

FAS In Ireland

FAS-GAEC Workshop Ispra



Department of
**Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food**

An Roinn
**Talmhaíochta,
Iascaigh agus Bia**

John O' Rourke

Liam Fahey

FAS In Ireland

- Ireland has a FAS System in place in keeping with Art. 13 of Reg. 1782/2003
- We do not have a Pillar 2 FAS Scheme
- Farmers must pay in full for advice on Cross Compliance.

Background to Advisory Service

- Ireland has a longstanding Farm Advisory service
- Both Public and Private Bodies
- These Bodies operate in all parts of the country

Background to Advisory Service

Advisory Bodies

- Public
 - Teagasc
- Private
 - Private Consultants

All Advisors are Agricultural/Environmental
Science Graduates

Background to Advisory Service

All advisors are fully familiar with the Terms and Conditions of Pillar 1 and Pillar 2 schemes and Cross Compliance
Because:

1. They charge for their services
2. Their farmer clients are very demanding and litigious.

Scheme Participation

- Single Payment Scheme 126,000
- Less Favoured Area 110,000
- Environment Scheme 60,000
(Rural Environment Protection Scheme - REPS)
- Welfare Scheme 60,000

Approved FAS Advisors

- Ireland has an approval system in place for REPS Planners
- To participate in REPS, you must have a farm plan prepared by an approved REPS Planner
- A REPS Planner is an Agricultural Advisor who is approved by DAFF to prepare REPS Plans

Approved FAS Advisors

- Agencies that employed Approved planners are approved REPS Agencies
- We have Public and Private REPS Agencies

Approved FAS Bodies

- After consultation with the public (Teagasc) and private bodies, DAFF approve all REPS planners as FAS advisors on condition that they attended for FAS training.
- All REPS Agencies with advisors who attended for FAS training were approved as FAS Bodies.
- Approved Bodies are listed on DAFF website.
- Approval can be withdrawn

FAS Bodies

Currently we have:

- 147 FAS Advisors employed by TEAGASC
- 242 Private FAS Advisors
- 198 FAS Agencies
- = All farmers have a choice – public or private

Training

- As REPS planners, all advisors were competent in nutrient management planning and environmental legislation
- DAFF Inspectors provided training on other SMRs and GAEC
- Approved Advisors must continue to attend FAS training as the need arises.

Advisory Tools

- One to One Advice
- Publications
- Farming Press
- Public Meetings
- Training Courses
- Websites
- Discussion Groups
- Opendays/Farmwalks
- Radio and Television

Advisory Tools

One to One Advice

- Both Private and Public Bodies
- Best but most expensive
- Tailored to farmers needs
- Part of REPS advice - 60,000 participants

Advisory Tools

Publications

Advantages

- Can post to all applicants
- Everybody gets same message
- Can refer to them in Guidance Docs.
- Act as permanent Reference Points

Advisory Tools

Farming Press

- 70,000 Farmers Journals sold each week - 126,000 SPS Applicants → Very Important
- Used by DAFF and Teagasc
- Can repeat message in small doses
- Can raise seasonal issues at correct time e.g. Slurry use, stubble management

Advisory Tools

Public Meetings

- Very Popular – Social Occasion
- Discussion is useful
- Very useful in conjunction with Publications
- Farming Organisations can attempt to use them to focus on inspections and penalties

Advisory Tools

Training Courses

- REPS Course
- Animal Welfare Training
- General Agricultural Training
–Targeted to Young Farmers

Advisory Tools

Discussion Groups

- Larger Commercial Farmers
- Groups based on Enterprise
- Advice is tailor-made → Tillage farmers not interested in Animal SMRs
- Inspection issues discussed
- Know what gives rise to Penalties
- Very good advisory tool but elitist??

Advisory Tools Advisory Tool

Website

- Used by young educated farmers
- Farmers need training on how to use it
- Source of information for FAS Advisors
- Important Reference Point
- Importance growing

Advisory Tools

Opendays/Farmwalks

- Can See and Hear
- Farmers like visiting other farms so attendances are good
- Generates discussion between farmers
- Farmers can ask their question in private or in public.

Difficult to get farms

Advisory Tools

Radio and Television

- Very limited time on national stations
- Local Radio most valuable

No FAS Scheme – Problems

- How to identify Participants?
- FAS Plan is confidential?
- Quality Control?
- How do you use FAS in Risk Selection?

An aerial photograph of a mountainous landscape. In the foreground, a large, irregularly shaped lake with a greyish-blue surface is surrounded by dark green, mossy slopes. A small stream flows into the lake from the top. In the background, a smaller, more circular lake is visible on a higher slope. The terrain is rugged with patches of green and brown. The text "Thank you for your attention" is overlaid in a bold, black, sans-serif font, slanted upwards from left to right across the middle of the image.

Thank you for your attention