



For Publication, issued 00 January 2020 – Embargoed until 00.01 21st January 2020

Teagasc launch New EU BovINE network project

€2 million provided by the EU to develop a Beef Innovation Network across Europe

A new trans-European beef network, called BovINE, aimed at addressing the sector's sustainability challenges was launched by Teagasc in conjunction with EU research and farming partners at the Teagasc Food Research Centre Ashtown today 21st of January.

BovINE will link researchers, advisors, farmers and other relevant stakeholders across 9 EU member states to stimulate the exchange of knowledge and ideas at an international level under the headings of: socio-economic resilience, animal health & welfare, production efficiency & meat quality and environmental sustainability.

Teagasc successfully tendered and were awarded funding of €2 million by the European Union to develop this project, which will be shared with 17 other EU partners. The BovINE project will engage with beef farmers from 9 Member States, covering 75% of the suckler cow population in Europe and 70% of beef output. Focused on responding to farmer-identified needs, the BovINE network will provide beef farmers with access to information about innovations that could improve sustainability of their farms and the wider industry.

Dr. Áine MackenWalsh Senior Researcher in Teagasc says: “At the heart of this project is the belief that there are different sources of knowledge that can be used by farmers to solve their problems. There is the traditional “expert knowledge” from scientists and researchers, but there is also the very valuable “practitioner knowledge” that other farmers have developed as a result of grappling with similar problems. This project will bring both types of knowledge together to respond to farmers’ needs.”

Prof Maeve Henchion Head of Department of Agrifood Business and Spatial Analysis of Teagasc and BovINE coordinator explains: “BovINE takes a bottom up approach to identifying farmers’ needs. Each year we will ask farmers to identify their most urgent needs and we will respond to these needs in two ways. Firstly, drawing on the international network of our 17 partners which includes farmer associations, breeder associations, agricultural advisory organisations, and applied research institutions, we will look to identify and share examples of solutions used by other farmers across the EU-wide network. Second, drawing on the same network, we will

identify solutions from research results that have not yet been put into widespread practice. Any proposed solutions that have not yet been applied in practice will be subject to scrutiny in a demonstration farm context before being promoted for widespread adoption.”

Kevin Kinsella, Director of Livestock with the Irish Farmers Association said: “With continuing pressure on beef farm incomes in Ireland and across Europe, this initiative is very welcome. Irish farmers have always been prepared to adopt new technology and change. This project will provide a structure that will enable us to learn more and improve, and share our experiences with other European beef farmers. We are committed to working with Teagasc and many European farm organisations and research colleagues through BovINE, to help Irish and European beef farmers.”

At the core of the project are comprehensive communication activities targeted at beef farmers across Europe. Join the mailing list for project news at bovine@minervacomms.net.

For more information, please contact Professor Maeve Henchion (maeve.henchion@teagasc.ie) or Dr Áine MackenWalsh (aine.mackenwalsh@teagasc.ie)

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Note to editors:

1. Farmers from 9 Member States - Belgium, Estonia, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Poland, Portugal and Spain - are involved with BovINE.
2. Further information is available at <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/862590>
3. Teagasc is the Project Coordinator. Other partners are detailed below

| 4. No. * | Participant organisation name | Country | Partner type |
|-----------------|---|---------|----------------------------|
| 1 (Coordinator) | Teagasc - Agriculture and Food Development Authority | Ireland | Applied research/extension |
| 2 | Feirmeoiri Aontuithe na h-Eireann Iontaobiathe Teoranta LBG | Ireland | Farmers association |
| 3 | Centro Ricerche Produzioni Animali - C.R.P.A. s.p.a. | Italy | Applied research |
| 4 | Unicarve - Associazione Produttori Carni Bovine | Italy | Farmers association |
| 5 | Institut de l'Elevage | France | Applied research/advisory |
| 6 | Fédération Nationale Bovine | France | Beef farmers assoc. |
| 7 | Universidad de Zaragoza | Spain | Research |
| 8 | Instituto Navarro de Tecnologías e Infraestructuras Agroalimentarias SA | Spain | Applied research/advisory |
| 9 | Szkola Główna Gospodarstwa Wiejskiego | Poland | Research |
| 10 | Polish Beef Association | Poland | Beef farmers assoc. |

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| 11 | Faculdade de Medicina Veterinaria | Portugal | Research |
| 12 | Promert – Agrupamento de Produtores de Bovinos Mertolengos S.A. | Portugal | Beef breeders association |
| 13 | Eigen Vermogen van het Instituut voor Landbouw- en Visserijonderzoek | Belgium | Applied research |
| 14 | Boerenbond | Belgium | Farmers association |
| 15 | Friedrich Loeffler Institut - Bundesforschungsinstitut fur Tiergesundheit | Germany | Research |
| 16 | Bundesverband Rind und Schwein e.V | Germany | Farmers assoc. |
| 17 | Minerva HCC Ltd | UK | SME |
| 18 | NPO Liivimaa Lihaveis | Estonia | Non-Profit Org. |

200109-BOV-PR1-FINAL