An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine

A Guide to the

Stocking Density Panel

For Farmers

What is the Stocking Density Panel?

The Department of Agriculture, Food, and the Marine (DAFM) launched the Stocking Density Panel in September 2022 to aid farmers in understanding their livestock position ahead of the new schemes under the CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027. From 2023, farmers' stocking rate may use their stocking rate to satisfy the 'Active Farmer' check. Farmers' stocking rate will also be used to determine eligibility for the Areas of Natural Constraints (ANC) scheme, the Eco-scheme Agricultural Practise on Extensive Livestock Production and the Organic Farming Scheme.

- Farmers may satisfy the 'Active Farmer' check by meeting the minimum stocking rate of 0.10 livestock units per hectare (equivalent to at least 1 ewe per hectare). The "active farmer check" is to ensure the person receiving the scheme payments, is the person farming the land being claimed. Farmers who do not satisfy the 'Active Farmer' check based on the minimum stocking rate will also have the opportunity to satisfy the active farmer requirement by carrying out other agricultural activities e.g. producing crops, cutting hay/silage, topping, maintaining landscape features, etc.
- Under the Eco-scheme, farmers may select the Extensive Livestock Production Agricultural Practice, as one of their Eco-scheme practices, if their stocking rate is between 0.10 and 1.4 livestock units per hectare. An enhanced option is available, which would count as two practices, if their stocking rate is between 0.10 and 1.2 livestock units per hectare.
- A minimum stocking rate of 0.10 livestock unit per hectare will also apply to the Areas of Natural Constraints (ANC) and the Organic Farming Scheme.

On agfood.ie farmers can now see their 2021 and 2022 (to date) stocking rate, using the new livestock coefficients. It is important to note that farmers' stocking rates in 2022 will be used as the basis for the relevant CAP schemes in 2023. To provide maximum flexibility to farmers, the Department will also allow farmers to alternatively use 2023 stocking rates. However, using 2023 stocking rates may result in scheme payments not issuing until March of the subsequent year e.g., March 2024 for scheme year 2023.

The stocking rate information presented on agfood.ie displays information on the calculation of the stocking rate based on both the existing livestock coefficients, which will be familiar to participants in the ANC scheme, and the new livestock unit coefficients being introduced in 2023.

This user guide will assist farmers in accessing the new panel and understanding all the data available.

