and the flexibility to part fill prescriptions. The DAFM has again accepted these needs. The DAFM will provide a full prescription on Animal Identification and Movement (AIM) and a more detailed text message.

Availability of Vaccines

There continues to be issues around the availability of key animal vaccines. IFA has called for structures to be put in place to avoid this issue arising in the future.

Animal Health

Bluetongue

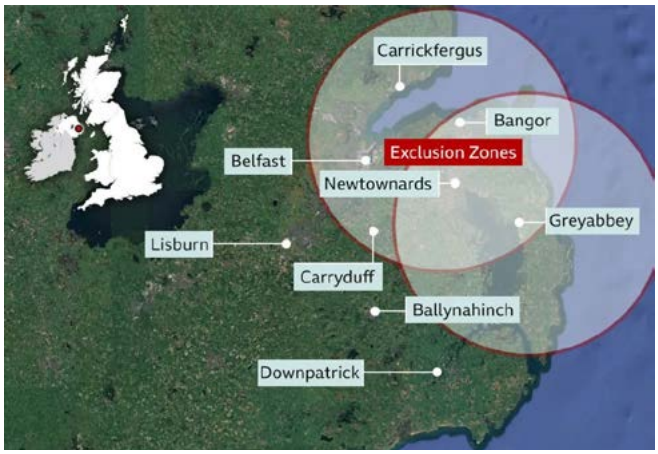
There are confirmed of cases Bluetongue serotype 3 (BTV-3) on a farm near Bangor in Northan Ireland , where routine factory surveillance identified infected cattle and further testing revealed additional positives. Midge activity has also been confirmed, with infected vectors detected on site. Suspected cases of Bluetongue have now been detected on a second premises within the existing 20km Temporary Control Zone, leading to the establishment of an additional 20km control area. A 20km restriction zone remains in place, prohibiting movement of susceptible species except for direct-to-slaughter consignments under licence. Testing within the zone is ongoing, and forward tracing has identified movements of animals to multiple veterinary districts since early October. Further investigations are being carried out by veterinary authorities.

Movement restrictions continue to apply within the control zone, with the exception of licensed slaughter movements. The risk of further spread is influenced by environmental conditions, as Bluetongue virus replication within Culicoides midges requires temperatures of 12–15°C, with higher transmission rates above 15°C. Although colder seasonal conditions reduce immediate risk, the proven ability of BTV-3 to overwinter in Europe remains a concern.

Movements of animals for direct slaughter from Northern Ireland to the Republic of Ireland continue to be permitted. In response to confirmed cases, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) has intensified surveillance in the North-East, with additional routine testing in neighbouring regions.

Bluetongue virus is spread by infected Culicoides midges, which are active in Ireland primarily between April and November. While colder temperatures limit replication and spread, BTV-3—first detected in mainland Europe in 2023—has successfully overwintered in several countries. BTV-12 has also been detected in Europe, alongside continued circulation of BTV-4, BTV-5 and BTV-8. Licensed vaccines are available for several serotypes; however, no authorised vaccine currently exists for BTV-3 or BTV-12. Emergency use authorisations for BTV-3 vaccines have been granted in several European countries, including the UK, with vaccination shown to reduce disease severity. The IFA maintains that immediate access to these vaccines in Ireland will be essential to mitigating disease impact and safeguarding trade should BTV-3 enter the national herd.

IFA have called on the Minister to approve BTV3 vaccine for emergency use and to ensure there is no impediment to trade in the event of the disease entering the country.



IFA Animal Health Chair T J Maher makes the case on TB to Taoiseach Micheál Martin TD at Ploughing 2025

Lumpy Skin Disease

In June 2025, Italy reported a first outbreak of lumpy skin disease in Europe since 2017. France and Spain have since reported outbreaks. Emergency protective vaccination has seen over 700,000 vaccines administrated.

New ER 1 Form

IFA has had several meetings with the DAFM on the new requirements for herd number applications. These changes were rolled out by the DAFM in December 2024, without any consultation. IFA is seeking changes to the new application form in particular around the area of new applicants for herd numbers.

Foot and Mouth

There were several outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) in the EU this year. The outbreaks in Hungary and Slovakia in March and April are due to FMD serotype O but are a different sub-lineage to the outbreak in Germany, in January.

Fallen Animals

The current infrastructure provided by the DAFM does not offer a guaranteed collection service for all farmers in the country and does not have a competitive cost structure for the service. IFA has engaged with the DAFM on the issue and called for the entire fallen animal disposal system to be reviewed.

	CATEGORY	MAXIMUM COLLECTION FEE
BOVINE	Over 48 months	€54.03
	24-48 months	€100
	12-24 months	€80
	6-12 months	€50
	3-6 months	€35
	0-3 months	€30
SHEEP		€30

TJ Maher, Chair, Animal Health Committee
Tomás Bourke, Senior Policy Executive
Donal Callaghan, Policy Executive

Grain

Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Martin Heydon TD addresses over 1,000 farmers at the Tillage Crisis meeting in Kildare, in September

Kieran McEvoy
Chair, Grain Committee

In 2025, the tillage sector faced a third consecutive year of difficult economic circumstances. This was predominately due to a further significant decline in global grain prices throughout the growing season.

Favourable weather for both the establishment and harvesting was a welcome reprieve from the very challenging conditions experienced in 2023 and 2024. Good-to-average grain yields helped offset the severity of the income crisis to some extent.

Tillage Crisis Meeting

In September, due to the response to extremely low morale and widespread fear for the future of the tillage sector, IFA organised a Tillage Crisis meeting in Kildare. The meeting was addressed by the Minister for Agriculture, Martin Heydon and other industry representatives. A crowd of over 1000 tillage farmers attended on the night, one of the largest seen at any IFA meeting in recent years. The meeting sent a very clear message on the need for support for the sector in Budget 2026.

Budget 2026

The Grain Committee's main ask for Budget 2026 was the introduction of €250/hectare interim support payment for cereals and oilseed rape grown in 2025 and a commitment for a €65 million per annum tillage scheme.

Nitrates Policy

The Grain Committee representatives met with officials from the Nitrates and Biodiversity Division in DAFM twice throughout the year. This was to seek changes to the shallow cultivation rules and to voice concern over the proposed ban on spreading high N manures post-harvest.

Plant Protection Products

IFA was in regular contact with the DAFM on issues relating to plant protection products, including applications for emergency authorisations. In April, the IFA Grain Chair travelled to Brussels to meet with Dr. Klaus Berend, Deputy Director General DG Sante, to highlight concerns over the continued loss of plant protection products and the lack of replacements. IFA also made a submission to the EU Commission's Food and Feed Safety simplification proposals in October.

Malting Barley Report 2025

Economic uncertainty in the United States and an overall reduction in demand for alcoholic beverages, meant that production in the Irish whiskey industry was substantially curtailed in 2025, with many distilleries forced to close throughout the year. This had a significant and negative impact on the demand for malted barley.

- In June, IFA participated in round table meetings with Boortmalt and the merchant supply chain to discuss additional reductions to distilling malting barley contracts. This followed earlier cuts of up to 40% in the springtime. IFA strongly resisted these proposals, which were not subsequently implemented at harvest time.
- The final price on the Free-On-Board (FOB) Creil average mechanism was €208.95/t and €218.95/t for brewing and distilling malting barley, the lowest price since 2020, this was a disappointing outcome for growers.

Kieran McEvoy, Chair, Grain Committee
Max Potterton, Policy Executive

Horticulture

Meeting with Minister for Enterprise, Toursim and Employment Peter Burke TD on Work Permits for the Horticulture Sector (l-r) IFA Senior Policy Executive Niamh Brennan, IFA Horticulture and Mushroom Chair Mark Walsh, Minister Burke, IFA Fruit and Vegetable Chair Niall McCormack, IFA Director General Damian McDonald

Mark Walsh
Chair, Horticulture Committee

Horticulture Review of the 2025 Season

Growing-wise it was a favourable season for most sub-sectors of horticulture. In the vegetable sector, growers experienced a favourable planting season overall, with many crops going into the ground in good time. However, although the planting phase was positive, some lines faced a dip in consumption during the hotter summer months, which slightly dampened overall market performance for those crops most sensitive to heat and reduced moisture.

For protected crops, the growing season was favourable. Consistent light levels enabled timely harvesting and good-quality produce. The warm weather experienced contributed to strong consumer and retail demand throughout the summer months. Similarly, it has been a positive year for amenity growers with favourable growing conditions and weather conditions driving consumer demand.

It has been an extremely challenging period for the mushroom sector. Sustained periods of warmer weather, poor economic confidence and stretched household budgets in the UK and at home, led to approximately 6% decline in consumption during the summer months. This coupled with labour challenges and input cost increases has caused a very difficult season for the sector.

While many crops achieved good yields and quality, the economic backdrop is difficult. Average input costs in the horticulture sector have risen significantly over recent years. Markedly, the increase in the minimum wage announced in Budget 2026 will have a huge impact on all sub-sectors.

Storm Damage and National Meeting

Storm Éowyn caused significant damage for horticulture growers in January, IFA campaigned for the reopening of the Horticulture Grant Scheme to allow growers to apply for grant aid to repair damage. This targeted reopening allowed affected growers to apply for investment aid for horticultural buildings and equipment to aid in their recovery. IFA held a national growers' meeting in February, attended by Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture Michael Healy-Rae, which addressed the challenges affecting the horticulture industry.

Staffing

The sector has been hit hard by acute staff shortages, driven by Ireland's low unemployment rate and a lack of a structured and permanent work permit scheme. This reliance on non-european labour is further strained by rising wage demands, including the sharp 2024 increase in the Minimum Annual Remuneration (MAR) for General Employment Permits.

A pilot of the seasonal work permit scheme took place over the summer months. A number of growers originally volunteered for the scheme; however, many had to withdraw because of timing, issues with visa applications and the impracticality of operating a two-tiered wage structure. A report will now be prepared on the findings from the pilot scheme. IFA continues to engage with the Department of Enterprise Trade and Employment to make this scheme fit for purpose for industry.

Office of the Agri-Food Regulator (An Rialálaí Agraibhia)

The office plays a very important role in bringing fairness back into our food supply chain. IFA continues to lobby for a Statutory Instrument to give the office additional powers to compel actors in the food chain to provide information to the office of the regulator upon request.

Horticulture Grant Aid Scheme

The 2026 Scheme of Investment Aid for the Development of the Commercial Horticulture Sector opened in October 2025. The scheme is part of an increased budget of €8.8 million secured for horticulture in Budget 2026.

Quality Assurance

IFA continues to engage with Bord Bia on the new risk-based version of the Sustainable Horticulture Assurance Scheme (SHAS). IFA policy is clear that the SHAS scheme must be the only quality assurance scheme required by retailers for growers supplying the domestic market.

Horticulture Industry Forum (HIF)

IFA continues to progress actions in the National Horticulture Strategy through the HIF, including the Retail Charter. The HIF held a national growers' meeting chaired by Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture Michael Healy-Rae in November.

Mark Walsh, Chair, Horticulture and Mushroom Committees
Niamh Brennan, Senior Policy Executive

Potato

At the IFA National Horticulture and Potato meeting in the Irish Farm Centre in February (l-r) IFA Fruit and Vegetable Chair Niall McCormack, IFA Horticulture and Mushroom Chair Mark Walsh, Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine Michael Healy-Rae TD, IFA Deputy President Alice Doyle and IFA Potato Chair Sean Ryan

Sean Ryan
Chair, Potato Committee

The 2025 potato growing season in Ireland has been characterised by favourable weather conditions, with optimal rainfall and temperatures throughout the season. However, some regions experienced challenges with soil moisture deficits during the drier spells in late spring and early summer.

Overall, crops were planted early and harvested earlier than usual. There are mixed views in terms of yields on maincrop with growers in the north- east in particular, reporting mixed findings. There are reports of cracking on early planted maincrop, which will increase tare levels.

Planted Acreage 2025

HA	2023	2024	2025	CHANGE 24 V 25
EARLIES	853	863	916	+53
MAINCROP	7,176	8183	7327	-856
SEED	264	242	301	+59

Source DAFM

The above figures show the planted acreage of potatoes in 2025. There was a reduction of 856ha of maincrop in 2025. This reduction in acreage should help to alleviate the overhang of 2024 potatoes on the market earlier in the season. There has been a noted change in consumer purchasing habits of potatoes with a shift towards smaller pack sizes and more frequent shopping.

On a positive note, consumption of potatoes has picked up since schools returned in September and since the weather has broken. There is demand from packers for packing quality potatoes, while bagging and peeling trade continues to be subdued.

Agri-Food Regulator

IFA continues to engage with the office of the Agri-Food Regulator (An Rialálaí Agraibhia) and further meetings with the CEO are arranged. IFA continues to lobby for a Statutory Instrument to give the office additional powers to compel actors in the food chain to provide information to the office of the regulator upon request.

Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT)

Budget 2026 gives another opportunity for landowners subject to RZLT in 2026 to request a change from their Local Authority in the zoning of their land and avail of an exemption from RZLT liability. IFA has campaigned to have a permanent solution that will remove actively farmed land from the scope of residential zoned land tax. This remains the policy of IFA.

Seed Potato

IFA continues to lobby for a temporary derogation for the importation of seed following Brexit. Members of the potato committee met with MEPs in Brussels to progress.

Plant Protection Products

IFA applied for a temporary derogation for the herbicide Diquat in 2025. The non-renewal of Diquat is causing grave concern for growers, and IFA will continue to work on emergency approval for 2026.

Horticulture Industry Forum (HIF)

IFA continues to progress actions in the National Horticulture Strategy through the HIF, including the Retail Charter. The HIF held a National Growers' meeting chaired by Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine Michael Healy-Rae in November.

Quality Assurance

IFA continues to engage with Bord Bia on the new risk-based version of the Sustainable Horticulture Assurance Scheme (SHAS). IFA policy is clear that the SHAS scheme must be the only quality assurance scheme required by retailers for growers supplying the domestic market.

Sean Ryan, Chair, Potato Committee
Niamh Brennan, Senior Policy Executive

Pigs and Pigmeat

Michael Caffrey
Chair, Pigs and Pigmeat Committee

The first half of 2025 was a solid period for the Irish pig sector. While we did not reach the record price levels achieved in 2024, producers enjoyed a steady and profitable market through the opening six months of the year, supported by stable feed costs and strong retail and export performance.

Average pig prices during this period ranged between €2.08/kg and €2.26/kg, delivering positive margins across most systems according to Teagasc costings. However, since early July, the sector has experienced significant and sustained price declines — a total drop of 36c/kg, bringing the average Irish pig price at the end of October to €1.86/kg (including VAT). These sharp reductions have placed renewed pressure on producer margins, pushing farm finances back forwards breakeven levels.

Throughput remains firm, with Irish pig slaughtering up 3% year-to-date, amounting to approximately 3.88 million pigs processed compared with 3.56 million for the same period in 2024, while live exports to Northern Ireland are up 12%. Notably, while 2025 supply has increased year on year, it is still 7% below the peak of 2021.

Export performance for the year to July has been steady, with Irish pigmeat exports up 0.5% in value and 2.5% in volume. The UK remains a key growth market (+15%), with notable increases to Oceania (+48%), though exports to EU and North American destinations have declined due to weaker demand and wider trade disruptions.

Feed costs have remained relatively stable, averaging €1.28/kg deadweight for the year according to Teagasc data. Composite feed prices are forecast to average €367/tonne for 2025, with non-feed costs averaging 56c/kg. "Margin over feed" (MOF) averaged around 78c/kg across the year, though this margin has tightened significantly in the second half in line with falling pig prices.

DNA Traceability

The DNA testing and traceability programme continues to play a critical role in ensuring Irish consumers are served Irish pigmeat. The overall assignment rate now stands at 62%, but when focusing on retail, compliance rises to an impressive 94% assigned. The Committee continues to work closely with Bord Bia and foodservice operators to address the lower assignment levels in the hospitality and catering sectors, ensuring Irish pigmeat is accurately represented and labelled across all market channels.

PRRS Control Programme

The Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS) control programme was launched in 2025 through collaboration between Teagasc, IFA, and Animal Health Ireland (AHI). This initiative is being piloted in the border counties of Cavan, Monaghan, and Donegal, with the aim of synchronising vaccination, mapping herd health status, and strengthening biosecurity across participating farms. The project is in its early stages but represents a major step in improving herd health and reducing production losses.

Engagement and Policy Work

Throughout 2025, the Committee has remained actively engaged with:

- DAFM on nitrates issues, particularly the impractical four-day notification of movements of organic nutrients rule, where IFA continues to advocate for a more workable biannual reporting framework.
- DAFM TAMS Division, pressing for revised and practical specifications for upgrading pig housing.
- Bord Bia, on market access, export promotion, and Quality Assurance compliance.
- The EPA, to streamline Integrated Environmental Permitting (IED) processes and templates such as the Annual Environmental Report.
- The Agri-Food Regulator (An Rialálaí Agraibhia), to enhance price transparency and fairness within the supply chain.
- Animal Health Ireland and the Pig Health Check Implementation Group, focusing on salmonella control, biosecurity improvements, and updated guidelines on the importation of live pigs.

Michael Caffrey, Chair, Pigs and Pigmeat Committee
Sarah Hanley, Policy Executive

Poultry

IFA President Francie Gorman and Meat Industry Ireland (MII) Chair Philip Carroll led a delegation of IFA /MII to meet with Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Simon Harris TD on the implications of the Mercosur Trade Deal

Nigel Sweetnam
Chair, Poultry Committee

Market report

The poultry sector experienced a more stable operating environment in 2025 compared with recent volatility. Input costs such as feed, energy, and transport have moderated, easing pressure on producers, though farm margins remain tight and sustained farmgate price improvements are still needed for long-term viability.

During 2024 and the first half of 2025, significant progress was achieved in securing price increases for poultry producers, particularly broiler growers, helping to restore some balance after years of cost escalation. Negotiations continue for egg producers, where further increases are essential—especially for free-range and organic units—to ensure fair returns. Comparable markets are currently paying more than is available in Ireland, and adjustment is required to maintain supply.

Retail demand for Irish chicken and eggs remains strong. Engagement with retailers prevented a repeat of 2024's resort to imported, non-quality-assured eggs by one retailer. EU market conditions have been steady, with broiler prices holding firm and free-range egg prices broadly in line with 2024 levels.

Poultry Committee Activity

A major focus this year has been responding to changes in VAT affecting broiler producers. S.I. No. 327 of 2025 – Value-Added Tax (Restriction of Flat-Rate Addition) Order 2025 removed, from 1 September, the entitlement of broiler farmers to apply the Flat-Rate Addition on the agricultural service of rearing and fattening broilers.

The problem was compounded by Section 65 of the Finance Bill 2025, which proposes to add points (vi) and (vii) to the VATCA 2010. Taken with the Statutory Instrument, this would effectively force contract broiler farmers to register for VAT, creating dual accounting and cash-flow burdens contrary to the intent of the flat-rate scheme. IFA has formally objected and called for the removal of these clauses.

Funding and Farmer Support

IFA continues to press for improved supports to help farmers prevent and recover from disease incidents. Engagement with DAFM, Animal Health Ireland (AHI), Agriculture Development Advisory Service (ADAS) and Teagasc focuses on developing a more robust and accessible disease-support fund tailored to poultry. Despite maintaining some of the highest biosecurity standards in the EU, Irish producers face inadequate compensation when outbreaks occur. Securing proper recognition of potential losses and fair support remains a key priority.

Teagasc Poultry Division and Education

The Committee works closely with Teagasc to strengthen technical support and knowledge transfer. Events during the year addressed energy efficiency, biosecurity, housing design, and disease preparedness. Continued investment in Teagasc's poultry programme remains essential.

Avian Influenza

As of 11 November 2025, three outbreaks of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI H5N1) have been confirmed in commercial turkey flocks — in Counties Carlow, Meath, and Monaghan (Clontibret area). Disease control measures, movement restrictions, and the establishment of 3 km Protection and 10 km Surveillance Zones, are in place.

As of the 10th of November 2025 A Housing Order is in place, requiring all poultry and captive birds to be confined to secure housing to reduce disease spread.

