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

Statement of Strategy
2025-2028

gov.ie/agriculture

Table of Contents

Forewords 2

Who We are 5

What we do and why 6

Vision, Mission, Values 8

Our Strategic Context 10

Strategic Goals 12

Goal 1 13

Goal 2 16

Goal 3 18

Goal 4 20

Goal 5 22

Appendix 1 29

Appendix 2 34

Appendix 3 35

Appendix 4 36

Minister's Foreword

This Statement of Strategy describes the vision, mission, and goals of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine for the period 2025 to 2028. It provides a framework outlining the department's strategic objectives and the high-level actions required to deliver those objectives. It also articulates the strong public service values underpinning the work of the department's dedicated staff. The Strategy is aligned with the commitments in the "Programme for Government, Securing Ireland's Future".

The Department and its agencies operate in an increasingly complex world, where geopolitical, environmental, demographic and broader economic factors have a significant impact on the sectors they support. Nonetheless, fuelled by increasing global population, urbanisation and affluence, demand for agri-food products is increasing. Ireland is well positioned to avail of the opportunities that arise as a result with a continued focus on its competitive advantages and maintaining its reputation for high quality production, and high standards of food safety and sustainability.

Through the development and effective implementation of appropriate policy, the Department can provide a platform for a sector that delivers for the Irish economy, for rural and coastal communities, and for economic, environmental and social sustainability. I want Irish agri-food companies to be global leaders in sustainable production, synonymous with the highest standards of quality and food safety, supplied by farmers, fishers, and foresters who can expect a fair return on their labour and investment, and look forward with confidence to passing on their enterprises to the next generation.

I am confident that these objectives can be achieved, through the efforts of businesses, farmers, fishers and foresters, who have already shown themselves to be resilient, adaptable and enterprising, and with the right combination of policy and support from the State. Over the next few years, this will require effective engagement at EU level on the development of a Multi Annual Financial Framework, and new Common Agriculture and Fisheries Policies, including during the Irish Presidency of the EU Council of Ministers in the latter half of 2026.

It will also require a focus on research and innovation, the development of new ways of monetising agri-food outputs, including through opportunities in the circular and bioeconomy, and the identification of new opportunities in overseas markets.

I will collaborate closely with all of the Department's stakeholders in the delivery of these objectives. And I also look forward to working closely with Minister of State Noel Grealish, T.D., Minister of State for Food Promotion, New Markets, Research and Development, Minister of State Michael Healy-Rae, T.D., Minister of State for Forestry, Farm Safety and Horticulture, Minister of State for Fisheries Timmy Dooley, T.D., and with the Secretary General and staff of the Department, in the implementation of Government policy in the agriculture, food, fisheries and forestry sectors over the period of the Strategy.

Martin Heydon, T.D.,
Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine

Ireland's agri-food sector is outward looking, with 90% of output sold into export markets. The development of new opportunities for Irish produce in overseas markets, delivers dividends for the economy in terms of exports, for rural and coastal communities in terms of employment creation, and for farmers, fishers and foresters in terms of the prices they receive for the top-quality raw materials they produce. The sector is underpinned by significant investment in research and innovation, that creates new opportunities for income generation right across the supply chain and helps to make the sector more economically, environmentally and socially sustainable. I am delighted to see these critical factors for the success of Ireland's agri-food sector reflected in this Statement of Strategy, and I look forward to working closely with my Ministerial colleagues to deliver on its objectives.

Noel Grealish, T.D.,
Minister of State for Food Promotion, New Markets, Research and Development

As Minister of State with special responsibility for Forestry, Farm Safety and Horticulture, I welcome the Department's new Statement of Strategy 2025-2028. I am convinced by the benefits of our forestry programme and the opportunities to grow our horticulture sector, which are key commitments in the Programme for Government. With the right approach, these sectors can develop and prosper, delivering for our economy, for local communities, and for environmental sustainability. The strategy also reflects the need to promote farm safety and health and wellbeing, which are important priorities for me, and key commitments for this Government. I look forward to working with my Ministerial colleagues to deliver on the objectives in the Strategy.

Michael Healy-Rae, T.D.,
Minister of State for Forestry, Farm Safety and Horticulture

The establishment of a dedicated Minister of State for Fisheries and the Marine is a key deliverable in the Programme for Government, and I am delighted to have taken on this role. I welcome the publication of this Strategy Statement which provides a framework in which to co-ordinate and integrate the delivery of these important policy areas into work across Government to ensure that the fisheries, aquaculture and seafood sectors are supported in sustaining their sectors while balancing the need to protect marine biodiversity. I look forward to working across all stakeholders in Government, state agencies, EU institutions and other Member States to ensure that these industries, which are critical to sustaining our rural coastal communities, are supported.

Timmy Dooley, T.D.,
Minister of State for Fisheries

Secretary General Foreword

With the appointment of a new Government on 23rd January 2025, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine is required to replace its Statement of Strategy for the period 2023 to 2026.

