

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday 11 August 2021 18:40  
**To:** CAP Strategic Plan  
**Subject:** Suckler cow reduction

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- 1) if there is to be a cut to beef cow numbers, will there be an equivalent cut to dairy cow numbers?
- 2) if cattle numbers are to be cut surely the place to start is with herds who need nitrates derogation as these herds are already overstocked. Will this be done?
- 3) is the beef cow reduction being implemented to free up space for the dairy herds?
- 4) why are nonfarming related bodies (birdwatch Ireland, acorns, ucd, irish rural link department of housing and local government and various government departments) involved in the cap consultation process.? this is non of their business.
- 5) Considering the small number of farmers receiving payments of over €60,000 surely its common sense to cap payments at 60k. .its very hard to justify giving any more to anybody. ?
- 6) most beef farmers have reduced stock numbers to qualify for beam scheme, will this reduction be allowed for in future calculations, in other word's will 2021 be excluded as a reference year if an individual farmer wants ?
- 7) most important of all why are beef farmers being forced to take the biggest hit here ?

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday 11 August 2021 21:40  
**To:** CAP Strategic Plan  
**Subject:** Scrub 30%

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Hi,  
In relation to the above, is it 30% of the scrub which will be eligible or up to 30% of the overall land parcel containing schrub?

Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday 11 August 2021 19:30  
**To:** CAP Strategic Plan  
**Subject:** Cow limits

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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As I participated in the Beep scheme and have already reduced my herd by 5% (this was not very clear upon signing up) will those enforced reductions be included as a reference year?  
They should not

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday 11 August 2021 10:32  
**To:** CAP Strategic Plan  
**Subject:** Draft interventions CAP strategic plan

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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Dear Minister McConalogue,

Thank you for the opportunity to have a say on the next Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). The low level of recognition and promotion for the role of women in agriculture has been an ongoing issue.

The Department of Agriculture's own SWOT analysis states: "In Ireland, less than 12% of landholders are women presumably as a result of traditional cultural bias towards male successors, resulting in women rarely inheriting land."

Currently, article 6(1) point (h) of the next CAP plan at European Commission level states countries must promote women in farming and gender equality in their plans for CAP between 2023 – 2027.

In addition, the Irish Government's own Food Vision 2030 has stated that a National Dialogue on Women in Agriculture should be held.

I would like to know:

- What funding will be provided to support women in the next CAP and specifically what form will it take? (eg, Knowledge Transfer scheme, TAMS funding, etc.)
- How much funding will be given to support women in establishing a Women in Agriculture forum to address the historic low representation of women?
- When will a National Dialogue on Women in Agriculture take place?

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone



[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday 12 August 2021 17:39  
**To:** CAP Strategic Plan  
**Subject:** draft interventions for CAP Strategic Plan

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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Hello,

In relation to the draft interventions plan for CAP 2023-2027, please find my comments/queries.

I note there is a general objective to *"attract and sustain young farmers and other new farmers and facilitate sustainable business development in rural areas"*. With this in mind, can you respond to this queries:

1. For the proposed On-farm Capital Investment scheme (with a higher grant rate for Young Farmers, and which prioritises investments in Farm Safety Equipment), will a farmer aged 40 or under with more than five years farming done and who already has availed of the higher rate of grant up to the 80K threshold in the outgoing CAP program, be eligible for the higher grant rate?
2. Can you elaborate on how the LEADER Programme is beneficial for young farmers?
3. Can you comment on the Department's thinking regarding how it might attract more female's into the farming sector?
4. Will there be any support mechanism for young farmers starting out in agriculture to purchase land?
5. I remember from the last national general election, there was a commitment from all parties including the current minister for agriculture to introduce a farm retirement scheme. I haven't come across any mention of this in Ireland CAP Strategic Plan. Is that idea dead? If it's still alive, will any such retirement scheme give preferential treatment to young farmers?
6. I note that the document defines a young farmer as: *"Aged no more than 40 years of age at any time during the calendar year in"*. Can you clarify if somebody reaching the age of 40 in October of 2023 is eligible to be a young farmer?

Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday 12 August 2021 17:44  
**To:** CAP Strategic Plan  
**Subject:** AECM

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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Perhaps the entry requirements for access to the AECM could be outlined in order to allay the concerns of very many farmers who are concerned about their ability to participate .The current situation whereby a significant number of farmers don't have access to any environmental scheme cannot be allowed to continue under the new CAP .