The IFA continues to engage closely with DAFM to ensure affected farmers receive clear communication, fair compensation, and support in implementing biosecurity, adhering to zone requirements and restocking procedures. The IFA Poultry committee also held an online biosecurity webinar on the 6th of November to inform producers of the current situation and measures they can take to protect their flock. This webinar is available to watch on the IFA website.

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Nigel Sweetnam, Chair, Poultry Committee
Sarah Hanley, Policy Executive

Farm Business

In advance of Budget 2026, meeting with Minister for Finance Paschal Donohoe TD and Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform Jack Chambers TD (l-r) IFA President Francie Gorman and IFA Farm Business Chair Bill O'Keeffe

Bill O'Keeffe
Chair, Farm Business Committee

Budget 2026

Following a pre–General Election Budget in 2024, this year's Budget was framed around financial prudence by the Minister for Finance Pascal Donohoe and the Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Services and Reform Jack Chambers. Global trade uncertainly due to geopolitical instability, wars and US trade tariffs were reasons behind a Budget that set out to restrict public spending growth, particularly one-off payments. IFA submitted a comprehensive Budget 2026 submission, outlining the financial assistance required to support our agricultural sectors and specific taxation needs. Lobbying of elected representatives, in advance of the Budget was carried out in every county including meeting with the Minister for Finance and the Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Services and Reform Jack Chambers along with the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Martin Heydon.

Summary of the key agri taxation and expenditure measures in Budget 2026.

Overall DAFM Budget

- **Total 2026 allocation** €2.3bn (up from €2.11bn in 2025)
- Capital Programme: €335m
- Current Expenditure: €1.967bn

Agricultural Taxation

- Accelerated Capital Allowances:
  - Slurry storage scheme extended to **2029** (50% write-off over 2 years).
  - Energy-efficient equipment scheme extended to **2030** (100% write-off year one).
- **Farm Restructuring Relief:** extended to **2029**, expanded to include forestry (subject to EU approval).
- **Farm Consolidation Relief:** extended to **2029**, includes non-commercial forestry.
- **Young Trained Farmer Relief:** 0% stamp duty extended to **2029**.
- **VAT Flat Rate Refund:** reduced from **5.1% to 4.5%** from Jan 2026 (estimated cost €61.5m to farmers).
- **Carbon Tax:** rises by **€7.50/tonne** (to €71); petrol/diesel +2.4c/L from Oct 2025; full fuel impact May 2026.
- **Micro-Generation Income Exemption:** €400 tax exemption extended to **2028**.
- **Derelict Property Tax:** replaces current levy; to be implemented post-2027, 7% annual levy.
- **Residential Zoned Land Tax:** exemptions possible via rezoning submissions similar to 2024

Farm Schemes

- **€50m support for Tillage Sector** (with coverage/scope post stakeholder consultation), to include Straw Incorporation Measure and Protein-Aid scheme.
- Overall allocation for the various **livestock schemes maintained at €131m in 2026** – distribution per individual scheme to be clarified. €20m allocated to National Sheep Welfare Scheme marks €2m cut on 2025 levels.
- **TAMS: €88m allocated.**
- **ACRES: [+€20m to €280m].**
- **Organics:** [€58.6m allocated – back €8.4m vs. 2025].
- **Knowledge Transfer Scheme (KT):** continues 2025 and 2026 – €8.25m. Payments to issue March 2026.
- 2026 allocation for **Forestry is €91m** - forestry programme; Ash Dieback Reconstitution Scheme; Ash Dieback Climate Action Performance Payment.
- **Forestry:** €93m allocated (+5.7% vs. 2025).
- **TB funding:** More than double (+€85m) allocated toward implementation of TB Action Plan (now over €157m).

Farm Finance

The Farm Business Committee maintained regular contact throughout the year with AIB, Bank of Ireland, PTSB; Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland (SBCI); Credit Unions, The Central Bank and The Irish Banking Culture Board. 2025 was a better year in terms of weather, grass growth, and commodity prices for most farming sectors. Drawdowns for working capital reduced in 2025, reflecting the improved financial position on farms in 2025. With increased cattle prices in early 2025, there was an expectation of a requirement for an increase in stocking loan facilities from the mainstream agri lenders, but this extra working capital requirement did not materialise into drawdowns by farmers. Improved prices for factory fit cattle funded replacement stock in general. Both dairy and dry stock sectors witnessed improved cash on hand bank balances as 2025 progressed, with cash on hand in September being more than 200% of total bank loans in across both sectors.

TAMS grant funding was noted by lenders as being a key driver of on farm investment in 2025

IFA Debt Support Service

IFA members in financial difficulty can avail of advice or support when negotiating with creditors. Currently, the IFA Debt Support Service is involved in a number of active cases dealing with banks, non-lending funds, and merchant/Co-op debt.

Bill O'Keeffe, Chair, Farm Business Committee
Robert Malone, Senior Policy Executive

Farm Forestry

IFA Farm Forestry Chair Padraig Stapleton, IFA Policy Executive Amy Mulchrone and IFA President Francie Gorman meet with Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Michael Healy-Rae TD on the Forestry Programme 2023 – 2027

Padraig Stapleton
Chair, Farm Forestry Committee

Forestry Programme 2023 to 2027

The Government has significant ambition for the forestry sector as set out in the Climate Action Plan 2025, which aims to increase annual planting rates to 8,000 hectares per annum, to deliver an additional 28,000 hectares of new forest by the end of 2025. 3,401ha of new forestry has been established. The total Budget 2026 allocation for Forestry is €93 million, an increase of 5.7% form Budget 2025.

Mid-Term Review of the Forestry Programme 2023-2027

IFA made a submission outlining proposed changes that are required to make the Forestry Programme more attractive and a diverse farming option for Irish landowners.

Storm Éowyn

Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture Michael Healy-Rae announced a new Forestry Reconstitution Scheme for private forest owners affected by Windblow. €55 million has been made available for all 13,000 ha of private forestry affected by both storms once a valid felling licence is in place. The scheme is expected to open in early 2026.

Ash Dieback Action Plan

The DAFM opened an Ash Dieback Action Plan in August 2024. The scheme includes an additional €79.5 million of funding to pay a new Climate Action Performance Payment (CAPP) of €5,000 per hectare to those impacted ash plantation owners who apply under the Ash Dieback Reconstitution scheme. The Ash Dieback Reconstitution scheme provides a €2,000 clearance grant. The overall package for Ash plantation owners is > €230 million. Two aspects of the scheme updated in 2025. Treated area calculation for payment purposes and eligibility of Ash crop, with a proportion of other species, are now clarified in Section 4 of the updated scheme document.

Bark Beetle

Over recent months, the DAFM said it continues to engage closely with its Scottish and Northern Ireland counterparts on the Bark Beetle.

Timber Market

Prices have dropped dramatically post storm Éowyn. Many sawmills are pricing timber on a site-by-site basis. The influx of pulp wood has flooded the home market. The excess sawmill byproducts (sawdust and woodchip) generated post storm Éowyn is slowing down sawmill production.

Board of Forest Certification Ireland

The DAFM is currently facilitating the formation of a board which will oversee the establishment of a national group certification scheme called Forest Certification Ireland. IFA has been appointed as a member of the Board of Group Forestry Certification Ireland.

Deer Management Strategy Programme

Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Martin Heydon, along with Minister of State for Nature, Heritage and Biodiversity, Christopher O'Sullivan, awarded tender for Deer Management Strategy programme manager to Farm Relief Services (FRS). The appointment of the programme manager was a key recommendation of the Deer Management Strategy Group, chaired by Teddy Cashman. The programme manager will also be responsible for the establishment of 15 local Deer Management Units.

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Padraig Stapleton, Chair, Farm Forestry Committee
Amy Mulchrone, Policy Executive

Farm Family, Social Affairs and Farm Safety

IFA President Francie Gorman, IFA Deputy President Alice Doyle, IFA Farm Family and Social Affairs Chair Teresa Roche and IFA Longford Chair John Sherdian together with members of the IFA Farm Family and Social Affairs Committee at the Launch of the IFA / Croí Health Checks at Ballymahon Mart, County Longford

Teresa Roche
Chair, Farm Family and Social Affairs Committee

Farm Safety

In 2025, the IFA continued to place the highest priority on farm safety and farmer wellbeing, recognising that safety on farms is not only about compliance, it is about safeguarding lives, livelihoods, and the future of farm families. Despite progress in awareness and education, farming remains one of the most hazardous occupations in Ireland.

2025 marked the thirteenth annual Farm Safety Week. The collaborative campaign, initiated by the Farm Safety Foundation (Yellow Wellies) in the UK and led by the IFA in Ireland, brings together farming organisations from England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales and Northern Ireland on the topic of farm safety. As part of the week, there is a video featuring Philippa O'Connor, who speaks about how her father lost his life in a farm accident. A farm safety leaflet was published in partnership with FBD, featuring statistics on farm fatalities and a dedicated farm safety hub developed on the IFA website.

As part of Farm Safety Week 2025, the Farm Safety Foundation (Yellow Wellies) in the UK nominated Teresa Roche as Farm Safety Hero 2025. Teresa is IFA's National Farm Family and Social Affairs Chair and Chair of the HSA Health and Vulnerable Committee. The Yellow Wellies said that Teresa is a true champion of farmer health and wellbeing.

Farmer Health Check Project

The Farmer Health Check Programme, run by the IFA and Croí, and funded by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, provided a FREE mobile health service for farmers and their families across Ireland. This initiative was dedicated to promoting health and well-being among farmers, offering essential health assessments and tailored advice to support them in managing the demands of farming life.

The Medical Assessment Included:

- Blood Pressure Check
- Cholesterol Check
- Blood Sugar Test
- Waist Circumference Test
- Well-being Evaluation

From July to November, the IFA attended 33 various marts and agricultural events, completing health checks for over 2,000 farmers. IFA also published a Farmer Health Checks Information Pack, covering topics like cardiovascular health, cancer risk awareness, healthy eating, physical and mental health, and bereavement, including loss of animals. This information pack is available at www.ifa.ie/healthcheck.

Fair Deal Scheme

IFA, in partnership with the HSE, held an information webinar for farmers on the Fair Deal Scheme. The webinar provided detail on how the fair deal scheme works, the 3-year cap on farm assets, criteria for family succession and planning for nursing home care while protecting the family farm. The webinar was designed to clarify the Fair Deal process and ensure farm families fully understand their rights, entitlements, and the practical implications of applying for nursing home care under the scheme. A recording of the webinar can be found at www.ifa.ie/fairdeal

Teresa Roche, Chair, Farm Family and Social Affairs Committee
Claire McGlynn, Policy Executive

Rural Development

At the IFA CAP event in May, (l-r) IFA President Francie Gorman, Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine Martin Heydon TD, Copa-Cogeca Secretary General Elli Tsiforou, Former Director of Strategy and Policy Analysis DG Agri Tassos Haniotis, Assistant Secretary General of the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine Sinéad McPhillips, IFA Director of Policy Tadhg Buckley and IFA Director of European Affairs Liam MacHale

John Curran

John Curran
Chair, Rural Development Committee

Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)

Throughout 2025, the Committee addressed a wide range of technical and policy issues across all Pillar I and Pillar II schemes, while also turning its focus towards the next Common Agricultural Policy for 2028–2032.

In May, IFA published its Key CAP post-2027 Principles document and a major "CAP to 2030 and Beyond" event was held, providing farmers with insight into the policy's direction and its link to the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF). The IFA and ICOS also staged a "flash

Rural Development

action" at EU Commission offices to protest against the proposed budget cut and the move toward a single-fund model.

Following the publication of the Commission's proposals in mid-July, the Committee had strong input to IFA's CAP proposals observations document, submitted to the DAFM. This highlighted the significant and negative ramifications for Irish agriculture and the rural economy that a proposed cut and restructure to the CAP budget would have.

The IFA continues to play an active role through the CAP Strategic Plan Monitoring Committee, the AKIS Co-ordination Group, and the CSP Stakeholders Forum, as well as through Copa-Cogeca representation at EU-level meetings, including the CAP Civil Dialogue Group, and CAP Post-2027 Working Groups. Across all engagements, the Committee's consistent message has been clear; the next CAP must prioritise simplification, economic sustainability, fair support for active farmers, and the reduction of bureaucracy and leakage to ensure a more effective and farmer-focused policy framework.

Farm Schemes

Area of Natural Constraint (ANC)

The Area of Natural Constraint (ANC) scheme, valued at €250 million annually, remains a vital source of income support for farmers operating in designated disadvantaged areas. Advance payments of 85%, amounting to €183 million, commenced on September 17th for c.89,000 farmers, with the remaining 15% balancing payments paid early December. Payment runs continue as cases clear.

BISS / CRISS / Eco-Scheme

The application period for the Basic Income Support for Sustainability (BISS), Complementary Redistributive Income Support for Sustainability (CRISS), and Eco-Scheme closed on May 15th, attracting 123,795 applications.

Advance payments of 70%, worth €510 million, began on October 16th for over 110,000 farmers under BISS and CRISS, followed by €201 million in Eco-Scheme payments to 112,000 farmers commencing on October 21st. Further payment runs will continue as cases clear.

Balancing payments for all schemes commenced in early December.

Following two years of delayed implementation, the standard for the protection of peatlands and wetlands-GAEC 2- entered into force, sparking fear and real concern among farm families operating on peat soils. All farmers have the opportunity to appeal the indicative GAEC-2 status of individual parcels. There is no closing date for appeals.

Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES)

Challenges with the ACRES scheme persisted into early 2025, with administrative delays, payment backlogs, and the complexity of new scheme requirements continuing to frustrate participants. Despite these issues, the scheme has made considerable progress, with over 54,000 farmers participating and more than half a billion euros paid out in total. By October, 98% of ACRES participants had received their 2024 advance payments, and 99% of 2023 participants were fully paid. The coming months will be crucial for DAFM to resolve remaining cases and fully implement the scheme's complementary measures, ensuring farmers can achieve the intended environmental outcomes and are fairly rewarded for their efforts. Advance payments for 2025 commenced late November.

Given the ongoing complexity, limited trust, and often lower-than-expected payments, the IFA has renewed its call for a complete overhaul of ACRES and the introduction of a new, simplified agri-environmental scheme offering payments of up to €15,000 per farmer. Support for farmers wishing to participate in an agri-environmental scheme must be accommodated before the next CAP programme begins in 2028.

IFA continues to engage with the DAFM on individual cases and on simplifying the scheme overall. Following the announcement of a full ACRES Review in late 2024, IFA submitted a number of proposals for an improved scheme, the findings of which have yet to be published.

Targeted Agricultural Modernisation Scheme (TAMS 3)

TAMS 3 continued to attract strong farmer interest throughout 2025, supporting essential on-farm investments in areas such as housing, slurry storage, safety, solar energy, and other capital improvements. In January, the DAFM opened Tranche 6 of the scheme, introducing an enhanced 60% grant rate for nutrient storage investments (e.g. manure pits and slurry stores) with a separate €90,000 ceiling.

Following damage due to Storm Éowyn, a once-off "mini tranche" was opened in mid-March to assist emergency investments such as generators and mulchers. This emergency round received 1,945 applications for approved items, including backup power equipment. Following repeated calls from IFA, a full review of TAMS reference costs was undertaken by DAFM, with the new costings implemented for applications submitted from Tranche 10 onwards.

To date, over €110 million has been paid to farmers, with 38,000 project approvals issued across eight tranches and weekly payments averaging around €2.5 million. While all eligible applications under Tranches 6, 7, and 8 were approved, DAFM has confirmed that, due to defined budget limits, future tranches may be subject to ranking and selection criteria. Adequate funding is required to optimise necessary on-farm investment and avoid use of rank and selection procedures. Tranche 11 opens December 10th and includes support, through the Farm Safety Scheme, for roof replacements.

Farmers' Charter of Rights

The Farmers' Charter of Rights continued for 2025. The committee is comprised of representatives of farm organisations and the DAFM staff. The IFA Rural Development Committee has insisted that the Charter commitments are upheld and that all schemes are delivered on time. Major schemes, such as BISS, ANC and ACRES, were paid on time this year. The committee continues to highlight the importance of all farmers being paid in the year to which the scheme applies. The Farmers' Charter of Rights will continue for 2026.

Agricultural Appeals Office

IFA successfully supported members in several appeals with the Agriculture Appeals Office across many different farm schemes in 2025. IFA liaised with the appeal office officials on the ongoing review of the Agriculture Appeals Act 2001 and operations of the Agricultural Appeals Office. IFA has called on the Minister for Agriculture Martin Heydon to remove all roadblocks preventing the establishment and functioning of the Independent Agricultural Appeals Panel. The complexity and increased scrutiny governing farm schemes and payments impose huge stress and pressure on farm families. IFA will continue to press that its scope be extended to all cases, not just those in relation to the law and/or new facts being presented.

John Curran, Chair, Rural Development Committee
Shane Whelan, Senior Policy Executive
Rachel Moloney, Policy Executive

Hill Farming

IFA Hill Farming Chair Cáillin Conneely with members of the IFA Hill Farming Committee on Pat and Margaret Dunne's farm, Glenmalure, County Wicklow

Cáillin Conneely
Chair, Hill Farming Committee

ACRES

Challenges surrounding Ireland's flagship agri-environmental scheme, ACRES, continued into early 2025, with payment delays, IT difficulties, and low field scores impacting farmers in co-operation areas nationwide.

IFA maintained strong pressure on DAFM for clear payment timelines and system improvements. By mid-year, progress was evident with 97% of ACRES participants having received their 2024 advance and balancing payments, and 99% of 2023 participants paid in full.

In Year 3, approximately 117,000 scorecards were submitted by the 31 August deadline, achieving an average score of 6. Under the Non-Productive Investments (NPI) element, 4,800 farmers applied in 2024, with an additional 3,365 applicants with 33,171 NPI actions in 2025. Farmers are now able to make payment claims for completed works. Payments are expected to be paid in line with timelines laid down in the Farmers' Charter of Rights.

Comhairle na Tuaithe

IFA continued participation on Comhairle na Tuaithe throughout 2025.

A draft report on Responsible Behaviour in the Outdoors, prepared by The Behaviouralist research group in collaboration with Design Works, has been completed and circulated to stakeholders for feedback. A significant amount of work has been undertaken on this topic throughout 2025, reflecting the growing importance of responsible outdoor engagement. The next phase will involve developing a comprehensive communications strategy based on the study's findings, targeting three key user cohorts — the unaware, the unengaged, and the uncaring.

In July, a dedicated meeting was held to discuss the Comhairle na Tuaithe position on dogs in the outdoors, with IFA represented by members of the Hill and Sheep Committees. Following this, a draft position statement was formulated. IFA raised concerns about the lack of reference to enforcement mechanisms and the absence of a clear definition of "control" in relation to dog ownership and behaviour. Comhairle na Tuaithe will meet with all members individually to discuss and refine the position further before final sign off.

Under the Sustainable Uplands Recreation Scheme, significant progress was made in 2025 with site visits completed on three projects seeking to join the Mountain Access Project (MAP) — Mount Errigal, the Comeragh Mountains, and Croagh Patrick. A pilot Uplands Recreation Scheme, currently operating in the McGillycuddy Reeks, has been designed to support sustainable access management in upland areas. The scheme's structure and payment model are aligned with the Walks Scheme but provide for a greater number of work hours and a broader range of activities as set out in each agreed Work Plan. Engagement with landowners in participating areas is ongoing, supported by a full-time officer dedicated to the scheme's implementation and development.

In May 2025, approval was given to add a further 22 trails onto the Walks Scheme. This brings to 164 the number of trails approved on the scheme, over 112 of which have been fully brought onto the scheme to date.

More broadly, progress under the National Outdoor Recreation Strategy (NORS) continues most of the 68 actions within NORS assigned for delivery up to mid-2025. By the end June 2025, the following has been achieved:

- 36 of the actions are now fully complete;
- 20 of the actions are in progress, with work commenced but delivery not yet fully complete;
- 3 actions are delayed and have not yet commenced;
- Work is ongoing on the remaining 9 actions which do not have a completion date and are assigned for ongoing delivery during the lifetime of the strategy.

Burning

IFA has raised concerns with the Department that farmers whose land was burned in the spring of 2024 and 2025 should not be penalised. There are several reviews and appeals currently in progress, which IFA will be working on with farmers over the coming months.

Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)

The IFA Hill Committee and the SAC Project Team held a joint meeting in early 2025 to discuss common issues faced across designated areas. The IFA Hill Committee continues to participate in the DAFM Designated Areas Monitoring Committee. IFA again insisted that there must be no new designations. IFA reiterated the need for meaningful consultation with farmers on the problems of designated land and adequate compensation delivered to farmers whose income and property values are affected by designations.

Cáillin Conneely, Chair, Hill Farming Committee
Shane Whelan, Senior Policy Executive
Rachel Moloney, Policy Executive

Liquid Milk

Over 2,000 farmers attended the national Nitrates Derogation meeting in Cork Marts, Corrin, Fermoy in November

Henry Dunne
Chair, Liquid Milk Committee

Retail Price of Liquid milk

The retail price of private label milk was stable for much of 2025 but as the price of manufacturing milk fell in September the retail price subsequently fell by 5c/L in October. Two litres of private label milk now retails for €2.36. IFA is concerned that prices could fall again before Christmas. It is vital that no further cuts are made to the retail price of milk, as inevitably this erodes the farmer's margin.

With a much weaker base price facing into this winter the key objective of the Committee is to increase the liquid premium. While gains in recent years have been welcomed, the severe cuts taken to the base price of milk in the past few months have effectively eroded their true value.

Research from Teagasc estimates that the cost of maintaining a milking cow over winter has increased by €460 since 2021. The Committee periodically reviews the premiums paid for liquid milk by each processor. While comparatively similar, they are likely to be insufficient to cover the cost of production this winter. All producer groups are actively engaged with their co-ops trying to negotiate additional financial supports for the upcoming winter period.

6th Nitrates Action Programme

Liquid milk farmers are particularly exposed to changes in the nitrates regulations. Given the nature of the system, the proposed changes to soiled water storage requirements will be more significant for this cohort of farmers. It is vital that liquid milk producers are given additional time and financial support to make the necessary investments in soiled water storage.

It is important to consider the impact of recent changes to the nitrates regulations on liquid milk producers. Changes to the nitrogen excretion bands, overall stocking rate and crude protein allowances in feed has disproportionately affected this system of milk production. Policy makers must realise the vulnerability of the sector and seek measures that protect remaining suppliers from exiting.

National Milk Agency

The number of liquid milk farmers continue to decline and now stands at 1,196. A recruitment process has commenced to source a new Chair for the National Milk Agency. IFA would like to thank outgoing Chair Denis Murphy for his commitment to the liquid milk sector. Denis has been Chair since the establishment of the agency in 1994.

Henry Dunne, Chair, Liquid Milk Committee
Áine O'Connell, Senior Policy Executive

Fresh Milk Producers

John Roche
Chair, Fresh Milk Producers

2025 was a year of stability for Fresh Milk Producers. The implementation of the FMP-Tirlán negotiated restructuring of the FMP liquid supply pool was initiated throughout 2024 with approximately 100 FMP members choosing to avail of a voluntary exit scheme from the liquid milk business.

This leaves FMP with a reduced membership base of 430 dedicated year-round liquid milk suppliers.

The new supply agreement for liquid milk began in October 2024 and runs through to the end of September 2026. This new agreement is based on an increased liquid milk premium of 12 cent per litre paid on top of manufacturing base price for 6 winter months, October-March for liquid contract volumes. The new improved liquid milk agreement combined with relatively high milk price in 2025 was, by and large, a very positive year for fresh milk producers' members.

John Roche from Co Carlow was elected as FMP Chair in 2024 and will complete his 2 two-year term in spring 2026. Henry Dunne from Enniscorthy was elected Vice-chair in 2024, for a 2-year term. Linda Hanbidge, elected to the FMP negotiation team, is the first women to hold a position on the negotiation team in the 87 years history of FMP.

FMP Central Executive meetings throughout the year included speakers from IFA and Teagasc and the National Dairy Council (NDC). FMP were involved in the activities of the IFA Liquid Milk committee and 2025 saw an increase in the value of liquid milk right through the food supply chain. FMP Vice-chair Henry Dunne was elected as Chair of the IFA National Liquid Milk committee.

National Dairy Council (NDC) support

FMP continued support of the National Dairy Council (NDC) in the promotion of liquid milk following engagement with newly appointed NDC CEO, Emma Walls. FMP continued to financially support the Gary Ringrose campaign, Irish and Leinster rugby player, as a public ambassador for the NDC and Irish dairy on a two-year agreement 2024/2025

Teagasc Support

It was agreed by the FMP Central Executive to support future relevant research on liquid milk production that will benefit FMP members. FMP have engaged with Teagasc winter remove specialist, James Dunne, and the research team in Teagasc, Johnstown Castle, Co Wexford and the Teagasc winter milk steering group.

FMP Research Project

Work is ongoing to initiate a data collection research project on a representative sample of FMP members' farms. It will be an extensive exercise over 2 years 2026/2027 aimed at demonstrating, to both FMP members and to processers, the additional cost at farm level of producing liquid milk.

John Roche, Chair, Fresh Milk Producers
Robert Malone, Senior Policy Executive

Aquaculture

IFA Aquaculture Chair Finian O'Sullivan and IFA Aquaculture Senior Policy Executive Teresa Morrissey with Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine Timmy Dooley TD at the IFA Aquaculture Conference in Limerick

Finian O'Sullivan
Chair, IFA Aquaculture

Since the appointment of the Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and the Marine Timmy Dooley TD as Minister with special responsibility for Fisheries, IFA Aquaculture has ensured that the Aquaculture sector must be prioritised engaging with Minister Dooley on what is required for the Irish Aquaculture sector to make progress.

During these meetings, Minister Dooley has addressed a number of issues of concern for Irish Aquaculture including:

- Appropriate assessments and Aquaculture licensing renewals
- Legislative reform
- Implementation of National Strategic Plan and the Aquaculture licensing review
- Grant aid eligibility and European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) funding
- Support mechanisms for aquaculture

The Minister has confirmed to IFA Aquaculture that he has made it very clear to the Marine Institute and the DAFM officials the need for completion of Appropriate Assessments (AA) in a timely manner as part of the Aquaculture licensing process. IFA Aquaculture has continuously outlined to the Minister that the delay in the Aquaculture licensing process is having a knock-on impact on grant aid eligibility, which further highlights the need for efficiency in the licensing process.

Implementation of National Strategic Plan for Sustainable Aquaculture Development has also been addressed, with confirmation that a Steering Group has been established earlier in 2025, which is comprised of the lead agencies responsible for implementing the actions to be carried out as part of the plan. A progress report is imminent and will be available to stakeholders, with a stakeholder forum to be established shortly. IFA Aquaculture will engage with the DAFM and the relevant State Agencies as part of this forum to ensure effective implementation of the plan.

IFA Aquaculture Attends High-Level meeting with EU Commissioner for Fisheries and Oceans

In May, IFA Aquaculture had an opportunity to engage with EU Commissioner for Fisheries and Oceans, Costas Kadís, together with Minister of State Timmy Dooley, during a high-level meeting with the Irish seafood sector representatives at Castletownbere Fishery Harbour Centre. The high-level engagement with the EU Commissioner took place alongside his visit to Ireland as part of European Maritime Day 2025, which was hosted by Cork City Council. This event brought together ocean leaders, policy makers, scientists, as well as the general public.

The meeting also brought together representatives from the fisheries, Aquaculture and processing sectors and the seafood co-operatives, along with a number of Irish MEPs, Senators, and locally-elected representative Minister of State at the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Christopher O'Sullivan.

IFA Aquaculture were represented by Committee vice-chair Catherine McManus and IFA Aquaculture Policy Executive Teresa Morrissey where they highlighted to the EU Commissioner the need for EU Aquaculture policy reform as part of the Common Fisheries Policy review and specific ring-fenced funding for the European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF).

Finian O'Sullivan, Chair, IFA Aquaculture
Teresa Morrissey, Senior Policy Executive

IFA National Council members Flash Action outside the EU Commission Office, Dublin on the Mercosur Trade Deal in May

PROJECT TEAM REPORTS

SACs, SPAs and NHAs Project Team

Meeting with Minister of State at the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage Christopher O'Sullivan TD on Nature Restoration Law, Land Designations and the Climate and Nature Fund (l-r) IFA Senior Policy Executives Shane Whelan and Geraldine O'Sullivan, IFA President Francie Gorman, Minister O'Sullivan, IFA Policy Executive Rachel Moloney, IFA SAC/SPA/NHA Project Team Chair Frank Brady

Frank Brady
Chair, SACs, SPAs, NHAs Project Team

The IFA SAC Project Team was established in late 2022. The project team consists of representatives from Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) with new members appointed by the IFA National Officers' Committee.

Throughout the year, the team actively addressed the growing economic and operational challenges faced by approximately 35,000 farm families managing designated land. Key issues included the impact of land-use restrictions, income loss, and property devaluation.

The SAC Project Team held three internal meetings this year, including a joint meeting with the Hill Farming Committee. A number of meetings, focused on issues surrounding GAEC-2, designated land and peat soil farmers were also held around the country, including;

- Kerry IFA meeting, Maine Valley Golf Club, Killorglin, Co Kerry, March
- West Cork IFA 'Protecting Peat Soil Farmers' meeting, Dunmanway, April
- Public meeting 'Designation, GAEC-2, NRL', Carrick-on-Shannon, April
- Clare IFA County Executive and designations meeting, Flagmount, May

Representatives from the Project Team attended the Teagasc Biodiversity event in Birr Castle; the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) Nature Restoration Law (NRL) farmer workshop in Westmeath and continues to be represented on the Designated Area Monitoring Committee, which has met three times this year.

A special meeting on the Nature Restoration Plan (NRP) was held in April, with an additional meeting held in July in the Custom House, which was attended by members of the NPWS Board of Directors. The most recent meeting was held in October and was attended by Minster of State at the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage Christopher O'Sullivan and Secretary General of NPWS Niall O Donnchú. Among key priorities highlighted by IFA were: Economic cost of designation; 'No Compensation, No designation' policy; no further restrictions to apply; update of Activities Requiring Consent (ARC) required; new money independent of CAP needed.

Following calls from IFA, work began in mid-2025 on the Economic Cost of Designation on farms in Ireland. The NPWS have commissioned Forvis Mazars (FM) to gather feedback from impacted farmers across Ireland to inform an independent report, expected to be published in Spring 2026. Representatives from FM met with the IFA Project Team to discuss the day-to-day challenges of designation. A farmer survey will be circulated to gather more feedback. Engagement will continue over the coming months. IFA has also completed its own assessment of the Economic Impact of Designation.

Frank Brady, Chair, SACs, SPAs, NHAs Project Team
Shane Whelan, Senior Policy Executive
Rachel Moloney, Policy Executive

Horse Project Team

IFA President presenting the Connolly Family on winning the IFA Breeders' Prize in the Grand Prix at the Horseshow, RDS, in July (l-r) Patrick Connolly, Dolly Connolly, IFA President Francie Gorman, Shane Connolly, IFA Horse Project Team Chair Conor O'Leary

Conor O'Leary
Chair, Horse Project Team

In 2025, priorities included financial supports for breeder of both thoroughbred and sport horses, improved traceability of all Irish horses and the impact of the new transport regulation. Issues such as delays in Horse Sport Ireland (HSI) and end of life options were also challenges facing many IFA members in the equine sector throughout 2025. Some horse trainers have reported respiratory issues when training in close proximity to oilseed rape. IFA has met with the DAFM officials and other key stakeholders to conduct a study on this issue.

IFA continues to pursue the proposal that 15% of all prize funding for both thoroughbred racing and sport horse events would go directly to the breeder of the winning horse. This proposal will remain a key priority for the IFA Horse Project team until delivery. Key industry stakeholders such as Horse Racing Ireland (HRI), Horse Sport Ireland (HSI), Irish Thoroughbred Marketing (ITM) have been made aware of the IFA proposal and while views differ, it is clear, that the grassroots breeder sector does need supports.

RDS Horse Show Sponsorship

IFA sponsored a breeder's prize for the top placed Irish-bred horse in the Grand Prix at the RDS Dublin Horse Show, Ireland's sole Five Star event. This prize aimed to raise the profile of Irish breeders and give something back for their invaluable efforts. Without breeders, we would not have top-quality horses produced in Ireland that are showcased all over the world. In 2025, this was awarded to Patrick Connolly, CSF Stud Farm, Co. Galway.

Equine Traceability and End of Life Options

IFA met with the DAFM officials a number of times in 2025 on equine traceability. The issue around horse traceability arose in 2024, with an exposé programme uncovering substandard practices at the slaughter facility in Straffan, which has since been closed down by the DAFM. IFA fully support the highest welfare and traceability standards for all farm animals, but the closure of this facility has left horse owners with limited options for end of life of horses. The DAFM are creating a new IT system which is mirroring the cattle CMMS system. For now, the system will be based on equine census returns. The DAFM are also in discussions with the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) in Northern Ireland. IFA will continue to engage with officials to input feedback on any new registration systems.

Horse Transport Regulation

IFA continues to engage with the DAFM officials, Copa-Cogeca and MEPs on the issue of the horse transport regulation. Ireland's delegation has broached a number of the issues with the regulation at the EU Council Working Party on Animals and Veterinary Questions (Animal Welfare), in the course of negotiations on the proposed text. IFA representatives continue to engage with relevant stakeholders such as the ITBA and HSI to lobby collectively on this topic.

Copa-Cogeca Horse Working Party

IFA Horse Project Team Chair Conor O'Leary was elected as Vice-chair of the Copa-Cogeca Horse Working Party and continues to raise issues at a European level.

Conor O'Leary, Chair, Horse Project Team
Niamh Brennan, Senior Policy Executive

Organic Project Team

Organic Project Team Chair John Fitzpatrick makes the case on Organic farming to Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine Michael Healy-Rae TD

John Fitzpatrick
Chair, Organic Project Team

Organic Farm Scheme (OFS)

There are approximately 5,600 organic farmers in Ireland as of April 2025. The total land area under the OFS has reached about 248,000 hectares representing 5% of total agricultural land. The Government has a target of 10% of agricultural land to be farmed organically by 2030. Budget 2026 allocated €58.6m for the sector.

National Organic Strategy 2024-2030

This was launched at the National Ploughing Championships in September 2024. At the heart of this strategy lies the ambition to increase the organic sector's value to €750m by 2030, tripling its current wholesale value. Bord Bia are leading the way for growing domestic market and driving export growth.

Organic Strategy Sub-Group on Leakage

IFA is involved in the Department Organic Strategy Sub-Group on Leakage. IFA has raised the issue that leakage from the livestock sector is the most critical issue, limiting the growth of organic output. IFA continues to lobby for supports on this issue. The Organic Strategy Sub-Group on Leakage hosted Beef and Sheep Regional Roadshow during 2025.

Research and Development

The sector remains under-resourced in research and development, education, and knowledge transfer. IFA Organic Project Team continues to liaise with Teagasc to discuss future research for the sector, the provision of specialist organic advisors and knowledge transfer groups.

Ploughing Organic Village

The IFA Organic Project Team took a stand in the Organic Village at the National Ploughing Championships in 2025.

Markets

IFA continues to liaise with Bord Bia on new market opportunities for the sector. IFA representatives on the Organic Forum raise the issues of markets at each meeting. Over the past 12 months a worrying trend has been that organic farm-gate prices were marginal with conventional prices. IFA will continue to lobby for a price regulation to ensure that a significant differential margin remains between organic and conventional prices.

The project team continues to engage with all Irish retailers regarding stocking more Irish organic produce in 2026.

IFA continues to engage with Copa-Cogeca Organic Working Party meetings in Brussels.

John Fitzpatrick, Chair, Organic Project Team
Amy Mulchrone, Policy Executive

The Shannon and Flooding Project Team

Brendan Golden
Chair, The Shannon and Flooding Project Team

Throughout 2025, the IFA continued to prioritise the urgent issue of flooding and water management, with a particular focus on the Shannon River and other flood-prone catchments across the country.

2025 brought renewed challenges following Storm Éowyn and subsequent periods of prolonged heavy rainfall, which once again highlighted the vulnerability of farmland, homes, and rural infrastructure to severe flooding. IFA remained at the forefront of national and local discussions, calling for a more proactive, coordinated, and long-term approach to flood mitigation and management.

In 2025, IFA met with the Office of Public Works (OPW) and the ESB where the flooding committee highlighted the following:

- The implementation of maintenance works along the River Shannon and other major rivers, particularly the removal of silt and vegetation that impedes water flow.
- The full activation of the Shannon Flood Risk Management Plan, including the continuation of local pilot dredging and channel management projects.
- A single authority or lead agency with statutory responsibility for managing water levels on the Shannon.
- Increased investment in flood defences and drainage infrastructure, with clear timelines and accountability for delivery.
- Financial and technical support for farmers affected by flood damage to land, buildings, and farm access routes.

The Shannon catchment remained a key focus during 2025. There needs to be ongoing dialogue with the ESB regarding management of water levels at key control points such as the Parteen weir for greater transparency in decision making and communication during high-water events. IFA also continued to highlight the need for compensation and support for farmers whose lands remain flooded for extended periods, impacting grazing, fodder supply, and biodiversity management obligations.

The ongoing flooding crisis at Lough Funshinagh in County Roscommon has remained a pressing issue. Roscommon County Council, with the support of the OPW, has now implemented a temporary flood relief solution, a control outflow pipe system. An Coimisiún Pleanála granted permission for the temporary project in November 2024, and a pumping mechanism was installed in April 2025. While this interim measure has provided much needed relief and protection for the local community, this is not a long-term solution. Urgent progress is required towards a permanent solution and IFA will continue to engage with relevant authorities on the issue.

Brendan Golden, Chair, The Shannon and Flooding Project Team
Claire McGlynn, Policy Executive

Infrastructure Project Team

Paul O'Brien
Chair, Infrastructure Project Team

ESB / EirGrid

In 2025, the IFA successfully negotiated two new agreements with ESB/EirGrid:

- Cable Package – valued at €167.50 per linear metre, plus additional payments for ancillary apparatus, covering three cable projects in Connaught, Kildare / Meath, and Meath / Dublin.
- Line Uprate and Refurbishment – a programme for the uprate and refurbishment of 110/220kV lines nationwide.

Negotiations are ongoing for a new package covering 38kV new builds, 110/220kV refurbishments, and other related projects.

Uisce Éireann

The IFA negotiated a comprehensive compensation package for the 172 km Parteen to Peamount water pipeline, affecting approximately 500 farmers and landowners. The package is valued at €218.25 per linear metre, with additional payments for apparatus, up to a total of €40 million, and is inflation-proofed to account for implementation delays. Meetings with impacted farmers were held in Tullamore and Nenagh, where the IFA recommended the package. A Code of Practice was also successfully negotiated to guide project implementation.

Greenways

The IFA has highlighted challenges with Greenway development, including the limited availability of public lands, overreliance on private lands, the use of Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPOs), and issues related to severance. In November, the IFA presented a detailed briefing on these concerns to the Oireachtas Committee on Transport and has also raised them with TII and local County Councils.

The Greenway Code of Practice provides landowners with an alternative to the CPO process, including additional sustainability and goodwill payments ranging from €50–€96 per linear metre (equivalent to €22,500 per acre) on top of normal compensation. The IFA has supported Greenway groups nationwide, attending public meetings and directly lobbying County Councils and project consultants.

Roads

The IFA/Transport Industry Ireland roads agreement delivers significant benefits to landowners in the assessment of compensation for national and regional road projects, including an additional €6,500 per acre goodwill payment. The IFA continues to assist farmers on major road projects across the country, including Adare / Foynes, Donegal, Wexford / Rosslare, Cork / Limerick, Monaghan, and others.

Gas Networks Ireland

The IFA negotiated a compensation package with Gas Networks Ireland for a new gas line spur from Kinnegad to Edenderry, supplying the BNM plant. Approximately 40 farmers and landowners were impacted, and a package valued at up to €175 per linear metre was negotiated and accepted at farmer/landowner meetings.

Infrastructure Support for Members

The IFA provides members with information, advice, and support across a wide range of infrastructure projects, including solar and wind farms, battery and cable projects (including offshore developments), telecoms masts, and other major projects such as Irish Rail lines and the Cliffs of Moher.

