



IRISH CATTLE BREEDING FEDERATION

Discussion Re Suckler Scheme

Animal Events –What do I have to Record

1. Calf Registration (no longer use ‘white card’)
2. Pre-Weaning
 - a) Disbudding
 - b) Castration
 - c) Meal Introduction
3. Post-Weaning
 - a) Weaning Date
 - b) Calf Docility
 - c) Calf Quality
 - d) Weight (accurate, if available)



Calf Registration (using Animal Events book)

1. Same as white card, just presented slightly differently
 - a) First Seven Digits of calf Tag (NID)
 - b) Year (can't have registrations from 2 years on one sheet)
 - c) Date (DD/MM) of calving
 - d) Dam Tag
 - e) Dam Breed
 - f) Last 5 digits of Tag
 - g) Sex (circle M of F)
 - h) Sire (AI Code, Tag or Short Code of Stockbull)
 - i) Breed of Sire
 - j) Calving Survey
 - k) Dead calf indicator (only if calf is dead/aborted)

2. Do not Send back the White Card

is the reference number
of this Animal Events Sheet

- Note:**
1. Fill in the Year.
 2. Fill in your IE number. (First 7 Digits of Calf Tag)
 3. Sign and Date the sheet.

AE line No.	Section 1a - Details for National Bovine Animal Birth Registration Service*													Section 1b - Extra Calving Details				Tick for Permit																		
	Year of Event		Dam of Calf Details							Calf Details			Sire of Calf Details				Calving Details		Name of Pedigree Calf																	
	2	0								First 7 Digits of Calf Tag																										
	Date of Birth		Dam's Ear Tag Number							Breed of Dam	Last 5 Digits of Calf Tag	Sex of Calf	Bull's AI Code/Ear Tag Number/Herdbook Number/Short Code				Breed of Sire	Dead Calf	Calving Survey			Fill in for herdbook registration only Note: Herd-Name not required														
	Day	Month																1	2	3	4															
E.G.	1	4	0	2	1	E	4	9	1	2	3	4	5	1	0	1	2	2	CHX	1	0	4	3	2	M	F	LM	2	3	4	1	2	3	4		
01																									M	F										
02																									M	F										
03																									M	F										
04																									M	F										
05																									M	F										
06																									M	F										
07																									M	F										
08																									M	F										
09																									M	F										
10																									M	F										

Note: Always circle the appropriate code. Example I: Sex of Calf M F indicates a Female Calf. Example II: Calving Survey 1 2 3 4 indicates that the calving was normal.

Allocate a Short Code to represent the Stock Bull's Tag Number																			
Short Code				Bull's Ear Tag Number															
E.G.	L	M	2	3	4	1	E	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	6	0	2	3	4
1																			
2																			
3																			

If you have a stock-bull, you may allocate a short code to the bull, and use this short code when registering the SIRE of a calf. We recommend you use the breed of the bull, combined with the last three digits of the tag (e.g. LM234). The "Short Code" only needs to be allocated once. (See example)

Tick box **only** if CMMS Clearance Certificate (movement permit) is required for immediate private sale.

DECLARATION FOR NATIONAL BOVINE ANIMAL BIRTH REGISTRATION

Declaration of owner/keeper of Herd in which animal was born: I hereby declare that all the details given by me in all sections of this Application form to be true and accurate: This application to be completed by owner/keeper of the Herd in which animal was born, at the time of tagging, and posted immediately to the registration service.

Signature of herd owner: _____ Date: _____

* Please record all calvings events including Deaths and Abortions

PLEASE ENSURE YOU HAVE FULLY COMPLETED SECTION 1a AND SIGNED & DATED THIS FORM BEFORE POSTING.

The three main errors made when filling out the Animal Events sheets are as follows:

- A. Forget to fill in the **Herd Designator** (i.e. the first 7 digits of tag number).
- B. Forget to fill in the **year of the event**.
- C. Forget to **Sign and Date** the Animal Events sheet.

These potential errors are highlighted in the images below. It shows the area where they were on the White Card (top image) and also where they are on the Animal Events sheet (bottom image) which you will use instead of the white card

A

National Bovine Animal Birth Registration Service

Tag No. **IE 84-18548-8 0161**

Application for : (1) Birth Registration and (2) Passport / Cattle Identity Card.

Sex of Animal : Male Female Date of Birth of Animal : **2 . 0 0 . 1 2 . 0 0 . 8**

(Please tick one box) Day Month Year **B**

Breed of Dam : * **L M X** Dam Eartag No : **1 7 9 2 4 3 1 7 0 2 1 1**

Breed of Sire : * **C H** AI Code : **C F S 2** Tick box if calf is stillborn

(If known)

* Select Breed code only from Official List

I hereby declare the detail given by me in all sections of this Application Form to be true and accurate :

Declaration of Owner/Keeper of Herd in which the animal was born

Signature : **A N O T H E R** Date : **20 / 01 / 08** **C**

This Application Form to be completed by the Owner/Keeper of the Herd in which the Animal was born, at the time of tagging, and posted immediately to the Registration Service (Freepost).

Remember: Only fill out the sheet – do not fill out the white card!

B

is the reference number of this Animal Events Sheet Note: 1. Fill in the Year.
2. Fill in your IE number. (First 7 Digits of Calf Tag)
3. Sign and Date the sheet.

