



Objective 1

With regard to Rare Breeds – in particular, Dexter Cattle

Strength

Producing high quality beef from Dexters on small farms could help provide a viable income.

Opportunity

Increase knowledge among consumers and open up new markets.

Dexters are strong animals, easy to manage, easy to feed, good breeders and very good mothers.

Weakness

Little opportunity for diversification in West of Ireland.

Threat

Processors forcing down price (income)

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Extract from publication "The Common Agricultural Policy"

Origins of the CAP

In 1957 the Treaty of Rome created the European Economic Community. Agriculture has always had a special place in Europe's economic and social structure. Arising out of the Treaty of Rome, the CAP was established in 1962. At that time Europe was still recovering from World War II and food scarcity was a major issue. The CAP was established on the basis that it would provide food at affordable prices and ensure a fair standard of living for farmers.

This is a contradiction.

Objective 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9

Peoples earnings are gradually and continuously being reduced which means they are only able to purchase the cheapest food.

Farmers are forced to take lower and lower prices for their produce.

Processors and others take advantage of weaknesses in the entire system.

Ciaran Culkin