

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: On Farm Capital Investment Scheme - Support for Milk Recording
Date: Wednesday 17 November 2021 13:08:52
Attachments: [Milk Meters OFCS Submission 15 Nov 2021 Final.pdf](#)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 November 2021 12:56
To: [REDACTED] CAP
Consultative Committee
Cc: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]
Subject: On Farm Capital Investment Scheme - Support for Milk Recording

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Dear all,

Please find enclosed a joint submission by ICOS and the milk recording organisations (Progressive Genetics, Munster Bovine and Tipperary Co-op) advocating for the inclusion of support for milk meters under the On Farm Capital Investment Scheme as part of the new CAP. We would appreciate if our submission could be taken into consideration by the Department when finalising the details of the new scheme. If you have any questions or queries in relation to the submission, please do let us know.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]

Agri Food Policy Executive
Irish Co-operative Organisation Society Ltd
&
Secretary,
Milk Quality Ireland Co-operative Society Ltd

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**Submission to Department of Agriculture, Food & Marine for
funding milk recording equipment under TAMS**

15th November 2021

Background

Over the past 12 months a number of Government and industry stakeholders have participated in discussions in relation to the implications of the new EU veterinary medicines regulation (2019/6) which becomes effective in January 2022. The working group was chaired by Animal Health Ireland and there were participants from Department of Agriculture Food and Marine (DAFM), Veterinary Council of Ireland (VCI), Irish Co-Operative Organisation Society (ICOS) and the milk recording organisations Progressive Genetics, Munster Bovine & Tipperary Co-Op.

One of the outcomes from the discussions was the urgent requirement to invest in the milk recording infrastructure if the industry wishes to achieve its ambition to have 90% of dairy cows recorded by 2025. The stakeholder group agreed a submission be made to the DAFM in relation to funding which would be required by the MROs to increase the capacity of the service. The proposal was submitted to the Department in Sept 2021.

The submission in Sept 2021 related specifically to the MROs investment requirements. There is however a category of milk recording which requires investment from the farmer. The category of recording is referred to as manual recording whereby the farmer requires permanent milk recording meters installed in the parlour and the MRO supplies the labour for the recording session.

Nationally the recruitment rate to milk recording is split 80% eDIY and 20% manual. The manual category are very reluctant to take on the eDIY option and are a reluctant participant for milk recording in the first instance.

The purpose of this submission is to highlight the barrier with this category of farmer and to ensure we recruit as many of them as possible to milk recording. Ireland's CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027 identifies the need to increase environmental efficiency in the agri sector through on farm investment and the adoption of new technologies.

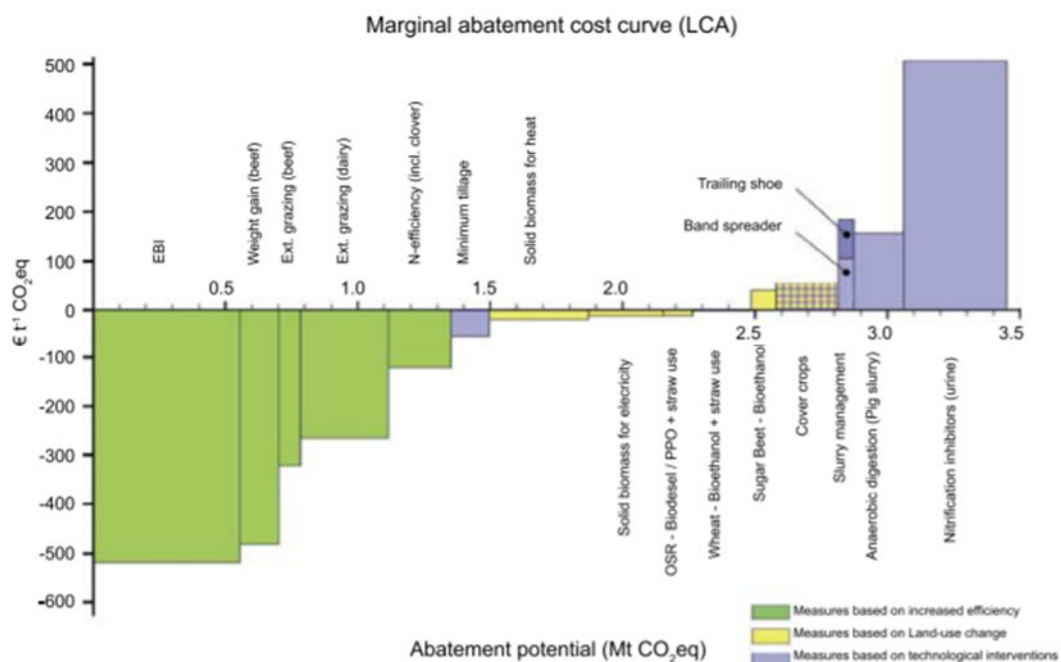
This submission proposes that the manual farmer category should be assisted to in acquiring the milk meters under the new On-farm Capital Investment Scheme currently being formulated.

The Case for Milk Recording

In the MRO submission in Sept 2021 the vital role milk recording can play in the dairy industry was highlighted and the salient points are highlighted below:

The Irish agriculture industry is faced with huge social, environmental, and sustainability challenges with any future policy requiring significant changes to the way Ireland manages its agricultural industry. The Climate Action Bill 2021, will set a national climate objective to achieve a climate-neutral economy no later than 2050 and a total reduction in GHG emissions of 51% over the period to 2030.

