



**An Roinn Talmhaíochta,  
Bia agus Mara**  
Department of Agriculture,  
Food and the Marine

**Terms and Conditions of the  
Suckler Carbon Efficiency Programme  
(SCEP)**

**Introduced by the  
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND THE MARINE**

**In implementation of  
Council Regulations (EC) No. 2021/2115 – Article 70**

**CLOSING DATE 22<sup>nd</sup> MAY 2023 AT 23:59**

**Updated version: FEBRUARY 2024**

All details of this Programme can be accessed on the department of Agriculture Food and the Marine website at (Suckler Carbon Efficiency Programme) [gov.ie - Suckler Carbon Efficiency Programme \(SCEP\) \(www.gov.ie\)](http://gov.ie - Suckler Carbon Efficiency Programme (SCEP) (www.gov.ie))

Suckler Carbon Efficiency Programme will be co-funded by the National Exchequer and the European Union.

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**IMPORTANT: IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT, WHILE THIS TERMS & CONDITIONS BOOKLET HAS BEEN PREPARED AS AN AID TO APPLICANTS, THE GOVERNING EU REGULATIONS FORM THE DEFINITIVE BASIS FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROGRAMME IN QUESTION, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO ELIGIBILITY AND WHEN NECESSARY ANY PENALTIES THAT MAY BE APPLIED. IN THE EVENT THAT THERE ARE ANY CHANGES TO THESE TERMS AND CONDITIONS, THEY WILL BE PUBLICISED IMMEDIATELY ON THE DEPARTMENT'S WEBSITE.**

## 1. General Outline and Legal Basis

- These are the administrative provisions for the implementation of the Programme drawn up in accordance with Council Regulations (EC) No. 2021/2115 – Article 70.

## 2. General Provisions

- The Programme shall be administered by the Department and shall operate throughout the State.
- The Programme is co-funded by the European Union.
- Undertakings shall be for a minimum period of five years. By entering the Programme, you are committing to meet the requirements for a full five-year period.
- Participation in the Programme is voluntary.

## 3. Definitions

For the purpose of the Programme:

- **"The Department"** shall mean the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.
- **"Minister"** shall mean the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine.
- **"Farmer"** shall mean a natural or legal person, or a group of natural or legal persons, whatever legal status is granted to the group and its members by national law, whose holding is situated within Community territory, as defined in Article 299 of the Treaty, and who exercises an agricultural activity.
- For the purpose of this Programme, **Registered Farm Partnership** means a partnership which operates in accordance with the Partnership Act 1890 is operative for the period of the participation of this Programme, and is entered in "The Register" of Farm Partnerships.
- **"Holding"** shall mean all the production units managed by a farmer during 2022 and subsequent years and situated within the territory of the same Member State.
- **"Applicant"** shall mean a farmer or farm partnership who submits an application for participation in the Suckler Carbon Efficiency Programme (SCEP). An applicant may submit only **one** such application.
- **"Herdowner"** or a person, who has applied for a herd number, means the nominated company or entity or person(s) associated with a specific herd number to whom any payments are made. The "keeper" role is classified as a non-financial role and therefore it is not possible to make payments to "keepers".
- **"SCEP"** shall mean Suckler Carbon Efficiency Programme 2023 – 2027
- **"BISS"** shall mean Basic Income Support for Sustainability
- **"SBLAS"** shall mean Sustainable Beef and Lamb Assurance Scheme
- **"Application"** shall mean an application for a contract under the SCEP in accordance with the Terms and Conditions set out herein.
- **"ICBF"** shall mean the Irish Cattle Breeding Federation.
- **"Genotyping"** shall mean a valid genotype and genomic evaluation.
- **"Sample"** shall mean hair, tissue or blood taken for the purposes of this programme for subsequent laboratory analysis.
- **"Tag"** shall mean a tag supplied by a supplier approved by the Department for the purposes of registering the animal.
- **"Genotype tag"** shall mean a tag supplied by a supplier approved by the ICBF for the purpose of collecting tissue for genotype testing.
- **"Hair card"** shall mean a card which may be supplied to each applicant by ICBF for the collection of hair samples for genotype testing from selected animals.

- **“Blood test”** shall mean a blood sample taken for subsequent laboratory analysis for the purposes of this programme.
- **“Eligible bull”** shall mean a beef breed bull in the herd of an applicant which is nominated by ICBF for sampling in this programme and/or is subject to the replacement strategy referred to in Section 9.
- **“AIM”** shall mean the Department’s Animal Identification and Movement system.
- **“Beef breed”** shall mean any breed except the following: Angler Rotviah (Angeln)-Rod-dansk maelkerace (RMD), Ayrshire, Armoricaire, Blue Albion, Bretonne Pie-Noire, Brown Swiss, Fries Hollands (FH), Francaise frisonne pie noire (FFPN), Friesian-Holstein, Holstein, Black and White Friesian, Red and White Friesian, Frisona Espanola, Frisona Italiana, Zwartbonten van Belgie/Pie noire de Belgique, Sortbroget dansk maelkerace (SDM), Deutsche Schwarzbunte, Schwarzbunte Milchrasse (SMR), Groninger Blaarkop, Guernsey, Jersey, Malkekorthorn, Normande, Norwegian Red, Swedish Red, Danish Red, Reggiana and Valdostana Nera, Itasuomenkarja, Lansisuomenkarja and Pohjoissuomenkarja.
- **“Terminal Index”** shall mean the Terminal index produced by the ICBF and as subject to any future amendment.
- **“Replacement Index”** shall mean the maternal index produced by the ICBF and as subject to any future amendment.
- **“4 or 5 Star”** shall mean animals which are within the top 40% of their respective index.
- **“Eligible Female Replacements”** shall mean a dam/heifer over 16 months who are a beef breed or are sired by a beef breed.
- **“Eligible forage hectares”** the forage area determined for the BISS application in any given year within the period 2023-2027 which complies with the land eligibility requirements of the BISS.
- **“Forage”** shall mean any of the following crops, Alfalfa, Arable Silage (Grass), Clover, Extensively Grazed Pasture, Fodder Beet, Forage Rape, Grassmeal, Grass Year 1, Grass Year 1 (MSS Eco-Scheme), Grass Year 1 (MSS Measure), Grass Year 1 (MSS), Grass Year 2, Grass Year 2 (MSS), Grass Year 3, Grass Year 3 (MSS), Grass Year 4, Grass Year 4 (MSS), Grass Year 5, Grass Year 5 (MSS), Kale, Low Input Grassland, Low Input Peat Grassland, Low Input Permanent Pasture, Lucerne, Lupins, Maize, Management of Intensive Grassland next to a watercourse, Mangolds, Permanent Pasture, Permanent Pasture (MSS Eco-Scheme), Permanent Pasture (MSS Measure), Permanent Pasture (MSS), Red Clover, Reed Canary Grass, Sugar Beet, Swede, Traditional Hay Meadow, Triticale – Spring, Triticale – Winter, Turnips.
- **“Reference animals”** shall mean the number of eligible suckler cows producing an eligible calf in years 2016-2021.
- **“Programme Reference”** shall mean the reference figure chosen by the applicant to be their reference number for the duration of the programme.
- **“Yearly Reference”** shall mean the reference number declared by the applicant for each scheme year, it cannot exceed their Programme Reference and cannot be less than 80% of the declared Yearly Reference from the previous year.
- **“New Entrants to suckler farming”** shall mean an applicant that commenced suckler farming in 2021, i.e. calved and registered an eligible calf for the first time since 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021.
- **“A.I.”** shall mean artificial insemination.
- **“GHG”** shall mean greenhouse gases.
- **“MPA”** shall mean maximum payable area.
- **“Rare Breeds”** for SCEP purposes shall mean Rare Irish Bovine Breeds specifically, Dexter, Irish Maol (or Moiled), Droimeann and Kerry. These are the Irish Bovine Rare Breeds recognised by the Department.
- **“Conditionality”** sets the baseline requirements for farmers in receipt of CAP payments

