

National Fertiliser Database Stakeholder Consultative Committee Meeting Minutes

15th September 2022 @ 11:00am by Webex

In attendance DAFM: Louise Byrne (Chair), Sheila Nolan, Finbarr O'Regan, Brian O'Shaughnessy, Paul Vickers, Tiana Gomes, Colin Murtagh, Fiona McMorrow, Bernard Harris, and Mary Cleary.

See Annex 1 for list of other organisations and names of their representatives in attendance.

Item (1) Welcome and Previous Minutes and Matters Arising

The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming Committee Members and gave an overview of the meeting agenda. The minutes of the previous meeting (19/07/22) were approved.

Item (2) Update on legislation

Paul Vickers (DAFM) gave an update on the legislative process.

The General Scheme of the Veterinary Medicinal Products Medicated Feed and Fertilisers Regulation Bill 2022 was approved by Cabinet on 12/07/22. This will undergo Pre-Legislative Scrutiny through the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Agriculture, Food and Marine. Both aspects of the bill will be reviewed, and a report will issue which may include amendments to the text.

Co-ops will have to register to become Fertiliser Economic Operators (FEO) and will get a unique identifier (FRT Number). Farmers who register to become a professional Fertiliser End User (FEU) will also get a unique identifier; this will be the farmer's herd number.

Where the farmer has an associated BPS agent, this person will be set by default as agent for the National Fertiliser Database (NFD) with the farmer being able to change their agent later if they wish. DAFM will clarify the registration process for non-farmer Fertiliser End Users at the next consultative committee.

It is proposed that once the legislation is cleared that the time for opening stock on farm is from 31st Dec 2022 at 23:59 and the NFD will be open for 6 weeks to allow farmers record their opening stock. The date for closing stock on farm is 23:59 on 14th Sept each year and the system will be open for 4 weeks to allow time for farmers to do this. DAFM will publish and communicate this information to all farmers in due course.

Action: DAFM to include FAQ and clarity on Fertiliser End User.

Action: DAFM to check and clarify the closed periods for the spreading of fertiliser.

Update: FAQ updated and published online.

Item (3) IT Update

Brian O'Shaughnessy (DAFM) gave a presentation on the proposed National Fertiliser Database IT screens on AgFood.ie. The presentation covered the aims of the database, the different external users, registration, transactions, product catalogue, declaring opening and closing stocks, farm to farm transfers and, API data submission.

A copy of the presentation will be circulated post meeting. There will be an IT steering group meeting on 6th Oct 2022 at 11am.

Action: Copy of presentation to be circulated to Committee members.

Action: Swagger document to be published online on the National Fertiliser Database webpage.

Update: Presentation circulated, and Swagger Document published online.

Item (4) Communications and Next Steps

A dedicated webpage has been set up for the National Fertiliser Database and the Information Note and FAQ is now available on the webpage.

Communications plans regarding the National Fertiliser Database for the remainder of the year were outlined to the Committee including plans for direct farmer engagement at the National Ploughing Championships. There will be a leaflet at the National Ploughing Championships on the proposed National Fertiliser Database.

A letter to merchants, retailers and lime quarries has been drafted. This will also be circulated to the stakeholder group as well as sending it to the manufacturers and blenders with a request that they circulate it to their customers. The email and letter will provide information and the contact email if they want to participate in the next IT meeting. The next Consultative Committee meeting is planned to take place at the end of October following the IT Steering Group meeting.

Item (5) AOB

No items raised under AOB.

The Chair thanked everyone, and the meeting ended at 13:45

Annex 1. List of non-DAFM organisations and names of their representatives in attendance.

Representative	Organisation
Bergin, Eamonn	Centenary Thurles
Crowe, Martin	Agricultural Consultants Association (ACA)
Doyle, David	Grassland Agro
Drennan, Denis	Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers Association (ICMSA)
Dullea, Charles	Gouldings
Farrell, Eamonn	Irish Co-Operative Organisation Society (ICOS)
Farrell, Gerry	Ground Limestone Producers Association of Ireland
Fitzgerald, Shane	Macra na Feirme
Herbst, Orson	Herbst Software
Jensma, Jen	Yara Ireland
Larkin, Barry	ACORN Group
McDonald, Enda	Grassland Agro
Miller, Bobby	Irish Grain Growers Association
Murphy, Pat	Teagasc
O Mahony, Seamus	Irish Co-Operative Organisation Society (ICOS)
Quinn, William	ACORN Group
Rushe, Brian	Irish Farmer's Association (IFA)
Walsh, Gerard	Grassland Kilkenny

Ends.