Paul O'Brien, Chair, Infrastructure Project Team
Geraldine O'Sullivan, Senior Policy Executive

Energy From Farms

Launcing IFA's Energy from Farms Project Team proposals (l-r) IFA Director of Policy Tadhg Buckley, IFA Energy from Farms Project Team Chair Frank Brady, Minister of State at the Department of Enterprise, Tourism and Employment Alan Dillon TD, IFA President Francie Gorman, IFA Senior Policy Executive Niamh Brennan, IFA Energy from Farms Project Team member Sean Finan

Frank Brady
Chair, Energy from Farms Project Team

The IFA Energy from Farms Project Team chaired by Frank Brady was set up in late 2024. The Project Team consists of a blend of industry experts and farmers involved in renewable energy projects. The Project Team's key delivery in 2025 was the 'IFA Energy from Farms' Policy document, which outlines IFA's key renewable energy asks. IFA President and members of the Energy from Farms Project Team launched the policy in October with Minister of State at the Department of Environment and Climate Alan Dillon.

The key asks in the Policy:

National Biomethane Strategy

- Introduction of a minimum 50% capital grant for development of farmer-owned farm scale biogas plants - financed through Infrastructure, Climate and Nature Fund (ICNF).
- Immediate introduction of the Renewable Heat Obligation (RHO).
- Grant aid scheme and/or a feed-in-tariff (15 years) framework.
- Establish a fair, equitable and independent pricing mechanism with independent oversight to ensure a sustainable feedstock price for farmers.
- Introduction of renewable energy finance scheme that provides state support for low-cost finance.
- All farmers including derogation farmers should be allowed to import digestate.
- All digestate from agri-feedstock based AD plants to be allowed to be spread on all organic farmlands.

Small Scale Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (SRESS)

- Establish a dedicated farmer category within SRESS.
- Increase in SRESS fixed tariff rates for wind and solar.
- Establish a higher SRESS fixed tariff rate for anaerobic digestion and biomass projects.
- Technical support for farmers managing planning, regulatory and operational aspects of project development.
- Community benefit fund requirement must not undermine project viability.

Taxation

- Capital Gain Tax (CGT) and Capital Acquisition Tax (CAT) relief for solar panels should also include wind farms. The area of land on which solar panels are installed, for the purposes of CGT retirement relief and CAT agricultural relief, should only calculate the footprint of the solar panel structures, ancillary equipment, and service roads (i.e. areas not capable of being grazed). Includes new high-rise panels that can allow full grazing underneath.
- Maintain all existing taxation reliefs and exemptions for farmers involved in Anaerobic Digestion (AD) and any other renewable activities.

Infrastructure

- Substantial investment into the national electricity network to ensure the national grid is fit for purpose.
- Terminate the €1000 connection charge.
- Clear and consistent planning guidelines (countries differ).
- A fundamental overhaul of the national gas grid.
- Solar - allow farmers to install systems beyond their own usage and explore surplus electricity to the grid.

Support Scheme for Renewable Heat (SSRH)

- Budget is maintained and enhanced over the next few years.
- Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) promotes the scheme to increase the uptake of the SSRH in the agricultural sector.
- Biogas tariff rates to be reviewed upwards.

Frank Brady, Chair, Energy from Farms Project Team
Niamh Brennan, Senior Policy Executive

At the 70th IFA AGM at the Irish Farm Centre, January 2025. European Commissioner for Agriculture and Food Christophe Hansen with (l-r) Agri Aware Executive Director Marcus O'Halloran, IFA Director General Damian McDonald, IFA President Francie Gorman and Agri Aware Chair Shay Galvin

IFA 70th AGM

IFA County Chairs, County Vice-Chairs and County Secretaries from IFA's 29 County Exeuctives at the 70th IFA AGM.

Former IFA Presidents at the 70th IFA AGM (l-r) Donie Cashman (1980-1984), John Donnelly (1994-1998), Tom Parlon (1998-2002), EU Commisioner Christophe Hansen, John Dillon (2002-2006), John Bryan (2010-2014), IFA President Francie Gorman, Eddie Downey (2015-2016), Joe Healy (2016-2020), Tim Cullinan (2021-2024)

IFA 70th AGM

IFA / FBD Insurance new and improved benefit, saving members €95 on car, home, business or farm insurance. At the launch (l-r) IFA Director of Organisation James Kelly, FBD National Head of Branch Strategy and Sales Performance Emer O'Byrne, IFA President Francie Gorman and CEO, FBD Insurance Tomás Ó Midheach

OTHER REPORTS

Rules, Privileges and Procedures

IFA Louth County Chair Kevin Sweeney congratulating IFA Cavan County Chair Maurice Brady after his election as Ulster North Leinster Regional Chair at the election count in the Irish Farm Centre in December. Maurice will take up this role at the 71st IFA AGM in January 2026.

John Carroll
Chair, Rules, Privileges and Procedures Committee

Function of the Committee

The Committee's function under the rules is 'to advise Council for Council to decide' on all matters concerning the IFA Constitution and Rules, and on all matters of voluntary organisational procedure and discipline at all levels within IFA.

On a day-to-day basis, this work involves upholding and applying the rules of IFA, while always respecting the rights of members and the authority of the National Council.

The IFA rules designate the National Returning Officer as Chair of the National Rules Committee, and this also gives him responsibility for all IFA elections and election procedures.

Review of 2025

In 2025, the Committee focused on advising the National Council on proposals for Rule Changes as follows:

- Proposal that the title 'Chairman' be replaced by 'Chair' in IFA positions (Ratified)
- Proposal that online or hybrid meetings shall rank 'pari passu' and have the same status as properly convened in-person meetings. (Ratified)
- Proposal to amend the `Automatic` removal of National Committee and National Council members from the relevant number of meetings in a Calander year, with the insertion of 'just cause' (Ratified)
- Proposal to amend the Rule whereby a consenting Political Candidate cannot hold an elected IFA position from 3 years to 2 years. (Ratified)

Conduct of Elections

The Committee also supported the National Returning Officer in the conduct of the 2025 IFA Regional Chair Election in the Ulster/North Leinster Region. This included issuing the election timetable, recommending the Code of Conduct to National Council, setting out the procedures for County Executive debates and voting along with officiating at these hustings and Election Count.

During the year, the National Returning Officer conducted National Committee elections for Committee Vice Chairs and management Committees, and at the end of 2025, oversaw the elections for National Committee Chairs.

Support and Good Governance

The National Returning Officer provided ongoing advice and support to Officers and Staff at County Executive and National level, in elections of county and commodity officers.

John Carroll, Chair, Rules, Privileges and Procedures Committee
John Mulhall, Secretary, Rules, Privileges and Procedures Committee

Audit and Risk Committee

On behalf of the Audit and Risk Committee, I am pleased to present its report for the year ended 31 December 2025. The purpose of this report is to describe the activities of the Audit and Risk Committee in carrying out its responsibilities during the year.

The Role of the Audit and Risk Committee is to provide an additional layer of oversight and assurance concerning the financial and risk management of the Association, including compliance with the statutory Audit and other Reporting requirements.

Scope

The scope of the Audit and Risk Committee's work is set out in its Terms of Reference which were reviewed and approved by the National Council on 26th March 2024:-

- To monitor the integrity of the financial statements of the Association, including the management accounts and any other formal reports to the National Finance Committee and the National Council relating to financial performance.
- To review significant financial reporting issues and the judgements they are based on.
- To review the methods used to account for significant or unusual transactions where different approaches are possible.
- To review whether the Association has followed appropriate accounting standards and made appropriate estimates and judgements.
- To assess the clarity of disclosures in the Association's financial reports.
- To review the internal financial controls of the Association and to assess the potential for fraud.
- To review the risk management policies of IFA in particular serious legal, financial and reputational risks and ensure compliance with all necessary regulations.
- To review the external auditor's terms of engagement, annual audit plan and to review the effectiveness of the audit.
- To oversee the relationship with the external auditor, recommend on his/her appointment or re-appointment, recommend remuneration and review whether any other work carried out by the external auditor impinges on his/her independence and objectivity.

Audit and Risk Committee

- To review the auditor's report, the letters of representation and the management letter.
- To review any areas where there may be legal implications involved and significant financial or reputational risk to IFA from the organisation's activities or actions.
- To review any other regulatory audit of the Association.
- To make observations and recommendations on the Governance of the Association

The independence of the Audit and Risk Committee is fundamental to its operation.

Composition

The membership of the Audit and Risk Committee comprises of Eamonn Looney (Committee Chairman), Patrick McCormick (National Treasurer), Brian Rushe (former Deputy President) and Ken Heade (Former Financial Controller). The National Council is satisfied that both the Chair and Mr. Heade meet the requirements for recent and relevant financial experience.

Committee Meetings

In addition to members of the Audit and Risk committee, any voluntary officer or employee of IFA may be invited to attend for particular items at the discretion of the Chair.

The Committee met on five occasions during the year. The Director General, Director of Governance, Financial Director, Director of Organisation and IT Manager as well as representatives of the external auditor attended a number of meetings during the year.

The external auditor has direct access to the Committee chairman at all times and met the Committee on two occasions during the year, providing an opportunity for open dialogue and feedback.

The Committee dealt with the following matters during the year:

- Received and approved the External Audit Plan 2025 and discussed a number of technical updates to impact the Association in the coming years.
- Received the RBK 2025 External Audit Report and reviewed its findings:-
  - Clean Audit Report.
  - Audit approach and procedures in line with the approved Audit Plan.
  - Reviewed areas of Audit emphasis and Audit findings
  - Reviewed the Consolidated and IFA Telecom Financial Highlights.
  - No issues of concern had arisen during testing and no significant deficiencies had been identified in accounting or internal controls.
  - RBK would be issuing a clean Audit Opinion for the year ended 31 March 2025.
  - RBK would review post Balance Sheet events before final signoff.
  - RBK confirmed their independence and objectivity.
  - Reviewed the Draft Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025.
  - RBK confirmed that there were no issues which they wished to raise in the absence of management and thanked the management team for their help in responding to all queries in a timely manner.
- Recommended the 2025 Consolidated Financial Statements to National Council for approval.
- Reviewed Investment performance and returns.
- Received an update from an Investment Manager on structure and performance of the portfolio.
- Reviewed the Investment Strategy and recommended a draft policy relating to the Reserve Fund to the National Officers' Committee and National Council for approval.
- Reviewed the draft IT Risk Register and risk mitigation measures and made a number of recommendations.
- Received regular updates on the IT Infrastructure and on progress made in upgrading the systems to reduce the risk of malfunction and cyber-attack, ensuring that any high priority issues or identified threats were being dealt with as they arise.
- Reviewed the IFA Risk Register and recommended to National Officers' Committee for approval.
- Reviewed Disaster Recovery / Business Continuity Planning processes and received a number of updates on recommendations including penetration testing, staff training and dependencies.
- Reviewed the IFA membership system. The report concluded that the system is well run and a number of recommendations were offered to the membership team.
- Commenced a review which is still ongoing, of systems to ensure compliance with the Lobbying Act.
- Regularly reviewed the Management Accounts / projected outlook.
- Received an update on the key risks, business and performance of IFA Member Services.
- Received updates on a number of ongoing governance and disciplinary issues.
- Reviewed proposed rule changes, subsequently approved by National Council on 11th June 2025.
- Recommended to the National Rules, Privileges and Procedures Committee that policies and procedures for the 2027 election cycle be reviewed as soon as possible, recognising the impact of the restriction on membership lists under GDPR.

Finances of the Association

Implementation of the membership fee increase from March 2024 addressed the operational deficits of the Association in 2024 and 2025. However, increased activity and inflationary cost increases have significantly reduced the operating surplus in the year ended March 2025 compared to Marh 2024. The Committee understands that the Finance Committee has the situation under review.

Appreciation

I want to thank my fellow members of the Audit and Risk Committee, the Management and the National Council for their commitment and contribution to the work of the Committee.

Eamonn Looney
Chair, Audit and Risk Committee

Oireachtas Engagement

Lobbying

IFA continued to advance the position of farmers by communicating issues to Oireachtas members and Government Departments by:

- Building relationships with the Government, Taoiseach, Tánaiste and Government advisers.
- Engaging with all political parties, seeking to influence and progress key issues and ensure delivery for farmers on the Programme for Government commitments.
- Devising/executing IFA's political operation at national/ constituency/county level.
- Briefing front bench spokespersons in Opposition parties.
- Presenting to Oireachtas Committees on key policy issues

Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015 – IFA Compliance

Since 2015, IFA is a registered lobbyist and has published 3,485[1] lobbying returns. IFA annually publishes lobbying activities, which sees the Organisation at the very top of the lobbying register in terms of activity.

Lobbying Campaigns on behalf of farmers in 2025 included:

- Retention of the Nitrates Derogation
- Mercosur Trade Deal
- EU Multiannual Financial Framework framework (MFF) / CAP Budget
- CAP Simplification
- Budget 2026
- Finance Bill 2025
- Energy from Farms
- Tillage Sector in Crisis
- Bovine TB
- Agri Taxation - Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT)
- EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR)
- Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)
- Flat Rate Addition (FRA) - Non VAT Registered Farmers - Poultry Growers
- Forestry Programme 2023-2027
- Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES)
- Targeted Agricultural Modernisation Scheme (TAMS)
- Storm Éowyn
- Straw Incorporation Measure Scheme and Grain Supports
- Ireland's Climate Targets 2026 - 2030
- Emission Reduction Supports
- Fair Deal and Older People in Rural Areas
- GAEC-2 Appeals
- Nitrates – Four Day Notification of Movements of Organic Nutrients
- Food Inflation
- Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)
- Live Exports
- Review of Occupations List for Employment Permits 2025
- Uisce Éireann's Non-Domestic Tariff Framework (NDTF) (Water Charges)
- Uplands Recreation Scheme
- Organic Farm Scheme
- Walks Scheme
- Forgotten Farmer Scheme
- Scheme of Investment Aid for the Development of Commercial Horticulture
- Greenways
- Farm Safety Week 2025
- Dog Control and Sheep Worrying
- An Rialálaí Agraibhia (Agri-Food Regulator)
- Challenges in Securing Planning Permission in Rural Ireland
- IFA Countryside

IFA President Francie Gorman lobbying Chair of the Oireachtas Committee on Agriculture and Food Aindrais Moynihan TD on IFA's Budget 2026 priorities.

- National Rural Safety Forum
- Farmers' Charter of Rights
- Plant protection products / Emergency authorisation
- Supports for Irish Aquaculture sector
- Flooding – Lough Funshinagh, Co. Roscommon

IFA made presentations to the **Joint Oireachtas Committee on Agriculture and Food** on:

- Dog Control and Sheep Worrying
- Farmer Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Mercosur - use of antibiotics and growth hormones in beef production

IFA made a presentation to the **Joint Oireachtas Committee on Climate, Environment and Energy** on the key barriers that may prevent Ireland from meeting its 2026 - 2030 climate change targets.

IFA made a presentation to the **Joint Oireachtas Committee on Transport** on Greenway Development on Farmland.

IFA Aquaculture made a presentation to the **Joint Oireachtas Committee on Fisheries and Maritime Affairs** on Aquaculture Innovation and Development.

IFA made a presentation to the **Joint Oireachtas Committee on Housing, Local Government and Heritage** on Planning Regulations for Solar Farms.

IFA Submissions to Government Departments included:

- Submission regarding the Review of Exempted Development
- Submission on Competitiveness and the Cost of Doing Business in Ireland
- An analysis of Irish food price increases
- IFA Energy from Farms Policy Proposals
- IFA / MII submisison on Mercosur / EU Trade Deal
- Budget 2026
- Finance Bill 2025
- Sectoral Adaption Plan 2025 Agriculture, Forestry and Seafood
- 6th Nitrates Action Programme
- IFA / IFJ Report into Brazil Investigation
- Local Democracy Taskforce Stakeholder Engagement

IFA participated in the following:

- Government Brexit Stakeholder Form
- Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment - Cost of Business Advisory Forum
- Government Trade Forum

Elaine Farrell

Elaine Farrell
Director of Governance and Oireachtas Engagement

1 www.lobbying.ie (31st December 2025)

Communications

IFA President Francie Gorman being interviewed by David McCullagh for RTE Six One live from Ploughing 2025

The Press Office supported high-profile campaigns with full communications plans during the year, particularly around three main campaigns: opposition to the Mercosur trade deal; retention of the Nitrates derogation; and the formation of the next CAP.

We also developed a plan around the second iteration of the Farmer Health Checks programme and our pre-Budget campaign, with a strong focus on support for the tillage sector.

Our weekly e-newsletter continues to have a very high reach. It is sent to over 22,000 members each week and the average open rate is 44%, which is far in excess of established metrics in other sectors. It remains consistently over 40% each week.

Followers to our X and Facebook channels have reached a plateau over the last 12 months.

Instagram and TikTok have grown 21% and 26% respectively in 2025.

In 2025, we have significantly increased out video output, with productions such as TB - A Farmer's Story and Farm Safety Week - Philippa's Story being some of the best performing video campaigns this year.

Our media monitoring sentiment barometer shows that IFA is viewed either neutrally or positively by 80% of those who interact with our messaging.

IFA.ie

IFA's central online resource – www.ifa.ie – continues to be updated daily with news on IFA campaigns, policies, market prices and reports, while also providing a comprehensive library of policy submissions, sector specific resources and membership benefits, supports and services.

Last year, approximately 360,000 people accessed the site, generating more than 2.9 million views.

The most visited content over the past year included market prices; details on joining IFA; our Farmer Health Checks programme; the Member Benefits section; and our campaign pages and policy publications.

IFA App Analytics

To date, there has been 19,700 downloads of the IFA App across the Apple and Google Play app stores.

The IFA App contains all the latest IFA news, videos, price updates, scheme info and access to our other tools and services. Details on downloading the IFA App can be found at IFA.ie/App.

Niall Madigan
Head of Communications

Sean Hennessy, Communications Executive

Organisation

IFA signs new exclusive member deal with VHI Healthcare – at the launch (l-r) IFA Director of Organisation James Kelly, IFA Deputy President Alice Doyle, IFA Farm Family and Social Affairs Chair Teresa Roche and MD Vhi Healthcare Mark McCrohan

Patrick McCormick
National Treasurer

Membership

The total number of voting members of the Association was 71,432 at year end March 2025. The total Association membership when taking all membership channels into account (main member, family, associate and countryside) was 75,432. Membership income represented approximately 60% of operational income and supports a wide range of services for members including the local office support structure; member communications (membership card/pack, newsletters, web, social media); personal accident insurance; voluntary officer structure and participation; the member benefits programme; member supports (Debt Support Service, Direct Payments and Inspections, Legal Helpline, Pieta House); and all major activity on campaigns.

Levy

The IFA levy income represents approximately 40% of the Association's operational income and contributes towards ensuring all farmer interests are professionally and comprehensively represented at European and international level. The income from IFA levy is influenced by changes in price, volumes and efficiency levels. IFA continued to engage with all levy collectors to introduce improved structures between the Association and collectors, and to maximise levy returns to the Association.

Member Benefits and Services

The member benefits and services package associated with IFA Membership significantly outweighs the membership subscription cost. Our membership saving is worth well in excess of €1,000 in contract values. IFA Member Services continues to act as an important point of contact with members – outlining the exclusive savings benefits that best suit their needs. In addition, our sales and customer service department offer the opportunity to talk directly to an agent rather than to recorded messages. They deal with over 140,000 calls, member queries and other membership related issues throughout the year. A continuous effort is maintained around reviewing and improving the benefits package and services we have for our members.

