



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

Terms and Conditions of the

Beef Welfare Scheme 2024 (BWS)

Introduced by the

MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND THE MARINE

CLOSING DATE 24 September 2024 at 23.59 hrs

All details of this Scheme can be accessed on the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine website [gov - Beef Welfare Scheme 2024 \(www.gov.ie\)](http://www.gov.ie)

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 SCHEME 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.

Contents

1. General Outline and Legal Basis	5
2. General Provisions	5
3. Definitions	5
4. Eligibility.....	6
5. Objectives of the Scheme	7
6. Conditions for the Grant of Aid.....	7
7. Application Procedure	8
8. Administrative and Compliance Checks	9
9. Requirements of the Scheme	10
9.1 Action 1 – Meal Feeding pre-weaning and post-weaning (Mandatory Action)	10
9.2 Action 2 – Vaccination (Optional Action).....	11
9.3 Payment Calculation	12
10. Payments under the Scheme.....	12
11. Registered Farm Partnerships.....	13
12. Penalties.....	14
13. Force Majeure.....	16
14. Review and Appeal System.....	16
15. Inspections.....	17
16. Responsibility of Applicant	17
17. Failure to abide by the Terms and Conditions of the scheme	18
18. Review of Financial Aids	18
19. Conditions of payment	18
20. Tax Clearance Requirement.....	18
21. Data Protection.....	18
22. Further Conditions.....	19
23. Interpretation	19
24. Records.....	19
Annex 1	20
Action 1 - Meal Feeding pre-weaning and post-weaning (Mandatory Action).....	20
Annex 2	21
Action 2 - Vaccination (Optional Action)	21
Annex 3	23

Data Protection Notice	23
Annex 4	25
Scheme Action Record Sheet.....	25

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1. General Outline and Legal Basis

These are the administrative provisions for the implementation of the Scheme drawn up in accordance with the Ministers and Secretaries Act, 1924.

2. General Provisions

- 2.1 The **Beef Welfare Scheme 2024** will be of one year's duration.
- 2.2 The Scheme shall be administered by the Department and shall operate throughout the State.
- 2.3 The principle of costs incurred, and income foregone shall apply. Action 1 operates under the Agricultural Block Exemption Regulation. Action 2 operates under Agricultural De Minimis.
- 2.4 Participation in the Scheme is voluntary.

3. Definitions

For the purpose of the Scheme:

- "**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.
- "**Active farmer**" shall mean the person claiming payments on the land must be the person farming and/or managing the land, that is, the Active Farmer. The farming activities can include meeting a minimum stocking rate (0.10 livestock unit per forage hectare), producing crops, cutting hay/silage, maintaining landscape features.
- For the purpose of this Scheme, "**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 Scheme, and is entered in "The Register" of Farm Partnerships
- "**Holding**" shall mean all the production units managed by a farmer during 2023, 2024 and subsequent years and situated within the territory of Ireland.
- "**Applicant**" shall mean a farmer or farm partnership who applies for participation in the **Beef Welfare Scheme 2024**. 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".
- "**BWS**" shall mean **Beef Welfare Scheme 2024**.
- "**BISS**" shall mean Basic Income Support for Sustainability.

- “**Application**” shall mean an application for a contract under the **Beef Welfare Scheme 2024** in accordance with the Terms and Conditions set out herein.
- “**AIM**” shall mean the Department’s Animal Identification and Movement system.
- “**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, Normande, Norwegian Red, Swedish Red, Danish Red, Reggiana and Valdostana Nera, Itasuomenkarja, Lansisuomenkarja, and Pohjoissuomenkarja.
- “**Scheme Year**” refers to 01 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.

4. Eligibility

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

- be aged eighteen years or over on the 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 Basic Income Support for Sustainability (BISS) Application is submitted in 2024 to the Department.
- Be a suckler beef farmer i.e. has eligible calves born to eligible suckler cows in the period 1 July 2023 – 30 June 2024.

