

Agriculture, Food and the Marine Action Plan 2022

Ministers' Foreword

I am pleased to welcome this latest *Action Plan for 2022*, the second under my Department's *Statement of Strategy 2021-2024*.

This Action Plan for 2022 sets out my Department's ambitions this year across the entire range of its activities. The actions in this Plan, which are already underway, build on the work done and projects delivered under Action Plan 2021 which was the first such Plan released under my Department's Statement of Strategy 2021-2024. They range from plans to progress Food Vision 2030, to implementing the new CAP Strategic Plan and delivering on our commitments in the Forestry and Marine sectors. The focus of our work is on building a resilient, exciting and futureproofed sector for our farmers, fishers and producers as well as the wider general public. The agri, food, fishing and forestry sectors play a critical role in a balanced economy as well as providing the bedrock for a multi-billion sector that contributes positively to our exports, creates vital employment and regional balance and provided high quality food for consumers both here and abroad.

The recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and Brexit, the implementation of actions to mitigate Climate Change and the challenges for our sector arising from the war in Ukraine will all be features of our activity in 2022, while still aiming to deliver on all the plans set out in our *Statement of Strategy* just a year ago.

Along with my Ministerial colleagues, I look forward to progressing these actions with my Department, to serve our sector and support our rural communities.

**Charlie McConalogue, T.D.,
Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine**

I am pleased that the Action Plan for 2022 will address many of the challenges that are facing our sector and will progress the many climate change actions that are needed.

**Senator Pippa Hackett,
Minister of State for Land Use and Biodiversity**

I am particularly pleased that in the coming year we will continue to support innovative ways of promoting and improving farm health, safety and wellbeing on Irish farms - a key priority for me and for all of the farming community .

**Martin Heydon T.D.,
Minister of State for Research and Development, Farm Safety and New
Market Development**

Secretary General Foreword

This year, as every year, the Department and its staff will face a range of challenges and will work tirelessly with our sectors to achieve the ambitious targets set out for us in our *Statement of Strategy 2021-2024*.

We will build on the achievements of 2021 to ensure that we deliver, even in the challenging circumstances such as those that are reverberating throughout the world currently. As always, when we set out a *Statement of Strategy*, we try to foresee what will be required of us in the coming years. In recent times, that exercise is becoming more and more difficult with new and emerging risks requiring an immediate response. Fortunately, the staff of the Department continue to demonstrate flexibility and are pivoting to meet these challenges on an ongoing basis. We will continue to progress our mission to “lead, enable and regulate the sector in a way that optimises its contribution to social, economic and environmental sustainability”. This role is never more important than it is in these challenging times.

**Brendan Gleeson,
Secretary General**

Goal 1: To promote and safeguard public, animal and plant health and animal welfare for the benefit of consumers, producers, the economy and wider society

No.	Action	Quarter	Statement of Strategy reference
1	Introduce new Veterinary Medicines legislation in January 2022. Introduce the National Veterinary Prescription System (NVPS) and provide TASAH support scheme to support farmers in dealing with anti-parasitic resistance.	Q1- Q4	1.1, 1.2
2	Support the ongoing progress of legislation through the Houses of the Oireachtas to conclude the prohibition of fur farming in Ireland	Q1 - Q2	1.3
3	Initiate and implement an initiative on responsible pet ownership	Q2 - Q3	1.3
4	Analyse the information returned under the Equine Census and further enhance the equine identification and traceability system	Q2 - Q3	1.1, 1.3
5	Advance the review of the Control of Horses Act	Q4	1.3
6	Review rules and procedures concerning the whole lifespan of dogs, including breeding, identification, sale, transport, responsible ownership and care.	Q2 - Q3	1.3
7	Prepare for and respond to necessary Brexit-related trade, control and certification challenges.	Q1 - Q4	1.4
8	Effective management of waste products of animal origin, maximising the potential of new, innovative technologies.	Q1- Q4	1.1, 1.4
9	Deliver on the iNAP2 action plan, in conjunction with Department of Health and stakeholders to reduce the inappropriate use of antimicrobial medicines and combat Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR).	Q1- Q4	1.2
10	Enhance the digitalisation of systems to support animal health and welfare and veterinary operations, TRACES, exports	Q1 - Q4	1.4
11	Progress the implementation of the Food Safety and Food Authenticity Strategy in the Department, including completion of the DG REFORM project.	Q2-Q4	1.2, 5.1
12	Advance implementation of the Biosecurity Strategy	Q2-Q4	1.1
13	Continue to implement the National Plant Health and Biosecurity Strategy by advancing a range of Plant Health related activities- development of Plant Health Stakeholder Network, contingency plans to respond to pest incidents and outbreaks, risk awareness and communication.	Q1-Q4	1.1