and replaces the “cross compliance” requirements in the previous CAP. Conditionality consists of Statutory Management Requirements (SMRs) and Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition (GAEC) standards as detailed in Annex III of EU Regulation 2021/2115.

- “**Valid BISS application**” shall mean a BISS application not subject to a 100% late penalty.
- “**SCEP Contract**” will run up to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2027.
- **Scheme Year** refers to the table below

<b>Scheme Year</b>	<b>Dates</b>
1	1 <sup>st</sup> July 2022 – 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2023
2	1 <sup>st</sup> July 2023 – 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2024
3	1 <sup>st</sup> July 2024 – 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2025
4	1 <sup>st</sup> July 2025 – 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2026
5	1 <sup>st</sup> July 2026 – 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2027

#### 4. **Eligibility**

To be eligible to apply for the programme, an applicant must:

- Be aged eighteen years or over on date of submission of the application for participation.
- Be the holder of an active herd number with Herd Owner Status.  
**Herd Keeper is not acceptable.**
- Be farming a holding in respect of which a valid **BISS** application is submitted to the Department on a yearly basis and on which all land parcels are declared.
- Must be a member of SBLAS by the 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023 and have continued participation for the **duration of the programme**.
- At least 50% of the yearly reference number calved on the holding must be eligible calves between scheme year 01 July 2022 and 30 June 2023 and every scheme year thereafter. In the case where the yearly reference number is one, at least one eligible calf must be born in that scheme year. Participants must calve down at least 50% of their yearly reference number annually.
- Must attend the SCEP training course and an animal handling course by 15<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

An “**eligible suckler cow**” shall mean a suckler cow which:

- Belongs to a **beef breed or is sired by a beef breed**.
- Is not a cow used to supply milk commercially.
- Is part of a herd intended for rearing calves for meat production.
- Rears a calf by suckling.
- Is in the ownership and possession of the applicant and maintained on the holding.
- Is properly tagged, registered, and recorded in accordance with AIM rules. **EC Regulation 1760/2000 refers.**
- Is inseminated either through natural service or AI, by a bull of a beef breed.
- Gives birth to an eligible calf (dead or alive) in the applicant’s herd which is tagged and registered to that cow in accordance with EU Regulation 1760/2000.

An “**eligible calf**” shall mean a calf which:

- Belongs to a beef breed, i.e., is born out of an eligible Suckler Cow and is sired by a beef breed bull.
- Is part of a herd intended for rearing calves for meat production.
- Is in the ownership and possession of the applicant and maintained on the holding.
- Has been tagged and registered with the Department’s Registration Agency, Clonakilty, Co. Cork within 27 days of birth in accordance with EU Regulation 1760/2000. It is not sufficient to post the registration form on day 27.

#### 5. **Objectives of the Programme**

- The objective of this programme is to provide support to beef farmers to improve the environmental sustainability of the national beef herd. The programme aims to build on the gains delivered in recent years through the Beef Data and Genomics Programme (BDGP) and the Beef Environmental Efficiency Programme (BEEP) by improving the genetic merit of the Irish suckler herd.

#### 6. **Conditions for the Grant of Aid**

- The Programme will be open to all suckler beef farmers who commit to completing, in full, **all the mandatory actions** required for the full duration of the programme.
- The Minister reserves the right to alter the Terms and Conditions of the Programme, close the Programme and/or alter the grant-aid at any time.
- The submission of a valid application does not guarantee entry to the Programme.
- All applicants will be notified in writing of the outcome of their application for participation in the Programme.
- This scheme is subject to the approval of the European Commission.

#### 7. **Application Procedure**

- Application for support under the Programme and payment claims shall be in accordance with Article 70 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 2021/2115 – The SCEP Training is in accordance with Article 78 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 2021/2115.
- Applications for SCEP can only be submitted using the Department’s online facility through [www.agfood.ie](http://www.agfood.ie) either by the applicant themselves or by an approved FAS advisor authorised to act on their behalf. Applicants not already registered for the Department’s online services will need to register first at [www.agfood.ie](http://www.agfood.ie).
- Application opening date **20<sup>th</sup> March 2023**
- Application closing date **23.59 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023**

#### **Late Applications for submission of SCEP application**

There is a 25-calendar day period after the 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023 closing date for the acceptance of late applications and any necessary supporting documentation. However, deductions to payments at a rate of 1% per working day in respect of SCEP will apply to late SCEP applications which are received

during this period (see table following). Applications after the 25 days period are ineligible. **This deduction will only apply to the first year of the programme, i.e. 2023.**

#### **Deductions for Late Applications**

Day	Date	Month	% Reduction to apply per working day	No of Calendar days	Day	Date	Month	Reduction to apply per working day	No of Calendar days
Monday	22	May	Closing Date	N/A					
Tuesday	23	May	1%	1	Monday (Bank Holiday)	05	June	9%	14
Wednesday	24	May	2%	2	Tuesday	06	June	10%	15
Thursday	25	May	3%	3	Wednesday	07	June	11%	16
Friday	26	May	4%	4	Thursday	08	June	12%	17
Saturday	27	May	4%	5	Friday	09	June	13%	18
Sunday	28	May	4%	6	Saturday	10	June	13%	19
Monday	29	May	5%	7	Sunday	11	June	13%	20
Tuesday	30	May	6%	8	Monday	12	June	14%	21
Wednesday	31	May	7%	9	Tuesday	13	June	15%	22
Thursday	01	June	8%	10	Wednesday	14	June	16%	23
Friday	02	June	9%	11	Thursday	15	June	17%	24
Saturday	03	June	9%	12	Friday	16	June	18%	25
Sunday	04	June	9%	13	Saturday	17	June	100%	