This new document runs from 2025 to 2028. While it has been the subject of extensive consultation, its direction is rooted in the Programme for Government, "Securing Ireland's Future". It is also informed by strategic programmes such as Food Vision 2030, the CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027, the National Forestry Programme, 2023-2027, and the EMFAFF Operational Programme for Fisheries 2021-2027. It is also reflective of the Department's obligations in relation to climate and biodiversity and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The period of the Strategy will be characterised by profound developments in policy at EU level, including through new Common Fisheries and Agriculture Policies. Ireland will hold the Presidency of the EU Council in the second half of 2026, and the preparations for and execution of this responsibility will be a significant focus.

This document also reflects the extraordinarily broad remit of the Department and its agencies. This extends to the negotiation of policy at EU and international level, the provision of economic and environmental supports, the provision of public good laboratory services, and the implementation of regulatory functions in relation to food safety, animal and plant health, animal welfare, forestry, fisheries management and the environment.

This Statement of Strategy frames these functions through the following five strategic goals:

1. the provision of the optimum policy and regulatory framework for a sustainable and thriving agri-food and forestry sector, including through leadership at EU and international level;
2. the promotion and safeguarding of Public, Animal and Plant Health and Animal Welfare for the benefit of consumers, producers, the economy and wider society;
3. support farming incomes, livelihoods and rural vitality;
4. provide the policy and regulatory framework for a sustainable seafood and aquaculture sector;
5. deliver operational excellence by empowering our people and effectively deploying innovation, data insights and technology.

Achieving our vision and mission depends on our staff of over 4,000 civil servants, working in locations all over Ireland and overseas, with a wide range of specialist expertise. Our people are part of a Departmental culture that encourages learning and development, recognises the value of equality and diversity, and is based on the traditional public service values of independence, integrity and impartiality. Without them, none of the Department's objectives would be achieved. I want to take this opportunity to thank the people in this Department for the very important work they do to serve the Government and people of Ireland.

Brendan Gleeson,
Secretary General of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

Who We Are

The role of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine is to provide advice to Government and to implement policy in relation to matters relating to the agriculture, food, fisheries and forestry sectors.

Its functions extend from developing policy, including through engagement with EU and international institutions, to providing income and other supports and regulating the agri-food sector.

In exercising its regulatory functions, the Department protects the environment, sustainable sea fisheries, public, animal and plant health, and animal welfare.

Its overall objective is to develop and implement a policy framework that optimises the sector's contribution to social, economic and environmental sustainability, and to support vibrant rural and coastal economies.

The Department is multi-functional and multi-disciplinary. It provides a wide range of services and applies regulatory controls both directly and through its 13 state agencies. It serves a diverse customer base which includes farmers, consumers, food processors and other agri-sector commercial operators, those involved in sea fishing, aquaculture, forestry, bioenergy, and research.

With just over 4,000 staff, the Department operates from six large regional locations across Ireland, with a presence also in a further sixteen regional operational offices, six fishery harbour centres, and a large number of other locations countrywide. Its laboratory service, at locations around the country, provides critical diagnostic and other public good services. Its Department Attachés and Counsellors are stationed at Irish Embassies across the world, from Beijing to Brussels, and play a crucial role in expanding Ireland's EU and international influence.

The Department is responsible for a total budget of some €3.4 billion comprising National and EU funds.

What we do and why

Policy & Strategy

What we do

- We formulate national policies and contribute to the development of EU policies to support the strategic development of the agri-food, forestry and seafood sectors.
- We strive to achieve optimum outcomes that are environmentally, socially and economically sustainable. We design schemes in collaboration with our stakeholders and deliver supports for our rural community that are environmentally, socially and economically sustainable.

Why?

- To support our sector to deliver high-quality safe food and drink to consumers at home and across the globe.
- To ensure the sector remains viable, contributing to job creation and economic growth.
- To maintain high standards of food production and safety benefiting the public and our economy.
- To support our sector to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, build adaptive capacity for the impacts of climate change, improve water quality and reverse biodiversity decline.

Regulation

What we do

- We regulate the sector to ensure it operates to the highest standards.
- We maintain the highest standards of financial management and controls of our schemes and services, complying with the Public Spending Code and the European Union Paying Agency Accreditation Standards.

Why?

- To ensure our food and feed is safe and authentic, that Ireland's environment is protected, and that the legal framework in relation to sustainable fisheries is observed.
- To protect public, animal and plant health.
- To ensure the highest standards of governance and financial probity.

Sectoral Development

What we do

- Lead on the development of sustainable food systems through our Food Vision 2030 strategy.
- Maintain access to existing trade markets and develop new trading opportunities for Ireland, through the development and implementation of appropriate sectoral supports.
- We seek to be innovative and adaptable in the delivery of our services through research and innovation in collaboration with our stakeholders.

Why?

- To promote a modern, resource efficient and competitive sector that contributes to the economy and employment creation, and operates in a socially, economically sustainable way.
- To support our sector to adopt new technologies and practices to enhance productivity and competitiveness.
- To add value to our sector by facilitating and maximising trading opportunities.

