Completed
In progress
To be commenced
Ongoing

Progress Report as of July 2021 on Implementation of Irish Beef Sector Agreement, 15 September 2019

Strand 1

No	Action Agreed	Lead	Timeline	Update
1	Establishment of a Beef Taskforce.	DAFM	Q4 2019	Taskforce Established, Chairperson appointed. First meeting 3 December 2019
2	The introduction of a new in-spec bonus of 12c/kg for steers and heifers under 30 months in the categories of grade O- and fat score 4+, which currently do not qualify for any bonus.	MII	Q4 2019	Confirmed. Implemented on resumption of processing following 15 September 2019 Agreement.
3	The immediate introduction of a new bonus of 8c/kg for steers and heifers aged between 30 to 36 months, which meet all non-age related existing in-spec criteria, and which up to now have not received any bonus.	MII	Q4 2019	Confirmed. Implemented on resumption of processing following 15 September 2019 Agreement.
4	An immediate increase of two-thirds in the current in-spec bonus for steers and heifers, from 12c/kg to 20c/kg.	MII	Q4 2019	Confirmed. Implemented on resumption of processing following 15 September 2019 Agreement.

5	The in-spec 70-day residency requirement will be reduced to 60 days on the last farm.	MII	Q4 2019	Confirmed. Implemented on resumption of processing following 15 September 2019 Agreement.
6	Bord Bia will develop a beef market price index model based on 3 components: cattle price index, beef market price index (retail and wholesale) and an offal price indicator, which will be introduced week commencing 16 September.	Bord Bia	Q4 2019	Launched 18 November 2019. Available on the Bord Bia website: https://www.bordbia.ie/farmers-growers/farmers/prices-markets/beef-market-tracking/ PWC retained to verify figures. Market update as standing item on BTF meeting agenda agreed.
7	An immediate scientific review of the Quality Payment Grid by Teagasc; the first stage of the review, a desktop analysis of the pricing structure of the grid on the basis of meat yield/conformation, to be completed by end October.	Teagasc	Q4 2019	Teagasc presented the first stage of the review in detail at the 9 Jan 2020 BTF meeting. The final scoping study was presented at 9 March 2021 BTF meeting.
8	Independent review of market and customer requirements, specifically in relation to the four in-spec bonus criteria currently in operation in the Irish beef sector.	DAFM	~~Q4 2019~~ **Delayed due to COVID-19**	Tender was awarded to Grant Thornton. Progress report issued to BTF members in May 2020. Grant Thornton provided an update to the BTF in June 2020 with a further update given in September 2020. The draft report was presented in December 2020. Final report was presented at 09 March 2021 meeting and subsequently published.

Strand 2

No	Action Agreed	Lead	Timeline	Update
9.	Independent examination of the price composition of the total value of the animal, including the fifth quarter, along the supply chain. The results will inform future actions as necessary. The beef industry will co-operate in providing data.	DAFM	~~Q4 2019~~ **Delayed due to COVID-19**	Tender was awarded to Grant Thornton. Progress report issued to BTF members in May 2020. Grant Thornton provided an update to the BTF in June 2020 with further updates given in September and December 2020. A final update was given at March 2021 meeting and a final draft of the report was issued to BTF members in April 2021. This draft was discussed at the meeting on 22 April 2021 with agreed observations incorporated in a final report. The report was discussed at the June 2021 Beef Taskforce Meeting and published immediately after.
10.	Summary of competition law issues as relevant to the Irish beef sector.	DAFM	Q4 2019	Tender was awarded to Grant Thornton. Progress report issued to BTF members in May 2020. Grant Thornton provided updates to the BTF in June and September 2020 This report was completed in December 2020 and subsequently published.
11.	Provide additional detailed price reporting on the Beef PriceWatch App	DAFM	Q1 2020	DAFM added the additional details to the Beef Pricewatch App in early 2020.
12	EU experts will be invited to brief the Task Force on the expanded EU meat market observatory methodology.	DAFM	Q1 2020	Scheduled seminar in Ireland by DG Agri for March 2020 was postponed due to Covid-19. It was rescheduled and took place on 14 July 2021.
13.	Key retail customers will be invited to brief the Task Force on their market requirements.	DAFM	Q2 2020	Retailers attended BTF on 9 January 2020
14.	The Task Force will examine transparency models in other jurisdictions.	DAFM	Q2 2020	It was agreed that this action would be undertaken by the new Authority referenced in Action 15.

