



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

Annual Report 2019





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

Mission Statement

Serving the government and people of Ireland by leading, developing and regulating the agri-food sector, protecting public health and optimising social, economic and environmental benefits.

Vision Statement

An innovative and sustainable agri-food sector operating to the highest standards.

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Review and Main Achievements of 2019



The agriculture and food sector continued to play a vital role in Ireland's economy **with agri-food exports accounting for 9.5% of total exports with a value of €14.5 billion**, marking growth of over 63% since 2010. The UK remained Ireland's largest agri-food export destination, with exports of €5.5 billion in 2019 or 38% of total exports. Exports to the EU (excluding the UK) were worth €4.7 billion, while exports to the rest of the world were worth €4.3 billion in 2019. The top three export categories in 2019 were Dairy Produce at €5.0 billion, Beef at €2.3 billion and Beverages at €1.7 billion, accounting for €9.1 billion or 63% of total worldwide agri-food exports.

The agri-food sector makes a significant contribution to employment, accounting for **7.1% of total employment or 164,400 jobs**, in rural and coastal areas. The Department was responsible for Voted expenditure of over €1.641 billion in 2019. In addition to voted expenditure, the Department spent €1.250 billion in EU EAGF funded schemes, bringing total expenditure to €2.8 billion.

In October 2019 a Revised Withdrawal Agreement and Political Declaration was agreed between the EU 27 and Prime Minister Johnson. This was subsequently ratified by both the European and UK Parliaments.

The main impact of the Brexit vote on the sector was the effect of sterling volatility on those businesses that have a significant trading relationship with the UK, and this drop in currency value continues to have a negative impact.

The Future Growth Loan Scheme developed by this Department and the Department of Enterprise, Business and Innovation in co-operation with the SBCI and the European Investment Fund (EIF), was launched by Minister Creed and his colleagues in March 2019. Delivered through participating finance providers, it provided €300 million of investment loans to eligible Irish businesses, including farmers and the agri-food & seafood sectors. Competitively priced, the loans are for terms of 8-10 years to support strategic long-term investment in a post-Brexit environment. Demand for the Scheme was high, indicating that it met the identified gap in the market, with the majority of the funds fully committed as year end approached. At the end of December 325 loans to farmers in the amount of €37.5 million had been sanctioned with 57 loans to food companies in the amount of €15.5 million sanctioned. In excess of 800 additional applications were in progress. Work has commenced on consideration of options to extend or replace the loan scheme.

Budget 2020 was delivered in the context of ongoing Brexit uncertainty, which limited capacity to introduce any new measures. However, it was agreed that the Department and the Department of Finance would engage on potential measures to assist farmers in meeting the challenges and obligations set out in the Climate Action Plan and to incentivise better Health and Safety in the sector.

The renewal for another three years of Capital Gains Tax Relief on Farm Restructuring, addressing the challenge of fragmentation on Irish farms, and the continuation of measures to promote and support entrepreneurship, as evidenced by the increase in the Earned Income Tax Credit, were important.



164,400 jobs
supported by the Agri Sector in 2019

Review and Main Achievements of 2019

The announcement regarding microbreweries, that the qualifying production threshold for relief from Alcohol Products Tax is increasing from 40,000 hectolitres to 50,000 hectolitres, will allow larger breweries to expand, particularly with a view to their export sales. Enhancements to existing tax-based measures in support of enterprise, SMEs and the agri-food sector, i.e. the Key Employee Engagement Programme (KEEP), the Employment and Investment (EII) Scheme and the Research and Development Tax Credit were also significant.

€110 million was set out in the Budget 2020 in October 2019 to provide the first tranche of supports in the event of a no deal Brexit occurring during 2020. €85 million of this was earmarked to support farmers finishing cattle for slaughter, €14 million to go towards a tie-up scheme for fishing vessels, €6 million in investment aid to improve competitiveness and increase environmental efficiency for other livestock farmers and the mushroom sector, and €5 million (with further funding provided by DBEI) to support a Food Transformation capital investment scheme for product and market innovation.

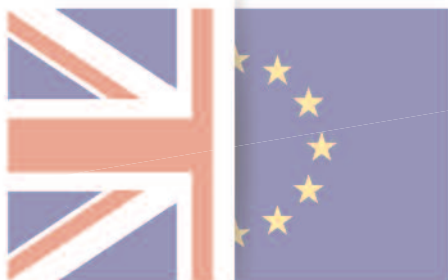
Further funding was allocated for import controls at ports and airports. In the run up to various potential Brexit deadlines during 2019, the Department, as part of a whole of Government approach to Brexit, focused on ensuring that sufficient staff, appropriate IT hardware and software solutions and inspection facilities that would be required for import controls, after Brexit were in place. This was in order to allow the Department to fulfil its legal obligations with respect to SPS controls for agri-food products as efficiently as possible, while also seeking to mitigate the worst of the inevitable disruption to trading arrangements, as a result of the UK decision to leave the single market.

Minister Creed continued his engagement with stakeholders, through meetings of the Brexit Stakeholders Consultative Committee and attendance at events organised by the Department, other Agencies and various representative bodies. These engagements afforded him the opportunity to inform and encourage business operators to take the necessary steps to allow their trading arrangements with the UK to continue as smoothly as possible. Stakeholders were encouraged to register with the Department so that they will receive relevant information directly, and to register with the Revenue Commissioners to obtain an EORI number. A Brexit Preparedness Checklist was prepared and made available at several events.

The legislative proposals for the next CAP 2021-27, continued to be discussed under the Romanian and Finnish Presidencies in 2019. The CAP Strategic Plan Regulation has proved the most problematic for Member States to consider and there are many outstanding issues that will need to be resolved before agreement can be achieved.

The Beef Environmental Efficiency pilot was launched in 2019 aimed at improving economic and environmental efficiencies on farm through gathering performance metrics facilitating more informed decision making. 16,424 farmers carried out the required weighing and recording and received payments totalling €15.3 million.

The Beef Exceptional Aid Measure (BEAM) was announced in May 2019. This provided temporary exceptional adjustment aid to farmers in the beef sector in Ireland subject to the conditions set out in EU Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1132. BEAM was funded by a combination of EU aid and Exchequer support, provided in light of the difficult circumstances that Irish beef farmers have been facing as a result of the market volatility and uncertainty. 23,374 farmers participated in BEAM resulting in payments of almost €78 million.



BREXIT was and will remain the biggest challenge to the Irish Agri Sector

Review and Main Achievements of 2019

The Chinese market for Irish beef was further opened in 2019



The Irish Beef Sector Agreement was reached between stakeholders on 15 September 2019. As part of this agreement, the Beef Taskforce was established to monitor the implementation of the commitments entered into and as a platform for strategic engagement with key stakeholders.

There was significant achievement with further access to the Chinese market for Irish beef in 2019. A successful beef audit was conducted in September 2019 with the inspection of 14 applicant beef plants who were subsequently approved to export to China in October 2019.

2019 also saw improved access to Japan, when the 30-month age restriction for beef was removed and a revised certificate introduced which allows for the export of boneless beef derived from cattle of all ages.

In 2019, Ireland exported dairy products to approximately 140 countries with a value exceeding €5 billion. This equated to a +12% volume growth and a +10% value growth compared to 2018. Sales of Butter exceeded the €1 billion mark for the second year in a row in 2019 and sales of cheese, whey and skim milk powder also saw significant growth in both volume and value in 2019. EU-28 account for 55% of the value of Irish dairy exports in 2019 with 45% to international markets.

2019 saw continued strong investment by the sector with over €5.8 million paid under the scheme of investment for the development of the commercial horticulture sector and a further €4 million paid out through the EU Producer Organisation Scheme.

The Department hosted a very successful Sustainability Dialogue stakeholder event in summer 2018. Delegates from across the sector attended and there was a real sense of collaboration on the day. The Department continues to work at building this consensus and partnership around the need for agriculture sector to make a positive contribution to climate action.

The All-of-Government Climate Action Plan was published in June 2019. The plan contained an emissions reduction target of 10% - 15% for the primary agri-food sector, which translated to a reduction in emissions from 20.2 Mt CO₂ eq in 2017 to between 17.5 and 19 Mt CO₂ eq by 2030. There was also a requirement that the sector enhances CO₂ removals from the landscape by at least 26.8 Mt CO₂ eq. In response to the Department's initial Sustainability dialogue in June 2018 and the All-of-Government plan, the Department launched a consultation process with a view to developing a ten-year roadmap entitled 'Ag Climatise' in November 2019. The objective of 'Ag Climatise' was to take the national targets and translate them into a draft sectoral roadmap for our sector. The consultation period continued into 2020.

The Department published its first statutory Agriculture, Forest and Seafood Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan during 2019. The Plan sets out the projected changes in climate focusing on those identified as most likely to impact the agriculture, forest and seafood sector and highlights real examples of where building resilience and adapting to expected climate change could be considered.

Furthermore, in response to agriculture's contribution to ammonia emissions and the need to reduce the impacts of ammonia emissions on biodiversity and human health; the Department published a 'Code of Good Practice to reduce ammonia emissions from agriculture' as required by the National Emissions Ceilings Directive. This code compliments that Nitrates Action Plan and highlights practical means to reduce ammonia emissions at farm level such as low emissions manure spreading technologies and types of fertiliser with reduced ammonia loss.

Review and Main Achievements of 2019



Innovation and investment will be the key driver for continuing growth

In 2019, as a result of a Call for Research Proposals under the Department's Competitive Research Funding Programmes, a total of 17 Irish Research Performing Organisations, including Teagasc, Universities and Institutes of Technology benefited from awards of over €20.1 million for 38 projects covering a range of topic areas. In addition to generating evidence for policy and technologies to improve agri-food practices, this investment provides direct employment for 75 contract researchers and education opportunities for 90 post graduate students in the form of PhDs (55) and Masters Degrees (35). A particularly positive aspect of the Research Awards is the all-island dimension. This is facilitated through the involvement of the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in Northern Ireland (DAERA NI) who are providing funding to researchers in three N.I. institutions who are participating in eight of the successful projects.

Following the mid term review of the Forestry Programme in 2018 and subsequent introduction of new measures, a continued strong interest in broadleaf tree species planting could be observed in 2019 with 25% of broadleaf afforestation as a percentage of total planting. 310 hectares of native woodlands were planted in 2019, representing an increase of 17% compared to 2017 figures.

87% of the 376 actions of the Foodwise 2025 Strategy have been achieved in 2019



In January 2019 the Department issued a call for proposals to promote the multifunctional benefits of forestry. Fifteen proposals were accepted for funding to promote the environmental, economic and social benefits of forestry with a budget of over €830,000 in 2019 and 2020. The successful proposals include a woodland festival, open days for native woodland establishment, promotion of hardwood in the bio-economy and numerous school based initiatives to teach children about the importance of biodiversity, forests and climate change.

The fourth annual progress report of Food Wise 2025, entitled "Steps to Success 2019" (<https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/foodwise2025/foodwise2025-stepstosuccess2019/>), was launched in July 2019. The report highlights the progress achieved in year four in the implementation of the detailed Food Wise 2025 strategy. Of the 376 actions which were due to commence by 2019 or are ongoing actions, 87% have been achieved or substantial action has been undertaken; and a further 13% have commenced and are progressing well.

The process for developing the next ten-year stakeholder-led strategy for the agri-food sector, which will succeed Food Wise 2025, began with the launch of a public consultation in July, an Open Policy Debate for four hundred stakeholders at the Aviva Stadium in October and the establishment of a committee representative of the sector in November. It is anticipated that the new strategy will be published in 2020.

A range of projects under the Rural Innovation and Development Fund (RIDF) linked to the recommendations of CEDRA (Commission for the Economic Development of Rural Areas) received almost €1.5 million in funding from the Department during 2019.

The Minister for Agriculture Michael Creed launched the Pearl Mussel Programme in Ardroom on 29 March 2019. The aim of this voluntary programme is to develop a results-based agri-environmental programme to ensure the long-term co-existence of freshwater pearl mussel populations and farming in the top eight freshwater pearl mussel catchments in Ireland.

Review and Main Achievements of 2019

The European Innovation Partnerships initiative funds co-operation between different stakeholders including farmers, researchers, advisors and businesses who form an Operational Group, to identify innovative solutions to particular challenges. Two separate open calls for proposals have issued under the EIP, with an overall funding package of €24 million. 21 separate Operational Groups have been approved to implement EIP projects.

The value of Irish seafood exports in 2019 was estimated to be in the region of €577 million, maintaining the value of 2018. Challenges were found in certain sectors while there was positive growth in others. The value of salmon exports increased by 25%, driven by a 20% increase in volume with positive price growth. Global demand for seafood continued to increase in 2019 and Irish exporters reported strong demand for their products in the main export markets.

SeaFest 2019 attracted over 90,000 visitors to Cork City Docklands during the three-day event from 7-9 June 2019. The festival showcased as Ireland's National Maritime Festival, aims to strengthen our maritime identity, increasing participation and engagement with Ireland's abundant marine resources, by raising awareness of the value and opportunities provided by the sea. SeaFest is a key part of Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth (Ireland's Integrated Marine Plan) and its goal of increasing participation and engagement with the sea.

The EU Council of Fisheries Ministers in December 2019 agreed TACs and quotas for 2020. The Minister secured 195,000 tonnes of quotas worth €275 million for Irish fishermen for 2020.

In 2019, Irish Whiskey exports continued to grow and reached €810 million for the first time and brought cumulative growth of the category to over 194% since 2012. Irish Cream exports were valued at €363 million. The most important export market was the United States.

The Department, in collaboration with farmers, stakeholder organizations and agencies is actively involved in a number of One Health One Welfare initiatives, which deliver substantial public good, including: Biosecurity, Campylobacter Stakeholder Group and the Animal Health Surveillance Strategy.

To increase awareness of the importance of animal health, the Department held its inaugural Animal Health Awareness day on 28 November 2019. In addition to a range of events held on the day, over 4,750 leaflets and some 280 posters were distributed for display in Department offices, Department approved slaughter plants, marts, third level education institutions and Teagasc offices.

The publication of Ireland's first *One Health Report on Antimicrobial Use and Antimicrobial Resistance* in January 2019 provided an overview for the first time into the antimicrobial use (AMU) and antimicrobial resistance (AMR) surveillance data in both humans and food-producing animals in Ireland.

The Department, in collaboration with farmers, stakeholder organizations and agencies is actively involved in a number of One Health One Welfare initiatives



Review and Main Achievements of 2019



In 2019, the Department provided funding of €2.9 million to 106 animal welfare bodies throughout the country who are directly involved in the delivery of animal care and welfare services.

Approximately 98.4% of the national herd was tested for bovine TB in 2019. There was a decrease in the number of reactors detected, 17,058 in 2019 compared to 17,491 in 2018. However, Herd incidence of TB increased from 3.51% to 3.72% in the same period.

In 2019, the Department provided funding of €2.9 million to 106 animal welfare bodies throughout the country who are directly involved in the delivery of animal care and welfare services. The funding provided is intended only as a contribution to the overall costs of the organisations. All applicants for funding must sign up to a strict set of animal welfare guidelines, be in existence for two years or more, be registered with the Charities Regulator and provide detailed supporting accounts.

In addition to paying Ireland's 2019 subscription of €1.43 million to the Food and Agriculture Organisations (FAO), further extra budgetary funding of €1.18 million was provided to the FAO in areas where FAO has a particular competence and which the Department considers to be of strategic importance.

The Department hosted an Innovation week from 9-13 December in conjunction with the inaugural Public Service Wide Innovation Week to encourage positive change in how the Department's services are provided.

During 2019, the Department facilitated three trainee placements on the Oireachtas Work Learning Programme (OWL), an applied learning, development and socialisation programme for young adults with an intellectual disability. The Programme aims to support individuals in developing the skills and confidence which will lead them to access paid employment in the open labour market.

During 2019, and as part of the Equality & Diversity strategy, work was undertaken on procurement of an eLearning course on Equality & Diversity in the Workplace. The eLearning resource, developed specifically for the Irish Public Sector with relevant Irish case studies, addresses various aspects of equality & diversity in the workplace including diversity, unconscious bias, harassment and discrimination.

Review and Main Achievements of 2019

The Annual Review and Outlook for Agriculture, Food and the Marine is produced annually to provide up-to-date information and statistical analysis from a variety of sources and is a detailed overview of Ireland's agri-food sector and an outlook for the future. The Annual Review and Outlook for 2019 can be found on the Department's website at:

<https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/agri-foodindustry/agri-foodandtheeconomy/economicpublications/aro2019/>.

A strong evidence base is essential for policy formation and implementation and the information and statistics included in the Annual Review and Outlook is intended to assist in policy analysis and debate in the sector. The Department also produces regular factsheets on topics such as Irish Agriculture, Trade and Brexit and these can also be found on the website:

<https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/agri-foodindustry/agri-foodandtheeconomy/economicpublications/>.



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Strategic Goal Food Safety, Animal and Plant Health and Animal Welfare

*To promote and safeguard public,
animal and plant health and animal
welfare for the benefit of consumers
and producers and wider society*

One Health

The 'One Health One Welfare' concept promotes a "whole of society" approach which recognises that the health and well-being of people is connected to the health and welfare of animals, biodiversity and the environment. The goal of the 'One Health One Welfare' concept is to encourage multidisciplinary collaborative efforts across different sectors such as health, agriculture and the environment to achieve the best health outcomes for people and animals.

More than 60% of human infectious diseases worldwide are caused by pathogens of zoonotic nature, transmitted to man by domestic or wild animals, either through direct contact, the environment (including through living vectors) or food. Zoonoses, together with the development of antimicrobial resistance, represent a growing global threat to human and animal health, including food safety and indeed food security. Therefore, preventing diseases at their animal source is crucial to protecting human health and well-being. Furthermore, the potential contribution of animal health to climate change mitigation measures is increasingly being recognised and quantified.

The Department, in collaboration with farmers, stakeholder organisations and agencies is actively involved in a number of One Health One Welfare initiatives, which deliver substantial 'public goods'. Some examples of these are outlined below:

Biosecurity

Veterinary led on-farm biosecurity reviews are currently available free of charge at the point of use to commercial pig and poultry farmers, through a measure in the Rural Development Programme. These reviews provide each participating farmer with a report, quantifying the strength of their biosecurity practices and recommending key areas where improvement is required. Annual repetition of the biosecurity reviews will, over time, demonstrate progress made as a result of management changes.

Ante-Mortem Post-Mortem (AMPM) Systems

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/627 requires that relevant meat inspection findings of significance to public and animal health must be fed back to producers and private veterinary practitioners. Making this vital data available via a secure online platform to farm level decision makers will help drive herd health management improvements, with consequential benefits for animal and public health outcomes. The electronic capture of findings from ante- and post-mortem examinations is a pre-requisite to enable such feedback, and to this end the Department is planning to progressively introduce AMPM systems across a range of species. The first such system to be developed by the Department is that for pigs, with roll-out to other species expected to take place over the course of the next 3-4 years. The *Beef HealthCheck* programme, developed by Animal Health Ireland, in conjunction with the Department and Meat Industry Ireland, has already been providing feedback to beef and dairy farmers in relation to liver fluke and respiratory disease for a number of years, and has shown the value of such systems to farmers, the meat industry, veterinary practitioners and policy makers.

Campylobacter Stakeholder Group

Campylobacter is the most common cause of bacterial enteritis in Ireland and throughout the EU. The Irish broiler sector, supported by the Department, FSAI and others, participate in the Campylobacter Stakeholder Group, whose report (April 2017) sets out multiple recommendations aimed at enhancing risk reduction right across the food chain to the point of consumption. As part of the implementation of this report, the Department and the relevant stakeholders have entered into an agreement under which caecal samples are now being taken from the majority of flocks sent to slaughter, using an agreed protocol. The results of the analysis of these samples provide an excellent indicator of the prevalence of Campylobacter at farm level. Work is ongoing to further develop the database to enable farmers receive direct feedback of Campylobacter results, with benchmarking capabilities to facilitate the monitoring of progress.

One Health

The Animal Health Surveillance Strategy

The Animal Health Surveillance Strategy is an important component of the overall National Farmed Animal Health Strategy. Animal Health Surveillance allows the gathering of intelligence to detect either novel animal health related events or increases in animal health related events as early as possible to better inform risk management at all levels within the industry. Communicating the information assembled from these surveillance activities is a critical component of a well-functioning surveillance system. A key element of communication within the surveillance strategy has been the establishment of a dedicated animal health surveillance website to provide timely and accurate information to relevant stakeholders

(www.animalhealthsurveillance.agriculture.gov.ie).

It also provides animal health information to potential and existing trading partners. The website is regularly updated with topical animal health issues for the benefit of farmers, veterinary practitioners and other users. An action undertaken as part of the surveillance strategy during 2019 saw the introduction of a new abattoir surveillance programme for Cattle, designed to work with the Department's IT systems, to verify freedom from Brucellosis, Enzootic Bovine Leukosis (EBL) and Bluetongue using one set of samples by the most cost effective means possible. The new programme was very effective allowing the Department to achieve the same outcome with the 17,197 blood samples collected during 2019 compared with the 129,469 blood samples that were collected during 2018.

Animal Health Awareness Day

To increase awareness of the importance of animal health, the Department held its inaugural Animal Health Awareness day on 28 November 2019. A range of events were organised for the awareness day, with a total audience of approximately 900 people in attendance across the various events. The showcase event for the day was a seminar entitled *Animal Health- from farm to food shelf*, which was held in Corrin Mart and attended by in excess of 100 people. Other events included talks for agricultural students, veterinary practitioners and nursing students, hosted

by the Department's network of Regional Veterinary Laboratories. Over 4,750 leaflets and some 280 posters were distributed for display in Department offices, Department approved slaughter plants, marts, third level education institutions and Teagasc offices.

National Animal Welfare Strategy

The Department is advancing the finalisation and publication of a National Animal Welfare Strategy, which in line with the principles of One Welfare recognises the interconnectedness between animal welfare and human wellbeing and foresees greater engagement across stakeholders and society towards a shared objective of enhanced animal welfare in Ireland.

Rearing Pigs with Intact Tails

Rearing Pigs with Intact Tails is a national programme, intending to achieve commercial rearing of pigs without tail docking. Tail biting in pigs results from inadequate provision of living environments which facilitate normal pig behaviours. Pig farmers are moving through the first steps by undertaking risk assessments and creating action plans for tail biting. This process, funded by the Department through the Rural Development Programme, is delivered using private veterinary expertise. Regulatory visits with a specific focus on rearing pigs with intact tails are being progressed in parallel.

Antimicrobial Resistance

In 2019 all stakeholders within the iNAP Animal Health Implementation Committee have demonstrated a clear commitment to supporting Ireland's National Action Plan to tackle AMR and have continued to progress the Animal Health actions outlined in iNAP. Meanwhile the Department continues to work with all stakeholders under the auspices of the Inter-Departmental Consultative Committee, which meets twice yearly to advance the actions contained in iNAP at a One Health level. The publication of Ireland's first *One Health Report on Antimicrobial Use and Antimicrobial Resistance* in January 2019 provided an overview for the first time into the antimicrobial use (AMU) and antimicrobial resistance (AMR) surveillance data in both humans and food-producing animals in Ireland.

One Health

The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and the European Commission's Directorate General for Health and Food Safety jointly carried out a One Health AMR country visit to Ireland from the 7-11 October 2019. The visit was organised in conjunction with our colleagues in the Department of Health and the purpose of the visit was to assist Ireland in further developing and implementing its national strategies and policies against AMR based on a One Health approach. The final report from European Commission/ECDC of their findings and recommendations is a very useful assessment of our actions taken to date to tackle AMR. The findings will inform the development of Ireland's second National Action Plan on AMR which is due to commence in 2020.

The Department and Teagasc jointly organised the antimicrobial and anthelmintic resistance Conference "Awareness to Action" took place on the 27 of November 2019. The key objectives of this event were to heighten awareness of resistance to antimicrobials (AMR) and anthelmintics and to facilitate the knowledge transfer and exchange of best practice amongst farmers and veterinary professionals in relation to use, prescribing and management of veterinary medicines in animal health. This event was co-hosted by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Teagasc, Animal Health Ireland and was supported by University College Dublin. This event embodied two key objectives of iNAP in relation to improving knowledge and awareness of AMR, and also optimising the use of antibiotics in animal health by facilitating the sharing of learning and exchange of best practice amongst farmers and veterinary professionals in relation to use of antibiotics and anthelmintics in animal health.

Two new guidance documents developed collaboratively by the farming and veterinary stakeholders involved in the iNAP Animal Health Sector Implementation Committee were launched at this event, including *A Code of Good Practice Regarding the Responsible Use of Antibiotics on Pig Farms* as well as *A Code of Good Practice Regarding the Responsible Use of Antibiotics on Dairy Farms*.

A National Antimicrobial Usage Database for pigs was introduced by the Department on 1 November 2019.

This database is designed to collect farm level data on the amount of antimicrobials used on commercial Irish pig farms on a quarterly basis. Measuring antimicrobial use is a pivotal part of the national effort to reduce overall use, and promote responsible use where necessary. It is envisaged that while usage data is gathered at farm level for pigs, data will be collected from prescribing vets in all other species.

In 2019 the Department also collaborated with the Irish Farmers Journal (IFJ) on a "One Health" campaign aimed at farmers/farm advisors and other readers of the IFJ. This initiative involved fortnightly articles both online and published in the journal, in tandem with a short video discussing each theme. The initiative started in September 2019 and continued for 26 weeks. This initiative met several strategic objectives under Ireland's National Action Plan on AMR 2017-2020 (iNAP) in terms of Strategic Objective 1, improving knowledge and awareness of AMR, Strategic Objective 3 reducing the spread of infection and disease by promoting improved animal health and biosecurity and Strategic Objective 4, optimising the use of antibiotics in animal health.

By the end of 2019, there were 54 actions contained within the action plan of the iNAP Animal Health sector implementation committee, 13 of these actions have been completed and the remainder are ongoing. There has been very positive engagement across the sectors and work continues at a steady pace to address the various strategies and objectives in line with the World Health Organisation's Action Plan to address what is first and foremost a public health threat. The current action plan expires at the end of 2020 and work has commenced on the development of its successor.

Notwithstanding the importance of the above point, in the context of food safety, food business operators (FBOs) have primary responsibility to ensure that any food they place on the market is wholesome and safe. FBOs – including farmers – therefore have an undeniable responsibility to take actions necessary to minimise known risks to public health.

Food Safety

Food Safety and Hygiene Controls

Food safety and hygiene standards continued through the implementation by the Department of its service contract with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI).

A new three year Service Contract effective from 2017 covers controls on:

- Meat hygiene
- Milk and milk products
- Egg and egg products
- Pesticides
- Horticulture
- Border Inspection Posts
- Residues
- Zoonoses Directive
- Food labelling

In 2019, the Department co-ordinated the investigation of 82 food complaints of which 56 were for meat/meat products, 26 were for milk/dairy products, of which 18 were rapid alerts on behalf of the FSAI and the European Commission. These ranged from conformance with labelling legislation, foreign objects allegedly found in products and quality issues. These investigations were in addition to the normal monitoring of food to ensure that the maximum acceptable level of residues is not exceeded.

The Department also participated in five Directorate General for Health and Food Safety Audit/Fact Finding Missions in respect of Feed Importers, Genetically Modified Organisms, Controls on Organic Farming and Labelling, Food Hygiene to prevent Microbiological Contamination and National Audit Systems.

Milk and Meat

Based on the fundamental principle that each food and feed business operator is responsible for the safety of the food/feed they produce, all dairy and meat establishments must be compliant with the requirements of the European Food Hygiene Regulations (known as the “Hygiene Package”). Food Business Operators (FBOs) must also adhere to the internationally accepted HACCP (hazard analysis and critical control point) principles, which give FBOs the

flexibility to adapt control systems to the specific requirements of their operation. Throughout 2019, the Department continued to monitor and verify that all such approved establishments remained compliant with these principles. The Department maintains a list of approved and registered food establishments on its website.

(<http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/foodsafetyconsumerissues/DAFMapprovedestablishments/>)

The Department also carries out its own risk-based controls at establishments under its supervision. During 2019, the Department controls system in meat plants moved from a focus on individual inspections to an audit model. A new focus on broader risk assessed audits of activities impacted on the overall number of controls. 2,054 controls were carried out on meat establishments in 2019 to verify that the relevant legislative requirements are being fulfilled at all stages of production, processing and distribution. Supplementary technical controls included 5,031 visits to Meat FBOs.

The corresponding number of controls carried out in dairy establishments (including market support) was 1,600. Supplementary technical controls included 11,908 samples taken in 2019. The Department also issued 56,780 certificates in support of meat trade and 29,253 certificates in support of dairy trade to internal and international markets.

A total of 1,391 milk and meat notices were served on Milk and Meat FBOs, notifying them of infringements under the Hygiene Regulations and follow-up action was taken as necessary.

Animal By-Products

Ireland’s rendering industry processes approximately 500,000 tonnes of raw animal by-products (ABP) from the meat industry and fallen animals that die on farms annually. ABP also includes food waste; catering waste from restaurants and hotels and manure from farmed animals. In 2019, updated codes of good practice for poultry farmers generating poultry litter, poultry litter hauliers and end users of poultry litter were updated and issued to all parties and are available on the Department’s website.

Food Safety

Approximately 1,900 ABP operators ranging from the biogas (generating renewable energy), composing (generating mushroom growing substrate and organic fertilizers) and the rendering sector to educational institutions and research facilities are involved in the collection, transport, handling, treatment, transformation, processing, storage, placing on the market, distribution use or disposal of animal by-products and are regulated under EU and national ABP legislation by the Department.

Animal Feed Controls

The Department is the central Competent Authority responsible for the enforcement of EU legislation with regard to animal feedstuffs. A prerequisite for safe food is safe animal feed and consequently the animal feed sector is heavily regulated and controlled within the EU. The focus of the legislation is to ensure that feedstuffs do not pose a risk to animal or public health, meet the prescribed minimum standards and are accurately labelled and fully traceable.

The Department carries out a risk-based official control programme that is implemented through inspections, audits and sampling of feedstuffs at all stages of the feed chain, including importation, storage, manufacture, trade and farm level. Feed samples are subject to a broad range of analyses to verify the safety of feed and also to verify the accuracy of labelling information.

In 2019, a total of 1,219 inspections/audits were performed. The majority of non-compliances identified during official controls related to deficiencies in the Feed Business Operators' HACCP plans, comprising 43% of the total number issued. Other non-compliances identified related to general hygiene (24%), labelling (11%) and traceability (11%). Feed Business Operators were informed of the non-compliances identified, and these have all been followed up and addressed.

1,539 samples of animal feed were taken in 2019 and sent to a range of laboratories for over 10,000 analyses, including undesirable substances, processed animal protein, chemical and microbiological contaminants.

Over 80% of all tests carried out relate to Feed Safety. All feeds tested were safe and fit for purpose with 3% of analysis being outside of the tolerance for qualitative properties.

Animal Feed Exports

The robustness of Irish feed controls are reflected in the ever expanding access to export markets for Irish Agri-Food products, with the export of Irish manufactured animal feed products to 58 countries, including some of the most demanding markets such as Japan and China. In addition, there was a 10% increase in the numbers of feed export certificates issued in 2019 compared to 2018.

Year	Number of Export Certificates	Number of countries
2018	1,394	61
2019	1,546	58

Residues Surveillance in Food

The 2019 results of the Department's National Residue Plan showed a continuing trend of high rate of compliance with 99.79% of samples testing negative for any residues.

Approximately 17,500 samples were tested in 2019, taken across all eight food producing species as well as milk, eggs and honey. 99.79% tested negative for any residues and this is a continuation of the trend over a number of years of a general absence of residues in Irish food products. This high level of compliance has been consistent over the last number of years.

Just 37 samples were non-compliant and of these the majority related to residues of authorised medicines. Risk evaluations by the Food Safety Authority of Ireland were carried out in response to each positive result. In 36 cases it was found that there was no unacceptable food safety risk to consumers and a recall of products from the market was not required. In the remaining

Food Safety

case where one equine sample tested positive for dioxins, a Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) notification issued to all Member States. All positive results were investigated on the farm of origin with a view to taking the necessary enforcement measures up to and including legal action.

Approval, Inspection and Control of Plant Protection and Biocidal Products

Pesticide products containing approved active substances are authorised at national level in accordance with zonal evaluation, mutual recognition and decision-making criteria agreed at EU level. Detailed assessment and peer review work progressed for 25 active substances during 2019, with 19 substances completing the regulatory process. Detailed assessment and peer review work for 37 products was progressed in 2019, with 20 products completing the regulatory process. A further 190 plant protection products were authorised through the mutual recognition process or updated during the year. Regarding biocides regulatory work, a total of 414 biocidal products were authorised through the mutual recognition process or updated during the year.

Only plant protection and biocidal products which are included in the Official Register may be placed on the market. A total of 939 plant protection products were on the Register at the end of 2019. Details are available on the Department's website, which may be interrogated by product name, by active substance or by function and crop. At the end of 2019, there were approximately 2,600 notified biocidal products included on the Biocidal Product Register in Ireland and 836 authorised biocidal products.

The Department carries out follow up actions in relation to breaches of Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) and unauthorised uses identified by the Food Chemistry Division. In 2019, the National Pesticide Residues Control Programme sampled and analysed 1,466 food items. MRLs for pesticide residues in food were exceeded in 10 of the samples analysed (0.7%) but no consumer health risk was identified. Nine breaches related to produce of non-Irish origin that had been sampled as part of the surveillance programme.

In each instance, warning letters were issued advising these wholesalers and officials that the produce would be subjected to statutory action if a repeat infringement was detected. One breach related to produce of Irish origin. The producer in question was investigated for the possible cause of the non-compliance. There were no breaches relating to import controls. In addition, occurrences of unauthorised uses of pesticides were investigated and follow-up action initiated, including targeting of produce for future sampling.

An updated version of Ireland's National Action Plan (NAP) for the Sustainable Use of Pesticides was published during 2019. The new NAP specifies that all types of pesticide application equipment, other than handheld equipment, must be tested and certified and provides greater detail on the implementation of Integrated Pest Management principles.

Food Safety and Hygiene Controls

Horticulture Produce

Horticulture and Plant Health Division in the Department is responsible for ensuring that all primary producers of horticultural produce are registered in line with food safety legislation. As part of the Department's service contract with the FSAI, the Division implements a risk-based system of official controls of primary producers of food of non-animal origin to ensure compliance with EU food safety and food hygiene legislation. This includes performing inspections, audits, sampling, labelling and traceability checks and other official controls as necessary. A total of 146 notices were served on horticultural food producers in 2019, notifying them of infringements under the Hygiene Regulations and follow-up action was taken as necessary. The Division plays a key role in dealing with food safety incidents involving Irish horticultural produce. All the required information regarding registering as a horticultural food supplier can be found on the Department website.

(<https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmingsectors/horticulture/registerasafoodproducerfruitveg/>)

Food Safety

Horticulture and Plant Health Division is also responsible for carrying out inspections at wholesale and retail level to ensure that potatoes, fresh fruit and vegetables comply with national and/or EU marketing standards. Over 2,000 inspections were carried out in 2019 and the major issues identified relate to labelling of country of origin and substitution of potato varieties with cheaper varieties. All of the information relating to EU marketing standards for fresh fruit and vegetables can be found on the Department website at <https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmingsectors/horticulture/freshfruitvegetablesmarketingstandardseu/>

Fallen Animal Testing/Disposal

In 2019, the Department provided financial support for the collection of approximately 57,000 fallen animals, in particular bovines over 48 months of age, for sampling as required under the ongoing national BSE surveillance programme.

The Department has approved 38 knackeries under the ABP regulations for the collection and disposal of fallen animals.

Import Controls on Animal Products

In 2019 there were 3,185 consignments of animal and fishery product imports presented to Border Inspection Points (BIPs) in Ireland.

Licenses or authorisations for these products issued in accordance with national rules are as follows:

	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Trade and Research samples*	104	93	233	762	782
Non-harmonised products	9	9	12	8	14
Re-imported consignments	30	53	42	58	17
Pathogenic agents	25	26	21	33	37
Autogenous Vaccines	15	5	7	4	3

*Please note in 2017 a new system for authorising Trade and Research sample licences was brought into effect, removing the requirement to apply for licences on a per consignment basis and changing to an annual licence.

Animal Identification and Movement System

The Animal Identification and Movement (AIM) system manages the identification of all cattle, sheep, pigs, goats and horses. The system manages the movement of cattle at individual level and the movements of sheep, goats and pigs at herd level for traceability purposes.

The database facilitates compliance with EU and national requirements and is used for disease control purposes and to support exports. The system operates on a 24/7 basis in marts, meat factories and export locations and an online facility enables farmers and authorised agents to submit calf birth registrations and cattle movements electronically. New rules on sheep identification were introduced on 1 June 2019 which require all sheep to be identified electronically whereby lambs aged under 12 months, moving directly to slaughter from the holding of birth must, at a minimum, be identified with a single yellow electronic tag and all other sheep must be identified with a full EID tag set / electronic bolus set. The extension of electronic identification to all sheep simplified the sheep tagging system, should protect Ireland's reputation as a source of safe and secure food and put Ireland's sheep traceability system on a par with other major competitor exporting countries in maintaining and securing new international markets for Irish sheep meat.

Food Safety and Food Authenticity Strategy

In order to further progress the Department's critically important role in the safeguarding of food safety and authenticity, the FSFA Working Group was established by the Departments Management Board in October 2016 - the objectives and proposed actions of which is to ensure that the Department has an effective and efficient harmonised and co-ordinated framework for the organisation of all activities including official controls on food safety and authenticity that supports the Department objective of excellence of policy, strategy and operations. The Food Safety and Food Authenticity Strategy (FSFA) was launched by Minister Creed in July 2018. The FSFA comprises seven Projects which will set out the roadmap of how the Department's work in this key area can be improved.

Food Safety

These projects are:

Contingency Planning (CP)

This project will deliver a report of the current CP structure in the Department with respect to FSFA, provide a guidance document outlining common themes for contingency plans, provide contingency plan templates, run a report on crisis simulation exercises within the Department and develop a central repository for information.

Risk Analysis and Assessment

This project is interrogating current Department Risk analysis and assessment systems, comparing our practices to those of domestic and internal organisations with a view to building a roadmap for a world class risk system for the Department's areas.

Strategic Communications

This project aims to improve the consistency and quality of communications in relation to FSFA. To achieve this stakeholder analysis will be performed along with a review of current methods of communication in the Department, comparison with international best practice and development of a communications strategy for FSFA.

Harmonisation of official controls

This project will improve customer engagement with the Department through standardising the interaction of Department officials with FBOs and their control bodies, simplifying and harmonising the process for registration/approval of FBOs by the Department and standardising the format of the Departments FSFA documents used in official controls.

Data Capture, Analysis and Reporting

This project will result in efficiencies of service delivery for the benefit of the consumer and the agri-food industry. The Data project is investigating how data is managed within the Department's FSFA Divisions and identifying IMT systems that provide comprehensive and harmonised work programmes, reports and metrics across FSFA activities.

Training for Food Authenticity Controls

This project will involve a systematic evaluation of the controls required under the Regulation in relation to food fraud and authenticity in order to identify the skills and training needs of staff to implement the requirements of the Regulation.

Compliance Through Cohesive Policies & Regulation

This project is examining the practices employed within and outside the Department that foster compliance by operators and will capture these best practices in the form of a compliance toolkit that can be used as a policy tool across the organisation. A stakeholder led stewardship programme that raises awareness of key compliance issues is being developed. The project is examining the benefits of centrally based coordination of policy analysis in the area of FSFA.

The projects are being individually implemented by staff teams with project sponsorship at head of Division level. In total, 70 staff are directly involved in the project planning and implementation. Some of the activities undertaken by the projects include stakeholder surveys, factfinding missions, and simulation exercises. The Strategy's implementation is overseen by a high-level Steering Committee with an internal and external membership.

Animal Health and Welfare

Notifiable Exotic Diseases

Vigilance against the introduction of exotic diseases such as Foot and Mouth disease, Avian Influenza, Bluetongue and African Swine Fever, remained a key priority during 2019. Exotic diseases are present in many other countries and previous experiences have demonstrated the absolute necessity of properly regulating trade, ensuring high levels of biosecurity, surveillance, contingency arrangements and robust legislation are in place to deal speedily and effectively with disease threats and outbreaks.

During 2019 there were a number of suspect exotic disease investigations.

Number of suspect cases of exotic disease that were investigated by Department staff during 2019:

Disease	2019	
	Suspect cases investigated	Confirmed cases
Equine Viral Arteritis*	31	0
Piroplasmosis	1	1
Foot & mouth disease	1	0
Newcastle Disease	3	0
Pigeon Paramyxovirus**	5	5
Avian Influenza (poultry)	2	0
Avian Influenza (captive birds)	1	0
Total	44	6

* Unusually high number of suspect cases due to enhanced surveillance as a result of EVA vaccine shortage in 2017/2018

** Not notifiable to EU or OIE.

The Department implements an annual surveillance programme for avian influenza in wild birds the objective of which is to identify avian influenza virus subtypes and the potential, subsequent risk to the poultry industry.

Wild Birds tested for Avian Influenza during 2019:

Year	No. of wild birds tested	No. Positive
2019	78	0

Contingency Planning

Contingency plans are in place for high priority exotic animal diseases. These plans are based on requirements set out in existing EU legislation and criteria identified during past disease outbreaks in other European countries. They aim to ensure there is a swift, co-ordinated and effective response to control an exotic disease outbreak with the aim of eradicating the disease, restoring official disease freedom where applicable and facilitating resumption of normal trading patterns. The continued focus of the Department during 2019 was on reviewing existing contingency plans and arrangements and ensuring there is a high level of awareness amongst stakeholders regarding exotic disease risk, with particular focus on African Swine Fever.

BSE

The Department is responsible for the effective co-ordination of BSE policy and surveillance, testing and compensation arrangements, and the funding of same, as provided in Regulation (EC) 999/2001 and S.I. 532/15. There were no positive BSE cases identified in 2019.

Scrapie

Scrapie is a compulsorily notifiable disease in Ireland. There were six new flocks identified in 2019, with all six atypical scrapie and no classical scrapie.

Under the Active Surveillance Programme, 21,978 scrapie tests were carried out in 2019, comprising: 10,995 sheep tested at slaughter plants; 10,717 fallen sheep; 104 at Local Authority; 0 depopulated sheep; and 150 fallen goats.

Animal Health and Welfare

A National Genotype Programme (NGP) is in place to encourage sheep breeders to raise genetic resistance to scrapie in the National Flock. This is a voluntary programme and since its introduction in 2004 to the end of 2019, a total of 86,967 sheep have been genotyped.

Animal Health Computer System (AHCS)

The Animal Health Computer System (AHCS) is the primary computer system supporting the Department in managing the disease testing programmes for Tuberculosis (TB), Brucellosis (BR), Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) and Bovine Viral Disease (BVD) in cattle and Aujesky's disease in pigs. In total, this system recorded the results of almost 11.5 million tests in 2019 and has significantly contributed to administrative efficiencies in the operation of the TB programme and the attainment of Brucellosis-free status. Approximately 1,200 Department staff and 1,000 Private Veterinary Practitioners use this system daily.

Animal Disease Tests recorded on AHCS in 2019

Tests Performed	Total Number
TB/BR Herd Tests	166,593
TB – Individual Animals	8,882,901
BVD – Calves Tested	2,396,001
Salmonella – Pig Herds – 7-Month Tests	1,945
Salmonella – Pigs – Laboratory Tests	6,092

During 2019, several technical improvements were implemented, and the major system enhancements introduced included –

- Incorporation of GIF (Gamma Interferon Testing) in the TB testing programme,
- Creation of Travelling Bull Permit,
- Pig Salmonella Control Program (PSCP), incorporation of prevalence calculation and generation of letters,
- Antimicrobial Use - Data Capture system for Antimicrobial Use in Pigs.

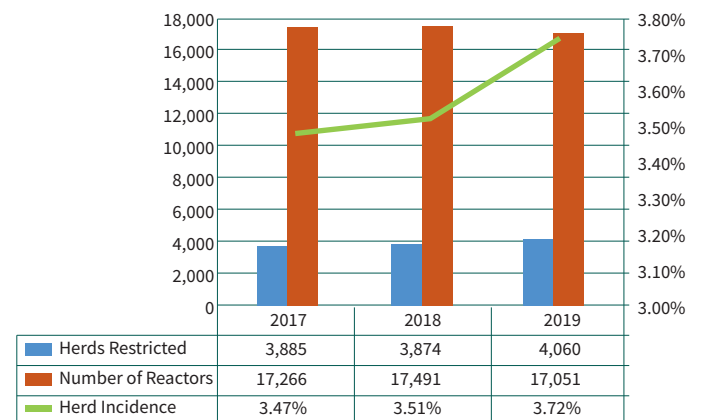
CLASS B DISEASES

Bovine Tuberculosis

Approximately 98.4% of the national herd was tested for bovine TB in 2019. There was a decrease in the number of reactors detected, 17,058 in 2019 compared to 17,491 in 2018. However, Herd incidence of TB increased from 3.51% to 3.72% in the same period.

Trends over the past three years are set out in the graph below.

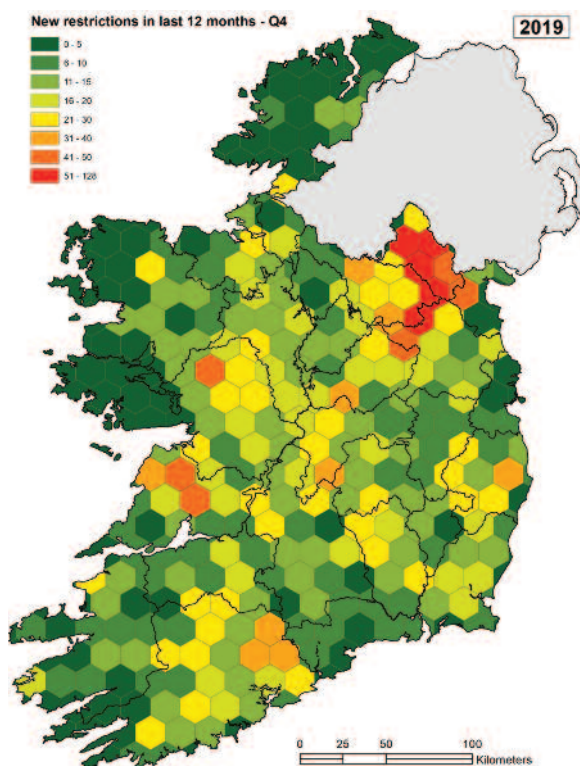
TB Statistics 2017-2019



The underlying TB risk is increasing due to a number of factors, including more dairy herds and larger individual herd sizes. Overall reactor numbers include not just skin-test positives, but also gamma-interferon (GIF) blood test positives, which make up approximately 16% of reactors. A GIF test is used in high risk TB breakdowns and can identify infected animals which may be missed by the standard skin-test. Trends in reactor numbers and herd incidence support the need for a renewed focus on the TB eradication programme.

Animal Health and Welfare

As the map below confirms, TB levels overall are at a low level but there has been a relatively high level of TB concentrated in the north-east of Ireland throughout 2019 i.e. Monaghan, Cavan, north-Meath. This map shows new restrictions in the country in 2019.

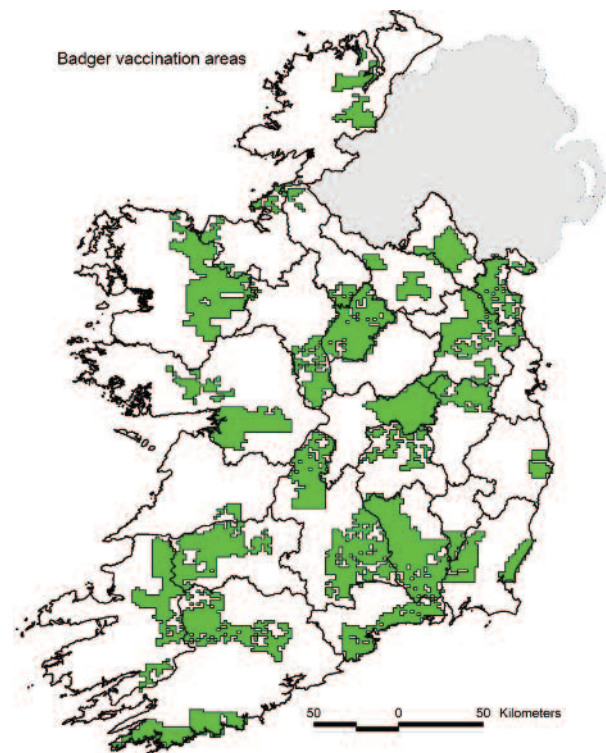


Badger Vaccination Programme

Vaccination as Policy

The vaccination of badgers against tuberculosis (TB) commenced in 2018 as an integral part of the bovine TB eradication programme. This vaccination programme would roll out incrementally to more parts of the country over time but some level of badger culling in response to severe TB episodes would still be required in places. This roll out of vaccination was progressed significantly in the second half of 2019 when the area of the country subject to vaccination was increased substantially. In these areas, badger culling continues to be carried out in response to severe cattle TB

outbreaks where epidemiologically justified. A map of the area under vaccination at the end of 2019 is shown below.



Roll Out of Vaccination in 2019

Staff training in advance of the roll-out concentrated on:

- The results of the Kilkenny Vaccination Trial
- The Non-Inferiority Trials
- Preference for Vaccination over Removal in ecological terms.
- Use of the newly developed Badger Vaccination Software
- Targets for Vaccination

Vaccination Methodology

Criteria under which culling may be carried out in response to severe cattle TB episodes in vaccination areas

Animal Health and Welfare

2019 Wildlife Unit Activity

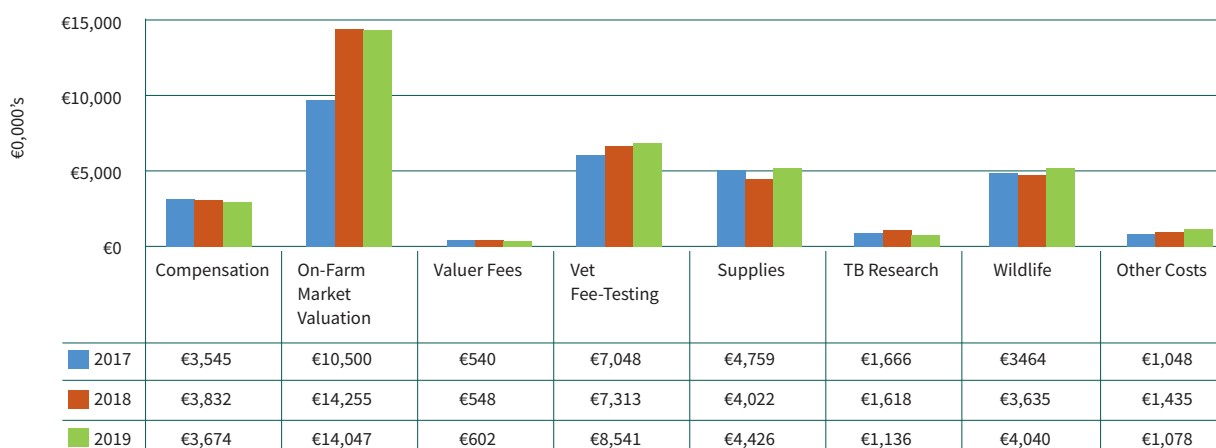
In 2019, 1,391 badgers were vaccinated in the vaccination zone and 5,310 badgers were removed in the removal capture blocks.

TB Strategy 2030

In line with the objectives of the National Farmed Animal Health Strategy, Minister Creed established the TB Stakeholder Forum in 2018. The TB Forum's Chairman, Mr Michael Cronin presented a report to the Minister in July 2019 containing a selection of proposals which could have a significant impact on the reduction of bTB in the years ahead. It is intended that a strategy will be launched mapping a 10-year plan for bTB taking account of the recommendations of the Forum report.

The Irish Government Economic and Evaluation Service completed a spending review on the bTB Programme which issued on Budget Day 2019, and this will be used to inform future policy consideration.

Expenditure 2017-2019



A Spending Review paper was published in October 2019 (<https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/5915ad-spending-review/>) to support the work of the TB forum to examine recent trends and concluded that additional measures may be warranted to achieve eradication.

Animal Health and Welfare

Compensation Schemes

The On-Farm Market Valuation Scheme is the main measure for compensating farmers for the removal of reactors. Other schemes such as Depopulation Grants, Income Supplement and Hardship Grants compensate for income losses due to restriction. Approximately €17.7 million was spent during 2019 on all compensation elements of the TB Eradication and Brucellosis Monitoring Schemes.

EU Co-funding

EU Co-funding is paid a year in arrears. In line with co-funding programme criteria and reflecting consecutive years of deteriorating disease metrics, the EU imposed a 10% penalty on Ireland's co-funding claim for 2018. The EU paid €8.79 million towards the 2018 Irish bovine TB eradication programme in 2019. The corresponding figure for the 2017 programme was €9.85 million. As disease metrics did not improve in 2019, Ireland is expecting a further 20% funding penalty in line with co-funding programme criteria. Separately, the EU has reduced the funding available for 2020 from €7.25 million to €5.42 million with a further possible penalty of 40% if disease metrics do not improve in 2020. In line with this the co-funding level continues to be cut from 50% down to 35% for 2020 which means that Ireland may not be able to claim the full amount allocated. Consistent downward pressure is being exerted on TB programme funding available from the EU reflecting competing demands for resources across the CAP and the emergence of other diseases that require co-funding support.

Bovine Diseases Levies

Receipts from Bovine Diseases Levies decreased slightly in 2019 at €7.3 million compared to €7.5 million in 2018.

Prosecutions

During 2019, six prosecution cases were concluded at District Court level, two of which were appealed, while two litigation cases were resolved. In addition, one case was resolved before the High Court while two other High Court cases remained unresolved going into 2020. Three new prosecution cases were commenced during 2019 involving allegations of failure to test, failure to comply with a notice, failure to eartag, illegal movement without passports and document forgery.

Maintenance of Freedom from Bovine Brucellosis

Ireland has had the status of officially free of bovine brucellosis since 2009. The Department continues to carry out a comprehensive, risk-based surveillance programme to substantiate our ongoing free status. In 2019, a sophisticated statistically-based sampling system was developed by Department veterinary experts and put in place to enable the same level of confidence in our brucellosis-free status to be achieved while significantly reducing the number of samples and resources needed to attain such confidence. This was successfully implemented in late 2019, laying the foundation for a more cost-effective and risk-based surveillance system to support disease freedom in the coming years.

Animal Health Ireland (AHI)

AHI concentrates on a number of key programmes relating to Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD), Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis (IBR), Johnes, Beef Health Check and Mastitis. These programmes are endorsed by the Department and are referenced in Food Harvest 2020.

In 2019, the Department provided funding of €784,650 to AHI which was matched by industry stakeholders.

AHI commenced a compulsory BVD eradication programme in 2013. The programme has a legislative basis. Animals found to be persistently infected (PI) with the virus cannot be sold through the mart system and must be disposed of to a knackery, abattoir or

Animal Health and Welfare

meat plant. The rate of compliance with the requirement to test for BVD is just fractionally less than 100% of calves born being tested for the disease. The incidence of P.I. animals has reduced from 0.66% in 2013 to 0.04% in 2019. The savings accruing to farmers as a result of eradication are estimated at €102 million per annum.

Farm Animal Welfare Advisory Council

The Farm Animal Welfare Advisory Council (FAWAC) is an independent advisory body to the Minister with a wide representative base including veterinary representative bodies, animal welfare organisations, farming bodies and Government Departments – North and South. Since it was established in 2002, FAWAC has become recognised for its' crucial role in promoting animal welfare. It provides considerable useful advice to the Minister and has published a series of welfare guideline booklets on a range of areas, such as dairy, beef, pig, sheep and poultry farming and animal welfare guidelines for horses at gatherings and sales. They published a guideline booklet for Dairy Herd Welfare in 2019. Further information is available on the website www.fawac.ie

The Early Warning/Intervention System (EWS)

The objective of the system, which operates under FAWAC, is to provide a framework within which animal welfare problems can be identified and dealt with before they become critical. In many instances animal welfare cases arise as a result of issues relating to the health and personal circumstances of the herd-owner and, in those circumstances, EWS representatives advise farmers to consider seeking assistance from their GP or other health professionals.

Scientific Advisory Committee on Animal Health and Welfare

The principal function of the Committee is to provide the Minister with advice from a scientific perspective, on issues where independent expert opinion is warranted. The Committee uses best available scientific knowledge to advise on protecting and enhancing Ireland's animal health and welfare and to provide independent scientific support to the Minister and to the Department on animal health and welfare matters where such support is a requirement of European Union legislation. A new Committee was formed in 2017 and current topics include once a day feeding of calves, insects as food production, using Genetics to address health and welfare challenges in farm animals, Dairy Herd Welfare, Tuberculosis and African Swine Fever.

Animal Welfare Organisations

In 2019, the Department provided funding of €2.9 million to 106 animal welfare bodies throughout the country who are directly involved in the delivery of animal care and welfare services. The funding provided is intended only as a contribution to the overall costs of the organisations. All applicants for funding must sign up to a strict set of animal welfare guidelines, be in existence for two years or more, be registered with the Charities Regulator and provide detailed supporting accounts. A list of successful applicants is available on the Department's website <https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/animalhealthwelfare/animalwelfare/fundingtoanimalwelfareorganisations/>

Control of Horses

The Control of Horses Act 1996 was introduced to address the risks posed to the public by stray and abandoned horses. Under the legislation, local authorities have responsibility for implementing the Act, and the Minister for Agriculture may provide financial assistance to the local authorities towards expenses incurred in control of horse activities. In 2019 the Department provided funding of €290,606 to local authorities towards expenses incurred by them under

Animal Health and Welfare

the Act. The Department continues to engage with local authorities on an on-going basis in an effort to achieve savings and efficiencies in the operation of the Act. In addition, funding is provided to local authorities for the development of horse projects in their respective areas which help to foster community, leadership and education in responsible horse ownership for young people.

Ireland achieved Aujeszky's Disease-free Status

Ireland achieved Aujeszky's Disease-free status in 2012. As an Aujeszky's Disease-free region, Irish herd owners can export live pigs to other AD-free regions without the high cost of compulsory isolation, herd surveillance and blood testing. Testing is conducted on an on-going basis to demonstrate this status. Ireland retained its Aujeszky Disease-free status in 2019.

National Farmed Animal Health Strategy 2017-2022

The National Farmed Animal Health Strategy 2017-2022 was launched in July 2017. The Strategy's focus is the promotion of animal health as a driver of optimised production, improved margins for producers and providing the best quality food for consumers. The Strategy contains some 70 strategic action recommendations.

An Independent Review Body was established under the Strategy to provide objective oversight and governance and is tasked with monitoring the progress and delivery of the Strategy and identifying any modifications necessary to improve outcomes.

In 2019, two meetings of the Review Body took place and the 2018 Annual Report was published.

Publication of the Equine Surveillance Disease Report

The third All Island Equine Health Survey Report for the period 2018/2019, commissioned by the Department and prepared by the Irish Equine Centre, was completed in October 2019. This was the final report in the current contract.

Legislation on the Supply and Sale of Pet Animals

New legislation on the sale and supply of pet animals was introduced in 2019 (Animal Health and Welfare (Sale and supply of pet animals) Regulations 2019; SI No. 681 of 2019). This legislation contributes to greater traceability of pet sales, requiring anyone selling more than 5 pets per year to register with the Department. Anyone advertising a pet for sale or supply is required to include certain information in the advertisement, including the microchip number in case of dogs.

Licensing of Livestock Marts

The introduction of the Animal Health and Welfare (Livestock Marts) Regulation 2018 (SI. No. 128 of 2018) provided for the approval and licensing of all livestock marts operating in Ireland during 2019.

Live Exports of Cattle

Live exports play an important role in stimulating price competition for domestic cattle, and providing an alternative market outlet for farmers. The term 'exports' here also includes intra-community trade.

Overall live exports of cattle increased by 22%, from 246,629 head in 2018, to 301,563 in 2019. The main markets for Irish cattle are Spain, Netherlands, UK, Italy, Libya and Turkey.

Live exports to non-EU countries increased by 36%, from 19,953 to 27,098, driven mainly by an increase of exports to Libya, from 5,450 in 2018 to 13,122 in 2019, the vast majority being adult animals.

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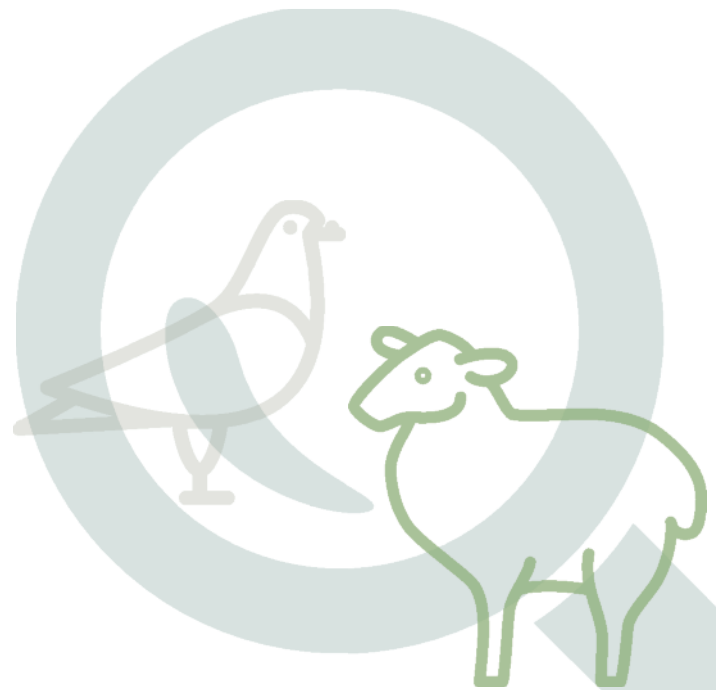
Calf exports, which had increased by 50% from 2017 to 2018, continued to grow in 2019. Exports of calves (0-6 months) rose from 169,229 in 2018 to 207,735 in 2019, an increase of 23%, driven mainly by stronger sales of animals aged 0-6 weeks to the Netherlands (increased from 46,509 to 82,178).

In summer 2019, the Department banned all transport of cattle and sheep through areas with external temperatures of 30°C or over. At the end of 2019 the Department introduced new, more stringent animal welfare rules for calf exports, including an increase in space allowance (e.g. 8% more space for a 50kg calf), banning all use of sticks on or near calves in assembly centres, and enhanced cooperation with the French veterinary authorities to control numbers of calves passing daily through the resting posts in Cherbourg.

In 2019 Minister Creed led a trade mission to the Netherlands to meet the main importers of Irish calves. All parties emphasised the importance of calf welfare during transport, and Dutch industry representatives reported that Irish calves travel and arrive in very good condition.

With regard to lairage capacity in Cherbourg, the Department worked closely with the French authorities, and in 2019, the French authorities approved an increase in the holding capacity at one of the Control Posts in Cherbourg.

The Department hosted a visit by a technical team that included officials from the Ministry of Agriculture and ESK (the Turkish Meat and Milk Board). The Department reached agreement in 2019 with the Egyptian authorities on three proposed health certificates for the export of fattening, slaughter and breeding cattle. The opening of a new market for exports to Kazakhstan accounted for exports of more than 1,000 head of cattle in 2019.



Livestock

Cattle

The Irish Cattle Breeding Federation (ICBF) continued to make excellent progress in 2019 in improving the genetic merit of our National dairy and beef herd.

The Department provided funding of €920,000 for projects aimed at improving profitability such as improving the National database, progeny testing, operation of Tully test centre, and research on genetic evaluations.

Specific highlights for ICBF in 2019 included;

- The continued operation of the Beef Data and Genomics Programme. This Programme has accelerated genetic gain in the Suckler beef herd.
- Continued high uptake of Genomically selected Dairy AI bulls, with over 60% of recorded dairy inseminations being to these bulls.
- Further enhancement of the National cattle breeding database. Large volumes of essential data from a range of sources such as commercial farms and industry stakeholders continue to be collected which are essential for the production of high quality breeding indexes.
- Operation of the new Beef Environmental Efficiency Pilot (BEEP), which generated a significant amount of weights from Suckler cows and their progeny which will help identify the most economically and environmentally efficient animals.
- The Gene Ireland progeny test programme continues to test a range of young bulls that are suited to the unique grass based production conditions.

The Department also provided ICBF with a grant of €850,000 in 2019 to support its general operational activities.

BEEF CARCASE CLASSIFICATION

The role of the Department is to ensure that the classification of carcasses is carried out by slaughter plants in accordance with the relevant EU Regulations.

Inspections of meat plants are carried out by Department staff from the Beef Carcase Classification Section. These inspections are bound by EU legislative requirements. Officials check the overall performance of the carcass grading machine and the standard of trim applied. The Department does not adjudicate on the grading of the individual carcasses.

Official checks must be conducted at least twice every three months in all slaughterhouses which slaughter 150 or more bovine animals aged eight months or more per week as an annual average. Currently, the Department conducts on-the-spot inspections on average every 2 weeks. As part of each check, officials classify a minimum of 100 carcasses where mechanical classification is installed or 50 carcasses where only manual classification takes place.

Inspections

Under the legislation, each on-the-spot check shall relate to at least 40 carcasses selected at random. The Department check is therefore inspecting far more than is required by the regulations.

The on-the-spot checks shall verify in particular:

- (a) the category of the beef carcass,
- (b) the classification, weighing and marking of the carcasses,
- (c) the accuracy of the beef automated grading methods by using a system of points and limits that determines the ongoing accuracy of the grading method,

Un-announced inspections are carried out by authorised officers according to an inspection schedule in an Annual Control Plan, where infringements may have been noted during a previous inspection visit or

Livestock

where a complaint to the Department warrants an immediate inspection.

In 2019, classification officers checked approximately 40,000 carcasses against the mechanical classification system.

During the course of such an inspection the following duties are performed by an authorised officer:

1. Examination and evaluation of classification performance.
2. Evaluation of standard of dressing (trim) during the production process in real time when possible and on cold carcasses.
3. Scales check using 260 Kg weights on the kill floor scales (secondary to NSAI checks) Examination of records concerning use of check weights.
4. Comparison of hot and cold weights.
5. Scrutiny of labelling particulars.
6. Examination of relevant records or processes, as appropriate.

Sheep

The National Sheep Breed Improvement Programme is operated by Sheep Ireland, working in conjunction with stakeholders. The Department provided investment funding of €350,000 for a range of measures designed to implement a world class breeding programme. Significant progress was made in a range of areas in 2019 including;

- Continued growth in the number of pedigree ram breeders participating in LambPlus, resulting in over 40% of the rams sold in 2019 having Eurostar figures available.
- Continued growth in the proportion of performance recorded breeding rams presented for sale in 2019.
- Expansion of the Sheep Ireland Central Progeny Test (CPT), by increasing the number of commercial ewes being performance recorded in this programme.
- Further links established with the Teagasc Better Farm sheep programme through data sharing.
- Further increase in commercial farmer awareness of the benefits of sheep genetic evaluations through many public events.

The Department provided a further €200,000 to Sheep Ireland in general funding support during 2019.

Horse and Greyhound Racing Industries

In 2019, Horse Racing Ireland received €67.2 million and Bord na gCon received €16.8 million from the Horse and Greyhound Racing Fund.

Support for the Non-Thoroughbred Horse Industry

The Department recognises the very important contribution of the non-thoroughbred horse industry to the economy and to the social fabric of many communities throughout the country. The sector contributes substantially to the generation of income from a valuable alternative farm enterprise, to employment, tourism, rural development and the social community and cultural life of the country. In 2019 the recommendations made in a report by Indecon International Consultants which had carried out a review of Horse Sport Ireland were finalized and the new Board for the organization spearheads future change.

Under the Rural Development Programme (RDP) provision has been made for improving efficiency and profitability in the equine sector through the Knowledge Transfer measure which had a budget of €100 million.

Over 300 breeders participated in the final year of the Knowledge Transfer Equine Programme which concluded end of July 2019. These participants attended meetings as well as producing a Farm Improvement Plan with their approved facilitator. They also completed Animal Health Measures with an approved veterinary practitioner.

In 2019, the Department provided €2.996 million to this sector by way of grant aid to Horse Sport Ireland for activities aimed at improving the quality of the Irish sport horse and at developing the sector.

Additionally, in 2019, a total of €850,000 was provided by the Department towards equine related measures.

Plant Health

Plant Health Strategy

The Plant Health and Biosecurity Strategy 2020-2025 was launched in 2019. The objective of the Strategy is to minimise the threat posed to plants by the potential introduction and establishment of plant pests and diseases. The Strategy is underpinned by three key strategic principles: risk anticipation, surveillance and awareness. These principles will allow for the delivery of specific, achievable, targeted actions, which will be achieved through wide collaboration and an agreed implementation plan.

Awareness Raising

The Department ran a “Don’t Risk it!” awareness raising campaign at Bloom and the Ploughing Championships in 2019. This campaign was targeted at international travellers, tourists and commercial businesses that are bringing plants, plant products and other high risk items made of plant material into Ireland from abroad. This campaign was fully endorsed by the European Plant Protection Organisation (EPPO) and the European Commission via revised plant health legislation. The objective of the campaign was to highlight the social, environmental and economic impact of bringing in infected plant material or quarantine pests and diseases into Ireland.

New Plant Health Regulation

A new Plant Health Regulation came into operation on 14th of December 2019. This Regulation focuses on reducing the risk of introducing quarantine pests to the EU by: focusing on high risk plants, developing a list of EU priority pests, expanding the range of plant operators to be registered with the competent authority, applying stricter Protected Zone requirements and requiring all plant for planting to be accompanied with a Plant Passport. The Department participated in a number of EU Working Groups on Delegated and Implementing Acts for this Regulation throughout 2019. Horticulture and Plant Health Division delivered a number of information sessions on these new Regulations at the end of 2019. These seminars were aimed mainly at anyone dealing with plants/plant products.

Under the New Regulation plant health will, for the first time, be subject to the Official Controls Regulation. This introduces the possibility for co-funding of the annual surveys for priority pests. In 2019, the Department carried out plant health surveys for certain quarantine pests under the EU co-funded plant health survey programme.

All Island Approach to Plant Health

Under the North South Ministerial Council (NSMC), HPHD has very close collaboration with Northern Ireland in implementing an agreed plant health work programme and achieving an all-island approach to plant health. In 2019, the Department and DAERA continued to work towards the shared objective of achieving and maintaining good plant health status on the island through continued sharing of information, science and diagnostic capability.

Plant Health Surveys

The Department continued to survey for the presence of the harmful organism *Phytophthora ramorum* in 2019. A number of findings of the disease were detected in horticultural nurseries/garden centres and on plants imported from other Member States. All infected plants and host plants within the vicinity were destroyed.

Ireland has Protected Zone status for a number of harmful organisms present in other EU Member States but not present here. The Forestry Inspectorate conducts annual national forest surveys for the presence of the forestry protected zone species and in order to justify Ireland’s Protected Zone status and submits reports annually to the European Commission. No detections of any of these organisms were made in surveys conducted during 2019.

In late 2018 the UK Forestry Commission announced the first finding of the bark beetle *Ips typographus* in the wider environment in the UK at a woodland in Kent, England. This finding represents an increased threat of the introduction of this bark beetle to Ireland and has prompted additional risk based surveys and monitoring in 2019 through the extension of the Protected Zone survey monitoring plot network.

Plant Health

Xylella fastidiosa is a bacterium that infects the xylem tissues of a wide host range of plants (over 300 plant species). Ireland carried out a survey for the disease in 2019 and the disease was not found to be present. In 2019, there were further outbreaks of the disease on the Union territory and the Department continued to play an integral part in any discussions on this disease to ensure that the maximum protection against the risk of this disease entering the territory was achieved.

Other harmful organisms listed in the EU Plant Health Directive of significance which also require mandatory annual surveys and reporting include *Anoplophora chinensis* (citrus long-horn beetle), *Anoplophora glabripennis* (Asian long-horn beetle), *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus* (pine wood nematode), *Monochamus spp.* (sawyer beetle), *Phytophthora ramorum* and *Gibberella circinata* (pitch canker of pine). In 2019 Ireland also continued to survey for a number of other pests (including *Monochamus spp.*) and carried out new surveys for EU priority pests including *Agrilus planipennis* (emerald ash borer) and *A. anxius* (bronze birch borer). None of the above harmful organisms were detected in surveys in 2019.

Surveys for the presence of *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* (Ash Dieback disease), *Phytophthora ramorum* disease outbreaks in Japanese larch, *Dothistroma septosporum* (Dothistroma Needle Blight [DNB]) and *Lecanosticta acicola* (formerly *Mycosphaerella dearnessii*), the causal agent of Brown Spot Needle Blight (BSNB) on pine species, continued in 2019. The Review of the National Response to Ash Dieback Disease also continued during 2019.

Ireland continued with its national legislation for *Epitrix*. This legislation addressed the significant risk to the indigenous potato sector arising from a possible outbreak of *Epitrix*.

Intensive inspections and sampling of seed and ware potatoes were carried out in 2019. There were no findings of potato ring rot, potato brown rot and *Epitrix* in 2019. Inspections were also undertaken on plant propagating material at several locations to ensure disease free material was available.

In addition, a comprehensive plant health action programme was implemented in 2019 to maintain Ireland's high plant health status and comply with Irish and EU legislation. Nurseries, garden centres, public parks, private gardens and the wider environment were intensively inspected for the presence of quarantine pests and, where found, eradication measures were implemented. The Department also carried out inspections on plant producers to ensure they have complied with the requirements set down in EU legislation. As well as safeguarding plant health, these inspections also facilitate trade in plants and plant products. The 2019 plant health surveys included:

- Over 400 sites inspected for *Phytophthora ramorum*
- 1,483 samples taken for Fireblight (*Erwinia amylovora*)
- Over 1,200 inspections for leaf miners (*Liriomyza sp*)
- Over 900 inspections for Tobacco Whitefly (*Bemisia tabaci*)
- 730 inspections for *Anoplophora chinensis*
- 685 inspections for *Anoplophora glabripennis*
- 664 samples taken for PCN (*Globodera sp*)
- 474 sites inspected for *Xylella fastidiosa*
- 239 samples for Beet Necrotic Yellow Vein Virus
- 467 inspections for *Aromi bungii*
- 151 inspections for Zebra Chip.

Plant Health Import Controls

In 2019 under the Department's Plant Health Import Controls Programme; 3,428 inspections were carried out on consignments of plants and plant products imported directly to Ireland through Dublin Airport and Dublin Port from third countries. This represents a 3.5% increase on the number of consignments subjected to Plant Health Import Controls on 2018. There were 57 interceptions made at Irish borders by plant health inspectors in 2019, the reasons for which include the finding of regulated and harmful organisms, incomplete or absent phytosanitary certificates and fraudulent documentation.

Plant Health

Plant Health Export Controls

- In 2019 under the Department's Plant Health Export Controls Programme; 1,000 consignments were inspected and certified by plant health inspectors, facilitating their export from Irish businesses to 36 third countries across the world. The most frequent consignments certified in 2019 included animal feed to China, India and Korea, mushroom casing to South Africa, Japan, Israel, and Canada and cut flowers to the United States of America.

Forest Health Import Controls

Import inspections of wood and wood products from Third Countries regulated under the EU Plant Health Directive were routinely conducted to ensure compliance with entry requirements as part of the Customs clearance process. In 2019, 545 third country consignments received a documentary check and if appropriate to the requirements, were physically inspected. Nine were found to be non-compliant with the import requirements. Appropriate measures were taken where non-compliances were detected, depending on the nature of the non-compliance.

Under the EU internal markets regime, goods coming from within the EU are not subject to Customs clearance but monitored to ensure Ireland's Protected Zone requirements are met. The Department operates two designated Border Inspection Posts in Dublin and Cork ports for forestry import controls from Third Countries and has an office in Waterford port. Shipments coming into the other ports and airports are covered from these locations if required.

In 2018, the special measures, introduced in 2013 by the European Commission regarding inspections of wood packaging material associated with certain commodities imported into the EU from China, were replaced by a new Commission Implementing Decision (2018/1127/EU) which expands the range of commodities to be inspected and includes goods from Belarus as well as China. In 2019, 111 containerised consignments from China were inspected, with eight non-compliances detected where appropriate phytosanitary measures were imposed. In addition, the Forestry Inspectorate carries out monitoring of Portuguese wood packaging material in relation to the

threat of pine wood nematode (as required under Commission Implementing Decision 2012/535 as amended) and wood packaging from other countries.

The Forestry Inspectorate also provides advice and deals with queries regarding import and export requirements related to wood/wood products and forest reproductive material. Phytosanitary Certificates may also be issued to accompany certain consignments leaving the free trade area of the EU.

In 2019, Brexit preparedness work dominated the work of the Forest Health Section particularly in relation to contingency planning for a no-deal exit from the EU in March and October 2019 and the impacts of such an event on imports and exports of forestry products (including wood packaging material) to and from the UK. Efforts focused on developing adequate infrastructure, IT systems and staff to cope with the eventuality of a no-deal exit, which threatened during the year.

International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures

The Forestry Inspectorate of the Department is responsible for the implementation of the FAO, IPPC, International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) No. 15, Guidelines for Regulating Wood Packaging Material in International Trade – for the manufacture of Wood Packaging Material (WPM) to this Standard in Ireland.

ISPM No.15 describes phytosanitary measures to address the risk of introduction and/or spread of quarantine pests associated with WPM made of raw wood, in use in international trade. WPM, used in the transport of goods of all kinds and which is being exported from Ireland to most non-EU countries around the world, is required to comply with ISPM No.15.

At the end of 2019, there were 54 companies registered to operate under the scheme in Ireland. Companies in the scheme are inspected to ensure compliance with agreed Standard Operating Procedures and that the wood packaging material is fully compliant with the standard.

Plant Health

Crop Variety Evaluation

The 2019 growing season saw a return to more typical climatic conditions resulting in sowing dates aligning with the norm for various crops. Sowing conditions for 2019 winter crops that were sown in the autumn of 2018 were extremely good and the same can be said for sowing of spring crops in early 2019 and harvesting of all crops later in the year. There were difficulties experienced in sowing 2020 winter crops at the end of 2019 due to poor weather making ground conditions unsuitable and this resulted in a significant reduction of up to 50% in winter cereal sowings compared to autumn 2018. Yields returned to normal levels in 2019 for all crops. A total of 347 varieties of grass, clover, barley, wheat, oats, forage maize, oilseed rape, beans and potatoes were evaluated in National and Recommended List trials in 2019. The varieties of each species considered most suitable for Irish producers were selected from these trials and published in Recommended Lists which are available on the Department's website.

Number of Varieties Evaluated in 2019

Crop	Number
Cereals	175
Grass	114
Forage Maize	20
Oilseed Rape	25
Clover	21
Potatoes	12
Field Beans	11

* Varieties that are duplicated in different trials are excluded.

A successful Open Day was held in June in association with the Irish Seed Trade Association at the Department's Crop Policy, Evaluation & Certification Division's Headquarters which is located at Backweston Campus, Leixlip, Co. Dublin. Trial inspections and information visits for interested groups of breeders, agents, consultants and farmers were also hosted at three Department centres and at other outside trial locations.

Seed Certification

Marketing of seeds in the EU is regulated under a number of schemes setting minimum quality standards and labelling requirements. These are implemented by Department officials through the seed certification schemes covering the main agricultural crops. Only those varieties that are listed in the National Catalogue of Ireland or on the EU Common Catalogue of Agricultural Plant Varieties may be cultivated. The National Catalogue of Agricultural Plant Varieties (NCAPV) and the Official Journal of National Plant Variety Rights (PVR) are available on the Department's website.

<https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/publications/2019/NationalCatAgPlantVarieties200318.pdf>

The *EU Common Catalogue of Varieties of Agricultural Plant Species* available at

http://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/plant_propagation_material/plant_variety_catalogues_databases/search/public/index.cfm

Area of Seed Crops Certified in 2019

Area of Crops Approved under the Seed Certification Scheme in 2019 (ha)	Tonnes of Seed Certified Under the Seed Certification Scheme in 2019
Cereals	53,252
Potatoes	2,903
Oilseed Rape	808
Beans	888

In 2019, all grass seed used in Ireland was imported as certified seed and the Department oversaw the formulation and labelling of grass seed mixtures.

Plant Health

Seed Potato Laboratory

During 2019, 738 varieties (includes potato seedlings not yet named) were maintained in vitro at the Potato Laboratories, Tops, Raphoe, Co. Donegal.

Approximately 42,000 potato mini-tubers from 31 different potato varieties and 10 unnamed potato seedlings were produced in virus-proof tunnels. 7 new potato seedlings and 8 sweet potato varieties were tested for distinctness, uniformity and stability as prescribed by the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV). A field reference collection of 648 named potato varieties was also maintained.

The Potato Laboratory was assessed by the Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO) in August 2018 as part of their adopted entrustment approach and based on quality criteria for examination offices performing DUS examinations on their behalf. The CPVO audit team was happy with the quality criteria in place at the laboratory and recommended that entrustment for both *Solanum tuberosum* (L.) (potato) and *Ipomoea batatas* (L.) (sweet potato) continue for the next 3 year period. The Potato Laboratory is the first and only entrusted office in the EU to conduct technical examinations on *Ipomoea batatis*.

Horticulture 2019

The weather in 2019 provided for more favourable growing conditions compared to the drought in 2018, with generally improved yields for all crops however the wet autumn did impact the harvesting date of some crops.

Market demand in Ireland for produce remained steady across each sub sector, with high demand for some commodities. However, commodities such as field vegetables did experience downward price pressure in 2019 following price rises negotiated in 2018.

Whilst the continued recovery in the wider economy and increasing consumer demand for produce and plant based diets has helped maintain output growth in the sector, labour availability and production cost continue to be challenges for the sector.

Horticulture Output Value at farm-gate, 2018 -2019

Product	2018 € m	2019 € m	% change 2019 v's 2018
Mushrooms	117	119.2	+1.8
Potatoes	79.6	110.9	+39.3
Field Vegetables	75.9	77.8	+2.5
Protected Crops	86.9	91.5	+5.2
Outdoor Fruit Crops	10.9	10.7	-2.0
Bulbs, outdoor flowers and foliage sector	9.3	9.44	+0.7
Hardy nursery crops, and other horticulture sectors	56.8	57.3	+0.9
Total	436.4	477.0	9.2

2019 saw continued strong investment by the sector with over €5.8 million paid in the scheme of investment for the development of the commercial horticulture sector and a further €4 million paid out through the EU Producer Organisation Scheme.

Laboratory Service

VETERINARY LABORATORIES

Virology

The Virology Division provides the Department with the capacity to identify and characterise farmed animal viral diseases. The Division delivers the technical aspects of emergency preparedness necessary to safeguard against viral diseases exotic to Ireland and those diagnostic, investigative and consultative services required to control and monitor endemic viral diseases of Irish farm animals. In 2019, it hosted ten National Reference Laboratories (NRL) ranging from Peste des Petits Ruminants to Foot-and-mouth disease.

The range of viruses handled by the Division is diverse and includes: Foot and Mouth Disease, Avian Influenza, Bluetongue, BVD, IBR, Classical Swine Fever, Rabies and PRRS.

Pig Parvovirus PCR, Vesicular Stomatitis PCR, Seneca Valley Virus PCR and Infectious Laryngotracheitis ELISA are some of the newer viral diagnostics introduced in 2019.

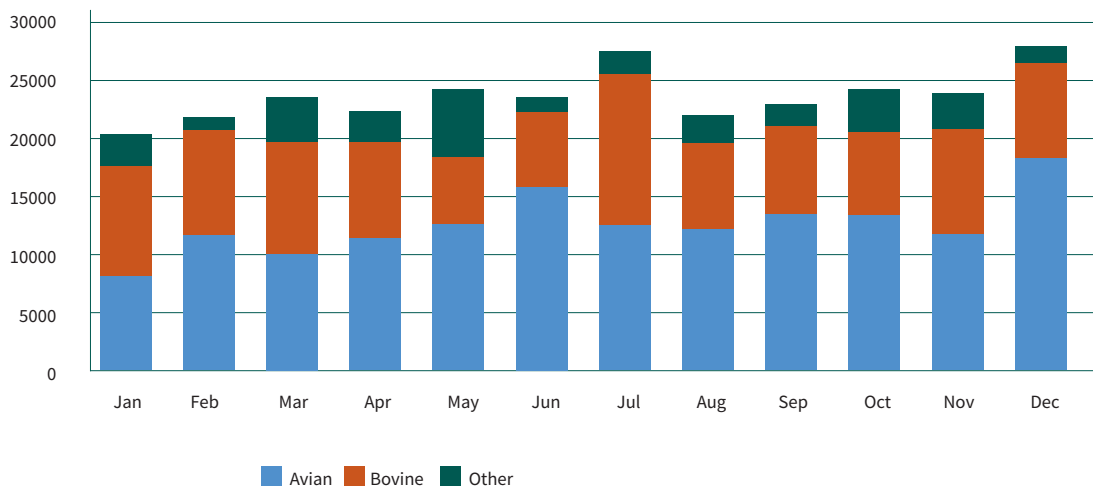
Table below shows a summary of overall 2019 testing figures in Virology Division

Species	Tests for virus	Tests for antibody	TOTAL
Bovine	63,054	77,387	140,441
Porcine	7,278	4,870	12,148
Small Ruminants	3,519	10,551	14,070
Lagomorph	1,173	0	1,173
Equine	488	2,071	2,559
Avian	9,701	91,013	100,714
TOTAL	85,213	185,892	271,105

Submission Patterns

The pattern of tests requested is relatively steady throughout the year 2019, the peaks in bovine submission relate directly to the national BVD eradication programme (graph below).

2019 Monthly Testing



Laboratory Service

Table below shows the top five tests in 2019 in Virology Division for mammalian (antibody and virus detection) and avian diseases

Rank	Pathogen (antibody)	Number Tested	Pathogen (virus)	Number Tested	Pathogen (avian)	Number Tested
1	BVD	17,853	BVD	21,161	Avian influenza	36,587
2	IBR	8,172	POX	2,920	M. gallisepticum	31,329
3	Schmallenberg	7,471	BTV	2,502	AEV	3,286
4	Bluetongue	5,632	PRRS	1,757	Chick Anemia	2,642
5	EBL	3,723	BHV1	1,387	Infectious Bursal D	2,572

In 2019, Virology Division had a range of 144 different tests which it used across 40 different matrices – the most common matrices in 2019 being serum (87.5%), swabs (5%), lung (1.3%) and semen (1.2%). Over the course of 2019, the Division completed successfully over 50 External Proficiency Tests to assist our ISO17025 accreditation status.

Bacteriology and Parasitology Division

Bacteriology and Parasitology Division provides expertise in bacteriology and parasitology to the Department and hosts National Reference Laboratories for Antimicrobial Resistance and for zoonotic pathogens of food, feed and animal origin. These include *Salmonella*, *Campylobacter*, *Escherichia coli*, *Mycobacteria*, and the zoonotic parasites *Echinococcus*, *Trichinella* and *Anisakis*. In addition, it provides a laboratory diagnostic service for parasites and for *Mycoplasma bovis*.

National Reference Laboratory (NRL) for Salmonella

The following samples were cultured for Salmonella during 2019:

- 1,651 poultry farm samples
- 565 meal or feed mill related samples
- 768 process hygiene criterion samples from poultry or pig primary processing plants
- 150 compost or related samples
- 550 processed animal protein samples
- 50 tallow and greaves samples.

In addition:

- 615 Salmonella isolates were either obtained from selective culture of official samples or received from external laboratories for serotyping
- 193 group B Salmonella isolates were subjected to Polymerase Chain Reaction to distinguish between *Salmonella* Typhimurium and monophasic *Salmonella* Typhimurium

Antibodies were detected in 4,617 (22.3%) of the 20,668 muscle juice samples from slaughtered pigs tested under the Salmonella National Control Program for pigs.

Applications of Whole Genome Sequencing technology by the Salmonella and Antimicrobial Resistance NRL continued to increase during 2019. The NRL Salmonella responded to several queries (from the EU Reference Laboratory and the HSE) in search of the source of Salmonella strains that caused outbreaks of human food-borne enteritis in Europe or in Ireland. One of these searches by WGS analysis revealed one case of *S. Typhimurium* in a person and a small egg-laying flock, which each yielded an isolate that was genetically similar. Production of eggs for sale ceased as soon as *S. Typhimurium* was detected. Searches for salmonella strains of outbreak isolates using WGS was applied in several other cases, for which absence of the specific *Salmonella* strain discounted any possible role of Irish food or primary production.

Laboratory Service

This technology was also applied to investigation of laboratory cross-contamination, in order to increase the reliability of laboratory results.

NRL for Antimicrobial Resistance

Official surveillance of AMR in commensal and zoonotic bacteria was carried out in accordance with 2013/652 EU. The contents of 300 pig caeca and 300 pork and 300 beef samples were screened for the presence of ESBL/Amp-C/carbapenamase - producing *Escherichia coli*. Antimicrobial susceptibility testing was carried out on 170 isolates of *Campylobacter coli* and 200 indicator commensal *E. coli* from pig caeca as well as Salmonella from pig carcass swabs. The results are reported to the European Food Safety Authority and included in the EU Summary Report on antimicrobial resistance in zoonotic and indicator bacteria from humans, animals and food.

The first One Health Report on Antimicrobial usage and Antimicrobial resistance, which was a collaboration between the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Health, was published in 2019 and included detailed analysis of results generated in the NRL between 2014 and 2016.

The NRL continued to use whole genome sequencing as a tool in the investigation of unusual resistance patterns in isolates from official testing and veterinary clinical isolates from the RVLs.

The recent alignment of AMR with clinical microbiology has provided a platform for further development of the clinical isolate pipeline required for the national antimicrobial resistance action plan and improve capability across the service.

NRL for Campylobacter

In 2019, the Campylobacter NRL supported the work of the Veterinary Public Health (VPH) Division and the Campylobacter Stakeholders' group by collating Process Hygiene Criteria results for Campylobacter enumeration of neck flaps. The Special Project Unit (SPU) in VPH, organised a Memorandum of Understanding with the three main chicken processors in early 2019, to perform Campylobacter enumeration of caeca from all pre-thin batches of broilers. The NRL

assisted with standardisation of testing across the private laboratories carrying out this work and also started collating caecal enumeration data.

The Campylobacter NRL started verification testing of neck flap and caecal samples in April. Enumeration was carried out on a total of 127 neck flaps and 39 caeca in 2019.

NRL for Mycobacteria

In support of the national bovine TB eradication programme in 2019:

- Samples collected in meat plants from 6,111 bovine animals, were tested for evidence of tuberculosis. 59% of these animals were identified at post-slaughter veterinary inspection.
- 4,248 histopathological tests and 3,542 cultures were performed on these tissues.
- Cultures were completed on 833 badger tissues collected as part of badger removal following bovine TB outbreaks or badger vaccine trials.
- Cultures were performed on 113 tissue samples submitted from deer.
- Mycobacterial speciation tests were performed on 984 isolates.
- 3,518 sera were tested in TB ELISA to support bovine disease investigations.

There were 392 samples submitted for Johne's disease culture and *Mycobacterium avium* subspecies *paratuberculosis* was isolated from 73 samples.

NRL for Zoonotic Parasites

The mandatory national sampling of foxes (Regulation (EU) 2018/772) and testing undertaken by the NRL for Parasites in 2019 continued to demonstrate Ireland's freedom from *Echinococcus multilocularis*, one of the most lethal parasitic zoonoses in temperate and arctic regions of the Northern Hemisphere. For the 2019 survey, 400 intestinal contents samples from all counties were examined for the parasite using a multiplex-PCR. All samples were reported as negative.

Laboratory Service

With regard to *Trichinella* NRL activities the following events occurred in 2019:

- Two private laboratories were audited
- A workshop was organized for all laboratories on May 10th
- The annual ring trial were sent to all private laboratories on May 21st

Diagnostic Parasitology

Continue to receive samples from a wide variety of sources (e.g. Regional Veterinary Laboratories, private veterinary practitioners, abattoirs and animal shelters) including both farm and companion animals. In excess of 4,500 assays were performed using 13 different methodologies.

Mycoplasma bovis

Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) testing (296 samples tested) and selective culture was provided for diagnosis, surveillance and control of respiratory disease, arthritis and mastitis cases and herd outbreaks caused by *Mycoplasma bovis* in 2019.

Other Activities

The conditions for approval of private laboratories by the Department for microbiological testing for Salmonella in poultry flocks, Animal By-Products and Trichinella and STEC were revised and updated during 2019 and private laboratories re-applied for approval and an updated list of approved laboratories was published on the Department's website.

Members of the Division represented the NRLs at EU Reference Laboratory workshops. Division personnel also contribute, to various Department and industry working groups and stakeholder groups including: Food safety and authenticity Working Group, Campylobacter Stakeholders Implementation Group, Pig Industry Stakeholders Group, Eastern Region Zoonoses Committee, Animal Health Ireland's (AHI) Johnes Disease Implementation Group and Technical Working Group; AHI's Parasite Control Group; Health Products Regulatory Authority Task Force on antiparasitic medicines.

Research

Personnel in the Division collaborated with other institutes in the following research projects:

Title of Project	Collaborators
Tackling a multi-host pathogen problem - phylodynamic analyses of the epidemiology of <i>M. bovis</i> in Britain and Ireland	UCD, University of Edinburgh
Disease Profiling of Bovine Tuberculosis Skin Test Reactors in Ireland	UCD
Next generation approaches to improved diagnostics and molecular epidemiology for control of <i>Mycobacterium avium</i> subsp. <i>paratuberculosis</i>	UCD, AFBI
The foodborne emergence and epidemiology of <i>Clostridioides difficile</i> in Ireland	Teagasc, TCD, UCD, DIT

PATHOLOGY

Pathology Division provides laboratory supports for national disease eradication programs, Class A response capability and specialist investigation of infectious diseases or toxic events. It also provides specialist supports to the Departments Regional Veterinary laboratories (RVLs). The Division now hosts three National Reference Laboratories (TSE, CEM and AMR). The NRL for AMR was assigned to Pathology Division in November 2019.

National Reference Laboratory (NRL) for TSE

The TSE NRL is responsible for monitoring performance of the TSE rapid testing laboratories in Ireland, PTs involving the preparation and delivery of coded brain tissue homogenate samples to RTLs and subsequent analysis and reporting of the results. All the results were satisfactory in 2019. One RTL discontinued rapid testing services in 2019.

Laboratory Service

Figures for TSE Submissions

Ovine

NRL Result	Surveillance Category	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Atypical Scrapie	Active	6	1	1	9	12
Classical Scrapie	Active	1	1	11	1	0
Classical Scrapie	Passive	0	0	0	0	0
Negative	Active	1	1	1	0	0
Negative	Passive	1	0	0	0	1
Negative	SMFS	0	0	0	0	0
Total		9	3	13	10	13

Bovine

NRL Result	Surveillance Category	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
BSE Positive	Active	1				
(Classical)	0	1				
Atypical L-type	0	0				
BSE Positive	Passive	0	0	0	0	0
Negative	Active	0	0	0	3	0
Negative	Passive	11	17*	15	19	9
Unsuitable	Passive	0	0	0	0	0

*1 case reported in 2017 as was sampled on 30 December 2016

National Reference laboratory for CEM

The Clinical Microbiology Laboratory hosts the National Reference Laboratory for Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM) (in conjunction with Virology division) in support of the Irish Thoroughbred Breeders Association (ITBA) Codes of Practice. The NRL approves private laboratories for the culture of *Taylorella equigenitalis*, the causative agent of CEM. The CEM laboratory approval scheme consists of on-site inspection audits and an annual proficiency trial, which laboratories must pass to retain their status. Currently ten private laboratories are approved by the NRL. This laboratory worked to enhance the quality of private laboratory CEM testing through its NRL functions by provision of audit, advice and PTs to these laboratories.

Diagnostic Pathology & Surveillance

Pathology Division provides diagnostic pathology, investigative support for NDCC in response to suspect class A & high impact class B disease and also surveillance services for the animal agricultural industries with special reference to the pig and poultry industries. The division also provides first and second opinion histopathology interpretation in support of these functions. Services are also provided to other agencies as required (e.g. the NPWS raptor protocol).

During 2019 a targeted expansion of pig diagnostic post mortem submissions resulted in a significant increase in pig post mortem numbers, yielding better surveillance data and actively building the relationship between pig PVPs and Pathology Division.

Laboratory Service

Diagnostic Post Mortem Submissions

SPECIES	Carcass Submissions
Porcine	303
Avian	230
Cervine	87
Ovine	23
Bovine	21
Other*	77
Total	741

*badger, raptor, fox & hare

The Histopathology Laboratory maintained the service needs for histopathology processing and immunohistochemistry in 2019 for the Veterinary Laboratory Service and other Department divisions such as ERAD. It processed approximately 20,000 slides in 2019 with standard staining methods and special staining techniques including immunohistochemistry.

Histopathology Slide Production:

H&E prep aliquot cases	Total H&E slides	Recut H&E slides	TB H&E slides	Total H&E slides produced
4,572	14,113	959	4,408	19,480

Clinical Microbiology

The clinical microbiology laboratory provides diagnostic microbiology services for the Backweston post mortem room, support for RVLs and hosts the National Reference Laboratory for CEM. In 2019 improved range of tests and test packages were provided including improved clinical isolate pipelines for AMR surveillance. Bacterial typing and characterisation and provision of MALDI-TOF was provided in support of the RVLs.

Further supports to laboratories in 2019 have included improved testing protocols and standardisation of culture SOPs and AST.

Biochemistry & Toxicology

The Biochemistry/Toxicology laboratory undertakes the elemental profiling of animals and provides the diagnostic capability to determine element deficiencies and toxicities in animal tissue and blood, for a range of elements. One of the key functions of the laboratory is to provide diagnostic support for suspect toxicities in herds and supports to interagency investigations of public health, animal health and the environment. The laboratory has enhanced the service delivery in 2019 by equipping the laboratory with a second ICP-MS (Inductively Coupled Plasma – Mass Spectrometry). During 2019 approximately 1,438 whole blood and tissue samples were analysed for one or more of the following elements by ICPMS – As, Cd, Co, Cu, Mn, Mo, Pb, Se. In addition, the laboratory has commenced the introduction of quality procedures and records with a view to achieving ISO 17025 accreditation.

Activities:

Pig laboratory Group

This is a cross divisional group within the veterinary laboratories; areas addressed in 2019 included improving the pig pathology knowledge cohort within the Department, improved response capability including training and improved pig microbiological testing for pig pathogens.

Poultry Laboratory Group

This is a cross divisional group within the veterinary laboratories; areas addressed include improved general poultry diagnostic tests and diagnoses in the various sectors, laboratory sampling strategies for exotic viruses (e.g. Newcastle disease virus) and review of high impact class B disease investigations undertaken (ILT outbreak in August).

Examples of Disease Investigations:

Infectious Laryngotracheitis in Poultry

ILT was confirmed in a layer site in Co. Cavan in August. Pathology Division coordinated an investigation on epidemiologically linked sites to rule out spread of disease. Virology Division carried out gene sequencing, providing evidence that the outbreak had not spread and was likely due to a wild type strain.

Laboratory Service

Bovine Botulism

In 2019, Pathology Division assisted in the investigation of nine suspected Bovine Botulism outbreaks. Botulinum toxin type C/D identified by ELISA in animals from six herds that were submitted for post mortem to the Regional Veterinary laboratories. Suspect herds consisted of five dairy, three suckler and one beef enterprise. Bovine botulism, generally caused by Type C/D toxin is not considered a risk to the food chain.

Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease (RHD2) in the Irish Hare

The division confirmed RHD2 in Irish hares in 2019 and completed a histopathology review of archived hare samples for Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease (RHD2) in order to provide evidence that this was a relatively new disease in hares and therefore supported protective measures for the species.

Research Projects:

Abomasitis in Calves: An extensive review of laboratory wide abomasitis in calves' cases from 2017, 2018 and 2019 is currently being carried out, with the objectives to refine a case definition, characterise the gross and histological lesions and identify associated pathogens. In 2019, eight farm visits were conducted to farms where suitable cases had been submitted for post mortem examination, to collate information regarding on-farm practices and potential risk factors.

Mycobacterium bovis genomics: A study on *Mycobacterium bovis* genomics (2019) in a multi-host environment in collaboration with TB section and UCD. ARREST Project: In collaboration with UCD, NUIG and whole genome section in the Department, clinical microbiology contributed the laboratory component on the microbiological assessment of the ability of integrated constructed wetlands (ICWs) to remove antimicrobial resistant organisms from farm effluent and municipal sources:

Validation of high throughput multi-element analysis:

Two collaborative research projects commenced to expand the repertoire of elements, and develop and validate high-throughput multi-element methods in whole blood (Al, As, Cd, Cr, Co, Cu, Pb, Mn, Mo, Ni, Se, Sn and I) and serum/ocular fluid (Ca, P, Na, K, Fe, Zn, Mg) by ICP-MS and ICP-OES (Inductively Coupled Plasma – Optical Emission Spectroscopy), respectively.

Veterinary Public Health Regulatory Laboratory

The Veterinary Public Health Regulatory Laboratory (VPHRL) is accredited by INAB to ISO 17025:2005, with more than 30 analytical tests covering residues, contaminants, microbiological and parasitological analysis currently on its scope.

VPHRL is the National Reference Laboratory (NRL) for six groups of residues (Antithyroid agents, Beta-agonists, Chloramphenicol Antibacterial substances including sulphonamides and quinolones, Carbadox and Chemical Elements) and also for *E. coli* and *Trichinella*.

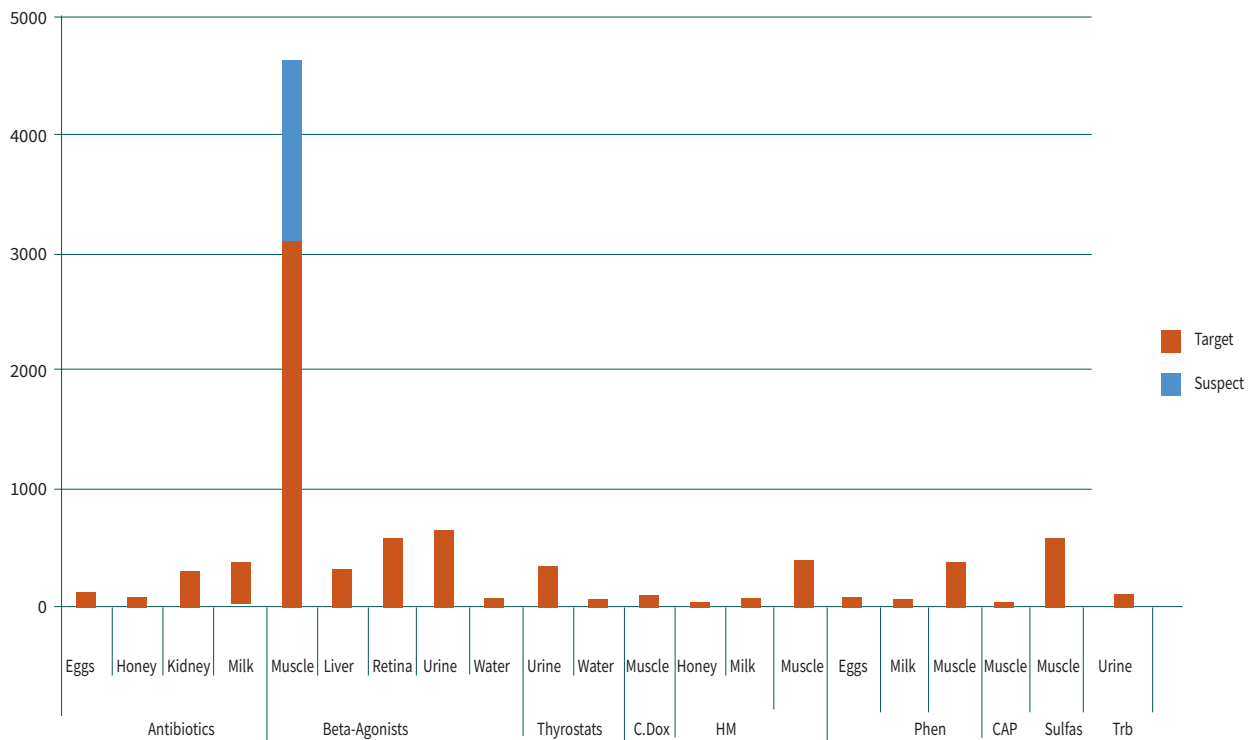
Ireland's National Residue Plan (NRP) for 2019 was approved by the relevant European Commission. The testing under the NRL covers 18 distinct residue groups which fall into three broad categories:

- banned substances such as growth-promoting hormones and beta-agonists
- approved veterinary medicines
- environmental contaminants

During 2019, more than 9,000 samples from food of animal origin were tested under the NRP at the VPHRL.

Laboratory Service

No. samples tested for the NRP 2019 broken down by substance, matrix and whether suspect or target.
C.Dox: Carbadox, HM: Chemical elements, CAP: Chloramphenicol, Phen: Phenicol, Sulfas: Sulphonamides, Trb: Trenbolone



No. samples tested for the NRP 2019 broken down by substance and animal species

Laboratory Service

53,386 individual results were obtained from 9,170 NRP samples analysed. There were the following results:

- Thyrostats in urine: 13 bovine, 2 ovine and 1 porcine. Possibly diet related.
- Antibiotics in bovine muscle: Eight non-compliances among suspect animals: 2 Amoxicillin at 82 and 67 ppb, 1 Marbofloxacin at >300 ppb, 1 Penicillin G at >100 ppb, and 4 Oxytetracycline: 2 at levels of 217 and 184 ppb and 2 at levels >400 ppb.
- Antibiotics in milk: One target sample found to contain 510 ppb of Sulphamethazine. One target sample found to contain 430 ppb of Cloxacillin. Lead in muscle: 2 wild deer and 1 wild pheasant with high levels related to the lead bullets

Microbiology

VPHRL provides laboratory support for import controls and the Inspectorate based at meat plants, ensuring compliance with national and international standards of food safety and hygiene. In 2019, approximately 1,900 official samples of meat and meat products were taken at the point of manufacture and at the border inspection points and tested for a range of microbiological parameters. Of these samples, 10 were positive for *Salmonella* (2 were in imported poultry) and 4 for *Listeria monocytogenes*.

In 2019, VPHRL continued the testing of beef carcasses and meat trimmings for Shiga-toxin producing *E.coli* bacteria to support the exporting of Irish beef to the US and Canadian markets with a total of 792 carcass swabs, 41 composite meat samples and 3 burger/minced/ground beef samples analysed. None of the samples analysed were positive.

VPHRL carries out the microbiological analysis of water from Food Business Operators under Department Regulation that require the use of potable water in their operations. A total of 339 official samples were tested in 2019 for a range of physico-chemical and microbiological properties. Of these 13 samples were found to contain microbiological contamination of *E. coli*, Coliforms, Faecal *Enterococci* and/or *Clostridium perfringens*.

In addition, VPHRL supports the certification of animal by-products (ABP). During 2019, a total of 690 official samples of ABP products (Petfood, Processed Animal Protein, Tallow, Greaves) were enumerated for levels of *Enterobacteriaceae* while 165 samples of compost/digestate from composting plants were enumerated for levels of *E. coli*. Results showed that 7 batches had exceeding levels.

Trichinella

Testing on 3,294 samples of porcine and 240 horse muscle samples was carried out in 2019 as part of the official monitoring programme, and *Trichinella* larvae were not detected in all of them.

Department Laboratories Cork

The Department Laboratories Cork, located on the Model Farm Road in Cork, provides a range of analytical services in support of the Agri-food sector. The main areas of testing include animal health (cattle and pig diseases), food safety and plant health. This work is undertaken in cooperation with relevant control Divisions, and the Departments central laboratory divisions at Backweston. Sample throughput for 2019 is incorporated into the total for each area (see section DSLs, Plant Health, Veterinary Laboratories). Furthermore, the Laboratory Cork is providing analytical support to Animal Health Ireland as part of their ongoing programmes (BVD, IBR and JDS). The Laboratory has successfully developed a biobank facility supported by a comprehensive database which will allow stored samples to be used for further studies and investigations if required.

Laboratory Service

AGRICULTURE LABORATORIES

Dairy Science Laboratories (DSL)

The Dairy Science Laboratory service comprises three laboratories, located at Backweston, Cork and Limerick. These provide microbiological and chemical testing services primarily for milk/ milk product samples taken mainly from dairy food business operators. The work of the laboratories also underpins the certification of dairy products for export. Ready to eat fresh horticulture produce and water is also analysed.

Official control samples – Microbiology

In 2019, the Dairy Science Laboratory service carried out approximately 18,000 microbiological analyses on 11,167 samples from milk processing establishments, liquid milk drinking plants and producers in the horticulture sector to verify compliance with food safety, water and animal-by-product legislation. As a result, the following notifications were issued:

- 20 Food Safety hazard notifications
- 59 Process Hygiene criteria non-conformances
- 1 Phosphatase/peroxidase criteria non-conformances
- 49 non-conformance reports in relation to water samples
- 2 non-conformances reports in relation to animal-by-products samples
- 4 non-conformance reports in relation to samples from the processing environment

The three laboratories have Quality Management Systems in place based on the ISO17025 standard to meet the requirements of the National Accreditation Board (INAB). In 2019, the laboratories continued to maintain and extend their scopes of accreditation.

Backweston received accreditation for two additional test methods and one extension to scope. Collectively the three laboratories have 70 accredited test methods across multiple matrices.

Continued participation in inter-laboratory trials organised by European Union Reference Laboratories were also undertaken.

Official control samples – Chemistry

The Dairy Science Laboratories in Limerick and Backweston conduct compositional analysis of dairy products to verify compliance with the labelling and marketing standards requirements set out in Regulation (EC) No 1169/2011 and Regulation 1308/2013. In addition, DSL Backweston carries out analysis of infant formula and follow on formula to confirm compliance with the compositional parameters set out in Directive 2006/141 EC.

In 2019, 647 samples were analysed to confirm compliance with the requirements of the EU legislation detailed above. 14 non-conformance reports in relation to compositional analysis were reported.

National Reference Laboratory (NRL)

In 2019, the Backweston Dairy Science Laboratory continued to operate as the National Reference Laboratory (NRL) for *Listeria monocytogenes*, Coagulase-positive staphylococci and viruses in food.

The NRL offers a molecular typing and characterisation service for *Listeria monocytogenes* isolates from other laboratories in Ireland by PCR and whole genome sequencing analysis (WGS). In 2019, the NRL expanded the use of WGS and obtained ISO 17025 accreditation for this method. WGS was carried out on *Listeria monocytogenes* and Shiga-toxin *E. coli* (STEC). PCR analysis was carried out on 2,950 *L. monocytogenes* isolates and 249 were characterised using WGS. This typing information is returned to the submitting laboratories and can be of benefit to food business operators in tracing sources of contamination and determining if there are persistent strains in particular premises. It is also used to inform EFSA in cases of international foodborne outbreaks.

The NRL also carries out analysis for the detection of Staphylococcal enterotoxins in food, and is the only laboratory in the country to provide this service,

Laboratory Service

Molecular typing is also carried out to determine if CPS isolates carry the genes necessary for enterotoxin production and in 2019 this analysis was carried out on 21 isolates.

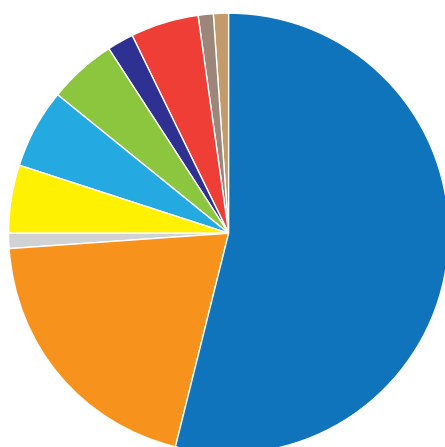
Pesticides, Plant Health, Feedingstuffs and Seed Testing Laboratories

Pesticide Residues Laboratory

The Pesticide Residue Laboratory is National Reference Laboratory for detection of pesticide residues in fruit and vegetables, cereals, food with high fat content and single residue methods.

In 2019, the Pesticide Residue Laboratory (PRL) carried out the testing required under the pesticide residue control programme agreed under the Departments' service contract with the FSAI. The percentage of each matrix or sample type (of the 1,601 samples received for testing in 2019) is illustrated in the following pie-chart.

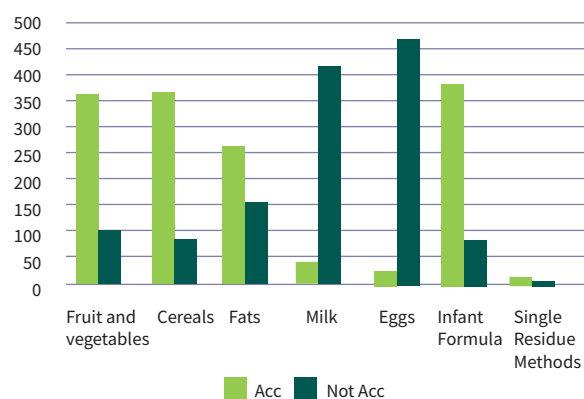
Pesticide Residue Lab samples



FRUIT AND VEGETABLES	54%
FATS	20%
OILS	1%
CEREALS	5%
FEED	6%
MILK	5%
EGGS	2%
BABYFOOD	5%
HONEY	1%
WATER	1%

To maximise efficiency the laboratory uses a combination of multi-residue methods and single-residue methods. The number of pesticides each commodity is analyzed for is given below. Most of these test method and matrix combinations are accredited to ISO 17025 (green bars) but some are not yet fully included within the scope of accreditation (yellow bars).

Number of analytes per method



The following is a summary of the samples analysed:

	Samples	> MRL	% > MRL
Fruit and Vegetables	867	7	0.8
Fats	325	0	0.0
Oils	10	0	0.0
Cereals	83	8	9.6 ²
Feed	99 ¹	0	0.0
Milk	74	0	0.0
Eggs	30	0	0.0
Babyfood	72	0	0.0
Honey	19	0	0.0
Water	22	0	0.0
Total =	1,601	15	0.9

1 - 70 feed samples were analyzed for PCB's only as a screening method for the presence of dioxins

2 - 5 maize samples analysed as part of an investigation were found to be above the MRL.

The Maximum Residues Level (MRLs) for pesticide residues in food were exceeded in 15 samples received during 2019.

Laboratory Service

Pesticide Formulations Laboratory

The Pesticide Formulation Laboratory (PFL) provides the analytical support necessary to assure the quality of plant protection products on the Irish market. In 2019, 49 samples of plant protection products were analysed to check that the composition of these products complied with the authorised product specifications. Of the samples analysed, none were out of specification.

Samples	Active Ingredient	Out of Spec	Phys/ Chem tests	Out of spec
49	72	0	33	1

Plant Health

Backweston:

The Plant Health Laboratory (PHL) works closely with the Control Divisions in the area of plant health providing an analytical service and expertise for regulated plant pests and diseases under Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 and Regulation (EU) 2017/625.

In 2019, the laboratory analysed the following number of samples:

Sample category	Number of samples analysed	Number of positives for quarantine organisms
Plant pathology samples	848	185
Entomology samples	247*	29

*30 samples were referred to another laboratory for confirmation

Over 30 quarantine organisms were tested for within these sample numbers.

The PHL is the National Reference Laboratory (NRL) for the following 6 corresponding European Reference Laboratories (EURL's):

Insect and mites

**Bacteria,
Fungi and Oomycetes,
Viruses, viroids and phytoplasmas,
Nematodes,
Honeybee Health,**

The PHL obtained its first accreditation under ISO 17025 in 2019, as is now required because the new Official Control Regulation incorporates plant health within its scope.

Cork:

The Cork laboratory tested 1,507 plant samples for *Erwinia amylovora* (cause of Fireblight disease of Rosaceae) and 434 potato samples for *Clavibacter michiganensis sepedonicus* and *Ralstonia solanacearum* (cause of Ring Rot and Brown Rot of potato). In addition, the Cork laboratory subsampled *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* (cause of Chalara/Ash Dieback) samples.

Feedingstuffs Laboratory

The Feedingstuffs Laboratory (FSL) provides expertise and laboratory analysis of animal feedingstuffs for contamination by meat and bone meal and other prohibited materials. The FSL is the designated National Reference Laboratory (NRL) for the detection of animal protein in feedingstuffs (NRL-AP).

Laboratory Service

In 2019, the laboratory analysed the following samples:

Type of analysis	Number of samples analysed	Number of samples over the limit of detection
Presence of processed animal protein (PAP). (Commission Regulation (EC) No 51/2013).	326	*1
Presence of Prohibited material (Commission Regulation (EC) No 767/2009).	37	08
NRL interlab and proficiency in compliance with Article 12 and Article 33 of Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004	63	N/A

*Not declared as pet food

The laboratory also received 13 samples of wheat and barley destined for animal feed which were further tested for botanical impurities by the seed testing laboratory according to Regulation 2002/32/EC.

Continued participation in inter-laboratory trials organised by European Union Reference Laboratories (EURL) were also undertaken. These comprised of microscopy and molecular trials for routine feedingstuffs matrices but also for the first time, fish feed containing commercial insect feed. The laboratory was also involved in the review and drafting of the revised Commission Regulation (EC) No 51/2013 ANNEX II in collaboration with the EURL-AP and NRL network.

The feedingstuffs laboratory is a member of IAG - International Association for Feedingstuffs Analysis and in 2019 the attention of the group moved to microplastics in feed.

Projects & Special Investigations:

“Investigation into the impact that milk-based ingredients have on the detection of prohibited animal proteins in feed. The research was based upon the reliability of the quantitative PCR method to examine feed for the presence of animal DNA.”
Investigation of muscle fragments of insects.

Seed Testing

The Seed Testing Laboratory (STL) provides a seed testing service to Control Divisions within the Department, seed merchants, farmers, growers and forest nurseries. It is accredited by the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA). Most agricultural and horticultural seeds are required to meet minimum legal standards for germination, analytical purity and other seeds content before they are placed on the market.

A total of 7,874 seed tests, on cereals, grasses, forage crops, oilseeds, pulses, vegetables, trees, etc were completed during 2019. The % breakdown of the type of tests completed is:

Laboratory Service

Test type	% of total seed tests
Germination	60%
Analytical purity	22%
Seed Health	5%
Seed viability (tetrazolium)	6%
Advisory	7%

The quality of the winter cereal seed harvested in Ireland during 2019 was of good quality while the seed crop from spring cereals was more variable in quality with higher levels of reduced viability showing in analysis.

The Seed Testing Laboratory also curates the National Genebank in conjunction with the Crop Policy Evaluation and Certification Division. In 2019, the STL contributed to a regeneration and characterisation programme of heritage cereal and crop wild relative species. Further regeneration was completed on heritage cereals in the STL glasshouse over the winter months.

Crop Policy, Evaluation and Certification Division in conjunction with the Seed Testing Laboratory continued a regeneration programme of various commercial crop species and of their crop wild relatives. The Laboratory maintains the National Cereal Seed and Crop Wild Relative Genebank. Regeneration of seed of “heritage” barley varieties continued in 2019 with a view to commercialisation in tandem with a characterization programme for these heritage cereals.

Regional Veterinary Laboratories (RVLs)

The Regional Veterinary Laboratories are a network of small multidisciplinary veterinary diagnostic laboratories located at Athlone, Backweston, Cork, Kilkenny, Limerick, and Sligo. The network was established over 50 years ago and is about to embark on a refurbishment and redevelopment of the facilities established at that time. These laboratories provide a referral diagnostic and field investigation service including post mortem examination to Irish food animal keepers through their veterinary practitioners. Vets refer carcasses for post mortem examination or

samples for laboratory testing in order to confirm or determine a diagnosis, especially in cases where a diagnosis has not been possible on clinical grounds, or particularly where there is a suspicion of a novel, emerging or exotic disease or a suspicion of a zoonosis or a threat to the food chain. Veterinary practitioners also contact the RVLs to discuss difficult cases with the duty veterinary research officers who can help determine a diagnostic plan, which might include the referral of material for post mortem or laboratory examination, or the performance of a field investigation by the RVL.

As well as providing assistance in reaching a diagnosis and appropriate treatment to enhance animal welfare and production efficiency, this service also provides an early warning system for the detection of threats to the food chain, exotic or novel disease and enables a timely and effective response to them. The results and data generated by the post mortem, laboratory testing and field investigation work undertaken by the Department’s Regional Veterinary Laboratories provides animal disease surveillance data, which are combined with similar data generated by a similar service in Northern Ireland as an annual All-Island Animal Disease Surveillance Report. Between the annual reports, an illustrated digest of the highlights & notable findings is published in the Veterinary Ireland Journal as a monthly report, and a quarterly review of RVL data and trends is published on the Department’s Animal Disease Surveillance website at <http://www.animalhealthsurveillance.agriculture.gov.ie/>

Other data, findings and alerts are issued through scientific reports and papers, website posts and articles in the veterinary and farming press. The RVLs provide further support services in relevant related areas such as the Department and Animal Health Ireland’s disease eradication programmes, wildlife surveillance, participation in regional zoonosis committees. RVLs also provide expert input into AHI’s Technical Working Groups, the Department’s own species and discipline Expert Groups.

Laboratory Service

RVL workload -	2019
Post mortems: Carcasses	5,456
Post mortems: Foetuses	2,244
Clinical pathology submissions*	11,540

* Submissions are a count of the submission of batches of samples from a farm or incident and could comprise a single sample or several hundred

The Strategic Development of the Laboratory Service

A Strategic Review of the Department's Laboratories was undertaken in 2016 as part of the Department's ongoing commitment to ensuring that our Laboratories are capable of meeting the current and future needs of the organisation and its external stakeholders, the farming community, the food industry and wider society. This report put forward a number of recommendations on organisational restructuring, operational management and strategic development. This complex programme for change has been divided up into a series of projects across the various laboratory divisions focusing on:

- Food Chemistry
- Food Microbiology
- Plant Science
- Animal Health
- Quality Management
- Regional Laboratories
- LIMS
- Sample Reception
- Procurement and Stores
- Workspace Planning

These projects are aimed at facilitating the Laboratories in achieving greater operational efficiency and scientific excellence while exploring opportunities for greater synergies and more effective management of its various activities.

In 2019, RSM Ireland completed its cost-benefit analysis (CBA) report on proposed options for future development of the Regional Veterinary Laboratories (RVLs) and presented this to the Department. The conclusions and recommendations in the CBA have been carefully considered along with the feedback

received from stakeholders and this has informed a proposal on how best to redevelop the RVLs over the coming years. Subsequently the Department announced details of a ten year-plan that was approved by Government for development of its regional laboratories in early September.

The plan will involve a phased redevelopment and a projected overall investment of €33.5 million over the decade to the end of 2028. New laboratories will be built in Kilkenny, Sligo, Munster (at a site between Cork and Limerick that is yet to be selected) and Athlone. The envisioned Munster facilities will be developed as a centre of excellence for investigation and surveillance of disease in dairy cattle by the end of 2026. Some of the other significant project milestones achieved in 2019 include:

The appointment of two new Heads of Division for the Food Chemistry and Food Microbiology divisions. This is the first transitional step towards two new multidisciplinary Divisional teams for food safety related work. Work is now continuing to draft proposals on the configuration of work areas, roles, responsibilities and reporting lines of staff within these new Divisions.

A project team was established to design, procure and develop a new Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS 2.0). A Request for Information (RFI) to LIMS providers was published on eTenders as the first stage in a rigorous procurement exercise.

As part of an ongoing commitment to ensure that all laboratory-based staff are fully aware of the range of projects and other related activities currently on-going within the Department's Laboratories, the Project Management Office organised a very successful and informative "Open Day" Session.

2

Strategic Goal Farm/Sector Supports and Control

*Provide income and
market supports
to underpin the rural economy
and the environment*

Promoting Sustainable Farming

Rural Development Programme 2014 -2020 (RDP)

The Programme is part of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and is co-funded by the EU's European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and the national exchequer. Ireland's 2014-2020 RDP was formally adopted by the EU Commission in May 2015 and contains a suite of extensive measures that support the farming sectors and support community led local development.

EU support for the RDP through the EAFRD amounts to €2.19 billion over the 7-year Programme lifespan. This EU funding is supplemented by exchequer funding to bring the total support available under the RDP to €4.146 billion. The RDP measures are designed to meet the three overriding objectives for RDP funding set out in EU legislation:

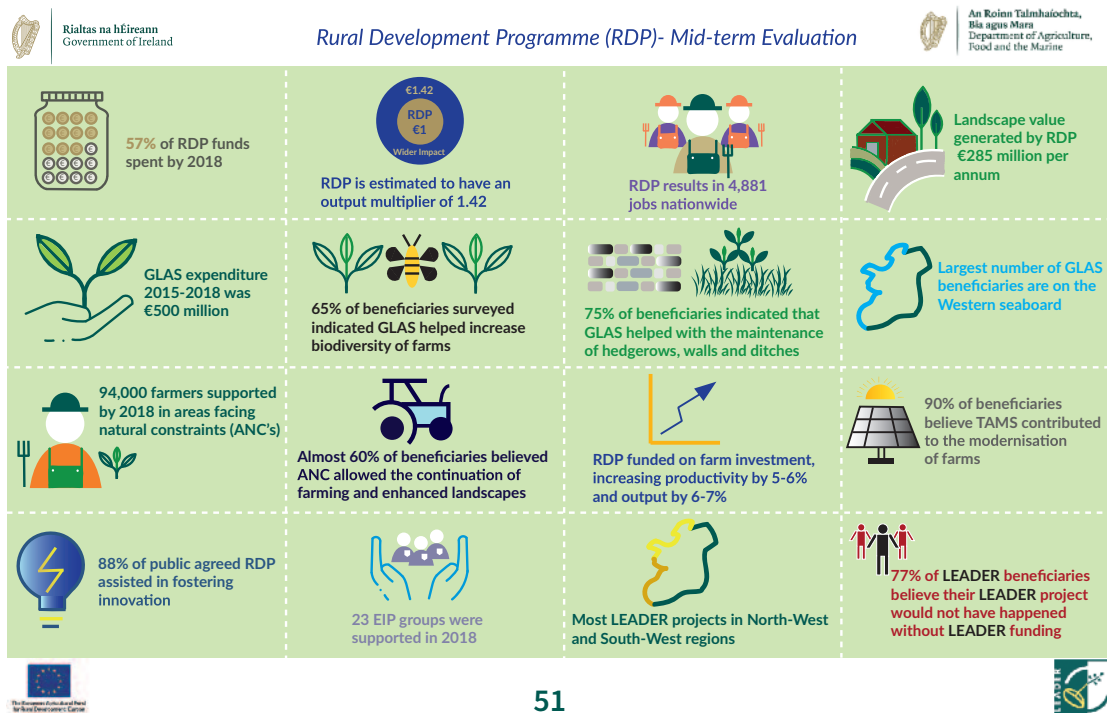
Enhancing the competitiveness of the agri-food sector; Achieving more sustainable management of natural resources; and,

Ensuring more balanced development of rural areas and economies.

