

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday 12 August 2021 11:14
To: CAP Strategic Plan
Subject: Young farmers and 40 years old max cut off

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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Question 1.

The department has always used the cut off of max 40 years old for young farmer incentives. From speaking in discussion groups and amongst fellow farmers to get established on your own requires significant investment of time, money and resources, all at a time when family life is at its busiest. (in your 30s) Added to that, to carry out investments in physical assets the farmer usually needs a few years to farm first and then plan otherwise he/she might make the wrong decision. My point is that the cut off of 40 years for young farmer top ups in TAMS for example is just very difficult for many. Could this be extended to 45 years so that young farmers could plan their business better? Macra na Feirme have raised this issue many times also.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday 12 August 2021 11:01
To: CAP Strategic Plan
Subject: CAP And Forests

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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To Whom it concerns,

Please see questions below regarding woodland creation and CAP. I am concerned that there is no mention of woodland creation within the new CAP. Why is it being excluded?

The EU Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries, Virginijus Sinkevicius recently stated that “60% of European forests are owned by private people, many are farmers. Under the CAP – especially the second pillar – member states agreed that a minimum of 35% should be dedicated to programmes for environment, climate and protection of forests and member states are encouraged to use this instalment” and further more “Forest owners and managers need drivers and financial incentives to be able to provide, in addition to wood and non-wood materials and products, also ecosystem services through forest protection and restoration and to increase the resilience of their forests through the adoption of most climate and biodiversity friendly forest-management practices”. There was nothing in the Town hall meeting last night, or in the draft CAP Strategic plan that in any includes creation, protection or enhancement of FORESTS. Tree planting in isolation, and by that I mean a line of trees, a hedgerow, a group etc all

Questions regarding the CAP Strategic Plan:

- Will woodland creation be part of the eco schemes? Not tree planting, but woodland creation.
- What measures are being considered for forest and woodland creation in the CAP?
- The European Commission has stated that the new CAP will provide an opportunity for more targeted support to foresters and to the sustainable development of forests. Have DAFM considered this and can you please outline the targeted sustainable forestry measures that are being considered or supported through the new CAP?
- What is the minimum level of new woodland creation or afforestation that is necessary per annum during the course of the next CAP to meet our climate change commitments as related to the Teagasc MACC curve and how has this been taken into account in the design of the Cap Strategic Plan and schemes?
- Have DAFM ensured that new forests and woodland creation that compliments and enhances value to farms is included or how is this reflected in the CAP strategic plan?
- How have DAFM considered or included forest & woodland planting in the new CAP that is known can facilitate expansion in the wider agricultural sector while helping make farms and farmers more resilient and sustainable and also meeting CAP objectives?
- Have DAFM considered the impact the previous eco scheme GLAS had on Government set afforestation targets which are at an all time low, and how are these being considered in the new CAP Strategic plan as there is no mention of afforestation?

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

█



[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday 13 August 2021 12:04
To: CAP Strategic Plan
Subject: Question submission

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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To whom it may concern,

I would like to submit the following questions for review and response regarding the CAP Strategic Plan

- 1) Farmers currently in derogation are going over and above all other measures in climate mitigation and water quality control. Due to the measures that they have to implement, will these farmers be automatically included in a farm eco scheme under the new CAP?
- 2) The dairy-calf-to-beef and store-to-beef farmers are the most vulnerable to convergence under the present CAP. What measures will be put in place to support these farmers given that the CAP payment is more than 100% of their income? Or does DAFM expect that all cattle will be finished in feed lots in the future?
- 3) What measures will be incorporated to ensure greater uptake for female farmers? Improving access to handling aids and childcare allowances are two possibilities that are rarely addressed as means to increase female farm ownership.
- 4) Given the Carbon output of removing water from milk during processing, would it not be more beneficial for Nitrogen allowances to be based on milk solids/cow rather than volume? This would encourage breeding towards milk solids rather than volume, improving efficiency per cow over a shorter time.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[LinkedIn](#)

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday 13 August 2021 14:52
To: CAP Strategic Plan
Subject: Sustainable Cap reform proposals

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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Where is Irelands guiding star to be found? Is it big business or our environment and communities?