15.	A consultation process will be launched shortly on the transposition of the Unfair Trading Practices (UTP) Directive, including consideration of the requirement for an independent regulator.	DAFM	Q4 2019	On 28 April the Minister signed Statutory Instrument No. 198 of 2021 which sets out the Regulations to give effect in Irish law to EU Directive No. 2019/633 on Unfair Trading Practices in business-to-business relationships in the agricultural and food supply chain. These Regulations came into effect on 1 July 2021. The Regulations apply to agreements for the supply of agri-food products. A public consultation regarding the work of a new authority, as provided for in the Programme for Government, commenced in April 2021 and concluded on 26th May 2021. All submissions under this process will be considered, including requirement for an independent regulator, in establishing the new authority. The Authority will have the necessary statutory powers to investigate complaints, carry out investigations on its own initiative and initiate legal proceedings for breaches of the Unfair Trading Practices (UTPs) prohibited under the Directive. The establishment of this Authority requires primary legislation
16.	DAFM will report its carcass classification inspection results on a regular basis.	DAFM	Q4 2019	A schedule of regular reporting has been put in place. These reports are available on the Gov.ie website

17.	An expert report on mechanical carcass classification will be published in the near future.	DAFM	Q4 2019	The expert report on mechanical carcase classification review has been published on the Gov.ie website. .
18	An appeals system for manual grading factories is being introduced.	DAFM	Q1 2020	An Appeals system has been put in place and notified to relevant processors
19.	FSAI and DAFM will ensure strict enforcement of EU labelling laws.	DAFM	ONGOING	DAFM confirmed this is ongoing.

20.	DAFM to engage with potential Beef Producer Organisations and provide guidance on the application process.	DAFM	ONGOING	DAFM is proactively engaging with several potential beef Producer Organisations and providing guidance. The first beef PO was approved by DAFM in September 2019, a second one in October 2019 and a third in May 2021. DAFM have had initial engagement with ICOS on the role of Co-ops in the co-operative structure Engagement with prospective groups is ongoing.
21.	Live exports are a critical outlet to improve competition in the sector. DAFM is committed to a continued strategic focus in facilitating and developing this trade on a sustainable basis, taking account of stringent animal health and welfare standards.	DAFM	ONGOING	DAFM confirmed this is ongoing. Written updates were provided on specific issues raised.
22.	DAFM and Bord Bia are actively engaging with the EU Commission on the development of a Protected Geographical Indication for Irish beef.	DAFM, BB	Q4 2020	DAFM have submitted an application, with agreement of the BTF, to the EU Commission for an Irish grass fed PGI. A monitoring group will be established in the event that the PGI is granted.

23.	Bord Bia will further intensify promotional activity for Irish beef across key EU markets and China.	BB	complete	In the light of the market disruption caused by COVID Bord Bia has revised its promotional programme across key European and international markets. This included a switch to online promotional activity aimed at consumers that shop at supermarkets selling Irish beef. A revised plan for each market has been developed to focus on strong utilisation of the network of chefs that actively use Irish beef to have them act