OUR VISION

Sustainable, innovative, and competitive agri-food, forestry and seafood sectors.

OUR MISSION

To lead, enable and regulate the sector in a way that optimises its contribution to social, economic, and environmental sustainability, ensuring food safety, public health and animal health and welfare.

OUR VALUES

Our Strategic Context

The strategic context in which the Department now operates is challenging, but with significant opportunities.

Opportunities

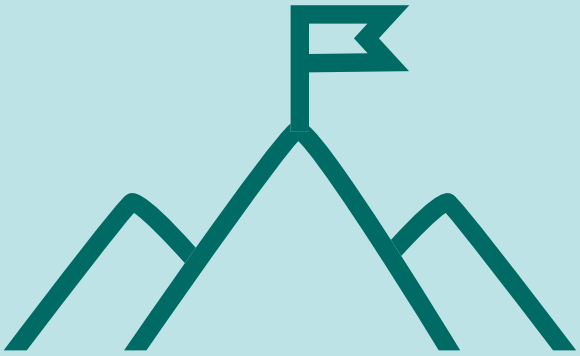
- The sector remains the most important indigenous sector in Ireland's economy, supporting employment, income across our rural and coastal communities, and reflecting Ireland's comparative advantage in sustainable food production.

- Ireland is one of the most food-secure countries in the world. That achievement is underpinned by high standards of food safety and animal welfare which are enforced by the Department, and the supports for competitive food production which the Department provides particularly through implementation of EU policies including the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and Common Fisheries Policy (CFP).

- The Department has directly, and through its agencies, invested significantly in competitive research calls to support the sustainable and resilient development of the sector, with a particular focus on addressing climate and environmental challenges and the development of seafood innovation in processing and aquatech.

- Ireland's Presidency of the EU in the second half of 2026 provides an opportunity for the Department to lead key negotiations as an honest broker between EU Member States and EU institutions.

- Food Vision 2030 provides a strategic framework for the sustainable development of the sector and sets the ambition for Ireland to be a world leader in sustainable food systems. The next iteration of the strategy will build on these ambitions.



Challenges

- Agri-food exports account for over €19 billion of export value to the Irish economy, with export destinations shared between the UK (38%), the EU (34%) and international markets (27%). Geo-political and trade tensions can directly impact on the markets and market segments for Irish food and drink exports, particularly in international markets.

- Ireland has significant national and EU targets on climate action, water and air quality and biodiversity protection. Because agriculture accounts for 67% of Ireland's land use, the sector has an important role to play in meeting those targets.

- The Department must ensure compliance with national and EU regulation, while ensuring that new national and EU policies and budgets adequately support the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the sector. Ensuring adequate and appropriate EU budgetary support in the next CAP and Common Fisheries Policy post-2027 will be challenging.

- Countries are increasingly vulnerable to both existing and emerging threats from both animal and plant diseases, intensified by climate change and enhanced global travel.

Strategic Goals

1 Provide the optimum **policy and regulatory framework** for a **sustainable** and **thriving agri-food** and **forestry** sector, including through leadership at **EU and international** level.

2 Promote and Safeguard Public, **Animal** and **Plant Health** and **Animal Welfare** for the benefit of consumers, producers, the economy and wider society.

3 **Support Farming Incomes**, Livelihoods and **Rural Vitality.**

4 Provide the **policy** and **regulatory framework** for a **sustainable seafood** and **aquaculture** sector.

5 Deliver operational excellence by **empowering our people** and effectively deploying **innovation**, **data insights** and **technology**.

In the following pages, each of these strategic goals is translated into strategic objectives and associated priority actions and expected outcomes. These have been informed by the internal and external stakeholder consultation process and are also consistent with the commitments laid out in the "Programme for Government, Securing Ireland's Future".

Goal 1

Provide the optimum policy and regulatory framework for a sustainable and thriving agri-food and forestry sector, including through leadership at EU and international level.

Strategic Objectives	Priority Actions	Expected Outcomes
• Influence EU and international negotiations to reflect Ireland's interests.	• Successfully discharge the Department's EU Presidency responsibilities in the second half of 2026. • Champion the best possible outcome for Ireland in Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) post-2027 negotiations. • Effective input to international policy and negotiations on trade, market access and agricultural development cooperation. • Champion international cooperation in agriculture and sustainable food systems.	• Enhance Ireland's leadership position in EU affairs. • An effective EU agri-food policy framework post-2027. • Enhanced opportunities for Irish agri-food exports, progress against relevant UN Sustainable Development Goals.
• Implement and build on Food Vision 2030 and other cross cutting strategies, including Programme for Government commitments.	• Conduct a mid-term review of Food Vision 2030. • Implement and monitor Food Vision 2030 and any recommendations arising from the mid-term review. • Champion international cooperation in agriculture and sustainable food systems.	• Progress measured against Food Vision 2030 indicators and PFG commitments.

