



PRESS RELEASE

Transition measures for CAP must be secured - ACA

6th March 2020

The ACA are seeking immediate clarity on the transitional measures being proposed under the current CAP. Owen O'Driscoll President of ACA speaking at the opening of the ACA AGM today stated 'ACA greatly welcome the presence of the Secretary General of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) Mr. Brendan Gleeson. ACA and the DAFM have a good working relationship presently and I wish to thank the support of all Department officials during my term. Our relationship in the forthcoming months will be even more important so that we can receive clarity on many issues on the CAP transition measures and ensure that Irish farmers and their families can continue to receive critical support measures with the help of our network of members in Ireland'.

O'Driscoll opening the first session at the ACA AGM in Portlaoise today, in which ACA members heard from Mr. Gleeson and Prof. Alan Matthews discussing Brexit, CAP reform and Irish agricultural policy, stated 'The continuation of many schemes including GLAS and the BDGP are of huge importance to farmers and they must know soon if they will receive a rollover of their participations in such schemes until the next CAP is in place. Additionally, our members provide a significant support service to these farmers and any uncertainty or discontinuation will have massive effects on our members and their staff also'. He added 'the private advisory service suffered badly during the last recession which coincided with significant cuts into our sector and that important support service to our 55,000 farmer clients was undermined. ACA will be supporting any transition measures proposed by the DAFM that assists with a rollover of these schemes to ensure that something similar does not occur again'.

'Farmers have made significant investments and adjustments in their animal breeding policies with the help of the Beef Data and Genomics Programme (BDGP) and it would be reprehensible that these advancements would end prematurely without a new support scheme. Advanced animal breeding policies are just one of the scientific areas that will assist farmers meet their targets under climate change and to abandon a programme such as the BDGP at this time would not be helpful' O'Driscoll added in his final address as ACA President after two years in the position. He continued to state that 'the loss of over €1billion (over €200m per annum) in GLAS payments to the sector, in the absence of any rollover, even for one year, will have devastating effects on farmers' incomes, security of jobs in the private advisory service and consequential effects on many elements of the direct and indirect economy in rural Ireland'.