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

- Belongs to a **beef breed or is sired by a beef breed bull.**
- 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 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 live calf, 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:

- Was born in the herd of the applicant between 01 July 2023 and 30 June 2024.
- Belongs to a beef breed, i.e., is born out of an eligible Suckler Cow and sired by a beef breed bull.
- Is part of a herd intended for rearing calves for meat production. Where the herd has both a milking herd and a beef herd, only calves reared by their mother are eligible calves.
- 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. Failure to register a calf within 27 days of birth will result in the animal being ineligible for payment. It is the farmer’s responsibility to ensure that the registration is received by the Registration Agency within 27 days of birth.
- Any movement of the calf must comply with the legal requirement on farm to farm and farm to export movements.

5. Objectives of the Scheme

The objective of the **Beef Welfare Scheme 2024 (BWS)** is to further increase the economic efficiency of and enhance animal health and husbandry on suckler farms.

6. Conditions for the Grant of Aid

- The Scheme will be open to all eligible suckler beef farmers who commit to completing **the mandatory action** required for the full duration of the Scheme.
- In the event of the Scheme being oversubscribed, a linear cut may be applied to payments or to the maximum number of animals eligible for payment across either action or both.
- The Minister reserves the right to alter the Terms and Conditions of the Scheme, close the Scheme and/or alter the grant-aid at any time.
- The submission of a valid application does not guarantee entry to the Scheme.
- All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application for participation in the Scheme.

7. Application Procedure

- Applications can only be made using the online facility at 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.
- Application opening date is **08 August 2024**.
- Application closing date is **24 September 2024 at 23.59 hrs. Note there is no late application period due to limited time to process applications in advance of expected payments in December 2024.**
- Applicants must ensure their application is correct as errors and omissions **cannot** be rectified afterwards.
- Applicants (or FAS advisors authorised to act on their behalf) need to ensure they click the "submit" button to actually submit their application prior to exiting the system. Failure to click on the "submit" button will mean your application has **NOT** been submitted.
- In consideration of budgetary constraints of the scheme, and to ensure that financial ceilings are not breached and that farmer payments are processed on time, there is no provision for amendments to applications once they are submitted. Applicants (or FAS advisors authorised to act on their behalf) must ensure that their application is correct before clicking on the submit button.

Farm Advisory System (FAS)

An advisor must be FAS certified by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine to submit an application under the Beef Welfare Scheme 2024. A list of FAS certified advisors is available at: gov.ie - [Farm Advisory System \(FAS\) \(www.gov.ie\)](http://www.gov.ie)

You can authorise an approved advisor to act on your behalf on your individual agfood.ie account under "Manage Your Agent Associations" or alternatively you can contact an approved advisor who can add you as a client. An SMS will issue to you prompting you to reply "DAFM Y" to confirm the corresponding association. In the case of Joint Ventures, the relevant authorisation forms can be accessed at: <https://www.gov.ie/en/service/department-of-agriculture-and-foods-online-services/>. The facility on agfood.ie and the SMS method are available until the closing date for the scheme, however, the closing date for the receipt of authorisation forms is 5 working days before the closing date for the scheme.

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 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, crosschecks with relevant databases (including AIM), and any other controls deemed necessary, before payments are made under the Scheme. Applicants shall facilitate such administrative and on-the-spot checks as the Department deems necessary. On-the-spot checks will be carried out at farm level to ensure compliance with the requirements of the scheme.
- 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.
- Participants will be required to complete a record showing the date of commencement of Action 1 - Meal Feeding. In addition, meal purchases receipts (or evidence of use of own farm produced cereals) must be retained on farm and made available for inspection. The Department may also request a copy of the records sheets and purchase receipts from an applicant during the year as part of an administrative check to verify compliance with this measure.
- Participants who opt to carry out Action 2 – Vaccination will be required to complete a record showing the date of vaccination, number of calves vaccinated, and vaccination product used. In addition, vaccination purchases receipts must be retained on farm available for inspection. The Department may also request of copy of the record sheets and purchase receipts from an applicant during the year as part of an administration check to verify compliance with this measure.
- Each participant must maintain a record to demonstrate the completion of the action(s) chosen for the scheme. Failure to produce or forward the records when requested will be a breach of the Scheme obligations and will result in penalties as outlined in **Section 12 Penalties**, in this document.
- No payment shall be made in favour 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 scheme.