Strategic Objectives	Priority Actions	Expected Outcomes
	• Conduct a Mid-Term Review of the current Forestry Programme 2023-2027, in consultation with Stakeholders in 2025.	• This Forestry Programme will be reviewed for any potential that exists for schemes refinements, to facilitate improvements and to optimise additional interest from landowners.
• Effective contribution to Ireland's environmental targets, including climate and air quality, water quality and biodiversity.	• Work collaboratively with stakeholders to implement actions to improve water quality on farms. Ensure the continuance of Ireland's Nitrates Derogation. • Develop and implement actions that contribute to Ireland's annual Climate Action plan and delivery of 2030 reduction targets. • Ensure Climate Adaptation is embedded in future programmes and plans.	• Improvement in water quality associated with agricultural activity and maintenance of Ireland's Nitrates Derogation. • Reduced GHG emissions associated with agriculture and Land Use, Land-use Change and Forestry (LULUCF). • Delivery of a sectoral adaptation plan for climate resilience.
	• Progress air quality targets in respect of ammonia emissions. • Support farmers to enhance biodiversity and space for nature through strategic supports, including Forestry Programme and CAP Strategic Plan supports.	• Compliance with EU reduction targets. • Progress against biodiversity targets.

Strategic Objectives	Priority Actions	Expected Outcomes
	• Contribute actions that support farmers in delivery of Irelands' Nature Restoration plan as required under the Nature Restoration Law.	• Delivery of actions in those areas of Nature Restoration plan under the aegis of the Department.
• Support research and innovation to enable the sector to become more sustainable environmentally, economically and socially, and to accelerate sustainable value-added growth in the agri-food and bio-economy sectors.	• Develop and contribute to relevant research policies and strategies. • Support and fund collaborative research, national and international, through competitive calls. • Lead the development of a strong bioeconomy through national and international policy, funding and cross-government collaboration.	• Research outcomes and innovations address the strategic objectives. • A larger and more embedded bioeconomy offering new, diversified economic opportunities for primary producers.
• Promote measures to support farmers viability, resilience and well-being; a competitive and sustainable food and drinks industry; and sectoral development.	• Provide a policy and regulatory framework that promotes the development of competitive, sustainable and consumer-oriented agri-food sectors, including meat, dairy, drinks, tillage, horticulture and prepared consumer foods • Promote positive mental health and wellbeing across the farming sector.	• Improved economic environmental and social sustainability at farm and food industry level. • Improved health, safety and well-being outcomes on Irish farms.

Goal 2

Promote and Safeguard Public, Animal and Plant Health, and Animal Welfare for the benefits of consumers, producers, the environment, the economy and wider society.

Strategic Objectives	Priority Actions	Expected Outcomes
• To protect consumers' health by ensuring the safety and quality of the food and feed supply. • Integrate management of official controls across the agri-food sector with digital systems.	• Food safety, animal and plant health strategies in place to facilitate reduced pest and disease incidence and increased food safety. • Develop an end-to-end Integrated Regulatory Control System (IRCS) for official controls (including food safety, plant and animal health). • Maintain and enhance robust traceability systems.	• Improved public, animal and plant health outcomes • Animal and plant health strategies developed • Effective implementation of robust official controls along the agri-food and feed chains. • Effective traceability of food producing animals
• Ensure robust surveillance and rapid-response capability for biosecurity threats and exotic and transboundary diseases. • Ensure robust control of exotic diseases and statutory diseases.	• Strengthen surveillance systems. • Enhance risk assessment capability. • Update the Bovine TB Programme. • Deepen One Health collaboration to combat antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and ensure preparedness for zoonotic diseases threats. • Promote the responsible use of veterinary medicines	• Early detection and response to biosecurity and disease threats • Effective contingency plans in the event of disease outbreaks • Revised Bovine TB Eradication Programme • Ireland's Third National Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance published • Prudent stewardship and use of veterinary medicines to ensure sustainability and help combat AMR.

Strategic Objectives	Priority Actions	Expected Outcomes
• Embed high animal-welfare standards	• Expand and enforce the Animal Welfare Strategy, including stronger inspection and enforcement framework.	• Compliance with EU and national welfare standards • Successful prosecutions for serious welfare violations
• Support and facilitate international trade	• Maintain robust and trustworthy control and certification procedures to facilitate international trade.	• Effective implementation of robust official controls along the agri-food and feed chains. • Maintain existing and increase access to international markets
• Maintain and progress a class leading Laboratory Service that supports both primary production and international trade markets as well as our farming community by safeguarding Ireland's food safety, animal and plant health systems.	• Implementation and roll out of LIMS2 IT system • Modernisation and futureproofing of our network of Regional Veterinary Laboratories (RVLs). • Development and delivery of the Department's led "Transfer to Lab" or TLC centres. • Progress laboratory research and method development, staff upskilling and modernisation of test methods and processes	• Class leading laboratory services with advanced capabilities to continue to protect human, animal and plant health while supporting both internal and external trade markets • Reduced diagnostic turnaround times in regional laboratories