Goal 1: To promote and safeguard public, animal and plant health and animal welfare for the benefit of consumers, producers, the economy and wider society

No.	Action	Quarter	Statement of Strategy reference
14	Review and renew the National Farmed Animal Health Strategy (2017 – 2022)	Q3-Q4	1.1
	Continue, in cooperation with stakeholders and facilitated by Animal Health Ireland where appropriate, the drive towards eradication of certain diseases and move to surveillance mode for these diseases:		1.1
15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet the target of BVD-free status in respect of the national herd 	Q4	1.1
16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage and support stakeholders in achieving Cell Check suite of targets 	Q1 -Q4	1.1, 1.2
17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support AHI and stakeholders in expanding participation in Johne's Disease control programme 	Q1-Q4	1.1
18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further deliver Biosecurity Assessment and advisory programme in pigs and poultry sectors 	Q1-Q4	1.1, 1.2
19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver on anti-parasitic targeted advisory service 	Q2-Q4	1.1
20	Advance the TB eradication programme in partnership with stakeholders through the TB Forum	Q1-Q4	1.1
21	Initiate plans towards eradication of Scrapie from the national sheep flock	Q3-Q4	1.1
22	Continued focus on preparedness to deal with exotic disease outbreaks	Q1-Q4	1.1
23	Complete the transposition of the EU Animal Health Law	Q1-Q4	1.1, 1.2
24	Launch renewed Animal Health Surveillance Strategy for Ireland	Q1	1.1
25	Progress initiatives to ensure sustainable, high welfare outlets for dairy male calves in cooperation with stakeholders through the Calf Stakeholder Forum	Q1-Q4	1.3
26	Continued delivery of Targeted Advisory Service on Animal Health (TASAH) support measures for farmers	Q1-Q4	1.1
27	Pig welfare – progress implementation of the action plan on tail docking in pigs	Q1-Q4	1.3
28	Provide responsive and high quality analytical and advisory scientific support to DAFM and external clients across diagnostic, regulatory and reference laboratory functions	Q1-Q4	1.2
29	Progress the programme for redevelopment of regional laboratories and continue implementation of a new Laboratory Information Management System	Q1-Q4	1.2

Goal 1: To promote and safeguard public, animal and plant health and animal welfare for the benefit of consumers, producers, the economy and wider society

No.	Action	Quarter	Statement of Strategy reference
30	Develop (with DECC) a plan for a suitable nationwide collection of farm hazardous wastes, including unused veterinary products and pesticides	Q1-Q3	1.1, 1.2
31	Engage at EU level on a new regulatory framework for sustainable use of pesticides. Engage at national level with Teagasc on availability and feasibility of non-chemical alternatives for major plant protection uses in Ireland.	Q1-Q4	1.1, 3.1
32	Progress animal feed stakeholder group and agree a salmonella protocol	Q1-Q4	1.1, 1.2
33	Development of e-phyto plant certification	Q2	1.4
34	Leverage support for enhanced All-Island animal health and plant health analysis and diagnostic work	Q1-Q4	1.1
35	Ensure Programme for Government commitment to a veterinary presence on all live export consignments to third countries – subject to public health and security advice	Q2-Q4	1.3, 1.4

Goal 2: Provide income and targeted supports to farmers and others in the agri-food sector to underpin the rural economy and optimise environmental sustainability

No.	Action	Quarter	Statement of Strategy reference
36	Deliver on payments to a value of €1.7 BN and entitlements to farmers under the existing CAP, RDP and Exchequer funded schemes in accordance with the agreed payment delivery schedule and in line with commitments in the Farmers' Charter	Q1-4	2.1
37	Design, develop and build new schemes to be rolled out in 2023 under the new CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027. First scheme due to open in Autumn 2022.	Q1-4	3.8
38	Communicate with our farmer customers and other stakeholders on what they need to know now to prepare them for new CSP measures in 2023. Communication to start in Q1,2022.	Q1-Q4	3.8
39	CPD Programme for Advisors and Agri-Environment Training to be rolled out.	Q1-Q3	3.4
40	Ensure that the wellbeing of the farmer is central element in the way all future schemes are designed and rolled out	Q1-Q4	3.4
41	Review recommendations of the anticipated Wool Report and develop an action plan to identify domestic and international market opportunities for wool-based products	Q1- Q4	1.4
42	Roll-out multi-species support and support for red clover(€2m)	Q1-Q4	2.1/3.3
43	Roll-over RDP schemes including Soil Sampling, Straw incorporation and FES.	Q1-4	2.1, 3.8
	Organics Policy:		
44	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-opening of the organic farming scheme in Q1 2022 	Q1	2.1/2.2
45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reform and relaunch of the Organic Forum 	Q1	2.1
46	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publish a new action plan to complement the National Organic Strategy. 	Q2	2.1
47	EIP call for targeted water quality projects	Q3-4	3.3