9. Requirements of the Scheme

There are two actions in the scheme:

- **Action 1** - Meal Feeding pre-weaning and post-weaning is a **mandatory** action.
- **Action 2** - Vaccination is an **optional** action which participants (or their FAS advisors acting on their behalf) must select at application stage to opt in to undertake this action and to be eligible for payment under this action.

Participants will be presented with the number of eligible calves born on their holding between 01 July 2023 and 30 June 2024 at application stage. Participants will have the option at application stage to select the number of calves for participation in the scheme. The number selected for meal feeding cannot be greater than the number presented but it can be less. The number selected for vaccination cannot be greater than the number presented for meal feeding but can be less.

Example – Farmer A is presented at application stage with 20 calves which is the number of eligible calves born to an eligible suckler cow on their herd between 01 July 2023 and 30 June 2024. They select to meal feed 15 eligible calves, so the maximum they can select to vaccinate is 15 eligible calves, but they can select a lower number if they wish.

The numbers selected at application stage by the participant (or FAS advisor acting on their behalf) will be the numbers that the participant is confirming will be meal fed and vaccinated (if the participant opts in to undertaking action 2) in accordance with this scheme's Terms and Conditions.

9.1 Action 1 – Meal Feeding pre-weaning and post-weaning (Mandatory Action)

This is a **mandatory** action. Participants must introduce meal feeding for a period of 4 weeks pre-weaning and 2 weeks post-weaning to reduce the stress on calves at weaning time.

Calves must be supplemented with compound feeding stuffs containing appropriate minerals and vitamins. The rate of payment is €35 per calf for a maximum of 40 calves. Meal feeding must be carried out on the number of calves selected by the applicant (or their FAS advisor acting on their behalf) at application stage, subject to the maximum of 40 calves.

Participants should ensure that they carefully consider the number of calves they select at application stage and that the number selected accurately reflects the number of calves that they will meal feed in line with the requirements of the scheme. (Refer to **section 12** on the penalties and required levels of compliance).

Participants should carefully read **Annex 1** for further details on this action including how much meal to feed per day.

9.2 Action 2 – Vaccination (Optional Action)

This is an **optional** action. Participants or their FAS advisor acting on their behalf must select this action at application stage if they wish to be considered eligible for payment under this action. If this action is selected at application stage, participants must implement a vaccination programme against clostridial diseases and / or calf pneumonia in suckler calves and record details of the vaccination. The maximum payment for this action is €15 per calf, regardless of whether the calf is vaccinated for one or both diseases (refer to **Annex 2** for further details).

A record must be kept by each participant on the purchase and use of vaccines. The rate of payment is €15 per calf for a maximum of 40 eligible calves. Vaccination must be carried out on the number of calves selected for the vaccination action by the applicant (or their FAS advisor acting on their behalf) at application stage, subject to the maximum of 40 eligible calves.

If a participant selects vaccination at application stage, they must input the number of eligible calves they will vaccinate. The number selected by a participant for vaccination cannot be greater than the number selected for meal feeding. Participants should ensure that they carefully consider the number of calves they select at application stage and that the number selected accurately reflects the number of eligible calves that they vaccinate in line with the requirements of the scheme. (Refer to **section 12** on the penalties and required levels of compliance).

Participants should carefully read **Annex 2** for further details on this action.

9.3 Payment Calculation

	Payment per eligible calf	Maximum number of calves eligible for payment per participant	Maximum payment per participant
Action 1 – Meal Feeding (Mandatory Action)	€35	40	€1,400
Action 2 – Vaccination (Optional Action)	€15	40	€600
Scheme Total	€50	40	€2,000

Note - Maximum thresholds apply to partners within a Registered Farm Partnership (refer section 11).

In the event of oversubscription, a linear reduction on the payment amount or maximum number of animals eligible for payment may be applied across either action 1, action 2 or both.

10. Payments under the Scheme

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

Payments under the **Beef Welfare Scheme 2024** shall comply with EU State Aid rules applicable to enterprises engaged in agricultural production under the Agricultural Block Exemption Regulation and Agricultural De Minimis.