All the RDP schemes are fully operational. In 2018, a number of amendments were made to the programme. Specifically, an additional €25 million for the Areas of Natural Constraint (ANC) Scheme was approved. Changes to GLAS (agri-environment scheme) actions to address the fodder shortage due to adverse weather conditions. The Organic Farming Scheme welcomed 60 new applicants into the Scheme in 2019.

Ireland has performed very well in terms of implementation of the Rural Development Programme. Ireland's drawdown of EU Funds represented 79% in the 2014-2019 period, the second highest in the EU and compares well to an EU average of 58%. The Programme is fully operational with most measures/schemes running at optimum level; based on current projections, the programme is expected to drawdown all EU funding by the end of the Programme.

A mid-term evaluation of the programme was conducted by Indecon International Economic Consultants in 2019, and the full report is available on the Department website. The report noted the positive impact of the Programme on the rural economy, acknowledging its role in supporting rural employment, enhancing competitiveness, maintaining the rural landscape, and supporting positive actions for the climate and environment.



Promoting Sustainable Farming

National Rural Network (NRN)

The establishment of a NRN is an EU legislative requirement as part of Ireland's Rural Development Programme and is funded through the technical assistance budget. Irish Rural Link, in partnership with the Wheel, NUI Galway and Philip Farrelly and Co., is the Network Support Unit which operates the NRN. The role of the NRN is to:

- Increase the involvement of stakeholders in the implementation of the Rural Development Programme;
- Improve the quality of implementation of the Rural Development Programme;
- Inform the broader public and potential beneficiaries on rural development policy and funding opportunities;
- Foster innovation in agriculture, food production, forestry and rural areas.



National Rural Network

The NRN cooperates with the European Network for Rural Development by participating at meetings and exchanges at EU level, providing examples of projects, good practices and information for network statistics, amongst numerous other engagements. The European dimension of the network is seen as providing key opportunities and best practice examples of rural development and innovation that could be examined and replicated within the Irish context. Further details on the work of both networks, including case studies, research, networks, newsletters, are available on the NRN and ENRD websites.

Green Low-Carbon Agri-Environment Scheme

Over 50,000 participants were approved into GLAS under GLAS 1, 2 and 3. The target level of participation set in the Rural Development Programme (RDP) was exceeded well ahead of schedule. GLAS provides support to farmers aimed at encouraging actions that promote biodiversity, protect water quality and combat climate change. GLAS has a range of over 30 actions available for selection by participants in consultation with their Advisor. The maximum annual payment available to participants in this five year scheme is €5,000 under the general scheme, with provision for payment of up to €7,000 (known as GLAS+) where the participant is required to give exceptional environmental commitments in a limited number of cases. Over €797 million has been issued to GLAS participants to date.

Targeted Agricultural Modernisation Schemes (TAMS)

The TAMS II suite of measures under the RDP opened in 2015 and remains open on a tranche by tranche basis. Payments were made throughout 2019 as approved works were completed and payment claims submitted to the online system. The measures available under TAMS include: -

- Young Farmers' Capital Investment Scheme
- Low Emission Slurry Spreading Equipment Scheme
- Animal Welfare, Safety and Nutrient Storage Scheme
- Dairy Equipment Scheme
- Pig and Poultry Investment Scheme
- Organic Capital Investment Scheme
- A Tillage Capital Investment Scheme opened in March 2017.

Payments of €76.5 million issued in 2019.

Locally-led Schemes

These schemes promote local solutions to specific environmental issues and complement the much more broadly-based GLAS measure under the RDP 2014-2020.

Promoting Sustainable Farming

The Burren Programme is an established five-year agri-environment scheme which currently has 328 participants. The Burren Programme is widely seen as a benchmark for environmentally focused farming in Europe. It encompasses both results-based habitat management and complementary non-productive capital investment site works.

The primary objectives of the Programme are:

- To ensure the sustainable agricultural management of high nature value farmland in the Burren;
- To contribute to the positive management of the Burren landscape and its cultural heritage;
- To contribute to improvements in water quality and water usage efficiency.

In 2019, approximately €1.36 million of payments were issued to farmers.

The Hen Harrier Programme was launched in 2017 and will run for five years. Its main area of focus are the farmers managing the habitats in the six Hen Harrier SPAs. The project currently has 1,524 farmers accepted into the Programme.

2019 was a very successful year for hen harriers - the 56 confirmed pairs in the SPAs reared at least 81 chicks. This was the highest number for 14 years. The gains were most pronounced in Kerry where one pair raised an almost unprecedented 5 chicks.

The program developed a Nest Protection Method Statement to ensure activities follow all legal, welfare and wildlife guidance and adhere to best practice. The Nest Protection Officers contracted to the Programme operate under licence from National Parks & Wildlife Service and in accordance with an approved Nest Protection Method Statement.

A number of Innovation schemes were also developed by the programme these include:

Tackling Nutritional Deficits in Upland Cattle Grazing

The Hen Harrier Project partnered with Dawn Meats and Devenish Nutrition to develop and demonstrate new techniques for tackling nutritional deficits in cattle grazing in the uplands and to give farmers tools for influencing animal behaviour and forage utilisation patterns.

Wildfire Resilience

Following the severe fires in the Slieve Bloom Mountains in 2018, the Hen Harrier Project liaised with local fire services to develop a plan for fire-fighting operations in the SPA areas. Overall Hen Harrier productivity in the Slieve Blooms was down considerably compared to the previous year. In 2018, 16 chicks were fledged, this fell to 5 in 2019. This represented a serious fall in what had previously been one of the most productive areas within the SPA network. A repeat of this type of fire would pose a serious risk to the Hen Harriers Projects objectives. The Project Manager attended the Wildfire Lessons Learned Seminar.

Local Actions

This fund provides support for actions which are neither admin payments to the team or farmer payments and could not be delivered through an individual farm plan. It includes nest protection officers who are employed for the summer months usually, bird monitoring staff who check on the health of the nests after the breeding season, field trials and pilots that are used to test possible actions.

This fund also includes Local Action Grants which are micro grants open to farmers, schools, clubs, community groups and others. This funding is part of a hearts and minds approach, that serves to demonstrate that the Hen Harrier is a local resource, the value of which is shared by the entire community.

Up to the end of December 2019 over €4.6 million was issued to farmers with a further €223,000 paid in local actions.

The Pearl Mussel Project signed a contract with the Department in 2018 will run until December 2023. The Minister for Agriculture Michael Creed officially launched the Programme in Ardroom on March 29th 2019. The total area of farmland under contract in the Programme is 21,405ha, which is 53% of farmland across all catchments.

The aim of this voluntary programme is to develop a results-based agri-environmental programme to ensure the long-term co-existence of freshwater pearl mussel populations and farming in the top eight freshwater pearl mussel catchments in Ireland. As the project was being designed, consultation with landowners in each catchment area was a key aspect.

Promoting Sustainable Farming

This encouraged stakeholder buy-in and ensured that the expertise, advice, and concerns of farmers in the target catchment areas were incorporated into the Programme at an early stage.

During the development of the project programme some fundamental features were adopted to overcome the challenges presented by the aquatic target species and to ensure that participating farmers are adequately incentivised:

- Quality of terrestrial habitats is used as a result indicator subject to adjustment following a 'whole-farm assessment'.
- The 'whole-farm assessment' focuses on watercourse condition and nutrient and farmyard management. The assessment result influences final payment thereby creating a major incentive to improve watercourse and farmyard and nutrient management.
- Lower scoring plots are paid at the highest payment rates. This approach incentivises farmers to improve the management of their lowest scoring plots.
- Floodplain payment is incorporated to reflect the importance of these features to the conservation of freshwater pearl-mussel.
- Farmyard management. The assessment result influences final payment thereby creating a major incentive to improve watercourse and farmyard and nutrient management.
- Lower scoring plots are paid at the highest payment rates. This approach incentivises farmers to improve the management of their lowest scoring plots.
- Floodplain payment is incorporated to reflect the importance of these features to the conservation of freshwater pearl-mussel.

Environmental monitoring during the first year of the Programme focussed on developing a robust baseline dataset of farm habitats and watercourses. The PMP team surveyed a large proportion of farms during the 2019 field season with a view to developing a baseline and inform score verification on the advisor submitted data. The PMP provided a detailed mapping and characterisation of all watercourses on participating farms.

The PMP team have produced an extensive list of publications, all of which can be viewed and downloaded on the project website.

In 2019, 342 farmers were accepted into the project with further contract offers expected to be made in 2020. Up to the end of December 2019 over €664,000 was issued to farmers.

The European Innovation Partnership (EIP) initiative funds co-operation between different stakeholders including farmers, researchers, advisors and businesses who form an Operational Group, to identify innovative solutions to particular challenges.

It was developed to respond to challenges at a local level by stimulating and developing innovative approaches in dealing with environmental issues.

One of the important aspects of the whole EIP initiative is its place in the local community and to encourage innovation at a local level. The farmers are an integral part of the process and with researchers, scientists and advisors come together in Operational Groups to address a specific local environmental issue.

The benefit of all these EIPs will not just be confined to their regions – the EIPs will essentially road-test ideas and practices that can be disseminated to other farmers and thereby enable improved productivity, enhanced resource efficiency and more sustainable farming practices.

A fund of €24 million was set aside for the EIP projects which were selected from two competitive open calls. The Department received over 170 project proposals of which 12 projects were selected for implementation from the first call and a further 9 from the second call. These projects cover a wide range of topics including organic production, pollinators, water quality, flood management, biodiversity, soils, and farming in an archaeological landscape and targeting un-utilised agricultural biomass.

Through the selected 21 projects, the EIP Initiative has generated great interest throughout Ireland in the possibilities it affords. The variety of projects demonstrates commitment of people from all parts of

Promoting Sustainable Farming

the country to address the challenges in the agri-food sector, to refocus on biodiversity and deal with climate change.

In 2019, in conjunction with the National Rural Network, the EIP-AGRI booklet, posters and interactive database were designed and produced. This booklet sets out the activities and background of each of the successful EIP-AGRI projects.

Up to the end of December 2019, over €207,000 worth of payments was issued to farmers.

Traditional Farm Buildings Scheme

The Heritage Council administers the GLAS Traditional Farm Buildings Grant Scheme for the conservation and repair of traditional farm buildings and other related structures on behalf of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. The principal objective of this scheme is to ensure those traditional farm buildings and other related structures that contribute to the character of the landscape, and are of significant heritage value, are conserved for agricultural use. In 2019, payments of €1.136 million were issued to 76 applicants to carry out works on these structures.

Cross Compliance Checks

EU cross compliance requires that farmers must comply with 13 Statutory Management Requirements (SMRs) and 7 Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition (GAEC) standards, relating to:

- Environment, climate change and good agricultural condition of land
- Public, animal and plant health
- Animal welfare
- Good agricultural and environmental conditions.

These requirements are monitored by mandatory inspections on between 1-3% of farms annually and are an effective means of protecting the environment and ensuring that farmers comply with a wide range of public goods regulations concerned with food and animal welfare. In 2019, a total of 1,410 Full Cross Compliance and 4,915 Animal Identification and

Registration inspections were carried out in respect of the 1%-3% requirement for Cross Compliance inspections.

Direct Payments

In 2019, over €1,162 million was paid to almost 122,000 farmers under the 2019 Basic Payment Scheme and over €241 million was paid to 96,600 applicants under the 2019 Areas of Natural Constraints scheme. These direct payments to farmers in 2019 were paid within the service delivery targets of the Farmers Charter and Action Plan. 2019 Scheme year payments continued in 2020.

Beef Data and Genomics Programme (BDGP)

The Beef Data and Genomics Programme (BDGP) was approved as an agri environment scheme under the Rural Development Programme. It was launched in April 2015. Funding of €300m was allocated for the programme which runs for 6 years from 2015. In 2017 BDGP II was launched to cover the period 2017 – 2022.

It is expected that through the use of genotyping and data collection that farmers will be more easily able to identify the best breeding stock from which to source their replacement animals and that the selection of these higher quality animals will ultimately lead to a reduction in emissions from the agricultural sector in Ireland.

For 2019, 24,011 farmers continued to participate in BDGP I and II. Payments amounting to €38.2m issued to 21,361 participants in December 2019 in respect of the 2019 scheme year. Payments will continue as herds become eligible.

A Spending Review on the BDGP was also published in July 2019 (<https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/5915ad-spending-review/>), finding that early indications across productivity and environmental performance were positive, and the collection of data would greatly enhance the ability of the sector to improve the longer term.

Promoting Sustainable Farming

Knowledge Transfer Programme

Ireland's Rural Development Programme includes a provision for a Knowledge Transfer programme which is informed by experience with previous discussion groups including the Beef Technology Adoption Programme (BTAP). The three year Programme which commenced in 2016 and concluded in 2019 moved away from the task-based approach of previous schemes and focused on key policy priorities including profitability, environmental sustainability, breeding and herd health. One to one engagement between the KT Facilitator and farmer was complemented by group discussion and the sharing of experience and information between participants.

Approx 18,000 farmers participated in Year Three of the Programme attending meetings and producing a Farm Improvement plan with their approved Knowledge Transfer Facilitator. This Farm Improvement Plan included animal health measures completed with an approved private veterinary practitioner. Year Three of the Scheme concluded end of July 2019. Payments are ongoing approx. €12.7 million issued to participants across all 6 Knowledge Transfer sectors and a further €9.5 million issued to Facilitators in 2019.



Customer Service

Table below indicates the progress achieved on the targets specified in the Customer Service Action Plan. Achievement of service delivery targets is predicated on correct scheme requirements and documentation being available.

2019 Performance on Customer Service Delivery Targets

SERVICE	TARGET DELIVERY TIME	2019 PERFORMANCE
Basic Payment Scheme	EU Regulations provide that payments shall be made once a year within the period 1 December to 30 June of the following year. However, EU regulations also allowed for 70% advance payments from 16.10.19. Balancing payments commenced on 1.12.19	Advance payments commenced on 16.10.2019 with balancing payments commencing on December. By end 2019 €1.162 billion had been paid to over 99% of applicants.
Areas of Natural Constraints	In 2019, advance payments under the Scheme were due to commence in mid September, with balancing payments commencing at the start of December.	Advance payments under the 2019 ANC scheme commenced, on schedule, during the week commencing 16 September 2019 with 79,000 farmers being paid €168.5 million. Balancing payments commenced at the start of December. As at 31 December 2019 €241 million had been paid to 96,600 applicants.
Beef Data and Genomics Programme	Payments for a scheme year to commence in December of the scheme year.	Payments amounting to €38.2 million issued to 21,361 participants in December 2019
TAMS	Issue of approval following receipt of valid application within 3 months. Approval for payment following receipt of notice of completion of works and valid supporting documents within 3 months. Issue of payment following approval for payment within 6 weeks.	100%

Customer Service

SERVICE	TARGET DELIVERY TIME	2019 PERFORMANCE
<p>Forest Service Grant Schemes</p> <p>Forestry Premium Scheme</p>	<p>Annual bulk payment for premium schemes run in April but payments continue throughout the year.</p>	<p>€25.9m million paid in January 2019 as part of the first bulk premium run in respect of 6,850 online applications.</p> <p>€15.3 million paid in April 2019 bulk premium run (paper forms) in respect of 5,117 applications.</p> <p>The total value of the 18,831 annual forest premiums paid in 2019 amounted to €64.4 million.</p> <p>55% of premium applications were made on-line.</p>
<p>Compensation – Bovine TB Eradication and Brucellosis Monitoring Schemes</p>	<p>TB and Brucellosis compensation to be paid within 3 weeks of the date of receipt of the required correct documentation or of eligibility as per terms and conditions.</p>	<p>96.7% of Reactor Grant Valuation compensation payments were made within 3 weeks of receipt of all the required documentation and over 99% were made within 8 weeks.</p> <p>96.8% of Income Supplement, Depopulation and Hardship Grant payments were made within 3 weeks of receipt of the required documentation and over 99% were made within 8 weeks.</p>
<p>BSE Scrapie</p>	<p>BSE Compensation - 100% paid within 21 days of receipt of completed documentation.</p> <p>Scrapie Compensation - 100% paid within 21 days of receipt of final documents.</p>	<p>All applicants paid within the required time-frame.</p> <p>No applications</p>
<p>Rice Import licenses</p>	<p>24 hours</p>	<p>100%</p>
<p>Milk & Milk Products Export licence Import licences</p>	<p>24 hours</p>	<p>100% 100%</p>
<p>Tariff quota for unspecified countries of origin</p>	<p>5 working days</p>	<p>100%</p>
<p>Non-quota preferential licence</p>	<p>5 working days</p>	<p>100%</p>
<p>Tariff quota licence for specified countries</p>	<p>5 working days</p>	<p>100%</p>
<p>General import licences</p>	<p>1 working day</p>	<p>100%</p>

Scheme Operations

Tables below give operational details on the main schemes operated by the Department in 2019.

Scheme	Applications received in 2019	Applications processed in 2019	Payments made* € M
Basic Payment Scheme/Greening	122,558	121,575	1,162
Areas of Natural Constraints	104,474	96,600	241
Afforestation Grant	1,464	1,485	16.13
Forestry Premium (Afforestation Scheme)	21,946	21,600	64.35
Early Retirement	0	0	0.184
TB and Brucellosis Compensation	4,692	4,471	17.7
BSE Compensation	9	8	0.008
Scrapie Compensation	0	0	0
Beef Data and Genomics Programme (BDGP)	0	21,361	38.2
Investment Aid for Commercial Horticulture	167	167	5,834
Organic Farming Scheme	0	1,558	9,388
Scheme of Organic Grant Aid	4	5	0.133
TAMS (exc. Bioenergy)	11,001	6,187	76.5
Sheep Welfare Scheme (represents advance payment at 85%)	19,735	18,489	14.9

3

Strategic Goal Policy and Strategy

*Provide the optimum
policy framework
for the sustainable development
of the agri-food sector.*



EU Interactions

EU Interactions

Romania and Finland shared the role of the President of the Council of the European Union in 2019 – Romania from January to June, and, Finland from July to December. The key issue discussed by Member States, including Ireland, throughout 2019 was the ongoing negotiation of the Common Agricultural Policy post 2020.

Other key issues discussed during 2019 included the Bioeconomy Strategy; international trade issues in particular the EU-Mercosur Free Trade Agreement and the consequences of the Airbus-Boeing WTO dispute for the EU agri-food sector; EU-African Union co-operation; forestry related matters such as the European Commission's Communication on Stepping up EU action to protect and restore the world's forests, and the EU Forest Strategy post 2020. In addition, the new President of the European Commission launched the European Green Deal in December, which is a cross-cutting sectoral policy initiative with the aim of achieving a climate neutral economy by 2050.

In late 2019, the Commission proposed two CAP Transitional Regulations with the aim to provide legal certainty for farmers and Member States on the continuity of Direct Payments and payments under the Rural Development Programme beyond 2020.

In addition, the Commission approved a seventh amendment to Ireland's 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme approving two alterations to current LEADER arrangements.

The Commission published its proposals for an EU Green Deal which aims to strengthen EU ambitions for climate action through a climate law and aims for several new complementing strategies such as farm to fork, biodiversity and circular economy.

EU Institutional Changes

European Parliamentary Elections

The European Parliamentary Elections took place between 23 - 26 May. The newly elected MEP's, including 11 Irish MEP's, took up their seats in the European Parliament on 2 July 2019. As a result of the UK's withdrawal from the EU, Member States gained additional MEP's. Ireland gained two extra MEP's, however, they will not take their seats in the European Parliament until 1 February 2020 i.e. after the UK's withdrawal from the EU on 31 January 2020.

One of the first tasks of the new European Parliament was to elect a new President of the European Commission. The successful candidate was Ursula von der Leyen who took over from Jean Claude Juncker.

New European Commission

The new European Commission came into effect on 1 December 2019. President von der Leyen appointed three Executive Vice Presidents, all charged with responsibility for a broad thematic area of the Commission's work programme. These three thematic areas are also identified as the President's key priorities:-

- Frans Timmermans, Executive Vice-President for the European Green Deal – with responsibility for climate related issues, including the strategy for sustainable food, the circular economy and the introduction of climate related tax policies;
- Margrethe Vestager, Executive Vice-President to make the European Union fit for the digital age;
- Valdis Dombrovskis, Executive Vice-President for economic and financial affairs, with a focus on inclusivity.

The new College of Commissioners also came into effect on 1 December 2019, following approval by the European Parliament. Each Commissioner was assigned responsibility for specific policy areas by the President of the European Commission. The new Commissioner for Agriculture is Polish Commissioner, Janusz Wojciechowski.

EU Interactions

Also in 2019, there have been leadership changes to the other EU Institutions, the European Council and the European Parliament:-

- Charles Michel has taken over from Donald Tusk as President of the European Council;
- David Sassoli replaced Antonio Tajani as President of the European Parliament.

Brexit

Work continued in 2019 to respond to the UK's decision to leave the European Union. The main impact of the Brexit vote on the sector was the effect of sterling volatility on those businesses that have a significant trading relationship with the UK, and this drop in currency value continues to have a negative impact. The medium to longer term threats from Brexit include the possible introduction of tariffs on trade between the EU and UK, potential divergences in regulations and standards between both countries post-Brexit and the introduction of regulatory controls on trade between the EU and the UK.

The Withdrawal Agreement and Political Declaration were agreed between the EU27 and Prime Minister May in June 2018. This was subject to ratification by the European Parliament and the UK Parliament. However, the original Withdrawal Agreement was not ratified by the UK Parliament. Therefore, in October 2019 a Revised Withdrawal Agreement and Political Declaration was agreed between the EU 27 and Prime Minister Johnson. This was subsequently ratified by both the European and UK Parliaments.

In order to keep Member States apprised of Ireland's concerns on the impact of Brexit on the agri-food and fisheries sectors, Minister Creed continued his engagement with his EU counterparts in 2019. During the year he met with his counterparts from Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Poland, Spain, Portugal, Slovakia, Luxembourg, Lithuania, Slovenia and The Netherlands. The purpose of these engagements was to ensure the Withdrawal Agreement would be ratified and that meaningful negotiations would get underway as soon as possible. He highlighted the specific areas of interest to the Irish agri-food sector and kept them fully abreast of the impacts a no-deal Brexit would have on the agri-food sector in Ireland.

Minister Creed also met regularly with Commissioners Hogan and Vella to discuss the potential impact of Brexit on the agri-food and fisheries sectors and to stress the need for the Commission to be ready to deploy a range of measures to mitigate the potential impacts on farmers and processors. Minister Creed also held a meeting with Mr. Robert Goodwill M.P., the UK Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

CAP post 2020

The legislative proposals for the next CAP 2021-27, continued to be discussed under the Romanian and Finnish Presidencies in 2019. The Romanian Presidency pressed strongly for a Partial General Approach and engaged with Member States intensively on this. However, due to the complex nature of the proposals and the number of outstanding issues raised by Member States, the Romanian Presidency instead presented at their final Agri-Fish Council in June, a Progress Report which set out the work done during their Presidency and the state of play with each of the draft Regulations.

In June the Romanian Presidency invited Member States to submit written comments on the draft Regulations which were then provided to the Finnish Presidency. Ireland submitted a full position on all three draft Regulations.

At the outset of their Presidency, the Finns undertook at the very least to present revised consolidated texts for all three draft Regulations. At best, they hoped to achieve a General Approach at Council, however, this was very much dependent on the parallel budgetary negotiation process on the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) post 2020.

The Finnish Presidency made great efforts to address Member States concerns, in particular, with regard to the New Delivery Model reporting system and the increased climate and environmental ambition. Despite their best efforts, it was not possible for the Finns to achieve Council General Approach and at December Agri-Fish Council they presented a Progress Report which set out the work done to date on the CAP proposals.

EU Interactions

The Finns prepared consolidated revised text on all three draft regulations. Two of the Regulations – the Horizontal Regulation (financing, managing and monitoring) and the Amending Regulation (amending the current CMO Regulation) are considered to be largely stable. However, it was accepted that there are elements within each of these Regulations that cannot be fully agreed until the MFF negotiation process has been concluded.

The CAP Strategic Plan Regulation has proved the most problematic for Member States to consider and there are many outstanding issues that will need to be resolved before agreement can be achieved.

Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) post-2020

Both the Romanian and Finnish Presidencies sought to advance the MFF post 2020 proposals as far as possible in the hope of reaching a consensus. Agreement on the MFF proposals is a matter for Heads of State and Government, followed by adoption by the Council of Ministers with the consent of the European Parliament.

Despite holding extensive discussions with Member States, the Romanian Presidency could not bridge the diverging views amongst Member States on the appropriate level of the budget. In December, the Finnish Presidency presented a revised proposal with updated figures for Member States to consider. However, agreement could not be reached.

The President of the European Council, Charles Michel, has taken over responsibility of the MFF post 2020 negotiation process and has planned to organise technical and political bilateral meetings with Member States in an effort to reach agreement during 2020.

Common Fisheries Policy Reform

A report on the functioning of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) is due to be submitted by the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council by the end of 2022. The overarching goal of this policy is to ensure that fishing and aquaculture are environmentally, economically and socially sustainable, thus resulting in a competitive and viable seafood sector for all. Key

features of this policy include achieving the maximum sustainable yield (MSY) rate for all fish stocks in all cases by 2020 as well as a discards ban (Landing Obligation) which was phased in over the period 2015 to 2019.

Implementation of the key elements of the CFP continued throughout 2019 at both EU and national level. The multi-annual plan for demersal stocks in the Western Waters, which is extremely important from an Irish perspective, came into full effect early in 2019. The 2020 deadline for MSY ensured quotas, where sufficient scientific advice was available, were set at levels that ensure long term sustainability in line with the MSY principle.

The discard ban or landing obligation, which is another key element of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), was phased in over a number of years and fully implemented in 2019. The North West Waters Regional Group of Member States, (Ireland, Belgium, France, UK, Netherlands and Spain) set up to manage fisheries at a regional level, met regularly throughout 2019 to discuss various implementation issues and to work on additional measures following the full implementation.

Fishing opportunities or TACs (Total Allowable Catches) negotiated at the December 2019 Agriculture and Fisheries Council were negotiated and fixed in line with the MSY objective. The Minister secured 195,000 tonnes of quotas worth €275 million for Irish fishermen for 2020.

Bioeconomy Strategy

The Bioeconomy Strategy has been discussed on an ongoing basis at EU level since 2018. During 2019, the discussions intensified, culminating in the adoption of Council Conclusions on the Strategy. The Strategy applies a cross-sectoral holistic approach, with aims to connect the potential of renewable natural resources; the needs of society; and, to protect, maintain and restore eco-systems and biodiversity. The Council Conclusions also includes references to the CAP, in particular, the potential use of CAP rural development instruments namely EIP-AGRI, AKIS and LEADER to support the deployment of a local sustainable and circular bioeconomy.

EU Interactions

Market Situation

The market situation across the various agricultural sectors continued to be monitored during 2019. The early part of 2019 saw the remainder of SMP stocks in public intervention offered for sale through the invitation to tender procedure which resulted in all stock being sold out of public storage by March 2019.

Forestry Sector

During 2019 the Council of the European Union

- adopted Conclusions on the *Mid-term Review of the EU Forest Strategy*,
- adopted *Conclusions on the Communication on Stepping up EU Action to Protect and Restore the World's Forests* and
- endorsed the *Ministerial Katowice Declaration on Forests for the Climate*.

Themes covered in the conclusions on the Mid-term Review of the EU Forest Strategy include, among others, Sustainable Forest Management, climate change mitigation and adaptation, ecosystem services, rural development, addressing deforestation and forest degradation as well as nature conservation. The role of afforestation and need for on-going availability of funding is also addressed in the text.

The conclusions on the *Communication on Stepping up EU Action to Protect and Restore the World's Forests*: noted that current actions are not enough to halt deforestation and forest degradation; endorsed the objectives and scope of the European Commission's Communication, which sets out to protect and improve the health of forests (especially primary forests) as well as to significantly increase sustainable, biodiverse forest coverage worldwide; and called for coherent implementation spanning its five priority areas.

The Council of the European Union formally endorsed the *Ministerial Katowice Declaration on Forests for the Climate* in September 2019. The declaration includes a pledge to accelerate action to ensure the enhanced

contribution of forests and forest products to support achieving the long-term goal of the Paris Agreement. Continued action from stakeholders is also encouraged.

Climate Action

The new Governance Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 includes the requirement for Member States to draw up integrated National Energy and Climate Plans for 2021 to 2030 outlining how to achieve the ESR, LULUCF and RED II targets and submit to the European Commission by the end of 2019. Ireland maintained a whole of Government position regarding engagement with the process and will continue to work with colleagues across the various Government Departments.



International Interactions

World Trade Organisation (WTO)

There was no outcome on the Agriculture file at MC11 in 2017 and there has been no significant change in WTO members' positions since. However, there is pressure to have an Agriculture item on the agenda for MC12 in 2020.

Free Trade Agreements – FTAs

Negotiations continued on a range of FTAs between the EU and third countries.

EU-US

In July 2018, the EU and the US began talks on a limited trade deal which would see the elimination of tariffs on industrial goods only. The US administration requested agriculture's inclusion in the negotiations. However, Ireland supported the EU Commission position that agriculture should remain excluded from the scope of any future agreement with the US per the agreement by then EU Commission President Juncker and President Trump.

On 11 January 2019, the US published its negotiating objectives for these trade negotiations. On 18 January 2019, the EU Commission published its draft negotiating Directives for EU Council approval to commence trade negotiations with the US, excluding agriculture. On 14 March 2019, the EU Parliament considered its non-binding resolution for commencing talks with the US and issued a "no opinion" on the negotiations. The European Parliament will have a binding vote on the approval of any final Free Trade Agreement. The Council of the EU approved two mandates on 15 April 2019 for an agreement on (1) the elimination of tariffs for industrial goods and on (2) conformity assessment.

Airbus-Boeing WTO dispute: impact on the agri-food sector

The US and EU have been in a long-running dispute regarding subsidies to their respective major Aircraft manufacturers, Airbus (EU) and Boeing (US). Both sides have submitted two individual cases to the WTO for adjudication. The WTO Appellate Body has passed

judgement on both with the EU and US being found at fault. The arbitration ruling outlining the tariffs that can be imposed by the US on the EU were announced on 2nd October 2019. The equivalent parallel ruling permitting EU tariffs to be applied to US imports is due in 2020.

The WTO arbitration ruling of 2 October 2019 set the maximum level of tariffs the US may apply on EU exports to the US at \$7.496 billion. The US subsequently published a list of EU imports to the US which it applied tariffs from 18th October 2019. In the case of Irish exports to the US, the tariff rate was 25% ad valorem. This will have a significant effect on a number of our high value exports to the US, including liqueurs, butter and certain cheeses. Discussions will continue into 2020 with a view to reaching a fair and balanced agreement between the US and EU.

Autonomous 'EU 481 grain fed beef' quota

In 2019, the European Commission reached an agreement with the US on the autonomous 'EU 481 grain fed beef' quota which was initially set up to resolve a hormone use dispute between the EU, US and Canada. The existing hormone-free beef quota of 45,000 tonnes remains at the same level, the change being that 35,000 tonnes of quota will be "ring fenced" for the US. This US allocation is being phased in over a seven year period. The Agreement enters into force on the 1st of January 2020.

Canada CETA

In 2017, the European Parliament gave its consent for CETA and the agreement provisionally entered into force. As such, most of the agreement now applies. The agreement will enter fully into force when all EU MS parliaments have ratified the agreement. To date 12 EU Member States have ratified CETA: Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Portugal, Spain and Sweden. The overall outcome is satisfactory from Ireland's perspective - although increased access to the EU market was granted for Canadian beef, greater access to the Canadian market for EU beef and dairy products (notably cheese) was also secured.

International Interactions

EU MERCOSUR

Twenty years of negotiations concluded on 28 June 2019 with the announcement of a political agreement on the EU-Mercosur Free Trade Agreement. The agreement includes a significant Tariff Rate Quota for beef - 99,000 tonnes Carcass Weight Equivalent imports to the EU. To assist farmers with any market disturbance challenges from the deal, the Commission is making a fund of €1billion available.

The agreement includes quotas for EU exports of cheese, milk powders and infant formula, as well as full liberalisation of spirits, chocolate and other goods, thus providing opportunities for Irish exporters. The agreement also provides that Mercosur countries are required to establish legal guarantees protecting 357 EU Geographical Indications (GIs) including Irish Whiskey and Irish Cream Liqueur.

The Agreement includes detailed chapters on Sustainability and Sanitary Phyto-Sanitary (SPS) standards. The SPS chapter ensures Mercosur countries must uphold strict EU rules and standards on food safety, plant health and animal health and welfare, protecting EU consumer's interests.

In 2019, the Taoiseach requested an independent review on the impact of the agreement on Ireland. Following a tender process, an Economic and Sustainability Impact Assessment of the EU-Mercosur Trade Deal is being carried out on the EU Mercosur Agreement. A final report is expected in August 2020. The Commission is also carrying out a "Sustainability Impact Assessment" on the proposed FTA's impact on the EU. Their final report is expected in mid 2020. The outcome of both studies will inform Ireland's approach to ratification of the agreement.

The political agreement is currently undergoing legal scrubbing and translation. It is expected, the agreement will be presented to the Trade Council in Q4 2020. The provisional application of the aspects of the Agreement which the Commission has exclusive competence (including trade) will require the agreement of the Trade Council (Qualified Majority Voting) and ratification by the European Parliament. The proposed phasing-in of the beef tariff rate quota will be over a period of five years, therefore it could take six years before the agreement is fully in place.

The formal ratification process for the wider Agreement - which requires ratification by individual Member States because it is one that contains elements which fall under both EU exclusive competence and Member State competence - is likely to prove challenging at both European and National Parliament levels.

EU/African Union co-operation

Task Force on Rural Africa

The European Commission established the Task Force on Rural Africa in May 2018, with the aim of providing recommendations on how to strengthen the African rural sector and maximise the role of the EU in creating jobs and fostering economic development in the African agriculture, agribusiness and agro-industries. The work of the Task Force is part of the wider set of actions launched by the Commission in the framework of the 'Africa-Europe Alliance for Sustainable Investment and Jobs'.

In March 2019, the Task Force Rural Africa reported to the Commission on how best to contribute to sustainable development and job creation in Africa's agri-food sector and rural economy, and recommended the following four strategic areas for action:-

1. A territorial approach for income and job creation;
2. Sustainable land and natural resources management and climate action;
3. Sustainable transformation of African agriculture;
4. Development of the African food industry and markets actions.

EU-Singapore

On 16 May 2017, the European Court of Justice (ECJ) ruled that the Singapore agreement could not be ratified at EU level without the approval of all Member States. It added that any trade deal that includes an out-of-court dispute settlement system would require ratification by the EU's 38 national or regional parliaments. Following this ruling, the result of negotiations with Singapore were adjusted to create two standalone agreements: a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and an Investment Protection Agreement (IPA).

International Interactions

The draft trade agreements were signed on 19 October 2018 and received the consent of the European Parliament on 13 February 2019. Following the European Parliament's consent and Singapore concluding its own internal procedure, the FTA entered into force on the 21st of November 2019. The Investment Protection Agreement (IPA) requires ratification by all EU Member States before entering into force.

EU-Vietnam

The preliminary text of the Agreement covers the full dismantling of 99%-plus of tariffs over seven years for the EU and ten years for Vietnam. The Trade and Investment Agreements were signed on 30 June 2019. Both sides then commenced their respective ratification processes. The EU process is almost complete with final approval scheduled for early 2020. Once the Vietnamese National Assembly also ratifies the FTA, the Agreement will enter into force, most likely in early summer 2020.

EU – Japan

The EU-Japan negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement were finalised on 8 December 2017. The EU and Japan signed the Agreement at a summit on 11 July 2018 with the Agreement coming into force on 1 February 2019. The Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) represents a major boost for the EU agri-food sector, with considerable additional market access provided for in relation to beef, pigmeat and dairy (cheese) products. As such, it presents a significant opportunity to grow Irish beef exports in particular. Over 200 Geographical Indications are protected under the deal with potential major gains for wine and spirit exporters also.

EU - China

The aim of the proposed EU-China Investment agreement is to remove market access barriers to investment and provide a high level of protection to investors and investments in both the EU and Chinese markets. It will replace the existing 26 Bilateral Investment Treaties between China and individual EU Member States with one single comprehensive investment agreement. During 2016, the EU and China negotiators reached clear conclusions on an ambitious and comprehensive scope for the EU-China investment agreement and established a joint negotiating text. The

next round of negotiations is due to take place in Brussels between 16 - 21 January 2020.

EU-Indonesia

Two rounds of negotiations took place during 2019 with the most recent round taking place on the 2 December 2019 in Brussels. During the round, both sides exchanged a second offer for tariff liberalisation, building upon the initial offer that was exchanged at the fifth round. The second offer, while being an intermediate one, brings the proposed liberalisation to an already high percentage both in terms of number of tariff lines and trade volume, and paves the way towards an ambitious and comprehensive agreement. From an agriculture perspective the EU offer contained poultry meat, eggs, rice, sugar, meat preparations and vegetables. The 10th round is due to take place during the week of 16 - 20 March 2020 in Bali.

EU-Mexico

In April 2018, the EU and Mexico reached an 'agreement in principle' on the trade aspects of a modernised EU-Mexico Global Agreement. Technical issues are now being finalised. From an EU perspective, significant market access improvements were agreed for core exports of cheese and dairy products to Mexico. Furthermore, there is also considerable improvement of market access conditions for EU pork and poultry exports.

EU-Australia/New Zealand

Negotiations on Free Trade Agreements between the EU and both Australia and New Zealand are progressing.

Six rounds of negotiations have been completed between the EU and New Zealand, the most recent of which took place between the 10th-13th December 2019 in Wellington. Discussions were constructive with good progress in several areas with the objective to conclude in 2020.

Five rounds of negotiations have taken place between the EU and Australia with the most next round due to take place in Canberra on the 10th-14th February 2020. Negotiators discussed textual proposals submitted for various chapters, and their respective comments.

International Interactions

TRADE MISSIONS

During 2019, Minister Creed led successful agri-food missions to Turkey in March, China in both May and November, and Japan and South Korea in June. Market access for Irish sheepmeat to Japan was agreed in principle (fully achieved post trade mission) during the Trade Mission in June as well as confirmation of enhanced beef access to Japan with removal of 30 month age restriction.

Efforts to expand the global reach of Irish food and drink exports in China received a further significant boost in November 2019 with the approval of 14 additional beef plants to supply product to the Chinese market. This brought to 21, the total number of Irish plants listed with the General Administration of Customs in China. The announcement also marked a step change in Ireland's capacity to supply the Chinese market.

2019 also saw visits to more traditional markets with a visit in November to the Netherlands. During this visit, the Minister met representatives of the Dutch Veal Industry, he also visited their facilities and received reassurances both on animal welfare and capacity issues. The Netherlands is a particularly important export market for Ireland as it is our third largest destination for Irish agri-food exports.

The Minister concluded his 2019 schedule in December in the Netherlands followed by a visit to the UK, meeting key multi-national supermarket groups.

Inward Trade Visits

In addition to outward Ministerial trade missions, the Department hosted high level visiting delegations from a wide range of countries in 2019. These included China, Japan, South Korea, USA, Australia, New Zealand, Mongolia, Mexico, Iran, Turkey, Egypt, Thailand, Georgia, Qatar, Vietnam, Morocco and the UAE.

European Forest Institute (EFI)

The Department is a member of the EFI, which conducts research and provides policy support on issues related to forests. Ireland is an active member and supporter of a number of EFI initiatives. These include EFI's Multi-Donor Trust Fund for policy support and the EU REDD Facility which supports countries in improving land-use governance as part of their efforts to slow, halt and reverse deforestation. EFI publications and reports are available at www.efi.int

Stepping up EU Action to Protect and Restore the World's Forests

The European Commission adopted its *Communication on Stepping up EU Action to Protect and Restore the World's Forests* on 23 July 2019. The Communication set out to protect and improve the health of forests (especially primary forests) as well as to significantly increase sustainable, bio-diverse forest coverage worldwide.

In December 2019, the Council of the European Union adopted Conclusions on the Commission Communication. The conclusions:-

- noted that current actions are not enough to halt deforestation and forest degradation;
- endorsed the objectives and scope of the European Commission's Communication; and
- called for coherent implementation between the five priority areas.

EU Forest Strategy

The current EU Forest Strategy runs from 2014 – 2020. In 2019, the forest sector stakeholders, the Agri-Fish Council, the Committee of Regions and the European Economic and Social Committee recognised the need for a new, updated and stronger Forest Strategy for the EU. In addition, sustainable forest management and the cross-cutting importance the forest sector and forestry has in delivering on our climate challenges, is also seen as playing an integral role in the new European Green Deal. As forestry policy is a national competence, Member States are closely involved in designing the new Forest Strategy. Council conclusions on a new EU Forest Strategy were adopted in April 2019. Preparations for a new EU Forest Strategy will continue in 2020.

International Interactions

European Green Deal

The new Commission President Ursula von der Leyen launched the European Green Deal in December 2019. The Green Deal presents a roadmap of actions to boost the use of efficient resources and covers all economic sectors, including agriculture, with the aim of achieving a carbon neutral economy within the EU by 2050. Further details of the Green Deal will emerge in 2020, however, it is intended to increase the EU's emissions targets by 2030, as well as introducing several strategies in 2020 to help achieve our climate and environmental ambition. These strategies include a Biodiversity Strategy to 2030 and a Farm to Fork Strategy for sustainable food systems, the latter of which is due to be published in April 2020. Elements contained within the European Green Deal and the Farm to Fork Strategy will also need to be reflected in Member States CAP Strategic Plans (which form an integral part of the CAP post 2020 proposals), and which will be approved by the European Commission.

CAP Transitional Regulations

The Transitional regulations require amendments to seven specific regulations, including the four CAP Regulations. The Regulations aim to provide certainty and continuity in the granting of support to European farmers and ensuring the continuity of support for rural development in the transitional period for those Member States who have used their 2014 – 2020 EAFRD allocations, by extending the current legal framework until the new CAP becomes available.

The Commission proposed two regulations to fulfil these aims. The first, and most urgent regulation, is the financial flexibility regulation which was adopted on 31 December 2019. The second, and more substantial regulation proposes a number of changes to the Rural Development Programme. Member States have raised a number of queries around these changes and discussions will continue into 2020. The Commission expects the transitional arrangements to be in place by mid-summer 2020, subject to agreement on the Multi-annual Financial Framework post 2020, which will clarify the position regarding the future EU budgetary allocations.

Climate Change

Ireland through the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine continues to actively engage with the UNFCCC's Subsidiary Bodies which are tasked with jointly considering issues related to agriculture.

Following the decision at the 2017 Conference of Parties (COP 23), known as the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture, which recognised the role of agriculture in tackling climate change and achieving the ambitions of the Paris Climate Agreement, the work continued with the Department attendance at the UNFCCC Intersessional Climate Change Conference held in Bonn in June 2019 and the COP 25 held in Madrid in December 2019.

Furthermore, Ireland contributed funding to a New Zealand led initiative and agreed by all parties for an additional workshop under the KJWA to be held in 2020.

Additionally, Ireland supported the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change, to publish the Special Report on Climate Change and Land by providing input at the expert review stages and attendance at the final approval and sign-off meeting of world's governments which took place between the 2nd and 6th August 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland. Ireland is one of six countries that requested the preparation of this special report. This special report is one of three produced by the IPCC as part of their 6th assessment cycle; the others being the Global Warming of 1.5°C report published in 2018 and also a Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere published in September 2019.

The report's findings clearly call for urgently stepping up climate change mitigation and adaptation actions around the world, including sustainable land-related strategies that also alleviate pressures on land and food security.

International Interactions

Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

The OECD Committee for Agriculture provides an international forum for senior policy officials, including Ireland represented by the Department, to share experiences and improve mutual understanding of agriculture, trade and agri-environmental policies, and to enhance policy performance and effectiveness at both the domestic and the international levels. The Committee produces two annual flagship publications: the OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook and the Agricultural Policy Monitoring and Evaluation report. As well as attendance at the main Committee, the Department also participates in a range of related working committees.

Furthermore, the Department and EPA contributed financially to being included as a case study along with 5 other countries in a report called 'Towards Sustainable Land Use: Aligning Biodiversity, Climate and Food Policies'. This report examines challenges for aligning land-use policy with climate, biodiversity and food objectives, and the opportunities to enhance the sustainability of land use systems. This report provides good practice insights on how governments can transition to more sustainable land-use systems by better alignment of land use decision-making processes and greater convergence between land use, climate, ecosystems and food objectives.

OECD Agriculture and Fisheries Home page:

<http://www.oecd.org/agriculture/>

OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook: <http://www.agri-outlook.org/>

OECD Agricultural Policy Monitoring and Evaluation:

<http://www.oecd.org/tad/agricultural-policies/monitoring-and-evaluation.htm>



Food Security

FOOD SECURITY

International Development

The Department has responsibility for some of the elements of Ireland's international development programme and works closely with Irish Aid in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in this regard.

UN - World Food Programme (WFP)

The World Food Programme (WFP) is the United Nations organisation responsible for the delivery of food assistance to the poorest and most vulnerable people in the world. During 2019, the Department continued to represent Ireland on the WFP Executive Board as part of a two year rotation covering 2018-2019. The Department also continued its support for the vital work of the United Nations WFP by contributing €25.3 million in funding. This included an advance of €22.3 million on the 2020 contribution of €23 million as committed to in the Strategic Partnership Agreement with WFP for 2019-2021. This advance contribution gives WFP the flexibility to plan and target its funding in the most strategic, efficient and effective manner.

Africa Agri-Food Development Programme (AADP)

The AADP is a joint initiative with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Its objective is to develop partnerships between the Irish Agri-Food Sector and African countries to support sustainable growth of the local food industry, build markets for local produce and support mutual trade between Ireland and Africa. During 2019, the programme continued its work funding five Irish companies to the value of €1,225,778, of which this Department contributed €612,889. The chosen projects have the potential to create opportunities for Irish business and African farmers in areas such as: the provision and application of high performance bio-stimulants derived from seaweed extract to mitigate the effects of drought and high temperatures on crops in Kenya; and the development of a modular cheese manufacturing business in association with small holder and, primarily, women dairy farmers in Uganda.

UN- Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)

The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations is mandated to help eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition, make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable, enable inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems and increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises. The Department leads on the Irish Government's relationship with the FAO and ensured that Ireland's position on agricultural and development matters was well represented at various FAO meetings throughout the year. In addition to paying Ireland's 2019 annual subscription of €1.43 million to FAO, further extra budgetary funding of €1.18 million was provided to the FAO in areas where it has a particular competence and which the Department considers to be of strategic importance. These include projects focussed on climate action for sustainable development; Agri-food innovation; and rural women's economic development.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Consistent with the whole-of-government response to the delivery of Ireland's SDG commitments, where all Ministers retain responsibility for implementing the individual SDGs relating to their functions, this Department is a lead Department on five goals: SDGs 2, 12, 14, 15 and 17, which in the main relate to food security; sustainable production; and life under the sea and on the land.

Although the Department is a lead on these five goals only, the SDGs are inextricably linked and intertwined and the Department makes significant contributions on the other, equally important, SDGs. In 2019, the Department participated in five SDG National Stakeholder fora and highlighted its engagement and interaction with SDGs at the National Ploughing Championships.

National Policy Framework

NATIONAL POLICY FRAMEWORK

Food Wise 2025

Food Wise 2025 is the current ten year strategy for the agri-food sector and underlines the sector's unique and special position within the Irish economy and illustrates the potential which exists for the sector to develop further. Food Wise contained a vision of thriving primary producers and agri-food businesses at the heart of vibrant communities across the country, and was built upon five cross-cutting themes – environmental sustainability, market development, competitiveness, innovation and human capital as well as specific recommendation for key sectors. (www.agriculture.gov.ie/foodwise2025/)

Food Wise 2025 identifies ambitious and challenging projections for the industry over ten years including an 85% increase in exports to €19 billion; and the creation of 23,000 additional jobs all along the supply chain, from producer level to high end value-added product development.

Implementation process

The implementation process for Food Wise is driven by the “High Level Implementation Committee” (HLIC) and chaired by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, with participation from other relevant Government Departments and State Agencies. The HLIC met five times in 2019.

The Environmental Sustainability Committee established to monitor and drive the implementation of the sustainability actions continued to meet during 2019.

Steps to Success 2019

The fourth annual progress report of Food Wise 2025, entitled “Steps to Success 2019” was launched in July 2019. The report highlights the progress achieved in year four in the implementation of the detailed Food Wise 2025 strategy. Of the 376 actions which were due to be commenced by 2019 or are ongoing actions, 87% have been achieved or substantial action has been undertaken; and a further 13% have commenced and are progressing well.

(<https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/foodwise2025/foodwise2025-stepstosuccess2019/>)

Steps to Success 2019 outlines what the Department and its Agencies have achieved in year four. Among the highlights for year four are:

- The launch of *Market Access Report 2018*, which provides an overview of the substantial progress and ongoing efforts made in terms of market access to third countries for Irish food producers by the Department.
- The Department and Bord Bia led four Agri-Food Trade Missions to China, USA, Canada, Indonesia and Malaysia, Japan, South Korea, Algeria and Egypt. Access secured to the Japanese market for Sheepmeat.
- A new Prepared Consumer Foods Centre was officially opened by Minister Creed in Teagasc's Ashtown Food Research Centre.
- The joint Science Foundation Ireland- DAFM Centre, VistaMilk, led by Teagasc and located in Moorepark, was launched.
- The first industry- lead *Strategy for Irish Inshore Fisheries Sector 2019-2023* was published. The strategy sets out a vision for the future of the inshore sector.
- A new seven-year strategy for the development of the Irish Organic Food Sector was published. It recognised the opportunities that exist for the sector and provides a clear direction for the further development of the sector to 2025.

Agri-Food Strategy to 2030

The agri-food sector has benefited from an approach to strategic planning through the development of ten-year stakeholder-led strategies, updated every five years. Since their inception twenty years ago, up to the current Food Wise 2025 plan, these strategies have ensured that the sector has a coherent, stakeholder-led vision and strategy to underpin the sector's continued development.

National Policy Framework

The Department began the process for developing the next ten-year strategy in summer 2019 and a public consultation was launched in July. A consultation document and online survey were issued to ascertain the views of all stakeholders on the direction of the sector to 2030. This remained open for 10 weeks and a total of 60 written submissions were received, with 214 responses to the online survey. A national stakeholder consultation event for 400 delegates to discuss these issues in more detail was held at the Aviva Stadium on the 16th October 2019. This 'Open Policy Debate' consisted of several plenary speakers, a series of six parallel break-out sessions, and an address by An Taoiseach and the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine. More information can be found here: <https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/agri-foodindustry/agri-foodandtheeconomy/agri-foodstrategyto2030/publicconsultation/>

In November 2019, a Committee representative of the sector and chaired by Tom Arnold, was established and tasked with developing the agri-food strategy to 2030. Their terms of reference are to outline the vision and key objectives, with associated actions, required to ensure the economic, environmental and social sustainability of the agri-food sector in the decade ahead. The Committee's report will be short, specific and cross-sectoral, with ambitious but realistic actions.

A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) will also be conducted in parallel with the work of the committee. This is to ensure that environmental considerations are fully integrated into the preparation of the strategy and is a legal requirement.

The Committee held its first meeting in November and further meetings will take place in 2020.

Future Jobs Ireland

Future Jobs Ireland launched in March 2019 and is a whole of Government plan which provides a medium term framework to create a sustainable, resilient and future-oriented economy in Ireland. <https://dbei.gov.ie/en/Publications/Future-Jobs-Ireland-2019.html>. The five pillars of Future Jobs include (i) Embracing innovation and technological challenges, (ii) Improving SME productivity, (iii) Enhancing skills and developing and attracting talent, (iv) Increasing participation in the labour force, and (v) Transitioning to a low carbon economy. The

Department contributed to the Government's Future Jobs Ireland 2019 programme under the Transitioning to a low carbon economy pillar.

The All of Government Climate Action Plan

In June 2019, the All of Government Climate Action Plan to Tackle climate breakdown was published, setting out over 180 actions to meet Ireland's EU target for 2030 (i.e. 30% reduction on GHG emissions based on 2005 levels) and putting Ireland on the right trajectory for 2050. It sets an ambition of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 while acknowledging the national policy position of an approach to carbon neutrality within the agriculture and land-use sector.

The Plan sets ambitious targets for the agriculture, forestry and land use sector as follows:

- Emissions from the sector in 2030 to be between 17.5 – 19.0 Mt CO₂ eq by achieving between 16.5 – 18.5 Mt CO₂ eq cumulative abatement over the period 2021 – 2030
- Achieve 26.8 Mt CO₂ eq abatement through LULUCF actions 8,000 ha of newly planted forest per annum
- Maintaining an annual average of 40,000 ha of reduced management intensity of grasslands on drained organic soils for the decade 2021-2030.
- Set a target for the level of energy to be supplied by indigenous biomethane injection in 2030.

There is significant strengthening of oversight by Government in the Plan including through:

- An amendment of the Climate Action Bill to provide a legal basis for the establishment of a new Climate Action Council (extending the powers of the current Climate Advisory Council);
- Support for the establishment of an Oireachtas Climate Action Committee; and
- Carbon Proofing of all large-scale Government projects.

There is also a monitoring and reporting structure to drive implementation through:

National Policy Framework

- The establishment of a Climate Action Delivery Board under Department of An Taoiseach which will report to both the Cabinet Committee and Cabinet on progress of actions within the Plan.
- The establishment of a Just Transition Monitoring and Review Group (supported by NESC and under Department of An Taoiseach) that will publish a Just Transition Strategy on a three-yearly basis.
- Within the Department, a Climate Action Management Board, chaired by the Secretary General, has also been established to drive implementation of the Department and agency-led actions within the Plan.

Rural Innovation and Development Fund (CEDRA)

A range of projects under the Rural Innovation and Development Fund (RIDF) linked to the recommendations of CEDRA (Commission for the Economic Development of Rural Areas) were funded by the Department over 2019 (see Figure below). Funding of almost €1.5 million was provided to support the following areas:

Rural Female Entrepreneurs: Funding has helped develop the ACORNS training programme which is now in its fifth year. The programme is aimed at providing early stage female entrepreneurs living in rural Ireland with the knowledge, support and networking opportunities to develop and grow sustainable businesses, increase employment and to make a real contribution to their local communities. The 'ACORNS' programme has provided peer support and learning for 50 plus women with start-up businesses in rural areas each year. The National Strategy for Women and Girls 2017 – 2020 published by the Department of Justice and Equality in April 2017 includes an action to provide support for rural female entrepreneurs at start-up stage and the Department is the responsible body. This is also a key deliverable in the Government's Action Plan for Rural Development.

Social Farming: 2019 has seen the continuation of funding in this area to enable the design, development and implementation of a national social farming network and a number of model social farms across

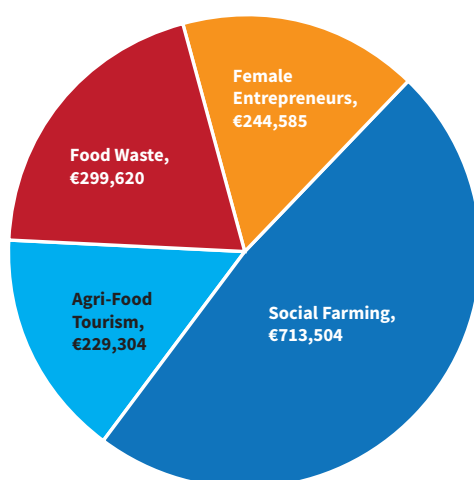
Ireland. The intention is to encourage and generate national benefits for disadvantaged groups and to support farm diversification in the rural community. Social farming involves offering, on a voluntary basis, farming and horticultural participation in a farming environment as a choice to people who avail of a range of therapeutic day support services. These operations are run in a number of settings ranging from working family farms, local community initiatives through to more institutional frameworks. This is one of the key deliverables in the Government's Action Plan for Rural Development.

Agri-Food Tourism: This area, linked to actions in Food Wise 2025, has provided funds to support both the development and expansion of the agri-food network in rural areas. Agri-food tourism broadly is the practice of offering an activity or activities in rural areas to visit areas of well-known agricultural produce and to sample and taste the local or regional cuisine or specialties. Agri-food tourism includes a wide variety of activities that involve the links between agriculture and the food produced at the local or regional level. It may involve staying on farm or touring food trails and events, participation in agricultural endeavours or buying produce direct from a farm or market. Agri-food tourism also encompasses local food, farmer and artisan market schemes that support and are paired with local and seasonal food producers and artisan crafts.

Food Waste Reduction: Funding has been provided to a number of projects to support activities that relate to the promotion and/or development of innovative food waste reduction techniques with associated environmental benefits. These projects aim to address the problem of food waste through surplus food redistribution and to carry out pilot initiatives to promote food waste reduction and prevent food waste with associated environmental benefits. Ireland generates over 1 million tonnes of food waste each year. Of this, over 300,000 tonnes come from commercial businesses and over 400,000 tonnes is generated by the industrial food producing sector.

National Policy Framework

Rural Innovation and Development Fund (CEDRA) 2019 Total Expenditure: €1.5m



Access to Finance

Food Wise 2025 identifies competitiveness as a key theme and recommends that stakeholders work to “*Improve access to finance for agriculture, forestry and seafood producers and agri-food companies*”. The Department, in cooperation with other State bodies, continues to explore and roll out additional funding mechanisms and support for farmers and SMEs in the agri-food sector.

Brexit Loan Scheme

The €300 million Brexit Loan Scheme was designed, in cooperation with Department of Business, Enterprise, and Innovation (DBEI) and the Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland (SBCI), to provide working capital support to enable eligible Irish businesses (i.e. SMEs or small mid-caps) to implement necessary changes to address the challenges posed by Brexit. Minister Creed, in partnership with his colleagues the Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation, Heather Humphreys TD and Minister for Finance and Public Expenditure and Reform Paschal Donohoe TD opened the Brexit Loan Scheme for applications on 28 March, 2018 and it will remain open until 31 March 2020.

It provides for loans of €25,000 to €1,500,000 per eligible enterprise at a maximum interest rate of 4%, ranging from 1 year to 3 years, with unsecured loans up to €500,000. The loans can be used for future working capital requirements or to fund innovation, change or adaptation of the business to mitigate the impact of Brexit.

Using a combination of Irish exchequer and EU guarantees (through the EIB Group and the InnovFin loan guarantee scheme), the scheme leverages up to €300 million of lending to Irish Enterprises at a cost to the Exchequer of €23 million (€14 million provided by Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation and €9 million provided by Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine). Funding ensures that at least 40% of the €300 million will be available to food businesses. Due to various fund conditions and state aid considerations, primary agriculture was not eligible. At year end approximately 224 loans to the value of €47.9 million had been sanctioned, of which 38 to the value of €9.6 million relate to food businesses.

Future Growth Loan Scheme

The Future Growth Loan Scheme has been developed by this Department and the Department of Enterprise, Business and Innovation in co-operation with the SBCI and the European Investment Fund (EIF). It is being delivered through participating finance providers and makes more than up to €300 million of investment loans available to eligible Irish businesses, including farmers and the agri-food and seafood sectors. The loans will be competitively priced and will be for terms of 8-10 years and will support strategic long-term investment in a post-Brexit environment.

This is a long-awaited source of finance for young and new entrant farmers, especially the cohort who do not have high levels of security. It will also serve smaller-scale farmers, who often do not have the leverage to negotiate for more favourable terms with their banking institution.

Food companies have identified long-term investment finance of up to ten years as a critical need which is currently unavailable in Ireland. The delivery of this product and its effects will be felt all along the food production chain.

National Policy Framework

The fund is leveraged by exchequer funding of €62 million, of which 40% or some €25 million has been provided by this Department, resulting in an overall agri-food package of €120 million. However, unlike previous Schemes, this can be reviewed and adjusted according to demand. Demand for the Scheme was high, indicating that it met the identified gap in the market, with the majority of the funds fully committed as year end approached. At the end of December 325 loans to farmers in the amount of €37.5 million had been sanctioned with 57 loans to food companies in the amount of €15.5 million sanctioned. In excess of 800 additional applications were in progress. Work has commenced on consideration of options to extend or replace the loan scheme.

Further information on access to finance initiatives is available at:

<https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/agri-foodindustry/agri-foodandtheeconomy/agri-foodbusiness/accesstofinance/>

Agri-taxation

Budget 2019 included the publication by the Minister for Finance and Public Expenditure and Reform, Paschal Donohoe TD, of the “*Progress Implementation Update of the Agri-taxation Review 2014*”. This shows the excellent progress made between this Department and the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform over recent Budgets with the almost complete implementation of the 25 recommendations, which has resulted in positive changes for Irish agriculture, especially in the areas of land mobility and succession. The Review shows that taxation support to the sector averaged €930 million per annum in the years 2012 to 2016, or an average of €240 million per annum in specific agri-taxation measures.

Budget 2020 was delivered in the context of ongoing Brexit uncertainty, which limited capacity to introduce any new measures. Nevertheless, Budget 2020 included the following taxation measures:

- Renewal for another three years of Capital Gains Tax Relief on Farm Restructuring, which will continue to address the challenge of fragmentation on Irish farms and will lead to improved efficiency, as well as environmental benefits through consolidated farm holdings.

- The continuation of measures to promote and support entrepreneurship, as evidenced by the increase in the Earned Income Tax Credit by €150 to €1,500. Most farmers, foresters, fishermen and small food processors are self-employed and will see their tax liability fall with the increase in the tax credit.
- The announcement regarding microbreweries, that the qualifying production threshold for relief from Alcohol Products Tax is increasing from 40,000 hectolitres to 50,000 hectolitres, allowing larger breweries to expand, particularly with a view to their export sales.
- Enhancements to existing tax-based measures in support of enterprise, SMEs and the agri-food sector, i.e. the Key Employee Engagement Programme (KEEP), the Employment and Investment (EII) Scheme and the Research and Development Tax Credit.
- Agreement that this Department and the Department of Finance would engage on potential measures to assist farmers in meeting the challenges and obligations set out in the Climate Action Plan and to incentivise better Health and Safety in the sector.

More information on agri-taxation, including a list of measures and the ‘Agri-taxation Review’, is available at: <https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/agri-foodindustry/agri-foodandtheeconomy/agri-foodbusiness/agri-taxation/>

Legislation

In 2019, the Department successfully sponsored two Bills through the Oireachtas and made some 42 Statutory Instruments to underpin the Department’s activities in almost all sectors within its remit. Details are available at www.agriculture.gov.ie/legislation/

The 2 Bills sponsored by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine are:

The Sea-Fisheries Amendment Act 2019 No. 9 of 2019 which amends section 10 of the Sea-Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006. This amendment removed an impediment to pre-existing reciprocal arrangements where vessels from Northern Ireland were allowed to fish within Ireland’s 6 nautical mile zone under Voisinage arrangements.

National Policy Framework

The Greyhound Racing Act 2019 No. 15 of 2019 consolidates and modernises the Greyhound Industry Act 1958. It improves the Governance of Bord na gCon, strengthens regulatory controls in the Industry, modernises sanctions including introducing administrative sanctions for certain infringements of the rules and improves integrity

Some of the more significant S.I.s made in 2019 include:

- The European Communities (Sheep Identification) (Amendment) Regulations 2019 (S.I. No. 243 of 2019) which amended the European Communities (Sheep Identification) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 309 of 2011). The amendment provided that all sheep moving from any holding with effect from 1st June 2019 was required to be identified with a tag that could be read electronically.
- The European Union (Carcase Classification and Price Reporting) Regulations 2019 (S.I. No. 254 of 2019) which give effect to Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2017/1182 of 20 April 2017 and Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/1184 of 20 April 2017. The Regulations provide for the dressing, classification, weighing and labelling of carcasses of adult bovine and porcine animals. They also contain provisions relating to the use of automated classification techniques, the communication of classification results and market price reporting.
- The European Communities (Sustainable Use of Pesticides) (Amendment) Regulations 2019 (S.I. No. 438 of 2019) which amend the European Communities (Sustainable Use of Pesticides) Regulations 2012 (S.I. No. 155 of 2012) and give effect to Commission Directive (EU) 2019/782. The Regulations provide for the registration requirements for professional users of pesticide equipment, they broaden the type of pesticide application equipment requiring inspection and they increase the protection of water sources used for the abstraction of water for human consumption.

Statistical and Analytical Reports

- *'Woodflow and forest-based biomass energy use on the island of Ireland (2018)'*

This COFORD Connects Note provides the 2018 woodflows for the Republic of Ireland and for the island of Ireland, together with an analysis of the use of forest-based biomass for energy production. It is based on national wood harvest and forest product trade data, compiled on behalf of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. <http://www.coford.ie/media/coford/content/publications/2018/00900CCNPP51Woodflow%20-%20We.pdf>

- Forest Statistics: The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine has the responsibility for the collection and publication of forest statistics. The publication provides statistics about afforestation trends, nationally and on a county by county basis. It tracks forest road building, thinning and clearfelling activity as well as a range of other forest management operations. Trends in Roundwood prices also feature in the document as does information in relation to forest fire and pest damage. <https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/forests-service/forests-service-general-information/forest-statistics-and-mapping/annual-forest-sector-statistics/>

National Policy Framework

Aggregate Farm Income

Overview of 2019 Agricultural Output			
Output, Input & Income in Agriculture, 2018/2019	2018 Value €m	2019 Value €m	% Change (Value) 2018/2019
Goods Output at Producer Prices	8,181.8	8,127.6	-0.7%
Agricultural Output at Basic Prices	8,648.8	8,690.1	+0.5%
Intermediate Consumption	6,001.0	5,782.5	-3.6%
Gross Value Added at Basic Prices	2,647.8	2,907.7	+9.8%
Fixed Capital Consumption	907.2	907.2	
Net Value Added at Basic Prices	1,740.6	2,000.5	+14.9%
Other Subsidies Less Taxes on Production	1,676.3	1,628.9	-2.8%
Factor Income	3,416.9	3,629.4	+6.2%
Compensation of Employees	567.7	584.2	+2.9%
Operating Surplus	2,849.2	3,045.2	+6.9%
Source: CSO - Output, Input & Income in Agriculture Preliminary Estimates 2019			

According to the CSO Preliminary Estimate of Output, Input and Income in Agriculture, 2019, aggregate farm income (operating surplus) increased by 6.9% to €3,045 million in 2019. This follows a decrease of 16.8% in 2018. The overall value of goods output at producer prices by the sector decreased by 0.7%, or €54.1 million, to €8,127.6 million. Intermediate consumption decreased by 3.6%, to €5,782.5 million.

Research and Innovation

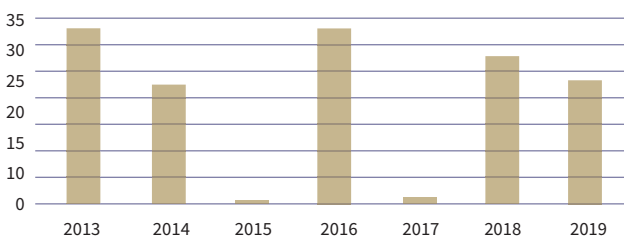
RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Competitive Research Funding Programmes

The Department operates three competitive research funding programmes, namely:- the Food Institutional Research Measure (FIRM); Research Stimulus Fund (RSF) and the Programme of Competitive Forest Research for Development (CoFoRD). Grant awards are made periodically for ‘public good’ research projects undertaken by researchers in eligible Irish Research Performing Organisations following national Calls for Research Proposals launched, mainly, by the Department itself but also through participation in Calls operated by other national funders and transnational Calls principally under European Research Area Networks (EraNets) and the US-Ireland R&D Partnership Programme.

Over the last seven years, €140.4 million has been committed to agri-food, marine and forest research projects through these programmes.

Total Committed €140.4m National & TransNational Funding 2013- 2019



Investment under Competitive Research Funding programmes in 2019

The overall total new funding committed across all programmes and award mechanisms in 2019 was €22.7 million.

Awards made on foot of Research Call

In 2019, Irish Research Performing Organisations including Teagasc, Universities and Institutes of Technology which benefited from awards of over €20.1 million for 38 projects covering a range of topic areas. In addition to generating evidence for policy and technologies to improve agri-food practices, this investment will provide direct employment for 75 contract researchers and education opportunities for 90 post graduate students in the form of PhDs (55) and Masters Degrees (35).

Investment in research through Transnational Initiatives

In 2019, the Department continued to use funding under its competitive research programmes to enable Irish researchers to participate in collaborative transnational partnerships through selected European Research Area Networks (ERA-Nets). These ERA-NET initiatives, will result in enhanced cooperation and better alignment of national research priorities, and have the scale and scope necessary to maximise the impact of research activities across Europe.

Notable commitments under these initiatives in 2019 include:

- €350,000 committed to Irish researchers across four research projects (MilKey, GasToGrass, MELS and SEASOLUTIONS) under the EU co-founded ERA-NET “Joint Action ERA-GAS, SusAn, ICT-AGRI II”.
- €300,000 was awarded to NUIG for “InFutUReWood” an EU project cofounded under ERA-NET ForestValue.

In addition, the Department has pledged to commit a total of €1.6 million to Irish institutionally based researcher applicants that successfully compete in a further three new ERA-NET programmes relating to FOSC (Food Systems and Climate), ICT-AGRI-FOOD (ICT-enabled agri-food systems) and ICRAD (International Coordination of Research on Infectious Animal Diseases) as well as a JPI Healthy Diet for a Healthy Life Call looking at the prevention of under-nutrition in the elderly (PREVNUT).

Research and Innovation

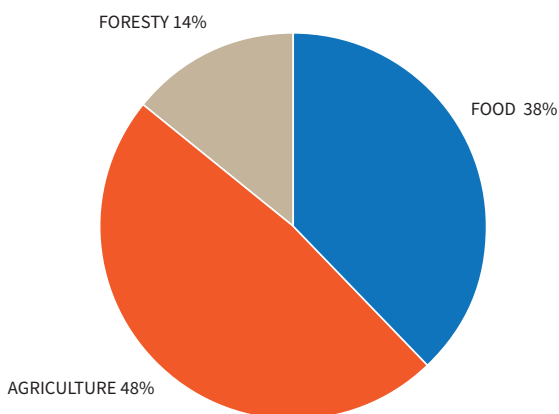
The US-Ireland R&D Partnership is a tri-jurisdictional alliance between Ireland, Northern Ireland and the United States which aims to promote collaborative innovative research projects that create value above and beyond individual efforts. The agricultural component of this is facilitated by the USDA's National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA). In response to NIFA's 2019 Call, the Department launched, in conjunction with DAERA NI, the Call for Irish participants in the US-Ireland R&D Partnership, with funding being made available for research proposals across a potential of six research areas.

Awards made jointly with other national research funders.

In 2019, the Department entered into cofounding arrangements with the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Northern Irish Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA NI). We also continued our collaboration with the Irish Research Council's Employment Based Post Graduate Programme and our co-funding of the SFI VistaMilk Centre. In addition, the Department also pledged to co-fund four projects under the EPA's 2019 Research Call.

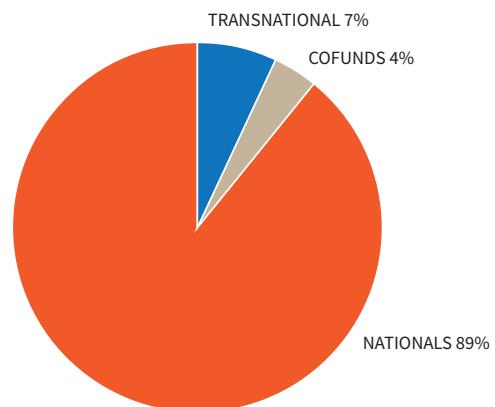
The percentage of expenditure by Sector.

2019 Awards: National (DAFM alone or with another funder) and Transnational by programme %



The percentage of funding committed in 2019 by funding mechanism

2019 Awards: National (DAFM alone or with another funder) and TransNational %



The Department continues to monitor and evaluate the progress of projects which have received research grant awards under FIRM, RSF and CoFoRD. In 2019 all proposals were submitted through the Department's new grant management software.

IE-DE Collaboration

Arising from the Ireland – Germany Joint Plan of Action on bilateral cooperation, the Department of Agriculture, Food & Marine (DAFM) and Teagasc together with the Federal Ministry for Food & Agriculture (BMEL), the Federal Office for Agriculture and Food (BLE) and the Leibniz Institute for Agricultural Engineering and Bioeconomy (ATB) organised a Germany-Ireland Bilateral Workshop at the Leibniz Institute for Agricultural Engineering and Bioeconomy (ATB), Potsdam on the 25th-26th November 2019. This workshop, which aimed at identifying mutual research demands and establishing a sound foundation for future transnational research cooperation, had a focus on the areas of agri-digitalisation and the intensification of research and innovation on agriculture, climate change and land use management so as to assist in developing a carbon neutral and circular agri-food system. Irish research institutions

Research and Innovation

(among them Teagasc, University College of Cork, Tyndall Institute, University of Limerick, Cork Institute of Technology, University College Dublin, Maynooth University, Waterford Institute of Technology, NUI Galway) provided twenty-two participants for the workshop that focused on four main topics: Soil Management, Grassland Management, Nutrient Circularity and Animal Housing, in order to start to address the initiative's objectives.

Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe

Horizon 2020 (2014-20) is the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation. The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine in conjunction with the Marine Institute (MI) are responsible for the Societal Challenge 2 (SC-2) funding area of Horizon 2020 which has a fund of €3.8 billion - including €850 million allocated to the Bio-based Industries Joint Undertaking (BBI JU). The Department and MI provide National Delegates (ND) and National Contact Points (NCP) for SC-2 which covers Agri-food, Forestry and Marine activities, Rural Development and the Bioeconomy and while the Department also provides a representative to the BBI States Representative Group. The Government has set a national drawdown target of €1.25 billion from Horizon 2020 including a drawdown target of €77 million (2%) from the SC2 budget. The Irish drawdown from the BBI & SC-2 funding programmes for 2019 was €14.48 million bringing the total to date to €85.64 million which represents 2.22% of the overall SC2 budget.

During 2019, four Horizon 2020 Programme Committee meetings were attended, these are meetings of representatives from all countries participating in Horizon 2020 and allows direct communication between each country and the Commission to help steer and monitor the direction of the framework programme. Furthermore, an initial preparatory meeting of the upcoming Horizon Europe, starting in 2021, was attended at a Research and Innovation open day. The theme of the meeting was the novel Mission on Soil Health and Food. Progress on the development of the new European Green Deal was also monitored; this is a new €1 billion call that will be launched in late 2020 to help Europe achieve its aim of becoming a

carbon neutral continent by 2050. At a national level the Department, MI and Teagasc attended high level group meetings under the chair of DBEI to keep informed of progress and upcoming areas of interest. The Department NCP also made presentations to researchers in UCD & UCC on remaining opportunities under Horizon 2020. He also maintained close ties with colleagues in Northern Ireland to help generate robust North-South collaborative applications that, if successful, would be of mutual benefit to the Island as a whole.

Bioeconomy Implementation Group

A high-level Implementation Group, jointly chaired by the Department and the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment and consisting of nine Departments and eight Agencies, held three meetings in 2019. The implementation group produced a report to Government that was agreed by Cabinet in June 2019 highlighting activities to date undertaken to implement bioeconomy policy statement actions. Additionally, the Implementation Group coordinated an Information Day in UL in May 2019 with partners Marine Institute, InterTrade Ireland and Department of Environment, Agriculture, Rural Affairs, Northern Ireland to highlight funding opportunities available under the EU Biobased Industries Joint Undertaking initiative. The Implementation Group also coordinated Bioeconomy Ireland Week in October 2019 including a range of events that took place all over Ireland.

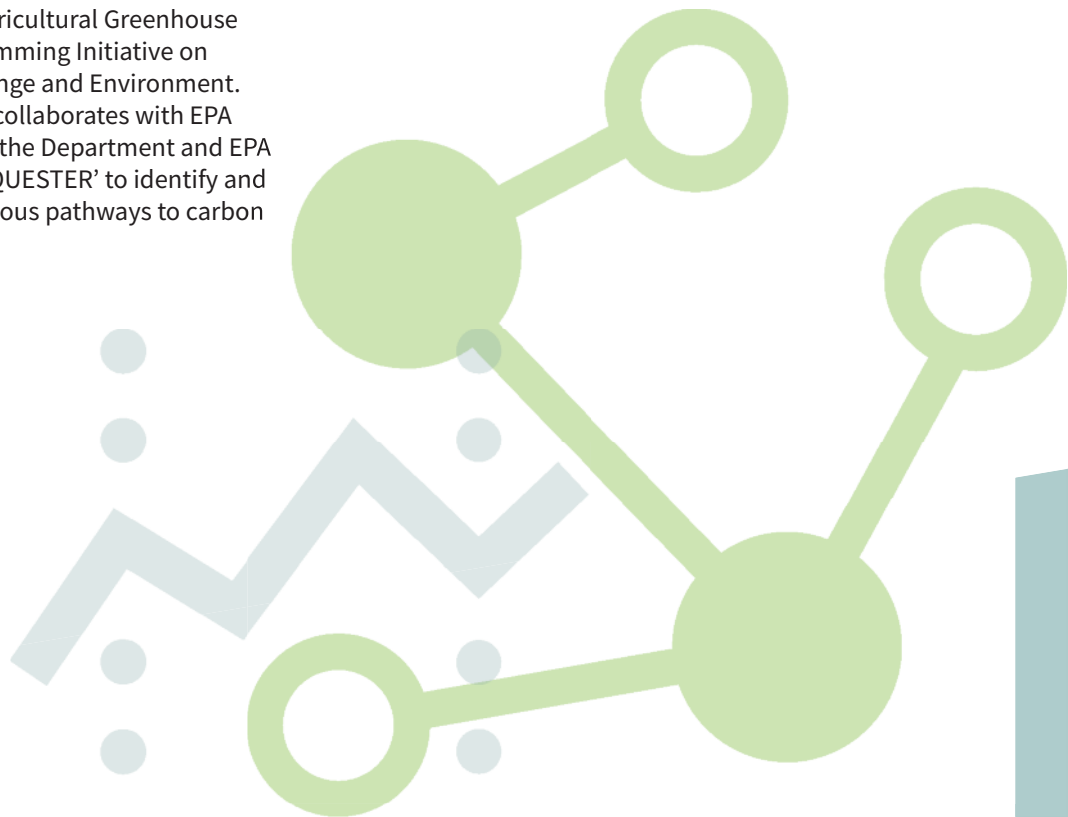
Research and Innovation

Codex Alimentarius

Ireland's active participation in Codex Alimentarius continued in 2019. The Department continues to coordinate and chair the Irish Codex Advisory Committee (ICAC), which met twice in 2019 and afforded the main stakeholders in Ireland an opportunity to contribute to the formulation of the Irish position on all Codex issues. Officials from the Department, other Government Departments and State Agencies represented Ireland at five sessions of different Codex Committees in 2019 and related EU Council Working Party meetings reflecting the mix of expertise required to deal with the complex range of issues under discussion.

Climate Research

The Department and Teagasc continue to strongly support investment in and engagement with climate-related research through various national funding frameworks; EU Research and Innovation Framework Programmes; and transnational initiatives such as Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases and the EU Joint Programming Initiative on Food, Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment. Furthermore, the Department collaborates with EPA research calls and during 2019 the Department and EPA co-funded a project called 'SEQUESTER' to identify and explore the implications of various pathways to carbon neutrality.



Food and Drinks Sector

FOOD AND DRINK SECTOR

Overview

The agriculture and food sector continued to play a vital role in Ireland's economy with agri-food exports accounting for 9.5% of total exports with a value of €14.5 billion, marking growth of over 63% since 2010. The UK remained Ireland's largest agri-food export destination, with exports of €5.5 billion in 2019 or 38% of total exports. Exports to the EU (excluding the UK) were worth €4.7 billion, while exports to the Rest of the World were worth €4.3 billion in 2019. The top three export categories in 2019 were Dairy Produce at €5.0 billion, Beef at €2.3 billion and Beverages at €1.7 billion, accounting for €9.1 billion or 63% of total worldwide agri-food exports.

The agri-food sector makes a significant contribution to employment, accounting for 7.1% of total employment or 164,400 jobs, in rural and coastal areas.

Spirit Drinks

The drinks industry is a major driver of economic activity across the economy of Ireland at a macro and rural level, with 2019 exports valued at €1.71 billion. Alcohol beverage exports in 2019 were valued at €1.56 billion. The US remains the key market for alcohol exports with Irish Whiskey (€517.5 million) and Irish Cream (€183.3 million) exports accounting for 41% (€701 million) of exports.

All categories including gin, beer and cider exports showed increases in exports with Irish Whiskey performing exceptionally. Irish Cream liqueur held firm, despite the challenges of US tariffs on EU dairy. The distilling industry has grown from 3 distilleries in 2014, to 31 at the end of 2019 and potentially a further 32 being proposed. Volume growth in the sector is largely driven by continued double-digit demand for Irish Whiskey in many markets.

Significant export growth is anticipated over the mid-term, with the industry having the potential to grow exports by at least 85% to over €2 billion, creating and sustaining additional jobs, predominantly in rural Ireland.

In 2019, Irish Whiskey exports continued to grow and reached over €810 million for the first time and brought cumulative growth of the category to over 194% in the seven years since 2012. The most important market was the United States showing over 324% growth over the seven year period since 2012 and accounting for almost 64% of all whiskey exports in 2019.

Together with Irish Cream exports, which were valued at €364 million, this represented a major contribution by Irish spirit drinks to the export performance of Ireland's food and drinks industry. Once again, the United States was the most important market accounting for just over 50% of all Irish Cream exports.

Irish Whiskey	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total Exports €m	316,916	348,067	442,427	503,576	576,419	647,174	811,688
Exported to United States €m	147,161	165,397	233,343	291,892	340,754	382,097	517,416
Irish Cream	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total Exports €m	336,026	287,250	311,064	292,858	326,729	343,352	364,026
Exported to United States €m	139,009	131,291	163,220	144,791	166,105	168,519	183,632

Food and Drinks Sector

Geographical Indications: Protected Spirits

Regulation 110/2008 (to be replaced by Regulation 2019/787) sets out definitions of the categories of spirit drinks (alcoholic drinks with a minimum alcohol content of 15%), including rum, whiskey, gin, vodka and liqueurs, and recognises and protects a list of spirit drink geographical indications (GIs) including the three Irish GIs - Irish Whiskey, Irish Cream and Irish Poitín.

Verification checks for Irish Cream are carried out by the Department and those for Irish Poitín and Irish Whiskey by the Revenue Commissioners. The three spirit drinks are protected on an all-island basis.

Applications for verification are required for premises involved in the brewing, fermentation, distillation, maturation, bottling and labelling of these spirit drinks. Under Regulation 110/2008 a charge is required for these visits.

In 2019, the Department received applications from eight premises involved in Irish Cream production while the Revenue Commissioners carried out verification checks on 58 Irish Whiskey production premises. In addition, they also carried out verification checks on 12 Irish Poitín premises.

Geographical Indication Schemes for Food (GIs)

Within the EU the PDO (Protected Designation of Origin), PGI (Protected Geographical Indication) and TSG (Traditional Specialities Guaranteed) schemes offer potential to recognise quality foods that are linked to a geographical region. During 2019, the Department worked with a number of proposers to develop applications, and to progress existing expressions of interest. Ireland currently has eight registered food GIs - Oriel Sea Salt (PDO) and Oriel Sea Minerals (PDO), Blaa/Waterford Blaa (PGI), Connemara Hill Lamb (PGI) Clare Island Salmon (PGI), Imokilly Regato (PDO), Timoleague Brown Pudding (PGI) and Sneem Black Pudding (PGI) which was awarded GI status in December 2019. The Comeragh Mountain Lamb and Wexford Blackcurrant applications having successfully completed National Consultation are being scrutinised by the European Commission, pending publication for European Consultation.

EU Commission GI Audit 2019

As part of the EU Commissions routine Annual Audit Inspection Plan, the EU Commissions audit service DG SANTE undertook an audit mission to Ireland in September 2019 to evaluate the Control Systems related to Protected Designation of Origin (PDO), Protected Geographical Indications (PGI) and Traditional Specialities Guaranteed (TSG) for Agricultural Products and Foodstuffs and Geographical Indications (GI) of Spirit Drinks.

The purpose of the audit was to verify that Ireland's official controls for GI products are carried out in accordance with EU regulations. The overall finding of the Audit indicates that Ireland is performing satisfactorily in regards to its GI Controls and regulations. While the overall conclusions were mostly positive and inspections observed were overall adequate, there were a small number of (minor) finding specifically relating to guidance given to inspectors to ensure uniformity in verification checks and the implementation of an official PGI/PDO sampling plan.

The Department has agreed an action plan with all the Competent Authorities involved in the process to address the findings. Significant progress on certain elements such as agreement of a Protocol and MOU between all Competent Authorities involved and the development of a National Sampling Plan for Irish Whiskey is expected during 2020.

Labelling

EU Regulations on wines, spirit drinks, aromatised wines, fruit juice, coffee, chocolate, jams, jellies and marmalades set out product-specific labelling rules to ensure authenticity and to protect both consumers and producers. During 2019, the Department carried out checks at retail level to ensure that product labels were in conformity with these Regulations and with general labeling requirements as prescribed by the Regulations. In recent years an increase in the occurrence of internet fraud against EU registered PDO and PGI products in the Food and Drink sector has been identified. The Department is continuing to proactively examine potential online evocation and misinformation on websites and social media, and has also coordinated multi-agency responses to requests and queries from other Member States.

Food and Drinks Sector

Unfair Trading Practices Directive

Directive (EU) 2019/633 on unfair trading practises in business-to-business relationships in the agricultural and food supply chain entered into force on 30 April 2019. EU law requires the Directive to be transposed into national law by 1 May 2021.

A cross-departmental working group with the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation (DBEI) was established in April 2019 to explore the policy and operational implications of transposing and enforcing the Directive, and met seven times. The Department also continues to work with the EU Commission with regard to the Directive.

In October 2019 a public consultation process on the transposition of the Directive was launched by the Department. Over 650 submissions from individuals, stakeholder organisations and public representatives were received.

Prepared Consumer Foods Centre

The Prepared Consumer Foods (PCF) sector accounted for €2.7 billion in agri-food sector exports in 2019 and €3.8 billion in imports. The UK accounts for 67% (2019) of these exports and so the sector is particularly exposed to Brexit. To address this challenge and the traditionally low levels of Research & Development by companies in the sector the Prepared Consumer Food Centre was launched in late 2018. Following from previous funding, a further €5m was provided for the centre in Budget 2019. The centre continues to support companies in the Sector, through the purchase of equipment and the provision of space for use, which provide them with the opportunity to pilot the machines, to scale up their own production and to enable adoption of novel technologies to meet evolving consumer demands and expectations. Companies can also avail of the specialist knowledge and expertise of Teagasc staff in piloting and developing food products.

Up to the end of December 2019 a total of 66 companies have availed of the facilities at the PCFC since its opening in October 2018.

EI Capital Investment Scheme - SME Capital Investment Fund

This scheme is operated through Enterprise Ireland (EI) and is open to all Small and Medium Sized enterprises with the aim of helping them to improve their productivity and competitiveness in the face of challenges from Brexit through the acquisition of new capital equipment and technology and through innovation. In 2019 there were three approvals under this scheme at a total value of €466,877.

Artisan and Speciality Food Sector – The LEADER Food Initiative

Under the 2014-2020 Rural Development Plan (RDP) €15 million was allocated to the LEADER Food Initiative to support artisan, micro and small food producers in rural areas. The funding is delivered using the LEADER methodology. In 2019, 24 new project approvals for funding under the scheme were made. The total cost of completing the approved projects was €3.4 million. LEADER provides partial funding for an approved project and as such €1.72 million in funding was approved for draw down on a phased basis across those 24 approved projects. By the end of 2019 a total of €317,374 had been paid out under the LEADER scheme to various approved projects.

Artisan, Local and Speciality Food

In 2019, the development of artisan, local and speciality food was advanced through measures supported by the Department, Bord Bia and Teagasc. Specifically, the Department funded circa €30,000 in bursaries for students undertaking the Diploma in Speciality Food Production in UCC. The Diploma is a one-year part time (fetac level7) bursary foundation course in food science and food business for food producers, potential start-ups, those interested in developing artisan businesses and / or promoting the artisan sector. It is run by the Food Industry Training

Food and Drinks Sector

Unit in UCC (part of the School of Food and Nutritional Sciences). The Diploma was developed by UCC in 2005 in partnership with CAIS, Slowfood Ireland, Ballymaloe Cookery School, Teagasc and Veterinary Department, Cork Co. Council for the artisan sub-sector. These remain as stakeholders with Bord Bia, Teagasc, FSAI contributing course modules and strengthening its national dimension.

Diploma graduates have typically established a number of micro companies, with some of these small scale food operators subsequently expanding their local businesses to regional level. Graduates have also progressed academically within UCC to gain further skills, qualifications to develop their companies and/or participated in food industry initiatives to facilitate product development. Some graduates have won awards for their products. The Diploma falls within national policy recommendations, vis-a-vis the future developments of the Irish artisan and speciality food sector specifically Food Wise 2025 and CEDRA 2019.

EU Promotion Programmes for Agricultural Products – EU Regime

EU funding is available on a competitive basis to agri food sector bodies for generic promotion of the quality, safety, nutrition or production methods of EU agricultural products. The EU Promotion Policy for Agri-Food Products regime acts as key for opening up new markets and to diversify trading partners. With the common denominator - *'Enjoy, it's from Europe'* it aims to help the sector's professionals to break into or consolidate international markets and to make consumers more aware of the efforts made by European farmers.

A total of €201.1 million is available for promo programmes with EU co-financing rates ranging from 70% to 85% – with Industry funding of the balancing 15%/20%/30% required. An annual work programme sets out the strategic annual priorities for promotion measures in terms of products, schemes and markets to be targeted that year, with the corresponding allocated budgets. Calls for proposals are issued in January each year by the Consumers, Health, Agriculture and Food Executive Agency (CHAFEA), who subsequently assess and select the programmes. In 2019 a Bord Bia sponsored Pork & Poultry programme

in China and Mexico was among those selected for funding to commence in January 2020.

The Department is currently running a number of Promotional Programmes – all involving Irish agri-food sector bodies; *"Milk Moments"*; *"Mushrooms Complement Everything"*; *"European Lamb "Tasty Easy Fun"*; and *"European Beef and Lamb – Excellence in Food Safety & Sustainability"*.

Food Dudes Programme/School Fruit & Vegetables Scheme

The Food Dudes Programme is an evidence-based incentivised behaviour changing programme developed by the Food and Activity Research Unit, Bangor University, Wales. Under its' horticulture remit, Bord Bia manages and oversees the implementation of the Food Dudes programme since it was first rolled out in Ireland in 2005. It is funded by the Department and the EU through the EU School Scheme which incorporates the School Fruit and Vegetables Scheme. Food Dudes aims to increase sustained fruit and vegetable consumption amongst primary school children through repeated tasting of fruit and vegetables over a 16 day intervention period with the support of accompanying measures in the form of role models (Food Dudes Heroes) and small rewards. In the 2018/2019 school year, 117,234 children and 700 schools participated in the programme.

School Milk Scheme

The EU School Milk Scheme (SMS) has operated in Ireland since 1982 with the objective of promoting and encouraging the consumption of milk amongst school children. The Scheme is funded by the Department and the EU through the School Scheme. The National Dairy Council was appointed in 2017 to oversee the implementation of the School Milk Scheme in Ireland. In the 2018/19 school year, the NDC oversaw the distribution of 1,540,620 litres of milk to 577 schools and 52,252 children. A number of accompanying measures to support the distribution of milk to the children such as 'National School Milk Week' and specially designed educational lesson plans focusing on sustainability, the environment and health and nutrition were also implemented.

Food and Drinks Sector

Bord Bia

Bord Bia supports Irish food and drink companies with market insight and expertise as they seek to build long-term trading relations in export markets in the UK, continental Europe and internationally, while identifying new and emerging markets particularly in Asia.

Statement of Strategy

This is the first year of Bord Bia's Statement of Strategy 2019-2021 "Building Differentiation, Winning Growth". Bord Bia's stated vision for the Irish food and drink industry is as follows "To bring Ireland's outstanding food, drink and horticulture produce to the world, thus enabling the growth and sustainability of producers."

The Strategy set out four strategic priorities, which will contribute to the delivery of the Irish Agri-food industry road map export targets: - Food Wise 2025 These are:

- (i) Driving Success and Growth in the Market
- (ii) Insight to Power Growth
- (iii) Building Reputation for Growth
- (iv) Leading Through People.

Customers around the globe recognise that Irish food and drink is world class: that it is high-quality, distinctive, and made by a diverse range of creative producers from a unique and fortuitous island location.

Bord Bia remain positive that the twin messages of sustainability and quality will continue to open doors for Irish food producers the world over.

Origin Green

Ireland's sustainability programme continues to bring the Irish food and drink industry on the journey of sustainable food production. Membership includes farmers, food producers, retailers and food service operators, all committed to measurable improvements in environmental performance. By the end of 2019 at manufacturing, retail and foodservice level, there were a total of 345 verified OG members, additionally 625 had registered plans, 156 in plan development state, 124 submitted plans.

At retail and foodservice level, OG had 11 verified members, with a further 14 are registered and actively developing sustainability plans.

Bord Bia hosted nine introductory plan development webinars in 2019. The webinars introduced Origin Green to new members, who were also assigned a dedicated Origin Green mentor and participated in a six-week plan development course. Over 20 companies attended each session.

Sustainable Quality Assurance Schemes

At the end of 2019 there were some 54,000 producer members of Origin Green with a number in one or more Sustainable Quality Assured Schemes. There are 53,337 members of the Sustainable Beef and Lamb Assurance Scheme, 16,094 members of the Sustainable Dairy Assurance Scheme along with membership in the Bord Bia quality schemes for poultry, pigmeat, amenity horticulture, fruit and vegetable. In all, 35,733 Sustainable Beef and Lamb Assurance Scheme (SBLAS) audits were conducted in 2019, an increase of 2,179 on 2018. Of these, 78% were on beef-only farms, 18% on beef and sheep farms with the remaining 4% on sheep-only farms. 8% of audits were on the farms of new applicants or re-applicants to the scheme.

The work undertaken on Origin Green in 2019 contributed to the positioning of Ireland as a unique leader in sustainability. As a reflection of this, Bord Bia will host the Global Sustainability Summit in September 2020 in the Dublin Convention Centre.

Bord Bia undertook a communication strategy to demonstrate the tangible and intangible benefits of Origin Green to a broad base of stakeholders in 2019. This involved communicating its impact directly to members; encouraging citizens to become aware of and to take pride in the programme; engaging business leaders in the tangible commercial benefits of the programme; and enhancing collaboration on sustainability with peer organisations such as Teagasc, BIM, Enterprise Ireland and IBEC. As Origin Green extends into areas of EU focus such as emissions, water, waste and nitrates, collaboration with key stakeholders is key to successfully driving

Food and Drinks Sector

improvements in sustainability performance with all members, farmers and companies alike.

Monthly updates were provided to members through the Origin Green e-zine. Member materials were updated and work to improve the Origin Green website in terms of user experience and content was also undertaken.

The **Origin Green Ambassador** programme builds understanding of the Origin Green sustainability programme among international customers. Ten participants in the 4th programme completed their sustainability and Origin Green training in September 2019. The first series of international placements will run until May 2020 with Albert Heijn (Holland), Britvic (UK), Unilever (UK) McDonalds, Sainsbury's, Sodexo, Amazon, Waitrose and Nestle. Origin Green Ambassadors continued to build trade awareness globally of Ireland's Origin Green programme, by engaging in dialogue with the world's leading food and drink accounts.

National Food Innovation Hub

The Department is providing Teagasc with almost €9 million in funding on a phased basis towards the construction of a new National Food Innovation Hub at the Teagasc Food Research Centre in Moorepark, Co. Cork. Just under €1.2 million was allocated to the project in 2019. The principal objective of the "Hub" is to create a network for innovation and business involving dairy and food companies and research institutes with a focus on food, health and nutrition. The Hub will comprise custom designed Research and Development units and offices that Teagasc will make available to food companies at commercial rates. It will support innovation in the food industry thus enabling companies to become Brexit ready while also generating market focused research initiatives. On completion the project is expected to result in the development of new food products and processes, leading to economic growth and new jobs.



Primary Production

MEAT

BEEF

Beef Production and Trade

Beef worth over €2.3 billion or just short of 530,000 tonnes was exported in 2019, a decrease in value of 4% and of volume of 1% on the previous year. This made Ireland the 6th largest net exporter of beef in the world. In value terms over 90% of beef exports went to countries within the EU with the UK accounting for 43% of total exports. Third Country markets made up 10% of beef exports. In terms of volume 84% of beef products were exported to countries within the EU and 16% exported to Third Country Markets. Live exports increased by 22% in 2019 to over 300,000 head.

Slaughter reached over 1.7 million head in 2019 which was a 4.4% decrease on 2018 figures.

The average price for R3 Steers in 2019 was 365.19 c/kg, which represented a 6% decrease on the previous year, with a high price of 389.13 c/kg recorded during May. The average 2018 price was 389c/kg.

Beef Policy Developments

Beef Environmental Efficiency Pilot (BEEP)

The Beef Environmental Efficiency pilot was launched in 2019 aimed at improving economic and environmental efficiencies on farm through gathering performance metrics facilitating more informed decision making.

The scheme targeted the weaning efficiency of suckler cows by measuring the weight of their calves pre weaning as a proportion of the dam's weight. Cows that produce heavier calves at weaning as a proportion of their own live weight typically have a lower emissions intensity of production. The key factors being the cow's lower feed requirement and the higher value output from the calf as well as the consequential option to slaughter at a younger age.

16,424 farmers carried out the required weighing and recording and received payments totalling €15.3 million. The evaluation of BEEP Pilot conducted to date indicates that it has helped farmers recognise the benefits of weighing their animals and the data generated has improved genetic evaluations.

The Beef Exceptional Aid Measure (BEAM) was announced in May 2019. This provided temporary exceptional adjustment aid to farmers in the beef sector in Ireland subject to the conditions set out in EU Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1132. BEAM was funded by a combination of EU aid and Exchequer support, provided in light of the difficult circumstances that Irish beef farmers have been facing as a result of the market volatility and uncertainty. 23,374 farmers participated in BEAM resulting in payments of almost €78 million.

Establishment of the Beef Taskforce

The Irish Beef Sector Agreement was reached between stakeholders on 15 September 2019. As part of this agreement, the Beef Taskforce was established to monitor the implementation of the commitments entered into and as a platform for strategic engagement with key stakeholders.

Broadly the agreement contains two strands: a number of interventions which provided an immediate benefit for beef producers including changes to the bonus structure and longer-term objectives and structural reform of the sector.

The Beef Taskforce has an independent chair, Mr Michael Dowling, and updates and relevant documents are publicly available at <https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmingsectors/beef/beeftaskforce/>

Market Diversification

Increased diversification of markets remained a priority in 2019. In value terms 90% of beef products were exported to countries within the EU and 10% exported to Third Country markets in 2019. However, significant progress to diversification has been made by securing access into key International markets including China, US and Japan in recent years.

Primary Production

Further access to the Chinese market for Irish beef in 2019 was a significant achievement in terms of market diversification. A successful beef audit was conducted in September 2019 with the inspection of 14 applicant beef plants who were subsequently approved to export to China.. 2019 also saw improved access to Japan, when the 30 month age restriction for beef was removed and a revised certificate introduced which allows for the export of boneless beef derived from cattle of all ages.

Beef Producer Organisations

The first two beef Producer Organisations in Ireland were established in Q4 of 2019 and engagement with prospective groups is ongoing. Producer Organisations have the capacity to strengthen the position of the primary producer in the supply chain and under the current Rural Development Programme, funding is available to support establishment of groups through funding of advisory costs.

SHEEP

Sheep Production and Trade 2019

Sheepmeat export values increased by 1% on previous year values to reach almost €318 million, while volumes rose by 3%. Slaughtering decreased by 7% in 2019 to just under 2.8 million head. The national average price in 2019 was €460.10/100Kg, a 4.5% decrease on the previous year.

Sheepmeat worth over €318 million, or almost 62,000 tonnes was exported in 2019. In value terms over 71% of Sheepmeat products were exported to countries within the EU, a further 20% was exported to the UK and 9% exported to third country markets. In terms of volume 65% of sheepmeat products were exported to countries within the EU, 24% was exported to the UK and 11% exported to Third Country Markets. A total 40,000 tonnes of sheepmeat products were exported to the EU, with France receiving the highest amount of over 18,000 tonnes, followed by the United Kingdom with nearly 15,000 tonnes.

Year 3 of the Sheep Welfare scheme opened in February 2019. The scheme provides support of €10 per ewe to farmers with breeding ewe flocks and will

run up to 2020. Advance payment under Year 3 of the scheme issued in November 2019. €14.91 million was paid to 18,489 participants and represented an advance payment rate of 85%. Balancing payments for year 3 of the scheme will issue in Q2 of 2020.

Under the Rural Development Programme (RDP) 2014-2020, provision has been made for improving efficiency and profitability in sheep production under the Knowledge Transfer measure which has a budget of €100 million. The experience in the Sheep Technology Adoption Programme (STAP) has informed the development of this measure. In addition to profitability, the emphasis is on the key issues of business skills, environmental sustainability and herd health, with increased interaction between individual farmers and advisors in order to customise information exchange. The Three Year Knowledge Transfer Programme for the sheep sector was launched in 2016 and concluded in 2019. Approx 3,860 farmers participated in Year Three of the Knowledge Transfer Sheep Programme which concluded end of July 2019.

Sheepmeat Policy Developments

Year 3 of the Sheep Welfare scheme opened in February 2019. The scheme provides support of €10 per ewe to farmers with breeding ewe flocks and runs up to 2020. In the first three years of the sheep welfare scheme, €50.3 million was paid to 18,594 farmers. The scheme provides support for farmers who undertake actions which make a positive contribution to flock welfare.

In July 2019, sheepmeat access to the Japanese market was finalised. Five Irish sheepmeat plants, producing over 90% of Irish sheepmeat, are now approved and listed for export to Japan.

2019 Meat Market Access

Considerable progress was made on a wide range of meat market access issues in 2019 including:

- The approval of an additional 14 Irish beef plants for export to China in October 2019 on foot of a successful inspection visit in the summer by Chinese auditors hosted by the Department.

Primary Production

- Expanding our access to the Japanese beef market with the agreement on the lifting of the 30 month age restriction and a revised certificate which allows the export of boneless beef derived from cattle of all ages.
- In July 2019, sheepmeat access to the Japanese market was finalised. Five sheepmeat plants, producing over 90% of Irish sheepmeat, are now approved and listed for export to Japan.
- The agreement of a veterinary health certificate for the export of beef and pork to the Ukraine. The agreement of a veterinary health certificate for the export of beef to Barbados
- Access to significant, established markets was expanded with a veterinary health certificate for raw preserved meat products and preparations agreed for Hong Kong and one for butter basted whole turkeys agreed for South Africa.
- In addition to the Chinese audit in late summer the Department hosted high-level audit inspections from three other priority markets' competent authorities:
- In March auditors from Japan's Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) conducted a week long inspection of Irish meat plants as part of our applications for the lifting of the 30 month age restriction on beef exports and sheepmeat market access;
- In June inspectors from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) conducted a successful reinstatement audit on beef and pigmeat.
- In December, government officials from Malaysia's Veterinary Service (DVS) and Halal Authority (JAKIM) conducted a poultrymeat audit.
- These incoming inspections are crucial either in relation to the maintenance of existing market access, seeking new market access or showcasing Irish production standards and developing further contacts in Ministries abroad. The market access gains this year for both China and Japan are a testament to the value and importance of these visits.

- 2019 was also a banner year for the Departments' intensified programme of trade mission with successful ministerial trade missions to Turkey, Japan, South Korea, the UK, the EU and two separate missions to China in May and November

PIGMEAT

Production and Trade

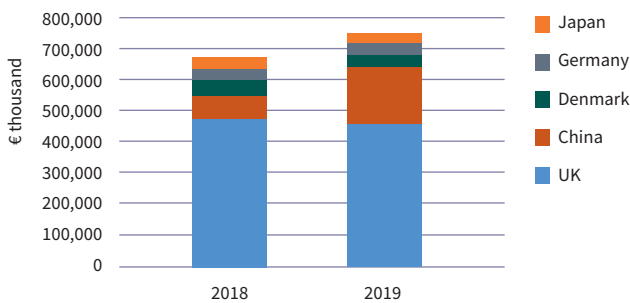
On foot of substantial growth in recent years, Pigmeat is now the fourth most valuable sector of the Irish agri-food industry after dairy and beef. Exports were up by approximately 8% in value terms in 2019, reaching an all-time high of €890 million according to Central Statistics Office figures. This equates to approximately 6% of overall food, drink and horticulture exports. The UK remains by far our largest export destination, accounting for a 52% share of exports. However, third country markets, which have been steadily expanding in recent years, rose to 29% of total share in 2019. This is illustrated by the significant expansion in Ireland's pig meat exports to Asia, and to China in particular, where export values more than doubled from €79 million to €177 million due to increased export demand as a result of African Swine Fever (ASF). Domestic retail sales came in at €412 million for the year, largely due to Ireland's 28kg per capita consumption rate, which remains high by international standards. This growth in export values vindicates the accurate direction and focuses of the Food Harvest 2020 and Food Wise 2025 strategies. Further evidence of this can be seen when we look at longer term trends; since 2010, export values of Irish pigmeat have risen by over 250%.

Outbreaks of African Swine Fever (ASF) have had significant influence on global production and trading patterns in recent years. Numerous new outbreaks of ASF have been reported across a wide geographical range of China. It is expected that more than 50% of China's herd, or 30% of the world's pigs, are to be culled as a result of the current outbreak. In 2019, the main effect of ASF for the Irish pig sector was increased export opportunities to China.

Primary Production

2018 was a poor year for producers with pig prices remaining stubbornly low all year, but 2019 saw record highs reached throughout the second half of the year, with €1.91c/kg reached in December. Coupled with a favourable feed price, last year was a very good one for Irish pig producers.

Selected Pigmeat Export Destinations, 2018-2019



Policy Developments

Pig Implementation Strategy Group

The Pig Implementation Strategy Group met four times during 2019. Chaired by Dr. Sean Brady, the group oversees implementation of the recommendations set out in the 2016 report of the Pig Industry Stakeholder Group. The report, which contains over 60 recommendations, addresses a number of challenges for the pig sector under a wide range of themes including Bio-Security, Animal Health & Welfare, Quality Assurance, Veterinary Medicines, and Salmonella Control. Last year, major achievements which the PISG was involved in included the introduction of LEAN Principles Programme for Farmers in the pig sector, Animal Health Ireland beginning work in the pig sector, and the raising of the TAMS investment ceiling from €80,000 to €200,000 (pending EU Commission approval).

Pig Salmonella Control Programme

Under the Pig Salmonella Control Programme, monthly samples are taken at factories for all producers who supply more than 200 pigs for slaughter per annum. Over the course of 2019 just over 20,500 (20,668) samples from 348 herds were taken and tested in order to provide up-to-date results for both farmers and processors on salmonella prevalence.

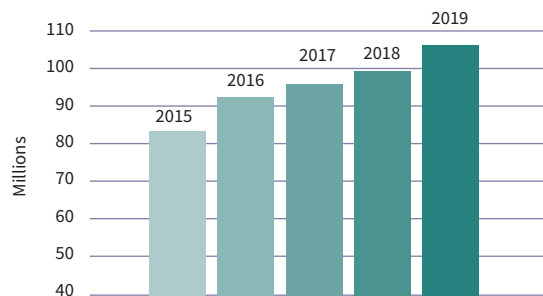
POULTRY AND EGGS

Production and Trade

Over 800 farms are involved in commercial poultry production in Ireland, broken down between poultry for meat, egg production, breeding farms and hatcheries. The industry supports around 6,000 jobs, primarily in rural areas.

Over 106 million birds were slaughtered in export-approved plants during 2019, 96 million of which were chickens. This represents a 7.6% increase over 2018, and in volume terms, Irish production hit record levels in 2019, up 6% year-on-year to reach 161,000 tonnes.

Poultry Slaughter, 2015 - 2019



Ireland has access to 61 countries (including EU countries) for the export of poultry meat. CSO figures show that while the volume of exports rose by just under 6% from 136,000 tonnes to 144,000 tonnes in 2019, the value of Irish poultry exports for 2019 fell by 4% to just under €294 million. The UK (€216 million) accounted for 74% of that figure and France (€11 million), Denmark (€8 million), The Netherlands (€10 million) and South Africa (€29 million) also featured prominently as export destinations.

At the end of 2019, there were a total of 257 hen egg units registered with this Department and the associated total no. of hens places registered exceeded 3.65 million, a slight increase on the 2018 figure.

Primary Production

Summary Table of Hen Egg Producer Categories in 2019:

Hen Egg Producer Category	Registered Units	Total Hen Places
Free Range	175	44%
Enriched Caged	36	52%
Organic	38	3%
Barn	8	1%
Total	257	100%

There continues to be a substantial and growing trade in the export of Free Range and Organic eggs for human consumption to Middle Eastern Countries with more than 8 million eggs in 220 Consignments exported in 2019.

Over 200 poultry farmers participated in Year Three of the Knowledge Transfer Poultry Programme which concluded end of July 2019. Payments commenced in October 2019.

Policy Developments

The Department's Poultry and Egg Official Control Programme's function is the implementation of official controls on Food Safety and Food Authenticity at Food Business Operators (FBO's). A range of official controls on egg producers and poultry meat producers are implemented through inspections and sampling of FBOs in order to check compliance with food safety and authenticity legislation. More than 2,200 inspections were undertaken on egg and poultrymeat establishments in 2019 under Food Hygiene and Marketing Standards legislation. 307 egg samples were sent for various residue analyses in 2019, the majority formed part of the National Residue Control Plan requirements.

Over 220 poultry farmers participated in year three of the Knowledge Transfer Poultry Programme.

DAIRY

Production and Trade

The strong recovery in dairy markets experienced in 2018 continued in 2019 with strong global demand for dairy products underpinning a stable performance by the Irish dairy sector.

2019 was a much more favourable year for grass growth and forage production which contributed to an increase in milk production of 5.3% compared to 2018 with total deliveries exceeding 7.9 billion litres in 2019. Irish milk production represented approximately 5% of total EU milk production in 2019. The average price paid to farmers in 2019 was 33.9c/l (yearly average including VAT and bonuses paid), down 3.2% from 35.04c/l in 2018.

In 2019, Ireland exported dairy products to approximately 140 countries with a value exceeding €5 billion. This equated to a +12% volume growth and a +10% value growth compared to 2018.

Sales of Butter exceeded the €1 billion mark for the second year in a row in 2019 and sales of cheese, whey and skim milk powder also saw significant growth in both volume and value in 2019. EU-27 account for 35% of the value of Irish dairy exports in 2019 with 45% to international markets, while the UK accounted for 20% of the value of dairy exports. Other significant export markets include the Netherlands (14%), China (11%), Germany (7%) and the United States (7%).

At the beginning of October 2019, the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) released a list of products to be subjected to additional duties of 25%, including some important and flagship European agriculture products. The additional duties took effect from the 18th October 2019. Irish butter and cheese fall under the categories of dairy products most affected and are subject to additional import duties of 25% ad valorem.

Primary Production

Irish dairy exports to the US amounted to 52,915 tonnes, worth approx. €332 million in 2019. Approx €194 million of Irish butter and approximately €44 million worth of cheese was exported in 2019 from Ireland to the US. Ireland accounts for almost 90% of EU butter exports to the US.

The key EU market development in 2019 was the sale of the remaining Skimmed Milk Powder (SMP) from EU intervention stocks which had been overhanging the EU SMP market for the last few years. This has allowed the SMP price to continue its evolution to a more market driven basis than in the recent past.

Policy Development

During the Milk Quota regime the Department introduced the Milk Production Partnerships Scheme, to assist in intergenerational transfer, improve efficiency and bring about economies of scale at farm level. Following the ending of the Milk Quota Regulations in 2015, the Department established a new Farm Partnership Register. There are currently 2,970 active registered farm partnerships. Supports include preferential stock relief; a start-up grant scheme; and favourable terms for partnerships in Department Schemes.

In June 2017 the Department launched the Succession Farm Partnership (SFP) Register aimed at encouraging best practice in intergenerational land transfer in order to address, among other things, the issue of lack of experience on transfer. An annual income tax break of €5,000 is provided for up to five years and the farmer commits to transferring a minimum of 80% of the partnership assets to the successor between 3 and 10 years into the agreement. At present there are approximately 60 such SFPs in operation.

The Department also provides support to the Macra Land Mobility Service, a match making service for farmers who wish to engage in collaborative working arrangements but who have no readily identifiable collaborator. The Department provided funding of €50,000 per year to the service from 2017 – 2019 inclusive to support the efforts of Macra and Industry to capitalise on potential efficiency gains from collaborative working.

CROPS

Cereals

The overall production of cereals for the country was estimated at 2.2 million tonnes for 2019 which was an increase on the low production of 1.8 million tonnes in 2018 but still somewhat behind 2017 production which stood at 2.3 million tonnes. The quality of grain was high in 2019 with high hectolitre weights and straw yields also returned to normal levels particularly in spring crops but this did result in a drop in price from the extremely high prices attained in 2018.

The total cereal area harvested in 2019 was 261,400 ha a modest increase in cereal area for the first time since 2012. A higher area of winter crops, which tend to yield higher than spring crops, along with more normal yields for spring crops in particular saw production return to normal.

Area, Yield and Production of Cereals 2019*

	Area (000 ha)	Yield (t/ha)	Production (000 tonnes)
Wheat	62.1		589
Winter	58.4	10.1	560
Spring	3.7	8.3	29
Barley	176.0		1,448
Winter		81.44	9,427.29
Spring	94.6	8.00	719
Oats	23.3		188
Winter	16.4	8.85	137
Spring	6.9	7.70	51
Totals	261.4		2,225

Source: Teagasc Estimated Cereal Production 2019

*refers to all production, which is subsequently sold or used alternatively, typically for feed

Sustainable Production

Fertiliser and Lime Inspection Programme

The sale of fertiliser and lime in Ireland is regulated by both EU and Irish legislation. This legislation ensures that products are labelled accurately and meet minimum nutrient requirements. As part of the fertiliser and lime inspection programme for 2019, a total of 267 samples were taken at manufacturers' premises (186 fertiliser samples and 81 lime samples). 641 individual analyses were carried out for fertilisers, which resulted in an out of tolerance of 3.9%. 243 individual lime analyses were carried out with a result of 8.2% out of tolerance.

There were a total of 46 active quarries in 2019 and one new ground limestone quarry was licensed during 2019.

Year	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Nitrogen (tonnes) (% change)	1,377,754 (+1.34%)	1,510,972 (+9.6%)	1,670,799 (+10.6%)	1,500,701 (-10.18%)
Phosphorous (tonnes) (% change)	805,600 (+0.9%)	899,337 (+11.6%)	1,005,689 (+11.8%)	921,818 (-8.34%)
Potassium (tonnes) (% change)	815,204 (+1%)	911,933 (+11.87%)	1,019,805 (+11.8%)	941,501 (-7.68%)
TOTAL (tonnes) (% change)	1,411,913 (+1.18%)	1,552,809 (+9.98%)	1,714,729 (+10.4%)	1,547,082 (-9.78%)

Ground limestone usage was down on the previous year (2018) by 25% to 762,865 tonnes. This follows an increase in lime use in 2018.

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019
Ground Limestone sales (tonnes) % change	967,281 +8.2%	737,118 -24%	1,020,502 +38%	762,865 -25%

Sustainable Production

2019 Nitrates Derogation

The Nitrates Derogation is an important facility for intensively stocked farms as it allows them, subject to additional environmental conditions, to farm up to 250 kgs N/ha, or the equivalent of three dairy cows per hectare. In December 2017, Ireland successfully secured a renewal of our Nitrates Derogation for 2018 - 2021. In 2019, a total of 6,800 farmers made an online application for a Nitrates Derogation.

Nitrates Derogation Review 2019

EPA reports have highlighted deterioration in water quality and increasing green house gas and ammonia emissions. There are also significant issues around the decline of EU protected habitats in Ireland. In light of the increasing land area being farmed under derogation and the environmental pressures outlined, it was considered prudent and important to the longer term retention of this important facility to review the conditions of the Nitrates derogation. Ireland's current derogation concludes in 2021, and failing to address the environmental pressures above, would negatively impact on any negotiations to renew this important facility. As part of this review, a public consultation was held and 75 submissions were received.

The Nitrates Expert Group, which comprises of officials from the Department, EPA, DHPLG & Teagasc reported the findings from this review which is published here: <https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/ruralenvironmentsustainability/environmentalobligations/nitrates/2019nitrate derogationreview/>

New measures arising from the recommendations of the Nitrates Expert Group will be included in the Terms & Conditions for the Nitrates Derogation applications in 2020 and 2021.

Nitrogen and Phosphorus (N&P) Data 2019

The Department's online system, www.agfood.ie provides farmers with detailed N&P statements, reflecting cattle only stocking rates on their holding. Statements are available online monthly from May to December 2019, allowing farmers to monitor their

Nitrate levels in order to comply with the limits. Text messages also issue periodically to farmers registered to receive them who are in the higher brackets for the time of year

Agricultural Catchment Programme (ACP) 2019

Phase 3 of the ACP commenced in January 2016 and concluded at the end of 2019 and built on the gains and experiences from earlier phases of the programme.

The ACP works in partnership with over 300 farmers in six intensively farmed catchments and this farmer engagement, which is built on the relationships of the advisers with their farmer clients, facilitates the research elements of the programme. The research work is carried out according to a single experimental design which is implemented rigorously in each catchment. A range of biophysical and socio-economic parameters are used to evaluate the impact of the National Action Plan (NAP) measures and the derogation implemented by farmers under the Nitrates Directive. The outcomes of this research provide a valuable insight into the processes that determine the impact of agricultural activity on water quality in the catchments.

ACP research indicates that in 4 out of 5 of the catchments, improvements in nutrient management on land is evident. Overall, evidence from the ACP indicates that supporting farmers, through technical advice, to make better decisions regarding how they manage nutrient applications is likely to be the single area with the greatest potential to improve outcomes for water quality on Irish farms. This should deliver increased efficiencies for the farmer while reducing risk of nutrient loss to water.

Phase 4 of the ACP commences January 2020 until December 2023 and as well as building on the knowledge gained in the previous three phases, Phase 4 is enhanced to now also include research on GHG, Carbon sequestration and this is both relevant and vital for this Department in the context of the All of Government Action Plan to Tackle Climate Disruption. The ASSAP is also now included in the ACP programme.

Sustainable Production

Agricultural Sustainability Support and Advisory Programme (ASSAP) 2019

The Agricultural Sustainability Support & Advisory Programme (ASSAP) is an innovative collaborative initiative supported by this Department and the Department of Housing Planning and Local Government and industry to achieve farmer behavioural change for the protection of water in order to meet Water Framework Directive objectives. It is a whole of Government, whole of sector approach to provide direct advice to farmers in 190 areas-for-action for the protection and improvement of water quality. 30 sustainability advisors are assigned to this programme, 20 provided by the Government and 10 by the Dairy Co-ops. These 30 advisors are working within a unified partnership structure which encompasses Teagasc, the Co-ops and LAWCO (Local Authorities Water and Communities Office).

The programme draws on the experience and resources of key sectoral and industry stakeholders including the two Departments, the Local Authorities, the Dairy Co-ops, Teagasc, Bord Bia and the farm organisations. The Department also provides significant administrative support to the Programme.

This is a new approach to achieving improvements in water quality and supports the goals of the Food Wise 2025 strategy, facilitating increased productivity hand-in-hand with a more sustainable sector. This will be achieved by advisors working with farmers focusing on improved nutrient management with more targeted use of fertiliser, better farmyard practice and appropriate measures for identified critical source areas. Over time more widespread sustainability approaches developed by Teagasc will be implemented focusing on climate change and biodiversity.

The second River Basin Management Plan (RBMP), published in April 2018, identifies that 1,460 river and lake water bodies are at risk of not meeting the Water Framework Directive's quality objectives; agriculture is the significant pressure in 53% of these water bodies. The Nitrates Regulations are the main agricultural measure in the RBMP; these regulations lay down comprehensive requirements for farmers to abide by to

ensure the protection of waters from agricultural sources. However, farmer compliance rate with these regulations over the years has been unsatisfactory leading to the conclusion that a new collaborative initiative is required for better farmer engagement.

The ASSAP has been set up to provide free advice and support to farmers to assist with complying with the nitrates regulations, provide solutions for critical source areas and to improve water quality. It is estimated that there are around 20,000 farmers in these 190 areas-for-action of which around 7,000 will be receiving advice under this programme from 2018 to 2021.

Forestry

Forests cover 11% of the land area of the country, a significant increase from a low of 1% forest cover at the beginning of the 20th century. Private afforestation, undertaken with support from the State, contributed to this increase, with forest cover in Ireland increasing by some 320,000 hectares between 1985 and 2012. This is one of the highest levels of increase in forest cover among developed countries. The development of forestry in Ireland over the last number of decades has resulted in the creation of an indigenous and internationally competitive industry that supports jobs and communities across rural Ireland. Notwithstanding an ongoing level of new planting, forest cover in Ireland at 11% is one of the lowest levels in Europe, with the European (EU28) average being c.33%.

The establishment of new forests is funded under the Afforestation scheme, which forms part of the Forestry programme 2014-2020. The table below sets out the area of new forests planted, for which grants were paid.

Afforestation levels 2013-2019 (hectares)

2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
6,252	6,156	6,293	6,500	5,536	4,025	3550

Sustainable Production

Following the Forestry Programme 2014-20 midterm review (MTR) which was completed in 2018, a series of new schemes introduced had their first full year of implementation in 2019. The strong increase in broadleaf tree species planting in 2018, did not continue in 2019, but in response to measures in support of Broadleaf planting it remains at a significantly higher level than before MTR with 25% of broadleaf afforestation as a percentage of total planting in 2019.

A very strong interest in the Woodland Improvement Scheme was observed in 2019 while demand for the new Continuous Cover Forestry scheme exceeded expectations.

The Forestry Division successfully managed and supervised the transformation of 14,128 forestry parcels relating to six Counties into the Department's new Land Parcel Identification System in 2019.

Woodland Environmental Fund (WEF)

The Woodland Environmental Fund (WEF) is unique in terms of schemes run by the Department. Instead of distributing exchequer and EU funding to farmers, the WEF creates a third source of finance to support their farming enterprise. Under this initiative funding from the business community is given directly to farmers to establish native woodlands. The WEF ties in with the Department's existing Afforestation Scheme which covers 100% of the cost of establishing native woodlands and also pays an annual premium to the landowner of up to €680 per hectare payable each year for 15 years. The WEF involves an additional top-up of €1,000 per hectare by the business as a once-off payment for farmers and other private landowners. Businesses taking part in the WEF are able to demonstrate their corporate social responsibilities by funding projects that are good for the environment and society as a whole. Companies participating so far in WEF include Lidl, Aldi, Microsoft, Accenture, An Post and KBI Global Investment.

The National Forest Inventory

During 2019, preparations were made to commence the fourth NFI cycle. Field data collection is scheduled to commence in February 2020. Multi-resource information will be collected across the forest estate including information on forest area and species composition, growing stock (m³), biodiversity, forest health and carbon content.

The COFORD Council

The COFORD Council is a body comprising of stakeholders from across the forestry sector who are appointed by the Minister of State for Forestry to advise his Department on issues related to the development of the forest sector in Ireland.

The COFORD advisory council 2019-2021 has established a number of Working Groups and has published a number reports across a broad range of areas. The following working groups have been established;

- Forest Genetic Resources Working Group
- Roundwood Forecasting and Wood Mobilisation Group
- Working Group on Forests, Climate Change Mitigation and Adaption
- Working Group on Forest Policy, monitoring of implementation
- Working Group on Promotion of Forestry and Afforestation
- Working Group to formulate the socioeconomic contribution of the Irish forest sector Ecosystem services

Further information on the Council and the objectives and work being undertaken in the working groups is available at www.coford.ie. COFORD publications and working group reports are available at www.coford.ie.

Sustainable Production

Initiatives to Support Private Forest Owners to Manage Forests

Since the 1980s, some 22,000 individual landowners have established new forests in Ireland. This represents an investment by the State of approximately €3 billion. Although plantation forests form approximately 7% of the world's forests, they supply over a third of the world's timber (FAO) and continue to play an important role in providing multiple benefits.

According to the All Ireland Roundwood Production Forecast 2016 – 2035, published by COFORD, wood production is set to double from 4 million cubic metres to 8 million cubic metres by 2035 mostly from these privately owned forests. In order to realise, and maximise, the return on the investment by the State and landowners in forestry to date, the mobilisation (harvesting, extraction and use) of this timber is essential, thereby also creating economic activity along the supply chain through activities such as harvesting, transportation, replanting and processing. The COFORD Council has published a number of reports highlighting key barriers to mobilisation which need to be addressed to ensure timber is harvested at the levels forecasted.

Knowledge Transfer Groups for Forestry

'Mobilising Ireland's Timber Resource', a policy document issued by COFORD, identified a number of barriers to private timber mobilisation (i.e. extraction and sale of timber from privately owned forests) in Ireland. These barriers include the fragmentation of the private forest estate – with forests averaging 8.8 hectares in the ownership of 22,000 private forest owners.

As part of the Forestry Programme 2014-2020, the Department introduced some measures to target challenges to the forestry sector and to develop and promote a forestry culture in Ireland. One of these measures was to extend the Knowledge Transfer model to Forestry. A lack of forest management knowledge amongst a significant proportion of private forest owners was recognised as a substantial barrier to

timber mobilisation. In 2017, the Department provided funding for a pilot Forestry Knowledge Transfer Scheme for 270 private forest owners in four groups. The pilot study was successfully completed in March 2018 and a national scheme was launched in May 2018, followed by another national scheme in 2019 with more than 600 participants taking part in the schemes in each year.

The purpose of the Forestry KTG scheme is to provide private forest owners with additional knowledge and support in management activities in their forest. The scheme uses peer-to-peer learning, where the group, assisted by a forestry professional acting as facilitator, discusses and shares knowledge on various topics. There were seven learning events in each module, with up to two events at outdoor venues, such as a saw mill or a forestry site.

Organic Farming

While the Organic Sector in Ireland is still relatively small in relation to agriculture as a whole, the Organic Sector is one experiencing considerable growth at present. There are currently 2,356 organic operators in Ireland, of whom over 1,850 are farmers. The area of land under organic production has expanded dramatically under the current Rural Development Programme, thanks to the suite of supports that have been put in place. Latest figures indicate that there are now some 74,000 hectares under organic production, an increase of nearly 50% on the position at the start of the Programme in 2014.

Organic Farming Operators and Hectareage

2016	2017	2018	2019
2,127 (72,364ha)	2,136 (70,722ha)	2,127 (71,000ha)	2,356 (74,000ha)

Sustainable Production

A range of organic events took place in 2019 to raise awareness on organic farming. In February 2019, Bord Bia co-ordinated Ireland's participation at Biofach, which is the most important international trade event for organic food industry professionals and companies. Those attending the event, both from Europe and further afield, are predominantly purchasing decision-makers from the retail, food service and distribution sectors.

