



BEEF COWS MOVING ON TO NEW PASTURE

LIFE BEEF CARBON BEGINS

The "LIFE BEEF CARBON" initiative aims at promoting innovative livestock farming systems and associated practices to ensure the technical, economic, environmental and social sustainability of beef farms, and thus to improve interactions between climate change and livestock production. It was launched by all partner nations in October 2015. The initiative aims at reducing beef carbon footprint by 15% over 10 years in 4 major and contrasting countries producing beef in Europe: France, Ireland, Italy and Spain.

The project is co-financed by the LIFE program from European commission and Casdar from French agriculture Ministry, the initiative is led by the Institut de l'Élevage (IDELE) and the Interprofession du Bétail et de la Viande (INTERBEV), and includes 6 Chambers of agriculture, 5 cooperatives, 4 beef recording organizations from France ; Teagasc and Bord Bia from Ireland ;

CRA and 2 producer associations from Italy ; ASOPROVAC and 2 producer associations from Spain

The project will establish a common beef carbon framework composed of innovative practices aiming at reducing GHG emissions and increasing carbon sequestration, through an inventory of existing methodologies and practices, information sharing, harmonization, building a common GHG assessment methodology, updating advisory tools to allow comparison. It will involve 150 training advisers (national and regional) and 170 innovative farmers, to build a common knowledge/base. We will create a demonstrative observatory composed of 2,000 beef farms, taking part in the first carbon assessment actions operated at such a scale. We will build a network of 170 innovative farms to test/apply/promote innovative techniques to reduce GHG emissions and increase carbon storage. The project will develop, monitor and promote beef farms with a low carbon footprint.

Teagasc LIFE BEEF CARBON Newsletter 1

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Jean Baptiste Dolle opened the debate on mitigating livestock emissions at the COP 23 EU event.

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COP 21 - Paris

The UN summit reached the first agreement in 20 years to limit increases in global temperatures.

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Better Beef Conference

The closing conference of Better Beef phase 2 highlighted the benefits of improving efficiency.

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Applying a carbon mitigation plan in innovative beef farms • Build a European



It will establish national/EU carbon awareness and mobilization building on an EU beef carbon farmers' network, allowing exchanges between farmers and advisers in the 4 countries. French/Irish/Italian/Spanish national BEEF CARBON ACTION PLANS will be created, and a relevant partnership strategy for other national and EU levels. These action plans will demonstrate to the beef value chains the interest and feasibility of this approach aiming at reducing the beef carbon footprint by 15% in 10 years.

The projects timetable is

2015-2018 - Elaborating and sharing a common EU BEEF CARBON framework

- Developing carbon tools to evaluate GHG emissions, beef carbon footprint and decision making tools used by farmers and advisors at farm level,
- Assessing GHG emissions on 2,000 demonstrative beef farms, corresponding to different production systems (different livestock, crops, grassland management, soil types, weather conditions...) and creating a European database and farms observatory in 4 countries.

2018-2020 - According to the results in the innovative and demonstrative farms, identify techniques of mitigation.



network including 150 advisers and 172 innovative farmers • Do an economic and social feasibility analysis for carbon plan implementation at beef production level

2020 • Creating 4 BEEF CARBON ACTION PLANS for France, Italy, Ireland and Spain, describing the technical mitigation action plans and the advisory strategy to develop at national/European level





entirely in line with the climate change challenge.