This scheme shall operate under State Aid rules in accordance with Commission Regulation (EU) 2022/2472 of 14 December 2022 declaring certain categories of aid in the agricultural and forestry sectors and in rural areas compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

Payments under the **Beef Welfare Scheme 2024** shall comply with EU State Aid rules applicable to enterprises engaged in agricultural production under the agricultural de minimis aid as laid down in Commission Regulations (EU) No. 1408/2013 and No. 2019/316. In accordance with that Regulation, the total amount of de minimis aid granted to a single undertaking shall not exceed €20,000 over any period of 3 fiscal years.

Participants should note that successful participation in the **Beef Welfare Scheme 2024** shall not confer an automatic entitlement to a payment under the Scheme and that crosschecks will be made by the Department to ensure that payments made to individual participants in the respect of the previous 3 fiscal years do not exceed the de minimis ceiling.

11. Registered Farm Partnerships

Applicants who are partners in a farm partnership can, subject to conditions outlined below, continue to benefit individually under the **Beef Welfare Scheme 2024**. Applications to the scheme must be made using the applicants individual herd number for any herd number in the partnership that wishes to participate in the scheme.

Applicants registered under Farm Partnership Registration are required to submit one BISS in 2024 through the Departments online facility under the farm partnership number. To be considered under the **Beef Welfare Scheme 2024**, all partners should individually declare all land farmed by them within the partnership.

<u>Type of Partnership</u>	Maximum Threshold on which payment will be made (per action)
Single Herd Farm Partnership	40 eligible calves
Multi Herd Farm Partnership of two herds (subject to a maximum of 40 eligible calves per herd)	80 eligible calves
Multi Herd Farmer Partnership of three or more herds (subject to a maximum of 40 eligible calves per herd)	120 eligible calves

Only eligible calves born between 01 July 2023 and 30 June 2024 and registered on the herd(s) which applied to participate in the scheme will be paid for in that herd. Each partner shall deliver on the requirement related to their holding. All partners are jointly and severally responsible for delivery of the **Beef Welfare Scheme 2024**.

Only one payment under the Beef Welfare Scheme 2024 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.

12. Penalties

- The payment under the **Beef Welfare Scheme 2024** will be granted as outlined in section 10 Payments under the Scheme. Penalties under the **Beef Welfare Scheme 2024** will be calculated based on non-compliance as set out in this section.
- Where monetary penalties or overpayments are not paid or recovered within the period requested, the Department may take whatever action is deemed necessary for their recovery.
- Where it is established that conditions were created to maximise or draw down payment under the scheme, 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 scheme conditions has occurred which may lead to a sanction or the termination of the contract and reimbursement of all aid.
- Debts due to the Department arising from overpayments and/or penalties must be paid in full.
- If alternative payment arrangements to clear outstanding debts in full are not in place, the Department will recoup the debts from any the Department payments that become due.
- Interest payable at the rate provided for under Statutory Instrument Number 497 of 2022 European Communities (Recovery of Amounts) Regulations 2022 as amended, is applied to debts due to the Department in respect of Beef Welfare Scheme. Interest is calculated for the period elapsing between the payment deadline provided in the notification of the (re)payment obligation to the farmer, and either payment or deduction.
- Joint applicants remain liable for each other's debts or as provided for in a signed partnership agreement.

Scheme Eligibility Criteria

Eligibility Criteria	Level of Compliance	Sanction
BISS application submitted in 2024.	BISS application not submitted in 2024.	No payment will issue to participant for the scheme.

Scheme Action Penalty Schedule

Action Number	Action	Level of Compliance	Sanction
1	Meal Feeding (Mandatory Action)	No meal feeding undertaken or not undertaken to the required levels (as outlined in Annex 1) and / or receipts/records not provided, when requested, within the timeframe stated at the time of request.	<p>If Action 2 applied for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Payment for Action 1 (Meal Feeding) 50% penalty applied to payment due under Action 2 <p>If Action 2 not applied for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No payment will issue.
2	Vaccination (Optional Action)	If this action is selected at application stage, but no vaccination undertaken or not undertaken to the required levels (as outlined in Annex 2) and / or receipts / records not provided, when requested, within the timeframe stated at the time of request.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Payment for Action 2 (Vaccination) 50% penalty applied to payment due under Action 1.