Organisation

Farm and Home Business Benefits

- Personal Accident Cover with FBD
- €95 off motor, home and farm insurance with FBD
- 5% off a range of 26 plans with VHI Healthcare **NEW**
- 15% off with Calor gas **NEW**
- Exclusive savings on home phone/broadband and exceptional customer service with IFA Fibre from only €35 pm
- Electricity offers to suit members needs from Bord Gáis Energy; 28% off and €120 cash back or a 36% straight discount
- Exclusive mobile discounts on price plans, and our exclusive farm family plan offers SIMs from as little as €10 pm and a wide range of mobile handsets with Vodafone
- Competitive mobile broadband price plans with Vodafone
- Exclusive mobile upgrade offers with Vodafone
- Up to €300 off with IFAC
- Home security deal with Phone Watch
- Leisure/Travel/Lifestyle
- 15% off Original Irish Hotels
- 15% off motorist fares with Stena Line
- 10% off global car hire and 15% off van hire with Hertz
- Member Education and Development

Member Support Helplines

As the needs of the Association's members grow, so do the range of free member helplines and support services. Some of the most popular services include:

- Legal helpline
- Direct Payments and Inspections
- Debt support service
- Crime prevention
- Training and development

Solar

IFA Member Services in partnership with Bord Gáis Energy launched a new rooftop solar proposition in 2023. This was in response to our member needs to reduce input costs and help reduce farm emissions and part of a drive for Green Transformation. To date, this has been a very successful launch with over 2000 IFA members registering their interest and we are currently engaged with c.400 farm installations. IFA Solar on average saves farmers €4000-€6000 per annum on energy costs and has a very attractive payback of 2-4 years.

Member Education and Development

The IFA's training division, **Farm Business Skillnet (FBS)**, delivered training to almost **1,500 farmers in 2025**, providing a wide range of leadership, management, and practical skills programmes.

IFA National Council

Training included modules in *Leadership, Media, Management Development, and Communications*, supporting Council members in their representative and leadership roles.

County Officer Training and Team Building

FBS continued to deliver its dedicated course for County Officers, focusing on team building and effective representation at county level.

Practical Training Courses

FBS also offered a broad range of **heavily subsidised practical courses**, benefiting hundreds of farmers nationwide.

Highlights included

- Online *TAMS Health and Safety* training for over **500 farmers**
- Specialist courses such as *Hoofcare* and *Sheep Shearing*
- *Poultry Passport* training for poultry farmers, covering *Welfare, Biosecurity, and First Aid* modules

Discussion Groups

Discussion groups remained active throughout the year, engaging in tailored training on *Time and People Management and Group Purchasing*.

IFA Countryside Training

IFA Countryside delivered a diverse range of specialist courses, including *Firearm Proficiency, Humane Deer Despatch, the Hunter Competence Assessment Programme (HCAP), Game Meat Handling*, and *Applied Fundamentals of Rifle Shooting*.

Looking ahead, new courses planned for **2026** include *Stone Wall Building* and *Beekeeping*.

Workshops and Events

FBS sponsored a well-attended "**Family Farm Succession and Inheritance**" workshop in Wexford, attracting significant interest from farm families across the region.

The division also proudly served as **Silver Sponsor** of the **Dairy Women Ireland Conference** in Charleville, where over **200 female dairy farmers** gathered to hear from key industry speakers and participate in an engaging panel discussion introduced by IFA Deputy President and Farm Business Skillnet Chair, **Alice Doyle**.

Crime Prevention

IFA's Crime Prevention Office had a busy 2025 helping members and rural communities combat the threat of loss and business interruption. Through awareness campaigns, practical crime prevention tips were provided at critical periods to give IFA members a reminder and to encourage them to be proactive in security matters and to enable them to secure and protect their property.

IFA raised rural crime and security matters through a number of specific Member initiatives and engagements in partnership with An Garda Síochána including:

- Engagement with Rural crime prevention officers
- Joint Chairmanship of the National Rural Safety Forum

Patrick McCormick, National Treasurer
James Kelly, Director of Organisation

Ready to Lead 2025

IFA / FBD Ready to Lead 2025 participants at the European Commission Berlaymont building in November, led by IFA Deputy President Alice Doyle and IFA Director of European Affairs Liam MacHale on days five and six of the programme on the IFA in Brussels, Copa-Cogeca and the European institutions.

Alice Doyle
Deputy President

In 2025, IFA, in partnership with FBD Trust and Farm Business Skillnet, launched the inaugural running of the *Ready to Lead programme*.

This initiative aims to develop the next generation of leaders within the farming community, equipping them with the skills and knowledge to effectively navigate and influence policy for the agricultural sector.

The programme received a very strong level of high-calibre applications from across the country, reflecting the interest and ambition among young farmers to take on leadership roles. The selection process was highly competitive, with candidates demonstrating a deep passion for farming, leadership potential, and a commitment to representing their fellow farmers at local, national, and European levels.

More than 100 farmers applied, with 25 participants selected from across all counties and sectors. The programme featured industry and political speakers from both Irish and European levels, alongside a comprehensive introduction to lobbying and policy influence.

The six-day programme, spread across three two-day modules throughout 2025, provided participants with a comprehensive experience, including sessions with leaders in the sector; meetings with political representatives in Dublin; and a guided tour of Brussels and its EU institutions.

This structure of the programme is designed to offer valuable insights into both national and European policy-making processes.

Participants in the Ready to Lead Programme may be co-opted onto a National IFA Committee for two years (see IFA Rule 25 d).

2026 programme

Aimed at younger farmers with a passion for advocacy and leadership, the *Ready to Lead programme* will return in 2026, following its strong inaugural success.

Alice Doyle, Deputy President

Ready to Lead 2025

Launching IFA / FBD Ready to Lead Programme 2026 (l-r) Secretary FBD Trust Paul Murphy, IFA Deputy President Alice Doyle, Chair FBD Trust Michael Berkery, IFA President Francie Gorman

IFA / FBD Ready to Lead 2025 participants in May, with IFA President Francie Gorman and IFA Director General Damian McDonald at the Irish Farm Centre, Dublin for days one and two of the programme on an introduction to IFA, FBD and representing IFA on Boards.

IFA / FBD Ready to Lead 2025 participants, led by IFA Deputy President Alice Doyle visiting Dáil Éireann in September as part of days three and four of the programme on the Irish political system, lobbying and leadership.

IFA Briefing of Oireachtas Members - Budget 2026

IFA Briefing of Oireachtas Members - Budget 2026

Annual Report and Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Statement of National Council's Responsibilities

Independent Auditor's Report

Consolidated Income and Expenditure Account

Consolidated Balance Sheet

Consolidated Statement of Changes in Equity

Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows

Notes to the Financial Statements

Supplementary Information

NATIONAL COUNCILS' RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The constitution and rules of the Association require the National Council to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Association and the results of the Association for that period. In preparing those financial statements, it is necessary to:

- select suitable accounting policies for the Association Financial Statements and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the relevant financial reporting framework, identify those standards, and note the effect and the reasons for any material departure from those standards;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Association will continue in business and
- The National Council is responsible for ensuring that the Association keeps or causes to be kept adequate accounting records which correctly explain and record the transactions of the Association, enable at any time the assets, liabilities, financial position and profit or loss of the Association to be determined with reasonable accuracy and enable the financial statements to be audited. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Association and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Independent Auditor's Report to the National Council of The Irish Farmers' Association

Report on the audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Irish Farmers' Association (the 'Association') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') for the year ended 31 March 2025, which comprise the consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income, the consolidated Balance Sheet, the consolidated Statement of Changes in Equity, the consolidated Statement of Cash Flows and the notes to the financial statements. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', issued by the Financial Reporting Council.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the Group as at 31 March 2025 and of its surplus for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland) (ISAs (Ireland)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Group and the Association in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of financial statements in Ireland, including the Ethical Standard issued by the Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority (IAASA), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Councils' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Group's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the National Council with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The National Council are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual review, other than the financial statements and our Auditors' report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of National Council

As explained more fully in the Statement of National Councils' Responsibilities, the National Council are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the National Council determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the National Council are responsible for assessing the Group's and the parent Association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the National Council either intends to liquidate the Association or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditors' Report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (Ireland) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the IAASA's website at: https://www.iaasa.ie/Publications/Auditing standards. This description forms part of our Auditors' Report.

Opinion on other matters

Based solely on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, we report that:

- We have obtained all the information and explanations which we consider necessary for the purposes of our audit.
- In our opinion the accounting records of the group were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited.
- The financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records.
- In our opinion the information given in the National Councils' report is consistent with the financial statements and the National Councils' report has been prepared accordingly.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

Based on the knowledge and understanding of the group and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the National Councils' report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the Association's Council, as a body. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Association's Council those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditors' Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the group and the Association and the Association's Council, as a body for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Brendan Mullally

Brendan Mullally
for and on behalf of
RBK Business Advisers

Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm
Termini, 3 Arkle Road , Sandyford , Dublin 18

Date: 15th December 2025

Consolidated Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 March 2025

	Notes	2025 (€)	2024 (€)
Income	3	**17,672,605**	16,140,623
Expenditure	4	**(16,850,712)**	(17,040,707)
Other interest receivable and similar income	7	**9,073**	4,871
Operating surplus / (deficit)	5	**830,966**	(895,213)
Share of operating surplus in associate undertakings	11	**57,975**	90,694
Fair value gain on investments	10	**952,181**	630,005
Profit on disposal of investments		**14,527**	22,136
Surplus / (deficit) before taxation		**1,855,649**	(152,378)
Taxation charge	8	**(304,317)**	(277,223)
Surplus / (deficit) for the financial year		**1,551,332**	(429,601)
Surplus / (deficit) for the financial year attributable to: Members of the Association		**1,551,332**	(429,601)
		1,551,332	(429,601)

Results derive from continuing operations in the current and prior year.

The Financial Statements were approved by the National Council on 15th December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

Francie Gorman
President

Patrick McCormick
National Treasurer

Damian McDonald
Director General

Consolidated Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2025

	Notes	2025 (€)	2024 (€)
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets	9	**388,112**	494,516
Financial investments	10	**18,410,644**	16,514,572
Other investments	11	**3,179,714**	3,136,800
		21,978,470	20,145,888
Current assets			
Debtors: amounts falling due within one year	12	**877,611**	893,712
Cash at bank and in hand	13	**3,105,984**	2,948,269
		3,983,595	3,841,981
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	**(4,124,679)**	(3,979,871)
Net current (liabilities)/assets		**(141,084)**	(137,890)
Total assets less current liabilities		**21,837,386**	20,007,998
Provision for liabilities	16	**(3,025,149)**	(2,747,093)
		(3,025,149)	(2,747,093)
Net assets		**18,812,237**	17,260,905
Capital and reserves			
Accumulated surplus		**18,812,237**	17,260,905

The Financial Statements were approved by the National Council on 15th December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

Francie Gorman
President

Patrick McCormick
National Treasurer

Damian McDonald
Director General

Consolidated Statement of Changes in Equity for the year ended 31 March 2025

	Accumulated surplus (€)	Total (€)
At 1 April 2023	17,690,506	17,690,506
Comprehensive income for the year		
Deficit for the year	(429,601)	(429,601)
Other comprehensive income for the year	-	-
At 1 April 2024	17,260,905	17,260,905
Comprehensive income for the year		
Surplus for the year	1,551,332	1,551,332
Other comprehensive income for the year	-	-
At 31 March 2025	18,812,237	18,812,237

Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 March 2025

	2025 (€)	2024 (€)
Cash flows from operating activities		
Operating surplus / (deficit)	**830,966**	(895,213)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation of tangible assets	**139,741**	121,420
Gain on disposal of assets	**(14,527)**	(22,136)
Dividend and investment income received	**(933,282)**	(926,748)
Interest received	**(9,073)**	(4,871)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	**31,365**	(139,926)
Increase in creditors	**144,810**	231,594
Corporation tax	**(26,261)**	(70,977)
Net cash generated from operating activities	**163,738**	(1,706,857)
Cash flows from investing activities		
Payments to acquire investments	**(1,813,094)**	(1,213,255)
Receipts on disposal of investments	**898,053**	1,124,309
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets	**(33,337)**	(145,472)
Receipts from disposal of tangible fixed assets	**-**	38,538
Interest received	**9,073**	4,871
Dividend and investment income received	**933,282**	926,748
Net cash from investing activities	**(6,023)**	735,739
Net increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	**157,715**	(971,118)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	**2,948,269**	3,919,387
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of year	**3,105,984**	2,948,269
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of year comprise:		
Cash at bank and in hand	**3,105,984**	2,948,269
	3,105,984	2,948,269

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

1. Accounting policies

1.1 General information and basis of accounting

The objective of the Irish Farmers Association is to protect, foster and advance the interests of all farmers and to do all things necessary for, incidental or ancillary to the protection, fostering and advancement of the interests of such farmers or farming, and to have all the powers necessary or incidental or ancillary to the achievement of such objectives. The Association's address is the Irish Farm Centre, Bluebell, Dublin 12.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value, and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS 102) issued by the Financial Reporting Council.

The functional currency of The Irish Farmers Association is considered to be euro because that is the currency of the primary economic environment in which the company operates.

1.2 Basis of consolidation

The financial statements of the Association incorporate the financial statements of all core activities and entities controlled by the Association, as outlined in Note 18, together with those of all county executives. Transactions between the Association and the other entities have been eliminated in the Consolidated Income and Expenditure Account and the Consolidated Balance Sheet.

The results of associates are included in the consolidation using the equity method.

1.3 Going concern

The financial statements are prepared on the going concern basis. The Association had net current liabilities of €141,084 (2024: net liabilities €137,890) and the Association remained in a net asset position of €18,812,237 (2024: €17,260,905) at the balance sheet date.

The National Council, having considered budgets prepared by management and the ability to generate cash from various options if required which may include an affiliation fee increase or a disposal of financial assets, have a reasonable expectation that the Association and the Group have adequate resources to continue in operational existence for a period of at least twelve months from the date of signing of the financial statements. Thus, they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the annual financial statements.

1.4 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment. Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets, at rates calculated to write off the cost or valuation, less estimated residual value, of each asset on a reducing balance basis over its expected useful life, as follows:

Office equipment	10%-25%	Motor vehicles	25%
Fixtures and fittings	10%-20%	Buildings	4%

1.5 Financial instruments

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the Group becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the Group after deducting all of its liabilities.

(i) Financial assets and liabilities

All financial assets and liabilities are initially measured at transaction price (including transaction costs), except for those financial assets classified as at fair value through profit or loss, which are initially measured at fair value (which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs), unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction. If an arrangement constitutes a finance transaction, the financial asset or financial liability is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Non current debt instruments which meet the following conditions are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method:

a) Returns to the holder are (i) a fixed amount; or (ii) a fixed rate of return over the life of the instrument; or (iii) a variable return that, throughout the life of the instrument, is equal to a single referenced quoted or observable interest rate; or (iv) some combination of such fixed rate and variable rates, providing that both rates are positive.

b) There is no contractual provision that could, by its terms, result in the holder losing the principal amount or any interest attributable to the current period or prior period.

c) Contractual provisions that permit the issuer to prepay a debt instrument or permit the holder to put it back to the issuer before maturity are not contingent on future events, other than to protect the holder against credit deterioration of the issuer or a change in control of the issuer or to protect the holder or issuer against changes in relevant taxation or law.

d) There are no conditional returns or repayment provisions except for the variable rate return described in (a) and prepayment provisions described in (c).

Debt instruments that are classified as payable or receivable within one year and which meet the above conditions are measured at the undiscounted amount of the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received, net of impairment.

Other debt instruments not meeting these conditions are measured at fair value through profit or loss.

Commitments to make and receive loans which meet the conditions mentioned above are measured at cost (which may be nil) less impairment.

Financial assets are derecognised when and only when a) the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expire or are settled, b) the Group transfers to another party substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of the financial asset, or c) the Group, despite having retained some significant risks and rewards of ownership, has transferred control of the asset to another party and the other party has the practical ability to sell the asset in its entirety to an unrelated third party and is able to exercise that ability unilaterally and without needing to impose additional restrictions on the transfer.

Financial liabilities are derecognised only when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expires.

(ii) Investments

Investments in non puttable ordinary or preference shares (where shares are publicly traded or their fair value is reliably measurable) are measured at fair value through profit or loss. Where fair value cannot be measured reliably, investments are measured at cost less impairment.

(iii) Fair value measurement

The best evidence of fair value is a quoted price for an identical asset in an active market. When quoted prices are unavailable, the price of a recent transaction for an identical asset provides evidence of fair value as long as there has not been a significant change in economic circumstances or a significant lapse of time since the transaction took place. If the market is not active and recent transactions of an identical asset on their own are not a good estimate of fair value, the Association estimates the fair value by using a valuation technique.

1.6 Associates

In the Group financial statements investments in associates are accounted for using the equity method. Investments in associates are initially recognised at the transaction price (including transaction costs) and are subsequently adjusted to reflect the Group's share of the profit or loss and other comprehensive income of the associate. Goodwill arising on the acquisition of associates is accounted for in accordance with the policy set out above. Any unamortised balance of goodwill is included in the carrying value of the investment in associates.

The carrying value of the investment in associate undertakings represents investments in associate together with a share of associates' profit/(loss) to date.

1.7 Impairment of assets

Assets, other than those measured at fair value, are assessed for indicators of impairment at each balance sheet date. If there is objective evidence of impairment, an impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss.

1.8 Taxation

Current tax, including Irish corporation tax, is provided at amounts expected to be paid (or recovered) using the tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the balance sheet date. The current tax also comprises of capital gains tax based on the disposal of shares and deposit interest retention tax (DIRT) suffered on interest income.

Deferred tax is recognised in respect of all timing differences that have originated but not reversed at the balance sheet date where transactions or events that result in an obligation to pay more tax in the future or a right to pay less tax in the future have occurred at the balance sheet date. Timing differences are differences between the Group's taxable profits and its results as stated in the financial statements that arise from the inclusion of gains and losses in tax assessments in periods different from those in which they are recognised in the financial statements.

Unrelieved tax losses and other deferred tax assets are recognised only to the extent that, on the basis of all available evidence, it can be regarded as more likely than not that there will be suitable taxable profits from which the future reversal of the underlying timing differences can be deducted. When the amount that can be deducted for tax for an asset (other than goodwill) that is recognised in a business combination is less (more) than the value at which it is recognised, a deferred tax liability (asset) is recognised for the additional tax that will be paid (avoided) in respect of that difference. Similarly, a deferred tax asset (liability) is recognised for the additional tax that will be avoided (paid) because of a difference between the value at which a liability is recognised and the amount that will be assessed for tax. The amount attributed to goodwill is adjusted by the amount of deferred tax recognised.

Deferred tax liabilities are recognised for timing differences arising from investments in subsidiaries and associates, except where the Group is able to control the reversal of the timing difference and it is probable that it will not reverse in the foreseeable future.

Deferred tax is measured using the tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the balance sheet date that are expected to apply to the reversal of the timing difference. Deferred tax relating to property, plant and equipment measured using the revaluation model and investment property is measured using the tax rates and allowances that apply to sale of the asset.

The tax expense or income is presented in the same component of comprehensive income or equity as the transaction or other event that resulted in the tax expense or income.

Current tax assets and liabilities are offset only when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the amounts and the Group intends either to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are offset only if the Group has a legally enforceable right to set off current tax assets against current tax liabilities; and b) the deferred tax assets and deferred tax liabilities relate to income taxes levied by the same taxation authority on either the same taxable entity or different taxable entities which intend either to settle current tax liabilities and assets on a net basis, or to realise the assets and settle the liabilities simultaneously, in each future period in which significant amounts of deferred tax liabilities or assets are expected to be settled or recovered.

1.9 Income

(i) Affiliation fees are accounted for in the financial year during which they are received.

(ii) All other income is accounted for in the financial year in respect of which it is receivable.

1.10 Retirement benefits

The Association participates in a defined contribution scheme for certain employees which is funded by the payment of contributions to a separately administered fund. The assets of the funds are held separately from those of the Association. For the defined contribution schemes the cost of providing benefits is charged to operating profit as incurred.

2. Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the Group's accounting policies, which are described in note 1, the National Council are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

Critical judgement in applying the Group's accounting policies

The following are the critical judgements that the National Council have made in the process of applying the Group's accounting policies and that have the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements.

Key source of estimation uncertainty

Voluntary member expense

Due to the nature of the voluntary member expense accruals and the time lag noted around members claiming expenses that they have incurred but not yet claimed; management note that there is a greater degree of estimation uncertainty associated with these expenses. Management estimates the expense based on estimated amounts incurred and historical claim patterns.

Legal claims and costs

Legal claims and their associated costs by their nature are uncertain, where there is a potential expense this is accrued on consultation with legal counsel and their best estimate or settlement of such claims.