Section Ia - Details for National Bovine Animal Birth Registration Service*										Section Ib - Extra Calving Details				
Year of Event	Dam of Calf Details					Calf Details				Calving Details		Name of Pedigree Calf		
AE line No.	Date of Birth (Day / Month)	Dam's Ear Tag Number			Breed of Dam	Last 5 Digits of Calf Tag	Sex of Calf	Bull's AI Code/Ear Tag Number/Herbbook Number/Short Code	Breed of Sire	Breed of Calf	Calving Survey	Fill in for herdbook registration only (Note: Herd-Name not required)		Use for form
E.G.	1 4 0 2	1 E 4 9 1 2 3 4 5 1 0 1 2 2	C H X			1 0 4 3 2	M	LM 234	LM	1 2	1 2 3 4			
01	2 0 0 1	1 E 1 7 9 2 4 3 1 7 0 2 1 1	L M X			8 0 1 6 7	M	C F S 2	C H	1 2	1 2 3 4			
02							M			1 2	1 2 3 4			
03							M			1 2	1 2 3 4			
10							M			1 2	1 2 3 4			

Note: Always circle the appropriate code. Example I: Sex of Calf **M** **F** indicates a Female Calf. Example II: Calving Survey **1** **2** **3** **4** indicates that the calving was normal.

Allocate a Short Code to represent the Stock Bull's Tag Number

Short Code	Bull's Ear Tag Number
E.G. L M 2 3 4	1 E 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 6 0 2 3 4
1	
2	
3	

If you have a stock-bull, you may allocate a short code to the bull, and use this short code when registering the SIRE of a calf. We recommend you use the breed of the bull, combined with the last three digits of the tag (e.g. LM234). The "Short Code" only needs to be allocated once. (See example)

Tick box only if CMMS Clearance Certificate (movement permit) is required for immediate private sale.

DECLARATION FOR NATIONAL BOVINE ANIMAL BIRTH REGISTRATION Declaration of owner/keeper of Herd in which animal was born: I hereby declare that all the details given by me in all sections of this Application form to be true and accurate: This application to be completed by owner/keeper of the Herd in which animal was born, at the time of tagging, and posted immediately to the registration service.

Signature of herd own: **A N O T H E R** Date: **20 / 01 / 08** **C**

* Please record all calving events including Deaths and Abortions.

PLEASE ENSURE YOU HAVE FULLY COMPLETED SECTION 1a AND SIGNED & DATED THIS FORM BEFORE POSTING.

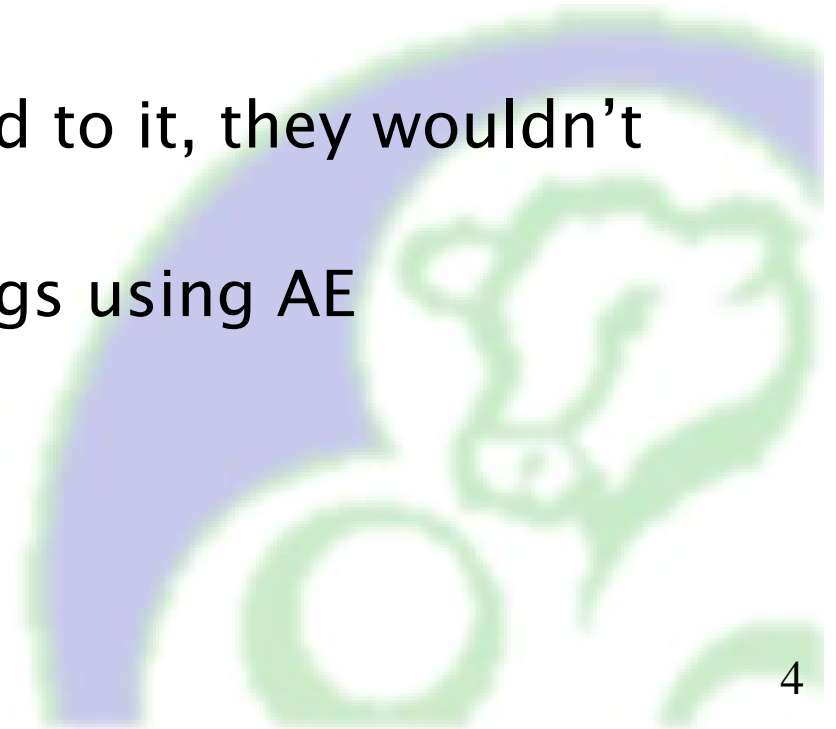
Animal Events Book Feedback

1. Positives

- a) Copy of record retained on the farm
- b) An example of the previous calving is always available
- c) Once people get used to it, they wouldn't go back
- d) Over 2 million calvings using AE

2. Negatives

- a) It is a change.



Pre-Weaning Events

1. You will receive a form with preprinted tag numbers (10 weeks after 1st calf reg)
2. On that form you will record
 - a) Date of disbudding (within 21 days of birth)
 - b) Date of castration (at least 4 weeks before weaning - if applicable)
 - c) Date of meal feeding introduction (at least 4 weeks before weaning)
3. Form will have to be submitted within 7 days of meal feeding introduction.



Suckler Cow Quality and Welfare Scheme Notification Form

Date: 08-April-2008

B.T.E. No: D1987654

N.B. The completed form must be returned within 7 days of the commencement of meal feeding

Calf Ear Tag Number	Date of Birth	Sire of Calf	Calving Survey (circle relevant)
1-1230 (M)	25-Jan-08	IE123456710096	1 2 3 4
6-1237 (F)	03-Mar-08	RXO	1 2 3 4
7-1238 (M)	04-Mar-08		1 2 3 4
9-1241 (F)	06-Mar-08		1 2 3 4
0-1242 (M)	17-Mar-08	HTA	1 2 3 4
1-1244 (F)	23-Mar-08		1 2 3 4
2-1245 (F)	29-Mar-08		1 2 3 4
			1 2 3 4
			1 2 3 4
			1 2 3 4