I am sixty-two, a farmer all my life, an inventor, and have invested time and money in four different business over forty years. The most recent spanning ten years is our organic business on our farm with my wife and three boys.

Our country is controlled by circles, I have come up against them in every one of my business endeavours. They are self-centred and often envious. They muddy the water and make it difficult for people and government to see the right path to follow. Big business is too influential in Ireland. They are the ones that pay for the research and control the writing of the reports particularly in farming. Our civil servants and Government are guided by reports and academics. Academics like to wallow in complexity. When reports are implemented they are very often watered down and out of date. (every few years the government and civil service present us with a “Michael Jackson moon dance” show, facing in all the right directions but it is only an illusion). We must first find our star. We still have great potential to develop a great sustainable food business in Ireland, but the rug we presently stand on could be pulled out from under us so easily now.

You have asked people to submit proposals about the direction we are to proceed in to be more sustainable and enhance our environment. I will make but a few comments as I am very busy and am neglecting some of the more important things in life, everything comes at a cost.

*The key stone of dairying is one labour unit ie up to seventy cows. Benefit community, animal welfare, effluent control, tourism and interest in environment.

*Modern grasses being developed today have a root structure that go only 50mm down. It needs large amounts of slurry and chemical fertilizer to preform, without them they would perish.

*It should be compulsory to have deep rooted plants in all grassland like chicory plantain etc for carbon, but also for animal welfare and soil microbiology. This would limit the present excessive use of chemical fertilizers and slurry which is unsustainable.

*We significantly reduced the cattle enterprise on our organic farm, which resulted in a significant reduction in our grain yield. Organic green cover crop seed etc is cost prohibitive.

*We developed machinery to save green cover seed but find it very difficult to source open pollinated seeds like clovers etc. We have watched bees this summer in our Chicory and Red clover seed field, landing on the flowers, but the red clover is producing no seed. One would ask the question if a flower is bred not to produce seed, what kind of pollen and nectar does it produce for our bees?

* It is not possible for Teagasc to be advising the civil service on matters of organic farming. You cannot be in two camps, running with the hounds and running with the hare. Do Teagasc have a star that they follow? They are too dependent on the money they receive from big business to be impartial.

- * I think there should be a separate organic research programme set up. It should be farm based and open to the public, working with independent academic individuals and intuitions in the area
- * we must educate the people, that it is not sustainable to walk down the aisle of a supermarket and purchase for example organic potatoes, carrots etc for cents per Kg. Many people have little money left to spend after subsidising the crazy housing market and high cost of living in Ireland but unless we change people will be starving in the future.
- * Must educate the public in schools and media that good food is difficult to produce but is worth it. If we were to purchase local organic food 90% would stay in our community, purchasing from low cost supermarkets less than 30% will stay in our Country.
- * Do we not realise that one day these foreign owned low cost supermarkets will think like Irish Sugar and decide their property portfolio is more attractive.
- * Most of our media are influenced by big business. Big business must be exposed both for the good work they do but also for the damage they are doing and guided to being more socially responsible. It is not all about the decimal point.
- * Is greed smart? Farmers moving the decimal point to the right(doing ten times more) is admired to by powers that be. Forming a company is taken as a new start up. Taking out ten farm families is the cost to our communities and nothing to be proud of, a loss to our tourism and to our tax revenue. In veg production it is moving decimal point two places to the right. This would be fine for export but not for domestic.
- * Success is not taking over your neighbours farm or business. Celebrate by turning the beer and streams green around Patricks Day.
- * We love control in Ireland, which usually result in deadlines and penalties plus interest. We are all on the same side.

*Civil servants hide behind their lap tops in offices or at home, don't see or disconnected from what is happening on the ground. It is our country and we should all be part of it. An example of the over control and the disconnect is to be seen in forestry.

* We will have to doubly reward the farmers that have being going in the right direction and doubly penalise those travelling in the wrong direction.

* All organic farming is not sustainable. An organic farm taking in conventional manure and slurry to produce organic grain or other crops is also not sustainable.

*The key to farming success is in the microbiology in our soil. Which is determined by the crops we grow. We must rotate to control the build up of pathogens that damage our output. Nature is only bursting to lead the way.

*It is the same in human society where we have the same people in control for too long, damage will be done and opportunities lost.

