



**AGRICULTURE AND FOOD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

The Irish Agriculture and Food Development Authority

# ***Beef Technology Adoption Programme (BTAP)***



**Terry Carroll, Teagasc Kilkenny**

# ***Aim of BTAP Programme***

***- To encourage Best Management Practice on Beef Farms. -***

→ ***Participation gives Knowledge & Skills to***

***:-***

***↑ Performance & Output of Herd***

***↑ Profitability of Farm***

***€5 million Exchequer Funding in 2012***

***3 Year Programme***

***Application required each year***



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# *Administration of BTAP*

- *Programme managed by DAFM*
- *Run by Teagasc/Group Facilitators*
- *Open to Existing Discussion Group Members + New Members*
- *Applicant must submit Form BTAP1 to facilitator by:-*

*Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> March 2012.*

*→ Participation = Attendance + Tasks*

# ***Administration of BTAP***

- ***20 members max in Discussion Group***
- ***Groups formed by Facilitator mid March.***
- ***Participant must fulfil Terms & Conditions before end October or else Ineligible.***
- ***Maximum payment is €1,000***

# Eligibility Criteria

- **Suckler Farmers currently in AWRBS + applied to join ICBF HerdPlus by **7<sup>th</sup> March****  
**or**
- **Non Suckler Farmers who have applied to join ICBF HerdPlus before 7<sup>th</sup> March.**
- **If finishing animals → must be in or applied to BQAS before 7<sup>th</sup> March/be BQAS member by 31<sup>st</sup> October + have finished 15 cattle minimum in 2011.**

# *Eligibility Criteria*

- *Farms in DEP (Dairy) ineligible.*
- *Applicant may nominate one joint Farm Operator (before 7<sup>th</sup> March on form) to attend.*
- *Prioritise applicants if > 5,000 farmers apply.*

# *Programme Content*

## *Focus on 5 Areas:*

- 1. Grassland Management*
- 2. Animal Breeding/Welfare*
- 3. Herd Health*
- 4. Producing for Market Requirements*
- 5. Financial Management*



# *Participant*

**2012 → Attend at least 5 Discussion Group Meetings**

**OR**

**4 Disc Group Meetings + 1 Nat. Event**

**(2013 etc → 6 Disc Group Meetings (or 5 + 1))**

- ***Undertake to host a Discussion Group Meeting on their farm.***
- ***Complete a 3 Year Plan.***

# General

- **Information + Application Form (BTAP1) on Department Website.**
- **Teagasc Discussion Group Client → extra €95 to participate.**
- **Participant must sign Attendance Register at all Group Meetings & National Events.**
- **Annual Payment if comply with:**
  - **Required Attendance & Completed 2 Tasks.**
- **Meetings/tasks pre Programme Ineligible**

# Tasks

**Task 1 – Complete Teagasc Profit Monitor –**

**Mandatory – complete in Year 1 or 2**

**Task 2 – Provide On Farm Certified Weights to ICBF**

**Task 3 – Genetic Merit of Herd –**

- **Use 5 Star AI on 25% of herd** or
- **Participate in Gene Ireland** or
- **Use 5 star stock bull (1 Year)** or
- **Use 4+ star heifers for fertility or milk (2013)**

# Tasks

## ***Task 4 - Soil Test Whole Farm (1 Year only)***

- *max. of 8ha per sample*
- *stocking rate < 170 kgs/ha*

## ***Task 5 - Reseed 10% + of farm***

- *recommended grass mixture*
- *lime/fertiliser recommendations*

## ***Task 6 - Herd Health Plan***

- *Need Vet*
- *Join voluntary BVD Eradication Programme  
this year if choosing task now.*

# Tasks

## ***Task 7 - Online Calf Registration & SFP (1 Year only)***

- ***Register all calf births online and***
- ***Maintain DAF herd register online and***
- ***Apply for SFP online***

## ***Task 8 - Improved Grazing (1 Year only)***

- ***Put in a rotational grazing system in place***
- ***Minimum of 6 grazing divisions per grazing group***
- ***Each division must have its own water supply***

# *Further Details*

- **Department of Agriculture, Food & Marine**  
– **Website:-**  
[www.agriculture.gov.ie/](http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/)
- **Your Local Teagasc Adviser**
- **Reminder: Closing Date Wed. 7<sup>th</sup> March**

*Thank You*