Section A	Section B	Section C
Date of Disbudding*	Date of Castration**	Date of Commencement of Meal Feeding
Disbudding must be completed within 3 weeks of birth unless buds have not developed	Castration must be completed at least 4 weeks before weaning or at least 2 weeks after weaning	Meal Feeding must begin at least 4 weeks before weaning
Day/ Month* (disbudding)	Day/ Month** (castration)	Day/ Month (Meal feeding)
dd/mm	dd/mm	dd/mm
dd/mm	FEMALE	dd/mm
dd/mm	dd/mm	dd/mm
dd/mm	FEMALE	dd/mm
dd/mm	dd/mm	dd/mm
dd/mm	FEMALE	dd/mm
dd/mm	FEMALE	dd/mm
dd/mm	dd/mm	dd/mm
dd/mm	dd/mm	dd/mm
dd/mm	dd/mm	dd/mm

* If a calf dies before disbudding or if the calf will never grow horns (e.g. Angus calves) then the farmer should write "N/A" instead of the date.

** Any Calf over 6 months old must be castrated by a veterinary surgeon

Signature of herd owner: _____
 Date: _____ / _____ /20

Post-Weaning Events

1. You will receive a form with pre-printed tag numbers (within a week of submitting pre-weaning form)
2. On that form you will record
 - a) Date of weaning (4 wks after meal, 2 wks before sale)
 - b) Docility Score (1-5 scale)
 - c) Calf Quality Score (1-5 scale)
 - d) Weight (if you have an accurate weighing)
3. Form will have to be submitted within 28 days of weaning.



Suckler Cow Quality and Welfare Scheme Notification Form

Date: 08-Sept-2008

B.T.E. No: D1987654

N.B. The completed form must be returned within 28 days of weaning

Calf Ear Tag Number	Date of Birth	Section A	Section B	Section C	Section D	Section E	Section F	Section G	
		Date of Disbudding*	Date of Castration**	Date of Commencement of Meal Feeding	Date of Weaning	Calf Docility (near time of weaning)	Calf Quality (near time of weaning)	Animal Weight (if available)	
		Disbudding must be completed within 3 weeks of birth unless buds have not developed	Castration must be completed at least 4 weeks before weaning or at least 2 weeks after weaning	Meal Feeding must begin at least 4 weeks before weaning	Weaning must be completed at least 2 weeks before weanling can be sold	1 = Very Quiet 2 = Quiet 3 = Average 4 = difficult 5 = Very difficult (circle relevant number)	1 = Very Poor 2 = Below Average 3 = Average 4 = Very Good 5 = Exceptional (circle relevant number)	Do not attempt to guess the weights. Only complete this section if a scales is being used	
		Day/ Month* (disbudding)	Day/ Month** (castration)	Day/ Month (Meal feeding)	Day/ Month (weaning)			Day/ Month (weighing)	Weight (KGs)
1-1230 (M)	25-Jan-08	06/02	06/07	06/09	dd/mm	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	dd/mm	
6-1237 (F)	03-Mar-08	17/03	FEMALE	06/09	dd/mm	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	dd/mm	
7-1238 (M)	04-Mar-08	18/03	06/07	06/09	dd/mm	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	dd/mm	
9-1241 (F)	06-Mar-08	19/03	FEMALE	06/09	dd/mm	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	dd/mm	
0-1242 (M)	17-Mar-08	30/03	dd/mm	06/09	dd/mm	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	dd/mm	
1-1244 (F)	23-Mar-08	N/A	FEMALE	dd/mm	dd/mm	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	dd/mm	
2-1245 (F)	29-Mar-08	12/04	FEMALE	dd/mm	dd/mm	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	dd/mm	
4-1248 (F)	31-Aug-08	dd/mm	FEMALE	dd/mm	dd/mm	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	dd/mm	
8-1254 (M)	05-Sep-08	dd/mm	dd/mm	dd/mm	dd/mm	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	dd/mm	
		dd/mm	dd/mm	dd/mm	dd/mm	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	dd/mm	

* If a calf dies before disbudding or if the calf will never grow horns (e.g. Angus calves) then the farmer should write "N/A" instead of the date.

** Any Calf over 6 months old must be castrated by a veterinary surgeon

Signature of herd owner: _____

Date: _____ / _____ /20

Next Steps

1. Application forms are expected to go out before Christmas
2. Get them back to DAF asap
3. DAF will send ICBF the applicants
4. ICBF will issue the AE book to 'New Herds'
5. Forms for other events will be issued later.
6. DAF no: 1890-252-707



THE DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES & FOOD
 AN ROINN TALMHAÍOCHTA, IASCAIGH AGUS BIA



ANIMAL WELFARE, RECORDING AND BREEDING SCHEME FOR SUCKLER HERDS 2008-2012
2008 APPLICATION FORM

Name and address

Telephone

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Mobile No.

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E-mail address

I/WE HEREBY APPLY TO BE ADMITTED (FIVE-YEAR CONTRACT) TO THE ANIMAL WELFARE, RECORDING AND BREEDING SCHEME FOR SUCKLER HERDS

CLOSING DATE 31 March 2008

Please read the Terms and Conditions enclosed before completing this application form

Herdnumber

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I HAVE READ THE DECLARATION OVERLEAF.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF BEEF BREED SUCKLER COWS THAT I EXPECT TO HAVE CALVING DOWN IN MY HERD IN THE CALENDAR YEAR 2008 IS . PLEASE NOTE THIS NUMBER IS FOR STATISTICAL PURPOSES ONLY AND DOES NOT FORM PART OF THE OFFICIAL APPLICATION.

