

7 October 2019

CAP Rural Development Division
DAFM
Agriculture House
Kildare St DO2 WK12

RE: Inclusion of support for Dexter Cattle in next Common Agricultural Policy

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to provide you with a submission for the next EU CAP scheme. In particular I am advocating support for Dexter Cattle.

As you may be aware, Dexter Cattle are a native Irish breed of cattle. They are a 'rare' breed in that they are very few in number as compared with other breeds commercially farmed here in Ireland.

I have been farming Dexter Cattle for seven years. It has been a pleasure to be involved with such a unique animal.

I believe that Dexter Cattle are a national treasure. They are a very hardy breed. They calve very easily and their meat is highly prized for its flavour and marbling. Their milk is also highly desired.

Dexter Cattle mature quickly. The carcass has a high kill out ratio of above 56%. The animals require very, very little input of veterinary medicines such as de-wormers or antibiotics. They are a naturally suitable cow for organic farming.

Despite all of the benefits of our native breed, Dexter Cattle are still seem to be considered inferior by the large scale meat industry. Consequently, marketing of their beef is done only by individual farmers and by the Dexter Cattle Society.

At present, Dexter Cattle farming isn't viable without government supports. I am therefore urging the Department to include supports for Dexter Cattle in the next phase of the EU Common Agricultural Policy. Please can you include this rare breed in the next phase of the CAP?

Best regards,


Dáire Engmann