Teagasc, the French Livestock institute,

From November 30 to December 11 2015, 190 countries mobilized in Paris around the fight against climate change. The nations manage to agree a deal to limit this century's temperature increase. In the wake of the opening of the Cop 21, farming and livestock Institutes are proving to be recognized players in the participation of ruminant sectors in the fight against climate change. As such, the cattle sectors, represented by the two inter-branches, participate on 1 December at the Bourget presentation of the agricultural component of the Agenda solutions and the launch of the research program "4 per 1000". This international initiative led by Stéphane Le Foll aims to improve soil organic matter stocks at a rate of +4 per 1000 per year. This increase in soil carbon would significantly offset the greenhouse gas emissions of the planet. The institutes, which carried out several research programs on the impact of livestock on global warming, is convinced that carbon storage associated with cattle breeding activities is a challenge to meet the challenge of climate change while preserving the potential for soil production. This work is

COP 21 - Reaching a climate deal in Paris

ASOPROVAC and CREA are piloting the LIFE Beef Carbon projects, which aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase carbon storage in the meat sectors. Combining the meat inter-federations, the livestock consultancy structures, and the downstream companies, these projects involve 6,000 Irish, Spanish, Italian, French and European breeders who will be audited and trained. For this, the Livestock Institute has set up Cap2Er and Ireland have developed Carbon Audit. These tools can support decision making regarding mitigating the carbon footprint of milk and meat.

The French Livestock Institute is also a partner in the Vocal project to set up a method for accounting for greenhouse

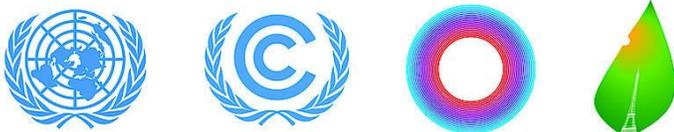
gas emission reductions. This tool will make it possible to generate carbon credits and to valorize economically the mitigation effort carried by the livestock sectors.

The project lead for LIFE BEEF CARBON, Jean-Baptiste Dollé, whose expertise on the breeding-climate link is recognized at national and international level, took part in a preliminary work day organized by Nicolas Hulot at the Elysée on the theme of livestock and climate. Regularly asked about this topic, he had already been invited to a round table on the theme of livestock and environment at the National Assembly in February. His presentation highlighted the

progress already made by cattle industries in controlling their greenhouse gas emissions and the role of carbon storage played by grasslands. Jean-Baptiste Dollé also participated in a conference organized by the European group Climate KIC (European players facilitating the transition towards climate-smart agricultural production in Europe) at the Grand Palais on December 9. He used this platform to develop the framework of the COP21 which was further discussed in Le Bourget on the 10th December at a conference on carbon labels organized by CDC Climate.

Source: French livestock institute

WE MUST
CAN
WILL



Lima-Paris Action Agenda

Better Beef Conference

The Teagasc-Farmers Journal BETTER Farm beef program goal is to develop a road map for profitable beef production through improving technical efficiency within the farm gate. The tight margins in beef production are often attributed solely to challenging farm gate prices but this is only part of the equation.

The BETTER Farm program demonstrates to farmers that there are a number of factors driving the profitability of their enterprise: – Farm gate price; – Production costs; – Animal performance/beef output. The BETTER Farm program focused on – Boosting profitability on farms by reducing production costs – Increasing farm output through improved animal performance. The latest technologies and research were adopted to ensure maximum efficiency.

The farms that took part in the program saw gross margins on their farms jump by 53% since 2012.

Professor Boyle pointed out this finding during his speech at the Teagasc Better Beef Farm Conference in Tullamore on the 16th of April. Boyle said that the majority of this increase has occurred as the 31 farmers participating in the second phase of the programme have increased the productivity of their farms. "Beef prices only increased modestly at 8%". Boyle said the



increase in gross margins seen on the Better Beef Farms has been impressive, rising from €675/ha in 2012 to €1,029/ha.

The Teagasc Director said that regardless of the market place, beef farmers can make good profits when they focus on grassland management, breeding and herd health. A rise in beef price or drop in costs is an extra bonus to the Better Beef Farms, he said. Boyle also noted during his talk that two of the farmers taking part in the programme produced gross margins in excess of €1,800/ha and said that the 31 farmers involved in the programme have matched the profit levels achieved on over 50% of Ireland's dairy farms. This included a farm in Co. Kerry with a very heavy soil type. The Kerry farm had one of the highest margins in the program and highlights what is possible on challenging farm land. Source: Better Beef Programme

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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