

## **BEEP-S Scheme**

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COVID has taken centre stage for 2020 and has impacted all aspects of our daily and farming lives. Farming life has continued throughout this time with deadlines and recording still required for the various farming schemes.

The BEEP-S was introduced mid-way through this year specifically targeted towards suckler farmers. The aims of the scheme are to increase the efficiency of the suckler herd. This will be done by farmers through the completion of the various scheme options. Farmers had to weigh cows and calves as a compulsory task and then had the option of meal feeding or vaccination of calves. Farmers could opt to faecal sample cows as an additional option.

### **Weighing:**

The weighing of the cow and calf is a mandatory action in the BEEP-S programme. Scales must be registered with ICBF and the weights recorded on ICBF within 7 days of weighing. Calves should be weighed before weaning. Farmers can wean on the same day as weighing but calves must not be sold until 15 days after weaning. Cows and calves must be weighed on the same date. Many farmers are in the midst of completing this task now but to remind those that still have cows and calves to weigh, this must be completed by the **1<sup>st</sup> November 2020**. Payment for this task is €50 for first 10 cow/calf pairs weighed and €40 thereafter to a maximum of 100 cow/calf pairs in total.

### **Meal Feeding:**

Farmers in this scheme could also opt to meal feed calves at weaning. The meal feeding of calves begins 4 weeks before weaning and must continue for 2 weeks after weaning. Calves cannot be sold for 15 days after weaning. Meal receipts for calf feeding must be retained. The payment for this option is €30 per calf weighed to a maximum of 100 calves.

### **Vaccinations:**

The other option relating to calves was the vaccination of calves. Within this option, farmers could go with a single shot or a two shot programme. The single shot programme is a single intranasal vaccine for RSV and Pi3 given 2-4 weeks before weaning/housing/sale. At the same time a single live IBR vaccine is given into the muscle. Calves cannot be sold for 15 days after being given this vaccine. Farmers could also go with the two shot option, whereby calves are given the first vaccine 6-8 weeks before weaning/housing/sale and a second shot of the vaccine 3-4 weeks later. An IBR live vaccine is also given into the muscle at this time. Calves cannot be sold for 42 days after the date of administering shot 1. For both of these options receipts for vaccines purchased must be retained. Farmers should consult with their Vet with regard to the best option for their system. The payment for this option is €30 per calf weighed to a maximum of 100 calves.

### **Faecal Egg Sampling:**

The final optional action was to collect faecal samples from cows. These samples are then tested for liver and rumen fluke. Samples taken must be submitted to an approved laboratory before **1<sup>st</sup> November 2020**. This can be done in conjunction with your Vet. The results will then be used to determine the dosing strategy. There are a number of laboratories providing this service ranging from €20-30 – see below;

List of Approved Laboratories for the Parasite Control (Faecal Egg Count) Task of the BEEP-S Scheme 2020

Company Name	Contact Address	contact email	contact no
Irish Equine Centre	Johnstown, Naas, Co Kildare.	<a href="mailto:iec@irishequinecentre.ie">iec@irishequinecentre.ie</a>	045 866266
Animal Health laboratories Ltd	Shinagh House, Dunmanway Road, Bandon, Co Cork.	<a href="mailto:info@ahli.ie">info@ahli.ie</a>	023 8854100
Alpha Analytical Services Ltd	Cappagh Cross, Fermoy, Co Cork.	<a href="mailto:laboratory@alphaanalyticalservices.ie">laboratory@alphaanalyticalservices.ie</a>	025 39333
Farm Lab Diagnostics	Elphin, Castlerea, Co Roscommon.	<a href="mailto:info@farmlab.ie">info@farmlab.ie</a>	071 9630792
Oldcastle Laboratories	Cogan Street Oldcastle Co Meath.	<a href="mailto:info@oldcastlelabs.ie">info@oldcastlelabs.ie</a>	049 8541160
Paralabs	Unit 2 Manderville Patrick St., Portumna via Ballinasloe. Co. Galway	<a href="mailto:info@paralabs.ie">info@paralabs.ie</a>	087 2931167
Agri Diagnostics Ireland Ltd	Dunrinc Killarney, Co Kerry	<a href="mailto:labs@agridiagnostics.ie">labs@agridiagnostics.ie</a>	064 6633922

### **BDGP I and BDGP II:**

For all participants of the Beef Data and Genomic Programme (BDGP I & BDGP II), **1<sup>st</sup> October 2020** is the deadline for the completion of your Carbon Navigator. Contact your Teagasc Advisor or your Agricultural Consultant if you require assistance in completing this. The BDGP I and BDGP II scheme deadline date is **31<sup>st</sup> October 2020**.

Farmers in the BDGP I Scheme must have 50% genotyped 4 and 5 star females greater than 16 months on the holding at this date. This 50% figure comes from their reference number of cows at the time of entry to the Scheme.

Farmers in the BDGP II Scheme must have 20% genotyped 4 and 5 star females greater than 16 months on the holding at this date. This 20% figure comes from their reference number of cows at the time of entry to the scheme.

Participants must ensure that they have the required number of females on the holding. Sales of eligible females are being held weekly with the last of the marts in the west being held at the Mayo-Sligo Mart, Ballina on Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

The use of the internet and all the various applications has become part of our daily lives, from ordering the shopping to online GP consultations. While these have been invaluable for the most part it is important to remember that they do not replace and will never replace the importance of human contact and interaction.

At the start of lockdown, I spoke to a farmer who was in the midst of lambing and his comment of “sure it’s a lockdown at this time of the year every year” stayed with me. While this is true, farming can be a lonely occupation at any time of the year and this year made it even more so for some. September is suicide awareness month, so let us all take the time to stop and chat to people while maintaining social distance.