3. Income

An analysis of the Group's income by class of business is set out below.

Income	2025 (€)	2024 (€)
Broadband and phone services	**5,259,282**	5,251,913
Membership contributions	**7,730,875**	6,349,129
European Involvement Fund levies	**3,354,786**	3,087,635
Trust fund contributions	**330,000**	330,000
Net income from fixed asset investments	**860,633**	854,931
Other income	**137,029**	267,015
	17,672,605	16,140,623

All group income was earned in the Republic of Ireland.

4. Expenditure

An analysis of the Group's expenditure is set out below.

Expenditure:	2025 (€)	2024 (€)
IFA Telecom expenses (including staff costs)	**5,279,376**	5,221,432
IFA staff costs	**6,227,398**	6,123,466
Voluntary costs	**1,086,795**	993,556
Premises	**463,529**	460,939
Communications	**373,357**	427,296
Research	**8,916**	30,218
Public relations	**601,835**	529,209
Professional fees	**377,749**	232,879
Affiliation fees	**123,852**	116,518
Financial and IT charges	**344,744**	344,436
Foreign travel	**63,368**	63,546
Brussels office	**680,044**	580,376
Membership recruitment	**429,822**	493,721
Membership promotion	**430,482**	516,761
Other expenditure	**359,445**	906,354
	16,850,712	17,040,707

5. Surplus/(deficit) on ordinary activities before taxation

Surplus / (deficit) on ordinary activities before taxation is stated after charging/ (crediting):	2025 (€)	2024 (€)
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	**139,741**	121,420
Exchange differences	**6,170**	(1,422)
Defined contribution pension cost	**538,222**	511,366

The analysis of the auditor's remuneration is as follows:

Auditor's remuneration for work carried out for the Group in respect of the financial year is as follows:	2025 (€)	2024 (€)
Irish Farmers Association	**29,000**	28,000
IFA Telecom	**13,000**	13,000
ISGA	**1,000**	1,000
Total Group	**43,000**	42,000

6. Remuneration of key management personnel

The salaries and payments paid to key management personnel, analysed under the headings below, are provided as best practice disclosures and are not required under company law.

	2025 (€)	2024 (€)
President (Gorman) Gross Salary	**88,601**	32,487
Net amount charged	**88,601**	32,487
President (Cullinan) Gross Salary	**-**	52,727
Net amount charged	**-**	52,727

The Remuneration Committee agreed that the salary of the President should be €140,000. This amount is reduced by any directors' fees payable by outside bodies that came as a consequence of the IFA office

Deputy President (Doyle) Gross Salary	**28,030**	9,282
Net amount charged	**28,030**	9,282
Deputy President (Rushe) Gross Salary	**-**	23,162
Net amount charged	**-**	23,162

The Remuneration Committee agreed that the salary of the Deputy President should be €40,000. This amount would be reduced by any directors' fees payable by outside bodies that came as a consequence of the IFA office.

Director General		
Salary	**226,798**	215,998
Employer pension contribution	**34,020**	32,400
	260,818	248,398
Executive management		
Salary	**632,039**	601,347
Employer pension contribution	**111,029**	106,243
Key management compensation	**743,068**	707,590
National Council		
Net amount charged	**194,160**	190,060

The average remuneration for the top 15 staff after the executive management was:

Salary	**103,310**	102,010
Employer pension contribution	**12,825**	12,671
	116,135	114,681

7. Interest receivable

	2025 (€)	2024 (€)
Other interest receivable	**9,073**	4,871

8. Tax on ordinary activities

The tax credit comprises:	2025 (€)	2024 (€)
Corporation tax	**12,627**	37,411
Debit movement in deferred tax liability (Note 16)	**278,056**	201,868
Other taxes incurred	**13,634**	37,944
Total tax charge on ordinary activities	**304,317**	277,223

The differences between the total tax charge shown above and the amount calculated by applying the standard rate of Irish corporation tax to the surplus before tax is as follows:

	2025 (€)	2024 (€)
Surplus / (Deficit) on ordinary activities	**1,855,649**	(152,378)
	1,855,649	(152,378)
Before tax 12.5% (2024: 12.5%)		
Tax if charged at standard corporation rate	**231,956**	(19,042)
Expenses not taxable in determining taxable surplus	**(4,577)**	(53,440)
Impact of other taxes	**76,938**	349,705
Group tax charge for the period	**304,317**	277,223

9. Tangible Assets

Group	Buildings (€)	Motor Vehicles (€)	Fixtures and Fittings (€)	Office Equipment (€)	Total (€)
Cost or valuation					
At 1 April 2024	**219,206**	**233,903**	**889,685**	**409,125**	**1,751,919**
Additions	**-**	**-**	**5,209**	**28,128**	**33,337**
Disposals	**-**	**-**	**-**	**(65,044)**	**(65,044)**
At 31 March 2025	**219,206**	**233,903**	**894,894**	**372,209**	**1,720,212**
Depreciation					
At 1 April 2024	**52,609**	**116,818**	**834,693**	**253,283**	**1,257,403**
Charge for the year	**8,768**	**29,271**	**21,235**	**80,467**	**139,741**
Disposals	**-**	**-**	**-**	**(65,044)**	**(65,044)**
At 31 March 2025	**61,377**	**146,089**	**855,928**	**268,706**	**1,332,100**
Net book value					
At 31 March 2025	**157,829**	**87,814**	**38,966**	**103,503**	**388,112**
At 31 March 2024	166,597	117,085	54,992	155,842	494,516

10. Financial investments

	2025 (€)	2024 (€)
Quoted investments at market value	**18,410,644**	16,514,572
Opening balance	**16,514,572**	15,738,490
Net additions / (disposals) during the financial year	**943,891**	146,077
Movements in fair value of investments	**952,181**	630,005
	18,410,644	16,514,572

Quoted investments represent shares held by the fund in publicly quoted companies. The cost of these shares was €7,274,432 (2024: €7,093,590).

Reserve Fund:

€14,043,689 (2024: €13,064,588) of the above balance relates specifically to the reserve fund assets.

The Reserve Fund was established by the National Council in December 1985 to maintain a financial reserve for the organisation that could be drawn down into the general fund under exceptional circumstances.

The Reserve fund includes the following elements:

500,564 shares in FBD valued at €7,183,093 as of 31st March 2025.

255,684 shares in Farmer Business Developments PLC valued at €488,356 as of 31st March 2025.

The National Finance Committee will take whatever steps are necessary to ensure these investments are retained.

These investments shall not be sold without the passing of a resolution by the National Council.

In addition (although, not part of the Reserve Fund) the IFA has a shareholding in the Irish Farm Centre, currently valued at €3,124,312 as of 30th September 2024, as per their last set of audited accounts.

The IFA shareholding in the Irish Farm Centre shall not be sold without the passing of a resolution by the National Council.

11. Other investments

Unquoted Investments	2025 (€)	2024 (€)
Irish Farm Centre Limited (i)	**3,124,313**	3,081,399
Other investments (ii)	**55,401**	55,401
	3,179,714	3,136,800

	Holding	Business	Registered Office
Irish Farm Centre Limited	48.76%	Office rental and related services	Irish Farm Centre, Bluebell, Dublin 12

During the year, the associate undertaking recorded a profit €118,898 (2024: €186,001) before a taxation charge of €30,891 (2024: €7,781). The associate undertaking had combined net assets of €6,407,531 at year end (2024: €6,319,524). The carrying value of the investment in associate undertakings represents investments in associate together with a share of the associates' profit/(loss) to date, being €3,124,312 (2024: €3,081,399).

(i) Irish Farm Centre Limited	2025 (€)	2024 (€)
Valuation as at 1 April 2024	**3,081,399**	2,994,499
Share of associate's profit / (loss) before taxation	**57,975**	90,694
Share of associate's taxation credit	**(15,062)**	(3,794)
Valuations as at 31 March 2025	**3,124,312**	3,081,399

(ii) Other unquoted investments are held at cost less impairment.

12. Debtors

	2025 (€)	2024 (€)
Debtors	**777,311**	818,116
Accrued income and other debtors	**22,933**	26,520
Corporation tax repayable	**25,688**	10,425
VAT repayable	**51,679**	38,651
	877,611	893,712

13. Cash and cash equivalents

	2025 (€)	2024 (€)
Cash at bank and in hand	**3,105,984**	2,948,269

14. Creditors

Amounts falling due within one year	2025 (€)	2024 (€)
Trade creditors	**1,153,880**	1,005,905
PAYE/PRSI/VAT	**235,650**	230,839
Professional / legal and other accruals	**155,670**	200,178
Trade accruals	**1,393,064**	1,326,243
Pension / staff and voluntary expense accruals	**1,186,415**	1,216,706
	4,124,679	3,979,871

15. Financial instruments

Financial assets	2025 (€)	2024 (€)
Measured at fair value through profit or loss	**18,410,644**	16,514,572
Measured at undiscounted amounts receivable	**800,244**	844,636
Measured at cost less impairment	**3,179,714**	3,136,800

Financial assets measured at fair value through profit and loss comprise investments in listed equity instruments.

Financial assets measured at undiscounted amounts receivable comprise trade debtors and accrued income and other debtors.

Financial assets measured at cost less impairment comprise other investments.

Financial liabilities	2025 (€)	2024 (€)
Measured at undiscounted amounts payable	**1,153,880**	1,005,905

Financial liabilities measured at undiscounted amounts payable comprise trade creditors.

The Association's income, expense, gains and losses in respect of financial instruments are summarised below:

	2025 (€)	2024 (€)
On financial assets measured at fair value through profit or loss	**952,181**	630,005
Interest or other income on financial assets measured at amortised cost	**9,073**	4,871

16. Provision for liabilities

Deferred tax is provided as follows:	2025 (€)	2024 (€)
Deferred tax arising in relation to quoted investments	**3,025,149**	2,747,093
Opening balance	**2,747,093**	2,545,225
Movement for the current financial year (Note 8)	**278,056**	201,868
Balance at end of year	**3,025,149**	2,747,093

17. Pensions

The Association operates a defined contribution pension scheme covering certain employees. The net assets of the scheme are held in a separate trustee administered fund. The amount payable to the scheme for the year was €538,222 (2024: €511,366). The amount owed to the scheme at year end is €40 (2024: €66,565).

18. Subsidiaries and related activities

The Association holds investments in or has an interest in subsidiary and related undertakings as follows:

Fresh Milk Producers Association;

Potato Fund;

ICHA;

IFA Telecom Limited; and

Irish Farm Centre Limited

The Association has provided letters of support to certain subsidiaries indicating that it will provide financial assistance where necessary to ensure the going concern of that entity.

19. Comparative balances

Where necessary, comparative balances have been reclassed on the basis of current year presentation.

20. Ultimate control

The group is controlled by its members as a group. In the opinion of the National Council there is no ultimate controlling party or parent.

21. Approval of Financial Statements

The National Council approved these financial statements for issue on 15th December 2025.

Supplementary information

	At 31 March 2025				At 31 March 2024			
	IFA 2025 (€)	IFA Telecom Limited 2025 (€)	Consolidation adjustment 2025 (€)	Total 2025 (€)	IFA 2024 (€)	IFA Telecom Limited 2024 (€)	Consolidation adjustment 2024 (€)	Total 2024 (€)
FIXED ASSETS								
Tangible assets	**321,382**	**66,730**	**-**	**388,112**	395,922	98,594	-	494,516
Financial investments	**14,043,688**	**4,366,956**	**-**	**18,410,644**	13,064,588	3,449,984	-	16,514,572
Other investments	**3,179,714**	**-**	**-**	**3,179,714**	3,136,800	-	-	3,136,800
	17,544,784	**4,433,686**	**-**	**21,978,470**	16,597,310	3,548,578	-	20,145,888
CURRENT ASSETS								
Debtors	**315,654**	**3,360,317**	**(2,798,360)**	**877,611**	949,279	3,282,557	(3,338,124)	893,712
Cash at bank and in hand	**2,321,900**	**784,084**	**-**	**3,105,984**	1,505,709	1,442,560	-	2,948,269
	2,637,554	**4,144,401**	**(2,798,360)**	**3,983,595**	2,454,988	4,725,117	(3,338,124)	3,841,981
CREDITORS: (Amounts falling due within one year)	**(5,976,213)**	**(946,826)**	**2,798,360**	**(4,124,679)**	(6,601,751)	(716,244)	3,338,124	(3,979,871)
NET CURRENT (LIABILITIES)/ASSETS	**(3,338,659)**	**3,197,575**	**-**	**(141,084)**	(4,146,763)	4,008,873	-	(137,890)
Provision for liabilities	**(2,608,911)**	**(416,238)**	**-**	**(3,025,149)**	(2,344,787)	(402,306)	-	(2,747,093)
NET ASSETS	**11,597,214**	**7,215,023**	**-**	**18,812,237**	10,105,760	7,155,145	-	17,260,905
CAPITAL AND RESERVES								
Accumulated surplus	**11,597,214**	**7,215,023**	**-**	**18,812,237**	10,105,760	7,155,145	-	17,260,905
CAPITAL EMPLOYED	**11,597,214**	**7,215,023**	**-**	**18,812,237**	10,105,760	7,155,145	-	17,260,905

	IFA 2025 (€)	SRF 2025 (€)	Others 2025 (€)	IFAT 2025 (€)	IFC 2025 (€)	TOTAL 2025 (€)
Operating (Deficit) / Surplus	29,405	847,661	(46,615)	515	-	**830,966**
Profit before tax from Associate	-	-	-	-	57,975	**57,975**
Profit on disposal of investment	-	4,229	-	10,298	-	**14,527**
Movement in Investments	-	876,615	-	75,566	-	**952,181**
Operating (Deficit)/Surplus before Taxation	29,405	1,728,505	(46,615)	86,379	57,975	**1,855,649**
Tax	-	1,428	-	(12,627)	(15,062)	**(26,261)**
Deferred Tax	-	(264,124)	-	(13,932)	-	**(278,056)**
Net Result/Retained Earnings	29,405	1,465,809	(46,615)	59,820	42,913	**1,551,332**

IFA Stand at the National Ploughing Championships 2025 - Screggan, County Offaly

IFA Stand at the National Ploughing Championships 2025 - Screggan, County Offaly

National Council Members 2025

National Council Members 2025

MEMBERS 2025		
Name	Position/County	Branch
Francie Gorman	President, Laois	Ballinakill
Alice Doyle	Deputy President , Wexford	Camolin
Frank Brady	Ulster / North Leinster Chair, Monaghan	Aughnamullen
Brendan Golden	Connacht Chair, Mayo	Killala
Paul O'Brien	South Leinster Chair, Kilkenny	Graiguenamanagh
Conor O'Leary	Munster Chair, Cork	Donoughmore
Patrick McCormick	National Treasurer , Monaghan	Threemilehouse
Michael Purcell	Carlow Chair, Carlow	Old Leighlin
Maurice Brady	Cavan Chair, Cavan	Laragh
Stephen Walsh	Clare Chair, Clare	Feakle
Matthew Hurley	Cork Central Chair, Cork	Killeagh
Pat O'Keeffe	Cork North Chair, Cork	Kildorrery
Noel Hurley	Cork North Chair, Cork	Kildorrery
Tadhg Healy	Cork West Chair, Cork	Clonakilty
Joe Sweeney	Donegal Chair, Donegal	Creeslough-Dunfanaghy
Paul Flynn	Dublin Chair, Dublin	Swords
Stephen Canavan	Galway Chair, Galway	Corofin-Ballyglunin
John Finn	Galway 2nd Representative, Galway	Oranmore
Jason Fleming	Kerry Chair, Kerry	Annablaha
Kathleen Herlihy	Kerry 2nd Representative, Kerry	Ballymacelligott
Denis Halpin	Kildare Chair, Kildare	Manor Kilbride
Brendan Hickey	Kilkenny Chair, Kilkenny	Johnstown
Henry Burns	Laois Chair, Laois	Mountmellick
Liam Gilligan	Leitrim Chair, Leitrim	Manorhamilton
Sean Lavery	Limerick Chair, Limerick	Shanagolden
Louise Crowley	Limerick Chair, Limerick	Croom-Meanus
John Sheridan	Longford Chair, Longford	Ballinalee
Kevin Sweeney	Louth Chair, Louth	Ardee
John Lynskey	Mayo Chair, Mayo	Belmullet
Dermot Ward	Meath Chair, Meath	Navan
Tom Treanor	Monaghan Chair, Monaghan	Clones
Pat Walsh	Offaly Chair, Offaly	Cloghan
Patrick Leonard	Roscommon Chair, Roscommon	Kiltoom
Michael O'Dowd	Sligo Chair, Sligo	Achonry
Baden Powell	Tipperary North Chair, Tipperary	Templederry
Pat Carroll	Tipperary South Chair, Tipperary	Cahir

MEMBERS 2025		
Name	Position/County	Branch
Darragh Scott	Tipperary South Chair, Tipperary	Gortnahoe
John Heffernan	Waterford Chair, Waterford	Ballymacarbry
Richard O'Brien	Westmeath Chair, Westmeath	Fardrum
Jer O'Mahony	Wexford Chair, Wexford	Bannow
Tom Doyle	Wexford Chair, Wexford	Camolin
Thomas Byrne	Wicklow Chair, Wicklow	Aughrim
Selena McKenzie	Wicklow Chair, Wicklow	Barndarrig
TJ Maher	Animal Health Chair, Tipperary	Killenaule
Martin McElearney	Dairy Chair, Monaghan	Ballybay
Murphy John	Environment and Rural Affairs Chair, Cork	Inniscarra
Bill O'Keeffe	Farm Business Chair, Kilkenny	Clara
Teresa Roche	Farm Family and Social Affairs Chair, Galway	Abbey
Padraig Stapleton	Farm Forestry Chair, Tipperary	Upperchurch
Kieran McEvoy	Grain Chair, Laois	Portarlington
Cáillin Conneely	Hill Farming Chair, Galway	Connemara
Henry Dunne	Liquid Milk Chair, Wexford	Bree-Galbally
Declan Hanrahan	Livestock Chair, Laois	Borris-In-Ossory
Micheál Haverty	Livestock Vice-Chair, Galway	Clonberne
Michael Caffrey	Pig and Pigmeat Chair, Cavan	Castlerahan-Mountnugent
Sean Ryan	**Potato Chair, Wexford	Ballywilliam-Templeudigan
Mark Walsh	**Horticulture Chair, Wexford	Gorey
Nigel Sweetnam	Poultry Chair, Cork	Kinsale
John Curran	Rural Devlopment Chair, Meath	Kells
Adrian Gallagher	Sheep Chair, Donegal	Letterkenny
Vacant	*IFJ Editor	N/A
Edward Carr	ICOS President, Tipperary North	Upperchurch
Elaine Houlihan	MACRA President, Limerick	N/A
Josephine O'Neill	MACRA President, Kilkenny	N/A

** Potato Chair eligible to attend two out of three meetings, Horticulture Chair to attend third meeting

* Jack Kennedy stepped down as IFJ Editor, September 2025

NOTE: ICOS and IFJ are observer members of the National Council without a vote

National Officers' Committee

MEMBERS 2025		
Name	County	Branch
Francie Gorman	President, Laois	Ballinakill
Alice Doyle	Deputy President, Wexford	Camolin
Frank Brady	Ulster / North Leinster Regional Chair, Monaghan	Aughnamullen
Brendan Golden	Connacht Regional Chair, Mayo	Killala
Paul O'Brien	South Leinster Regional Chair, Kilkenny	Graiguenamanagh
Conor O'Leary	Munster Regional Chair, Cork	Donoughmore
Patrick McCormick	National Treasurer, Monaghan	Threemilehouse

Audit and Risk Committee

MEMBERS 2025		
Name	County	Branch
Eamonn Looney	Chair	N/A
Patrick McCormick	National Treasurer, Monaghan	Threemilehouse
Brian Rushe	Former Deputy President, Kildare	Cadamstown-Carbury
Ken Heade	Former Director of Finance	N/A

