

(in relation to the upcoming C.A.P. reform.)

Dear Sir/Madam,

Sorry for taking up some of your time, What I am writing to you about is in relation to the upcoming CAP reform and to let you know what I see happening around me over the last ten to fifteen years,

What is happening is that any land that comes up for sale or lease is being bought up by the few farmers in the area that are getting large single Farm payments which is demoralizing to the farmers with a small single Farm payment as they can not compete with them.

So I am pleading with you to press the powers that be to try and get the single Farm payments changed over to an average payment which should end up after a number of years phasing in period with the same payment for every farmer of approximately twenty-thousand euros, which should be definitely front-loaded, eg - a high payment for the first fifty-acres, a lesser payment for the next fifty-acres and a smaller payment for the next fifty acres up to a maximum area of one-hundred and fifty-acres, that each farmer be allowed claim on.

It should also be tied in with an environmental scheme with a larger payment aimed towards extensive farming, otherwise at the way things are going at present is all there will be in every parish is a few =

-very large intensive mainly dairy farms  
which would be the death-knell of rural Ireland.  
Most intensive dairy farms  
are stocked at one to one and a half livestock  
units to the acre and spreading over a  
half ton of Nitrogen and over five-thousand  
gallons of slurry annually per acre which  
is what the European Commission definitely  
does not want,

Hoping you will do your  
best as this is the one opportunity  
that the country has to rescue a dire  
situation, otherwise there will be only a few  
large very intensive farms in every parish  
which would destroy the local villages and  
towns forever,

Wishing you all the best,

Patrick Scanlon,