Other events in 2019 included the demonstration organic farms programme organised by Teagasc, which involved a range of different enterprises.

Organic capital grant schemes under the RDP continued to provide grant aid for investments by farmers and processors in facilities and equipment. Grant aid of 40% of the cost, up to a maximum of €60,000, in the case of on-farm investments and €500,000 for investments off-farm is available.

Genetic Resources

The Department, under the Genetic Resources Grant Aid Scheme issued its annual call for proposals in relation to the conservation of plant, animal, forestry, micro-organisms, invertebrates and aquatic genetic resources.

In 2019, funding of over €40,000 was allocated to six projects to support research undertaken by third level institutions, stakeholder associations and sector interest groups relating to a range of topics including

- Analysis of heritage crops,
- Market opportunities for endangered Irish equine breeds
- Breeding programme for Droimeann cattle
- A strategy for the conservation of native free living honeybee colonies
- Conservation of the Irish apple genome
- An insitu conservation project for priority crop wild relative

For further information:

<https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmerschemespayments/otherfarmersschemes/conservationofgeneticresourcesforfoodandagriculture/geneticresourcesprojects/>

Climate Change

The long-term policy vision for the agriculture and land use sector is 'an approach to carbon neutrality in the agriculture and land use sector, including forestry, which does not compromise the capacity for sustainable food production. Over the course of 2019 the environmental goals of the agriculture and land use sector including forestry were progressed in line with the long-term policy vision for a carbon neutral sector.

Adaptation and Mitigation Planning

Ireland's first statutory National Adaptation Framework was published in January 2018 and identified twelve priority areas where sectoral adaptation plans are required to be prepared. This Department is the lead Department for three of these priority areas: agriculture, forestry and seafood. During 2018, work commenced on the development of a first statutory sectoral adaptation plan for the three areas under the Department's remit which must be submitted to Government no later than 30 September 2019.

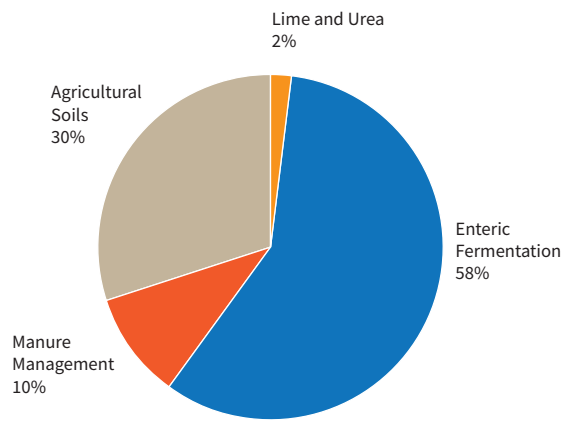
Towards the end of 2018 preparations commenced for the development of an All of Government Plan to tackle climate disruption. This Plan builds on the National Mitigation Plan and will include actions to deliver on our climate targets.

The Department published its first statutory Agriculture, Forest and Seafood Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan during 2019. The overall adaptation goal of the Sectoral Adaptation Plan is to build resilience to the effects of climate change and weather related events in the agriculture, forestry and seafood sector, to reduce any negative impacts where possible, to take advantage of any opportunities and to contribute to the achievement of the Department's Statement of Strategy Goals.

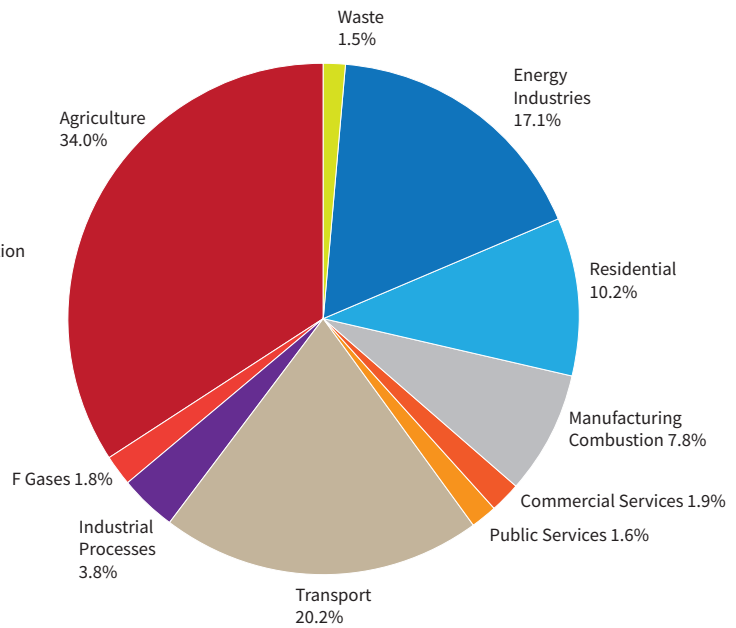
Sustainable Production

During 2019 the All of Government Climate Action Plan to tackle climate breakdown was published setting out the actions required to meet Ireland's EU target for 2030 as discussed above.

Distribution of Irish agriculture emissions 2018



Greenhouse gas emissions in Ireland 2018



Total Agriculture and Land Use Emission Levels

National target Vs 1990 baseline	1990 CO2eq Tons	2018 CO2eq Tons	Variance %
Overall total agricultural and land use emission levels	20.35	20.59	+1.13%
Total agricultural CO2eq emission levels	19.62	19.99	+1.89%
- Carbon Dioxide (CO2)	0.40	0.58	+45.00%
- Methane (CH4)	12.76	12.97	+1.60%
- Nitrous Oxide (N2O)	6.44	6.45	+0.15%
Total agricultural land use related emission levels			
Grassland and Cropland	6.88	6.40	
Forestry	-3.861	-4.34	
Harvested Wood Products	-0.413	-0.871	

Sustainable Production

Clean Air Strategy

The Clean Air Strategy for Ireland is coordinated by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (DCCAE). It provides an opportunity to address air pollution in Ireland, containing a suite of policies and legislative proposals to update and modernise EU clean air legislation. A key component is a revised National Emission Ceilings Directive (NECD) with more ambitious and protective national emission ceilings for key pollutants which sets tighter limits in 2030 for five air pollutants - particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5), sulphur dioxide (SO2), nitrogen oxides (NOx), ammonia (NH3) and volatile organic compounds (VOC).

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine continues to engage with DCCAE in relation to the development of Ireland's Clean Air Strategy as a nationally coordinated strategy to implement the EU NECD 2016. The NECD entered into force on 31 December 2016 and Ireland transposed it into national legislation with S.I. No. 232 of 2018 (European Union (National Emission Ceiling) Regulations 2018). The Department collaborated closely with DCCAE to develop the agriculture components of Ireland's National Air Pollution Control Programme (NAPCP) submitted in April 2019.

Under the NECD, Ireland has had a mandatory ceiling for ammonia since 2010 which was exceeded for the first time in 2016 and continues to rise. As 99% of all ammonia emissions come from the agri-food sector, there is an onus on the sector to reduce emissions and bring them in line with the legislative limits. In November 2019, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine released a Code of Good Agricultural Practice for Reducing Ammonia Emissions which raises awareness of the options for farmers. This is a guidance document that outlines the best practice actions farmers can take to help reduce their ammonia emissions. It is a requirement for every Member State to make this code available to all farmers and to submit it as part of the response to addressing the NECD and Gothenburg protocol. This code will ensure coherence with Ireland's Nitrates Action Programme (NAP) and

will further encourage improvements in nitrogen use efficiency. Furthermore, conditionality of the Nitrates derogation was reviewed and now includes some ammonia abatement measures such as use of low emission slurry spreading technology.

Bioenergy

The main contribution of the agriculture and forest sectors is in the supply of bioenergy feedstock, whether from biomass in the form of wood products such as forest thinnings and wood fuel, animal by products (ABP) or other agri-food by-products such as straw, slurries and processing waste, e.g. whey from cheese-making. Other sources of biomass include energy crops or grass silage.

The mid-term review of the Forestry Programme 2014-2020 was published in early 2018 and included substantial increases in the premiums paid for growing trees suitable for fibre and biomass.

This Department continues to work closely with the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment to explore further opportunities for encouraging the sustainable use of farm manures and agri-residues - primarily for use in the Anaerobic Digestion industry for the production of biogas/biomethane and forest based biomass, all of which can displace fossil fuels and energy intensive materials.

A new Support Scheme for Renewable Heat (SSRH) was launched in 2018 by SEAI and is open to commercial, industrial, agricultural, district heating, public sector and other non-domestic heat users. The scheme provides grant support for the installation of air source, ground source and water source heat pumps. The Scheme offers ongoing operational support (a tariff) based on useable heat output in renewable heating systems, in new installations or installations that currently use a fossil fuel heating system and convert to using the following technologies:

- Biomass boiler or biomass HE CHP heating systems
- Biogas (anaerobic digestion) boiler or biogas HE

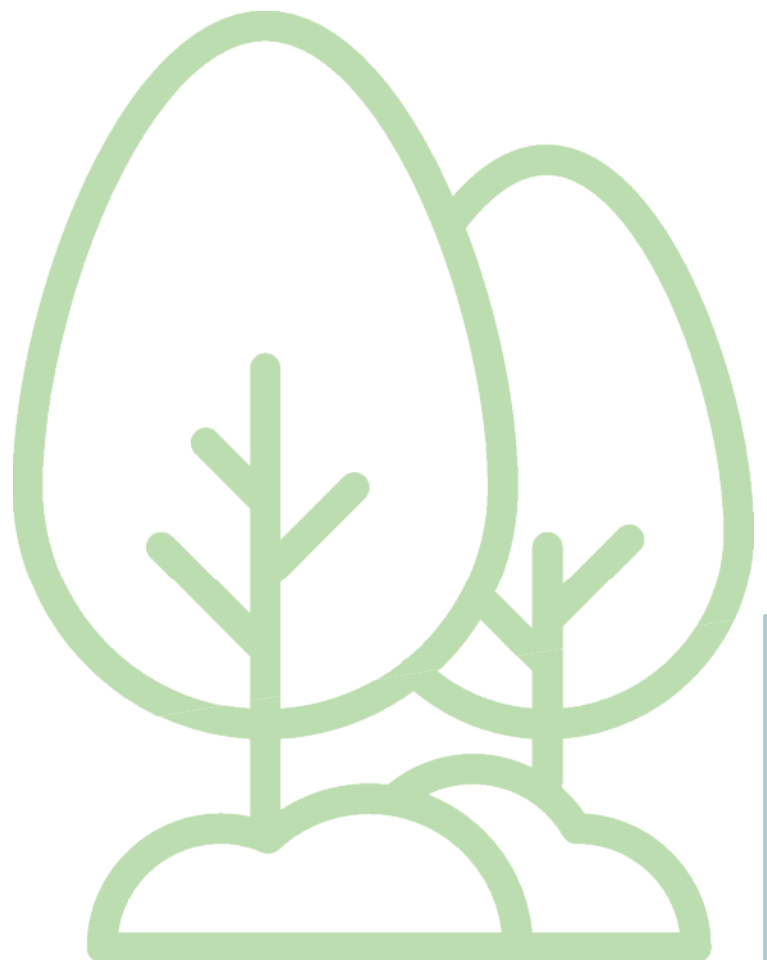
Sustainable Production

CHP heating systems

The Department supports renewable heat technologies in the form of supports for biomass boilers under the Pig and Poultry Investment Scheme (PPIS) and the Young Farmer Capital Investment Scheme (YFCIS). Air-source heat pumps are currently supported under PPIS and YFCIS schemes and they may be used as part of a water heater under the Dairy Equipment Scheme. Grant aid is also available under PPIS and YFCIS schemes for solar panels used for electricity production (photovoltaic) and water heating that are permanently erected to buildings used for pig, poultry and egg production. New energy grants under TAMS were announced in early 2019 with grant aid for solar PV now extended to all sectors and all lighting funded under the scheme will be required to be LED lighting.

Energy efficiency is fundamental to reducing carbon emissions and energy costs. Some of the elements of TAMS II support the installation of new dairy equipment which is more energy efficient than older technology. Furthermore, the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) re-opened the pilot dairy energy efficiency scheme which grant aided the installation of variable speed drives.

The Department continued to support the promotion of the Wood Fuel Quality Assurance scheme and the provision of advice on forest-based biomass supply chains and fuels. See www.woodenergy.ie. New wood energy supply chain software was developed by the Department and made available through the www.coford.ie and www.woodenergy.ie websites. In addition, a number of workshops related to this software were organised nationally.



4

Strategic Goal Seafood Sector

*Deliver a sustainable,
growth driven sector focused
on competitiveness and innovation
driven by a skilled workforce
delivering value added products
in line with market demands*

Seafood

Overview

The Irish seafood industry comprises of the commercial sea fishing industry, the aquaculture industry and the seafood processing industry. The seafood industry is based on the utilisation of a high quality, indigenous natural resource, which has excellent potential for added value and makes a significant contribution to the national economy in terms of output, employment and exports.

Seafood exports

The seafood sector offers huge potential for expansion as global demand for seafood as a healthy premium protein increases. Over the next decade, consumption is projected to grow by 42 million tonnes per annum according to the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) as the world population is set to reach 8 billion by 2025. It is clear that a huge expansion in food production, including seafood, will be required worldwide to meet this need.

The value of Irish seafood exports in 2019 was estimated to be in the region of €577 million, maintaining the value of 2018. Challenges were found in certain sectors while there was positive growth in others. The value of salmon exports increased by 25%, driven by a 20% increase in volume with positive price growth. Global demand for seafood continued to increase in 2019 and Irish exporters reported strong demand for their products in the main export markets.

The main EU markets, France, Spain, Italy and Germany account for approximately 50% (€288 million) of total exports by value. The International market accounted for approximately 36% (€206 million) of total exports in 2019. Exports to the four main Asian markets (China, Hong Kong, South Korea and Japan) remained stable in value terms in 2019 compared to 2018. These markets accounted for 14% of total seafood export values. The wider South East Asian markets (Taiwan, Vietnam, Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand) accounted for over 14% (€81 million) of total export values in 2019.

Main Product Trends

In the pelagic sector, a reduction of 20% in Ireland's total allowable catch for mackerel had a direct impact on the volumes exported in 2019. However, prices and demand for Irish mackerel were strong particularly in Asia where there was a shortage of stocks. The best performing pelagic markets in 2019 were in Asia and in Europe while significant growth was seen in the UK and Middle East. Demand for Irish mackerel in China has increased by around 61% in value, while demand for Irish horse mackerel increased by 174% in Egypt. The African markets performed well earlier in the year but struggled to match the new price levels. Core markets in Europe also performed well. Spain remains our main market for whitefish followed by the UK and France, these markets represent over 85% of total whitefish exports. The Irish whitefish total allowable catch remained relatively stable in 2019 compared to 2018.

Export values on Irish shellfish fell in 2019 after a number of challenges affected production throughout the year. The largest shellfish export in 2018 was frozen prawns, which accounted for an estimated 10% of total seafood exports.

The live crab sector had another very productive year, growing in export value by 63% with excellent performances being recorded in France, which increased in value terms by 47% during 2019. This was driven by a doubling in export volumes to this market despite a 29% decrease in the average price per tonne.

Exports of prepared shellfish which include clams and whelks, decreased in value by 27% during the year driven by volume declines of 23% during this period. South Korea, which remains the main export market, accounting for almost 73% of total exports in this category, decreased in value by 22% during the year. Exports to China decreased by 44% while export value to Hong Kong declined by 20% during the year.

The Irish oyster sector had a tough year with export values decreasing by 15%. Exports of packed oysters to all major export partners declined significantly. Export values to France declined by 15%, China 25% and Hong

Seafood

Kong by 21%, all driven by volume. In 2018, salmon export values increased by 43% while the price of Irish salmon continued to increase as demand drove the organic salmon sector. The French market continued to dominate Irish salmon exports, accounting for 41% of total values, while exports to Poland doubled from 1,000 tonnes to 2,000 tonnes and increasing in value from €9 million to €21 million year on year.

Common Fisheries Policy

The seas around Ireland (ICES Sub Areas 6 and 7) contain some of the most productive and biologically sensitive areas in EU waters. The fisheries stocks within these areas come under the remit of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP).

The main objective of the CFP is to allow for the rebuilding of fish stocks in European waters over time which will support the viability of the European fishing industry through long term management of stocks, reducing and eliminating discards and rebuilding stocks to Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY).

- Phased ending of discards – The discard ban or landing obligation, which is a key element of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), was phased in over a number of years and was fully implemented in 2019. The North West Waters Regional Group of Member States, (Ireland, Belgium, France, UK, Netherlands and Spain), is in place to manage fisheries at a regional level under the CFP and meets regularly to agree discard plans and other fisheries measures in consultation with the relevant stakeholders. It consults the relevant Advisory Councils of stakeholders on a regular basis. The group met regularly throughout 2019 to discuss various implementation issues and to work on additional measures following the full implementation of the landing obligation.

- Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) is the level which allows the highest catch of fish while keeping stocks sustainable in the long term. 2019 marked the deadline under the CFP to end overfishing by setting Total Allowable Catches (TAC) in accordance with the scientific advice. This means that for most stocks, where sufficient advice is available, quotas have been set at levels that ensure long-term sustainability, in line with the MSY principle. The catch limits proposed by the European Commission in the Atlantic, the North Sea and the Baltic Sea have seen over-exploitation decline drastically over the last number of years. Fishing opportunities negotiated at the December 2019 Agriculture & Fisheries Council were fixed for 2020 in line with the MSY objective. For 32 of the 47 stocks of particular interest to Ireland, the quotas for 2020 were set at or below the scientific advice where available, meeting MSY criteria. For other stocks, the Council agreed restrictive or precautionary quotas to allow for unavoidable by-catches or the collection of scientific data.

- Multi-annual fisheries plans - The aim of multi-annual fisheries plans is to restore and maintain fish stocks at sustainable levels while ensuring the social and economic viability for fishermen operating in certain regions. In March 2019, the European Council adopted the multiannual plan for management of fisheries in Western Waters, which is extremely important from an Irish perspective.

The regulation sets out a comprehensive management plan including all relevant fish stocks and sets fishing objectives for the key target species. It ensures these stocks are fished in line with the MSY principle while catches are managed accordingly to the precautionary approach.

Fisheries Management and Conservation

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION

Fish Quota Management 2019

In 2019, the Department was responsible for managing over 193,606 tonnes of fish quotas. As part of this management process, under the Sea-Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006, 997 authorisations and amendments were issued. In addition, 60 Fisheries Management Notices and 10 Statutory Instruments were brought into effect by the Minister to support the management of Ireland's fisheries.

Also in 2019, 40 separate Demersal (whitefish and prawn) fish stocks were managed in consultation with the Quota Management Advisory Committee, which involves representatives of the fishing sector. Catch limits set out in the Fisheries Management Notice are displayed on the Department's web-site and circulated to industry representative organisations.

Quota Balancing 2019

A Quota Balancing system is being introduced on a phased basis to assist with the full implementation of the landing obligation (as provided for under Regulation (EU) No.1380/2013, Article 15). A Pilot Quota Balancing Policy for Pelagic Stocks was implemented in 2018 and a Pilot Quota Balancing Policy for Demersal (Whitefish) Stocks is due to be implemented in 2020. The quota balancing system contributes to conservation and management of fish quotas. Quota balancing carried out up to April 2020, for pelagic stocks fished in 2019, will result in over 4,600 tonnes of quota being balanced and redistributed. In respect of the 2019 fisheries, 336 quota balancing statements were issued to licence holders by the end of April 2020.

2020 Total Allowable Catches and Quotas

In the context of preparing for the annual EU negotiations, a Sustainability Impact Assessment on Total Allowable Catches (TACs) and quotas for 2020 was presented to the Dáil by the Minister in December 2019. The Sustainability Impact Assessment was developed following input from the marine agencies including the SFPA, BIM and MI and a meeting involving all relevant stakeholders which took place in November 2019.

The EU Council of Fisheries Ministers in December 2019 agreed TACs and quotas for 2020. The Minister secured 195,000 tonnes of quotas worth €275 million for Irish fishermen for 2020. Key achievements included an increase in quotas for a number of important stocks – including Mackerel (41% increase), and Haddock (+30%), Monkfish (+7%) and Megrims (+3%) in the Celtic Sea. Stocks such as Cod and Whiting in the Celtic Sea remain in very poor shape and agreement was reached on the introduction of significant additional safeguards designed to rebuild these stocks. The Council agreed measures will deliver the necessary protections for Cod and Whiting while still allowing vessels to continue fishing in a sustainable way.

Taking these necessary steps now will aid the rebuilding of the stocks in our Celtic Sea fisheries and avoid the need for closures.

SeaFest 2019 – Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth – Developing Ireland's Blue Economy

SeaFest 2019 attracted over 90,000 visitors to Cork City Docklands during the three-day event from 7-9 June 2019. This was the first of a three year location of the event in Cork, following the previous successful three year staging of the event in Galway from 2016-2018. As Ireland's national maritime festival, SeaFest aims to strengthen our maritime identity, increasing participation and engagement with the sea in accordance with Goal 3 of Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth (Ireland's Integrated Marine Plan). Working together with Cork City Council and a wide range of partner agencies and organizations, the Marine Institute coordinated SeaFest on behalf of the cross-government Marine Coordination Group, which is chaired by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine. The Department's marine agencies, BIM, SFPA and Bord Bia were central to the event showcasing Ireland's range of activities and highlighting Ireland's diverse seafood industry and marine resource.

The associated sixth 'Our Ocean Wealth Summit' also took place as part of SeaFest. The theme of the 2019 Summit held on 10th of June at Cork's City Hall, was 'Shared Voices from Small Island States'. The 750 delegates attending the event heard from leading national and international speakers including former

Fisheries Management and Conservation

US Secretary of State John Kerry, UN representatives of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), political and business leaders, and young ocean ambassadors. The principal discussions focused on climate change impacts on the health of our shared oceans resources. Minister Creed addressed delegates at the Summit, welcoming continuing positive growth trends in Ireland's Blue Economy and sharing Ireland's recent experiences with sustainable blue growth initiatives.

The Minister also launched, on behalf of Government, the annual Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth Review of Progress. The summit was also addressed by An Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Simon Coveney, Minister of State for Housing and Urban Development Damien English and Mairead McGuinness, First Vice President, European Parliament. Other key events that took place during SeaFest included The Irish Marine Industry Showcase, Smart Maritime and Offshore Wind on June 11th at Millennium Hall, Cork City Hall, coordinated by Enterprise Ireland.

At a local level in the host city of Cork, it is estimated that SeaFest and associated events in 2019 generated €4.1 million in direct income for the city's tourism industry. Local, national and international media coverage of the festival reached record levels. For example, media coverage reached an estimated audience of 100 million with SeaFest 2019 featured on shows such as SkyNews, RTÉ Nationwide and RTÉ Countrywide. SeaFest also received a national award for 'Best Cultural Event' at the 2019 Event Industry Awards and was described by judges as "a great celebration of Ireland's maritime heritage that serves an important cultural purpose".

Aquaculture Licensing

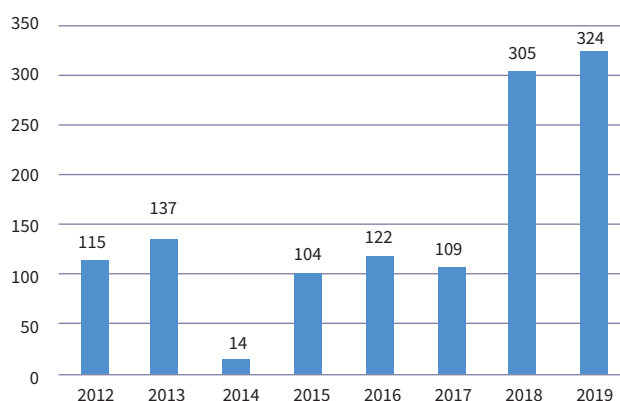
The independent Aquaculture Licensing Review Group, appointed by the Minister to review the process of licensing for aquaculture and its associated legal framework, submitted its Report to the Minister in May 2017.

The Review Group carried out a detailed investigation of the existing aquaculture licensing process, undertook comprehensive stakeholder consultation and examined comparative national and international consent systems to determine best practice for managing a complex licensing process in a transparent, environmentally appropriate and legally robust manner.

Since receiving the Report of the Review Group, the Department has engaged in detailed consideration of the recommendations set out in the Report with a view to their implementation, having regard to the legislative, environmental, technical and public interest issues that arise. The Department has also engaged closely with industry representatives and relevant State Agencies.

The core reason for the Licensing Review Group was the need to address in a focused manner the Aquaculture Licensing backlog. In response the Department undertook a two-year project to eliminate the shellfish licensing backlog. This resulted in 305 and 324 licence determinations achieved in 2018 and 2019 respectively.

Aquaculture Licence Determinations 2012 – 2019



Fisheries Management and Conservation

Approximately 1200 licence determinations have been made since 2012.

The shellfish licensing backlog has now been eliminated as an issue affecting the aquaculture industry. The elimination of the shellfish licensing backlog is a game changer for the industry and provides the solid footing for the industry long demanded by industry representatives.

The effective elimination of the shellfish licensing backlog has enabled the Department to turn its focus to the backlog in the processing of marine finfish aquaculture licences. The processing of applications for finfish licences in the marine environment is complex, not least due to the requirement for operators to produce Environmental Impact Statements and for the Department and relevant Agencies to analyse these reports in detail. A substantial number of Environmental Impact Statements remained outstanding from aquaculture operators in 2019. The Department worked closely with Industry Representatives in 2019 with a view to expediting the submission of the outstanding Environmental Impact Statements.

Sea-Fisheries (Amendment) Act 2019

The Sea-Fisheries (Amendment) Act 2019 was signed by the President on 4 April 2019 and was commenced by the Minister on 23 April 2019. The Act provides for legislative amendments to the Sea-Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006 in order to address the Supreme Court finding in October 2016 that fishing by Northern Ireland vessels within the 0-6 nautical mile zone of the territorial waters of the State was not permitted by law.

Developing Sustainable Inshore Fisheries

The National Inshore Fisheries Forum (NIFF) met on four occasions during 2019 to discuss and develop proposals concerning inshore fisheries and their interactions with Natura 2000 sites. The NIFF is supported by a network of six Regional Inshore Fisheries Forums (RIFFs), which involve representation from inshore fisheries and other marine stakeholders. A dedicated website provides information on the work of the Forums: www.inshoreforums.ie.

The Minister launched the *Strategy for the Irish Inshore Fisheries Sector 2019-2023* on behalf of the NIFF at the end of February 2019. The strategy was developed through an extensive process involving the Inshore Fisheries Forums and is the first industry-led blueprint for the sector. It identifies objectives and actions that will shape the work of the Forums over the next few years. Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM) is leading implementation of the strategy, which will seek to target funding support available under the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund to where it can be most effectively used. A strategy implementation group, which includes the Department, BIM, the Marine Institute, the Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority and industry representatives, is monitoring and driving implementation progress.

The Minister approved an industry-proposed increase of the Minimum Conservation Reference Size (MCRS) for landings of brown crab. The measure raised the MCRS to 140mm for brown crab taken by Irish sea-fishing boats in waters around Ireland (ICES areas VI and VII), an increase on the 130mm MCRS set out in EU legislation. The Minister also approved an industry-led initiative to provide legal protection for crawfish v-notched as part of a Marine Institute research project in the southwest.

Management of the all-island mussel seed fishery continued in 2019, with the autumn fishing season commencing in the Irish Sea in late September and starting in Castlemaine Harbour, Co. Kerry, in early October (see Natura 2000 section below). The fishery continues to be certified by the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC). The current certification, which was issued in 2018 and is valid for five years, says the fishery has been found to comply with the MSC requirements and is well-managed and sustainable. This follows a previous conditional certification received in 2013. At the end of 2019, a six-week public consultation took place to seek the views of those with an interest in the Irish Sea mussel seed fishery regarding management arrangements in place for the fishery. The consultation concluded on 31 December with 86 submissions received.

Fisheries Management and Conservation

Implementation of Natura 2000 Directives

Natura 2000 is an EU network of core breeding and resting sites for rare and threatened species, and some rare natural habitat types which are protected in their own right. The Marine Institute (the state agency responsible for marine research, technology development and innovation in Ireland) previously prepared a risk assessment of sea-fisheries interactions with Natura 2000 protected species and habitats along the South and West coasts of Ireland. It expects to complete a similar assessment for protected bird species in 2020. These assessments are being made under Article 6.2 of the European Union's Habitats Directive. A similar risk assessment was completed by the Institute in 2013 for fishing activities in Natura 2000 sites in the Irish Sea (East coast). Working with the National and Regional Inshore Fisheries Forums, the Government has commenced actions to address risks posed by sea-fisheries activities on a priority basis.

The Minister approved an amendment to the fisheries Natura plan for the mussel seed fishery in Castlemaine Harbour, Co. Kerry, at the start of October 2019. The request for an amendment arose from the industry and on screening, was not found to be a material change to the plan which would require appropriate assessment. Also, the Minister issued a fisheries Natura declaration in October to extend the boundaries of an area around Dalkey Island where fishing for mussels is prohibited. The Minister accepted a recommendation from the Marine Institute to close the area on a precautionary basis due to the presence of protected reef habitat.

The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015, building on the National Climate Change Adaptation Framework, provided for the preparation of Sectoral Adaptation Plans. Following on from preparatory work carried out in 2018 a draft Agriculture, Forest and Seafood Climate Change Adaptation plan was published for public consultation on 27 June 2019. The draft plan was subsequently updated to reflect issues raised in the submissions received as part of the consultation process. The Agriculture, Forest and Seafood Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan was approved by Government on 31 October 2019 and can be viewed on the Department's website.

The Seafood Climate Adaptation Working Group, consisting of representatives from each of the Marine Agencies (BIM, MI and SFPA) and the Department, helped ensure the delivery of a comprehensive Sectoral Adaptation Plan which addresses key adaptation areas. The Marine Institute (MI) reviewed The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate (SROCC), published in September 2019, and summarised the key findings of the report which included that oceans are likely warming at all depths, global sea level is rising and geographical shift of species is being observed.

Opportunities to raise awareness of climate change within the seafood sector were availed of throughout 2019 including the distribution of a climate change adaptation planning leaflet at events including SeaFest, the Skipper Expo and several of the SFPA Breakfast events. A Seafood Climate Adaptation booklet containing six case studies was also available at Seafest; the case studies help develop a deeper understanding of how climate change will impact the seafood sector and promote discussion on climate adaptation.

Clean Oceans Initiative

Protecting our oceans is one of 17 Global Goals that make up the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Ireland's commitment to Goal 14, Life below water is reflected in the enthusiasm shown towards the Clean Oceans Initiative. Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM), Ireland's Seafood Development Agency, is a Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Champion 2019-2020 for Goal 2 (End Hunger), Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), Goal 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) and Goal 14 (Life Below Water).

The Clean Oceans Initiative was launched by the Minister in January 2019 at Union Hall Pier, Co. Cork to address marine plastic pollution being encountered routinely by Irish sea-fishing boats. At that time the Minister called for all Irish trawlers at every pier and every port to actively participate in Ireland's first coordinated initiative on land and at sea to collect, reduce and reuse marine litter and clean up our marine environment.

Fisheries Management and Conservation

European Maritime and Fisheries Fund OP 2014-2020 (EMFF)

Ireland's 2014-2020 EMFF Programme was formally adopted by the European Commission in December 2015 and contains a broad range of support measures to foster the sustainable growth of the seafood sector (fisheries, aquaculture and processing). The Programme is co-funded by the European Union and the Government of Ireland. EU support for the Programme amounts to €147.6 million over the seven-year Programme lifespan and this EU funding is supplemented by Government funding, to bring the total support available under the Programme to approximately €239.2 million.

All EMFF schemes were operational by the end of 2018. In the period 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2019 the following actions were supported under the EMFF OP 2014-2020.

Union Priority	2019 Public Expenditure
Sustainable Development of Fisheries	€17,827,402
Sustainable Development of Aquaculture	€5,730,130
Supporting the Common Fisheries Policy	€24,701,335
Community Led Local Development	€3,014,706
Marketing & Processing of Seafood Products	€5,010,288
Supporting the Integrated Maritime Policy	€2,696,820

While progress on the implementation of the EMFF OP is monitored and reported to the Commission annually, evaluation of its contribution to achieving policy objectives is reported periodically i.e., in 2017, 2019 and 2024. Programme impacts at the end of 2019 will be evaluated as part of an enhanced Annual Implementation Report to be submitted to Commission in June 2020.

Fishery Harbour and Coastal Infrastructure Capital Development Programme

In 2019, the total voted expenditure on this Programme was €29.4 million, of which €27.7 million was spent on the Fishery Harbour Centres, with a further €82,000 spent on Cape Clear Island and for maintaining a range of piers, lights and beacons around the coast under the Department's remit. The significant investment on these works is project managed by the Department's Engineering Division which also provides technical support and advisory and inspectorial services on all fishery harbour developments.

Key Projects in Fishery Harbour Centres in 2019

Castletownbere

Harbour pier development works currently under construction at Castletownbere will provide an expansion of the existing Dinish Wharf to include an additional 216 m length of quay, capital dredging works, two rock armoured breakwaters and associated works. The €23.44 million works contract was awarded in July 2018. The construction works commenced in October 2018, progressing steadily throughout 2019 with capital dredging, steel sheet piling, tubular piling, placement of engineering fill materials and concrete decking to extend the pier, in addition to construction on two new breakwater arms at the entrance to the inner harbour. This project incurred an expenditure of €16.8 million in 2019.



**Dinish Wharf Expansion, Castletownbere FHC
Construction Contract Works in progress 2019**

Works were also completed in 2019 on the construction of a new Harbour Administration building at the Mainland Quay, Castletownbere. This project involved the demolition of the old auction hall and existing harbour offices and the construction of the new building and new car park. The building will accommodate the Harbour Master, his staff and also the SFPA port staff. The development was opened by the Minister in May 2019 and provides a focal point in the harbour and will contribute to the redevelopment of the harbour and town areas to coincide with proposed traffic management improvements planned for the town. This project cost €1.88 million in total and had an expenditure of €0.51 million in 2019.



**New Harbour Administration Building,
Castletownbere FHC
Construction Contract Works completed in 2019**

Ros An Mhíl

In 2019, a project comprising the construction of a breakwater extension to provide additional shelter to the small craft harbour commenced in November 2018 and was completed in April 2019, with a total project cost of €0.75 million (including expenditure of €0.63 million in 2019).



**Breakwater Extension, Ros An Mhíl FHC
Construction Contract Works completed in 2019**

Fishery Harbour and Coastal Infrastructure Capital Development Programme

Killybegs

To meet the increasing demand from the fishing industry, work commenced in 2017 on the construction of a 120 metre extension to the pier at Smooth Point. The pier extension will accommodate vessels with a draft of up to 9 metres at low water. Phase 1 of the project involving the removal of contaminated sediment, bringing it ashore for treatment and stabilisation and subsequent disposal for beneficial re-use was completed in 2018. Phase 2 of the project was commenced in 2019 and consists of the dredging of clean sediment to -9mCD and the construction of 120 metre of quay wall. The €12.9 million works contract was awarded in August 2019. Works completed on site in 2019 included the dredging and disposal at sea of approximately 45% of the soft bed material and the removal of approximately 7,000 cubic meters of rock that was stockpiled on site for re-use within the harbour. Total project expenditure in 2019 was €5 million.



**Smooth Point Quay Extension, Killybegs FHC
Dredging Works in progress 2019**

Dunmore East

Phase 4 of the West Wharf Remedial and Improvement Works was completed in October 2019, with a total project cost of €0.7 million. The works involved the demolition of 50 metres of the existing wharf deck and its replacement with a new reinforced concrete wharf structure, remedial works to the existing reinforced concrete piles and the replacement of the existing greenheart fenders with super arch fenders. This project will further enhance the facilities at the port, following on from substantial dredging project completed in 2015.



**West Wharf Remedial Works Phase 4,
Dunmore East FHC
Construction Contract Works in progress 2019**

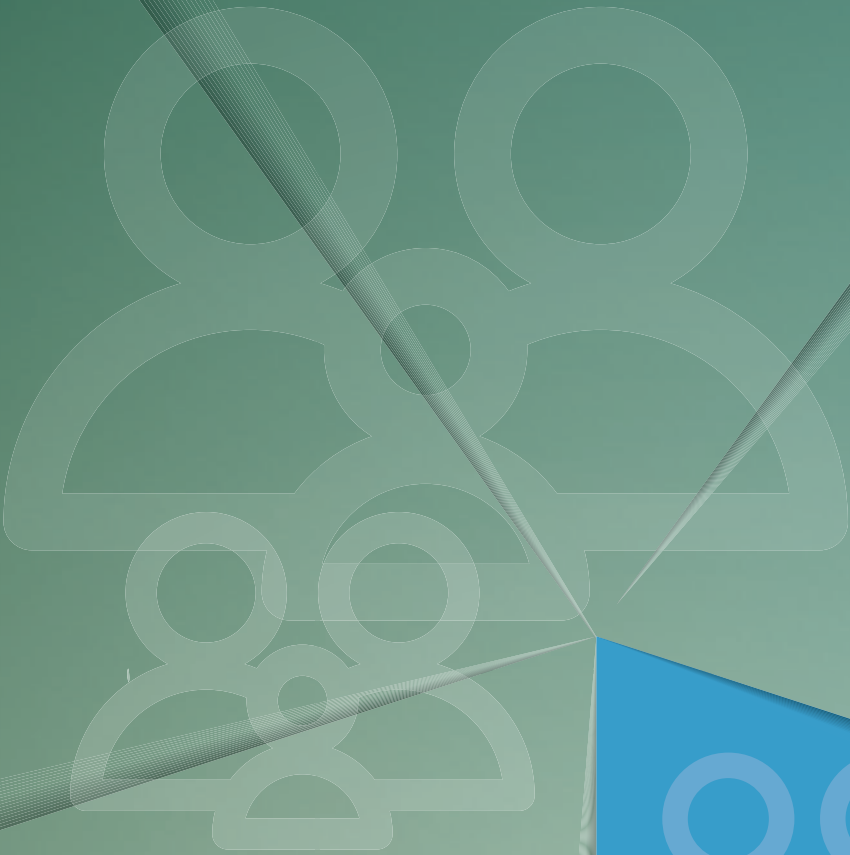
Local Authority Harbour Infrastructure

In 2019, a total of €1.4 million was spent on works at Local Authority owned harbours, piers and slipways under the Fishery Harbour and Coastal Infrastructure Development Programme and the Marine Leisure and Marine Tourism Programme. A total of 33 projects from coastal Local Authorities around the country benefited from the funding.



Strategic Goal Corporate Development

Maintain and develop strategic, operational, regulatory and technical capacity to achieve operational excellence



Financial Management

Overall Expenditure

The Department was responsible for Voted expenditure of over €1.641 billion in 2019. In addition to voted expenditure, the Department spent €1.250.8 billion in EU EAGF funded schemes, bringing total expenditure to €2.8 billion.

Expenditure on Irish Agriculture, 2019	
	1,250.8
Direct Payments	1,204
Intervention/APS	(12)*
Other Market Supports	61.8
Other	(3)
Voted Expenditure (excluding Administration)	1,362
*Programme A – Food Safety, Animal and Plant Health and Animal Welfare	93
*Programme B – Farm/Sector Support and Controls	802
*Programme C – Policy and Strategy	337
*Programme D – Seafood Sector	130
Administration	280
Total Voted Expenditure	1,641
Total Expenditure	2,892.5

*€-12.6 million was as a result of sales of skimmed milk powder in stock

EU Receipts

The Department claimed and received funding from the EU in 2019 in respect of measures financed from the following EU Funds:

EAGF (European Agriculture Guarantee Fund)
Veterinary Fund

EAFRD (European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development)

Financial Management

Summary of EU Receipts in 2018 and 2019		
	2018 €m	2019 €m
EAGF	1,222	1,193
EAFRD*	401	324
Veterinary Fund	10	9
Fisheries (FIFG, EFF, EMFF**)	16	23
Other	1	1
Total	1,650	1,550

* Includes receipts transmitted to the Department of Rural and Community Development

** Advance funding on EMFF not booked to A&A

Financial Controls

The Department operates a comprehensive range of financial management, control and accounting systems to comply with EU, national accounting and governance requirements.

In accordance with stringent EU accreditation requirements, the Department submitted its independently certified annual accounts of expenditure to the EU Commission. The Department's performance as a National Paying Agency continued to be monitored during 2019 by the Accreditation Review Group (ARG). The Secretary General chairs this group which includes representatives from the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, the Revenue Commissioners and the Department of Rural and Community Development. It met on four occasions during 2019. One of the Group's key duties is to ensure that the recommendations of the Certification Body for the previous year are implemented and that all EU audit findings are followed up appropriately.

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee was established to provide independent and objective advice to the Secretary General on the internal audit policies, the management of risk appropriate to the functioning of the Department and the operation of the internal audit function. The Committee operates under a Charter which defines the purpose, authority and reporting

relationships of the Audit Committee, Internal Audit Unit and management of the Department. In 2019 the Committee reviewed and updated this Charter in line with its commitment to periodically review same. The amended Charter reflects internal audit best practice and allows for a greater degree of flexibility in appointing Committee members.

The Committee met four times in 2019 and the Chairman also met with the Secretary General on two separate occasions. In its 2018 Annual Report, which the Chair presented to the Management Board, the Committee expressed satisfaction with the controls operated by the Department as evidenced by the outcome of audits completed by the Internal Audit Unit.

Internal Audit Unit

The Internal Audit Unit (IAU) completed a substantial body of internal, food safety and scrutiny audit work during 2019. The IAU operates in accordance with best practice and the professional internal auditing standards of the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA). It follows a comprehensive and widely recognised approach towards finalising its annual audit programme including consideration of:

- The Department's Risk Register,
- Details of expenditure (national and EU), and
- Consideration of the full audit universe.

Financial Management

During 2019, the Unit completed fifteen internal audit reports on a variety of areas including aspects of the €1.25 billion Basic Payment and Greening Schemes, schemes included under Ireland's €4 billion Rural Development Programme, the Governance of State Bodies and areas within the Department's Information Management Technology framework. The findings from these audits allowed the Director of Internal Audit to indicate in his Annual Report that the "*Secretary General and Management Board can take reasonable assurance that adequate governance arrangements, risk management practices and internal controls are in place and operating effectively across the wide range of schemes and activities audited by the Unit*".

The IAU is represented in a number of different audit networks, including the Heads of Internal Audit Forum, the EU network of audit bodies and the UK Interdepartmental Internal Audit Group. The Director of Internal Audit attends the Department's Accreditation Review Group, Investigations Steering Group and Risk Management Team meetings and acts as a recipient of Protected Disclosures.

Risk Management

Potential high impact, far-reaching, high level risks which carry potentially very serious consequences for the Department, the agri-food sector and, in the wider context, for the public and national interests were identified for each business area. These revised strategic risks were integrated into the Risk Management system operating in the Department and form the platform within the system on which all business and operational risks are identified and recorded.

Risk Management structures in the Department have been strengthened, through the recruitment of staff to the Risk Management Team (Finance Division), the designation of a Risk Officer (Finance Division) and the re-establishment of the Risk Management Committee. Oversight of Risk Management has been enhanced and a project has commenced to replace the current Risk Management Database with a system that is more robust, flexible and easier to use. Development and testing of the eRisk Risk Management System for the

Department, in conjunction with the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer, has been ongoing throughout 2019, with the system and associated training due to be rolled out in the first half of 2020.

CAP Beneficiaries Publication

In accordance with EU Regulation 1306/13 Member States must ensure annual ex-post publication of the beneficiaries of CAP funding for both legal and non-legal persons. Material must be published no later than 31 May each year for payments made in the previous year. The following information is available on the website: -

- The name of the beneficiary, unless the amount of payment under CAP funds was less than €1,250 in which case the individual is identified by a code,
- The municipality where the beneficiary is resident,
- The amount of payment corresponding to each measure (scheme) received by a beneficiary, and The nature and description of each measure

Prompt Payment

During 2019, a total of 127 invoices were paid outside the 30 day period provided for in regulations made under the Prompt Payment of Accounts Act, 1997 and incurred late interest penalties. The total interest plus penalties paid amounted to €10,868. The value of all invoices that were paid late amounted to €544,691 which represents 0.25% of the €220,500,600 total payments falling within the terms of the Regulations.

There is also a requirement since 2009 for Government Departments to pay Irish suppliers within 15 days. Details of this Department's compliance with this requirement are set out in the following table:

Financial Management

Prompt Payments Jan-Dec 2019 Payments made	Number	Value	Percentage
Within 15 days	21,131	€182,323,230	81.68%
Within 16 to 30 days	4,481	€37,511,841	17.32%
In excess of 30 days*	258	€665,529	1.00%
Total	25,870	€220,500,600	100%

* This figure is considerably inflated by invoices where suppliers delayed submitting valid tax clearance certificates in accordance with Revenue requirements. Late interest does not apply to these cases.

Public Procurement

The Central Procurement Unit, established in 2011, supports the Department in undertaking procurements through the dissemination of key policy information, advice and support in the preparation of tenders and other procurement related matters. Through the provision of a training programme across the Department, the Unit has sought to ensure best practice at operational level so that effective value for money is achieved in a compliant manner.

In 2019, the Unit assisted in the establishment of Dynamic Purchasing Systems, provided advice on over fifty Requests for Tender and assessed over eighty requests to procure without a competitive process. The Unit also participated in an Office of Government Procurement (OGP) pilot project and as one of a handful of central government contracting authorities the Department undertook a 'self-serve' mini competition from an OGP framework. When rolled out the pilot will introduce further efficiencies in public procurement.

At the same time, and to ensure that procurement is implemented consistently across the Department, the Unit developed a suite of procurement templates for low value procurements and non-competitive procurements. Throughout 2019 the Unit also undertook a monthly review of registered contracts aimed at identifying non-compliance, facilitating improved financial reporting and closer alignment of Department spends with Office of Government Procurement (OGP) procurement categories.



Staff and Organisational Management

STAFF AND ORGANISATIONAL MANAGEMENT

Workforce Planning and Deployment of Resources

The Department adopts a strategic approach to workforce planning and deployment of resources to ensure a highly skilled, motivated and effective workforce is in place to meet our strategic goals. During 2019, the Department recruited and appointed 570 staff (including replacement staff) across a range of disciplines and professions including economists, a range of science and agriculture focused disciplines, solicitors, veterinarians, and administrators. The Department continuously seeks to build capacity and capability in our workforce through Learning & Development and staff mentoring opportunities. Mobility and staff rotation is also used by the Department to ensure sufficient experienced staff are available to effectively manage succession planning and contingency planning. Mobility encourages managers to embrace resource sharing and succession planning processes, provides strong development opportunities to all staff and develops an adaptable workforce with a wide knowledge base. Regular movement of staff across the Department promotes a culture of sharing new ideas and best practice as well as contributing to a flexible, resilient workforce that can adapt and react within the challenging environment in which we operate.

The Department continues to commit to supporting a positive working environment for all staff that provides equality of opportunities, and an environment that supports family-friendly initiatives and work-life balance. To this end, the Department continued to develop policies and guidance during 2019 to support these objectives in line with the HR Strategy, EveryOne.

During 2019, the Department actively participated in the Whole-of-Government approach to the preparedness and contingency planning for Brexit. The Brexit staffing complement required was assessed based on anticipated throughput volumes at Border Inspection Posts and an estimate of the increased

requirement for import controls and for potential export certification of output from the Agri-Food sector. The Department established a new Import Controls Operations Division with responsibility for implementing frontline control functions arising from Brexit. A combination of recruitment of new staff, temporary redeployment of existing staff and contracts for service were availed of to ensure sufficient resources were available for deployment to this new Division as required. The deployment options used by the Department were with a view to being as flexible as possible, taking the inherent unpredictability of the situation and the need to be prepared for multiple contingencies into account, with these contingencies in turn dependent on ongoing Brexit developments, particularly in the political sphere.

Recruitment

The demand for recruitment to all business streams within the Department, as well as promotions and assignments, remained at high levels throughout the year. Major campaigns were held to recruit Veterinary Inspectors, Technical Agricultural Officers and Assistant Agricultural Inspectors. Several avenues were availed of to meet the anticipated demand for additional resources arising out of Brexit including internal redeployment and the recruitment of significant numbers of Portal Inspectors in particular.

Learning and Development

The Department provided a wide range of Learning and Development opportunities in 2019 in areas such as leadership, management, interpersonal and communication skills, finance, IT, and health and safety.

In this regard, the Department worked closely with One Learning, the Government shared service for Learning and Development, to deliver much of this training via its new Learning Management System (LMS). The launch of this new LMS has now allowed all Government Department staff to directly access a curriculum of 67 individual courses. These courses are designed to meet the needs of a wide variety of staff from junior to senior levels.

Staff and Organisational Management

In addition, the Department continued to deliver a variety of specialist training across a range of technical, agricultural, forestry, veterinary, engineering and scientific areas. One hundred and seventeen Department staff members involved in Official Controls at policy and implementation level attended formal courses provided by the European Commission Better Training for Safer Food (BTSF) Programme and many others undertook BTSF eLearning courses.

There were also considerable number of Learning and Development events delivered in relation to Brexit. These included both induction training for new staff as well as specialized training.

Partnership

Partnership is a co-operative forum of staff, management and union representatives, which has existed in the Department in various forms since 1998. Following a series of Partnership consultations in 2018, a new Terms of Reference designed to renew and reinvigorate Partnership structures in the Department guided Partnership activities in 2019.

The Department's Central Partnership Committee convened three times in 2019, in Agriculture House, Cavan and Portlaoise. A Local Partnership Committee was established in Clonakilty, and a Southern Region staff email network was established. Staff representatives of the Clonakilty LPC and the Southern Region network joined staff representatives from the Department's existing LPCs, in Backweston, Cavan, Johnstown Castle and Portlaoise, at the Central Partnership table. Accommodation Issues, moving from the Departmental Council agenda, and Reports from the Regions were established as standing agenda items for Central Partnership.

Diversity, Equality and Inclusion

The Department is a long-time supporter of facilitating employment opportunities for people with disabilities. The Department has exceeded the 3% minimum employment requirement in each of the last ten years with the level at 3.5% at the end of 2019. The Department supports the AHEAD (Association for Higher Education and Disability) Willing Able Mentoring (WAM) Programme which aims to promote access to

the workplace for graduates with disabilities. During 2019 the Department facilitated four paid and mentored placements under the WAM Programme for suitably qualified candidates. Many former WAM participants have gone on to secure permanent employment.

The Department also participates annually in Job Shadow Day, which is a national project bringing people with disabilities and local employers together for one day to promote equal employment opportunities and highlight the valuable contribution people with disabilities can and do make at work.

During 2019, the Department facilitated three trainee placements on the Oireachtas Work Learning Programme (OWL), an applied learning, development and socialisation programme for young adults with an intellectual disability. The Programme aims to support individuals in developing the skills and confidence which will lead them to access paid employment in the open labour market.

During 2019, and as part of the Equality & Diversity strategy, work was undertaken on procurement of an eLearning course on Equality & Diversity in the Workplace. The eLearning resource, developed specifically for the Irish Public Sector with relevant Irish case studies, addresses various aspects of equality & diversity in the workplace including diversity, unconscious bias, harassment and discrimination.

Conduct and Performance

The tradition of the Department has been one of loyal and impartial service for the benefit of our stakeholders and of the country. In 2019, standards of probity and performance remained high throughout the Department. Such concerns as there were with respect to conduct and performance continued to be managed under the auspices of the Civil Service Disciplinary Code or the *Civil Service management of Underperformance Policy, as appropriate.*

Civil Service Awards

The Civil Service Excellence and Innovation Awards (CSEI) are an annual event established under the Civil Service Renewal Plan which recognizes the

Staff and Organisational Management

achievements of staff across the Civil and Public Service. The Department held an Internal Excellence and Innovation Awards event where the Secretary General recognised the staff involved in working on sixteen different projects. Five of these were submitted to the CSEI Awards with one initiative, “Bee Green - Pollinator Friendly Campus (Backweston)” nominated in the Employee Engagement category.

Another project which was submitted to the CSEI Awards, the “Haulbowline Island Remediation Project” won two other awards outside the CSEI; the “Engineering Project of the Year for 2019” and the “Local Authority Engineering Initiative Award”. In this project, a multi-disciplinary Project Team led by the Department, working closely with Cork County Council oversaw, procured and delivered the complex task of removing any potential threat of hazardous materials at the former steelworks site on Haulbowline Island, Cork Harbour.

Innovation

Innovation is central to Government policy in continuing to develop the Public Service in order to address complex challenges and meet the expectations of society. “Innovation for Our Future” is one of three key pillars of Our Public Service 2020. The Department hosted an Innovation week from 9th – 13th December in conjunction with the inaugural Public Service Innovation Week to encourage positive change in how the Department’s services are provided. A dedicated email continues to be available for staff suggestions for new ideas, ways of working or adapting existing approaches.

Asset Management

The Health and Safety Section provides health and safety training to ensure compliance with statutory requirements and based on Training Need Analyses. In 2019, the courses provided included manual handling, first aid, fire safety management and specialised training for fishery harbour centres, laboratories and farms to include forklift training, abrasive wheel etc. The Section also provided Induction Training to new recruits. With the emphasis on Brexit in 2019 the Section provided health and safety training for staff assigned to Dublin and Rosslare Ports. The Section

also provided advice and support in relation to health and safety requirements for facilities in Dublin Port.

The Health and Safety Section also conducted a number of audits of Department locations and activities in 2019. Audits were conducted in compliance with the Department’s Health and Safety Risk Management System. Other initiatives to progress health and safety risk management in the Department included: Health and Safety Newsletter, New HSRMS Policy Documents and Wellbeing Lunchtime Talks.

Energy Efficiency

The Department is committed to energy efficiency and effective energy management. It is working with the key stakeholders to assist in the delivery of the National target set for the Public Sector of 33% energy efficiency by 2020. The Department has improved its energy efficiency by 36.8% surpassing the target set with 12 months to spare. This was achieved by low cost measures such as behavioural changes in our committed staff, better energy management by our services divisions, and some lighting retrofits. We are already preparing for the 2030 targets of 50% reduction in energy usage from the 2009 baseline and the new carbon reduction of 30%.

All Government Departments and public bodies were required to provide a resource efficiency action plan to their respective Minister on the measures they are taking to minimise waste generation and maximise recycling. The Departments Resource Efficiency Action Plan 2019-2021 was submitted and published in September 2019.

Accommodation and Services Division established Green Teams in each of the Regional Head Offices to engage staff in energy and resource efficiency measures. The Green Team consists of volunteer representatives from management and staff.

The Energy Team has participated in the SEAI Energy MAP Training and workshops to both improve energy management practices and identify opportunities for larger scale works. It is working closely with OPW, high energy users within the Department and bodies under our aegis to establish good energy management practices across the group and increase energy efficiencies.

Staff and Organisational Management

Services Division

Services Division are committed to providing the highest standard of accommodation to all staff, in conjunction with the OPW. An ongoing update of procurement processes are ensuring value for money across a range of services including contract cleaning, waste management, security, records and other areas.

Brexit brought significant challenges and the Division lead the Internal Brexit Infrastructure Working Group which was central to delivering on Brexit Infrastructure across three locations on seven different sites. There have been three different deadlines in 2019 for delivering on Brexit Infrastructure, each posing its own set of challenges.

The Division manages the Department's property portfolio, made up of six main offices, 16 regional offices, four BCPs, other provincial offices, laboratories and field stations with a budget of approximately €10 million annually for associated costs. The Division is responsible for services payments associated with these locations. It monitors and reports on the Department's Energy usage to the SEAI.

Staff of the Division are based in:

- Dublin with responsibility for Agriculture House, Backweston Administration Building, other offices in Dublin city and state inspection facilities at Dublin Port, Rosslare Port and Dublin Airport
- Portlaoise with responsibility for 4 headquarters offices, 16 regional offices, all other provincial offices and 8 laboratories and field stations, and the state inspection facilities at Cork and Rosslare ports and Shannon and Cork airports.
- The Regional Offices are located at Cavan, Cork, Clonakilty, Raphoe, Galway/Athenry, Tralee, Naas, Drumshanbo, Limerick, Castlebar, Navan, Tullamore, Roscommon, Tipperary, Waterford and Enniscorthy.

Farm Safety 2019

Farm safety is a critical issue facing farming today. Statistics show that accidents on farms cause over 40% of all workplace deaths, more than any other sector, while accounting for only 6% of the workforce. Between 2010 and 2019 there were 208 fatal accidents on farms. In 2019, there were 18 fatal farm accidents, with 12 of these accidents occurring to farmers aged 65 or over.

While the Health and Safety Authority (HSA) is the organisation with primary responsibility for securing health and safety at work, the Department has taken a number of steps over recent years, in tandem with some of the other State and industry organisations, to raise awareness of the problem and educate farmers and their families on the dangers of working in this industry.

Through the *Research Stimulus Fund* the Department is funding a farm safety research project entitled: "BESAFE - Behaviours for Safer Farming: The health and safety of farmers is a significant challenge for the social sustainability of Irish agriculture". Though fatality rates have fallen in other industries in the past 20 years, rates in agriculture have remained stubbornly high. Farming is not like other occupations. Farmers commonly work alone for extended periods of time. They self-supervise their work practices and behaviours. Farming involves multiple tasks that can be affected by external factors, e.g. the weather. Given the unique occupational characteristics of farming there is a need to tailor approaches that seek to improve safety. The aim of the BeSafe project is to develop and support the adoption of these approaches thereby effecting positive lasting change.

In addition, a mandatory Health and Safety element is included in the Knowledge Transfer Programme under the 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme. These groups directly engage with farmer participants on the important issue of farm safety. Each of approx 18,000 farmers completed a farm health and safety component for the one to one Farm Improvement Plan completed with their approved facilitator for all three years of the Programme. This builds on the discussions in the Year One meetings on the topic of Health and Safety that each of the approximately 1,100 Knowledge Transfer Groups was required to hold.

Developing IT Capability

DEVELOPING IT CAPABILITY

Major ICT Developments in 2019

The Department is critically dependent on information and communication technology (ICT) for the delivery of its schemes and services. The major ICT developments in 2019 included the following:

IT Infrastructure

The Department provides full ICT infrastructure support for all Department staff including email, Data File Sharing (DFS), network support, telephony (including mobile telephony), remote access, website hosting, server support, desktop productivity software, internet access and anti-virus. It also makes extensive use of virtualisation and data storage technologies.

Cyber Security

In response to the global increase in the threat of malware and computer hacking, the Department has a team dedicated to cyber security using specialist tools, with access to NCSC and external experts if required.

ICT Shared Services

In line with the Public Service ICT Strategy, the Department continues its provision of ICT infrastructure shared services during 2019 which includes:

Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (DCCAE): Full ICT infrastructure support is provided in DCCAE, including hosting of various DCCAE and GSI websites.

Department of the Taoiseach (DoT): This Department continued to provide network support to Department of the Taoiseach. Phone services in DoT are also provided via a Department-hosted Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) phone system, which is managed internally by our ICT staff.

Payroll Shared Service (Department of Public Expenditure and Reform): This Department continues to provide ongoing support, including server maintenance and security for the Government's central payroll facility implemented in 2014. By the end of 2019 this environment paid circa 130,000 current and former civil servants.

The Department provides the Department of Health with phone services via the Department-hosted Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) phone system, which is managed internally by our ICT staff. Shared services are provided for the Department's Non-Commercial State Sponsored Bodies (NCSSBs) at various levels, such as:

- Full ICT email, DFS and network support for the Sea Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA) and provision of software development and maintenance of catch and inspection software systems.
- Data Centre hosting for Teagasc.

Laboratory Services Support

In line with the Strategic Development of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine Laboratories (2019-2028) work has commenced in securing and implementing a modern Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) on behalf of the Laboratory Services.

Payment Schemes

The Department continued to maintain and enhance our I.T. systems which support our various schemes throughout 2019 as follows:

- Basic Payment Scheme (BPS)
- Green, Low-Carbon, Agri-Environment Scheme (GLAS)
- Areas of Natural Constraint (ANC)
- Targeted Agricultural Modernisation Schemes (TAMS II)
- Knowledge Transfer Schemes (KT)
- Beef Data and Genomics Programme (BDGP)
- Organic Farming Scheme (OFS)

Developing IT Capability

- Sheep Welfare Scheme (SWS)
- Young Farmers Scheme (YFS)
- Protein Aid
- Beef Exceptional Aid Measure (BEAM)
- De Minimis Schemes

- BVD Compensation (beef)
- BVD Compensation (dairy)
- Beef Environmental Efficiency Pilot (BEEP)
- Fodder Transport Support Measure
- Fodder Measure for Tillage Farmers 2018
- Kerry Purebred Cattle Scheme
- Sheep EID Tag Subsidy
- Forestry Knowledge Transfer
- Collaborative Farming Grant
- Mart CPR Aid

All Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) applications were submitted using the now mandatory on-line system in 2019. Circa 129,000 applications were received by the closing date of 15th May 2019.

Online facilities were further enhanced to assist farmers to trade their BPS entitlements with 21,140 transfer applications (100% online) being received by the closing date of 15th May 2019. This included the facility for online appeals for National Reserve/Young Farmer Scheme delivered in Q3.

Online facilities were used to enable Entitlement Transfer Facilitators to assist farmers to trade their BPS entitlements. 21,647 Transfer applications (100% online) were received by the closing date of 15 May 2019.

A fundamental redesign of the Areas of Natural Constraint (ANC) payment system was delivered in 2019 to cater for newly categorised eligible land under the ANC redesignation project. This included a new Degressive payment. All applications for ANC were submitted online in 2019 by way of farmers BPS applications. Further to changes in EU Regulations, payments under the ANC scheme were amended to be delivered in two installments, with 85% advance payments issued on 18th September and a 15% balancing payment issued in early December. The total paid under the 2019 ANC Scheme by balancing

payment in December was almost €238 million to 95,000 farmers.

New TAMS schemes functionality to enable applications for solar panel investment was developed during the year.

Functionality was delivered to support the new Bovine Exceptional Aid Measure (BEAM) scheme. Applications for the scheme were 100% online and payments issued on schedule in December 2019.

New energy grants under TAMS were announced in early 2019 with grant aid for solar PV now extended to all sectors and all lighting funded under the scheme will be required to be LED lighting.

The Calf Investment Scheme was announced in December 2019, this scheme supports investments for calf rearing and welfare facilities. The scheme opened in January 2020 with 2,400 applications received under the scheme. Funding of €4 million has been made available.

Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) and Areas of Natural Constraint (ANC)

Following the rollout of full online applications in 2018, all applications for the ANC and BPS schemes were made online in 2019.

Knowledge Transfer Schemes (KT)

The KT Scheme is a fully online scheme and three online systems were developed to administer this scheme. A dedicated online system for scheduling and reporting attendance at meetings and national events together with two purpose built online systems for the Farm Improvement Plan used by advisors and the Animal Health Measures used by vets. In 2019 over 20,500 individual participant payments issued in relation to the scheme.

Developing IT Capability

Sheep Welfare Scheme (SWS)

Year 3 of the Sheep Welfare Scheme opened in February 2019. Advance payments under year 3 of the scheme commenced in November 2019 with payment of €14.91 million issuing to 18,489 applicants.

Land Parcel Identification System (LPIS) Rebuild
The Land Parcel Identification System (LPIS) is the Department's spatial database. It contains over 1.1 million polygons/parcels representing the land holdings of over 130,000 farmers. The system was built on initial digitising of paper maps and was completed in 1995 for the original area-aid scheme. These parcels have been updated and modified on a continual basis since then. The current LPIS system facilitates the administration of payments to farmers under a range of schemes. However, its underlying database/IT infrastructure is now dated, and is in need of a major update.

The objective of the LPIS Rebuild project is to develop a new LPIS that is up-to-date, compatible with best available technologies, fully functional and compliant with regulatory requirements. The new system will be of the standard required for the efficient delivery of EU funded schemes into the future, and will provide an excellent platform to add value to Department's service delivery channels.

As part of the LPIS Rebuild project, existing LPIS data will be transformed to the Ordnance Survey Ireland (OSi) Prime 2 spatial database. Prime 2 was launched in 2015, and is the most up to date and authoritative database of spatial information in Ireland. It is the national mapping standard which allows geographic objects such as land parcels, buildings and roads etc. to be uniquely identified and referenced. The Prime 2 database is a seamless digital database for the entire country.

The latest phase of this modernisation is now underway, and the new LPIS went live for one county in early 2019. It is expected that the remainder of the country will go live on a phased basis, with all counties transformed by 2021.

Along with the LPIS Rebuild project new LPIS imagery is received annually and in accordance with EU Regulations is reviewed to identify any ineligible features which may be contained within LPIS parcels.

Land

The Land Parcel Information system (LPIS) is the Department's spatial database. Each year circa €1.7 billion is paid by the Department to Irish farmers based on the data within LPIS. It contains over 1.3 million polygons/parcels representing the land holdings of over 130,000 farmers. The system was built on now legacy technology and has been the subject of several EU Audits. In 2019, as part of a project to totally rebuild the LPIS systems, the Department completed the process of reviewing and updating existing LPIS data to improve the positional accuracy and align departmental GIS data to Ordnance Survey Ireland (OSi) Prime 2 data in County Louth. The new LPIS data was used for the application and processing of County Louth BPS applications for 2019. The core GIS application that maintains the LPIS data was replaced with a new application which uses newer technology. As part of the development a new workflow application was developed which will replace the older legacy workflow application. The reviewing and updating of more counties commenced in Q4 2019.

Development of the Generic Land Management (GLAM) system which enables the recording of land management plans also continued with the system being used by several EIP-Agri projects.

Forestry

The iFORIS system provides functionality for the processing of all applications for grant aid for forestry. In 2019 development work included: -

The provision of online application processes for Form 1 and Form 2 claims.

Functionality to cater for Mid-term Review Schemes including Woodland Improvement, Deer Fencing and Hare Fencing.

Developing IT Capability

A major overhaul and update of the Appropriate Assessment Procedure for approvals.

Inspections

The Agriculture Field Inspection and Testing (AFIT) system is a shared business system allowing for the coordinated allocation, scheduling, tracking, data entry of inspections and any associated penalty calculations. The system is available nationwide and currently caters for over 120 different inspection types including animal welfare, scheme, ante-mortem in factories and veterinary plant health inspections. Additional functionality was developed to reduce further the paper processes in the field using ruggedised laptops. There was an increased use of GPS devices to ensure more accurate measuring of land parcels.

Animal Identification & Movement (AIM)

The animal identification system support management of the national herds and is used to register animals and trace movements for cattle, sheep, pigs, and goats. This system provides assurance on traceability of animals as part of the overall food supply chain.

The Integrated Fisheries Information System (IFIS)

IFIS is the principal computer system to support the management and control of sea fishing activities and the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). It includes several related systems including the Electronic Recording System (ERS), an on-vessel system (ieCatch), an Inspectors Module (ieInspect) and a customer portal (fishingnet.ie).

As part of the new CFP arrangements the **European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)** programme has been agreed and will run for the life of current CFP to 2020. Under this programme significant computer systems development have been implemented over the period to support monitoring, control and management of sea fishing activity.

During 2019, the Department introduced a new technology platform as part of a technology modernisation programme to support the introduction of improved business processes for the industry and the Department in future years.

The main new services implemented in 2019 included –

- Quota Balancing System to facilitate the adjustment of future quota allocations to address where a vessel has exceeded its allocated quota
 - Enhancements to the Pelagic Fisheries Quota balancing system.
 - Development of a Demersal quota balancing system
- Commencement of a customer portal to provide online services to Fishers.
- Updates to the technical format for the exchange of information as required under EU Regulation.

The introduction of a system to perform cross-checking analyses and verifications of data through automated computerised algorithms and mechanisms on sea fishing declarations for the Sea Fisheries Protection Authority.

Main Sea Fisheries functions processed in IFIS in 2019

Sea Fisheries Transaction/Activity	Total Processed
Vessel Positions	4,900,000
Fisheries Sales Notes	143,065
Log Sheets	34,642
Fishing Activity Reports	114,081
Landing Declarations	10,386
Fleet Details (to EU)	564
Inspections	2,630
Fish Quotas Managed	193,606 tonnes
Fishing Authorisations/Amendments Issued	997
Fisheries Management Notices Issued	60
Licence Offer Letters issued	256
New Licences Issued	248
Non-Operative Licences Issued	183
Licence Renewals Issued	2,853
Licence of Traditional Pot Fishing Boats	245
Licence for RSW Pelagic Segment	23

Developing IT Capability

Financial Management System – SAP

The Department's SAP Financial Management System is a key component of ensuring that the Department maintains its Accredited EU Paying Agency Status. The new system enhancements and business process improvements delivered during 2019 include -

- Collections Management: Further refinement added to the work list generation, promise to pay and statistical reporting features
- Paperless output option: An additional 10,000 farmers enabled for the paperless Remittance Advice solution thereby removing all from receiving paper output
- Financial Reporting: Extra functionality included into the reporting solution to facilitate the collation of the Fisheries Harbour Fund account
- Banking Services: The switchover to a new banking services provider was successfully completed
- Purchasing: Revised purchasing controls introduced, and new reporting elements added ISO27001 Information Security & GDPR: Implemented controlled access to cleared financial documents 7 years and older.
- Technical upgrade: SAP Solution Manager System upgraded to version 7.2

During 2019, the SAP system processed over one million payments to farmers/vendors. Over 30,000 purchase orders were created for goods/services received and some 35,000 sales invoices were issued for services provided.

The usage of Financial Self Service (FSS) application that allows farmer/vendor clients to view their accounting information on-line and print a Statement/Remittance advice continues to increase with over 60,000 farmers/vendors having accessed the FSS application by the end of 2019.

Online Services/Promotions

Several promotion activities were conducted in 2019 to highlight the benefits of the Department's online services portal www.agfood.ie, and the number of farmers registered to use online services continued to increase. At year end, some 124,947 farmers were registered for agfood services either as individuals or through their agents, representing over 98% of all farmers (127,023 BPS 2019 applicants).

SMS Messaging -SMS offers a cost effective and efficient means of communication to alert farmers and other clients on topics of interest including various scheme closure dates, payment dates, etc. In total, 1,782,754 text messages issued to Farmers and other customers in 2019 on a wide range of issues.

At end of 2019, over 140,000 clients (including Farmers) had provided their mobile phone numbers to the Department and had also permitted use of those numbers for the Department messages and alerts.

Transactional SMS - The facility enabling the automated electronic based linking of farmers to their agents for various schemes, using agfood.ie and interactive SMS, resulted in successful linking of more than 20,554 farmers to agents and farmers to partners using this method in 2019, saving time and administrative burden for farmers, agents and the Department. There were 153,395 notifications to Customers, these included BPS notifications, AIM Tag enquiry replies, etc.

Department Websites

During 2019, further improvements were made to the Departments' website www.agriculture.gov.ie and a number of related sub-sites to enhance usability for readers and visitors. This included a redesigned main website homepage and Brexit page to simplify access to import information on the site.

Developing IT Capability

A new search engine was implemented across multiple websites offering fast and accurate search results for users.

Technical improvements were made on several sub-sites to optimise these for viewing on mobile devices to improve access to available information. Various parts of the main website were amended to improve the organisation of information on the website to make it more readily accessible.

A new website www.marketaccess.ie was launched to assist exporters by listing the various market access requirements that must be met to successfully export goods to certain countries.

Small Systems Support

In addition to the larger corporate level systems, the Department provides many smaller systems (90+) that support important business functions across many divisions of the Department and this centralised initiative ensures full lifecycle ICT support for these systems.

Examples of business functions supported include: Beef Prices (Carcass and Live), Nitrates, Veterinary Medicines, Seed Potatoes, Vegetable Marketing/Plant Health, Pesticides/Biocides, Compound Feeding Stuffs, Fallen Animal System, Risk Management System, Agricultural/Forestry Appeals, Rostering for Veterinary Inspectors at Meat Plants, Business Collaboration functions (Lotus Notes), Inter-System connectivity (BizTalk); and Windows 10 upgrade support across a range of systems and technologies to ensure continuity.

Data Analytics

The Information Management and Technology Statement of Strategy 2017 – 2020, recognises that data is a key asset to the Department, the value of which, without compromising security or integrity, should be exploited to enhance and support analysis and decision making in the Department as a whole. A Data Analytics Unit was established in 2017 to provide a platform for data analysts and business users to work

together to create business models which would yield actionable results which can feed into decision making and policy making in the Agri-Food sector.

In 2019, this unit was expanded, and a number of modelling exercises were carried out in the areas of Animal Health and Welfare, Economics and Planning, the Environment and Brexit.

Brexit Systems

The IMT Brexit Project Development team was established in late 2018 to define the requirements and put in place appropriate technology and information systems to support the Department in carrying out the increased volumes of Sanitary and Phytosanitary control inspections expected at EU/Third Country borders in the event of the UK's exit from the EU.

In 2019, two IMT Systems, an Inspection Import Notification System (INIS) and an Export Certification System (ECS), were rapidly developed and equipment and network connectivity were installed at several locations in Dublin port for the initial UK exit date of March 29 2020.

These systems were further refined and enhanced throughout 2019 as extensions were granted and network connectivity was also installed in Rosslare Port.

Work will continue in 2020 to enhance these systems further to meet the requirements of the end of the post Brexit transitional period as well as providing functionality that can be used to support imports and exports from other 3rd countries.

The Enterprise Programme Management Office (EPMO) was established in Spring 2018. Its role is to support internal Business Divisions to align their Programmes and Projects to the Strategic Objectives, Priorities and Business Planning processes of the Department. Currently the EPMO is supporting the Laboratories Programme, The Food Safety and Authenticity Programme and approximately 10 individual projects drawn from various Divisions throughout the Department.

Corporate Affairs

CORPORATE AFFAIRS

Public Sector Duty

Under the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act, 2014, all public bodies are statutorily obliged to have regard to human rights and equality issues in the performance of their functions.

In this regard the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine has incorporated the following values in its Statement of Strategy 2016 – 2019:

A strong commitment to diversity, gender equality and the fair and equal treatment of all, a deep-rooted public service ethos of independence, integrity and impartiality.

The Department has established a Working Group at senior level which works on an assessment of human rights and equality issues relevant to its functions.

Protected Disclosures Act 2014

Two protected disclosures were made in 2019. Both cases were ongoing at the end of the year.

Helping Bereaved Families/Inheritance Enquiry Unit

The Department provides a service to assist bereaved farm families who have suffered a sudden loss and who may not have experience in dealing with the type of day-to-day issues that might bring them into contact with the Department in relation to schemes and services.

The Inheritance Enquiry Unit continues to advise and assist the families and legal representatives of deceased farmers in the process of transferring agricultural schemes and the issuing of outstanding payments. In 2019, it responded to requests for assistance from 1701 families and released a total of €14.6 million in payments to the estates of deceased farmers.

Customer Service

15 customer service complaints were received by the Department's Quality Service Unit in 2019 and were examined and responded to in line with Department's

customer complaints procedure. This represents a 50% decrease in complaints compared to 2018.

Office of the Ombudsman

The Department responded to a total of 42 individual cases from the Office of the Ombudsman in 2019.

Freedom of Information (FOI)

A total of 381 FOI applications were received during 2019.

Access to Information on the Environment (AIE) Regulations

A total of 69 Environmental Information Requests were received under AIE Regulations in 2019, an increase of 16% from the 59 received the previous year.

Farmers' Charter of Rights

The Farmers' Charter of Rights 2015-2020 sets out specific delivery targets to our farmer customers and covers the various schemes operated by the Department. The Farmers' Charter continues our commitment to the principles of Quality Customer Service set out in our Customer Charter and Customer Action Plan 2015 - 2020.

Progress under the Charter is overseen by a monitoring committee under an independent chairperson. The committee is comprised of representatives of farm organisations and Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine staff. The monitoring committee met on four occasions in 2019.

The Agriculture Appeals Office

The Agriculture Appeals Office provides a free, independent, statutory appeals service to farmers who are dissatisfied with decisions in relation to their entitlements under the agriculture schemes set out in Schedule 1 to the Agriculture Appeals Act, 2001. Appeals Officers and the Director of Agriculture Appeals have an independent legal status provided in the Agriculture Appeals Act, 2001. The Office's Annual Reports are on the website: www.agriappeals.gov.ie

Corporate Affairs

In 2019, the Office received 570 agriculture appeals, an increase of 2.5% on 2018. 491 cases were closed in 2019 which included appeals outstanding from previous years. A summary of the outcome of cases received and decided in 2019 is as follows:

Outcome of agriculture appeals closed in 2019

Appeals Allowed, Partially Allowed or Revised by the Department	44%
Appeals Withdrawn, Invalid and Out of Time	13%
Disallowed	43%

Forestry Licence Appeals Service

The Forestry Appeals Committee (FAC) considers appeals against decisions by the Department with regard to applications for forestry licences. A total of 712 appeals relating to 372 individual forestry licences were received by the Office by the end of 2019.

Review of the Agriculture Appeals Act, 2001

The Programme for a Partnership Government (2016) included a commitment to review the Agriculture Appeals Act, 2002. The Report of the Review committee was published in 2018. A number of the key recommendations require amendments to the Act which have not yet been possible.

Investigations Division

The Department is the principal regulator of the agri-food sector. Investigations Division is a key element of the Department's enforcement capability, underpinning the quality and traceability standards which facilitate trade and provide reassurance to consumers and customers.

Investigations undertaken principally relate to alleged offences concerning the bovine disease eradication schemes, animal identification and movement

requirements, public health issues, animal welfare, the use/supply of illegal substances in animal production and the inappropriate use and/or supply of animal remedies. The investigations undertaken represent the most serious elements of non-compliance.

The Division can investigate alleged wrongdoing across all areas of the Department and offers assistance to Divisions regarding potential fraud and/or illegality cases and in relation to any limitations with regard to their current governing legislation. Where genuine weaknesses arise, as cases are tested in the courts, the Division engages with Legal Services Division and the relevant Divisions to ensure that legislation continues to support the Department's regulatory functions appropriately.

Investigations Division also works regularly with external agencies, e.g., An Garda Síochána, Customs authorities, DAERA, PSNI, IGB, IHRB, international authorities and regulatory bodies.

In 2018, a review of investigations and prosecutions within the Department was commissioned to identify how the Department's Investigations Division can best support the strategic objectives of the Department and the wider agri-food sector. Implementation of the recommendations of that review commenced during 2019. The conduct of investigations is guided and governed by Investigations Division's Code of Practice (COP) for the Conduct of Investigations, which outlines the requirements and approach taken by the Division when conducting investigations.

The Head of Investigations Division is supported by a small multi-disciplinary team of investigators and support staff. Oversight of the Division is conducted by a Steering Group which reviews aspects of governance, strategy, practices and procedures in the Division.

During 2019, 31 official investigations were initiated by the Division; in 2018, 29 investigations were officially logged by the Division.

Communication Unit

COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

Engaging, consulting and communicating with citizens, customers and stakeholders is integral to delivering the Department's strategic objectives. Over the course of the year, the Department undertook public consultations across a range of policy areas, including a consultation on a National Climate & Air Roadmap for the Agriculture Sector to 2030 and Beyond. Consultation on the future of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) included a series of town hall events and the establishment of a new CAP post-2020 Consultative Committee to provide a forum for stakeholders to share their views and remain updated as the CAP reform discussions progressed. The department also hosted an open policy forum where some 400 delegates came together to discuss the next Agri-Food Strategy to 2030.

During the year, the Department undertook public information campaigns in relation to our schemes, services and policies. This included working closely with the Department of the Taoiseach and other Government Departments to deliver a Brexit preparedness information campaign, including activity across print and digital media. As part of this campaign, the Department hosted a series of workshops – Brexit: Practical steps to keep agri-food trade moving - for agri-food businesses of all sizes and their logistics companies, retailers and transport companies to assist businesses to take steps to ensure their goods would move efficiently through ports after the UK's departure from the EU.

New schemes and strategies, including our Plant Health and Biosecurity Strategy, which sets out the importance of plant health and biosecurity for Ireland as well as ensuring that all relevant stakeholders are aware of the risks to plant health in Ireland, and their role and responsibilities to reduce that risk, were publicised.



Data Management

DATA MANAGEMENT

Information Security

The Department was successfully accredited with ISO 27001:2013 Information Security certification in August 2016 and recertified as mandated by the EU in 2019. Over 800 staff received Information Security awareness training in 2019, this training updated staff with regards to the security and protection of the Department's data and ensures ongoing compliance with the ISO 27001 standard as it reinforces the best practice principles of Information Security.

Data Protection

A total of 33 Subject Access Requests were received in 2019 under Article 15 of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), an increase of 22% on the previous year.

In early 2019 the GDPR Project Group amalgamated with an ISO Data Security Project Group as both groups were working towards similar goals and objectives. This Project Group was renamed as the Data Management Division (DMD) Project Group.

This Group met 6 times in 2019 and continued its work to ensure a high level of compliance with the GDPR and with ISO 27001:2013 Information Security standards.

A data protection awareness programme was introduced in 2018 which included an on-line training course. Circa 2400 staff received Data Protection training in 2019 and targeted workshops were held to provide more in-depth training to key contact staff (Information Officers) in each Division, to ensure they have a higher level of understanding of Data Protection challenges. This enables targeted staff to assist with queries in their Divisions and provide the information needed for the Department's Record of Processing Activity, in accordance with Article 30 of the GDPR. In 2019 the Data Protection Unit proactively prepared the Department for the possibility of Brexit and has endeavored to put in place relevant Data Protection safeguards to ensure that the duties of the Department can continue post Brexit.

Records Management System

Work continued in 2019 to formally put in place a project plan and structure to progress the implementation of a standardised records management policy and infrastructure in the Department (eDocs).

Informational sessions around the new records management system were delivered to over 900 Department staff in offices around the country. eDocs was rolled out to 11 divisions across the Department in 2019 as part of a pilot project to assess the level of work involved and streamline the procedures going forward. Continued roll out is planned for 2020 with a view to having all divisions within the Department using eDocs by end of 2021.

Customer Relationship Management

The Department has made the strategic decision to replace the legacy software applications, currently running the Department's Contact Centres, with a unified Customer Engagement Contact Centre application. This strategic decision is also in tandem with one of the major themes of the Civil Service Renewal Plan to "Foster a sense of excellent customer service."

As a result, new Direct Payments Customer Engagement Contact Centres (in Portlaoise and Wexford) went live in October 2019 and has been positively welcomed by both internal staff and clients of the Department.

The introduction of the new Customer Engagement Contact Centres has enhanced the Department's customer service by:

- Offering a unified service experience across self-service and assisted service channels (e.g. phone, email and online queries). This unified solution provides consistency and full visibility of our clients interactions with the Contact Centres, which drives higher customer satisfaction and increased productivity.

Data Management

- Providing a better understanding of customers' interaction history and a snapshot of their activities with the Department.
- Providing enhanced integration of ICT systems thus reducing the unnecessary duplication of calls/queries.
- Leveraging insights and resources to create individualised and consistent experiences across all channels.
- Providing a more holistic view of the customer and the facility allows us to ensure we are being responsive to the customers' needs through improved monitoring of customer queries, especially at peak application/payment times.
- Improved inter connectivity between the 1st Level Contact Centres and the other compatible divisions across the Department. Real time connectivity to other internal Department systems facilitates more enhanced customer service, and ultimately providing a single integrated view of the customer.
- Improved reporting and forecasting functionality in respect of customer queries.

The introduction of a new and improved Contact Centre has enhanced our service delivery to our customers and will mitigate reputational risks to the Department. In addition, the Department is committed to continually streamlining, simplifying and improving our customers' interactions with the Department. To this end, a formal Lessons Learnt exercise is planned for Q2 2020. As part of Phase 2 of this project, the Contact Centre system will be implemented into the Oireachtas Liaison Unit (OLU), Regional Veterinary Offices network and the IT Helpdesk.

Appendix A - Organisation of the Department

Organisation of the Department as at 31 December 2019

The senior management team is the Management Board. This is headed by Brendan Gleeson, Secretary General and comprises eight Assistant Secretaries General/Directors, the Chief Veterinary Officer, the Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer, the Chief Inspector, and the Director of Laboratory Services.

MB/Director	Deputy	Function	Head of Division	Location
Cecil Beamish Seafood and Marine		Aquaculture & Foreshore Management	John Quinlan	Clonakilty
		Marine Programmes	Paschal Hayes	Clonakilty
		Marine Engineering	Noel Clancy	Clonakilty
		Sea Fisheries Administration	Kevin Moriarty	Clonakilty
		Seafood Policy and Development	Josephine Kelly	Clonakilty
Martin Blake Chief Veterinary Officer		Animal Health & Welfare	Vacant	
		Import Controls (Operations) Division	Hazel Sheridan	Dublin
		National Disease Control Centre, Border Inspection Posts Policy, Veterinary Internal Audit	June Fanning	Dublin
	Michael Sheahan Director of Operations	Business Systems Co-ordination & Development	Stephen Fitzpatrick	Dublin
		Veterinary Public Health Implementation	Peter Maher	Regions
		Veterinary Northern Area Management Team	Jarlath O'Connor	Regions
		Veterinary Southern Area Management Team	Eilish O'Brien	Backweston
		ERAD, Veterinary Medicines, and Veterinary Council of Ireland	Colm Forde	Backweston
		Ruminant Animal Health & ERAD, Premises Registration & Animal ID	Eoin Ryan	Backweston

Appendix A - Organisation of the Department

MB/Director	Deputy	Function	Head of Division	Location
	Paula Barry-Walsh VPHIS Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer	Surveillance, Animal By-Products and TSEs	Paul Corkery	Backweston
		Animal Welfare, Animal Meds & AMR	Robert Doyle	Backweston
		Trade & Vet Certification	Dave Nolan	Dublin
		Animal Identification & Movement	Martin Farrell	Backweston
		Milk & Meat Hygiene & Animal By- Products	Bernie Brennan	Portlaoise
		Veterinary Public Health Policy	Joe O'Flaherty	Dublin
Donal Sammin Director of Laboratories	James Choiseul Head of Agricultural Labs	Bacteriology/Parasitology	Maire McElroy	Backweston
		Food Chemistry	Jim Garvey	Backweston
		Pathology	John Moriarty	Backweston
		Plant Science Division	AnnMarie Dillon	Backweston
		Regional Veterinary Labs & Blood Testing Lab	Michael Casey	Backweston
		Food Microbiology	Montserrat Gutierrez	Backweston
		Virology	Ronan O'Neill	Backweston
Bill Callanan Chief Inspector	Donal Coleman Director	Climate Change & Bioenergy Policy	Edwina Love	Portlaoise
		Livestock Breeding, Production & Trade	Gerry Greally	Portlaoise, Cavan
		Nitrates, Biodiversity & Engineering	Jack Nolan	Wexford, Portlaoise
		Research, Food & Codex	Richard Howell	Dublin
		Pesticides Controls	Tom Medlycott	Backweston
		Pesticides Registration	Aidan Moody	Backweston

Appendix A - Organisation of the Department

MB/Director	Deputy	Function	Head of Division	Location
		Plant Health & Horticulture	Barry Delany	Backweston
		Feedstuffs, Fertilisers, Grain and Poultry	Sheila Nolan	Backweston
		Crops Evaluation & Certification	Michael Moloney	Backweston
Paul Savage International & Brexit		EU Division	Sharon Murphy	Dublin
		Brexit & International Trade	Louise Byrne	Dublin
		CAP Rural Development	Corina Roe	Dublin
		Permanent Representation Brussels	Breffini Carpenter	Brussels
		Agricultural Counsellor	Damien Flynn	London
Sinead McPhillips Agri-Food Strategy		Food Industry Development	Vacant	Dublin
		Meat & Milk Policy	Maria Dunne	Dublin
		Economics & Planning	Seán Bell	Dublin
		Dairy Controls	Nicholas Finnerty	Dublin
Eilis O'Connell HR & Corporate Communications		Services, Health & Safety, Management Services	Heber McMahon	Dublin, Portlaoise
		Corporate Affairs, F.O.I, Minister's Office	Padraig McMahon	Dublin, Portlaoise
		Human Resources	Kevin Galligan	Dublin, Portlaoise
		Legal Services	John Kinsella	Dublin, Cavan
		Data Management	Darren Murray	Dublin
		Communications	Meg Laffan	Dublin
		Investigations Division	Tim Drea	Backweston

Appendix A - Organisation of the Department

MB/Director	Deputy	Function	Head of Division	Location
Sean Keevey Information Management Technology		IMT Animal, Customer, Financials & Fisheries Systems	Joe Hanly	Dublin, Portlaoise, Backweston
		IMT Direct Farm Payment Systems	Alan King	Dublin, Portlaoise
		IMT Infrastructure	Seán Connolly	Dublin
		IMT Co-ordination & PMO	Louise Jevens	Dublin
Kevin Smyth Governance		Accounts	Colm McKiernan	Cavan
		Agriculture Appeals	Angela Robinson	Portlaoise
		Finance Division & Central Procurement Unit	Martin Crowley	Dublin, Portlaoise
		Internal Audit Group	Gordon Conroy	Dublin, Portlaoise
		Horse & Greyhound Racing & Teagasc	Rebecca Chapman	Dublin Cavan
Colm Hayes Rural Development		Agricultural Environment & Structures	Eoin O'Brien	Wexford
		Forest Service	Patricia Kelly	Wexford
		Forest Sector Development/COFORD	Fergus Moore	Dublin
		Forest Service Inspectorate	Seamus Dunne	Dublin
		Organics, Market Supports & Locally Led	Bridgeena Nolan	Wexford
		Agri Environment & On Farm Investment	Miriam Cadwell	Wexford
Paul Dillon Direct Payments		BPS (Inspections; Financial Control; Policy Co-ordination)	Paul McKiernan	Portlaoise
		Basic Payment Scheme (Operations)	Fintan O'Brien	Portlaoise
		CAP Entitlements & Financial Controls	Francis Morrin	Portlaoise
		Direct Payments Integrated Controls	Thomas Keating	Dublin

Appendix B - State Bodies

Aquaculture Licences Appeals Board

Kilminchy Court
Dublin Road
Portlaoise
Co. Laois
R32 DTW5
Tel: 057 863 1912
Email: info@alab.ie

This is an independent board which handles the appeals process for aquaculture licensing. All Board members are engaged on a part-time basis. A person aggrieved by a decision of the Minister on an application for an aquaculture licence or by the revocation or amendment of an aquaculture licence may, make an appeal to the Board in writing within one month of the publication or notification of such a decision, revocation or amendment.

Bord Bia

Clanwilliam Court
Lower Mount Street
Dublin 2
D02 A344
Tel: 01 668 5155
Website: www.bordbia.ie

Bord Bia promotes, assists and develops the marketing of Irish food including drink, seafood and livestock and the production, marketing and consumption of horticultural produce.

It operates quality assurance schemes for beef, pork and bacon, horticultural and egg products. In response to growing demand from international customers for quality assured, sustainable food and drink products, Bord Bia developed Origin Green – a world-first, nationwide sustainability programme for the entire Irish food and drink industry.

With its headquarters in Dublin, Bord Bia has a network of overseas offices in Amsterdam, Dubai, Dusseldorf, Lagos, London, Madrid, Milan, Moscow, New York, Paris, Shanghai (Asia Office), Singapore, Stockholm, Tokyo and Warsaw.

Bord Iascaigh Mhara

Crofton Road
Dun Laoghaire
Co. Dublin
A96 E5AO
Tel: 01 214 4100
Website: www.bim.ie

Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM), the Irish Sea Fisheries Board, is the Irish State agency with responsibility for developing sustainable Irish Sea Fishing and Aquaculture industries. BIM was established under the Sea Fisheries Act 1952. BIM provides a range of services including advisory, financial, technical, marketing and training supports to all sectors of the Irish seafood industry. BIM's primary objective is to expand the volume, quality and value of output from the seafood and aquaculture sectors by focusing on the opportunities for growth in these sectors while promoting responsible environmental practices.

Bord na gCon

Green Park
Dock Road
Limerick
V94 Y17X
Tel: 061 448000
Website: www.igb.ie

Bord na gCon is a commercial state body, established under the Greyhound Industry Act, 1958, chiefly to control greyhound racing and to improve and develop the greyhound industry. Bord na gCon regulates all aspects of greyhound racing in Ireland including the licensing of the different tracks, the issuing of permits to officials, bookmakers, trainers and the implementation of the rules of racing.

Appendix B - State Bodies

Coillte CGA

The Irish Forestry Board
Newtownmountkennedy
Co Wicklow
A63 DN25
Tel: 01 201 1111
Website: www.coillte.ie

Coillte CGA is a private limited company, which operates in forestry and related activities on a commercial basis. The company is co-owned by the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform and the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine. The company was established under the Forestry Act, 1988 which sets out its objectives and duties.

Horse Racing Ireland

Ballymany
The Curragh
Co Kildare
R56 XE37
Tel: 045 455455
Website: www.hri.ie

Horse Racing Ireland (HRI) is a commercial state body, established under the Horse and Greyhound Racing Act 2001. Horse Racing Ireland is the national authority for horse racing in Ireland and is responsible for the overall administration, promotion and development of the industry.

Irish National Stud Company Ltd

Tully
Kildare
R51 KX25
Tel: 045 521251
Website: www.irish-national-stud.ie

The Irish National Stud Co. Ltd keeps a range of top class stallions with a view to making quality bloodlines available to the thoroughbred horse industry in Ireland. The Japanese Gardens and St. Fiachra's Garden, both of which are located on the grounds of the Stud, plus the opportunity for visitors to view the horses standing at the Stud have proven to be a major tourist attraction through the years. The Stud also engages in farming activities and trains people for employment in the bloodstock sector.

Marine Institute

Rinville
Oranmore
Co. Galway
H91 R673
Tel: 091 387200
Website: www.marine.ie

The Marine Institute (MI) is the national agency with responsibility for Marine Research, Technology Development and Innovation (RTDI). The Institute was established under the 1991 Marine Institute Act. The role of the MI is to promote the sustainable development of marine industry through strategic funding programmes and essential scientific services that safeguard the marine environment through research and environmental monitoring. The Institute undertakes and co-ordinates marine research and development that has the potential to promote economic development, create employment and protect the marine environment.

National Milk Agency

Holly Park Studio
Holly Park Avenue
Blackrock
Co. Dublin
A94 R6F7
Tel: 01 660 3396
Website: www.nationalmilkagency.ie

The National Milk Agency was established in 1994 under the Milk (Regulation of Supply) Act, 1994 and is responsible for the regulation of the supply of milk for liquid consumption throughout the State. It is funded by means of a statutory levy on milk used for liquid consumption.

The chairman of the Agency is appointed by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine. Five members of the Agency are directly elected by registered producers while the other members are appointed by the Minister following nominations from designated organisations.

Appendix B - State Bodies

Teagasc

Agriculture and Food Development Authority

Oak Park
Carlow
R93 XE12
Tel: 059 917 0200
Website: www.teagasc.ie

Teagasc – the Agriculture and Food Development Authority – is the national body providing integrated research, advisory and training services to the agriculture and food industry and rural communities. Established under the Agriculture (Research, Training and Advice) Act 1988, its mission is to support science-based innovation in the agri-food sector and wider bio-economy so as to underpin profitability, competitiveness and sustainability. It is governed by an eleven-member Authority appointed by the Minister for Agriculture, Food & the Marine and has representatives from the farming organisations, the food industry, the universities, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and Teagasc staff.

The Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA)

National Seafood Centre
Clonakilty
Co. Cork
P85 TX47
Tel: 023 885 9300
Website: www.sfpa.ie

The SFPA is the statutory authority responsible for the enforcement of sea-fisheries protection and seafood safety legislation in Ireland and throughout Ireland's exclusive fishing limits. It was established on 1 January 2007 under the Sea-Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006 and its principal responsibilities are to enforce Sea Fisheries legislation and Seafood Safety legislation fairly and consistently and to ensure that the marine fish and shellfish resources from the waters around Ireland are managed sustainably and may be consumed safely for the long term benefit of all.

Veterinary Council of Ireland

53 Landsdowne Road
Ballsbridge
Dublin 4
D04 NY29
Tel: 01 668 4402
Website: www.vei.ie

The Veterinary Council of Ireland which regulates the practice of veterinary medicine was established on 1 January 2006 under section 11 of the Veterinary Practice Act 2005. It has 19 members which reflects interests such as education, animal welfare, consumers and food safety and a balance as between veterinarians and others. The principal function of the Council is to regulate and manage the practice of veterinary medicine and veterinary nursing in the State in the public interest.

Appendix C - VOTE 30 - 2019

		€000
Administration		280,002
i	SALARIES, WAGES AND ALLOWANCES	180,355
ii	TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE	9,002
iii	TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT AND INCIDENTAL EXPENSES	5,305
iv	POSTAL AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES	4,547
v	OFFICE EQUIPMENT AND EXTERNAL IT SERVICES	37,106
vi	OFFICE PREMISES EXPENSES	36,702
vii	CONSULTANCY SERVICES AND VALUE FOR MONEY AND POLICY REVIEWS	92
viii	SUPPLEMENTARY MEASURES TO PROTECT THE FINANCIAL INTERESTS OF THE EU	760
ix	LABORATORY SERVICES	6,133
A.	Food Safety, Animal and Plant Health and Animal Welfare	93,039
A.3	Food Safety, Animal and Plant Health and Animal Welfare	93,039
	TB & Brucellosis Eradication	37,544
	TVIs Meat Inspection	23,738
	Fallen Animals Scheme	7,615
	Animal Identification and Movement	7,925
	Vet. Testing & Research	4,984
	Animal Welfare incl. Control of Horses	3,579
	Other Animals Dis. Measures	3,154
	Pesticide / Plant Protect	1,159
	BSE Comp. & Related Costs and Testing	1,053
	Scrapie	307
	Other	1,981
B.	Farm/Sector Support and Controls	801,581
B.3	Agri-environmental Schemes	236,500
	GLAS	213,799
	Organic Farming Scheme	9,377
	Locally Led Agri-Environment Schemes	9,614
	Other	3,711
B.4	Areas of Natural Constraint Scheme	248,552
B.5	Development of Agriculture and Food (Farm)	83,650
	Targeted Agricultural Modernisation Scheme (TAMs)	76,519
	Horticulture Industry	5,834
	Organic Sector	897
	Other	400

Appendix C - VOTE 30 - 2019

		€000
B.6	Beef Sustainability Schemes	87,108
	BDGP (Beef Data & Genomics Programme)	43,403
	BEAM (Beef Exceptional Aid Measure)	27,149
	BEEP (Beef Environmental Efficiency Pilot)	16,556
B.7	Knowledge Transfer	22,167
B.8	Animal Welfare Scheme for Sheep	17,382
B.9	Early Retirement Scheme	187
B.10	Forestry and Bio Energy	89,732
	Afforestation	80,151
	Forestry Support Scheme	8,786
	Forestry Development	670
	Other	125
B.11	Control & Other Support Scheme Costs	14,213
B.12	Other Schemes	2,090
C.	Policy and Strategy	336,685
C.3	Research Quality & Certification	25,161
	Quality Assurance Scheme	6,400
	R&D in the Food Sector	7,700
	Research Stimulus Fund	5,334
	Forestry Research	1,419
	Livestock Breeding incl ICBF	2,294
	Equine Breeding	714
	Other	1,301
C.4	Development and Promotion of Agriculture and Food (Non Farm)	7,550
	Food Industry Schemes incl PCF Centre	4,591
	Food & Hort. Promotion Prog.	2,045
	Other	914
C.5	Teagasc Grant	134,673
C.6	An Bord Bia Grant	44,844
C.7	Horse and Greyhound Racing Fund	84,000
	Horse Racing Ireland	67,200
	Bord ná gCon	16,800
C.8	Cedra Rural Innovation & Development Fund	1,486

Appendix C - VOTE 30 - 2019

		€000
C.9	Food and Donations – World Food Programme	25,300
C.10	Other Services	13,671
	International Cooperation	3,641
	General Legal Expenses	1,371
	Non-Thoroughbred Hrse. Ind.	2,996
	Misc. Pension Payments	1,641
	Rural Dev. Technical Assist	1,368
	Johnstown Castle Restoration project	1,020
	Other	1,634
D.	Seafood Sector	129,801
D.3	Fisheries	41,562
	Dev. & Upgrading of Harbours for Fisheries	29,362
	Seafood Development Programme	9,753
	Environmental Compliance	1,904
	Other	543
D.4	Marine Institute Grant	34,926
D.5	Bord Iascaigh Mhara Grant	38,195
D.6	Sea Fisheries Protection Authority	13,005
D.7	Haulbowline Remediation Project	2,113
	Total Gross Voted Expenditure	1,641,108

Appendix C - VOTE 30 - 2019

		€000
Receipts		
Appropriations in Aid		-388,443
E.1	Recoupment of Salaries, etc. of officers on loan to outside bodies	-690
E.2	Forfeited Deposits & Securities under EU intervention, export refund etc.	-187
E.3	Refunds from Veterinary Fees for inspection at poultry and other meat plants	-19,531
E.4	Receipts from Veterinary Fees for Live Exports	-664
E.5	Receipts from fees for dairy premises inspection services	-8,143
E.6	Receipts from Sale of Vaccines, livestock, farm produce, etc. at Veterinary Research Laboratory and farm at Abbotstown; recoupment of quarantine expenses at Spike Island	-602
E.7	Receipts from Seed Testing fees, certification fees, licensing fees, pesticides, registration fees, etc. and receipts from Backweston Farm	-2,766
E.8	Receipts from farmer contributions towards the cost of eradicating bovine disease	-7,637
E.9	Land Commission receipts	-380
E.10	Other Receipts	-3,129
EU Co Funding Transfers		
E.11	Market Intervention expenses and financing costs for other FEOGA(Guarantee) section measures	-300
E.12	Intervention Stock Losses, etc.	-960
E.13	EAFRD (European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development)	-299,533
E.14	Veterinary Fund	-9,279
E.15	Other Guarantee Receipts from EU (Agriculture)	-36

Appendix C - VOTE 30 - 2019

		€000
Fisheries Related Receipts		
E.16	Proceeds of Fines and Forfeitures in respect of Sea Fisheries	-292
E.17	Receipts under the 1933 Foreshore Act and the 1954 State Property Act	-188
E.18	EU –Recoupment in respect of expenditure on the Conservation & Management of Fisheries	0
E.19	Aquaculture Licence Fees	-578
E.20	EU Receipts for EMFF	-23,030
E.21	EFF (Fisheries) 2007-2013	0
E.22	Receipts from Sustainable Foods Systems Ireland	-74
E.23	Receipts from pension-related deduction on public service remuneration	-10,444
Total Receipts		-388,443
Net Expenditure		1,252,665

Appendix D - Performance Budgeting

Strategic Goal

“To promote and safeguard public, animal and plant health and animal welfare for the benefit of consumers producers and wider society”

Objective 1:

Food Safety, Animal and Plant Health and Animal Welfare

Inputs – Financial & Human Resources							
	2019 Estimate*			2019 Outturn			
	Current	Capital	Total	Current	Capital	Total	
	€000	€000	€000	€000	€000	€000	
A.1 ADMINISTRATION – PAY	103,175	0	103,175	102,764	0	102,764	
A.2 ADMINISTRATION – NON-PAY	42,403	32,131	74,534	40,949	31,017	71,966	
A.3 Food Safety, Animal and Plant Health and Animal Welfare	95,412	720	96,132	92,668	371	93,039	
Programme Total:						€267,769	

*2019 Estimate as amended by Supplementary Estimate

Context and Impact Indicators			
Programme A	2017	2018	2019
1 Number of major food safety incidents	0	0	
2 Number of tests accredited under the National Reference Laboratory function.*	145	148	155
3 Number of new trade areas opened or re-opened	3	3	
4 Animal Disease and welfare measurements as reported to OIE (Organisation International des Epizooties) data on	Retained high disease status and OBF	Retained high disease status and OBF	Retained high disease status and OBF
a. Exotic diseases incidents	nil	nil	nil
b. Brucellosis cases,	nil	nil	nil
c. TB herd incidence	3.47%	3.51%	3.72%
d. BSE cases.	1	0	0

**These figures are in respect of accredited test methods currently in use in DAFM Laboratories, some of which may be used for multiple analyses and/or with multiple matrices”.

Staff Numbers
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine

2019 Estimate
1,907

2019 Actual
1,950

146

Appendix D - Performance Budgeting

Strategic Goal

“Provide income and market supports to underpin the rural economy and the environment”

Objective 2: Farm/Sector Supports and Controls

Inputs – Financial & Human Resources							
	2019 Estimate*			2019 Outturn			
	Current €000	Capital €000	Total €000	Current €000	Capital €000	Total €000	
B.1 ADMINISTRATION - PAY	53,604	0	53,604	53,389	0	53,389	
B.2 ADMINISTRATION – NON-PAY	19,106	1,237	20,343	17,929	1,165	19,094	
B.3 Agri-environmental Schemes	235,250	1,250	236,500	235,365	1,135	236,500	
B.4 Areas of Natural Constraint Scheme	250,000	0	250,000	248,552	0	248,552	
B.5 Development of Agriculture and Food (Farm)	865	84,530	85,395	768	82,882	83,650	
B.6 Beef Data & Genomics Programme	84,650	1,150	85,800	86,218	890	87,108	
B.7 Knowledge Transfer	25,000	0	25,000	22,167	0	22,167	
B.8 Animal Welfare Scheme for Sheep	18,000	0	18,000	17,382	0	17,382	
B.9 Early Retirement Scheme	220	0	220	187	0	187	
B.10 Forestry and Bio Energy	3,250	100,178	103,428	2,945	86,787	89,732	
B.11 Control & Other Support Scheme Costs	12,351	0	12,351	14,213	0	14,213	
B.12 Other Schemes	2,825	0	2,825	2,090	0	2,090	
Programme Total:						€874,064	

*2019 Estimate as amended by Supplementary Estimate

Staff Numbers
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine

2019 Estimate
978

2019 Actual
964

Appendix D - Performance Budgeting

Context and Impact Indicators				
Programme B	2017	2018	2019	
1	Gross Value added of the sector (€m) Primary Sector (Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing)	5,051	€4,624	Not yet available
2	Change in annual area of new forests created (ha) (% change over previous year)	+5,538 (-15%)	+4,025 (-0.27%)	+3,550 (-12%)
3	Area of land farmed organically (ha) (% change over previous year)	72,000 (0%)	72,000 (0%)	74,000 (+2.77%)
	Absolute emissions expressed as MtCO ₂ eq as reported by the EPA using revised emission metrics (1990 baseline: 20.40Mt CO ₂ eq)	20.25 Mt CO ₂ eq	20.63 Mt CO ₂ eq	Not yet available
	Change in absolute agricultural GHG emissions from 1990 baseline of: 20.40Mt CO ₂ eq (% change)	-0.15 (-0.73%)	+0.23 (+1.13%)	Not yet available
	Change in absolute agricultural GHG emissions from 2005 baseline of 19.829Mt CO ₂ eq (% change)	+0.42 (+2.12%)	+0.8 (+4.03%)	Not yet available
	Agricultural ammonia (NH ₃) emissions as reported to EU (kt NH ₃)	117.00	118.3	Not yet available
	Family Farm Income (FFI) in Disadvantaged areas (as % of FFI in Non- Disadvantaged Areas)	€28,747 76%	€21,593 78%	Not yet available
	% payments made within targets (a) direct payment schemes (b) other schemes	98% 75-100%	98% 75-100%	
	Retain EU Paying Agency status and secure draw down of EU funding Achieved	Achieved €1,397m	Achieved €1,610m	Achieved €1,492m

Appendix D - Performance Budgeting

Strategic Goal

“Provide the optimum policy framework for the sustainable development of the agri-food sector.”

Objective 3: Policy and Strategy

Inputs – Financial & Human Resources							
	2019 Estimate*			2019 Outturn			
	Current	Capital	Total	Current	Capital	Total	
	€000	€000	€000	€000	€000	€000	
C.1	ADMINISTRATION - PAY	15,277	0	15,277	15,216	0	15,216
C.2	ADMINISTRATION – NON-PAY	5,026	241	5,267	4,552	219	4,771
C.3	Research Quality & Certification	25,561	0	25,561	25,161	0	25,161
C.4	Development and Promotion of Agriculture and Food (Non Farm)	3,810	9,630	13,440	3,368	4,182	7,550
C.5	Teagasc Grant	132,082	6,150	138,232	130,373	4,300	134,673
C.6	An Bord Bia Grant	46,619	0	46,619	44,844	0	44,844
C.7	Horse and Greyhound Racing Fund	72,856	11,144	84,000	72,856	11,144	84,000
C.8	CEDRA Rural Innovation & Development Fund	1,500	0	1,500	1,486	0	1,486
C.9	Food and Donations – World Food Programme	23,000	0	23,000	25,300	0	25,300
C.10	Brexit Response Loan Scheme	0	0	0	0	0	0
C.11	Other Services	13,804	520	14,324	12,651	1,020	13,671
Programme Total:						€356,672	

*2019 Estimate as amended by Supplementary Estimate

Appendix D - Performance Budgeting

Context and Impact Indicators		2017	2018	2019
Programme C				
1	Value (€000m) of agri food exports – total,	13,846	13,705	14,530
2	Value (€000m) of primary production – total	7,175	6,960	6,605

* 2019 figures are DAFM/CSO figures. 2017 Bord Bia.

Staff Numbers	2019 Estimate	2019 Actual
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	253	285
Teagasc	1,065	1,030
Bord Bia	146	139

Appendix D - Performance Budgeting

Objective 4: Seafood Sector

Strategic Goal

“Deliver a sustainable, growth driven sector focussed on competitiveness and innovation driven by a skilled workforce delivering value added products in line with market demands.”

Inputs – Financial & Human Resources							
	2019 Estimate*			2019 Outturn			
	Current €000	Capital €000	Total €000	Current €000	Capital €000	Total €000	
D.1	ADMINISTRATION - PAY	9,021	0	9,021	8,986	0	8,986
D.2	ADMINISTRATION – NON-PAY	4,184	287	4,471	3,572	244	3,816
D.3	Fisheries	12,461	28,427	40,888	11,730	29,831	41,562
D.4	Marine Institute Grant	22,929	12,000	34,929	22,926	12,000	34,926
D.5	Bord Iascaigh Mhara Grant	26,193	12,100	38,293	26,095	12,100	38,195
D.6	Sea Fisheries Protection Authority	13,395	400	13,795	12,660	345	13,005
D.7	Haulbowline Remediation Project	0	2,500	2,500	0	2,113	2,113
Programme Total:						€142,603	

*2019 Estimate as amended by Supplementary Estimate

Appendix D - Performance Budgeting

Context and Impact Indicators		2017	2018	2019
Programme D				
1	Value of Total Seafood Sales	€1,151m	€1,137m	€1,136m
2	Value of Seafood Exports	€618m	€576m	€578m

Staff Numbers	2019 Estimate	2019 Actual
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	173	177
Marine Institute	142	131
Bord Iascaigh Mhara	149	115
Sea Fisheries Protection Authority	145	127

Appendix E - EAGF/EAFRD Guarantee Receipts 2019

The following shows the payments made in Ireland from the EAGF fund and EAFRD & other EU receipts during the 2019 financial year

EU-funded expenditure managed by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

EU-funded expenditure managed by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine		
	2018	2019
	€m	€m
EAGF		
Direct Payment/Single Payment Scheme	1,208	1,204
Intervention/Aid to Private Storage**	19.5	(12)
Other market supports***	4.5	61.8
Other	(3)	(3)
Co-funded receipts (measures co-funded by EU) - a note below	2018	2019
	€m	€m
Agriculture		
EAFRD Rural Development Programmes	387	299
Veterinary fund	10	9
Other co-financing receipts	1	1
Fisheries		
EMFF and EFF Fisheries Programme*	163	23
	1,643	1,583

*EMFF advance funding of €8.6m received are not receipted to A&A

** €-12.6 million was as a result of sales of skimmed milk powder in stock

***Increase due to Beef Exceptional Aid Measure BEAM of €48.3m

a - Only the EU Co-funding on these programmes is shown in this table.



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





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

Tuarascáil Bhliantúil 2019





Ráiteas Mísín

Freastal ar Rialtas agus ar mhuintir na hÉireann tríd an earnáil agraibhia a threorú, a fhorbairt agus a rialú, sláinte an phobail a chosaint agus oiread buntáistí sóisialta, eacnamaíochta agus comhshaoil is féidir a thabhairt chun cinn.

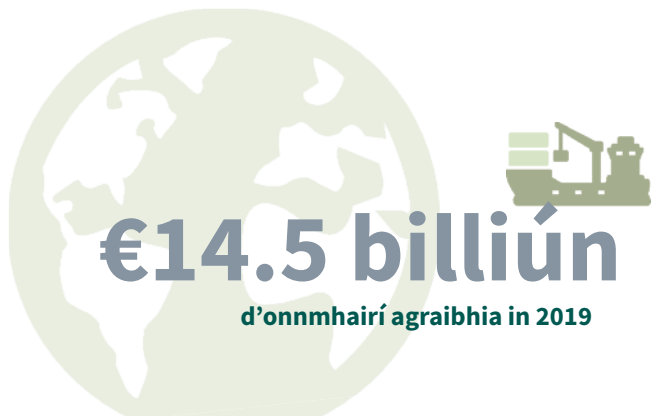
Ráiteas Físe

Earnáil agraibhia nuálach agus inbhuanaithe atá ag feidhmiú de réir na gcaighdeán is airde

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Athbhreithniú agus Príomh-Ghnóthachtálacha sa bhliain 2019



Leanann an earnáil talmhaíochta agus bia le ról ríthábhachtach a bheith aici i ngeilleagar na hÉireann agus b'ionann onnmhairsí agrairbhia agus 9.5% d'onnmhairsí iomlána ar luach de €14.5 billiún a chiallaigh fás os cionn 63% ón mbliain 2010. An Ríocht Aontaithe an ceann scríbe ba mhó i gcónaí d'onnmhairsí agrairbhia. B'fhiú €5.5 billiún na honnmhairsí in 2019, nó 38% de na honnmhairsí uile. B'fhiú €4.7 billiún iad onnmhairsí chuig an AE (gan an RA san áireamh) agus b'fhiú €4.3 billiún iad onnmhairsí chuig an gcuid eile den domhan in 2019. Bhí Táirgí Déiríochta ag €5.0 billiún, Earnáil na Mairteola ag €2.3 billiún agus Earnáil na nDeochanna ag €1.7 billiún ar na trí chatagóir ab airde sa bhliain 2019 arbh ionann é agus €9.1 billiún nó 63% in onnmhairsí agrairbhia ar fud an domhain.

Cuireann an earnáil agrairbhia cion suntasach le fostaíocht, arbh ionann é agus 7.1% den fhostaíocht iomlán nó 164,400 post, i gceantair thuaithe agus cósta.

Bhí an Roinn freagrach as caiteachas vótáilte os cionn €1.641 bhilliún in 2019. Chomh maith leis an gcaiteachas vótáilte, chaith an Roinn €1.250.8 billiún ar scéimeanna a bhí maoinithe ag EAGF an AE, agus mar sin b'ionann caiteachas iomlán na Roinne agus €2.8 billiún.

I mí Dheireadh Fómhair 2019 rinneadh Comhaontú Aistarraingthe agus Dearbhú Polaitiúil Athchóirithe idir an AE 27 agus an Príomhaire Johnson a chomhaontú. Dhaingnigh Parlaimint na hEorpa agus Parlaimint na Ríochta Aontaithe an comhaontú athchóirithe ina dhiaidh sin.

Ar an bpríomhthionchar a bhí ag vóta an Bhreathimeachta ar an earnáil, bhí luaineacht steirling ar na gnólachtaí siúd a bhfuil caidreamh suntasach trádála acu leis an Ríocht Aontaithe agus bhí tionchar díúltach ag an titim seo sa luach airgeadra.

Sheol an tAire Creed agus a chomhghleacaithe an Scéim Iasachta d'Fhás Amach Anseo a d'fhorbair an Roinn seo agus ag an Roinn Gnó, Fiontar agus Nuálaíochta i gcomhar leis an SBCI agus leis an gCiste Eorpach Infheistíochta (EIF) i mí Márta 2019. Seachadadh an scéim trí sholáthróirí airgeadais rannpháirteacha, cuireadh €300 milliún d'iasachtaí infheistíochta ar fáil do ghnólachtaí Éireannacha incháilithe, lena n-áirítear feirmeoirí agus na hearnálacha agrairbhia agus bia mara. Bhí na hiasachtaí ar phraghas iomaíoch agus mairfidh siad ar feadh tréimhsí 8-10 mbliana chun tacú le hinfeistíocht straitéiseach fadtéarmach i dtimpeallacht tar éis an Bhreathimeachta. Bhí ardéileamh ar an Scéim, rud a léirigh gur fhreastal sí ar an mbearna sainaitheanta sa mhargadh agus bhí formhór an mhaoinithe tiomanta ag druidim le deireadh na bliana. Ag deireadh mhí na Nollag, bhí 325 iasacht d'fheirmeoirí ar fhiú €37.5 mhilliún ceadaithe agus bhí 57 n-iasacht do chuideachtaí bia arbh fhiú €15.5 mhilliún iad ceadaithe. Bhí os cionn 800 iarratas eile idir lámha. Tá tús curtha leis an obair chun machnamh a dhéanamh ar roghanna maidir le síneadh a chur leis an scéim iasachtaí nó rud éigin eile a chur ina háit.

Soláthraíodh Buiséad 2020 i gcomhthéacs éiginnteacht leanúnach faoin mBreathimeacht, rud a chuir srian ar an acmhainneacht bearta nua a thabhairt isteach. Aontáíodh go ngabhfadh an Roinn agus an Roinn Arigeadais i mbun rannpháirtíochta maidir le bearta trína bhféadfaí cuidiú le feirmeoirí chun na dúshláin agus oibleagáidí a leagtar amach sa Phlean Gníomhaíochta ar son na hAeráide a chomhlíonadh agus Sláinte agus Sábháilteacht níos fearr a spreagadh san earnáil.



164,400 poist

le tacaíocht ón Earnáil Talmhaíochta in 2019

Athbhreithniú agus Príomh-Ghnóthachtálacha sa bhliain 2019

Ba thábhachtach go ndearnadh athnuachan ar feadh trí bliana eile ar an bhFaoiseamh um Cháin Ghnóthachan Caipitiúil maidir le hAthstruchtúru Feirme, rud a théann i ngleic leis an dúshlán a bhaineann le hilroinnt ar fheirmeacha Éireannacha, agus gur leanadh le bearta chun fiontraíocht a chur chun cinn agus tacú léi, mar a léiríodh leis an ardú ar an gCreidmheas Cánach ar Ioncam Tuillte.

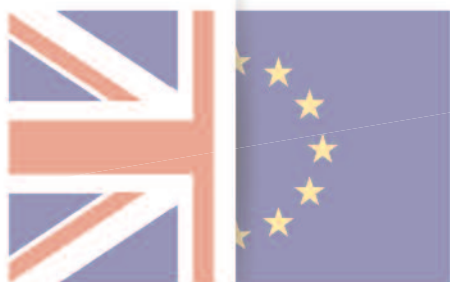
Mar gheall ar an bhfógra maidir le faoi mhicreagrúdlanna, go bhfuil an tairseach táirgeachta incháilithe le haghaidh faoiseamh ó Cháin Táirgí Alcóil á ardú ó 40,000 heictilítear go 50,000 heictilítear, tabharfar deis do ghrúdlanna níos mó méadú, go háirithe maidir le díolacháin onnmhairithe. Feabhsuithe ar bhearta cáinbhunaithe reatha chun tacú le fiontar, SMEnna agus an earnáil agraibhia, i.e. an Príomhchlár Rannpháirtíochta Fostaithe (KEEP), an Scéim Fostaíochta agus Infheistíochta (EII) agus an Creidmheas Cánach Taighde agus Forbartha.

Cuireadh €110 milliún ar fáil i mBuiséad 2020 i mí Dheireadh Fómhair 2019 chun an chéad sraith tacaíochtaí a sholáthar i gcás Breatimeachta gan mhargadh i rith 2020. Cuireadh €85 mhilliún de sin ar leataobh chun tacú le feirmeoirí eallaigh a chríochnú lena marú, tá €14 mhilliún á choimeád le cur i dtreo scéim feistithe do shoithí iascaireachta, tá €6 mhilliún á choimeád do chúnaimh infheistíochta chun iomaíochas a fheabhsú agus chun éifeachtúlacht comhshaoil a mhéadú d'fheirmeoirí beostoic eile agus don earnáil mhuisiriún, agus coimeádadh €5 mhilliún (le tuilleadh maoinithe á sholáthar ag DBEI) chun tacú le scéim infheistíochta caipitil um Chlaochlú Bia le haghaidh nuálaíochta táirgí agus margaidh.

Rinneadh tuilleadh maoinithe a leithdháileadh don rialú allmhairí ag calafoirt agus ag aerfoirt. Sa tréimhse roimh spriocanna éagsúla féideartha an Bhreatimeachta i rith 2019, dhírigh an Roinn, mar chuid de chur chuige uile-Rialtais ar an mBreatimeacht, ar a chinntiú go raibh a dhóthain ball foirne, réitigh chuí TF cruá-earraí agus bogearraí ar fáil, chomh maith leis na saoráidí iniúchta a bheadh de dhíth ón rialú allmhairí i ndiaidh an Bhreatimeachta. B'amhlaidh sin chun deis a thabhairt don Roinn a hoibleagáidí dlí a chomhlíonadh i ndáil le rialú sláintíochta agus fíteashláintíochta (SPS) do tháirgí agraibhia ar an mbealach is éifeachtaí agus is féidir, agus féachaint leis an gcuid is measa den chur isteach dosheachanta a thiofadh ar shocruithe trádála mar thoradh ar chinneadh na RA an margadh aonair a fhágáil.

Lean an tAire Creed lena rannpháirtíocht le geallsealbhóirí, trí chruinnithe le Coiste Comhairleach Geallsealbhóirí an Bhreatimeachta agus le freastal ar imeachtaí a bhí eagraithe ag an Roinn, Gníomhaireachtaí eile agus comhlachtaí ionadaíochta éagsúla. Thug an rannpháirtíocht sin an deis don Aire Creed eolas agus spreagadh a thabhairt d'oibreoírí gnó chun na chéad chéimeanna eile a thógáil le go leanfaí lena socruithe trádála leis an RA gan stró. Moladh do pháirtithe leasmhara clárú leis an Roinn ionas go bhfaighidh siad faisnéis chuí go díreach, agus clárú leis na Coimisinéirí Ioncaim chun uimhir EORI a fháil. Cuireadh Seicliosta don Bhreatimeacht le chéile agus cuireadh ar fáil é ag roinnt imeachtaí.

Leanadh leis an bplé ar na tograí reachtúla don chéad CAP eile ó 2021-27, faoi Uachtaránachtaí na Rómáine agus na Fionlainne in 2019. Ba é an Rialachán maidir le Pleananna Straitéiseacha faoi CBT an rud ba dheacra breithniú a dhéanamh air do na Ballstáit agus is iomaí saincheist ina leith nach mór a réiteach sular féidir teacht ar chomhaontú.



Ba é BREXIT an dúshlán is mó d'earnáil Talmhaíochta na hÉireann agus fanfaidh sé mar sin i gcónaí

Athbheithniú agus Príomh-Ghnóthachtálacha sa bhliain 2019

Osclaíodh margadh na Síne do mhairteoil na hÉireann tuilleadh in 2019



Seoladh an clár píolótach Éifeachtúlacht Comhshaoil Mairteola in 2019 agus é dírithe ar éifeachtúlachtaí eacnamaíochta agus comhshaoil ar fheirmeacha a fheabhsú trí bhíthin méadracht feidhmíochta a bhailiú, rud a d'éascaigh cinnteoireacht a raibh bun eolais níos fearr ann ina leith. Rinne 16,424 fheirmeoir an meá agus an taifeadadh riachtanach agus fuair siad íocaíochtaí arbh fhiú €15.3 mhilliún ar an iomlán iad.

Fógraíodh an Beart Cúnaimh Eisceachtúil um Mairteoil (BEAM) i mí na Bealtaine 2019. Leis sin, cuireadh cúnaimh coigeartaithe sealadach ar fáil d'fheirmeoirí san earnáil mairteola in Éirinn, faoi réir na gcoinníollacha arna leagan amach i Rialachán Cur Chun Feidhme an Choimisiúin Eorpaigh (AE) 2019/1132. Rinneadh BEAM a mhaoiniú le meascán de chúnamh ón AE agus le tacaíocht ón Státchiste, atá á chur ar fáil i bhfianaise na gcúinsí deacra ina bhfuil feirmeoirí na hÉireann mar thoradh ar an luaineacht agus an neamhchinnteacht margaidh atá ann. Ghlac 23,374 fheirmeoir páirt in BEAM agus rinneadh íocaíochtaí arbh fhiú beagnach €78 milliún iad dá bharr.

Thángthas ar an gComhaontú um Earnáil Mairteola na hÉireann idir na páirtithe leasmhara an 15 Meán Fómhair 2019. Mar chuid den chomhaontú sin, bunaíodh Tascfhórsa Mairteola chun monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar chur i bhfeidhm na dtiomantas ar tugadh fúthu agus mar ardán don rannpháirtíocht straitéiseach le príomhpháirtithe leasmhara.

Rinneadh dul chun cinn suntasach maidir le tuilleadh rochtana ar mhargadh na Síne le haghaidh mhairteoil na hÉireann in 2019. Rinneadh iniúchadh rathúil ar chúrsaí mairteola i mí Mheán Fómhair 2019, trí bhíthin iniúchadh ar 14 mhonarcha mairteola iarrthacha a fuair cead i mí Dheireadh Fómhair 2019 onnmhairiú chuig an tSín.

Tháinig feabhas ar an rochtain chuig an tSeapáin in 2019 freisin nuair a baineadh an srian aoise 30 mí maidir le mairteoil agus nuair a tugadh isteach deimhniú athbheithnithe lena gceadaítear mairteoil gan chnámha a fhaightear ó eallach de gach aois a onnmhairiú.

In 2019, d'onnmhairigh Éire táirgí déiríochta dar luach os cionn €5 billiún chuig tuairim is 140 tír. Is ionann é seo agus fás +12% ar mhéideanna agus +10% ardú ar luach i gcomparáid leis an mbliain 2018.

Sháraigh díolachán Ime €1 bhilliún don dara bliain as a chéile in 2019 agus tháinig fás mór ó thaobh méide agus luacha de, ar dhíolachán cáise, meidhg agus púdar bainne bhearrtha in 2019. Is iad an AE-28 a luaitear le 55% de luach onnmhairí déiríochta na hÉireann in 2019 agus 45% le margáí idirnáisiúnta.

Leanadh leis an infheistíocht láidir san earnáil in 2019. Íocadh os cionn €5.8 milliún faoin scéim infheistíochta chun an earnáil gairneoireacht tráchtála a fhorbairt agus íocadh €4 mhilliún trí bhíthin na Scéime Eagraíochtaí Tairgeoirí AE.