Rules, Privileges and Procedures Committee

MEMBERS 2025		
Name	County	Branch
John Carroll	**Chair - National Returning Officer / Louth**	**Dunleer**
Brendan McLaughlin	Ulster / North Leinster / Donegal	Newtowncunningham
Kevin Kiersey	Munster / Waterford	Kilmacthomas
Caroline Farrell	South Leinster / Kildare	Athy
Michael Biggins	Connacht / Mayo	Glencorrib
Dermot Ward	Council Represenative / Meath	Navan
Jim O'Connor	Council Representative / Roscommon	Boyle

Honorary Life IFA Members 2025*

MEMBERS 2025		
Name	County	Branch
Eileen Brennan	Carlow	Graiguecullen-Killeshin
John McCaffrey	Cavan	Redhills
Joseph O'Connell	Clare	Parteen
Jimmy Hosford	Cork Central	Carrigaline
James Cott	Cork North	Mallow
Gerard Burke	Cork West	Durrus
William Kelly	Donegal	Pettigo
Michael Gleeson	Dublin	Swords
Sean Ryan	Galway	Leitrim Loughrea
Florence O'Sullivan	Kerry	Currans
Matthew Dempsey	Kildare	Maynooth
Sean Treacy	Kilkenny	Thomastown
Thomas Wilson	Laois	Vicarstown
John Joe Dolan	Leitrim	Drumshambo
Thomas Cooke	Limerick	Hospital
Michael Lennon	Longford	Drumlish
Johnny Butterly	Louth	Dunleer
Michael Biggins	Mayo	Glencorrib
Charlie Traynor	Meath	Navan
Andy Boylan	Monaghan	Donaghmoyne
Ray Dempsey	Offaly	Coolderry
Kevin Gunn	Roscommon	Strokestown
Edward Davitt	Sligo	Cloonacool
Philip Kinane	Tipperary North	Moycarkey-Borris
John Tobin	Tipperary South	Kilcash
Betty Coughlan	Waterford	Kinsalebeg
No Nominee	Westmeath	N/A
Liam O'Byrne	Wexford	Tagoat
Catherine Shaw	Wicklow	Rathdrum

*Elected at the IFA AGM, 22nd January 2025

IFA National Council Attendance 2025

Key

	Present	P	Proxy
A	Apology	V	Vacant

Notes on Council

*	Jack Kennedy stepped down as Editor September 2025
**	Potato Chair eligible to attend two out of three meetings, Horticulture Chair to attend third meeting

Attendance at IFA National Council Meetings 2025

	POSITION/COUNTY	70TH AGM 22-JAN	70TH AGM 23-JAN	19-MAR	16-APR	11-JUN	11-JUN SPECIAL MEETING	15-JUL	02-SEP	09-OCT (ONLINE)	11-NOV	25-NOV (ONLINE)	15-DEC
Francie Gorman	**President**												A
Alice Doyle	**Deputy President**			A									
Frank Brady	**Ulster / North Leinster Chair**				A								
Brendan Golden	**Connacht Chair**					A	A						
Paul O'Brien	**South Leinster Chair**									A			A
Conor O'Leary	**Munster Chair**						A						
Patrick McCormick	**Treasurer**												
Michael Purcell	Carlow Chair												
Maurice Brady	Cavan Chair										P		
Stephen Walsh	Clare Chair												
Matthew Hurley	Cork Central Chair												
Pat O'Keeffe	Cork North Chair												N/A
Noel Hurley	Cork North Chair	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Tadhg Healy	Cork West Chair												
Joe Sweeney	Donegal Chair		A					A					
Paul Flynn	Dublin Chair												
Stephen Canavan	Galway Chair												
John Finn	Galway 2nd Representative		A					A					
Jason Fleming	Kerry Chair								A	A			
Kathleen Herlihy	Kerry 2nd Representative												
Denis Halpin	Kildare Chair												
Brendan Hickey	Kilkenny Chair								A			P	
Henry Burns	Laois Chair			A									P
Liam Gilligan	Leitrim Chair			A			A						
Sean Lavery	Limerick Chair			N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louise Crowley	Limerick Chair	N/A	N/A				A						
John Sheridan	Longford Chair									A			
Kevin Sweeney	Louth Chair							A			A		
John Lynskey	Mayo Chair						A						A
Dermot Ward	Meath Chair					A	A						
Tom Treanor	Monaghan Chair			A	P	P	P	P					
Pat Walsh	Offaly Chair									A	A		
Patrick Leonard	Roscommon Chair												

IFA National Council Attendance 2025

Key

	Present	P	Proxy
A	Apology	V	Vacant

Notes on Council

*	Jack Kennedy stepped down as Editor September 2025
**	Potato Chair eligible to attend two out of three meetings, Horticulture Chair to attend third meeting

	POSITION/COUNTY	70TH AGM 22-JAN	70TH AGM 23-JAN	19-MAR	16-APR	11-JUN	11-JUN SPECIAL MEETING	15-JUL	02-SEP	09-OCT (ONLINE)	11-NOV	25-NOV (ONLINE)	15-DEC
Michael O'Dowd	Sligo Chair											A	
Baden Powell	Tipperary North Chair												
Pat Carroll	Tipperary South Chair	A										A	N/A
Darragh Scott	Tipperary South Chair	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
John Heffernan	Waterford Chair									P			
Richard O'Brien	Westmeath Chair												
Jer O'Mahony	Wexford Chair			N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Tom Doyle	Wexford Chair	N/A	N/A	A									
Thomas Byrne	Wicklow Chair					N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A
Selena McKenzie	Wicklow Chair	N/A	N/A							P			
TJ Maher	Animal Health Chair						A			A			
Martin McElearney	Dairy Chair						A						
John Murphy	Environment and Rural Affairs Chair					A	A				A		
Bill O'Keeffe	Farm Business Chair		A		A			A			A		
Teresa Roche	Farm Family and Social Affairs Chair												
Padraig Stapleton	Farm Forestry Chair	A						A					
Kieran McEvoy	Grain Chair			A	P					A			
Cáillin Conneely	Hill Farming Chair		A		A	A	A	A		A	A	A	A
Henry Dunne	Liquid Milk Chair	A	A	A			A		A	A	A	A	A
Declan Hanrahan	Livestock Chair									A			
Micheál Haverty	Livestock Vice-Chair				A			A					
Michael Caffrey	Pig and Pigmeat Chair									A		A	
Sean Ryan	**Potato Chair			A	A	N/A	N/A			N/A	A		N/A
Mark Walsh	**Horticulture Chair	A	A	N/A	N/A			N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A	A
Nigel Sweetnam	Poultry Chair			A	A				A				A
John Curran	Rural Devlopment Chair												
Adrian Gallagher	Sheep Chair												A
Vacant	*IFJ						A			V	V	V	V
Edward Carr	ICOS	A		A	A			A			A	A	A
Elaine Houlihan	MACRA			A	A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Josephine O'Neill	MACRA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	A	A	A		A	A	A	A

IFA Commodity and Cross-Sectoral Committees 2025

Livestock

MEMBERS 2025		
Name	County	Branch
Declan Hanrahan	**Chair, Laois**	**Borris in Ossory**
Michael Haverty	**Vice-Chair, Galway**	**Clonberne**
George Hatton	Carlow	Bennekerry-Tinryland
Thomas Leonard	Cavan	Crossdoney
Joseph O'Connell	Clare	Parteen
George Jagoe	Cork (C)	Carrigtwohill
Denis G. O'Leary	Cork (W)	Ballingeary
Kevin O'Flynn	Cork (N)	Kildorrery
Neville Myles	Donegal	Ballyshannon
Derek McGrath	Dublin	Bohernabreena
Michael Haverty	Galway	Clonberne
Humphrey Foley	Kerry	Killarney
Paul McDonald	Kildare	Athy
Thomas Mulhall	Kilkenny	Kilkenny City
Patrick Wilson	Laois	Vicarstown
Brian Faughnan	Leitrim	Mohill-Bornacoola
Edmond Nash	Limerick	Oola
Paul Molihan	Longford	Ardagh
Edward O'Malley	Louth	Ardee
Michael Mitchell	Mayo	Balla
Donal Glennon	Meath	Athboy
Seamus McCarra	Monaghan	Tydavnet
Thomas Woulfe	Offaly	Bracknagh-Clonbullogue
Kevin Hartigan	Roscommon	Ballaghdereen
Trevor Boland	Sligo	Skreen
Joseph O'Dwyer	Tipperary (N)	Upperchurch
Edmond Burns	Tipperary (S)	Kilross
Padraig Daly	Waterford	Kinsalebeg
Christopher Dolan	Westmeath	Sonna
Sean Doran	Wexford	Adamstown
Sean Cooney	Wicklow	Ashford
Michelle Lalor *	Laois	Camross
Clifford Deacon *	Wexford	Clonroche
Robert Tobin *	Wicklow	Arklow

* co-option - IFA / FBD Ready to Lead Participant 2025

Dairy

MEMBERS 2025		
Name	County	Branch
Martin McElearney	**Chair, Monaghan**	**Ballybay**
Eamon Mooney	**Vice-Chair, Kilkenny**	**Castlecomer**
Patrick Deering	Carlow	Rathvilly
Raymond Brady	Cavan	Mullahoran
Ciaran O'Connell	Clare	Parteen
John Kingston	Cork (C)	Carrigaline
John Beechinor	Cork (W)	Clonakilty
Noel Hurley	Cork (N)	Kildorrery
Ian Witherow	Donegal	Convoy-Raphoe
James Scully	Dublin	St. Margaret's
Tony Colleran	Galway	Moylough
Owen O'Sullivan	Kerry	Currow
Stephen Byrne	Kildare	Kildare
Eamon Mooney	Kilkenny	Castlecomer
Thomas J. Meade	Laois	Mountrath
Shane McHugh	Leitrim	Fenagh
Edward P Moriarty	Limerick	Anglesboro
Padraig O'Farrell	Longford	Longford
Thomas J. Meegan	Louth	Knockbridge
Padraig Joyce	Mayo	Islandeady
Denis Fagan	Meath	Kildalkey
Bernard Treanor	Monaghan	Tydavnet
Fearghal Sullivan	Offaly	Daingean
Miriam Gunn	Roscommon	Strokestown
Glenn Patterson	Sligo	Calry
Pierce Ryan	Tipperary (N)	Moyne-Templetuohy
Darragh Scott	Tipperary (S)	Gortnahoe
Laura O'Brien-Forbes	Waterford	Tallow
Mairead Fallon	Westmeath	Boher-Rosemount
M.J. Scallon	Wexford	Ballymurn
Jack Keenan	Wicklow	Aughrim
Barry Stratford *	Cavan	Ballincree
Celine Casey *	Cork (W)	Macroom
David Kehoe *	Tipperary (S)	Kilcash

* co-option - IFA / FBD Ready to Lead Participant 2025

NB: Members of IFA Commodity and Cross-Sectoral Committees as of 1st December 2025

IFA Commodity and Cross-Sectoral Committees 2025

Environment and Rural Affairs

MEMBERS 2025		
Name	County	Branch
John Murphy	**Chair, Cork**	**Inniscarra**
Mark Connors	**Vice-Chair, Waterford**	**Kilmacthomas**
John Duffy	Carlow	Clonmore-Hacketstown
Seamus Dolan	Cavan	Templeport
Rosaleen O'Reilly	Clare	Doora
Paraic Browne	Cork (C)	Carrigaline
Michael Looney	Cork (W)	Macroom
Pat Coakley	Cork (N)	K'vullen-CtRoche-Shanbalymore
Michael O Chance	Donegal	Newtowncunningham
Philip Maguire	Dublin	Enniskerry
Karina Finn	Galway	Oranmore
Tommy Culloty	Kerry	Tralee
Thomas Kelly	Kildare	Manor Kilbride
Eamon Sheehan	Kilkenny	Danesfort
Liam Delaney	Laois	Portlaoise
David Notley	Leitrim	Annaduff
John Hannon	Limerick	Clarina
Emmet Duffy	Longford	Ballinalee
Peter Dunne	Louth	Dunleer
John Stafford	Mayo	Robeen
Martin Heaney	Meath	Oristown
Niall McMeel	Monaghan	Truagh Upper
John Hardy	Offaly	Daingean
James O'Connor	Roscommon	Boyle
Matthew Lang	Sligo	Tubbercurry
Seamus Hayes	Tipperary (N)	Toomevara
Michael Tobin	Tipperary (S)	Cahir
Mark Connors	Waterford	Kilmacthomas
James Geoghegan	Westmeath	Rathugh
Jer O'Mahony	Wexford	Bannow
Fred Roche	Wicklow	Aughrim
Eoghan Byrne *	Wicklow	Tinahely
Catherine Murray *	Wexford	Monaseed

* co-option - IFA / FBD Ready to Lead Participant 2025

Sheep

MEMBERS 2025		
Name	County	Branch
Adrian Gallagher	**Chair, Donegal**	**Letterkenny**
Jude P. Ryan	**Vice-Chair, Tipperary (N)**	**Borrisoleigh**
Marion Dalton	Carlow	Bagenalstown
Bernard Lynch	Cavan	Castlerahan Mt Nugent
Gerald O'Leary	Clare	Tradaree
Ivor Jeffrey	Cork (C)	Cloyne
Tom O'Keeffe	Cork (N)	K'Vullen - CT'Roche - Shanbalymore
James Daly	Cork (W)	Kilcrohane
Tommy Mullin	Donegal	Malin
Liam Hopkins	Dublin	Bohernabreena
David Kelly	Galway	Mullagh
Eamon Horgan	Kerry	Kilgarvan
Henry O'Connor	Kildare	Ardclough
Leeson Neale	Kilkenny	Castlecomer
Peter Luttrell	Laois	Vicarstown
Mark Gallagher	Leitrim	Kinlough
Danny McGrath	Limerick	Anglesboro
Joseph Esler	Longford	Abbeyshrule
Matthew McGreehan	Louth	Cooley
T.J. Duffy	Mayo	Westport - Aughagower
Peter McGuinness	Meath	Trim
Marcus Stewart	Monaghan	Drumgole
Marita Phelan	Offaly	Croghan
Michael Glennon	Roscommon	Moore
Sean Crummy	Sligo	Gurteen
John Crosse	Tipperary (S)	Cashel
Patrick Cooney	Waterford	Ballymacarbry
Martin Linnane	Westmeath	Ballinagore-Castletowngeoghan
George Graham Jnr	Wexford	Camolin
Owen Brady	Wicklow	Roundwood

NB: Members of IFA Commodity and Cross-Sectoral Committees as of 1st December 2025

IFA Commodity and Cross-Sectoral Committees 2025

Animal Health

MEMBERS 2025		
Name	County	Branch
T.J. Maher	**Chair, Tipperary (S)**	**Killenaule**
Amanda Mooney	**Vice-Chair, Wicklow**	**Ashford**
Anthony Jackson	Carlow	Tynock-Kiltetgan
Thomas Cooney	Cavan	Laragh
William Hanrahan	Clare	Doonbeg
Mitchel Hayes	Cork (C)	Blarney
Jeremiah O'Sullivan	Cork (W)	Leap
Timmy Lane	Cork (N)	Fermoy
George E. Starrett	Donegal	Finn Valley
Seamus McGrath	Dublin	Rolestown-Oldtown
Maura Canning	Galway	Mullagh
Gerard Buckley *	Kerry	Ballybunion
Joseph G. Morrissey	Kildare	Manor Kilbride
Jim Mulhall	Kilkenny	Kilkenny City
Noreen Cahill	Laois	Spink
Jason Comiskey	Leitrim	Drumahair
Edmond Scanlan	Limerick	Clarina
Mervyn Waters	Longford	Killashee
Conor Taaffe	Louth	Collon
Thomas Fitzpatrick	Mayo	Robeen
Patrick Horgan	Meath	Nobber
David Hall	Monaghan	Newbliss
John P Keena	Offaly	Ferbane
Sean Connaughton	Roscommon	Boyle
Barry Convey	Sligo	Gurteen
Eamonn Cleary	Tipperary (N)	Ardcroney
Erica O'Keffe	Tipperary (S)	Cashel
Luke Casey	Waterford	Kilmacthomas
Bernie McCarthy	Westmeath	Kilbeggan
Patrick Murray	Wexford	Monaseed
Amanda Mooney	Wicklow	Ashford
Dylan Houlihan *	Waterford	Ballymacarbry
Ronan Finn *	Wexford	Gorey

* co-option - IFA / FBD Ready to Lead Participant 2025

Grain

MEMBERS 2025		
Name	County	Branch
Kieran McEvoy	**Chair, Laois**	**Portarlington**
John Murphy	**Vice-Chair, Wexford**	**Monageer**
George F Byrne	Carlow	Bennekerry-Tinryland
Edward Gus Murphy	Cork (W)	Macroom
Paul O'Brien	Cork (N)	Liscarroll
John Jeffrey	Cork (C)	Aghada
Hugh Kelly **	Donegal	Ballindrait
David Rodgers	Dublin	Swords
Mervyn Cooke	Galway	Aughrim
Kevin Leahy	Kerry	Causeway
James Brennan	Kildare	Athy
Edward Delahunty	Kilkenny	Freshford-Gathabawn
Shay Galvin	Limerick	Croom-Meanus
Patrick Brennan	Longford	Rathline-Lanesboro
Michael Kieran	Louth	Knockbridge
Rory Doyle	Laois	Mountmellick
Fintan Murray	Mayo	Balla
Thomas McKeown	Meath	Nobber
Mark Duffy	Monaghan	Drumhowan
Thomas Loonam	Offaly	Cloghan
Michael Beattie	Roscommon	Rahara
Joseph Egan	Tipperary (N)	Templemore
Denis Large	Tipperary (S)	Gornahoe
Philip Heskin	Waterford	Ballyduff-Ballysaggart
Ralph Tyrrell	Westmeath	Killucan
Isaac Wheelock	Wexford	Davidstown
James Hill	Wicklow	Barndarrig
Brian Lazenby	Peas and Beans / Kildare	Athy
Pat Collins *	Cork (C)	Dungourney-Mogeely
Tom Murray *	Kilkenny	Piltown-Templeorum

* co-option - IFA / FBD Ready to Lead Participant 2025

** RIP June 2025

NB: Members of IFA Commodity and Cross-Sectoral Committees as of 1st December 2025

IFA Commodity and Cross-Sectoral Committees 2025

Horticulture

MEMBERS 2025		
Name	County	Branch
Mark Walsh	**Chair, Wexford**	**Gorey**
Val Farrell	Hardy Nursery Stock /Dublin	North Fingal
Niall McCormack	Fruit and Vegetable / Longford	Abbeyshrule
Sean Ryan	Potatoes / Wexford	Ballywilliam - Templeudigan
Cornelius Traas	Apples / Tipperary (S)	Cahir

Potato

MEMBERS 2025		
Name	County	Branch
Sean Ryan	**Chair, Kilkenny**	**Ballywilliam-Templeudigan**
Barry Mitchell	**Vice-Chair, Meath**	**Oristown**
Colin Buttimer	Cork (N)	Fermoy
Jason Bryan	Cork (C)	Carrigaline
Donald Logue	Donegal	Muff
Peter Garrigan	Dublin	Swords
John Stephens	Galway	Corofin-Ballyglunin
Bridget O'Connor	Kerry	Moyvane
Bart Maertens	Kildare	Clane-Prosperous
Edward Doyle	Kilkenny	Mooncoin
Tony McGuinness	Louth	Dunleer
Michael Patrick Spillane	Meath	Oristown
Shane Howell	Offaly	Killeigh
Michael Healy	Tipperary (N)	Moycarkey-Borris
Jason O'Leary	Wexford	Blackwater

Pigs and Pigmeat

MEMBERS 2025		
Name	County	Branch
Michael Caffrey	**Chair, Cavan**	**Castlerahan-M'Nugent**
Paul Tully	**Vice-Chair, Laois**	**Ballinakill**
Niall Roche	Carlow	Old Leighlin
Con O'Kelly	Carlow	Borris
Gary Pepper	Cavan	Cootehill
Shane Brady	Cavan	Redhills
Luke Bogue	Cavan	Crossdoney
Michael Maguire	Cavan	Billis
Colin Twomey	Cork	Lombardstown
Ciaran Sheehan	Cork	Mitchelstown
Tom Sherman	Cork (N)	Mallow
Thomas Finn	Cork (N)	Mitchelstown
Cathal O'Donovan	Cork (W)	Timoleague
Brendan Doherty	Donegal	Malin
Jimmy Mooney	Donegal	Malin
Cormac Minnock	Kildare	Rahan
Niall Hogan	Limerick	Anglesboro
Alaistair McCormack	Longford	Newtownforbes
Gareth Marry	Meath	Slane
Mattie Moore	Offaly	Croghan
Hannah Ryan	Tipperary (S)	Clogheen
John Ryan	Tipperary (S)	Ardfinnan-Grange
Martin Purtill	Tipperary (N)	Toomevara
Sean Brady	Westmeath	Killucan
Bernard Gilsenan	Westmeath	Multyfarnham
Joseph Healy	Wexford	Glenbrien
George Roy Gallie *	Kildare	Cadamstown - Carbury