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday 12 August 2021 00:30  
**To:** CAP Strategic Plan

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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Bord bia inspections on suckler farms.what purpose does this serve?  
Capping suckler cows, when the problem is elsewhere,namely with overstocked dairy farmers who's methane emissions are far more excessive in comparison to their suckler farming neighbors and colleagues.Stocking density issues have to be examined

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday 12 August 2021 15:50  
**To:** CAP Strategic Plan  
**Subject:** CAP measures to support generational renewal

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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Hi,

One of the main objectives of CAP is to support farmers to produce a plentiful supply of food for the population of the Eu at a reasonable price and ensure a fair standard of living for farmers . What supports in the current proposal address the serious issues of generational renewal and lack of available workers to continue production in the future regardless of the added environmental measures.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday 12 August 2021 17:43  
**To:** CAP Strategic Plan

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The 1.5 billion carbon tax money cannot be used for co financing the new CAP . Looking for maximum co financing from the Irish Govt. And Farmers need to be funded properly in Pillar 2 with good practical schemes .

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday 12 August 2021 16:31  
**To:** CAP Strategic Plan  
**Subject:** Costs

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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How much will these regulations add to the cost of producing a litre of milk for the average dairy farm Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday 12 August 2021 22:23  
**To:** CAP Strategic Plan

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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To whom it concerns,

Just something to consider. At present I have a sizeable proportion of my land which is bogland and deemed "unimproved land" so it doesn't qualify for the afforestation scheme without the inclusion of good land. Neither does it give me any income from "greening"

I would be more than happy to use this land in any eco scheme, so please consider the role of unimproved land in any future scheme.

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday 12 August 2021 17:24  
**To:** CAP Strategic Plan  
**Subject:** draft interventions for CAP Strategic Plan

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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Hello all,

Where is the dream of forestry going or gone, farm forestry is being isolated away from being integrated into the whole farm management year by year, eco scheme after eco scheme seems to be more anti forestry. Why would a livestock farmer be entitled to get paid for water protection and bird habitat protection etc when a tree farmer is excluded from having planted parcels in these schemes.

A whole farm integrated approach must be adopted to encourage farm diversity and maintain rural Ireland as a whole and not segregated isolated industries.

What is the CAP plan for integrating Farm Forestry, Eco Schemes, BPS (entitlements) and farming as a whole.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]





[REDACTED]

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**From:**

**Sent:**

[REDACTED]  
Thursday 12 August 2021 17:00

**To:**

CAP Strategic Plan

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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What is the position under the new cap for a herdowner with entitlements who does not farm the land only keeps it topped. Will they be able to continue and draw down their entitlements.

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Thursday 12 August 2021 10:34  
**To:** CAP Strategic Plan

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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Hi all

“That polled animals qualify for extra subsidies as they help animal welfare pillar of Ireland responsibility in new CAP. By give farmers an financial bonus this will increase use of natural polled animals, reducing the need for dehorning animals benefiting everyone.

Also high index animals are more efficient thus have an lower carbon footprint. Will those who breed index animals be rewarded financially for breeding high index animals, which will increase the percentage of higher index animals?

Which will help Ireland on its environment pillar of the new CAP.

Regards [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday 12 August 2021 22:49  
**To:** CAP Strategic Plan  
**Subject:** CAP proposals

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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Following the Townhall webinar I wish to raise the following issues

\* It is very wrong to impose participation in Bord Bia's Beef and Lamb Assurance Scheme as a condition in any other scheme.

It is an injustice which will discriminate against many farmers.

Bord Bia's QAS is not appealing to many farmers and the proposed obligation will limit participation in schemes like the Sheep Improvement Scheme or the Suckler Carbon Efficiency Programme. Farmers should not be left deprived of a level playing pitch so the Bord Bia QAS obligation should be withdrawn.

Bord Bia puts unnecessary pressure on farmers who have technology or administrative issues. Bad form to make an unfair condition and connect any scheme to QAS. Some farmers are dependent on help from children who have computer skills needed for Bord Bia. A farmer should not be depending on a minor for any portion of a CAP scheme.

\* It would be better for all stakeholders in the CAP if the Bord Bia QAS suggestion in the Sheep Improvement Scheme was replaced with other constructive and properly funded Category C options. Note reference to "improving animal welfare and combatting antimicrobial resistances" on page 7 of the draft document. Yet no mention of encouraging vaccination . Optional examples for a new Category C with additional payment might include some of these: . . . A jab for enzootic abortion would improve welfare, reduce antibiotic use and lift national prolific figures. Another option to introduce farmers to preventive practices in medical science and raise the knowledge bar is "Metabolic Blood Protein Screening" in a random selection of sheep before lambing.