*It is inevitable that jobs will be lost in moving to a more sustainable system of farming , but there will also be great opportunities in job creation, if we do it well.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

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.

Questions/ Comments/ Suggestions on CAP

1. Will the controversial and divisive collective agreement be imposed on commonage farmers where, for legal reasons, it is not the right action in the right place, and where an individual can demonstrate that a higher environmental dividend can be delivered individually over collective action? This farmer is entitled to top up or higher reward. This derogation would be vital to organic farmers who own commonage, as conventional methods on commonage will not be conducive to organic regulation.
2. Will the Dept. set budget limitations on the amount of farmers' funds that "leak" out into administrative costs, planners' costs, etc., i.e. 85% to farmer, 15% admin, in order to reduce the administrative burden and ensure simplification for final beneficiaries of CAP support? For the Dept. to implement such budgetary restraint would be an example of the Dept., in practice, demonstrating the philosophy of the right action in the right place.
3. Where it can be demonstrated scientifically that the grazing action of farmers' suckler herds sequester more carbon than is emitted, would the Dept. consider that the logical direction of travel to be the sustainable expansion of this herd? Would such sustainable expansion be an example of the philosophy of the right action in the right place?
4. To encourage uptake of organics, would the Dept. be prepared to allow a farmer who holds a current organic annual license as eligible by definition for Eco Scheme? The action required to obtain this license is a demonstration of a farming practice beneficial for climate and environment, which will not cause conflict with Pillar 2 elements of the organic farming scheme.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday 14 August 2021 21:56
To: CAP Strategic Plan
Subject: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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Hello [REDACTED]

In addition to my previous list of Observations and Suggestions, please see below an alternative direction of travel to re-wetting:

This is an excerpt from an expert witness on re-wetting to the Oireachtas Committee:

" Although not captured in the general dataset, the influence of previous land use history (e.g. forest, grassland, cropland and wetland) on GHG fluxes in rewetted organic soils is likely to be profound. For example, CH₄ emissions following the rewetting of former agricultural land can be very high (Hendriks et al. 2007, Harpenslager et al. 2015)"

In the event that the Dept goes ahead with re-wetting, in a country where the main biophysical constraint is excessive soil moisture, how would farmers continue to get paid an ANC payment where they deliberately create a biophysical constraint of excess soil moisture, by artificially re-wetting their land?

Regards, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday 14 August 2021 22:10
To: CAP Strategic Plan
Subject: Draft interventions for CAP Strategic Plan

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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Dear Sir/Madam

I am delighted to see under your new proposals for CAP you have included genotyping rams. As a founder member, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] we have encouraged our members to buy pedigree rams and in recent years 4 or 5 star rams. We feel it is a positive move for the sheep industry. Schemes should be targeted towards young active farmers. I feel payments should be capped at a max of €80000 and payments below €40000 should not be cut. Extensive and low productive farmers should be compensated through eco schemes. Entitlements should be removed from armchair farmers to free up for active farmers. Sucking cattle are the backbone of rural Ireland and therefore no limit to what numbers a farmers keeps under 30 cows.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday 15 August 2021 16:45
To: CAP Strategic Plan
Subject: Mandatory bord bia membership

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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A chara

The stipulation of mandatory bord bia membership to join suckler support schemes is absolutely wrong and will not be tolerated. It is grossly unfair .

A lot of suckler farmers sell their weanlings at 8 to 12 months of age . These animals are not killed for another 12 months and therefore there is no compulsion to have them QA. So long as the animal is 60 days on a QA farm before its killed it qualifies QA beef (as per the September 15th agreement).

Where is the benefit in forcing suckler farmers who don't kill cattle into a scheme that is of no benefit to them ,but incurs more paperwork and inspections. Its completely unacceptable

How's does this mandatory stipulation in any way help our emissions or nitrates.?

Why is this being slipped in under the guise of "environmental measures" . It has no effect on green credentials whatsoever.

Who on the implementation body pushed for this?

Lastly this is a huge issue at ground level. Farmers see it as a bridge to far and won't take this nonsense . I have several other issues which I will address in upcoming emails.