If the animals are kept at an address that is different to the one listed above please state no more than two places where your animals can be inspected (please print) _____
 and _____

Signature: Please note that this application cannot be accepted if the applicant does not sign it. Where the application is made on behalf of more than one person, all parties must sign. Where this application is made on behalf of a company or other legal entity, please enter the official status of the signatory, e.g. company secretary.

SIGN HERE

DATE

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When completed return this form to Suckler Herds Section, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Government Offices, Old Abbeyleix Road, Portlaoise, Co. Laois or to your Local Office of the Department.

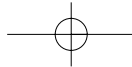
Closing Date: 31 MARCH 2008 This application form must reach the Suckler Herds Section or any Local Office of the Department on or before 31 March 2008. **Proof of postage, a Swiftpost receipt or proof of delivery will be required where the Department does not have a record of receiving an Application Form.**

LATE APPLICATIONS: PLEASE NOTE THAT PENALTIES WILL APPLY TO APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT AFTER 31 March 2008 CLOSING DATE. THE PENALTIES SET DOWN RISE TO THE COMPLETE LOSS OF PAYMENT WHERE THE APPLICATION IS MORE THAN 25 CALENDAR DAYS LATE, I.E. RECEIVED ON/AFTER 26 APRIL 2008.

The animal events returns can be recorded using the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food's on-line services. You can register for these services at www.agriculture.gov.ie. If you are already registered for these services and wish to record your animal events on-line, please tick the box under.

YES

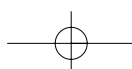
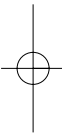
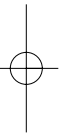
For Official Use Only	
On-line Applicant :	<input type="radio"/>
Signature :	<input type="radio"/>
Valid Application :	<input type="radio"/>

**Declaration:**

I/We have read the Terms and Conditions of the Scheme I/we are entering, understand them and agree to be bound by them. I/We wish to apply for payment on the eligible cows (**maximum number is 100**), which are in my/our ownership and possession. I/We have read and understand the conditions that apply regarding qualification for payment during the five-year contract. I/We hereby undertake that I/we will manage the cows in accordance with the Terms and Conditions of the Scheme and I/we declare that all information given by me/us is correct. I/we understand that my/our cows and progeny may be subject to inspection with or without notice and that any false declaration or non-compliance with the Terms and Conditions will render me/us liable to the penalties therein. I/We understand and agree that all data e.g. my contact details, calf registrations, Cattle Movement Monitoring System (CMMS), and other animal events, will be made available by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food to the Irish Cattle Breeding Federation (ICBF). It will be stored in the ICBF cattle breeding database and will be used for the purpose of cattle breeding activities in relation to the national beef herd. I/We also understand that the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food is subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Acts.

The following applies to Teagasc clients only

I/We understand and agree that Teagasc advisory staff will be allowed access to the ICBF cattle breeding database for all animal events data supplied by me/us, for the sole purpose of assisting and advising me/us in relation to my/our application under the scheme.





THE DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES & FOOD
AN ROINN TALMHAÍOCHTA, IASCAIGH AGUS BIA



TERMS AND CONDITIONS

ANIMAL WELFARE, RECORDING AND BREEDING SCHEME FOR SUCKLER HERDS

Introduced by

The

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

DATE: 01 January 2008

All details of this Scheme may be accessed on the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food website at
<http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/> Animal Welfare, Recording and Breeding Scheme for Suckler Herds

1. General Outline and Legal Basis

- 1.1. These are the administrative provisions for the implementation of the Animal Welfare, Recording and Breeding Scheme for Suckler Herds in Ireland which has been approved by the European Commission.
- 1.2. This Scheme is based on and is to be implemented under Articles 40 of Council Regulation 1698/2005 and IV.C of Community Guidelines for State Aid in the Agriculture and Forestry Sector 2007-2013 (2006/C 319/01).

The Scheme will run for a maximum of **five years** from 01 January 2008 until 31 December 2012.

2. General Provisions

- 2.1 The Scheme shall be administered by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and shall operate throughout the State.
- 2.2 The Scheme is 100% funded by the National Exchequer.
- 2.3 The Scheme will come into operation as and from 01 January 2008. An application to join the Scheme for a full **five year** contract will be accepted up until 31 March 2008. **However, a currently active suckler cow farmer who does not apply to enter the Scheme from year 1 (2008) will not be allowed enter the Scheme in any of the subsequent four years.**
- 2.4 Participants in the Scheme must carry out their farming activities in accordance with the conditions set out hereunder.
- 2.5 Participation in the Scheme is voluntary.

3. Definitions

For the purpose of this Scheme:

- (a) "the Department" shall mean the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food;
- (b) "Minister" shall mean the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food;
- (c) "family member" shall mean spouse, parent, brother, sister, son, daughter, grandchild or favoured nephew/niece;
- (d) "farmer" shall mean an individual agricultural producer, whether a natural or legal person or a group of natural or legal persons, whatever legal status is granted the group and its members by National law, whose holding is within the State;
- (e) "holding" shall mean all the production units in the State managed by a producer and includes the total area of land whether in one or more parcels including buildings thereon, occupied by a farmer, whether owned, taken on lease, rented or otherwise held for the purpose of farming;
- (f) "Applicant" shall mean a farmer who submits an application for the Animal Welfare, Recording and Breeding Scheme for Suckler Herds. An applicant may submit only **one** such application in relation to his/her holding;
- (g) "New entrant" shall mean an applicant who does not have suckler cows in 2008 and commences/re-commences keeping suckler cows for the rearing of calves in 2009 or the subsequent years of the Scheme;
- (h) "Application" shall mean an application for a contract under the Scheme in accordance with the Terms and Conditions set out herein;
- (i) "ICBF" shall mean the Irish Cattle Breeding Federation;
- (j) "Animal Events System" shall mean the recording system as operated by the Irish Cattle Breeding Federation (ICBF);
- (k) "CMMS" shall mean the electronic bovine database of the Cattle Movement Monitoring System;
- (l) A "suckler cow" shall mean any cow for which payment has been requested and which belongs to a beef breed or is born of a cross with a beef breed;
- (m) 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 CMMS rules.