#### **8. Administrative and Compliance Checks**

- In submitting an application, applicants agree to permit officials or agents of the Department to carry out on-farm inspections which may include the weighing of animals for the purposes of data validation, with or without prior notice at any reasonable time(s) and without prejudice to public liability.
- All applications for support and payment claims will be subject to administrative checks, and any other controls deemed necessary, before payments are made under the Programme. Applicants shall facilitate such administrative and on-the-spot checks as the Department deems necessary. Applications will be crosschecked with records held by the Department. Conditionality penalties are in addition to any scheme specific SCEP penalties.
- Relevant on-the-spot checks will be carried out at farm level to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Programme. These will be carried out by the Department or agents operating on their behalf.
- To facilitate checks and on-farm inspections, applicants must fully co-operate with Department staff, or their agents and reply fully to all queries, providing any documentary evidence that may be requested in relation to their application. Failure to do so may lead to loss of payments. If an on-farm inspection cannot be carried out

through the fault or action of the applicant or his/her representative, the application will be deemed ineligible for payment in the applicable scheme year. If a participant fails to comply fully with an on-farm inspection on more than 2 occasions, they may be rejected from the programme with a full recoupment of payments under the programme.

- The Programme requirements for which payment is claimed will be crosschecked with relevant databases.
- Any breach of conditionally noted during an on-farm inspection will be cross-reported to the Direct Payments Unit of the Department.
- No payment shall be made in favor of beneficiaries where the Department establishes that they have artificially created the conditions required for obtaining such payments with a view to obtaining an advantage contrary to the objectives of the Programme.

## 9. Requirements of the Programme

### Action 1 – Eligible Bull/Eligible AI

Applicants will be required to maintain a proportion of high genetic merit animals on their holding as detailed below:

- In each scheme year, applicants must calve at least 50% beef breed animals of the yearly reference number. In scheme year 1 and 2, 80% of these calves must have been sired from a 4 or 5 star source, i.e., a genotyped 4 or 5 star bull on either the Terminal or Replacement index (on a within or across breed basis) and/or if using AI, the AI straw used on participating holdings must be from a 4 or 5 star eligible bull on either the Terminal or Replacement index (on a within or across breed basis). In the event that an applicant calves more than the 50% requirement, these animals must also be sired from a 4/5\* source to a minimum of at least 80% of their yearly reference number. In the case where the yearly reference number is one, at least **one** eligible calf sired from a 4/5\* source must be born in that scheme year. Please see example below for Scheme year 2.

2024 Yearly Reference	Calves born between 1 <sup>st</sup> July 2023 – 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	Required number of calves born to a 4/5* source
10	5	4
10	10	8
10	20	8

- This increases to **85%** in scheme years 3 & 4.
- This increases to **90%** in scheme year 5.
- **The calves born can be sired from 4 or 5 star bulls, 4 or 5 star AI straws or a mixture of both.**
- Any movements must be recorded correctly on the Department’s Animal Identification and Movement system (AIM).
- Sire discrepancies identified as a result of any genotyping performed during the programme will be resolved and where commitment are subsequently deemed to have not been achieved, the corresponding penalties will be applied.
- For those participants using Rare Breed sires (as defined in the definitions of this document) a derogation from the annual targets under this action may be granted in certain circumstances.



## **Action 2 - Female Replacement Strategy**

- Applicants are required to ensure that on the **31<sup>st</sup> October 2023** at least **50%** of their yearly reference number are eligible females that are genotyped 4 or 5 stars on the replacement index (on a within breed or across breed basis) at the time of purchase (for replacements brought into the herd) or at the time of genotyping (for those replacements bred within the herd).
- Applicants are required to ensure that on the **31<sup>st</sup> October 2025** at least **65%** of their yearly reference number are eligible females that are genotyped 4 or 5 stars on the replacement index (on a within or across breed basis) at the time of purchase (for replacements brought into the herd) or at the time of genotyping (for those replacements bred within the herd).
- Applicants are required to ensure that on the **31<sup>st</sup> October 2027** at least **75%** of their yearly reference number are eligible females that are genotyped 4 or 5 stars on the replacement index (on a within or across breed basis) at the time of purchase (for replacements brought into the herd) or at the time of genotyping (for those replacements bred within the herd).
- Females must be at least 16 months old.
- In the case where the yearly reference number is one, applicants are required to ensure that at least **one** female is an eligible female that is genotyped 4 or 5 stars on the replacement index (on a within breed or across breed basis) at the time of purchase (for replacements brought into the herd) or at the time of genotyping (for those replacements bred within the herd) on the respective timelines, 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023, 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025 and 31<sup>st</sup> October 2027.

## **Action 3 – Genotyping**

- Applicants will be required to take a tissue tag sample from animals selected for genotyping as follows:
- Initially ICBF will select animals to be genotyped in each herd and will notify herd owners of the animals selected.
- It may be possible for the herdowner to nominate animals for genotyping other than those selected by ICBF.
- The number of animals to be genotyped each year will be at least equivalent to **70%** of the beneficiary's "yearly reference number" (rounded down to the nearest animal). For example, an applicant with a yearly reference of 10 must have sufficient animals to genotype 7 females, calves or eligible bulls, without repetition of animals genotyped under the Programme to date. In the case where the yearly reference number is one, at least **one** eligible animal must be genotyped in that scheme year.
- If a selected animal has died or is sold before the sample tags are received, the applicant must without delay contact ICBF to request a test kit for a substitute animal.
- Genotype tissue samples must be taken from animals by use of the Genotype kit provided. Each Genotype tissue tag is numbered to correspond with the animal's National ID tag number.
- The samples must be returned in the kits provided in the pre-addressed envelopes.

