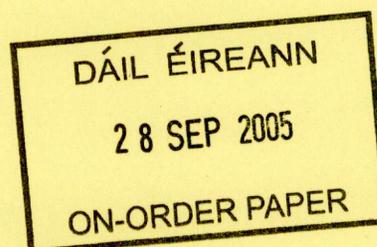


PRN. 175/1577

# Joint Committee on Agriculture and Food

## Report of the Visit to

- (a) The Faculty of Food Science  
and Technology, University  
College Cork
- (b) Donkey Sanctuary, County  
Cork
- (c) Food Research Centre at  
Moorepark, Teagasc



*July, 2005*

Joint Committee on Agriculture and  
Food

Report of the Visit to

- (a) The Faculty of Food Science  
and Technology, University  
College Cork
- (b) Donkey Sanctuary, County  
Cork
- (c) Food Research Centre at  
Moorepark, Teagasc

*July, 2005*

## Foreword

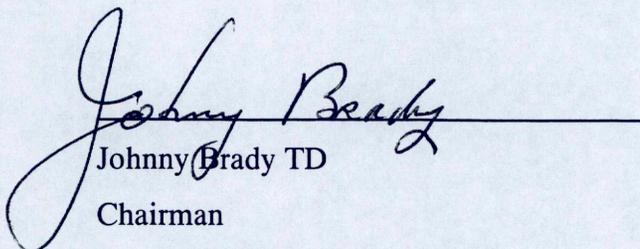
The Joint Committee on Agriculture and Food as part of its Work Programme for 2005 agreed to undertake a fact finding mission to the Faculty of Food Science and Technology, University College Cork and the Food Research Centre at Teagasc, Moorepark, Fermoy, County Cork.

The Joint Committee also decided to visit the Donkey Sanctuary which is located in Lisscarroll, Mallow County Cork. Arrangements were put in train for the visit to take place on Monday and Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> July 2005.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to Professor Yrjo H. Roos, Dean of the Faculty of Food Science and Technology, University College Cork, Professor Gerald Fitzgerald, Strategic Developments in Food Research and Technology Transfer to Industry, Professor Kevin Cashman, Food Nutrition and Health Research at UCC and Professor Denis Lucey, Food Business and Development and the staff of the Faculty for facilitating the visit and for the detail of the presentations to the delegation outlining the work carried out at the Faculty

I would also like to thank Dr. Liam Donnelly, Director of Moorepark Food Research Centre, Dr. Phil Kelly, Food Ingredients, Dr. Paul Ross, Biotechnology, Dr. Paul Tuohy, Pilot Plant Facility and Dr. Tom Baresford, Cheese & Fermented Dairy Products for their overview and tour of the research centre at Moorepark.

Finally I would like to thank Mr. Paddy Barrett for allowing the Committee to visit the Donkey Sanctuary at Lisscarroll, Mallow, County Cork.

  
Johnny Brady TD  
Chairman

July 2005

## **Joint Committee on Agriculture and Food**

### **Report of the Visit to:**

- (a) The Faculty of Food Science and Technology, University College Cork;**
- (b) Donkey Sanctuary, County Cork; and**
- (c) Food Research Centre at Moorepark, Teagasc**

### **Introduction**

A delegation from the Joint Committee on Agriculture and Food visited the Faculty of Food Science and Technology, University College Cork and the Donkey Sanctuary located in Lisscarroll, Mallow, County Cork on Monday 11 July 2005. The Joint Committee visited the Food Research Centre at Moorepark, Teagasc, Fermoy, County Cork. The Joint Committee also met with representatives of the IFA at Moorepark to discuss the EU proposals on Sugar Reform.

The delegation comprised of Mr Johnny Brady TD (Chairman) Mr John Carty TD, Mr. Seymour Crawford TD, Ms. Máire Hctor TD, Mr. Denis Naughten TD, and Senators Peter Callanan, Noel Coonan and Eamon Scanlon. The delegation was accompanied by Ms. Gina Long, Clerk to the Committee and Ms. Antoinette Donald of the Committee Secretariat.