*Co-opted out-going Chair

NB: Members of IFA Commodity and Cross-Sectoral Committees as of 1st December 2025

IFA Commodity and Cross-Sectoral Committees 2025

Poultry

MEMBERS 2025		
Name	County	Branch
Nigel Sweetnam	**Chair, Cork (C)**	**Kinsale**
Brendan Soden	**Vice-Chair, Cavan**	**Lavey**
Garrett Bannon	Cavan	Templeport
Ann Gernon	Louth	Louth Village
Eugene McGinnity	Monaghan	Aughnalshavey
Warren O'Connell	Cork (C)	Carrigaline
Michael Murphy	Waterford	Cappoquin
Edmond Murphy	Waterford	Dunhill
David Abbott	Cavan	Killeshandra
Derek Good	Cork (C)	Innishannon
Pat O'Connell	Limerick	Feoghanagh
Edward Keane	Waterford	Kinsalebeg
Michael O'Hea	Cork (W)	Clonakilty
Robert McBride	Monaghan	Tyholland
Eamon Clerkin	Monaghan	Rockcorry
Vincent Quinn	Monaghan	Tullycorbett
Enda Connolly	Monaghan	Clones
John McCabe	Monaghan	Threemilehouse
Thomas Fitzsimons	Cavan	Bilis
Eoin Cunningham	Limerick	Broadford-Kantoher
Padraig Kiely	Mayo	Bekan-Brickens
Proinsias McKenna	Monaghan	Truagh Upper
Andrew Keating	Monaghan	Newbliss
Nigel Flynn	Monaghan	Clones

Farm Business

MEMBERS 2025		
Name	County	Branch
Bill O'Keeffe	**Chair, Kilkenny**	**Clara**
Fergal Hennessy	**Vice-Chair, Meath**	**Ballinacree**
John Nolan	Carlow	Bagenalstown
Owen Brodie	Cavan	Maghera-Mu'Connaught
Thomas Costello	Clare	Ballyea
Marie McCarthy	Cork (C)	Innishannon
James Hurley	Cork (W)	Clonakilty
Donal Buckley	Cork (N)	Mallow
Shannon Porter	Donegal	Newtowncunningham
Laurence Ward	Dublin	Rolestown-Oldtown
Denis Joyce	Galway	Cartoon-Lavally
Helen O'Mahony	Kerry	Castleisland
Eugene Lawler	Kildare	Moone
Sean Cummins	Kilkenny	Clara
Anne-Maria Aird	Laois	Portlaoise
Seamus Quinn	Leitrim	Manorhamilton
Pius Horgan	Limerick	Abbeyfeale
Anne Tully	Longford	Ballinalee
Gerard Meegan	Louth	Termonfeckin
Martin Gilvarry	Mayo	Ardagh-Ballina
Fergal Hennessy	Meath	Ballinacree
Martin Connolly	Monaghan	Threemilehouse
Enda Bracken	Offaly	Killoughy
James Gleeson	Roscommon	Roscommon - Derrane-Kiltevan
Margaret Gormonly	Sligo	Tubbercurry
Jude P Ryan	Tipperary (N)	Borrisoleigh
T.J. Heffernan	Tipperary (S)	Clonoulty - Rossmore
John J. Byrne	Waterford	Cappoquin
Enda Burke	Westmeath	Kinnegad
John Kelly	Wexford	Camolin
Thomas G. Short	Wicklow	Ashford
Carmel Casey *	Cork (N)	Glanworth
Liam Hennessy *	Cork (C)	Inniscarra

* co-option - IFA / FBD Ready to Lead Participant 2025

NB: Members of IFA Commodity and Cross-Sectoral Committees as of 1st December 2025

IFA Commodity and Cross-Sectoral Committees 2025

Farm Forestry

MEMBERS 2025		
Name	County	Branch
Padraig Stapleton	**Chair, Tipperary (N)**	**Upperchurch**
Francis Foley	**Vice-Chair, Kerry**	**Castlemaine**
John Hanbidge	Carlow	Tynock-Kiltegan
Richard Moeran	Cavan	Castlerahan- M'Nugent
John Fitzgerald	Clare	Cratloe
Donal Howard	Cork (C)	Kilcarney
Fergus Minihan	Cork (W)	Clonakilty
John Holmes	Cork (N)	Bweeng
Ross Buchanan	Donegal	Carndonagh
Christopher Keogh	Dublin	Bohernabreena
Pat Lyons	Galway	Looscaun/Woodford
Francis Foley	Kerry	Castlemaine
John McDonald	Kildare	Athy
Andrew O'Carroll O'Keeffe	Kilkenny	Clara
Michael McEvoy	Laois	Spink
Patrick Munday	Leitrim	Manorhamilton
Edward Liston	Limerick	Ardagh
Michael Lennon	Longford	Drumlish
John Roche	Louth	Tullyallen
John G Davitt	Mayo	Park-Burren
Willie Fallon	Meath	Summerhill
Alan McCabe	Monaghan	Traugh Lower
Clemens Von Ow	Offaly	Geashill
Padraig Corcoran	Roscommon	Knockcroghery
Brendan Queenan	Sligo	Easkey
Padraig Stapleton	Tipperary (N)	Upperchurch
Michael Ryan	Tipperary (S)	Tipperary
Rebecca Dickenson	Waterford	Cappoquin
Derek Nash	Westmeath	Fardrum
Andrea McCann	Wexford	Camolin
Charles Tottenham	Wicklow	Ashford
Dónal Carroll *	Kilkenny	Castlecomber

* co-option - IFA / FBD Ready to Lead Participant 2025

Farm Family, Social Affairs and Farm Safety

MEMBERS 2025		
Name	County	Branch
Teresa Roche	**Chair, Galway**	**Abbey**
Claire O'Keeffe	**Vice-Chair, Cork**	**Glensouth**
Faith Jackson	Carlow	Tynock-Kiltegan
Helen Clarke	Cavan	Crossdoney
Caroline Lynch	Clare	Bridgetown
Claire O'Keeffe	Cork (C)	Glensouth
Catherine Fox	Cork (N)	Mitchelstown
Christine Friel	Donegal	Kilmacrennan
Valerie Keogh	Dublin	Bohernabreena
Anne Mitchell	Galway	Menlough
Mary Fleming	Kerry	Annablaha
Diana Massey	Kildare	Athy
Gemma Sherman	Kilkenny	Ballyragget
Margaret Dunne	Laois	Portarlington
Mary McGovern	Leitrim	Carrigallen
Peggy Cooke	Limerick	Hospital
Greta Tynan	Longford	Granard
Concepta Quigley	Louth	Kilkerley
Bernadette Quinn	Mayo	Ballyhaunis
Fiona Curran	Meath	Kells
Charlotte Morris	Monaghan	Mullyash
Richard Scally	Offaly	Kilmurray
Bernadette Fallon	Roscommon	Rahara
Kathleen Henry	Sligo	Skreen
Margaret Mounsey	Tipperary (N)	Cloughjordan
Patrick J. English	Tipperary (S)	Clogheen
Mary Flynn	Waterford	Clonea
Eithne Scally	Westmeath	Killucan
Elizabeth McDonald	Wexford	Monaseed
Anne Jennings	Wicklow	Arklow
Úna Sinnott *	Wexford	Monaseed
Conor Carty *	Galway	Leitrim - Loughrea

* co-option - IFA / FBD Ready to Lead Participant 2025

NB: Members of IFA Commodity and Cross-Sectoral Committees as of 1st December 2025

IFA Commodity and Cross-Sectoral Committees 2025

Rural Development

MEMBERS 2025		
Name	County	Branch
John Curran	**Chair, Meath**	**Kells**
Thomas Lane	**Vice-Chair, Clare**	**Parteen**
Jay Kelly	Carlow	Borris
Paddy Denning	Cavan	Laragh
Cornelius Buckley	Cork (W)	Caheragh
David Flynn	Cork (N)	Fermoy
Timothy Twomey	Cork (C)	Glensouth
Peter Cannon	Donegal	Carrick
Elizabeth McCarthy	Dublin	Bohernabreena
P.J. Conroy	Galway	Looscaun-Woodford
John O'Sullivan	Kerry	Currans
Desmond Gray	Kildare	Castledermot
Thomas Prendergast	Kilkenny	Kilkenny
Harry Lalor	Laois	Clough
Gerry McGarry	Leitrim	Gortlettragh
John Maher	Limerick	Doon
John Coyle	Longford	Edgeworthstown
Maeve Larney	Louth	Louth Village
Patrick Egan	Mayo	Knock
Thomas Gibbons	Meath	Navan
Mark Joseph Gillanders	Monaghan	Ardaghy
George Grant	Offaly	Cloghan
Gerard Fallon	Roscommon	Knockcroghery
Gearoid O'Connor	Sligo	Castlebaldwin
Liam Coffey	Tipperary (N)	Toomevara
John Crosse	Tipperary (S)	Cashel
Seamus Power	Waterford	Dunhill
Brendan Coffey	Westmeath	Turin
James Byrne	Wexford	Bree-Galbally
Caillin Conneely **	Galway	Connemara
Thomas Byrne	Wicklow	Aughrim
Kevin Dolan *	Westmeath	Drumrainey
Mark Riordan *	Kerry	Kenmare

* co-option - IFA / FBD Ready to Lead Participant 2025

** co-option Hill Farming Chair

Hill Farming

MEMBERS 2025		
Name	County	Branch
Cáillin Conneely	**Chair, Galway**	**Connemara**
Gabriel O'Neill	Carlow / Kilkenny / Wexford	Kiltealy
Michael Davoren	Clare	Carron-Noughaville
Patrick O'Rourke Jnr	Connemara / Galway	Ballinakill
Shane Holland	Cork (W)	Coomhola
Dessie Cunningham	Donegal	Carrick
Patrick Mahony	Kerry	Glencar
Kevin Hanlon	Kildare / West Wicklow	Manor Kilbride
James Gallagher	Leitrim	Kinlough
Peter Shields	Louth	Cooley
Tony O'Donnell	Mayo	Derrada-Glenhest
Adrian McIntyre	Sligo	Cloonacool
Peter Hennessy	Waterford / South Tipperary	Kilross
Peter Behan	Wicklow	Tinahealy
John Curran **	Meath	Kells
Michael Herlihy *	Kerry	Gneeveguilla

* co-option - IFA / FBD Ready to Lead Participant 2025

** co-option - Rural Development Chair

NB: Members of IFA Commodity and Cross-Sectoral Committees as of 1st December 2025

IFA Commodity and Cross-Sectoral Committees 2025

Liquid Milk

MEMBERS 2025		
Name	County	Branch
Henry Dunne	**Chair, Wexford**	**Bree - Galbally**
Mervyn Helen	**Vice Chair, Cork (W)**	**Clonakilty**
Pat Coveney	Cork (C)	Glanmire
Austin Grealy	Galway	Clarinbridge
Jane O'Connor	Galway	Kiltullagh - Attymon
Kevin Healy	Wicklow	Aughrim
Kevin Maguire	Wexford	Ballycanew
John Roche	Carlow	Clonmore-Hacketstown
Walter Crowley	Kilkenny	Mooncoin
Donal Kelleher	Cork (C)	Glanmire
Tom Paul Keane	Kerry	Ballymacelligott
James Hurson	Monaghan	Smithboro
Liam Grady	Galway	Gurteen
Michael Freeney	Galway	Athenry
Martin Callanan	Galway	Clarinbridge
Paul Merrick	Sligo	Riverstown
David Bennett	Laois	Abbeyleix
Gareth Porter	Donegal	Finn Valley
Charles McCandles	Donegal	Culdaff
John Wynne	Carlow	Baltinglass
Edward Breen	Kerry	Abbeydorney
John Stone	Westmeath	Moate
Padraig Mulligan	Sligo	Templeboy
Linda Hanbridge	Wicklow	Tynock-Kiltegan
Henry Dunne	Wexford	Bree-Galbally

Fresh Milk Producers

MEMBERS 2025		
Name	County	Branch
John Roche	**Chair - Carlow / West Wicklow**	**Clonmore-Hacketstown**
Henry Dunne	Wexford	Bree-Galbally
John Wynne	West Wicklow	Baltinglass
John Murphy	Louth	Termonfeckin
Seamus Killoran	Wicklow	Arklow
Linda Hanbidge	West Wicklow	Kiltegan
Denis Fagan	Meath	Kildalkey
Eddie Bannon	Meath	Culmullen
James Tynan	Kilkenny	Kilkenny City
Jim Mulhall	Kilkenny	Kilkenny City
Derek Tierney	Kildare	Timahoe
Patrick Coveney	Cork	Glanmire
Ciaran McEnteggert	Louth	Knockbridge

Aquaculture

MEMBERS 2025			
Name	County	Branch	Role
Finian O'Sullivan	**Chair, Cork (W)**	**Bantry**	**Rope Mussels / Shellfish Safety**
Catherine McManus	**Vice-Chair, Donegal**	**Fanad**	**Salmon**
John Harrington	Cork (W)	Kenmare	Rope Mussels
Lee Hunter	Donegal	Dunloe	Oysters
Gerry O'Donohue	Galway	Connemara	Salmon
Cindy O'Brien	Galway	Connemara	Other species - Abalone
Tony O'Sullivan	Kerry	Cromane	Bottom Mussels
Mag Kirwan	Kilkenny	Thomastown	Trout
Kian Louet-Feisser	Louth	Cooley	Oysters
Liam Roche	Mayo	Connemara	Salmon
Cliona Mhic Ghiolla Chuda	Waterford	Dungarvan	Oysters
Micheal Mulloy	Mayo	Westport	Rope Mussels
Michael O'Neill	Cork (W)	Cahermore	Other Species - Seaweed

NB: Members of IFA Commodity and Cross-Sectoral Committees as of 1st December 2025

IFA Project Teams 2025

SACs/SPAs/NHAs Project Team

MEMBERS 2025		
Name	County	Branch
Frank Brady	**Chair, Monaghan**	**Aughnamullen**
John Curran *	Meath	Kells
Caillin Conneely **	Galway	Connemara
Joe Daly	South Leinster, Offaly	Cloghan
Pat Hennessy	South Leinster, Laois	Borris-in-Ossary
Charlie Killeen	Connacht, Galway	Eyrecourt
Martin Gavin	Connacht, Mayo	Drummin
Pat O'Shea	Munster, Kerry	Castlegregory
William Hanrahan	Munster, Clare	Doonbeg
Alan McCabe	Ulster/ North Leinster, Monaghan	Traugh-Lower
Matthew McGreehan	Ulster/ North Leinster, Louth	Cooley
Bernard Finan	Connacht, Sligo	Achonry

* Rural Development Chair

** Hill Farming Chair

Horse Project Team

MEMBERS 2025		
Name	County	Branch
Conor O'Leary	**Chair, Cork (C)**	**Donoughmore**
Thomas Lane	Clare	Parteen
Maurice Smiddy	Cork	Ballymacoda
Daniel O'Loughlin	Kildare	Kildare
Eamon Sheehan	Kilkenny	Danesfort
James Murphy	Kilkenny	Inistioge
Patrick Downey	Meath	Slane
Anne Marie Burke	Roscommon	Kilmore
Michael Doherty	Sligo	Ballymote

Organic Project Team

MEMBERS 2025		
Name	County	Branch
John Fitzpatrick	**Chair, Laois**	**Spink**
Ian Whitherow	Dairy, Donegal	Convoy-Raphoe
Mark Duffy	Grain, Monaghan	Drumhowan
Padraig Fahy	Horticulture, Galway	Aughrim
TJ Duffy	Livestock, Mayo	Westport-Aughagower
John Liston	Retail, Limerick	Croom-Meanus
Selena McKenzie	Rural Development, Wicklow	Barndarrig
Eamon Horgan	Sheep, Kerry	Kilgarvan

The Shannon and Flooding Project Team

MEMBERS 2025		
Name	County	Branch
Brendan Golden	**Chair, Mayo**	**Killala**
Pauric Reilly	Leitrim	Mohill - Bornacoola
Thomas Lane	Munster, Clare	Parteen
Pat Walsh	South Leinster, Offaly	Cloghan
Michael Beattie	Connacht, Roscommon	Rahara
Claire Fitzpatrick	Ulster / North Leinster, Cavan	Dowra

Infrastructure Project Team

MEMBERS 2025		
Name	County	Branch
Paul O'Brien	**Chair, Kilkenny**	**Graiguenamanagh**
Francie Gorman	IFA President	Ballinakill
Damian McDonald	IFA Director General	n/a
John Murphy	Cork (C)	Inniscarra
Geraldine O'Sullivan	IFA Senior Policy Executive	n/a

Energy from Farms Project Team

MEMBERS 2025		
Name	County	Branch
Frank Brady	**Chair, Monaghan**	**Aughnamullen**
Kevin Leahy	Munster, Kerry	Causeway
Richard Meaney	Leinster, Kilkenny	The Rower
Martin Gilvarry	Connaght, Mayo	Killala
Mark Ward	Ulster / North Leinster, Meath	Navan
Sean Finan	Irish Bioscience Association / Roscommon	Ballinlough
Karol Kissane	IFAC, Kerry	Ballylongford
John Brosnan	ICOS, Kerry	Castleisland

NB: Members of IFA Project Teams as of 1st December 2025

Ready To Lead Participants 2025

Ready to Lead Participants 2025

Name	County	Branch
Barry Stratford	Cavan	Ballincree
Carmel Casey	Cork (N)	Glanworth
Pat Collins	Cork (C)	Dungourney-Mogeely
Liam Hennessy	Cork (C)	Inniscarra
Ciaran Sheehan	Cork (N)	Mitchelstown
David Flynn	Cork (N)	Fermoy
Shannon Porter	Donegal	Newtowncunningham
Conor Carty	Galway	Leitrim Loughrea
Gerard Buckley	Kerry	Ballybunion
Michael Herlihy	Kerry	Ballymacelligott
Mark Riordan	Kerry	Kenmare
Donal Carroll	Kilkenny	Castlecomer
Tom Murray	Kilkenny	Piltown-Templeorum
Michelle Lalor	Laois	Camross
Maeve Larney Finnegan	Louth	Louth Village
Kevin Hartigan	Roscommon	Ballaghadereen
Miriam Gunn	Roscommon	Strokestown
Dylan Houlihan	Waterford	Ballymacarby
Kevin Dolan	Westmeath	Drumrainey
Catherine Murray	Wexford	Monaseed
Úna Sinnott	Wexford	Monaseed
Clifford Deacon	Wexford	Clonroche
Ronan Finn	Wexford	Gorey
Eoghan Byrne	Wicklow	Tinahely
Robert Tobin	Wicklow	Arklow

The above participants completed the programme

IFA National Council at Copa-Cogeca Protest in Brussels – December

IFA National Council at Copa-Cogeca Protest in Brussels – December

Above: IFA President Francie Gorman with Dublin Lord Mayor Cllr. Ray McAdam and 'Little Angels' from St Joseph's Nursery, Morning Star Road, Dublin and the Lucan Gospel Choir at the launch of the IFA Live Animal Crib at the Mansion House, Dublin in December

Above: IFA President Francie Gorman with President of Ireland Catherine Connolly at Dublin Castle on the day of her inauguration in November

Above: IFA Farm Business Chair Bill O'Keeffe and IFA President launch IFA Budget 2026 submission to Government in June

Above: IFA's Team in Brussels (l-r) Liam MacHale IFA Director of European Affairs, Sarah Lucas IFA Brussels Office Executive Assistant, Noel Banville IFA European Policy Executive

Notes:

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