- Each applicant is liable for the cost of genotyping in respect of his/her application. If an applicant returns more genomic samples than his/her required number, he/she will be liable for the extra cost. The cost will be recovered as a deduction from the SCEP payment.
- In the event of an unsuccessful or withdrawn claim, the costs must be paid by the applicant to the Department.
- **If an applicant has an existing tagging supplier in place, this will be the default tagging supplier. If an applicant wishes to change his/her supplier, he/she may do so on the ICBF website. In the event of an applicant not having an existing supplier, he/she must select a supplier on the ICBF website.**
- **Genomic samples will not be accepted after the 30<sup>th</sup> of November of each year. Please see example below for scheme year 1:**

Scheme year 1 – 1 <sup>st</sup> July 2022 – 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2023	Genomic samples must be returned by 30 <sup>th</sup> November 2023
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#### **Action 4 - Weighing and Submission of Weights to ICBF**

Participants must weigh **at least 80%** of eligible animals born on the holding of the yearly reference number in each scheme year and their dams and submit weights to ICBF. Please see example below for Scheme year 1. In the case where the yearly reference number is one, participants must weigh at least **one** eligible animal born on the holding in each scheme year and the dam and submit weights to ICBF.

<b>2023 Yearly Reference</b>	<b>Calves born between 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022 - 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023</b>	<b>Required number of Dam/Calf pairs to be weighed</b>
10	5	4
10	10	8
10	20	8

- Each live calf must be unweaned and weighed with its dam on the applicants holding on the same day. Where a calf dies before 5 months of age or it's dam, this must be recorded on AIM and the 80% does not include such pairs.
- All calves being submitted for weighing must have been born in the herd within each scheme year.
- All calves being submitted for weighing must be eligible calves as per section 4.
- All calves being submitted for weighing must be in the ownership and possession of the applicant since birth and maintained on the holding. It must be alive at the time of weighing.
- The calf must be a **minimum of 50 days old before it is eligible to be weighed.**
- Weights should be submitted **within 7 days of weighing** and no later than 01 November annually. Please see example below for Scheme year 1:

Scheme year 1 – 1 <sup>st</sup> July 2022 – 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2023	Must be submitted to ICBF by 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2023
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- Only scales registered and used in accordance with the requirements of Annex 1 may be employed for the purposes of this Programme.
- If you are recording weights online/electronically the weights **must be recorded** in the ICBF database by 5:30pm on 01 November annually. Electronic submission includes the ICBF website, ICBF weight recording app, farm software and any third-party applications that link to the ICBF database.
- If you are submitting weights by post, the forms **must be received** by ICBF by 5:30pm on 01 November annually.

## **Action 5 – Calving Details and Surveys**

### **(A) Calving Details**

In addition to meeting the statutory requirements for tagging and registration, Programme applicants must complete the Calving Survey for each calf born on the holding.

Under current requirements, all farmers are required to tag and register all calves with the Department’s Registration Agency, Clonakilty, Co. Cork within **27 days of birth**, in accordance with EU Regulation 1760/2000. The tag number or the AI code of the sire must be provided for each calf.

Calves must be registered using any one of the following methods:

- [www.agfood.ie](http://www.agfood.ie)
- Department approved farm software providers
- The ICBF Animal Events System – animal events book as provided by the ICBF

### **(B) Surveys**

Each year, applicants will be required to complete survey forms supplied by the ICBF in respect of all eligible calves born on the holding and their dams.

Applicants will be provided with notebooks for daily field recording (e.g. details of calf size and vigour) and the recorded data should then be used to complete the appropriate survey forms supplied by the ICBF on an annual basis. **Furthermore, in order to ensure the validity of all of the data recorded, all calves born in the herd must be maintained on the holding for at least 5 months.**

The survey forms supplied each year will request data as required by the ICBF and may include, but not limited to, the following:

Commitment 1: Calf Sire, Calving Difficulty, Birth Size & Calf Vigour.

Commitment 2: Calf Quality, Calf Docility Dam Docility, Dam Milk-Ability, Dam Mothering Ability, Dam Feet and Legs, Dam Teat Score & Dam Udder Score.

Dam departure reason for information purpose.

Closing date for submission of traits for Commitment 1 and Commitment 2 is 15<sup>th</sup> February annually. Data will not be accepted after this date. Please see example for scheme year 1.

Scheme year 1 – 1 <sup>st</sup> July 2022 – 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2023	Data must be submitted by 15 <sup>th</sup> February 2024
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Please note this is not an exhaustive list and changes may occur.  
Surveys must be completed using:

- Farm software providers
- [www.icbf.com](http://www.icbf.com)
- Paper-based survey forms are available to be printed down from the ICBF website.

## 10. SCEP Training

Applicants must attend two SCEP training courses related to the Programme. The training courses are designed to provide:

- An introduction to the SCEP
- Information on the individual requirements of the Programme, such as data collection, genotyping, genomic indexes and the replacement strategy.
- Information on controls, inspections and sanctions.
- Information on health and safety and livestock handling.
- The two courses may be completed in one day or over different days but **must be fully completed by 15<sup>th</sup> November 2024**. The training will be facilitated by a training provider approved by the Department following an open tender process. Applicants will be provided with details of the training provider and course locations following the completion of the tender process.
- Applicants **must** be in attendance and show ID as proof, they will have to sign in and sign out. No nominees can attend. Course materials will be available online after the training is completed.
- **Failure to attend the training courses by 15<sup>th</sup> November 2024 will result in removal from the programme and any monies paid under the programme will be recouped.**
- **Participants will receive NO payment for attending the training course.**

## 11. Payments under the Programme

The Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine will make payment directly to the applicant's bank account.

### **Payment Calculation/ Reference Details:**

Payments will be made on a per hectare basis subject to a maximum payment which is calculated as follows:

- The number of eligible suckler cows producing an eligible calf on the holding in the years 2016- 2021 inclusive. The applicant will be presented with the best 3 years of 2016-2021 and will receive the average of these 3 years as a reference number. This reference number will be divided by 1.5 to give a maximum payable area (MPA). For example, a farmer with a reference number of 10 will have an MPA of 6.67 hectares.
- The **programme reference number must be set by the applicant** at the beginning of the programme. He/she can accept the programme reference number presented at the time