Where both action 1 and 2 are not carried out or where receipts / records are not provided, or where the action(s) are not carried out to the required standard, no payment at all will issue.

13. Force Majeure

Where a beneficiary is unable to continue complying with the requirements of the Scheme for reasons beyond his/her control, a case may be made under *Force Majeure* to terminate participation in the scheme. 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, R32 RPA6 in writing, with relevant evidence, within fifteen working days from the date on which the beneficiary or the person entitled through them, is in a position 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.

14. Review and Appeal System

In cases where payment is withheld, applicants will be given 21 working days after formal notification in which to seek a review by the Department. Any request for a review should clearly set out the grounds for a review and should be accompanied by supporting documentation where appropriate. The applicant will be informed in writing of the outcome of that review. This initial review shall be without prejudice to the right to any subsequent appeal to the Agricultural Appeals Office.

An applicant who has a payment withheld under the Scheme may appeal that decision to the Agriculture Appeals Office. Appeals must be lodged within three months of the date of the Department's review letter. Appeals should be addressed to the Agriculture Appeals Office, Kilminchy Court, Portlaoise, Co Laois. R32 DTW5.

15. Inspections

- The Minister reserves the right to carry out inspections at reasonable times of any land, premises, plant, equipment, livestock and records of participants, if he so wishes.
- In submitting an application, applicants agree 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.
- If an on-farm inspection cannot be carried out through the fault or action of the farmer or his/her representative, the participant shall be removed from the scheme resulting in no payment.
- When notified of an on-farm inspection, the participant should arrange to be present for the inspection or have a representative nominated in his/her place to assist the inspecting officer.
- Every on-the-spot (ground) inspection will be the subject of a report and the participant 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. Signing this document does not imply that the applicant or his/her agent accepts the inspection findings.

16. Responsibility of Applicant

- It shall be the responsibility of the applicant to familiarise him/herself/themselves with the scheme's Terms and Conditions and with the consequences for breaches of the Scheme.
- 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.
- The applicant must maintain a record to demonstrate the completion of the action(s) in the Scheme.
- The applicant must retain all receipts, documentation and other evidence to prove compliance with Scheme actions for the duration of participation in the scheme.
- The record must be made available on request for inspection and administrative checks by the Department.

17. Failure to abide by the Terms and Conditions of the scheme

- Where, for the purposes of obtaining payment under the Scheme to which these Terms and Conditions relate, the applicant knowingly makes a false or misleading statement or withholds essential information, 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 participation in any or all of the Scheme may be terminated and all or part of the aid paid shall be reimbursed.
- The Minister reserves the right to recover such amounts in accordance with the law. The Minister also reserves the right to exclude such a person from further participation in any other Department scheme for such period as shall be determined, but in any event not exceeding a period of 6 years.

18. Review of Financial Aids

- The Minister reserves the right to restrict the availability of the Scheme and to vary, where occasion so demands, the amount of financial aid wherever specified in the Scheme.
- The obtaining of aid or the attempt to obtain aid under the Scheme by fraudulent means by the applicant or others acting alone or together may render such persons liable to prosecution.

19. Conditions of payment

Every payment under this Scheme shall be subject to conditions laid down by the Minister, which must be complied with in full by the applicant.

20. Tax Clearance Requirement

Payment of financial aid as provided for in this Scheme may be subject to the condition that a tax clearance certificate from the Revenue Commissioners be furnished before a payment can be issued.

21. Data Protection

Your attention is drawn to the Data Protection Notice in Annex 3.

22. Further Conditions

- The Minister may at any time lay down further conditions under this Scheme.
- The Minister reserves the right to alter from time to time the procedures to be followed in the operation of the Scheme.

23. Interpretation

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

24. Records

All applicants accepted into the Scheme must maintain a record of all compliance actions. It is essential that the record and any associated documents are retained and updated to reflect the completion of actions undertaken by applicants under the Scheme. Participants notified of administrative checks will be required to submit such records.

