



I wish to submit the following for consideration for C.A.P. negotiations:

As an organic Dexter Suckler farmer exclusively I would like to put forward the following points which I think are needed to be considered for the survival of my herd and that of many others into the future.

- A. As a prime beef product with potential to obtain 5.00 to 5.50 a kg at 24-30 months slaughter, being only grass fed with no contamination feedstuffs in that 30 months production.
- B. Easy calving means little or no veterinary/antibiotic inputs.
- C. Out wintering is a must as breed survives all climate conditions.(Canada to Namibia)
- D. On small acreage marginal land this breed can survive foraging on all types of grass, new rushes, briars and thistle tops.
- E. Bulls are docile and protective of herd against predators.
- F. With increased awareness of value grass fed beef nutrition 24-30 months. (compared to 16-18 months grain fed housed animals ).
- G. Awareness of B12, Vitamin K2, and high marbling of beef, a ratio of fat which is now being recognised as HEALTHY FAT i.e. burns to ketones in body. (Grass fed cattle convert K1 to K2 in their digestive tracts)
- H. Lighter carbon footprint as these animals grow to mass 400kg and don't mark land (poaching), also output of N2 P K less than bigger breeds.(still branded with nitrates levels on par with a 6000kg breed?)

From these points I would appeal for suckler aid for at least first 20 cows as they are grazing for years as an ongoing breeding cost ,( include bulls). For the survival of this breed as it's a 24-30 month turnover and a bull plus 16 cows on average produce 10-12 calves in 30 month cycle. Non viable considering the cost of setting up a Dexter proof structure / crush, mainly yard, gate structure (multi pens) for separation and working sucklers.

Average age of farmers in Ireland: 60 years.  
Average death rate i.e. accidents: 1 per week

FINANCIAL HELP : Loans going out 8,000euro a year ,10 cattle sold 8,000euro. Plus ( insurance ,fencing ,vet testing, tractor repair, planner fees ,organic certification fees ,safety measure fees +++ (a glimpse of the financial cost of setting up a Dexter enterprise) thanks for listening, Martin Heavey

*Martin Heavey*

*6/10/2019*