of application or can reduce it down. **It cannot be increased.**

- If an applicant sets the programme reference number to a reduced amount, he/she can never go above this new reduced programme reference number for the duration of the programme. The MPA will be reduced accordingly, meaning the farmer's SCEP payment will be reduced.
- The applicant must then set their "yearly reference number". The applicant can reduce the reference number by up to 20% of what the previous year's reference number was including year 1 or where the applicant had set the yearly reference number below the programme reference number in Year 1, they can go back up to the programme reference number. In year 1 this will be set at application stage, from 2024 it must be set in specific dates in January / February of each scheme year. Participants will be notified each year once the window for amendments is open and the closing date for submission of amendments. **Where a farmer does not want to reduce in a specific year or any year, s/he has to take no action in January / February.**
- No amendments to a farmer's yearly reference number will be accepted after the submission of the SCEP application in year 1 or after the January / February deadline for amendments to yearly reference number in years 2 - 5. In consideration of the budgetary constraints of the programme, and to ensure financial ceilings are not breached and to ensure farmer payments are processed on time, there is no provision for participants to amend their yearly reference number once an amendment for that year has been submitted. Once the farmer, or their FAS advisor authorised to act on their behalf, submits an amendment to their yearly reference number in any year of the scheme it cannot be amended in respect of that scheme year.
- Applicants with no data for the years 2016 to 2020 inclusive will be regarded as New Entrants and will declare their programme and yearly reference number at application stage. The Programme reference number to be entered by the new entrant should reflect the number of eligible suckler cows that they know/estimate will produce an eligible calf on the holding in Scheme Year 1 which runs from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022 – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023. The same applies for suckler farmers who commenced operations in 2022 or early 2023.
- Provided that all requirements of the programme are met, payment of €225 for the first 15 hectares and €180 for the remaining hectares up to the maximum payable area will be made.
- In order to avail of the full payment, an applicant must have at least enough determined eligible forage hectares under their BISS application each year to match their MPA. If the determined eligible forage area is less than the MPA but 80% or above, the payment will be based on this eligible forage area.
- If the determined eligible forage hectares in any year is less than 80% of the maximum payable area selected by successful applicants, the applicant can continue participation in SCEP but will not be paid for the year that the determined eligible forage hectares was less than 80% of the MPA.
- In order to receive full payment, the applicant must successfully complete all of the Programme requirements as outlined in the terms and conditions and the eligible forage area determined on their BISS must match their MPA.

- For administrative purposes, the applicant agrees to have the cost of genotyping deducted by the Department from his/her payments. In the event that he/she is not able to continue participation in the Programme, these costs may be recovered from other payments from the Department.
- Where it is established that the relevant requirements of the Programme were not fully or partially adhered to by the applicant, the Department will reduce the amount payable and may seek recoupment of aid paid under the Programme.
- Joint applicants will remain liable for each other's debts or as provided for in a signed partnership.
- In the event of oversubscription to the Programme, there will be a linear reduction or digressive payment rate implemented.

## **12. Registered Farm Partnerships**

Applicants who are partners in a farm partnership can, subject to conditions outlined below, continue to benefit individually under the SCEP programme based on the area of SCEP eligible forage area they contribute to the partnership.

Applicants registered under Farm Partnership Registration are required to submit one BISS annually for the duration of the programme through the Departments online facility. In order to be considered under the SCEP programme, all partners should individually declare all land farmed by them within the partnership. **The Primary Partner must submit SCEP applications under any herdnumber in the partnership that wish to participate in SCEP.**

Individual maximum land thresholds and reference data will be applicable to each individual partner in respect of designated SCEP lands determined and eligibility. Thereafter, scheme eligibility and requirements must be met by each individual in the partnership.

**Only one payment under SCEP will issue to the Partnership. All payments due to the individual partners will be combined into a single payment, which will issue to the partnership.**

## **13. Penalties**

- The payment under the Suckler Carbon Efficiency Programme will be granted per hectare of eligible forage area, with Programme applicants compensated for all or part of the additional costs and income forgone resulting from commitments made under the Programme. Penalties under the SCEP will be calculated based on non-compliances as set out in this section.
- Monetary penalties will include interest payable at the rate provided for under **STATUTORY INSTRUMENT No. 497 of 2022 EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES (RECOVERY OF AMOUNTS) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2022**. Interest will be calculated for the

period elapsing between the notification of the repayment obligation to the farmer and either repayment or deduction.

- Penalty amounts may be deducted from future payments due to the beneficiary under other EU-financed or co-financed Schemes.
- Where monetary penalties are not paid or recovered within the period requested the Department may take whatever action is deemed necessary for their recovery.
- Intentional and serious breaches of the Programme conditions may result in non-payment for the year in question or in the termination of participation and/or exclusion from the Programme for a period commensurate with the seriousness of the breach and the refund of monies already paid.
- Where it is established that conditions were created to maximise or draw down payment under the Programme the contract will be terminated, and all monies paid shall be reimbursed.
- The penalties set out in the Schedule are the minimum sanctions that will be applied. In all cases, the Department reserves the right to review files to establish whether or not a breach of the Programme conditions has occurred which may lead to a sanction or the termination of the contract and reimbursement of all aid.

### **Programme Requirement Penalties**

These relate to the penalties associated with the Programme requirements including record keeping, genomic testing, replacement of animals and weighing. Penalties associated with breaches of individual requirements will be based on the proportion that requirement comprises of the total payment as follows:

<b>ACTION NUMBER</b>	<b>ACTIONS</b>	<b>% OF TOTAL SCEP PAYMENT</b>
1	Eligible AI/Eligible Bull	20%
2	Female Replacement Strategy	20%
3	Genotyping	20%
4	Weight Recording	20%
5A	Data Collection – Record Keeping	10%
5B	Data Collection – Event Recording	10%

A detailed outline of the Programme requirement related penalties is set out on pages 15, 16 & 17.

### **Late BISS Penalties**

Late penalties are also linked to the submission of the BISS application. Where this application is submitted after the closing date, a late penalty in accordance with the BISS Terms and Conditions also applies to the SCEP payment for that year.

### **Conditionality**

Any breach of conditionality noted during an on-farm inspection will be cross reported to the SCEP unit of the Department and will apply to the Programme.

### **Collection of Outstanding Debts**

Any outstanding debts due to the Department in respect of the Suckler Carbon Efficiency Programme will be subject to interest charges in accordance with the **STATUTORY INSTRUMENT No. 497 of 2022 EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES (RECOVERY OF AMOUNTS) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2022**. Such debts will be recovered from future payments due if not already refunded in full by the farmer. In accordance with the Department's Debt Management Policy and Procedures, joint farmers remain liable for each other's debts or as provided for in a signed partnership agreement.

### Programme Eligibility Criteria

Eligibility Criteria	Level of Compliance	Sanction
Continued SBLAS participation.	Not a full member of SBLAS by 16 October 2023 and/or fails to maintain membership throughout SCEP contract term.	Removal from programme and a full clawback of any SCEP monies received from previous years.
BISS application every year.	Valid BISS application not submitted in any year.	Removal from programme and a full clawback of any monies received from previous years.
At least 50% of Yearly Reference Number Calved on the holding.	Under 50% of Yearly Reference Females calved annually.	Removal from programme and a full clawback of any monies received from previous years.
Attendance at SCEP Training Course and Animal Handling Course.	Must attend the SCEP training course and an animal handling course by 15 <sup>th</sup> November 2024.	Removal from programme and a full clawback of any monies received from previous years.