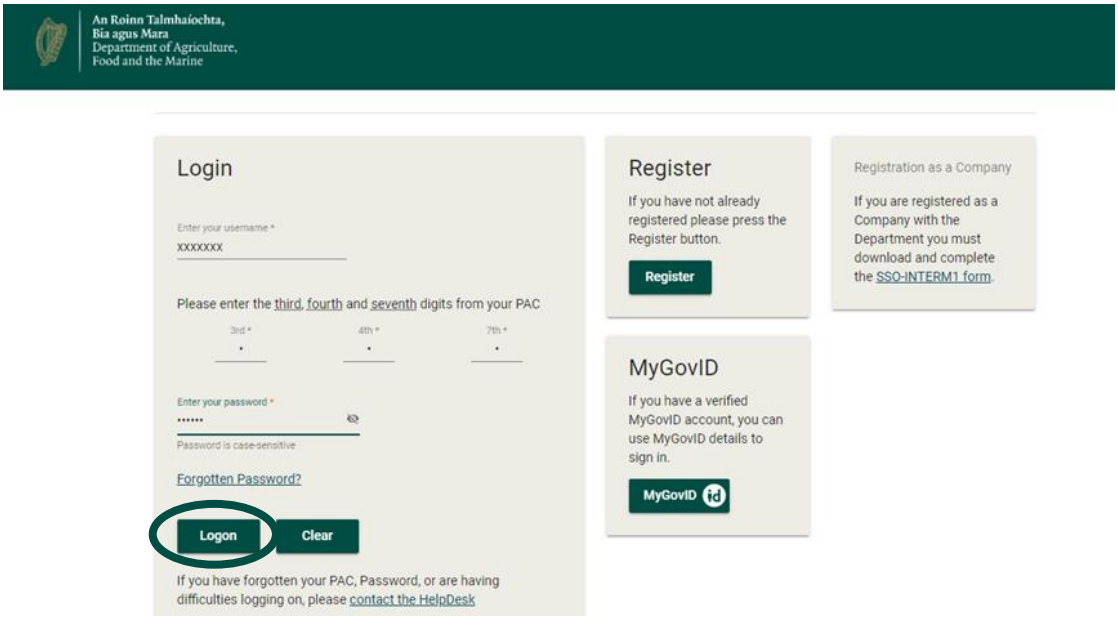
Stocking Density Guide for Farmers

Login to AgFood

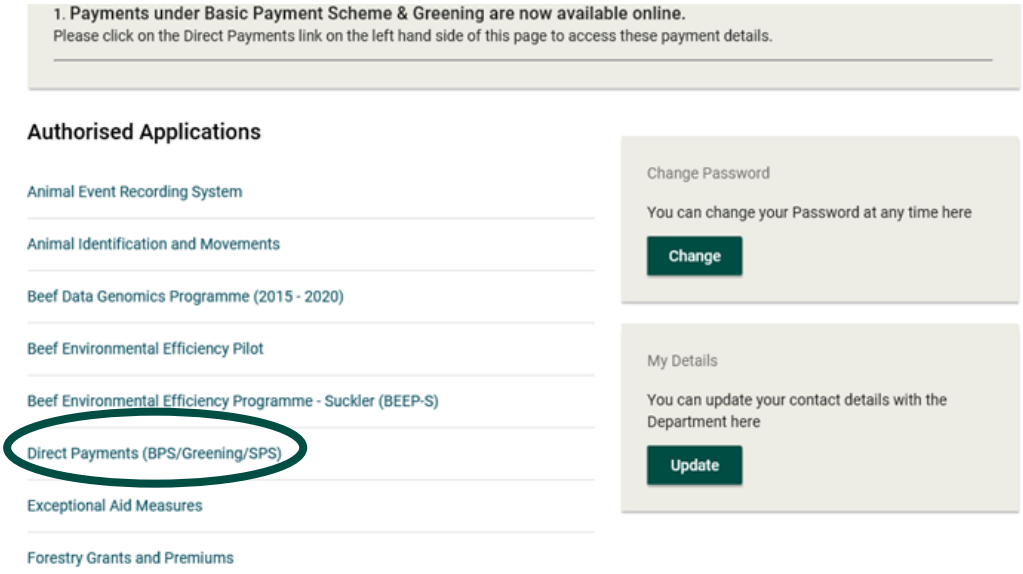
Using your Username, Password and **PAC**, (Personal Access Code), you will be able to login to the AgFood Online system at www.agfood.ie. When you are on www.agfood.ie, the first page you will see is the Login page as shown in the image below.

To log in, please follow the steps below:

1. Enter your Username which you created when you registered
2. Enter the 3 requested digits from the 7 digits of your **PAC** (Personal Access Code) which you received in the post after you registered
3. **Enter your password which you created when you registered**
4. Click on the **Logon** button at the bottom of the screen

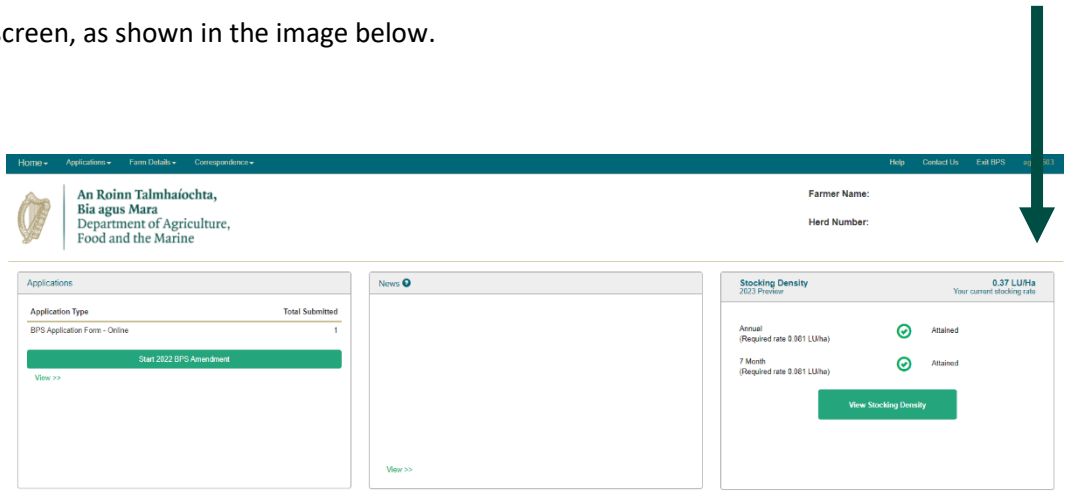


Once logged in, click on **the** Direct Payments (BPS/Greening/SPS) **link** to enter the BPS Portal.



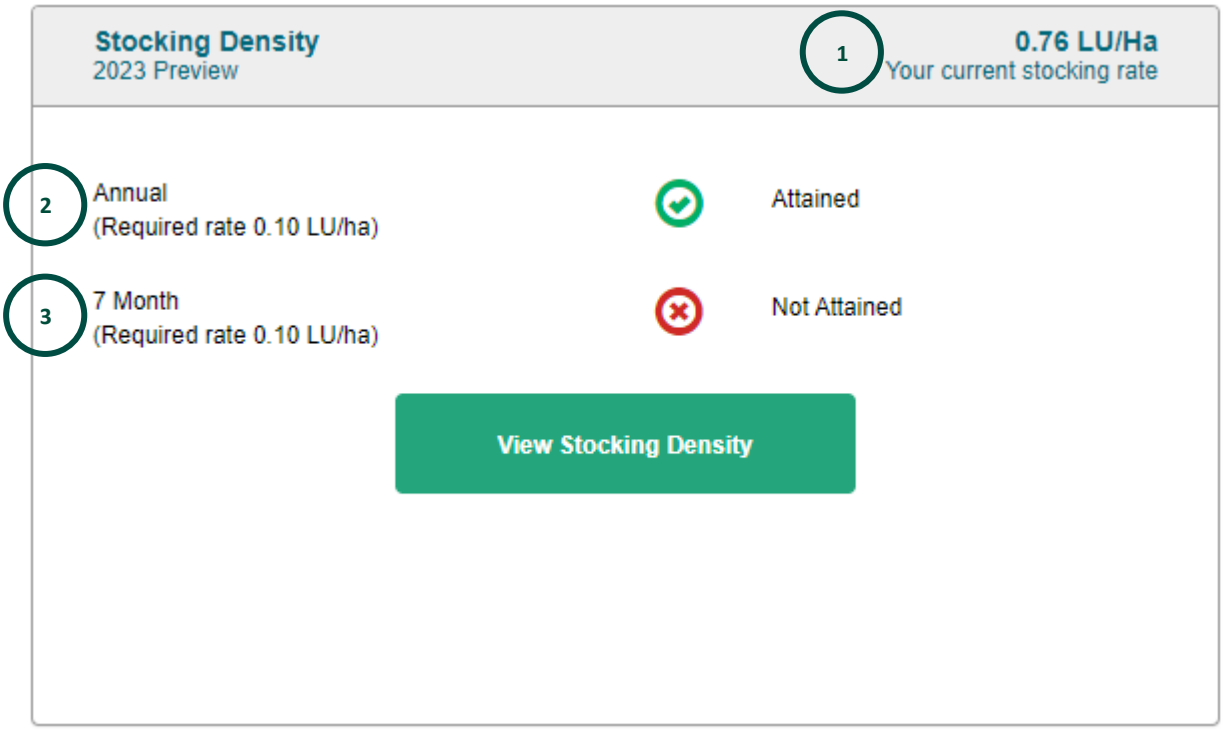
Viewing your Stocking Density Panel

You are now on the Direct Payments Homepage. The new Stocking Density panel is accessible from this screen, as shown in the image below.



Before selecting View Stocking Density, the front panel gives an overview of your current data, outlining the below information:

1. Current stocking rate
2. Annual stocking rate requirement status
3. 7-month stocking rate requirement status

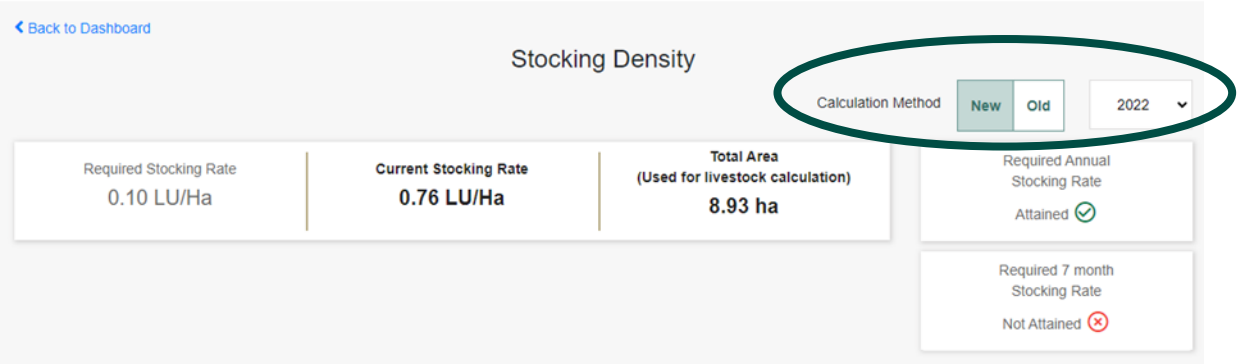


Select the View Stocking Density button.

Understanding the Stocking Density Data

You are now in the Stocking Density Panel. On navigation to this screen, the data presented defaults to the **New** stocking rate calculation and for the **current year, 2022**. This means that the data presented is based on the new livestock unit coefficients using your 2022 data.

- If you wish to view data based on the existing livestock unit coefficients, you can do so by selecting Old.
- If you wish to view data for 2021, you can do so by selecting 2021 from the year dropdown using the New or Old coefficients.
- ANC participants in 2022 can use the stocking density panel to check if they have satisfied the minimum livestock requirements for the 2022 scheme year by viewing the data based on the existing livestock unit coefficients by selecting Old and the year 2022.
- Where an ANC participant sees both the Required Annual Stocking Rate and the Required 7 Month Stocking Rate showing "Attained" alongside a green tick, that will show that the participant has meet their stocking requirement for the current scheme year.
- Where either the Required Annual Stocking Rate or the Required 7 Month Stocking Rate are showing as "Not Attained" with a red X, it means the participant has not yet satisfied one, or both, of the requirements.



The following livestock unit coefficients will be used from 2023:

SPECIES	AGE	COEFFICIENT LIVESTOCK UNIT PER HECTARE (LU/HA)
BOVINE	Under 1 year old	0.4
	1 but less than 2 years old	0.7
	Male, 2 years old and over	1
	Heifers,2 years old and over	0.8
	Dairy cows	1
	Other cows, 2 years old and over	0.8
EQUINE ANIMALS*		0.8
SHEEP AND GOATS		0.1
DEER**		0.3

Note:
*Breeding mares must have bred a foal in the previous 2 years and only 50% of the stocking requirement can be fulfilled using donkeys. Certified copies of the equine passports may need to be submitted to the Department.
**Deer are only considered eligible subject to an on-site inspection by the Department.

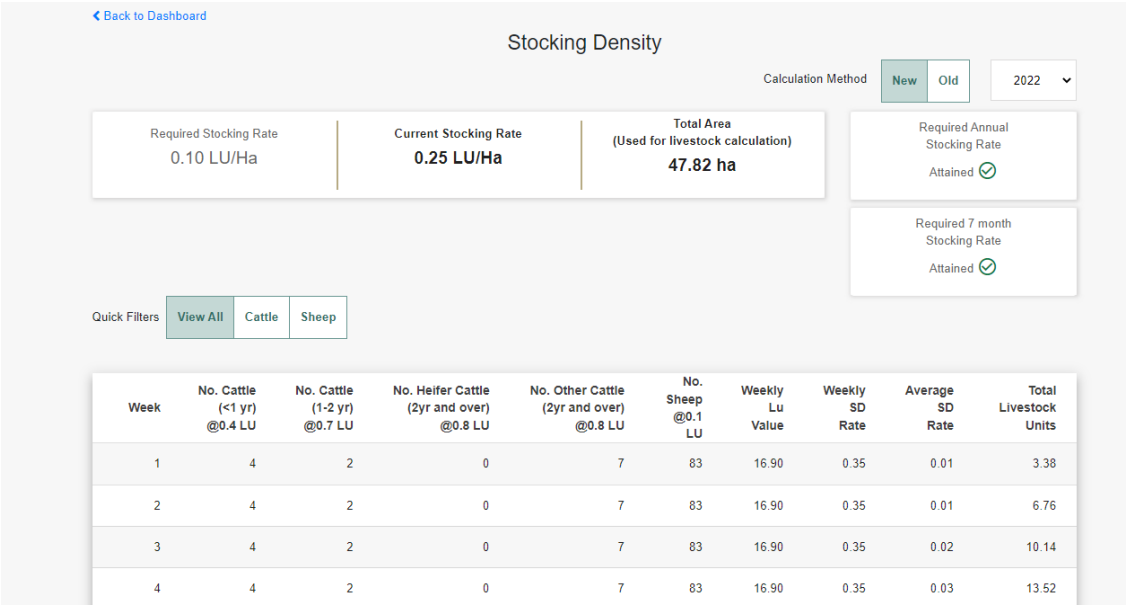
The below information outlines what your data on screen represents from left to right:

- **Required Stocking Rate** - *The required stocking rate is a minimum of 0.10 livestock units per hectare (LU/Ha).*
- **Current Stocking Rate** – *This is your current stocking rate*
- **Total Area (Ha)** – *The total eligible forage area declared by you on your 2022 BPS Application. This may differ if DAFM have made any updates to your land declarations.*
- **Required Annual Stock Rate –** *This will indicate if you have Attained or Not Attained the Annual Stocking Rate*
- **Required 7 – Month stocking rate** – *This will indicate if you have Attained or Not Attained the 7 – Month Stocking Rate. The stocking rate must be maintained for 7 consecutive months within the calendar year.*

Attained and Unattained

Based on the data available, the stocking density screen will inform you if you have met your requirements for the Annual and 7-month required stocking rates. **Attained** signifies you meet the requirement, **Not Attained** signifies you do not meet the requirements.

Stocking Density Weekly Data



Week	No. Cattle (<1 yr) @0.4 LU	No. Cattle (1-2 yr) @0.7 LU	No. Heifer Cattle (2yr and over) @0.8 LU	No. Other Cattle (2yr and over) @0.8 LU	No. Sheep @0.1 LU	Weekly Lu Value	Weekly SD Rate	Average SD Rate	Total Livestock Units
1	4	2	0	7	83	16.90	0.35	0.01	3.38
2	4	2	0	7	83	16.90	0.35	0.01	6.76
3	4	2	0	7	83	16.90	0.35	0.02	10.14
4	4	2	0	7	83	16.90	0.35	0.03	13.52

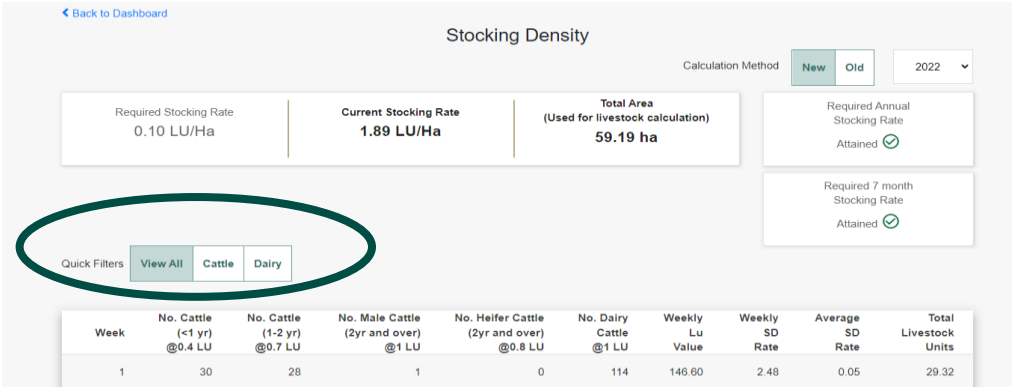
The Stocking Density table gives a weekly breakdown of your animal data. The information presented will depend on the data available. For example, if a herd has no sheep, the column presenting data on sheep will not be visible. For each record of livestock, the table will display the following for each week:

- Number of each livestock unit held per week per animal type e.g., cattle/sheep/dairy
- Relevant Livestock Unit (LU) per animal type e.g., cattle <1 year old = 0.4LU
- Weekly livestock unit value (Total of all livestock units X stocking rate used)
- Weekly stocking density value (Weekly livestock unit value X forage area)
- Average stocking density value (Weekly stocking density value divided by 52)
- Total livestock units (Running total of the weekly livestock unit value divided by the number of weeks (4/5) in the reporting period for the current month)

For the current year 2022, (the default setting), information will be displayed for the year-to-date. If you switch to the previous year using the dropdown at the top of the screen, the weekly breakdown will be for the entire calendar year of 2021.