Rinne an Roinn óstáil ar imeacht maidir le Plé Inbhuanaitheachta geallsealbhóra rathúil i samhradh 2018. D'fhreastail toscairí ar fud na hearnála agus bhí comhoibriú le brath go láidir ar an lá. Tá an Roinn ag leanúint ar aghaidh ag cur leis an gcomhréiteach agus comhpháirtíocht seo ó thaobh an ghá atá ann go gcuirfeadh an earnáil talmhaíochta go dearfach leis an ngníomhú ar son na haeraíde.

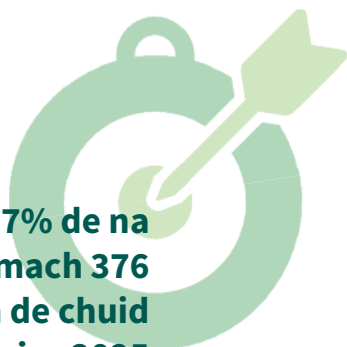
Athbhreithniú agus Príomh-Ghnóthachtálacha sa bhliain 2019



Beidh nuálaíocht agus infheistíocht mar an príomhspreagthóir d'fhás leanúnach

Foilsíodh an Plean Gníomhaithe Uile-Rialtais ar son na hAeráide i mí an Mheithimh 2019. San áireamh sa phlean bhí sprioc chun laghdú ó 10% go 15% a chur ar astaíochtaí san phríomh-earnáil agraibhia. Is ionann sin agus astaíochtaí a laghdú ó 20.2 MT CO₂ eq in 2017 go dtí idir 17.5 agus 19 Mt CO₂ eq faoin mbliain 2030. Bhí ceanglas ann freisin maidir le feabhas ar a laghad 26.8 Mt CO₂ eq a chur ar bhaint CO₂ ón tírdhreach. Mar fhreagra ar an idirphlé tosaigh a rinne an Roinn faoi Inbhuanaitheacht i mí an Mheithimh 2018 agus ar an bplean Uile-Rialtais, sheol an Roinn próiseas comhairliúcháin i mí na Samhna 2019 le súil agus treochlár deich mbliana a fhorbairt, dar teideal 'Ag Climatise'. Ba é an aidhm a bhí ag 'Ag Climatise' ná spriocanna náisiúnta a ghlacadh agus dréachtphean earnála don earnáil a dhéanamh astu. Leanadh leis an tréimhse comhairliúcháin in 2020.

D'fhoilsigh an Roinn an chéad Plean Oiriúnaithe Earnála um Athrú Aeráide maidir le Talmhaíocht, Foraoiseacht agus Bia Mara i rith 2019. Leagtar amach sa Phlean na hathruithe réamh-mheasta ar an aeráid agus díreann ar na cinn a sainithníodh mar iad sin is dóichí a mbeidh tionchar acu ar an earnáil talmhaíochta, foraoiseachta agus bia mara. Léirítear fíor-shamplaí ann de chásanna ina bhféadfaí smaoineamh ar athléimneacht a fhorbairt agus dul in oiriúint don athrú aeráide.



87% de na Baineadh amach 376 gníomh de chuid Straitéis Foodwise 2025 in 2019

Anuas air sin, mar fhreagra ar an méid a chuireann an talmhaíocht le hastaíochtaí amóinia agus mar gheall ar an ngá le tionchar astaíochtaí amóinia ar an mbithéagsúlacht agus ar shláinte an duine a laghdú, d'fhoilsigh an Roinn 'Cód Dea-Chleachtais maidir le hastaíochtaí amóinia ón talmhaíocht a laghdú' mar a éilítear faoin Treoir um Uasteorainneacha Astaíochtaí Náisiúnta. Comhlánaítear an Plean Gníomhaíochta maidir le Níotráití ag an gcód sin agus tarraingítear aird ar mhodhanna praiticiúla chun astaíochtaí amóinia a laghdú ar leibhéal na feirme, amhail teicneolaíochtaí leata aoiligh nach gcruthaíonn ach astaíochtaí ísle agus cineálacha leasacháin lena mbaineann laghdú ar an gcailliúint amóinia.

Sa bhliain 2019, mar thoradh ar Ghairm ar Thograí Taighde faoi Chláir Maoinithe Taighde Iomaíochta na Roinne, bhain 17 nEagraíochta Feidhmíochta Taighde in Éirinn, lena n-áirítear, Teagasc, Ollscoileanna agus Institiúidí Teicneolaíochta, leas as dámhachtainí os cionn €20.1 milliún do 38 tionscadal a chlúdaigh raon réimsí ábhair. Chomh maith le fianaise a chur ar fáil do bheartas agus do theicneolaíochtaí ó thaobh feabhas a chur ar chleachtais agraibhia, cuireann an infheistíocht seo fostaíocht dhíreach ar fáil do 75 conradh do lucht taighde agus deiseanna oideachais ar fáil do 90 mac léinn iarchéime i bhfoirm PhDs (55) agus Céim Mháistreachta (35). Gné thar a bheith dearfach de na Dámhachtainí Taighde is ea an ghné uile-oileánda. Déantar sin a éascú trí bhíthin rannpháirtíocht na Roinne Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe i dTuaisceart Éireann (DAERA NI) a chuireann maoiniú ar fáil do thaighdeoirí i dtrí fhoras i dTuaisceart Éireann a bhfuil baint acu le hocht gcinn de na tionscadail ar éirigh leo.

I ndiaidh an athbhreithniú lár-théarmach ar an gClár Foraoiseachta in 2018 agus ar bhearta nua a thabhairt isteach dá bharr, bhí spéis mhór i speicis crann leathanduilleach a chur in 2019. Ba 25% den chur iomlán a bhí san fhóraoisíú leathanduilleach. Cuireadh 310 heicteár de choillearnach dhúchasach in 2019, méid arbh ionann é agus ardú 17% i gcomparáid leis na figiúirí in 2017.

Athbhreithniú agus Príomh-Ghnóthachtálacha sa bhliain 2019



In 2019, chuir an Roinn maoiniú de € 2.9 milliún ar fáil do 106 comhlacht leasa ainmhithe ar fud na tíre a bhfuil baint dhíreach acu le seachadadh seirbhísí cúraim agus leasa ainmhithe.

Measadh gur tuairim is €577 milliún a bhí ar luach onnmhairí bia mara na hÉireann in 2019, mar ab ionann leis an luach a taifeadadh in 2018. Fuarthas amach go raibh dúshláin in earnálacha áirithe agus bhí fás dearfach in earnálacha eile. Tháinig ardú 25% ar luach na n-onnmhairí bradáin, mar thoradh ar ardú 20% ar an méid agus ar fhás dearfach ar phraghsanna. Leanadh leis an éileamh domhanda ar bhia mara in 2019 agus thuairiscigh onnmhairteoirí Éireannacha éileamh láidir ar a dtáirgí sna príomh-mhargáí onnmhairithe.

Mealladh os cionn 90,000 cuairteoir chuig Duganna Chathair Chorcaí leis an imeacht trí lá SeaFest 2019 a tionóladh ón 7-9 Meitheamh 2019. Tá sé mar aidhm leis an fhéile, mar Fhéile na Mara – féile náisiúnta mhuirí na hÉireann, ár n-aitheantas muirí a neartú, ag cur le rannpháirtíocht le hacmhainní mara flúirseacha na hÉireann, trí chur le feasacht ar luach agus ar dheiseanna a chuireann an fharraige ar fáil. Is príomhchuid d'Fheidhm a Bhaint as Saibhreas ár nAigéin é SeaFest (Plean Comhtháite Muirí na hÉireann) agus é mar aidhm leis rannpháirtíocht a mhéadú maidir leis an bhfarraige.

D'aontaigh Airí Comhairle lascaigh an AE TACanna agus cuótaí 2020 i mí na Nollag 2019. D'éirigh leis an Aire 195,000 tonna cuótaí arbh ionann a luach agus €275 milliún d'iascairí na hÉireann a fháil do 2020.

Lean onnmhairithe Uisce Beatha Éireannach ag fás sa bhliain 2019 agus bhain €810m amach den chéad uair riamh a chiallaigh fás carnach de 194% na catagóire sna cúig bliana ón mbliain 2012. Measadh go raibh luach €363 mhilliún ag onnmhairí Uachtar licéir Éireannaigh. Stáit Aonaithe Mheiriceá ab ea an margadh onnmhairithe ba thábhachtaí.

Tá an Roinn, i gcomhar le feirmeoirí, eagraíochtaí páirtithe leasmhara agus gníomhaireachtaí, bainteach go gníomhach le roinnt tionscnamh de chuid One Welfare, lena ndéantar soláthar maith do leas an phobail, lena n-áirítear: Bithshláindáil, Meitheal Páirtithe Leasmhara Campalabaictéir agus an Straitéis Faireachais ar Shláinte Ainmhithe.

Chun cur leis an bhfeasacht ar an tábhacht a bhaineann le sláinte ainmhithe, thionóil an Roinn an chéad Lá Feasachta maidir le Sláinte Ainmhithe an 28 Samhain 2019. Chomh maith le raon imeachtaí a tionóladh ar an lá, scaipeadh os cionn 4,750 bileog agus 280 póstaer le cur in airde in oifigí na Roinne, i monarchana maraithe le ceadú ón Roinn, i marglanna, in institiúidí oideachais tríú leibhéal agus in oifigí Teagasc.

Tugadh forbheathnú ar shonraí faireachais maidir le húsáid frithmhicróbach (AMU) agus frithsheasmhacht in aghaidh ábhair fhrithmhiocróbaigh (AMR) i ndaoine agus i mbia-ainmhithe in Éirinn den chéad uair nuair a foilsíodh an chéad tuarascáil One Welfare - Report on Antimicrobial Use and Antimicrobial Resistance in Éirinn i mí Eanáir 2019.

Rinneadh tástáil ar thart ar 98.4% den tréad náisiúnta i gcomhair eitinn bhólachta (TB) sa bhliain 2019. Bhí laghdú ar líon na bhfrithghníomhaithe a braitheadh, 17,058 in 2019 i gcomparáid le 17,491 in 2018. Tháinig ardú áfach ar chásanna i dtréada ó thaobh TB ó 3.51% go 3.72% sa tréimhse chéanna.

Athbhreithniú agus Príomh-Ghnóthachtálacha sa bhliain 2019

Sa bhliain 2019, chuir an Roinn maoiniú de €2.9 milliún ar fáil do 106 chomhlacht leasa ainmhithe ar fud na tíre atá bainteach go díreach le seirbhísí cúraim agus leasa ainmhithe a sheachadadh. Is do ranníocaíocht amháin atá an maoiniú do chostais fhoriomlána na n-eagraíochtaí i gceist. Ní mór do gach iarratasóir ar mhaoiniú glacadh le sraith dhian treoirlínte maidir le leas ainmhithe, a bheith ar an bhfód le dhá bhliain nó níos mó, a bheith cláraithe leis an Rialálaí Carthanas agus cuntais mhionsonraithe tacaíochta a sholáthar.

Chomh maith le síntiús na hÉireann de €1.43 milliún a íoc leis an Eagraíocht Bhia agus Talmhaíochta (FAO) sa bhliain 2019, chuir an Roinn tuilleadh maoinithe buiséadach breise de €1.18 milliún ar fáil don FAO i réimsí a bhfuil cumas ar leith ag an FAO agus go measann an Roinn go bhfuil tábhacht straitéiseach leo.

D'óstáil an Roinn Seachtain Nuála ón 9 – 13 Nollaig, i gcomhar leis an gcéad Seachtain Nuála ar feadh na Seirbhíse Poiblí, chun athrú dearfach ar an tslí a sholáthraítear seirbhísí na Roinne a spreagadh.

I rith 2019, d'éascaigh an Roinn trí shocrúchán oiliúna ar Chlár an Oireachtais maidir le Foghlaim ag an Obair (OWL), clár feidhmeach foghlama, forbartha agus sóisialaithe d'aosaigh óga a bhfuil míchumas intleachtúil ag dul dóibh. Tá mar aidhm leis an gClár tacú le daoine na scileanna agus an mhuinín a fhorbairt chun teacht ar fhostaíocht íoctha sa mhargadh oscailte saothair.

I rith 2019, agus mar chuid den Straitéis Comhionannais agus Éagsúlachta, rinneadh obair chun cúrsa ríomhFhoghlama faoi Chomhionannas agus Éagsúlacht san Áit Oibre a fháil. San acmhainn ríomhFhoghlama, a forbraíodh go sonrach d'Earnáil Phoiblí na hÉireann agus ina bhfuil cás-staidéir Éireannacha ábhartha, tugtar aghaidh ar ghnéithe éagsúla den chomhionannas agus den éagsúlacht san áit oibre, lena n-áirítear éagsúlacht, claontuairim neamh-chomhfhiosach, ciapadh agus idirdhealú.

Déantar an tAthbhreithniú Bliantúil agus Súil Chun Cinn don Talmhaíocht, Bia agus Mara a chur i dtoll a chéile gach bliain chun eolas agus anailís staitisticí cothrom le dáta a chur ar fáil ó fhoinsí éagsúla agus is scrúdú mionsonraithe é ar earnáil agrairbhia na hÉireann, agus caitear súil chun cinn ar an am atá le teacht. Is féidir Athbhreithniú Bliantúil agus Súil Chun Cinn 2019 a fháil ar láithreán gréasáin na Roinne ag: <https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/agrifoodindustry/agri-foodandtheeconomy/economicpublications/aro2019/>.

Tá bonn láidir fianaise riachtanach chun beartas a chur i dtoll a chéile agus a chur i bhfeidhm agus cuideoidh an fhaisnéis agus na staitisticí a chuimsítear san Athbhreithniú Bliantúil agus Súil Chun Cinn le hanailís a dhéanamh ar bheartas agus le díospóireacht a chur ar bun san earnáil. Cuireann an Roinn bileoga fíricí amach go rialta ar ábhair amhail Talmhaíocht na hÉireann, Trádáil agus an Breatimeacht. Tá siad le fáil ar an láithreán gréasáin:

<https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/agrifoodindustry/agri-foodandtheeconomy/economicpublications/>.



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SPRIOC STRAITÉISEACH **Sábháilteacht Bia, Sláinte Ainmhithe** **agus Plandaí agus Leas Ainmhithe**

Sláinte an phobail, ainmhithe agus plandaí agus leas ainmhithe a chur chun cinn agus a chosaint chun leasa tomhaltóirí, táirgeoirí agus na sochaí níos leithne

AN tSLÁINTE TRÍ CHÉILE

Cuireann coincheap “an tSláinte Trí Chéile” cur chuige “na sochaí go léir” chun cinn ina n-aithnítear go bhfuil sláinte daoine ceangailte le sláinte ainmhithe agus leis an gcomhshaol. Tá sé mar sprioc le coincheap “an tSláinte Trí Chéile” iarrachtaí comhoibríocha ildisciplíneacha a spreagadh ar fud earnálacha difriúla ar nós earnáil na sláinte na talmhaíochta agus an comhshaol leis na torthaí sláinte is fearr a bhaint amach do dhaoine agus d’ainmhithe.

Tá pataiginí de chineál zónóiseach, a fhaigheann an duine ó ainmhithe cloís nó ó ainmhithe fiáine, trí theagmháil dhíreach, an timpeallacht (lena n-áirítear, trí veicteoirí beo) nó trí bhia, mar chúis le níos mó na 60% de ghalair thógálacha sa duine. Is ionann teacht chun cinn pataiginí nua agus pataiginí atá ag teacht chun cinn arís agus bagairt dhomhanda atá ag dul i méid do shláinte an duine agus do shláinte ainmhithe, lena n-áirítear sábháilteacht bia agus go deimhin slándáil bia. Dá bhrí sin, tá cosc a chur ar ghalair ag a bhfoinse ainmhithe rithabhachtach ó thaobh sláinte an duine a chosaint. Sa bhreis air sin, tá an méid a d’fhéadfadh sláinte ainmhithe cur le bearta maolaithe ó thaobh athrú aeráide á shainaithint agus á chainníochtú níos mó agus níos mó.

Tá baint ghníomhach ag an Roinn, i gcomhar le feirmeoirí, eagraíochtaí páirtithe leasmhara agus gníomhaireachtaí, le roinnt tionscnamh One Welfare, lena ndéantar soláthar suntasach do ‘leas an phobail’. Tugtar breac-chuntas thíos ar roinnt samplaí díobh sin:

Bithshláindáil

Tá athbhreithnithe bithshláindála ar an bhfeirm faoi stiúir tréidlianna ar fáil saor in aisce ag an bpointe úsáide d’fheirmeoirí muc agus éanlaithe tráchtála, faoi bheart sa Chlár Forbartha Tuaithe. Soláthraítear tuarascáil do gach feirmeoir rannpháirteach mar thoradh ar na hathbhreithnithe sin, ina dtugtar meas ar láidreacht a gcleachtas bithshláindála agus ina moltar príomhréimsí le feabhsú. Tabharfar léiriú ar an dul chun cinn a dhéanfar de bharr athruithe ar an mbainistiú de dhíth, le himeacht aimsire, trí bhíthin na hathbhreithnithe bithshláindála a dhéanamh bliain i ndiaidh bliana.

Córais Réamhbháis agus Iarbháis (AMPM)

Éilítear le Rialachán Cur Chun Feidhme an Choimisiúin (AE) 2019/627 go gcaitear torthaí ó iniúchtaí ábhartha ar fheoil lena mbaineann suntas do shláinte an phobail agus do shláinte ainmhithe a chur faoi bhráid táirgeoirí agus tréidli-

chleachtóirí príobháideacha. Ach na sonraí rithabhachtacha sin a chur ar fáil do chinnteoirí ar leibhéal feirme, ar ardán slán ar líne, cabhrófar le feabhsúcháin ar bhainistiú sláinte tréad a bhrú chun cinn. Beidh buntáistí ann, dá bharr sin, do thorthaí sláinte ainmhithe agus do thorthaí sláinte an phobail. Is réamhriachtanas é torthaí ó scrúduithe réamhbháis agus iarbháis a ghabháil go leictreonach le go bhféadfar aiseolas den sórt sin a thabhairt, agus chuige sin, tá an Roinn i mbun pleanála chun córais AMPM a thabhairt isteach maidir le raon speiceas. Is le haghaidh muc é an chéad chóras den sórt sin arna fhorbairt ag an Roinn agus táthar ag súil go leathfar amach chuig speicis eile é sna 3-4 bliana amach romhainn. Tá aiseolas á thabhairt d’fheirmeoirí mairteola agus déiríochta le roinnt blianta anuas faoin gclár Seiceáil Sláinte Mairteola, arna fhorbairt ag Sláinte Ainmhithe Éireann, i gcomhar leis an Roinn agus le Tionscal Feola na hÉireann, i ndáil le puchán ae agus galar riospráide. Is léir, dá bharr sin, luach na gcóras sin d’fheirmeoirí, don tionscal feola, do thréidliacha-chleachtóirí agus don lucht déanta beartais.

An Grúpa Páirtithe Leasmhara Campalabaictéir

Is é Campalabaictéir an chúis is coitianta le heintríteas baictéarach in Éirinn agus ar fud an AE. Tá earnáil sicíní cuibhrithe na hÉireann, le tacaíocht ón Roinn, ó Údarás Sábháilteachta Bia na hÉireann agus ó dhreamanna eile, rannpháirteach sa Ghrúpa Páirtithe Leasmhara Campalabaictéir. Leagtar amach go leor moltaí i dtuarascáil an Ghrúpa (Aibreán 2017) a bhfuil mar aidhm leo laghdú riosca a fheabhsú ar fud an bhiashlabhra go dtí an pointe tomhaltais. Mar chuid d’fhorfheidhmiú na tuarascála sin, tá comhaontú déanta ag an Roinn agus ag na páirtithe leasmhara ábhartha faoina mbailítear samplaí caocháin anois ó fhormhór na n-ealtaí a chuirtear ar aghaidh lena marú, agus prótacal comhaontaithe á úsáid. Is léiriú den scoth iad na torthaí ón anailís a dhéantar ar na samplaí sin ar leitheadúlacht Campalabaictéir ar leibhéal na feirme. Tá obair a dhéanamh i gcónaí chun an bunachar sonraí a fhorbairt tuilleadh lena chur ar chumas feirmeoirí aiseolas díreach a fháil faoi thorthaí Campalabaictéir, chomh maith le cumas tagarmharcála lena n-éascófaí monatóireacht ar an dul chun cinn.

Is cuid thábhachtach den Straitéise Náisiúnta Shláinte Ainmhithe Saothraithe foriomlán í an **Straitéis Faireachais maidir le Sláinte Ainmhithe**. Faoin bhFaireachas maidir le Sláinte Ainmhithe is féidir faisnéis a bhailiú chun eachtraí nua a bhaineann le sláinte ainmhithe nó méadú i líon na n-imeachtaí a bhaineann le sláinte ainmhithe a bhailiú a

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luaithe agus is féidir le go mbeidh faisnéis níos fearr á cur ar fáil ar mhaithe le riosca a bhainistiú ag gach leibhéal den tionscal. Is cuid ríthábhachtach de chóras faireachais dea-fheidhmiúil é an fhaisnéis a fhaightear ó na gníomhaíochtaí faireachais sin a chur in iúl. Is príomhghné den chumarsáid laistigh den straitéis faireachais a bhí i láithreán gréasáin tiomanta maidir le sláinte ainmhithe a bhunú, chun faisnéis thráthúil agus chruinn a chur ar fáil do pháirtithe leasmhara ábhartha

(www.animalhealthsurveillance.agriculture.gov.ie).

Cuireann sé faisnéis shláinte ainmhithe ar fáil do chomhpháirtithe trádála reatha agus ionchasacha freisin. Déantar an láithreán gréasáin a nuashonrú go rialta le saincheisteanna tráthúla maidir le sláinte ainmhithe chun leasa feirmeoirí, tréidlia-chleachtóirí agus úsáideoirí eile. Ba ghníomh ar tugadh faoi mar chuid den straitéis faireachais in 2019 a bhí i dtabhairt isteach chlár faireachais seamlas nua d'eallach. Ceapadh é le hoibriú i gcomhar le córais TF na Roinne, chun saoire ó Bhruisealóis, Liúcóis Bhuuibheach Eansótach (EBL) agus Gormtheanga a chinntiú, trí bhíthin sraith amháin samplaí a úsáid ar an mbealach is éifeachtaí is féidir ó thaobh costais de. Bhí an clár nua an-éifeachtach chun deis a thabhairt don Roinn an torthaí céanna a bhaint amach leis na 17,197 sampla fola a bailíodh i rith 2019 i gcomparáid leis na 129,469 sampla fola a bailíodh i rith 2018.

Lá Feasachta Sláinte Ainmhithe

Reáchtáil an Roinn an chéad Lá Feasachta maidir le Sláinte Ainmhithe an 28 Samhain 2019 chun cur leis an bhfeasacht ar an tábhacht a bhaineann le sláinte ainmhithe. Eagraíodh raon imeachtaí don lá feasachta agus d'fhreastail lucht féachana de thart ar 900 duine ar na himeachtaí éagsúla. Seimineár dar teideal Animal Health – from farm to food shelf ab ea an príomh-imeacht don lá, a tionóladh i Marglann an Chairn agus bhí os cionn 100 duine i láthair. Ar na himeachtaí eile bhí cainteanna do mhic léinn talmhaíochta, tréidlia-chleachtóirí agus mic léinn altranais, arna n-óstáil ag líonra Saotharlann Tréidliachta Réigiúnach na Roinne. Scaipeadh os cionn 4,750 bileog agus 280 póstaer le cur in airde in oifigí na Roinne, i monarchana maraithe le ceadú ón Roinn, i marglanna, in institiúidí oideachais tríú leibhéal agus in oifigí Teagasc

An Straitéis Náisiúnta maidir le Leas Ainmhithe

Tá críochnú agus foilsíú na Straitéise Náisiúnta maidir le Leas Ainmhithe á bhrú chun cinn ag an Roinn. Aithnítear sa straitéis, a thagann le prionsabail One Welfare, an

idircheangailteacht idir leas ainmhithe agus folláine an duine agus samhlaítear fúithi caidreamh níos mó i measc páirtithe leasmhara agus na sochaí i dtreo chomhchuspóir de leas ainmhithe níos fearr in Éirinn.

Muca le hEireabail Shlána a Thógáil

Is clár náisiúnta é Muca le hEireabail Shlána a Thógáil, a bhfuil mar aidhm leis tógáil tráchtála muc gan a n-eireabail a sciortadh a bhaint amach. Bíonn muca ag ithe a n-eireabail nuair nach gcuirtear timpeallachtaí maireachtála a éascaíonn gnáth-iompar muc ar fáil dóibh. Tá feirmeoirí muc ag tabhairt faoi na chéad chéimeanna trí bhíthin measúnuithe riosca a dhéanamh agus pleananna gníomhaíochta a chruthú maidir le hithe eireabail. Cuirtear an próiseas sin, arna mhaoiniú ag an gClár Forbartha Tuaithe, ar fáil trí bhíthin saineolas tréidliachta príobháideach. Tá cuairteanna rialta a dhíríonn go sonrach ar mhuca le heireabail shlána a thógáil á gcur chun cinn ag an am céanna.

Frithsheasmhacht in aghaidh Ábhar Frithmhiocróbaigh

In 2019, léirigh na páirtithe leasmhara go léir i Coiste Feidhmiúcháin Sláinte Ainmhithe iNAP tiomantas soiléir ó thaobh tacú le Plean Gníomhaíochta na hÉireann chun dul i ngleic le AMR agus lean siad de na gníomhartha maidir le Sláinte Ainmhithe arna leagan amach in iNAP a bhrú chun cinn. Ag an am céanna, tá an Roinn fós ag obair leis na páirtithe leasmhara go léir faoi choimirce an Choiste Chomhairliúcháin Idir-rannach, a thagann le chéile faoi dhó sa bhliain, chun na gníomhartha in iNAP a bhrú chun cinn ar leibhéal One Welfare. Tugadh forbhreathnú ar shonraí faireachais maidir le húsáid frithmhiocróbach (AMU) agus frithsheasmhacht in aghaidh ábhair fhrithmhiocróbaigh (AMR) i ndaoine agus i mbia-ainmhithe in Éirinn den chéad uair nuair a foilsíodh an chéad tuarascáil One Welfare - Report on Antimicrobial Use and Antimicrobial Resistance in Éirinn i mí Eanáir 2019.

Thug an Lárionad Eorpach um Ghalair a Chosc agus a Rialú (ECDC) agus Ard-Stiúrthóireacht an Choimisiúin Eorpaigh um Shláinte agus Sábháilteacht Bia cuairt ar Éirinn le chéile maidir le AMR agus One Welfare, ón 7-11 Deireadh Fómhair 2019. Eagraíodh an chuairt i gcomhar lenár gcomhghleacaithe sa Roinn Sláinte agus ba é cuspóir na cuairte cabhrú le hÉirinn a straitéisí agus beartais náisiúnta in aghaidh AMR a fhorbairt agus a fhorfheidhmiú tuilleadh,

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bunaithe ar chur chuige One Welfare. Is measúnú an-áisiúil ar na gníomhartha atá déanta againn go dtí seo chun dul i ngleic le AMR é an tuarascáil chríochnaitheach ón gCoimisiún Eorpach ar a chinntí agus a mholtaí. Beidh na cinntí mar bhonn eolais don dara Plean Gníomhaíochta Náisiúnta na hÉireann maidir le AMR a fhorbairt. Tá tús le cur leis an bplean sin in 2020.

Rinne an Roinn agus Teagasc comhdháil faoi fhrithsheasmhacht in aghaidh ábhar frithmhiocróbach agus frith-heilminteach dar teideal “Awareness to Action” a eagrú i gcomhar. Tionóladh an chomhdháil an 27 Samhain 2019. Ba iad príomh-chuspóirí an imeachta sin, cur leis an bhfeasacht ar ábhair fhrithmhiocróbach (AMR) agus frith-heilminteach agus aistriú eolais agus dea-chleachtais a éascú i measc feirmeoirí agus gairmithe tréidliachta i ndáil le cógais tréidliachta i sláinte ainmhithe a úsáid agus a bhainistiú. An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara, Teagasc agus Sláinte Ainmhithe Éireann a d’óstáil an t-imeacht sin i gcomhar, le tacaíocht ón gColáiste Ollscoile, Baile Átha Cliath. Chuimsigh an t-imeacht seo dhá phríomhchuspóir an iNAP maidir le faisnéis agus feasacht ar an AMR a fheabhsú, ag cur an méid is fearr is féidir le húsáid antaibheathaigh i ndaoine agus in ainmhithe trí éascú a dhéanamh ar chomhroinnt faisnéise agus sárchleachtas a mhalartú i measc lucht gairme cúram sláinte agus tréidliachta maidir le húsáid, ordú oidis agus bainistíocht antaibheathaigh i sláinte daoine agus ainmhithe.

Seoladh dhá threoirhoiciméad nua a forbraíodh ag na páirtithe leasmhara feirmeoireachta agus tréidliachta a raibh baint acu le Coiste Feidhmiúcháin Sláinte Ainmhithe iNAP ag an imeacht sin, lenar áiríodh Code of Good Practice Regarding the Responsible Use of Antibiotics on Pig Farms agus A Code of Good Practice Regarding the Responsible Use of Antibiotics on Dairy Farms.

Thug an Roinn Bunachar Sonraí Náisiúnta maidir le hÚsáid Frithmhiocróbach do mhuca isteach an 1 Samhain 2019. Tá an bunachar sonraí sin ceaptha sonraí ar leibhéal na feirme faoin méid frithmhiocróbach a úsáidtear ar fheirmeacha tráchtála muc na hÉireann a bhailiú ar bhonn ráithiúil. Is cuid lárnach den iarracht náisiúnta maidir leis an úsáid a laghdú tríd is tríd é úsáid frithmhiocróbach a thomhas, agus úsáid fhreagrach a chur chun cinn nuair is gá. Samhlaítear go mbaileofar sonraí ó thréidlianna a thugann oidis do gach speicis eile chomh maith, cé gur ar leibhéal na feirme i gcás muc a bhailítear na sonraí úsáide.

Chomhoibrigh an Roinn le Irish Farmers Journal (IFJ) freisin in 2019 ar fheachtas “One Health” a dhírigh ar fheirmeoirí agus ar chomhairleoirí feirmeoirí chomh maith le léitheoirí eile an IFJ. Is é a bhí i gceist leis an tionscnamh sin, alt sa choicís ar líne agus foilsithe san iris, in éineacht le físeán gearr a phlé an téama idir lámha. Thosaigh an tionscnamh i mí Mheán Fómhair 2019 agus lean sé ar aghaidh ar feadh 26 sheachtain. Comhlánaíodh roinnt cuspóirí straitéiseacha faoi Phlean Gníomhaíochta Náisiúnta na hÉireann maidir le AMR 2017-2020 (iNAP) faoin tionscnamh, ó thaobh Chuspóir Straitéiseach 1, eolas agus feasacht ar AMR a fheabhsú, Cuspóir Straitéiseach 3, leathadh ionfhabhtaithe agus galair a laghdú trí bhíthin sláinte ainmhithe agus bithshláindáil níos fearr a chur chun cinn agus Cuspóir Straitéiseach 4, úsáid antaibheathach i sláinte ainmhithe a thabhairt chun cinn.

Faoi dheireadh 2019, bhí 54 ghníomh i bplean gníomhaíochta Choiste Feidhmiúcháin Sláinte Ainmhithe iNAP. Tá 13 de na gníomhartha sin tugtha chun críche agus tá an chuid eile fós ar bun. Bhí rannpháirtíocht thar a bheith dearfach ar fud na n-earnálacha agus táthar ag leanúint den obair go seasta chun aghaidh a thabhairt ar na straitéisí agus cuspóirí éagsúla, ag teacht le Plean Gníomhaíochta na hEagraíochta Domhanda Sláinte chun dul i ngleic le bagairt a bhaineann, sa chéad dul síos, le sláinte an phobail. Rachaidh an plean gníomhaíochta reatha in éag ag deireadh 2020 agus tá tús curtha leis an obair ar an bplean a thiocthaidh ina áit.

In ainneoin na tábhachta a ghabhann leis an bpointe thuas, i gcomhthéacs sábháilteacht bia, tá freagracht phríomha ar Oibrítheoirí Gnó Bia (FBO’nna) ó thaobh a chinntiú go mbíonn aon bhia a chuireann siad ar an margadh sábháilte agus folláin. Dá bhrí sin, tá freagracht doshéanta ar FBO’nna – lena n-áirítear, feirmeoirí – na gníomhartha cuí a ghlacadh le haon riosca don tsláinte phoiblí a laghdú.

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Rialuithe Sábháilteachta agus Sláinteachais Bia

Lean an Roinn le caighdeán sábháilteachta agus sláinteachais bia a dheimhniú sa bhliain 2017 trína conradh seirbhíse le hÚdarás Sábháilteachta Bia na hÉireann (FSAI) a chur i bhfeidhm.

Clúdaíonn Conradh Seirbhíse nua trí bliana, atá i bhfeidhm ón mbliain 2017, rialuithe maidir le

- Sláinteachas feola
- Bainne agus táirgí bainne
- Uibheacha agus táirgí uibheacha
- Lotnaidicídí
- Gairneoireacht
- Poist Chigireachta Teorann
- Iarmhair
- Treoir maidir le Zónóisí
- Lipéadú bia

Sa bhliain 2019, rinne an Roinn imscrúdú ar 82 gearán maidir le bia a chomhordú agus bhain 56 acu le feoil/táirgí feola, bhain 26 acu le bainne/táirgí bainne, agus bhain 18 acu le mear-fholáireamh thar ceann an FSAI agus Choimisiún na hEorpa. Bhí idir chomhréireacht le reachtaíocht lipéadaithe, ábhair choimhthíocha a líomhnaíodh a fuarthas i dtáirgí agus saincheisteanna maidir le caighdeán i gceist leo seo. Tugadh faoi chomhordú ar na himscrúduithe seo sa bhreis ar an ghnáthmhonatóireacht bia lena chinntiú nach sáraítear uasleibhéal inghlactha iarmhair.

Bhí an Roinn rannpháirteach freisin i gcúig Mhísean Iniúchta/Faisnéise na Stiúrthóireachta Ginearálta don tSláinte agus Sábháilteacht Bia maidir le hAllmhairí Beatha, Orgánaigh Ghéinmhodnaithe, Rialuithe maidir le Feirmeoireacht Orgánach agus le Lipéadú, Sláinteachas Bhia ar mhaithe le hÉilliú Micribitheolaíochta a chosc agus na Córais Náisiúnta Iniúchta.

Bainne agus Feoil

Bunaithe ar an bprionsabal bunúsach go bhfuil gach oibreoir gnó bia agus beatha freagrach as sábháilteacht an bhia/bheatha atá á tháirgeadh acu, ní mór go mbeidh gach bunáocht déiríochta agus feola ag comhlíonadh ceanglais na Rialacháin Eorpacha um Shláinteachas Bia (ar a dtugtar an “Pacáiste Sláinteachais”). Ní mór go

mbeidh Oibritheoirí Gnó Bia (FBOanna) ag cloí freisin le prionsabail an HACCP (anailís ghuaise agus pointí rialúcháin criticiúla) a nglactar leo go hidirnáisiúnta, a thugann an tsolúbthacht do FBOanna le córais rialúcháin a chur in oiriúint do riachtanais shainiúla a gcuid oibríochtaí féin. Le linn 2019, lean an Roinn de mhonatóireacht agus fíorú a dhéanamh, lena chinntiú go raibh na bunáochtaí ceadaithe go léir den sórt sin ag comhlíonadh na bprionsabal i gcónaí. Ta liosta de na bunáochtaí bia ceadaithe agus cláraithe á choinneáil ag an Roinn ar a láithreán gréasáin.

(<http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/foodsafetyconsumerissues/DAFMapprovedestablishments/>)

Tugann an Roinn faoina rialúcháin riosca-bhunaithe féin ar bhunáochtaí atá faoina maoirseacht. Le linn na bliana 2019, chuaigh córas rialúcháin na Roinne i monarchana feola ó fhócas cigireachta aonair go samhail iniúchta. Bhí tionchar ag an fhócas nua ar iniúchtaí leathana measúnú riosca ar ghníomhaíochtaí ar an líon foriomlán rialúcháin. Tugadh faoi 2,054 rialúchán ar bhunáochtaí feola sa bhliain 2019 ar mhaithe lena dhearbhu go bhfuil na ceanglais reachtúla cuí á gcomhlíonadh ag gach céim den táirgeadh, den phróiseáil agus den dáileadh. Áiríodh ar rialúcháin fhorlíontacha teicniúla 5,031 cuairt ar FBOanna feola.

Ba 1,600 an líon comhfhreagrach rialúcháin ar tugadh fúthu ó thaobh bunáochtaí déiríochta (lena n-áirítear tacaíocht margaidh). Áiríodh ar rialúcháin fhorlíontacha teicniúla 11,908 sampla a tógadh sa bhliain 2019. D’eisigh an Roinn 56,780 teastas mar thacaíocht do thrádáil feola agus 29,253 teastas mar thacaíocht do thrádáil déiríochta chuig margai inmheánacha agus idirnáisiúnta.

Seirbheáladh 1,391 fógra maidir le bainne agus feoil ar FBOanna Bainne agus Feola, á gcur ar an eolas maidir le sárúithe na Rialacháin Sláinteachais agus tugadh faoi ghníomh leantach de réir mar ba ghá.

Fotháirgí Ainmhithe

Próiseálann tionscal rindreála na hÉireann thart ar 500,000 tonna seachtháirgí ainmhithe (ABP) amha ón tionscal feola in aghaidh na bliana, chomh maith le hainmhithe a fhaigheann bás ar fheirmeacha. Áirítear le ABP freisin, dramhbhia; dramhaíl lónadóireachta ó bhialanna agus óstáin agus aoileach ó ainmhithe feirme. In 2019, rinneadh cóid dea-chleachtais d’fheirmeoirí éanlaithe a ghineann dramhaíl éanlaithe, do tharlóirí

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dramhaíl éanlaithe agus d'úsáideoirí deiridh dramhaíl éanlaithe a nuashonrú agus a eisiúint ar na comhpháirtithe go léir. Tá siad le fáil ar láithreán gréasáin na Roinne.

Tá thart ar 1,900 oibritheoir ABP ón earnáil bithmhaise, (a ghineann fuinneamh inathnuaithe) comhdhéanta (a ghineann bunshraith fáis do mhuisiriúin agus leasacháin orgánacha) agus rindreála go hinstiúidí oideachais agus saoráidí taighde bainteach le bailiú, iompar, láimhsiú, cóireáil, aistriú, próiseáil, stóráil, cur ar an margadh, úsáid dáileacháin nó diúscairt fotháirgí ainmhithe agus tá siad á rialú ag an Roinn faoi reachtaíocht ABP AE agus náisiúnta.

Rialúcháin maidir le Beatha Ainmhithe

Is í an Roinn an tÚdarás Inniúil Iárnach atá freagrach as reachtaíocht AE a fhorfheidhmiú maidir le hábhar beatha ainmhithe. Ar réamhriachtanas do bhia sábháilte tá beatha ainmhithe atá sábháilte agus mar thoradh air sin earnáil beatha ainmhithe atá rialáilte go maith laistigh den AE. Díríonn an reachtaíocht ar a chinntiú nach gcuirfidh ábhair beatha sláinte ainmhithe ná sláinte an phobail i mbaol, go gcomhlíonfaidh siad na híoschaighdeáin forordaithe, go mbeidh siad lipéadaithe go cruinn agus inrianaithe go hiomlán.

Tugann an Roinn faoi chlár rialúcháin oifigiúil riosca-bhunaithe a chuirtear i bhfeidhm trí chigireachtaí, iniúchtaí agus sampláil ábhair bheatha ag gach céim den slabhra bhia, lena n-áirítear, allmhairiú, stóráil, déantúsaíocht, trádáil agus úsáid ag leibhéal na feirme.

Tá samplaí ábhar beatha faoi réir ag raon leathan anailíse chun sábháilteacht na beatha a fhíorú agus chun cruinneas na faisnéis ar na lipéid a fhíorú.

Sa bhliain 2019, tugadh faoi 1,219 cigireacht/iniúchadh ar an iomlán. Bhain formhór na gcásanna neamhchomhlíonta a sainathnódh i rith rialaithe oifigiúil le heasnaimh i bpleananna HACCP na nOibreoirí Gnó Bi, ba é sin, 43% den líon iomlán a eisíodh. Bhain cásanna neamhchomhlíonta eile le sláinteachas ginearálta (24%), lipéadú (11%) agus inrianaitheacht (11%). Cuireadh na cásanna neamhchomhlíonta in iúl do na hOibreoirí Gnó Bia agus tá gníomhartha déanta ina leith agus aghaidh tugtha orthu anois.

Bailíodh 1,539 sampla de bheatha ainmhithe in 2019 agus seoladh iad chuig saotharlanna éagsúla le go

ndéanfaí os cionn 10,000 anailís orthu, lena n-áirítear le haghaidh substaintí neamh-inmhianaithe, próitéin ainmhithe agus éilleáin cheimiceáin micribhitheolaíochta. Bhain os cionn 80% de na tástálacha a rinneadh le Sábháilteacht Beatha. Bhí na hábhair beatha ar fad a tástáladh sábháilte agus oiriúnach don fheidhm agus bhí 3% den anailís lasmuigh den lamháltas i gcomhair airíonna cáilíochtúla.

Onnmhairithe Beatha Ainmhithe

Léirítear teacht aniar rialuithe beatha ainmhithe na hÉireann sa rochtain atá ag dul i méid i rith an ama chuig margaí onnmhairithe do tháirgí Agraibhia na hÉireann, tráth a rinneadh beatha ainmhithe a onnmhairiú chuig 58 tír, lena n-áirítear roinnt de na margaí is deacra ar nós na Seapáine agus na Síne. Chomh maith leis sin, tháinig ardú 10% ar an líon deimhniúcháin onnmhairiúcháin beatha ainmhithe a eisíodh sa bhliain 2019 i gcomparáid leis an mbliain 2018.

Bliain	Líon Deimhniúchan onnmhairiúcháin	Líon tíortha
2018	1,394	61
2019	1,546	58

Faireachas ar Iarmhair sa Bhia

Léirigh torthaí Plean Náisiúnta Iarmhair na bliana 2019 na Roinne treocht leanúnach maidir le ráta ard comhlíontachta le 99.79% de na samplaí a tástáladh diúltach ó thaobh aon iarmhair.

Rinneadh tástáil ar 17,500 sampla sa bhliain 2019, tógadh na samplaí seo ar fud gach aon cheann de na hocht speiceas a tháirgeann bia, chomh maith le bainne, le huibheacha agus le mil. Bhí 99.79% de na tástálacha diúltach ó thaobh iarmhair a leanann leis an treocht ó thaobh easnamh ginearálta iarmhair i dtáirgí bia na hÉireann. Tá an t-ardleibhéal comhlíontachta seo seasmhach le roinnt bliana anuas.

Ní raibh ach 37 sampla nach raibh ag cloí leis na rialúcháin agus bhain a bhformhór sin le hiarmhair i gcógais údaraithe. Rinne Údarás Sábháilteachta Bia na hÉireann meastóireachtaí riosca mar fhreagairt ar gach toradh dearfach. Fuarthas nach raibh riosca do-ghlactha

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do thomhaltóirí ó thaobh sábháilteachta bia de i gceist le 36 chás agus níorbh éigean táirgí a aisghairm ón margadh. Sa chás amháin eile inar thástáil sampla eachaí dearfach i gcomhair dhé-ocsainí, eisíodh fógra faoin gCóras Mear-Fholáirimh um Bia agus Beatha (RASFF) chuig gach Ballstát. Rinneadh imscrúdú ar gach aon toradh dearfach ar an fheirm bhunaidh ar mhaithe leis na bearta forfheidhmithe suas go dtí agus cás dlí a thógáil san áireamh.

Ceadú, Scrúdú agus Rialúchán Táirgí Cosanta Plandaí agus Táirgí Bithicídeacha

Déantar údarú ag leibhéal náisiúnta ar tháirgí lotnaidicídí ina bhfuil substaintí ceadaithe gníomhacha de réir na meastóireachta criosaithe, aitheantais fhrithpháirtigh agus an critéar cinnteoireachta a chomhaontaítear ag leibhéal AE. Leanadh le measúnú mionsonraithe agus le hobair piarmheasúnaithe ar 25 substaint ghníomhach le linn na bliana 2019, tugadh an próiseas rialacháin chun críche i ndáil le 19 substaint. Rinneadh dul chun cinn maidir le hobair piarmheasúnaithe ar 37 táirge sa bhliain 2019, agus críochnaigh 20 táirge an próiseas rialacháin. Rinneadh údarú ar 190 táirge cosanta plandaí eile trí phróiseas an aitheantais fhrithpháirtigh nó tugadh cothrom le dáta iad le linn na bliana. Maidir le obair rialála bithicídí, rinneadh údarú ar 414 táirge bithicídeach trí phróiseas an aitheantais fhrithpháirtigh nó tugadh cothrom le dáta iad le linn na bliana.

Níl ceadaithe ach táirgí cosanta plandaí agus táirgí bithicídeacha atá san áireamh sa Chlár Oifigiúil a chur ar an margadh. Bhí 939 táirge cosanta plandaí ar an gClár faoi dheireadh 2019. Tá mionsonraí le fáil ar láithreán gréasáin na Roinne, agus is féidir iad sin a cheistiú trí ainm táirge de réir na substainte gníomhaí nó de réir feidhme agus bairr. Ag deireadh 2019, bhí tuairim is 2,600 táirge bithicídeach fógartha san áireamh sa Chlár Táirgí Bithicídeacha in Éirinn agus 836 táirge bithicídeach údaraithe.

Tugann an Roinn faoi ghníomhartha leantacha maidir le sárúithe ar na Leibhéil Uasta Iarmhair (MRL'nna) agus úsáidí neamhúdaraithe atá aitheanta ag an Rannán um Cheimic an Bhia. Sa bhliain 2019, rinne Clár Náisiúnta um Rialú Iarmhair Lotnaidicídí sampláil agus rinne anailís ar 1,466 mír bia. Rinneadh sárú ar MRL'nna le haghaidh iarmhar lotnaidicídí sa bhia i 10 de na samplaí a rinneadh anailísiú orthu (0.7%) ach níor aithníodh aon riosca do shláinte an tomhaltóra. Bhain naoi sárú le táirgí nach de

bhunús na hÉireann iad a raibh sampláil déanta orthu mar chuid den chlár faireacháin. I ngach cás, eisíodh litreacha foláirimh inar cuireadh in iúl do na mórdhíoltóirí agus do na hoifigigh seo go gcuirfí an táirgeacht faoi réir caingean reachtúil dá mbraithfí sárú in athuair. Bhain sárú amháin le táirgí de bhunús na hÉireann. Rinneadh imscrúdú ar na táirgeoir a bhí i gceist maidir le cás féideartha neamhchomhlíonadh. Ní raibh aon sárú ann a bhain le rialúcháin allmhairithe. Chomh maith leis sin, rinneadh imscrúdú ar chásanna i ndáil le húsáidí neamhúdaraithe lotnaidicídí agus tionscnaíodh gníomh leanta, lena n-áirítear spriocdhíríú ar tháirgí le sampláil a dhéanamh orthu amach anseo.

Foilsíodh leagan nuashonraithe de Phlean Gníomhaíochta Náisiúnta na hÉireann (NAP) maidir le húsáid Inbhuanaithe Lotnaidicídí sa bhliain 2019. Cuirtear in iúl go sonrach sa NAP nua nach mór tástáil agus deimhniúchán a dhéanamh ar gach cineál trealaimh curadóra lotnaidicídí, seachas trealamh láimhe. Tugtar tuilleadh mionsonraí faoi chur i bhfeidhm phrionsabail maidir le Bainistiú Comhtháite Lotnaidí freisin.

Rialuithe Sábháilteachta agus Sláinteachais Bia

Táirgí Gairneoireachta

Tá an Rannán Gairneoireachta agus Sláinte Plandaí sa Roinn freagrach as a chinntiú go bhfuil príomhtháirgeoirí tosaigh táirgí gairneoireachta cláraithe ag teacht le reachtaíocht sábháilteachta bia. Mar chuid de chonradh seirbhíse na Roinne leis an FSAI, feidhmíonn an Rannán córas riosca bhunaithe de rialuithe oifigiúla maidir le príomhtháirgeoirí tosaigh bia nach de bhunús ainmhíoch é le comhlíontacht le reachtaíocht sábháilteachta bia agus sláinteachais bia an AE a chinntiú. Áirítear leis seo, cigireacht, iniúchtaí, sampláil, lipéadú agus rialuithe oifigiúla a fheidhmiú de réir mar is gá. Seirbheáladh 146 fógra ar an iomlán ar tháirgeoirí bia gairneoireachta sa bhliain 2019, á gcur ar an eolas maidir le sárúithe faoi na Rialacháin Sláinteachais agus tógadh gníomh leanta de réir mar a bhí gá leis. Tá príomhról ag an Rannán ó thaobh déileáil le cásanna sábháilteachta bia a bhaineann le táirgí gairneoireachta na hÉireann. Is féidir an t-eolas go léir atá riachtanach ó thaobh clárú mar sholáthróir bia gairneoireachta a fháil ar láithreán gréasáin na Roinne: (<https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmingsectors/horticulture/registerasafoodproducerfruitveg/>)

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Tá an Rannán Gairneoireachta agus Sláinte Plandaí freagrach as tabhairt faoi chigireachtaí freisin ag leibhéal mórdhíola agus miondhíola lena chinntiú go bhfuil siad ag cloí le caighdeáin mhargaíochta náisiúnta agus/nó AE maidir le prátaí, torthaí úra agus glasraí. Tugadh faoi os cionn 2,000 cigireacht sa bhliain 2019 agus bhain na mórshaincheisteanna a aithníodh le lipéadú na tíre bunaidh agus le cineálacha prátaí níos saoire a chur in ionad cineálacha prátaí nach raibh chomh saor sin. Is féidir an t-eolas go léir a bhaineann le caighdeáin mhargaíochta an AE do ghlasraí agus torthaí úra a fháil ar láithreán gréasáin na Roinne ag

<https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmingsectors/horticulture/freshfruitvegetablemarketingstandardseu/>

Tástáil/Diúscairt Ainmhithe a Fhaigheann Bás

Sa bhliain 2019, chuir an Roinn tacaíocht airgid ar fáil le thart ar 57,000 ainmhí a fuair bás a bhailiú, go háirithe, bó-ainmhithe os cionn 48 mí d'aois, i gcomhair samplála mar a cheanglaítear faoi chlár náisiúnta faireachais leantach an BSE.

Cheadaigh an Roinn 38 cnioglan faoi rialacháin an ABP le hainmhithe a fuair bás a bhailiú agus iad a dhiúscairt.

Rialúcháin Allmhairithe ar Tháirgí Ainmhithe

Sa bhliain 2019, cuireadh 3,185 coinsíneacht de tháirgí allmhairithe ainmhíochas agus iascaigh i láthair Pointí Cigireachta Teorann (BIPanna) in Éirinn.

Eisíodh ceadúnais nó údaraithe do na táirgí seo de réir rialacha náisiúnta mar a leanas:

	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Samplaí trádála agus taighde*	104	93	233	762	782
Táirgí neamh-chomhchuibhithe	9	9	12	8	14
Coinsíneachtaí ath-allmhairithe	30	53	42	58	17
Gníomhairí pataigineacha	25	26	21	33	37
Vacsainí Uathghineacha	15	5	7	4	3

*Tabhair ar aird le do thoil gur cuireadh córas nua i bhfeidhm sa bhliain 2017 le ceadúnais shamplacha Trádála agus Taighde a údarú, le fáil réidh leis an gceanglas iarratas a dhéanamh de réir an bhoinn coinsíneachta chomh maith leis an athrú go dtí ceadúnas bliantúil.

An Córas Sainaitheanta agus Gluaiseachta Ainmhithe

Déanann an Córas Sainaitheanta agus Gluaiseachta Ainmhithe (AIM) bainistíocht ar shainaitheanta eallach, muca, gabhair, caoirigh agus capaill. Déanann sé bainistíocht ar ghluaiseacht eallaigh ar leibhéal aonair agus ar ghluaiseacht caoirigh, gabhair agus muc ar leibhéal tréada chun críocha inrianaitheachta.

Trí bhíthin an bhunachair sonraí, éascaítear comhlíonadh le riachtanais AE agus náisiúnta agus úsáidtear é chun críocha rialú galair agus chun tacú le honnmhairí. Feidhmíonn an córas ar bhonn 24/7 i marglanna, monarchana feola agus ag láithreacha onnmhairithe agus cuireann an tsaoráid ar líne ar chumas feirmeoirí agus gníomhairí údaraithe le clárúcháin laonna agus gluaiseacht eallach a sheoladh isteach go leictreonach. Tugadh rialacha nua isteach an 1 Meitheamh 2019 maidir le céannacht caorach, lena n-éilítear céannacht leictreonach a bheith ar gach caora agus céannacht le clib leictreonach bhuí amháin ar a laghad a bheith ar uain faoi 12 mhí d'aois atá á seoladh lena marú ón ngabháltas ina rugadh iad. Ní mór céannacht le tacar clibeanna EID iomlán / tacar bólais leictreonach a bheith ar gach caora eile. Ba chóir go ndéanfadh an córas níos simplithe chun caoirigh a chlibeáil faoinar cuireadh síneadh leis an aithint leictreonach cosaint ar cháil na hÉireann mar fhoinsé shábháilte agus shlán bia agus ainmhithe agus beidh córas rianaithe caorach na hÉireann ar chomhchéim le mórtíortha easpórtála iomaíochas eile i dtaobh margaí nua idirnáisiúnta a bhaint amach do chaoireoil na hÉireann agus iad a choinneáil.

An Straitéis um Shábháilteacht Bia agus Barántúlacht Bia

Bhunaigh Bord Bainistíochta na Roinne an Grúpa Oibre FSFA i nDeireadh Fómhair 2016 chun tuilleadh dul chun cinn a dhéanamh maidir le ról thar a bheith tábhachtach na Roinne sábháilteacht bia agus barántúlacht bia a chosaint. Is iad cuspóirí agus gníomhartha molta an Ghrúpa ná a chinntiú go mbeadh creat éifeachtach, éifeachtúil, comhchuibhithe agus comhordaithe ag an Roinn maidir le heagrú gach gníomhaíochta, rialuithe oifigiúla san áireamh, a bhaineann le sábháilteacht agus barántúlacht bia a thacaíonn le cuspóir na Roinne i ndáil le beartais, straitéisí agus oibríochtaí den scoth. Sheol an tAire Creed an Straitéis maidir le Sábháilteacht Bia agus

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Barántúlacht Bia (FSFA) i mí Iúil 2018. Tá an FSFA comhdhéanta de sheacht dTionscadal lena leagfar amach an treochlár faoin tslí is féidir obair na Roinne sa phríomhréimse seo a fheabhsú. Is iad seo a leanas na tionscadail sin:

Pleanáil Theagmhach (CP)

Leis an tionscadal seo, tabharfar tuairisc ar an struchtúr reatha CP sa Roinn maidir le FSFA, soláthrófar treoir dhoiciméad ina leagfar amach téamaí coitianta do phleananna teagmhais, tabharfar teimpléid le haghaidh phleananna teagmhais, tabharfar tuairisc ar chleachtaí insamhalta géarchéime sa Roinn agus forbrófar stór lárnach le haghaidh faisnéise.

Anailís Riosca agus Measúnú

Tá fiosrú á dhéanamh sa tionscadal seo ar chórais reatha anailíse agus measúnaithe riosca sa Roinn. Tá ár gcleachtais á gcur i gcomparáid le cleachtais in eagraíochtaí sa bhaile agus cinn inmheánacha le súil agus treochlár a chur le chéile do chóras riosca ar chaighdeán domhanda le haghaidh réimsí na Roinne.

Cumarsáid Straitéiseach

Tá mar aidhm leis an tionscadal seo feabhas a chur ar chomhleanúnachas agus cáilíocht na cumarsáide i ndáil le FSFA. D'fhonn é sin a bhaint amach, déanfar anailís pháirtithe leasmhara chomh maith le hathbhreithniú ar na modhanna cumarsáide reatha sa Roinn, comparáid le dea-chleachtas idirnáisiúnta agus forbairt ar straitéis cumarsáide le haghaidh FSFA.

Comhchuíbhíú Rialuithe Oifigiúla

Leis an tionscadal seo, cuirfeadh feabhas ar rannpháirtíocht custaiméirí leis an Roinn trí bhíthin idirghníomhú oifigiúil na Roinne le FBOanna agus a gcomhlachtaí rialaithe a chaighdeánú, an próiseas cláraithe/ceadaithe FBOanna ag an Roinn a shimpliú agus a chomhchuíbhíú agus formáid dhoiciméid FSFA na Roinne a úsáidtear i rialuithe oifigiúla a chaighdeánú.

Gabháil Sonraí, Anailís agus Tuairisciú

An toradh a bheidh ar an tionscadal seo, éifeachtúlachtaí i soláthar seirbhísí chun leasa an tomhaltóra agus an tionscail agraibhia. Tá fiosrú á dhéanamh sa tionscadal seo ar an tslí a mbainistítear

sonraí i Rannáin FSFA na Roinne agus ar chórais IMT a shainnithint lena soláthraítear cláir oibre cuimsitheacha agus comhchuíbhíthe, tuarascálacha agus méadracht ar fud na gníomhaíochtaí FSFA.

Oiliúint maidir le Rialuithe Barántúlachta Bia

Bainfidh an tionscadal seo le meastóireacht chórasach ar na rialuithe atá de dhíth faoin Rialúchán i ndáil le calaíocht agus barántúlacht bhia d'fhonn na scileanna agus an oiliúint a theastaíonn ó bhaill foirne chun riachtanais an Rialacháin a chur i bhfeidhm a shainnithint.

Comhlíonadh trí bhíthin Beartais Chomhtháite agus Rialáil Comhtháite

Tá scrúdú á dhéanamh sa tionscadal seo ar na cleachtais sa Roinn agus taobh amuigh di a chothaíonn comhlíonadh oibreoirí. Déanfar na dea-chleachtais sin a ghabháil i bhfoirm foireann uirlisí comhlíonta a bheifear in ann a úsáid mar uirlis beartais ar fud na heagraíochta. Tá clár maoirseachta faoi stiúir páirtithe leasmhara á fhorbairt chun feachtas ar na príomhshaincheisteanna maidir le comhlíonadh. Tá scrúdú á dhéanamh sa tionscadal ar na buntáistí a bhaineann le hanailís beartais sa réimse FSFA a chomhordú go lárnach.

Tá na tionscadail á gcur i bhfeidhm ar leithligh ag foirne fostaithe le hurraíocht tionscadail ar leibhéal ceann Rannáin. Tá baint dhíreach ag 70 ball foirne le pleanáil agus cur i bhfeidhm na dtionscadal. Ar roinnt de na gníomhaíochtaí atá á dtabhairt fúthu sna tionscadail ta suirbhéanna ar pháirtithe leasmhara, misin bailiú eolais agus cleachtaí ionsamhlaithe. Déanann Coiste Stiúrtha ardleibhéil maoirseacht ar an gcur i bhfeidhm agus tá ballraíocht inmheánach agus seachtrach i gceist leis.

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Galair Andúchasacha Infhógartha

Bhí sé fós mar thosaíocht sa bhliain 2018 a bheith san airdeall ó thaobh tabhairt isteach galair ar nós Galar Crúibe is Béil, Fliú na nÉan, an Galar Gormtheanga agus Fiabhras Afracach na Muc 2019. Tá galair andúchasacha le fáil i go leor tíortha eile agus tá sé léirithe ag taithí roimhe seo nach bhfuil aon dul as ach an trádáil a rialáil i gceart, ardleibhéal den bhithshlándáil agus den fhaireachas a chinntiú mar aon le socruithe teagmhach agus reachtaíocht láidir chun déileáil go pras agus go héifeachtach le bagairtí agus ráigeanna galair.

Bhí líon imscrúduithe ann sa bhliain 2019 maidir le galair andúchasacha a raibh amhras fúthu.

Rinne foireann na Roinne imscrúdú ar líon cásanna galair andúchasacha a raibh amhras fúthu le linn na bliana 2019:

Galar	2019	
	Cásanna a imscrúdaíodh a raibh amhras fúthu	Cásanna Deimhnithe
Artairíteas Víreasach Eachaí *	31	0
Pireapasmóis	1	1
An galar crúibe is béil	1	0
Galar Newcastle	3	0
Garaimicsivíreas (colúir) **	5	5
Fliú na nÉan (éanlaith)	2	0
Fliú na nÉan (Éin ghafa)	1	0
Iomlán	44	6

* Líon ard thar a bheith neamhghnách de chásanna amhrasacha mar gheall ar fhaireachas feabhsaithe mar thoradh ar ghanntanas vacsaín EVA in 2017/2018.

** Ní raibh siad infhógartha don AE nó don OIE.

Feidhmíonn an Roinn clár faireachais bliantúil maidir le Fliú na nÉan in éin fhiáine a bhfuil sé mar chuspóir aige láithreach fochineálacha víris d’Fhliú na nÉan a aithint agus an baol a d’fhéadfadh a bheith ann don tionscal éineola.

Líon na nÉan Fiáine a tástáladh d’Fhliú na nÉan le linn na bliana 2019:

Bliain	Líon na nÉan Fiáine a tástáladh	Líon dearfach
2019	78	0

Pleanáil Theagmhach

Tá pleananna teagmhais ardtosaíochta i bhfeidhm do ghalair andúchasacha. Tá na pleananna seo bunaithe ar reachtaíocht AE atá ann cheana agus ar chritéir a aithníodh le linn ráigeanna i dtíortha Eorpacha eile san am a caitheadh. Tá sé mar aidhm leo a chinntiú go mbíonn freagra tapa, comhordaithe agus éifeachtach ann chun ráigeanna galair andúchasacha a rialú leis an sprioc an galar a dhíothú, saoirse oifigiúil ó ghalair a thabhairt ar ais sa chás gur infheidhme agus éascú a dhéanamh ar fhilleadh ar ghnáthphatrúin trádála. Bhí fócas leanúnach na Roinne le linn na bliana 2019 ar phleananna agus socruithe teagmhais atá ann cheana féin a athbhreithniú agus ar a chinntiú go bhfuil leibhéal ard feasachta i measc geallsealbhóirí maidir leis an mbaol a bhaineann le galair andúchasacha, le fócas ar leith ar Fhiabhras Afracach na Muc.

BSE

Tá an Roinn freagrach as comhordú éifeachtach a dhéanamh ar bheartais agus ar fhaireachas BSE, as socruithe tástála agus cúitimh agus as maoiniú a dhéanamh ar na nithe sin, mar a fhoráiltear dóibh i Rialachán (EC) 999/2001 agus I.R. 532/15. Níor deimhníodh aon chásanna BSE sa bhliain 2019.

An Scráibeach

Is galar infhógartha éigeantach í an scráibeach in Éirinn. Aithníodh sé thréad nua sa bhliain 2019, le sé scráibeach aitiópúil agus gan aon scráibeach chlasaiceach ar bith.

Faoin gClár Faireachais Ghníomhaigh, tugadh faoi 21,978 tástáil scráibeach sa bhliain 2019, a bhí comhdhéanta de: 10,995 caora a tástáladh i monarchana maraithe; 10,717 caora básaithe; 104 ag Údarás Áitiúil; 0 caora bánaithe; agus 150 gabhar a bhí básaithe.

SLÁINTE AGUS LEAS AINMHITHE

Tá an Clár Géinitíopa Náisiúnta (NGP) i bhfeidhm chun lucht póraithe caorach a spreagadh ardú a chur ar fhrithsheasmhacht ghéiniteach i gcoinne scráibeach sa Tréad Náisiúnta. Is clár deonach atá anseo agus ó tugadh isteach é sa bhliain 2004 go dtí deireadh na bliana 2019 rinneadh 86,967 caora ar an iomlán a ghéintíopáil.

Córas Ríomhaireachta do Shláinte Aímhíthe (AHCS)

Is é an Córas Ríomhaireachta do Shláinte Aímhíthe (AHCS) an córas príomhúil ríomhaireachta lena dtugtar tacaíocht don Roinn chun a chlár tástála galar a bhainistiú do ghalair ar nós, an Eitinn (TB), an Bhrúsallóis (BR), Einceifealapaite Spúinseach Bhólachtaan (BSE) agus an Galar Víreasach Buaibheach (BVD) in eallach agus galar Aujeskey i Muca. Go hiomlán, thairfeadh an córas beagnach 11.5 milliún de thástálacha sa bhliain 2019 agus tá curtha go mór aige le héifeachtúlachtaí riaracháin i bhfeidhmiú an chlár TB agus le baint amach stádas saor ó Bhrúsallóis. Baineann thart ar 1,200 comhalta foirne de chuid na Roinne agus 1,000 Cleachtóir Príobháideach Tréidliachta úsáid as an gcóras seo gach lá.

Tástálacha Galar Aímhíthe a Taifeadh ar AHCS in 2019

Tástálacha a Rinneadh	Líon Iomlán
Tástálacha Tréada TB/BR	166,593
TB – Aímhíthe ar Leithligh	8,882,901
BVD – Laonna a Tástáladh	2,396,001
Salmonella – Tréada Muc – Tástálacha 7-Mí	1,945
Salmonella – Muca – Tástálacha Saotharlainne	6,092

Cuireadh roinnt feabhsúchán teicniúil i bhfeidhm i rith 2019, agus i measc na mórfheabhsúchán córais a tugadh isteach bhí –

- GIF (Tástáil Gháma-inteirféaróin) a chorprú sa chlár tástála TB,
- Cead Taistil do Thairbh a chruthú,
- Clár Rialaithe Salmonella i Muca (PSCP), ríomh leitheadúlachta a chorprú agus litreacha a ghiniúint,
- Úsáid Frithmhiocróbach – córais Gabháil Sonraí le haghaidh Úsáid Frithmhiocróbach i Muca.

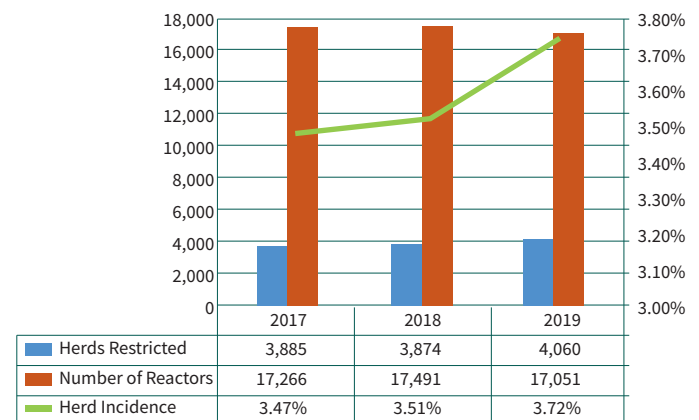
GALAIR AICME B

Eitinn Bhólachta

Rinneadh tástáil ar thart ar 98.4% den tréad náisiúnta i gcomhair eitinn bhólachta (TB) sa bhliain 2019. Bhí laghdú ar líon na bhfrithghníomhaithe a braitheadh, 17,058 in 2019 i gcomparáid le 17,491 in 2018. Tháinig ardú áfach ar chásanna i dtreáda ó thaobh TB ó 3.51% go 3.72% sa tréimhse chéanna.

Tá na treochtaí le trí bliana anuas leagtha amach sa ghraf thíos. Graf:

TB Statistics 2017-2019

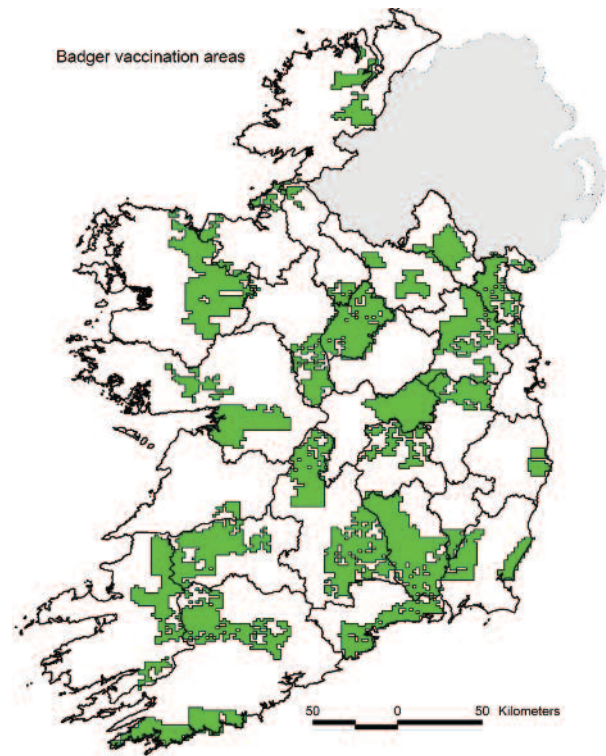
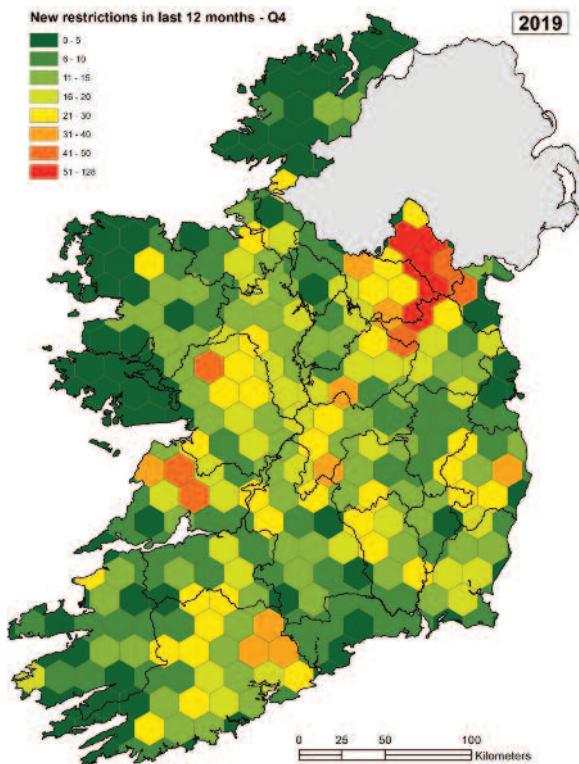


Tá ardú ag teacht ar riosca bunúsach maidir le TB mar gheall ar líon factóirí, lena tuilleadh eallaí déiríochta agus méideanna tréada aonair atá i bhfad níos mó. Áirítear ar líon na bhfrithghníomhaithe, ní amháin dearbhchlónna tástála craicinn ach dearbhchlónna tástála fola gháma-inteirféaróin (GIF) freisin a dhéanann suas thart ar 16% de na frithghníomhaithe. Baintear úsáid as tástáil GIF i mbriseadh síos TB ardriosca agus is féidir leis ainmhíthe ionfhabhtaithe a aithint a d'fhéadfadh nach mbeadh feicthe ag an tástáil craicinn caighdeánach. Tacaíonn treochtaí i líon na bhfrithghníomhaithe agus i gcásanna i dtreáda leis an ngá le fócas as an nua a bheith ar an gclár díothaithe TB.

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Mar a dheimhnítear sa léarscáil thíos, tá na leibhéil TB ar an iomlán ag leibhéal íseal ach bhí leibhéal réasúnta ard TB comhchruinnithe sa taobh thoir thuaidh den tír ar feadh na bliana 2019 m.sh. Muineachán, an Cabhán, an Mhí thuaidh. Léirítear na srianta nua sa tír sa léarscáil seo sa bhliain 2019.

údar leis go heipidéimeolaíoch. Tá léarscáil thíos den limistéar a bhí faoi vacsaíniú amhail dheireadh 2019.



Clár Vacsaíniú an Bhroic

Vacsaíniú mar Bheartas

Cuireadh le vacsaíniú broc in aghaidh eitinne (TB) in 2018 mar chuid lárnach den chlár díothaithe eitinne bólaigh. Bhí an clár vacsaínithe sin le leathadh amach de réir a chéile chuig áiteanna eile sa tír le himeacht aimsire ach bheadh gá le roinnt dealaithe broc fós mar fhreagairt ar dhroch-ráigeanna TB in áiteanna. Rinneadh dul chun cinn suntasach ar an leathadh amach sin sa dara leath de 2019 agus cuireadh méadú mór ar an limistéar sa tír a bhí faoi réir ag vacsaíniú. Sna limistéir sin, tá dealú broc fós á dhéanamh mar fhreagairt ar dhroch-ráigeanna TB bólaigh nuair atá

Vacsaíniú a Leathadh amach in 2019

Oiliúint foirne roimh an leathadh amach, dírithe ar:

- Torthaí na Trialach Vacsaínithe i gCill Chainnigh
- Na Trialacha Neamh-ísleachta
- Vacsaíniú mar rogha seachas Baint i dtéarmaí éiceolaíochta.
- Bogearraí Vacsaínithe Broc nua-fhorbartha a úsáid
- Targaidí le haghaidh Vacsaínithe

Modheolaíocht Vacsaínithe

Critéir faoinar féidir dealú a dhéanamh mar fhreagairt ar dhroch-ráigeanna TB bólaigh i limistéir vacsaínithe

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2019 Gníomhaíocht an Aonaid Fiadhúlra

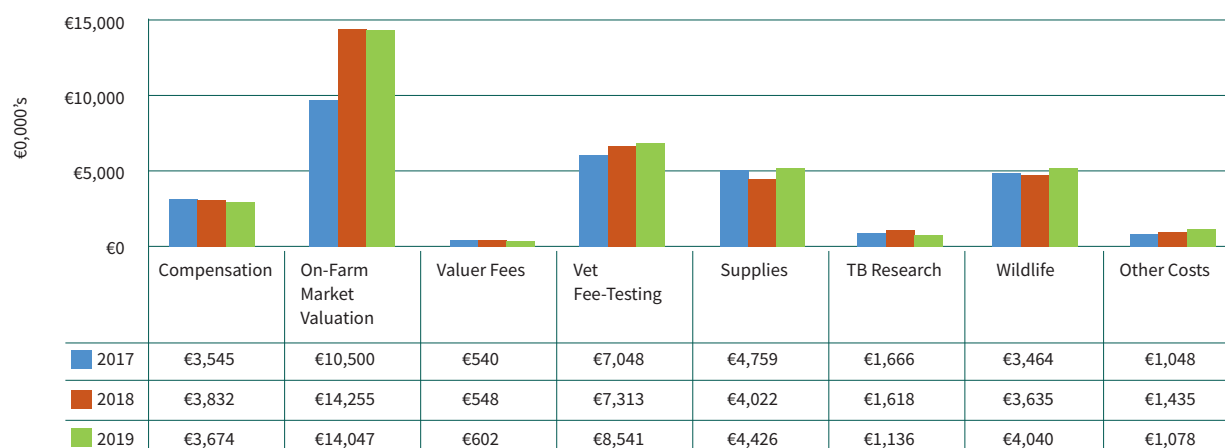
Rinneadh 1,391 bhroc a vacsaíniú sa chrios vacsaínithe in 2019 agus baineadh 5,310 broc sna bloic ghabhála bainte.

Straitéis TB 2030

Ag teacht le cuspóirí na Straitéise Náisiúnta Shláinte Ainmhithe Feirmshaothraithe, bhunaigh an tAire Creed an Fóram do Pháirtithe Leasmhara TB in 2018. Chuir Cathaoirleach an Fhórait TB, an tUas. Michael Cronin tuarascáil faoi bhráid an Aire i mí Iúil 2019 ina raibh rogha tograí a d'fhéadfadh tionchar mór a imirt ar an Eitinn Bhólachta a laghdú sna blianta amach romhainn. Tá sé beartaithe straitéis a sheoladh ina leagfar amach plean 10 mbliana don Eitinn Bhólachta agus aird á tabhairt ar na moltaí i dtuarascáil an Fhórait.

Rinne Seirbhís Eacnamaíochta agus Meastóireachta Rialtas na hÉireann athbhreithniú caiteachais ar an gclár Eitinne Bólachta. Eisíodh é Lá Buiséid 2019 agus úsáidfeair é mar bhonn eolais don bhreithniú a dhéanfar ar bheartas amach anseo.

Expenditure 2017-2019



Foilsíodh páipéar ar Athbhreithniú ar Chaiteachas i mí Dheireadh Fómhair 2019

(<https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/5915ad-spending-review/>) chun tacú le hobair an Fhórait TB chun scrúdú a dhéanamh ar na treoictaí le déanaí agus an tátal a baineadh as, go bhféadfadh údar a bheith le bearta breise chun díothú a bhaint amach.

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Scéimeanna Cúitimh

Is í an Scéim Luachála Margaidh ar an Fheirm an príomhbheart le cúiteamh a thabhairt d'fheirmeoirí as fáil réidh le frithghníomhaithe. Tugtar cúiteamh faoi scéimeanna eile, an Deontas do Bhánú Tréada, Forlíonadh Ioncaim agus Deontais Chruatain do chaillteanais ioncaim mar gheall ar shrianta. Caitheadh thart ar €17.7 milliún le linn na bliana 2019 ar ghnéithe cúitimh go léir na Scéimeanna Díothaithe TB agus Monatóireacht Brúsallóis.

Cómhaoiniú AE

Íoctar Cómhaoiniú AE i riaráiste. Ag teacht le critéir an chláir chómhaoinithe agus mar léiriú ar blianta as a chéile inar tháinig laghdú ar ghalair, ghearr an AE pionós 10% ar éileamh na hÉireann ar chómhaoiniú le haghaidh 2018. D'íoc an AE €8.79 milliún le haghaidh clár díothaithe eitinne bólachta (TB) na hÉireann 2018 in 2019. Ba €9.85 milliún an figiúr comhfhreagrach do chlár na bliana 2017. Mar gheall nár tháinig feabhas ar an méadracht galair in 2019, tá Éire ag súil le pionós breise 20% ar mhaoiniú, ag teacht le critéir an chláir chómhaoinithe. Rud eile, laghdaigh an AE an maoiniú atá ar fáil le haghaidh 2020 ó €7.25 mhilliún go €5.42 mhilliún agus tá seans ann go ngearrfar pionós eile 40% sa chás nach dtiocfaidh feabhas ar an méadracht galair in 2020. Ag teacht leis sin, tá an leibhéal cómhaoinithe á laghdú i gcónaí ó 50% go 35% le haghaidh 2020, rud a chiallaíonn go bhfuil seans ann nach mbeidh Éire in ann an méid iomlán atá leithdháilte a éileamh. Tá brú anuas leanúnach á chur ar an maoiniú don chlár TB atá ar fáil ón AE, rud a léiríonn na héilimh iomaíocha ar acmhainní ar fud an CAP agus go bhfuil galair eile ag teacht chun cinn a bhfuil tacaíocht chómhaoinithe de dhíth orthu.

Tobhaigh do Ghalair Bhólachta

Tháinig laghdú beag ar fháltais ó Thobhaigh do Ghalair Bhólachta sa bhliain 2019 go €7.3 milliún i gcomparáid le €7.5 milliún sa bhliain 2018.

Ionchúisimh

Tugadh sé chás ionchúisimh chun críche sa Chúirt Chuarda i rith 2019. Rinneadh achomharc i leith péire díobh agus réitíodh dhá chás dlíthíochta. Ina theannta sin, réitíodh cás amháin os comhair na hArd-Chúirte agus bhí dhá chás Ard-Chúirte eile fós gan réiteach ag druidim le 2020. Cuireadh tús le trí chás ionchúisimh nua i rith 2019 a raibh baint acu le líomhaintí faoi mhainneachtain tástála, mainneachtain fógra a chomhlíonadh, mainneachtain clib cluaise a úsáid, gluaiseacht neamhdhleathach gan pasanna agus brionnú doiciméad.

Saoirse ó Eitinn Bólachta a Choimeád

Tá stádas oifigiúil saor ó eitinn bólachta ag Éirinn ó mbliain 2009. Tá clár faireachais cuimsitheach riosca-bhunaithe á dhéanamh ag an Roinn i gcónaí chun údar a thabhairt lenár stádas leanúnach maidir le saoirse. Sa bhliain 2019, d'fhorbair saineolaithe tréidliachta na Roinne clár samplála sofaisticiúil atá bunaithe ar staidreamh. Cuireadh an clár i bhfeidhm chun an méid céanna muiníne a bhaint amach agus a bhaineann lenár stádas maidir le saoirse ón eitinn, fad a laghdófaí an méid samplaí agus acmhainní atá de dhíth chun an mhúinín sin a bhaint amach. Cuireadh an clár i bhfeidhm go rathúil ag deireadh 2019, rud a sholáthar bunús do chóras faireachais riosca-bhunaithe a bheidh níos éifeachtaí ó thaobh costais de sna blianta amach romhainn.

Sláinte Ainmhithe Éireann (AHI)

Díríonn an AHI ar líon príomhchlár a bhaineann le Buinneach Víreasach Bhólachta (BVD), Rineatraicéiteas Tógálach Buaibheach (IBR), galar Johne, Seiceáil Sláinte Mairteola agus Maistíteas. Tá an Roinn ag tacú leis na cláir seo agus tá tagairt déanta dóibh i bhfómhar Bia 2020.

Sa bhliain 2019, chuir an Roinn maoiniú de €784,650 ar fáil don AHI agus rinne geallsealbhóirí tionscal meaitseáil air.

Chuir an AHI tús le clár díothaithe éigeantach BVD sa bhliain 2013. Tá bunús dlí ag an gclár. Ní féidir

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ainmhithe atá ionfhabhtaithe go seasmhach leis an víreas (PI) a dhíol trí na marglanna agus ní mór iad a dhíúscairt i gcníoglan, seamlas nó monarcha feola. Tá an ráta comhlíonta leis an gceanglas tástála don BVD beagán níos ísle ná 100% de na gamhna a bheirtear agus atá á dtástáil don ghalair. Bhí laghdú tagtha ar chásanna ainmhithe P.I. ó 0.66% sa bhliain 2013 go 0.04% sa bhliain 2019. Meastar gur €102 milliún in aghaidh na bliana an coigilteas d'fheirmeoirí mar thoradh ar dhíothú.

An Chomhairle Chomhairleach ar Leas Ainmhithe Feirme

Tá an Chomhairle Chomhairleach ar Leas Ainmhithe Feirme (FAWAC) ina comhlacht comhairleach neamhspleách don Aire le bonn ionadaíochta forleathan, lena n-áirítear, comhlachtaí ionadaíochta tréidliachta, eagraíochtaí leasa ainmhithe, comhlachtaí feirmeoireachta agus Ranna Rialtais – Thuaidh agus Theas. Ó bunaíodh an comhlacht sa bhliain 2002, tá aitheantas á fháil ag an FAWAC as a ról ríthábhachtach ó thaobh sláinte ainmhithe a chur chun cinn. Cuireann an chomhairle, comhairle shuntasach atá úsáideach ar fáil don Aire agus tá sraith leabhráin treoirilínte foilsithe aici a chlúdaíonn raon réimsí ar nós, na feirmeoireachta déiríochta, mairteola, muiceola, caoireola agus éineola mar aon le treoirilínte leasa ainmhithe do chapail ag tionóil agus margaidh. D'fhoilsigh siad leabhrán treoirilínte maidir le Leas Bólachta in 2019. Tá tuilleadh eolais le fáil ar an láithreán gréasáin www.fawac.ie

An Córas Foláirimh /Luath-Idirghabhála (EWS)

Tá sé mar chuspóir leis an gcóras, a fheidhmíonn faoin FAWAC, creat a chur ar fáil lena féidir fadhbanna leasa ainmhithe a aithint agus déileáil leo sula mbíonn drochbhail orthu. Tagann cásanna leasa ainmhithe chun cinn mar thoradh ar shaincheisteanna a bhaineann le sláinte agus le cúinsí pearsanta úinéir an tréada agus sna cúinsí sin comhairlíonn ionadaithe EWS d'fheirmeoirí cúnamh a lorg ón dochtúir teaghlaigh (GP).

Coiste Comhairleach Eolaíochta um Shláinte agus Leas Ainmhithe

Tá sé mar phríomhfheidhm ag an gCoiste comhairle a chur ar fáil don Aire maidir leis an dearcadh eolaíochta ar shaincheisteanna sa chás gá a bheith le tuairim saineolaí neamhspleách. Baineann an Coiste úsáid as an eolas eolaíochta is fearr atá ar fáil le comhairle a thabhairt maidir le sláinte agus leasa ainmhithe na hÉireann a chosaint agus a fheabhsú agus cuireann tacaíocht eolaíochta neamhspleách ar fáil don Aire agus don Roinn ar chúrsaí sláinte agus leasa ainmhithe sa chás tacaíocht den sórt sin a bheith mar cheanglas faoi reachtaíocht an Aontais Eorpaigh. Ceapadh Coiste nua in 2017 agus áirítear ar na topaicí reatha, laonna a bheathú uair sa lá, feithidí mar tháirgeadh bia, géinitic a úsáid chun aghaidh a thabhairt ar dhúshláin sláinte agus leasa in ainmhithe feirme, Leas Bólachta, Eitinn agus Fiabhras Afracach na Muc.

Eagraíochtaí Leasa Ainmhithe

Sa bhliain 2019, chuir an Roinn maoiniú de €2.9 milliún ar fáil do 106 eagraíocht leasa ainmhithe ar fud na tíre atá bainteach go díreach le seirbhísí cúraim agus leasa ainmhithe a sheachadadh. Is do ranníocaíocht amháin atá an maoiniú do chostais fhoriomlána na heagraíochta i gceist. Ní mór do gach iarratasóir ar mhaoiniú glacadh le sraith dhian treoirilínte maidir le leas ainmhithe, a bheith ar an bhfód le dhá bhliain nó níos mó, a bheith cláraithe leis an Rialálaí Carthanas agus cuntais mhionsonraithe thacaíochta a sholáthar. Tá mionsonraí maidir leis na hiarratasóirí rathúla le fáil ar láithreán gréasáin na Roinne <https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/animalhealthwelfare/animalwelfare/fundingtoanimalwelfareorganisations/>

Rialú Capall

Tugadh isteach an tAcht um Rialú Capall 1996 le haghaidh a thabhairt ar na rioscaí a chruthaítear don phobal ó chapail atá ar strae nó tréigthe. Faoin reachtaíocht is iad na húdarais áitiúla atá freagrach as an Acht a chur i bhfeidhm, agus d'fhéadfadh an tAire Talmhaíochta cúnamh airgeadais a sholáthar do na húdarais áitiúla i dtreo caiteachas a tabhaíodh maidir le rialú gníomhaíochtaí capall. Sa bhliain 2019 chuir an Roinn maoiniú de €290,606 ar fáil d'údarais áitiúla don

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chaiteachas a tabhaíodh faoin Acht. Leanann an Roinn le rannpháirtíocht leis na húdaráis áitiúla ar bhonn leanúnach in iarracht coigiltis agus éifeachtúlachtaí a bhaint amach i bhfeidhmiú an Achta. Sa bhreis air sin, cuirtear maoiniú ar fáil d'údaráis áitiúla le tionscadal capall a fhorbairt ina gceantair faoi seach a chuidíonn le pobal agus ceannaireacht a chothú mar aon le hoideachas in úinéireacht fhreagrach capall i measc daoine óga.

Stádas Saor ó Ghalar Aujeszky Bainte Amach ag Éirinn

Bhain Éire stádas saor ón nGalar Aujeszky amach sa bhliain 2012. Is féidir, mar réigiún atá saor ón nGalar Aujeszky, le húnéirí tréada Éireannacha muca beo a onnmhairiú chuig réigiúin eile atá saor ó AD gan an costas ard a bhaineann le leithlisiú éigeantach, faireachas tréada agus tástáil fola. Tugtar faoi thástáil ar bhonn leanúnach leis an stádas seo a léiriú. Bhí a stádas saor ón nGalar Aujeszky coinnithe ag Éirinn sa bhliain 2019.

Straitéis Náisiúnta Shláinte Ainmhithe Saothraithe 2017-2022

Seoladh Straitéis Náisiúnta Shláinte Ainmhithe Saothraithe 2017-2022 i mí Iúil 2017. Bhí fócas na Straitéise ar shláinte ainmhithe a chur chun cinn mar thiománaí táirge barrfheabhsaithe agus corrlaigh feabhsaithe do tháirgeoirí agus le bia ar ardchaighdeán a chur ar fáil do thomhaltóirí. Tá thart ar 70 moladh maidir le gníomh straitéiseach sa Straitéis.

Bunaíodh Comhlacht Athbhreithnithe Neamhspleách faoin Straitéis le maoirseacht chuspóireach agus rialachais a sholáthar agus tá sé de chúram ar an gComhlacht monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar dhul chun cinn agus ar sheachadadh na Straitéise agus aon mionathruithe atá riachtanach le torthaí a fheabhsú a aithint.

Sa bhliain 2019, tionóladh dhá chruinniú den Chomhlacht Athbhreithnithe agus foilseoidh Tuarascáil Bhliantúil na bliana 2018.

Foilsíú na Tuarascála maidir le Faireachas Galair Capall

Tugadh an tríú Tuarascáil Suirbhé maidir le Sláinte Capall Uile-Oileánda a bhí coimisiúnaithe ag an Roinn agus ullmhaithe ag Ionad Eachaí na hÉireann don tréimhse 2018/2019, chun críche i mí Deireadh Fómhair 2019. Ba é sin an tuarascáil deiridh faoin gconradh reatha.

Reachtaíocht maidir le Peataí Ainmhithe a Dhíol nó a Sholáthar

Sa bhliain 2019, tugadh isteach reachtaíocht nua maidir le peataí ainmhithe a dhíol nó a sholáthar (Na Rialacháin um Shláinte agus Leas Ainmhithe (Peataí Ainmhithe a Dhíol nó a Sholáthar), 2019 (I.R. Uimh. 681 de 2019). Rannchuidíonn an reachtaíocht seo le breis inrianaitheachta maidir le díolachán peataí. Cuirtear ceanglas ar aon duine a dhíolann níos mó ná 5 pheata sa bhliain clárú leis an Roinn. Duine ar bith a fhógraíonn go bhfuil peata le díol nó le soláthar, ní mór dóibh faisnéis áirithe a chur san fhógra, lena n-áirítear uimhir na micrishlise i gcás madraí.

Ceadúnú Marglann Beostoic

Le tabhairt isteach an Rialacháin maidir le Sláinte agus Leas Ainmhithe (Marglanna Beostoic) 2018 (I.R. Uimh. 128 de 2018), rinneadh foráil do cheadú agus do cheadúnú na marglanna beostoic go léir a bhí ag feidhmiú in Éirinn i rith 2019.

Onnmhairiú Eallach Beo

Tá ról tábhachtach ag onnmhairithe beo in iomaíocht ó thaobh praghsanna a spreagadh d'eallach baile agus ó thaobh malairt ionad margaidh a chruthú d'fheirmeoirí. Áirítear leis an téarma 'onnmhairí' anseo, trádáil idir-phobail.

Tháinig ardú 22% ar onnmhairí beo eallaigh sa bhliain 2019, ó 246,629 gceann in 2018 go 301,563 cheann in 2019. Is iad an Spáinn, an Ísiltír, an Ríocht Aontaithe, an Iodáil, an Libia agus an Tuirc na príomh-mhargáí d'eallach Éireannach.

SLÁINTE AGUS LEAS AINMHITHE

Tháinig ardú 36% ar onnmhairí beo go tíortha neamh-AE, ó 19,953 go 27,098, arbh é ardú ar an líon onnmhairí go dtí an Libia ba chúis leis sin, go príomha – ó 5,450 in 2018 go 13,122 in 2019. B'ainmhithe fásta formhór díobh sin.

Leanadh leis an bhfás ar onnmhairí laonna in 2019, ar tháinig ardú 50% orthu idir 2017 agus 2018. Tháinig ardú ar onnmhairí laonna (0-6 mhí) ó 169,229 in 2018 go 207,735 in 2019, ardú 23%, arbh é díolachán níos láidre ainmhithe 0-6 seachtaine d'aois chuig an Ísiltír (ardú ó 46,509 go 82,178) ba chúis leis.

I samhradh 2019, chuir an Roinn cosc iomlán ar eallach agus caoirigh a iompar trí limistéir ina bhfuil an teocht taobh amuigh 30°C nó níos airde. Ag deireadh 2019, thug an Roinn isteach rialacha nua, níos déine maidir le leas ainmhithe le haghaidh onnmhairí laonna, lena n-áirítear méadú ar an méid spás a cheadaítear (e.g. 8% níos mó spáis le haghaidh lao 50kg), cosc ar bhataí a úsáid ar laonna nó gar dóibh in ionaid tionóil, agus comhoibriú níos fearr le húdaráis tréidliachta na Fraince chun an líon laonna a théann trí na poist scíthe in Cherbourg gach lá a rialú.

Sa bhliain 2019, threoraigh an tAire Creed misean trádála chuig an Ísiltír chun casadh le príomh-allmhaireoirí laonna Éireannacha. Leag na páirtithe go léir béim ar an tábhacht a bhaineann le leas laonna agus iad á n-iompar, agus thuairiscigh ionadaithe ó thionscal na hÍsiltíre go mbíonn bail an-mhaith ar laonna Éireannacha nuair a bhíonn siad á n-iompar agus nuair a shroicheann siad an Ísiltír.

Maidir le hacmhainneacht sáinseáin in Cherbourg, d'oibrigh an Roinn go dlúth le húdaráis na Fraince agus in 2019, cheadaigh údaráis na Fraince méadú ar an acmhainn coinneála ag ceann de na Poist Rialaithe in Cherbourg.

D'óstáil an Roinn cuairt ó fhoireann theicniúil, ina raibh oifigigh ón Aireacht Talmhaíochta agus ó ESK (Bord Bainne agus Feola na Tuirce). Tháinig an Roinn ar chomhaontú le húdaráis na hÉigipte in 2019 faoi trí theastas sláinte molta maidir le heallach ramhraithe, maraithe agus pórúcháin a onnmhairiú. Osclaíodh margadh nua d'onnmhairí chuig an gCasacstáin, lenar éascaíodh onnmhairiú breis is 1,000 beithíoch in 2019.



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Eallach

Lean Cónaidhm Phórú Eallaigh na hÉireann (ICBF) le dul chun cinn thar barr a dhéanamh sa bhliain 2019 i dtreo feabhas a chur ar fhiúntas géiniteach an tréada Náisiúnta déiríochta agus mairteola.

Chuir an Roinn maoiniú €920,000 ar fáil do thionscadail ar aidhm leo feabhas a chur ar bhrabúsacht, amhail feabhas a chur ar an mbunachar sonraí Náisiúnta, ar thástáil sleachta, ar oibriú ionad tástála na Tuláí agus ar thaighde ar mheastóireachtaí géiniteacha.

Áirítear ar bhuaicphointí sonracha don ICBF sa bhliain 2019;

- Feidhmiú leanúnach an Chláir Géanómaíochta agus Sonraí Mairteola. Tá dlús curtha le gnóthachan géiniteach sa tréad mairteola diúil trí bhíthin an chláir sin.
- Glacadh ard leanúnach leis na Tairbh Déiríochta AI atá roghnaithe go Géanómaíoch, le breis is 60% de na hinseamhnuithe déiríochta taifeadta i leith na dtarbh seo.
- Tuilleadh feabhsúcháin ar an mbunachar sonraí pórúcháin eallaigh Náisiúnta. Leantar le méideanna móra de shonraí riachtanacha a bhailiú ó raon foinsí ar nós feirmeacha tráchtála agus geallsealbhóir tionscail, sonraí atá riachtanach do tháirgeadh innéacsanna pórúcháin ar ardchaighdeán.
- Oibriú na Scéime nua Mairteola um Éifeachtúlacht Chomhshaoil (BEEP), lenar gineadh méid suntasach meáchan ó bha diúil agus a sleacht, rud a chabhróidh leis na hainmhithe is éifeachtúla ó thaobh na heacnamaíochta agus an chomhshaoil de a shainnithint.
- Leanann an clár tástála sleachta, Gene Ireland, le tástáil a dhéanamh ar an raon tarbh óg a oireann do na coinníollacha uathúla féar-bhunaithe don táirgeadh.

Chuir an Roinn deontas de €850,000 ar fáil don ICBF sa bhliain 2019 chun tacaíocht a thabhairt lena gníomhaíochtaí oibriúcháin ghinearálta.

AICMIÚ MAIDIR LE MART

Is é ról na Roinne a chinntiú go dtugann monarchana maraithe faoi aicmiú conablaigh de réir Rialacháin AE ábhartha.

Tugann foireann na Roinne ón Rannán Aicmithe Mairt faoi chigireachtaí ar mhonarchana feola. Tá na cigireachtaí seo faoi réir ag rialacháin reachtaíochta AE. Déanann oifigigh seiceáil ar fheidhmíocht fhoriomlán an mheaisín grádaithe conablaigh agus ar chaighdeán na gearrthóige a bhaintear úsáid as. Ní dhéanann an Roinn breithniú ar ghrádú conablaigh aonair.

Ní mór seiceálacha oifigiúla a dhéanamh faoi dhó ar a laghad gach uile trí mhí i ngach seamlas a mharaíonn 150 bó-ainmhí ocht mí d'aois, nó níos mó in aghaidh na seachtaine mar mheán bliantúil. I láthair na huaire, déanann an Roinn cigireachtaí ar an láthair gach coicís ar an meán. Déanann oifigigh aicmiú, mar chuid de gach seiceáil, ar íosmhéid de 100 conablach san áit a bhfuil aicmiú meicniúil suiteáilte nó ar 50 conablach san áit nach bhfuil ach aicmiú láimhe i bhfeidhm.

Cigireachtaí

Faoin reachtaíocht, beidh baint ag gach seiceáil ar an láthair le 40 conablach ar a laghad a roghnófar go randamach. Dá bhrí sin, tá an Roinn ag seiceáil i bhfad níos mó ná mar atá riachtanach de réir rialacháin

Deimhneoidh seiceálacha ar an láthair:

- (a) catagóir an chonablaigh mairteola,
- (b) aicmiú, meáchan agus marcáil na gconablach,
- (c) cruinneas modhanna uathoibríochta grádaithe mairteola trí úsáid a bhaint as córas pointí agus teorainneacha a chinneann cruinneas leanúnach an mhodha grádaithe.

Tugann oifigigh údaraithe faoi chigireachtaí gan fógra de réir sceideal cigireachta sa Phlean Rialaithe Bliantúil, sa chás gur tugadh sárúithe ar aird le linn cuairt chigireachta roimhe seo nó sá chás go n-éilíonn gearán a cuireadh faoi bhráid na Roinne cuairt láithreach.

Sa bhliain 2019, rinne oifigigh aicmithe seiceáil ar thart ar 40,000 conablach i gcoinne córas meicniúil aicmithe. Feidhmíonn an t-oifigeach údaraithe, le linn cigireacht

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den sórt sin, na dualgais seo a leanas:

1. Iniúchadh agus meastóireacht ar fheidhmíocht grádaithe.
2. Meastóireacht ar chaighdeán na gearrthóige le linn an phróisis táirgeachta i bhfíor-am nuair is indéanta ar chonablaigh fuara.
3. Scálaí a sheiceáil agus úsáid a bhaint as meáchain 260 Kg ar scálaí an urláir maraithe (tánaisteach do sheiceálacha NSAI). Iniúchadh ar thaifid a bhaineann le húsáid meáchain seiceála.
4. Comparáid idir meáchain fhuara agus meáchain the.
5. Grinnscrúdú ar mhionsonraí lipéadú.
6. Iniúchadh ar thaifid nó ar phróisis ábhartha, de réir mar is cuí.

Caoirigh

Feidhmíonn Sheep Ireland, an Clár Náisiúnta chun Feabhas a Chur ar an Phóir Chaorach agus iad ag obair i gcomhair leis na geallsealbhóirí. Chuir an Roinn maoiniú infheistíochta de €350,000 ar fáil do raon bearta atá leagtha amach le clár pórucháin den scoth a chur i bhfeidhm. Rinneadh dul chun cinn suntasach i raon réimsí le linn na bliana 2019, lena n-áirítear;

- Fás leanúnach sa líon lucht póraithe reithí ginealaigh atá rannpháirteach i LambPlus, a bhfuil os cionn 40% de reithí a díoladh sa bhliain 2019 mar thoradh air, mar gheall ar fáil a bheith ar fhigiúirí Eurostar.
- Fás leanúnach sa chéatadán de reithí pórucháin ar an margadh a taifeadh dá bhfeidhmíocht sa bhliain 2019.
- Leathnú curtha ar an Tástáil Lárnach Sleachta (CPT), trí ardú a chur ar líon na gcaorach tráchtála atá á dtairfeadh dá bhfeidhmíocht sa chlár seo.
- Naisc bhreise bunaithe le Better Farm, clár caorach Theagaisc trí chomhroinnt sonraí.
- Tuilleadh ardú tagtha ar fheasacht an fheirmeora tráchtála mar thoradh ar an iliomad imeachtaí poiblí maidir leis na buntáistí a bhaineann le measúnachtaí géiniteacha chaoirigh.

Chuir an Roinn €200,000 breise ar fáil do Sheep Ireland mar thacaíocht ghinearálta maoinithe le linn na bliana 2019.

Tionscail Rásaíochta Capall agus Con

Sa bhliain 2019, fuair Rásaíocht Capall na hÉireann €67.2 milliún agus fuair Bord na gCon €16.8 milliún ón gCiste Rásaíochta Capall agus Con.

Tacaíocht don Tionscal Capall Neamhfholáíochta

Aithníonn an Roinn an cion thar a bheith tábhachtach a chuireann an tionscal capall neamhfholáíochta leis an ngeilleagar agus le creatlach sóisialta an iliomad pobal ar fud na tíre. Cuireann an earnáil go mór le hioncam a chruthú ó fhiontar luachmhar malartach feirme ó thaobh na fostaíochta, na turasóireachta, forbairt tuaithe agus ó thaobh pobail agus saol sóisialta agus cultúrtha na tíre. Sa bhliain 2019, tugadh na moltaí a rinneadh sa tuarascáil le Indecon International Consultants a thug faoi athbhreithniú ar Eachspórt Éireann chun críche chomh maith leis an mBord nua don eagraíocht chun a bheith chun tosaigh ó thaobh tuilleadh athruithe a dhéanamh.

Tá soláthar déanta faoin gClár nua Forbartha Tuaithe (RDP) chun feabhas a chur ar éifeachtúlacht agus ar bhrabúsacht san earnáil trí bheart Aistrithe Eolais ag a bhfuil buiséad de €100 milliún.

Bhí os cionn 300 póraitheoir rannpháirteach sa bhliain deiridh de Chlár Aistrithe Eolais Eachaí a tugadh chun críche i mí Iúil 2019. D'fhreastail na rannpháirtithe seo ar chruinnithe chomh maith le Plean Feabhsúcháin Feirme a chur ar fáil i gcomhar lena n-éascaitheoir ceadaithe. Rinne siad comhlánú freisin ar Bhearta Sláinte Ainmhithe i gcomhar le tréidlia ceadaithe.

Sa bhliain 2019, chuir an Roinn €2.996 milliún ar fáil don earnáil seo trí chuidiú deontais d'Eachspórt Éireann ó thaobh gníomhaíochtaí a bhí dírithe ar fheabhas a chur ar chaighdeán eachspóirt in Éirinn agus leis an earnáil a fhorbairt.

Sa bhreis air sin, chuir an Roinn €850,000 ar an iomlán ar fáil sa bhliain 2019, do bhearta a bhain le heachaí.

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Straitéis Sláinte Plandaí

Seoladh an Straitéis um Shláinte Plandaí agus Bithshláindáil 2020-2025 in 2019. Is é cuspóir na Straitéise, an baol do phlandaí a chruthófaí sa chás go dtabharfaí isteach agus go mbunófaí lotnaidí agus galair plandaí a íoslaghdú. Tá trí phríomhphrionsabal straitéiseacha mar bhonn taca ag an Straitéis: rioscaí a réamh-mheas, faireachas agus feasacht. Déanfaidh na prionsabail sin soláthar do ghníomhartha sonracha, spriocdhírthe a bheifear in ann a bhaint amach. Bainfear amach iad trí bhíthin comhoibriú leathan agus plean comhaontaithe don chur i bhfeidhm.

Cur le Feasacht

Reáchtáil an Roinn feachtas chun cur le feasacht ar **“Ná Téigh sa Seans!”** ag Bloom agus ag an gComórtas Náisiúnta Treabhdóireachta 2019. Bhí an feachtas seo dírithe ag lucht taistil idirnáisiúnta, ar thurasóirí agus ar ghnólachtaí tráchtála atá ag tabhairt plandaí, táirgí planda agus nithe eile lena mbaineann ard-riosca atá déanta as ábhar plandaí isteach go hÉirinn ó thar lear. Thacaigh an Eagraíocht Eorpach um Chosaint Plandaí (EPPO) agus an Coimisiún Eorpach go hiomlán leis an bhfeachtas seo trí reachtaíocht leasaithe sláinte plandaí. Tá sé mar chuspóir leis an bhfeachtas aird a tharraingt ar an tionchar a bhíonn ag ábhar planda ionfhabhtaithe nó lotnaidí coraintín agus galair a thabhairt isteach go hÉirinn ar an timpeallacht, ar an ngeilleagar agus go sóisialta.

Rialachán Nua maidir le Sláinte Plandaí

Tháinig éifeacht le Rialachán nua maidir le Sláinte Plandaí an 14 Nollaig 2019. Díríonn an Rialachán seo ar an mbaol ó thaobh tabhairt isteach lotnaidí coraintín chuig an AE a laghdú trí: dhírú ar phlandaí a bhfuil ardriosca ag gabháil leo, liosta de lotnaidí a dtugann an AE tosaíocht dóibh a fhorbairt, leathnú a chur ar raeon na n-oibrithoírí plandaí atá le clárú leis an údarás inniúil, ceanglais níos déine Crios Cosanta a chur i bhfeidhm a éilíonn go mbeidh Pas Plandaí in éineacht le gach planda atá le plandaíl. Bhí an Roinn rannpháirteach i líon Grúpaí Oibre AE ar Achtanna a Tharmligean agus Achtanna a Fhorfheidhmiú don Rialachán seo ar feadh na bliana 2019. Reáchtáil an Rannán Gairneoireachta agus Sláinte Plandaí roinnt seisiún faisnéise faoi na Rialacháin nua sin ag deireadh

2019. Bhí na seimineáir sin dírithe ar dhuine ar bith a phléann le plandaí/táirgí plandaí.

Faoin Rialachán Nua, beidh sláinte plandaí, den chéad uair, faoi réir ag Rialachán Rialúcháin Oifigiúla. Leis sin, beidh seans cómhaoiniú a fháil do na suirbhéanna bliantúla ar lotnaidí tosaíochta. Sa bhliain 2019, thug an Roinn faoi shuirbhéanna ar shláinte plandaí do lotnaidí coraintín áirithe faoi chlár suirbhé maidir le sláinte plandaí a bhí cómhaoinithe ag an AE.

Cur Chuige Uile-Oileánda i leith Sláinte Plandaí

Faoin gComhairle Aireachta Thuaidh/Theas (NSMC), bhí HPHD ag obair go dlúth le Tuaisceart Éireann leis an gclár oibre sláinte plandaí comhaontaithe a chur i bhfeidhm agus chur chuige uile-oileánda a bhaint amach i leith sláinte plandaí. Sa bhliain 2019, lean an Roinn agus DAERA ag obair i dtreo cuspóir comhroinnte ó thaobh stádas dea-shláinte a bhaint amach agus a chothabháil ar an oileán trí fhaisnéis, eolaíocht agus acmhainneacht diagnóiseach comhroinnte.

Suirbhéanna ar Shláinte Plandaí

Lean an Roinn le suirbhé a dhéanamh do láithreach orgánach dhíobhálach *Phytophthora ramorum* sa bhliain 2019. Braitheadh rian den ghalar i líon plandlanna gairneoireachta /ionaid gharraíodóireachta agus ar phlandaí a allmhairíodh ó Bhallstáit eile. Scríosadh na plandaí agus na plandaí óstacha ionfhabhtaithe go léir sa chomharsanacht.

Tá stádas Crios Cosanta in Éirinn do líon orgánach dhíobhálach atá le fáil i mBallstáit eile agus nach bhfuil le fáil sa tír seo. Déanann an Chigireacht Foraoiseachta suirbhéanna náisiúnta bliantúla ar fhoraoisí chun láithreach speiceas a chinneadh sa chrios cosanta foraoise agus d'fhonn údar a thabhairt le stádas na hÉireann mar Chrios Cosanta. Cuireann sí tuarascálacha faoi bhráid an Choimisiúin Eorpaigh gach bliain. Níor braitheadh aon cheann de na horgánaigh seo sna suirbhéanna ar tugadh fúthu le linn na bliana 2019.

I ndeireadh na bliana 2018 d'fhógair Coimisiún Foraoiseachta na Ríochta Aontaithe an chéad toradh maidir leis an gciaróg choirte *Ips typographus* a

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aimsíodh sa mórthimpeallacht sa Ríocht Aontaithe a fuarthas i gcoillearnach i Kent Shasana. Ciallaíonn an toradh seo bagairt mhór go bhféadfaí an chiaróg choirte seo a thabhairt isteach in Éirinn agus tharraing an bhagairt seo suirbhéanna agus monatóireacht bhreise rioscabhunaithe sa bhliain 2019 trí shíneadh a chur leis an monatóireacht shuirbhé Criosanna Cosanta ar an líonra plotaí.

Is ionann *Xylella fastidiosa* agus baictéar a ionfhabhtaíonn fíocháin xylem raon leathan óstach plandaí (os cionn 300 speiceas plandaí). Rinne Éire suirbhé ar an ngalar sa bhliain 2019 agus ní bhfuarthas aon rian den ghalar seo. Sa bhliain 2019, bhí tuilleadh ráigeanna den ghalar i gcríocha an Aontais agus lean an Roinn le páirt lárnach a bheith aici in aon idirbheartaíocht maidir leis an ngalar seo ar mhaithe lena chinntiú go bhfuil an chosaint is fearr is féidir i bhfeidhm ar fhaitíos go dtiocfadh an galar seo isteach sa tír.

Áirítear ar orgánaigh díobhálacha eile ar díol suntais iad agus atá liostaithe i dTreoir an AE maidir le Sláinte Plandaí agus a éilíonn suirbhéanna agus tuairisciú éigeantach ar bhonn bliantúil, *Anoplophora chinensis* (ciaróg fhadadharcach citris), *Anoplophora glabripennis* (ciaróg fhadadharcach Áiseach), *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus* (néimeatóid ghiúise), *Monochamus spp.* (ciaróg sawyer), *Phytophthora ramorum* agus *Gibberella circinata* (cancar péine). Sa bhliain 2019, lean Éire de shuirbhé a dhéanamh do líon lotnaidí eile (lena n-áirítear, *Monochamus spp.*) agus tugadh faoi shuirbhéanna nua do lotnaidí tosaíochta AE, lena n-áirítear, *Agrilus planipennis* (tollaire fuinseoige smaragaide) agus *A. anxius* (tollaire beithe umhadhaite). Níor braitheadh aon cheann de na horgánaigh díobhálacha seo i suirbhéanna sa bhliain 2019.

Sa bhliain 2019, leanadh le suirbhéanna chun láithreach Hymenoscyphus fraxineus (galar Críonadh Siar na Fuinseoige) a chinneadh, chomh maith le ráigeanna den ghalar *Phytophthora ramorum* sa Learóg Seapánach, *Dothistroma septosporum* (*Dothistroma* Needle Blight [DNB]) agus *Lecanosticta acicola* (ar a tugadh *Mycosphaerella dearnessii* roimhe), an gníomhaire is cúis le Brown Spot Needle Blight (BSNB) ar speicis péine. Leanadh leis an Athbhreithniú ar an bhFreagra Náisiúnta ar Ghalar Críonadh Siar na Fuinseoige freisin i rith 2019.

Lean Éire lena reachtaíocht náisiúnta don *Epitrix*. Thug an reachtaíocht seo aghaidh ar an riosca suntasach atá ann d'earnáil na bprátaí dúchasacha a d'fhéadfadh eascairt as ráig den *Epitrix*.

Tugadh faoi chigireacht dhian agus sampláil ar phrátaí síl agus ar phrátaí margaidh sa bhliain 2019. Ní raibh aon rian ann den lobhadh fáinneach i bprátaí, den donnlobhadh ná den *Epitrix* sa bhliain 2019. Tugadh faoi chigireachtaí freisin ar ábhar síolraithe plandaí i roinnt láithreacha ar mhaithe lena chinntiú go raibh ábhar a bhí saor ó ghalar ar fáil.

Ina theannta sin, cuireadh clár gníomhaíochta cuimsitheach sláinte plandaí i bhfeidhm sa bhliain 2019 le cothabháil a dhéanamh ar ardstádas sláinte plandaí na hÉireann agus le reachtaíocht de chuid na hÉireann agus an AE a chomhlíonadh. Rinneadh cigireacht ghrinn ar phlandlanna, ionaid gharraíodóireachta, páirceanna poiblí, gairdíní príobháideacha agus ar an timpeallacht níos leithne do láithreacht lotnaidí coraintín agus sa chás go raibh a leithéid ann, cuireadh bearta díothaithe i bhfeidhm. Thug an Roinn faoi chigireachtaí ar tháirgeoirí plandaí lena chinntiú go raibh na ceanglais a leagtar síos i reachtaíocht AE á chomhlíonadh acu. Chomh maith le sláinte plandaí a chosaint, déanann na cigireachtaí seo éascú freisin ar an trádáil i bplandaí agus i dtáirgí plandaí. Áiríodh ar shuirbhéanna sláinte plandaí 2019:

- Cigireacht ar bhreis is 400 láthair do *Phytophthora ramorum*
- 1,483 sampla tógtha don Smól Dóite (*Erwinia amylovora*)
- Os cionn 1,200 cigireacht don Mhianadóir Duille (*Liriomyza sp.*)
- Os cionn 900 cigireacht don Tobacco Whitefly (*Bemisia tabaci*)
- 730 cigireacht don *Anoplophora chinensis*
- 685 cigireacht don *Anoplophora glabripennis*
- 664 sampla tógtha don Néimeatóid Órga (*Globodera sp.*)
- 474 cigireacht déanta ar láthaireacha don *Xylella fastidiosa*
- 239 sampla don Beet Necrotic Yellow Vein Virus
- 467 cigireacht déanta don *Aromi bungii*
- 151 cigireacht don Zebra Chip.

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Rialuithe Allmhairithe Sláinte Plandaí

Sa bhliain 2019, faoin gClár Rialuithe Allmhairithe Sláinte Plandaí; tugadh faoi 3,428 cigireacht ar choinsíneachtaí plandaí agus táirgí plandaí a allmhairítear go díreach go hÉirinn trí Aerfort Bhaile Átha Cliath agus trí Chalafort Bhaile Átha Cliath ó thríú tíortha. Is ionann é sin agus ardú 3.5% ar líon na gcoinsíneachtaí a bhí faoi réir ag Rialuithe Allmhairithe Sláinte Plandaí sa bhliain 2018. Rinne cigirí sláinte plandaí 57 idirghabháil ag teorainneacha na hÉireann sa bhliain 2019, áirítear ar na cúiseanna a bhí leo seo, fuarthas lorg orgánaigh rialaithe agus lorg orgánaigh díobhálacha, bhí teastais fíteashláintíochta neamhiomlán ann nó ní raibh a leithéidí ann in aon chor nó bhí an doiciméadacht a bhí curtha ar fáil calaoiseach.

Rialuithe Onnmhairithe Sláinte Plandaí

■ Sa bhliain 2019, faoi Chlár Rialuithe Allmhairithe Sláinte Plandaí na Roinne; rinne cigirí sláinte cigireacht agus deimhniú ar 1,000 coinsíneacht, rud a rinne éascú ar a n-onnmhairiú ó ghnólachtaí Éireannacha go 36 tríú tír ar fud an domhain. Áirítear ar na coinsíneachtaí is mó a dheimhníodh sa bhliain 2019, beatha ainmhithe chun na Síne, an India agus an Chóiré, cásanna muisiriúin chun na hAfraice Theas, an tSeapáin, Iosrael agus Ceanada agus bláthanna gearrtha chuig Stáit Aontaithe Mheiriceá.

Rialuithe Allmhairithe Sláinte Foraoise

Tugadh faoi chigireachtaí allmhairithe ar bhonn rialtas ar adhmaid agus ar tháirgí adhmaid ó Thríú Tíortha atá rialaithe faoi Threoir an AE maidir le Sláinte Plandaí ar mhaithe le comhlíontacht le ceanglais iontrála a chinntiú mar chuid den phróiseas d'imréiteach Custaim. Sa bhliain 2019, rinneadh seiceáil doiciméadach ar 545 coinsíneacht ó thríú tíortha agus má bhí sé cuí ó thaobh ceanglais, tugadh faoi chigireacht go fisiciúil. Fuarthas naoi gcinn nach raibh ceanglais allmhairithe á gcomhlíonadh acu. Rinneadh bearta cuí sa chás gur braitheadh neamhchomhlíonadh, ag brath ar an gcineál neamhchomhlíonta.

Faoi réimeas margaí inmheánacha an AE, níl earraí a thagann ó thíortha atá laistigh den AE faoi réir ag imréiteach Custaim ach déantar monatóireacht orthu lena chinntiú go bhfuiltear ag freastal ar cheanglais Chrios Cosanta na hÉireann. Oibríonn an Roinn dhá Phost Cigireachta Teorann ainmnithe i gcalafort Bhaile Átha Cliath agus Chorcaigh ar mhaithe le rialuithe allmhairithe foraoiseachta maidir le hearraí ó Thríú Tíortha agus tá oifig i gCalafort Phort Láirge freisin. Clúdaítear lastais atá á dtabhairt isteach go calafort agus aerfoirt eile óna láithreacha seo más gá.

Sa bhliain 2018, tháinig Cinneadh Cur Chun Feidhme (2018/1127/AE) nua an Choimisiúin in áit na mbeart speisialta a thug an Coimisiún Eorpach isteach sa bhliain 2013 maidir le cigireachtaí ar ábhar pacáistithe adhmaid a bhain le tráchtarraí áirithe a allmhairíodh chun an AE ón tSín, a chuireann leis an raon tráchtarraí a bhfuil cigireacht le déanamh orthu agus a áiríonn earraí ó Bhealarúis chomh maith leis an tSín. Sa bhliain 2019, rinneadh cigireacht ar 111 coinsíneacht i gcoimeádáin ón tSín, agus braitheadh go raibh ocht gcinn nach raibh ag comhlíonadh na rialacha agus forchuireadh bearta fíteashláintíochta cuí. Chomh maith leis sin, tugann an Chigireacht Foraoiseachta faoin mhonatóireacht ar ábhar pacáistithe adhmaid Portaingéalach maidir leis an mbagairt ó néimeatóid ghiúise (mar a cheanglaítear faoi Chinneadh Cur Chun Feidhme 2012/535 an Choimisiúin, arna leasú) agus ó phacáistí adhmaid ó thíortha eile.

Soláthraíonn an Chigireacht Foraoiseachta comhairle agus déileálann le ceisteanna maidir le hallmhairiú agus onnmhairiú a bhaineann le hadhmaid/táirgí adhmaid agus le hábhar atáirgthe foraoise. D'fhéadfaí Teastais Fíteashláintíochta a eisiúint freisin le dul in éineacht le coinsíneachtaí áirithe a bhíonn ag fágáil limistéar saorthrádála an AE.

Sa bhliain 2019, bhain tromlach den obair a bhí ar siúl ag an Rannóg Sláinte Foraoise leis an obair ullmhúcháin don Bhreimeacht, go háirithe maidir le pleanáil theagmhasach d'imeacht gan socrú ón AE i Márta agus Deireadh Fómhair na bliana 2019 agus na tionchair a bheith ag a leithéid de chás ar allmhairiú agus ar onnmhairiú táirgí foraoiseachta (lena n-áirítear, ábhar pacáistithe adhmaid) chuig agus ón Ríocht Aontaithe Díríodh ar bhonneagar leordhóthanach a fhorbairt, chomh maith le córais TF agus foireann chun plé le Breimeacht gan mhargadh, dá dtarlódh sin agus a raibh an baol ann ina leith i rith na bliana.

SLÁINTE PLANDAÍ

An Caighdeán Idirnáisiúnta maidir le Bearta Fíteashláintíochta

Tá Cigireacht Foraoiseachta na Roinne freagrach as FAO, IPPC, an Caighdeán Idirnáisiúnta maidir le Bearta Fíteashláintíochta (ISPM) Uimh. 15, Treoirlíne chun Rialáil a dhéanamh ar Ábhar Pacáistithe Adhmaid sa Trádáil Idirnáisiúnta – do dhéantúsaíocht Ábhar Pacáistithe Adhmaid (WPM) chuig an gCaighdeán seo in Éirinn, a chur i bhfeidhm.

Déantar cur síos in ISPM Uimh. 15, ar bheartais fíteashláintíochta chun an baol ó thabhairt isteach agus/nó scaipeadh lotnaidí coraintín, a shamhlaítear le pacáistiú adhmaid déanta ó adhmaid amh, a úsáidtear i dtrádáil idirnáisiúnta, a laghdú. Ceanglaítear ó thaobh WPM atá á úsáid chun earraí de chineál ar bith a iompar agus atá á onnmhairiú as Éirinn chuig formhór tíortha neamhAE ar fud an domhain, ISPM Uimh. 15 a chomhlíonadh.

Ag deireadh na bliana 2019, bhí 54 comhlacht cláraithe chun feidhmiú faoin scéim in Éirinn. Déantar cigireacht ar chomhlachtaí atá sa scéim chun comhlíontacht leis na Nósanna Imeachta Oibriúcháin Caighdeánacha comhaontaithe a chinntiú agus lena chinntiú go bhfuil ábhar pacáistithe adhmaid ag comhlíonadh an chaighdeáin go hiomlán.

Measúnacht ar Éagsúlacht na mBarr

Bhí gnáthchoinníollacha aeráide ann arís i séasúr fáis na bliana 2019, agus bhí na dátaí cur síl ag teacht leis an norm i gcás barr éagsúil. Bhí na coinníollacha cur síl do bharr geimhridh 2019 a cuireadh i bhfómhar 2018 an-mhaith ar fad, marbh amhlaidh i gcás chur síl do bharr an earraigh go luath in 2019 agus baint na mbarr go léir amach sa bhliain. Bhí deacrachtaí ann ó thaobh barraí geimhridh 2020 a chur ag deireadh 2019 de bharr drochaimsire, rud a d'fhág go raibh coinníollacha na talún mí-oiriúnach. Mar thoradh air sin, bhí laghdú suas le 50% ar chur síl gránbharr geimhridh i gcomparáid le fómhar 2018. Tháinig torthaí ar ais go dtí na gnáthleibhéil in 2019 i gcás na mbarr go léir. Rinneadh measúnú ar 347 cineál féir, seimre, eorna, cruithneachta, coirce, arbhair Indiaigh fhoráiste, ráibe olashíl, pónairí agus prátaí ar an iomlán sna trialacha Náisiúnta agus i dtrialacha Liosta Molta na bliana 2019. Roghnaíodh as na trialacha seo na cineálacha de gach

speiceas is oiriúnaí do tháirgeoirí Éireannacha agus foilsíodh iad i Leabhráin Liosta Molta atá le fáil ar láithreán gréasáin na Roinne.

An Líon Cineálacha a Rinneadh Measúnú orthu in 2019

Barr	Líon
Gránaigh	175
Féar	114
Arbhar Indiach	20
Ráib Olashíl	25
Seamair	21
Prátaí	12
Pónairí Machaire	11

* Ní chuirtear san áireamh cineálacha a dhúbláiltear i dtrialacha difriúla.

Reachtáladh Lá Oscailte ar éirigh thar barr leis i mí an Mheithimh i gcomhar le Cumann Trádála Síil na hÉireann ag Ceanncheathrú Rannán um Measúnú agus Deimhniú Barr na Roinne atá suite i gCampas Bhacastúin, Léim an Bhradáin, Co. Bhaile Átha Cliath. Óstáladh imscrúduithe trialacha agus cuairteanna eolais freisin do ghrúpaí leasmhara síolraitheoirí, gníomhairí, comhairleoirí agus feirmeoirí ag trí lárionad na Roinne agus ag ionaid trialacha seachtracha eile.

Deimhniú Síolta

Déantar margaíocht síolta san AE a rialáil faoi roinnt scéimeanna ina leagtar amach íoschaighdeáin cháilíochta agus riachtanais lipéadaithe. Déanann oifigigh na Roinne iad sin a fhorfheidhmiú trí bhithin na scéimeanna deimhniúcháin síolta, ina gcuimsítear na príomhbharr talmhaíochta. Níl cead ach na cinn sin a liostaítear i gCatalóg Náisiúnta na hÉireann nó i gCatalóg Choiteann de Chineálacha Speiceas Plandaí Talmhaíochta de Chuid na gComhphobal Eorpach a shaothrú. Tá an Chatalóg Náisiúnta de Chineálacha Plandaí Talmhaíochta (NCAPV) agus an Iris Oifigiúil um Chearta Náisiúnta Cineálacha Plandaí (PVR) le fáil ar láithreán gréasáin na Roinne.

<https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/publications/2019/NationalCatAgPlantVarieties200318.pdf>

SLÁINTE PLANDAÍ

Tá an Common Catalogue of Varieties of Agricultural Plant Species an AE le fáil ag http://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/plant_propagation_material/plant_variety_catalogues_databases/search/public/index.cfm

Achar na mBarr a Deimhníodh in 2019

	Achar na mBarr a Ceadaíodh faoin Scéim Deimhniúcháin Síolta in 2019 (heicteáir)	Tonnaí Síolta a Deimhníodh faoin Scéim Deimhniúcháin Síolta in 2019
Gránaigh	8,140	53,252
Prátaí	206	2,903
Ráib Olashíl	468	808
Pónairí	210	888

Sa bhliain 2019, allmhairíodh an síol féir go léir a úsáideadh in Éirinn mar shíol deimhnithe agus rinne an Roinn maoirseacht ar fhoirmlíú agus lipéadú na meascán de shíolta féir.

Saotharlann Prátaí Sí

Ar feadh na bliana 2019, rinneadh cothabháil ar 738 cineál (lena n-áirítear síológa prátaí nach bhfuil ainm curtha orthu go fóill) in vitro ag na Saotharlanna Prátaí, Tops, Ráth Bhoth, Co. Dhún na nGall. Rinneadh táirgeadh ar thart ar 42,000 miontiúbar prátaí as 31 cineál éagsúil prátaí, mar aon le 10 shíológ prátaí nár ainmníodh, i dtolláin víreas-dhíonacha. Rinneadh tástáil ar 7 síológ prátaí nua agus ar 8 bpráta milis maidir le sainiúlacht, aonfhoirmeacht agus seasmhacht mar atá forordaithe ag an Aontas Idirnáisiúnta do Chosaint Cineálacha Nua Plandaí (UPOV). Rinneadh cothabháil freisin ar bhailiúchán tagartha allamuigh de 648 cineál práta a ainmníodh.