Goal 3 Support Farming Incomes, Livelihoods & Rural Vitality

Strategic Objectives	Priority Actions	Expected Outcomes
• Deliver timely, equitable and climate-friendly income and resilience supports that underpin viable farm businesses.	• Fulfil Programme for Government commitments on the delivery of all schemes. • Design an effective and straightforward CAP Strategic Plan (CSP) for the post-2027 period, in collaboration with stakeholders.	• All scheme payments made within targets specified in the Farmers' Charter • Next CSP developed on target and within the necessary timelines to achieve delivery of schemes
• Foster diversity, generational renewal, and new skills within farming and rural communities.	• Examine recommendations from the Commission on Generation Renewal in tandem with EU Policy.	• Provide supports for generational renewal in line with the Programme for Government and EU Policy.
• Strengthen economic, climate and market resilience through, diversified income streams.	• Enable diversified, climate-smart incomes for example, via Targeted Agriculture Modernisation Schemes (TAMS) solar grant, biomethane incentives and forthcoming Carbon-Farming Framework.	• Creation and uptake of viable alternative income streams
• Support the continued development of a vibrant forestry sector in Ireland.	• Encourage more farmers to consider forestry as a part of their farm enterprise.	• Increase the area of land under forestry. • Increased uptake of forestry schemes.

Goal 4 Provide the policy and regulatory framework for a sustainable seafood and aquaculture sector.

Strategic Objectives	Priority Actions	Expected Outcomes
• Influence EU negotiations, particularly on potential Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) reform, to safeguard Ireland's access to quota and sustainability interests.	• Influence the development of the CFP to deliver sustainability and flexibility for our stocks and fishers. • Safeguard our current quota shares and press for an outcome that reflects the impact of Brexit on Irish quota shares.	• Irish quota shares maintained. • Improved stock status following fisheries management measures versus baseline.
• Take a leadership role at EU level on fisheries matters before, during and after Ireland's EU Presidency in the second half of 2026.	• Successful delivery of the Department's Fish Council EU Presidency responsibilities before, during and after 2026, including post TCA access arrangements post 1 June 2026. • Negotiate for a robust, well-funded CFP with an effective range of support measures, with a clearly defined funding package to support the seafood sector.	• Provide certainty to fishers and secure long-term access to UK waters with no further transfer of quota.
	• Develop an effective and strategic Seafood Development Programme for post-2027, in consultation with stakeholders.	• Seafood Development programme 2027+ developed and funded to support the seafood and fisheries industry in innovations in catch, aquaculture and processing sectors leading to sustainable economic contribution to coastal communities.

Strategic Objectives	Priority Actions	Expected Outcomes
• Champion Ireland's key policy positions at the UN, Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and other multilateral fora.	• Examine the policy, regulatory and investment framework that enables sustainable seafood, aquaculture and marine-bioeconomy growth	• Publish the 5-year Fisheries Sector Strategy. • Initiate legislative reform in the aquaculture licensing sector.
	• Implement the policy objectives of the CFP having regard to the triple objectives of environmental, social and economic sustainability.	• Promote the principle of co-existence for the seafood sector in the evolving maritime domain

Goal 5

Deliver operational excellence by empowering our people and effectively deploying innovation, data insights and technology.

Strategic Objectives	Priority Actions	Expected Outcomes
• Deliver our People Strategy 2024-2027 to ensure we create a collaborative, diverse, agile and skilled workforce. • Optimise operational performance to ensure that support schemes operate in an effective and timely manner and in compliance with public financial procedures and EU accreditation rules.	• Build our workforce for the future. • Empower and enhance a culture of high performance. • Ensure that appropriate personnel, IT and other resources are deployed in a timely fashion, and that operational capacity is a key element in deliberations on the development of new schemes. • Foster a healthy and inclusive workforce • Optimise HR Capability and enhance operational efficiency. • Implement the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy 2024-2027.	• High performing workforce delivering on the department's strategic and operational priorities. • Schemes operated efficiently and effectively in accordance with statutory deadlines, and targets specified in the Farmers Charter. • Health and wellbeing and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion strategies implemented. • Improved recruitment strategies with pipelines of talent available. • Integrate human rights and equality issues into all department functions and ensure ongoing compliance.
• Continue to empower a skilled, inclusive and resilient workforce.	• Publish the Communications Strategy 2025-27 • Streamline recruitment & workforce planning to become an employer of choice.	• Recruitment cycle time reduced. • Increased proportion of women in senior grades. • Increase in staff-driven innovation proposals and ideas.

