

Fodder Import Support Measure 2018
Terms and Conditions

Objective

The measure seeks to provide support to livestock farmers experiencing serious forage shortages. Based on the depletion of forage stocks nationally, participating Co-operatives/fodder importers will source forage from other EU Member States, not including N. Ireland, and import it into this country. The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) will make a financial contribution to participating Co-ops/Importers towards the transport costs in the period from the 5th April 2018 to 30th April 2018.

Terms and Conditions:

1. A Financial contribution will be made by DAFM towards the cost of importation of forage to Co-Operatives/Importers participating in this Measure.
2. Participating Co-operatives/Importers must be approved by DAFM to be eligible under this measure. The participating Co-op/importer approval form must be completed and submitted to DAFM for acceptance into the Measure in advance.
3. Only forage imported into the country from other EU member states, not including Northern Ireland, will be eligible for the transport support contribution.
4. Eligible forage is defined as: bales of Hay, Haylage, Silage, Alfalfa and any other type of forage deemed acceptable to DAFM.
5. The following table outlines the transport support contribution that will be payable by DAFM to the participating Co-op/Importer on each bale of forage complying with the terms and conditions of this measure.

Forage Material	Bale Size	Transport Support, € per Bale
Haylage/Hay/Silage/Other eligible forage	8 X 4 X4	60

Transport support contribution on other standard bale sizes of eligible forage will be calculated *pro rata*

6. In the event of eligible applications in excess of the total budget available for the measure being received, the DAFM will implement reduced payments as appropriate.
7. DAFM will publish a list of participating Co-ops/importers.
8. The price the farmer pays for the forage must clearly exclude the full value of the DAFM contribution.
9. All farmers who receive forage under this measure will be subject to the EU rules on *de minimis* aid as laid down in Commission Regulation (EU) No 1408/2013 regarding *de minimis* aid in the agricultural production sector.
10. The farmer shall pay the participating Co-operative/importer for the forage (excluding the transport cost contribution made by DAFM) in full. At the time of purchase, the farmer and the participating Co-op/importer must complete a Sale Declaration Form outlining the details of the purchase. This form must be signed by both parties and certified by the Co-op/importer at the time of purchase. The declaration form is to be retained by the participating Co-op/importer as the basis for its claim for payment to DAFM under the

Measure. The completed Sales Declaration Forms must be made available to DAFM as part of the verification checks to be carried out.

11. The approved participating Co-op/importer must collate all the farmer declaration details and submit the relevant information in one single electronic submission. This submission must include:
 - a. Name and herd number of each farmer
 - b. Date of sale of forage to farmer
 - c. The number, size and type of bales that each farmer bought from the participating Co-op/importer
12. Applications will be subject to verification, including Co-operative/importer inspections and on-farm inspections where necessary, by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. A single payment will be made to the approved participating Co-op/Importer.
13. Application of the Terms and Conditions are at the discretion of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

State Aid - De Minimis Regulations

Financial assistance under the Fodder Import Support Measure 2018 is paid in accordance with Commission Regulation (EU) No 1408/2013 (*de minimis* aid in the agricultural production sector).

Eligibility to receive a financial benefit under the Fodder Import Support Measure 2018 is dependent on the applicant remaining within the €15,000 individual aid limit in the 2016-2018 fiscal years, as set out in Commission Regulation (EU) 1408/2013. ***Where any aid awarded exceeds this amount, no payment will issue.***

A full list of the De minimis schemes is available in the FAQ document on DAFM's website.

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine reserves the right to carry out the relevant administrative checks required to ensure compliance in this regard.