Annex 1

Action 1 - Meal Feeding pre-weaning and post-weaning (Mandatory Action)

Calves must be supplemented with a compound feeding stuff containing appropriate mineral and vitamins for four weeks pre weaning and two weeks post weaning.

Participants may feed purchased compound feed containing minerals and vitamins or straights (feed materials). If straights (feed materials) are being fed, participants should consult their advisor or nutritionist to ensure that a correct level of nutrition is being achieved. Straights (feed materials) must be supplemented with a suitable complementary mineral feeding stuff.

If two or more straights are being mixed together on-farm, for example using a mixer wagon or loading shovel, then participants must register with the Department as a home-mixer. Registration forms are available at the following link:

<http://www.gov.ie/en/service/8ba4f-approval-and-registration-of-feed-business-operators/>

Receipts, invoices and labels of all compound feeding stuffs, and/or straights (feed materials) and complementary mineral mixtures purchased must be retained and made available for inspection and administrative check.

All feeding stuffs (including mineral feeds) must be sourced from registered or approved feed business operators. A list of approved businesses is available here:

<http://www.gov.ie/en/publication/76664-feeding-stuffs-lists-of-fbos-registered-and-approved/>

Minerals must be fed in accordance with the instructions given on the label. The level of supplementation must be an adequate rate to provide the required level of nutrition. Participants should supplement in accordance with manufacturer's label recommendations.

Participants will be required to retain sales documents for any cow/calves sold which along with the feed delivery docket and date of weaning will verify the calf was fed four weeks pre-weaning and two weeks post-weaning.

Participants must record the date of weaning of each animal that is being submitted for payment under this action. Where groups of calves are weaned on different dates, record the different weaning dates for each group. Participants must introduce meal feeding for a period of 4 weeks pre-weaning and 2 weeks post-weaning to reduce the stress on calves at weaning time. **Recommended daily feeding allowance for meal feeding is 1kg per animal per day for a period of 4 weeks pre-weaning and 2kgs per animal per day for 2 weeks post weaning.**

Annex 2

Action 2 - Vaccination (Optional Action)

This is an optional action. Participants or their FAS advisor acting on their behalf must select this action at application stage, if they wish to be considered eligible for payment under this action. If this action is selected at application stage, participants must implement a vaccination programme against clostridial diseases and / or calf pneumonia in suckler calves and record details of the vaccination. The maximum payment for this action is €15 per calf regardless of whether the calf is vaccinated for one or both diseases.

Pneumonia Vaccination

Pneumonia is one of the most common causes of death in cattle of all ages over one month old. Pneumonia is an inflammation of the lungs, which can cause permanent damage and even death. Mortality rates due to pneumonia are approximately 3% in calves in the first 12 weeks of life. The high-risk periods in cattle are those times when the animals are under increased stress. High-risk periods occur after grouping or mixing of groups, after weaning off milk or milk replacer and in unfavourable or changeable weather conditions.

Weaning stress has an adverse effect on the immune system making calves more susceptible to disease, particularly pneumonia.

Calves can be vaccinated from two weeks of age. Vaccinating calves before they get pneumonia can be a very effective way of controlling disease.

Vaccinations help reduce the probability of disease but cannot solely be depended upon for prevention. The management system preweaning and post-weaning will assist the successful outcomes of a bovine respiratory disease vaccination programme.

Farmers should select the most appropriate product for their holding and circumstances and should comply with the manufacturer's recommendations regarding the relevant product. Where appropriate, it is advised that participants should consult with their veterinary surgeon for the most suitable vaccination programme for their specific farm. A record must be kept by each participant in this option of the purchase and use of vaccines.

For a vaccine to work properly, you must follow the vaccination programme for the product being used, and allow the time required for the onset of immunity.

Clostridial Vaccination

Clostridial disease is an umbrella term which covers a range of bacterial diseases including blackleg, pulp kidney, braxy, tetanus, malignant oedema, black disease and infections with *Clostridium perfringens* or *Clostridium sordelli*. Clostridial diseases can affect animals at all ages depending on the strain but cattle between three and twelve months of age are at the highest risk.