Strategic Objectives	Priority Actions	Expected Outcomes
• Deliver seamless, secure and user-centric digital services underpinned by modern IT, data and cyber-resilience infrastructure.	• Complete development of online services and launch the Department's new online platform MyAgfood.	• Greater online accessibility, customer interactions and enhanced user-experience.
• Embed strong data governance, analytics and responsible AI across departmental functions.	• Embed responsible AI, open-data and innovation showcases across business processes.	• Increased operational efficiency and innovation acceleration.
• Cultivate a culture of continuous innovation, cybersecurity awareness and collaborative service design.	• Implement the Department-wide Cyber-Security and Data Strategy	• Target zero critical cyber incidents and establish a unified data architecture
• Strengthen financial and risk management, corporate governance and accountability in the use of public funds	• Complete an annual programme of independent risk-based audits and undertake regular reviews of expenditure under the Spending Review Programme • Deliver a programme of targeted financial management and governance training and support to relevant personnel	• More efficient and effective use of public funds • Enhanced adherence to public financial procedures, audit and governance standards across the Department and its aegis bodies.

Appendix 1

Programme for Government "Securing Ireland's Future" Commitments

Programme for Government Sub-Category	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine commitment
Protecting and enhancing our farm incomes	Strengthening farm incomes for our 130,000 family farms is an absolute priority for this Government. We will continue to support the suckler, beef, dairy, sheep, pig, poultry, tillage, horticulture and organics sectors along with vital farm schemes.
Supporting our Beef and Suckler Farmers	Increase scheme supports for suckler farmers over a five-year term in office and ensure straightforward measures to encourage uptake. Financially incentivise the use of genetically superior beef AI/stock bulls. Promote the Protected Geographical Indicator (PGI) for Irish Grass Fed beef as a premium brand in overseas markets, while developing new PGIs to enhance the value of Irish food exports.
Supporting our sheep farmers	Increase scheme supports for sheep farmers over a five-year term in office and ensure straightforward measures to encourage uptake.
Support the Tillage sector	Invest significantly in the tillage sector over five years to maintain and grow the sector. Examine facilities for processing of Irish crops and explore openings for oilseed and milling wheat processing.
Dairy sector	Increase support to the Dairy Beef scheme over a five-year term in office and ensure straightforward measures to encourage uptake. Support dairy-beef systems by implementing the Dairy Calf to Beef action plan.

Poultry and Pigs	Increase market access for poultry and pig products, while funding capital investments in these sectors to improve animal health and welfare.
Horticulture	Increase capital investment support via the Horticultural Grant. Work to increase new people into the sector, providing more education and training places. Recognise Irish strawberries as a heritage crop and ensure their continued production. Assist in the upgrading of production facilities, particularly glass houses, to ensure efficient production systems and reduction in energy usage. Maintain access to plant protection products while protecting public and animal health.
Organics	Continue to support the promotion and marketing of organic products to increase returns to producers. Maintain the Organic Farming Scheme.
Protecting important farm supports	Continue to fund the vital income support provided through the Areas of Natural Constraints scheme to farmers in designated areas who face significant hardship. Review investment items and reference costs under the Targeted Agricultural Modernisation Scheme (TAMS). Examine a mechanism to engage with stakeholders on the design of national agriculture schemes. As part of the development of the next CAP, ensure schemes fully consider the impact of designation of land and seek to reflect the financial impact of designation of land on farmers in the framing of future CAP schemes.

Programme for Government Sub-Category	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine commitment
A strong CAP that works for farmers	Fight at EU level for a fully supported CAP with an increased budget. Work at EU level to simplify the CAP post 2027, ensuring simplified payments for farmers, along with balanced and proportionate controls. Reduce the administrative burden and red tape that farmers encounter by ensuring flexibility in the design of schemes and stakeholder input at all times. Work at EU level to secure new funding streams, which are separate to CAP, to support farmers in meeting environmental responsibilities. Ensure access to a farm capital investment scheme. Accelerate IT capabilities in the Department of Agriculture to enhance systems and avoid payment delays.
Supporting inter-generational farm succession	Ensure a Farm Succession Scheme that supports generational renewal. Act on the recommendations of the Commission on Generational Renewal in Farming who are examining the current policy framework, along with available policy tools and supports available to encourage young people into the sector. Update the eligibility criteria for the Farm Succession Partnership tax credit by revamping support and eligibility criteria. Review the eligibility criteria for the Succession Planning Advice Grant to ensure better take-up. Examine young farmers' financing options, which entails targeted installation aid or low-interest loans. Continue the current array of key agricultural tax reliefs. Support farm transfers by reviewing the tax-free threshold for Capital Acquisitions Tax. Ensure Ireland remains an exemplar in agricultural education by investing in agricultural colleges and facilities.

Supporting farm families	Work with the Department of Health to examine the Fair Deal Scheme to ensure it does not impede succession planning and recognises the distinctive position of agricultural land. Deliver a scheme that recognises the category of farmers known as the 'Forgotten Farmers'. Increase the Traditional Farm Buildings grant. Ensure sufficient employment permits to support the agri food sector including the equine, dairy, horticulture, fish and food processing industries.
Retain the Nitrates Derogation at EU level	This Government will do everything within its power to make the case at EU level to secure the retention of the Nitrates Derogation given our unique grass-based production model. We will work with farmers, industry, state agencies and local authorities to develop evidence-based solutions to assist farmers in improving water quality. Establish a Cabinet Committee on Water Quality chaired by the Taoiseach to coordinate water quality improvements across all sectors. Work with farmers and industry to secure Ireland's nitrates derogation at EU level, by implementing the Nitrates Derogation Renewal Plan in support of retention. Expand the Agricultural Sustainability Support and Advisory Programme (ASSAP). Continue to support the EIP Farming for Water scheme by increasing funding. This vital scheme improves water quality in priority areas nationally and directly aids farmers with advice, support and resources. Enhance collaboration on water testing by improving partnerships between farmers, Teagasc and the EPA to uphold water quality.