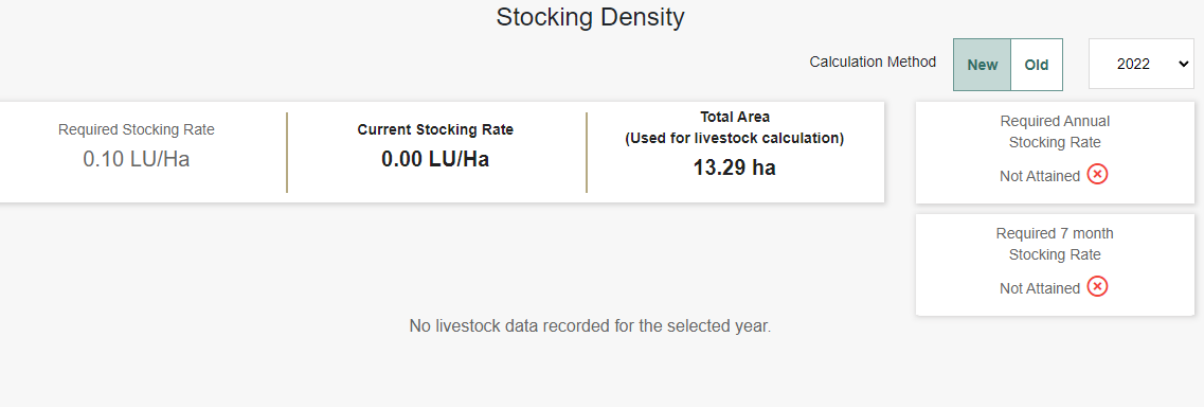
Animal Filters

The data in the table can be filtered if you have more than one animal type. For example, if you have cattle and dairy livestock, you can view all animal data together (default selection), view cattle only, or view dairy only.



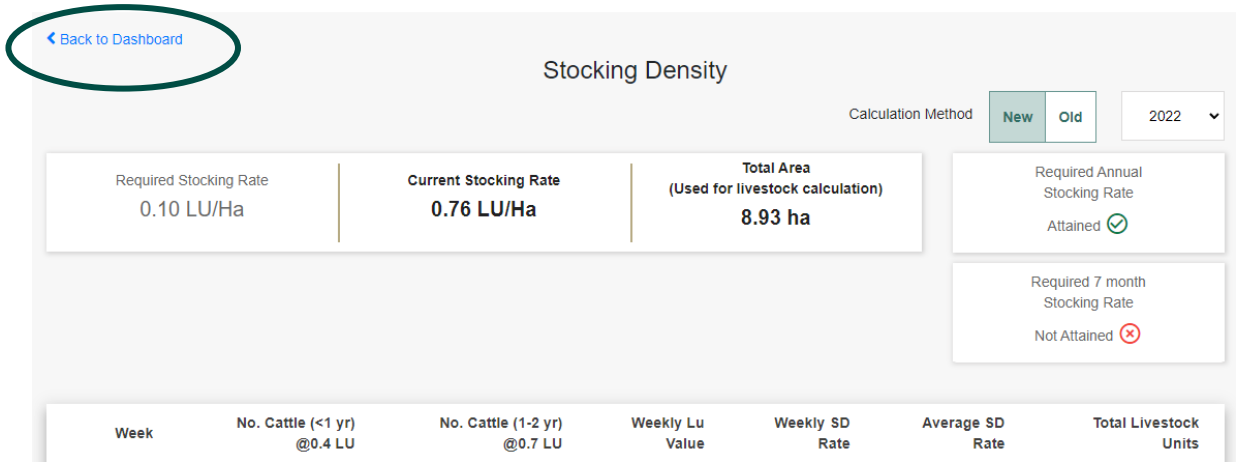
Farmers with no Livestock Data

Farmers for whom the Department does not record any livestock data for will see a “Not attained” status for both the Annual Stocking Rate and the 7-month Stocking Rate and will see a message displayed “No livestock data recorded for the selected year” as shown in the image below.



Return to Dashboard

Once you have reviewed the Stocking Density information, you can press the **Back to Dashboard** button, and log out of AgFood.



Who to Contact

Below is a list of useful contacts if you need further assistance or advice on Stocking Density Panel.

Area/Division	Contact Number	Contact Email
Direct Payments Helpdesk	057 86 74422	directpaymentscorrespondence@agriculture.gov.ie
AgFood Account Queries	049 43 68288	agfood@agriculture.gov.ie
ANC	057 86 74422	anc@agriculture.gov.ie
BPS Online Facility Assistance	057 86 74422	bpsonline@agriculture.gov.ie

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