No.	Action	Quarter	Statement of Strategy reference
48	Engage with the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment and Enterprise Ireland on innovation development funding for the horticulture sector for horticulture producers who wish to move new product development from the primary through secondary and tertiary development stages.	Q1-Q4	3.4

Goal 2: Provide income and targeted supports to farmers and others in the agri-food sector to underpin the rural economy and optimise environmental sustainability

No.	Action	Quarter	Statement of Strategy reference
	Project Woodland to continue to be implemented with priority actions for 2022 to include:		
49	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Forest Strategy for Ireland to be published 	Q2-4	2.3
50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Forestry Programme 2022-27 to be finalised and published 	Q4	2.3
51	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Licencing Plan 2022 targets to be achieved 	Q1-4	2.3
52	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulatory Review completed and implementation plan developed to enhance regulatory processes, systems and structures where relevant 	Q2	2.3
53	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small-scale planting scheme(s) to be developed on foot of new Forestry legislation. 	Q4	2.3
54	Publish National Forest Inventory 2022	Q4	2.3
55	Continue the Farm Safety EIP, introduce and support innovative ways of dealing with farm health, safety and wellbeing on Irish farms with the aim of ensuring attention to safety becomes central to everything that is done on Irish farms.	Q1-Q4	3.4

Goal 3: Provide the optimum policy framework for the sustainable development of the agri-food sector

No.	Action	Quarter	Statement of Strategy reference
56	Publish <i>Food Vision 2030</i> Implementation Plan	Q1	3.2
57	Public Event on the Implementation of <i>Food Vision 2030</i>	Q2	3.2
58	Establish sectoral groupings to advance Food Vision 2030 actions, including a Food Vision Dairy Group, tasked to produce a plan to manage the sustainable environmental footprint of the dairy sector as a first priority, with an initial report to the Minister by end Q1	Q1-Q2	3.2
59	Implement Environmental Sustainability Committee and deliver annual report to HLIC on environmental indicators	Q4	3.2/3.4
60	Represent Ireland at OECD Agriculture Ministerial meeting November 2022	Q4	3.2
61	Work with DECC and EPA to develop and implement strategy to reduce food waste and food loss, including at primary production level, and on related communication strategy	Q1-Q4	3.2
62	Office for Fairness and Transparency in the agri-food supply chain: bring the general scheme of a Bill to Government to establish a new state body to improve market and price transparency and enforce Unfair Trading Practices legislation; achieve DPER sanction for establishment, staffing and costs.	Q1	3.4
63	Unfair Trading Practices Enforcement Authority: Information Campaign on the rights and obligations on suppliers	Q1-Q2	3.4
64	Achieve Protected Geographical Indicator (PGI) status for Irish Grass Fed Beef on an all-Island basis	Q3	3.4
65	Continue to prioritise market access, retention and development work, including by planning and leading trade missions, facilitating inward visits, progressing technical discussions on market access and utilising DAFM's international attaché network.	Q1-Q4	3.7, 3.10 3.6
66	Secure European Commission approval for Ireland's draft CAP Strategic Plan	Q3-4	3.8
67	Establish new structures for effective monitoring of CSP implementation and evaluation of performance	Q1-4	3.8
68	Complete the review of EU State Aid Guidelines	Q4	3.7
69	Submit amendments to the European Commission as required, and in a timely manner.	Q1-4	3.7

Goal 3: Provide the optimum policy framework for the sustainable development of the agri-food sector

No.	Action	Quarter	Statement of Strategy reference
70	Ensure that the necessary export certification arrangements (admin/IT systems and staffing) are in place to deal with new UK import requirements being phased in over the course of 2022.	Q1-4	3.9
71	Review, in collaboration with other Departments and agencies, the import controls physical infrastructure in Dublin Port.	Q1-2	3.9
72	Progress, in collaboration with other Departments and agencies, the plans for permanent import controls infrastructure in Rosslare Port.	Q1-4	3.9
73	Continue to respond effectively to developments arising from the implementation of the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement and the Ireland/Northern Ireland Protocol.	Q1-4	3.9
74	Develop and implement supports, where appropriate, for the agri-food and fisheries sectors impacted by Brexit	Q1-4	3.4
75	Develop and implement a strategy for future IE-UK engagement on agriculture policy, within wider whole-of-Government approach.	Q1-4	3.9
76	Continue to engage effectively on Ireland's interests at Agri-Fish Council, and on the progression at EU level of issues that have an impact on CAP implementation, including the planned review of EU marketing regulations, trade reciprocity proposals, and the evolution of the Fit For 55 Package and Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies.	Q1-4	3.7
77	Actively monitor EU trade negotiations and work with colleagues in the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment to ensure that Ireland's agri-food interests are represented effectively.	Q1-4	3.7, 3.10
78	Explore ways to more fully exploit the opportunities created for the Irish agri-food sector by EU Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), including through the Trade and Investment Council.	Q1-4	3.7, 3.10

Goal 3: Provide the optimum policy framework for the sustainable development of the agri-food sector

No.	Action	Quarter	Statement of Strategy reference
79	Engage with stakeholders and industry on implementation of the Ag-Climatise roadmap	Q1-Q4	3.3
80	Develop a Farmland biodiversity Strategy to improve Nature within the agricultural sector	Q1-Q4	3.3
81	Sectoral Emissions Ceilings and breakdown of 2025/2030 climate budget to be agreed at Government level. National Climate Action plan 2022 to be agreed (using legally constituted budgets). Commence revision of Ag-climatise (post agreement of sectoral ceilings).	(A) Q2 (B) Q3 (C) Q4	3.3
82	Conclude Nitrates review of regulations and vote on the Nitrates Derogation expected in Mid-March	Q1	3.3
83	Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) regulations to be reviewed and Input directly to NPWS on Habitats Directive review.	Q2-Q4	3.3
84	Develop and implement targeted water quality measure with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.	Q1-Q4	3.3
85	Advance the Land Use Knowledge project to inform policy and decision making and to facilitate the implementation of the CAP Strategic Plan, with the land cover map to be delivered in Q2, 2022. Continue close collaboration with DECC on the national land use review, with delivery of phase 1 of the review in Q3.	Q2-Q3	3.3
86	A framework for 'Carbon farming' framework to be progressed.	Q4	3.3
87	Pilot Anaerobic Digestion Scheme to be progressed	Q4	3.3
88	Support KPMG review of Horticulture and implement consequent actions relevant to the Department	Q1-Q4	3.3
89	Support the World Potato congress in June	Q2	3.3

Goal 3: Provide the optimum policy framework for the sustainable development of the agri-food sector

No.	Action	Quarter	Statement of Strategy reference
90	Put in place primary legislation for fertiliser and develop a 'fertiliser register'.	Q4	3.3
91	Commence development of new Agri-Food research agenda taking account of Food Vision 2030 and support new National Innovation 2025 strategies	Q2	3.5
92	Implement work programme on bioeconomy, including facilitation of new bioeconomy forum and develop new National Bioeconomy plan	Q1-Q4	3.5
93	Launch a Strategy and Policy studies research call	Q2	3.5
94	Progress opportunity for All- Island Green House Gas Centre of Excellence	Q1-Q4	3.5
95	Tillage: Conclude consultation on potential viability of growing fibre crops such as Hemp. Continue to support the tillage sector to identify the most suitable varieties with good disease resistance and agronomic and yield potential to help growers meet the Farm 2 Fork targets of reduced inputs. Continue to operate the Seed Certification Schemes at a high level and ensure that additional area for certification can be accommodated, in particular seed potatoes.	Q1 Q1 – Q4	3.1 3.4
96	Advance support options for the horticulture sector under the Brexit Adjustment Reserve Fund.	Q1 – Q4	3.9
97	Engage at international level on agriculture (with a particular focus on biogenic methane) and land use opportunities including opportunities to share information and showcase climate action in the Irish agri-sector	Q1-Q4	3.3

Goal 4: Deliver a sustainable, competitive and innovative seafood sector, driven by a skilled workforce, delivering value added products in line with consumer demand

