

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: [REDACTED]  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: ideas for Agri Environment or Eco schemes

Hi [REDACTED]

I hope this email finds you well and that the series of meetings on the CAP strategic plan are completed.

I attended the Mitchelstown meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> of September and spoke with you prior to commencement of meeting and you kindly gave me your business card after meeting.

I work with West Cork Development Partnership working with various groups from unemployed, people with disabilities, and farmers.

I have a few ideas that may be of interest to you here goes.

I mentioned prior to meeting that in some of areas within the old disadvantaged areas farmers clearing scrub to comply with good agricultural conditions attaching to BSF payment which is the way it is and people need to comply.

- I suppose my observation is that in some cases there would be scrub growing on land that has no environmental value and isn't producing any agricultural activity needs clearing.
- However in some instances there could be a habitat established and may be relevant or important to retain and build upon by increasing area or connecting to another habitat area

If there was a new option which farmers could choose to fence off securely and allow it go back to as nature intended and a payment towards this ground, it would give people the option and have a win for all in that biodiversity is secured and farmer receives a payment towards protecting landscape and perhaps this land area may even grow if payment secured, reducing the agricultural focus and outputs of same. This land area would have limits and subject to conditions and clearly needs to be set out.

- With the target of helping the environment, biodiversity, water quality and overall reduction in carbon emissions, there is some lands that would be semi natural forests or plantations These would be mainly non-commercial type woodland and grow to a certain stage and farmers not looking to clear them.

They are declared on area aid as far as I know but don't receive a payment as they are not available for agricultural use, which is understandable don't have a payment attached, however as one of the possible options under Agri environment or eco schemes might be an option to consider as a possible option. I would see that these farmers have a commitment already to environment and with additional works attached like replanting parts within these blocks, might bring additional biodiversity and carbon sequestration from new trees planted.

Or new planting on some farms as where potential exists I would see farmers where land is suitable for native trees and not being worked due to modern farm machinery unable to access etc these areas could come in to this type of option and promote new planting of native trees.

The creation of corridors where plantation exists along ditches/fences to connect to plantation might be option to get landscape features maintained and enhanced for the environment/ biodiversity and reward those that really believe in nature and the environment and all along it prohibited the creation of new areas as land would be lost to area for BPS payments.

It also encourages others that heretofore haven't been interested in such a concept to consider such an option.

- Considering the lack of profitability on traditional beef farms, and the growth of the dairying sector I know that there are a number of schemes out there encouraging collaborative farming and beef farming switching to dairy .

What if there was a possibility that beef farmers enter agreements with dairy farmers to just produce the grass/silage for the dairy units and not continue with livestock in order to offset the carbon emissions and inputs of the dairy herd,

No point in reducing one cow and increasing the dairy cow which needs more feed etc and more carbon in puts fuel/ fertiliser/,water .

This is difficult type one to work it through but if compared to industry that get carbon emissions allocation ,if they reduce emissions either with more energy efficient equipment or reduction in output they can sell on the carbon credit.

Something along these lines to help encourage changes.

Obviously we don't want to go from 900,000 suckler cows and replace with 1.5 m dairy cows ideally there would be a calculation and science to come up with the possible figures.

leading to reduction in overall less emissions.

Again this is probably a bigger issue here for another time and really hard one to work the issues out but over the next few years from here to 2030 things might take on a new direction.

Regards

Joe Cronin

West Cork Development Partnership

Office:

Direct line:

Fax:

Mobile:

Email: