

Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine
Arrangements for dealing with Department related issues following the death of a farmer

INHERITANCE ENQUIRY UNIT

Following the death of a farmer it can sometimes be difficult for the representatives of the deceased to secure outstanding payments and the transfer of Basic Payment scheme entitlements because of the need to make contact with multiple areas of the Department. It is the Department's objective to make this process as straightforward as possible for our clients.

To achieve this, an Inheritance Enquiry Unit was set up to liaise with representatives of the deceased and the various sections of the Department.

Following the death of a farmer there are generally two issues to be dealt with as follows:

1. A change to the registration details of the herd number/herdkeeper.
2. Payment of any outstanding monies due to the estate of the deceased and the transfer of any payment entitlements held by the deceased.

Herd number related issues

This task is carried out at the **Regional Veterinary Office (RVO)**.

When the RVO is notified of the death of the farmer it carries out the following tasks:

- Records the death of the farmer on the Department's systems.
- Commences the process of herd transfer details and subsequently changes the registration details of the herdowner.
- Where appropriate, arranges for the registration of a "herd keeper" with responsibility for the management and care of livestock in the herd.

Dealing with outstanding payments and/or the transfer of payment entitlements held by the deceased.

There may be outstanding payments due to the estate of the deceased under various schemes. The deceased may have also owned payment entitlements. The function of the **Inheritance Enquiry Unit** is to ensure the payment of any outstanding money due to the estate of the deceased and, where appropriate, to advise on the transfer of any payment entitlements held by the deceased.

So what should the representatives of the deceased do?

As soon as practicable, the executor/administrator of the estate of the deceased farmer and/or the solicitor dealing with the administration of the estate should contact:

Inheritance Enquiry Unit
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
Knockmay Road
Portlaoise
Co Laois

Tel: 057 8689995

Email: inheritance@agriculture.gov.ie

What will the Unit do?

The Inheritance Enquiry Unit will assist the legal personal representatives of the deceased to:

- Identify those schemes in which the deceased person participated and establish whether there are any outstanding payments due to the estate of the deceased.
- Assist the legal personal representatives in contacting various sections of the Department
- Advise on what legal documents are required
- Make arrangements for the issue of any outstanding payments due to estate of the deceased and for the transfer of payment entitlements (if any)

And what about Payment entitlements that may be held by the deceased?

The unit will advise you on making the necessary arrangements for the transfer of any payment entitlements in accordance with the wishes of the deceased.

What legal documents are required?

The principle documents required are:

- Copy of Will and copy of Grant of Probate.
- Where no Will exists, copy of Grant of Letters of Administration confirming the administrator of the estate.

Other legal documents such as Death Certificates, etc may be required in support of claims depending on individual requirements of the scheme /applications. For example, while legal documents are required for Forestry clients there are additional aspects relating to Forestry contracts to be dealt with by the Forest Service before arrears of payments are released to the estate.