No.	Action	Quarter	Statement of Strategy reference
98	Participate in the Common Fisheries Policy Review process at EU level. Establish a National CFP Review Group and complete a National Report.	Q2	4.1, 4.2, 4.3
99	Contribute to the new Coastal States Negotiations on new sharing arrangements for the three key widely distributed pelagic stocks and the new EU Working Group on the Danish Mackerel issue	Q4	4.1
100	Designing and seeking approval Nationally and at EU level for the 18 schemes recommended by the Seafood Taskforce: Schemes and approved implementing the schemes to avail of the BAR funding window	Q3	4.1, 4.2
101	Progress the Bill to implement the EU Points system for Masters through the Houses of the Oireachtas to enactment to release EU funds suspended to date.	Completed	4.2, 4.3
102	Design and secure National funding for a new Seafood Operational Programme, secure EU approval and implement.	Q3	4.2
103	Implement the Fishery Harbour Centre Capital programme. Projects in Castletownbere and Killybegs to be completed	Q4	4.3
104	Roll out and implement the new Local Authority Marine Infrastructure Scheme	Q4	4.3
105	Advance the ongoing licencing/re licencing of the fin fish aquaculture industry and maintain progress on Shellfish licensing	Q4	4.2
106	Support the inshore fishing fleet in generating greater marketing and promotional capacity by facilitating the establishment of Producer Organisations for these smaller fishing vessels, thereby providing additional opportunity for the island and coastal communities involved in the inshore sector	Partly completed	4.1, 4.2, 4.3
107	Advance enhanced IT Infrastructure for DAFM Marine Divisions	Ongoing	4.2, 4.3

Goal 5: Maintain and develop strategic, operational, regulatory and technical capacity and capability to deliver excellent services to our customers

No.	Action	Quarter	Statement of Strategy reference
108	Implement Blended Working Arrangements in DAFM	Q2	5.1
109	The ongoing recruitment of staff to meet the organisational priorities of the Department	Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4	5.1
110	Review the use of existing infrastructure and accommodation requirements in light of new Blended working arrangements and manage the development and build of permanent accommodation and facilities to support Brexit operations in Rosslare Europort	Q4	5.1
111	Provide support for cross-organisational reforms, such as the implementation of the Innovation Strategy, the review of <i>One Health, One Welfare</i> operations and the <i>Food Safety and Food Authenticity</i> programme	Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4	5.1
112	Implement enhanced supports for staff in Learning and Development and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion	Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4	5.1
113	Continue to bed down the enhancements to the Investigations Division achieved in recent years and continue to work in partnership with other bodies in our sectors on enforcement matters	Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4	5.1
114	Design and delivery of IT systems to support the new CAP schemes and Forestry and delivery of transition schemes.	Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4	5.2
115	Enhanced cyber security and modernisation of legacy systems	Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4	5.2
116	Deliver a data warehouse for enhanced business intelligence capability	Q3	5.2
117	Governance liaison with the Department's State Sponsored Bodies.	Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4	
118	Progress the build of a Data Centre at Backweston as part of the strategic development of the campus	Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4	5.2
	Continue to support the development of priority legislation both in the Department and through the Houses of the Oireachtas including:	Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4	5.1
119	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sea Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction (Amendment) Bill (CFP Points System Bill) 		

No.	Action	Quarter	Statement of Strategy reference
120	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Animal Health and Welfare and Forestry (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill (prohibition of Fur Farming and small-scale tree planting Bill) 		
121	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Animal Health and Welfare (Fur Farming Compensation) Regulations 		
122	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Agri-Food Supply Chain (Market Transparency) Bill (Previously the Food Ombudsman Bill) 		
123	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Veterinary Medicinal Products and Medicated Feedstuffs Regulations (Giving effect to EU Regulations 4 and 6 of 2019) 		
124	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Veterinary Medicinal Products and Medicated Feedstuffs Regulation Bill (Electronic Veterinary Prescriptions and Retail Rules for VMPs) 		
125	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Animal Health Law Regulations (Giving effect to EU Regulation 2016/429) Fertiliser Bill 		
126	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marketing of Fertiliser Products Regulations (Giving effect to EU Regulation 2019/1009) 		
127	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spirit Drinks and Geographical Indications Regulations (Giving effect to EU Regulation 2019/787) 		
128	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organic products Regulations (Giving effect to EU Regulation 2018/848) 		
129	Maximise the funding available from EURI and BAR.	Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4	3.9
130	Provide financial support to the horse and greyhound racing sector and respond to the Oireachtas report on integrity in Irish horse racing.	Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4 and Q2	1.3