Clostridial vaccines consist of a combination vaccine covering a range of clostridial diseases with a primary course of two injections of 2ml doses given 4 – 6 weeks apart. Calves can be vaccinated from two weeks of age.

Farmers should select the most appropriate product for their holding and circumstances and should comply with the manufacturer's recommendations regarding the relevant product. Where appropriate, it is advised that participants should consult with their veterinary surgeon for the most suitable vaccination programme for their specific farm. A record must be kept by each participant in this option of the purchase and use of vaccines.

For a vaccine to work properly, you must follow the vaccination programme for the product being used, and allow the time required for the onset of immunity.

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 Beef Welfare Scheme.

1. Specified purpose:

The personal data sought from the data subject is required for the purpose of making an application under the Beef Welfare Scheme. Failure to provide all the personal data required to facilitate the processing of the application, including data testing, under the scheme will result in DAFM being unable to process the application.

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.

2. Legal basis:

The Beef Welfare Scheme is implemented pursuant to the Ministers and Secretaries Acts 1924 and is operated by DAFM.

The Department may, for the purpose of aiding administrative efficiencies, use existing customer data for other purposes. The use of the data in this way is considered compatible with its original purpose of collection.

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.

4. Transferred outside the EU:

Information provided in support of an application under the Beef Welfare Scheme is not currently transmitted outside of the EU.

5. Retention Period:

The data submitted in support of the application by the data subject under the Beef Welfare Scheme will be retained by DAFM for 7 years plus the current scheme year in line with the purposes for which it was collected.

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.

6. Data provision being statutory or contractual obligation:

The data provided for this purpose is being requested under the requirements of the Beef Welfare Scheme and if the customer chooses not to provide this information their application for the Beef Welfare Scheme cannot proceed.

7. Automated Decision Making, including profiling

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

Automated decision making will also be used for the purposes of selecting participants for inspection in accordance with the scheme terms and conditions.

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

8. Information from Third Party:

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

9. 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>

Annex 4

Scheme Action Record Sheet

Beef Welfare Scheme 2024
Scheme Action Record Sheet

Applicant Name:	
Applicant Herdnumber:	
Number of calves selected at application stage for Meal Feeding:	Number of eligible calves selected at application stage for Vaccination, if selected:

Beef Schemes Contact Details:

Post: Beef Schemes Section,
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine,
Government Building,
Old Abbeyleix Road,
Portlaoise, Co Laois, R32 RPA6

Phone: 057 8674422

Email: bws@agriculture.gov.ie



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

Action 1 – Meal Feeding pre-weaning and post-weaning (Mandatory Action)

- Calves must be supplemented with a compound feeding stuff containing appropriate mineral and vitamins for four weeks pre-weaning and two weeks post-weaning.
- This action must be carried out on the number of calves selected at application stage.
- This sheet must be completed in full to process your 2024 BWS application.
- The record sheet must be completed and returned, together with associated receipts and documents, to Beef Schemes.
- Participants may feed purchased compound feed containing minerals and vitamins (feed materials) or straights with balancer.
- Refer to Annex 1 of the scheme terms and conditions for full details.

Date of Weaning	Date meal feeding commenced	No. of calves	Details of Straights* / Feeding stuff used	Mineral Supplementation*	Rate of Supplementation*	Quantity Used / Purchased	Purchase / Invoice Reference No.

* If straights are being fed, participants should consult their advisor or nutritionist to ensure that a correct level of nutrition is being achieved. Straights must be supplemented with a suitable complementary mineral feeding stuff.

Action 2 – Vaccination (Optional Action)

- If this optional action is selected at application, this action must be carried out on the number of calves selected at application stage.
- This sheet must be completed in full to process your 2024 BWS application.
- The record sheet must be completed and returned, together with associated receipts and documents, to Beef Schemes.
- Refer to Annex 2 of the scheme terms and conditions for full details.

Date of Vaccination	Number of calves vaccinated	Recommended dosage per calf	Vaccination Product	Vaccination Receipt Amount