



Dear Sir/Madam

Having struggled for many years to maintain a small suckler herd on our hill farm we decided to start up a Dexter suckler herd, because of the challenges of climate change and the need for greater biodiversity together with other environmental considerations.

Our experience to date has been that the Dexter cattle are ideally suited to small disadvantaged holdings are very easy to maintain , very good foragers and are remarkable easy calvers.

Going forward we earnestly request 1. That D A F M would consider the Dexter breed for extra special status as they are one of the corner stones of our Irish Heritage Cattle. 2. That the maintenance grant be increased in the next Eco Agriculture Scheme.3. That an initiative would be introduced to promote a market for the Dexter weanlings for finishing. 4. That Board Bia would incentivise local family butchers/wholesalers to promote the sale of Dexter beef as a good environmental sustainable beef product.

We would be grateful if you would give consideration to the above points in the drafting of the next C A P proposals.

With sincere thanks,

*Teddy & Mary Bowne*

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