Rinne Oifig Éagsúlachta Plandaí an Chomhphobail (CPVO) measúnú ar an tSaotharlann Prátaí Sí i mí Lúnasa 2018 mar chuid dá gcur chuige maidir le glacadh cúraim agus bunaithe ar chritéar cáilíochta d'oifigigh imscrúdaithe atá ag cur scrúduithe DUS i bhfeidhm thar a gceann. Bhí foireann iniúchta an CPVO sásta leis an gcritéar cáilíochta a bhí i bhfeidhm sa tsaotharlann agus mhol go leanfaidh ar aghaidh leis an gcúram don *Solanum tuberosum* (L.) (práta) agus *Ipomoea batatas* (L.) (práta milis) don chéad tréimhse eile 3 bliana atá amach romhainn. Is í an tSaotharlann Prátaí Sí an chéad agus an t-aon oifig a bhfuil an cúram seo

uirthi maidir le himscrúdú teicniúil a dhéanamh ar an *Ipomoea batatis*.

Gairneoireacht 2019

Mar gheall ar an aimsir in 2019, bhí coinníollacha fáis níos fabhraí ann, i gcomparáid leis an triomach in 2018 agus bhí torthaí níos fearr ag na barra ar fad. Mar sin féin, bhí tionchar ag an bhfómhar fliuch ar thráth sábhála bharrá áirithe.

Bhí éileamh margaidh in Éirinn do tháirgeadh seasmhach i gcónaí ar fud gach aon fo-earnáil, agus éileamh ard ar roinnt thráchtearraí. Mar sin féin, bhí brú anuas ó thaobh praghais ar thráchtearraí amhail glasraí goirt sa bhliain 2019, de bharr arduithe ar phraghsanna a comhaontaíodh in 2018.

Cé gur chabhraigh an téarnamh leanúnach sa gheilleagar níos leithne agus an t-éileamh méadaitheach ar tháirgí agus ar aistí bia planda-bhunaithe le fás aschuir san earnáil, is dúshláin fós don earnáil iad fáil ar shaothar agus costais táirgeachta.

Luach an Aschuir Gairneoireachta ag geata na feirme, 2018 -2019

Táirge	2018 € m	2019 € m	% athrú 2019 v's 2018
Muisiriúin	117	119.2	+1.8
Prátaí	79.6	110.9	+39.3
Glasraí Goirt	75.9	77.8	+2.5
Barra Cosanta	86.9	91.5	+5.2
Barra Torthaí Allamuigh	10.9	10.7	-2.0
Bleibíní, bláthanna allamuigh agus earnáil an duilliúir	9.3	9.44	+0.7
Barra crua plandlainne, agus earnálacha gairneoireachta eile	56.8	57.3	+0.9
Iomlán	436.4	477.0	9.2

Leanadh leis an infheistíocht láidir san earnáil in 2019. Íocadh os cionn €5.8 milliún sa scéim infheistíochta chun an earnáil gairneoireacht tráchtála a fhorbairt agus íocadh €4 mhilliún trí bhíthin na Scéime Eagraíochtaí Tairgeoirí AE.

SEIRBHÍS SAOTHARLAINNE

SAOTHARLANNA TRÉIDLIACHTA

Víreolaíocht

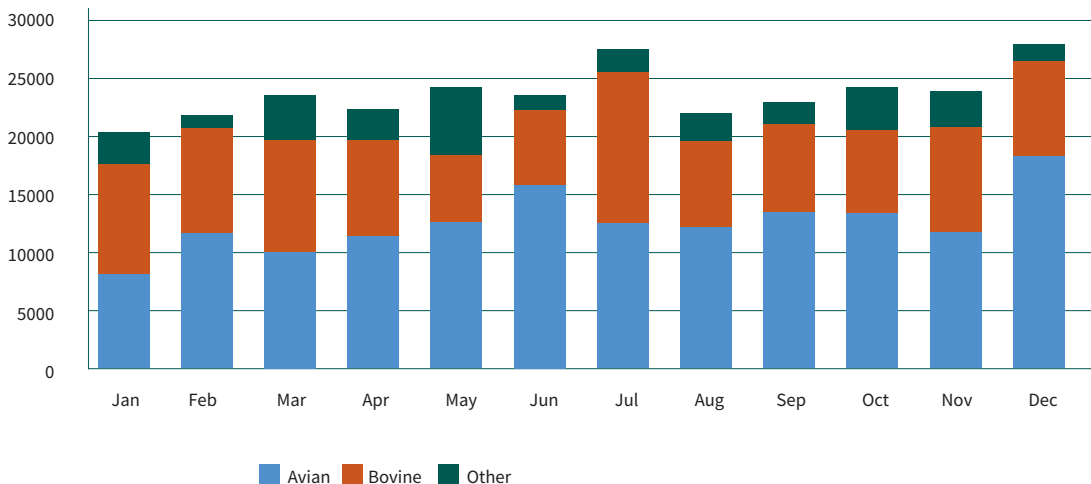
Cuireann an Rannán Víreolaíochta an acmhainneacht ar fáil don Roinn le galair víreasacha in ainmhithe feirme a aithint agus a thréithriú. Déanann an Rannán seachadadh ar ghnéithe saotharlainne agus eolaíochta maidir le hullmhacht éigeandála atá riachtanach le cosaint a thabhairt i gcoinne galair víreasacha atá andúchasach in Éirinn agus ar na seirbhísí diagnóiseacha, imscrúdaitheacha agus comhairleacha sin atá riachtanach le rialú agus monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar ghalair víreasacha in ainmhithe feirme na hÉireann. Sa bhliain 2019, d'óstáil sí deich Saotharlann Náisiúnta Tagartha (NRL) ar ábhair ó Peste des Petits Ruminants go dtí an galar crúibe is béil.

Pléann an Rannán le raon víreas éagsúil, lena n-áirítear: an Galar Crúibe is Béil, an Fliú Éanúil, Gormtheanga, BVD, IBR, Fiabhras Clasaiceach Muc, Confadh agus PRRS. Is cuid den diagnóisic víreasach nua a tugadh isteach sa bhliain 2019 iad Parvovirus PCR Parvaivíreas Muc, PCR Stómaitíteas Saicíneach, PCR Víreas Seneca Valley agus Laraingeatraicéiteas Tógálach ELISA.

Patrúin Taisctí

Bhí patrún na dtástálacha sách cobhsaí le linn 2019. Bhain na buaicphointí maidir le géilleadh buaibheach go díreach leis an gclár náisiúnta díothaithe eitinne bólaigh (graf thíos).

2019 Monthly Testing



Taispeántar achoimre ar fhigiúirí foriomlána 2019 sa tábla thíos sa Rannán Víreolaíochta.

Speiceas	Tástálacha do víreas	Tástálacha d'antasubstaintí	IOMLÁN
Buaibheach	63,054	77,387	140,441
Mucúil	7,278	4,870	12,148
Athchogantaigh Bheaga	3,519	10,551	14,070
Giorriaigh	1,173	0	1,173
Eachaí	488	2,071	2,559
Éanúil	9,701	91,013	100,714
IOMLÁN	85,213	185,892	271,105

SEIRBHÍS SAOTHARLAINNE

Léirítear sa tábla thíos na cúig phríomhthástáil a rinneadh sa Rannán Víreolaíochta in 2019 do ghalair mhamacha agus éanúla (antasubstaint agus víreas a bhrath)

Rangú	Pataigin (antasubstaintí)	Líon a Líon a tástáladh	Pataigin (víreas)	Líon a tástáladh	Pataigin (éanúil)	Líon a tástáladh
1	BVD	17,853	BVD	21,161	Fliú Éanúil	36,587
2	IBR	8,172	POX	2,920	M. gallisepticum	31,329
3	Schmallenberg	7,471	BTV	2,502	AEV	3,286
4	Galar Gormtheanga	5,632	PRRS	1,757	Ainéime Sícín	2,642
5	EBL	3,723	BHV1	1,387	Bursal D Ionfhabhtaíoch	2,572

Bhí raon de 144 tástáil dhifriúla ag an Rannán Víreolaíochta agus baineadh úsáid astu sa bhliain 2018 ar fud 40 maitrís difriúla – ar an mhaitrís is coitianta sa bhliain 2019 bhí séiream (87.5%), maipíní (5%), scamhóg (1.3%) agus seamhan (1.2%). I rith 2019, thug an Rannán os cionn 50 Tástáil Inniúlachta Seachtraí chun críche go rathúil chun cabhrú lenár stádas creidiúnaithe ISO17025.

An Rannán um Baictéareolaíocht agus Seadeolaíocht

Soláthraíonn an Rannán Baictéareolaíochta agus Seadeolaíochta saineolas ar bhaictéareolaíocht agus ar sheadeolaíocht don Roinn agus óstálann sé Saotharlanna Náisiúnta Tagartha maidir le Frithsheasmhacht in aghaidh Ábhar Frithmhíocróbach agus pataigin zónóiseach de bhunaidh bia, beatha agus ainmhithe. Áirítear orthu sin *Salmonella*, *Campalabaictéar*, *Escherichia coli*, *Mycobacteria*, agus na paraisítí zónóiseacha *Echinococcus*, *Trichinella* agus *Anisakis*. Ina theannta sin, soláthraíonn sé seirbhís diagnóiseach saotharlainne le haghaidh pharaisítí agus *Mycoplasma bovis*.

An tSaotharlann Náisiúnta Tagartha (NRL) do *Salmonella*

Rinneadh saothrú ar na samplaí seo a leanas do *Salmonella* le linn na bliana 2019:

- 1,651 sampla ó fheirmeacha éanlaithe
- 565 sampla a bhain le min nó muileann beathaithe
- 768 sampla sláinteachais phróisis ó mhonarchana próiseála príomhúla éanlaithe nó muc
- 150 sampla múirín nó samplaí gaolmhara
- 550 sampla de phróitéin ainmhithe próiseáilte
- 50 sampla de gheir agus geirdheasadh.

Chomh maithe le:

- Fuarthas 615 aonraíoch *Salmonella* ó shaothrán roghnach de shamplaí oifigiúla nó ó shaotharlanna seachtracha le haghaidh tíopáil shéireolaíoch
- Rinneadh Imoibriú Slabhrúil Polaiméaraíse ar 193 aonraíoch *Salmonella* grúpa B chun idirdhealú a dhéanamh idir *Salmonella Typhimurium* agus *Salmonella Typhimurium monapasach*

Braitheadh antashubstaintí i 4,617 (22.3%) de na 20,668 sampla sú matáin ó mhuca maraithe a tástáladh faoin gClár Náisiúnta Rialála *Salmonella* do mhuca.

Leanadh leis an méadú ar chuir i bhfeidhm na teicneolaíochta Seicheamhú Géanóim Iomláin ag an NRL Frithsheasmhacht in aghaidh Ábhar Frithmhíocróbach agus *Salmonella* i rith 2019. Thug an NRL *Salmonella* freagra ar roinnt fiosrúchán (ó Shaotharlann Tagartha an AE agus ó FSS) agus foinsé na dtréithchineál *Salmonella* ba chúis le ráigeanna eintritis bia-iompartha i ndaoine san Eoraip nó in Éirinn á chuardach. I gceann de na cuardaigh sin trí bhíthin anailís WGS, nochtadh cás amháin de *S. Typhimurium* i nduine agus in ealta beag ubh-bhreithe, agus bhí aonraíoch a bhí comhchosúil go géiniteach i ngach ceann díobh. Cuireadh stop le táirgeadh uibheacha le díol chomh luath agus a braitheadh an *S. Typhimurium*. Rinneadh cuardach do thréithchineálacha *salmonella* d'aonraíoch ráige trí bhíthin WGS a úsáid i roinnt cásanna eile. Mar gheall nach raibh an tréithchineál *Salmonella* sonrach sin i láthair, ní fhéadfadh ról a bheith ag bia Éireannach ná ag Táirgeadh Príomhúil ina leith. Cuireadh an teicneolaíocht sin i bhfeidhm le himscrúdú ar thraséiliú saotharlainne d'fhonn iontaofacht thorthaí saotharlainne a mhéadú.

SEIRBHÍS SAOTHARLAINNE

NRL do Fhrithsheasmhacht in aghaidh Ábhar Frithmhiocróbach

Rinneadh faireachas oifigiúil ar AMR i mbaictéir chomhthíosacha agus zónóiseacha i gcomhréir le 2013/652 AE. Rinneadh scagthástáil ar inneachar 300 caochán muc, 300 sampla muiceola agus 300 sampla mairteola le haghaidh ESBL/Amp-C/ carbaimeiniméis – nithe a tháirgeann *Escherichia coli*. Rinneadh tástáil le haghaidh soghabháltacht frithmhiocróbach ar 170 aonraíoch *Champalabaictéar coli* agus ar 200 táscaire comhthíosach *E. coli* ó chaocháin mhuc, chomh maith le *Salmonella* ó mhaipíneachtaí ó chonablaigh muc. Tuairiscítear na torthaí d'Údarás Sábháilteachta Bia na hEorpa agus cuirtear san áireamh iad sa Tuarascáil Achomair AE ar Fhrithsheasmhacht in aghaidh Ábhar Frithmhiocróbacha i mbaictéir zónóiseacha agus táscaire ó dhaoine, ainmhithe agus bia.

Foilsíodh an chéad Tuarascáil One Welfare ar Úsáid Frithmhiocróbach agus ar Fhrithsheasmhacht in aghaidh Ábhar Frithmhiocróbach in 2019. Comhoibriú idir an Roinn Talmhaíochta agus an Roinn Sláinte a bhí ann agus rinneadh anailís mhionsonraithe inti ar thorthaí a gineadh sa NRL idir 2014 agus 2016.

Lean an NRL de sheicheamhú géanóim iomláin a úsáid mar uirlis chun imscrúdú a dhéanamh ar phatrúin fhrithsheasmhachta neamhghnácha in aonraíochta ó thástáil oifigiúil agus in aonraíochta cliniúla tréidliachta ó na RVLanna.

Ach AMR a ailíniú le micribhitheolaíocht le déanaí, tá ardán curtha ar fáil d'fhorbairt bhreise ar an bpíblíne aonraíoch cliniúil a theastaíonn don Phlean Gníomhaíochta Náisiúnta maidir le fhrithsheasmhacht in aghaidh ábhar frithmhiocróbach agus chun feabhas a chur ar acmhainneacht ar feadh na seirbhíse.

NRL don Champalabaictéar

In 2019, thug an NRL Campalabaictéir NRL tacaíocht d'obair an Rannáin Sláinte Phoiblí Tréidliachta (VPH) agus an ghrúpa Páirtithe Leasmhara Campalabaictéir trí bhíthin torthaí Critéir um Shláinteachais Próisis a chur i dtoll a chéile maidir le háireamh campalabaictéir liopóg muineáil. D'eagraigh an tAonad Tionscadal Speisialta (SPU) sa VPH Meabhrán Tuisceana leis na trí phríomhphróiseálaí sicín go luath in 2019 chun

campalabaictéir caocháin ó gach baisc sicíní réamh-thanaí a áireamh. Chabhraigh an NRL le tástáil a chaighdeánú ar feadh na saotharlann phríobháideach a bhí i mbun na hoibre sin agus thosaigh sé ag cur sonraí áirimh caocháin 1 i dtoll a chéile.

Thosaigh an NRL campalabaictéir ar thástáil fóraithe samplaí liopóg muineáil agus caochán 1 i mí Aibreáin. Rinneadh áireamh ar 127 liopóg muineáil agus ar 39 gcaochán in 2019.

NRL do Mycobacteria

Chun tacú leis an gclár náisiúnta díothaithe TB bólachta esa bhliain 2019:

- Rinneadh tástáil ar shamplaí a bailíodh i monarchana feola ó 6,111 bó-ainmhí, maidir le fianaise eitinne. Aithníodh 59% de na hainmhithe sin ag cigireacht tréidliachta iarbháis.
- Tugadh faoi 4,248 tástáil histeapaiteolaíochta agus 3,542 saothrú ar na fíocháin seo.
- Bailíodh 833 saothrú ar fhíocháin broic mar chuid de thabhairt chun siúil an bhroic tar éis ráig den TB buaibheach nó trialacha de vacsaín broc.
- Rinneadh saothrú ar 113 sampla fíocháin ó fhianna.
- Rinneadh tástálacha speiceasaithe míceabhaictéaracha ar 984 aonraíoch.
- Rinneadh tástáil ar 3,518 séiream i TB ELISA chun tacú le himscrúdú tréad.

Cuireadh 392 sampla ar aghaidh i gcomhair saothrú galair Johnhe agus aonraíodh an fospeiceas paratuberculosis de chuid *Mycobacterium avium* ó 73 sampla.

NRL do Sheadáin Zónóiseacha

Leis an sampláil náisiúnta éigeantach ar shionnaigh (Rialachán (AE) 2018/772) agus leis an tástáil a rinne an NRL do Sheadáin in 2019, léiríodh go bhfuil Éire fós saor ó *Echinococcus multilocularis*, ceann de na zónóisí seadánach is marfaí i réigiúin mheasartha agus artacha den Leathsféar Thuaidh. I suirbhé 2019, scrúdaíodh 400 sampla d'inneachar stéige ó na contaetha uile don seadán trí bhíthin PCR-ilphléacs a úsáid. Toradh diúltach a tuairiscíodh i leith gach sampla.

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Maidir le gníomhaíochtaí NRL Trichinella, tharla an méid seo a leanas sa bhliain 2019:

- Rinneadh iniúchadh ar dhá shaotharlann phríobháideacha
- Eagraíodh ceardlann do na saotharlanna uile an 10 Bealtaine
- Seoladh an tástáil fháinneach bhliantúil chuig gach saotharlann phríobháideach an 21 Bealtaine

Seadeolaíocht Dhiagnóiseach

Fuarthas samplaí ó raon leathan foinsí i gcónaí (e.g. Saotharlanna Tréidliachta Réigiúnacha, tréidliachleachtóirí príobháideacha, seamlais agus ionaid dídine ainmhithe) lena n-áirítear ainmhithe feirme agus ainmhithe coimhdeachta. Rinneadh os cionn 4,500 measúnacht trí bhíthin 13 mhodheolaíocht éagsúla.

Mycoplasma bovis

Sa bhliain 2019, rinneadh tástáil Imoibriú Slabhrúil Polaiméaraíse (PCR) (296 sampla) agus soláthraíodh saothrán roghnaitheach le haghaidh diagnóise, faireachais agus rialú galar riospráide, cásanna airtritis agus maistítis agus ráigeanna tréada arbh é Mycoplasma bovis ba chúis leo.

Gníomhaíochtaí Eile

Rinneadh athbhreithniú ar na coinníollacha chun saotharlanna príobháideacha a bheith ceadaithe ag an Roinn chun tástáil mhicribhitheolaíochta a dhéanamh le haghaidh Salmonella in ealtaí. Rinneadh athbhreithniú agus uasdátú ar Sheachtháirgí Ainmhithe, Trichinella agus STEC i rith 2019. Rinne saotharlanna príobháideacha ath-iarratas ar cheadúnú agus foilsíodh liosta cothrom le dáta de na saotharlanna ceadaithe ar láithreán gréasáin na Roinne.

Rinne comhaltaí den Rannán ionadaíocht ar na NRLanna ag ceardlanna Saotharlann Tagartha AE. Rannchuidíonn pearsanra an Rannáin le grúpaí oibre agus le grúpaí páirtithe leasmhara éagsúla sa tionscal, lena n-áirítear: An Grúpa Oibre maidir le Sábháilteacht agus Barántúlacht Bia, An Grúpa Forfheidhmithe Páirtithe Leasmhara Campalabaictéir, Grúpa Páirtithe Leasmhara Thionscal na Muc, Coiste Zónóisí Réigiún an Oirthir, Grúpa Forfheidhmithe agus Grúpa Oibre Teicniúil Ghalar Johnes de chuid Sláinte Ainmhithe Éireann (AHI); Grúpa Rialaithe Seadán AHI; Tascfhórsa an Údaráis Rialála Táirgí Sláinte ar chóigais fhrithsheadánacha.

Taighde

Chomhoibrigh pearsanra sa Rannán le hinstitiúidí eile ar na tionscadail taighde seo a leanas:

Teideal an Tionscadail	Comhoibrithe
Tackling a multi-host pathogen problem - phylodynamic analyses of the epidemiology of <i>M. bovis</i> in Britain and Ireland	UCD, Ollscoil Dhún Éideann
Disease Profiling of Bovine Tuberculosis Skin Test Reactors in Ireland	UCD
Next generation approaches to improved diagnostics and molecular epidemiology for control of <i>Mycobacterium avium</i> subsp. <i>paratuberculosis</i>	UCD, AFBI
The foodborne emergence and epidemiology of <i>Clostridioides difficile</i> in Ireland	Teagasc, TCD, UCD, DIT

PAITEOLAÍOHT

Cuireann an Rannán Paiteolaíochta tacaíochtaí saotharlainne ar fáil do chláir náisiúnta díothaithe galar, acmhainneacht freagartha Aicme A agus san-imscrúdú ar ghalair thógálacha nó ar imeachtaí tocsaineacha. Cuireann sé tacaíochtaí speisialaithe ar fáil do Shaotharlanna Tréidliachta Réigiúnacha (RVLanna) na Roinne freisin. Déanann an Rannán óstáil ar thrí Shaotharlann Náisiúnta Tagartha anois (TSE, CEM agus AMR). Sannadh an NRL do AMR don Rannán Paiteolaíochta i mí na Samhna 2019.

An tSaotharlann Náisiúnta Tagartha (NRL) do TSE

Tá an TSE NRL freagrach as monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar fheidhmiú saotharlanna mearthástála TSE in Éirinn, as PT'nna lena baineann ullmhú agus seachadadh samplaí aonchineálacha fíocháin inchinne códaithe chuig RTL'nna agus anailís agus tuairiscí a dhéanamh ar thorthaí ina dhiaidh sin. Bhí na torthaí ar fad sásúil in 2019. Scoir RTL amháin de sheirbhísí mearthástála in 2019.

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Figúirí do Thaiscthí TSE

Caoirigh

Toradh NRL	Catagóir Faireachais	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Scráibeach Aitiópúil	Gníomhach	6	1	1	9	12
Scráibeach Chlasaiceach	Gníomhach	1	1	11	1	0
Scráibeach Chlasaiceach	Éighníomhach	0	0	0	0	0
Diúltach	Gníomhach	1	1	1	0	0
Diúltach	Éighníomhach	1	0	0	0	1
Diúltach	SMFS	0	0	0	0	0
Iomlán		9	3	13	10	13

Buaibheach

Toradh NRL	Catagóir Faireachais	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
BSE Dearfach	Gníomhach	1 (Clasaiceach)	0	1 Cineál L-Aitiópúil	0	0
BSE Dearfach	Éighníomhach	0	0	0	0	0
Diúltach	Gníomhach	0	0	0	3	0
Diúltach	Éighníomhach	11	17*	15	19	9
Neamhoiriúnach	Éighníomhach	0	0	0	0	0

*Tuairiscíodh aon chás amháin (1) in 2017 mar a sampláladh an 30 Nollaig 2016

An tSaotharlann Náisiúnta Tagartha do CEM

Déanann an tSaotharlann Mhicribhitheolaíochta Cliniciúla óstáil ar an tSaotharlann Náisiúnta Tagartha do Mheitríteas Tógalach Eachaí (CEM) (i gcomhar leis an Rannán Víreolaíochta) chun tacú le Cóid Chleachtais Chumann Thógálaithe Capaill Folaíochta na hÉireann. Ceadáíonn an NRL saotharlanna príobháideach do shaothrú lonfhabhtú *Tylorella equigenitalis*, an t-oibreán is cúis le CEM. Cuimsíonn scéim cheadaithe saotharlainne an CEM iniúchtaí cigireachta ar an láthair agus triail inniúlachta bliantúil, nach mór lena stádas a choimeád, agus ní mór go n-éireoidh le saotharlanna iontu sin chun a bheith cheadaithe ag an NRL. Tá deich gcinn de saotharlanna príobháideacha cheadaithe ag an NRL i láthair na huair. D'oibrigh an tsaotharlann sin chun feabhas a chur ar chaighdeán na tástála CEM i saotharlanna príobháideacha trína feidhmeanna NRL, ach iniúchadh, comhairle agus PTanna a sholáthar do na saotharlanna sin.

Faireachas agus Paiteolaíocht Dhiagnóiseach

Soláthraíonn an Rannán Paiteolaíochta paiteolaíocht dhiagnóiseach, tacaíocht imscrúdaitheach don NDCC mar fhreagra ar ghalar amhrasta aicme A agus ar ghalar ardtionchair aicme B, chomh maith le seirbhísí faireachais do na tionscail talmhaíochta ainmhithe, le tagairt faoi leith do na tionscail muc agus éanlaithe. Soláthraíonn an rannán léirmhíniú histeapaiteolaíochta chéad tuairim agus dara tuairim mar thacaíocht leis na feidhmeanna sin. Cuirtear seirbhísí ar fáil do ghníomhaireachtaí eile freisin de réir mar is gá (e.g. prótacal éin chreiche an NPWS).

I rith 2019, tháinig ardú suntasach ar an líon scrúdú iarbháis ar mhuca mar thoradh ar leathnú spriocdhírithé ar scrúduithe iarbháis diagnóiseacha ar mhuca, rud a sholáthair sonraí faireachas níos fearr agus a chuir go gníomh leis an ngaol idir PVPanna muc agus an Rannán Paiteolaíochta.

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Scrúduithe Iarbháis Diagnóiseacha

SPEICEAS	Scrúduithe Conablachs
Mucúil	303
Éanúil	230
Ainmhithe fiara	87
Caoirigh	23
Buaibheach	21
Eile*	77
Iomlán	741

*broc, éin chreiche, sionnach & giorria

D'fhreastail an tSaotharlann Histeapaiteolaíochta ar na riachtanais seirbhíse don phróiseáil histeapaiteolaíochta agus don imdhíonacht histiceimice in 2019 do Sheirbhís na Saotharlainne Tréidliachta agus do Rannáin eile na Roinne, amhail ERAD. Rinneadh próiseáil sa Saotharlann ar thart ar 20,000 sleamhnán sa bhliain 2019 le modhanna caighdeánacha ruaimnithe agus le teicnící speisialta ruaimnithe lena n-áirítear an histiceimic imdhíonachta.

Táirgeadh Sleamhnán Histeapaiteolaíochta:

Ullmhú slánchásanna H&E	Iomlán na sleamhnán H&E a táirgeadh	Sleamhnán H&E athghearrtha	Sleamhnán TB H&E	Iomlán na sleamhnán H&E a táirgeadh
4,572	14,113	959	4,408	19,480

Micribhitheolaíocht Chliniciúil

Cuireann an tsaotharlann micribhitheolaíochta cliniciúla seirbhísí micribhitheolaíochta diagnóiseacha ar fáil do sheomra iarbháis Bhacastúin, tugann tacaíocht do RVLanna agus déanann óstáil ar an tSaotharlann Náisiúnta Tagartha don CEM Cuireadh raon tástálacha agus pacáistí tástála níos fearr ar fáil in 2019, lena n-áirítear píblíníte aonraíoch cliniciúil le haghaidh faireachas AMR. Cuireadh tíopáil agus tréithriú baictéarach ar fáil, chomh maith le soláthar MALDI-TOF mar thacaíocht do na RVLanna.

Ar na tacaíochtaí breise do shaotharlanna in 2019 bhí prótacail tástála níos fearr agus caighdeánú SOPanna saothrán agus AST.

Bithcheimic agus Tocsaineolaíocht

Déantar próifiliú eiliminteach ar ainmhithe sa tsaotharlann Bithcheimice agus Tocsaineolaíochta agus soláthraítear an cumas diagnóiseach chun easnaimh eilimintí agus tocsaineachtaí a chinneadh i bhfíocháin agus i bhfuil ainmhithe maidir le heilimintí éagsúla. Ceann de phríomhfheidhmeanna na saotharlainne is ea tacaíocht dhiagnóiseach a sholáthar maidir le tocsaineachtaí amhrasta i dtréada agus tacaíochtaí d'imscrúduithe idir-ghníomhaireachta ar shláinte phoiblí, sláinte ainmhithe agus an comhshaol. Chuir an tsaotharlann feabhas ar an seachadadh seirbhísí in 2019 trí bhíthin an dara ICP-MS (Plasma Cúpláilte go hIonduchtach – Mais-Speictriméadracht) a chur sa tsaotharlann. Rinneadh anailís ar thart ar 1,438 sampla fíocháin agus fola in 2019 le haghaidh ceann amháin nó níos mó de na heilimintí seo a leanas ag ICPMS – As, Cd, Co, Cu, Mn, Mo, Pb, Se. Ina theannta sin, tá tús curtha le tabhairt isteach nósanna imeachta cáilíochta agus taifid sa tsaotharlann, le súil agus creidiúnú ISO 17025 a bhaint amach.

Gníomhaíochtaí:

An Grúpa Saotharlainne Muc

Is grúpa tras-rannáin é seo laistigh de na saotharlanna tréidliachta. Ar na réimsí ar tugadh aghaidh orthu in 2019 bhí feabhas a chur ar an gcóhort eolais ar phaitheolaíocht na muc sa Roinn, acmhainn freagartha níos fearr, lena n-áirítear oiliúint agus tástáil mhicribhitheolaíochta muc níos fearr maidir le pataigin na muc.

An Grúpa Saotharlainne Éanlaithe

Is grúpa tras-rannáin é seo laistigh de na saotharlanna tréidliachta. Ar na réimsí ar tugadh aghaidh orthu in 2019 bhí tástálacha diagnóiseacha ginearálta éanlaithe níos fearr agus diagnóis níos fearr sna hearnálacha éagsúla, straitéisí samplála saotharlainne maidir le víris andúchasacha (e.g. víreas an ghalair Newcastle) agus athbhreithniú ar imscrúduithe ar ghalair ardtionchair aicme B (ráig ILT i mí Lúnasa).

Samplaí d'Imscrúduithe Galar:

Laraingeatraicéiteas Tógalach Éanlaithe (ILT)

Deimhníodh ILT i láithreán císil i gContae an Chabháin i mí Lúnasa. Chomhordaigh an Rannán Paitheolaíochta imscrúdú ar láithreáin a raibh nasc eipidéimeolaíoch eatarthu chun scaipeadh an ghalair a chur as an áireamh. Rinne an Rannán Víreolaíochta seiceamh

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géine agus fuair fianaise nár scaip an ráig agus gur dhócha gur thréithchineál fiáin ba chúis léi.

Botalas Buaibheach

In 2019, chabhraigh an Rannán Paiteolaíochta le naoi ráig amhrasta den Bhotalas Buaibheach a imscrúdú. Aithníodh an tocsain Botalanam den chineál C/D arna aithint ag ELISA in ainmhithe ó shé thréad agus cuireadh ar aghaidh chuig saotharlanna réigiúnach tréidliachta iad le haghaidh scrúdú iarbháis. Bhí na tréada amhrasta comhdhéanta de chúig thréad déiríochta, trí thréad bó diúil agus fiontar mairteola amháin. Ní mheastar gur baol don slabhra bia é botalas buaibheach, arb é tocsain den chineál C/D go hiondúil é.

Galar Fuilreatha Coiníní (RHD2) sa Ghiորria Éireannach
Dheimhnigh an Rannán go raibh RHD2 i ngiorriacha Éireannacha in 2019 agus rinne sé athbhreithniú histeapaiteolaíochta ar shamplaí cartlainne giorria don Ghalar Fuilreatha Coiníní (RHD2) chun fianaise a chur ar fáil gur galar sách nua sa ghiորria é seo agus thug tacaíocht do bhearta cosanta don speiceas ar an tslí sin.

Tionscadail Taighde:

Abomasitis i Laonna: Tá athbhreithniú fairsing á dhéanamh ar feadh na saotharlann faoi láthair ar chásanna abomasitis i laonna sna blianta 2017, 2018 agus 2019. Is éard is cuspóir leis, sainmhíniú cáis a bheachtú, saintréithe a shannadh do na loit chomhlána agus histeolaíochta agus paitigin ghaolmhar a shainaithint. Tugadh cuairt ar ocht bhfeirm in 2019, sa chás go raibh cásanna oiriúnacha curtha ar aghaidh le haghaidh scrúdú iarbháis, chun faisnéis faoi chleachtais ar na feirmeacha agus tosca riosca féideartha a chur i dtoll a chéile.

Géanómaíocht Mycobacterium bovis: Staidéar ar ghéanómaíocht *Mycobacterium bovis* (2019) i dtimpeallacht ilóstach, i gcomhar leis an rannóg TB agus UCD.

Tionscadal ARREST: I gcomhar le UCD, NUIG agus an rannóg géanóm iomlán sa Roinn, sholáthair micribhitheolaíocht chliniciúil an chuid saotharlainne den mheasúnú micribhitheolaíochta ar chumas bhogaigh thógtha chomhtháite (ICWanna) orgánaigh frithsheasmhacha in aghaidh ábhar frithmhicróbach a bhaint as eisilteach feirme agus foinsí cathracha:

Anailís ar ileilimintí a bhfuil tréachur ard acu a bhailíochtú: Cuireadh tús le dhá thionscadal taighde comhoibríochta chun an réimse eiliminí a leathnú amach agus chun modhanna ileilimintí a bhfuil tréachur ard acu san fhuil (Al, As, Cd, Cr, Co, Cu, Pb, Mn, Mo, Ni, Se, Sn and I) agus i séiream/sreabhán súilí (Ca, P, Na, K, Fe, Zn, Mg) ocular fluid le ICP-MS agus le ICP-OES (Plasma Cúpláilte go hIonduchtach – Speictreascópacht Astaíochta Optúil) faoi seach.

Saotharlann um Rialú Sláinte Phoiblí Tréidliachta

Tá an tSaotharlann Rialaitheach um Shláinte Phoiblí Tréidliachta (VPHRL) creidiúnaithe ag an INAB do ISO 17025:2005, le níos mó ná 30 tástáil anailíseach a chlúdaíonn iarmhair, éilleáin, anailís mhicribhitheolaíochta agus seadeolaíochta faoina scóip i láthair na huaire.

Is í VPHRL an tSaotharlann Náisiúnta Tagartha (NRL) do 6 grúpa iarmhar (Oibreáin fhritíoróideacha, Béiteagónaithe, Clórimfeineacól agus Dapsón, Ábhair Fhrithbhaictéaracha lena n-áirítear sulfónaimídí agus cuineolóin, Carbadocs agus Dúile Ceimiceacha) agus le haghaidh E. coli agus Trichinella.

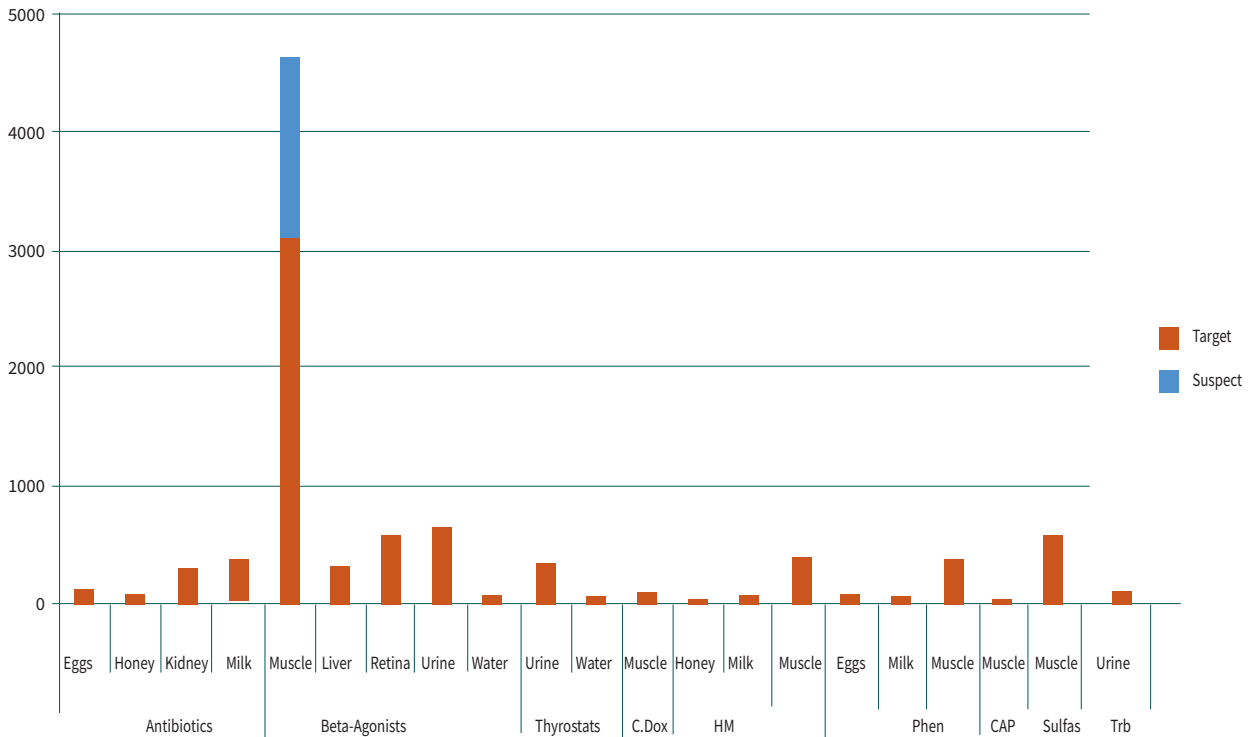
Cheadaigh an Coimisiún Eorpach ábhartha Plean Náisiúnta Iarmhar (NRP) na hÉireann don bhliain 2019. Clúdaíonn an tástáil faoin NRL, 18 grúpa sainiúil iarmhar a thagann faoi trí chatagóir leathan:

- ábhair choiscthe ar nós hormón fás-spreagthach agus béite-agónaithe,
- cógais tréidliachta atá ceadaithe,
- éilleáin chomhshaoil.

Le linn na bliana 2019, tástáladh os cionn 9,000 sampla de bhia de bhunús ainmhí faoin NRP ag an VPHRL.

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Líon na samplaí a tástáladh don NRP don bhliain 2019 briste síos de réir substaint, mairtís agus cibé an raibh siad faoi amhras nó mar sprioc. C.Dox: Carbadocs, HM, Dúil cheimiceach, CAP: Clóramfeineacól, Phen: Phenicols, Sulfas: Sulfónaimídí, Trb: Treanbólón



Líon samplaí a tástáladh don NRP sa bhliain 2019 briste síos de réir substaint agus speiceas ainmhithe.

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Fuarthas 53,386 toradh aonair ón 9,170 sampla NRP a rinneadh anailís orthu. Bhí na torthaí seo a leanas i gceist:

- Tíreastait i bhfual: 13 bó-ainmhí, 2 chaora agus 1 mhuc D'fhéadfadh baint a bheith aige le cothú.
- Antaibheathaigh i matán bó-ainmhí: Ocht sampla de neamhchomhlíonadh i measc ainmhithe amhrasta: 2 Amoxicillin ag 82 agus 67 ppb, 1 Marbofloxacin ag >300 ppb, 1 Penicillin G ag >100 ppb, agus 4 Ocsaiteitriciglín: 2 ar leibhéal 217 agus 184 ppb agus 2 ar leibhéal >400 ppb.
- Antaibheathaigh i mbainne: Sampla spriocdhírthe amháin inar aimsíodh 510 ppb de Sulphamethazine. Sampla spriocdhírthe amháin inar aimsíodh 430 ppb de Cloxacillin.

Luaidhe i matáin: 2 fhia fhiáin agus i 1 phiasún fhiáin le leibhéal arda a raibh baint acu le urchair miotail.

Micribhitheolaíocht

Cuireann an VPHRL tacaíocht saotharlainne ar fáil do rialúcháin allmhairithe agus don Chigireacht atá bunaithe ag monarchana feola, ag cinntiú comhlíontacht le caighdeáin náisiúnta agus idirnáisiúnta sábháilteachta agus sláinteachais bhia. Sa bhliain 2019, tógadh tuairim is 1,900 sampla oifigiúil den fheoil agus de tháirgí feola ag an bpointe déantúsaíochta agus ag ionaid imscrúdaithe teorann agus tástáladh iad do réimse paraiméadar micribhitheolaíochta. As na samplaí sin, bhí 10 dearfach do Salmonella (2 a fuarthas in éin a bhí allmhairithe) agus 4 sampla do *Listeria monocytogenes*.

Sa bhliain 2019, lean an VPHRL le tástáil a dhéanamh ar chonablaigh mairteola agus gearrthóga feola do Thocsain Shiga a mbíonn baictéir E.coli mar thoradh air chun tacú le honnmhairiú mairteola ó Éirinn chuig margaí na Stát Aontaithe agus Cheanada, rinneadh anailís ar 792 maipín ar chonablaigh, 41 sampla feola cumaisc agus 3 shampla de bhurgair/mionfheoil/mionmhairteoil. Ní raibh ceann ar bith de na samplaí a ndearnadh anailís orthu dearfach. Déanann VPHRL anailís mhicribhitheolaíochta ar uisce ó Oibreoirí Gnó Bia faoi Rialachán na Roinne a

chuireann ceanglas orthu uisce óil a úsáid ina gcuid oibríochtaí. Rinneadh 339 sampla oifigiúil a thástáil sa bhliain 2019 do raon airíonna fisiceimiceacha agus micribhitheolaíochta. As na samplaí sin fuarthas amach go raibh éilliú micribhitheolaíochta de *E. coli*, Colaíoch, Faecal *Enterococci* agus/nó *Clostridium perfringens* i 13 sampla.

Sa bhreis air sin, tugann an VPHRL tacaíocht ó thaobh deimhniúcháin fotháirgí ainmhithe (ABP). Le linn na bliana 2019, áiríodh 690 sampla oifigiúil ar an iomlán de tháirgí ABP (Bia peataí, Próitéin Ainmhithe Próiseáilte, Geir, Geirdheascadh) do leibhéal Enterobacteriaceae agus rinneadh seiceáil ar 165 sampla ó phlandaí múirínithe i gcomhair leibhéal *E. coli*. Léirigh 7 bhaisc leibhéal thar cuimse.

Trichinella

Tugadh faoi thástáil ar 3,294 sampla mucúil agus 240 sampla matán capaill sa bhliain 2019 mar chuid den chlár monatóireachta oifigiúil, agus níor bhfuarthas labhra Trichinella in aon cheann acu.

Saotharlanna na Roinne, Corcaigh

Cuireann Saotharlanna na Roinne i gCorcaigh, atá lonnaithe ar Bhóthar na Modhfheirme, raon seirbhísí anailíseach ar fáil mar thacaíocht don earnáil agriabha. Áirítear ar na príomhréimsí tástála sláinte ainmhithe (galair eallaigh agus muc), sábháilteacht bia and sláinte plandaí. Déantar an obair sin i gcomhar leis na Rannáin rialaithe ábhartha agus príomh-rannáin saotharlainne na Roinne i mBacastún. Tá tréchur samplach le haghaidh 2019 curtha san áireamh sa líon iomlán do gach réimse (féach DSLanna rannóige, Sláinte Plandaí, Saotharlanna Tréidliachta). Anuas air sin, tá tacaíocht anailíseach á soláthar ag Saotharlann Chorcaí do Shláinte Ainmhithe Éireann mar chuid dá gcláir leanúnacha (BVD, IBR agus JDS). D'éirigh leis an tSaotharlann saoráid bhithbhainc a fhorbairt, le tacaíocht ó bhunachar sonraí cuimsitheach a thabharfaidh deis samplaí stóráilte a úsáid le haghaidh tuilleadh staidéir agus imscrúduithe más gá.

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SAOTHARLANNA TALMHAÍOCHTA Saotharlanna Eolaíochta Déiríochta (DSL)

Tá seirbhís na Saotharlainne Eolaíochta Déiríochta comhdhéanta de thrí shaotharlann atá lonnaithe i mBacastún, Corcaigh agus Luimneach. Cuireann siad seo seirbhísí tástála micribhitheolaíochta agus ceimiceacha ar fáil go príomha do shamplaí bainne/táirgí bainne a thógtar ó oibreoirí gnólachta bia déiríochta den chuid is mó. Tá obair na saotharlanna mar bhonn taca le deimhniú na dtáirgí déiríochta d'onnmhairiú freisin. Déantar anailís freisin ar tháirgí úra gairneoireachta atá réidh le hithe agus ar uisce.

Samplaí ó thaobh rialú oifigiúil – Micribhitheolaíocht

Sa bhliain 2019, thug an tseirbhís Saotharlainne Eolaíochta Déiríochta faoi thart ar 18,000 anailís mhicribhitheolaíochta ar 11,167 sampla ó bhunaíochtaí próiseála bainne, ó mhonarchana bainne leachtaigh agus ó tháirgeoirí san earnáil gairneoireachta chun monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar chomhlíonadh na reachtaíochta um shábháilteacht bhia, uisce agus fo-tháirgí ainmhithe. Mar thoradh air sin, eisíodh na fógraí seo a leanas:

- 20 Fógra guaise don tSábháilteacht Bia
- 59 Neamhchomhlíonadh an critéar um Shláinteachas Próisis
- 1 Neamhchomhlíonadh an critéar Fosfatáise/Sárocsaíodáise
- 49 Tuarascáil neamhchomhlíontachta maidir le samplaí uisce
- 2 thuarascálacha neamhchomhlíontachta maidir le samplaí d'fho-tháirgí ainmhithe
- 4 Tuarascáil neamhchomhlíontachta maidir le sampla ón timpeallacht próiseála

Tá Córais Bhainistíochta Cáilíochta i bhfeidhm ag na trí shaotharlanna bunaithe ar chaighdeán ISO17025 chun freastal ar cheanglais Bhord Náisiúnta na hÉireann um Chreidiúnú (INAB). Sa bhliain 2019, lean na saotharlanna le cothabháil a dhéanamh ar agus ag cur lena scóip creidiúnaithe.

Bhain Bacastún creidiúnú amach do dhá mhodh tástála breise agus d'aon síneadh scóipe amháin. I dteanna a chéile, tá 70 creidiúnú maidir le modhanna tástála ag na trí shaotharlanna ar fud an iliomad mairísí.

Tugadh faoi rannpháirtíocht leanúnach freisin i dtrialacha idirshaotharlainne a bhí eagraithe ag Saotharlanna Tagartha an Aontais Eorpaigh.

Samplaí ó thaobh rialú oifigiúil – Ceimic

Déanann na Saotharlanna Eolaíochta Déiríochta i Luimneach agus i mBacastún stiúradh ar anailís chomhdhéanta ar tháirgí déiríochta chun a dheimhniú go bhfuil na ceanglais caighdeán lipéadaithe agus margaíochta atá leagtha síos i Rialachán (EC) Uimh 1169/2011 agus Rialachán 1308/2013 á gcomhlíonadh. Sa bhreis air sin, tugtar faoi anailís i DSL Bhacastún ar bhainne foirmle do naíonáin agus ar bhainne foirmle leantach do naíonáin chun a dheimhniú go bhfuil na paraiméadair chomhdhéanta atá leagtha síos i dTreoir 2006/141 CE á gcomhlíonadh.

Sa bhliain 2019, rinneadh anailís ar 647 sampla chun a dheimhniú go raibh na ceanglais reachtaíochta AE atá mionsonraithe thuas á gcomhlíonadh. Tuairisceoidh 14 tuarascáil neamhchomhlíontachta maidir le hanailís comhdhéanta.

An tSaotharlann Náisiúnta Tagartha (NRL)

Sa bhliain 2019, lean Saotharlann Eolaíochta Déiríochta Bhacastún de bheith ag feidhmiú mar an tSaotharlann Náisiúnta Tagartha (NRL) do *Listeria monocytogenes*, stafalacocas téachtáis-deimhneach staphylococci agus do víris i mbia.

Soláthraíonn an NRL seirbhís tíópála móilíní agus tréithrithe maidir le haonraíochta *Listeria monocytogenes* ó shaotharlanna eile in Éirinn le hanailís um sheicheamhú géanóim iomláin (WGS) agus PCR. In 2019, mhéadaigh an NRL an úsáid a mbaintear as WGS agus baineadh amach creidiúnú ISO 17025 don mhodh sin. Rinneadh WGS ar *Listeria monocytogenes* agus ar Shiga-toxin *E. coli* (STEC). Rinneadh anailís PCR ar 2,950 aonraíoch *L. monocytogenes* agus rinneadh tréithriú ar 249 agus WGS á úsáid. Cuirtear an fhaisnéis tíópála sin ar ais chuig na saotharlanna taiscthe agus is féidir le hoibreoirí gnólachtaí bia leas a bhaint astu chun foinsí éillithe a rianú agus chun a fháil amach an bhfuil tréithchineálacha buana in áitribh áirithe. Úsáidtear freisin é mar bhonn eolais do EFSA i gcásanna ráigeanna bia-iompartha idirnáisiúnta.

Tugann an NRL faoi anailís freisin ar bhrath na neintreatocsainí Stafalacocúla sa bhia, agus is í an t-aon saotharlann sa tír a chuireann an tseirbhís seo ar fáil, tugtar

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faoi thíopáil mhóilíneach freisin chun a fháil amach an bhfuil géinte in aonraigh CPS atá riachtanach chun eintreatocsainí a tháirgeadh agus sa bhliain 2019 rinneadh an anailís seo ar 21 aonraíoch.

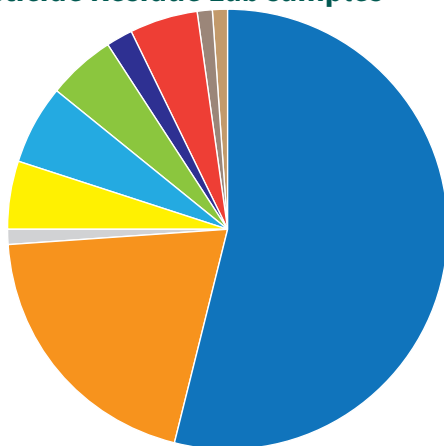
Lotnaidicídí, Sláinte Plandaí, Ábhar Beatha agus Saotharlanna Tástála Síl

An tSaotharlann Iarmhair Lotnaidicídí

Is í an tSaotharlann Iarmhair Lotnaidicídí an tSaotharlann Náisiúnta Tagartha chun iarmhair lotnaidicídí i dtorthaí agus glasraí, gránbharra agus bia ardsaille a bhrath agus ina gcleachtar modhanna iarmhair aonair.

Sa bhliain 2019, thug an tSaotharlann Iarmhair Lotnaidicídí (PRL) faoin tástáil a bhí riachtanach faoin gclár rialúcháin iarmhair lotnaidicídí atá comhaontaithe faoi chonradh seirbhíse na Roinne leis an FSAI. Léirítear an céatadán de gach maitrís nó cineál sampla sa phíchart a leanas (as na 1,601 sampla a fuarthas lena dtástáil in 2019).

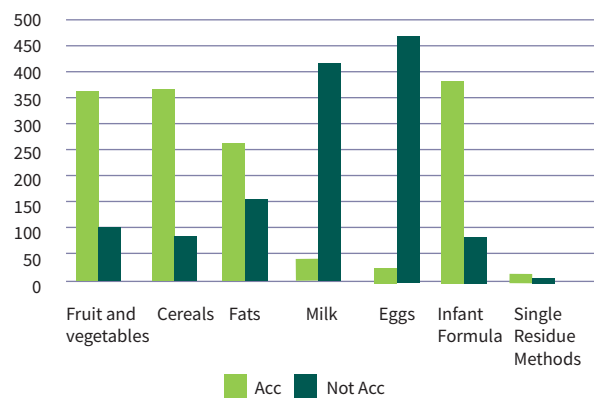
Pesticide Residue Lab samples



FRUIT AND VEGETABLES	54%
FATS	20%
OILS	1%
CEREALS	5%
FEED	6%
MILK	5%
EGGS	2%
BABYFOOD	5%
HONEY	1%
WATER	1%

D'fhonn éifeachtúlacht a uasmhéadú, úsáidtear meascán de mhodhanna il-iarmhair agus iarmhair aonair sa tsaotharlann. Tugtar thíos an líon lotnaidicídí dá ndéantar anailís ar gach tráchtarra. Tá creidiúnú ISO 17025 ag formhór na meascán modhanna tástála agus maitrise sin (barraí glasa) ach ní chuimsítear go hiomlán roinnt díobh fós i raon feidhme an chreidiúnaithe (barraí buí).

Number of analytes per method



Is achoimre é seo a leanas ar na samplaí a ndearnadh

	Sampla	> MRL	% > MRL
Torthaí agus Glasraí	867	7	0.8
Saill	325	0	0.0
Olaí	10	0	0.0
Gránaigh	83	8	9.6 ²
Beatha	99 ¹	0	0.0
Bainne	74	0	0.0
Uibheacha	30	0	0.0
Beatha páistí	72	0	0.0
Míl 19	0	0.0	
Uisce	22	0	0.0
Iomlán =	1,601	15	0.9

1 - Rinneadh anailís le haghaidh PCBanna ar 70 sampla beatha mar mhodh scagtha do láithreach de-ocsaíní agus sin amháin.

2 - Fuarthas go raibh 5 chinn de na samplaí grán buí a ndearnadh anailís orthu mar chuid d'imscrúdú os cionn an MRL.

Sáraíodh an Leibhéal Uasta d'Iarmhair (MRL'nna) d'iarmhair lotnaidicídí sa bhia i 15 sampla a fuarthas in

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2019.

An tSaotharlann Foirmlíocháin Lotnaidicíde

Cuireann an tSaotharlann Foirmlíocháin Lotnaidicíde (PFL) an tacaíocht anailíseach ar fáil atá riachtanach chun cáilíocht na dtáirgí cosanta plandaí ar mhargadh na hÉireann a dhearbhu. Sa bhliain 2019, rinneadh anailís ar 49 sampla de tháirgí cosanta plandaí chun a sheiceáil go raibh a gcomhdhéanamh ag comhlíonadh na sonraíochtaí táirgí údraithe. As na samplaí a rinneadh anailís orthu, ní raibh aon cheann nach raibh de réir na sonraíochta.

Sampla	Substaint Ghníomhach	Lasmuigh den tSonraíocht	Tástálacha Fis/Ceim	Lasmuigh den tSonraíocht
49	72	0	33	1

Sláinte Plandaí

Bacastún:

Oibríonn an tSaotharlann Sláinte Plandaí (PHL) go dlúth leis na Rannáin Rialaithe sa réimse sláinte plandaí ag cur seirbhís anailíseach agus saineolas ar fáil do lotnaidí agus galair plandaí rialaithe faoin Rialachán (AE) 2016/2031 agus Rialachán (AE) 2017/625.

Sa bhliain 2019, rinneadh anailís sa tSaotharlann ar na samplaí seo a leanas:

Catagóir sampla	Líon samplaí a rinneadh anailís orthu	Líon Samplaí a bhí dearfach d'orgánaigh coraintín
Samplaí paiteolaíochta planda	848	185
Samplaí feithideolaíochta	247*	29

*Cuireadh 30 sampla ar aghaidh chuig saotharlann eile lena ndeimhniú

Rinneadh tástáil le haghaidh os cionn 30 orgánach coraintín laistigh de na figiúirí samplaí sin. Is é an PHL an tSaotharlann Náisiúnta Tagartha (NRL) do na 6 Shaotharlann Eorpacha Tagartha (EURLanna) comhfhreagracha a leanas:

Feithidí agus fineoga
Baictéir,
Fungais agus úimicéit,
Vírís, víoróidigh agus fíteaplasma,
Néimeatóidí,
Sláinte beach mheala,

Fuair an PHL an chéad chreidiúnú faoi ISO 17025 in 2019, de réir mar a éilítear anois mar gheall go bhfuil Sláinte Plandaí laistigh dá raon feidhme faoin Rialachán nua um Rialú Oifigiúil.

Corcaigh:

Rinne saotharlann Chorcaigh tástáil ar 1,507 samplaí plandaí do *Erwinia amylovora* (a bhíonn mar chúis leis an ngalar Smol Dóite *Rosaceae*) agus 434 sampla prátaí do *Clavibacter michiganensis sepedonicus* agus *Ralstonia solanacearum* (a bhíonn mar chúis leis an ngalar Lobhadh Fáinneach Prátaí agus le Donnlobhadh Prátaí). Sa bhreis air sin, rinne saotharlann Chorcaigh foshampáil ar shamplaí den *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* (a bhíonn mar chúis leis an ngalar Chalara/Críonadh Siar na Fuinseoige).

An tSaotharlann Ábhar Beatha

Leis an tSaotharlann Ábhar Beatha (FSL), soláthraítear saineolas agus anailís saotharlainne ar bhia ainmhithe maidir le héilliú ó fheoil, min cnámh agus ábhair thoirmiscithe eile. Is FSL an tSaotharlann Náisiúnta Tagartha (NRL) atá ainmnithe chun an phróitéin ainmhithe a bhrath in ábhar beathaithe (NRL-AP).

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Sa bhliain 2019, rinneadh anailís sa tsaotharlann ar na samplaí seo a leanas:

Cineál na hanailíse	Líon samplaí a rinneadh anailís orthu	Líon samplaí a bhí os cionn na teorann braite
Láithreacht próitéin próiseáilte ainmhí (PAP) (Rialachán (CE) Uimh. 51/2013 ón gCoimisiún).	326	*1
Láithreacht ábhar coiscthe (Rialachán (CE) Uimh. 767/2009 ón gCoimisiún).	37	08
Idirshaotharlainne NRL agus inniúlachta i gcomhlíonadh le hAirteagal 12 agus le hAirteagal 33 de Rialachán (CE) Uimh. 882/2004	63	Ní bhaineann

*Gan fógart mar bhia peataí

Fuair an tsaotharlann 13 sampla freisin de chruithneacht agus d'eorna a bhí dírithe ar bheatha ainmhithe agus rinne an tsaotharlann tástála síl tástáil bhreise ar na samplaí seo ó thaobh neamhghlaine luibheolaíochta de réir Rialachán 2002/32/AE.

Tugadh faoi rannpháirtíocht leanúnach freisin i dtrialacha idirshaotharlainne a bhí eagraithe ag Saotharlanna Tagartha (EURL) an Aontais Eorpaigh. Bhain siad sin le trialacha micreascópachta agus móilíneacha le haghaidh ghnáthmhaitrise ábhar beatha agus, den chéad uair, bia éisc ina raibh bia feithidí tráchtála. Bhí baint ag an tsaotharlann le hathbheithniú agus dréachtú ar an Rialachán leasaithe (CE) Uimh. 51/2013 ANNEX II ón gCoimisiún i gcomhar leis an líonra EURL-AP agus NRL.

Tá an tsaotharlann ábhar beatha ina comhalta den IAG – Comhlachas Idirnáisiúnta um Anailís ar Ábhair Bheatha, agus aistríodh aird an ghrúpa go dtí micreaphlaisteach i mbeatha sa bhliain 2019.

Tionscadail agus Imscrúduithe Speisialta:

“Imscrúdú ar an tionchar atá ag comhábhair bainne-bhunaithe ar phróitéin ainmhí toirmiscthe i mbeatha a bhrath. Bunaíodh an taighde ar iontaofacht an mhodha cainníochtúil PCR chun beatha a scrúdú le haghaidh láithreachta DNA ainmhithe.”

Imscrúdú ar bhloghanna matán feithidí.
Tástáil Síil

Cuireann an tSaotharlann Tástála Síil (STL) seirbhís tástála síil ar fáil do Rannáin Rialaithe laistigh den Roinn, do cheannaithe síl, d'fheirmeoirí, do shaothróirí agus do phlandlanna foraoise. Tá creidiúnú ag an tsaotharlann ón gCumann Idirnáisiúnta don Tástáil Síil (ISTA). Ní mór don chuid is mó de na síolta talmhaíochta agus gairneoireachta caighdeáin íosta a shásamh don phéacadh, do ghlaire anailíseach agus d'ábhair shíolta eile sula gcuirtear ar an margadh iad.

Cuireadh 7,874 tástáil síil ar an iomlán i gcrích le linn na bliana 2019 ar ghránaigh, féir, barra foráiste, ola-shíolta, piseánaigh, glasraí, crainn, srl. Is é % an

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bhriseadh síos de réir cineálacha tástála:

Cineál Tástála	% de thástálacha síl ar an iomlán
Péacadh	60%
Glaine anailíseach	22%
Folláine síl	5%
Inmharthanacht síl (teatrasóiliam)	6%
Comhairleach	7%

Cé go raibh caighdeán maith ag síolta gránbharr geimhridh a baineadh in Éirinn i rith 2019 bhain cáilíocht níos éagsúla leis an mbarr síl ó ghránbharr earraigh agus bhí leibhéil níos airde inmharthanachta laghdaithe le feiceáil san anailís.

Coimeádann an tSaotharlann Tástála Síil an Banc Géinte Náisiúnta i gcomhar leis an Rannán Meastóireachta agus Deimhniúcháin Bairr. Sa bhliain 2019, rannchuidigh an STL le clár athghiniúna agus tréithrithe ar ghránaigh oidhreachta agus ar speicis gaolta fiáin barr. Tugadh athghiniúint eile chun críche ar ghránaigh oidhreachta i dteach gloine STL i rith mhíonna an gheimhridh.

Lean an tSaotharlann Tástála Síil i gcomhair leis an Rannán Meastóireachta agus Deimhniúcháin Bairr le clár athghiniúna bairr agus gaolta fiáin bairr. Déanann an tSaotharlann cothabháil ar Bhanc Géinte Náisiúnta Síolta Gránaigh agus Gaolta Fiáin Bairr. Leanadh leis an athghiniúint ar shíolta de chineálacha eorna “oidhreachta” sa bhliain 2019 le súil agus tráchtáil a dhéanamh orthu in éineacht le clár tréithrithe do na gránaigh oidhreachta sin.

Saotharlanna Tréidliachta Réigiúnach (RVLanna)

Is líonra saotharlann diagnóiseach tréidliachta ildisciplíneacha beag iad na Saotharlanna Tréidliachta Réigiúnacha. Tá siad lonnaithe ag Baile Átha Luain, Bacastún, Corcaigh, Cill Chainnigh, Luimneach agus Sligeach. Bunaíodh an líonra os cionn 50 bliain ó shin agus tá sé ar tí tosú ar na saoráidí a bunaíodh an tráth sin a athchóiriú agus a athfhorbairt. Soláthraítear seirbhís imscrúdaithe allamuigh agus seirbhís diagnóise tarchuir sna saotharlainne sin, lena n-áirítear scrúduithe iarbháis do choimeádaithe bia ainmhithe in Éirinn, trína dtréidlia-chleachtóirí. Tarchuireann

tréidlianna conblaigh le haghaidh scrúdú iarbháis nó samplaí le haghaidh tástáil saotharlainne chun diagnóis a dhearbhu nó a chinneadh, go háirithe i gcásanna nárbh fhéidir diagnóis a dhéanamh orthu ar fhorais chliniciúla, nó go háirithe sa chás go bhfuiltear in amhras galar andúchasach nó galar nua a bheith ag teacht chun cinn, nó bagairt ar an slabhra bia. Téann tréidlia-chleachtóirí i dteagmháil leis na RVLanna chun cásanna deacra a phlé leis na hoifigigh tréidliachta ar dualgas atá in ann cabhrú le plean diagnóise a cheapadh. D'fhéadfadh tarchur ábhair le haghaidh scrúdú iarbháis nó saotharlainne a bheith i gceist leis sin, nó imscrúdú allamuigh arna dhéanamh ag an RVL.

Chomh maith le cúnaimh a thabhairt maidir le teacht ar dhiagnóis agus ar chóireáil chuí chun leas ainmhithe agus éifeachtúlacht táirgeachta a fheabhsú, cuirtear córas réamhrabhaidh ar fáil freisin leis an tseirbhís seo chun bagairt ar an slabhra bia nó galar nua nó andúchasach a bhrath, agus cumasaítear freagairt thráthúil agus éifeachtach orthu. Soláthraítear sonraí faoi ghalair ainmhithe ag na torthaí agus ag na sonraí arna nginiúint le Saotharlanna Tréidliachta Réigiúnacha na Roinne agus cuirtear na sonraí sin le sonraí comhchosúla arna nginiúint le seirbhís den chineál céanna i dTuaisceart Éireann mar Thuarascáil Faireachais Uile-Oileánda ar Ghalair Ainmhithe. Idir na Tuarascálacha Bliantúla, foilsítear an Veterinary Ireland Journal tuarascáil mhíosúil ina dtugtar achoimre le léaráidí ar bhuaicphointí agus ar thorthaí tábhachtacha. Foilsítear athbhreithniú ráithiúil ar shonraí agus ar threochtaí na RVLanna ar láithreán gréasáin na Roinne faoi Fhaireachas ar Ghalair Ainmhithe ag <http://www.animalhealthsurveillance.agriculture.gov.ie/>

Eisítear sonraí, torthaí agus foláirimh eile trí bhíthin tuarascálacha agus páipéir eolaíochta, postálacha ar láithreáin ghréasáin agus ailt sa phreas tréidliachta agus feirmeoireachta.

Soláthraíonn na RVLanna breis seirbhísí tacaíochta i réimsí gaolmhara ábhartha amhail cláir dhíothaithe galar na Roinne agus Shláinte Ainmhithe Éireann, faireachais ar fhiadhúlra, rannpháirtíocht ar choistí réigiúnacha zónóise. Tugann na RVLanna rannchuidiú saineolach le Grúpaí Oibre Teicniúla AHI, agus le Grúpaí Saineolaithe na Roinne féin maidir le speicis agus disciplín.

SEIRBHÍS SAOTHARLAINNE

Ualach oibre na RVLanna -	2019
Scrúduithe Iarbháis: Conablaigh	5,456
Scrúduithe Iarbháis: Féatais	2,244
Paiteolaíocht chliniciúil tarchurtha*	11,540

* Is ionann "tarchurtha" agus áireamh ar bhaisceanna samplaí ó fheirm nó teagmhas arna gcur ar aghaidh agus d'fhéadfadh sampla amháin nó cúpla céad sampla a bheith i gceist leo

Forbairt Straitéiseach ar an tSeirbhís Saotharlainne

Rinneadh Athbhreithniú Straitéiseach ar Shaotharlanna na Roinne sa bhliain 2016 mar chuid de thiomantas na Roinne a chinntiú go mbeidh ár Saotharlanna in ann freastal ar riachtanais reatha na heagraíochta agus ar na riachtanais sa todhchaí, agus ar riachtanais a páirtithe leasmhara seachtracha, an phobail feirmeoireachta, an tionscail bhia agus na sochaí i gcoitinne. Rinneadh roinnt moltaí sa tuarascáil sin maidir le athstruchtúrú, bainistiú oibriúcháin agus forbairt straitéiseach. Tá an clár athraithe casta sin roinnte ina shraith tionscadal ar feadh na rannán éagsúil sna saotharlanna, ag díriú ar:

- Ceimic Bhia
- Micribhitheolaíocht Bhia
- Eolaíocht Plandaí
- Sláinte Ainmhithe
- Bainistiú Cáilíochta
- Saotharlanna Réigiúnacha
- LIMS
- Samplaí a Fháil
- Soláthar agus Stóir
- Pleanáil Spás Oibre

Tá na tionscadail sin dírithe ar na Saotharlanna a éascú chun éifeachtúlacht oibriúcháin agus sármhaitheas eolaíochta níos mó a bhaint amach, fad a fhiosraítear deiseanna chun sineirgí níos mó agus bainistiú níos éifeachtaí ar a gníomhaíochtaí éagsúla.

Sa bhliain 2019, thug RSM Ireland tuarascáil ar anailís costais is tairbhe (CBA) chun críche maidir le roghanna molta d'fhorbairt na Saotharlann Tréidliachta Réigiúnach (RVLanna) amach anseo agus chuir an

tuarascáil faoi bhráid na Roinne. Tá machnamh cúramach déanta ar na tátail agus ar na moltaí sa CBA, chomh maith leis an aiseola a fuarthas ó pháirtithe leasmhara agus tá sin uile mar bhonn eolais do thogra faoin tslí is fearr chun na RVLanna a athfhorbairt sna blianta amach romhainn. Ina dhiaidh sin, d'fhógair an Roinn mionsonraí faoi phlean deich mbliana a cheadaigh an Rialtas maidir lena saotharlanna réigiúnacha a fhorbairt, go luath i mí Mheán Fómhair.

Is éard a bheidh i gceist leis an bplean, athfhorbairt chéimnithe agus infheistíocht iomlán réamh-mheasta €33.5 mhilliún i gcaitheamh na ndeich mbliana go dtí deireadh 2028. Tógfar saotharlanna nua i gCill Chainnigh, i Sligeach, i gCúige Mumhan (ar láithreán idir Corcaigh agus Luimneach atá le roghnú fós) agus i mBaile Átha Luain. Forbrófar na saoráidí a shamhlaítear do Chúige Mumhan mar ionad barr feabhais maidir le himscrúdú agus faireachas ar ghalair in eallach déiríochta faoi dheireadh 2026.

Áirítear ar roinnt de na garspriocanna tionscadail is suntasaí a baineadh amach sa bhliain 2019: Ceapadh beirt Cheann Rannáin nua do na rannáin Ceimic Bhia agus Micribhitheolaíocht Bhia. Ba é sin an chéad chéim aistrithe i dtreo dhá fhoireann Rannáin ildisciplíneacha nua d'obair a bhaineann le Sábháilteacht Bia. Táthar ag leanúint den obair chun tograí ar chumrú limistéir oibre, ról, freagrachtaí agus línte tuairiscithe foirne a dhréachtú laistigh de na Rannáin nua sin.

Bunaíodh foireann tionscadail chun Córas Bainistithe Faisnéise Saotharlainne nua (LIMS 2.0) a dhearadh, a fháil agus a fhorbairt. Foilsíodh Iarraidh ar Fhaisnéis (RFI) do sholáthróirí LIMS ar eTenders mar an gcéad chéim de dhianchleachtadh soláthair.

Mar chuid de thiomantas leanúnach a chinntiú go mbeidh na baill foirne uile atá lonnaithe i saotharlanna ar an eolas faoin raon tionscadal agus gníomhaíochtaí gaolmhara eile atá ar siúl faoi láthair i Saotharlanna na Roinne, d'eagraigh an Oifig Bainistiú Tionscadal "Lá Oscailte" faisnéiseach ar éirigh thar cionn leis.

2

SPRIOC STRAITÉISEACH TACAÍOCHTAÍ AGUS RIALÚCHÁIN FEIRME/EARNÁLA

*Ioncam agus tacaíochtaí margaidh a chur
ar fáil mar bhuntaca leis an ngeilleagar tuaithe
agus comhshaoil*

FEIRMEOIREACHT INBHUANAITHE A CHUR CHUN CINN

An Plean Forbartha Tuaithe 2014-2020 (RDP)

Tá an Clár mar chuid den Chomhbheartas Talmhaíochta (CAP) agus tá sé cómhaoinithe ag Ciste Eorpach Talmhaíochta um Fhorbairt Tuaithe an AE (EAFRD) agus ag an státchiste náisiúnta. Ghlac an Coimisiún Eorpach go foirmiúil le RDP 2014-2020 na hÉireann i mí na Bealtaine 2015, agus tá raon leathan beart ann a thacaíonn le hearnáileacha na feirmeoireachta agus a thugann tacaíocht d'fhorbairt áitiúil faoi stiúir an phobail.

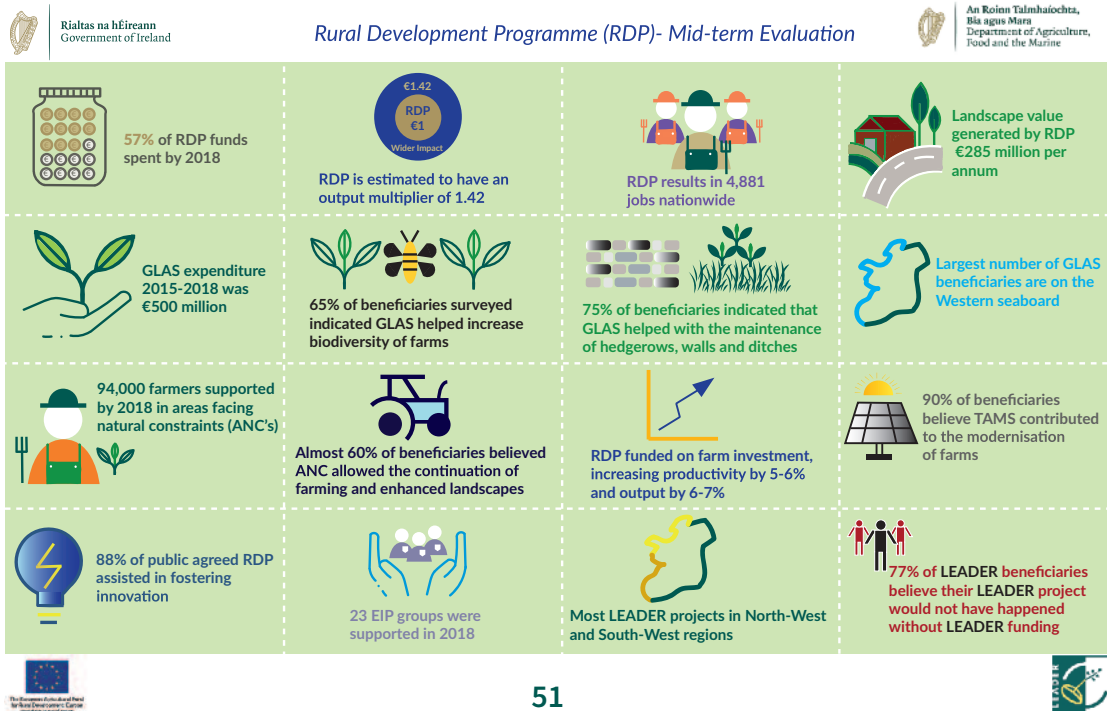
Is ionann tacaíocht an AE don RDP faoin EAFRD agus €2.19 billiún thar shaolré 7 mbliana an Chláir. Déanfar forlónadh ar an maoiniú AE trí mhaoiniú Státchiste, chun tacaíocht thart ar €4.146 bhilliún a chur ar fáil ar an iomlán faoin RDP. Tá bearta an RDP ceaptha freastal ar na trí phríomhchuspóir do mhaoiniú RDP a leagtar amach i reachtaíocht an AE:

Cur le hiomaíochas na hearnála agriabha; Bainistiú níos inbhuanaithe ar acmhainní nádúrtha a bhaint amach, agus, Forbairt níos cothromaithe ar cheantair agus gheilleagracha tuaithe a chinntiú. Tá scéimeanna go léir an RDP ag feidhmiú go hiomlán. Sa bhliain 2018, rinneadh líon leasuithe ar an gclár. Go

sonrach, ceadáíodh €25 milliún breise do Scéim na Limistéar faoi Shrianta Nádúrtha (ANC). Cuireadh athruithe ar ghníomhartha GLAS (an scéim agrachomhshaoil) le haghaidh a thabhairt ar ghanntanas fodair a bhí mar thoradh ar an drochaimsir. Chuir an Scéim um Fheirmeoireacht Orgánach fáilte roimh 60 iarratasóir nua sa Scéim in 2019.

Tá feidhmíocht an-mhaith ag Éirinn ó thaobh an Clár Forbartha Tuaithe a chur i bhfeidhm. Rinne Éire 79% de mhaoiniú AE a tharraingt anuas sa tréimhse 2014-2019, an dara ráta ab airde san AE i gcomparáid le meánráta 58% san AE. Tá an Clár ag oibriú go hiomlán agus tá formhór mór na mbeart/scéimeanna á réachtáil ar leibhéal optamach; bunaithe ar réamh-mheastacháin reatha, táthar ag súil go dtarraingeofar anuas an maoiniú AE uile faoi dheireadh an Chláir.

Rinne Indecon International Economic Consultants meastóireacht lárthéarmach ar an gclár sa bhliain 2019. Tá an tuarascáil iomlán sin le fáil ar láithreán gréasáin na Roinne. Tugadh tionchar dearfach an Chláir ar an ngeilleagar tuaithe ar aird sa tuarascáil, tugadh aitheantas dá ról ó thaobh tacú le fostaíocht tuaithe, iomaíochas a fheabhsú, an tírdhreach tuaithe a chothabháil agus tacú le gníomhartha dearfacha don aeráid agus don chomhshaoil.



FEIRMEOIREACTH INBHUANAITHE A CHUR CHUN CINN

Líonra Náisiúnta Tuaithe (NRN)

Is riachtanas reachtúil AE é NRN a bhunú mar chuid de Chlár Forbartha Tuaithe na hÉireann agus maoinítear é tríd an mbuiséad cúnamh teicniúil. Is é Nasc Tuaithe na hÉireann, i gcomhar le The Wheel, Ollscoil na hÉireann Gaillimh agus Philip Farrelly and Co., an tAonad Tacaíochta Líonra a oibríonn an NRN. Is é ról an NRN:

- Rannpháirtíocht páirtithe leasmhara i bhforfheidhmiú an Chláir Forbartha Tuaithe a mhéadú;
- Feabhas a chur ar cháilíocht fhorfheidhmiú an Chláir Forbartha Tuaithe;
- An pobal i gcoitinne agus tairbhíthe ionchasacha a chur ar an eolas faoin mbeartas forbartha tuaithe agus faoi dheiseanna maoinithe;
- Nuálaíocht a chothú i dtalmhaíocht, i dtáirgeadh bia, i bhforaoiseacht agus i gceantair thuaithe.



National Rural Network

Comhoibríonn an NRN leis an nGréasán Eorpach um Fhorbairt Tuaithe (ENRD) trí bheith rannpháirteach ag cruinnithe agus malartuithe ar leibhéal AE, samplaí de thionscadail, dea-chleachtas agus faisnéis a sholáthar do staidreamh líonra, agus trí bhíthin go leor rannpháirtíocht eile. Féachtar ar ghné Eorpach an líonra mar ghné a chuireann príomhdheiseanna agus samplaí dea-chleachtas ar fáil maidir le forbairt agus nuálaíocht tuaithe a d'fhéadfaí a scrúdú agus a mhacasamhlú i gcomhthéacs na hÉireann. Tá tuilleadh mionsonraí faoi obair an dá líonra, lena n-áirítear cás-staidéir, taighde, líonraí, nuachtlitreacha, le fáil ar láithreáin ghréasáin an NRN agus an ENRD.

An Scéim Ghlas ar Bheagán Carbóin do Chomhshaol na Talmhaíochta

Ceadaíodh os cionn 50,000 rannpháirtí isteach i nGLAS faoi GLAS 1, 2 agus 3. Sáraíodh an spriocleibhéal rannpháirtíochta a bhí leagtha síos sa Chlár Forbartha Tuaithe (RDP) i bhfad chun cinn ar an sprioc. Cuireann GLAS tacaíocht ar fáil d'fheirmeoirí atá dírithe ar ghníomhartha a spreagadh a chuireann an bhithéagsúlacht chun cinn, a thugann cosaint don cháilíocht uisce agus a théann i ngleic le hathrú aeráide. Tá raon atá os cionn 30 gníomh ar fáil faoi GLAS agus is féidir le rannpháirtithe iad a roghnú i gcomhairle lena gComhairleoir. Is ionann an t-uasíocaíocht bliantúil atá ar fáil do rannpháirtithe faoin scéim cúig bliana seo agus €5,000 faoin scéim ginearálta le foráil d'íocaíocht suas go dtí €7,000 (ar a dtugtar GLAS+) nuair a éilítear ar an rannpháirtí tiomantais comhshaoil eisceachtúla a thabhairt i líon teoranta cásanna. Eisíodh os cionn €797 milliún do rannpháirtithe GLAS go dtí seo.

Scéimeanna Spriocdhírith Nuachóirithe Talmhaíochta (TAMS)

Osclaíodh sraith bearta TAMS II faoin RDP sa bhliain 2015 agus tá siad oscailte fós ar bhonn tráinse ar thráinse. Rinneadh íocaíochtaí ar feadh na bliana 2019 de réir mar a tugadh oibreacha ceadaithe chun críche agus ar cuireadh éileamh íocaíochtaí faoi bhráid ar an gcóras ar líne. Áirítear ar na bearta atá ar fáil faoi TAMS:

- An Scéim Infheistíochta Caipitil d'Fheirmeoirí Óga
- An Scéim um Threalamh Leata Sciadair Astaíochtaí Ísle
- An Scéim um Leas Ainmhithe, Sábháilteachta agus Stóráil Cothaitheach
- An Scéim um Threalamh Déiríochta
- An Scéim Infheistíochta Muc agus Éanlaithe
- An Scéim um Infheistíocht Chaipitil Orgánach
- Osclaíodh an Scéim um Infheistíocht Caipitil Curaíochta i mí an Mhárta 2017.

Eisíodh íocaíochtaí de €76.5 milliún sa bhliain 2019.

FEIRMEOIREACTH INBHUANAITHE A CHUR CHUN CINN

Scéimeanna faoi stiúir áitiúil

Cuireann na scéimeanna seo réitigh áitiúla chun cinn i leith saincheistanna sonracha comhshaoil a dhéanann comhlánú ar an mbeart GLAS ag a bhfuil réimse níos leithne faoi RDP 2014-2020.

Tá Clár Bhoirne ina scéim bhunaithe comhshaoil talmhaíochta cúig bliana le 328 rannpháirtí. Féachtar go leathan ar Chlár Bhoirne mar thagarmharc don fheirmeoireacht atá dírithe ar an gcomhshaoil san Eoraip. Cuimsítear ann bainistiú gnáthóg bunaithe ar thorthaí agus oibreacha láithreáin infheistíochta caipitil neamhtháirgiúla.

Is iad príomhchuspóirí an Chláir:

- Bainistiú talmhaíochta inbhuanaithe na talún feirme a bhfuil luach ard acu ó thaobh an dúlra de i mBoirinn a chinntiú;
- Rannchuidiú le bainistiú dearfach thírdhreach Bhoirne agus a oidhreacht chultúir;
- Rannchuidiú le feabhsúcháin ar cháilíocht an uisce agus ar éifeachtúlacht ó thaobh úsáid an uisce.

Sa bhliain 2019, eisíodh thart €1.36 milliún in íocaíochtaí d'fheirmeoirí.

Seoladh **Clár Chromán na gCearc** sa bhliain 2017 agus mairfidh sé ar feadh cúig bliana. Dírionn sé go príomha ar fheirmeoirí atá ag bainistiú na ngnáthóg i sé SPA Chromán na gCearc. Tá 1,524 feirmeoir glactha isteach sa Chlár faoi láthair.

Ba bhliain an-mhaith a bhí sa bhliain 2019 do chromáin na gcearc - thóg an 56 péire a bhí deimhnithe sna SPAnna 81 sicín ar a laghad. Ba é sin an líon is mó le 14 bliain. I gCiarraí is mó a rinneadh dul chun cinn áit ar lig aon péire amháin amach cúig shicín, rud nár tharla cheana.

Forbraíodh Ráiteas ar Mhodh Cosanta Neadacha faoin gclár lena chinntiú go leanfaidh gníomhaíochtaí an treoir dlí, leasa agus fiadhúlra go léir agus go gcoifidh siad le dea-chleachtas. Oibríonn na hOifigí Cosanta Neadacha atá ar conradh faoin gClár le ceadúnú ón tSeirbhís Páirceanna Náisiúnta agus Fiadhúlra agus i gcomhréir le Ráiteas ceadaithe ar Mhodh Cosanta Neadacha.

Forbraíodh roinnt scéimeanna nuálaíochta faoin gclár freisin, ina measc:

Dul i nGleic le hEasnamh Chothaithe in Innilt Eallaigh Ardtalaimh

Chuaigh an Tionscadal Chromán na gCearc i gcomhpháirtíocht le Dawn Meats agus le Devenish Nutrition chun teicnící nua a fhorbairt agus a thaispeáint maidir le dul i ngleic le heasnamh chothaithe in innilt eallaigh ardtalaimh agus chun uirlisí a thabhairt d'fheirmeoirí chun tionchar a imirt ar iompar innilte ainmhithe agus ar phatrúin úsáide foráiste.

Athléimneacht in aghaidh Fhalscaithe

I ndiaidh na droch-fhalscaithe ar Shliabh Bladhma in 2018, rinne Tionscadal Chromán na gCearc idirchaidreamh le seirbhísí áitiúla dóiteáin chun plean a chur le chéile do na hoibríochtaí comhraic dóiteáin sna limistéir SPA. Bhí táirgiúlacht fhoriomlán Chromán na gCearc ar Shliabh Bladhma níos lú go suntasach i gcomparáid leis an mbliain roimhe. Sa bhliain 2018, chuaigh 16 shicín chun aibíochta ach thit an líon sin go dtí 5 sa bhliain 2019. Ba léiriú é sin ar laghdú tromchúiseach ar cheann de na limistéir ba tháirgiúla sa líonra SPAnna. Dá dtarlódh falscaí den sórt sin arís, bheadh baol tromchúiseach do chuspóirí Thionscadail Chromán na gCearc. D'fhreastail an Bainisteoir Tionscadal ar Sheimineár ar na Ceachtanna a Foghlaimíodh ó Fhalscaithe.

Gníomhartha Áitiúla

Leis an gciste seo, tugtar tacaíocht do ghníomhartha nach íocaíochtaí riaracháin leis an bhfoireann ná íocaíochtaí le feirmeoirí iad agus ní fhéadfaí iad a sholáthar trí bhithin phlean feirme aonair. Áirítear ann oifigígh cosanta neadacha a fhostaítear do mhíonna an tsamhraidh de ghnáth, foireann monatóireachta éan a dhéanann seiceáil ar shláinte na neadacha i ndiaidh shéasúr an ghoir, trialacha agus cláir phíolótacha allamuigh a úsáidtear chun gníomhartha féideartha a thástáil.

Áirítear ar an gciste seo freisin Deontais um Ghníomh Áitiúil, arb éard atá iontu micridheontais atá oscailte d'fheirmeoirí, scoileanna, clubanna, grúpaí pobail agus eile. Is cuid de chur chuige croí agus aigne é an maoiniú sin, a léiríonn gur acmhainn áitiúil é Cromán na gCearc agus go bhfuil meas ag an bpobal uile ar a luach.

Amhail dheireadh mhí na Nollag 2019 bhí os cionn €4.6 mhilliún eisithe chuig feirmeoirí agus €223,000 eile íochta trí bhithin gníomhartha áitiúla.

FEIRMEOIREACTH INBHUANAITHE A CHUR CHUN CINN

Síníodh conradh idir **Tionscadal na nDiúilicíní Péarla** agus an Roinn in 2018 agus reáchtálfar an tionscadal go dtí mí na Nollag 2023. An tAire Talmhaíochta, Michael Creed, a sheol an Clár go hoifigiúil in Dhá Dhrom an 29 Márta 2019. Is 21,405ha an t-achar iomlán talamh feirme faoi chonradh sa Chlár, is é sin 53% den talamh feirme ar feadh na ndobharcheantar uile.

An aidhm atá leis an gclár deonach seo, clár agra-chomhshaoil a bheidh bunaithe ar thorthaí a fhorbairt d'fhonn cómhaireachtáil fhadtéarmach a chinntiú idir na daonraí diúilicíní péarla fionnuisce agus an fheirmeoireacht sna hocht ndobharcheantar diúilicíní péarla fionnuisce is tábhachtaí in Éirinn. Agus an tionscadal á dheardh, ba ghné thábhachtach a bhí i gcomhairliúchán le húinéirí talún i ngach dobharcheantar. Thug sin spreagadh do pháirtithe leasmhara glacadh leis an tionscadal agus chinntigh sé gur cuimsíodh saineolas, comhairle agus ábhair imní na bhfeirmeoirí sna sprioc-dhobharcheantair sa Chlár ag céim luath den phróiseas.

Agus clár an tionscadail á fhorbairt, glacadh le roinnt bunghnéithe, chun na dúshláin arna soláthar ag an sprioc-speiceas uisceach a sháru agus lena chinntiú go mbeadh dreasacht chuig na feirmeoirí rannpháirteacha:

- Baintear úsáid as cáilíocht na ngnáthóg talún mar tháscaire torthaí faoi réir ag coigeartú i ndaidh 'measúnú ar an bhfeirm uile'.
- Díríonn an 'measúnú ar an bhfeirm uile' ar riocht an tsruthchúrsa agus ar bhainistiú cothaitheach agus clós feirme. Bíonn tionchar ag toradh an mheasúnaithe ar an íocaíocht dheiridh agus is dreasacht ollmhór é sin chun an sruthchúrsa agus bainistiú cothaitheach agus clós feirme a fheabhsú.
- Íoctar na rátaí íocaíochtaí is airde i leith plotaí a fhaigheann scór íseal. Tugann an cur chuige sin dreasacht d'fheirmeoirí feabhas a chur ar bhainistiú na bplotaí dá gcuid a fhaigheann an scór is ísle.
- Corpraítear íocaíocht thuilemhá chun léiriú a thabhairt ar thábhacht na ngnéithe sin ó thaobh an diúilicín péarla fionnuisce a chaomhnú.
- Bainistiú clós feirme. Bíonn tionchar ag toradh an mheasúnaithe ar an íocaíocht dheiridh agus mar sin is dreasacht ollmhór é chun feabhas a chur ar bhainistiú sruthchúrsa, clós feirme agus cothaitheach.

- Íoctar na rátaí íocaíochtaí is airde i leith plotaí a fhaigheann scór íseal. Tugann an cur chuige sin dreasacht d'fheirmeoirí feabhas a chur ar bhainistiú na bplotaí dá gcuid a fhaigheann an scór is ísle.
- Corpraítear íocaíocht thuilemhá chun léiriú a thabhairt ar thábhacht na ngnéithe sin ó thaobh an diúilicín péarla fionnuisce a chaomhnú.

Maidir le monatóireacht chomhshaoil i rith na chéad bliana den Chlár, díríodh ar thacar sonraí bunlíne láidir a fhorbairt maidir le gnáthóga feirme agus sruthchúrsaí. Rinne an fhoireann PMP suirbhé ar chion mór feirmeacha i rith an tséasúir ghoirt le súil agus bunlíne agus bonn eolais a fhorbairt don fhíorú scór maidir leis na sonraí á gcur ar aghaidh ag comhairleoirí. Chuir an PMP mapáil agus tréithriú mionsonraithe ar fáil maidir le gach sruthchúrsa ar fheirmeacha rannpháirteacha.

Tá liosta fairsing foilseachán curtha le chéile ag an bhfoireann PMP, agus is féidir é a fheiceáil ar láithreán gréasáin an tionscadail agus é a íoslódáil.

Sa bhliain 2019, glacadh 342 feirmeoir isteach sa tionscadal agus táthar ag súil go ndéanfar breis tairiscintí ar chonarthaí in 2020. Amhail dheireadh mhí na Nollag 2019, eisíodh os cionn €664,000 d'fheirmeoirí.

Déanann tionscnamh na **Comhpháirtíochta Nuálaíochta Eorpaigh (EIP)** maoiniú ar chomhoibriú idir geallsealbhóirí, lena n-áirítear, feirmeoirí, lucht taighde, comhairleoirí agus gnólachtaí a dhéanann suas an Grúpa Oibríochta, le réitigh nuálacha ar dhúshláin áirithe a aithint.

Forbraíodh é chun freagra a thabhairt ar dhúshláin ar leibhéal áitiúil trí bhíthin cuir chuige nuálacha ar shaincheistanna comhshaoil a spreagadh agus a fhorbairt.

Ceann de na gnéithe tábhachtacha a bhaineann leis an tionscnamh EIP iomlán is ea a shuíomh sa phobal áitiúil agus chun nuálaíocht a spreagadh ar leibhéal áitiúil. Is cuid lárnach den phróiseas iad na feirmeoirí agus tagann siad le chéile le lucht taighde, eolaithe agus comhairleoirí i nGrúpaí Oibríochta chun aghaidh a thabhairt ar shaincheist chomhshaoil áitiúil áirithe.

FEIRMEOIREACTH INBHUANAITHE A CHUR CHUN CINN

Ní bheidh tairbhe na EIPanna sin go léir teoranta dá gcuid réigiún amháin – déanfaidh na EIPanna tástáil ar smaointe agus ar chleachtais is féidir a scaipeadh ar fheirmeoirí eile agus a chuirfidh ar a gcumas táirgiúlacht agus éifeachtúlacht acmhainní a fheabhsú agus cleachtais feirmeoireachta a dhéanamh níos inbhuanaithe.

Cuireadh ciste €24 milliún ar leataobh lena leithdháileadh ar thionscadail EIP a bhí roghnaithe ó dhá ghairm oscailte. Fuair an Roinn os cionn 170 togra tionscadail agus roghnaíodh 12 thogra ón gcéad ghlaio agus 9 dtionscnamh ón dara glao lena gcur i bhfeidhm. Cuimsítear raon leathan ábharsnationscadail sin lena n-áirítear táirgeadh orgánach, pailneoirí, cáilíocht uisce, bainistiú tuilte, bithéagsúlachta, ithreacha agus feirmeoireacht i dtírdhreach seandálaíochta agus díriúar bhithmhais talmhaíochta nach n-úsáidtear.

Trí bhíthin an 21 tionscadal roghnaithe, tá spéis an-mhór sa Tionscnamh EIP ar fud na hÉireann ó thaobh na féidearthachtaí a sholáthraítear leis. Is léiriú é éagsúlacht na dtionscadal ar thiomantas daoine as gach cearn den tír maidir le haghaidh a thabhairt ar na dúshlán san earnáil agriabhia, díriú an athuair ar an mbithéagsúlacht agus déileáil leis an athrú aeráide.

Sa bhliain 2019, i gcomhar leis an Líonra Náisiúnta Tuaithe, dearadh agus táirgeadh leabhrán póstaer agus bunachair sonraí idirghníomhaíoch EIP-AGRI. Leagtar amach sa leabhrán seo gníomhaíochtaí agus cúlra gach tionscadail rathúil EIP-AGRI.

Amhail dheireadh mhí na Nollag 2019, eisíodh os cionn €207,000 in íocaíochtaí le feirmeoirí.

Scéim na bhFoirgneamh Feirme Traidisiúnta

Déanann an Chomhairle Oidhreachta an Scéim Deontais Foirgnimh Feirme Traidisiúnta GLAS a riaradh chun caomhnú agus dheisiú a dhéanamh foirgnimh traidisiúnta feirme agus ar struchtúir ghaolmhara eile thar ceann na Roinne Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara. Tá sé mar phríomhchuspóir leis an scéim seo a chinntiú go ndéantar caomhnú ar mhaithe le húsáid talmhaíochta ar na foirgnimh traidisiúnta feirme seo agus ar struchtúir ghaolmhara eile a chuireann le saintréith an tírdhreacha agus lena mbaineann luach ard

oidhreachta. Sa bhliain 2019, eisíodh íocaíochtaí de €1.136 milliún ar 76 iarratasóir le tabhairt faoi oibreacha ar na struchtúir seo.

Seiceálacha Tras-Chomhlíonta

Ceanglaíonn tras-chomhlíonadh an AE ar fheirmeoirí cloí le 13 Cheanglas Bainistíochta Reachtúla (SMR'anna) agus le 7 gcaighdeán um Dhea-Ríocht Talmhaíochta agus Comhshaoil (GAEC), a bhaineann le:

- Comhshaoil, athrú aeráide agus dea-ríocht talmhaíochta na talún
- Sláinte phoiblí, ainmhithe agus plandaí
- Leas ainmhithe
- Dea-choinníollacha talmhaíochta agus comhshaoil

Déantar monatóireacht ar na ceanglais sin trí imscrúduithe éigeantacha ar thimpeall 1-3% d'fheirmeacha go bliantúil, agus is bealach éifeachtach atá ann chun cosaint a thabhairt don chomhshaoil agus chun a chinntiú go gcomhlíonann feirmeoirí réimse leathan rialachán earraí poiblí a bhaineann le bia agus le leas ainmhithe. Sa bhliain 2019, tugadh faoi 1,410 imscrúdú Tras-Chomhlíonta Iomlán agus faoi 4,915 imscrúdú Sainaitheantais agus Clárúchán Ainmhithe i ndáil leis an riachtanas 1%-3% a bhaineann le himscrúduithe Tras-Chomhlíontachta.

Íocaíochtaí Díreacha

In 2019, íocadh os cionn €1,162 milliún le beagnach 122,000 feirmeoir faoin Scéim um Íocaíocht Bunúsach 2019 agus íocadh breis is €241 milliún le 96,600 iarratasóir faoi Scéim Limistéir Sriantha Nádúrtha na bliana 2019. Rinneadh na hÍocaíochtaí díreacha sin le feirmeoirí sa bhliain 2019 laistigh de na spriocanna soláthartha seirbhíse na Cairte le haghaidh Feirmeoirí agus faoin bPlean Gníomhaíochta. Leanadh le hÍocaíochtaí Scéim na bliana 2019 in 2020.

An Clár um Shonraí agus Géanómaíochta Mairteola (BDGP)

Ceadaíodh an Clár um Shonraí agus Géanómaíocht Mhairteola (BDGP) mar scéim agra-chomhshaoil faoin gClár Forbartha Tuaithe. Seoladh an clár i mí Aibreán 2015. Rinneadh maoiniú de €300m le leithdháileadh

FEIRMEOIREACHT INBHUANAITHE A CHUR CHUN CINN

don chlár a bheidh ar siúl ar feadh 6 bliana ón mbliain 2015. Sa bhliain 2017, seoladh BDGP II leis an tréimhse ó 2017 – 2022 a chlúdach.

Táthar ag súil trí úsáid na géinitíopála agus trí bhailiú sonraí go mbeidh sé níos éasca ar fheirmeoirí na bpórtha is fearr a aithint lena mbeidh ar a gcumas ainmhithe ionaid a aimsiú agus mar thoradh air sin go mbeidh ainmhithe le caighdeán níos airde ar fáil as a dtiocfaidh ísliú ar astaíochtaí ón earnáil talmhaíochta in Éirinn.

Don bhliain 2019, lean 24,011 feirmeoir lena rannpháirtíocht i BDGP I agus II. Eisíodh íocaíocht arbh ionann iad agus €38.2 milliún ar 21,361 rannpháirtí i mí na Nollag 2019 maidir le scéim na bliana 2019. Leanfar le híocaíochtaí de réir mar a cháilíonn tréada.

Foilsíodh Athbhreithniú Caiteachais ar an BDGP freisin i mí Iúil 2019 (<https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/5915ad-spending-review/>), ina bhfuarthas go raibh na luath-tháscairí maidir le feidhmíocht táirgiúlachta agus comhshaoil dearfach agus go gcuirfeadh bailiú sonraí go mór le cumas na hearnála dul chun feabhais go fadtéarmach.

An Clár um Aistriú Eolais

Tá foráil i gClár Forbartha Tuaithe na hÉireann do chlár um Aistriú Eolais, a fhaigheann eolas ó thaithí le grúpaí díospóireachta roimhe seo, lena n-áirítear an Clár um Ghlacadh le Teicneolaíocht Mhairteola (BTAP). Aistríodh an Clár trí bliana, a cuireadh tús leis sa bhliain 2016 agus a tugadh chun críche sa bhliain 2019, ó chur chuige tascbhunaithe na scéimeanna roimhe seo agus dhírigh ar thosaíochtaí príomhbheartais, lena n-áirítear brabúsacht, inbhuanaitheacht na timpeallachta, pórúcháin agus sláinte tréada. Rinneadh comhlánú ar an rannpháirtíocht duine le duine idir éascaitheoir KT agus an feirmeoir trí dhíospóireacht grúpa agus ag comhroinnt taithí agus eolais idir rannpháirtithe.

Bhí thart ar 18,000 feirmeoir rannpháirteach i mbliain a Trí den Chlár agus d'fhreastail siad ar chruinnithe agus chuir siad Plean Feabhsúcháin Feirme le chéile i gcomhar lena nÉascaitheoir Eolais Ceadaithe. Áiríodh sa Plean Feabhsúcháin Feirme seo, Bearta Sláinte Ainmhithe atá curtha i gcrích i gcomhair le tréidlia príobháideach ceadaithe. Tugadh Bliain a Trí den Scéim chun críche ag deireadh mhí Iúil 2019. Táthar ag leanúint le híocaíocht agus eisíodh thart ar €12.7 milliún ar rannpháirtithe ar fud na sé earnáil Aistrithe Eolais go léir agus eisíodh €9.5 milliún d'Éascaitheoirí sa bhliain 2019.



SEIRBHÍS DO CHUSTAIMÉIRÍ

Taispeántar sa tábla thíos, an dul chun cinn a baineadh amach ar na spriocanna atá sonraithe sa Phlean Gníomhaíochta um Sheirbhís do Chustaiméirí. Ní mór, chun na spriocanna seachadta seirbhíse a bhaint amach, go mbeidh ceanglais na scéime i gceart agus go mbeidh doiciméadacht ar fáil.

Feidhmíocht maidir le Spriocanna Soláthair Seirbhíse do Chustaiméirí 2019

SEIRBHÍS	SPRIOC-AM SEACHADTA	FEIDHMÍOCHT 2019
Scéim na hÍocaíochta Bunúsáí	Forálann Rialacháin AE nach mór íocaíochtaí a dhéanamh uair amháin in aghaidh na bliana laistigh den tréimhse 1 Nollaig go 30 Meitheamh don bhliain dár gcionn. Cheadaigh rialacháin AE freisin, áfach, réamhíocaíochtaí 70% ón 16.10.2019. Cuireadh tús le hÍocaíochtaí cothromais an 1.12.2019.	Cuireadh tús le réamhíocaíochtaí an 16.10.2019 agus cuireadh tús le hÍocaíochtaí cothromais i mí na Nollag. Faoi dheireadh na bliana 2019 bhí €1.162 billiún íochta le níos mó ná 99% d'iarratasóirí.
Limistéir faoi Shrianta Nádúrtha	Sa bhliain 2019, bhí réamhíocaíochtaí faoin Scéim le tosú i lár mhí Mheán Fómhair agus bhí na hÍocaíochtaí cothromaíochta le tosú ag tús mhí na Nollag.	Cuireadh tús le réamhíocaíochtaí faoi scéim ANC na bliana 2019, de réir sceidil, le linn na seachtaine dár tús Dé Luain 16 Meán Fómhair 2019 agus ícadh €168.5 milliún le 79,000 feirmeoir. Cuireadh tús le hÍocaíochtaí cothromaíochta ag tús mhí na Nollag. Amhail an 31 Nollaig 2019, bhí €241 mhilliún íochta le 96,600 iarratasóir.
An Clár um Shonraí agus Ghéanómaíocht Mhairteola	Tús le cur le hÍocaíochtaí do bhliain scéime i mí na Nollag na bliana scéime.	Eisíodh íocaíochtaí arbh ionann iad agus €38.2 milliún do beagnach 21,361 rannpháirtí i mí na Nollag 2019
TAMS	Eisíodh cead tar éis iarratais bailí a fháil laistigh de 3 mhí. Cead le haghaidh íocaíochta tar éis oibreacha a bheith críochnaithe agus doiciméid tacaíochtaí bailí a fháil laistigh de 3 mhí. Íocaíocht eisithe tar éis cead le haghaidh íocaíochta laistigh de 6 seachtaine.	100%

SEIRBHÍS DO CHUSTAIMÉIRÍ

SEIRBHÍS	SPRIOC-AM SEACHADTA	FEIDHMÍOCHT 2019
<p>Scéimeanna Deontais um Sheirbhís Fhoraoise</p> <p>Scéim Prémhe na Fhaoiseachta</p>	<p>Déantar íocaíocht bhuilc bhliantúil do scéimeanna prémhe ach leantar le híocaíochtaí i rith na bliana.</p>	<p>Íocadh €25.9 milliún i mí Eanáir 2019 mar chuid den chéad bhabhta prémhe builc maidir le 6,850 iarratasóir ar líne. Íocadh €15.3 milliún sa bhabhta prémheanna builc i mí Aibreáin 2019 (foirmeacha páipéir) maidir le 5,117 iarratasóir.</p> <p>B'ionann luach iomlán na 18,831 prímh fhoraoiseachta bliantúil a íocadh sa bhliain 2019 agus €64.4 milliún. Rinneadh 55% d'iarratais prémhe ar líne.</p>
<p>Cúiteamh – na Scéimeanna um Dhíothú TB Buaibheach agus Monatóireachta Brúsallóis</p>	<p>Tá cúiteamh TB agus Brúsallóis le híoc laistigh de 3 seachtaine den dáta óna bhfaightear na doiciméid chearta atá riachtanach nó ón dáta incháilitheachta de réir téarmaí agus coinníollacha.</p>	<p>Bhí 96.7% de na híocaíochtaí cúiteamh as Luacháil Dheontais Frithghníomhaí déanta laistigh de 3 seachtaine ó fuarthas na doiciméid riachtanacha go léir a bheith faighte agus rinneadh os cionn 99% laistigh de 8 seachtaine.</p> <p>Bhí 96.8% de na híocaíochtaí maidir leis an Deontas Forlonta Ioncaim, an Deontas Bánaithe agus an Deontas Cruatain déanta laistigh de 3 seachtaine de na doiciméid riachtanacha go léir a bheith faighte agus rinneadh os cionn 99% laistigh de 8 seachtaine.</p>
<p>Scráibeach BSE</p>	<p>Cúiteamh BSE – bhí 100% íochta laistigh de 21 lá ó fuarthas an doiciméadacht críochnaithe</p> <p>Cúiteamh Scráibeach - bhí 100% íochta laistigh de 21 lá ó fuarthas na doiciméid deiridh.</p>	<p>Bhí na hiarratasóirí go léir íochta laistigh den chreat ama a éilíodh.</p> <p>Gan aon iarratas</p>
<p>Rís Ceadúnais Allmhairithe</p>	<p>24 uair</p>	<p>100%</p>
<p>Bainne & Táirgí Bainne Ceadúnais Onnmhairithe Ceadúnais Allmhairithe</p>	<p>24 uair</p>	<p>100%</p> <p>100%</p>
<p>Taraifchuóta do thíortha bunaidh neamhshonraithe</p>	<p>5 lá oibre</p>	<p>100%</p>
<p>Ceadúnas fabhrach neamhchuóta</p>	<p>5 lá oibre</p>	<p>100%</p>
<p>Ceadúnas Taraifchuóta do thíortha sonracha</p>	<p>5 lá oibre</p>	<p>100%</p>
<p>Ceadúnais Allmhairithe Ginearálta</p>	<p>1 lá oibre</p>	<p>100%</p>

OIBRÍOCHTAÍ SCÉIME

Taispeántar mionsonraí oibríochta sna táblaí thíos maidir leis na príomhscéimeanna a bhí á bhfeidhmiú ag an Roinn sa bhliain 2019.

Scéim	Iarratais a fuarthas in 2019	Iarratais a próiseáladh in 2019	Íocaíochtaí déanta* € Milliún
An Scéim Bhunúsach Íocaíochta /Glasú	122,558	121,575	1,162
Limistéir faoi Shrianta Nádúrtha	104,474	96,600	241
Deontas Foraoisithe	1,464	1,485	16.13
Préimh Fhoraoiseachta (Scéim Foraoisithe)	21,946	21,600	64.35
Luathscor	0	0	0.184
Cúiteamh TB agus Brúsallóis	4,692	4,471	17.7
Cúiteamh BSE	9	8	0.008
Cúiteamh Scráibeach	0	0	0
An Clár um Shonraí agus Géanómaíochta Mairteola (BDGP)	0	21,361	38.2
Cúnamh Infheistíochta don Ghairneoireacht Thráchtála	167	167	5,834
An Scéim Feirmeoireachta Orgánaí	0	1,558	9,388
An Scéim um Chúnamh Deontais Orgánach	4	5	0.133
TAMS (gan Bithfhuinneamh san áireamh)	11,001	6,187	76.5
An Scéim Leasa Caorach (is ionann í agus réamhíocaíocht ag 85%)	19,735	18,489	14.9

3

SPRIOC STRAITÉISEACH BEARTAS AGUS STRAITÉIS

Creat beartas barmhaitheasa a bhaint amach ar mhaithe le forbairt inbhuanaithe na hearnála agraibhia.



IDIRGHNÍOMHAÍOCHTAÍ AE

Idirghníomhaíochtaí AE

Roinn an Rómáin agus an Fhionlainn an ról Uachtarán ar Chomhairle an Aontais Eorpaigh sa bhliain 2019 – an Rómáin ó mhí Eanáir go dtí mí an Mheithimh agus an Fhionlainn ó mhí Iúil go dtí mí na Nollag. An príomhshaincheist a ndearna na Ballstáit, lena n-áirítear Éire, plé orthu ar feadh na bliana 2019, bhí an idirbheartaíocht leanúnach ar an gComhbheartas Talmhaíochta i ndiaidh na bliana 2020.

Ar phríomh-shaincheisteanna eile a pléadh i rith 2019 bhí an Straitéis Bhithghheilleagair; saincheisteanna faoi thrádáil idirnáisiúnta, go háirithe Comhaontú Saorthrádála AE-Mercosur agus iarmhairtí na díospóide Airbus-Boeing WTO d'earnáil agriabhia an AE; comhoibriú EU-an Aontais Afracaigh; ábhair a bhaineann le foraoiseacht amhail Teachtaireacht ón gCoimisiún Eorpach maidir le gníomh AE a ghéarú chun foraoisí an domhain a chosaint agus a athshlánú, agus Straitéis Foraoise an AE i ndiaidh 2020. Ina theannta sin, sheol Uachtarán nua an Choimisiúin Eorpaigh an Comhaontú Glas don Eoraip i mí na Nollag, ar tionscnamh beartais earnála cothrománach é ar aidhm leis geilleagar neodrach ó thaobh carbóin de a bhaint amach faoin mbliain 2050.

Ag deireadh 2019, mhol an Coimisiún dhá Rialachán Idirthréimhseacha CAP ar aidhm le deimhneacht dlíthiúil a sholáthar d'fheirmeoirí agus do Bhallstáit maidir le leanúnachas íocaíochtaí Díreacha agus íocaíochtaí faoin gClár Forbartha Tuaithe i ndiaidh 2020.

Ina theannta sin, cheadaigh an Coimisiún an seachtú leasú ar Chlár Forbartha Tuaithe na hÉireann 2014-2020 inar faomhadh dhá leasú ar shocruithe reatha LEADER.

D'fhoilsigh an Coimisiún a thograí le haghaidh Chomhaontú Glas don Eoraip AE ar aidhm leis uailmhianta an AE maidir le gníomhú ar son na haeráide a neartú trí bhíthin dlí maidir leis an aeráid agus aidhmeanna le haghaidh roinnt straitéisí comhlántacha nua amhail “ón bhfeirm chuig an bhforc”, bithéagsúlacht agus geilleagar ciorclach.

Athruithe Institiúideacha AE

Toghcháin do Pharlaimint na hEorpa

Tionóladh Toghcháin do Pharlaimint na hEorpa ón 23 - 26 Bealtaine. Ghlac na FPEanna nua-thofa, 11 FPE Éireannach ina measc, lena suíochán i bParlaimint na hEorpa an 2 Iúil 2019. Mar thoradh ar an Ríocht Aontaithe tarraingt siar ón AE, fuair Ballstáit breis FPEanna. Fuair Éire beirt FPE breise, ach ní ghlacfaidh siad lena suíochán i bParlaimint na hEorpa go dtí an 1 Feabhra 2020 i.e. tar éis don RA tarraingt siar ón AE an 31 Eanáir 2020.

Ar cheann de chéad tascanna Parlaimint na hEorpa bhí Uachtarán nua ar an gCoimisiún Eorpaigh a thoghadh. Ba í Ursula von der Leyen an t-iarrthóir ar éirigh léi agus a tháinig in áit Jean Claude Juncker.

An Coimisiún Eorpach Nua

Tháinig éifeacht leis an gCoimisiún Eorpach nua an 1 Nollaig 2019. Cheap an tUachtarán von der Leyen trí Leas-Uachtarán Feidhmiúcháin agus cuireadh ar chúram an triúir freagracht a ghlacadh as réimse téamach leathan de chlár oibre an Choimisiúin. Tá na trí réimse théamacha sin aitheanta mar phríomh-thosaíochtaí an Úachtaráin chomh maith:-

- Frans Timmermans, Leas-Uachtarán Feidhmiúcháin don Chomhaontú Glas don Eorpaip – freagracht as saincheisteanna a bhaineann leis an gcomhshaol, lena n-áirítear an straitéis maidir le bia inbhuanaithe, an geilleagar ciorclach agus tabhairt isteach bheartais chánach a bhaineann leis an aeráid;
- Margrethe Vestager, Leas-Uachtarán Feidhmiúcháin, chun an tAontas Eorpach a dhéanamh oiriúnach don ré dhigiteach;
- Valdis Dombrovskis, Leas-Uachtarán Feidhmiúcháin do ghnóthaí eacnamaíochta agus airgeadais, le béim ar chuimsitheacht.

Tháinig éifeacht le Coláiste nua na gCoimisinéirí an 1 Nollaig 2019, i ndiaidh chéadú ó Pharlaimint na hEorpa. Shann Uachtarán an Choimisiúin Eorpaigh freagracht as réimsí sonracha beartais chuig gach Coimisinéir. Is é Janusz Wojciechowski, Coimisinéir as an bPolainn, an Coimisinéir nua do Thalmhaíocht.

IDIRGHNÍOMHAÍOCHTAÍ AE

Tháinig athruithe ar cheannairí na nInstitiúidí AE eile, na Comhairle Eorpaí agus Pharlaimint na hEorpa in 2019 freisin:-

- Tháinig Charles Michel in áit Donald Tusk mar Uachtarán na Comhairle Eorpaí;
- Tháinig David Sassoli in áit Antonio Tajani mar Uachtarán Parlaimint na hEorpa.

An Breatimeacht

Leanadh leis an obair in 2019 chun freagra a thabhairt ar chinneadh na Ríochta Aontaithe an tAontas Eorpach a fhágáil. Ar an bpríomhthionchar a bhí ag vóta an Bhreatimeachta ar an earnáil, bhí luaineacht steirling ar na gnólachtaí siúd a bhfuil caidreamh suntasach trádála acu leis an Ríocht Aontaithe agus leanann an titim seo sa luach airgeadra le tionchar diúltach a bheith aige. Ar na bagairtí meántearma go fadtéarma ón mBreatimeacht tá an seans go dtabharfaí isteach taraifí ar thrádáil idir an AE agus an RA, go bhféadfadh dibhéirseacht a bheith i rialacháin agus i gcaighdeáin idir an dá thír i ndiaidh an Bhreatimeachta agus tabhairt isteach rialuithe rialála ar thrádáil idir an AE agus an RA.

Chomhaontaigh an AE-27 agus an Príomhaire May an Fógra Aistarraingthe agus Dearbhú Polaitiúil i mí an Mheithimh 2018. Bhí sé faoi réir daingnithe Parlaimint na hEorpa agus Parlaimint na Ríochta Aontaithe. Níor dhaingnigh Parlaimint na RA an Comhaontú bunaidh um Tharraingt Siar. Dá bhrí sin, i mí Dheireadh Fómhair 2019 rinneadh Comhaontú Aistarraingthe agus Dearbhú Polaitiúil Athchóirithe idir an AE 27 agus an Príomhaire Johnson a chomhaontú. Dhaingnigh Parlaimint na hEorpa agus Parlaimint na Ríochta Aontaithe an comhaontú athchóirithe ina dhiaidh sin.

Ar mhaithe leis na Ballstáit a choinneáil ar an eolas maidir le húdar imní na hÉireann ó thaobh tionchar an Bhreatimeachta ar na hearnálacha agraibhia agus iascaireachta, lean an tAire Creed ar aghaidh lena rannpháirtíocht lena mhacasamhla san AE sa bhliain 2019. Chas sé lena chontrapháirteanna ón mBeilg, ón Danmhairg, ón Fhrainc, ón nGearmáin, ón bPolainn, ón Spáinn, ón bPortaingéil, ón tSlóvaic, ó Lucsamburg, ón Liotuáin, ón tSlóivéin agus ón Ísiltír i rith na bliana. Is éard a bhí mar chuspóir leis na cruinnithe sin, a chinntiú go ndaingneofaí an Comhaontú um Tharraingt Siar agus go gcuirfí tús le hidirbheartaíocht bhríoch chomh luath agus ab fhéidir. Tharraing sé aird ar na réimsí sonracha

spéise d'earnáil agraibhia na hÉireann agus choimeád sé ar an eolas go hiomlán iad faoi na héifeachtaí a bheadh ag Breatimeacht gan mhargadh ar an earnáil agraibhia in Éirinn.

Bhí cruinnithe rialta ag an Aire Creed leis an gCoimisinéir Hogan agus leis an gCoimisinéir Vella le plé a dhéanamh ar an tionchar a d'fhéadfadh a bheith ag an mBreatimeacht ar earnálacha an agraibhia agus iascaigh agus le béim a chur ar an ngá atá ann go mbeidh an Coimisiún ullmhaithe le feidhm a bhaint as raon bearta le maolú a dhéanamh ar na tionchair a d'fhéadfadh a bheith aige ar fheirmeoirí agus ar lucht próiseála. Bhí cruinniú ag an Aire Creed freisin leis an Uasal Robert Goodwill M.P., Aire Talmhaíochta, Iascaigh agus Bia na Ríochta Aontaithe.

CAP i ndiaidh na bliana 2020

Leanadh leis an bplé ar na tograí reachtúla don chéad CAP eile ó 2021-27, faoi Uachtaránachtaí na Rómáine agus na Fionlainne in 2019. Bhí Uachtaránacht na Rómáine go mór ar son Chur Chuige Ginearálta Páirteach agus chuaigh i mbun dianchaidrimh le Ballstáit ina leith. Mar gheall ar nádúr casta na dtograí, áfach, agus an líon saincheisteanna a d'ardaigh Ballstáit a bhí fós gan réiteach, chuir Uachtaránacht na Rómáine Tuarascáil ar an Dul Chun Cinn i láthair ag a gComhairle Talmhaíochta-Iascaigh dheiridh i mí an Mheithimh. Leagadh amach sa Tuarascáil an obair a rinneadh i rith a hUachtaránachta agus staid gach ceann de na dréacht Rialacháin.

Thug Uachtaránacht na Rómáine cuireadh do Bhallstáit tuairimí i scríbhinn ar na dréacht Rialacháin a chur ar aghaidh i mí an Mheithimh agus tugadh iad chuig Uachtaránacht na Fionlainne ansin. Chuir Éire tuairim iomlán ar na trí dhréacht Rialachán ar aghaidh.

Ag tús a hUachtaránachta, gheall muintir na Fionlainne téacsanna comhdhlúite athbhreithnithe a chur i láthair, ar a laghad, do na trí dhréacht Rialachán. An toradh ab fhearr a bheadh air sin, Cur Chuige Ginearálta a bhaint amach ag an gComhairle, ach bhí sin ag brath go mór ar an bpróiseas idirbheartaithe buiséid a bhí ar siúl ag an am céanna maidir leis an gCreat Airgeadais Ilbhliantúil (MFF) i ndiaidh 2020.

Rinne Uachtaránacht na Fionlainne iarracht ollmhór dul i ngleic le hábhair imní na mBallstát, go háirithe maidir

IDIRGHNÍOMHAÍOCHTAÍ AE

leis an gcóras tuairiscithe Samhail Nua Seachadta agus an uaimhian mhéadaithe i leith na haeráide agus an gcomhshaol. D'ainneoin a dian-iarrachtaí, níor éirigh le muintir na Fionlainne Cur Chuige Ginearálta Comhairle a bhaint amach agus chuir siad Tuarascáil ar an Dul Chun Cinn i láthair ag an gComhairle Talmhaíochta-Iascaigh dheiridh i mí na Nollag inar leagadh amach an obair a bhí déanta go dtí sin ar na tograí CAP.

D'ullmhaigh muintir na Fionlainne téacs athbhreithnithe comhdhlúite ar na trí dhréacht Rialachán. Meastar gur cobhsaí, a bheag nó a mhór, iad péire de na Rialcháin – an Rialchán Cothrománach (maoiniú, bainistiú agus monatóireacht) agus an Rialachán Leasaitheach (lena leasaítear an Rialchán reatha maidir le CMO). Mar sin féin, glacadh leis go bhfuil gnéithe sa dá Rialachán sin nach féidir a chomhaontú go hiomlán go dtí go dtabharfar an próiseas idirbheartaíochta MFF chun críche.

Ba é an Rialachán maidir le Pleananna Straitéiseacha faoi CBT an rud ba dheacra breithniú a dhéanamh air do na Ballstáit agus is iomaí saincheist ina leith nach mór a réiteach sular féidir teacht ar chomhaontú.

An Creat Airgeadais Ilbhliantúil (MFF) i ndiaidh 2020

D'fhéach Uachtaránachtaí na Rómáine agus na Fionlainne araon leis na tograí maidir leis an MFF i ndiaidh 2020 a bhrú chomh fada chun cinn agus ab fhéidir agus iad ag súil le teacht ar chomhaontú. Is ábhar do Chinn Stáit agus Rialtais é tograí MFF a chomhaontú, agus glacadh leo ina dhiaidh sin, le toiliú ó Pharlaimint na hEorpa.

D'ainneoin plé fairsing a dhéanamh le Ballstáit, níorbh fhéidir le hUachtaránacht na Rómáine an bhearna a dhruidim idir thuairimí éagsúla na mBallstát ar an leibhéal cuí don bhuiséad. Chuir Uachtaránacht na Fionlainne togra athbhreithnithe ina raibh figiúirí nuashonraithe faoi bhráid na mBallstát lena bhreithniú. Níor thángthas ar réiteach, áfach.

Ghlac Uachtarán na Comhairle Eorpaí, Charles Michel, freagracht as an bpróiseas idirbheartaíochta don MFF i ndiaidh 2020 agus tá sé beartaithe aige cruinnithe déthaobhacha teicniúla agus polaitiúla a eagrú le Ballstáit chun teacht ar chomhaontú i rith 2020.

Leasú an Chomhbheartais Iascaireachta

Tá an Coimisiún leis an tuarascáil ar fheidhmiú an Chomhbheartais Iascaireachta (CFP) a chur faoi bhráid Pharlaimint na hEorpa agus na Comhairle faoi dheireadh na bliana 2022. Tá sé mar sprioc uileghabhálach leis an mbeartas seo a chinntiú go mbeidh iascaireacht agus dobharshaothrú inbhuanaithe ó thaobh an chomhshaoil, ó thaobh an gheilleagair agus go sóisialta agus go mbeidh earnáil bia mara atá inmharthana agus iomaíoch do chách mar thoradh air. Áirítear ar phríomhghnéithe an bheartais seo, ráta uastoradh inbhuanaithe (MSY) a bhaint amach do gach stoc éisc faoin mbliain 2020 chomh maith leis an gcosc ar chaitheamh éisc ar ais i bhfarraige (an Oibleagáid maidir le Tabhairt i dTír Éisc), atá tugtha isteach ar bhonn céimnithe sa tréimhse 2015 go 2019.

Leanadh le cur i bhfeidhm príomhghnéithe an CFP ar feadh na bliana 2019 ag leibhéal AE agus ag leibhéal náisiúnta araon. Tháinig éifeacht iomlán leis an bplean ilbhliantúil le haghaidh stoc grinnill in Uisce an Iarthair, atá thar a bheith tábhachtach ó dhearcadh na hÉireann, go luath sa bhliain 2019. Leis an sprioc 2020 do MSY, deimhníodh gur socraíodh cuótaí ar leibhéal a chinntíonn inbhuanaitheacht fhadtéarma, ag teacht le prionsabal an MSY, sa chás go raibh comhairle eolaíoch leordhóthanach le fáil.

Tá an cosc ar chaitheamh éisc ar ais i bhfarraige nó an oibleagáid maidir le tabhairt i dtír éisc, ar príomhghné eile é den Chomhbheartas Talmhaíochta (CFP), á thabhairt isteach ar bhonn céimnithe ar feadh líon blianta agus beidh sé i bhfeidhm go hiomlán sa bhliain 2019. Bhí cruinnithe rialta ag Grúpa Réigiúnach Farraigí Thiar Thuaidh na mBallstát (Éire, an Bheilg, an Fhrainc, an Ríocht Aontaithe, an Ísiltír agus an Spáinn) a bunaíodh le bainistíocht a dhéanamh ar iascaireacht ag leibhéal réigiúnach, ar feadh na bliana 2019 le plé a dhéanamh ar shaincheisteanna éagsúla feidhmithe agus oibriú i dteo bearta breise a chomhaontú freisin nuair a bheidh sé curtha i bhfeidhm san iomlán.

Rinneadh idirbheartaíocht maidir le deiseanna iascaireachta nó TACanna (An Ghabháil Iomlán is Incheadaithe) a pléadh ag an gComhairle Talmhaíochta agus Iascaigh i mí na Nollag 2019 agus socraíodh ar aon dul leis an gcuispóir MSY. D'éirigh leis an Aire 195,000 tonna cuótaí arbh ionann a luach agus €275 milliún d'iascairí na hÉireann a fháil do 2020.

IDIRGHNÍOMHAÍOCHTAÍ AE

An Straitéis Bithgheilleagair

Tá an Straitéis Bithgheilleagair á plé go leanúnach ar bhonn AE ón mbliain 2018. D'éirigh na pléití níos déine i rith 2019, agus glacadh le Conclúidí na Comhairle faoin Straitéis mar bhuaicphointe leo. Cuirtear cur chuige iomlánaíoch, trasearnála i bhfeidhm faoin Straitéis, agus é mar aidhm léi poitéinseal na n-acmhainní nádúrtha in-athnuaite agus riachtanais na sochaí a nascadh le chéile, chomh maith le héiceachórais agus bithéagsúlacht a chosaint, a chothabháil agus a athshlánú. Tá tagairtí don CPA san áireamh le Conclúidí na Comhairle freisin, go háirithe an úsáid a d'fhéadfaí a bhaint as ionstraimí forbartha tuaithe CAP, eadhon EIP-AGRI, AKIS agus LEADER chun tacú le húsáid a bhaint as bithgheilleagar inbhuanaithe áitiúil agus ciorclach.

Staid an Mhargaidh

Leanadh le monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar staid an mhargaidh ar fud na n-earnálacha talmhaíochta éagsúla le linn na bliana 2019. Tairgeadh an chuid den stoc SMP a bhí faoi idirghabháil phoiblí le díol go luath in 2019 trí bhithin an nós imeachta um chuireadh chun tairisceana. Mar thoradh air sin, díoladh an stoc go léir as stóráil phoiblí faoi mhí an Mhárta 2019.

An Earnáil Foraoiseachta

Rinne Comhairle an Aontais Eorpaigh na nithe seo a leanas sa bhliain 2019

- ghlac le Conclúidí maidir leis an *Athbhreithniú Iártéarma ar Straitéis Foraoise an AE*,
- ghlac le Conclúidí maidir leis an *Teachtaireacht ón gCoimisiún Eorpach maidir le gníomh AE a ghéarú chun foraoisí an domhain a chosaint agus a athshlánú agus*
- thug tacaíocht do *Dhearbhú Aireacht Katowice ar Fhoroisí don Aeráid*.

I measc na gconclúidí san Athbhreithniú Iártéarma ar Straitéis Foraoise an AE bhí Bainistiú Foraoisí Inbhuanaithe, maolú agus oiriúnú maidir leis an athrú aeráide, seirbhísí éiceachórais, forbairt tuaithe, aghaidh a thabhairt ar dhíthoraoisí agus ar dhíghrádú foraoisí, chomh maith le caomhnú an dúlra. Pléitear ról an fhoraoisithe agus an gá le fáil leanúnach ar mhaoiniú sa téacs freisin.