### Programme Action Penalty Schedule

Action Number	Action	Level of Compliance	Sanction
1	Eligible AI/Eligible Bull	Less than 80% of eligible calves born of the yearly reference number sired by 4/5* source in scheme year 1.	Derogation from this requirement for Scheme year 1 (1 <sup>st</sup> July 2022 – 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2023).
		Less than 80% of eligible calves born of the yearly reference number sired by 4/5* source in scheme year 2.	No payment for action plus an additional 20% penalty.
		Less than 85% of eligible calves born of the yearly reference number sired by 4/5*	No payment for action plus an additional 30% penalty.



		source in scheme year 3.	
		Less than 85% of eligible calves born of the yearly reference number sired by 4/5* source in scheme year 4.	No payment for action plus an additional 40% penalty.
		Less than 90% of eligible calves born of the yearly reference number sired by 4/5* source in scheme year 5.	No payment for action plus an additional 50% penalty.
2	Female Replacement Strategy	Less than 50% of females 4/5* on 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2023.	No payment for Female Replacement Strategy plus an additional 10% penalty.
		Less than 65% of females 4/5* on 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2025.	No payment for Female Replacement Strategy plus an additional 30% penalty.
		Less than 75% of females 4/5* on 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2027.	No payment for Female Replacement Strategy plus an additional 50% penalty.
3	Genotyping	90-100% of required number (which is 70% of yearly reference number) genotyped.	Reduction in genotyping payment based on % genotyping submitted.
		Herd with Genotyping requirement <11 animals and 1 test missed.	Reduction in genotyping payment based on % genotyping submitted.
		Under 90% of required number (which is 70% of yearly reference number) genotyped in scheme year 1.	No payment for genotyping for year breach occurs plus an additional 10% penalty.
		Under 90% of required number (which is 70% of yearly reference number) genotyped in scheme year 2.	No payment for genotyping for year breach occurs plus an additional 20% penalty.
		Under 90% of required number (which is 70% of yearly reference	No payment for genotyping for year breach occurs plus an additional 30% penalty.

		number) genotyped in scheme year 3.	
		Under 90% of required number (which is 70% of yearly reference number) genotyped in scheme year 4.	No payment for genotyping for year breach occurs plus an additional 40% penalty.
		Under 90% of required number (which is 70% of yearly reference number) genotyped in scheme year 5.	No payment for genotyping for year breach occurs plus an additional 50% penalty.
4	Weight Recording	Less than 80% of cow/calf pairs of the yearly reference number validly weighed in any scheme year.	No payment for Weight recording plus an additional 10% penalty for year in which breach occurs.
5A	Data Collection - Record Keeping	80 – 100% submitted.	Proportionate reduction based on % data submitted.
		Under 80% submitted	No payment for data collection for year breach occurs plus a 10% penalty.
5B	Data Collection - Event Recording	80 – 100% submitted.	Proportionate reduction based on % data submitted.
		Under 80% submitted.	No payment for data collection for year breach occurs plus a 10% penalty.
<b><u>If a farmer fails three or more of the actions 1, 2, 3 or 4 in any one scheme year, they will be removed from the programme and any payments already made will be recouped.</u></b>			

#### **14. Force Majeure/Contract Termination**

Where a contract is terminated by an applicant all monies paid under the Programme shall be repaid to the Department except in cases of *Force Majeure*.

Where a beneficiary is unable to continue complying with the requirements of the Programme for reasons beyond his/her control a case may be made under *Force Majeure* to terminate participation in the Programme. In such cases the applicant, or his or her representative, should inform the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Beef Schemes Section, Old Abbeyleix Road, Portlaoise, Co. Laois in writing, with relevant evidence, within ten working days of being able to do so.

Without prejudice to the actual circumstances to be taken into consideration in individual cases the following categories of *force majeure* may be recognised:

- death of the beneficiary,
- long term professional incapacity of the beneficiary,
- expropriation of all or a large part of the holding if that expropriation could not have been anticipated on the day of lodging the application,
- a severe natural disaster gravely affecting the holding,
- the accidental destruction of livestock buildings on the holding,
- an epizootic or a plant disease affecting part or all of the beneficiary's livestock or crops respectively.

#### **15. Transfer of Holding**

Where the holding is transferred by gift or inheritance, an application under the Programme by the new applicant(s) may be taken as a transfer of the contract provided that the transferee undertakes in writing by completing a SCEP Declaration of Undertaking form to adhere to the requirements of the Programme for the remainder of the contract. Leases between family members may meet this undertaking provided the lessee meets the requirement outlined above.

#### **16. Death of a Participant**

- Where a participant dies during the contract period, force majeure shall be applied terminating the agreement and no reimbursement of aid already paid shall be sought. Valid payment will be made up to date of death. Alternatively, a person who is the beneficiary of the land under the Will of the deceased and in a position to give the necessary undertakings is permitted to apply take over the contract
- In the case of a joint herd where there is a joint tenancy with the deceased, and the joint herd owner is not mentioned in the will, the joint herd owner by virtue of their mention in the joint tenancy agreement and in a position to give the necessary undertakings may apply to take over the contract.

- Where the person applying to take over the holding is not a beneficiary under the Will of the deceased or party to a joint tenancy agreement with the deceased, he/she is not deemed to be a person permitted to give the necessary undertakings.

**Or**

- Where the deceased died intestate, no person can be deemed to be in a position to give the necessary undertakings and the programme contract is terminated, with reference to above. As certain scenarios can arise in this instance (including, for example, the case of a farmer who dies intestate where the surviving spouse may hold all assets in joint names with the deceased), any such scenarios may be submitted to the Department for consideration on a case-by-case basis to facilitate continuation of the contract if/where appropriate.
- A programme contract may not be divided.

## **Annex 1.**

### **Action 1. Weighing and Submission of Weights to ICBF. Process for recording weight data as part of SCEP.**

There are two options available to herd-owners for the recording of weight data as part of SCEP. These are: (i) a Rental model, whereby participants rent scales from an approved field service agent to undertake the SCEP weight recording process, or (ii) an owned, borrowed or third-party service model, whereby participants have access to a set of scales and they are availing of these scales to undertake the SCEP weight recording process.

An overview of the process to follow for weight recording according to each of these options is given below.