- Is inseminated either through normal service or AI, to a bull of a beef breed.
- Calves after the date of receipt of the application by the Department.
- Gives birth to a calf (dead or alive) in the applicants herd and, is tagged and registered to that cow.

Measures 1-6 must be completed on all live calves born to an eligible suckler cow, and all calves reared by that cow.

- (n) A “beef breed” shall mean any breed except the following: Angler Rotvieh (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, MRI, Normande, Norwegian Red, Swedish Red, Danish Red, Rotbunte, Reggiana and Valdostana Nera, Itasuomenkarja, Lansisuomenkarja and Pohjoissuomenkarja.
- (o) “Teagasc” shall mean The Irish Agriculture and Food Development Authority.
- (p) “Scheme” shall mean the Animal Welfare, Recording and Breeding Scheme for Suckler Herds.

4. Objectives of Scheme

The objectives of the Scheme shall be to:

- Enhance welfare standards for animals produced from the suckler cow herd.
- Improve husbandry standards at weaning time leading to reduced illness and mortality and enhanced health of the National herd.
- Provide education and knowledge building among farmers on best practice in suckler herd health and welfare.
- Improve the genetic quality of the National suckler herd.
- Improve the competitiveness of the Irish beef industry and the quality of the beef produced.

5. Conditions for the Grant of Aid

Payments shall be made in respect of a valid application submitted by a farmer who, for the full term of their participation in the Scheme farms in compliance with:

- The Terms and Conditions set out in this document
- The statutory management requirements set down in EU legislation on animal health and welfare. These requirements have been set out in documents posted to farmers in 2005 and 2006, and are available on the Department's website <http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/>

6. Application Procedure

The application procedure shall be as follows:

- The Department will issue an application form to all known potentially eligible farmers.
- Farmers who do not receive this form from the Department may complete a blank application form.
- An application form must be lodged with the Department before the first calf is born in the herd in 2008.
- All calves born under the Scheme must be registered using the Animal Events System.
- The closing date for lodging the application form will be 31 March 2008.
- The application form must be completed by the farmer and be submitted to the Suckler Herds Section, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Government Offices, Old Abbeylax Road, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.
- The applicant will be requested to rectify any deficiencies outlined and if this is done satisfactorily within 21 working days of that request, the application will be reinstated and processing will recommence. Applications which are deemed ineligible will be rejected.

7. Eligibility

To be eligible to participate in the Scheme, a farmer shall:

- Be aged eighteen years or over,
- Be farming a holding for which all land parcels will be declared every year of the contract under the EU Single Payment Scheme.
- Undertake to implement, for the full term of the Scheme, Measures 1 to 6 on all eligible suckler cows and the calves they are suckling kept on his/her holding. Payment shall be limited to a maximum of 100 eligible suckler cows kept by the applicant. However, the requirements of the Scheme apply to all suckler cows, and calves reared by those cows (whether born on the farm or bought in) kept on the holding. Measure 7 shall also be compulsory.
- Record all details of each undertaking in each Measure through the Animal Events System.

8. Measure - Calving details

Each calf must be registered using the ICBF Animal Events System. An Animal Events Book will be issued to each applicant once the application form is lodged. It will also be possible to record this information using the internet. Details of sire of calf and calving survey must be recorded in addition to the mandatory calf registration data for each calf born.

8.1 Measure 1 - Calving details

Each calf must be registered using the ICBF Animal Events System. An Animal Events Book will be issued to each applicant once the application form is lodged. It will also be possible to record this information using the internet. Details of sire of calf and calving survey must be recorded in addition to the mandatory calf registration data for each calf born.

8.2 Measure 2 - Disbudding of calves

10. Veterinary advice is that all calves should be treated with a local anaesthetic when disbudding. Local anaesthetic may be obtained on prescription from veterinary surgeons. It is illegal to disbud a calf over 2 weeks old without using a local anaesthetic. Disbudding of calves must be carried out within 3 weeks of birth, except where the horn buds do not emerge within this period, or for animals that are naturally polled.

A custom-built calf-dehorning crate should be used to minimise stress to the calf and for optimum safety to the operator.

Date of Disbudding must be recorded in the Animal Events System.

8.3 Measure 3 - Castration of calves

It is not compulsory to castrate all male calves under this Scheme. However, where calves are going to be castrated, they must be castrated at least four weeks prior to weaning date, or at least two weeks after the calf has been weaned. It is illegal to castrate an animal over six months of age without veterinary involvement. Evidence of completion of this task by a Veterinary Surgeon may be requested by the Department.

It is recommended that castration be undertaken at the earliest possible age to minimise stress.

Date of Castration must be recorded in the Animal Events System.

8.4 Measure 4 - Minimum calving age

The average age of heifers calving for the first time must be 24 months, and in no circumstances will an animal calving for the first time at less than 22 months of age be eligible for payment. However, there will be a tolerance, depending on the size of the herd, for heifers calving for the first time between 22 months and up to 24 months of age.

8.5 Measure 5 - Appropriate weaning procedures

The minimum age that a calf can be weaned as part of this Scheme is **eight weeks** of age.

