

TERMS AND CONDITIONS – Teagasc Joint Pig Programme

Description of the Aid Scheme

Title

Teagasc Joint Pig Programme

Objectives of the Aid measure

To support pig producers by providing research, advice and education across a range of issues of importance to the sector and which impact on the quality and marketability of Irish pig meat. Ultimately the programme is intended to improve the efficiency and professionalism of primary producers in the pigmeat sector.

Budget

Total budget: €0.875 million or €0.35 million per annum

Duration

From 2018 (on approval) until 31/12/2020

Beneficiaries

Farmers in the primary pig sector in Ireland. The number of beneficiaries is calculated at approximately 300 farmers.

Legal Basis

Enabling Provisions in Section 37 of the Bord Bia Act 1994.

How will the scheme operate

Teagasc propose to undertake an enhanced programme of Research and Knowledge Transfer for the pig producing sector in Ireland. The programme will run for five years and will be funded by way of a national levy of 10c per pig slaughtered in Ireland or exported. The levy, which was initiated at the explicit request of farmer representatives and producers will have a statutory basis. The levy will be in addition to the existing levy of 25c and set at 10c per pig slaughtered or exported and will apply to all pig producers who send animals for slaughter in Ireland or who export pigs.

The programme will involve the provision of technical support through research, knowledge transfer and education, provided by Teagasc, the National Agricultural and Food Development Authority, to primary pig producers and geared towards improving the efficiency and professionalism of primary producers in the pig sector and thus improving the long term viability of the sector.

The Programme will cover areas such as the sustainable production by primary producers of pigs to the highest standards of quality and safety. It will include a focus on optimal nutrition, pig health and welfare, food safety, and environmental issues.

Eligible Costs

The eligible costs will include those associated with funding research and knowledge transfer staff to carry out research, disseminate research findings, new technologies and best practices and the provision of education/training for personnel working in the pig sector.

Aid will not include direct payment to any beneficiary but will be paid to the provider of the research/knowledge transfer/education service, i.e. Teagasc.

How will the scheme be financed?

The programme will be financed from revenue deriving from parafiscal levies by means of a *levy chargeable at time of slaughter of livestock (pigs) and livestock (pigs) exported live from Ireland. This levy (parafiscal levy) is payable by the producer / exporter and is the same amount in both cases.

The levy (10c per pig slaughtered/exported live), which was initiated at the explicit request of farmer representatives and producers will have a statutory basis. The levy will be in addition to the existing levy of 25c and set at 10c per pig slaughtered or exported and will apply to all pig producers who send animals for slaughter in Ireland or who export pigs. Bord Bia will collect a total levy of 35c inclusive of the additional levy of 10 cent per pig slaughtered or exported. Bord Bia will remit the additional levy of 10c cent collected to Teagasc in order to facilitate fulfilment of this agreement and the funding of the programme.

The Irish authorities commit to commence this scheme only after the Commission have given their approval in accordance with the European Union Guidelines for State aid in the agricultural and forestry sectors and in rural areas 2014 to 2020.