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Processors must pay more than 36cpl for July milk

IFA National Dairy Chairman Stephen Arthur says that milk processors must pay more than 36cpl for July milk.

The Ornuu PPI for July equates to 35.5cpl. However, when the figure is adjusted for the Ornuu Value Payment worth 3.22cpl (including VAT), the milk price equivalent is 38.72cpl. A sustained milk price above 36cpl is achievable from the marketplace, and farmers should receive it for the rest of 2021.

He said, "The EU and NZ futures markets have



returned price rises in the past week for butter and SMP with the GDT showing increases of 3.8% and 1.5%, respectively in these two key commodities for Ireland".

"Farmers have been faced with a difficult season of poor grass growth and rapidly rising input costs. It's high time farmers got what the market is returning; we have to balance our books too."

ICSA will not agree to restrictions on suckler cows

ICSA suckler chairperson, Ger O'Brien, has stressed that ICSA will not agree to any restrictions on the number of suckler cows a farmer can keep.

In response to the CAP consultation documents put forward by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Mr O'Brien said that suckler farmers needed a much higher level of support in the next CAP, but this could not come at any cost.

"We see a substantial increase in the number of dairy herds growing into hundreds of cows. It is unacceptable that the problem of dairy expansion

would lead to punishing suckler farmers, when the average suckler herd is less than twenty cows and suckler herds of more than 100 cows are almost unheard of," he said.

"Suckler farms are not expanding by requiring nitrates derogations, or by building massive open air slurry lagoons. So it is just simply wrong to talk about forced stagnation in the suckler sector, when in fact the number of suckler cows has declined in the past few years.

"ICSA has repeatedly highlighted how suckler and sheep farmers are actually

getting a lower level of support under Pillar 1 on a per hectare basis than dairy farmers," said the ICSA spokesperson.

He said that this is also borne out by the Teagasc National Farm Survey results from 2019 which he said: "showed the average dairy farmer got €280/ha whereas the average suckler farmer got €243/ha in terms of the basic payment and greening top-up.

"So, the need for better supports for farmers who are trying to make a living from suckler farming could not be clearer," noted the ICSA suckler chairperson this

week.

"However, this is a consultation document, and we expect that the final outcome will not lead to an absolute cap on suckler numbers," a acknowledged Mr O'Brien.

Nonetheless, in the last BDGP, payment levels were based on a fixed number of cows, linked to a reference year," he noted.

"That level is now out of date, but ICSA will also be insisting that suckler farmers are not disadvantaged as a result of trying to meet the 5% reduction requirement of the BEAM scheme," he said.

West of Ireland Registered Pedigree Suffolk Sheep Breeders Club celebrate 50 years



The West of Ireland Registered Pedigree Suffolk Sheep Breeder Club is marking an important milestone this year, 50 years since its formation.

The Club is affiliated to, and all Club members are fully registered with, the Suffolk Sheep Society - South of Ireland Branch which operates the largest ovine breeding program in Ireland, approved by the Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine.

This allows the Club to offer Zootechnical Certificates for all stock and also allows us to export to the UK and Europe as well as take part in International Sales.

The Club has strong Leitrim connections and their longest standing member is Coote Geelan of Lough Rynn Suffolks who started breeding Suffolk Sheep in 1981 - he is celebrating 40 years as a Suffolk breeder this year.

Coote has won numerous Club and National titles down through the years as well as dominating the agricultural show circuit both at Suffolk and Interbreed level.

His son, Trevor, who has been working with the flock since he was old enough to hold a rosette, is also now breeding and showing the sheep along with Coote.

Among Coote's accolades



Trevor Geelan -Loughgrynn Suffolks competing at the Suffolk National Championships in Kilkenny 2019



Coote Geelan of the Lough Rynn Suffolks who started breeding Suffolk Sheep in 1981. Here he is pictured with his prize winning lamb at the RDS in 1987

are winners at the RDS Spring Show, Balmoral Show, National Suffolk Championships and the Irish Premier Show as well as numerous prizes at Club Shows. Coote is also a well respected judge, not only in Suffolk circles but also for Interbreed Sheep Shows.

The Club also has a number of newer breeders in the Leitrim area who are showing great promise with the quality of stock they are producing.

CLUB PREMIER SALE

The Club Premier Sale will be held in Roscommon on September 4 and the Club will also be holding sale in Ballymote on September 7.

Following this are two sales in Galway, the first in Athenry on September 17 and then a sale in Ballinalsoe on September 23.

The next sales then returns to Roscommon on October 2.

Pictured right: An impressive lineup of Pedigree Suffolks at the Club Premier Show in Roscommon in 2019

