

# CAP Agenda

## Key issues for the Irish Government

### ! High priority

#### DIRECT PAYMENTS

- Option for historic reference year
- Variable rate greening payment
- Option to allow approximation
- Minimum payment - push to keep percentage low
- Speed of redistribution - steps on how to implement

#### GREENING

- Exemption for farmers with over 75% permanent grassland
- Permanent pasture monitored at national level
- No ban on ploughing permanent pasture

#### NATIONAL RESERVE

- Flexibility on categories that can benefit

#### RURAL DEVELOPMENT

- Co-funding - options for varying rates 0%
- New disadvantaged area criteria - Keep land eligible
- Farm investment schemes

- Milk quota to go in 2015

- Sugar quota to go by 2017

### ● Medium priority

#### DIRECT PAYMENTS

- Flexibility of additional options
  - Frontloading
  - Lower payment in marginal land
  - Coupling - as high a possible

#### GREENING

- Ecological focus areas - reduced starting percentage
  - List of crops to be planted
- Crop diversification
  - Increased exemption thresholds
  - List of crops

Use national reserve to avoid land abandonment  
Active farmer - definition of who is not eligible for payment

#### RURAL DEVELOPMENT

- Schemes to encourage young farmers/consolidation

### ● Low priority

#### DIRECT PAYMENTS

- How new land is dealt with - cap the number of new entitlements at 145% of the current level
- Maximum loss of 30% for individual farmers
- European payments to farmer to be made public again

- Young farmers top up - will be implemented here anyway
- Capping - little impact on Irish farmers

#### RURAL DEVELOPMENT

- Producer groups powers
- Flexibility between pillars
- Income support mechanism



## Make the Best Quality Silage You Can

### Quality

- Harvest first cut silage when it's fit (closed 7 weeks)
- Fertilise and close ground for second cut (up to 80 units N, 8 units P and 30 units of K per acre\*)
- If spreading slurry apply immediately after the first cut
- A two cut silage system can deliver higher yield and quality than a single heavy first cut
- Take extra bales off paddocks whenever possible

### Quality

- Fill pits fast and seal well
- Avoid soil contamination
- Grass with sugars over 3.5% will ensile well
- Wilting on dry, sunny days will greatly help preservation
- Ensure at least four layers of wrap on bales



### Safety

- Farm safely. Be safety aware - machinery, silo filling, slurry agitation.

\*Assumes soils are index 3. Check compliance with nitrates regulations



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# Farm organisations outline CAP stance



**PATRICK DONOHOE**  
NEWS DESK

Ahead of next week's crunch CAP talks, the *Irish Farmers Journal* spoke to the farm organisation to understand its position with regard to the key issues affecting members.

The ICMSA, the ICSA and Macra na Feirme outlined what their stance is on a

range of the key issues such as regionalisation, approximation, full flattening by 2019 and minimum payments.

ICSA CAP chairman Billy Gray has called on Minister Coveney to ensure the active farmer with the modest payment is shielded to the greatest extent possible from cuts under any CAP re-distribution while making provision for extra payments which should also be targeted at active farmers.

#### CO-FUNDING

The ICMSA outlined how the 'maximum national funding allowable' should be made available co-funding and

while funds should not be moved from Pillar 1 to Pillar 2, it might be necessary to move funds from Pillar 2 to Pillar 1.

Macra said they want a 'rolling reference year' model to support active and young farmers as they outlined in their 2011 policy document.

They went on to say: "This reform of the CAP presents a golden opportunity to create new supports for young farmers and encourage them to start farming."

The young farmer organisation is keen that the top-up for young farmers is mandatory for each member state rather than optional.

## Why I will be marching in Paris on Sunday

Beef farmer Olivier Allain will take part in a national demonstration in the French capital on 23 June, on the eve of the last council of European agriculture ministers under the Irish presidency.

As a local organiser with the leading union FNSEA, Olivier Allain is trying to get as many farmers as possible to get on buses in the small hours of Sunday morning to take the 500km drive to Paris.

"Our concern is that while the CAP is being negotiated

in Brussels, we want member states to be allowed to support animal farming nationally," he said.

FNSEA supports two key measures pushed by the French government in CAP negotiations: the right for national authorities to give up to 15% of their direct aid to farmers as coupled payments, and the option to distribute an additional premium to the first 50 hectares of any farm.

The latter would benefit

French beef, dairy pig and poultry farmers, who work on smaller holdings than their tillage counterparts.

Asked about French calls for the continuation of dairy market controls after the end of quotas in 2015, Olivier Allain said he supported the idea but was not very hopeful. "The quotas are going and it would take a qualified majority in the EU to go back over that. It's done," he said.

- Thomas Hubert