Tugadh ar aird sna conclúidí ar an *Teachtaireacht ón gCoimisiún Eorpach maidir le gníomh AE a ghéarú chun foraoisí an domhain a chosaint agus a athshlánú*:

nach leor na gníomhartha reatha chun stop a chur le dhíthoraoisí agus díghrádú foraoisí; tacaíodh le cuspóirí agus raon feidhme na Teachtaireachta ón gCoimisiún Eorpach, ar aidhm léi sláinte foraoisí (go háirithe foraoisí príomhúla) agus cumhdach foraoisí inbhuanaithe agus bithéagsúla ar fud an domhain a mhéadú go suntasach; agus iarradh cur i bhfeidhm comhtháite ar feadh na gcúig réimse tosaíochta inti.

Thacaigh Comhairle an Aontais Eorpaigh go foirmiúil le Dearbhú Aireacht Katowice ar Fhoroisí don Aeráid i mí Mheán Fómhair 2019. San áireamh sa dearbhú tá gealltanais chun dlús a chur faoin ngníomhú chun rannchuidiú níos fearr ag foraoisí agus ag táirgí foraoisí a chinntiú, chun tacú le sprioc fadtéarma Chomhaontú Pháras a bhaint amach. Spreagtar páirtithe leasmhara leanúint den ghníomhú chomh maith.

Gníomhú ar son na hAeráide

Áirítear ar Rialachán (AE) 2018/1999 maidir le rialachas riachtanas do Bhallstáit Pleananna Naisiúnta Fuinnimh agus Aeráide comhtháite don tréimhse 2021 go 2030 a dhréachtú, ina leagfaí amach an tslí le targaidí ESR, LULUCF agus RED II a bhaint amach agus iad a chur ar aghaidh chuig an gCoimisiún Eorpach faoi dheireadh 2019. Chloígh Éire le seasamh Rialtais iomlán maidir le rannpháirtíocht sa phróiseas agus leanfar ar aghaidh ag obair le comhghleacaithe ar fud Ranna Rialtais éagsúla.



IDIRGHNÍOMHAÍOCHTAÍ IDIRNÁISIÚNTA

An Eagraíocht Dhomhanda Trádála (WTO)

Ní raibh toradh ar bith ar an gcomhad Talmhaíochta ag MC11 in 2017 agus níor tháinig athrú suntasach ar sheasamh chomhaltaí an WTO ó shin. Mar sin féin, táthar ag iarraidh go mbeidh mír Thalmhaíochta ar an gclár oibre don MC12 in 2020.

Comhaontuithe Saorthrádála - FTAnna

Leanadh le comhchainteanna ar raon FTAnna idir an AE agus tríú tíortha.

AE-SAM

Chuir an AE agus na Stát Aontaithe, tús le cainteanna ar chomhaontú teoranta trádála, i mí Iúil 2018, tráth a mbeadh sé i gceist fáil réidh le taraifí ar earraí tionsclaíocha amháin. D'iarr riarachán na Stát Aontaithe go gcuirfí talmhaíocht san áireamh sa chaibidlíocht. Thacaigh Éire le seasamh Choimisiún an AE, áfach, gur cheart talmhaíocht a fhágáil taobh amuigh de raon feidhme chomhaontú ar bith leis na Stáit Aontaithe i gcomhréir leis an gcomhaontú idir Uachtarán ar Choimisiún an AE ag an am, Jean-Claude Juncker, agus Uachtarán Trump.

An 11 Eanáir 2019, d'fhoilsigh na Stáit Aontaithe a chuspóirí caibidlíochta don chaibidlíocht trádála sin. An 18 Eanáir 2019, d'fhoilsigh Coimisiún an AE a dhréacht-threoracha caibidlíochta lena gceadú ag Comhairle an Aontais maidir le tús a chur le caibidlíocht trádála leis na Stáit Aontaithe, gan talmhaíocht san áireamh. An 14 Márta 2019, rinne Parlaimint an Aontais Eorpaigh machnamh ar a rún neamhcheangailteach maidir le tús a chur le cainteanna leis na Stáit Aontaithe agus d'eisigh fógra "gan tuairim" ar an gcaibidlíocht. Beidh vóta ceangailteach ag Parlaimint na hEorpa ar Chomhaontú Saorthrádála críochnaitheach ar bith a cheadú. Cheadaigh Comhairle an Aontais Eorpaigh dhá shainordú an 15 Aibreán 2019 maidir le comhaontú ar (1) deireadh a chur le taraifí ar earraí tionsclaíocha agus ar (2) mheasúnú comhréireachta.

An Díospóid Airbus-Boeing WTO: tionchar ar an earnáil agriabhia

Tá díospóid ar bun le fada idir na Stáit Aontaithe agus an Aontas Eorpach maidir le fóirdheontais chuig a bpríomh-mhonoróirí aerárthaí faoi seach, Airbus (AE) agus Boeing (SA). Chuir an dá thaobh cás an ceann ar aghaidh chuig an WTO lena bhreithniú. Tá breithiúnas déanta ag Comhlacht Achomhairc an WTO ar an dá chás agus fuair go raibh locht ar an AE agus ar na SA Fógraíodh an rialú eadránaithe inar leagadh amach na taraifí a fhéadfaidh na SA a fhorchur ar an AE an 2 Deireadh Fómhair 2019. Tá an rialú comhionann lena gceadaítear taraifí AE a chur i bhfeidhm ar allmhairí ó na SA le teacht in 2020.

Socraíodh gur \$7.496 billiún an t-uasleibhéal taraifí a fhéadfaidh na SA cur i bhfeidhm ar onnmhairí ón AE chuig na SA i rialú eadránaithe an WTO an 2 Deireadh Fómhair 2019. D'fhoilsigh na SA liosta d'allmhairí ón AE chuig na SA ar chuir siad taraifí orthu ón 18 Deireadh Fómhair 2019. Maidir le honnmhairí ó Éirinn chuig na SA, ba 25% ad valorem a bhí sa ráta taraifí. Beidh éifeacht mhór aige sin ar roinnt dár n-onnmhairí ardluacha chuig na SA, lena n-áirítear licéir, im agus cáiseanna áirithe. Leanfar leis an idirphlé in 2020 le súil agus comhaontú cóir agus cothrom a bhaint amach idir na SA agus an AE.

Cuóta Uathrialach 'AE 481 maidir le mairteoil ghrán-chothaithe'

In 2019, tháinig an Coimisiún Eorpach ar chomhaontú leis na Stáit Aontaithe maidir leis an gcuóta uathrialach 'AE 481 maidir le mairteoil ghrán-chothaithe', a cuireadh ar bun i dtosach chun díospóid faoi úsáid hormón idir an AE, na SA agus Ceanada a réiteach. Tá an cuóta do mhairteoil saor ó hormóin ag 45,000 tonna i gcónaí. An t-athrú a thiocfaidh air, go ndéanfar 35,000 tonna de chuóta a "imfhálú" le haghaidh Stáit Aontaithe Mheiriceá. Déanfar an leithdháileadh sin do na SA a chéimniú isteach i gcaitheamh thréimhse seacht mbliana. Beidh éifeacht leis an gComhaontú ón 1 Eanáir 2020.

IDIRGHNÍOMHAÍOCHTAÍ IDIRNÁISIÚNTA

Ceanada CETA

Sa bhliain 2017, cheadaigh Parlaimint na hEorpa CETA agus tháinig an comhaontú i bhfeidhm go sealadach. Dá réir sin, tá formhór an chomhaontaithe i bhfeidhm anois. Tiocfaidh an comhaontú i bhfeidhm go hiomlán nuair a bheidh an comhaontú daingnithe ag parlaimintí an AE/na mBallstát go léir. Go dtí seo tá CETA daingnithe ag 12 Bhallstát den AE: An Ostair, an Chróit, Poblacht na Seice, an Danmhairg, an Eastóin, an Fhionlainn, an Laitvia, an Liotuáin, Málta, an Phortaingéil, an Spáinn agus an tSualainn. Tá an toradh sásúil ó thaobh dhearcadh na hÉireann de – cé gur deonaíodh rochtain bhreise do mhairteoil Cheanada chuig margadh an AE, baineadh rochtain níos fearr amach do mhairteoil agus do tháirgí déiríochta an AE chuig margadh Cheanada (cáis go sonrach) chomh maith.

AE MERCOSUR

Tugadh scór bliain d'idirbheartaíocht chun críche an 28 Meitheamh 2019 nuair a fógraíodh comhaontú polaitiúil ar Chomhaontú Saorthrádála AE-Mercosur. Áirítear ar an gcomhaontú Cuóta Rátaí Taraife suntasach don mhairteoil - 99,000 tonna d'allmhairí Chomhionann an Mheáchain Chonablaigh chuig an AE. Tá ciste €1 bhilliún á chur ar fáil ag an gCoimisiún chun cabhrú le feirmeoirí plé le dúshlán ar bith ó thaobh cur isteach ar an margadh de dheasca an chomhaontaithe.

Áirítear ar an gcomhaontú cuótaí d'onnmhairí cáise, púdair bhainne agus foirmle do naíonáin ón AE, chomh maith le léirscaoileadh trádála iomlán biotáillí, seacláide agus earraí eile, rud a chuirfidh deiseanna ar fáil d'onnmhairteoirí na hÉireann. Déantar soláthar sa chomhaontú go gcaithidh tíortha Mercosur ráthaíochtaí dlí a bhunú chun 357 Sonra Geografach (GI) san AE a chosaint, lena n-áirítear uisce beatha Éireannach agus Uachtar Licéir Éireannaigh.

Áirítear ar an gComhaontú caibidlí mionsonraithe faoi chaighdeán Inbhuanaitheachta agus Shláintíochta Fíteashláintíochta (SPS). Leis an gcaibidil faoi SPS, cinntítear nach mór do thíortha Mercosur cloí le dian-rialacha agus dian-chaighdeán AE maidir le Sábháilteacht Bia, Sláinte Plandaí and Sláinte agus Leas Ainmhithe, chun leasa tomhaltóirí an AE.

In 2019, d'iarr an Taoiseach athbhreithniú neamhspleách ar an tionchar a bheadh ag an gcomhaontú ar Éirinn. I ndiaidh phróisis tairisceana, tá

Measúnú Tionchair Eacnamaíochta agus Inbhuanaitheachta ar an gComhaontú Trádála AE-Mercosur á dhéanamh ar an gComhaontú AE Mercosur. Táthar ag súil le tuarascáil chríochnaitheac i mí Lúnasa 2020. Tá “Measúnacht Tionchair Inbhuanaitheachta” á dhéanamh ag an gCoimisiún freisin ar an tionchar a bheadh ag an FTA beartaithe ar an AE. Táthar ag súil leis an tuarascáil chríochnaitheach uathu i lár 2020. Beidh torthaí an dá staidéar mar bhonn eolais ag cur chuige na hÉireann ar dhaingniú an chomhaontaithe.

Tá athbhreithniú dlí agus aistriúchán á dhéanamh ar an gcomhaontú polaitiúil faoi láthair. Táthar ag súil go gcuirfean an comhaontú faoi bhráid na Comhairle Trádála in R4 2020. D'fhonn na gnéithe den Chomhaontú a bhfuil inniúlacht eisiach ag an gCoimisiún ina leith (lena n-áirítear trádáil) a chur i bhfeidhm go sealadach, ní mór don Chomhairle Trádála é a chomhaontú (Vótáil trí Thromlach Cáilithe) agus ní mór do Pharlaimint na hEorpa é a dhaingniú. Déanfar céimniú isteach molta an chuóta rátaí taraife mairteola thar thréimhse cúig bliana, agus mar sin d'fhéadfadh sé bliana a bheith i gceist sula mbeidh an comhaontú i bhfeidhm go hiomlán. Is dócha go mbainfidh dúshlán leis an bpróiseas daingnithe foirmiúil don Chomhaontú níos leithne – nach mór a bheith daingnithe ag Ballstáit aonair mar gheall gur cheann é ina bhfuil gnéithe a thiteann faoi inniúlacht eisiach AE agus faoi inniúlacht Ballstáit araon – ar leibhéal Pharlaimint na hEorpa agus ar leibhéal Pharlaimint Náisiúnta.

Comhoibriú AE-an Aontais Afracaigh

Tascfhórsa ar Cheantair Thuaithe na hAfraice

Bhunaigh an Coimisiún Eorpach an Tascfhórsa don Afraic Thuaithe i mí Bealtaine 2018. An aidhm atá leis, moltaí a sholáthar faoin tslí le hearnáil tuaithe na hAfraice a threisiú agus ról an AE a uasmhéadú, maidir le cruthú post agus forbairt eacnamaíochta a chothú i dtalmhaíocht, i ngnó talmhaíochta agus i dtionscail talmhaíochta. Is cuid den sraith níos leithne gníomhartha a sheol an Coimisiún faoi chreat na Comhghuaillíochta idir an Afraic agus an Eoraip le haghaidh Infheistíocht agus Poist Inbhuanaithe é obair an Tascfhórsa.

I mí an Mhárta 2019, thuiriscigh an Tascfhórsa don Afraic Thuaithe chuig an gCoimisiún faoin tslí is fearr chun cur le forbairt inbhuanaithe agus cruthú post in

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earnáil agriabhia agus i ngeilleagar tuaithe na hAfraice, agus mhol na ceithre réimse straitéiseach seo a leanas maidir le gníomhú ina leith:-

1. Cur chuige críche ar ioncam agus ar chruthú post;
2. Bainistiú inbhuanaithe talún agus acmhainní nádúrtha agus athrú aeráide;
3. Claochlú inbhuanaithe ar thalmhaíocht na hAfraice;
4. Tionscal bia na hAfraice a fhorbairt agus gníomhartha margaidh.

AE-Singepór

Rialaigh an Chúirt Bhreithiúnais an Aontais Eorpaigh (ECJ), an 16 Bealtaine 2017, nach bhféadfaí comhaontú Singepór a dhaingniú ag leibhéal AE gan cead na mBallstát go léir. Ag cur leis sin, chinn Cúirt Bhreithiúnais an Aontais Eorpaigh go n-éileodh aon idirbheart trádála a áiríonn córas socraithe maidir le díospóid lasmuigh den chúirt, daingniú na 38 parlaimint náisiúnta nó parlaimint réigiúnacha an AE. Tar éis an rialú seo, cuireadh toradh na hidirbheartaíochta le Singepór in oiriúint le dhá chomhaontú aonair a chruthú: Comhaontú Saorthrádála (FTA) agus Comhaontú maidir le hInfheistíocht a Chosaint (IPA).

Síníodh na dréacht-chomhaontuithe trádála an 19 Deireadh Fómhair 2018 agus fuair siad toiliú ó Pharlaimint na hEorpa an 13 Feabhra 2019. I ndiaidh do Pharlaimint na hEorpa toiliú a thabhairt agus i ndiaidh don Singepór a nós imeachta inmheánach féin a thabhairt chun críche, tháinig feidhm leis an FTA an 21 Samhain 2019. Ní mór do gach Ballstát AE an Comhaontú maidir le hInfheistíocht a Chosaint (IPA) a dhaingniú sula mbeidh feidhm leis.

EU-Vítneam

Clúdaíonn an Comhaontú a chlúdaíonn fáil réidh go hiomlán le 99% + de tharaifí thar seacht mbliana i gcás an AE agus thar deich mbliana i gcás Vítneam. Síníodh na Dréacht-Chomhaontuithe Trádála agus Infheistíochta an 30 Meitheamh 2019. Chuir an dá thaobh tús lena bpróisis daingnithe faoi seach ansin. Tá próiseas an AE beagnach tugtha chun críche agus tá ceadú críochnaitheach le tabhairt go luath i mí Dheireadh Fómhair 2020. Chomh luath agus a dhaingníodh Comhthionól Náisiúnta Vítneam an FTA, tiocfaidh an Comhaontú i bhfeidhm, go luath i samhradh 2020, is dócha.

AE – an tSeapáin

Thug an AE agus an tSeapáin an Comhaontú um Chomhpháirtíocht Eacnamaíochta chun críche an 8 Nollaig 2017. Shínigh an AE agus an tSeapáin an Comhaontú ag cruinniú mullaigh an 11 Iúil 2018 agus tháinig feidhm leis an gComhaontú an 1 Feabhra 2019. Ciallaíonn an Comhaontú um Chomhpháirtíocht Eacnamaíochta (EPA) spreagadh ollmhór d'earnáil agriabhia an AE, a chuireann rochtain bhreise as cuimse ar fáil maidir le mairteoil, táirgí muiceola agus táirgí déiríochta (cáis). Dá bhrí sin, ciallaíonn sé deis suntasach chun cur le honnmhairithe mairteola na hÉireann go háirithe. Tá cosaint á fáil ag os cionn 200 Sonra Geografach faoin gcomhaontú agus tá gnóthachan mór d'onnmhairroirí fíona agus biotáille freisin.

AE – An tSín

Is é atá mar aidhm le Comhaontú Infheistíochta an AE-na Síne atá beartaithe, fáil réidh le bacainní ar rochtain ar an margadh ar infheistíocht agus ardleibhéal cosanta a chur ar fáil d'infheisteoirí agus d'infheistíocht i margaí an AE agus na Síne araon. Tiocfaidh comhaontú Infheistíochta cuimsitheach singil amháin in ionad na 26 Conradh Infheistíochta Dhéthaobhach atá ann cheana féin idir an tSín agus Ballstáit aonair an AE. Le linn na bliana 2016, tháinig idirbheartaithe an AE agus na Síne ar chonclúidí soiléire maidir le scóip uailmhianach agus cuimsitheach do chomhaontú infheistíochta an AE-na Síne agus chuir siad comhthéacs idirbheartaíochta le chéile. Tá an chéad bhabhta eile idirbheartaíochtaí le tionól sa Bhruiséil ón 16-21 Eanáir 2020.

AE – An Indinéis

Tionóladh dhá bhabhta idirbheartaíochtaí sa bhliain 2019, an ceann is déanaí an 2 Nollaig sa Bhruiséil. I rith an bhabhta, mhalartaigh an dá thaobh an dara tairiscint maidir le léirscaoileadh taraife, ag tógáil ar an tairiscint thosaigh a malartaíodh sa chúigiú babhta. Leis an dara tairiscint, cé gur ceann idirmheánach í, tugtar an scaoileadh molta go céatadán a bhí ard cheana féin, i dtéarmaí líon na línte taraife agus méid trádála, agus réitítear an bealach i dtreo chomhaontú uailmhianach agus cuimsitheach. Ó thaobh na talmhaíochta de, is é a bhí i dtairiscint an AE, circeoil, uibheacha, rís, siúcra, ullmhóidí feola agus glasraí. Tá an 10ú babhta le tionól i rith na seachtaine ón 16-20 Márta 2020 in Bali.

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AE - Meicsiceo

In Aibreán 2018, tháinig an AE agus Meicsiceo ar 'chomhaontú i bprionsabal' ar na gnéithe trádála de Chomhaontú Domhanda nuachóirithe an AE-Meicsiceo. Tá saincheistanna teicniúla á dtabhairt chun críche faoi láthair. Ó thaobh an AE de, tá feabhsúcháin shuntasacha ar rochtain margaidh comhaontaithe d'onnhairithe croíláir táirgí cáise agus déiríochta go Meicsiceo. Sa bhreis air sin, tá feabhas suntasach ar choinníollacha maidir le rochtain ar an margadh d'onnhairí muiceola agus éanlaithe ón AE.

AE-an Astráil/an Nua-Shéalainn

Tá idirbheartaíochtaí ar Chomhaontuithe Saorthrádála idir an AE agus an Astráil agus an Nua-Shéalainn ar siúl.

Tá sé bhabhta idirbheartaíochtaí tugtha chun críche idir an AE agus an Nua-Shéalainn, an ceann is déanaí ón 10-13 Nollaig 2019 in Wellington. Plé dearfach a bhí ann agus rinneadh dul chun cinn maith i roinnt réimsí. Tá sé beartaithe an plé a thabhairt chun críche in 2020.

Tionóladh cúig bhabhta idirbheartaíochtaí idir an AE agus an Astráil. Tá an chéad bhabhta eile le tionól ón 10-14 Feabhra 2020. Phléigh lucht na hidirbheartaíochta tograí téacs a cuireadh ar aghaidh le haghaidh roinnt caibidlí agus na barúlacha ina leith.

MISIN TRÁDÁLA

Sa bhliain 2019, bhí an tAire Creed i mbun misin agraibhia ar éirigh thar barr leo chun na Tuirce sa Mháirta, chun na Síne faoi dhó, sa Bhealtaine agus i mí na Samhna agus chun na Seapáine agus na Cóiré Theas sa Mheitheamh. Comhaontaíodh i bprionsabal rochtain margaidh do chaoireoil na hÉireann chun na Seapáine (a baineadh amach go hiomlán i ndiaidh an mhisin) le linn an Mhisin Trádála sa Mheitheamh chomh maith le rochtain fheabhsaithe chun na Seapáine a dheimhniú do mhairteoil, tráth a bhfuarthas réidh le srianta a bhí i bhfeidhm le 30 mí anuas.

Cuireadh borradh breise faoina hiarrachtaí le margadh domhanda a aimsiú do bhia agus dí na hÉireann sa tSín i mí na Samhna 2019 nuair a fuarthas cead táirgí ó 14 monarcha mairteola breise a sholáthar do mhargadh na Síne. Ciallaíonn sé seo go bhfuil 21 monarcha de chuid na hÉireann liostaithe le Riarachán Ginearálta Custaim sa tSín. Chiallaigh an fógra mórathrú freisin

maidir le hacmhainneacht na hÉireann soláthar a chur ar fáil do mhargadh na Síne.

Tugadh cuairteanna sa bhliain 2019 freisin ar mhargaí níos traidisiúnta le cuairt chun na hÍsiltíre i mí na Samhna. Chas an tAire, le linn na cuairte seo, ar ionadaithe ón Tionscal Laofheoil Dúitseach, thug an tAire cuairt ar a gcuid saoráidí freisin agus cuireadh ar a shuaimhneas é maidir le saincheistanna ó thaobh leasa ainmnithe agus acmhainneachta. Is margadh onnhairithe tábhachtach atá san Ísiltír d'Éirinn mar gurbh í an Ísiltír an tríú ceann scríbe is mó d'onnhairithe agraibhia na hÉireann.

Thug an tAire sceideal na bliana 2019 chun críche i mí na Nollag san Ísiltír agus thug sé cuairt ar an Ríocht Aontaithe ina dhiaidh sin, tráth ar chas sé le príomhghrúpaí ollmhargaí ilnáisiúnta.

Cuairteanna Trádála Isteach

Chomh maith leis na misin trádála thar lear, rinne an Roinn óstáil ar thoscáireachtaí a bhí ar cuairt ó raon leathan de thíortha sa bhliain 2019. Áirítear orthu sin, an tSín, an tSeapáin, an Chóiré Theas, na Stáit Aontaithe, an Astráil, an Nua-Shéalainn, an Mhongóil, Meicsiceo, an Iaráin, an Tuirc, an Éigipt, an Téalainn, an tSeoirsia, Catar, Vítneam, Maracó agus Aontas na nÉimíríochtaí Arabacha (UAE).

Institiúid Foraoiseachta na hEorpa (EFI)

Tá an Roinn mar chomhalta den EFI, a dhéanann stiúradh ar thaighde agus a chuireann tacaíocht beartais ar fáil ar shaincheistanna a bhaineann le foraoisí. Tá Éire ina comhalta gníomhach agus tacaíonn le líon tionscnaimh EFI. Áirítear orthu seo, Ciste Iontaobhais IDheontóra an EFI do bheartas agus do thacaíocht agus Saoráid REDD an AE a thacaíonn le tíortha chun rialacha úsáide talún a fheabhsú mar chuid dá gcuid iarrachtaí le dífhoraioisíú a mhoilliú, a stopadh agus a iompú droim ar ais. Tá foilseacháin agus tuarascálacha an EFI le fáil ag www.efi.int

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Borradh a chur faoi Ghníomh AE chun Foraoisí an Domhain a Chosaint agus a Atógáil

Ghlac an Coimisiún Eorpach lena Chumarsáid maidir le Borradh a chur faoi Ghníomh AE chun Foraoisí an Domhain a Chosaint agus a Atógáil an 23 Iúil 2019. Is éard atá i gceist leis an gCumarsáid, cosaint a dhéanamh ar fholláine foraoisí agus iad a fheabhsú (go háirithe príomhforaoisí) chomh maith le cur go suntasach le clúdach foraoise inbhuanaithe agus le bithéagsúlacht ar fud an domhain.

Ghlac Comhairle an Aontais Eorpaigh, i mí na Nollag 2019, leis na Conclúidí ar Chumarsáid an Choimisiúin. Thug na conclúidí:-

- ar aird nach leor iad na gníomhartha reatha le stop a chur leis an dífhoraoisiú agus le díghrádú foraoise;
- thacaigh siad le cuspóirí agus le scóip Cumarsáide an Choimisiúin Eorpaigh; agus
- d'éiligh siad cur i bhfeidhm stuama idir na 5 réimse tosaíochta.

Straitéis Foraoise an AE

Tá Straitéis Foraoise an AE i bhfeidhm ón 2014 – 2020. Sa bhliain 2019, d'aithin páirtithe leasmhara na hearnála foraoiseachta, an Chomhairle Agra-éisc, Coiste na Réigiún agus Coiste Eacnamaíochta agus Sóisialta na hEorpa an riachtanas atá ann do Straitéis Foraoise nua AE, atá cothrom le dáta agus atá níos láidre. Chomh maith leis sin, meastar freisin go bhfuil ról lárnach ag bainistíocht inbhuanaithe foraoiseachta agus tábhacht as cuimse na hearnála foraoiseachta maidir le seachadadh a dhéanamh ó thaobh dúshláin aeráide de sa Chomhaontú Glas don Eoraip nua. Mar gheall gur inniúlacht náisiúnta atá sa bheart foraoiseachta, tá dlúth-rannpháirtíocht ag na Ballstáit i ndearadh na Straitéise Foraoise nua. Glacadh le conclúidí na Comhairle ar Straitéis Foraoise nua an AE in Aibreán 2019. Leanfar le hullmhúcháin do Straitéis Foraoise nua an AE sa bhliain 2020.

An Comhaontú Glas don Eoraip

Sheol Uachtarán nua an Choimisiúin, Ursula von der Leyen, an Comhaontú Glas don Eoraip i mí na Nollag 2019. Cuireann an Comhaontú Glas treochlár gníomhartha ar fáil chun borradh a chur faoi úsáid

éifeachtúil acmhainní agus clúdaíonn sé gach earnáil den gheilleagar, lena n-áirítear, talmhaíocht, agus é mar aidhm leis geilleagar atá neodrach ó thaobh carbóin laistigh den AE a bhaint amach faoin mbliain 2050. Beidh tuilleadh mionsonraí maidir leis an gComhaontú Glas ag teacht amach sa bhliain 2020, tá sé i gceist, áfach, cur le spriocanna astaíochtaí an AE faoin mbliain 2030, chomh maith le roinnt straitéisí a chur i láthair sa bhliain 2020 chun cuidiú linn ár n-uaimhian aeráide agus comhshaoil a bhaint amach. Áirítear ar na straitéisí seo, Straitéis Bhitheagsúlachta faoin mbliain 2030 agus Straitéis Ón bhFeirm go dtí an Forc do chórais bia inbhuanaithe, agus tá an straitéis deiridh sin ar na bacáin lena foilsíú i mí Aibreáin 2020. Ní mór gnéithe atá sa Chomhaontú Glas don Eoraip agus sa Straitéis Ón bhFeirm go dtí an Forc a bheith léirithe freisin i bPleananna Straitéiseach CAP na mBallstát (atá mar chuid lárnach de thograí CAP tar éis na bliana 2020), agus a bheidh á gceadú ag an gCoimisiún Eorpach.

Rialacháin Idirthréimhseacha CAP

Ní mór leasú a dhéanamh ar na rialacháin Idirthréimhseacha go seacht rialachán shonracha, lena n-áirítear, ceithre Rialachán CAP. Tá sé mar aidhm leis na Rialacháin cinnteacht agus leanúnachas a sholáthar ó thaobh tacaíocht a thabhairt d'fheirmeoirí Eorpacha agus leanúnachas tacaíocht d'fhorbairt tuaithe a chinntiú san idirthréimhse do na Ballstáit siúd a bhfuil leithdháiltí EAFRD 2014 – 2020 ídithe acu trí shíneadh a chur leis an gcreat dlíthiúil reatha go dtí go mbeidh an CAP nua ar fáil.

Mhol an Coimisiún dhá rialachán leis na haidhmeanna seo a chomhlíonadh. Ar an gcéad rialachán agus ar an gceann is práinní, tá solúbthacht airgeadais ar glacadh leis an 31 Nollaig 2019. Moltar sa dara rialachán, agus an rialachán is suntasaí, líon athruithe a chuir ar an gClár Forbartha Tuaithe. Tá líon ceisteanna ardaithe ag Ballstáit maidir leis na hathruithe seo agus leanfar le díospóireacht sa bhliain 2020. Tá súil ag an gCoimisiún go mbeidh na socrúithe idirthréimhseacha seo i bhfeidhm faoi lár an tsamhraidh sa bhliain 2020, faoi réir ag comhaontú ar an gCreat Airgeadais Ilbhliantúil tar éis na bliana 2020, a thabharfaidh soiléireacht maidir leis an seasamh i ndáil le leithdháiltí buiséadacha an AE amach anseo.

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Athrú Aeráide

Leanann rannpháirteacht na hÉireann go gníomhach tríd an Roinn Talmhaíochta Bia agus Mara le Fochomhlachtaí UNFCCC a bhfuil sé de chúram orthu combhbhreithniú a dhéanamh ar shaincheisteanna a bhaineann le talmhaíocht.

Tar éis an chinnte ag Comhdháil na bPáirtithe (COP 23) na bliana 2017, ar a dtugtar an Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture, inar aithníodh ról na talmhaíochta chun dul i ngleic le hathrú aeráide agus le huailmhianta Chomhaontú Aeráide Pháras a bhaint amach, leanadh den obair agus bhí an Roinn i láthair ag an gComhdháil Idirsheisiúin ar Athrú Aeráide an UNFCCC a bhí ar siúl i Bonn i Meitheamh 2019 agus an COP 25 a bhí ar siúl i Madrid i mí na Nollag 2019.

Chomh maith leis sin, chuir Éire le maoiniú do thionscnamh atá faoi stiúir na Nua-Shéalainne agus chomhaontaigh ceardlann bhreise atá le réachtáil sa bhliain 2020 faoin KJWA, leis na páirtithe go léir.

Lena chois sin, thacaigh Éire leis an bPainéal Idir-Rialtasach ar an Athrú Aeráide (IPCC), an comhlacht de chuid na Náisiúin Aontaithe maidir le measúnú a dhéanamh ar an eolaíocht a bhaineann le hathrú aeráide, chun Tuarascáil Speisialta ar Athrú Aeráide agus Talún a fhoilsiú trí ionchur a chur ar fáil ag céimeanna athbhreithnithe saineolacha agus freastal ar an gcruinniú deiridh maidir le cead agus aontú deiridh na rialtais dhomhanda a bhí ar siúl idir an 2 agus 6 Lúnasa 2019 sa Ghinéiv, an Eilvéis. Tá Éire ar shé chinn de thíortha a d'iarr go n-ullmhófaí an tuarascáil speisialta seo. Tá an tuarascáil speisialta seo ar thrí cinn de thuarascálacha a chuir an IPCC ar fáil mar chuid den séú (6ú) timthriall measúnaithe; ar na tuarascálacha eile bhí, tuarascáil 1.5° céim a foilsíodh sa bhliain 2018 agus tuarascáil speisialta ar Aigéin agus Críóisféar freisin a foilsíodh sa bhliain 2019.

Éilíonn torthaí na tuarascála go soiléir go gcuirfí borradh faoi mhaolú athrú aeráide agus le gníomhartha oiriúnaithe ar fud an domhain, lena n-áirítear, straitéisí inbhuanaithe a bhaineann leis an talamh a mhaolaíonn brú ar thalamh agus ar shlándáil bia freisin.

Eagraíocht um Chomhar agus Fhorbairt Eacnamaíochta (OECD)

Soláthraíonn Coiste Talmhaíochta an OECD fóram idirnáisiúnta d'oifigigh shinsearacha beartais, lena n-áirítear Éire, a ndéanann an Roinn ionadaíocht uirthi, le taithe a chomhroinnt agus le feabhas a chur ar chomhthuisceant beartais talmhaíochta, trádála agus agra-chomhshaoil, agus le feabhas a chur ar fheidhmíocht agus ar éifeachtúlacht beartais ag leibhéal baile agus ag leibhéal idirnáisiúnta araon. Cuireann an Coiste dhá fhoilseachán bhliantúla ceannródaíoch ar fáil: Cuireann an Coiste dhá fhoilseachán bhliantúla ceannródaíoch ar fáil: Agricultural Outlook an OECD-FAO agus tuarascáil Agricultural Policy Monitoring and Evaluation. Chomh maith le freastal ar an bPríomhchoiste, bíonn an Roinn rannpháirteach freisin i gcoistí oibre gaolmhara.

Chomh maith leis sin, rinne an Roinn agus an EPA ranníocaíocht airgid chun a bheith curtha san áireamh mar chás-staidéar chomh maith le chúig (5) thír eile i dtuarascáil ar a dtugtar 'I dTreo Úsáid Inbhuanaithe Talún: Ag Ailíniú Beartais Bithéagsúlachta, Aeráide agus Bia'. Déantar scrúdú sa tuarascáil seo ar na dúshláin a bhaineann le beartais ailínithe úsáide talún le cuspóirí aeráide, bithéagsúlachta agus bia, agus ar na deiseanna le córais úsáide talún inbhuanaithe a fheabhsú. Cuirtear léargas ar fáil ar shárchleachtais sa tuarascáil seo maidir leis an mbealach ina bhféadfadh rialtais aistriú go córais úsáide talún atá níos inbhuanaithe trí ailíniú níos fearr a dhéanamh ar phróisis chinnteoireachta agus teacht le chéile níos fearr idir cuspóirí úsáide talún, aeráide, éiceachórais agus bia.

Leathanach baile an OECD Agriculture and Fisheries: <http://www.oecd.org/agriculture/>

OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook: <http://www.agri-outlook.org/>

OECD Agricultural Policy Monitoring and Evaluation: <http://www.oecd.org/tad/agricultural-policies/monitoring-and-evaluation.htm>



SLÁNDÁIL BIA

Forbairt Idirnáisiúnta

Tá an Roinn freagrach as roinnt de ghnéithe clár forbartha idirnáisiúnta na hÉireann agus oibríonn an Roinn go dlúth le Cúnamh Éireann sa Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála maidir leis seo.

NA – An Clár Domhanda Bia (WFP)

Is é an Clár Domhanda Bia (WFP) Eagraíocht na Náisiún Aontaithe atá freagrach as cúnamh bia a chur ar fáil do na daoine is boichte agus is leochailí ar domhan. Le linn na bliana 2019, lean an Roinn le hionadaíocht a dhéanamh ar an tír ar Bhord Feidhmeach an WFP mar chuid d'uainíocht dhá bhliain a chlúdaigh 2018-2019. Lean an Roinn freisin le tacaíocht a thabhairt d'obair ríthábhachtach WFP na Náisiún Aontaithe trí ranníocaíocht maoinithe de €25.3 milliún. Áirítear anseo, réamhíocaíocht de €23 milliún maidir le ranníocaíocht na bliana 2020 mar a gealladh sa Chomhaontú Comhpháirtíochta Straitéisí don WFP do 2019-2021. Tugann an réamhíocaíocht an tsolúbthacht don WFP chun a chuid maoinithe a phleanáil agus a dhíriú ar an mbealach is straitéisí, is éifeachtúla agus is éifeachtaí.

Clár Forbartha Agraibhia na hAfraice (AADP)

Is comhthionscnamh atá i gceist leis AADP idir an Roinn agus an Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála. Tá sé mar chuspóir leis comhpháirtíochtaí a fhorbairt idir Earnáil Agraibhia na hÉireann agus tíortha Afracacha chun tacú le fás inbhuanaithe sa tionscal bia áitiúil, chun cur le margaí do tháirge áitiúil agus tacú le comhthrádáil idir Éire agus an Afraic. Le linn na bliana 2019, leanadh le hobair an chláir, sé sin maoiniú a thabhairt do chúig chuideachta Éireannacha le luach de €1,225,778, agus chuir an Roinn €612,889 leis sin. Tá acmhainneacht ag na tionscadail atá roghnaithe deiseanna a chruthú do ghnólachtaí Éireannacha agus d'fheirmeoirí san Afraic i réimsí ar nós: soláthar agus cur i bhfeidhm bith-spreagthach ardfheidhmíochta a bhaintear as feamainn le tionchar ó thaobh triomach agus ardteocht ar bharrá sa Chéinia a mhaolú; agus gnó déantúsaíochta cáise a fhorbairt i gcomhar le gabhálaíthe beaga agus, go príomha, mná sa Uganda atá i mbun déiríochta.

NA- an Eagraíocht Bhia agus Talmhaíochta (FAO)

Tá sainordú tugtha d'Eagraíocht Bhia agus Talmhaíochta na Náisiún Aontaithe cuidiú le deireadh a chur le hocras, neamhshábháilteacht soláthair bia agus le míchothú agus an talmhaíocht, foraoiseacht agus iascaireacht a bheith níos táirgiúla agus níos inbhuanaithe, córais talmhaíochta agus bia atá cuimsitheach agus éifeachtúil a chumasú agus cur le teacht aniar slí bheatha i leith bagairtí agus géarchéime. Tá an Roinn chun tosaigh ó thaobh caidreamh Rialtas na hÉireann leis an FAO agus chinntigh go raibh ionadaíocht mhaith á dhéanamh ar sheasamh na hÉireann ag cruinnithe éagsúla an FAO ar feadh na bliana maidir le cúrsaí talmhaíochta agus forbartha. Sa bhreis ar shíntiús bliantúina hÉireann de €1.43 milliún don bhliain 2019 a íoc leis an FAO, cuireadh maoiniú breise buiséadach de €1.18 milliún ar fáil don FAO i réimsí a bhfuil cumas ar leith ag an FAO agus go mbreithníonn an Roinn go bhfuil tábhacht straitéiseach leo. Áirítear orthu sin, tionscadail a dhíríonn ar ghníomhú ar son na haeraíde ar mhaithe le forbairt inbhuanaithe; agus forbairt eacnamaíochta do mhná faoin tuath.

Spriocanna Forbartha Inbhuanaithe (SDGanna)

Ag teacht le freagra rialtais uile do thiomantais SDG na hÉireann a sheachadadh, as a gcoinníonn gach Aire freagrach ó thaobh na SDGanna aonair a bhaineann lena gcuid feidhmeanna a chur i bhfeidhm, tá an Roinn seo ar an Roinn stiúrtha maidir le chúig sprioc: SDGanna 2, 12, 14, 15 agus 17, a bhaineann go príomha le slándáil bia; táirgeadh inbhuanaithe; agus saol faoin fharraige agus ar an talamh.

Cé go bhfuil an Roinn ina Roinn stiúrtha ar chúig cinn de na spriocanna seo agus sin amháin, tá na SDGanna fite fuaite le chéile agus cuireann an Roinn cion suntasach leis na SDGanna eile atá chomh tábhachtach céanna. Sa bhliain 2019, bhí an Roinn rannpháirteach i cúig cinn d'fhórim Páirtí Leasmar SDG agus léiríodh rannpháirtíocht agus idirghníomhaíocht na Roinne ag an gComórtas Náisiúnta Treabhdóireachta.

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Food Wise 2025

Is é Food Wise 2025 an straitéis reatha deich mbliana don earnáil agraibhia agus cuireann sé béim ar staid uathúil agus speisialta na hearnála laistigh de gheilleagar na hÉireann agus léirítear an acmhainneacht atá ann don earnáil le tuilleadh fáis a dhéanamh. Tá fíis sa Food Wise maidir le príomhtháirgeoirí tosaigh agus gnólachtaí agraibhia a bhfuil borradh fúthu i gcroílár pobail bhríomhara ar fud na tíre atá bunaithe ar chúig cinn de théamaí leathana - inbhuanaitheacht comhshaoil, forbairt margaidh, iomaíochas, nuálaíocht agus caipiteal daonna; chomh maith le moltaí sonracha do na príomhearnálacha. (www.agriculture.gov.ie/foodwise2025/)

Aithnítear i Food Wise 2025 réamh-mheastacháin uaillmhianacha agus dúshlánacha don tionscal thar deich mbliana agus ardú 85% ar onnmhairithe go €19 billiún; agus cruthú 23,000 post breise ar fud an tslabhra soláthair ó leibhéal táirgeoira go forbairt táirge breisluacha ardleibhéil.

Próiseas feidhmiúcháin

Tá próiseas feidhmiúcháin Food Wise faoi threallús ag “Coiste Feidhmiúcháin Ardleibhéil” (HLIC) agus tá an tAire Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara mar chathaoirleach air, agus tá rannpháirtíocht ag baill den Bhord Bainistíochta agus ag Ranna eile Rialtais agus Gníomhaireachtaí cuí Stáit ann. Bhí cúig chruinniú ag an HLIC sa bhliain 2019.

Lean an Coiste Inbhuanaitheachta Timpeallachta, a bunaíodh le monatóireacht a dhéanamh air agus le gníomhartha inbhuanaitheachta a thiomáint, le cruinnithe a bheith acu sa bhliain 2019.

Steps to Success 2019

Seoladh an ceathrú tuarascáil bhliantúil maidir le dul chun cinn Food Wise 2025, dar teideal “Céimeanna Chun na Rathúlachta 2019” i mí Iúil 2019. Léirítear sa tuarascáil an dul chun cinn a bhaineadh amach i mbliain a trí de chur i bhfeidhm straitéis mionsonraithe Food Wise 2025. Tá 87% de na 376 gníomh a raibh tús le cur lena bhfeidhmiú faoin mbliain 2019, nó ar gníomhartha leanúnacha iad, bainte amach againn nó tá gníomh mór glactha lena mbaint amach; agus tá tús curtha le feidhmiú an 13% eile agus dul chun cinn maith á dhéanamh orthu.

(<https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/foodwise2025/foodwise2025-stepstosuccess2019/>)

Tugtar breac-chuntas i gCéimeanna Chun na Rathúlachta 2019 ar an méid atá bainte amach ag an Roinn agus ag a cuid Gníomhaireachtaí i mbliain a ceathair. Áirítear i measc na mbuaicphointí do bhliain a ceathair:

- Seoladh na Tuarascála maidir le Rochtain Mhargaidh 2018, a chuireann léargas foriomlán ar fáil maidir leis an dul cinn suntasach agus na hiarrachtaí leanúnacha atá á ndéanamh ag an Roinn i dtéarmaí rochtain mhargaidh chuig tríú tíortha do tháirgeoirí bia na hÉireann.
- Rinne an Roinn agus Bord Bia stiúradh ar cheithre Mhisean Trádála Agraibhia chun na Síne, Stáit Aontaithe Mheiriceá, Ceanada, an Indinéis, Malaesia, an tSeapáin, an Chóiré Theas, an Ailgéir agus an Éigipt.
- Rochtain bainte amach do Chaoireoil na hÉireann chuig Margadh na Seapáine.
- D’oscail an tAire Creed Ionad um Bianna Tomhaltóra Ullmhaithe nua san Ionad Taighde Bia Teagasc i mBaile an Ásaigh.
- Seoladh Comhfhondúireacht Eolaíochta Éireann – Ionad DAFM, VistaMilk, faoi stiúir Teagasc agus atá lonnaithe sa Chloch Liath.
- Foilsíodh an chéad Straitéis Tionscalbhunaithe d’Earnáil Iascaigh Cladaigh na hÉireann 2019-2023.
- Leagtar amach fíis sa straitéis do thodhchaí na hearnála iascaigh cois cladaigh.
- Foilsíodh straitéis nua seacht mbliana chun thearnáil Bia Orgánach na hÉireanna fhorbairt. Aithnítear sa straitéis go bhfuil deiseanna ann don earnáil agus cuireann treoir shoiléir ar fáil chun tuilleadh forbartha a dhéanamh ar an earnáil go dtí an bhliain 2025.

Straitéis Agraibhia go dtí 2030

Bhain an earnáil agraibhia leas as cur chuige i leith pleanáil straitéiseach trí fhorbairt a dhéanamh ar straitéisí deich mbliana faoi stiúir páirtithe leasmhara, a ndéantar uasdátú orthu gach cúig bliana. Ó cuireadh tús leo scór blianta ó shin suas go dtí plean reatha Food Wise 2025, chinntigh na straitéisí seo go mbíonn fíis stuama faoi stiúir páirtí leasmhar agus straitéis le taca a chur le forbairt leanúnach na hearnála.

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Cuir an Roinn tús leis an bpróiseas leis an gcéad straitéis eile deich mbliana eile a fhorbairt i samhradh na bliana 2019 agus seoladh comhairliúchán poiblí i mí Iúil. Eisíodh doiciméad comhairleach agus suirbhé ar líne le tuairimí na bpáirtithe leasmhara go léir a chinntiú maidir le treo na hearnála chomh fada leis an mbliain 2030. Bhí sé seo oscailte ar feadh 10 seachtaine agus fuarthas 60 aighneacht ar an iomlán i scríbhinn agus 214 freagra ar an suirbhé ar líne. Tionóladh comhairliúchán náisiúnta do pháirtithe leasmhara san Aviva Stadium an 16 Deireadh Fómhair 2019 do 400 toscaire leis na saincheisteanna seo a phlé go mion. Bhí an 'Díospóireacht Beartas Oscailte' seo comhdhéanta de roinnt cainteoirí, sraith de shé sheisiún tosaigh comhthreomhara agus aitheasc ón Taoiseach agus ón Aire Talmhaíochta Bia agus Mara. Is féidir teacht ar eolas breise ag: <https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/agri-foodindustry/agri-foodandtheeconomy/agri-foodstrategyto2030/publicconsultation/>

I mí na Samhna 2019, bunaíodh Coiste atá ionadaíoch ar an earnáil agus faoi chathaoirleacht Tom Arnold, agus tá sé de dhualgas orthu straitéis agraibhia a fhorbairt go dtí an bhliain 2030. Is iad na téarmaí tagartha atá ag an gCoiste breac-chuntas a thabhairt ar fhís agus ar na príomhchuspóirí, le gníomhartha gaolmhara, atá riachtanach le hinbhuanaitheacht geilleagrach, timpeallacha agus sóisialta na hearnála agraibhia a chinntiú sna deich mbliana atá amach romhainn. Beidh tuarascáil an Choiste gearr, sonrach agus trasearnála, le gníomhartha atá uailmhianach agus réalaíoch.

Déanfar an Mheasúnacht Straitéiseach Timpeallachta (SEA) a stiúradh freisin comhthreomhar le hobair an choiste. Is ar mhaithe lena chinntiú go mbíonn cúrsaí timpeallachta comhtháite go hiomlán in ullmhú na straitéise agus is ceanglas dlíthiúil atá ann.

Thionóil an Coiste a chéad chruinniú i mí na Samhna agus beidh cruinnithe eile ar siúl ar feadh na bliana 2020.

Future Jobs Ireland

Seoladh Future Jobs Ireland i mí an Mhárta 2019 agus is plean Rialtais uile atá i gceist anseo a chuireann creat meántéarmach ar fáil chun geilleagar atá inbhuanaithe, ina bhfuil teacht aniar agus atá dírithe ar an todhchaí a chruthú in Éirinn.

<https://dbei.gov.ie/en/Publications/Future-Jobs-Ireland-2019.html>. Áirítear ar chúig philéar Future Jobs (i) Glacadh le dúshlán nuálaíochta agus teicneolaíochta, (ii) Táirgiúlacht SME a fheabhsú, (iii) Scileanna a fheabhsú agus a fhorbairt agus tallann a mhealladh, (iv) Cur le rannpháirtíocht san fhórsa saothair, agus (v) Aistriú chuig geilleagar ísealcharbóin. Cuireann an Roinn a cion le clár Future Jobs Ireland 2019 faoin bpiléar Aistriú chuig geilleagar ísealcharbóin.

Plean Gníomhaithe ar son na hAeráide Rialtais Uile

I mí an Mheithimh 2019, foilsíodh briseadh síos maidir leis an bPlean Gníomhaithe ar son na hAeráide Rialtais uile chun dul i ngleic leis an aeráid, leagtar amach sa Phlean 180 gníomh chun sprioc an AE d'Éirinn don bhliain 2030 a chomhlíonadh (m.sh. laghdú 30% ar astaíochtaí GHG bunaithe ar leibhéal 2005) agus leis an tír a chur ar an treo ceart faoin mbliain 2050. Leagtar amach uailmhian chun a bheith neodrach ó thaobh astaíochtaí gáis ceaptha teasa faoin mbliain 2050 ag tabhairt aitheantais ag an am céanna de sheasamh an bheartais náisiúnta ar an gcur chuige maidir le neodracht ó thaobh carbóin de laistigh den earnáil talmhaíochta agus úsáide talún.

Leagtar amach spriocanna uailmhianach sa Phlean do na hearnálacha talmhaíochta, foraoiseachta agus úsáide talún mar a leanas:

- Astaíochtaí ón earnáil don bhliain 2030 le bheith idir coibhéis 17.5 – 19.0 Mt CO₂ trí laghdú carnach coibhéise 16.5 -18.5 Mt CO₂ a bhaint amach thar an tréimhse 2021 – 2030
- Laghdú coibhéise 26.8 Mt CO₂ eq a bhaint amach trí ghníomhartha LULUCF
- 8,000 heicteár d'fhoraois nua le cur in aghaidh na bliana
- Cothabháil a dhéanamh ar mheán bliantúil de 40,000 heicteár de dhianbhainistíocht laghdaithe féarthailte ar ithir orgánach draenáilte do na deich mbliana 2021-2030.
- Sprioc a leagan síos don leibhéal fuinnimh atá le soláthar trí instealladh bith-mheatáin dúchasach sa bhliain 2030.

Tá treisiú suntasach déanta ag an Rialtas ar mhaoirseacht sa Phlean, lena n-áirítear, trí:

- Leasú a dhéanamh ar an mBille um Gníomhú ar son na hAeráide le foráil a dhéanamh do bhonn dlíthiúil le Comhairle um Gníomhú ar son na

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hAeráide a bhunú (a thugann cumhachtaí don Chomhairle Chomhairleach um Aeráide reatha);

- Tacaíocht tugtha do bhunú Coiste um Ghníomhú ar son na hAeráide an Oireachtais; agus Carbón-dhíonadh thionscadail mhórsála go léir an Rialtais.

Tá struchtúr monatóireachta agus tuairiscithe ann freisin le treallús a chur faoi fheidhmiú trí:

- Bhord chun Gníomh ar son na hAeráide a Sheachadadh a bhunú faoi Roinn an Taoisigh a bheidh ag tuairisciú don Choiste Comh-Aireachta agus don Chomh-Aireacht araon maidir leis an dul chun cinn ar ghníomhartha laistigh den Phlean.
- Bunú Grúpa Athbhreithnithe agus Monatóireachta Aistrithe Cóir (atá ag fáil tacaíocht ón NESC agus atá faoi Roinn an Taoisigh) a fhoilseoidh Straitéis Aistrithe Cóir ar bhonn trí bliana.
- Tá Bord Bainistíochta um Ghníomhú ar son na hAeráide bunaithe laistigh den Roinn freisin faoi chathaoirleacht an Ard-Rúnaí chun treallús a chur faoi fheidhmiú gníomhartha faoi stiúir na Roinne agus faoi stiúir gníomhaireachtaí laistigh de Phlean.

Ciste Forbartha agus Nuálaíochta na Tuaithe (CEDRA)

Rinne an Roinn maoiniú ar raon tionscadal faoi Chiste Forbartha agus Nuálaíochta na Tuaithe (RIDF) a bhí ceangailte le moltaí CEDRA (an Coimisiún um Fhorbairt Eacnamaíoch na gCeantar Tuaithe) ar feadh na bliana 2019 (féach an Fíor thíos). Cuireadh maoiniú beagnach €1.5 milliún ar fáil chun tacú leis na réimsí seo a leanas:

Fiontraihe Tuaithe Ban: Chuidigh maoiniú le clár oiliúna ACORNS a fhorbairt agus tá an clár seo ar siúl le cúig bliana anois. Tá an clár dírithe ar eolas, tacaíocht agus deiseanna líonraithe a sholáthar ag an luathchéim d'fhiontraihe ban atá ina gcónaí faoin tuath in Éirinn chun forbairt a dhéanamh agus a ngnólachtaí a chur chun cinn, cur le fostaíocht agus cuidiú i ndáiríre lena bpobal áitiúil. Cuireann an clár 'ACORNS' tacaíocht agus foghlaim piara ar fáil do níos mó ná 50 bean le gnólachtaí a thosú suas i gceantair thuaithe gach aon bhliain. Áirítear sa Straitéis Náisiúnta do Mhná agus do Chailíní 2017 – 2020 a d'fhoilsigh an Roinn Dlí agus Cirt agus Comhionannais in Aibreán na bliana 2017, gníomh le tacaíocht a thabhairt d'fhiontraihe tuaithe

ban ag an gcéim thosaithe agus is í an Roinn an comhlacht atá freagrach. Tá sé seo mar bhunspríoc inghnóthaithe i bPlean Gníomhaíochta um Fhorbairt Tuaithe an Rialtais freisin.

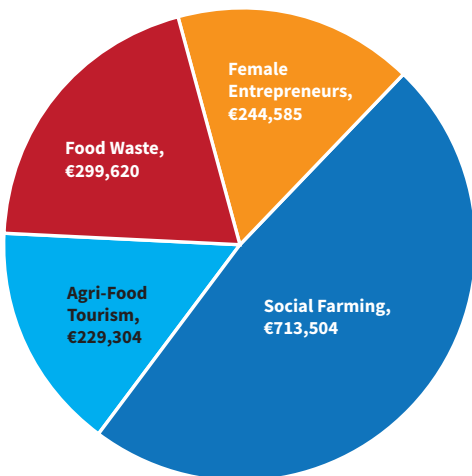
Feirmeoireacht Shóisialta: Leanadh den mhaoiniú in 2019 sa réimse seo d'fhonn líonra náisiúnta feirmeoireachta shóisialta agus líon feirmeacha sóisialta samhlacha a fheidhmiú ar fud na hÉireann a leagan amach, a fhorbairt agus a chur i bhfeidhm. Tá sé i gceist leis buntáistí ar bhonn náisiúnta a spreagadh agus a ghiniúint do ghrúpaí atá faoi mhíbhuntáiste agus tacú le héagsúlú feirme sa phobal tuaithe. Baineann rannpháirtíocht gairneoireachta agus feirmeoireachta i dtimpeallacht feirme, ar bhonn deonach, leis an méid atá feirmeoireacht shóisialta a chur ar fáil mar rogha do dhaoine a bhaineann leas as raon seirbhísí tacaíochta teiripeach lae. Déantar na hoibríochtaí seo a reáchtáil i roinnt suíomhanna ó fheirmeacha oibre teaghlach, tionscnaimh áitiúla pobail go creatanna institiúide eile. Tá sé seo mar cheann de na bunspríocanna inghnóthaithe i bPlean Gníomhaíochta um Fhorbairt Tuaithe an Rialtais.

Turasóireacht Agraibhia: Tá maoiniú curtha ar fáil sa réimse seo, atá ceangailte le gníomhartha i Food Wise 2025, chun tacú le forbairt an líonra agraibhia i gceantair thuaithe. Is é atá i gceist le turasóireacht agraibhia ná gníomhaíocht nó gníomhaíochtaí a chur ar fáil chun cuairt a thabhairt ar cheantair a bhfuil cáil táirgí talmhaíochta orthu agus chun bia nó speisialtacha áitiúla nó réigiúnacha a bhlaiseadh. Áirítear ar thurasóireacht agraibhia réimse leathan gníomhaíochtaí a bhfuil na naisc idir an talmhaíocht agus an bia a tháirgítear ag leibhéal áitiúil nó réigiúnach ag baint leo. D'fhéadfadh fanacht ar an bhfeirm nó cosáin agus imeachtaí turasóireachta bia, rannpháirtíocht in iarrachtaí talmhaíochta nó táirgí a cheannach díreach ó fheirm nó ó mhargadh a bheith i gceist léi. Cuimsítear chomh maith sa turasóireacht agraibhia bia áitiúil, scéimeanna margaidh feirmeora agus ceardaitheora faoina gcuirtear tacaíocht ar fáil do tháirgeoirí bia agus d'earraí ceardaíochta áitiúla agus séasúracha.

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Cur Amú Bia a Laghdú: Tá maoiniú curtha ar fáil go líon tionscadail chun tacaíocht a thabhairt do ghníomhaíochtaí a bhaineann le teicnící nuálacha maidir le cur amú bia lena mbaineann buntáistí comhshaoil ghaolmhara a chur chun cinn agus/nó a fhorbairt. Tá sé mar aidhm leis na tionscadail seo aghaidh a thabhairt ar an fhadhb a ghabhann le cur amú bia trí athdháileadh fuílleach bia agus chun tabhairt faoi thionscnaimh píolótacha le laghdú cur amú bia a chur chun cinn agus cur amú bia a sheachaint trí bhuntáistí comhshaoil ghaolmhara. Gintear níos mó ná milliún tonna dramhaíola in Éirinn gach bliain. As sin, tagann os cionn 300,000 tonna ó ghnólachtaí tráchtála agus cruthaíonn an earnáil táirge bia tionsclaíoch os cionn 400,000 tonna.

Caiteachas Iomlán 2019: €1.5 milliún (figiúr slánaithe)



Rochtain ar airgeadas

Treisiúnn Food Wise 2025 iomaíochas mar phríomhthéama agus moltar go n-oibreoidh geallsealbhóirí le “Feabhas a chur ar rochtain chuig airgeadas don talmhaíocht, don fhoraoiseacht, do tháirgeoirí bia mara agus do chuideachtaí agrairbhia”. Leanann an Roinn, i gcomhar le comhlachtaí Stáit eile le meicníochtaí maoinithe breise a fhiosrú agus a chur i bhfeidhm le tacaíocht a thabhairt d’fheirmeoirí agus do SMEanna san earnáil agrairbhia.

Scéim Iasachta Breatimeachta

Leagadh amach Scéim Iasachta Breatimeachta €300 mhilliún i gcomhar leis an Roinn Gnó, Fiontar agus Nuálaíochta (DBEI) agus le Corparáid Baincéireachta Straitéisí na hÉireann (SBCI), le tacaíocht caipitil oibre a sholáthar chun cur ar chumas gnólachtaí Éireannach incháilithe (m.sh. SME’nna nó le gnólachtaí le caipitliú margaidh beag go meánmhéide) leis na hathruithe atá riachtanach a chur i bhfeidhm le haghaidh a thabhairt ar na dúshlán atá á gcruthú ag an mBreatimeacht. D’oscail an tAire Creed, i gcomhpháirtíocht lena chomhghleacaithe, an tAire Gnó, Fiontar agus Nuálaíochta, Heather Humphreys TD agus an tAire Airgeadais agus Caiteachas Phoiblí agus Athchóirithe, Paschal Donohoe TD, Scéim Iasachta Breatimeachta d’iarratasóirí an 28 Márta 2018 agus beidh an scéim oscailte go dtí an 31 Márta 2020.

Déantar soláthar sa scéim d’iasachtaí de €25,000 go €1,500,000 in aghaidh an fhiontair incháilithe ag uasráta úis de 4%, a théann ó 1 bhliain go 3 bliana, le hiasachtaí neamhurráite suas go dtí €500,000. Is féidir úsáid a bhaint as na hiasachtaí do riachtanais caipiteal oibre amach anseo nó le maoiniú a dhéanamh ar nuálaíocht, athrú nó oiriúnú gnólachta le tionchar an Bhreatimeachta a mhaolú.

Déanann an scéim agus úsáid á bhaint as meascán de ráthaíochtaí Stáitchiste na hÉireann agus AE (trí Ghrúpa an EIB agus scéim ráthaíochta iasachta InnovFin), gearáil ar suas go dtí €300 mhilliún d’iasacht d’Fhiontair Éireannacha ag costas de €23 milliún don Stáitchiste (tá an Roinn Gnó, Fiontar agus Nuálaíochta ag soláthar €14 milliún agus tá an Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara ag cur €9 milliún ar fáil). Cinntíonn maoiniú go mbeidh ar a laghad 40% den €300 mhilliún ar fáil do ghnólachtaí bia. Mar gheall ar choinníollacha éagsúla an chiste agus breithniúcháin stáitchabhair, ní raibh talmhaíocht phríomha incháilithe. Bhí thart ar 224 iasacht le luach de €47.9 milliún ceadaithe faoi dheireadh na bliana agus bhain 38 acu sin le luach de €9.6milliún, le gnólachtaí bia.

Scéim Iasachta d’Fhás Amach Anseo

Tá forbairt déanta ag an Roinn seo agus ag an Roinn Gnó, Fiontar agus Nuálaíochta ar an Scéim Iasachta d’Fhás Amach Anseo i gcomhar leis an SBCI agus leis an gCiste Eorpach Infheistíochta (EIF). Déanfar an scéim a sheachadadh trí sholáthróirí airgeadais rannpháirteacha agus cuirfear suas go €300 milliún

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d'iasachtaí infheistíochta ar fáil do ghnólachtaí Éireannacha incháilithe, lena n-áirítear feirmeoirí agus na hearnálacha agraibhia agus bia mara. Beidh na hiasachtaí ar phraghas iomaíoch agus ar feadh tréimhsí 8-10 mbliana agus tacóidh siad le hinfeistíocht straitéiseach fadtéarmach i dtimpeallacht tar éis an Bhreathimeachta.

Is foinse airgeadais í seo a bhfuiltear ag fanacht uirthi le fada i gcás feirmeoirí óga agus feirmeoirí nua atá ag tosú amach, agus go háirithe don chohórt nach bhfuil leibhéil arda slándála acu. Freastalóidh sé chomh maith ar fheirmeoirí ar scála níos lú nach mbíonn a ndóthain gearála acu chun dul i mbun idirbheartaíochta chun téarmaí níos fabhraí a fháil lena mbanc.

Tá airgeadas infheistíochta fadtéarmach suas go deich mbliana aitheanta ag comhlachtaí bia mar riachtanas ríthábhachtach nach bhfuil ar fáil in Éirinn i láthair na huaire. Beidh seachadadh a dhéanamh ar an táirge seo agus na tionchair a bheith aige le brath ar fud an tslabhra táirgeadh bia.

Tá gearáil á dhéanamh ar an gciste trí mhaoiniú Stáchtiste de €62 milliún, agus tá 40% nó thart ar €25 milliún de sin á chur ar fáil ag an Roinn seo, agus pacáiste agraibhia iomlán de €120 milliún mar thoradh air. Féadfar, áfach, ní hionann agus Scéimeanna roimhe seo, athbhreithniú a dhéanamh ar an Scéim agus an Scéim a chur in oiriúint de réir éileamh. Bhí ardéileamh ar an Scéim, rud a léirigh gur fhreastal sí ar an mbearna sainaitheanta sa mhargadh agus bhí formhór an mhaoinithe tiomanta ag druim de deireadh na bliana. Ag deireadh mhí na Nollag, bhí 325 iasacht d'fheirmeoirí ar fhiú €37.5 mhilliún ceadaithe agus bhí 57 n-iasacht do chuideachtaí bia arbh fhiú €15.5 mhilliún iad ceadaithe. Bhí os cionn 800 iarratas eile idir lámha. Tá tús curtha leis an obair chun machnamh a dhéanamh ar roghanna maidir le síneadh a chur leis an scéim iasachtaí nó rud éigin eile a chur ina háit.

Tá tuilleadh faisnéise ar rochtain chuig tionscnaimh airgeadais le fáil ag:
<https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/agri-foodindustry/agri-foodandtheeconomy/agri-foodbusiness/accesstofinance/>

Agra-Chánachas

Áiríodh i mBuiséad 2019 foilseachán leis an Aire Airgeadais agus Caiteachas Phoiblí agus Athchóirithe,

Paschal Donohoe TD, maidir le “Uasdátú Cur Chun Feidhme an Athbhreithnithe Agra-Chánachas 2014”. Léirítear anseo an dul chun cinn iontach atá déanta ag an Roinn seo agus ag an Roinn Caiteachais Phoiblí agus Athchóirithe le Buiséid le blianta beaga anuas tráth a bhfuil 25 moladh beagnach curtha i bhfeidhm go hiomlán, a chiallaíonn athruithe dearfacha don talmhaíocht in Éirinn, go háirithe i réimsí soghluaisteach talún agus comharbas. Taispeántar san Athbhreithniú gurbh ionann tacaíocht chánachas don earnáil agus €930 milliún ar an meán in aghaidh na bliana do na blianta idir 2012 go 2016, nó meán de €240 milliún in aghaidh na bliana i mbearta sonracha agra-chánachas.

Soláthraíodh Buiséad 2020 i gcomhthéacs éiginnteacht leanúnach faoin mBreathimeacht, rud a chuir srian ar an acmhainneacht bearta nua a thabhairt isteach. Mar sin féin, áiríodh na bearta cánachais seo a leanas i mBuiséad 2019:

- Faoiseamh ó Cháin Ghnóthachan Caipitiúil ar Athstruchtúráil Feirme a athnuachan ar feadh trí bliana eile, trína leanfar de dhul i ngleic leis an dúshlán a bhaineann le hilroinnt ar fheirmeacha in Éirinn agus trína mbeidh éifeachtúlacht níos fearr, chomh maith le tairbhí don chomhshaol trí ghabháiltais feirme chomhdhlúite mar thoradh air.
- Ag leanúint ar aghaidh le bearta le fiontraíocht a chur chun cinn agus tacú leo, a bhfuil ardú ar an gCreidmheas Cánach d'Ioncam Tuillte ó €150 go €1,500 mar fhianaise air. Tá an chuid is mó d'fheirmeoirí, d'iascairí agus de phróiseálaithe beaga bia féinfhostaithe agus feicfidh siadsan go bhfuil a ndliteanas laghdaithe i ndáil leis an ardú atá ar an gcreidmheas cánach.
- Mar gheall ar an bhfógra maidir le faoi mhicreaghrúdlanna, go bhfuil an tairseach táirgeachta incháilithe le haghaidh faoiseamh ó Cháin Táirgí Alcóil á ardú ó 40,000 heictilítear go 50,000 heictilítear, tabharfar deis do ghrúdlanna níos mó méadú, go háirithe maidir le díolacháin onnmhairithe.
- Feabhsuithe ar bhearta cáinbhunaithe reatha chun tacú le fiontar, SMEnna agus an earnáil agraibhia, i.e. an Príomhchlár Rannpháirtíochta Fostaithe (KEEP), an Scéim Fostaíochta agus Infheistíochta (EII) agus an Creidmheas Cánach Taighde agus Forbartha.

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- Comhaontú go mbeadh teagmháil idir an Roinn seo agus an Roinn Airgeadais maidir le bearta trína bhféadfaí cuidiú le feirmeoirí chun na dúshláin agus oibleagáidí a leagtar amach sa Phlean Gníomhaíochta ar son na hAeráide a chomhlíonadh agus sláinte agus sábháilteacht níos fearr a spreagadh san earnáil.”

Tá tuilleadh faisnéise ar agra-chánachas, lena n-áirítear liosta beartais agus ‘Athbhreithniú ar Agra-Chánacha’ ar fáil ag: <https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/agri-foodindustry/agri-foodandtheeconomy/agri-foodbusiness/agri-taxation/>

Reachtaíocht

Sa bhliain 2019, d'éirigh leis an Roinn urraíocht a dhéanamh ar dhá Bhille tríd an Oireachtas agus rinne 42 Ionstraim Reachtúil mar bhonn taca le gníomhaíochtaí na Roinne i mbeagnach gach earnáil laistigh dá cúram. Tá sonraí ar fáil ag www.agriculture.gov.ie/legislation/

Is iad an 2 Bhille atá urraithe ag an Aire Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara:

An tAcht um Iascaigh Mhara (Leasú), Uimhir 9 de 2019 a leasaíonn alt 10 den Acht um Iascaigh Mhara agus Dlínsé Mhuirí 2006. Fuair an leasú seo réidh leis an mbac ar shocruithe cómhálartacha atá ann cheana a cheadaigh do bháid Thuaisceart Éireann iascaireacht laistigh den chrios 6 mhuir mhíle faoi shocruithe Voisinage.

Daingníonn agus déanann an tAcht um Rásaíocht Capall agus Con 2019 Uimh. 15 de 2019 nuachóiriú ar Acht Tionscail na gCon, 1958. Cuireann an tAcht feabhas ar Rialachas Bhord na gCon, neartaíonn rialúcháin rialála sa tionscal, déanann nuachóiriú ar smachtbhannaí, lena n-áirítear, tabhairt isteach smachtbhannaí riaracháin do sháruithe áirithe ar rialacha agus chun ionracas a fheabhsú.

Áirítear ar roinnt de na hIonstraimí Reachtúla is suntasaí a rinneadh sa bhliain 2018: Rialacháin (Céannachta Caorach) (Leasú) na gComhphobal Eorpach 2019 (I.R. Uimh. 243 de 2019) a rinne leasú ar Rialacháin (Céannachta Caorach) (Leasú) na gComhphobal Eorpach 2011 (I.R. Uimh. 309 de 2011). Rinneadh foráil sa leasú le héifeacht ón 1

Meitheamh 2019 nach mór gach caora a bhogtar as gabháltas a bheith sainaitheanta go leictreonach. Rialachán (Aicmiú Conablach agus Tuairisciú maidir le Praghas) na gComhphobal Eorpach 2019 (I.R. Uimh. 254 de 2019) a thugann éifeacht do Rialachán Tarmlichte an Choimisiúin (AE) 2017/1182 den 20 Aibreán 2017 agus Rialachán Cur Chun Feidhme an Choimisiúin (AE) 2017/1184 den 20 Aibreán 2017. Déantar foráil sna Rialacháin do tháirgeacht, aicmiú, meáchan agus lipéadú conablaigh bó-ainmhithe fásta agus muca. Tá forálacha sna rialacháin freisin maidir le teicnící aicmithe uathoibríocha, cumarsáid maidir le torthaí aicmithe agus tuairisciú maidir le praghas margaidh.

Rialacháin (Úsáid Inbhuanaithe Lotnaidicídí) (Leasú) na gComhphobal Eorpach 2019 (I.R. Uimh. 438 de 2019) a dhéanann leasú ar Rialacháin (Úsáid Inbhuanaithe Lotnaidicídí) (Leasú) na gComhphobal Eorpach 2012 (I.R. Uimh. 155 de 2012) agus a thugann éifeacht do Threoir 2019/782 ón gCoimisiún (AE). Déantar foráil sna Rialacháin seo do na ceanglais chláraithe d'úsáideoirí gairmiúla trealamh lotnaidicídí, cuireann siad leathnú ar an gcineál trealamh feidhmithe lotnaidicídí agus cuireann siad le cosaint foinsí uisce a mbaintear úsáid astu d'astarraingt uisce do thomhaltas ag daoine.

Tuarascálacha Staitistiúla agus Anailíseacha

- ‘Sreabhadh adhmaid agus úsáid fhuinnimh bithmhaise bunaithe ar fhoraois ar oileán na hÉireann (2018):

Cuireann an Nóta Ceangail seo COFORD sreabhadh adhmaid Phoblacht na hÉireann agus oileán na hÉireann ar fáil do 2018, mar aon le hanailís ar an úsáid a bhaintear as bithmhais chun fuinneamh a tháirgeadh. Tá sé bunaithe ar shonraí an fhómhair adhmaid náisiúnta agus ar shonraí trádála táirgí foraoise, agus curtha i dtoll a chéile thar ceann na Roinne Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara. <http://www.coford.ie/media/coford/content/publications/2018/00900CCNPP51Woodflow%20-%20We.pdf>

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- Staitisticí Foraoise: Tá an Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara freagrach as staitisticí foraoise a bhailiú agus a fhoilsiú. Cuireann an foilseachán staitisticí maidir le treochtaí foraoisithe ar fáil ar bhonn náisiúnta agus ar bhonn contae ar chontae. Déanann sé rianú ar thógáil bóithre foraoise, ar ghníomhaíocht tanaithe agus ar ghlanleagan crainn chomh maith le raon oibríochtaí bainistíochta foraoise eile. Tá treochtaí i bpraghsanna Lomáin Chruinne mar ghné sa doiciméad freisin mar aon le heolas maidir le dóiteán foraoise agus damáiste ó lotnaidí.

<https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/forests-service/forests-service-general-information/forest-statistics-and-mapping/annual-forest-sector-statistics/>

Ioncam Comhiomlán Feirme

Forléargas ar Aschur Talmhaíochta 2019			
Aschur, Ionchur & Ioncam sa Talmhaíocht, 2018/2019			
	2018 Luach €m	2019 Luach €m	% d'Athrú (Luach) 2018/2019
Aschur Earraí ar Phraghsanna Táirgthe	8,181.8	8,127.6	-0.7%
Aschur Talmhaíochta ar Bhunphraghsanna	8,648.8	8,690.1	+0.5%
Tomhaltas Idirmheánach	6,001.0	5,782.5	-3.6%
Oll-bhreisluch ar Bhunphraghsanna	2,647.8	2,907.7	+9.8%
Tomhaltas Caipitil Sheasta	907.2	907.2	
Glan-bhreisluch ar Bhunphraghsanna	1,740.6	2,000.5	+14.9%
Fóirdheontais Eile lúide Cánacha ar Tháirgeadh	1,676.3	1,628.9	-2.8%
Ioncam Fachtóra	3,416.9	3,629.4	+6.2%
Cúiteamh d'Fhostaithe	567.7	584.2	+2.9%
Barrachas Oibriúcháin	2,849.2	3,045.2	+6.9%
Foinse: CSO - Meastacháin Tosaigh ar Aschur, Ionchur & Ioncam Talmhaíochta 2019			

De réir Meastachán Tosaigh an CSO ar Aschur, Ionchur agus Ioncam Talmhaíochta 2019, tháinig méadú 6.9% go €3,045 mhilliún ar ioncam comhlán feirme (barrachas oibriúcháin) in 2019. Laghdú 16.8% a bhí ann in 2018. Tháinig laghdú 0.7%, nó €54.1 mhilliún, go dtí €8,127.6 milliún ar luach foriomlán an aschuir earraí ag praghsanna táirgeora san earnáil. Tháinig laghdú 3.6%, go dtí €5,782.5 milliún, ar an tomhaltas idirmheánach.

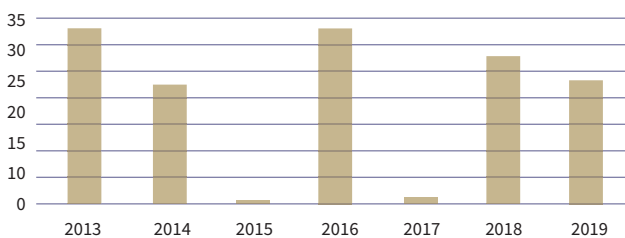
TAIGHDE AGUS NUÁIL

Cláir Iomaíochas um Maoiniú Taighde

Feidhmíonn an Roinn trí chlár iomaíochas um maoiniú taighde: an Beart um Thaighde Institiúideach ar Bhia (FIRM); an Ciste um Thaighde a Spreagadh (RSF) agus an Clár um Thaighde Iomaíoch Foraoiseachta ar mhaithe le Forbairt (CoFoRD) go príomha. Déantar deontais a dhámhadh go tréimhsiúil ar thionscadail taighde ‘ar mhaithe leis an bpobal’ a dtugann taighdeoirí in Eagraíochtaí incháilithe Éireannacha a Dhéanann Taighde fúthu i ndiaidh Ghlaonna ar Thograí. Déanann an Roinn seo agus ranna eile iad sin a sheoladh go náisiúnta, nó déantar iad a sheoladh go trasnáisiúnta, faoi Líonraí Limistéar Eorpach Taighde (EraNets) agus faoi Chlár Comhpháirtíochta Taighde agus Forbartha na Stát Aontaithe-na hÉireann, go príomha.

Le seacht mbliana anuas, gealladh €140.4 milliún le haghaidh tionscadail taighde agraibhia, mara agus foraoiseachta trí bhíthin na cláir sin.

Total Committed €140.4m National & TransNational Funding 2013- 2019



Infheistiúcht faoi Chláir Iomaíochas um Maoiniú Taighde in 2019

€22.7 milliún an méid iomlán de mhaoiniú nua a gealladh ar feadh na gclár agus na sásraí dámhachtana uile in 2019.

Dámhachtainí a rinne de bhun Ghlaos ar Thaighde

In 2019, bhain Eagraíochtaí Éireannacha a Dhéanann Taighde, lena n-áirítear Teagasc, Ollscoileanna agus

Institiúidí Teicneolaíochta leas as dámhachtainí os cionn €20.1 mhiliún le haghaidh 38 dtionscadal a chlúdaigh raon réimsí topaicí. Chomh maith le fianaise a ghiniúint le haghaidh beartas agus teicneolaíochtaí chun feabhas a chur ar chleachtais agraibhia, cuirfear fostaíocht dhíreach ar fáil do 75 taighdeoir ar conradh agus cuirfear deiseanna oideachais ar fáil do 90 mhac léinn iarchéime i bhfoirm PhD (55) agus Céimeanna Máistir (35).

Infheistiúcht i dtaighde trí bhíthin Tionscnaimh Tras-náisiúnta

In 2019, lean an Roinn ar aghaidh d’úsáid a bhaint as maoiniú faoina cláir taighde iomaíochas chun a chur ar chumas taighdeoirí na hÉireann bheith rannpháirteach i gcomhpháirtíochtaí tras-náisiúnta comhoibríochas trí bhíthin Líonraí Limistéar Eorpach Taighde (ERA-Nets) áirithe. An toradh a bheidh ar na tionscnaimh ERA-NET sin, comhoibriú níos fearr agus ailíniú níos fearr de thosaíochtaí taighde náisiúnta. Beidh an scála agus an raon feidhme is gá acu chun tionchar na ngníomhaíochtaí taighde ar fud na hEorpa a uasmhéadú.

I measc na ngealltanais suntasach faoi na tionscnaimh sin in 2019 tá:

- €350,000 tiomanta do thaighdeoirí Éireannacha ar fud ceithre thionscadal (MilKey, GasToGrass, MELS agus SEASOLUTIONS) faoi “Chomhghníomh ERA-GAS, SusAn, ICT-AGRI II” an AE atá comhbhunaithe ag ERA-NET.
- Rinneadh €300,000 a dhámhadh ar NUIG do “InFutUReWood” tionscadal AE atá comhbhunaithe ag ERA-NET ForestValue.

Chomh maith leis sin tá €1.6 milliún ar an iomlán geallta ag an Roinn d’iarratasóirí taighde institiúid-bhunaithe Éireannach a théann in iomaíocht go rathúil i dtírí chlár nua eile, ERA-NET a bhaineann le FOSC (Córais Bia agus Aeráide), ICT-AGRI-FOOD (córais agraibhia atá cumasaithe ag ICT-) agus ICRAD (Comhordú Idirnáisiúnta Taighde ar Ghlaor Thógálacha Ainmhithe) chomh maith le hAiste Bia Folláin JPI do Ghlaos Saol Folláin a fhéachann ar thearchothú i ndaoine scothaosta a chosc (PREVNUT).

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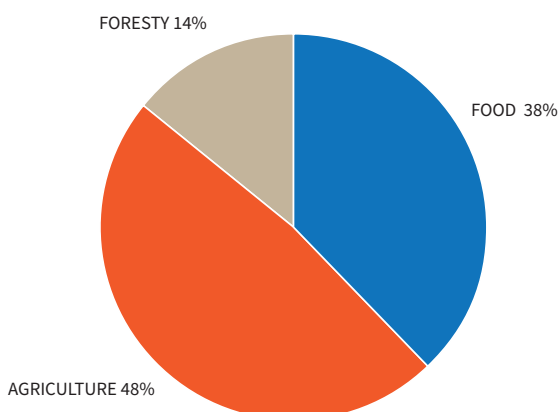
Is comhghuaillíocht trí-dhlínse idir Éirinn, Tuaisceart Éireann agus na Stáit Aontaithe í Comhpháirtíocht Taighde agus Forbartha na Stát Aontaithe-na hÉireann ar aidhm léi tionscadail taighde chomh oibríocha agus nuálacha lena soláthraítear luach níos mó ná mar a bheadh ag iarrachtaí aonair a chur chun cinn. An National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA) de chuid Roinn Talmhaíochta na Stát Aontaithe (USDA) a éascaíonn an chuid talmhaíochta de sin. Sheol an Roinn, i gcomhar le DAERA NI, mar fhreagra ar Ghlao NIFA 2019, an Glao do Rannpháirtithe Éireannacha i gClár Comhpháirtíochta Taighde agus Forbartha na Stát Aontaithe-na hÉireann, lena bhfuil maoiniú á chur ar fáil do thograí taighde ar fud sé réimse féideartha taighde.

Dámhachtainí arna ndéanamh i gcomhar le maoinitheoirí taighde náisiúnta eile.

Sa bhliain 2019, rinne an Roinn socrú cómhaoinithe le hÚdarás Fuinnimh Inmharthana na hÉireann (SEAI), leis an nGníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil (EPA) agus le Roinn Gnóthaí Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil agus Tuaithe Thuaisceart Éireann (DAERA NI). Leanamar freisin lenár gcomhoibriú le Clár Iarchéime Fhostaíocht-Bhunaithe na Comhairle um Thaighde Éireann agus le comhchistiú a dhéanamh ar Ionad SFI VistaMilk. Chomh maith leis sin, gheall an Roinn comhchistiú do cheithre thionscadal faoi Ghlao Taighde an EPA 2019.

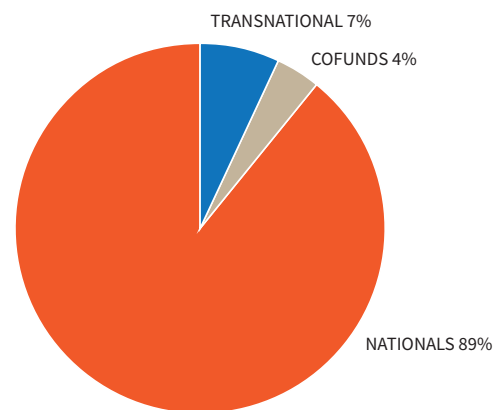
An céatadán caiteachais de réir na hEarnála.

2019 Awards: National (DAFM alone or with another funder) and Transnational by programme %



An céatadán maoinithe a gealladh in 2019 de réir an tsásra maoinithe

2019 Awards: National (DAFM alone or with another funder) and TransNational %



Leanann an Roinn ar aghaidh de mhonatóireacht agus meastóireacht a dhéanamh ar dhul chun cinn tionscadail a fuair dámhachtainí deontais taighde faoi FIRM, RSF agus CoFoRD. Sa bhliain 2019 cuireadh na tograí go léir faoi bhráid trí bhogearraí bainistíochta nua deontais na Roinne.

Comhoibriú IE-DE

D'eagraigh an Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara (DAFM) agus Teagasc, ag eascairt as Comhphlean Gníomhaíochta na hÉireann - na Gearmáine ar chomhoibriú déthaobhach, i gcomhar leis an Aireacht Cónaidhme do Bhia agus Talmhaíochta (BMEL), an Oifig Chónaidhme do Thalmhaíocht agus Bia (BLE) agus Institiúid Leibniz d'Innealtóireacht Talmhaíochta agus Bithghéilleagar (ATB), Ceardlann Déthaobhach na Gearmáine-na hÉireann in Institiúid Leibniz d'Innealtóireacht Talmhaíochta agus Bithghéilleagar (ATB), Potsdam an 25-26 Samhain 2019. Bhí an cheardlann seo, a raibh sé mar aidhm léi éilimh chomhtháighde a aithint, agus bunchloch stuama a bhunú do chomhoibriú taighde trasnáisiúnta amach anseo, ag díriú ar réimsí agri-dhigitiú agus diansaothru taighde agus nuálaíocht maidir le talmhaíocht, athrú

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aeráide agus bainistíocht úsáid talún ar mhaithe le cuidiú le córas atá neodrach ó thaobh carbóin agus córas agraibhia ciorclach. Chuir institiúidí taighde na hÉireann (ina measc, Teagasc, Coláiste na hOllscoile, Corcaigh, Institiúid Tyndall, Ollscoil Luimnigh, Institiúid Teicneolaíochta Chorcaí, an Choláiste Ollscoile, Baile Átha Cliath, Ollscoil Mhá Nuad, Institiúid Teicneolaíochta Phort Láirge, NUI Gaillimh) dhá chainteoir is fiche ar fáil don cheardlann a dhírigh ar cheithre phríomhábhar: Bainistíocht Ithir, Bainistíocht Talamh Féaraigh, Ciorclaíocht Cothaithe agus Tithíocht d'Ainmhithe, ar mhaithe le tús a chur le cuspóirí an tionscnaimh a chomhlíonadh.

Horizon 2020 agus Horizon Europe

Is Creat chlár AE um Thaighde agus Nuáil (2014-20) é Fís 2020. An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara i gcomhar le Foras na Mara (MI) atá freagrach as an réimse maoinithe Dúshlán Sochaíoch 2 (SC-2) de chuid Horizon 2020, a bhfuil ciste €3.8 billiún aige - lena n-áirítear €850 milliún a leithdháileadh ar Ghnóthas Comhpháirteach na dTionscal Bithbhunach (BBI JU). Cuireann an Roinn agus MI Toscairí Náisiúnta (ND) agus Pointí Teagmhála Náisiúnta (NCP) ar fáil do SC-2, lena gcumhdaítear gníomhaíochtaí Agraibhia, Foraoiseachta agus Mara, Forbairt Tuaithe agus an Bithgheilleagar agus cuireann an Roinn ionadaithe ar fáil chomh maith do Ghrúpa Ionadaíoch Stát BBI. Tá sprioc náisiúnta íostarraingthe de €1.25 billiún leagtha amach ag an Rialtas ó Horizon 2020, lena n-áirítear sprioc íostarraingthe €77 milliún (2%) ó bhuiséad SC2. €14.48 mhilliún a bhí in íostarraingt na hÉireann ó chlár arna maoiniú ag BBI agus SC-2 do 2019, rud a fhágann gur €85.64 milliún an t-iomlán go dtí seo; is é sin, 2.22% de bhuiséad SC2 foriomlán.

Le linn na bliana 2019, freastalaíodh ar cheithre chruinniú Choiste Clár Horizon 2020, is cruinnithe d'ionadaithe iad na cruinnithe seo ó gach tír atá rannpháirteach i Horizon 2020 agus tugann siad an deis le cumarsáid dhíreach a dhéanamh idir gach tír agus leis an gCoimisiún chun cuidiú le treo an chreachláir a stiúradh agus le monatóireacht a dhéanamh air. Chomh maith leis sin, freastalaíodh ar chruinniú ullmhúcháin tosaigh Horizon Europe atá ar na bacáin agus a bhfuil tús le cur leis sa bhliain 2021, ar lá oscailte

a bhí ann maidir le Taighde agus Nuálaíocht. Bhí an Misean nua maidir le Sláinte Ithreach agus Bia mar théama ag an gCruinniú. Rinneadh monatóireacht freisin ar an gComhaontú nua Glas don Eoraip; is ionann é seo agus glao nua €1 billiún a bheidh á sheoladh i ndeireadh na bliana 2020 chun cuidiú leis an Eoraip a haidhm a chur i gcrích mar mhór-roinn atá neodrach ó thaobh carbóin a bhaint amach faoin mbliain 2050. Ag leibhéal náisiúnta d'fhreastail an Roinn, an MI agus Teagasc ar chruinnithe grúpa ardleibhéil faoi chathaoirleacht na Roinne Gnó, Fiontar agus Nuálaíochta (DBEI) chun a bheith ar an eolas maidir leis an dul chun cinn i réimsí spéise atá ar na bacáin. Rinne NCP na Roinne cur i láthair do lucht taighde i gColáiste Ollscoile Bhaile Átha Cliath agus Coláiste na hOllscoile, Corcaigh ar dheiseanna atá fanta faoi Horizon 2020. Rinne sé dlúthcheangail a chothabháil le comhghleacaithe i dTuaisceart Éireann chun cuidiú le hiarratais láidre comhoibríocha Thuaidh-Theas a ghiniúint, agus má éiríonn leo, rachaidh siad chun leasa don tír ina hiomláine.

An Grúpa Cur Chun Feidhme Bithgheilleagar

Bhí trí chruinniú in 2019 ag Grúpa Cur Chun Feidhme ardleibhéil, faoi chomhchathaoirleacht na Roinne agus na Roinne Cumarsáide, Gníomhaithe ar son na hAeráide agus Comhshaoil, ina bhfuil naoi Rannóg agus ocht nGníomhaireacht. Chuir an grúpa cur chun feidhme tuarascáil ar fáil don Rialtas a chomhaontaigh an Chomh-Aireacht i mí an Mheithimh 2019 a thug léiriú ar na gníomhaíochtaí atá idir lámha acu go dtí seo leis na gníomhartha sa ráiteas beartais maidir leis an mbithgheilleagar a chur i bhfeidhm. Ina theannta sin, chomhordaigh an Grúpa Cur Chun Feidhme Lá Faisnéise i UL i mí Bealtaine 2019 leis na comhpháirtithe Foras na Mara, Idir-Thrádál Éireann agus Roinn Comhshaoil, Talmhaíochta, Gnóthaí Tuaithe, Thuaisceart Éireann, chun aird a tharraingt ar dheiseanna maoinithe atá ar fáil faoi thionscnamh an AE, Gnóthas Comhpháirteach na dTionscal Bithbhunach. Rinne an Grúpa Cur Chun Feidhme comhordú ar Sheachtain Bithgheilleagar na hÉireann freisin i mí Deireadh Fómhair 2019, lena n-áirítear, raon imeachtaí a bhí ar siúl ar fud na tíre.

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Codex Alimentarius

Lean Éire de bheith rannpháirteach go hiomlán in Codex Alimentarius in 2019. Tá an Roinn fós ag comhordú agus ina cathaoirleach ar Choiste Comhairleach Codex na hÉireann (ICAC), a tháinig le chéile faoi dhó in 2019 agus a thug deis do na príomhpháirtithe leasmhara in Éirinn rann chur le foirmlíú seasamh na hÉireann i leith gach saincheist Codex. D'fheidhmigh oifigigh ón Roinn, ó Ranna Rialtais eile agus ó Ghníomhaireachtaí Stáit mar ionadaithe na hÉireann ag cúig seisiún de Choistí Codex éagsúla in 2019 agus ag cruinnithe Páirtí Oibre de chuid Chomhairle an AE, rud a léirigh an meascán saineolais a theastaíonn chun dul i ngleic leis an réimse casta saincheisteanna á bplé.

Taighde maidir leis an Aeráid

Lean an Roinn agus Teagasc le tacaíocht láidir a thabhairt d'infheistíocht i dtaighde agus le rannpháirtíocht i dtaighde a bhaineann le haeráid trí chreataí maoinithe náisiúnta éagsúla; Creatchláir Nuálaíochta agus Taighde AE; agus tionscnaimh trasnáisiúnta ar nós an Chomhaontais Domhanda um Thaighde ar Gháis Ceaptha Teasa Talmhaíochta agus Tionscnamh Comhchláir an AE maidir le Bia, Talmhaíocht, Athrú Aeráide agus Timpeallachta.

Chomh maith leis sin, chomhoibrigh an Roinn le glaonna taighde an EPA agus le linn na bliana 2019 rinne an Roinn agus EPA cómhaoiniú ar thionscadal ar a dtugtar 'SEQUESTER' le himpleachtaí na módúlachta ó thaobh a bheith neodrach ó thaobh carbóin a aithint agus a iniúchadh.

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Forléargas

Leanann an earnáil talmhaíochta agus bia le ról ríthábhachtach a bheith aici i ngeilleagar na hÉireann agus b'ionann onnmhairí agraibhia agus 9.5% d'onnmhairithe iomlána ar luach de €14.5 billiún a chiallaigh fás os cionn 63% ón mbliain 2010. An Ríocht Aontaithe an ceann scríbe ba mhó i gcónaí d'onnmhairí agraibhia. B'fhiú €5.5 billiún na honnmhairí in 2019, nó 38% de na honnmhairí uile. B'fhiú €4.7 billiún iad onnmhairí chuig an AE (gan an RA san áireamh) agus b'fhiú €4.3 billiún iad onnmhairí chuig an gcuid eile den domhan in 2019. Bhí Táirgí Déiríochta ag €5.0 billiún, Earnáil na Mairteola ag €2.3 billiún agus Earnáil na nDeochanna ag €1.7 billiún ar na trí chatagóir ab airde sa bhliain 2019 arbh ionann é agus €9.1 billiún nó 63% in onnmhairithe agraibhia ar fud an domhain.

Cuireann an earnáil agraibhia cion suntasach le fostaíocht, arbh ionann é agus 7.1% den fhostaíocht iomlán nó 164,400 post, i gceantair thuaithe agus cósta.

Deochanna Biotáille

Is tiománaí mór de ghníomhaíocht eacnamaíoch ar feadh gheilleagar na hÉireann é an tionscal dí, ar macraí leibhéal agus ar leibhéal tuaithe. B'fhiú €1.71 billiún na honnmhairí in 2019. B'fhiú €1.56 billiún onnmhairí deochanna alcólacha sa bhliain 2019. Tá na Stáit Aontaithe ar an margadh onnmhairí alcólacha is tábhachtaí i gcónaí agus mar thoradh air sin is ionann Uisce Beatha na hÉireann (€517.5 milliún) agus onnmhairí uachtar licéir Éireannaigh (€183.3 milliún) agus 41% (€701 milliún) d'onnmhairí.

Chonacthas ardú ar onnmhairí i ngach catagóir, lena n-áirítear jin, beoir agus ceirtlis. Bhí bliain as cuimse ag uisce beatha Éireannach. Choinnigh uachtar licéir Éireannaigh a sciar den mhargadh, in ainneoin dúshláin a bhain le taraifí na Stáit Aontaithe ar tháirgí déiríochta AE. Tá fás tagtha ar an tionscal driogtha ó 3 dhrioglan in 2014 go dtí 31 ag deireadh na bliana 2019 agus tá 32 eile á moladh. Cuireann an t-éileamh dúbailte ar Uisce Beatha na hÉireann i go leor margaí treallús faoin fhás méide san earnáil.

Táthar ag súil le fás suntasach ar onnmhairí sa mheántearma, agus tá deis ag an tionscal fás ar a laghad 85% go dtí os cionn €2 bhilliún a bhaint amach maidir le honnmhairí, agus poist bhreise a chruthú agus a choimeád, i dtuath na hÉireann go príomha. Leanadh leis an bhfás ar onnmhairí uisce beatha Éireannach in 2018.

In 2019, Baineadh luach breis is €810 milliún amach den chéad uair agus b'ionann sin agus fás carnach os cionn 194% ar an gcatagóir sna seacht bliana ó 2012. Na Stáit Aontaithe an margadh ba thábhachtaí, ina bhfacthas fás breis is 324% i dtréimhse seacht mbliana ar mhéideanna in 2012, rud ab ionann agus beagnach 64% de na honnmhairí uisce beatha uile in 2019.

I dteannta onnmhairí uachtar licéir Éireannaigh, ar tugadh luach €364 mhilliún dóibh, ba rannchuidiú ollmhór ag deochanna biotáilleacha Éireannacha le feidhmíocht onnmhairithe thionscal bia agus dí na hÉireann. Arís, na Stáit Aontaithe an margadh ba thábhachtaí, agus é ba chúis le breis is 50% de na honnmhairí uachtar licéir Éireannaigh uile.

Uisce Beatha Éireannach 2013		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Onnmhairí Uile €m	316,916	348,067	442,427	503,576	576,419	647,174	811,688
Onnmhairithe chuig na Stáit Aontaithe €m	147,161	165,397	233,343	291,892	340,754	382,097	517,416
Uachtar Licéir Éireannaigh 2013		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Onnmhairí Uile €m	336,026	287,250	311,064	292,858	326,729	343,352	364,026
Onnmhairithe chuig Aontaithe €m	139,009	131,291	163,220	144,791	166,105	168,519	183,632

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Tásca Geografacha: Biotáillí Cosanta

Leagtar amach i Rialachán 110/2008 (a dtiocfaidh Rialachán 2019/787 ina áit) sainmhíneadh ar na catagóirí deochanna biotáilleacha (deochanna alcólacha le híosmhéid alcóil 15%), lena n-áirítear rum, uisce beatha, jin, vodca agus licéir, agus tugtar aitheantas agus cosaint ann do liosta tásc geografach (GI) maidir le deochanna biotáilleacha, lena n-áirítear uisce beatha Éireannach, uachtar licéir Éireannach agus Poitín Éireannach.

An Roinn a dhéanann seiceálacha um fhíorú ar Uachtar Licéir Éireannach agus na Coimisinéirí Ioncaim a dhéanann seiceálacha ar Poitín Éireannach agus ar Uisce Beatha Éireannach. Déantar na trí dheoch biotáilleacha a chosaint ar bhonn uile-oileánda.

Tá iarratais ar fhíorú riachtanach d'áitribh a bhfuil baint acu le grúdaireacht, giosáil, driogadh, aibiú, buidéalú agus lipéadú na ndeochanna biotáilleacha sin. Faoi Rialachán 110/2008 gearrtar muirear ar na cuairteanna sin.

In 2019, fuair an Roinn iarratais ó ocht n-áitreabh a bhfuil baint acu le hUachtar Licéir Éireannaigh a tháirgeadh agus rinne na Coimisinéirí Ioncaim seiceálacha fóraithe ar 58 áitreabh táirgthe Uisce Beatha Éireannach. Ina theannta sin, rinne siad seiceálacha fóraithe ar 12 áitreabh Poitín Éireannach.

Tásca Geografacha (GI) maidir le Bia

Laistigh den AE, tugann na scéimeanna PDO (Sonrúchán Cosanta Tionscnaimh), PGI (Tásc Cosanta Geografach) agus TSG (Sainearraí Traidisiúnta faoi Ráthaíocht) an deis bianna ardcháilíochta atá nasctha le réigiún geografach a shainaithint. I rith 2019, d'oibrigh an Roinn le roinnt moltóirí chun iarratais a fhorbairt agus chun dul chun cinn a dhéanamh ar léirithe spéise a bhí faighte cheana. Tá ocht GI bia cláraithe in Éirinn faoi láthair - Salann Sáile Oriel (PDO) agus Mianraí Sáile Oriel (PDO), Blaa/Blaa Phort Láirge (PGI), Uaineoil Sléibhe Chonamara (PGI), Bradán Chliara (PGI), Regato Uí Mhic Coille (PDO), Putóg Dhonn Thigh Molaige (PGI), Putóg Dhubh na Snadhma (PGI) a bronnadh stádas GI uirthi i mí na Nollag 2019. Tá iarratais Uaineoil Sléibhe an Chomaraigh agus Cuiríní Dubha Loch Garman, tar éis dóibh an Comhairliúchán Eorpach a bheith tugtha chun críche go rathúil acu, á

scrúdú go grinn ag an gCoimisiún Eorpach, ar feitheamh ar a bhfoilsíú ag an gComhairliúchán Eorpach.

Iniúchóireacht GI Choimisiún an Aontaigh Eorpaigh 2019

Mar chuid de ghnáth Plean Cigireachta maidir le hIniúchóireacht Bhliantúil Choimisiún an AE, thug seirbhís iniúchóireachta Choimisiún an AE, DG SANTE faoi mhisean iniúchóireachta chun na hÉireann i mí Meán Fómhair 2019 le meastóireacht a dhéanamh ar Chórais Rialaithe a bhaineann le Sonrúcháin Tionscnaimh faoi Chosaint (PDO), Tásca Geografacha faoi Chosaint (PGI) agus (Sainearraí Traidisiúnta faoi Ráthaíocht) (TSG) do Tháirgí Talmhaíochta agus do Bhia-Ábhar agus Tásca geografacha (GI) maidir le deochanna biotáilleacha.

Is é a bhí mar chuspóir leis an iniúchóireacht a dhearbhu go raibh rialuithe oifigiúla na hÉireann do tháirgí GI á ndéanamh de réir rialacháin AE. Léirítear i dtoradh foriomlán na hIniúchóireachta go bhfuil an tír seo ag feidhmiú go sásúil maidir le Rialachán agus Rialuithe GI. Cé go raibh na conclúidí foriomlán dearfach den chuid is mó agus gur bhreithnigh an chigireacht go raibh cúrsaí ar an iomlán leordhóthanach, bhí líon beag de (mhion) thorthaí a bhain go sonrach le treoir a tugadh do na cigirí maidir le haonfhoirmeacht a chinntiú i seiceálacha dearbhaithe agus chur chun feidhme plean samplála oifigiúil PGI/PDO.

Chomhaontaigh an Roinn plean gníomhaíochta leis na hÚdaráis Inniúlachta go léir atá bainteach leis an bpróiseas le haghaidh a thabhairt ar na torthaí. Táthar ag súil le dul chun cinn suntasach a dhéanamh ar ghnéithe áirithe ar nós comhaontú maidir le Prótacal agus Meabhrán Tuisceana (MOU) idir na hÚdaráis Inniúlachta go léir atá rannpháirteach agus le forbairt Plean Samplála Náisiúnta maidir le hUisce Beatha na hÉireann le linn na bliana 2020.

Lipéadú

Leagtar amach rialacha lipéadaithe a bhaineann le táirgí sonracha sna Rialacháin AE maidir le fíonta, deochanna biotáilleacha, fíonta cumhraithe, sú torthaí, caifé, seacláid, subha, glóthacha agus mar maláidí, chun barántúlacht a chinntiú agus chun tomhaltóirí agus táirgeoirí a chosaint. I rith 2019, rinne an Roinn

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seiceálacha ar an leibhéal miondíola lena chinntiú go raibh lipéid tháirgí ag teacht leis na Rialacháin sin agus le riachtanais lipéadaithe go ginearálta mar a fhorordaítear sna Rialacháin. Le blianta beaga anuas, sainaithníodh ardú ar an méid calaoise idirlín in aghaidh tháirgí PDO agus PGI cláraithe san earnáil bia agus dí san AE. Tá an Roinn ag leanúint uirthi ag fiosrú go réamhghníomhach cibé an ann d'easghairm agus do mhí fhaisnéis ar líne ar láithreáin ghréasáin agus ar na meáin shóisialta. Tá freagairtí il-ghníomhaireachta comhordaithe ag an Roinn freisin ar iarratais agus ar fhiosraithe ó Bhallstáit Eile.

An Treoir maidir le Cleachtais Trádála Éagóracha

Tháinig Treoir 2019/633 (AE) maidir le cleachtais trádála éagóracha i ngaolmhaireachtaí gnó-le-gnó i slabhra an tsoláthair bhia i bhfeidhm an 30 Aibreán 2019. Ceanglaítear le Dlí an AE nach mór an Treoir a aistriú go dtí an dlí náisiúnta faoin 1 Bealtaine 2021.

Bunaíodh grúpa oibre tras-rannach leis an Roinn Gnó, Fiontar agus Nuálaíochta (DBEI) i mí Aibreán 2019 a tháinig le chéile seacht n-uaire, le fiosrú a dhéanamh ar na himpleachtaí beartais agus oibríochta a bhaineann leis an Treoir a aistriú agus a fhorfheidhmiú. Leanann an Roinn ar aghaidh ag obair le Coimisiún an AE maidir leis an Treoir.

Sheol an Roinn, i mí Deireadh Fómhair 2019, próiseas comhairliúcháin phoiblí ar aistriú na Treorach. Fuarthas os cionn 650 aighneacht ó dhaoine aonair, eagraíochta páirtithe leasmhara agus ó ionadaithe pobail.

An tIonad um Bianna Tomhaltóra Ullmhaithe

Ba ón earnáil Bianna Tomhaltóra Ullmhaithe (PCF) a rinneadh €2.7 billiún d'onnmhairí agus €3.8 billiún d'allmhairí san earnáil agrairbhia in 2019. Is chun na Ríochta Aontaithe a chuireadh 67% (2019) de na honnmhairithe seo, dá bhrí sin, tá an earnáil neamhchosanta ó thaobh an Bhreathimeachta. Chun aghaidh a thabhairt ar dhúshláin seo an Bhreathimeachta agus ar na leibhéil ísle Taighde agus Forbartha go traidisiúnta a dhéanann comhlachtaí atá san earnáil, seoladh an tIonad um Bianna Tomhaltóra

Ullmhaithe i ndeireadh na bliana 2018. Ag eascairt as maoiniú a rinneadh roimhe seo, cuireadh €5m eile ar fáil don ionad i mBuiséad 2019. Leanann an t-ionad le tacaíocht a thabhairt do chuideachtaí san Earnáil, trí threalamh a cheannach agus trí spás a chur ar fáil lena úsáid, a chuireann ar chumas na gcomhlachtaí seo píolótú a dhéanamh ar mheaisíní, cur lena dtáirgeadh féin agus cur ar a gcumas glacadh le teicneolaíochtaí nua chun aghaidh a thabhairt ar éilimh agus ar ionchais tomhaltóra atá ag teacht chun cinn. Is féidir le comhlachtaí leas a bhaint as an saineolas atá ag foireann Teagasc freisin ó thaobh píolótú agus forbairt a dhéanamh ar tháirgí bia.

Bhain 66 comhlacht leas ar na saoráidí san Ionad um Bianna Tomhaltóra Ullmhaithe (PCFC) suas go dtí deireadh mhí na Nollag 2019 ó osclaíodh an t-ionad i mí Deireadh Fómhair 2018.

Scéim Infheistíochta Caipitil Fhiontraíocht Éireann – Ciste Infheistíochta Caipitil SME

Déantar an scéim a fheidhmiú tríd Fiontar Éireann agus tá sí oscailte do gach fiontar Beag agus Meánmhéide agus é mar aidhm leis cabhrú leo a dtáirgiúlacht agus a n-iomaíocht a fheabhsú i gcomhthéacs dhúshláin an Bhreathimeachta trí bhíthin teicneolaíochta agus trealamh caipitiúil nua a cheannach agus trí nuáil. Sa bhliain 2019 fuarthas trí chead faoin scéim seo ar luach iomlán de €466,877.

An Earnáil Bhia Ceardaí agus Sainbhia – An Tionscnamh Bia LEADER

Leithdháileadh €15 milliún do Thionscnamh Bia LEADER faoi Phlean Forbartha Tuaithe (RDP) 2014-2020, chun tacú le bia ceardaí, le táirgeoirí an-bheag agus táirgeoirí beaga bia i gceantair thuaithe. Déantar an maoiniú a sheachadadh faoi mhodheolaíocht LEADER. Sa bhliain 2019, ceadaíodh 24 tionscadal nua do mhaoiniú faoin scéim. Ba €3.4 milliún an costas iomlán a bhain leis na tionscadail chéadaithe a thabhairt chun críche. Cuireann LEADER páirt-mhaoiniú ar fáil do thionscadal chéadaithe agus dá réir sin bhí €1.72 milliún de mhaoiniú ar fáil lena tharraingt anuas ar bhonn céimnithe ar fud 24 tionscadal chéadaithe. Faoi dheireadh na bliana 2019 bhí ar an iomlán a €317,374 íoctha amach faoi scéim LEADER do thionscadail éagsúla a bhí chéadaithe.

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Bia Ceardaí, Bia Áitiúil agus Sainbhia

In 2019, rinneadh dul chun cinn ar bhia ceardaí, bia áitiúil agus sainbhia a fhorbairt trí bhíthin bearta a fhaigheann tacaíocht ón Roinn, ó Bhord Bia agus ó Theagasc. Go sonrach, thug an Roinn maoiniú de thuairim is €30,000 i sparánachtaí do mhic léinn ag tabhairt faoin Dioplóma i dTáirgeadh Sainbhia ag Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh. Is bonnchúrsa sparánachta aon bhliain amháin atá sa Dioplóma (fetac leibhéal 7) in eolaíocht an bhia agus i ngnó an bhia do tháirgeoirí bia, do ghnólachtaí féideartha nua-thionscanta, dóibh siúd a bhfuil spéis acu gnólachtaí bia ceardaí a fhorbairt agus/nó an earnáil ceardaithe bia a chur chun cinn. Reáchtálann Ionad Oilíúna Thionscal an Bhia i gColáiste na hOllscoile, Corcaigh, an cúrsa (cuid den Scoil Ealaíona Cócaireachta agus Teicneolaíocht Bia). Rinne Coláiste na hOllscoile, Corcaigh, an Dioplóma a fhorbairt sa bhliain 2005 i gcomhpháirtíocht le CAIS, Slowfood Ireland, Scoil Chócaireachta Ballymaloe, Teagasc agus an Rannóg Tréidliachta, Comhairle Chontae Chorcaí, d'fho-earnáil an bhia ceardaí. Tá siad seo mar pháirtithe leasmhara i gcónaí agus cuireann Bord Bia, Teagasc agus an FSAI modúil cúrsa ar fáil agus neartaíonn an ghné náisiúnta.

Mar is iondúil, tá líon micrea-chuideachtaí bunaithe ag céimithe an Dioplóma, agus cuireann roinnt de na hoibreoirí bia seo ar scála beag, leathnú ar a ngnólachtaí áitiúla chuig leibhéal réigiúnach ina dhiaidh sin. Tá dul chun cinn déanta ag céimithe freisin laistigh de Choláiste na hOllscoile, Corcaigh, ó thaobh tuilleadh forbartha a dhéanamh ar a gcuid scileanna, le cáilíochtaí a fháil agus lena gcuid cuideachtaí a fhorbairt agus/nó lena bheith páirteach i dtionscnaimh i dtionscal an bhia chun forbairt táirge a éascú. Tá dámhachtainí bainte amach ag roinnt céimithe as a gcuid táirgí. Tagann an Dioplóma laistigh de mholtaí an bheartais náisiúnta, vis-a-vis forbairt a dhéanamh ar earnálacha bia ceardaí agus sainbhia na hÉireann, Food Wise 2025 CEDRA 2019 go sonrach.

Clár Promóisean an AE do Tháirgí Talmhaíochta -Réimeas AE

Tá maoiniú AE ar fáil do chomhlachtaí san earnáil agraibhia ar bhonn iomaíoch d'fhonn cur chun cinn cineálach a dhéanamh ar cháilíocht, sábháilteacht, cothú nó modhanna táirgthe tháirgí talmhaíochta san AE. Feidhmíonn réimeas an AE maidir le Beartas Promóisin do Tháirgí Agraibhia mar eochair chun margaí nua a

oscailt agus chun comhpháirtithe trádála a éagsúlú. Trí bhíthin an comhainmneoir - 'Enjoy, it's from Europe', tá mar aidhm leis cabhrú le gairmithe san earnáil briseadh isteach i margaí idirnáisiúnta nó iad a dhaingniú agus tomhaltóirí a chur níos mó ar an eolas faoi na hiarrachtaí a dhéanann feirmeoirí Eorpacha.

Tá €201.1 milliún ar fad ar fáil do chláir phromóisin ar rátaí cómhaoinithe AE idir 70% agus 85% – tá fuilleach an mhaoinithe 15%/20%/30% de dhíth ón tionscal. Leagtar amach i gclár oibre bliantúil na tosaíochtaí straitéiseacha bliantúla do bhearta promóisin ó thaobh na táirgí, scéimeanna agus margaí a bhfuiltear le díriú orthu an bhliain sin, chomh maith leis na buiséid leithdháilte ghaolmhara. Eisíonn an Gníomhaireacht nua Feidhmiúcháin Tomhaltóra, Sláinte, Talmhaíochta agus Bia (CHAFEA) glaonna ar thograí i mí Eanáir gach bliain, agus déanann sí na cláir a mheas agus a roghnú ina dhiaidh sin. Bhí Bord Bia ina urraitheoir ar chlár Muiceola agus Éineola sa tSín agus i Meicsiceo a bhí i measc na margaí a roghnaíodh le haghaidh maoinithe a thosóidh i mí Eanáir 2020.

Tá roinnt Clár Promóisean ar siúl ag an Roinn faoi láthair agus comhlachtaí ó earnáil agraibhia na hÉireann i gceist le gach ceann díobh; *“Nóiméid Bhainne”*; *“Ná Déan ach Muisiriúin a Chur Leis”*; *“Uaineoil Eorpach “Blasta, Éasca, Spráil”* agus *“Mairteoil agus Uaineoil Eorpach – Sármhaitheas i Sábháilteacht agus Inbhuanaitheacht Bia”*.

An Clár Food Dudes/Scéim Scoile Thorthaí & Ghlasraí

Is clár athraithe iompair dreasaithe atá bunaithe ar fhianaise é an clár Food Dudes, a d'fhorbair an tAonad um Thaighde Bia agus Gníomhaíochta, Ollscoil Bangor, an Bhreatain Bheag. Tá an Bord Bia, faoina shainchúram gairneoireachta, ag bainistiú agus maoirsiú chur i bhfeidhm an chláir Food Dudes ó rolladh amach é ar dtús in Éirinn in 2005. An Roinn agus an AE a mhaoiníonn e trí bhíthin Scéim Scoileanna an AE a chuimsíonn Scéim Scoile Thorthaí agus Glasraí. Tá sé mar aidhm le Food Dudes cur le tomhaltas torthaí agus glasraí i measc leanaí bunscoile trí ghlásraí agus torthaí a bhlaiseadh arís agus arís eile thar thréimhse idirghabhála 16 lá, le tacaíocht ó bhearta a ghabhann leis i bhfoirm eiseamláirí (Laochra Food Dudes) agus duaiseanna beaga. Bhí 117,234 leanaí agus 700 scoil rannpháirteach sa chlár sa scoilbhliain 2018/2019.

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An Scéim Baine Scoile

Tá Scéim Baine Scoile an AE (SMS) i bhfeidhm in Éirinn ó 1982 agus an cuspóir léi tomhaltas bainne i measc leanaí scoile a chur chun cinn agus a spreagadh. An Roinn agus an AE a mhaoíníonn an Scéim trí bhíthin an Scéim Scoile. Ceapadh an Chomhairle Náisiúnta Déiríochta in 2017 chun cur i bhfeidhm na Scéime Baine Scoile in Éirinn a mhaoirsiú. Rinne an NDC maoirseacht le linn scoilbhliain 2018/19, ar dháileadh 1,540,620 lítear bainne chuig 577 scoil agus do 52,252 leanbh. Cuireadh líon bearta a ghabhann leis chun tacú le dáileadh an bhainne do leanaí i bhfeidhm ar nós ‘Seachtain Bhainne na Scoileanna Náisiúnta’ agus cuireadh pleananna ceachtanna oideachais saindeartha a dhíríonn ar inbhuanaitheacht, ar an gcomhshaol agus ar shláinte agus ar chothú i bhfeidhm freisin.

Bord Bia

Tacaíonn Bord Bia le léargas agus saineolas margaidh do chomhlachtaí bia agus dí de chuid na hÉireann agus iad ag iarraidh caidreamh trádála fadtéarmach a chothú i margaí onnmhairithe sa RA, ar mhór-roinn na hEorpa agus go hidirnáisiúnta. Shainaithe siad margaí nua agus margaí a bhí ag teacht chun cinn freisin, go háirithe san Áise.

Ráiteas Straitéise

Is í seo an chéad bhliain de Ráiteas Straitéise 2019-2021 Bhord Bia “Difreáil a Fhorbairt, Fás a Ghnóthú”. Is mar seo a leanas atá fíis Bhord Bia do thionscal bia agus dí na hÉireann “Táirgí bia, dí agus gairneoireachta de scoth na hÉireann a chur faoi bhráid an domhain mhóir, ag cumasú fás agus inbhuanaitheacht táirgeoirí ar an mbealach sin”.

Leagtar ceithre thosaíocht amach sa Straitéis, a chuirfidh le seachadadh spriocanna onnmhairithe treochlár thionscal agraibhia na hÉireann: - Food Wise 2025 Orthu sin tá:

- (i) Rathúlacht agus Fás sa Mhargadh a Thiomáint
- (ii) Léargas chun Fás a Chumhachtú
- (iii) Cur leis an gCáil maidir le Fás
- (iv) Feidhmíocht trí Dhaoine.

Aithníonn custaiméirí ar fud an domhain nach féidir bia agus deoch na hÉireann a shárú: go bhfuil siad ar ardcháilíocht, saintréitheach, agus á ndéanamh ag raon éagsúil táirgeoirí cruthaitheacha ó ionad oileánda uathúil agus ámharch.

Tá Bord Bia dearfach i gcónaí go leanfaidh an teachtaireacht dúbailte, sé sin, inbhuanaitheacht agus cáilíocht le margaí nua a oscailt suas do tháirgeoirí bia na hÉireann ar fud an domhain.

Origin Green

Leanann clár inbhuanaitheachta na hÉireann de thionscal bia agus dí na hÉireann a thabhairt ar aistear na táirgiúlachta bia inbhuanaithe. I measc na gcomhaltaí tá feirmeoirí, táirgeoirí bia, miondíoltóirí agus oibrítheoirí seirbhísí bia, gach duine díobh tiomanta d’fheabhsúcháin intomhaiste ar an bhfeidhmíocht comhshaoil. Faoi dheireadh na bliana 2019, ag leibhéal déantúsaíochta, miondíola agus seirbhíse bhia, bhí ar an iomlán 345 comhalta deimhnithe Origin Green ann, chomh maith leis sin bhí pleananna cláraithe ag 625, bhí 156 ag céim forbartha plean agus chuir 124 plean faoi bhráid.

Ag leibhéal miondíola agus seirbhíse bia bhí 11 comhalta deimhnithe Origin Green ann agus tá 14 eile cláraithe agus i mbun forbartha go gníomhach ar phleananna inbhuanaitheachta.

Rinne Bord Bia óstáil ar naoi gcinn de sheimineáir gréasáin réamhléiritheach maidir le plean forbartha sa bhliain 2019. Chuir an seimineár gréasáin, Origin Green in aithne do chomhaltaí nua, agus rinneadh meantóir tiomanta Origin Green a shannadh dóibh freisin agus bhí siad rannpháirteach i gcúrsa sé seachtaine maidir le plean forbartha. D’fhreastail os cion 20 cuideachta ar gach aon seisiún.

An Scéim Dearbhaithe Cáilíochta Inbhuanaithe

Ag deireadh na bliana 2019 bhí thart ar 54,000 táirgeoir mar chomhaltaí d’Origin Green agus tá líon acu i gceann amháin nó níos mó de Scéimeanna Dearbhaithe Cáilíochta Inbhuanaithe. Tá 53,337

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comhalta ann den Scéim um Dhearbhú Mairteola agus Uaineola Inbhuanaithe, 16,094 comhalta den Scéim um Dhearbhú Déiríochta Inbhuanaithe chomh maith le scéimeanna cáilíochta Bord Bia d'éineoil, muiceoil, gairneoireacht taitneamhachta, torthaí agus glasraí. Ar an iomlán, rinneadh 35,733 iniúcháireacht maidir leis an Scéim um Dearbhú Mairteola agus Uaineola Inbhuanaithe sa bhliain 2019, ardú de 2,179 ar an mbliain 2018. Astu sin, rinneadh 78% acu ar fheirmeacha mairteola amháin, 18% ar fheirmeacha mairteola agus caoireola agus an 4% eile ar fheirmeacha caoireola amháin. Tugadh faoi 8% de na hiniúcháireachtaí ar fheirmeacha iarratasóirí nua nó iarratasóirí atá ag déanamh iarratas ar an scéim den dara huair.

Chuir an obair a rinneadh ar Origin Green sa bhliain 2019 le seasamh na hÉireann mar cheannaire uathúil san inbhuanaitheacht. Mar léiriú air sin, déanfaidh Bord Bia óstáil ar Chruinniú Mullaigh Domhanda maidir leis an Inbhuanaitheacht in Ionad Comhdhála Bhaile Átha Cliath i Meán Fómhair 2020.

Thug Bord Bia faoi straitéis chumarsáide le buntáistí inbhraite agus dobhraite Origin Green a léiriú do bhonn leathan páirtithe leasmhara sa bhliain 2019. Bhí a thionchar a chur in iúl go díreach do chomhaltaí i gceist leis sin; saoránaigh a spreagadh a bheith ar an eolas faoin gclár agus a bheith bródúil as; trí cheannairí gnó a chur ar an eolas faoi na buntáistí tráchtála inbhraite a bhaineann leis an gclár agus trí fheabhas a chur ar chomhoibriú maidir le hinbhuanaitheacht le heagraíochtaí tadhlaacha mar Teagasc, Bord Iascaigh Mhara, Fiontraíocht Éireann agus IBEC. De réir mar a shíneann Origin Green go réimsí fócais AE ar nós astaíochtaí, uisce, dramhaíl agus níotráite, tá comhoibriú leis na príomhpháirtithe leasmhara lárnach chun treallús a chur faoi fheabhsúcháin i bhfeidhmíocht inbhuanaitheachta leis na comhaltaí, feirmeoirí agus comhlachtaí go léir araon.

Cuireadh uasdátaithe míosúla ar fáil do chomhaltaí trí ríomhíris Origin Green. Tugadh ábhair comhalta cothrom le dáta chun feabhas a chur ar láithreán gréasáin Origin Green i dtéarmaí taithí agus ábhar úsáideora freisin.

Cuireann Clár **Ambasadóirí Origin Green** le tuiscint ar chlár inbhuanaitheachta Origin Green i measc custaiméirí idirnáisiúnta. Thug deichniúr rannpháirtí sa 4ú clár a n-oiliúint inbhuanaitheachta agus Origin Green chun críche i mí Meán Fómhair 2019. Beidh an chéad sraith de shocrúcháin idirnáisiúnta ar siúl go dtí mí na Bealtaine 2020 le Albert Heijn (an Ollainn), Britvic (an Ríocht Aontaithe), Unilever (an Ríocht Aontaithe) McDonalds, Sainsbury's, Sodexo, Amazon, Waitrose agus Nestle. Lean Ambasadóirí Origin Green de chur le feasacht ó thaobh na trádála de ar fud an domhain ar chlár Origin Green na hÉireann, ach plé a dhéanamh leis na cuntais bhia agus dí is mó ar domhan.

Mol Nuálaíochta Bia

Tá an Roinn ag cur beagnach €9 milliún de mhaoiniú ar fáil do Teagasc ar bhonn céimnithe chun Mol Náisiúnta Nuálaíochta Bia a thógáil ag Ionad Taighde Bia Teagasc sa Chloch Liath, Contae Chorcaí. Rinneadh díreach faoi €1.2 milliún a leithdháileadh don tionscadal sa bhliain 2019. Is é atá mar phríomhphrionsabal leis an "Mol" líonra don nuálaíocht agus gnó a chruthú lena mbíonn baint ag comhlachtaí déiríochta agus bia agus institiúidí taighde le fócas ar bhia, ar shláinte agus ar chothú. Cuimseoidh an Mol aonaid agus oifigí Taighde agus Forbartha saindeartha a chuirfidh Teagasc ar fáil do chomhlachtaí bia ag rátaí tráchtála. Tacóidh sé le nuálaíocht i dtionscal an bhia ag cur ar chumas comhlachtaí ullmhúcháin a dhéanamh don Breatimeacht ar an mbealach sin agus cruthófar tionscnaimh thaighde atá dírithe ar an margadh freisin. Táthar ag súil, ar thabhairt chun críche an tionscadal, go mbeidh forbairt próisis agus táirgí bia nua mar thoradh air, a chruthóidh fás geilleagrach agus poist nua.



Táirgeadh Príomhúil

FEOIL

MAIRTEOIL

Táirgeadh agus Trádáil Mairteola

Rinneadh onnmhairí mairteola arbh fhiú os cionn €2.3 billiún nó díreach faoi 530,000 tonna iad in 2019, laghdú luacha 4% agus méide 1% ar an mbliain roimhe sin. Chiollaigh sin gurbh í Éire an 6ú glan-onnmhaireoir mairteola ba mhó ar domhan. I dtéarmaí luacha chuaigh os cionn 90% d'onnmhairí mairteola chuig tíortha laistigh den AE agus b'ionann an Ríocht Aontaithe agus 43% de na onnmhairithe go léir. Rinne margaí Tríú Tíortha suas 10% d'onnmhairí mairteola. I dtéarmaí méide, rinneadh 84% de na táirgí mairteola a onnmhairiú chuig tíortha san AE agus rinneadh 16% a onnmhairiú chuig Margaí Tríú Tíre. Tháinig ardú 22% ar onnmhairithe beo sa bhliain 2019 go dtí os cionn 300,000 cloigeann.

Maraíodh breis is 1.7 milliún ainmhí in 2019, laghdú 4.4% ar an líon in 2018.

Ba 365.19 c/kg an meánphraghas ar Bhulláin R3 sa bhliain 2019, arbh ionann é agus íslíú 6% ar an mbliain roimhe sin, agus rinneadh taifeadadh ar phraghas ard de 389.13 c/kg le linn mhí na Bealtaine. Ba 389c/kg an meánphraghas sa bhliain 2018.

Forbairtí sa Bheartas Mairteola

Clár Píolótach Mairteola um Éifeachtúlacht Chomhshaoil

Seoladh an Scéim Píolótach Mairteola um Éifeachtúlacht Chomhshaoil sa bhliain 2019 a bhí dírithe ar éifeachtúlachtaí eacnamaíochta agus chomhshaoil ar an fheirm a fheabhsú trí mhéadracht feidhmíochta a bhailiú a dhéanann cinnteoireacht níos eolaí a éascú.

Dhírigh an scéim ar éifeachtúlacht na mbó diúil agus laonna a bhaint den diúl trí meáchan beo an lao nuair atá sé á bhaint den diúl mar chéatadán de mheáchan beo na bó a thomhais. Bíonn dlús na n-astaíochtaí táirgeachta a bhíonn ag ba a bhfuil laonna níos troime acu nuair atá siad le baint den diúl mar chuid dá meáchan beo níos ísle ná mar a bhíonn ag ba a bhfuil

laonna níos éadroime acu. Ar na príomhfachtóirí tá riachtanas níos ísle maidir le beathú bó agus luach aschur níos airde ó laonna chomh maith leis an rogha iarmhartach iad a mharú níos óige.

Thug 16,424 feirmeoir faoin meáchan agus taifeadadh a bhí riachtanach agus fuair siad íocaíochtaí €15.3 milliún ar an iomlán. Léiríonn an mheastóireacht atá déanta ar an Scéim Píolótach Mairteola um Éifeachtúlacht Chomhshaoil go dtí seo gur chuidigh an scéim le feirmeoirí na buntáistí a bhaineann lena gcuid ainmhithe a mheáchan a aithint agus chuir na sonraí a chruthaíodh feabhas ar mheasúnachtaí géiniteacha.

Fógraíodh Beart Cúnaimh Eisceachtúil Mairteola (BEAM) i mí na Bealtaine 2019.