This Measure is comprised of three different actions:

8.5.1 Meal (concentrates) feeding

Concentrates must be introduced to calves a minimum of 4 weeks before weaning. The meal shall be of the appropriate quality and standard as required for calves at weaning time. Meal must be fed in a feeder appropriate for calves and allow sufficient room for calves to feed. The daily allowance per animal must be increased over this period until all animals are eating, on average, 1.0 kg/head/day at weaning. Meal feeding must be continued through the weaning process for a minimum period of 2 weeks after weaning.

8.5.2 Graduated weaning

Abrupt weaning of all animals at the one time is not permitted.

For herds with more than 10 suckler cows, a gradual weaning procedure must be followed when weaning, with the following being the procedures permitted;

At pasture: The herd of cows and calves are retained in a properly fenced field with a good grass supply (or with supplementary forage provided) and with a concentrate creep for the calves. Calves must be weaned in at least two separate groups with each group being removed at a minimum interval of five days. The first group of cows must be removed allowing their calves to stay with the remaining herd. Another method is to separate cows and calves by means of a well-powered electric fence (up to three strands may be needed). After a few days the cows can be taken away to another area. Again the cows must be weaned in at least two separate groups.

Indoors: Calves are housed in a pen adjacent to the cows with access to these cows. Calves must be weaned in at least two separate groups with each group being removed at a minimum interval of five days. The first group of cows must be removed allowing their calves to stay with the remaining herd. Cows for culling and those in poor body condition (e.g. young cows or very old cows) should be weaned first and late calving cows in good body condition weaned towards the end.

Date of weaning must be recorded in the Animal Events System.

8.5.3 Sales procedure

All animals must have been weaned a minimum of 2 weeks before they can be sold, or moved from the herd.

8.6 Measure 6 - Animal Events Recording

Applicants must complete and submit all the information as required in the Animal Events system through the ICBF. This also includes all data for each Measure in this Scheme. This data may be either submitted in paper form by post, or over the internet. The recording and submitting of animal events information must be completed according to the schedule set out in the Animal Events System.

8.7 Measure 7 - Training and Education

8.7.1 It shall be mandatory for an approved applicant to attend a suitable training course before reaching the end of their second year in the Scheme. However, a person who is under 35 years of age on 01 January 2008 and who holds at least a National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) Level 6 Agricultural Qualification or equivalent will not have to complete Measure 7 of the Scheme. Failure to attend within the period specified may result in third and subsequent years' payment being withheld until such time as satisfactory evidence is provided that a training course has been completed by the beneficiary. If the applicant is unable to attend, a family member who is actively involved in the management of the Suckler herd may attend the course.

8.7.2 In the case of joint applications either participant may attend the course, but he or she must attend the whole course.

8.7.3 Training courses shall be for a specified duration as set down by the Minister.

8.7.4 The course shall be devised in accordance with conditions set down by the Minister or an officer authorised on the Minister's behalf. Courses may include an on-farm visit/other demonstration for practical demonstration purposes.

9. Payments under the Scheme

An annual payment of €82 (where the applicant is reporting the animal events online) or €80 (where animal events are reported manually) per eligible suckler cow up to a limit of 100, will be made following confirmation of compliance with all the undertakings of the Scheme. It is permitted to vary the number of cows on the applicant's holding from year to year in the Scheme.

10. Compliance Checks

To enable the Department to verify the accuracy of information submitted by applicants, application forms will be subject to administrative checks, controls through the CMMS, Animal Events System, mart inspections and on-farm inspections. By submitting a completed application the applicant agrees thereby to permit officials or agents of the Department to carry out on-farm inspections with or without prior notice at any reasonable time(s) and without prejudice to public liability. Applicants must:

- 10.1 Where notified of an on-farm inspection arrange to be present for the inspection or nominate a representative in his/her place to assist the inspecting officer;
- 10.2 Segregate and present separately for inspection the animals the subject of this Scheme together with their passports;
- 10.3 Provide proper handling and disinfecting facilities;
- 10.4 Arrange for sufficient help to be given to the inspecting officer(s) so that each animal is restrained and controlled sufficiently so as to facilitate inspection;
- 10.5 Answer all relevant queries arising and produce any relevant documentation requested at or after inspection without delay;

Every inspection will be the subject of a report and the applicant or his/her representative will be given an opportunity to sign the report indicating his/her presence at the inspection and to add his/her observations if he/she so wishes. Unannounced inspections may also be required in certain circumstances. If an applicant has been selected for an inspection, the inspection must be completed.

11. Right of Entry

- 11.1. The Minister reserves the right to carry out inspections at reasonable times of any land, premises, plant, equipment, livestock and records of applicants in this Scheme. Inspections may be carried out during the course of the Scheme or within 3 months following the applicants completion in the Scheme.
- 11.2. Failure to allow an inspection by the Department to proceed may lead to withholding or recovery of any aid. If an on-farm inspection cannot be carried out through the fault of the applicant, the application shall be rejected unless an instance of *force majeure* applies.

12. Penalties

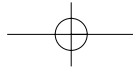
- 12.1. Failure to comply with the Measures in the Scheme will result in an appropriate penalty/sanction.
- 12.2. Monetary penalties, which shall apply to certain specific breaches of the Scheme, will apply.
- 12.3. Penalty amounts may be deducted from future payments due to the applicant under this Scheme or from payments due under other 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.
- 12.4. Serious breaches of the Scheme may lead to the termination of participation and/or exclusion from the Scheme for a period commensurate with the seriousness of the breach, and the refund of monies already paid.
- 12.5. Administrative penalties shall be applied for late lodgement of the application form within the necessary timeframe as follows; except in cases of *force majeure*, a penalty of 1% loss in payment per working day will apply to applications lodged after the deadline for receipt of such application. If the delay amounts to more than 25 calendar days, the application shall be deemed inadmissible and no aid shall be granted in respect of applications received on/after 26 April 2008.
- 12.6. Where residues of substances prohibited under Council Directive 96/22/EC or residues of substances authorised by that Directive but used illegally are detected pursuant to Council Directive 96/23/EC in an animal belonging to an applicants bovine herd or are found on the holding in any form or where the applicant obstructs an investigation concerning such residues, he/she shall not receive any Animal Welfare, Recording and Breeding Scheme for Suckler Herds payment for the calendar year of such detection, finding or obstruction. Where he/she repeat such an infringement, he/she may be excluded from Animal Welfare, Recording and Breeding Scheme payment for up to five years from the year in which the repeated infringement was discovered.
- 12.7 Penalties will apply for non-compliance with the Terms and Conditions of the Scheme.