Programme for Government Sub-Category	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine commitment
Harnessing renewable energy in Agriculture Sector	Reward farmers for producing energy for their private use or by selling excess energy to the electricity grid to diversify their income. Examine community-led ownership models for renewable energy production as an additional income stream for farmers. Promote solar uptake on farms and continue the 60% TAMS grant to support farmers to install solar PV systems. Introduce planning guidelines for solar farms and provide certainty in the development of solar energy in agriculture. Offer financial incentives for the National Biomethane Strategy. We will target the production of up to 5.7 Tera Watt Hour (TWh) of biomethane by 2030.
Opening new markets and increased transparency in the food supply chain	Accelerate work in opening up new markets for Irish food products. Update and introduce a new food strategy to success Food Vision 2030 in consultation with farmer and industry stakeholders. Give An Rialálaí Agraibhia (the Agri- Food Regulator) enhanced powers to ensuring transparency in the food supply chain with regard to providing market information. Work with like-minded EU countries to stand up for Irish farmers and defend our interests in opposing the current Mercosur trade deal. Protect vital live export markets as an important income source, while maintaining the highest animal welfare standards.

Driving food security and sustainability forward together	We will support the Irish agricultural sector so that it continues to be a world leader in carbon-efficient food production. Assign funds from the Infrastructure, Climate and Nature Fund to the agricultural sector. Ensure that all measures under the Nature Restoration Law (NRL) will be completely voluntary for farmers. Work intensely to ensure that rewetted and restored lands remain eligible for CAP payments and ensure dedicated funding streams for voluntary actions. Ensure there is adequate farmer representation on the Nature Restoration advisory committee. Progress Ireland's Nature Restoration Plan and ensure restoration actions on State lands. Complete the second phase of the Land Use Review, which aims to balance environmental, social and economic consideration. Follow through on the findings of the review of ACRES to address challenges in its operation. We will ensure that this €1.5 billion flagship agri-environmental programme continues to provide an important income support to farm families, while improving biodiversity. Continue to acknowledge the special economic and social role of agriculture and the distinct characteristics of biogenic methane and support the progress made to date by farmers and industry in reducing emissions. Maintain support to farmers on High Nature Value lands. Introduce a National Framework for Carbon Farming to guide the development of a Carbon Farming Scheme to strengthen farm incomes. Maximise soil health and fertility, such as through the Soil Sampling Scheme. Continue funds supports to farmers to invest in capital infrastructure including nutrient storage.

Programme for Government Sub-Category	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine commitment
Women in Agriculture	Examine potential barriers for women farmers within the taxation system to ensure greater inclusivity and fairness. Implement the National Women in Agriculture Action Plan to support gender equality including: • Promote female succession. • Liaise with Revenue to address any taxation barriers to female participation.
Income Volatility Tool	Examine a new farm income volatility taxation measure to safeguard farmers from markets rising and falling.
Strengthening animal welfare	Introduce more robust sanctions for animal welfare violations and ensure inspection teams are well-resourced in carrying out their enforcement role. Maintain premier animal welfare standards by advancing a zero-tolerance culture in animal care and safety. Increase funding to animal welfare groups. Upgrade regional veterinary laboratories.
Equine and Greyhound sectors	Continue to support our equine sector's status as a global leader and deliver on key strategic infrastructure projects. Support the development of the sport horse sector. Enhance the marketing and breeding of Irish sport horses. Ensure the continued support to the Horse and Greyhound Fund, considering the vital economic and social contribution generated by these sectors in rural areas. Ensure that Rásaíocht Con Éireann continues to provide financial support for the Irish Retired Greyhound Trust (IRGT) and contributes to rehoming greyhounds.

Continues

	Make additional resources available to enhance both animal welfare and traceability in our equine and greyhound industry. Bring forward a Control of Horses Bill to modernise legislation in this area and to ensure a consistent approach to enforcement powers around detention, notice and release of stray horses seized by local authorities.
Farm Safety	Continue to prioritise improvements in farm safety, health and well-being through strengthened supports. Place a specific focus on farmer mental health and well-being, recognising the unique challenges faced by the sector. Promote positive mental health and wellbeing across the farming sector.
Innovation in Agriculture, Food and the Marine	Support investment in research and development in the agtech and food sectors to help deliver advancements and encourage collaboration. Develop Ireland's bioeconomy through a coordinated approach that harnesses Ireland's natural resources and competitive advantage. Support advancements around food and nutrition through support for food hubs and other initiatives that encourage innovation in food production and processing. Ensure a comprehensive strategy to support local and artisan food and drink producers in developing Irish food culture and production.
National TB Eradication Strategy	Review and update the National TB 2030 Eradication Strategy by working in collaboration with farmers and industry. Ensure appropriate staffing of the Wildlife Control Programme and resource regional veterinary offices to carry out this vital work. Ensure the Irish Deer Management Strategy Group action plan is sufficiently resourced.

