

BEEF COWS ENJOYING 1<sup>ST</sup> CUT SILAGE

# Teagasc LIFE BEEF CARBON Newsletter 5

## January 2019

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## Spanish EU network

**Cattle farmers, veterinarians, researchers, representatives of the administration and other actors in the sector met at Caixa Fórum in Madrid to present the first demonstrative results of the Life Beef project, together with Teagasc.**

Climate change, international agreements, the CAP and livestock were the key concepts discussed at this network with the aim of ensuring the sustainability of the EU production of beef cattle.

*"Beef cattle farmers are increasingly involved in this aspect and determined to intervene in improving their production with respect to CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, so this project will allow them to participate fully in the European climate change strategy that will entail changes at a global level"* highlighted Matilde Moro, manager of Asoprovac.

During the day, Elvira Carles, director of the Company & Climate Foundation, explained that by 2020 the whole of the Union will meet the -20% target and we will even exceed it (-23%), all thanks to the work carried out during 25 years. Now, "in 10 years we have to do the same and with more effort than what has been done in the last 20 years. We can be happy but a lot of work awaits us," he clarified.

For its part, Carmen Sabri, manager of AgroBank has stressed that the fight against climate change is a common goal and is part of the strategy of CaixaBank and AgroBank, so "throughout 2019 we will present more products focused on this, who will join those we already have," he added.



### 2<sup>nd</sup> EU Network

On the 10<sup>th</sup> of January an EU Network regarding beef carbon emissions was held in Spain.

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**COP24-KATOWICE 2018**  
UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

### UNFCCC- COP 24

COP 24 was held between the 2 and 15 December 2018 in Katowice, Poland. The conference agreed on rules to implement the 2015 Paris agreement.

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### GRSB sustainability report

Global round table for sustainable beef launch 2018 report in Kilkenny.

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René Colditz, policy officer of DG CLIMA, who spoke on behalf of Cristina Lobillo, Chief of Staff of Commissioner Arias Cañete, presented the **strategy of DG Climate** and highlighted the achievements made as a result of the **Paris Agreements**. In this regard, he mentioned that although at the economic level it is an effort to fight against climate change "if we do nothing now to reduce emissions, in the future investments to combat its effects will be even greater".

Meanwhile, **Jean Baptiste Dollé**, of the **Institut de L'Evage IDELE** and coordinator of the **Life Beef Carbon project**, has valued the international support that the project is obtaining. **Dollé** added that the advice and training to the rancher is also essential to successfully conclude this project. "Our goal is for producers to understand the role of the sector in climate change," he said. In his speech, he also stressed that this plan is based on a proactive strategy and is the first time that mitigation actions have been applied in the real commercial practice of cattle farms.



The coordinator of the **Life Beef Carbon project** has valued the work and the objectives achieved by the project's members, as well as the fact that the reduction of the **carbon footprint is being done in a sustainable way**.

The **first actions in these farms are already being developed** and during the day it was shown that **enteric fermentation by the animal** (digestive process) usually represents more than **50% of the emissions of a beef cattle farm**. With these data, **farmers are implementing** different techniques, such as rotation of pastures, oak plantation, straw replacement by sawdust in the bed of the animal, waterproofing of the manure store or multiphase feeding whose ultimate goal is to reduce the carbon footprint.

For his part, **Joaquín Chaparro Rodríguez**, vocal advisor of the **General Secretariat of Agriculture and Food of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, MAPA**, has analyzed the environmental aspect of the new EC proposal for the CAP, emphasizing that "the **next PAC** is the most important in history in terms of climate and environmental awareness." He indicated that that it will be much more demanding at the environmental level.

The person in charge of the closure was **Josefa Lueso Sordo**, deputy general director of **Cattle Products of MAPA**, accompanied by the **president of Asoprovac, Alberto Juanola**, and **Jean Baptiste Dollé**, coordinator of the **Life Beef Carbon project**. All three have stressed the importance of the actors involved in the struggle working in a united and coordinated manner.