13. Appeals

In cases where non-compliance penalties are applied, applicants will be given twenty one working days after formal notification by the Department, in which to review, in writing to the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and give reasons why any penalty imposed should not be applied. The applicant will be informed of the outcome of the review in writing. This is without prejudice to an applicant's rights under the Agriculture Appeals Act, 2001.

14. Responsibility of Applicant

- 14.1. It shall be the responsibility of the applicant to familiarise him/herself with the Terms and Conditions of the Scheme, return completed forms when required, and be aware of the consequences for breaches of the Scheme. In the event that the Department does not receive documents, a Swiftpost receipt or proof of delivery will be required as proof of postage for documents.
- 14.2. The approval or payment of aid under the Scheme does not imply the acceptance by the Minister of any responsibility as regards the obligations undertaken by the applicant in this Scheme.



15. Failure to abide by the Terms and Conditions of the Scheme

- 15.1. Where, for the purposes of obtaining payment under this Scheme, the applicant(s) knowingly make(s) a false or misleading statement or withholds essential information, his/her/their participation in the Scheme may be terminated and all or part of the aid paid shall be reimbursed. The Minister reserves the right to offset such amounts against other monies payable by the Department under other schemes to the applicant in such cases. The Minister also reserves the right to exclude such a person from further participation in the Scheme for such period as shall be determined.
- 15.2. Where a beneficiary fails to abide by the Terms and Conditions of the Scheme or if there is any material change in the circumstances of the applicant which would be in conflict with the letter or the spirit of the Scheme, his/her/their participation in the Scheme may be terminated and all or part of the aid paid shall be reimbursed. The Minister also reserves the right to offset such amounts against other monies payable by the Department to him/her/them.
- 15.3. The obtaining of aid or the attempt to obtain aid under the Scheme by fraudulent means by the applicant(s) or others acting alone or together may render such persons liable to prosecution.
- 15.4. Where an applicant conspires with other persons to obtain aid under the Scheme by fraudulent means, he/she shall be excluded from the Scheme.

16. Review of Financial Aid

The Minister reserves the right to vary the Financial Provisions under this Scheme.

17. Force Majeure

Where an applicant(s) is unable to meet certain Scheme conditions for reasons beyond his/her/their control a case of *force majeure* may be made in writing to the Department, together with relevant supporting documentation, within 10 working days of the applicant(s) being in a position to notify the facts, whereupon, after due consideration, the relevant Scheme conditions may be waived or modified with the Department's prior approval. The circumstances under which *force majeure* may be considered include (without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing):

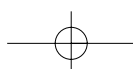
- Death of applicant.
- Serious illness/incapacity of the applicant (supported by medical evidence).
- Compulsory acquisition of all or part of the agricultural holding, which was not anticipated on joining the Scheme.
- A natural disaster.
- The accidental destruction of livestock and/or farm buildings on the holding.
- An outbreak of disease affecting animals on the holding, e.g. slaughter under the disease eradication schemes.
- An order of Court for separation or divorce resulting in the land subject to the Scheme having to be divided or sold where as a result the conditions of the Scheme cannot be met.
- Other Court Order.

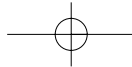
18. Procedures

The Minister may lay down the procedures to be followed in the operation of this Scheme and reserves the right to alter these procedures from time to time.

19. Conditions of Approval

Every approval under this Scheme shall be subject to conditions laid down by the Minister, which must be complied with in full by the applicant(s). The Minister may at any time lay down further conditions under this Scheme, which will be published in the farming press and also notified to each participant.





20. Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation of the Scheme shall be carried out by the Minister to determine the effectiveness of the Scheme.

21. Information and Data Protection

The Minister reserves the right to make public information regarding the number of applicants, number of eligible animals etc, and to make information available to other Government Departments and/or Agencies for the purpose of implementing National legislation.

22. Interpretation

The Department may expand upon, explain, interpret or define the meaning of any aspect of the Terms and Conditions of the Scheme.

23. Safety during operation of the Scheme

Applicants are advised of the need to acquaint themselves with the provisions of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act, 2005.

24. Withdrawal from the Scheme

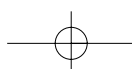
An applicant may withdraw from the Scheme following the completion of all Measures and receive payment for that year provided written notification arrives in the Department indicating withdrawal prior to 31 March of the following year. Where an applicant withdraws from the Scheme during the course of a year and all Measures have not been completed, no payment will be made for that year. An applicant who withdraws from the Scheme will not be re-admitted.

25. Joining the Scheme in the second and subsequent years

If an applicant(s) wishes to join the Scheme from the second (2009) and subsequent years as a new entrant, he/she must lodge an application on/before 31 March 2009, on/before 31 March 2010 etc. Cows that calve before the date of receipt of the application will not be eligible for payment in respect of the calves born before that date. An applicant(s) who withdraws from the scheme will not be re-admitted.