Your sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From:

Sent:

To:

[REDACTED]
Sunday 15 August 2021 22:19

CAP Strategic Plan

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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The recent proposal to cap the suckler herd numbers. And also the mandatory joining of QA is the latest attempt of daftm unequally towards suckler beef farmers something that will not be tolerated and if need be will for f to challenge in a court of law

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday 18 August 2021 18:19
To: CAP Strategic Plan
Subject: draft interventions for CAP Strategic Plan

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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Hi ,I believe as I AM SURE YOU do that the next CAP plan will have biodiversity and climate change at its core and rightly so. With this in mind I cannot understand why current policies seem to be very anti cattle and sheep systems. Most cattle and sheep systems are extensive in nature, with very little reseed, drainage, spraying and a lot less fertilizer used than the average dairy farm. Any survey would reveal that, further most of these farms have a lot more biodiversity than comparable dairy farms and many are located in the west of Ireland in very sensitive areas. The cattle and sheep play a vital role in this biodiversity, too many mountains with undergrazing have been taken over by gorse and woody heathers. We are on our last generation of cattle and sheep farmers unless they are looked after better in the next CAP. If they are not, dairy farmers will take them over, renting or buying the land. They naturally will improve that land and drain, spray and reseed, get rid of as many ditches or encroaching vegetation etc. Can anyone say that this is better for the environment. I have nothing against dairy farmers, as a matter of fact I once was one, it's just cattle and sheep farming needs to be profitable in whatever method that takes. On forestry a lot of work has to be done to change the perception of forestry now. Since I planted in 2000, a serious amount of damage has been done to its reputation as an alternative land use, this is very evident in the comparable planting that was done then to now. I lay most of the blame for this with the department, and coillte. The industry is set up for big commercial users like coillte, which really control the industry to a large extent and make their own rules for contractors. In Europe felling is done on much smaller scale by the farmers themselves to local mills and markets. We need to follow their lead and do likewise. Last year thousands of tons of palm kernel was imported through Foynes port for burning in Edenderry while wood pulp was exported to Scandinavia for chipping. Where is the sense in that. I can be contacted at [REDACTED] if needed be. Kind regards [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday 19 August 2021 21:22
To: CAP Strategic Plan
Subject: CAP Reforms

[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]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday 20 August 2021 13:36
To: CAP Strategic Plan
Subject: Stop cutting the national cow herd..

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I do not support capping, cutting or culling the national cow herd as it will destroy family farms ,organic farms and the rural communities.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday 20 August 2021 14:02
To: CAP Strategic Plan
Subject: CAP

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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To who it my concern,

I do not support capping, cutting or culling the national cow herd as it will devastate family farms ,organic farmers and the rura communities.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday 20 August 2021 15:51
To: CAP Strategic Plan
Subject: New cap as a board bia farmer my self I see no need or would not like it to be mandatory for all farmers to be QA The other question was why have a cap on suckler cows while you can expand to any number of daily cows

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday 19 August 2021 21:33
To: CAP Strategic Plan
Subject: New cap plan

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My name is [REDACTED] and I have roughly a [REDACTED] .. I could definitely double the size of my herd if I chose to but have to work off farm to supplement income. These new cap proposals on suckler gears are not viable nor is the new eco scheme proposal instead of greening. Essentially the measures taken will reduce the very little income and profits suckler farmers make and to add insult to injury the new eco schemes will require considerable capital investment which a farm like mine would not be able to meet.. such as soil water storage.. all of these conditions to attain eco scheme status on farms should be 100 per cent funded on suckler farm herds if the devastating cuts in the sfp and opportunities to make profit in a suckler herd are being reduced. As far as I can see it's is possibly the worst move the department of agriculture is going to make in its history. Additionally financial reward for all farmers on top of what they earn from sfp as it stands is the only way Ireland will successfully introduce echo schemes

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday 20 August 2021 19:08
To: CAP Strategic Plan
Subject: CAP STRATEGIC PLAN

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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Dear Minister McConalogue,

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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? From 2015 to 2019 several groups of farming woman, in response to various research studies, worked hard voluntarily to endeavour to set up a national forum and incurring personal costs in the process. Unfortunately, at every avenue we were met with walls of barriers in creating a united front, principally due to lack of funding. Doors were closed to us as we did not fit into a relevant national funding category. So much groundwork was done so when will a National Dialogue on Women in Agriculture take place?

Yours sincerely, [REDACTED]