#### **Rental Model.**

- If availing of the Rental model for weight recording, then please use the central booking facility to book the scales. Details can be found on <http://www.weighing.ie/>
- Participants operating the rental model for their weight recording service, should only use the rental scales for animals in their own herd. This is to minimise potential disease risk associated with the movement of equipment from farm to farm.
- When collecting scales from the field service agent, you will be required to pay a rental charge for the day and undertake to comply with the set requirements for use of the rental scales. NB Failure to comply with the requirements for use of the rental scales may lead to your data being deemed unusable and consequently your payment is at risk. Each set of scales includes; (i) a clock which registers the weights of the animals, (ii) a set of weigh beams, which weighs the animal and then registers the weight with the clock and (iii) a portable platform, which is to be placed on the floor of the crush to carry out the weight recording process. All the material is portable. Please note that a step by step guide on how to carry-out the weight recording process on the farm, including the assembly of the relevant material, is available on the ICBF and field service agent's websites.
- In terms of recording weights of cows and calves, herd-owners are encouraged to use electronic options to record this data as this will ensure more accurate and timely recording of the data. Electronic options include apps, ICBF webpage and Farm Software.

If you are recording the data by paper, you must use the weight recording sheet provided by ICBF. This can be printed off from the participant's ICBF user account or ordered directly from ICBF in advance of the weight recording visit. Please complete all relevant information on the sheet. This includes (i) the unique registration number of the rental scales/tick box to indicate that rental scales were used, (ii) the date of the event, and (iii) weights of cows and calves, recorded as part of the event. The information must then be posted to ICBF for manual data keying.

- In terms of weight recording, herd-owners must record animals one at a time, i.e., cows and calves separately and one animal on the platform at a time. Only weigh un-weaned calves and their dams.

Valid calf weights are from the calf being a minimum of 50 days old to weaning date of the calf. Calves (and their dams) that are weaned should not be weight recorded.

- Please note that SCEP payments will only be made on weight records recorded and validated on the ICBF database. All records should be submitted within 7 days of the completion of the weight recording process. If weight records are deemed unusable as a result (inter alia) of failure to comply with the requirements for use of the scales, then payment may not issue under the Programme.
- All scales must be returned in a fully clean and operational state, in accordance with the rental T&Cs.

#### **Owned, borrowed or using a third-party service providers' scales.**

- If you own a set of scales (either existing or new) and plan to use them (or lend them to another person) for the purpose of SCEP, then you must pre-register the scales before the weight recording event. Owned scales registered for previous weighing schemes will be brought forward and will not need to be re-registered.
- To register scales, please go onto the ICBF website ([www.icbf.com](http://www.icbf.com)) and register the scales using the "Registration of scales" input screen. We encourage you to complete this process electronically. Alternatively, you can contact ICBF to register scales.
- For the purpose of registration of scales, the following information will be requested; (i) Name and address of owner of scales, (ii) scales manufacturer, (iii) indicator model, (iv) indicator serial number, (v) year of purchase and (vi) acknowledgement that the scales are in good working order.
- DAFM and its agents (i.e. ICBF) reserve the right to inspect scales as part of SCEP. In circumstances where scales are not deemed to meet minimum validation criterion regarding accuracy of weight recording, such scales will be deemed ineligible for use in the programme.
- Once the registration of scales is complete, a unique "scales registration number" will be issued. This number must be used and/or referenced (depending on data recording option) when recording any weight data for animals as part of SCEP. Please note that without this number, you will not be able to submit cow and calf weight data as part of SCEP and therefore will not receive any payment from the programme.
- Herd-owners using scales that are sourced from a third-party service provider must, for inspection purposes by either DAFM or ICBF, retain documentary evidence establishing the scales procurement. This document must at a minimum record the ICBF registration number of the scales, the name and signature of the person to whom the scales are registered, the name and signature of the person borrowing the scales, the date they were borrowed and the date they were returned.
- Herd-owners using scales that are sourced from a third-party service provider must ensure that the scales are clean and disinfected before and after use to minimise any potential disease risk from the movement of equipment between farms.
- When recording weights of cows and calves, herd-owners are encouraged to use electronic options to record this data as this will ensure more accurate and timely recording of the data. Electronic options include apps, ICBF webpage and Farm Software.
- If you are recording the data by paper, you must use the weight recording sheet provided by ICBF. This can be printed off from the participant's ICBF user account or ordered directly from ICBF in advance of the weight recording visit. Please complete all relevant information on the sheet. This

includes; (i) the unique registration number of the scales, (ii) the date of the event, and (iii) weights of cows and calves, recorded as part of the event. The information must be then posted to ICBF for manual data keying.

- In terms of weight recording, herd-owners must record animals one at a time, i.e., cows and calves separately and one animal on the platform at a time. Only weigh un-weaned calves and their dams.
- Please note that SCEP payments will only be made on weight records recorded and validated on the ICBF database. All records should be submitted within 7 days of the completion of the weight recording process. If weight records are deemed unusable as a result (inter alia) of the scales used being unfit for purpose, then payment may not issue under the Programme.

Annex 2:

## **Data Protection Notice**

**General Data Protection information applicable to all Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine customers is available here:**

<https://www.gov.ie/en/organisation-information/ef9f6-data-protection/>

### **Information specific to the personal data being collected:**

**The following data is specific information in relation to the personal data processed for the Suckler Carbon Efficiency Programme**

#### **1. Specified purpose:**

The personal data sought from, or previously furnished by applicants is required for the purpose of making an application to join this scheme or for ongoing processing of your application under relevant CSP schemes. Failure to provide all the personal data required to facilitate the processing of the application, under this scheme will result in the Department being unable to process the application further. Failure to provide certain information required under the terms and conditions of this scheme may result in the necessity to repay monies already paid under this scheme.

The purpose for the processing of personal data is to, among other things, receive, analyse and process data from applicants. To communicate with applicants and/or their authorised advisors and where applicable other authorised third parties. To subsequently receive and process the data of the approved participants for the fulfilment of their applications and make payments to them.

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine may also use data submitted in an application under this scheme for the purposes of facilitating the processing of an application for participation in other schemes operated by the Department or where a compatible purpose exist.

The personal data sought from you, the applicant, is required for the purpose of making an application under the “Suckler Carbon Efficiency Programme”. Failure to provide all the personal data required to determine eligibility and facilitate the processing of the application, including data testing, under the scheme will result in DAFM being unable to process the application.

The operation of this scheme may also result in the sharing of data, where required, within the Department. This is to facilitate, among other things, the fulfilment of the obligations placed on Member States, including Ireland, and objectives of the CAP Strategic Plan (CSP). This may cover areas such as management, control, audit and compliance, monitoring and evaluation obligations, and statistical purposes. The use of the data in this way is considered compatible with its original purpose of collection.