26. Death of applicant

Where an applicant dies within the period of the Scheme, *force majeure* may be applied terminating the agreement and no reimbursement of aid shall be sought in respect of the current or previous contract years, unless the person(s) to whom the holding is transferred undertakes in writing to honour the remainder of the five-year contract. Where the holding is transferred by gift or inheritance, an application under the Scheme by the new applicant(s) may be taken as a transfer of the five-year contract. Leases between family members may meet this undertaking.





Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
ANIMAL WELFARE, RECORDING AND BREEDING SCHEME FOR SUCKLER HERDS

HELPSHEET

This Helpsheet should be read in conjunction with the Terms and Conditions of the Animal Welfare, Recording and Breeding Scheme for Suckler Herds 2008-2012, and before completing your Application Form.

A dedicated Lo-call number has been allocated to deal with specific queries from farmers in relation to the Scheme. It is **1890 252 707**.

A dedicated email address has also been allocated to enable farmers submit queries, and replies will be made on an ongoing basis. It is sucklerherds@agriculture.gov.ie

POINTS OF INFORMATION

1. Familiarise yourself fully with the Terms and Conditions of the Scheme before completing your Application Form, as the onus will be on you the applicant(s) to comply fully with them, in order to qualify for payment.
2. The Scheme will operate as and from 1 January 2008 for a maximum of 5 years until 31 December 2012.
3. An application to join the Scheme for the full 5-year period is also the contract between the applicant(s) and the Department, especially as regards compliance with the Terms and Conditions and qualification for payment. Cows that calve before the date of receipt of the application will not be eligible for payment in respect of the calves born before that date. **It is important to note that a currently active suckler farmer who does not apply to enter the Scheme from year 1 (2008) will not be allowed enter it in the subsequent four years.**
4. A new entrant to suckler farming who will commence /re-commence keeping suckler cows for the rearing of calves from 2009 onwards, may join the Scheme from the second (2009) and subsequent years, provided he/she lodges an application on/before 31 March 2009, on/before 31 March 2010 etc. Such applicants will be eligible for payment only up to 2012. **Cows that calve before the date of receipt of the application will not be eligible for payment in respect of the calves born before that date.**
5. The closing date for lodging the Application Form will be 31 March 2008. However, it is important to note that the Application Form must be lodged with the Department before the first calf is born in the herd in 2008, as a suckler cow, which calves before the date of receipt of the application will not be eligible for payment. For example, a farmer whose suckler cows are due to calve from 1 February 2008 onwards must lodge the Application Form on/before 31 January 2008, and a farmer whose suckler cows are due to calve from 1 September 2008 onwards must lodge the Application Form on/before 31 March 2008.
6. A penalty of 1% loss in payment per working day will apply to applications lodged after 31 March 2008. If the delay amounts to more than 25 calendar days, i.e. applications received on/after 26 April 2008, then such applications will be deemed inadmissible and no grants shall be paid.
7. Payment will be made in respect of a maximum of 100 eligible suckler cows, but all suckler cows and calves reared by those cows and kept on the holding, whether considered for payment or not, must be compliant with the requirements of the Scheme.
8. There is a minimum calving age of 24 months, and any heifer calving for the first time at less than 22 months of age will not qualify for payment. A tolerance will apply for heifers calving for the first time between 22 and 24 months.
9. Calves must be tagged and registered within 27 days of birth, and all animals on the holding must be correctly recorded on the CMMS database.

10. Veterinary advice is that **all** calves should be treated with a local anaesthetic when disbudding. Local anaesthetic may be obtained on prescription from veterinary surgeons. It is illegal to disbud a calf over 2 weeks old without using a local anaesthetic. **Disbudding** of calves must be carried out within 3 weeks of birth, except where the horn buds do not emerge within this period, or for animals that are naturally polled.
11. Where male calves are to be **castrated** (not compulsory under the Scheme, e.g. where the farmer is involved in the production/sale of bulls), it must be carried out at least 4 weeks prior to the weaning date, or at least 2 weeks after the weaning date. It is illegal to castrate an animal over 6 months of age without veterinary involvement.
12. Research work has shown that a proper **weaning** process reduces the stress on the calf and the suckler cow. The details regarding best practice for weaning are to be found at Term and Condition 8.5. It is important to note the following:
 - **8 weeks** of age is the minimum that a calf can be weaned.
 - Meal feeding must be introduced to calves a minimum of **4 weeks before** weaning.
 - **Graduated weaning** must take place in herds with more than 10 suckler cows and **abrupt weaning** of all animals at the one time is not permitted.
13. All relevant animal events (calving details, disbudding, castration, weaning etc.) must be recorded using the **Animal Events System** operated by the Irish Cattle Breeding Federation (ICBF), and may be submitted in paper form by post or over the internet.
14. All approved applicants, or a family member who is actively involved in the management of the suckler herd must attend a suitable **training course** before the end of the second years of the Scheme. This requirement will not apply to applicants under 35 years of age who possess a relevant Qualification. Failure to attend will result in third and subsequent years' payment being withheld until the training is satisfactorily completed. See Paragraph 8.7 of the Terms and Conditions

CHECKLIST FOR APPLICATION FORM

**Please avoid common errors by carrying out the following checks
before submitting your Application Form**

- ✓ **Is your herdnumber, name and address entered correctly on the Application Form?**
- ✓ **Have you completed the total number of Beef Breed cows you expect to have calving down in your herd during 2008.**
- ✓ **If your Herd is kept at more than one location, have you listed the two places where your animals can be inspected?**
- ✓ **Have you signed and dated your Application Form (where the herdnumber is in joint names, all the parties must sign)?**

Lo-call number is 1890 252 707

Dedicated email address is sucklerherds@agriculture.gov.ie