### **The Faculty of Food Science and Technology, University College Cork**

The delegation were met upon arrival at the Faculty of Food Science and Technology by Professor Yrjo H. Roos, Dean of the Faculty. Professor Roos gave a detailed overview of the operations of the Faculty. Professor Gerald Fitzgerald gave a presentation on Strategic Developments in Food Research and Technology Transfer to Industry. Professor Kevin Cashman gave a presentation on Food, Nutrition and Health Research and Professor Denis Lucey gave a presentation on Food Business and Development. The following is a short insight into each of the areas that presentations were made on:

### **(1) Overview of the Faculty of Food Science and Technology**

The Faculty of Food Science and Technology was established in 1998. It is an amalgamation of four Departments

- Agriculture
- Food Chemistry
- Food Technology and
- Nutrition.

The Faculty has a staff of approximately 350. The principal activities of the Faculty are Education, Research and Life-Long Learning. Students of the BSc Food Science and Technology degree study all aspects of food from the chemistry of food constituents to the safe production of today's high quality food products.

Fundamental courses in food chemistry, food physics and microbiology are complemented by applied courses on specific food products, food packaging and new product development. With a unique blend of scientific and technical skills, graduates are well qualified to work in many areas of the food industry, including research and development, quality assurance and production management.

### **(2) Strategic Developments in Food Research and Technology Transfer to Industry**

The Microbiology Department has a staff of approximately 110. The Department is very committed to research. The mission of the Food and Health Programme is a molecular approach to studying the interaction between foods, their components and the physiological status of the host. UCC has taken a strategic decision to create a centre of excellence in food and health; building on its strengths in food science and technology, the biosciences and medicine. Funding for research is received from the Department of Agriculture and Food under the food Institutional Research Measure, Food Safety Promotion Board, Health Research Board, Enterprise Ireland, EU Framework Programmes, national and international food industry, the Higher Education authority and also Science Foundation Ireland. Research income generated €55 million in 2004.

### **(3) Alimentary Pharmabiotic Centre**

The APC is a centre for science, engineering and technology, funded by Science Foundation Ireland and is a partnership between University College Cork, Teagasc Moorepark and industry. The mission of the centre is to link Irish science with industry and society through excellence in research, education and outreach in gastrointestinal health.

The delegation considers that the visit was very worthwhile and felt they learnt a lot from the experience. The delegation wishes to thank Professor Yrjo Roos, Dean, Faculty of Food Science and Technology and the staff at UCC for facilitating the visit.

### Visit to the Donkey Sanctuary in Mallow, County Cork

The delegation visited the Donkey Sanctuary in Mallow, County Cork. The Sanctuary is run by Mr. Paddy Barrett. Mr. Barrett and his family have a long tradition of helping donkeys. Mr. Barrett worked as an inspector for the ISPCA from February 1982 to July 1987, whilst at the same time running a rescued centre for donkeys in Ireland. Over 2200 donkeys have been taken into care. Many have been rescue in a neglected and pitiful condition and others have been taken at the request of the owners who for various reasons were no longer able to care for them. 640 of these donkeys have been placed in suitable homes all over the country. The Sanctuary has 2 farms, one 30 acres and the other 70 with an average of 350 resident donkeys between the 2 farms.

All new intakes spend 6 to 8 weeks in isolation where they receive full veterinary checks, inoculations and farrier treatment as appropriate. At the end of this period the staff decide which group would best suit each donkeys needs. However, friends who arrive together at the sanctuary are never split up, unless they do so of their own accord. Bonding between donkeys is very close.

For security reasons, every donkey is micro chipped on arrival at the sanctuary. It is policy not to breed the donkeys. All stallions are gelded under general anaesthetic. Some mares arrive already in foal and the foal is granted the same security for the rest of its life as the mother.

There is no admission charge into the Sanctuary. However the Sanctuary relies totally on voluntary donations from the public. The sanctuary has approximately 20,000 visitors a year.