Juanola concluded by emphasizing the importance of this initiative to raise awareness in the livestock sector. "The need to work in a coordinated manner between management, researchers and sectors is fundamental to be able to face this challenge from the point of view not only environmental, but also social and economic." Source: AGRONEGOCIOS

# UNFCCC - COP 24



The aim at the COP24 in Katowice was to make the Paris Agreement operative by creating **clear guidelines for measuring the commitments** adopted by individual countries in their fight against climate change. This was achieved: the so-called “**Paris Rulebook**,” which was approved unanimously (as the regulation requires),

defines the criteria for reporting, monitoring and revising the commitments. This was a small, but important, step forward because it is hard to get all the nations to agree on a single document.

COP24 was an important milestone for agriculture as it was the first COP after the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture (KJWA) was announced at COP23. KJWA was the result of the Subsidiary Body of Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) –the two permanent subsidiary bodies to the Convention– working together, thus providing a basis for action on the ground.

KJWA is in its early days, but can potentially become a key mechanism to drive the much-needed transformation in food systems. KJWA can issue guidance on putting in place institutional, technical and financial structures in line with the specific characteristics of the agriculture sector. It can also identify the gaps where knowledge is needed, stimulate lessons sharing, foster capacity development and technology transfer, and facilitate the needed financial mechanisms. While progress is slow, countries believe that the opportunities are immense to reduce the gap between climate action in agriculture and specific incentives, tools and mechanisms

The initiative is expected to focus on action, and highlighted solutions to drive a transformation in food systems, including the application of next generation technologies, ramping up carbon sequestration in soils, mobilizing

finance from public and private sectors, better investment planning and implementation, and policies that enable action. While success stories are emerging, the pace of change needs to be expedited as these best practices eventually need to reach 500 million small-scale farmers, reorient financing for agricultural development, and realize radical changes in consumption patterns. Sources: ENEL and CCAFS - CGIAR



## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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# GRSB sustainability report

The Global Roundtable for Sustainable Beef (GRSB) released the 2018 Sustainability Report at the Global Conference on Sustainable Beef, which took place October 9-12, 2018 at the Lyrath Estate in Kilkenny, Ireland. The conference, co-hosted by the newly-formed European Roundtable for Beef Sustainability (ERBS) and Bord Bia, was attended by 234+ registered delegates from more than 25 countries.



The 2018 Sustainability Report, released during the conference, highlights results from sustainability efforts of national roundtables and other regionally focused sustainability initiatives, including those in Ireland, North America, South America, Southern Africa, Australasia, and Europe. "GRSB is pleased to present the 2018 Sustainability Report to provide detail about the work being done around the world to drive continuous improvement in the sustainability of beef production. We relied on the collaboration of all of our national and regional roundtable members to create the most

comprehensive report possible," states Nicole Johnson-Hoffman, President of GRSB. To view the complete 2018 Sustainability report, which includes a full list of GRSB members, GRSB strategic goals, and a complete report of regional impact being made on the ground to improve beef sustainability go to.

[https://grsbeef.org/resources/Documents/WhoWeAre/GRSB\\_Sustainability\\_Report\\_2018.pdf](https://grsbeef.org/resources/Documents/WhoWeAre/GRSB_Sustainability_Report_2018.pdf). The launch of the European

Roundtable for Sustainable Beef was also celebrated at the Global Conference. SAI Platform's Beef Working Group Lead, Patricia García-Díaz says "The ERBS will be a catalyst for change across the European Beef sector. It will represent the European beef value chain at the Global stage and welcomes stakeholders from across the chain that support the ERBS mission to improve beef sustainability." In addition to spotlighting sustainability-focused impact around the world, the Global Conference also provided a pathway to explore the role of technology and innovation in modern beef production. During a special sunrise session, Deloitte introduced a white paper FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Beefing Up Blockchain: How Blockchain can Transform the Beef Supply focuses on Ireland's beef industry as the world's fifth largest net exporter, with 90% of production exported. To read more visit:

<https://www2.deloitte.com/ie/en/pages/technology/articles/bee-fing-upblockchain.html>. In addition to Blockchain, attendees

learned about a program in Canada that tracks beef through a certified sustainable supply chain all the way to consumers, as well as other innovations being used in the field to improve efficiency like mobile Apps being used by farmers in Southern Africa, and procedures that are driving water savings in some of the biggest beef processing facilities in the world. The 2018 Global Conference on Sustainable Beef aimed to inform stakeholders about the latest practices on sustainable farming and manufacturing from subject matter experts from across the globe, while providing a platform to share their own experiences and expertise. Conference proceedings including videos, audios and slide decks will be available online soon.

Source: GRSB