## **2. Legal basis:**

Article 6(1)(c) of the General Data Protection regulation (GDPR) provides for processing of personal data where it is necessary for compliance with a legal obligation to which the controller is subject; while Article 6(1)(e) provides for processing of personal data where it is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the controller.

The 'Suckler Carbon Efficiency Programme' is implemented pursuant to the CAP EU Regulations, including Regulations (EU) 2021/2115 of the European Parliament and of the Council as well as relevant secondary legislation. Article 151 (1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 and Article 101 of Regulation (EU) 2021/2116 (Processing and Protection of Personal Data), places a legal obligation on Member States to collect personal data to facilitate the implementation of the CAP Strategic Plan.

The Department may, for the purpose of aiding administrative efficiencies, use existing customer data for other purposes such as to claim and receive payments under CSP Schemes. The use of the data in this way is considered compatible with its original purpose of collection. Existing customer data means data that is submitted for the Beef Data and Genomics Programme (BDGP) and the Beef Environmental Efficiency Programme (BEEP) and/or its successor scheme BDGP and BEEP were implemented pursuant to the Minister and Secretaries Act 1924 while SCEP is implemented pursuant to Regulations (EU) 2021/2115 and as well as relevant secondary legislation.

The proposed further processing of the personal data for the purpose of this scheme is considered compatible with its original purpose of collection, this includes the making of payments in respect of participation in schemes administered by the Department funded under the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). This is to facilitate, among other things, the fulfilment of the obligations placed on Member States and objectives of the CAP Strategic Plan (CSP). This may cover areas such as management, control, audit and compliance, monitoring and evaluation obligations, and statistical purposes.

## **3. Recipients:**

As noted in the "Specified purpose" section above, information and personal data provided as part of this scheme may be shared with other Divisions within the Department for the purposes of aiding administrative efficiencies when processing other related scheme applications. This sharing shall be done in compliance with the CSP legislative framework and relevant data protection legislation.

Personal data may also be sought from and made available to other Government Departments/Agencies/Local Authorities/contracted parties/LIFE Projects, but only where there is a valid legal basis to do so. Anonymised data may also be shared between public bodies to support the achievement of government objectives.

Where appropriate, a Data Sharing Agreement will be put in place. The purpose of this sharing of data is to facilitate, among other things, the fulfilment of the obligations placed on Member States and objectives of the CAP Strategic Plan (CSP). This includes, but is not limited to management, control, and audit purposes, monitoring and evaluation purposes, cross compliance controls, controls relating to the legislation underpinning cross compliance and all Rural Development measures, as required by Article 65 of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 809/2014 and

for the performance of the CAP Strategic Plan as required by Article 128 of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 of the European Parliament and of the Council. Also, personal data may be released as required by relevant Data Protection legislation and the Freedom of Information Act 2014.

Personal data may be used for, among other things, statistical, research and analysis purposes in some circumstances, but will only be done so in compliance with the Data Protection legislation and the legislative measures under the CSP. Data used for such purposes will be anonymised, as appropriate, to protect to the security and confidentiality of the data. The use of the data in this way may facilitate the Department in informing policy decisions into the future, which would benefit the Irish farmer and the Agriculture Sector.

The Department is also currently obliged by law to provide information concerning applicants in response to requests received from the Office of the Revenue Commissioners, An Garda Síochana, and other bodies and this will take place in accordance with Data Protection legislation.

As part of this scheme, if approved into the scheme, you may be requested by the Department or relevant agents acting on its behalf, to supply data in relation to your participation to this Scheme, and facilitate on-farm inspections/assessments, where required for the purpose of assessment, verification, evaluation or research purposes as provided for under the CSP Regulations (e.g., EU Regulation 2021/2115 and EU Regulation 2021/2116). Not to supply such information may invalidate/cancel your application.

A Data Processor for the scheme of Irish Cattle Breeders Federation (ICBF) will be used to aid with the administration of the programme. A written agreement will be put in place in relation to how the personal data may be used.

Data may also be shared with Bord Bia to confirm the eligibility of the applicant. An appropriate data sharing agreement will be in place in relation to how the personal data may be used.

#### **4. Publication of data**

Article 98 of Regulation (EU) 2021/2116 (Publication of information relating to beneficiaries) obliges Member States (MS) to publish beneficiaries' data in certain circumstances, but not where the amount is less than €1,250.

#### **5. Transferred outside the EU:**

Personal data, in respect of an application under this scheme, will not be transferred outside of the EU.

#### **6. Retention Period:**

Personal data in respect of an application under this scheme will be retained by the Department for 7 years plus the current scheme year. After this time, it will be marked for destruction and will be destroyed in line with internal guidelines or guidelines for destruction received from the National Archives Office or associated permissions received from them.

## **7. Data provision being statutory or contractual obligation:**

The data provided for this purpose is being requested under the requirements of the CAP (EU) Regulations 2021/2115, including relevant secondary legislation, as well as the CAP Strategic Plan, its Strategic Environmental Assessment, and Appropriate Assessment. If the applicant chooses not to provide necessary relevant information their application for this scheme cannot be processed further.

## **8. Automated Decision Making, including profiling:**

Personal data provided in the submission of an application under this scheme will be processed automatically for the purpose of the efficient running of this scheme, and the timely payment of participants.

Automated decision making may be used for the purposes of selecting participants for inspection in accordance with the CSP legislative framework and relevant data protection law. Article 65 of Regulation (EU) 2021/2116, obliges member states including Ireland, to set up and operate an integrated administration and control system, which among other things, includes an area monitoring system for systematic observations and tracking of agricultural activities and practices.

Profiling may be used for the purpose of ranking applicants for inspections and informing policy decisions.

## **9. Information from Third Party:**

Information from third parties will be received under the Suckler Carbon Efficiency Schemes. Information will also be received from ICBF, approved tagging companies, approved 3<sup>rd</sup> party labs and Bord Bia.

Data may be provided to this Department by a third party on behalf of an applicant, for example a FAS Advisor, where it can be shown that authorisation has been given by the applicant for this to take place.

In addition, the Department may be in receipt of data from third parties, to facilitate, among other things, the fulfilment of the obligations placed on Member States and objectives of the CAP Strategic Plan (CSP) and other legislative provisions. This may cover areas such as management, control, audit and compliance, monitoring and evaluation obligations, and statistical purposes.

## **10. Technical information on data collected:**

Technical information on the cookies used on the Gov.ie website is available at the following link: <https://www.gov.ie/en/help/privacy-policy/?section=cookies>