

**Irish Partnered Research Stimulus Fund Projects Supported under the European Research Area on Sustainable Animal Production Systems (SusAn) Call
2016**

Lead Irish Partner, Lead Irish Institute + Other Irish Collaborating Institutions	Project Title and Summary (hyperlink to details on total award and European partners)	DAFM Grant Award to Irish Partners
<p>Sean Fair, University of Limerick Sean.Fair@ul.ie</p> <p>Collaborating Institutions: Teagasc, Irish Cattle Breeding Federation</p>	<p>Sustainable Sheep Production (SusSheP, see p=10) Sustainable Sheep Production (SusSheP), led by the University of Limerick, is a collaborative project between 8 partners across 4 countries including Ireland, UK, Norway and France. SusSheP will establish the genetic factors controlling ewe longevity under different sheep production systems with the view to developing simple systems for on-farm recording of these traits. The findings will be incorporated into national sheep breeding programmes to breed healthier, longer living ewes that perform optimally in a range of diverse production environments. It will identify the most efficient sheep production systems in terms of labour input and carbon hoofprint. The use of cutting edge biotechnologies will enable the multi-disciplinary team to understand the factors inhibiting sperm transport in the reproductive tract of some European ewe breeds (Irish and French breeds) but not others (Norwegian breeds) with the long term aim of developing a simple artificial insemination method that can be used by farmers. This would greatly facilitate the rate of genetic progress in sheep in line with what has been achieved in other species. Through the enhancement of on farm competitiveness as well as knowledge sharing across industry, farms and the scientific community, SusSheP will contribute to the sustainability of European sheep production.</p>	<p align="center">€244,999</p>

Summary Information on Projects Funded in DAFM Call Awards 2016

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<p>Edward O' Riordan, Teagasc Edward.ORiordan@teagasc.ie</p> <p>Collaborating Institutions: University College Dublin</p>	<p>Co-definition and evaluation of SUSTAINable BEEF farming systems based on resources non edible by humans (SUSTAINBEEF see p=14)</p> <p>Although most EU countries have pastures its contribution as a feed source for livestock production is less than in Ireland where our climatic conditions are favourable for pasture production. In a sustainability context of livestock production competing with humans for feed resources, pasture based systems of farming offers the opportunity to minimise this competition. Reflecting this opportunity the SUSTAINBEEF project will answer the question of whether or not cattle production systems which rely mainly on grasslands and/or agro-industrial resources which are non-edible by humans are more sustainable than cattle production systems which use feedstuffs that could also be used as human food. In this project, Ireland with partners in Belgium, France, Italy and Germany, will select beef production systems in their respective countries that differ in soil and climate potential to support food or forage production and measure the sustainability of these contrasting beef production systems. The study has the added aim of defining potential scenarios for the evolution of more sustainable cattle production systems in the main EU beef production regions. These scenarios will be evaluated and suitable incentive measures to enhance their implementation will be tested and, when relevant, proposed.</p>	<p>€136,250</p>