

Rec'd 28/5.

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Dear Minister.

As a farmer whose livelihood depends on the continuation of the LFACA payment, I also understand that there must be changes to the existing scheme.

Some views expressed are that the LFACA payment should be linked or in part incorporated into Environmental schemes payments. I believe quite strongly that whatever form the new scheme takes that the equivalent LFACA payments should go only to those who are actively farming the land.

Lessons should be learnt from the S.F.P scheme format whereby some farmers are receiving substantive payments while no longer farming the land - letting the land in conacre ("double jobbing")

As someone who rents a substantive amount of conacre land your future decision on the new LFACA payment will most certainly determine whether I continue with conacre land.

In relation to payment recommended rates I would like to state that currently the mixed grazing supplement is really not enough to maintain the current cow numbers as the extra costs incurred in S.O.A land to maintain cows would certainly out-strip the reward. I believe an increased incentive is needed whether this would be through an increased supplement a headage based payment (maybe on hill breeds). The increased incentive be justified as mixed grazing helps the environment.

The tiering of payments would if introduced impact mainly on larger farms which are run by full-time farmers, who unlike part-time farmers have no other source of income. So spare a thought.

Yours Sincerely,

Brian Keelin

25/05/09