The Irish dairy industry despite being blamed for many of the ills of climate change can play a significant part in the reduction of GHG emissions through advances in science-driven technologies that are proven to mitigate and reduce the carbon footprint from dairy farming. Such technologies can be seen in figure 1.0 of the Marginal Abatement Cost Curve (MACC), this graphic highlights the reduction in GHG's that can be achieved with efficiency across the agricultural industry.



The MROs see a significant opportunity for the Irish dairy industry to achieve a reduction in GHG emission. One such way is the increased usage of milk recording to make better on-farm decisions and also the generation of data to contribute to the national breeding program (EBI) which is highlighted above in the MACC, as being the most significant technology to mitigate

GHG's. We believe there is more potential for the Irish dairy industry to achieve its obligations of GHG reduction with such technologies.

We see Milk recording benefiting in the following ways:

1. Milk recording data is the foundation block of the national breeding programme and underpins the success achieved by Economic Breeding Index (EBI). The EBI is reliant on the information generated from milk recording. The EBI has shown significant improvement over the last twenty-one years since its introduction. It has transformed the national dairy herd leading to more environmentally sustainable systems through improvements in fertility, kgs of milk solids/cow, and increasing cow longevity which will enable more production without increases in cow numbers. Additional milk recording data will contribute towards the national breeding programme and will advance genetic gain and ultimately speed up the improvement of the national herd in terms of reducing GHG emissions.
2. Milk recording has economic benefits to dairy farmers and the wider economy. Studies conducted by Teagasc show significant increases in profitability for herds milk recording compared to herds, not milk recording.
3. Milk recording will also play a role in the reduction of antibiotic usage of Irish dairy farms. This will benefit antimicrobial resistance (AMR) which is of major worldwide human health concern and an important priority of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, through Ireland's National Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (iNAP).
4. Milk recording can return many benefits, but the main benefit in terms of the focus of Ireland's CAP Strategic Plan is its reduction in GHG emissions. ICBF data shows herds that milk record have a lower carbon footprint by identifying and breeding more profitable and efficient cows that are better for the environment. Currently less than 50% of the herds are milk recorded which highlights a big challenge but also a huge opportunity for the industry. A key metric is to achieve 90% of the national herd milk recording by 2025 but this will not be achieved without the appropriate infrastructure and support.

Financial Commitment

Set out in Appendix I is an estimate of the total cost of committing to grant aid milk meters in milking parlours. It is estimated that the total cost to the new On Farm Investment Scheme would be €4.4m assuming the higher investment rate of 60% provided to young farmers and women. The majority of farmers will be entitled to support at the 40% grant rate which equates to €2.96m This cost would inevitably be spread over a 4/5 year period in proportion to the rate that farmers participate in the scheme.

Attached at Appendix 11 is sample of the type of meter available in the market.

Conclusion

We have a long way to go to achieve our targets of 90% of the cows recorded but we have to be ambitious and positive in our approach. We have 7,993 herds recording as of the end of October 2021. Assuming we have 18,000 dairy herds, we have a journey to travel. Herds recruited to date have been the easy part and the challenge will be the next phase of recruitment and farmers will need all the encouragement we can give them. The grant initiative has proved itself to be a very successful incentive in the past.

We as an industry face enormous challenges with the climate change initiatives coming down the tracks at a very fast pace. The milk recording technology is one of the pillar technologies at our disposal which we know can deliver positive improvements and all stakeholders need to do all we can to embrace and promote this technology for the good of Irish agriculture.

The inclusion of milk meters for farmers under the On Farm Capital Investment Scheme will help contribute to our goals.

APPENDIX 1

MANUAL MILK RECORDING HERDS

TAMS SUBMISSION ESTIMATE

Total Potential Cost	Total	Milk Recording	Not Recording
Cow Numbers	1,570,180	968,472	601,708
Total Dairy herds	18,000	7,980	10,020
Average Herd size	87	121	60
Parlour Size Assumption 6-7 rows/milking (units/parlour)	12	17	9
Assuming a 20% uptake in manual recording (Herds)			2,004
Number of meters			17,192
Average cost/meter incl Vat			431
Total cost of meters			7,401,008
60% Grant Aid			4,440,605
40% Grant Aid			2,960,403

Financial cost for 80 cow herd	60% Rebate	40% Rebate
Assuming 12 unit parlour	12	12
Average cost/meter	€431	€431
Total investment in meters	5,172	5,172
Net Cost to farmer	2,069	3,103

Notes

Estimates as at Oct 2021

Cost can be spread over next 4/5 years

Assumes all manual herds apply

TRU-TEST DATAMARS – SAMPLE MILK METER

WB EZI Test Milk Meter



KEY FEATURES

- Meter head inlet and outlet area optimised to reduce vacuum restriction.
- Option of 50 kg (110 lb) or 33 kg (73 lb) large capacity flask.
- Cleans in place during wash cycle.
- Multiple bracket options.
- Low maintenance.
- ICAR approved.
- Samples for individual animals can be taken easily via the valve at the base of the flask.
Stir first and then sample.