The delegation had a tour of the sanctuary and of the hospital. The delegation would like to thank Mr. Paddy Barrett for the time he took to show them around the sanctuary.

### Visit to Moorepark Food Research Centre, Fermoy, County Cork

#### **(1) Meeting with representatives of the IFA to discuss EU Sugar Regime**

Ms. Elaine Farrell, Executive Secretary, Sugar Beet Section made a presentation to the delegation regarding EU Sugar Reform Proposals on Tuesday 12 July 2005 at Moorepark Food Research Centre.

The delegation supported the IFA's position and agreed to write the the Minister for Agriculture and Food urging her to reject the EU sugar reform proposal at the first Agriculture Ministers Council on 18 July 2005 and to pursue the IFA's position on the issue.

#### **(2) Overview of Moorepark Food Research**

Dr. Liam Donnelly, Director of Food Research, Teagasc and Head of Moorepark Food Research gave a presentation to the delegation.

The Mission of Teagasc Food Programme is to support the development of a competitive and innovative food processing sector, particularly in the growing foods for health sector, which meets the highest standards of quality and safety.

Expenditure in 2004 was €7.7 million. €5.8 million of this was spent on public research. €1.5 million on commercial services and €0.4 million on Training

Income for the same year was €7.7 million. €3.6 Grant-in-aid. €2.3 FIRM/SFI/EI. €1.6 industry and €0.2 EU.

There are approximately 120 staff working in Moorepark Food Research. Moorepark, in collaboration with University College Cork, is committed to supporting the development of the functional foods industry in Ireland, and is putting significant resources into functional foods research, most notably through the recent establishment of the Joint Centre for Alimentary Pharmabiotics funded by Science Foundation Ireland. Moorepark works with food ingredients

manufacturers and users of ingredients in various ways that lead to product differentiation and innovation.

Moorepark's role in product development is exemplified by the Alphasactalbumin project. Alphasact is a constituent of whey protein and is also a major protein of mother's milk. The role of Moorepark in contract manufacturing is intended to bridge the gap between product development and full scale industrial production and generally follows from a previous product or process development project. Two current examples are yeast hydrolysate and food colorants.

Moorepark is supporting diversification and efficiency in Irish cheese manufacture by carrying out research on new varieties and by working with cheese manufacturers to improve yield and consistency.

Moorepark is supporting the expansion of the functional foods industry in Ireland. This is in line with development plans for the industry to expand functional foods sales to €200 million in 5 years. The functional foods research programme at Moorepark and UCC has gained international recognition. It provides a platform for industry for the development of new functional foods, and a multi-disciplinary approach ranging from product development to human clinical evaluation.

At the conclusion of the presentation the delegation was given a tour of the laboratories. The delegation wishes to thank Dr. Liam Donnelly, Director and the staff of the Moorepark research centre for facilitating the visit.

Prn. 195/1577

**An Comhchoiste um Thalmhaíocht agus Bia**  
Teach Laighean  
Baile Átha Cliath 2



**Joint Committee on Agriculture and Food**  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2  
☎ (01) 618 3000  
Fax (01) 618 4123 / 618 4124

██████████  
Librarian  
Leinster House



Dear ██████████

I enclose six (6) copies of the Report of the Visit to Cork for laying before both Houses of the Oireachtas.

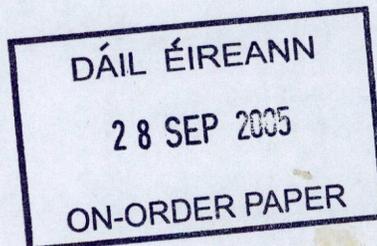
Please issue usual receipt in due course.

Yours sincerely

██████████  
Clerk to the Joint Committee

20 September 2005

Enc.



# Joint Committee on Agriculture and Food

## Report of the Visit to

- (a) The Faculty of Food Science  
and Technology, University  
College Cork
- (b) Donkey Sanctuary, County  
Cork
- (c) Food Research Centre at  
Moorepark, Teagasc



*July, 2005*