\* A cap on suckler cow numbers should not apply to any farmer who acquires extra land. It's wrong to discriminate against a farmer who gets the chance to grow the farm business or who receives or leases land from the family of a retired or deceased farmer. This pardon must apply to all active farmers regardless of age as opportunity isn't always gifted in youth

\* An eco scheme task would need to be kept very simple , especially on rented or leased land. Imagine a farmer explaining tasks to an older lessor / older landowner or their next of kin. This reality is fraught with difficulties which are best avoided.

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**From:**

**Sent:**

[REDACTED]  
Thursday 12 August 2021 18:41

**To:**

CAP Strategic Plan

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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Given the importance of an environmental scheme in pillar 2 what are the likely measures farmers will have to comply with to be accepted into the scheme [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday 12 August 2021 10:19  
**To:** CAP Strategic Plan

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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Hi  
Will the polled animals qualify for subsidies as the help animal welfare side of agriculture?  
Also high index animals are more efficient thus have lower carbon footprint. Will those who breed the be finically rewarded for breeding these thus helping Ireland on an environment pillar.  
Regards [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday 12 August 2021 18:44  
**To:** CAP Strategic Plan  
**Subject:** Suckler cow

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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Isn't it blatantly unfair that a reduction in suckler cow herd should be considered while other sectors can continue to increase their numbers?

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday 12 August 2021 13:26  
**To:** CAP Strategic Plan  
**Subject:** Correction needed in CSP consult doc

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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Hi there,

[REDACTED]

There's a mildly confusing typo that should be edited in section 2.1 of the CSP consultation webpage here :  
<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/cf1c0-irelands-cap-strategic-plan-2023-2027-public-consultation-on-proposed-interventions/>

Its in Section 2.1 where the text refers to Food Vision 2030, and then the same policy again but as AGRI Vision 2030, which is incorrect and should be changed to avoid further confusion.

Also, while I'm here, we're seeing a lot of (Sitka) planted deep peat on our program here in the midlands. Its a result of the eligibility criteria in the national forestry programme not being up to date/standard re: the climate effects of planted peat as per being a net emitter, and hence theres going to have to be cross dialogue on this. We need farmers to be able to fell those plantations, and then rewet the peat under them, and this as a measure across the board either as Eco-scheme, or AECM. It'll be worth more to both state and farmer in terms of achieving targets and a decent livelihood and can feed into other schemes - for example, charring the wood for incorporation as biochar on mineral soils pre reseed with mss for example.

Anyway, we're putting this and more in our consultation response and will deliver a policy support document later on. Any advice on a timeline for getting that in and anyone else to send it to specifically would be welcome.

All the best,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday 12 August 2021 12:46  
**To:** CAP Strategic Plan  
**Subject:** Sheep improvement scheme

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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The reference year modelling is something that needs to be looked at in relation to the new Sheep improvement scheme.

Have the department a plan to look at a mechanism that doesn't disadvantage new entrants in the new scheme?

In order to have a worthwhile payment there needs to be more ambition in the new sheep improvement scheme. The level of payment will make or break the scheme.

Is there a plan by the department to include more measures?

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday 12 August 2021 15:43  
**To:** CAP Strategic Plan  
**Subject:** Suckler Carbon Efficiency Programme

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Dear Sirs,

Currently I am in the process of establishing a new suckler herd growing from zero in 2019 to hopefully 60 by 2023 (Currently due to calve 35 in 2022).

I am concerned that I have developed a five year business plan to grow my business which is currently mid-stream and that this will be completely undermined by a restriction on herd size based on historic numbers. I am also very worried that a blunt instrument of a head count will be used to define carbon efficiency; which will not achieve the desired effect; when a number of other criteria in my opinion should be used.

***My query is; would it not be better to have the following proven methods of carbon reduction ie***

1. ***Smaller Cow Size***
2. ***Calving at 24 months***
3. ***Smaller Calf quicker growth i.e. Improved 200 day ratio***
4. ***Short Breeding Season to achieve Improved Fertility and less empty cows***
5. ***Forage Only Feeding***
6. ***Increased Feed Efficiency with Better Grasses reducing chemical fertilisation and reducing slaughter age***

***to measure as a means of achieving the desired environmental improvements rather than bluntly capping numbers.***

I am invested in the long-term future of my farm business as a suckler enterprise and want to farm in both a profitable and in an environmentally sustainable manner. Thank for the opportunity to offer my opinion and I hope that this email will be of use in the consultation process.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]