				as the first line of promotion - through their social media channels. Prior to the suspension of Irish beef exports to China in May 2020, trade had developed strongly with exports valued at €60m in the 18 month period to June 2020. During this period Bord Bia increased its investment to over €1m to deliver enhanced awareness of Irish beef across both foodservice and e-commerce. The current absence of Irish beef in the market limits our potential activities However, through our office in Shanghai, Bord Bia has a marketing plan in place that will activated immediately once trade recommences. The plan focuses on activities to re-introduce Irish beef to the market and build on the previous progress made with customers, particularly across foodservice and e-commerce.
24.	Development of Suckler Brand	Bord Bia	Ongoing	Bord Bia commit to providing up to €6 million over the next three years for the development of a suckler specific brand. A stakeholder monitoring group has been established.
25.	Review of hot & cold weighing system	Teagasc	Q1 2020	Teagasc has carried out a literature review and concluded that the Irish average of 2% is in line with global averages. The factors for this were outlined in an oral presentation.
25.	Meat industry to confirm that the base price at individual plant level applies to all steers and heifers regardless of age or breed.	MII	Q4 2019	Confirmed 15 September 2019.
26.	No change in weight limits without a minimum of four months' notice to the farmer.	MII	Q4 2019	MII has notified its members and this is now in place.
27.	Farmers have the right to access their carcass images.	MII	Q1 2020	Mechanism put in place in February 2020 and details circulated by DAFM to the members of the Beef Taskforce
28.	Lairage weighing service will be provided on request, which may incur a nominal charge.	MII	Q1 2020	At the June 2021 BTF meeting, individual processors gave an update to the BTF members. In line with the 2019 action point, processors noted that this is not something that their suppliers have or are currently requesting. Processing companies did indicate to the meeting that were this

				demanded by their suppliers, they will facilitate the service.
29.	Written confirmation of terms of sale, where requested.	MII	Q4 2019	Confirmed by MII. This facility is in place, where requested.
30.	Farmers can opt out of the insurance scheme for animals delivered to factories.	MII All Stakeholders	Q4 2019	Confirmed by MII. This facility is in place where requested. Any individual farmer seeking clarity on this matter, or wishing to opt out of the insurance scheme, should contact their processor.
31.	Blockades and protests will be removed immediately and all parties to this agreement will ensure that this happens.	FARM BODIES	Q3 2019	Confirmed by MII.
32.	Thereafter, beef processors undertake that all legal proceedings against farm organisations and/or individual farmers will be withdrawn in relation to this matter.	MII	Q3 2019	Implemented.
33.	Parties agree that any future disputes that arise should, in the first instance, be brought before the Beef Market Taskforce, in order to maintain the integrity of the Agreement.	FARM BODIES, MII	ONGOING	Commitment re-iterated.

Additional Stakeholder Points from August meetings

No	Action Agreed	Lead	Timeline	Update
34.	Stakeholders agreed that additional funding for targeted direct support for suckler cows is required as a priority.	DAFM	ONGOING	In November 2019, 16,424 farmers received payments totalling €15.3 million under the BEEP Pilot In December 2019, payments to 32,500 farmers, to the value of some €78 million were received under BEAM. The Beef Finisher Payment launched on 19th August

				provided income support to all beef farmers who finished animals from 01/02/20 to 12/06/20 as this was the peak period of market disturbance due to the COVID-19 pandemic In November 2020, 27,200 farmers received payments totalling €46.6 million under BFP In November 2020, 24,400 farmers received payments totalling €40.4 million under BEEP-S The BSEP Programme launched in March 2021 includes an updated BEEP-S and a new Dairy Beef measure with an additional budget allocation of €5 million. BSEP has an overall budget allocation of €45 million.
35.	Stakeholders agreed that in the context of Brexit, support is urgently required to ensure that effects on all farmers producing beef are mitigated.	DAFM	ONGOING	Government and DAFM are monitoring and assisting with administrative and customs barriers. Supports provided in the context of Brexit included the €100 million EI scheme for capital investment in the meat and dairy processing sector, which will support industry to invest in product and market diversification.
36.	Stakeholders agreed on the need to fully fund CAP and protect its share of the EU Budget, and to ensure that the current level of direct payments to Irish beef farmers is protected.	DAFM	ONGOING	DAFM will continue to lobby for the strongest possible CAP budget and continued support at EU level.
37.	There was a demand from the stakeholders that the Irish Government should seek the invocation by the EU of the WTO safeguard clause to reduce the level of beef imports from third countries. Furthermore, it should be ensured that imports which do not meet the same stringent standards as EU producers are banned.	DAFM	ONGOING	DAFM will continue to lobby for continued support at EU level.