Leis sin, cuireadh cúnaimh coigeartaithe sealadach ar fáil d'fheirmeoirí san earnáil mairteola in Éirinn, faoi réir na gcoinníollacha arna leagan amach i Rialachán Cur Chun Feidhme an Choimisiúin Eorpaigh (AE) 2019/1132. Rinneadh BEAM a mhaoiniú le meascán de chúnamh ón AE agus le tacaíocht ón Státchiste, atá á chur ar fáil i bhfianaise na gcúinsí deacra ina bhfuil feirmeoirí na hÉireann mar thoradh ar an luaineacht agus an neamhchinnteacht margaidh atá ann. Ghlac 23,374 feirmeoir páirt in BEAM agus rinneadh íocaíochtaí arbh fhiú beagnach €78 milliún iad dá bharr.

Bunú Tascfhórsa Mairteola

Thángthas ar an gComhaontú um Earnáil Mairteola na hÉireann idir na páirtithe leasmhara an 15 Meán Fómhair 2019. Mar chuid den chomhaontú sin, bunaíodh Tascfhórsa Mairteola chun monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar chur i bhfeidhm na dtiomantas ar tugadh fúthu agus mar ardán don rannpháirtíocht straitéiseach le príomhpháirtithe leasmhara.

Tríd is tríd tá dhá shraith sa chomhaontú: líon idirghabhálacha a chuireann buntáiste láithreach ar fáil do tháirgeoirí mairteola, lena n-áirítear, athruithe ar an struchtúr bónaís agus cuspóirí fadtéarmacha agus athchóiriú struchtúrach na hearnála.

Tá cathaoirleach neamhspleách ar an Tascfhórsa Mairteola, Michael Dowling, agus tá an t-eolas is deireanaí agus doiciméid ábhartha le fáil go poiblí ag <https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmingsectors/beef/beeftaskforce/>

Táirgeadh Príomhúil

Éagsúlú Margaidh

Bhí éagsúlú níos mó margaidh fós ina thosaíocht in 2019. Ó thaobh luacha de, rinneadh 90% de na táirgí mairteola a onnmhairiú chuig tíortha san AE agus rinneadh 10% a onnmhairiú chuig margaidh Tríú Tíre in 2019. Mar sin féin, tá dul chun cinn suntasach déanta ó thaobh an éagsúlaithe trí rochtain chuig na príomhmhargaidh idirnáisiúnta a bhaint amach, lena n-áirítear, an tSín, na Stáit Aontaithe agus an tSeapáin le blianta beaga anuas. Éacht suntasach a bhí ann in 2019, tuilleadh rochtana a fháil ar mhargadh na Síne do mhairteoil na hÉireann, i ndáil le héagsúlú margaidh. Tugadh faoi iniúchóireacht mairteola rathúil i Meán Fómhair 2019 tráth a rinneadh cigireacht ar 14 iarratasóra monarchana mairteola agus a ceadaíodh ina dhiaidh sin chun táirgí a onnmhairiú chun na Síne. Tháinig feabhas ar rochtain chuig margadh na Seapáine freisin sa bhliain 2019, nuair a fuarthas réidh le srianta ar mhairteoil a mhair ar feadh 30 mí agus tugadh teastas leasaithe isteach a thugann cead mairteoil dhíchnámhaithe a dhíorthaítear ó bha den uile aois a onnmhairiú.

Eagraíochtaí Táirgeoirí Mairteola

Bunaíodh an chéad dá Eagraíocht Táirgeoirí Mairteola i Ráithe 4 den bhliain 2019 agus táthar ag leanúint le rannpháirtíocht le grúpaí ionchasacha. Tá an acmhainneacht ag Eagraíochtaí Táirgeoirí seasamh an phríomhtháirgeoira sa slabhra soláthar a neartú agus tá maoiniú ar fáil faoin gClár Forbartha Tuaithe reatha chun tacú le grúpaí a bhunú trí mhaoiniú a dhéanamh ar chostais chomhairleacha.

CAOIRIGH

Táirgeadh agus Trádáil Caorach 2019

Tháinig ardú 1% ar luach na n-onnmhairí caoireola i gcomparáid le luacha i mblianta roimhe sin. Baineadh beagnach €318 milliún amach, agus tháinig ardú 3% ar mhéideanna. Tháinig laghdú 7% ar mharú go dtí díreach faoi 2.8 milliún ainmhí in 2019. €460.10/100kg a bhí sa mheán phraghas náisiúnta in 2019, laghdú 4.5% ar an mbliain roimhe.

Rinneadh caoireoil arbh fhiú os cionn €318 milliún í, nó beagnach 62,000 tonna di, a onnmhairiú in 2019. I dtéarmaí luacha, rinneadh breis is 71% de tháirgí caoireola a onnmhairiú chuig tíortha laistigh den AE, rinneadh 20% eile a onnmhairiú chuig an RA agus 9% a onnmhairiú chuig margaidh tríú tíre. I dtéarmaí méide, rinneadh 65% de na táirgí mairteola a onnmhairiú chuig

tíortha san AE, rinneadh 24% a onnmhairiú chuig an RA agus rinneadh 11% a onnmhairiú chuig Margaidh Tríú Tíre. Onnmhairíodh 40,000 tonna ar an iomlán de tháirgí caoireola chuig an AE, agus chuaigh an méid ba mhó, os cionn 18,000 tonna chun na Fraince, agus tháinig an Ríocht Aontaithe ina dhiaidh sin le beagnach 15,000 tonna.

Osclaíodh Bliain 3 den scéim um Leas Caorach i Mí Feabhra 2019. Faoin scéim, tugtar tacaíocht €10 in aghaidh an chaoirigh d'fheirmeoirí a bhfuil tréada caorach pórúcháin acu. Mairfidh an scéim go dtí 2020. Eisíodh réamhíocaíocht faoi bhliain 3 den scéim i mí na Samhna 2019. Íocadh €14.91 milliún le 18,489 rannpháirtí agus b'ionann sin agus ráta réamhíocaíochta 85%. Eiseofar na híocaíochtaí cothromaíochta do bhliain 3 den scéim i R2 2020.

Faoing Clár Forbartha Tuaithe (RDP) 2014-2020, tá soláthar déanta d'éifeachtúlacht agus do bhrabúsacht i dtáirgeadh caorach a fheabhsú faoin mbeart um Aistriú Eolais, a bhfuil buiséad €100 milliún aige. Bhí an taithí a fuarthas sa Chlár um Ghlacadh le Teicneolaíocht Caorach (STAP) mar bhonn eolais ag forbairt an bheirt seo. Chomh maith le brabúsacht, leagtar béim ar na príomhcheisteanna scileanna gnó, inbhuanaitheacht chomhshaoil agus sláinte tréada. Tá idirchaidreamh níos mó idir feirmeoirí aonair agus comhairleoirí, d'fhothn aistriú eolais a shaincheapadh. Seoladh an Clár um Aistriú Eolais Trí Bliana don earráil caorach in 2016 agus tháinig deireadh léi in 2019. Bhí tuairim is 3,860 feirmeoir rannpháirteach i mbliain a Trí den Chlár um Aistriú Eolais maidir le Caoirigh a chríochnaigh i mí Iúil 2019.

Forbairtí sa Bheartas maidir le Caoireoil

Osclaíodh Bliain 3 den scéim um Leas Caorach i Mí Feabhra 2019. Faoin scéim, tugtar tacaíocht €10 in aghaidh an chaoirigh d'fheirmeoirí a bhfuil tréada caorach pórúcháin acu. Mairfidh an scéim go dtí 2020. Íocadh €50.3 milliún le 18,594 feirmeoir le linn na chéad trí bliana den scéim um leas na caorach. Cuirtear tacaíocht ar fáil d'fheirmeoirí faoin Scéim a thugann faoi ghníomhartha a rachaidh chun leasa folláine an tréada.

I mí Iúil 2019, tugadh rochtain mhargaidh chuig margadh na Seapáine do chaoireoil na hÉireann chun críche. Tá chuig mhonarcha caoireola de chuid na hÉireann a chuireann os cionn 90% de chaoireoil na hÉireann ar fáil, ceadaithe agus liostaithe anois le caoireoil a onnmhairiú chun na Seapáine.

Táirgeadh Príomhúil

Rochtain ar an Margadh Feola in 2019

Rinneadh dul chun cinn thar a bheith suntasach in 2019 ar raon leathan saincheisteanna maidir le rochtain ar an margadh feola, lena n-áirítear:

- Ceadú 14 monarcha mairteola de chuid na hÉireann chun dul i mbun onnmhairithe chun na Síne i mí Deireadh Fómhair 2019 de bhun cigireacht rathúil le linn cuairt a thug iniúchóirí Síneacha le linn an tsamhraidh agus is í an Roinn a rinne óstach ar an gcúairt.
- Leathnú rochtain mhargaidh na hÉireann chuig margadh mairteola na Seapáine tráth ar comhaontaíodh fáil réidh leis na srianta a mhair ar feadh 30 mí agus teastas leasaithe a chuireann an deis ar fáil le mairteoil dhíchnámhaithe a dhíorthaítear ó bha den uile aois a onnmhairiú.
- I mí Iúil 2019, tugadh rochtain mhargaidh chuig margadh na Seapáine do chaoireoil na hÉireann chun críche. Tá cead tugtha, agus tá cúig mhonarcha caoireola a chuireann os cionn 90% de chaoireoil na hÉireann ar fáil liostaithe anois le caoireoil a onnmhairiú chun na Seapáine.
- Comhaontaíodh teastas sláinte tréidliachta chun mairteoil agus muiceoil a onnmhairiú chuig an Úcráin.
- Comhaontaíodh teastas sláinte tréidliachta chun mairteoil a onnmhairiú chuig Barbadós.
- Rinneadh leathnú ar rochtain chuig margáí suntasacha sean-bhunaithe le teastas sláinte tréidliachta a chomhaontú chun táirgí feola amh agus ullmhúcháin a onnmhairiú go Hong Cong agus do thurcáithe iomlána bealaithe le him a onnmhairiú chun na hAfraice Theas.
- Chomh maith le hiniúchadh na Síne i ndeireadh an tsamhraidh, rinne an Roinn óstáil ar chigireacht iniúchta ardleibhéil ó thrí údarás inniúla do mhargáí tosaíochta eile:
- I mí an Márta thug iniúchóir ó Aireacht Sláinte, Saothair agus Leasa (MHLW) na Seapáine faoi chigireacht ar mhonarchana feola Éireannacha a mhair ar feadh seachtaine mar chuid d'iarratas na tíre seo fáil réidh leis na srianta ó thaobh rochtain mhargaidh do tháirgí mairteola agus caoireola a mhair ar feadh 30 mí;
- I mí an Mheithimh thug cigirí ó Roinn Sláinte Stáit Aontaithe Mheiriceá (USDA) Seirbhís Iniúchta Sábháilteachta Bia (FSIS) faoi iniúchóireacht leasaithe rathúil ar mhairteoil agus ar mhuceoil.
- I mí na Nollag, rinne oifigigh rialtais ó Sheirbhís Tréidliachta na Malaesia (DVS) agus Údarás Halal (JAKIM) iniúchadh éineoil a stiúradh.

- Tá na cigireachtaí isteach sin ríthábhachtach i ndáil leis an rochtain reatha ar mhargáí a choimeád, nó chun rochtain ar mhargáí nua a lorg, nó chun caighdeáin táirgthe na hÉireann a léiriú agus tuilleadh teagmhálacha in Aireachtaí thar lear a fhorbairt. Is teistiméireachtaí iad na rochtain mhargaidh a bhaineadh i mbliana ar an luach agus ar an tábhacht a ghabhann leis na cuairteanna seo.
- Ba bhliain rathúil a bhí sa bhliain 2019 do chlár treisithe misean trádála na Roinne le misin trádála rathúil chun na Tuirce, chun na Seapáine, an Chóiré Theas, an Ríocht Aontaithe, an AE agus dhá mhisean ar leithligh chun na Síne i mí na Bealtaine agus na Samhna

MUICEOIL

Táirgeadh agus Trádáil

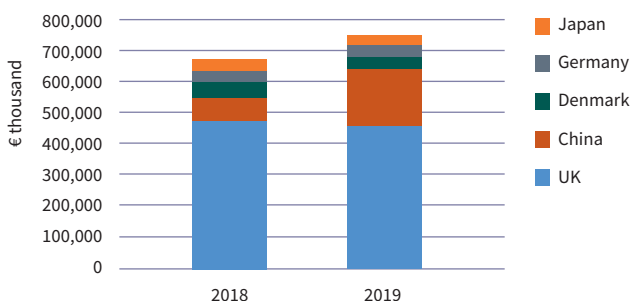
De bhun fás substaintiúil le blianta beaga anuas, tá Muiceoil ar an gceathrú earnáil is luachmhaire i dtionscal agraibhia na hÉireann ag teacht sna sála ar dhéiríocht agus ar mhairteoil. Tháinig ardú thart ar 8% i dtéarmaí luacha ar onnmhairithe sa bhliain 2019, ag baint an bhuaicphointe is mó riamh amach de €890 milliún de réir figiúirí ón bPríomh-Oifig Staidrimh. Is ionann é seo agus thart ar 6% d'onnmhairithe bia, deoch agus gairneoireachta ar an iomlán. Tá an Ríocht Aontaithe ar an gceann scríbe onnmhairithe is mó i gcónaí agus is ionann é agus sciar 52% d'onnmhairithe. Mar sin féin, tháinig ardú ar mhargáí tríú tíortha, a bhfuil fás seasmhach ag teacht orthu le blianta beaga anuas, go dtí sciar iomlán de 29% sa bhliain 2019. Léirítear é seo sa leathnú suntasach ar onnmhairithe muiceola na hÉireann chun na hÁise agus chun na Síne go háirithe, áit ar tháinig níos mó ná dúbailt ar luach onnmhairithe ó €79 milliún go €177 milliún mar gheall ar an ardú ar éileamh onnmhairithe de thoradh Fiabhrais Afracaigh Muc (ASF). Bhain díolacháin miondíola baile €412 milliún amach le linn na bliana, mar gheall ar ráta úsáide per capita 28kg na hÉireann, atá ard i gcónaí i gcomparáid le caighdeáin idirnáisiúnta. Léiríonn an fás sin ar luachanna onnmhairí go raibh treoir agus fócas cruinn na straitéisí Fómhar Bia 2020 agus Food Wise 2025 ceart. Tá tuilleadh fianaise maidir leis seo le feiceáil nuair a fheacaimid ar threochtaí fadtéarmacha; tá ardú os cionn 250% tagtha ón mbliain 2010 ar luach muiceola na hÉireann.

Táirgeadh Príomhúil

Bhí tionchar suntasach ar ráigeanna den Fhiabhrais Afracaigh Muc (ASF) ar tháirgí domhanda agus ar phatrúin trádála le blianta beaga anuas. Tuairiscíodh go leor ráigeanna nua den ASF ar fud raon leathan geografach sa tSín, is dóigh go ndéanfar cuileáil ar os cionn 50% de thréad na Síne, nó 30% de mhuca an domhain, mar thoradh ar an ráig atá ann i láthair na huair. Sa bhliain 2019, bhí deiseanna onnmhairithe breise chun na Síne ann d'earnáil muca na hÉireann mar gheall ar phríomhthionchar an ASF.

Ba drochbhliain a bhí sa bhliain 2018 do tháirgeoirí le praghas na muc íseal ar feadh na bliana go léir, ach baineadh buaicphointí amach ar feadh an dara leath den bhliain 2019, agus sroicheadh €1.91c/kg i mí na Nollag. Chomh maith le praghas beathaithe a bhí fabhrach, ba bhliain thar barr a bhí sa bhliain seo caite do tháirgeoirí muc na hÉireann.

Selected Pigmeat Export Destinations, 2018-2019



Forbairtí Beartais

An Grúpa Straitéise Cur chun Feidhme Muc

Tháinig an Grúpa Straitéise Cur chun Feidhme Muc le chéile ceithre huair i rith 2019. Faoi chathaoirleacht an Dr. Sean Brady, déanann an grúpa maoirsiú ar chur chun feidhme na moltaí arna leagan amach i dtuarascáil an Ghrúpa Páirtithe Leasmhara Thionscal na Muc 2016. Tugtar aghaidh sa tuarascáil, ina bhfuil os cionn 60 moladh, ar roinnt dúshlán d'earnáil na muc faoi raon leathan téamaí, lena n-áirítear Bithshlándáil, Sláinte agus Leas Ainmhithe, Dearbhú Cáilíochta, Cógais Tréidliachta, agus Rialú Salmonella. Áiríodh ar na príomhéachtaí an bhliain seo caite a raibh an PISG bainteach leo, tabhairt isteach Clár Prionsabail d'Fheirmeoirí LEAN in earnáil na muc, Sláinte Ainmhithe Éireann ag cur tús le hobair in earnáil na muc, agus an t-ardú ar theorainn infheistíochta TAMS ó €80,000 go €200,000 (ag feitheamh ar chead ó Choimisiún an AE).

An Clár um Rialú Salmonella Muc

Faoin gClár um Rialú Salmonella Muc, tógtar samplaí míosúla ag monarchana i gcás gach táirgeoira a sholáthraíonn níos mó ná 200 muc in aghaidh na bliana lena marú. I rith 2019 tógadh díreach breis is 20,500 (20,668) sampla ó 348 dtréad agus rinneadh tástáil orthu d'fhonn torthaí cothrom le dáta a thabhairt d'fheirmeoirí agus do phróiseálaithe maidir le leitheadúlacht salmonella.

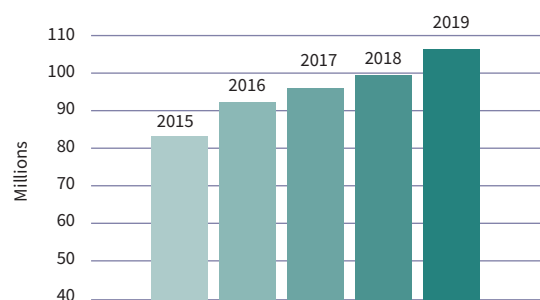
ÉANLAITH AGUS UIBHEACHA

Táirgeadh agus Trádáil

Tá os cionn 800 feirm páirteach i dtáirgeadh éanlaith tráchtála in Éirinn, idir éanlaith le haghaidh feola, táirgeadh uibheacha, feirmeacha pórúcháin agus gorlanna. Tacaíonn an tionscal le tuairim is 6,000 post, i gceantair thuaithe go príomha.

I rith 2019, maraíodh os cionn 106 milliún éan i monarchana ar ceadaíodh dóibh onnmhairiú a dhéanamh. Sicíní a bhí i 96 milliún díobh. Is ionann sin agus ardú 7.6% ó 2018, agus ó thaobh méideanna de, shroich táirgeadh Éireannach buaicphointe in 2019; ardú 6% bliain-ar-bhliain chun 161,000 tonna a bhaint amach. D'fhan an meán phraghas ar éineoil ar an margadh baile seasta ag €5.56/kg.

Poultry Slaughter, 2015 - 2019



Tá rochtain ag an tír seo chuig 61 tír (lena n-áirítear, tíortha AE) chun éineoil a onnmhairiú. Taispeánann figiúirí an CSO, cé gur tháinig ardú ar mhéid onnmhairithe go díreach faoi 6% ó 136,000 tonna go 144,000 tonna sa bhliain 2019, tháinig titim 4% ar luach onnmhairithe éineoil na hÉireann sa bhliain 2019 go dtí díreach faoi €294 milliún. B'ionann an Ríocht Aontaithe (€216 milliún) agus 74% den fhigiúr sin agus bhí an

Táirgeadh Príomhúil

Fhrainc (€11 milliún), an Danmhairg (€8 milliún), an Ísiltír (€10 milliún) agus an Afraic Theas (€29 milliún) chun tosaigh freisin mar chinn scríbe onnmhairithe.

Ag deireadh 2019, bhí líon iomlán de 257 aonad uibhe circe cláraithe leis an Roinn seo agus sháraigh an líon iomlán gaolmhar áiteanna circe cláraithe 3.65 mhilliún, ardú beag ar an bhfigiúr in 2018.

Tábla Achoimre ar Chatagóirí Táirgeoirí Uibhe Circe in 2019:

Catagóir Táirgeoirí Uibhe Circe	Aonaid Chláraithe	Iomlán na nÁiteanna Circe
Saor Raoin	175	44%
Cúbarnaí Saibhrithe	36	52%
Orgánach	38	3%
Scioból	8	1%
Iomlán	257	100%

Leanann fás as cuimse ag teacht ar thrádáil uibheacha Saor-Raoin agus Orgánach d'úsáid ag daoine chuig Tíortha an Mheánoirthir agus onnmhairíodh os cionn 8 milliún ubh i 220 coinsíneacht sa bhliain 2019.

Ghlac os cionn 200 feirmeoir éanlaithe páirt i mBliain a Trí den Chlár um Aistriú Eolais Éanlaithe a chríochnaigh ag deireadh mhí Iúil 2019. Cuireadh tús le hiocaíochtaí i mí Deireadh Fómhair 2019.

Forbairtí Beartais

Is é atá mar fheidhm le Clár Oifigiúil na Roinne um Rialú Éineola agus Ubh, rialuithe oifigiúla a chur i bhfeidhm maidir le Barántúlacht Bia agus Sábháilteachta Bia ag Oibreoirí Gnó Bia (FBOanna). Cuirtear réimse de rialuithe oifigiúla ar tháirgeoirí uibheacha agus ar tháirgeoirí éineola chun feidhme trí bhíthin cigireachtaí agus samplú ar Oibreoirí Gnó Bia (FBO) d'fhonn a gcomhlíonadh le reachtaíocht sábháilteacht agus barántúlachta bia a sheiceáil. Tugadh faoi bhreis is 2,200 cigireacht ar uibheacha agus ar bhunaíochtaí éineola agus uibheacha in 2019 faoin reachtaíocht maidir le Sláinteachas Bia agus Caighdeán Mhargaíochta. Cuireadh 307 sampla ubh le haghaidh anailís iarmhair sa bhliain 2019, bhí a bhformhór mar chuid de cheanglais an Plean Náisiúnta um Iarmhair a Rialú.

Ghlac os cionn 220 feirmeoir éanlaithe páirt i mBliain a

Trí den Chlár um Aistriú Eolais Éanlaithe.

DÉIRÍOCHT

Táirgeadh agus Trádáil

Lean an téarnamh a tháinig ar na margáí déiríochta sa bhliain 2018 le linn na bliana 2019 le héileamh domhanda láidir ar tháirgí déiríochta mar bhonn taca le feidhmíocht chobhsaí in earnáil déiríochta na hÉireann.

Bhí an bhliain 2019 i bhfad níos fabhraí ó thaobh fás féir agus táirgeadh foráiste a chur 5.3% leis an ardú ar tháirgeadh bainne i gcomparáid leis an mbliain 2018 agus sháraigh an líon seachadtaí a cuireadh ar fáil 7.9 billiún lítear sa bhliain 2019. B'ionann táirgeadh bainne na hÉireann agus tuairim is 5% den táirgeadh iomlán bainne san AE in 2019. 33.04c/l (meánmhéid bliantúil lena n-áirítear CBL agus bónais a íocadh) an meán phraghas a íocadh le feirmeoirí in 2019, síos 3.2% ó 35.04c/l in 2018.

In 2019, d'onnmhairigh Éire táirgí déiríochta dar luach os cionn €5 billiún chuig tuairim is 140 tír. Is ionann é seo agus fás +12% ar mhéideanna agus +10% ardú ar luach i gcomparáid leis an mbliain 2018.

Sháraigh díolachán Ime €1 billiún den dara bliain as a chéile sa bhliain 2019 agus tháinig ardú suntasach ar dhíolachán cáise, meidhg agus púdar bainne bearrtha ó thaobh méid agus luach sa bhliain 2019. Bhain 35% de luach onnmhairithe déiríochta na hÉireann sa bhliain 2019 leis an AE-27 agus chuaigh 45% chuig margáí idirnáisiúnta, agus bhain an 20% de luach onnmhairithe déiríochta leis an Ríocht Aontaithe. Áirítear ar mhargáí onnmhairithe suntasacha eile, an Ísiltír (14%), an tSín (11%), an Ghearmáin (7%) na Stáit Aontaithe (7%).

Ag tús mhí Deireadh Fómhair 2019, chuir Oifig Ionadaí Trádála na Stát Aontaithe (USTR) liosta táirgí amach a bheidh faoi réir ag dleachtanna breise 25%, lena n-áirítear, roinnt táirgí talmhaíochta tábhachtacha, suaitheanta Eorpacha. Tá feidhm leis na dleachtanna breise ón 18 Deireadh Fómhair 2019. Tagann im agus cáis na hÉireann faoi na catagóirí táirgí déiríochta is mó atá faoi thionchar agus tá siad faoi réir ag dleachtanna allmhairithe breise de 25% ad valorem.

B'ionann táirgí déiríochta na hÉireann chun na Stáit Aontaithe agus 52,915 tonna, arbh fhiú thart ar €332 milliún é sa bhliain 2019. Rinneadh thart ar €194 milliún

Táirgeadh Príomhúil

d'ím na hÉireann agus thart ar €44 milliún de cháis na hÉireann a onnmhairiú ó Éirinn chun na Stáit Aontaithe sa bhliain 2019. Is ionann onnmhairithe ime na tíre seo agus beagnach 90% d'onnmhairithe ime an AE chuig na Stáit Aontaithe.

An phríomh fhorbairt i margadh an AE in 2019 an díolachán tuairim is 357,00 tonna de Phúdar Bainne Bearntha a bhí fanta (SMP) ó stoic idirghabhála AE a bhí ina fharasbarr margadh SMP an AE le roinnt blianta anuas. Thug sé sin an deis don phraghas SMP forbairt ar bhonn a bheidh níos mó faoi thionchar an mhargaidh ná mar a bhí sé le déanaí.

Forbairt Beartais

Thug an Roinn isteach an Scéim Comhpháirtíochtaí Táirgeacht Bhainne le linn réimeas an Chuóta Bainne, chun cuidiú le haistriú ó ghlúin go glúin, cur le héifeachtúlacht agus barainneachtaí scála a thabhairt isteach ag leibhéal feirme. Tar éis deireadh a chur le Rialacháin an Chuóta Bainne sa bhliain 2015, bhunaigh an Roinn Clár Comhpháirtíochta Feirme. Faoi láthair tá 2,970 comhpháirtíocht feirme cláraithe gníomhach ann. Áirítear ar thacaíochtaí, faoiseamh stoic tosaíochta; scéim deontais do ghnólachtaí nuathionscanta; agus téarmaí fabhracha do chomhpháirtíochtaí i Scéimeanna na Roinne.

I mí an Mheithimh 2017, sheol an Roinn Clár Comhpháirtíochta Feirme i gcomhair Comharbais (SFP) atá dírithe ar shárchleachtas a spreagadh in aistriú talún ó ghlúin go glúin, ar mhaithe le haghaidh a thabhairt, i measc nithe eile, ar an tsaincheist a bhaineann leis an easpa taithí a bhaineann le haistriú. Soláthraítear buntáiste ó thaobh cáin ioncaim de €5,000 suas go dtí cúig bliana agus ceanglaíonn sé ar an fheirmeoir 80% ar a laghad de na sócmhainní comhpháirtíochta a aistriú chuig an gcomharba idir 3 go 10 mbliana de thréimhse an chomhaontaithe. Faoi láthair tá thart ar 60 SFP den chineál seo i mbun feidhme.

Tugann an Roinn tacaíocht freisin do Sheirbhís Soghluaisteachta Talún Macra, is seirbhís mheaitseála atá i gceist anseo d'fheirmeoirí ar mian leo a bheith rannpháirteach i socruithe oibre comhoibríocha agus nach bhfuil aon chomhoibrítheoir aitheanta go héasca acu. Chuir an Roinn maoiniú de €50,000 in aghaidh na bliana ar fáil don tseirbhís ó 2017 – 2019 san áireamh, chun tacú le hiarrachtaí Macra agus an Tionscal chun leas a bhaint as na gnóthachain éifeachtúlachta féideartha ó thaobh comhoibríú.

BARRA

Gránaigh

Measadh gur 2.2 milliún tonna an táirgeadh foriomlán gránach don tír bhliain 2019 a chiallaigh ardú ar tháirgeacht íseal de 1.8 milliún tonna sa bhliain 2018 ach tá sé fós beagán taobh thiar de tháirgeacht na bliana 2017 a raibh 2.3 milliún tonna i gceist leis. Bhí caighdeán gránach ard sa bhliain 2019 agus d'fhill meáchan heictilítear agus torthaí tuí ar na gnáthleibhéil go háirithe ó thaobh barr an earraigh agus níor tháinig titim ar phraghas mar thoradh air seo óna phraghsanna arda a bhaineadh amach sa bhliain 2018.

Ba 261,400 heicteár an t-achar iomlán gránach a baineadh sa bhliain 2019 ardú réasúnta beag san achar gránach den chéad uair ón mbliain 2012. Filleadh ar achar níos mó don bharr geimhridh, ar gnách leis toradh níos airde a sholáthar seachas mar a dhéanann barr an earraigh, chomh maith le gnáth-thoradh don bharr earraigh a chiallaigh go rabhthas ag filleadh ar ghnáthleibhéil

Achar, Barr agus Táirgeacht Gránach 2019*

	Achar (000 ha)	Barr (t/ha)	Táirgeacht (000 tonna)
Cruithneacht	62.1		589
Geimhreadh	58.4	10.1	560
Earrach	3.7	8.3	29
Eorna	176.0		1,448
Earrach	81.44	9.42	729
Spring	94.6	8.00	719
Coirce	23.3		188
Geimhreadh	16.4	8.85	137
Earrach	6.9	7.70	51
Iomlán	261.4		2,225

Foinse: Teagasc Táirgeacht Gránach Measta 2019

*tagraíonn don táirgeacht uile, a dhíoltar nó a úsáidtear ar bhealach eile ina dhiaidh sin, le haghaidh beathaithe, de ghnáth.

Táirgeadh Príomhúil

Clár Cigireachta Leasacháin agus Aoil

An AE agus reachtaíocht na hÉireann a rialálann díolachán leasacháin agus aoil in Éirinn. Cinntítear leis an reachtaíocht sin go ndéantar táirgí a lipéadú go cruinn agus go gcomhlíonann siad íos-riachtanais cothaitheach. Mar chuid den chlár cigireachta leasacháin agus aoil in 2019, tógadh 267 sampla ó áitribh déantúsóirí (186 sampla de leasacháin agus 81 sampla d'aol). Rinneadh 641 anailís ar leithligh ar leasacháin agus fuarthas go raibh 3.9% as lamháltas. Rinneadh 243 anailís ar leithligh ar aol agus fuarthas go raibh 8.2% as lamháltas.

Bhí líon iomlán de 46 gcairéal gníomhach ann in 2019 agus fuair cairéal aolchloiche meilte nua amháin ceadúnú i rith 2019.

Bliain	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Nítrigin (tonna) (% athrú)	1,377,754 (+1.34%)	1,510,972 (+9.6%)	1,670,799 (+10.6%)	1,500,701 (-10.18%)
Fosfar (tonna) (% athrú)	805,600 (+0.9%)	899,337 (+11.6%)	1,005,689 (+11.8%)	921,818 (-8.34%)
Potaisiam (tonna) (% athrú)	815,204 (+1%)	911,933 (+11.87%)	1,019,805 (+11.8%)	941,501 (-7.68%)
IOMLÁN (tonna) (% athrú)	1,411,913 (+1.18%)	1,552,809 (+9.98%)	1,714,729 (+10.4%)	1,547,082 (-9.78%)

Tháinig laghdú 25% ar an úsáid aolchloiche meilte i gcomparáid leis an mbliain roimhe (2018) go dtí líon iomlán de 762,865 tonna. Tharla sin i ndiaidh méadú ar an úsáid a baineadh as aol in 2018.

Bliain	2016	2017	2018	2019
Díolachán Aolchloch Mheilte (tonna) % athrú	967,281 +8.2%	737,118 -24%	1,020,502 +38%	762,865 -25%

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2019 Maolú Níotráití

Is áis thábhachtach d'fheirmeacha a bhfuil stoc mór iontu é an Maolú Níotráití mar go dtugann sé deis dóibh, faoi réir ag coinníollacha breise comhshaoil, suas go 250 kg N/ha a shaothrú, nó méid coibhéiseach le trí bhó dhéiríochta in aghaidh an heicteáir. I mí na Nollag 2017, d'éirigh le hÉirinn ár Maolú Níotráití a athnuachan le haghaidh 2018-2021. In 2019, rinne líon iomlán de 6,800 fheirmeoirí iarratas ar líne ar Mhaolú Níotráití.

Athbhreithniú ar Mhaolú Níotráití 2019

Tá sé léirithe i dTuarascálacha EPA go bhfuil meath ar cháilíocht an uisce agus go bhfuil ardú ag teacht ar astaíochtaí gás ceaptha teasa agus amóinia. Baineann saincheisteannta suntasacha freisin le dul i laghad gnáthóga cosanta AE in Éirinn. I bhfianaise an achair talún a bhfuil feirmeoireacht a dhéanamh air agus atá ag dul i méid agus atá faoi mhaolú agus na brúnna comhshaoil a bhfuil breac-chuntas á thabhairt ina leith, breithníodh go mbeadh sé stuama agus tábhachtach do choinneáil fadtéarmach na saoráide seo athbhreithniú a dhéanamh ar na coinníollacha maidir le maolú Níotráite. Tagann maolú reatha na hÉireann chun críche sa bhliain 2021, agus sa chás nach dtugtar aghaidh ar na brúnna comhshaoil atá luaite thuas, beidh tionchar diúltach aige ar aon chainteanna leis an tsaoráid thábhachtach seo a athnuachan. Mar chuid den athbhreithniú seo, tionóladh comhairliúchán poiblí agus fuarthas 75 aighneacht.

Thuairiscigh an Sainghrúpa Níotráite, a chuimsíonn oifigigh ón Roinn, ón EPA, DHPLG & Teagasc, torthaí an athbhreithnithe seo atá foilsithe anseo: https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/ruralenvironmentsustainability/environmentalobligations/nitrates/2019nitrate_sderogationreview/

Áireofar bearta nua ó mholtaí an tSainghrúpa Níotráite i dTearmaí agus i gCoinníollacha na n-iarratas ar Mhaolú Níotráite sna blianta 2020 agus 2021.

Sonraí maidir le Nítrigin agus Fosfar (N&P) in 2019

Le córas na Roinne, www.agfood.ie tugtar ráitis mhionsonraithe N&P d'fheirmeoirí, a léiríonn na rátaí stócala eallaigh agus sin amháin ar a ngabháltais. Tá ráitis

ar fáil ar líne ar bhonn míosúil ó Bhealtaine go Nollaig 2019, a thugann an deis d'fheirmeoirí monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar a leibhéal Níotráite ar mhaithe le teorainneacha a chomhlíonadh. Eisítear teachtaireachtaí téacs go tréimhsiúil ar fheirmeoirí atá cláraithe lena bhfáil agus atá sna grúpaí arda ag an tráth den bhliain.

An Clár Dobharcheantar Talmhaíochta (ACP) 2019

Cuireadh tús le Céim 3 den ACP i mí Eanáir 2016 agus tháinig deireadh leis ag deireadh na bliana 2019 agus cuirfidh sin leis an méid a gnóthaíodh agus ar an taithí a fuarthas i gcéimeanna níos luaithe den chlár.

Feidhmíonn an ACP i gcomhpháirtíocht le breis agus 300 feirmeoir i sé dhobharcheantar ina ndéantar dian fheirmeoireacht agus trí bhíthin an rannpháirtíocht seo le feirmeoirí, a thógtar ar chaidreamh na gcomhairleoirí lena gcliaint ar feirmeoirí iad, éascaítear na gnéithe taighde den chlár. Déantar an obair thaighde de réir aon dearadh turgnamhach amháin a chuirtear i bhfeidhm go dian i ngach dobharcheantar. Baintear úsáid as raon paraiméadar bith fhisiceach agus socheacnamaíoch chun meastóireacht a dhéanamh ar thionchar na mbeart ón bPlean Gníomhaíochta Náisiúnta (NAP) agus an mhaolaithe a chuireann feirmeoirí i bhfeidhm faoin Treoir maidir le Níotráití. Cuireann torthaí an taighde seo léargas luachmhar ar fáil ar na próisis a rialaíonn an tionchar atá ag gníomhaíocht talmhaíochta ar cháilíocht an uisce sna dobharcheantair.

Tugtar le tuiscint ón taighde ACP gur léir feabhsúcháin ar an mbainistiú cothaitheach ar an talamh i 4 as 5 cinn de na dobharcheantair. Ar an iomlán, léiríonn fianaise ón ACP gur trí thacaíocht a chur ar fáil d'fheirmeoirí trí chomhairle theicniúil chun cinntí níos fearr a dhéanamh maidir le mar a dhéanann siad bainistiú ar chothaithigh a chur, gurb é sin an réimse aonair is mó is dócha ina gcuirfean an acmhainneacht is fearr ar fáil chun torthaí do cháilíocht an uisce ar fheirmeacha in Éirinn a fheabhsú. Ba chóir go gcuirfeadh sé seo éifeachtúlachtaí níos mó ar fáil d'fheirmeoirí agus an baol a bhaineann le cothaithigh a chailleadh de bharr uisce a laghdú ag an am céanna.

Tá tús le cur le Céim 4 den ACP i mí Eanáir 2020 go dtí mí na Nollag 2023 agus chomh maith le cur leis an eolas a fuarthas sna trí chéim roimhe seo, tá Céim 4 feabhsaithe anois chun taighde ar GHG, ceapadh Carbóin a thabhairt

TÁIRGEACHT INBHUANAITHE

san áireamh agus tá sé seo ábhartha agus ríthábhachtach araon don Roinn seo i gcomhthéacs Plean Gníomhaíochta Rialtais uile chun dul i ngleic le Cur Isteach ó thaobh na hAeráide. Tá an ASSAP san áireamh anois i gclár an ACP freisin.

An Clár Tacaíochta agus Comhairleach maidir le Inbhuanaitheacht na Talmhaíochta (ASSAP) 2019

Is tionsnamh nuálach agus comhoibríoché an Clár Tacaíochta agus Comhairleach maidir le Inbhuanaitheacht na Talmhaíochta (ASSAP) a fhaigheann tacaíocht ón Roinn seo agus ón Roinn Tithíochta, Pleanála agus Rialtais Áitiúil agus ón tionscal d'fhonn athrú iompair feirmeoirí a bhaint amach ar mhaith le huisce a chosaint, chun cuspóirí na Creat-treorach Uisce a bhaint amach.

Is cur chuige Rialtais uile, uile-earnála atá i gceist le comhairle a sholáthar go díreach d'fheirmeoirí i 190 limistéar-le-haghaidh-gníomh chun cáilíocht uisce a chosaint agus a fheabhsú. Tá 30 comhairleoir inbhuanaitheachta sannta don chlár seo, 20 curtha ar fáil ag an Rialtas agus 10 curtha ar fáil ag Comharchumainn Déiríochta. Tá an 30 comhairleoir sin ag obair laistigh de struchtúr comhpháirtíochta aontaithe lena gcuimsítear Teagasc, na comharchumainn agus LAWCO (Oifig Uisce agus Pobal na nÚdarás Áitiúil).

Tarraingíonn an clár ar thaithí agus ar acmhainní phríomhpháirtithe leasmhara earnála agus tionscail, lena n-áirítear an dá Roinn, na hÚdarás Áitiúla, na Comharchumainn Déiríochta, Teagasc, Bord Bia agus na heagraíochtaí feirme. Tá tacaíocht shuntasach riaracháin a chur ar fáil ag an Roinn don chlár.

Is cur chuige nua é seo ar fheabhsúcháin ar cháilíocht uisce a bhaint amach agus tacaíonn sé le spriocanna na straitéise Food Wise 2025, éascaíonn táirgiúlacht mhéadaithe maille le hearnáil níos inbhuanaithe. Bainfead sin amach trí bhíthin comhairleoirí atá ag obair le feirmeoirí, díriú ar bhainistiú cothaitheachnós fearr agus ar úsáid níos spriocdhírith a bhaint as leasachán, cleachtas níos fearr sa chlós feirme agus bearta iomchuí le haghaidh achar foinse ríthábhachtach sainaitheanta. In imeacht ama, déanfar cuir chuige níos fairsinge ar an inbhuanaitheacht, arna bhforbairt ag Teagasc, a chur i bhfeidhm agus díreoidh siad ar an athrú aeráide agus ar an mbithéagsúlacht.

Saináithnítear sa dara Plean Bainistithe Abhantraí (RBMP), a foilsíodh in Aibreán 2018, gur baolach nach gcomhlíonfaidh 1,460 dobharlach (aibhneacha agus locha) cuspóirí cáilíochta na Creat-treorach Uisce; is í an talmhaíocht an brú suntasach i gcás 53% de na dobharlaigh sin. Is iad na Rialacháin maidir le Níotráití an príomhbheart sa RBMP; leis na rialacháin sin, leagtar amach riachtanais chuimsitheacha nach mór d'fheirmeoirí cloí leo chun cosaint uiscí ó fhoinsí talmhaíochta a chinntiú. Mar sin féin, ní raibh an ráta comhlíonta ag feirmeoirí leis na rialacháin sin sásúil le blianta anuas agus baineadh mar tháta as sin go bhfuil tionscnamh comhoibríoch nua de dhíth chun rannpháirtíocht níos fearr na bhfeirmeoirí a bhaint amach.

Socraíodh an ASSAP chun comhairle agus tacaíocht saor in aisce a thabhairt d'fheirmeoirí chun cabhrú leo cloí leis na rialacháin maidir le níotráití, chun réitigh a sholáthar maidir le hachair foinse ríthábhachtach agus chun cáilíocht uisce a fheabhsú. Meastar go bhfuil tuairim is 20,000 feirmeoir sna 190 réimsí do ghníomhaíocht sin a mbeidh thart ar 7,000 díobh ag fáil comhairle faoin gclár seo ó 2018 go 2021.

Foraoiseacht

Cumhdaíonn foraoisí 11% d'achar talún na tíre, ar dú suntasach ón leibhéal íseal de chumhdach foraoise 1% ag tús an 20ú haois. Chuir foraoisí príobháideach, a rinneadh le tacaíocht ón Stát, leis an ardú sin, agus cuireadh tuairim is 320,000 heicteár leis an gcumhdach foraoise in Éirinn idir 1985 agus 2012. Tá sin ar cheann de na leibhéil is airde de mhéadú ar chumhdach foraoise i measc tíortha forbartha. Leis an bhforbairt ar fhoraoiseacht in Éirinn leis na deiceanna de bhlianta anuas, cruthaíodh tionscal dúchasach atá iomaíoch go hidirnáisiúnta agus a thacaíonn le poist agus pobail ar fud thuath na hÉireann. D'ainneoin leibhéal leanúnach de phlandú nua, tá an cumhdach foraoise in Éirinn - 11% - ar cheann de na leibhéil is ísle san Eoraip. Thart ar 33% an meánleibhéal san Eoraip (san AE28).

Maoinítear bunú foraoisí nua faoin Scéim Foraoiseachta, atá mar chuid den Chlár Foraoiseachta 2014-2020. Leagtar amach sa tábla thíos an t-achar foraoisí nua a cuireadh, ar íocadh deontais ina leith.

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Leibhéil Foraoiseachta 2012-2019 (heicteáir)

2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
6,252	6,156	6,293	6,500	5,536	4,025	3,550

Tar éis athbhreithniú lár téarma (MTR) an Chláir Foraoiseachta 2014-20 a tugadh chun críche sa bhliain 2018, bhain sraith scéimeanna nua a tugadh isteach a gcéad bhliain iomlán feidhme amach sa bhliain 2019. Níor leanadh sa bhliain 2019 leis an ardú láidir maidir le plandáil speicis crainn leathanduilleacha a bhí ann sa bhliain 2018, ach mar fhreagra ar bhearta chun tacú le plandáil leathanduilleach, tá sé ag leibhéal i bhfad níos airde ná mar a bhí an leibhéal a bhí ann roimh an MTR le 25% d'fhoraoisiú leathanduilleach mar chéatadán den phlandáil iomlán sa bhliain 2019.

Bhí spéis thar a bheith láidir sa Scéim um Fheabhsú Coillearnach sa bhliain 2019 agus sháraigh éileamh ar an scéim do Chumhdach Leanúnach Foraoiseachta an méid a rabhtas ag súil leis.

Rinne an Rannán Foraoiseachta bainistíocht agus maoirseacht rathúil ar aistriú 14,128 dáileacht foraoiseachta a bhaineann le sé Chontae go Córas nua Aitheantais Dáileachtaí Talún na Roinne sa bhliain 2019.

Ciste Comhshaoil Coillearnaí (WEF)

Tá an Ciste Comhshaoil Coillearnach (WEF) uathúil i dtéarmaí scéimeanna atá á reáchtáil ag an Roinn. Cruthaíonn an WEF, in ionad maoiniú Stáitchiste agus AE a dháileadh ar fheirmeoirí, an tríú foinse airgeadais chun tacú lena bhfiontar feirmeoireachta. Faoin tionscnamh seo tugtar maoiniú ón bpobal gnó go díreach d'fheirmeoirí chun coillte dúchasacha a chur. Tá an WEF ag teacht le Scéim Foraoisithe reatha na Roinne, lena n-íoctar 100% de chostas a bhaineann le coillearnach dhúchasach a bhunú agus lena n-íoctar préimh bhliantúil don úinéir talún, suas go €680 in aghaidh an heicteáir, atá iníoctha gach bliain go ceann 15 bliana. Tá íocaíocht bhreise €1,000 in aghaidh an heicteáir i gceist leis an WEF, a íocann an gnó mar íocaíocht aonuaire d'fheirmeoirí agus d'úinéirí talún príobháideacha eile. Tá gnólachtaí a ghlacann páirt sa WEF in ann a bhfreagrachtaí sóisialta a léiriú trí bhíthin

maoiniú a thabhairt do thionscadail a dhéanann maitheas don chomhshaoil agus don tsochaí ar an iomlán. Comhlachtaí atá rannpháirteach sa WEF go dtí seo, Lidl, Aldi, Microsoft, Accenture, An Post agus KBI Global Investment.

An Fardal Náisiúnta Foraoise

Le linn na bliana 2019, rinneadh ullmhúcháin chun tús a chur leis an gceathrú timthriall NFI. Tá tús le cur le bailiúchán mionsonraí réimse i mí Feabhra 2020. Baileofar faisnéis ilacmhainne ar fud an eastáit foraoise, lena n-áirítear, faisnéis ar achar na foraoise agus ar chomhdhéanamh speicis, ar an stoc fáis (m3), bithéagsúlacht, folláine agus beogacht agus an cion carbóin.

An Chomhairle COFORD

Is comhlacht é Comhairle COFORD atá comhdhéanta de pháirtithe leasmhara ó ar fud earnáil na foraoiseachta arna gceapadh ag an Aire Stáit don Fhoroiseacht chun comhairle a chur ar a Roinn faoi shaincheisteanna a bhaineann le forbairt ar earnáil na foraoiseachta in Éirinn.

Tá roinnt Grúpaí Oibre bunaithe ag comhairle chomhairleach COFORD 2019-2021 agus tá roinnt tuarascálacha maidir le réimse ábhar leathan foilsithe aici. Bunaíodh na grúpaí oibre seo a leanas;

- Grúpa Oibre Acmhainní Géiniteacha Foraoise
- Grúpa Oibre do Ghluaiseacht Adhmaid agus Réamhaisnéis maidir le Lomáin Cruinn
- Grúpa Oibre ar Fhoraoisí, Maolú agus Oiriúnú d'Athrú Aeráide
- Grúpa Oibre ar Bheartas Foraoise, monatóireachta agus cur i bhfeidhm
- Grúpa Oibre ar Chur Chun Cinn Foraoiseachta agus Foraoisí
- Grúpa Oibre chun cion socheacnamaíoch earnáil foraoise na hÉireann a chur le chéile Seirbhísí éiceachórais

Tá breis eolais faoin gComhairle agus faoi na cuspóirí agus an obair atá ar bun ag na grúpaí oibre le fáil ag www.coford.ie. Tá foilseacháin COFORD agus tuarascálacha Ghrúpaí Oibre le fáil ag www.coford.ie.

TÁIRGEACHT INBHUANAITHE

Tionscnaimh chun Tacú le hÚinéirí Foraoisí Príobháideacha chun Foraoisí a Bhainistiú

Ó na 1980í, bhunaigh tuairim is 22,000 úinéir talún príobháideach foraoisí nua in Éirinn. Is ionann sin agus infheistíocht thart ar €3 billiún ón Stát. Cé gur foraoisí fáschoille iad tuairim is 7% d'fhoraoisí an domhain, soláthraíonn siad os cionn aon trian d'adhmad an domhain (FAO) agus tá ról tábhachtach acu maidir le hilibhuntaistí a chur ar fáil.

De réir an Réamhaisnéis um Tháirgeadh Lomáin Chruinne Uile-Éireann 2016 – 2035, arna fhoilsiú ag COFORD, tá an táirgeadh adhmaid le méadú faoi dhó ó 4 milliún mhéadar ciúbach go 8 milliún méadar ciúbach faoi 2035, de bharr na bhforaoisí príobháideacha sin, go príomha. D'fhonn toradh ar infheistíocht an Stáit agus úinéirí talún go dtí seo a bhaint amach agus a uasmhéadú, tá sé ríthábhachtach leas a bhaint as an adhmaid sin (saothrú, baint agus úsáid), agus mar sin gníomhaíocht eacnamaíoch a chruthú ar an slabhra soláthair trí bhíthin gníomhaíochtaí amhail saothrú, iompar, athphlandú agus próiseáil. D'fhoilsigh Comhairle COFORD roinnt tuarascálacha ina dtarraingítear aird ar na príomhbhacainní maidir le leas a bhaint as adhmaid nach mór aghaidh a thabhairt orthu lena chinntiú go ndéantar adhmaid a shaothrú ar na leibhéil réamhaisnéis ithe.

Grúpaí Aistrithe Eolais don Fhoraoiseacht

In 'Mobilising Ireland's Timber Resource', cáipéis beartais a d'eisigh COFORD, sainaithníodh roinnt bacainní maidir le leas a bhaint as adhmaid príobháideach (i.e. adhmaid as foraoisí faoi úinéireacht phríobháideach a bhaint agus a dhíol) in Éirinn. I measc na mbacainní sin tá ilroinnt an eastáit foraoise príobháidí – le foraoisí ar mheánmhéid 8.8 heicteáir faoi úinéireacht 22,000 úinéir foraoisí príobháideacha.

Thug an Roinn isteach, mar chuid den Chlár Foraoiseachta 2014-2020, roinnt bearta chun díriú ar dhúshláin san earnáil foraoiseachta agus chun cultúr foraoiseachta a fhorbairt agus a chur chun cinn in Éirinn. Ar cheann de na bearta sin, bhí síneadh a chur ar an tsamhail Aistrithe Eolais don Fhoraoiseacht. Aithníodh easpa eolais maidir le bainistíocht foraoise i measc cion suntasach d'úinéirí foraoisí príobháideacha mar bhac suntasach ar ghluaiseacht adhmaid. Sa bhliain 2017, chuir an Roinn maoiniú ar fáil do Scéim

Aistrithe Eolais Foraoiseacht phíolótach do 270 úinéir foraoisí príobháideacha i cheithre ghrúpa. Tugadh an staidéar píolótach chun críche go rathúil i mí an Mhárta 2018 agus seoladh scéim náisiúnta i mí na Bealtaine 2018, agus tháinig scéim náisiúnta eile ina diaidh sin sa bhliain 2019 agus ghlac os cionn 600 rannpháirtí páirt sa scéim gach aon bhliain.

Is é cuspóir na scéime KTG Foraoiseachta eolas breise agus tacaíocht a thabhairt d'úinéirí foraoisí príobháideacha maidir le gníomhaíochta bainistithe ina gcuid foraoisí. Baintear úsáid as foghlaim idir piaraí sa scéim, ina ndéanann an grúpa plé agus eolas ar ábhair éagsúla a roinnt, le cúnamh ó ghairmí foraoiseachta a fheidhmíonn mar éascaitheoir. Bhí seacht ócáid foghlama i ngach modúl agus tionóladh suas le dhá ócáid ag áiteanna faoi dhíon, amhail muileann sábhadóireachta nó láthair foraoiseachta.

Feirmeoireacht Orgánach

Cé go bhfuil an Earnáil Orgánach in Éirinn fós sách beag i gcomparáid le talmhaíocht ar an iomlán, tá fás suntasach san Earnáil Orgánach faoi láthair. Tá 2,356 oibreoir orgánach in Éirinn faoi láthair, agus is feirmeoirí iad os cionn 1,850 díobh. Tá leathnú drámatúil tagtha ar an achar talún faoi tháirgeacht orgánach faoin gClár Forbartha Tuaithe reatha, a bhuíochas don tsraith tacaíocht atá curtha ar bun. Léiríonn na figiúirí is déanaí go bhfuil tuairim is 74,000 heicteár anois ann i ndáil le táirgeadh orgánach, sin méadú beagnach 50% or an méid a bhí i gceist nuair a cuireadh tús leis an gClár in 2014. .

Oibreoirí Feirmeoireachta Orgánaí agus Heicteáir

2016	2017	2018	2019
2,127 (72,364ha)	2,136 (70,722ha)	2,127 (71,000ha)	2,356 (74,000ha)

Tionóladh raon ócáidí orgánacha in 2019 chun feasacht ar fheirmeoireacht orgánach a ardú. I mí Feabhra 2019, chomhordaigh Bord Bia rannpháirtíocht na hÉireann in Biofach, an ócáid trádála idirnáisiúnta is tábhachtaí do chuideachtaí agus do ghairmithe i dtionscal an bhia orgánaigh. Is lucht déanta cinntí agus ceannaitheoirí ó na hearnálacha miondíola, seirbhíse bia agus dáilte, ón

TÁIRGEACHT INBHUANAITHE

Eoraip agus ó áiteanna níos faide i gcéin, den chuid is mó, a d'fhreastail ar an ócáid.

I measc ócáidí eile in 2019 bhí an clár um thaispeántas feirmeacha orgánacha arna eagrú ag Teagasc, a raibh fiontair éagsúla rannpháirteach ann.

Leanadh le cúnamh deontais a chur ar fáil d'fheirmeoirí agus do phróiseálaithe chun infheistiú i saoráidí agus i dtrealamh trí bhíthin scéimeanna deontas caipitiúil orgánacha faoin RDP. Tá cúnamh deontais de 40% den chostas ar fáil, suas go dtí uasmhéid €60,000, i gcás infheistíochtaí ar an bhfeirm agus €500,000 i gcás infheistíochtaí lasmuigh den fheirm.

Acmhainní Géiniteacha

D'eisigh an Roinn, faoin Scéim um Chúnamh Deontais i gcomhair Acmhainní Géiniteacha, a ghairm tograí bliantúla maidir le caomhnú plandaí, ainmhithe, foraoiseachta, micrea-orgánach agus inveirteabrach agus acmhainní géiniteacha uisceacha

Sa bhliain 2019, rinneadh maoiniú os cionn €40,000 a leithdháileadh ar sé thionscadal chun tacú le taighde a raibh institiúidí tríú leibhéal, cumainn páirtithe leasmhara agus grúpaí sainleasa earnála ag tabhairt faoi, a bhain le raon ábhar, lena n-áirítear:

- Anailís ar bharr oidhreachta,
- Deiseanna margaidh do phórú capall na hÉireann atá i mbaol
- Clár pórcháin don Droimeann
- Straitéis chun coilíneachtaí beach mheala dúchasach saorbheathach a chaomhnú
- Géanóm úlla na hÉireann a chaomhnú
- Tionscadal caomhnaithe in situ do ghaol fiáin bairr tosaíochta

Chun tuilleadh eolais a fháil, déan teagmháil le: <https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmerschemespayments/otherfarmerschemes/conservationofgeneticresources/orfoodandagriculture/geneticresourcesprojects/>

Athrú Aeráide

Is éard atá san fhís bheartais fhadtéarmach don earnáil talmhaíochta agus úsáide talún, 'cur chuige ar neodracht ó thaobh carbóin de san earnáil talmhaíochta agus úsáide talún, lena n-áirítear foraoiseacht, nach gcuireann isteach ar an gcumas bia a tháirgeadh ar bhealach inbhuanaithe'. Le linn na bliana 2019 cuireadh spriocanna comhshaoil don earnáil talmhaíochta agus úsáide talún chun cinn ag teacht leis an fhís beartais fadtéarmacha d'earnáil atá neodrach ó thaobh carbóin.

Pleanáil um Maolú agus Oiriúnúcháin

Foilsíodh an chéad Chreat Náisiúnta reachtúil um Gníomhaíocht Oiriúnúcháin d'Éirinn i mí Eanáir 2018. Aithníodh ann dhá réimse tosaíochta dhéag inar gá pleananna um oiriúnú earnála a ullmhú. Is í an Roinn seo an Roinn cheannasach le haghaidh trí cinn de na réimsí sin: talmhaíocht, foraoiseacht agus bia mara. Cuireadh tús le hobair in 2018 chun an chéad phlean reachtúil um oiriúnú earnála a fhorbairt do na trí réimse faoi théarmaí tagartha na Roinne nach mór a chur ar aghaidh chuig an Rialtas tráth nach déanaí ná an 30 Meán Fómhair 2019.

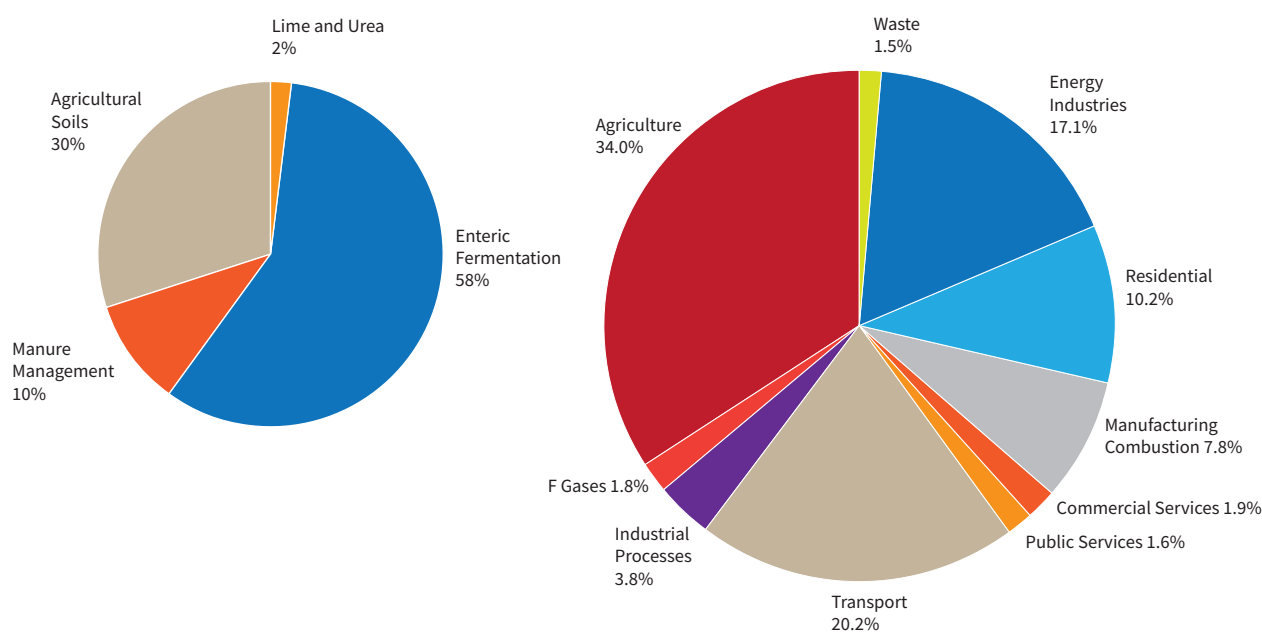
I dtreo dheireadh 2018 cuireadh tús le hullmhúcháin chun Plean Uile-Rialtais a ullmhú chun dul i ngleic le cur isteach ar an aeráid. Cuireann an Plean seo leis an bPlean Náisiúnta um Maolú agus aireofar ann gníomhartha chun ár spriocanna aeráide a bhaint amach.

D'fhoilsigh an Roinn an chéad Plean Oiriúnaithe Earnála um Athrú Aeráide maidir le Talmhaíocht, Foraoiseacht agus Bia Mara i rith 2019. Is é an Cuspóir Foriomlán maidir le hOiriúnú atá ina chuid den Phlean seo ná seasmhacht in aghaidh tionchair ó athrú aeráide agus ó eachtraí a bhaineann le cúrsaí aimsire a fhorbairt sna hearnálacha talmhaíochta, foraoiseachta agus bia mara, chun aon drochthionchair a laghdú más féidir, chun leas a bhaint as aon deiseanna atá ann agus chun cur le Ráiteas Straitéise maidir le Cuspóirí na Roinne a bhaint amach.

Le linn na bliana 2019 foilsíodh an Plean Gníomhaithe ar son na hAeráide Rialtais uile chun dul i ngleic le cliseadh aeráide, ina leagtar amach na gníomhaíochtaí atá riachtanach chun freastal ar sprioc an AE do 2030 d'Éirinn mar atá pléite thuas.

TÁIRGEACHT INBHUANAITHE

Dáileadh astaíochtaí talmhaíochta na hÉireann 2018 Astaíochtaí gás ceaptha teasa in Éirinn 2018



Leibhéal Iomlán Astaíochtaí Talmhaíochta agus Úsáide Talún

Spríoc náisiúnta Vs bonnlíne 1990	1990 Tonna CO2eq	2018 Tonna CO2eqs	% Difir
Leibhéal iomlán astaíochtaí talmhaíochta agus úsáide talún	20.35	20.59	+1.13%
Leibhéal iomlán astaíochtaí CO2eq ón talmhaíocht	19.62	19.99	+1.89%
- Dé-ocsaíd Charbóin (CO2)	0.40	0.58	+45.00%
- Meatóin (CH4)	12.76	12.97	+1.60%
- Ocsaíd Nítriúil (N2O)	6.44	6.45	+0.15%
Líon iomlán astaíochtaí ón úsáid talún talmhaíochta			
Féarach agus Talamh Barr	6.88	6.40	
Foraoiseacht	-3.861	-4.34	
Táirgí Adhmaid Saothraithe	-0.413	-0.871	

TÁIRGEACHT INBHUANAITHE

An Straitéis maidir le hAer Glan

Tá an Straitéis maidir le hAer Glan d'Éirinn á comhordú ag an Roinn Cumarsáide, Gníomhaithe ar Son na hAeráide agus Comhshaol (DCCA). Tugtar deis léi aghaidh a thabhairt ar thruailliú aeir in Éirinn. Tá sraith beartas agus moltaí reachtúla inti chun reachtaíocht an AE maidir le haer glan a nuashonrú agus a nuachóiriú. Príomh-chuid de sin is ea an Treoir maidir le hUasteorainneacha Astaíochtaí Náisiúnta (NECD) athbhreithnithe, ina bhfuil uasteorainneacha astaíochtaí náisiúnta níos uailmhianaí agus níos cosantaí i ndáil le príomhthruailléin agus ina leagtar amach teorainneacha níos déine le haghaidh 2030 do chúig thruailléin aeir - ábhar cáithníníeach (PM10 agus PM2.5), dé-ocsaíd sulfair (SO₂), ocsaíd nítrigine (NO_x), amóinia (NH₃) agus comhdhúile so-ghalaithe orgánacha (VOC).

Leanann an Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara lena rannpháirtíocht leis an DCCA maidir le Straitéis Aer Glan d'Éirinn a fhorbairt mar straitéis comhordaithe náisiúnta chun an NECD AE 2016 a chur i bhfeidhm. Tháinig an NECD i bhfeidhm an 31 Nollaig 2016 agus d'aistrigh Éire an Treoir isteach sa reachtaíocht náisiúnta le I.R. Uimh. 232 de 2018, Rialacháin (Uasteorainneacha Astaíochtaí Náisiúnta) an Aontais Eorpaigh 2018. Chomhoibrigh an Roinn go dlúth leis an DCCA chun forbairt a dhéanamh ar chomhchodanna talmhaíochta an Chláir Náisiúnta maidir le Truailliú Aeir a Rialú (NAPCP) na hÉireann a cuireadh faoi bhráid in Aibreán 2019.

Faoin NECD, tá teorainn éigeantach maidir le hamóinia in Éirinn ón mbliain 2010 a sáraíodh den chead uair sa bhliain 2016 agus tá sé ag leanúint ar aghaidh ag ardú ó shin. Mar gheall go dtagann 99% de na hastaíochtaí amóinia go léir ón earnáil agraibhia, tá sé de dhualgas ar an earnáil astaíochtaí a laghdú agus iad a bheith ag teacht le teorainneacha reachtaíochta. I mí na Samhna 2019, d'eisigh an Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara Cód Dea-Chleachtais Talmhaíochta le hAstaíochtaí Amóinia a Laghdú a chuireann le feachtas maidir le roghanna d'fheirmeoirí. Is doiciméad treorach atá anseo ina dtugtar breac-chuntas ar ghníomhartha dea-chleachtais chun cuidiú leo lena gcuid astaíochtaí amóinia a laghdú. Tá sé mar cheanglas ar gach Ballstáit an cód seo a chur ar fáil d'fheirmeoirí agus é a chur faoi bhráid mar chuid den fhreagra maidir le haghaidh a thabhairt ar phrótocal NECD agus Gothenburg.

Cinntear leis an gcód seo comhleanúnachas le Clár Gníomhaíochta Níotráite (NAP) na hÉireann agus déanfar tuilleadh feabhsúcháin ó thaobh éifeachtúlachta maidir le húsáid níotráite. Chomh maith leis sin, rinneadh athbhreithniú ar choinníollacht maolú Níotráite agus áirítear ann anois roinnt bearta chun laghdú a dhéanamh ar amóinia ar nós teicneolaíocht leata scioldair astaíochtaí ísle a úsáid.

Bithfhuinneamh

An príomh-rannchuidiú ó earnálacha na talmhaíochta agus na foraoiseachta, an soláthar bunábhar bithfhuinnimh, bíodh sin ó bhithmhais i bhfoirm táirgí adhmaid amhail ábhair tanúcháin foraoise agus breosla adhmaid, fotháirgí ainmhithe (ABP) nó fotháirgí agraibhia eile amhail tuí, scioldar agus dramhaíl phróiseála, e.g. meadhg ó cháis a dhéanamh. I measc foinsí eile bithmhaise tá bairr fuinnimh nó sadhlas féir.

Foilsíodh an t-athbhreithniú meántearma ar an gClár Foraoiseachta 2014-2020 go luath in 2018 agus áiríodh ann arduithe substaintiúla ar na préimheanna a íocadh le haghaidh crann a fhásatá oiriúnach do shnáithín agus do bhithmhais.

Tá an Roinn seo ag obair go dlúth leis an Roinn Cumarsáide, Gníomhaithe ar son na hAeráide agus Comhshaol i gcónaí, ag fiosrú deiseanna chun úsáid inbhuanaithe a bhaint as aoiligh feirme, agra-fhuíll - le húsáid sa tionscal Díleá Anaeróbach maidir le bithghás/bithmheatán agus bithmhais foraois-bhunaithe a tháirgeadh in áit breoslaí iontaise agus ábhair atá dian ó thaobh fuinnimh de a spreagadh.

Sheol SEAI Scéim Tacaíochta nua maidir le Teas In-athnuaite (SSRH) in 2018 agus tá sí ar oscailt d'úsáideoirí teasa tráchtála, tionsclaíoch, talmhaíochta, téamh ceantair, téamh don earnáil phoiblí agus úsáideoirí teasa eile nach úsáideoirí teaghlaigh iad. Tugann an scéim tacaíocht deontais ar fáil chun teas chaidéil a shuiteáil a úsáideann aer, talamh agus uisce mar fhoinsé. Tá tacaíocht oibríochta leanúnach (taraif) bunaithe ar aschur teas inúsáidte i gcórais teasa in-athnuaite á dtairiscint ag an Scéim, i suiteálacha nua nó i suiteálacha a bhaineann úsáid faoi láthair as córas teasa breosla iontaise agus chun aistriú chuig úsáid na dteicneolaíochtaí seo a leanas:

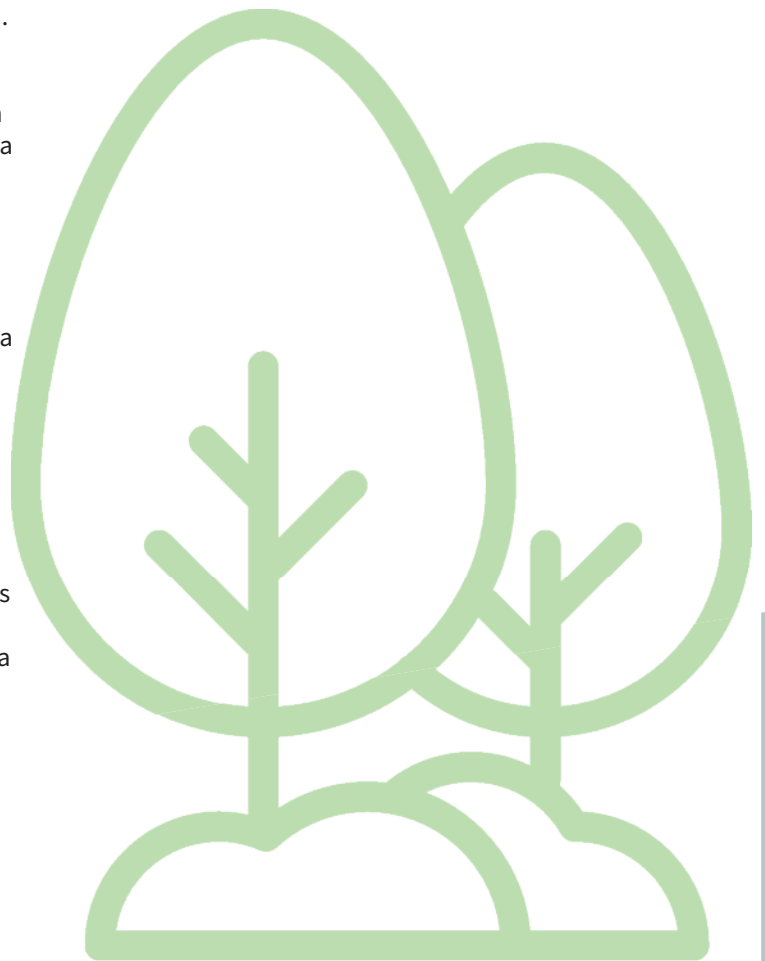
TÁIRGEACHT INBHUANAITHE

- Coire bithmhaise nó córais teasa HE CHP
- Coire Bithgháis (díleá anaeróbach) nó córais teasa HE CHP

Tacaíonn an Roinn le teicneolaíochtaí teasa in-athnuaite i bhfoirm tacaíochtaí do choirí bithmhaise faoin Scéim Infheistíochta Muc agus Éanlaithe (PPIS) agus faoin Scéim Infheistíochta Caipitil d’Fheirmeoirí Óga (YFCIS). Tacaítear le teas chaidéil a úsáideann aer mar fhoinsé faoi na scéimeanna PPIS agus YFCIS faoi láthair agus is féidir iad a úsáid mar chuid de théitheoir uisce faoin Scéim Trealamh Déiríochta. Tá cúnamh deontais ar fáil freisin faoi na scéimeanna PPIS agus YFCIS do ghrianphainéil a úsáidtear chun leictreachas a tháirgeadh (fótavoltach) agus chun uisce a théamh agus atá crochta go buan ar fhoirgnimh a úsáidtear chun muca, éanlaith agus uibheacha a tháirgeadh. Fógraíodh deontais fuinnimh nua faoi TAMS go luath in 2019 agus leathnaíodh cúnamh deontais le haghaidh PV gréine chuig gach earnáil agus éileofar gur soilse LED a bheidh sa soilsíú uile arna mhaoiniú faoin scéim.

Is cuid bhunúsach d’astaíochtaí carbóin agus costais fuinnimh a laghdú í éifeachtúlacht fuinnimh. Tacaíonn roinnt de ghnéithe TAMS II suiteáil trealaimh déiríochta nua atá níos éifeachtúlaí ó thaobh fuinnimh de ná teicneolaíochta atá níos sine. Sa bhreis air sin, d’athoscail Údarás Fuinnimh Inmharthana na hÉireann (SEAI) an scéim phíolótach maidir le héifeachtúlacht fuinnimh déiríochta faoinar tugadh cúnamh deontais chun tiomántáin ar luas inathraithe a shuiteáil.

Lean an Roinn ar aghaidh ag tacú le cur chun cinn na scéime Dearbhú Cáilíochta Breosla Adhmaid agus ag cur comhairle ar fáil maidir le slabhraí soláthair bithmhaise foraois-bhunaithe agus breoslaí. Féach www.woodenergy.ie. D’fhorbair an Roinn bogearraí nua maidir le slabhra soláthair fuinnimh adhmaid agus cuireadh ar fáil iad trí bhíthin na láithreáin ghréasáin www.coford.ie agus www.woodenergy.ie. Ina theannta sin, eagraíodh roinnt ceardlann náisiúnta a bhain leis na bogearraí sin.



4

SPRIOC STRAITÉISEACH AN EARNÁIL BIA MARA

Earnáil inbhuanaithe, spreagtha ag an bhfás atá dírithe ar iomaíochas agus nuálaíocht arna spreagadh ag fórsa oibre a bhfuil scileanna acu d'fhonn táirgí breisluacha atá i gcomhréir le héilimh an mhargaidh a sheachadadh

BIA MARA

Forléargas

Tá tionscal bia mara na hÉireann comhdhéanta den tionscal iascaireachta mara tráchtála, den tionscal dobhar shaothraithe agus den tionscal próiseála bia mara. Tá an tionscal bia mara bunaithe ar acmhainn nádúrtha dhúchasach, ardcháilíochta a úsáid, acmhainn a bhfuil deis iontach breisluacha aici agus a chuireann go mór leis an ngeilleagar náisiúnta ó thaobh aschuir, fostaíochta agus onnmhairí de.

Onnmhairí Bia Mara

Tá deis ollmhór ag an earnáil bia mara leathnú amach de réir mar a thagann méadú ar an éileamh domhanda ar bhia mara mar fhoinsé próitéine sláintiúil, den scoth. As seo go ceann deich mbliana, meastar go dtiocfaidh fás 42 milliún tonna in aghaidh na bliana ar thomhaltas, dar leis an Eagraíocht Bia agus Talmhaíochta (FAO) agus daonra an domhain le 8 billiún duine a bhaint amach faoi 2025. Tá sé soiléir go mbeidh gá le leathnú ollmhór a chur le táirgeadh bia ar fud an domhain, lena n-áirítear bia mara, chun an riachtanas sin a shásamh.

Measadh gur tuairim is €577 milliún a bhí ar luach onnmhairí bia mara na hÉireann in 2019, mar ab ionann leis an luach a taifeadadh in 2018. Fuarthas amach go raibh dúshláin in earnálacha áirithe agus bhí fás dearfach in earnálacha eile. Tháinig ardú 25% ar luach na n-onnmhairí bradáin, mar thoradh ar ardú 20% ar an méid agus ar fhás dearfach ar phraghsanna. Leanadh leis an éileamh domhanda ar bhia mara in 2019 agus thuairiscigh onnmhaireoirí Éireannacha éileamh láidir ar a dtáirgí sna príomh-mhargáí onnmhairithe.

Is iad na príomh-mhargáí AE, an Fhrainc, an Spáinn, an Iodáil agus an Ghearmáin atá ba chúis le tuairim is 50% (€288 mhilliún) de na honnmhairí uile, de réir luacha. Bhí an margadh idirnáisiúnta ba chúis le tuairim is 36% (€206 mhilliún) de na honnmhairí uile in 2019. D'fhan onnmhairí chuig an gceithre phríomh-mhargadh san Áise (an tSín, Hong Cong, an Chóiré Theas agus an tSeapáin) seasamhach i dtéamaí luacha de in 2019 i gcomparáid le 2018. Ba iad na margaí sin ba chúis le 14% de luach iomlán na n-onnmhairí bia mara. Bhí na margaí níos leithne san Áise Thoir Theas (an Téaváin, Vítneam, Singeapór, an Mhalaeisia agus an Téalainn) ba chúis le os cionn 14% (€81 mhilliún) den luach iomlán onnmhairí in 2019.

Príomhthreochtaí Táirge

San earnáil pheiligeach, bhí tionchar díreach ar na méideanna a onnmhairíodh in 2019 ag an laghdú 20% ar ghabháil iomlán is incheadaithe na hÉireann le haghaidh ronnach. Mar sin féin, bhí éileamh agus praghsanna ar ronnach na hÉireann láidir, go háirithe san Áise ina raibh ganntanas stoic. San Áise agus san Eoraip a bhí na margaí peiligeacha ab fhearr a bhí ag feidhmiú sa bhliain 2019 agus tháinig fás suntasach ar mhargáí na Ríochta Aontaithe agus an Mheánoirthir. Tá ardú thart ar 61% ó thaobh an luacha de tagtha ar an éileamh ar ronnach na hÉireann sa tSín, agus tá ardú 174% tagtha ar an éileamh ar bholmán na hÉireann san Éigipt. Bhí feidhmíocht mhaith sna margaí san Afraic go luath sa bhliain ach bhí sé deacair orthu na leibhéil phraghsanna nua a mheaitseáil. Bhí feidhmíocht mhaith sna margaí lárnach san Eoraip. Is í an Spáinn an margadh is mó le haghaidh iasc geal i gcónaí agus RA agus an Fhrainc na chéad chinn eile. Is ionann na margaí sin agus os cionn 85% d'onnmhairí iomlána iasc geal. Bhí ghabháil iomlán is incheadaithe na hÉireann le haghaidh iasc geal sách cobhsaí i rith 2019 i gcomparáid le 2018.

Tháinig titim ar luachanna onnmhairithe sliogéisc na hÉireann sa bhliain 2019 tar éis roinnt dúshláin a bheith ann a raibh tionchar acu ar tháirgeadh ar feadh na bliana. Cloicheáin reoite an t-onnmhairiú sliogéisc ba mhó in 2018, arbh ionann iad agus tuairim is 10% d'onnmhairí iomlána bia mara.

Bhí bliain eile thar a bheith táirgiúil ag an earnáil portán beo, le fás 63% ar an luach onnmhairithe agus feidhmíocht den scoth sa bhFrainc, inar tháinig ardú 47% ar an luach in 2019. Méadú faoi dhó ar an méid onnmhairí chuig an margadh sin ba chúis leis an ardú sin, chomh maith le hardú 29% ar an meánphraghas in aghaidh an tonna. Tháinig laghdú 27% i rith na bliana ar luach na n-onnmhairí sliogiasc ullmhaithe, lena n-áirítear breallaigh agus cuachmaí, arna spreagadh ag na laghduithe de 23% a tháinig ar mhéideanna i rith na tréimhse sin. Tháinig laghdú 22% ar luach na n-onnmhairí chuig an gCóiré Theas i rith na bliana, arb é an príomh-mhargadh onnmhairithe é, le beagnach 73% de na honnmhairí uile sa chatagóir seo. Tháinig laghdú 44% ar onnmhairí chuig an tSín agus tháinig laghdú 20% ar luach onnmhairithe chuig Hong Cong ar an luach i rith na bliana.

Bhí drochbhliain eile ag earnáil oisrí na hÉireann agus laghdú 15% ar luachanna onnmhairí. Tháinig ísliú mór

BIA MARA

ar onnmhairithe oisrí pacáilte chuig na mór-chomhpháirtithe onnmhairithe go léir. Tháinig íslíú 15% ar luachanna onnmhairithe chun na Fraince agus tháinig íslíú 21% ar luachanna onnmhairithe chun na Síne agus Hong Cong, agus iad go léir á dtiomáint ag méid. In 2018, tháinig méadú 43% ar luach na n-onnmhairithe bradáin agus lean praghas bhradán na hÉireann ag méadú de réir mar a bhrú an t-éileamh earnáil an bhradáin orgánaigh ar aghaidh. Lean margadh na Fraince lena bheith chun tosaigh in onnmhairithe bradán na hÉireann, arbh ionann é agus 41% den luach iomlán agus tháinig dúbailt ar onnmhairithe chun na Polainne ó 1,000 tonna go 2,000 tonna agus ardú ó €9 milliún go €21 milliún i luach bliain ar bhliain.

An Comhbheartas Iascaigh

Tá roinnt de na limistéir is táirgiúla agus is íogaire ó thaobh na bitheolaíochta de in uiscí an AE le fáil sa bhfarraige thart timpeall na hÉireann (Folimistéir ICES 6 agus 7). Tagann na stoic iascach sna limistéir sin faoi théarmaí tagartha an Chomhbheartais Iascaigh (CFP).

Is é príomhchuspóir an CFP deis a thabhairt d'atógáil na stoc éisc in uiscí Eorpacha in imeacht ama, rud a thacóidh le hinmharthanacht thionscal iascaireachta na hEorpa trí bhithin stoic a bhainistiú go fadtéarmach, éisc aischurtha a laghdú agus deireadh a chur leo agus stoic a atógáil chuig Uastoradh Inbhuanaithe (MSY).

- Deireadh céimnithe a chur le héisc aischurtha – Bhí deireadh céimnithe á chur leis an toirmeasc ar éisc aischurtha nó an oibleagáid maidir le gabhála a thabhairt i dtír, ar ghné lárnach den Chomhbheartas Iascaigh (CFP) é thar roinnt blianta agus tá sé le bheith curtha i bhfeidhm go hiomlán in 2019. Tá Grúpa Réigiúnach Ballstát ar Uiscí an Iarthuaiscirt (Éire, an Bheilg, an Fhrainc, an Ríocht Aontaithe, an Ísiltír agus an Spáinn) ann chun iascaigh ag leibhéal réigiúnach a bhainistiú faoin CFP agus tagann an grúpa le chéile go rialta chun pleananna maidir le hábhar muirí aischurtha agus beartais iascaigh eile a phlé i gcomhairle leis na páirtithe leasmhara ábhartha. Téann sé i gcomhairle leis na Comhairlí Comhairleacha ábhartha páirtithe leasmhara ar bhonn rialta. Bhí cruinnithe rialta ag an ngrúpa ar feadh na bliana 2019 chun saincheistanna cur chun feidhme a phlé maidir le bearta breise tar éis feidhmiú iomlán na

hoibleagáide maidir le tabhairt i dtír éisc.

- Is éard atá in Uastoradh Inbhuanaithe (MSY) an leibhéal a cheadaíonn don ghabháil éisc is airde fad a choinnítear stoic inbhuanaithe go fadtéarmach. Leagadh síos an sprioc-am i 2019 faoin CFP chun deireadh a chur le ró-iascaireacht tríd an Líon Iomlán Gabhála Incheadaithe (TAC) de réir chomhairle eolaíoch. Maidir leis an gcuid is mó de stoic, ciallaíonn sé sin, nuair a bhíonn comhairle leordhóthanach ar fáil, go bhfuil cuótaí leagtha síos ag leibhéal a chinntíonn inbhuanaitheacht fadtéarmach, de réir phrionsabal MSY. Tá laghdú mór tagtha ar shaothrú le blianta beaga anuas san Atlantach, sa Mhuir Thuaidh agus sa Mhuir Bhailt de bharr na dteorainneacha gabhála atá beartaithe ag an gCoimisiún Eorpach. Socraíodh na deiseanna iascaireachta a pléadh ag an gComhairle um Thalmhaíocht agus um Iascach i mí na Nollag 2019 don bhliain 2020 de réir chuspóir MSY. Maidir le 32 as an 47 spriocstoc a bhfuil baint sonrath acu le hÉirinn, leagadh amach na cuótaí do 2020 de réir leibhéal na comhairle eolaíche nó faoin leibhéal sin nuair a bhí an chomhairle sin ar fáil, trínar baineadh amach critéir MSY. Do stoic eile, comhaontaigh an Chomhairle, cuótaí sriantacha agus réamhchúraim chun seachghabhálacha dosheachanta a cheadú nó chun sonraí eolaíochta a bhailiú.
- Pleananna iascaigh ilbhliantúla - Is é an aidhm atá leis na pleananna iascaigh ilbhliantúla ná an stoc éisc a athbhunú agus a choinneáil ag leibhéal inbhuanaithe agus inbhuanaitheacht shóisialta agus eacnamaíoch na n-iascairí atá ag obair i réigiúin áirithe a chinntiú. I mí an Mhárta 2019, ghlac an Chomhairle Eorpach leis an bplean ilbhliantúil chun iascach in Uiscí Thiar a bhainistiú, rud atá thar a bheith tábhachtach ó thaobh na hÉireann de. Leagtar amach sa rialachán plean bainistíochta cuimsitheach, lena n-áirítear, na stoic éisc ábhartha go léir agus leagtar síos cuspóirí iascaireachta do phríomhspeicis sprice. Cinntíonn sé go bhfuil iascaireacht á dhéanamh ar na stoic seo ag teacht le prionsabal MSY agus déantar bainistíocht ar gabhála de réir cur chuige réamhchúraim.

BAINISTIÚ AGUS CAOMHNÚ IASCAIGH

Cuóta Iasc a Bhainistiú in 2019

Bhí an Roinn freagrach as breis is 193,606 tonna de chuótaí éisc a bhainistiú in 2019. Mar chuid den phróiseas bainistithe sin, faoin Acht Iascaigh Mhara agus Dlíne Muirí 2006, eisíodh 997 n-údarú agus leasú. Ina theannta sin, thug an tAire feidhm do 60 bhFógra Bainistíochta Iascaigh agus do 10 nIonstraim Reachtúla chun tacú le iascaigh na hÉireann a bhainistiú.

Ina theannta sin in 2019, rinneadh 40 stoc éisc Grinnill (iasc geal agus cloicheáin) a bhainistiú i gcomhairle leis an gCoiste Comhairleach Bainistíochta Cuótaí, a bhfuil baint ag ionadaithe ón earnáil iascaireachta leis. Tá na teorainneacha gabhála arna leagan amach san Fhógra um Bhainistiú Iascaigh le feiceáil ar láithreán gréasáin na Roinne agus scaipeadh iad ar eagraíochtaí ionadaíocha an tionscail.

Cothromú Cuóta 2019

Tá córas Cothromaithe Cuóta á thabhairt isteach ar bhonn céimnithe chun cuidiú le feidhmiú iomlán na hoibleagáide maidir le tabhairt i dtír éisc (a ndéantar foráil dó faoin Rialachán (AE) Uimh.1380/2013, Airteagal 15). Cuireadh Beartas Cothromaithe Cuóta do Stoic Peiligeacha i bhfeidhm sa bhliain 2018 agus táthar le Beartas Cothromaithe Cuóta do Stoic Éisc ghrinnill (Iasc geal) a chur i bhfeidhm sa bhliain 2020.

Cuireann an córas cothromaithe cuóta le caomhnú agus le bainistíocht na gcuótaí éisc. Beidh os cionn 600 tonna de chuóta atá cothromaithe agus athdháilte mar thoradh ar chothromú cuóta ar tugadh faoi suas go dtí mí Aibreáin 2020, do na stoic éisc peiligeacha a ndearnadh iascaireacht orthu sa bhliain 2019. Maidir le hiascaireacht na bliana 2019, eisíodh 336 ráiteas cothromaithe cuóta ar shealbhóirí ceadúnais faoi mhí Aibreáin 2020.

Gabhálacha Iomlána is Incheadaithe agus Cuótaí 2020

I gcomhthéacs a bheith ag ullmhú do chaibidlí bliantúla an AE, chuir an tAire Measúnú Tionchair Inbhuanaitheachta ar Iomlán na nGabhálacha Incheadaithe (TACanna) agus na gcuótaí do 2020 i láthair don Dáil i mí na Nollag 2019. Rinneadh an measúnú Tionchair Inbhuanaitheachta a fhorbairt tar éis ionchur ó ghníomhaireachtaí mara lena n-áirítear SFPa, BIM agus MI agus i ndiaidh cruinnithe ina

raibh na páirtithe leasmhara ábhartha ar fad rannpháirteach iontu i mí na Samhna 2019.

D'aontaigh Airí Comhairle Iascaigh an AE TACanna agus cuótaí 2020 i mí na Nollag 2019. D'éirigh leis an Aire 195,000 tonna cuótaí arbh ionann a luach agus €275 milliún d'iascairí na hÉireann a fháil do 2020. Áiríodh ar phríomhéachtaí, ardú ar chuótaí do líon stoic tábhachtacha – lena n-áirítear, Murlas (ardú 41%), agus Cadóg (+30%), Anglait (+7%) agus Scoilteán (+3%) sa Mhuir Cheilteach. Tá drochbhail i gcónaí ar stoic ar nós Trosc agus Faoitín sa Mhuir Cheilteach agus thángthas ar chomhaontú chun cosaintí breise suntasacha a thabhairt isteach chun cuidiú leis na stoic sin a theacht chucu féin. Tabharfar na cosaintí riachtanacha do Throsc agus Faoitín leis na bearta atá comhaontaithe ag an gComhairle agus ag an am céanna ceadú d'árthaigh leanúint d'iascaireacht a dhéanamh ar bhealach inbhuanaithe.

Trí na céimeanna riachtanacha seo a ghlacadh anois, beifear ábalta cuidiú le stoic a thabhairt ar ais sna hiascaigh atá againn sa Mhuir Cheilteach agus an gá le dúnadh a sheachaint.

SeaFest 2019 - Feidhm a Bhaint as Saibhreas Ár nAigéin - Geilleagar Gorm na hÉireann a Fhorbairt

Mealladh os cionn 90,000 cuairteoir chuig Duganna Chathair Chorcaí leis an imeacht trí lá SeaFest 2019 a tionóladh ón 7-9 Meitheamh 2019. Ba é seo an chéad imeacht den Fhéile a bheidh ar siúl ar feadh trí bliana i gCorcaigh, tar éis den Fhéile a bheith á réachtáil i nGaillimh ar feadh trí bliana ó 2016-2018. Mar fhéile muirí náisiúnta na hÉireann, tá mar aidhm le SeaFest ár n-aitheantas muirí a láidriú agus rannpháirtíocht agus caidreamh leis an bhfarraige a mhéadú de réir Sprioc 3 de Feidhm a Bhaint as Saibhreas Ár nAigéin (Plean Comhtháite Muirí d'Éirinn). Ag obair i gcomhar le Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí agus le raon leathan gníomhaireachtaí agus eagraíochtaí comhpháirtithe, rinne Foras na Mara SeaFest a chomhordú thar ceann an Ghrúpa Comhordaithe Mara tras-rialtais, faoi chathaoirleacht an Aire Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara. Bhí ról lárnach ag gníomhaireachtaí Mara na Roinne, BIM, SFPa agus Bord Bia, ó thaobh taispeántas a thabhairt ar raon gníomhaíochtaí na hÉireann lena léirítear acmhainn agus tionscal éagsúil bia mara na hÉireann.

BAINISTIÚ AGUS CAOMHNÚ IASCAIGH

Tionóladh an séú ‘Cruinniú Mullaigh faoi Shaibhreas Ár nAigéin’ freisin mar chuid den SeaFest. ‘Glórtha Comhroinnté ó Oileáin Bheaga’ a bhí mar théama do Chruinniú Mullaigh na bliana 2019 a reáchtáladh i Halla na Cathrach, Corcaigh, an 10 Meitheamh. Bhí cainteoirí náisiúnta agus idirnáisiúnta, lena n-áirítear, John Kerry, iar-Státrúnaí na Stáit Aontaithe, ionadaithe na NA maidir le Stáit Oileáin Bheaga atá i mbéal Forbartha (SIDS), ceannairí polaitíochta agus gnó agus ambasadóirí óga aigéin le cloisteáil ag na 750 toscaire a d’fhreastail. Dhírigh na príomhchainteanna ar thionchair athrú aeráide ar an tsláinte agus ar ár n-acmhainní comhroinnté aigéin. Thug an tAire Creed aitheasc do na toscairí ag an gCruinniú Mullaigh, tráth ar chuir an tAire fáilte roimh na treochtaí maidir le fás dearfach i nGeilleagar Gorm na hÉireann agus taithí na tíre seo le gairid a chomhroinnt le tionscnaimh don fhás gorm inbhuanaithe. Sheol an tAire, thar ceann an Rialtais, an tAthbhreithniú bliantúil ar an Dul Chun Cinn maidir le Feidhm a Bhaint as Saibhreas Ár nAigéin. Thug an Tánaiste agus an tAire Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála, Simon Coveney, Damien English, an tAire Stáit do Thithíocht agus Athnuachan Uirbeach agus Mairéad McGuinness, an Chéad Leas-Uachtarán, Parlaimint na hEorpa, aitheasc ag an gCruinniú Mullaigh freisin.

Áiríodh ar phríomhimeachtaí eile a bhí ar siúl le linn SeaFest, Sarthaispeántas ar Thionscal Muirí na hÉireann, Smart Maritime and Offshore Wind an 11 Meitheamh i Halla na Mílaoise, Halla na Cathrach, Corcaigh, a bhí á gcomhordú ag Fiontraíocht Éireann.

Ar leibhéal áitiúil sa chathair inar tionóladh an ócáid, Corcaigh, meastar gur gineadh €4.1 mhilliún in ioncam díreach do thionscal turasóireachta na cathrach ag SeaFest agus ag na hócáidí a bhain leis in 2019. Baineadh amach buaicphointí nach bhfacthas riamh cheana sa tuairisciú áitiúil, náisiúnta agus idirnáisiúnta ar an bhféile. Mar shampla, bhí lucht éisteachta agus féachana tuairim is 100 mhilliún ag an tuairisciú sna meáin, le SeaFest 2019 mar ghné ar chláir amhail SkyNews, RTÉ Nationwide agus RTÉ Countrywide. Bronnadh gradam náisiúnta ar SeaFest freisin as an ‘Imeacht Cultúir is Fearr’ ag Gradaim an Tionscail Imeachtaí 2019. An cur síos a thug na moltóirí air, “a great celebration of Ireland’s maritime heritage that serves an important cultural purpose”.

Ceadúnú Dobharshaothraithe

Chuir an Grúpa Athbhreithnithe Neamhspleách um Cheadúnú Dobharshaothraithe, a bhí ceaptha ag an Aire chun athbhreithniú a dhéanamh ar an bpróiseas

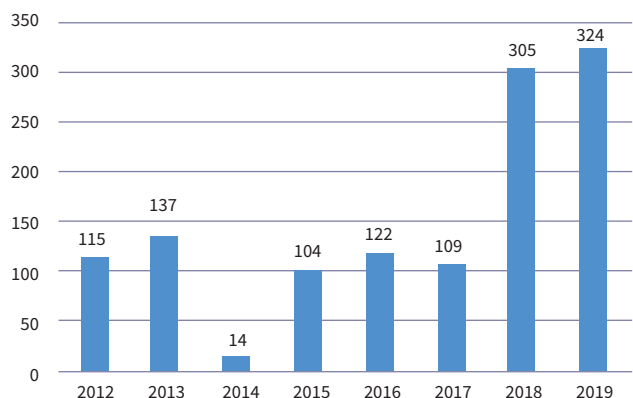
ceadúnaithe don dobharshaothrú agus a chreat dlíthiúil gaolmhar, a Thuarascáil faoi bhráid an Aire i mí na Bealtaine 2017.

Rinne an Grúpa Athbhreithnithe imscrúdú mionsonraithe ar an bpróiseas ceadúnaithe dobharshaothraithe reatha, thug sé faoi chomhairliúchán cuimsitheach le páirtithe leasmhara agus scrúdaigh sé na córais toilithe inchoimparáide náisiúnta agus idirnáisiúnta chun deachleachtas a aimsiú maidir le próiseas casta ceadúnaithe a bhainistiú ar bhealach trédhearcach, a bheadh cuí ó thaobh an chomhshaoil de agus láidir ó thaobh an dlí de.

Ó fuarthas an tuarascáil an Ghrúpa Athbhreithnithe, tá machnamh mionsonraithe déanta ag an Roinn ar na moltaí atá leagtha amach inti, le súil agus iad a chur i bhfeidhm, ag féachaint do na saincheisteanna reachtaíochta, comhshaoil, teicniúla agus maidir le leas an phobail a eascraíonn dá bharr. Tá dlúthchaidreamh déanta ag an Roinn freisin le hionadaithe ón tionscal agus le Gníomhaireachtaí Stáit ábhartha.

Ba í an phríomhchúis a bhí leis an nGrúpa Athbhreithnithe Neamhspleách um Cheadúnú Dobharshaothraithe, ná an ghá le haghaidh a thabhairt ar an riaráiste do Cheadúnú Dobharshaothraithe ar bhealach fócasaithe. Mar fhreagra air sin, thug an Roinn faoi thionscadal dhá bhliain chun deireadh a chur leis an riaráiste maidir le ceadúnú sliogiasc. Baineadh 305 agus 324 cinneadh maidir le ceadúnú amach sna blianta 2018 agus 2019 faoi seach.

Fíor 1: Cinntí maidir le Ceadúnú Dobharshaothraithe 2012 – 2019



BAINISTIÚ AGUS CAOMHNÚ IASCAIGH

Tá thart ar 1200 cinneadh déanta maidir le ceadúnas ón mbliain 2012.

Tá an riaráiste maidir le ceadúnú sliogéisc a bhí mar shaincheist ag a raibh tionchar aici ar an tionscal do bharshaothraithe, glanta anois. Is ionann an riaráiste ceadúnú sliogéisc a ghlanadh agus athrú ollmhór don tionscal agus tugann sé seasamh daingean don tionscal, seasamh atá á éileamh le fada an lá ag ionadaithe an tionscail.

Chuir glanadh éifeachtach an riaráiste maidir le ceadúnú sliogéisc ar chumas na Roinne díriú ar an riaráiste i bpróiseáil ceadanna do bharshaothraithe iasc eite anois. Is próiseas casta é iarratais ar cheadúnais iasc eite sa timpeallacht mara a phróiseáil, go háirithe de bharr an riachtanais d'oibrítheoirí Ráitis Tionchair Timpeallachta a sholáthar agus don Roinn agus do Ghníomhaireachtaí ábhartha anailís mhionsonraithe a dhéanamh ar na tuarascálacha sin. Bhí líon mór Ráiteas Tionchair Timpeallachta ó oibreoirí do bharshaothraithe ag seasamh amach go fóill sa bhliain 2019. D'oibrigh an Roinn go dlúth le hionadaithe ón Tionscal sa bhliain 2019 agus súil le dlús a chur faoi Ráitis Tionchair Timpeallachta a bhí ag seasamh amach a chur faoi bhráid.

An tAcht um Iascaigh Mhara (Leasú) 2019

Shínigh an tUachtarán an tAcht um Iascaigh Mhara (Leasú) 2019, an 4 Aibreán 2019 agus chur an tAire tús leis an Acht an 23 Aibreán 2019. Foráiltear leis an Acht seo leasuithe dlíthiúla a dhéanamh ar an Acht Iascaigh Mhara agus DlíNSE Muirí, 2006 d'fhonn aghaidh a thabhairt ar chinneadh na Cúirte Uachtaraí i nDeireadh Fómhair 2016 nach raibh cead de réir an dlí ag soithigh as Tuaisceart Éireann a bheith ag iascaireacht laistigh de chríos 0-6 mhuirmhíle uiscí teorann an Stáit.

Iascach Intíre Inbhuanaithe a Fhorbairt

Tháinig an Fóram Náisiúnta Iascaigh Cois Cladaigh (NIFF) le chéile ceithre huaire in 2019 chun moltaí a bhain le hiascaigh intíre agus a gcuid idirghníomhaíochtaí le láithreáin Natura 2000 a phlé agus a fhorbairt. Faigheann an NIFF tacaíocht ó líonra de shé Fhóram Réigiúnach Iascaigh Cois Cladaigh (RIFF), lena mbaineann ionadaíocht ó pháirtithe leasmhara iascach intíre agus ó pháirtithe leasmhara mara eile. Tá faisnéis faoi obair na bhFóram le fáil ar láithreán gréasáin faoi leith: www.inshoreforums.ie.

Sheol an tAire an Straitéis d'Earnáil Iascaireachta Cois Cladaigh na hÉireann 2019-2023 thar ceann an NIFF ag deireadh mhí Feabhra 2019. Rinneadh forbairt ar an straitéis trí phróiseas leathan lena raibh baint ag Fóraim Iascaireachta Cois Cladaigh agus a gcéad treoirphlean tionscal-bhunaithe don earnáil. Aithnítear cuspóirí agus gníomhartha sa treoirphlean a chuirfidh cruth ar obair na bhFóram sna blianta atá amach romhainn. Tá Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM) lárnach maidir leis an straitéis seo a chur i bhfeidhm, a mbeidh sé mar aidhm leí an tacaíocht mhaoinithe atá ar fáil faoin gCiste Eorpach Muirí agus Iascaigh a úsáid sna réimsí is mó a mbainfear an leas is fearr aisti. Tá grúpa um fheidhmiú straitéise, lena n-áirítear, an Roinn, BIM, Foras na Mara, Údarás Cosanta Iascaigh Mhara agus ionadaithe ón tionscal, i mbun monatóireachta agus ag stiúradh an dul chun cinn maidir le feidhmiú.

Cheadaigh an tAire méadú arna mholadh ag an tionscal ar an Íosmhéid Tagartha Caomhnaithe (MCRS) le haghaidh an portán dearg a thabhairt i dtír. Chuir an beart ardú ar an MCRS maidir leis an bportán dearg go 140mm a bhí á dtógáil ag báid iascaigh na hÉireann agus bhí ag iascaireacht sna farraigí-thimpeall na hÉireann (limistéir ICES VI agus VII), ardú 130mm ar an MCRS atá leagtha amach i reachtaíocht AE. Cheadaigh an tAire tionscnamh tionscal-bhunaithe freisin chun cosaint dhlíthiúil a sholáthar don chráifisc v-eangaithe mar chuid de thionscadal taighde Fhoras na Mara san iardheisceart.

Leanadh le bainistíocht a dhéanamh ar iascaigh um Shíol Diúilicíní uile-oileánda sa bhliain 2019, agus cuireadh tús le séasúr iascaireachta an fhómhair i Muir Éireann i ndeireadh mhí Meán Fómhair agus thosaigh an séasúr i Loch na dTrí gCaol i gContae Chiarraí go luath i mí Deireadh Fómhair (féach an chuid ar Natura 2000 thíos). Leanann an Chomhairle um Maoirseacht Mara (MSC) leis an iascach a dheimhniú. Deirtear sa deimhniúchán reatha, a eisíodh in 2018 agus a bheidh bailí ar feadh cúig bliana, go bhfuarthas go raibh an t-iascach ag cloí le riachtanais an MSC agus go bhfuil sé dea-bhainistithe agus inbhuanaithe. Fuarthas sin i ndiaidh deimhniúcháin a fuarthas in 2013. Ag deireadh 2019, reáchtáladh comhchomhairliúchán poiblí ar feadh sé seachtaine d'fhonn tuairimí na ndaoine a bhfuil spéis acu in iascach um shíol diúilicín na hÉireann a lorg maidir leis na socruithe bainistithe atá i bhfeidhm don iascach. Tháinig an comhairliúchán chun críche an 31 Nollaig agus fuarthas 86 aighneacht.

BAINISTIÚ AGUS CAOMHNÚ IASCAIGH

Treoracha Natura 2000 a Chur i bhFeidhm

Is éard atá in Natura 2000, líonra AE de phríomh-láithreáin pórúcháin agus scíthe do speicis neamhchoitianta nó do speicis atá i mbaol, agus roinnt cineálacha gnáthóg nádúrtha neamhchoitianta dá dtugtar cosaint ina gceart féin. Roimhe seo, d'ullmhaigh Foras na Mara (an ghníomhaireacht Stáit atá freagrach as taighde mara, forbairt teicneolaíochta agus nuáil in Éirinn) measúnú riosca maidir le hidirghníomhaíochtaí iascaigh mhara le speicis agus gnáthóga atá faoi chosaint Natura 2000 ar feadh chósta Theas agus chósta Thiar na hÉireann. Tá sé ag súil le measúnú cosúil leis sin ar na speicis éin a thabhairt chun críche in 2020. Tugtar faoi na measúnachtaí sin faoi Airteagal 6.2 de Threoir um Ghnáthóga an Aontais Eorpaigh. Rinne an Foras measúnú riosca comhchosúil in 2013 ar ghníomhaíochtaí iascaireachta i láithreáin Natura 2000 ar Muir Éireann (an cósta Thoir). Agus é ag obair ar na Fóraim Iascaigh Cois Cladaigh Náisiúnta agus Réigiúnacha, tá tús curtha ag an Rialtas le gníomhartha chun dul i ngleic leis na rioscaí a bhaineann le gníomhaíochtaí iascaigh mhara ar bhonn tosaíochta.

Cheadaigh an tAire leasú ar an bPlean Natura Iascaigh d'iascach shíolta diúilicíní i Loch na dTrí gCaol, Contae Chiarraí ag tús mí Deireadh Fómhair 2019. Tháinig an t-iarratas ar leasú ón tionscal agus ar scagthástáil a dhéanamh, fuarthas amach nach athrú ábhartha ar an bplean óna dteastóidh measúnacht chuí. Chomh maith leis sin, d'eisigh an tAire deimhniúchán iascaigh Natura ar an iascach i mí Deireadh Fómhair chun síneadh a chur ar na teorainneacha timpeall ar limistéar thart ar Oileán Dheilgnise, áit a bhfuil cosc ar iascach ar dhiúilicíní. Glac an tAire le moladh ó Fhoras na Mara chun limistéar a dhúnadh ar bhonn réamhchúraim mar gheall ar ghnáthóg do sceir chosanta a bheith ann.

Déantar foráil leis an Acht um Gníomhú Aeráide agus um Fhorbairt Ísealcharbóin, 2015, a chuireann leis an gCreat Náisiúnta Oiriúnú don Athrú Aeráide, chun Pleananna um Oiriúnú Earnála a ullmhú. Ag leanúint ar aghaidh ón obair ullmhúcháin a tugadh fúithi sa bhliain 2018, foilsíodh dréachtphlean Oiriúnaithe um Athrú Aeráide maidir le Talmhaíocht, Foraoiseacht agus Bia Mara do chomhairliúchán poiblí an 27 Meitheamh 2019. Tugadh an dréachtphlean suas chun dáta ina dhiaidh sin chun saincheisteanna a ardaíodh sna haighneachtaí a fuarthas mar chuid den phróiseas comhairliúcháin a léiriú.

Cheadaigh an Rialtas an Plean Oiriúnaithe Earnála um Athrú Aeráide maidir le Talmhaíocht, Foraoiseacht agus Bia Mara an 31 Deireadh Fómhair 2019 agus is féidir an plean a fheiceáil ar láithreán gréasáin na Roinne.

Chuidigh an Grúpa Oibre maidir le hOiriúnú um Athrú Aeráide, a chuimsíonn ionadaithe ó gach aon cheann de na Gníomhaireachtaí Muirí (BIM, MI agus SFPA) agus an Roinn, le seachadadh Plean Oiriúnaithe Earnála cuimsitheach a chinntiú, a thugann aghaidh ar na príomhréimsí oiriúnaithe. Rinne Foras na Mara (MI) athbhreithniú ar an Tuarascáil Speisialta an Phainéil Idir-Rialtasach ar Athrú Aeráide na Náisiún Aontaithe (IPCC) ar Aigéin agus ar Chríóisféar maidir le hAeráid atá ag Athrú (SROCC), a foilsíodh i Meán Fómhair 2019, agus rinne Foras na Mara achoimre ar phríomhthorthaí na tuarascála a thóg san áireamh go bhféadfadh aigéin a bheith ag téamh ag gach doimhneacht, go bhfuil leibhéal na farraige ag ardú ar bhonn domhanda agus go bhfuil athrú geografach i speicis á bhrath.

Baineadh leas as deiseanna chun cur le feasacht ar athrú aeráide laistigh den earnáil bia mara ar feadh na bliana 2019, lena n-áirítear, bileog a scaipeadh ag imeachtaí, lena n-áirítear, SeaFest, Skipper Expo agus líon Imeachtaí Bricfeasta SFPA, ar phleanáil chun dul in oiriúint don athrú aeráide. Bhí leabhrán maidir le hOiriúnú Aeráide agus Bia Mara ina raibh sé cinn de chás-staidéir le fáil ag Seafest freisin; chuidigh na cás-staidéir le tuiscint níos doimhne a fhorbairt maidir leis an mbealach ina mbeidh tionchar ag athrú aeráide ar an earnáil bia mara agus le díospóireacht ar oiriúnú aeráide a chur chun cinn.

Tionscnamh na nAigéan Glan

Tá na haigéin a chosaint ar cheann den 17 Sprioc Dhomhanda a chuimsítear i gClár Oibre 2030 don Fhorbairt Inbhuanaithe. Is léiriú ar thiomantas na hÉireann do Sprioc 14, Saol faoi uisce, í an díograis atá ann do Thionscnamh na nAigéan Glan.

Tá Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM), Gníomhaireacht Forbartha Bia Mara na hÉireann, mar Sheaimpín don Sprioc Domhanda um Fhorbairt Inbhuanaithe (SDG) 2019-2020 do Sprioc 2 (Deireadh a chur le hOcras), Sprioc 8 (Obair Chuibhiúil agus Fás Eacnamaíoch), Sprioc 12 (Tomhaltas agus Táirgeadh Níos Inbhuanaithe) agus Sprioc 14 (Beathra Faoin Uisce).

BAINISTIÚ AGUS CAOMHNÚ IASCAIGH

Sheol an tAire an Tionscnamh maidir le hAigéin Glan i mí Eanáir ag Calafort Bréantrá, Co. Corcaí, chun aghaidh a thabhairt ar thruailliú ó phlaisteach san fharraige a bhfuil báid iascaigh na hÉireann ag teacht trasna air. D'iarr an Aire ag an am go mbeadh gach trálaeir ag gach cé agus calafort de chuid na hÉireann rannpháirteach go gníomhach sa chéad tionscnamh comhordaithe ar muir agus ar talamh chun bruscar muirí a bhailiú, a laghdú agus a athúsáid chun an timpeallacht mhuirí a ghlanadh.

An Ciste Eorpach Muirí agus Iascaigh OP 2014-2020 (EMFF)

Ghlac an Coimisiún Eorpach go foirmiúil le Clár EMFF na hÉireann 2014-2020 i mí na Nollag 2015 agus tá raon leathan beart tacaíochta ann chun fás inbhuanaithe na hearnála bia mara a chothú (iascaigh, dobhar shaothrú agus próiseáil). Faigheann an Clár cómhaoiniú ón Aontas Eorpach agus ó Rialtas na hÉireann. Fáigheann an Clár tacaíocht €147.6 mhilliún ón AE in imeacht thréimhse seacht mbliana an Chláir agus cuirtear maoiniú ón Rialtas leis an maoiniú sin ón AE, le gur €239.2 mhilliún an méid iomlán tacaíochta a bheidh ar fáil faoin gClár.

Bhí gach scéim EMFF i bhfeidhm faoi dheireadh 2018. Sa tréimhse ón Dé Máirt 1 Eanáir 2019 go Dé Máirt 31 Nollaig 2019, tugadh tacaíocht do na gníomhartha seo a leanas faoin EMFF OP 2014-2020.

Cé go ndéantar faireachán ar an dul chun cinn ar chur chun feidhme an EMFF OP agus é a thuairisciú chuig an gCoimisiún ar bhonn bliantúil, déantar meastóireacht ar an méid a chuireann sé le cuspóirí beartais a bhaint amach a thuairisciú ar bhonn tréimhsiúil i.e., in 2017, 2019 agus 2024. Déanfar meastóireacht ar thionchar an chláir ag deireadh 2019 mar chuid de Thuarascáil Chur Chun Feidhme Bhliantúil atá le cur ar aghaidh chuig an gCoimisiún i mí an Mheithimh 2020.

Tosaíocht an Aontais

Caiteachas Poiblí 2019

Forbairt Inbhuanaithe ar Iascaigh	€17,827,402
Forbairt Inbhuanaithe ar Dhobharshaothrú	€5,730,130
Tacú leis an gComhbheartas Iascaigh	€24,701,335
Forbairt Áitiúil Pobalthreoraithe	€3,014,706
Margaíocht & Próiseáil Tháirgí Bia Mara	€5,010,288
Tacú leis an mBeartas Comhtháite Muirí	€2,696,820

AN CLÁR FORBARTHA CAIPITIL INFREASTRUCHTÚIR CUANTA IASCAIGH AGUS CÓSTA

In 2019, ba €29.4 mhilliún a bhí sa chaiteachas vótáilte iomlán ar an gClár sin. Caitheadh €27.7 milliún de sin ar Ionaid Chuanta Iascaigh agus caitheadh €82,000 eile ar Chléire agus ar raon píaraí, soilse agus rabhchán timpeall an chósta a chothabháil, faoi théarmaí tagartha na Roinne. Rannóg Innealtóireachta na Roinne a bhainistíonn an infheistíocht shuntasach ar na hoibreacha sin, chomh maith le tacaíocht theicniúil agus chomhairleach agus seirbhísí cigireachta a sholáthar le haghaidh gach forbairt chuanta iascaigh.

Príomhthionscadail in Ionaid Chuanta Iascaigh in 2019

Baile Chaisleáin Bhéarra

Trí bhíthin na n-oibreacha forbartha ar phiara an chuain atá ar siúl faoi láthair ag Baile Chaisleáin Bhéarra, cuirfear síneadh le Cé Dhuínse lena n-áirítear fad 216 m breise leis an gcé, oibreacha caipitiúla dreidireachta, dhá mhuirmhúr carraig-armúrtha agus oibreacha gaolmhara. Bronnadh an conradh oibreacha ar fiú €23.44 mhilliún é i mí Iúil 2018. Cuireadh tús le hoibreacha tógála i mí Deireadh Fómhair 2018, agus chuaigh an obair sin chun cinn go seasta ar feadh na bliana 2019 le dreideáil, píleáil leatháin chruach, píleáil fheadánach, socrú líonach innealtóireachta agus deicre coincréite le síneadh a chur leis an gcé, chomh maith le dhá cheann tonnchosc nua ag an mbealach isteach sa chuan laistigh. Tabhaíodh caiteachas €16.8 mhilliún ar an tionscadal sin in 2019.



Leathnú Cé Dinishe, Baile Chaisleáin Bhéarra FHC
Oibreacha Conradh Tógála idir lámha 2019

Tugadh oibreacha chun críche freisin sa bhliain 2019 ar thógáil foirgneamh riaracháin nua don Chalafort ar Ché Mainland, Baile Chaisleáin Bhéarra. Bhí leagan an tseanhalla ceantála agus na hoifigí calafoirt atá ann cheana féin agus tógáil foirgneamh nua agus carrchlós nua i gceist leis an obair seo. Cuirfidh an foirgneamh cóiríocht ar fáil don Mháistir Cuain agus dá fhoireann agus d'fhoireann calafoirt SFPA. Is é an tAire a d'oscail an fhorbairt i mí na Bealtaine 2019 agus cuireann an foirgneamh pointe fócasach ar fáil don chalafort agus cuirfidh sé le hathfhorbairt an calafoirt agus le limistéir an bhaile ag teacht le feabhsúcháin bhainistíochta tráchta atá beartaithe don bhaile. Chosain an tionscadal seo €1.88 milliún ar an iomlán agus bhí caiteachas de €0.51 milliún i gceist leis sa bhliain 2019.



Foirgneamh Nua Riaracháin Calafoirt, Baile Chaisleáin
Bhéarra FHC Oibreacha Conradh Tógála tugtha chun
críche sa bhliain 2019

Ros an Mhíl

Sa bhliain 2019, cuireadh tús le tionscadal a chuimsigh tógáil síneadh tonnchosc le tuilleadh foscadh a chur ar fáil don chaladh bád i mí na Samhna 2018 agus tugadh an obair sin chun críche i mí Aibreáin 2019, agus chosain an tionscadal iomlán €0.75 milliún (lena n-áirítear, caiteachas de €0.63 milliún sa bhliain 2019).



Síneadh Tonnchosc, Ros an Mhíl FHC
Oibreacha Conradh Tógála tugtha chun críche sa bhliain
2019

AN CLÁR FORBARTHA CAIPITIL INFREASTRUCHTÚIR CUANTA IASCAIGH AGUS CÓSTA

Na Cealla Beaga

Chun freastal ar an éileamh atá ag méadú ón tionscal iascaireachta, cuireadh tús le hobair in 2017 le síneadh 120 méadar a chur leis an gcé ag Smooth Point. Freastalóidh an síneadh leis an bpiara ar bháid ag a bhfuil tarraingt suas le 9 méadar acu ar dia-thrá. Tugadh Céim 1 den tionscadal a raibh dríodar éillithe a bhaint, é a thabhairt i dtír le haghaidh cóireála agus cobhsaithe agus é a dhiúscairt ina dhiaidh sin le haghaidh athúsáide tairbhí amar chuid de chun críche in 2018. Cuireadh tús le Céim 2 den tionscadal sa bhliain 2019 agus cuimsíonn an obair dreideáil dríodar glan go -9mCD agus tógáil 120 méadar de bhalla cé. Bronnadh an conradh oibreacha ar fiú €12.9 mhilliún é i mí Lúnasa 2019. Áirítear ar oibreacha a tugadh chun críche ar an suíomh sa bhliain 2019 dreideáil agus diúscairt de thart ar 45% d'ábhar ón ngrinneall bog amuigh ar muir agus tabhairt chun siúil thart ar 7,000 méadar ciúbach de charraig a bhí stoc-charntha ar an suíomh lena athúsáid laistigh den chalafort. Bhí caiteachas iomlán de €5 milliún i gceist leis an tionscadal sa bhliain 2019.



Síneadh Cé Smooth Point, na Cealla Beaga FHC Obair Dhreideála idir lámha 2019

Dún Mór

Tugadh Céim 4 d'Oibreacha Leigheasta agus Feabhsúcháin na Cé Thiar chun críche i nDeireadh Fómhair 2019, ar chostais tionscadail iomlán €0.7 milliún. Áiríodh ar na hoibreacha fad 50 meadar dé dheic na cé a bhí ann cheana a scartáil agus cé choincréite threisithe nua a chur ina háit, oibreacha leigheasta ar na cairn choincréite threisithe a bhí ann cheana féin agus gardaí stuacha a chur in áit na ngardaí croíghlais. Cuirfidh an tionscadal seo tuilleadh feabhais ar na háiseanna atá sa chalafort, agus sin i ndiaidh an tionscadal dreidireachta ollmhór a thabhairt i gcrích in 2015.



Céim 4 den Obair Dheisiúcháin, An Ché Thiar, An Dún Mór Thoir FHC Oibreacha Conradh Tógála idir lámha 2019

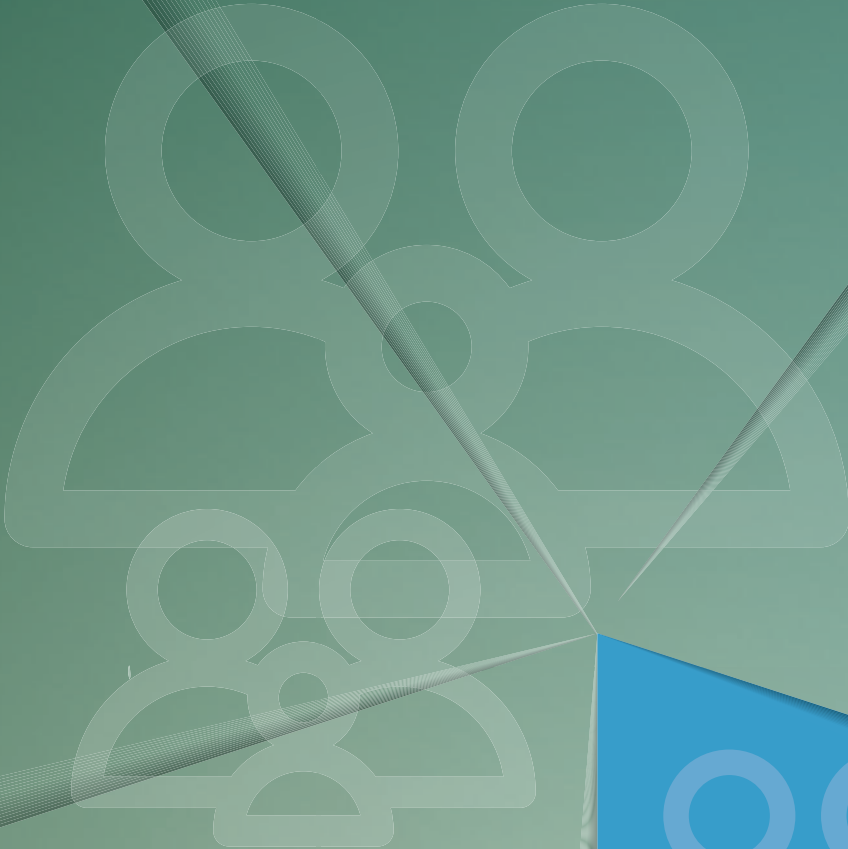
Bonneagar Chuanta na nÚdarás Áitiúil

In 2019, caitheadh €1.4 mhilliún ar oibreacha ag cuanta, piaraí agus fánáin ar le hÚdarás Áitiúla iad, faoi Chlár Forbartha an Bhonneagair Cósta agus Lárionad Cuanta Iascaigh agus faoin gClár Turasóireachta Mara agus Fóillíochta Mara. Bhain 33 dtionscadal ó Údarás Áitiúla ar fud na tíre leas as an maoiniú.

5

SPRIOC STRAITÉISEACH FORBAIRT CHORPARÁIDEACH

*Acmhainn straitéiseach, oibríochta,
rialála agus theicniúil a choinneáil agus
a fhorbairt d'fhonn sároibríocht a bhaint amach*



BAINISTÍOCHT AIRGEADAIS

Caiteachas Foriomlán

Bhí an Roinn freagrach as caiteachas vótáilte os cionn €1.641 bhilliún in 2019. Chomh maith leis an gcaiteachas vótáilte, chaith an Roinn €1.250.8 billiún ar scéimeanna a bhí maoinithe ag EAGF an AE, agus mar sin b'ionann caiteachas iomlán na Roinne agus €2.8 billiún

Caiteachas ar Thalmhaíocht na hÉireann, 2019	
	1,250.8
Íocaíochtaí Díreacha	1,204
Idirghabháil/APS	(12)*
Tacaíochtaí Margaidh Eile	61.8
Eile	(3)
Caiteachas Vótáilte (gan Riarachán san áireamh)	1,362
*Clár A - Sábháilteacht Bia, Sláinte Ainmhithe agus Plandaí agus Leas Ainmhithe	93
*Clár B - Tacaíochtaí agus Rialuithe Feirme/Earnála	802
*Clár C - Beartas agus Straitéis	337
*Clár D - Earnáil an Bhia Mara	130
Riarachán Iomlán an Chaiteachais Vótáilte	280
Iomlán an Chaiteachais	1,641
	2,892.5

* Ba mar thoradh ar an díol a bhí ar phúdar bainne bearrtha a bhí i stoc an €-12.6 milliún.

Fáltais AE

D'éiligh an Roinn maoiniú ón AE, agus fuair an maoiniú sin in 2019, i ndáil le bearta a fuair airgeadas ó na Cistí AE seo a leanas:

EAGF (An Ciste Eorpach um Rátháíocht Talmhaíochta)
An Ciste Tréidliachta

EAFRD (An Ciste Eorpach Talmhaíochta um Fhorbairt Tuaithe)

EMFF (An Ciste Eorpach Muirí agus Iascaireachta)

BAINISTÍOCHT AIRGEADAIS

Achoimre ar Fháiltas AE in 2018 agus in 2019		
	2018 €m	2019 €m
EAGF	1,222	1,193
EAFRD*	401	324
An Ciste Tréidliachta	10	9
EFF & EMFF**	16	23
Eile	1	1
Iomlán	1,650	1,550

* Lena n-áirítear fáiltas a cuireadh ar aghaidh chuig an Roinn Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail

** Réamh-mhaoiniú ar EMFF nach raibh curtha in áireamh do A&A

Rialuithe Airgeadais

Feidhmíonn an Roinn raon cuimsitheach córas bainistithe airgeadais, rialaithe agus cuntasáochta chun cloí le riachtanais AE, le riachtanais náisiúnta chuntasáochta agus le riachtanais rialála.

I gcomhréir le ceanglais chreidiúnaithe dochta an AE, chuir an Roinn ar aghaidh a cuntais caiteachais bhliantúla, a raibh deimhniú neamhspleách faighte acu, chuig an gCoimisiún Eorpach. Lean an Grúpa um Athbhreithniú Creidiúnaithe de a bheith ag monatóireacht feidhmíocht na Roinne mar Ghníomhaireacht Íocaíochta náisiúnta le linn 2019. Is é an tArd-Rúnaí cathaoirleach an ghrúpa sin, ina bhfuil ionadaithe ón Roinn Caiteachais Phoiblí agus Athchóirithe, ó na Coimisinéirí Ioncaim agus ón Roinn Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail. Tháinig an Grúpa le chéile ceithre uaire in 2019. Is ceann de phríomhdhualgais an Ghrúpa a chinntiú go gcuirtear moltaí an Chomhlachta Deimhniúcháin don bhliain roimhe i bhfeidhm agus go ndéantar gníomh iardain cuí ar na torthaí uile ó iniúchadh an AE.

An Coiste Iniúcháireachta

Bunaíodh an coiste iniúcháireachta chun comhairle neamhspleách agus neamhchlaonta a chur ar an Ard-Rúnaí maidir leis na beartais iniúcháireachta inmheánach, le bainistiú riosca a oireann d'fheidhmiú na Roinne agus le hoibriú na feidhme iniúcháireachta inmheánaí. Oibríonn an Coiste faoi Chairt ina sainmhíntear cuspóir, údarás agus caidrimh thuairiscithe an Coiste Iniúcháireachta, an Aonaid Iniúcháireachta Inmheánaí agus bainistiú na Roinne.

Sa bhliain 2019 rinne an Coiste athbhreithniú ar an gCairt seo agus thug cothrom le dáta í ag teacht lena chuid tiomantais athbhreithniú a dhéanamh go tréimhsiúil ar an gCairt. Léiríonn an Chairt leasaithe sárchleachtas iniúchta inmheánaigh agus tugann an deis le níos mó solúbthachta a bheith ann ó thaobh comhaltaí Coiste a cheapadh.

Tháinig an Coiste le chéile ceithre huair in 2019 agus bhuaile an Cathaoirleach leis an Ard-Rúnaí dhá uair ar leithligh. Ina Thuarascáil Bhliantúil 2018 a chuir an Cathaoirleach faoi bhráid an Bhoird Bainistíochta, léirigh an Coiste a shástacht leis na rialuithe arna gcur i bhfeidhm ag an Roinn mar a bhfuil fianaise ó thorthaí na n-iniúcháireachtaí a rinne an tAonad Iniúcháireachta Inmheánaí.

