

PRESS RELEASE

ACA remind farmers of the importance of joining the BEEP-S scheme

18th April 2020

The President of the Agricultural Consultants Association (ACA) Tom Canning, has stated that ACA members across Ireland are actively encouraging their farmer clients to participate in the Beef Environmental Efficiency Programme - Suckler (BEEP-S) as it provides substantial supports to suckler farmers at a time when it is desperately needed. Canning said 'ACA National Council and I are concerned that due to the restrictions with Covid-19, that some farmers, particularly those that are not actively engaged with a farm advisor, may miss the May deadline. We are also concerned that farmers in BEEP in 2019 may not realise that they must apply again to this new 2020 scheme before the 15th of May'.

BEEP-S was launched by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) in recent weeks and the scheme has a number of actions. Action 1 which is mandatory and is the weighing and submission of weights to ICBF of cows and calves. Farmers then have the choice of selecting further options, if they wish, under Actions 2 and 3. In Action 2, farmers can select meal feeding pre weaning and post weaning or a vaccination programme for the farm. Farmers can receive an additional payment under Action 3 for completing faecal egg testing for liver and rumen fluke. The payment rate for action 1 is €50 per first ten cow/calf weighing per herd and €40 per cow/calf weighing thereafter to a maximum of 100 pairs in total. An additional payment for completion of action 2 is €30 per calf, with payment for action 3 being an additional €10 per cow.

According to Canning 'a suckler farmer with 10 cows completing all measures can receive a payment under BEEP-S of €900, 15 cows €1,300 and a 30 suckler cow herd €2,500, which are considerable payments for farmers, who are being rewarded for completing measures on their farms that can improve returns from their suckler enterprise this year'. He added 'I would strongly encourage all farmers to also complete measure 3 and conduct a faecal sample as there was evidence in many suckler herds of subclinical fluke infections over the winter. The faecal test will provide an accurate analysis of fluke levels in the herd which can be discussed thereafter with the farmers vet'.

The deadline for applications is the 15th of May 2020 and farmers must apply online. 'This is an extremely busy time of year for ACA members and their staff but they are available to discuss all aspects of this BEEP-S scheme' said Canning. 'ACA members are actively helping our farmer clients to apply to this scheme and we can act as their agent to get them signed up to this scheme and help them understand the measures and the required commitments. Therefore, I would strongly encourage all suckler farmers to contact our members throughout Ireland as they are being very flexible in the provision of advisory services during these challenging times and they will ensure that farmers get the opportunity to discuss and avail of such a scheme' Canning concluded.

Full details on BEEP-S is available through any ACA member office (details are on www.aca.ie) or on the DAFM's website www.agriculture.gov.ie

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Note to Editors:

The Agricultural Consultants Association (ACA) are the sole representative body for private agricultural consultants and advisors in Ireland. Currently the ACA have 166 member offices across all of Ireland and employ 262 Agricultural and Environmental graduates, 17 Forestry Consultants and 120 employed as either administration or technical staff. Members of ACA advise in the region of 55,000 Irish farmers, confirming the private advisory service as the largest in Ireland.

New Vision and Mission Statement of ACA

1. Our vision is to be the most influential and dynamic Agri-business association consulted nationally and internationally and recognised for its excellence in representing the world-class independent professional Agri-business advisors in Ireland
2. The Mission statement: to bring our Vision into reality the Association represents and supports its members and is the professional body consulted on policy by government. The Association ensures that standards of excellence are maintained among the members through its code of ethics, admission qualifications and continuous professional education. This allows members to independently advise and assist the Irish farming community to be profitably sustainable economically, environmentally and socially to ensure an enhanced quality of life for all in Ireland.