

## ***SUBMISSION FOR FUTURE GLAS OR REPS SCHEME BY NATIVE IRISH DEXTER BREED.***

The following submission is from the Irish Dexter group which has now a recognised Irish Herd book as from 01/01/2021. The purity of this breed will be enhanced by a rigorous genotyping programme for breeding stock funded by DAFM.

The breed still has critically low numbers and is listed as an endangered breed. There will be approximately 800 purebred breeding females calving in 2021. To ensure the sustainable development of the breed in the future it is essential that new breeders are encouraged to buy our native animals. This task is more important now than ever before. Current market difficulties due to Covid 19 and Brexit have resulted in a lack of outlets and consequently a lack of confidence in these breeds.

New environmental programmes and strategies at EU level have been signed by our Government. Part of these new strategies is a commitment to biodiversity enhancement and any actions targeting this area will be monitored and assessed by the EU. The development of our Native breeds falls within the scope of Biodiversity Enhancement. Therefore, these breeds must receive additional support to commercial breeds and this support must be obvious.

In order to achieve growth in numbers to an acceptable level so that breeders might be able to compete at market level the following is required:

- No reference year for entry to scheme as is the case currently. (This current criterion prevents new entrants and therefore is counterproductive and senseless.)
- Increase from €200 to €300 per livestock unit for 10 LU.  
€200 per animal for the next 20 breeding animals. (this measure included to ensure numbers are increased and to make it a viable option to encourage new entrants and to encourage viable breeding herds of over 20 animals where there is a stock bull present)
- Only animals that breed each year to be eligible. (Data to be retrieved from AIM system and Pedigree status to be confirmed by ICBF. For Dexter breed this information available from ICBF. Only stock that produce a calf each year to be made eligible as this will ensure the maximum return on investment by DAFM and will also encourage breeding.
- Rare breed measure to be included in programme as a priority action for entry to scheme as previously.
- Rare bred measure to be included in scheme as a Glas + measure. The current situation where it is only a substitute measure for another measure ensures there is no monetary reward in many cases. Therefore, no DAFM incentive currently for these farmers to keep native bovines. A GLAS + type measure would ensure any funding was ring fenced and would not take from other possible funding on the holding and ultimately encourage new breeders.



Irish Dexter Group.