An tAonad Iniúchta Inmheánaigh

Rinne an tAonad Iniúcháireachta Inmheánaí (IAU) méid suntasach oibre inmheánach, obair ar shábháilteacht bia agus obair iniúcháireachta grinnscrúdaithe i rith 2019. Feidhmíonn an IAU de réir dea-chleachtas agus de réir chaighdeáin iniúcháireachta inmheánacha ghairmiúla Institiúid na nIniúcháirí Inmheánacha (IIA). Leanann sé cur chuige cuimsitheach a aithnítear go forleathan maidir lena chlár iniúcháireachta bliantúil a chríochnú, lena n-áirítear breithniú a dhéanamh ar:

- Clár Riosca na Roinne,
- Sonraí ar chaiteachas (náisiúnta agus AE), agus
- Breithniú ar an domhan iniúcháireachta iomlán

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I rith 2019, thug an tAonad cúig thuarisc iniúchóireachta inmheánaí dhéag chun críche maidir le réimsí éagsúla lena n-áirítear gnéithe a bhaineann le Scéim na hÍocaíochta Bunúsaí agus na Glasíocaíochta ar fiú €1.25 billiún iad, scéimeanna a áiríodh faoi Chlár Forbartha Tuaithe na hÉireann ar fiú €4 billiún iad, Rialachas Comhlachtaí Stáit agus réimsí laistigh de chreat um Teicneolaíocht Bainistíochta Faisnéise na Roinne. Thug na torthaí ó na iniúchóireachtaí sin deis don Stiúrthóir Iniúchóireachta Inmheánaí a lua ina Thuarascáil Bhliantúil *"go bhféadfadh an tArd-Rúnaí agus an Bord Bainistíochta glacadh le hurrús réasúnach go raibh socruithe rialála, cleachtais bhainistithe riosca agus rialuithe inmheánacha leordhóthanacha ar bun agus ag oibriú go héifeachtach ar feadh raon leathan na scéimeanna agus na ngníomhaíochta a ndearnadh an tAonad iniúchóireacht orthu"*.

Tá ionadaíocht ar an IAU i líonraí iniúchóireachta éagsúla, lena n-áirítear Fóram na gCeann Iniúchóireachta Inmheánaí, líonra comhlachtaí iniúchóireachta an AE agus an Grúpa Iniúchóireachta Inmheánaí Idir-rannach sa Ríocht Aontaithe. Freastalaíonn an Stiúrthóir Iniúchóireachta Inmheánaí ar chruinnithe de chuid Ghrúpa Athbhreithnithe Creidiúnaithe, Ghrúpa Stiúrtha Imscrúduithe agus Foireann Bainistithe Riosca na Roinne, agus feidhmíonn mar fhaighteoir Nochtadh Cosanta.

Bainistiú Riosca

Sainnithníodh rioscaí féideartha ardleibhéil, fadréimseacha, ard-tionchair lena mbainfeadh iarmhairtí a d'fhéadfadh a bheith an-tromchúiseacha don Roinn, don earnáil agrairbhia agus, i gcomhthéacs níos leithne, do leas an phobail agus don leas náisiúnta, i gcás gach réimse gnó. Rinneadh na rioscaí straitéiseacha athbhreithnithe sin a chuimsiú sa chóras Bainistithe Riosca atá sa Roinn chun an t-ardán atá laistigh den chóras ar a bhfuil gach riosca gnó agus oibríochta aitheanta agus taifeadta a chur le chéile.

Treisíodh struchtúir Bhainistithe Riosca sa Roinn trí bhíthin baill foirne a earcú ar an bhFoireann Bainistithe Riosca (an Rannán Airgeadais), Oifigeach Riosca a ainmniú (an Rannán Airgeadais) agus athbhunú an Choiste Bainistithe Riosca. Cuireadh feabhas ar

mhaoirseacht an Bhainistithe Riosca agus cuireadh tús le tionscadal chun an Bunachar Sonraí reatha um Bainistiú Riosca a athsholáthar le córas atá níos láidre, solúbtha agus éasca le húsáid. Leanadh le forbairt agus tástáil ar an gCóras Bainistithe Riosca Ríomhriosca don Roinn i gcomhair le hOifig Phríomh-Oifigeach Faisnéise an Rialtais ar feadh na bliana 2019, agus táthar leis an gcóras agus an oiliúint ghaolmhar a leathadh amach sa chéad leath den bhliain 2020.

Foilsíochán Thairbhíthe CAP

I gcomhréir le Rialachán 1306/13 ón AE, ní mór do Bhallstáit a chinntiú go bhfoilsítear liosta dlítheanaigh nó neamh-dhlítheanaigh, ex-post thairbhíthe chistiú CAP, ar bhonn bliantúil. Ní mór ábhar a fhoilsiú ag tráth nach déanaí ná an 31 Bealtaine gach aon bhliain maidir le hÍocaíochtaí a rinneadh an bhliain roimhe sin. Tá an fhaisnéis seo le fáil ar an láithreán gréasáin: -

- Ainm an tairbhí, seachas sa chás go raibh an méid a íocadh faoi chistí CAP níos lú ná €1,250. Sa chás sin déantar an duine aonair a aithint le cód
- An bardas ina bhfuil an tairbhí ina chónaí

An méid íocaíochta i leith gach beart (scéim) a fuair an tairbhí, agus Nádúr gach beart agus cur síos orthu

Íocaíocht Phras

Le linn 2019, ba 127 sonrasc ar an iomlán a íocadh lasmuigh den tréimhse 30 lá a bhfuil foráil déanta ina leith sna rialacháin faoin Acht um Íoc Pras Cuntas, 1997 agus ar gearradh pionóis úis dheireanaigh ina leith. €10,868 a bhí san ús iomlán móide na pionóis a íocadh. €544,691 a bhí ar luach na sonrasc go léir a íocadh go déanach, arbh ionann é agus 0.25% de na hÍocaíochtaí iomlána €220,500,600 a bhí faoi théarmaí na Rialachán.

Tá ceanglas ann ó 2009 nach mór do Ranna Rialtais soláthróirí as Éirinn a íoc laistigh de 15 lá. Tá sonraí maidir le comhlíontacht an Rialtais i leith an cheanglais sin leagtha amach sa tábla seo a leanas:

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Íocaíochtaí Prasa Eanáir-Nollaig 2019 Íocaíochtaí a rinneadh	Líon	Luach	Céatadán
Laistigh de 15 lá	21,131	€182,323,230	81.68%
Laistigh de 16 go 30 lá	4,481	€37,511,841	17.32%
Níos mó ná 30 lá*	258	€665,529	1.00%
Iomlán	25,870	€220,500,600	100%

* Tá an figiúr seo cuid mhaith níos airde mar gheall ar shonrais a raibh soláthróirí déanach ag cur Deimhnithe Imréitigh Cánach bailí ar aghaidh ina leith de réir riachtanas na gCoimisinéirí Ioncaim. Níl feidhm le hús ar riaráistí sna cásanna sin.

Soláthar Poiblí

Tacaíonn an Láraonad Soláthair, a bunaíodh sa bhliain 2011, leis an Roinn ó thaobh tabhairt faoi sholáthar trí fhaisnéis a scaipeadh ar phríomhbheartais, comhairle agus tacaíocht a chur ar fáil i ndáil le tairiscintí agus ábhar eile a bhaineann le soláthar a ullmhú. Trí chlár oiliúna a chur ar fáil ar fud na Roinne, rinne an tAonad a chinntiú go mbaintear an dea-chleachtas amach ag an leibhéal oibríochta ionas go mbaintear an luach is fearr is féidir amach ar airgead ar bhealach comhlíontach.

Sa bhliain 2019, chuidigh an tAonad le Córais Cheannaigh Fuinniúil a bhunú, cuireadh comhairle ar fáil do bhreis is caoga Iarratas Tairisceana agus rinneadh measúnú ar os cionn ochtú hiarratas le hábhar a sholáthar gan próiseas iomaíoch. Bhí an tAonad rannpháirteach freisin i dtionscadal píolótach Oifig um Sholáthar Rialtais (OGP) agus mar cheann de líon beag údaráis conraitheoireachta an rialtais láir, thug an Roinn faoi mionchomórtas 'féinseirbhíse' ó chreat an OGP. Tabharfaidh an tionscadal píolótach, nuair a dhéanfar é a leathadh amach, tuilleadh éifeachtúlachtaí isteach sa soláthar poiblí.

Ag an am céanna, agus lena chinntiú go mbíonn soláthar curtha i bhfeidhm go seasta ar fud na Roinne, rinne an tAonad forbairt ar shraith teimpléid soláthar do sholáthar ar luach íseal agus do sholáthar neamhiomaíoch. Ar feadh na bliana 2019, thug an tAonad faoi athbhreithniú míosúil ar chonarthaí cláraithe a bhí dírithe ar neamhchomhlíonadh a aithint, ar thuairisciú feabhsaithe airgeadais a éascú agus ar ailíniú níos dlúithe a dhéanamh ar chaiteachas na Roinne le catagóirí soláthar na hOifige um Sholáthar Rialtais (OGP).



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Pleanáil Fórsa Saothair agus Imlonnú Acmhainní

Glacann an Roinn le cur chuige straitéiseach i leith pleanáil fórsa saothair agus imlonnú acmhainní ar mhaithe lena chinntiú go bhfuil fórsa saothair ardoilte, ardspreagtha agus éifeachtúil aici chun freastal ar spriocanna straitéiseacha. Le linn na bliana 2019, d'earcaigh an Roinn agus cheap foireann de 570 (lena n-áirítear, foireann athsholáthair) ar fud raon disciplíní agus gairmeacha, lena n-áirítear, eacnamaíthe, raon disciplíní dírithe ar eolaíocht agus ar thalmhaíocht, dlíodóirí, tréidlianna agus riarthóirí. Déanann an Roinn iarracht ar bhonn leanúnach cur le hacmhainneacht san fhórsa saothair trí dheiseanna Foghlama agus Forbartha agus trí dheiseanna meantóireachta foirne a chur ar fáil. Baineann an Roinn úsáid freisin as Soghluaisteacht agus as Sealaíocht foirne ar mhaithe lena chinntiú go mbíonn foireann oilte leordhóthanach ar fáil chun pleanáil comharbais agus pleanáil teagmhais a bhainistiú. Spreagann soghluaisteacht bainisteoirí chun glacadh le próisis comhroinnte acmhainní agus pleanáil comharbais, cuireann soghluaisteacht deiseanna forbartha láidre ar fáil don fhoireann go léir agus déanann forbairt ar fhórsa saothair solúbtha le bunachar eolais leathan. Cuireann an Roinn cultúr ina roinntear smaointe nua agus ina gcuirtear an dea-chleachtas chun cinn tríd an bhfoireann a bhogadh ar bhonn rialta agus bíonn mar thoradh air sin fórsa oibre atá solúbtha, acmhainneach, atá ábalta dul in oiriúint agus freagra a thabhairt laistigh den timpeallacht dhúshlánach ina bhfuilimid ag oibriú.

Leanann an Roinn de gealladh a thabhairt maidir le tacú le timpeallacht dhearfach oibre don fhoireann ar fad ina gcuirtear comhdheiseanna, deiseanna gairme agus timpeallacht a thacaíonn le tionscnaimh atá báúil le teaghlaigh agus ina bhfuil cothromaíocht oibre is saoil ar fáil. Chuig sin, lean an Roinn le beartais agus treoir a fhorbairt le linn na bliana 2019 chun tacú leis na cuspóirí seo ag teacht le Straitéis Acmhainní Daonna, EveryOne (do Chách).

Le linn na bliana 2019, bhí an Roinn rannpháirteach go gníomhach i gcur chuige Rialtais uile maidir le hullmhacht agus pleanáil teagmhais don Bhreathimeacht. Rinneadh measúnú ar an líon foirne a bheidh riachtanach don Bhreathimeacht bunaithe ar thréachur méideanna ag Pointí Cigireachta Teorann agus meastachán ar riachtanas méadaithe do rialuithe allmhairithe agus do dheimhniú féideartha onnmhairithe ó aschur ón Earnáil Agraibhia.

Bhunaigh an Roinn Rannán d'Oibríochta Rialuithe Allmhairithe le freagracht as feidhmeanna rialaithe líne tosaigh a chur i bhfeidhm a bhaineann leis an mBreathimeacht. Baineadh leas as meascán de chomhaltáí foirne nua a earcú, imlonnú sealadach na foirne atá ann cheana féin agus as conarthaí seirbhíse chun a chinntiú go bhfuil acmhainní leordhóthanacha ar fáil lena n-implonnu chuig an Rannán nua seo de réir mar is gá. Bhíothas ag súil go mbeadh na roghanna imlonnaithe ar bhain an Roinn úsáid astu chomh solúbtha agus ab fhéidir, ag tógáil an athraithe a d'fhéadfadh a theacht ar chúrsaí san áireamh agus an gá lena bheith ullmhaithe don iliomad teagmhas, agus tá na teagmhais sin, dá réir sin, ag brath ar fhorbairtí leanúnach an Bhreathimeachta, go háirithe i gcúrsaí polaitíochta.

Earcú

Bhí an t-éileamh ar earcaíocht laistigh de na sruthanna gnó go léir laistigh den Roinn, chomh maith le harduithe céime agus sannacháin, fós ag leibhéal ard ar feadh na bliana. Tugadh faoi fheachtais mhóra chun Cigirí Tréidliachta, Oifigigh Teicniúla Talmhaíochta agus Cigirí Cúnta Talmhaíochta a earcú. Baineadh úsáid as roinnt bealaí chun freastal ar an éileamh ar acmhainní breise a rabhthas ag súil leis agus a d'eascair as an mBreathimeacht, lena n-áirítear imlonnú inmheánach agus earcú líon suntasach Cigirí Tairsí go háirithe.

Foghlaim agus Forbairt

Chuir an Roinn raon leathan deiseanna Foghlama agus Forbartha ar fáil in 2019 i réimsí mar cheannaireacht, bainistiú, scileanna idirphearsanta agus cumarsáide, airgeadas, TF agus sláinte agus sábháilteacht.

Maidir leis sin, d'oibrigh an Roinn go dlúth le One Learning, seirbhís comhroinnte an Rialtais d'Foghlaim agus d'Fhorbairt, chun seachadadh a dhéanamh ar fhorhmór na hoiliúna seo trína Chóras Bainistíochta Foghlama (LMS). Tugann seoladh an LMS nua seo an deis d'fhoirne na Ranna Rialtais go léir rochtain dhíreach a bheith acu ar churaclaim de 67 cúrsa aonair. Tá na cúrsaí seo deartha le freastal ar riachtanais líon leathan foirne óna leibhéal shóisearacha go leibhéal sinsearach.

Chomh maith leis sin, lean an Roinn le seachadadh a dhéanamh ar shainoiliúint ar fud réimsí teicniúla, talmhaíochta, foraoiseachta, tréidliachta, innealtóireacht agus eolaíochta. D'fhreastail céad agus seacht comhalta

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foirne déag a bhí bainteach le Rialuithe Oifigiúla ag leibhéal beartais agus feidhmíochta ar chúrsaí foirmiúla a cuireadh ar fáil faoin gClár Oiliúint níos fearr i gcomhair Bia níos Sábháilte (BTSF) an Choimisiúin Eorpaigh agus thug comhaltaí foirne eile faoi chúrsaí ríomh-Fhoghlama BTSF.

Rinneadh seachadadh freisin ar líon mór imeachtaí Foghlama agus Forbartha maidir leis an mBreathimeacht. Áirítear orthu sin, oiliúint ionduchtúcháin do chomhaltaí foirne nua chomh maith le sainoiliúint.

Comhpháirtíocht

Is ionann comhpháirtíocht agus fóram comhoibríoch foirne, bainistíochta agus ionadaithe ceardchumainn, atá laistigh den Roinn i bhfoirmeacha éagsúla ón mbliain 1998. Tar éis sraith comhairliúcháin Comhpháirtíochta sa bhliain 2018, threoraigh Téarmaí Tagartha nua, a bhí deartha le struchtúir na Comhpháirtíochta a athnuachan agus a athbheochan sa Roinn, gníomhaíochta sa bhliain 2019.

Tháinig Lárchoiste Comhpháirtíochta na Roinne le chéile trí huaire sa bhliain 2019, i dTeach na Talmhaíochta sa Chabhán agus i bPort Laoise. Bunaíodh Coiste Comhpháirtíochta Áitiúil i gCloch na Coillte agus bunaíodh líonra ríomhphoist foirne i Réigiún an Deiscirt. Tháinig ionadaithe foirne ó Choiste Comhpháirtíochta Áitiúil Chloch na Coillte agus ó líonra Réigiún an Deiscirt le chéile le LPCnna Roinne atá ann cheana féin, Basastún, an Cabhán, Caisleán Bhaile Sheáin agus Port Laoise in aon Chruinniú Lárchoiste Comhpháirtíochta amháin. Socraíodh go raibh Saincheisteanna Cóiríochta, ag bogadh ó chlár oibre Chomhairle Roinne agus Tuarascálacha óna Réigiún mar mhíreanna buan ar an gclár oibre don Lárchoiste Comhpháirtíochta.

Éagsúlacht, Comhionannas agus Ionchuimsiú

Tá tacaíocht á thabhairt ag an Roinn le fada an lá d'éascú a dhéanamh ar dheiseanna do dhaoine atá faoi mhíchumas. Tá na bunriachtanais fhostaíochta de 3% sáraithe ag an Roinn le blianta fada agus bhí leibhéal de 3.5% bainte amach ag deireadh na bliana 2019. Thacaigh an Roinn leis an gClár Meantóireachta Toilteanach agus Ábalta (WAM) (Cumann um Rochtain ar Ardoideachas agus Míchumas) AHEAD, a bhfuil sé mar aidhm leis rochtain ar an áit oibre a chur chun cinn do chéimithe faoi mhíchumas. Le linn na bliana 2019, rinne an Roinn éascú ar cheithre shocrúchán meantóireachta a bhí íoctha faoin gclár WAM d'iarrthóirí atá

cáilithe go cuí. Tá fostaíocht bhuan bainte amach ag go leor d'iar-rannpháirtithe WAM.

Bhí an Roinn rannpháirteach ar bhonn bliantúil freisin sa Lá maidir leis an Tionscnamh Scáthfhoghlama, tionscadal náisiúnta atá anseo a thugann daoine atá faoi mhíchumas agus fostóirí áitiúla le chéile ar feadh aon lá amháin chun comhdheiseanna fostaíochta a chur chun cinn agus an cion luachmhar atá daoine atá faoi mhíchumas in ann a chur ar fáil ó thaobh cúrsaí oibre a léiriú.

Le linn na bliana 2019, d'éascaigh an Roinn trí shocrúchán oibre do dhaoine faoi oiliúint ar Chlár Oibre Foghlama an Oireachtais (OWL), clár foghlama feidhmeach, forbartha agus sóisialaithe do dhaoine óga faoi mhíchumas intleachtúil atá anseo. Tá mar aidhm leis an gClár tacú le daoine na scileanna agus an mhuinín a fhorbairt chun teacht ar fhostaíocht íoctha sa mhargadh oscailte saothair.

I rith 2019, agus mar chuid den Straitéis Comhionannais agus Éagsúlachta, rinneadh obair chun cúrsa ríomhFhoghlama faoi Chomhionannas agus Éagsúlacht san Áit Oibre a fháil. San acmhainn ríomhFhoghlama, a forbraíodh go sonrach d'Earnáil Phoiblí na hÉireann agus ina bhfuil cás-staidéir Éireannacha ábhartha, tugtar aghaidh ar ghnéithe éagsúla den chomhionannas agus den éagsúlacht san áit oibre, lena n-áirítear éagsúlacht, claontuairim neamh-chomhfhiosach, ciapadh agus idirdhealú.

Iompar agus Feidhmíocht

Tá sé mar thraidisiún ag an Roinn seirbhís atá dílis agus neamhchlaonta a chur ar fáil ar mhaithe le leas na bpáirtithe leasmhara agus na tíre. Sa bhliain 2019, bhí ardchaighdeán macántachta agus meas ar fud na Roinne i gcónaí. Leanadh le leithéid na n-údar imní a bhí ann maidir le hiompar agus feidhmíochta a bhainistiú faoi choimirce *Chód Smachta na Státseirbhíse nó Beartas na Státseirbhíse um Tearcfeidhmíocht a Bhainistiú, de réir mar a bhí cuí.*

Gradaim na Státseirbhíse

Is ócáid bhliantúil iad Gradaim Barr Feabhais agus Nuála na Státseirbhíse (CSEI) a bunaíodh faoi Chlár Athnuachana na Státseirbhíse agus trína dtugtar aitheantas d'eachtaí baill foirne ar fud na Státseirbhíse agus na Seirbhíse Poiblí. Reáchtáil an Roinn imeacht do Ghradaim um Fheabhas agus Nuáil sa Státseirbhís tráth ar thug an tArd-Rúnaí

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aitheantas don fhoireann a bhí bainteach le hoibriú ar shé cinn déag de thionscadail dhifriúla. Cuireadh cúig cinn acu seo faoi bhráid do Ghradam CSEI, le tionscnamh amháin, “*Beach Ghlas – Campas atá Neamhdhíobhálach ó thaobh Pailneora (Bastún)*” ainmnithe sa chatagóir do Rannpháirtíocht Fostaithe.

Bhain tionscadal eile, a cuireadh faoi bhráid do ghradam CSEI, “*Tionscadal Feabhsúcháin Inis Sionnach*” dhá ghradam eile amach lasmuigh den CSEI; “*Tionscadal Innealtóireachta na Bliana 2019*” agus “*Gradam do Thionscnamh Innealtóireachta an Údaráis Áitiúil*”. Don tionscadal seo, rinne Foireann Tionscadail faoi stiúir na Roinne, a bhí ag obair go dlúth le Comhairle Chontae Chorcaí, maoirseacht, soláthar agus seachadadh ar an tasc casta chun fáil réidh le haon bhagairt a d’fhéadfadh a bheith ann ó ábhair ghuaiseacha ar iar-láthair oibreacha cruach in Inis Sionnach, i gCuan Chorcaí.

Nuálaíocht

Tá an nuálaíocht lárnach i mbeartas an Rialtais ó thaobh leanúint leis an tSeirbhís Phoiblí a fhorbairt ar mhaithe le haghaidh a thabhairt ar dhúshláin chasta agus freastal ar ionchais na sochaí. “Ceann de na trí cholún d’Ár Seirbhís Phoiblí 2020 is eas “Nuáil dár dTodhchaí. Rinne an Roinn óstáil ar Sheachtain Nuálaíochta ón 9 – 13 Nollaig i gcomhair le Seachtain Nuálaíochta tosaigh na Seirbhíse Poiblí chun athrú dearfach a spreagadh maidir leis an mbealach ina bhfuil seirbhísí na Roinne á soláthar. Tá ríomhphost tiomanta fós ar fáil don fhoireann do mholtaí maidir le smaointe nua, maidir le bealaí oibre nó cur chuige atá ann cheana féin a chur in oiriúint.

Bainistiú Sócmhainní

Cuireann an Rannán Sláinte agus Sábháilteachta oiliúint maidir le sláinte agus sábháilteachta ar fáil chun a chinntiú go bhfuil na ceanglais reachtúla á gcomhlíonadh agus bunaithe ar Anailís ar Riachtanais Oiliúna. Sa bhliain 2019, áiríodh ar na cúrsaí a cuireadh ar fáil, láimhsiú sábháilte, garchabhair, bainistíocht sábháilteachta dóiteáin agus sainoiliúint do lárionaid cuanta iascaigh, do shaotharlanna agus feirmeacha chun oiliúint maidir le forcardaitheoir, roithleáin scríobacha, srl., a thabhairt san áireamh. Chuir an Rannán Oiliúint Ionduchtúcháin ar fáil freisin d’earcaithe nua. Leis an bhéim ar an mBreatimeacht sa bhliain 2019, chuir an Rannán oiliúint sláinte agus sábháilteachta ar fáil do na foirne atá sannta do Chuanta Bhaile Átha Cliath agus Ros Láir. Chuir an Rannán comhairle agus tacaíocht ar fáil freisin maidir le riachtanais sláinte agus sábháilteachta do shaoráidí ag Cuan Bhaile Átha Cliath.

Thug an Rannán Sláinte agus Sábháilteachta faoi líon iniúchtaí freisin ar láithreacha agus ar ghníomhaíochtaí Roinne sa bhliain 2019. Rinneadh iniúchtaí chun Córas Bainistíochta Riosca Sláinte agus Sábháilteachta na Roinne a chomhlíonadh. Áiríodh ar thionscnaimh eile chun bainistíochta riosca sláinte agus sábháilteachta a chur chun cinn sa Roinn: Nuachtlitir maidir le Sláinte agus Sábháilteacht, Doiciméid Beartais nua HSRMS agus Cainteanna maidir le Folláine ag Am Lóin.

Éifeachtúlacht Fuinnimh

Tá an Roinn tiomanta d’éifeachtúlacht fuinnimh agus do bhainistiú fuinnimh atá éifeachtach. Tá an Roinn ag obair i gcomhar le príomhpháirtithe leasmhara d’fhonn cuidiú an sprioc Náisiúnta 33% i ndáil le héifeachtacht fuinnimh atá socraithe don Earnáil Phoiblí a bhaint amach faoin mbliain 2020. Tá 36.8% curtha ag an Roinn lena héifeachtúlacht fuinnimh a sháraíonn an sprioc atá leagtha síos agus 12 mí le spáráil fós. Baineadh amach é sin trí bhearta ísealchostais ar nós athruithe iompraíochta inár bhfoireann tiomanta, bainistíocht fuinnimh níos fearr ár rannáin seirbhíse agus roinnt aisfheistiú soilse. Táimid ag ullmhú do spriocanna 2030, sé sin laghdú 50% in úsáid fuinnimh ó bhonnlíne na bliana 2009 agus an laghdú nua de 30% ar charbóin.

Ceanglaíodh ar na Ranna Rialtais go léir agus ar Chomhlachtaí Poiblí plean gníomhaíochta maidir le héifeachtúlacht acmhainne a chur ar fáil dá nAírí faoi seach, maidir leis na bearta atá á ndéanamh acu chun giniúint dramhaíola a íoslaghdú agus cur an méid is fearr is féidir le hathchúrsáil. Cuireadh Plean Gníomhaíochta maidir le hÉifeachtúlacht Acmhainne 2019-2021 na Roinne faoi bhráid agus foilsíodh an plean mí Meán Fómhair 2019.

Bunaigh an Rannán Cóiríochta agus Seirbhísí, Foirne Glasa i ngach Príomhoifig Réigiúnach, chun an fhoireann a lánpháirtiú i mbearta éifeachtúlachta fuinnimh agus acmhainne. Cuimsíonn na Foirne Glasa, ionadaithe deonacha ón mbainistíocht agus ón fhoireann.

Bhí an Fhoireann Fuinnimh páirteach in Oiliúint agus i gceardlanna MAP Fuinneamh an SEAI d’fhonn cleachtais bainistithe fuinnimh a fheabhsú agus deiseanna i ndáil le hoibreacha ar scála níos mó a aithint. Tá an fhoireann ag obair go dlúth leis an OPW, lucht úsáidte ardfuinnimh laistigh den Roinn agus le comhlachtaí faoi choimirce na Roinne d’fhonn dea-chleachtais bainistithe fuinnimh a bhunú ar fud an ghrúpa agus éifeachtúlacht fuinnimh a mhéadú.

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Rannán na Seirbhísí

Tá an Rannán Seirbhísí tiomanta an caighdeán is airde cóiríochta a chur ar fáil don fhoireann go léir i gcomhair leis an OPW. Cinntíonn uasdátú leanúnach próisis soláthair go bhfuil luach á fháil ar airgead ar fud raon seirbhísí, lena n-áirítear, glanadh ar chonradh, bainistíocht dramhaíola, slándáil, taifid agus réimsí eile.

Cruthaigh an Breatimeacht dúshlán shuntasach agus tá Grúpa Oibre Inmheánach um Bonneagar Breatimeachta a stiúradh ag an Rannán a bhí lánach ó thaobh Bonneagar Breatimeachta a sheachadadh ar fud trí láthair ar sheacht suíomh dhifriúil. Bhí trí spriocdháta difriúla ann sa bhliain 2019 le Bonneagar Breatimeachta a sheachadadh, agus chruthaigh gach ceann acu sin a gcuid dúshlán féin.

Déanann an Rannán bainistiú ar phunann maoinne na Roinne, atá déanta suas de sé cinn de phríomhoifigí, 16 oifig réigiúnach, ceithre BCPanna, oifigí eile cúige, saotharlanna agus stáisiúin allamuigh le buiséad de thart ar €10 milliún ar bhonn bliantúil do chostais ghaolmhara. Tá an Rannán freagrach as íocaíochtaí seirbhísí gaolmhara leis na láithreacha seo. Déanann an Rannán monatóireacht agus tuairisciú ar úsáid fuinnimh na Roinne don SEAL.

Tá foireann an Rannáin lonnaithe:

- I mBaile Átha Cliath le freagracht as an Teach Talmhaíochta, Foirgneamh Riaracháin Bhacastúin, oifigí eile i gcathair Bhaile Átha Cliath agus saoráidí cigireachta stáit ag Cuan Bhaile Átha Cliath, Cuan Ros Láir agus Aerfort Bhaile Átha Cliath.
- I bPort Laoise le freagracht as 4 oifig ceanncheathrú, 16 oifig réigiúnach, na hoifige eile cúige go léir agus 8 saotharlann agus stáisiúin allamuigh, agus saoráidí cigireachta stáit ag Calafóirt Chorcaigh agus Ros Láir agus Aerfoirt Chorcaí agus na Sionainne.
- Tá na hOifigí Réigiúnacha lonnaithe sa Chabhán, Corcaigh, Cloch na Coillte, Ráth Bhoth, Gaillimh/Baile Átha an Rí, Trá Lí, an Nás, Droim Seanbhó, Luimneach, Caisleán an Bharraigh, an Uaimh, Tulach Mhór, Ros Comáin, Tiobraid Árann, Port Láirge agus Inis Córthaidh.

Sábháilteacht Feirme 2019

Is saincheist ríthábhachtach is ea sábháilteacht ar an feirm atá i ndán don fheirmeoireacht sa lá atá inniu ann. Taispeánann staitisticí go bhfuil timpistí ar fheirmeacha mar chúis le os cionn 40% de na básanna go léir san áit oibre, atá

i bhfad níos airde ná aon earnáil eile, arbh ionann é agus 6% den fhórsa saothair agus sin amháin. Tharla 208 timpiste inar maraíodh daoine ar fheirmeacha idir 2010 agus 2019. In 2019, tharla 18 timpiste ar fheirmeacha inar maraíodh daoine agus ba fheirmeoirí a bhí 65 bliana d'aois nó níos sine a bhain 12 de na timpistí sin.

Cé gurb éan tÚdarás Sláinte agus Sábháilteachta (HSA) an eagraíocht ar a bhfuil freagracht príomhúil as sláinte agus sábháilteacht ag an obair a chinntiú, tá céimeanna glactha ag an Roinn le blianta beaga anuas, i gcomhar le roinnt eagraíochtaí Stáit agus tionscail eile, chun cur leis an bhfeasacht ar an bhfadhb agus chun oideachas a thabhairt d'fheirmeoirí agus dá dteaghlai ghaoil gcontúirt a bhaineann le bheith ag obair sa tionscal sin.

Tríd an gCiste um Spreagadh Taighde tá an Roinn ag maoiniú tionscadal taighde maidir le sábháilteacht ar an feirm, dar teideal: “BESAFE – Iompraíochtaí d’Fheirmeoireacht Níos Sábháilte: Tá sláinte agus sábháilteacht feirmeoirí mar dhúshlán suntasach d’Inbhuanaitheacht sóisialta talmhaíochta na hÉireann”. Cé go bhfuil titim tagtha ar rátaí básanna i dtionscail eile le 20 bliain anuas, tá na rátaí sa talmhaíocht ard i gcónaí. Ní hionann feirmeoireacht agus poist eile. Go coitianta oibríonn feirmeoirí leo féin ar feadh tréimhsí fada ama. Déanann siad a gcuid maoirseachta féin ar chleachtais oibre agus iompair. Tá go leor tascanna i gceist le feirmeoireacht a bhfuil tosca seachtracha in ann tionchar a bheith acu orthu, m.sh. an aimsir. Ag tógáil san áireamh saintréithe uathúla na feirmeoireachta, tá gá le cur chuige a chur in oiriúint lena ndéantar iarracht sábháilteacht a fheabhsú. Tá sé mar aidhm leis an tionscadal BeSafe forbairt a dhéanamh air agus tacaíocht a thabhairt don chur chuige seo, ag cur athrú buan i bhfeidhm ar an mbealach sin.

Ina theannta sin, tá gné éigeantach Sláinte agus Sábháilteachta san áireamh sa Chlár Aistrithe Eolais faoin gClár Forbartha Tuaithe 2014-2020. Déanann na grúpaí sin caidreamh díreach le rannpháirtithe ar feirmeoirí iad ar cheist thábhachtach na sábháilteachta feirme. Chomhlánaigh gach duine de thart ar 18,000 feirmeoir cuid maidir le sláinte agus sábháilteacht feirme sa Phlean Feabhsaithe Feirme duine le duine a thug siad chun críche lena n-éascaitheoir faofa, do gach trí bliain den Chlár. Cuireann sin leis na díospóireachtaí ar Shláinte agus Sábháilteacht i gcruinnithe Bhliain a hAon a raibh ar gach ceann den tuairim is 1,100 Grúpa um Aistriú Eolais a réachtáil.

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Forbairtí Ollmhóra ICT in 2019

Braitheann an Roinn go hollmhór ar theicneolaíochta na faisnéise agus na cumarsáide (TFC) chun a scéimeanna agus a seirbhísí a sheachadadh. Áiríodh ar na forbairtí ollmhóra ICT in 2019 iad seo a leanas:

Bonneagar TF

Cuireann an Roinn tacaíocht bonneagair TFC iomlán ar fáil d'fhoireann uile na Roinne, lena n-áirítear ríomhphost, Comhroinnt Comhad Sonraí (DFS), tacaíocht líonra, teileafónaíocht (lena n-áirítear teileafónaíocht mhóibíleach), cian rochtain, óstáil láithreán gréasáin, tacaíocht freastalaí, bogearraí táirgiúlachta deisce, rochtain ar an idirlíon agus frith-vírís. Baineann sí úsáid fhairsing freisin as teicneolaíochtaí stórála sonraí agus as fíorúlú.

Cibearshlándáil

Mar fhreagra ar an ardú domhanda ar an mbagairt ó bhogearraí mailíseacha agus haiceáil ríomhairí, tá foireann ag an Roinn atá tiomanta don chibearshlándáil agus úsáid á bhaint as sainuirlisí, le rochtain chuig an NCSC agus saineolaithe seachtracha eile más gá.

Seirbhísí Comhroinnte TFC

I gcomhréir le Straitéis TFC na Seirbhíse Poiblí, lean an Roinn ar aghaidh de sheirbhísí comhroinnte bhonneagar TFC a sholáthar i rith 2019, ina measc:

An Roinn Cumarsáide, Gníomhaithe ar son na hAeráide agus Comhshaoil (DCCAE): Cuirtear tacaíocht bhonneagar TFC iomlán ar fáil sa DCCAE, lena n-áirítear láithreáin ghréasáin éagsúla de chuid an DCCAE agus GSI a óstáil.

Roinn an Taoisigh (DoT): Lean an Roinn seo de thacaíocht gréasáin a chur ar fáil do Roinn an Taoisigh. Déantar an chuid is mó de sheirbhísí Teileafóin i DoT a chur ar fáil chomh maith trí chóras teileafóin - Phrótacal Idirlín Guthaithe (VoIP) - arna óstáil ag an Roinn agus atá á bhainistiú go himhneánach ag foireann ICT na Roinne seo.

Seirbhís Chomhroinnte Párolla (An Roinn Caiteachais Phoiblí agus Athchóirithe): Cuireann an Roinn seo

tacaíocht leanúnach, lena n-áirítear cothabháil agus slándáil freastalaithe ar fáil do shaoráid phárolla lárnach an Rialtais a cuireadh i bhfeidhm in 2014. Faoi dheireadh na bliana 2019, ba thríd an gcóras sin a íocadh tuairim is 130,000 státseirbhíseach reatha agus iar-státseirbhíseach.

Cuireann an Roinn seirbhísí teileafóin ar fáil don Roinn Sláinte trí chóras teileafóin - Phrótacal Idirlín Guthaithe (VoIP) - arna óstáil ag an Roinn agus atá á bhainistiú go himhneánach ag foireann ICT na Roinne seo. Cuirtear seirbhísí comhroinnte ar fáil do Chomhlachtaí Státurraithe Neamhthráchtála (NCSSB) na Roinne ar leibhéal éagsúla, amhail:

- Tacaíocht iomlán líonra, DFS, ríomhphost agus TFC don Údarás Cosanta Iascaigh Mhara (SFPA) agus forbairt bogearraí a sholáthar agus cothabháil ar chórais bhogearraí gabhála agus cigireachta.
- Ionad Sonraí chun Teagasc a óstáil.

Tacaíocht Seirbhísí Saotharlainne

Ag teacht le Forbairt Straitéiseach Shaotharlanna na Roinne Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara (2019-2028), tá tús le cur le hobair le Córas um Bainistiú Faisnéise Saotharlainne (LIMS) nua-aimseartha a dhaingniú agus a chur i bhfeidhm thar ceann na Seirbhísí Saotharlainne.

Scéimeanna Íocaíochta

Lean an Roinn ar aghaidh de na córais TE dár gcuid a thacaíonn lenár scéimeanna éagsúla a chothabháil agus a fheabhsú le linn 2019 mar seo a leanas:

- Scéim na hÍocaíochta Bunúsáí (BPS)
- An Scéim Ghlas do Thimpeallacht na Talmhaíochta ar Bheagán Carbóin (GLAS)
- Limistéir faoi Shrianta Nádúrtha (ANC)
- Scéimeanna Spriocdhírithithe um Nuachóiriú Talmhaíochta (TAMS II)
- Scéimeanna um Aistriú Eolais (KT)
- An Clár Géanómaíochta agus Sonraí Mairteola (BDGP)
- An Scéim Feirmeoireachta Orgánaí (OFS)
- Scéim Leasa na gCaorach (SWS)
- An Scéim d'Fheirmeoirí Óga (YFS)
- Cúnamh Próitéine

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- An Beart Cúnaimh Eisceachtúil Mairteola (BEAM)
- Scéimeanna De Minimis
- Cúiteamh BVD (mairteoil)
- Cúiteamh BVD (déiríocht)
- BEEP
- An Beart Tacaíochta d'Iompar Fodair
- An Beart Fodair d'Fheirmeoirí Curaíochta 2018
- An Scéim Eallach Folaíochta Chiarraí
- An Fóirdheontas um Chlibeanna EID Caorach
- Aistriú Faisnéise Foraoise
- Deontas Feirmeoireacht i gComhar
- Cúnamh CPR Marglainne

Cuireadh na hiarratais go léir maidir leis Scéim na hÍocaíochta Bunúsaí (BPS) faoi bhráid sa bhliain 2019 agus úsáid á bhaint as an gcóras ar líne atá éigeantach anois. Fuarthas thart ar 129,000 iarratas faoin dáta deiridh den 15 Bealtaine 2019.

Cuireadh tuilleadh feabhais ar shaoráidí ar líne chun cuidiú le feirmeoirí lena dteidlíochta BPS a thrádáil, 21,140 iarratas aistrihe (100% ar líne) á bhfáil faoin dáta deiridh den 15 Bealtaine 2019. Áiríodh anseo an tsaoráid d'achomhairc ar líne don Chúlchiste Náisiúnta/Scéim na bhFeirmeoirí Óga á seachadadh i Ráithe 3.

Baineadh úsáid as saoráidí ar líne, rud a chuir ar chumas Éascaitheoirí Aistithe Teidlíochtaí cabhrú le feirmeoirí a dteidlíochtaí BPS a thrádáil. Fuarthas 21,647 iarratas ar aistriú (100% ar líne) faoin dáta deiridh, an 15 Bealtaine 2019.

Rinneadh athdhearadh bunúsach ar chóras íocaíochta Scéim na Limistéar faoi Shrianta Nádúrtha (ANC) a sheachadadh sa bhliain 2019 chun freastal ar thalamh incháilithe atá rangaithe as an nua faoi thionscadal athdheartha ANC. Áirítear íocaíocht nua Céimlaghdaitheach ansin. Cuireadh na hiarratais go léir don ANC faoi bhráid ar líne sa bhliain 2019 trí iarratais BPS feirmeoirí. Sa bhreis ar athruithe ar Rialacháin AE, rinneadh leasú ar íocaíochtaí faoin scéim ANC lena chur ar fáil in dhá ghála feasta. Eisíodh 85% de réamhíocaíochtaí an 18 Meán Fómhair agus eisíodh íocaíocht chomhardaithe 15% ag tús mhí na Nollag. Íocadh beagnach €238 milliún ar an iomlán le 95k feirmeoir faoi Scéim ANC 2019 trí chothromú a dhéanamh ar íocaíocht i mí na Nollag.

Rinneadh forbairt le linn na bliana ar fheidhmiúlacht scéimeanna nua TAMS ionas go bhféadfaí iarratais a dhéanamh le haghaidh infheistíocht painéil ghréine.

Rinneadh feidhmiúlacht a sheachadadh chun tacaíocht a thabhairt do scéim nua Beart Cúnaimh Eisceachtúil Bólachta (BEAM). Rinneadh 100% d'iarratais na scéime ar líne agus eisíodh íocaíochtaí de réir sceidil i mí na Nollag 2019.

Fógraíodh deontais fuinnimh nua faoi TAMS go luath in 2019 agus leathnaíodh cúnaimh deontais le haghaidh PV gréine chuig gach earnáil agus éileofar gur soilse LED a bheidh sa soilsiú uile arna mhaoiniú faoin scéim.

Fógraíodh an Scéim Infheistíochta Laonna i mí na Nollag 2019, tacaíonn an scéim seo le hinfeistíochtaí do shaoráidí tógála agus leasa laonna. Osclaíodh an scéim i mí Eanáir 2020 agus fuarthas 2,400 iarratas faoin scéim. Tá maoiniú de €4 mhiliún curtha ar fáil.

Scéim na hÍocaíochta Bunúsaí (BPS) agus Limistéir faoi Shrianta Nádúrtha (ANC)

Tar éis leathadh amach iomlán na n-iarratas ar líne sa bhliain 2018, rinneadh na hiarratais go léir do na scéimeanna ANC agus BPS ar líne sa bhliain 2019.

Scéimeanna um Aistriú Eolais (KT)

Is scéim í an Scéim KT atá go hiomlán ar líne agus forbraíodh trí chóras ar líne chun an scéim a riar. Is iad sin, córas ar líne tiomnaithe chun sceidealú a dhéanamh agus an freastal ar chruinnithe agus ar ócáidí náisiúnta a thuairisciú, chomh maith le dhá chóras ar líne saincheaptha don Phlean Forbartha Feirme a mbaineann comhairleoirí úsáid as agus do na Bearta um Shláinte Ainmhithe a mbaineann tréidlianna úsáid as. Eisíodh os cionn 20,500 íocaíocht do rannpháirtithe ar leithligh in 2019 i ndáil leis an scéim.

Scéim Leasa na gCaorach (SWS)

Osclaíodh Bliain 3 den Scéim um Leas Caorach i Mí Feabhra 2019. Cuireadh tús le réamhíocaíochtaí faoi Bhliain 3 den scéim i mí na Samhna 2019 agus íocadh €14.91 mhiliún ar 18,489 iarratasóir.

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Atógáil an Chórais Aitheanta Dáileachtaí Talún (LPIS)

Is bunachar sonraí spásúil na Roinne é an Córas Aitheanta Dáileachtaí Talún (LPIS). Tá breis is 1.1 milliún polagán/dáileacht a léiríonn na gabháiltais atá ag breis is 130,000 feirmeoir ann. Cruthaíodh an córas trí bhíthin mapaí páipéir a dhigitiú den chéad uair agus tugadh chun críche é i 1995 don scéim bhunaidh um chúnamh limistéir. Tá na dáileachtaí sin á dtabhairt cothrom le dáta agus á leasú go leanúnach ó shin i leith. Leis an gcóras LPIS reatha, éascaítear d'íocaíochtaí le feirmeoirí faoi raon scéimeanna a riar. Tá an bonneagar TF agus an bunachar sonraí bunúsach ag éirí as dáta, áfach, agus is gá iad a thabhairt cothrom le dáta.

An cuspóir atá leis an tionscadal atógála LPIS, LPIS nua a fhorbairt a bheidh cothrom le dáta, comhoiriúnach leis na teicneolaíochtaí is fearr atá ar fáil, feidhmiúil go hiomlán agus ag cloí le riachtanais rialála. Beidh an córas nua ar an gcaighdeán riachtanach i gcomhair soláthar éifeachtach scéimeanna AE nua amach anseo agus cuirfidh ardán den scoth ar fáil chun breisluach a chur le cainéil seachadta na Roinne.

Mar chuid den tionscadal Atógála LPIS, aistrefar sonraí LPIS reatha chuig bunachar sonraí spásúil Suirbhéireacht Ordanáis Éireann (OSi) dar teideal 'Prime 2'. Seoladh Prime 2 in 2015, agus is é an bunachar sonraí is údarásaí agus is cothroime le dáta ó thaobh faisnéis spásúil in Éirinn. Is é an caighdeán mapála náisiúnta é a thugann deis nithe geografacha, amhail dáileachtaí talún, foirgnimh, bóithre, etc., a shainaithint go uathúil agus tagairt a dhéanamh dóibh. Is bunachar sonraí digiteach gan uaim don tír uile é an bunachar sonraí Prime 2.

Tá an chéim is déanaí den nuachóiriú sin ar bun faoi láthair agus tiocfaidh an LPIS i bhfeidhm i gcomhair chontae amháin go luath in 2019. Táthar ag súil go dtiocfaidh sé i bhfeidhm ó thaobh an chuid eile den tír ar bhonn céimnithe agus go n-aistrefar gach contae faoi 2021.

Chomh maith leis an tionscadal Atógála LPIS, faightear íomhánna nua LPIS ar bhonn bliantúil agus, de réir rialachán AE, déantar iad a athbhreithniú chun aon ghnéithe nach féidir a dhéanamh amach sna dáileachtaí LPIS a shainaithint.

Talamh

Is bunachar sonraí spásúil na Roinne é an Córas Aitheanta Dáileachtaí Talún (LPIS). Gach bliain, íocann an Roinn tuairim is €1.7 billiún le feirmeoirí na hÉireann bunaithe ar na sonraí atá sa LPIS. Tá breis is 1.3 milliún polagán/dáileacht a léiríonn na gabháiltais atá ag breis is 130,000 feirmeoir ann. Bunaíodh an córas seo leis an teicneolaíocht a bhí ann ag an am agus tá roinnt Iníúchtaí AE déanta air ó shin. Sa bhliain 2019, mar chuid den tionscadal leis na córais LPIS a atógáil go hiomlán, thug an Roinn próiseas athbhreithnithe agus uasdátaithe chun críche ar na sonraí LPIS atá ann cheana féin chun cruinneas suímh a fheabhsú agus sonraí na Roinne a thabhairt i gcomhréir le sonraí Prime 2 Shuirbhéireacht Ordanáis Éireann (OSi) i gContae Lú. Baineadh úsáid as sonraí nua LPIS chun iarratais BPS Chontae Lú don bhliain 2019 a fheidhmiú agus a phróiseáil. Rinneadh an feidhmchlár GIS croiláir, a dhéanann cothabháil ar shonraí LPIS, a atógáil agus tá feidhmchlár nua a bhaineann úsáid as teicneolaíochtaí atá níos nua-aimseartha tagtha ina áit. Mar chuid den fhorbairt rinneadh feidhmchlár sreabhadh oibre nua a fhorbairt a thiocfaidh in áit an feidhmchláir atá níos sine. Cuireadh tús le hathbhreithniú agus uasdátú a dhéanamh ar níos mó contaetha i Ráithe 4 den bhliain 2019.

Leanadh le forbairt a dhéanamh freisin ar Ghnáthchóras Bainistithe Talún (GLAM) a chumasáíonn pleananna bainistithe talún a thairfeadh agus bhain roinnt tionscadail Agraí-EIP úsáid as an gcóras.

Foraoiseacht

Tugann an córas iFORIS feidhmiúlacht chun na hiarratais uile ar chúnamh deontais don fhoraoiseacht a phróiseáil. In 2019, áiríodh ar an obair forbartha: -

Próisis iarratais ar líne d'éilimh Fhoirm 1 agus Fhoirm 2. Feidhmiúlacht chun freastal ar Scéimeanna um Athbhreithniú Meántearma lena n-áirítear Feabhsú Coillearnaí, Fálú Fianna agus Fálú Giorriacha. Rinneadh leasú ó bhonn agus tugadh an Nós Imeachta maidir le Measúnú Oiriúnaithe ceadanna cothrom le dáta.

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Cigireachtaí

Is córas gnó roinnte é an córas Iniúchta agus Tástála Talmhaíochta Allamuigh (AFIT) lena féidir iontráil sonraí i ndáil le cigireachtaí agus aon áirimh pionóis bhainteacha a leithdháileadh, a sceidealú agus a lorg ar bhealach comhordaithe. Tá an córas ar fáil ar fud na tíre agus faoi láthair freastalaíonn sé ar os cionn 120 cineál éagsúil iniúchta, lena n-áirítear leas ainmhithe, scéimeanna, ante-mortem i monarchana agus iniúchtaí sláinte ar áitreabh tréidliachta. Forbraíodh feidhmiúlacht bhreise d'fhonn na próisis páipéir allamuigh a laghdú tuilleadh agus ina mbaintear úsáid as ríomhairí glúine. Tháinig ardú ar an úsáid a baineadh as gléasraí GPS chun tomhais níos cruinne dáileachtaí talún a chinntiú.

Aithint & Gluaiseacht Ainmhithe (AIM)

Tacaíonn an córas maidir le hainmhithe a aithint le bainistiú a dhéanamh ar an tréad náisiúnta agus baintear úsáid as le hainmhithe a chlárú agus le gluaiseacht ainmhithe a rianú d'eallach, caoirigh, muca agus gabhair. Cuireann an córas seo cinnteacht maidir le hinrianaitheacht ainmhithe ar fáil mar chuid den slabhra soláthar bia foriomlán.

An Córas Faisnéise Comhtháite um Iascaigh (IFIS)

Is é IFIS an príomhchóras ríomhaireachta a thacaíonn le bainistiú agus le rialú gníomhaíochtaí iascaireachta mara agus le cur i bhfeidhm an Chomhbheartais Iascaigh (CFP). Áirítear ann roinnt córas gaolmhar eile lena n-áirítear an Córas Taifeadta Leictreonach (ERS), córas ar an soitheach (ieCatch), Módúl Cigirí (ieInspect) agus tairseach do chustaiméirí (fishingnet.ie).

Mar chuid de shocruithe nua CFP, tá an clár um **An Ciste Eorpach Muirí agus Iascaigh (EMFF)** aontaithe agus beidh sé i bhfeidhm ar feadh an chuid eile de thréimhse an CFP atá i bhfeidhm faoi láthair go dtí 2020. Áirítear faoin gclár seo forbairt shuntasach ar chórais ríomhaireachta atá curtha i bhfeidhm i rith na tréimhse sin chun tacú le faireachán, rialú agus bainistiú a dhéanamh ar ghníomhaíochtaí iascaireachta mara.

Le linn na bliana 2019, thug an Roinn ardán teicneolaíochta nua isteach mar chuid den chlár

nuachóirithe teicneolaíochta chun tacú le próisis gnó feabhsaithe a thabhairt isteach don tionscal agus don Roinn amach anseo.

Áiríodh ar na príomhsheirbhísí nua a cuireadh i bhfeidhm in 2019–

- Leis an gCóras Cothromaithe Cuótaí, éascaítear do leithdháilte cuótaí amach anseo a choigeartú chun dul i ngleic le cásanna ina mbeidh an cuóta leithdháilte sáraithe ag bád.
 - Feabhsúcháin córas cothromaithe an Chuóta d'Iascaigh Peiligeach.
 - Córas cothromaithe don chuóta éisc ghrinnill
- Tús a chur le tairseach do chustaiméirí le seirbhísí ar líne a sholáthar d'Iascairí
- Nuashonruithe ar an bhformáid theicniúil don aistriú eolais de réir mar a éilítear faoin Rialachán AE.

Tabhairt isteach córas chun anailís cros-seiceála agus fíoraithe sonraí trí algartaim agus meicníochtaí ríomhairithe uathúil ar dhearbhuithe iascaigh mhara don Údarás um Chosaint Iascaigh Mhara.

Na príomhfheidhmeanna Iascaigh Mhara a próiseáladh san IFIS sa bhliain 2019

Idirbheart/Gníomhaíocht Iascaigh Mhara	An tIomlán a Próiseáladh
Suíomhanna Báid	4,900,000
Nótaí maidir le Díolachán Éisc	143,065
Bileoga loga	34,642
Tuarascálacha maidir le Gníomhaireacht ascaigh	114,081
Deimhnithe maidir le tabhairt i dtír éisc	10,386
Mionsonraí maidir leis an Fhlít (don AE)	564
Cigireachtaí	2,630
Cuótaí Éisc a Bainistíodh	193,606 tonna
Údaráis/Leasuithe Iascaigh a Eisíodh	997
Fógraí maidir le hlascaigh a Bhainistiú a Eisíodh	60
Litreacha maidir le Tairiscint Ceadúnais a eisíodh	256
Ceadúnais Nua a Eisíodh	248
Ceadúnais Neamh-Oibrithe a Eisíodh	183
Athnuachaintí Ceadúnais a Eisíodh	2,853
Ceadúnú Báid Traidisiúnta Iascaigh Pota	245
Ceadúnú don Sciar Peiligeach RSW	23

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An Córas Bainistithe Airgeadais- SAP

Tá Córas Bainistithe Airgeadais SAP na Roinne ríthábhachtach lena chinntiú go gcoimeádann an Roinn a stádas mar Ghníomhaireacht Chreidiúnaithe Íocaíochta AE. Áirítear ar na príomhfheabhsúcháin ar an gcóras nua agus na feabhsúcháin ar an gcóras gnó a cuireadh i bhfeidhm in 2019 -

- Bainistiú Bailiúcháin: Tuilleadh mionleasaithe curtha le giniúint liosta oibre, gealltanais íocaíochta agus gnéithe tuairiscithe staitistiúla
- Rogha maidir le haschur gan pháipéar: 10,000 feirmeoir eile cumasaithe do réiteach Duillín Íocaíochta gan pháipéar agus fáil réidh ar an mbealach sin le haschur páipéar
- Tuairisciú Airgeadais: Feidhmiúlacht bhreise san áireamh sa réiteach tuairiscithe chun cuntas an Chiste um Lárionad Chuanta lascaigh a thabhairt le chéile
- Seirbhísí BaincÉireachta: Tugadh an t-aistriú anonn chuig soláthróir nua seirbhísí baincÉireachta chun críche go rathúil
- Ceannach: Rialuithe leasaithe maidir le ceannach tugtha isteach, agus gné nua tuairiscithe curtha leis Slándáil Faisnéis ISO27001 & GDPR: Rochtain rialaithe curtha i bhfeidhm chun doiciméid airgeadais atá 7 mbliana nó níos sine a ghlanadh.
- Uasghrádú teicniúil: An Córas Bainistithe um Réiteach SAP uasghrádaithe chuig leagan 7.2

Le linn 2019, próiseáladh breis is milliún íocaíocht le feirmeoirí/díoltóirí tríd an gcóras SAP. Cruthaíodh os cionn 30,000 ordú ceannaigh i gcomhair earraí/seirbhísí faighte agus eisíodh thart ar 35,000 sonrasc díola i gcomhair seirbhísí a cuireadh ar fáil.

Leanann úsáid feidhmchlár Féinseirbhíse Airgeadais (FSS), a thugann deis don fheirmeoir/díoltóir le féachaint ar fhaisnéis chuntasáíochta ar líne agus Ráiteas/Duillín Íocaíochta a phriontáil, ag ardú le breis is 60,000 feirmeoir/díoltóir tar éis feidhmchlár an FSS a rochtain faoi dheireadh na bliana 2019.

Promóisin/Seirbhísí Ar Líne

Rinneadh roinnt gníomhaíochtaí promóisin in 2019 chun aird a tharraingt ar bhuntáistí thairseach seirbhísí ar líne na Roinne, www.agfood.ie, agus leanadh leis an méadú ar an líon feirmeoirí a chláraigh chun seirbhísí ar líne a úsáid. Ag deireadh na bliana, bhí tuairim is 124,947 feirmeoir cláraithe do sheirbhísí agfood cibé ar chláraigh siad iad féin nó ar cláraíodh iad trína ngníomhairí, agus b'ionann sin agus breis is 98% de na feirmeoirí ar fad (127,023 iarratasóir BPS 2019).

Teachtaireachtaí SMS -Is bealach atá éifeachtach agus éifeachtúlach ó thaobh costais de é an SMS d'fhonn feirmeoirí agus cliant eile a chur ar an eolas maidir le hábhair spéise lena n-áirítear dátaí deiridh scéimeanna éagsúla, dátaí íocaíochtaí, etc. Seoladh 1,782,754 Teachtaireacht Téacs chuig feirmeoirí agus chuig custaiméirí eile in 2019 maidir le réimse leathan ábhar.

Amhail dheireadh 2019, bhí a n-uimhir theileafóin mhóibíleacha tugtha ag 140,000 cliant (lena n-áirítear Feirmeoirí) don Roinn agus bhí cead tugtha acu na huimhreacha sin a úsáid le haghaidh teachtaireachtaí agus foláirimh ón Roinn.

SMS Trasghníomhaíochta D'éirigh leis an áis seo, a éascaíonn ceangal leictreonach-bhunaithe a dhéanamh idir feirmeoirí agus a gcuid gníomhairí maidir le scéimeanna éagsúla ar nó agfood.ie agus SMS idirghníomhach, nasc a dhéanamh idir 20,554 feirmeoir agus gníomhaire agus idir feirmeoirí agus páirtneirí tríd an modh seo in 2019, rud a shábháil am agus anró riaracháin ar fheirmeoirí, gníomhairí agus an Roinn. Eisíodh 153,395 bhfógra chuig Custaiméirí, ina measc fógraí maidir le BPS agus freagraí ar fhiosrúcháin faoi Chlibeanna AIM, etc.

Gréasáin na Roinne

Le linn 2019, rinneadh tuilleadh feabhais do láithreán gréasáin na Roinne www.agriculture.gov.ie agus ar roinnt fholáithreán bainteach eile chun feabhas a chur ar úsáideacht na láithreán sin do léitheoirí agus do chuirteoirí. Áiríodh anseo leathanach baile príomha láithreáin gréasáin agus leathanach Breatimeachta a athdhearadh chun rochtain a shimpliú chun faisnéis a iompar ar an láithreán.

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Cuireadh inneall cuardaigh nua i bhfeidhm ar fud an iliomad láithreán ghréasáin a chuireann torthaí cuardaigh atá cruinn ar fáil d'úsáideoirí.

Rinneadh feabhsúcháin theicniúla ar roinnt fo-láithreáin chun an úsáid is fearr is féidir a bhaint astu chun féachaint ar ghléas móbíleach chun rochtain ar fhaisnéis atá ar fáil a fheabhsú. Rinneadh leasú ar pháirteanna éagsúla an phíomhláithreáin gréasáin chun eagrú faisnéise ar an láithreán gréasáin a fheabhsú agus é a dhéanamh inrochtana go héasca.

Seoladh láithreán gréasáin nua www.marketaccess.ie chun cabhrú le honnmhaireoirí trí bhíthin liosta a thabhairt de na riachtanais rochtana margaidh éagsúla nach mór a chomhlíonadh chun earraí a onnmhairiú go rathúil chuig tíortha áirithe.

Tacaíocht do Chórais Bheaga

Chomh maith le córais leibhéal corparáide níos mó, cuireann an Roinn go leor córais atá níos lú (90+) a thacaíonn le feidhmeanna gnó tábhachtacha ar fáil ar fud go leor de rannáin na Roinne agus cinntíonn an tionscnamh láraithe seo tacaíocht iomlán saolré ICT do na córais seo.

Áirítear ar shamplaí d'fheidhmeanna gnó a fhaigheann tacaíocht:

Praghsanna Mairteola (Conabhlach agus Beo), Níotráit, Cógais Tréidliachta, Prátaí Sil, Margaíocht Glasraí/Sláinte Plandaí, Lotnaidicídí/Bithicíd, Comhdhúile Ábhar Beathúcháin, Córas um Ainmhithe Tite, Córas Bainistithe Riosca, Achomhairc Talmhaíochta/Foraoiseachta, Uainchlár do Chigirí Tréidliachta ag Monarchana Feola, Feidhmeanna Comhoibríthe maidir le Gnó (Lotus Notes), Nascacht Idir-chórais (BizTalk); agus tacaíocht d'uasghrádú Windows 10 ar fud raon córais agus teicneolaíochtaí chun leanúnachas a chinntiú.

Anailísíocht Sonraí

Aithnítear sa Ráiteas Straitéise Bainistíochta Faisnéise agus Teicneolaíochta 2017 – 2020, go bhfuil sonraí mar phríomhshócmhainn na Roinne, gur cheart leas a bhaint as a luach, gan slándáil ná ionracas a chur i gcontúirt, chun anailís agus cinnteoireacht sa Roinn ina hiomláine a fheabhsú agus tacaíocht a thabhairt dóibh. Bunaíodh Aonad Anailísíochta Sonraí sa bhliain 2017 chun ardán a sholáthar d'anailísithe sonraí agus d'úsáideoirí gnó chun oibriú le chéile chun múnlaí gnó a chruthú agus chuirfeadh torthaí

inghníomhaithe ar fáil agus a d'fhéadfadh cuidiú le cinnteoireacht agus le déanamh beartais san earnáil Agraibhia.

Sa bhliain 2019, rinneadh leathnú ar an aonad seo agus tugadh faoi líon cleachtas múnlaíthe i réimsí Sláinte agus Leas Ainmhithe, Eacnamaíocht agus Pleanáil, an Timpeallacht agus an Breatimeacht.

Córais Breatimeachta

Bunaíodh foireann Forbartha Tionscadal Breatimeachta IMT i ndeireadh na bliana 2018 chun sainmhíniú a thabhairt ar na riachtanais agus córais teicneolaíochta agus faisnéise cuí a chur i bhfeidhm chun tacú leis an Roinn agus í ag tabhairt faoi líon méadaithe cigireachta rialaithe Sláintíochta agus Fíteashláintíochta a bhfuiltear ag súil leo ag teorainneacha AE/Tríú Tír sa chás go n-imíonn an Ríocht Aontaithe as an AE.

Sa bhliain 2019, rinneadh dhá Chóras IMT, Córas Fógartha do Chigireacht Allmhairithe (INIS) agus Córas Deimhnithe Onnmhairithe (ECS), a fhorbairt go tapa agus suiteáladh trealamh agus nascacht líonra ag roinnt láithreacha ag Cuan Bhaile Átha Cliath don dáta tosaigh den 29 Márta, tráth a bhfágann an Ríocht Aontaithe an AE.

Rinneadh tuilleadh beachtaithe agus cuireadh tuilleadh feabhais ar na córais seo ar feadh na bliana 2019 de réir mar a ceadaíodh síntí agus suiteáladh nascacht freisin i gCuan Ros Láir.

Leanfar le hobair sa bhliain 2020 le tuilleadh feabhais a chur ar na córais seo chun freastal ar riachtanais nuair a thagann deireadh leis an idirthréimhse tar éis an Bhreatimeachta chomh maith le feidhmiúlacht a sholáthar is féidir a úsáid chun tacú le hallmhairithe agus onnmhairithe ó 3ú tíortha.

Bunaíodh an **Oifig Bainistithe Clár Fiontair (EPMO)** in Earrach 2018. An ról atá aici, tacú le Rannáin Ghnó inmheánacha a gCláir agus a dTionscadail a chur in oiriúint do Chuspóirí Straitéiseacha, Tosaíochtaí agus próisis Phleanála Gnó na Roinne.

Tá an EPMO ag tacú leis an gClár Saotharlann, leis an gClár Sábháilteachta Bia agus Barántúlachta agus le tuairim is 10 dtionscadal aonair as Rannáin éagsúla ar fud na Roinne.

GNÓTHAÍ CORPARÁIDEACHA

Dualgas na hEarnála Poiblí

Faoin Acht fá Choimisiún na hÉireann um Chearta an Duine agus Comhionannas, 2014, tá ceanglas reachtúil ar na comhlachtaí poiblí go léir agus aird á tabhairt ar chearta daonna agus ar shaincheisteanna agus iad ag feidhmiú a bhfeidhmeanna.

Maidir leis sin, tá na luachanna seo a leanas curtha ag an Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara ina Ráiteas Straitéise 2016 – 2019: Gealltanas daingean d'éagsúlacht, do chomhionannas inscne agus caitheamh go cothrom agus ar chomhchéim le gach uile dhuine, Éiteas seirbhíse poiblí atá fréamhaithe go domhain sa neamhspleáchas, san iontaofacht, agus sa neamhchlaontacht. Tá Grúpa Oibre bunaithe ag an Roinn ar leibhéal sinsearach a oibríonn ar mheasúnú a dhéanamh ar chearta daonna agus ar shaincheisteanna comhionannais atá ábhartha dá feidhmeanna.

An tAcht um Nochtadh Cosanta 2014

Rinneadh dhá nochtadh cosanta in 2019. Bhíothas ag leanúint ar aghaidh leis an dá chás ag deireadh na bliana.

Ag Cuidiú le Teaghlaigh a bhfuil Daoine Muinteartha leo tar éis Bháis/An tAonad um Fhiosruithe Oidhreachta

Cuireann an Roinn seirbhís ar fáil d'fhonn cuidiú le teaghlaigh fheirme a bhfuil duine muinteartha leo tar éis bháis go tobann agus go bhféadfadh sé nach mbeadh aon taithí acu ag déileáil leis na cineálacha fadhbanna a bhíonn i gceist go laethúil agus a mbeadh orthu teagmháil a dhéanamh leis an Roinn ina leith mar scéimeanna agus seirbhísí.

Cuireann an tAonad Fiosrúcháin Oidhreachta comhairle ar theaghlaigh agus ar ionadaithe dlíthiúla fheirmeoirí éagtha, agus tugann cúnaimh dóibh, maidir le scéimeanna talmhaíochta a aistriú agus íocaíochtaí amuigh a eisiúint. In 2019, d'fhreagair sé iarratais ar chúnaimh ó 1701 theaghlach agus d'eisigh €14.6 milliún in íocaíochtaí le heastáit fheirmeoirí éagtha.

Seirbhís do Chustaiméirí

Fuair Aonad um Cháilíocht Seirbhíse na Roinne 15 gearán i ndáil le seirbhís do chustaiméirí in 2019 agus rinneadh iad a scrúdú agus a fhreagairt i gcomhréir le nós imeachta gearán

custaiméara na Roinne. Is ionann sin agus laghdú 50% ar líon na ngearán a fuarthas i gcomparáid le 2018.

Oifig an Ombudsman

D'fhreagair an Roinn 42 chás ar leithligh ó Oifig an Ombudsman in 2019.

Saoráil Faisnéise (FOI)

Fuarthas 381 iarraidh FOI ar an iomlán i rith 2019.

Rochtain ar Rialacháin maidir le Faisnéis faoin gComhshaol (AIE)

Fuarthas 69 iarrata ar Fhaisnéis faoin gComhshaol faoi na Rialacháin AIE in 2019, ar dú 16% ón 59 iarrata a fuarthas an bhliain roimhe sin.

An Chairt um Chearta le hAghaidh Feirmeoirí

Leagtar amach sa Chairt um Chearta d'Fheirmeoirí 2015-2020 spriocanna seachadta sonracha dár gcustaiméirí ar feirmeoirí iad agus cuimsítear inti na scéimeanna éagsúla arna bhfeidhmiú ag an Roinn. Leantar ar aghaidh sa Chairt d'Fheirmeoirí lenár dtiomantas i leith phrionsabail na Seirbhíse Ardchaighdeáin do Chustaiméirí arna leagan amach sa Chairt Custaiméirí agus sa Phlean Gníomhaíochta maidir le Custaiméirí 2015 - 2020.

Déanann coiste monatóireachta faoi chathaoirelach neamhspleách maoirseacht ar an dul chun cinn faoin gCairt. Tá an coiste comhdhéanta d'ionadaithe ó eagraíochtaí feirme agus de bhaill foirne ón Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara. Tháinig an coiste monatóireachta le chéile ceithre huair in 2019.

An Oifig um Achomhairc Talmhaíochta

Cuireann an Oifig um Achomhairc Talmhaíochta seirbhís achomharc neamhspleách, reachtúil agus saor in aisce ar fáil d'fheirmeoirí atá míshásta le cinntí a dearnadh maidir lena gcuid teidlíochtaí faoi na scéimeanna atá leagtha amach sa Sceideal atá leis an Acht um Achomhairc Talmhaíochta 2001. Tugtar stádas dlí neamhspleách d'Oifig Achomhairc agus don Stiúrthóir um Achomhairc Talmhaíochta faoin Acht um Achomhairc Talmhaíochta 2001. Is féidir teacht ar Thuarascálacha Bliantúla na hOifige ar an láithreán gréasáin: www.agriappeals.gov.ie

GNÓTHAÍ CORPARÁIDEACHA

In 2019, fuair an Oifig 570 achomharc talmhaíochta, méadú 2.5% ar 2018. Dúnadh 491 cás in 2019, ina measc achomhairc gan réiteach ó bhlianta roimhe sin. Mar seo a leanas achoimre ar torthaí na gcásanna a fuarthas agus a ndearnadh cinneadh ina leith in 2019:

Torthaí achomhairc talmhaíochta a dúnadh in 2019

Achomhairc a Ceadáíodh, a Ceadáíodh i bPáirt nó a ndearna an Roinn iad a Athbhreithniú	44%
Achomhairc a Tarraingíodh Siar, a bhí Neamhbhailí agus an tAM Caite orthu	13%
Níor Ceadáíodh	43%

An tSeirbhís Achomharc um Cheadúnais Foraoiseachta

Breithníonn an Coiste Achomharc Foraoiseachta (FAC) achomhairc i gcoinne cinntí na Roinne a bhreithniú, i ndáil le hiarratais ar cheadúnais foraoiseachta. Fuair an Oifig 712 achomharc maidir le 372 ceadúnas foraoiseachta aonair faoi dheireadh 2019.

Athbhreithniú ar an Acht um Achomhairc Talmhaíochta, 2001

Chuir an Clár do Rialtas Comhpháirtíochta (2016) tiomantas ar fáil chun an tAcht um Achomhairc Talmhaíochta, 2002 a athbhreithniú. Foilsíodh Tuarascáil an Choiste Athbhreithnithe sa bhliain 2018. Éilítear i líon de na príomh-mholtaí leasuithe a dhéanamh ar an acht, ach ní raibh sé sin indéanta go dtí seo.

Rannán na nImscrúduithe

Tá an Roinn ina príomhrialaitheoir ar an earnáil agrairbhia. Tá an Rannán Imscrúduithe mar phríomhghné acmhainneachta forfheidhmithe na Roinne atá mar bhonn taca le caighdeán cháilíochta agus inrianaitheachta a éascaíonn trádáil agus a chuireann deimhniú ar fáil do thomhaltóirí agus do chustaiméirí.

Baineann na himscrúduithe a dtugtar fúthu go príomha le cionta líomhnaithe a bhaineann leis na scéimeanna

um dhíothú galar buaibheach, riachtanais aitheantais agus gluaiseachta ainmnithe, saincheisteanna sláinte poiblí, leasa ainmnithe, úsáid/soláthar substaintí mídhleathacha i dtáirgeadh ainmhithe agus úsáid mhíchuí agus/nó soláthar leigheasanna ainmhithe. Is ionann na himscrúduithe ar tugadh fúthu agus na gnéithe is tromchúisí de neamhchomhlíonadh.

Is féidir leis an Rannán éagóir líomhnaithe a fhiosrú ar fud gach réimse den Roinn agus cúnaimh a chur ar fáil do Rannáin maidir le calaois féideartha agus/nó cásanna neamhdhleathachta agus maidir le haon teorainneacha maidir lena reachtaíocht rialaithe. Sa chás go dtagann laigí dáiríre aníos, de réir mar a dhéantar cásanna a thástáil sna cúirteanna, téann an Rannán i dteagmháil leis an Rannán Seirbhísí Dlí agus leis an Rannán ábhartha chun a chinntiú go dtacaíonn a reachtaíocht i gcónaí le feidhmeanna rialála na Roinne mar is cuí.

Oibríonn an Rannán Imscrúduithe ar bhonn rialta le gníomhaireachtaí seachtracha, m.sh., an Garda Síochána, na húdaráis Chustaim, DAERA, PSNI, IGB, IHRB, údaráis idirnáisiúnta agus comhlachtaí rialála.

Sa bhliain 2018, rinneadh coimisiúnú ar athbhreithniú ar imscrúduithe agus ar ionchúisimh laistigh den Roinn leis an mbealach is fearr a aithint a bhféadfadh Rannán Imscrúduithe na Roinne tacú le cuspóirí straitéiseacha na Roinne agus an earnáil agrairbhia níos leithne. Cuireadh tús le moltaí an athbhreithnithe seo a chur i bhfeidhm le linn na bliana 2019. Tá iompar imscrúduithe teoraithe agus á rialú ag Cód Cleachtas (COP) do Stiúradh Imscrúduithe, an Rannáin Imscrúdaithe, ina dtugtar breac-chuntas ar na riachtanais agus ar chur chuige atá á nglacadh ag an Rannán agus an Rannán i mbun imscrúduithe.

Tacaíonn foireann bheag imscrúdaitheoirí ildisciplíneacha agus foireann tacaíochta le Ceann an Rannáin Imscrúdaithe. Tá maoirseacht an Rannáin á stiúradh ag Grúpa Stiúrtha a dhéanann athbhreithnithe ar ghnéithe rialachais, straitéise, cleachtas agus nósanna imeachta sa Rannán.

Le linn na bliana 2019, thosaigh an Rannán 31 imscrúdaitheoir oifigiúil; sa bhliain 2018, bhí 29 imscrúdaitheoir logáilte go hoifigiúil ag an Rannán.

AN TAONAD CUMARSÁIDE

Tá rannpháirtíocht, dul i gcomhairle agus cumarsáid le saoránaigh, le custaiméirí agus le páirtithe leasmhara mar chuid lárnach de sheachadadh a dhéanamh ar chuspóirí straitéiseacha na Roinne. Le linn na bliana, thug an Roinn faoi chomhairliúchán poiblí ar fud réimse beartais, lena n-áirítear, comhairliúchán arThreochlár Náisiúnta Aeir agus Aeráide don Earnáil Talmhaíochta go dtí an bhliain 2030 agus ina Dhiaidh sin. Áiríodh ar chomhairliúchán maidir le todhchaí an Comhbheartais Talmhaíochta (CAP), sraith imeachtaí i halla an bhaile agus bunú Coiste Comhairleach nua tar éis CAP 2020 chun fóram a chur ar fáil do pháirtithe leasmhara lena gcuid tuairimí a roinnt agus a bheith suas chun dáta de réir mar a theann an díospóireacht ar athchóiriú CAP chun cinn. Rinne an Roinn óstáil freisin ar fhóram beartais oscailte, áit ar tháinig thart ar 400 toscaire le chéile chun an chéad Straitéis Agraibhia eile go dtí an bhliain 2030 a phlé.

Le linn na bliana, thug an Roinn faoi fheachtais fhaisnéise poiblí maidir lenár gcuid scéimeanna, seirbhísí agus beartais. Áiríodh anseo, oibriú go dlúth le Roinn an Taoisigh agus le Ranna Rialtais eile chun feachtas faisnéise maidir le hullmhúchán don Bhreathimeacht a sheachadadh, lena n-áirítear, ar fud meáin chlóite agus digiteacha. Mar chuid den fheachtas seo, rinne an Roinn óstáil ar shraith ceardlanna – An Breatimeacht: Céimeanna praiticiúla chun trádáil agraibhia a choinneáil ag gluaiseacht – do ghnólachtaí agraibhia den uile mhéid agus a gcuideachtaí lóistíochta, miondíoltóirí agus comhlachtaí iompair chun cuidiú le gnólachtaí na céimeanna a ghlacadh lena chinntiú go mbeidh a gcuid earraí ag gluaiseacht go héifeachtúil trí chalafoirt nuair a fhágann an Ríocht Aontaithe an AE.

Scéimeanna agus straitéisí nua, lena n-áirítear ár Straitéis Bithshlándála agus Sláinte Plandaí ina leagtar amach sa straitéis an tábhacht a bhaineann le sláinte plandaí agus bithshlándáil d'Éirinn, mar aon lena chinntiú go mbeidh gach páirtí leasmhar ar an eolas faoi na rioscaí a bhaineann le sláinte plandaí, in Éirinn agus faoin ról atá acu agus faoi na freagrachtaí atá orthu an riosca sin a laghdú.



BAINISTIÚ SONRAÍ

Slandáil Faisnéise

D'éirigh leis an Roinn deimhniú de réir chreidiúnú ISO 27001:2013 Slándáil Faisnéise a bhaint amach i mí Lúnasa 2016 agus rinneadh sin a ateastasú faoi shainordú ón AE sa bhliain 2019. Cuireadh oiliúint i bhfeasacht ar Shlándáil Faisnéise ar os cionn 800 ball foirne in 2019, chun nuashonraí a thabhairt do bhaill foirne maidir le slándáil agus cosaint shonraí na Roinne agus lena chinntiú go dtuigtear agus go dtugtar aitheantas do chomhlíonadh le caighdeán ISO 27001 mar go dtreisiónn sin na prionsabail dea-chleachtais maidir le Slándáil Faisnéise.

Cosaint Sonraí

Fuarthas 33 nIarraidh ar Rochtain ó Ábhair Shonraí in 2019 faoi Alt 15 den Rialachán Ginearálta maidir le Cosaint Sonraí (GDPR), ar dú 22% ar an mbliain roimhe sin.

Go luath sa bhliain 2019, rinne Grúpa Tionscadail an GDPR cónascadh le Grúpa Tionscadail Slándála Sonraí ISO, mar go raibh an dá ghrúpa ag oibriú ar spriocanna agus ar chuspóirí den chineál céanna. Tugadh Grúpa Tionscadail an Rannáin Bainistíochta Sonraí (DMD) ar an nGrúpa Tionscadail seo.

Tháinig an Grúpa seo le chéile 6 huaire sa bhliain 2019 agus lean lena gcuid oibre le hardleibhéal comhlíontachta leis an GDPR agus leis an ISO 27001:2013 a chinntiú: Caighdeáin maidir le Slándáil Faisnéise.

Tugadh isteach clár feasachta ar chosaint sonraí in 2018, lenar áiríodh cúrsa oiliúna ar líne. Cuireadh oiliúint maidir le Cosaint Sonraí ar thart ar 2400 comhalta foirne sa bhliain 2019 agus reáchtáladh ceardlanna spriocdhírthe le hoiliúint níos doimhne a sholáthar don phríomhfhoireann teagmhála (Oifig Faisnéise) i ngach Rannán, chun a chinntiú go bhfuil leibhéal níos airde tuisceana acu ó thaobh dúshláin Cosanta Sonraí. Cuireann sé seo an cumas ar fáil don fhoireann spriocdhírthe cuidiú le fiosrúcháin ina gcuid Rannán agus an fhaisnéis atá riachtanach a sholáthar do Ghníomhaíocht Próiseála Taifead na Roinne de réir Airteagal 30 den GDPR.

Sa bhliain 2019, d'ullmhaigh an tAonad Cosanta Sonraí an Roinn go forghníomhach maidir le féidearthacht an Bhreathmeachta agus rinne iarracht na cosaintí Cosanta Sonraí ábhartha a chur i bhfeidhm lena chinntiú gur féidir leanúint le dualgais na Roinne tar éis an Bhreathmeacht.

Córas Bainistithe Taifead

Leanadh den obair in 2019 chun plean tionscadail agus struchtúr a chur ar bun go foirmiúil chun dul chun cinn a dhéanamh ar chur i bhfeidhm bheartas agus bonneagar bainistithe taifead caighdeánaithe sa Roinn (eDocs).

Rinneadh seachadadh ar sheisiúin fhaisnéise maidir leis an gcóras bainistíochta faisnéise nua do bhreis is 900 comhalta foirne de chuid na Roinne in oifigí ar fud na tíre. Rinneadh ríomhDhoiciméid a leathadh amach i 11 Rannán ar fud na Roinne sa bhliain 2019 mar chuid den tionscadal píolótach chun measúnú a dhéanamh ar an leibhéal oibre atá i gceist agus le cuíchóiríú a dhéanamh ar nósanna imeachta amach anseo. Leanadh le leathadh amach mar a bhí beartaithe don bhliain 2020 ag súil go mbeidh gach Rannán laistigh de Roinn ag baint úsáide as ríomhDhoiciméid faoi dheireadh na bliana 2021.

Bainistiú Caidreamh Custaiméirí

Tá cinneadh straitéiseach déanta ag an Roinn athsholáthar a dhéanamh ar na feidhmchláir bogearraí oidhreachtacha go léir, atá á n-úsáid faoi láthair in Ionaid Teagmhála na Roinne, le feidhmchláir aontaithe d'Ionaid Teagmhála Rannpháirtíochta Custaiméirí. Tá an cinneadh straitéiseach seo ag tarlú freisin i gcomhar le ceann de phríomhthéamaí Plean Athnuachana na Státseirbhísí *“Mothúchán maidir le seirbhís den scoth do chustaiméirí a chothú.”*

Mar thoradh air sin, chuaigh d'Ionaid nua Teagmhála Rannpháirtíochta Custaiméirí d'íocaíochtaí Díreacha amach beo (i bPort Laoise agus i Loch Garman) i mí Deireadh Fómhair 2019 agus chuir an fhoireann inmheánach agus cliant na Roinne fáilte mhór roimhe.

Tá feabhas déanta ar thabhairt isteach Ionaid nua

Data Management

Teagmhála Rannpháirtíochta Custaiméirí ar sheirbhís do chustaiméirí na Roinne trí:

- Taithí seirbhíse aontaithe a chur ar fáil ar fud na féinseirbhíse agus trí bhealaí seirbhíse cuidithe (m.sh. fiosrúcháin teileafóin, ríomhphoist agus ar líne). Cuireann an réiteach aontaithe seo comhleanúnachas agus infheictheacht idirghníomhaíochtaí iomlán na gcliant go léir leis na hIonaid Teagmhála ar fáil, a chuireann treallús faoi shástacht custaiméirí agus le táirgiúlacht.
- Tuiscint níos fearr a chur ar fáil maidir le stair idirghníomhaíochta custaiméirí agus léargas ar a ngníomhaíochtaí leis an Roinn.
- Lánpháirtíú feabhsaithe córais ICT a sholáthar ag laghdú dúbláil glaonna/fiosrúcháin nach bhfuil riachtanach ar an mbealach sin.
- Léargas agus acmhainní a ghíaráil le taithí aonair agus comhsheasmhach a chur ar fáil ar gach cainéal.
- Tuairim níos iomláine den chustaiméir a sholáthar agus cuidíonn an tsaoráid linn lena chinntiú go bhfuilimid freagrach ó thaobh riachtanais an chustaiméara trí mhonatóireacht fheabhsaithe ar fhiosrúcháin cliaint, go háirithe ag buaic-amanna iarratais/íocaíochta.
- Idirnascacht feabhsaithe idir Ionaid Teagmhála 1ú Leibhéal agus rannáin comhoiriúnaithe eile ar fud na Roinne. Éascaíonn nascacht fíor-ama le córais inmheánacha eile na Roinne seirbhís custaiméirí atá níos fearr, a chuireann tuairim lánpháirtithe maidir leis an gcustaiméir ar fáil ar deireadh thiar thall.
- Tuairisciú feabhsaithe agus feidhmiúlacht réamhaisnéisiú maidir le fiosrúcháin custaiméirí.

Tá feabhas curtha ar thabhairt isteach Ionad Teagmhála nua agus feabhsaithe ar sheachadadh seirbhíse na Roinne dá cuid custaiméirí agus maoloidh an baol maidir le cáil don Roinn. Chomh maith leis sin, tá an Roinn tiomanta cuíchóiriú, simpliú agus feabhas a chur ar ghníomhaíochtaí ár gcustaiméirí leis an Roinn. Chuige sin, tá cleachtadh foirmiúil maidir le Ceachtanna a Foghlaimíodh beartaithe do Ráithe 2 2020. Mar chuid de Chéim 2 den tionscadal seo, cuirfear córas an Ionaid Teagmhála i bhfeidhm in Aonad Idirchaidrimh an Oireachtais (OLU), i líonra na nOifigí Réigiúnacha Tréidliachta agus sa Deasc Chabhrach IT.

AGUISÍN A - LEAGAN AMACH NA ROINNE

Eagrú na Roinne amhail an Dé Máirt 31 Nollaig 2019

Is í an fhoireann shinsearach bainistíochta an Bord Bainistíochta. Is é Brendan Gleeson, Ard-Rúnaí, ceannaire an Bhoird, atá comhdhéanta d'ochtard Ard-Rúnaithe/Stiúrthóirí Cúnta, an Príomhoifigeach Tréidliachta, an Leas-Phríomhoifigeach Tréidliachta, an Príomhchigire, agus an Stiúrthóir Seirbhísí Saotharlainne.

MAC/Stiúrthóir	Leas-Stiúrthóir	Feidhm	Ceann an Rannáin	Áit	
Cecil Beamish Bia Mara agus Cúrsaí Mara		Bainistiú Dobharshaothraithe agus Cladaigh	John Quinlan	Cloich na Coillte	
		Cláir Mhara	Paschal Hayes	Cloich na Coillte	
		Innealtóireacht Mhuirí	Noel Clancy	Cloich na Coillte	
		Riar Iascaigh Mhara	Kevin Moriarty	Cloich na Coillte	
		Beartas agus Forbairt Bia Mara	Josephine Kelly	Cloich na Coillte	
Martin Blake An Príomhoifigeach Tréidliachta		Sláinte & Leas Ainmhithe	Folamh		
		An Rannán um Rialú Allmhairithe (Oibríochtaí)	Hazel Sheridan	Baile Átha Cliath	
		Lárionad Náisiúnta um Ghalair a Chosc, Beartas um Pointí Cigireachta Teorann, Iniúchadh Inmheánach um Tréidliachta	June Fanning	Baile Átha Cliath	
	Michael Sheahan Stiúrthóir Oibríochtaí		Comhordú agus Forbairt ar Chórais Ghnó	Stephen Fitzpatrick	Baile Átha Cliath
			Feidhmiú um Shláinte Phoiblí Tréidliachta	Peter Maher	Réigiúin
			Feidhmiú um Shláinte Phoiblí Tréidliachta	Jarlath O'Connor	Réigiúin
			Foireann Bainistíochta Tréidliachta Limistéar an Deiscirt	Eilish O'Brien	Bacastún
			ERAD, Cógais Tréidliachta, agus Comhairle na dTréidliachta	Colm Forde	Bacastún
			Sláinte Ainmhithe Athchogantach & ERAD, Clárú Áitreabh agus ID Ainmhithe	Eoin Ryan	Bacastún

AGUISÍN A - LEAGAN AMACH NA ROINNE

MAC/Stiúrthóir	Leas-Stiúrthóir	Feidhm	Ceann an Rannáin	Áit
	Paula Barry-Walsh VPHIS Leas- Phríomhoifigeach Tréidliachta	Faireachas, Fotháirgí Ainmhithe agus TSE	Paul Corkery	Bacastún
		Leas Ainmhithe, Cógais Ainmhithe & AMR	Robert Doyle	Bacastún
		Deimhniúchán Trádála agus Tréidlia	Dave Nolan	Baile Átha Cliath
		Aithint & Gluaiseacht Ainmhithe	Martin Farrell	Bacastún
		Bainne & Sláinteachtas Feola & Fotháirgí Ainmhithe	Bernie Brennan	Port Laoise
		Beartas Sláinte Poiblí Tréidliachta	Joe O’Flaherty	Baile Átha Cliath
Donal Sammin Stiúrthóir na Saotharlann	James Choiseul Ceann na Saotharlann Talmhaíochta	Baictéareolaíocht/Seadeolaíocht	Maire McElroy	Bacastún
		Ceimic an Bhia	Jim Garvey	Bacastún
		Paiteolaíocht	John Moriarty	Bacastún
		An Rannán um Eolaíocht Planda	AnnMarie Dillon	Bacastún
		Saotharlanna Tréidliachta Réigiúnacha & Saotharlann Tástála Fola	Michael Casey	Bacastún
		Micribhitheolaíocht Bia	Montserrat Gutierrez	Bacastún
		Víreolaíocht	Ronan O’Neill	Bacastún
Bill Callanan Príomhchigire	Donal Coleman Stiúrthóir	Athrú Aeráide agus Beartas Bithfhuinnimh	Edwina Love	Port Laoise
		Póru, Táirgeadh & Trádáil Beostoic	Gerry Greally	Port Laoise, An Cabhán
		Níotráití, Bithéagsúlacht & Innealtóireacht	Jack Nolan	Loch Garman, Port Laoise
		Taighde Bia & Codex	Richard Howell	Baile Átha Cliath
		Rialuithe Lotnaidicídí	Tom Medlycott	Bacastún
		Clárú Lotnaidicídí	Aidan Moody	Bacastún

AGUISÍN A - LEAGAN AMACH NA ROINNE

MAC/Stiúrthóir	Leas-Stiúrthóir	Feidhm	Ceann an Rannáin	Áit
		Sláinte Plandaí & Gairneoireacht	Barry Delany	Bacastún
		Bianna Ainmhithe, Leasacháin, Gráin agus Éanlaith Chlóis	Sheila Nolan	Bacastún
		Measúnú & Dearbhú Barr	Michael Moloney	Bacastún
Paul Savage Idirnáisiúnta & an Breatimeacht		Rannán AE	Sharon Murphy	Baile Átha Cliath
		An Breatimeacht agus Trádáil Idirnáisiúnta	Louise Byrne	Baile Átha Cliath
		Forbairt Tuaithe CAP	Corina Roe	Baile Átha Cliath
		Buanionadaíocht sa Bhruiséil	Breffini Carpenter	An Bhruiséi
		Comhairleoirí Talmhaíochta	Damien Flynn	Londain
Sinead McPhillips Straitéis Agraibhia		Forbairt an Tionscail Bia	Folamh	Baile Átha Cliath
		Beartas Feola & Bainne	Maria Dunne	Baile Átha Cliath
		Eacnamaíocht & Pleanáil	Seán Bell	Baile Átha Cliath
		Rialuithe Déiríochta	Nicholas Finnerty	Baile Átha Cliath
Eilis O'Connell AD & Cumarsáid Chorporáideach		Cóiríocht Sláinte & Sábháilteacht, Seirbhísí Bainistithe	Heber McMahon	Baile Átha Cliath, Port Laoise
		Gnóthaí Corparáideacha, Saoráil Faisnéise, Oifig an Aire	Padraig McMahon	Baile Átha Cliath, Port Laoise
		Acmhainní Daonna	Kevin Galligan	Baile Átha Cliath, Port Laoise
		Seirbhísí Dí	John Kinsella	Baile Átha Cliath, An Cabhán
		Bainistiú Sonraí	Darren Murray	Baile Átha Cliath
		Cumarsáid	Meg Laffan	Baile Átha Cliath
		Rannán na nImscrúduithe	Tim Drea	Bacastún

AGUISÍN A - LEAGAN AMACH NA ROINNE

MAC/Stiúrthóir	Leas-Stiúrthóir	Feidhm	Ceann an Rannáin	Áit
Sean Keevey Teicneolaíocht Bainistíochta Faisnéise		Córais IMT Ainmhithe, Custaiméirí, Airgeadais agus Iascaigh	Joe Hanly	Baile Átha Cliath, Port Laoise, Bacastún
		Córais Íocaíochtaí Feirme Díreacha IMT	Alan King	Baile Átha Cliath, Port Laoise
		Bonneagar IMT	Seán Connolly	Baile Átha Cliath
		Comhordú IMT & PMO	Louise Jevens	Baile Átha Cliath
Kevin Smyth Rialachas		Cuntais	Colm McKiernan	An Cabhán
		Achomhairc Talmhaíochta	Angela Robinson	Port Laoise
		An Rannán Airgeadais & an Láraonad Soláthair	Martin Crowley	Baile Átha Cliath, Port Laoise
		An Grúpa Iniúchta Inmheánaigh	Gordon Conroy	Baile Átha Cliath, Port Laoise
		Rásaíocht Capall & Con & Teagasc	Rebecca Chapman	Baile Átha Cliath 'An Cabhán
Colm Hayes Forbairt Tuaithe		Timpeallacht agus Struchtúir Talmhaíochta	Eoin O'Brien	Loch Garman
		An tSeirbhís Foraoiseachta	Patricia Kelly	Loch Garman
		Forbairt na hEarnála Foraoiseachta/COFORD	Fergus Moore	Baile Átha Cliath
		Cigireacht na Seirbhíse Foraoise	Seamus Dunne	Baile Átha Cliath
		Ábhar Orgánach, Tacaíocht don Mhargadh & Treorú Áitiúil	Bridgeena Nolan	Loch Garman
		Agra-Chomhshaoil & Infheistíocht ar an bhFeirm	Miriam Cadwell	Loch Garman
Paul Dillon Íocaíochtaí Díreacha		Scéim na hÍocaíochta Bunúsaí (Beartas)	Paul McKiernan	Port Laoise
		Scéim na hÍocaíochta Bunúsaí(Oibríochtaí)	Fintan O'Brien	Port Laoise
		Teidlíochtaí CAP agus Rialú Airgeadais	Francis Morrín	Port Laoise
		Rialuithe Lánpháirtithe um Íocaíochtaí Díreacha	Thomas Keating	Baile Átha Cliath

AGUISÍN B – COMHLACHTAÍ STÁIT

An Bord Achomhairc um Cheadúnais

Dobharshaothraithe

Cúirt Choill Mhinsí
Bóthar Bhaile Átha Cliath
Port Laoise
Co. Laoise
R32 DTW5
Teil: 057 863 1912
Ríomhphost: info@alab.ie

Is bord neamhspleách é seo a phléann leis an bpróiseas achomharc maidir le ceadúnú do bharshaothraithe. Tá gach comhalta Boird páirteach ar an mbord seo ar bhonn páirtaimseartha. Is féidir le duine nach bhfuil sásta le cinneadh an Aire maidir le hiarratas ar cheadúnas do bharshaothraithe nó maidir le cinneadh ar cheadúnas do bharshaothraithe a chúlghairm nó a leasú, achomharc a dhéanamh i scríbhinn leis an mBord laistigh d'aon mhí amháin d'fhoilsíú nó d'fhógra ar an gcinneadh, ar an gcúlghairm nó ar an leasú sin a fháil.

Bord Bia

Cúirt Chlann Liam
Sráid an Mhóta Íochtarach
Baile Átha Cliath 2
D02 A344
Teil: 01 668 5155
Láithreán Gréasáin: www.bordbia.ie

Déanann Bord Bia margáíocht, forbairt agus cur chun cinn ar Bhia na hÉireann, lena n-áirítear deochanna, bia mara agus beostoc, maille le táirgeadh, margáíocht agus tomhaltas táirgí gairneoireachta, agus tugann cúnamh ina leith.

Oibríonn sé scéimeanna Dearbhú Cáilíochta do tháirgí mairteola, muiceola agus bagúin, gairneoireachta agus uibheacha. Mar fhreagairt ar an éileamh atá ag fás ó chustaiméirí idirnáisiúnta ar tháirgí bia agus dí a bhfuil dearbhú cáilíochta agus inbhuanaitheacht acu, d'fhorbair Bord Bia Origin Green – an chéad chlár náisiúnta inbhuanaitheachta ar domhan don tionscal uile bia agus dí in Éirinn.

Lena cheanncheathrú i mBaile Átha Cliath, tá líonra oifigí thar lear ag Bord Bia in Amstardam, Dubai, Dusseldorf, Lagos, Londain, Maidrid, Milano, Moscó, Nua-Eabhrac, Páras, Shang-hai (Oifig na hÁise), Singeapór, Stócólm, Tóiceo agus Vársá.

Bord Iascaigh Mhara

Bóthar Crofton
Dún Laoghaire
Co. Bhaile Átha Cliath
A96 E5AO
Teil: 01 214 4100
Láithreán Gréasáin: www.bim.ie

Is é Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM), gníomhaireacht Stáit na hÉireann ar a bhfuil an fhreagracht tionscal lascaireachta Mara agus Dobharshaothraithe inbhuanaithe na hÉireann a fhorbairt. Bunaíodh BIM faoin Acht Iascaigh Mhara 1952. Soláthraíonn BIM raon seirbhísí, lena n-áirítear tacaíocht chomhairleach, airgeadais, theicniúil, margáíochta agus oiliúna do gach earráil i dtionscal Bia Mara na hÉireann. Is é príomhchuspóir BIM méid, cáilíocht agus luach an aschuir ó na hearnálacha éisc mhara agus do bharshaothraithe a mhéadú, trí bhíthin díriú ar na deiseanna fáis sna hearnálacha sin fad a chuirtear cleachtais chomhshaoil fhreagracha chun cinn.

Bord na gCon

An Pháirc Ghlas
Bóthar an Duga
Luimneach
V94 Y17X
Teil: 061 448000
Láithreán Gréasáin: www.igb.ie

Is comhlacht tráchtála stáit é Bord na gCon a bunaíodh faoi Acht Tionscail na gCon, 1958, go príomha chun rásaíocht con a rialú agus chun tionscal na gcon a fheabhsú agus a fhorbairt. Déanann Bord na gCon rialáil ar gach gné den rásaíocht chon in Éirinn, lena n-áirítear rias-rianta éagsúla a cheadúnú, ceada a eisiúint ar oifigigh, ar gheallghlacadóirí, ar thraenáilaithe agus cur i bhfeidhm na rialacha rásaíochta.

Coillte CGA

Bord Foraoiseachta na hÉireann
Baile an Chinnéidigh
Co. Chill Mhantáin
A63 DN25
Teil: 01 201 1111
Láithreán Gréasáin: www.coillte.ie

Is cuideachta theoranta phríobháideach é Coillte CGA, a oibríonn i gcúrsaí foraoiseachta agus gníomhaíochtaí gaolmhara ar bhonn tráchtála. Tá an cuideachta faoi

AGUISÍN B – COMHLACHTAÍ STÁIT

chomhúinéireacht an Aire Caiteachais Phoiblí agus Athchóirithe agus an Aire Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara. Bunaíodh an chuideachta faoin Acht Foraoiseachta, 1988, ina leagtar amach a cuspóirí agus a dualgais.

Rásaíocht Capall Éireann

Baile Mhaine
An Currach
Co. Chill Dara
R56 XE37
Teil: 045 455455
Láithreán Gréasáin: www.hri.ie

Is comhlacht tráchtála stáit é Rásaíocht Capall Éireann a bunaíodh faoin Acht um Rásaíocht Capall agus Con, 2001. Is é Rásaíocht Capall Éireann an t-údarás náisiúnta do rásaíocht capall in Éirinn agus is air atá an fhreagracht maidir le riarachán, cur chun cinn agus forbairt iomlán an tionscail.

Comhlacht Graí Náisiúnta na hÉireann Teoranta

An Tulaigh
Cill Dara
R51 KX25
Teil: 045 521251
Láithreán Gréasáin: www.irish-national-stud.ie

Coinníonn Comhlacht Graí Náisiúnta na hÉireann Teoranta raon staileanna den scoth le súil agus pórlínte ardcháilíochta a chur ar fáil don tionscal capall foláíochta in Éirinn. Mealltar go leor leor turasóirí gach bliain ag na Gairdíní Seapánacha agus ag Gairdíní Fiachra, atá lonnaithe ar thailte na graí. Tugtar faoi ghníomhaíochtaí feirmeoireachta sa ghraí freisin agus cuirtear oiliúint ar dhaoine le dul i mbun fostaíochta san earnáilfoláíochta.

Foras na Mara

Rinn Mhíl
Órán Mór
Co. na Gaillimhe
H91 R673
Teil: 091 387200
Láithreán Gréasáin: www.marine.ie

Is é Foras na Mara (MI) an ghníomhaireacht náisiúnta ar a bhfuil an fhreagracht i ndáil le Taighde, Forbairt Teicneolaíochta agus Nuálaíocht Mhuirí (RTDI).

Bunaíodh an Foras faoin Acht um Fhoras na Mara 1991. Is é ról Fhoras na Mara forbairt inbhuanaithe an tionscail mhara chur chun cinn trí bhithin cláir mhaoinithe straitéise agus seirbhísí eolaíochta riachtanacha a chosnaíonn an timpeallacht mara, ach taighde agus faireachán comhshaoil a dhéanamh. Téann an Institiúid i mbun taighde agus forbairt mhuirí, agus comhordaíonn é, a bhfuil sé de chumas aige forbairt eacnamaíochta a chur chun cinn, fostaíocht a chruthú agus timpeallacht na mara a chosaint.

An Ghníomhaireacht Náisiúnta Bainne

Stiúideo Pháirc an Chuilinn
Ascail Pháirc an Chuilinn
An Charraig Dhubh
Co. Bhaile Átha Cliath
A94 R6F7
Teil: 01 660 3396
Láithreán Gréasáin: www.nationalmilkagency.ie

Bunaíodh an Ghníomhaireacht Náisiúnta Bainne faoi Acht an Bhainne (Soláthar a Rialáil), 1994 agus is í atá freagrach as an soláthar bainne lena thomhailt ina leacht a rialáil ar fud an Stáit. Déantar an ghníomhaireacht a mhaoiniú trí thobhach reachtúil ar bhainne lena thomhailt ina leacht.

An tAire Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara a cheapann cathaoirleach na Gníomhaireachta. Toghann táirgeoirí cláraithe cúigear de chomhaltaí na Gníomhaireachta go díreach agus is é an tAire a cheapann na comhaltaí eile i ndiaidh ainmniúcháin a fháil ó eagraíochtaí ainmnithe.

Teagasc

An tÚdarás Forbartha Talmhaíochta agus Bia
Páirc na Darach
Ceatharlach
R93 XE12
Teil: 059 917 0200
Láithreán Gréasáin: www.teagasc.ie

Is é Teagasc – An tÚdarás Forbartha Talmhaíochta agus Bia – an comhlacht náisiúnta a sholáthraíonn seirbhísí comhtháite taighde, comhairleacha agus oiliúna don tionscal talmhaíochta agus bia agus do phobail thuithe. Bunaíodh é faoin Acht Talmhaíochta (Taighde, Oiliúint agus Comhairle), 1988 agus is é an

AGUISÍN B – COMHLACHTAÍ STÁIT

misean atá aige tacú leis an nuálaíocht ar bhonn eolaíochta san earnáil agraibhia agus sa bhithghilleagar i gcoitinne, chun bonn taca a chur faoin mbrabúsacht, faoin iomaíochas agus faoin inbhuanaitheacht. Tá sé rialaithe ag Údarás ar a bhfuil aon chomhalta dhéag atá ceaptha ag an Aire Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara agus ionadaithe ó eagraíochtaí feirme, an tionscal bia, na hollscoileanna, ón Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara agus ó fhoireann Theagasc.

An tÚdarás um Chosaint Iascaigh Mhara (SFPA)

An tIonad Náisiúnta Bia Mara
Cloich na Coillte
Co. Chorcaí
P85 TX47
Teil: 023 885 9300
Láithreán Gréasáin: www.sfpa.ie

Is é an SFPA an t-údarás reachtúil atá freagrach as reachtaíocht a fhorfheidhmiú in Éirinn, ar feadh teorainneacha iascaireachta eisiatacha na hÉireann, maidir le cosaint iascaigh mhara agus sábháilteacht bhia mara. Bunaíodh an tÚdarás an 1 Eanáir 2007 faoin Acht Iascaigh Mhara agus Dlíne Muirí 2006 agus is iad na príomhdhualgais atá aige an reachtaíocht Iascaigh Mhara agus an reachtaíocht Sábháilteachta Bia Mara a chur i bhfeidhm go cóir agus go seasmhach chomh maith lena chinntiú go ndéantar leas inbhuanaithe a bhaint as acmhainní iasc agus sliogéisc mara sna farraigí thart timpeall na hÉireann agus gur féidir iad a thomhailt go sábháilte chun leasa gach duine sa bhfadtéarma.

Comhairle Tréidliachta na hÉireann

53 Bóthar Lansdún
Droichead na Dothra
Baile Átha Cliath 4
D04 NY29
Teil: 01 668 4402
Láithreán Gréasáin: www.vei.ie

Bunaíodh Comhairle na dTréidliacha, a rialaíonn an cleachtas cógas tréidliachta, an 1 Eanáir 2006 faoi alt 11 den Acht um Chleachtadh Tréidliachta 2005. Tá 19 gcomhalta ar an gComhairle a dhéanann ionadaíocht ar réimsí spéise éagsúla mar oideachas, leas ainmhithe, tomhaltóirí agus sábháilteacht bia agus tá cothromas ann idir comhaltaí ar tréidlianna iad agus comhaltaí nach tréidlianna iad. Is é príomhfheidhm na Comhairle cleachtas an leighis tréidliachta agus altranas tréidliachta sa Stát agus ar mhaithe le leas an phobail a rialáil agus a bhainistiú.

AGUISÍN C - VÓTA 30 – 2019

		€000
Riarachán		280,002
i	TUARASTAIL, PÁ AGUS LIÚNTAIS	180,355
ii	TAISTEAL AGUS COTHABHÁIL	9,002
iii	OILIÚINT AGUS FORBAIRT AGUS COSTAIS GHAOLMHARA	5,305
iv	SEIRBHÍSÍ POIST AGUS TEILEACHUMARSÁIDE	4,547
v	TREALAMH OIFIGE AGUS SEIRBHÍSÍ SEACHTRACHA TF	37,106
vi	COSTAIS ÁITREABH OIFIGE	36,702
vii	SEIRBHÍSÍ COMHAIRLIÚCHÁIN AGUS ATHBHREITHNITHE AR LUACH AR AIRGEAD AGUS AR BHEARTAIS	92
viii	BEARTA COMHLÁNTACHA CHUN LEASANNA AIRGEADAIS AN AE A CHOSAINT	760
ix	SEIRBHÍSÍ SAOTHARLAINNE	6,133
A.	Sábháilteacht Bia, Sláinte Ainmhithe agus Plandaí agus Leas Ainmhithe	93,039
A.3	Sábháilteacht Bia, Sláinte Ainmhithe agus Plandaí agus Leas Ainmhithe	93,039
	Díothú TB & Brúsallóise	37,544
	Cigireacht Feola TVInna	23,738
	An Scéim um Ainmhithe Tite	7,615
	Sainaithint agus Gluaiseacht Ainmhithe	7,925
	Tástáil & Taighde Tréidliachta	4,984
	Leas Ainmhithe lena n-áirítear Rialú Capall	3,579
	Galair Eile Ainmhithe Bearta	3,154
	Lotnaidicídí / Cosaint Plandaí	1,159
	Cúiteamh BSE & Costais Ghaolmhara agus Tástála	1,053
	An Scráibeach	307
	Eile	1,981
B.	Tacaíocht agus Rialuithe Feirme/Earnála	801,581
B.3	Scéimeanna Agrachomhshaoil	236,500
	GLAS	213,799
	An Scéim Feirmeoireachta Orgánaí	9,377
	Scéimeanna Agrachomhshaoil arna Stiúradh go hÁitiúil	9,614
	Eile	3,711
B.4	Scéim na Limistéar faoi Shrianta Nádúrtha	248,552
B.5	Talmhaíocht agus Bia a Fhorbairt (Feirm)	83,650
	Scéim Spriocdhírithé Nuachóirithe Talmhaíochta (TAManna)	76,519
	An Tionscal Gairneoireachta	5,834
	An Earnáil Orgánach	897
	Eile	400

AGUISÍN C - VÓTA 30 – 2019

	€000
B.6 Scéimeanna um Mairteoil Inbhuanaithe (An Clár um Shonraí & Géanómaíochta Mairteola) BDGP (Beart Cúnaimh Eisceachtúil Mairteola) BEAM (Clár Píolótach Mairteola um Éifeachtúlacht Chomhshaoil) BEEP	87,108 43,403 27,149 16,556
B.7 Aistriú Eolais	22,167
B.8 Scéim Leasa Ainmhithe do Chaoirigh	17,382
B.9 Scéim Luathscoir	187
B.10 Foraoiseacht agus Bithfhuinneamh Foraoisiú Scéim Tacaíochta na Foraoiseachta Forbairt Foraoiseachta Eile	89,732 80,151 8,786 670 125
B.11 Costais Rialaithe & Scéimeanna Tacaíochta Eile	14,213
B.12 Scéimeanna Eile	2,090
C. Beartas agus Straitéis	336,685
C.3 Cáilíocht Taighde & Deimhniúchán An Scéim Dearbhú Cáilíochta R & D san Earnáil Bia An Ciste um Thaighde a Spreagadh Taighde Foraoiseachta Pórú Beostoic, lena n-áirítear, ICBF Pórú Eachaí Eile	25,161 6,400 7,700 5,334 1,419 2,294 714 1,301
C.4 Talmhaíocht agus Bia a Fhorbairt agus a Chur Chun Cinn (Nach Feirm atá i gCeist) Scéimeanna an Tionscail Bia, lena n-áirítear, Ionad PCF An Clár Promóisin Bia agus Gairneoireachta Eile	7,550 4,591 2,045 914
C.5 Deontas Teagasc	134,673
C.6 Deontas Bhord Bia	44,844
C.7 Ciste Rásaíochta Capall agus Con Rásaíocht Capall Éireann Bord ná gCon	84,000 67,200 16,800
C.8 Ciste Forbartha & Nuálaíochta Tuaithe Cedra	1,486

AGUISÍN C - VÓTA 30 – 2019

	€000
C.9 Bia agus Tabhartais - Clár Domhanda Bia	25,300
C.10 Seirbhísí Eile	13,671
Comhoibriú Idirnáisiúnta	3,641
Costais Dlí Ghinearálta	1,371
Tionscal na gCapall Neamhfholáíochta	2,996
Íocaíochtaí Pinsin Ilghnéitheacha	1,641
Cúnamh Teicniúil maidir le Forbairt Thuaithe	1,368
Tionscadal Athchóirithe Chaisleán Bhaile Sheáin	1,020
Eile	1,634
D. An Earnáil Bia Mara	129,801
D.3 Iascaigh	41,562
Forbairt & Uasghrádú Cuanta le haghaidh Iascaigh	29,362
An Clár um Fhorbairt Bia Mara	9,753
Comhlíonadh Comhshaoil	1,904
Eile	543
D.4 Deontas Fhoras na Mara	34,926
D.5 Deontas Bhord Iascaigh Mhara	38,195
D.6 An tÚdarás Cosanta Iascaigh Mhara	13,005
D.7 Togra Leasúcháin Inis Sionnach	2,113
Iomlán an Chaiteachais Chomhláin Vótáilte	1,641,108

AGUISÍN C - VÓTA 30 – 2019

	€000
Fáltais	
Leithreasá i gCabhair	-388,443
E.1 Aisghabháil ar thuarastail, etc. ar oifigigh ar iasacht chuig comhlachtaí lasmuigh	-690
E.2 Éarlais agus Urrúis Forghéillte faoi idirghabháil AE, aisíocaíocht onnmhairithe, etc.	-187
E.3 Aisíocaíochtaí ó tháillí tréidliachta do sheirbhísí cigireachta ag monarchana éanlaithe agus monarchana feola eile	-19,531
E.4 Fáltais ó Tháillí Cigireachta Tréidliachta d'Onnmhairithe Beo	-664
E.5 Fáltais ó tháillí do sheirbhísí cigireachta ar áitribh déiríochta	-8,143
E.6 Fáltais ó Dhíol Vacsaíní, beostoc, táirgí feirmeoireachta, etc. ag Saotharlann Taighde Tréidliachta agus feirm i mBaile anAba; aisghabháil ar chostais choraintín in Inis Píc	-602
E.7 Fáltais ó Tháillí Tástála Síolta, táillí deimhnithe, táillí ceadúnais, lotnaidicídí, táillí clárúcháin etc, agus táillí ó fheirm Bhacastúin	-2,766
E.8 Fáltais ó ranníocaíochtaí feirmeora i dtreo an chostais a bhaineann leis an ngalar buaibheach a dhíothú	-7,637
E.9 Fáltais ó Choimisiún na Talún	-380
E.10 Fáltais Eile	-3,129
E.11 Costais idirghabhála mhargaidh agus costais airgeadais do bhearta rannóige (Ráthaíocht) FEOGA eile	-300
E.12 Cailteanais Stoc Idirghabhála, etc.	-960
E.13 EAFRD (An Ciste Eorpach Talmhaíochta um Fhorbairt Tuaithe)	-299,533
E.14 An Ciste Tréidliachta	-9,279
E.15 Fáltais Ráthaíochta Eile ón AE (Talmhaíocht)	-36

AGUISÍN C - VÓTA 30 – 2019

		€000
E.16	Fáltais ó Fhíneálacha agus Forghéilltí i ndáil le hIascaigh Mhara	-292
E.17	Fáltais faoin Acht Imeach Trá 1933 agus an tAcht Maoine Stáit 1954	-188
E.18	AE – Aisghabháil i ndáil le caiteachas ar Chaomhnú agus ar Bhainistiú Iascaigh	0
E.19	Táillí Ceadúnais Dobharshaothraithe	-578
E.20	Fáltais AE don EMFF	-23,030
E.21	EFF (Iascaigh) 2007-2013	0
E.22	Fáltais ó Chórais Bhianna Inbhuanaithe na hÉireann	-74
E.23	Fáltais ó asbhaint a bhaineann le pinsin ó luach saothair seirbhíse poiblí	-10,444
Fáltais Iomlán		-388,443
Glancaiteachas		1,252,665

AGUISÍN D - BUISÉADÚ FEIDHMÍOCHTA

Spríoc Straitéiseach

"Sláinte an phobail, ainmhithe agus plandaí agus leas ainmhithe a chur chun cinn agus a chosaint ar mhaithe le tomhaltóirí, táirgeoirí agus an tsochaí i gcoitinne"

CUSPÓIR 1

SÁBHÁILTEACHT BIA, SLÁINTE AINMHITHE AGUS PLANDAÍ AGUS LEAS AINMHITHE

Ionchuir – Acmhainní Daonna agus Airgeadais

	2019 Measta*			2019 Toradh			
	Reatha	Caipitiúil	Iomlán	Reatha	Caipitiúil	Iomlán	
	€000	€000	€000	€000	€000	€000	
A.1 RIARACHÁN - PÁ	103,175	0	103,175	102,764	0	102,764	
A.2 RIARACHÁN - NEAMH-PHÁ	42,403	32,131	74,534	40,949	31,017	71,966	
A.3 Sábháilteacht Bia, Sláinte Ainmhithe agus Plandaí agus Leas Ainmhithe	95,412	720	96,132	92,668	371	93,039	
Iomlán an Chláir:						€267,769	

*Meastachán 2019 arna leasú ag an Meastachán Forlíontach

Táscairí Comhthéacs agus Tionchair			
Clár A	2017	2018	2019
1 Líon na mórchásanna sábháilteachta bia	0	0	
2 Líon na dtástálacha creidiúnaithe faoi fheidhm na Saotharlainne Náisiúnta Tagartha	145	148	155
3 Líon na réimsí trádála nua a osclaíodh nó a athosclaíodh	3	3	
4 Tomhais leasa agus galar ainmhithe de réir mar a tuairiscíodh chuig an OIE (Organisation International des Epizooties) sonraí ina leith	Choinnigh ardstádas galair agus OBF nialas	Choinnigh ardstádas galair agus OBF nialas	Choinnigh ardstádas galair agus OBF nialas
a. Teagmhais ghalair coimhthíocha	nialas	nialas	nialas
b. Cásanna brúsallóise,	nialas	nialas	nialas
c. Teagmhais TB tréada	3.47%	3.51%	3.72%
d. Cásanna BSE	1	0	0

* Baineann na figiúirí seo leis na modhanna tástála creidiúnaithe atá á n-úsáid i Saotharlanna DAFM faoi láthair, roinnt díobh a d'fhéadfadh iad a úsáid do go leor anailísí agus/nó le go leor maitrisí.

Líon Foirne
An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara

Meastachán 2019
1,907

Iarbhir 2019
1,950

CUSPÓIR 2 –TACAÍOCHTAÍ AGUS RIALUITHE FEIRME/EARNÁLA

CUSPÓIR 2

TACAÍOCHTAÍ AGUS RIALUITHE FEIRME/EARNÁLA

Spríoc Straitéiseach

“Ioncam agus tacaíochtaí margaidh a chur ar fáil mar bhuntaca leis an ngeilleagar tuaithe agus comhshaoil”

Ionchuir – Acmhainní Daonna agus Airgeadais

	2019 Measta*			2019 Toradh			
	Reatha €000	Caipitiúil €000	Iomlán €000	Reatha €000	Caipitiúil €000	Iomlán €000	
B.1 RIARACHÁN - PÁ	53,604	0	53,604	53,389	0	53,389	
B.2 RIARACHÁN - NEAMH-PHÁ	19,106	1,237	20,343	17,929	1,165	19,094	
B.3 Scéimeanna Agrachomhshaoil	235,250	1,250	236,500	235,365	1,135	236,500	
B.4 Scéim na Limistéar faoi Shrianta Nádúrtha	250,000	0	250,000	248,552	0	248,552	
B.5 Talmhaíocht agus Bia a Fhorbairt (Feirm)	865	84,530	85,395	768	82,882	83,650	
B.6 An Clár um Shonraí & Géanómaíochta Mairteola	84,650	1,150	85,800	86,218	890	87,108	
B.7 Aistriú Faisnéise	25,000	0	25,000	22,167	0	22,167	
B.8 Scéim Leasa Ainmhithe do Chaoirigh	18,000	0	18,000	17,382	0	17,382	
B.9 Scéim Luathscoir	220	0	220	187	0	187	
B.10 Foraoiseacht agus Bithfhuinneamh	3,250	100,178	103,428	2,945	86,787	89,732	
B.11 Costais Rialaithe & Scéimeanna Tacaíochta Eile	12,351	0	12,351	14,213	0	14,213	
B.12 Scéimeanna Eile	2,825	0	2,825	2,090	0	2,090	
Iomlán an Chláir:						€874,064	

*Meastachán 2019 arna leasú ag an Meastachán Forlíontach

Líon Foirne
An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara

Meastachán 2019

978

Iarbhír 2019

964

Aguisín D - Buiséadú Feidhmíochta

Táscairí Comhthéacs agus Tionchair

Clár B	2017	2018	2019
1 Oll-bhreisluch na hearnála (€m) Earnáil Phríomha (Talmhaíocht, Foraoiseacht agus lascaireacht)	5,051	€4,624	Níl ar fáil fós
2 Athrú sa réimse bliantúil d'fhoraisí nua a cruthaíodh (heicteár) (% den athrú ar an mbliain roimhe seo)	+5,538 (-15%)	+4,025 (-0.27%)	+3,550 (-12%)
3 Area of land farmed organically (ha) (% den athrú ar an mbliain roimhe seo)	72,000 (0%)	72,000 (0%)	74,000 (+2.77%)
Dearbhastaíochtaí luaite mar MtCO ₂ eq arna dtuairisciú ag an EPA agus méadracht astaíochta athbhreithnithe á húsáid (bonnlíne 1990: 20.40Mt CO ₂ eq)	20.25 Mt CO ₂ eq	20.63 Mt CO ₂ eq	Níl ar fáil fós
Athrú ar dhearbhastaíochtaí talmhaíochta GHG ó bhonnlíne 1990 de: 20.40Mt CO ₂ eq (% athrú)	-0.15 (-0.73%)	+0.23 (+1.13%)	Níl ar fáil fós
Athrú ar dhearbhastaíochtaí talmhaíochta GHG ó bhonnlíne 2005 de 19.829Mt CO ₂ eq (% athrú)	+0.42 (+2.12%)	+0.8 (+4.03%)	Níl ar fáil fós
Astaíochtaí amóinia talmhaíochta (NH ₃) arna dtuairisciú chuig an AE (kt NH ₃)	117.00	118.3	Níl ar fáil fós
oncam Teaghligh Feirme (FFI) i limistéir faoi mhíbhuntáiste (mar % den FFI i limistéir nach bhfuil faoi mhíbhuntáiste)	€28,747 76%	€21,593 78%	Níl ar fáil fós
% íocaíochtaí déanta laistigh de spriocanna (a) scéimeanna íocaíochta díri (b) scéimeanna eile	98% 75 -100%	98% 75-100%	
Stádas AE mar Ghníomhaireacht Íocaíochta a choinneáil agus maoiniú AE a fháil lena tarraingt anuas	Bainte amach €1,397m	Bainte amach €1,610m	Bainte amach €1,492m

Aguisín D - Buiséadú Feidhmíochta

Spríoc Straitéiseach

"Creat beartas barrmhaitheasa a bhaint amach ar mhaithe le forbairt inbhuanaithe na hearnála agráibhia."

CUSPÓIR 3

Beartas agus Straitéis

Ionchuir – Acmhainní Daonna agus Airgeadais

	2019 Measta*			2019 Toradh			
	Reatha	Caipitiúil	Iomlán	Reatha	Caipitiúil	Iomlán	
	€000	€000	€000	€000	€000	€000	
C.1 RIARACHÁN - PÁ	15,277	0	15,277	15,216	0	15,216	
C.2 RIARACHÁN - NEAMH-PHÁ	5,026	241	5,267	4,552	219	4,771	
C.3 Cáilíocht Taighde & Deimhniúchán	25,561	0	25,561	25,161	0	25,161	
C.4 Talmhaíocht agus Bia a Fhorbairt agus a Chur Chun Cinn (Nach Feirm atá i gCeist)	3,810	9,630	13,440	3,368	4,182	7,550	
C.5 Deontas Teagasc	132,082	6,150	138,232	130,373	4,300	134,673	
C.6 Deontas Bhord Bia	46,619	0	46,619	44,844	0	44,844	
C.7 Ciste Rásaíochta Capall agus Con	72,856	11,144	84,000	72,856	11,144	84,000	
C.8 Ciste Forbartha & Nuálaíochta Tuaithe CEDRA	1,500	0	1,500	1,486	0	1,486	
C.9 Bia agus Bronntanais An Clár Domhanda Bia	23,000	0	23,000	25,300	0	25,300	
C.10 An Scéim Iasachta um Fhreagairt ar Bhreathimeacht	0	0	0	0	0	0	
C.11 Seirbhísí Eile	13,804	520	14,324	12,651	1,020	13,671	
Iomlán an Chláir:						€356,672	

*Meastachán 2019 arna leasú ag an Meastachán Forlíontach

Aguisín D - Buiséadú Feidhmíochta

Táscairí Comhthéacs agus Tionchair		2017	2018	2019
Clár C				
1	Luach (€000m) onnmhairí agrabhia – iomlán	13,846	13,705	14,530
2	Luach (€000m) an táirgthe phríomhúil – iomlán	7,175	6,960	6,605

Is figiúirí DAFM/CSO iad figiúirí 2018 agus 2019. 2017 Bord Bia

Líon Foirne An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara	Meastachán 2019 253	Iarbhir 2019 285
Teagasc	1,065	1,030
Bord Bia	146	139

Aguisín D - Buiséadú Feidhmíochta

CUSPÓIR 4 AN EARNÁIL BIA MARA

Spríoc Straitéiseach

"Earnáil inbhuanaithe, spreagtha ag an bhfás atá dírithe ar iomaíochas agus nuálaíocht arna spreagadh ag fórsa oibre a bhfuil scileanna acu d'fhonn táirgí breisluacha atá i gcomhréir le héilimh an mhargadh a sheachadadh"

Ionchuir – Acmhainní Daonna agus Airgeadais

	2019 Measta*			2019 Toradh			
	Reatha €000	Caipitiúil €000	Iomlán €000	Reatha €000	Caipitiúil €000	Iomlán €000	
D.1 RIARACHÁN - PÁ	9,021	0	9,021	8,986	0	8,986	
D.2 RIARACHÁN - NEAMH-PHÁ	4,184	287	4,471	3,572	244	3,816	
D.3 Iascaigh	12,461	28,427	40,888	11,730	29,831	41,562	
D.4 Deontas Fhoras na Mara	22,929	12,000	34,929	22,926	12,000	34,926	
D.5 Deontas Bhord Iascaigh Mhara	26,193	12,100	38,293	26,095	12,100	38,195	
D.6 An tÚdarás Cosanta Iascaigh Mhara	13,395	400	13,795	12,660	345	13,005	
D.7 Tionscadal Leasúcháin Inis Sionnach	0	2,500	2,500	0	2,113	2,113	
Iomlán an Chláir:						€142,603	

*Meastachán 2019 arna leasú ag an Meastachán Forlíontach

Aguisín D - Buiséadú Feidhmíochta

Táscairí Comhthéacs agus Tionchair		2017	2018	2019
Clár D				
1	Luachan Díolacháin Iomláin Bia Mara	€1,151m	€1,137m	€1,136m
2	Luach Onnmhairí Bia Mara	€618m	€576m	€578m

Líon Foirne: An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara	Meastachán 2019	Iarbhír 2019
	173	177
Foras na Mara	142	131
Bord Iascaigh Mhara	149	115
An tÚdarás Cosanta Iascaigh Mhara	145	127

AGUISÍN E - EAGF/EAFRD Fáltais Rátháíochta 2019

Léiríonn an méid seo a leanas na híocaíochtaí a rinneadh in Éirinn ón gciste EAGF agus EAFRD agus fáltais AE eile i rith na bliana airgeadais 2019

Caiteachas maoinithe ag an AE arna bhainistiú ag an Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara

Caiteachas maoinithe ag an AE arna bhainistiú ag an Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara		
	2018	2019
	€m	€m
EAGF		
Scéim na hÍocaíochta Dírí/Scéim na hÍocaíochta Aonair	1,208	1,204
Idirghabháil/Cúnamh do Stóráil Phríobháideach **	19.5	(12)
Tacaíochtaí margaidh eile***	4.5	61.8
Eile	(3)	(3)
Fáltais chómhaoinithe (bearta arna gcómhaoiniú ag an AE) a - nóta thíos	2018	2019
	€m	€m
Talmhaíocht		
Cláir Forbartha Tuaithe EAFRD	387	299
An Ciste Tréidliachta	10	9
Fáltais comhairgeadais eile	1	1
Iascaigh		
Clár Iascaigh EFF agus EMFF*	16	23
	1,643	1,583

a Ní léirítear ach an cómhaoiniú AE ar na cláir sin sa tábla seo.

*Ní chuirtear fáltais maidir le réamh-mhaoiniú EMFF €8.6m chuig A&A

**Ba mar thoradh ar an díol a bhí ar phúdar bainne bearrtha a bhí i stoc an €-12.6 milliún.

***Bhain an méadú le Beart Cúnaimh Eisceachtúil um Mairteoil BEAM €48.3m.



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