Programme for Government Sub-Category	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine commitment
Forestry	This Government will continue to support the forestry sector and provide attractive financial incentives to farmers to plant given the beneficial environmental impact. Ensure that our €1.3 billion Forestry Programme delivers a licensing system that is effective, while continuing to provide and promote financial incentives for farmers to plant. Review upfront planting costs. Ensure a balanced mix of tree types, including a strong diversity of the species planted, with an increased proportion of broadleaves nationally. Work to develop more commercially viable crops. Continue to implement the current Forestry Programme. Work with all stakeholders to remove any barriers to plant and fell trees within the current Forestry Programme. Work collaboratively with the ESB to support and accelerate the timber and vegetation clearance programme. Continue to support the Ash Dieback scheme. Continue to promote and ensure financial support for farmers engaging in Agroforestry.
Veterinary and Farm Contracting Services	Expand the number of trained vets through the enlargement of our veterinary education footprint. Assess the requirement for an additional veterinary college. Set up a farm contracting working group to consider training, support and taxation measures.

Fisheries and the Marine	Publish a five-year Fisheries Sector strategy that will include an examination of the processing sector. Continue to support and promote improvements in fisheries and aquaculture. Examine incentives for fishers to land their catch in Irish ports, with a view to support the domestic processing sector. Fight at EU level for Common Fisheries Policy reforms that ensure fairer quotas for Irish fishers and due recognition is given to the proportion of fish species caught in Irish waters. Promote the sustainability of fish stocks, while ensuring sufficient supply of species to allow fishers into the future derive a fair return. Liaise with fishing stakeholders and request that Revenue examine the current tax allowances for the sector and bring forward recommendations on how the taxation system can further support its progression. Explore fleet adjustment measures and consider any changes given the ever- evolving scientific advice on fish stocks. Support the Seafood/Offshore Renewable Energy Working Group in providing an important bridge to facilitate discussion on issues arising from the interaction of these sectors, and to encourage open dialogue between stakeholders. Defend Irish fishing interests ahead of the 2026 review of the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement and in discussions on third countries. Work at EU level to increase supports to the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund.
Coastal Communities	Continue to support the sustainable development of our aquaculture sector and modernise and streamline aquaculture licencing in the State through legislation changes.

Appendix 2

The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set out a bold vision for a safer, fairer, more prosperous, and sustainable world by 2030.

This Strategy is developed in the context of our role in contributing to the delivery of the SDGs. We will:

- Embed the SDGs into the programmes and policies of the Department including the 2030 Agri-Food Strategy;
- Take Ireland's commitments under the SDGs into account in our policy development and implementation;
- Align our policies with the specific goals where we have a lead role by placing the SDGs at the heart of these policies;
- Encourage and support an agri-food sector that is environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable, in line with the SDGs;
- Contribute to progressing the SDGs, leading on 12 targets and sharing responsibility for another 21 targets across the following Goals:

Goal 2	Zero Hunger	**Goal 14**	Life Below Water
Goal 12	Responsible Consumption and Production	**Goal 15**	Life on Land
		Goal 17	Partnerships for the Goals

Appendix 3

Core Strategies

- Food Vision 2030
- Civil Service Renewal 2030
- Better Public Services

Department Strategies

- People Strategy 2024-26 Equality, Diversity and Inclusion
  Health and Wellbeing
- Digital Strategy 2023-2026
- National Strategy for Horticulture
- National Strategy for Organic Sector
- Action Plan on Women in Agriculture

Appendix 4

ALAB
An Bord Achomhairc Um Cheadúnais Dobharshaothraithe
Aquaculture Licences Appeals Board
An Rialálaí Agraibhia
Agri-Food Regulator
HORSE RACING IRELAND
RÁSAÍOCHT CAPALL ÉIREANN
IRISH NATIONAL STUD & GARDENS
COILLTE
GROW · TRANSFORM · SUSTAIN
BORD BIA
IRISH FOOD BOARD
Delivering through our State Agencies
NATIONAL MILK AGENCY
BIM
Ireland's Seafood Development Agency
RÁSAÍOCHT CON ÉIREANN
Foras na Mara
Marine Institute
Comhairle na dTréidlia
VETERINARY COUNCIL
eagasc
Agriculture and Food Development Authority
AN t-ÚDARÁS UM CHOSAINT IASCAIGH MHARA
SEA-FISHERIES PROTECTION AUTHORITY

gov.ie/agriculture