

PRESS RELEASE 04 - ISSUED 15th June 2021**For immediate use**

Identifying Practical ‘On Farm’ Innovations that meet the needs of European Beef Farmers - *that’s the mission of the EU funded BovINE Network*

BovINE partners share updates on the latest round of Research Innovations (RIs) and Good Practices (GPs) under the project’s spotlight **online on Tuesday 22nd June 2021**.

Hosted by BovINE’s French partners IDELE and FNB, all can join the network online meeting of researchers, farmers, farming organisations and advisors, plus representatives across the beef value chain to hear from researchers and practitioners about solutions to European beef farmers’ needs.

- There will be an opportunity to visit French experimental farms ‘virtually’, as well as contribute views and ask questions.
- Presentations will be in French and English with simultaneous translations available.

Register to join the online meeting here: <https://bit.ly/3gvlyAL>

Professor Maeve Henchion of Teagasc, Co-ordinator of BovINE says:

“Thank you to BovINE’s French partners IDELE and FNB for co-hosting our 2021 summer meeting focusing on our progress on identifying challenges and exploring solutions to the needs identified by European beef farmers. We are delighted to welcome and host all attendees through our online platform with simultaneous English-French translation available.

Environmental Sustainability, a topic of increasing interest across the beef farming community and one of BovINE’s core themes, features significantly in our meeting agenda. In the session on challenges and solutions there will be presentations on carbon crediting and effective management of hedgerows to sequester carbon. The welfare, well-being and production efficiency of beef cattle throughout breeding and management and issues relating to economic viability will also feature strongly with presentations on assessment protocols to ensure welfare quality.

We look forward to productive exchanges with European farmers and all attendees throughout the day.”

Mrs Valerie David, head of animal health and welfare team of IDELE, co-host of the online meeting says:

“IDELE is delighted to confirm that Jean-Pierre Fleury, chair of the beef working group of COPA COGECA will present on European and International policies in relation to beef farms. Our French colleague from Interbev, Caroline Guinot will discuss the recently developed ‘Pact’ on the commitment to society in relation to the beef industry, whilst IDELE colleague André Le Gall will share insights on the French research & development framework on beef production.



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The BovINE network meeting closes with an invitation to all to join us on a ‘virtual farm walk’ on experimental beef farms in France.”

BovINE partners and Network Managers from Belgium, Estonia, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Poland, Portugal and Spain will present Research Innovations (RIs) and Good Practices (GPs), a number to be demonstrated on farms or shared with farmers and expert groups over the coming months.

BovINE’s expanding library of relevant and accessible information and materials, plus project dissemination channels such as the Bovine Knowledge Hub (BKH) designed for use by farmers, their advisors and supporters, will be presented in the final main session.

Ends/Notes follow

Notes to Editors:

1. 22nd June 2021 – online meeting: Agenda: English and French

Agenda/Projet d'agenda (CEST):

09:30 - 10:00 - Opening & Welcome / Ouverture et Bienvenue (Teagasc, IDELE, FNB)

10:00 - 10:30 - Pact for Societal Commitment / Pacte d'engagement sociétal de la filière viande bovine française (Caroline Guinot, Interbev)

10:30 - 11:00 - Break / Pause

11:00 - 11:30 - The French R&D framework for beef production / Le cadre français de la R&D pour la production de viande bovine (André Le Gall, IDELE)

11:30 - 12:00 - Suckler beef farms in Europe, what is the position between European and International policies? / Les élevages de bovins allaitants en Europe, quelle est la position entre les politiques européennes et internationales? (Jean-Pierre Fleury, COPA COGECA)

12:00 - 12:10 - Round up of the morning session / Synthèse de la session du matin

12:10 - 13:00 - Lunch / Déjeuner

13:00 - 15:00 - Sustainability Challenges and Solutions addressed by BovINE in 2020/21 / Défis et solutions en matière de durabilité abordés par BovINE en 2020/21 (Damiana Mais Barrutia, INTIA)

15:00 - 15:30 - Break with networking sessions / Pause avec sessions de réseautage





15:30 - 16:30 - BovINE insights for beef farmers – accessible, relevant and farmer friendly ‘on farm’ practice information and materials / BovINE, les informations disponibles pour les éleveurs de bovins - des informations, et des documents accessibles, pertinents et conviviaux sur les pratiques agricoles (Rhonda Smith & Marie Saville, Minerva UK)

16:30 - 17:15 - Virtual French experimental farm walks / Promenades virtuelles dans les fermes expérimentales bovin viande françaises.

17:15 - 17:30 - Close of meeting / Clôture de la réunion



2. 2021 Priority Topics for each of the four BovINE Themes

BovINE Theme	Priority Topic Titles	Brief Descriptions
 Socio-economic Resilience	Initiatives to improve the image of and promote the sustainable consumption of beef	Identify strategies that can improve consumer perception of beef e.g. short food supply chains, certification and sustainability labels and farm certification schemes.
	Economically efficient housing systems for beef cattle	Identify efficient housing systems that reduce excessive handling of animals; reduce the level of stress on both the animal and the operator, and reduce energy & water consumption
 Animal Health & Welfare	Simple labour-saving tools to measure and communicate high animal welfare standards on beef farms.	Identify tools that allow fast and effective farmer inspections and on-farm assessments through mobile devices and/or paper exercises.
	Management, housing, and environmental factors which affect animal welfare in rearing and finishing units	Identify the influence of stressors such animal handling operations and antagonistic interactions between animals or access to resources on average daily weight gain and thus improve animal health and welfare
 Environmental Sustainability	Environmental sustainability reward schemes for beef farmers	Identify schemes that reward farmers for meeting/achieving environmental deliverables such as carbon reduction and improvements to biodiversity, water, soil, and air quality.
	Carbon sequestration on beef farms	Identify methods used to improve carbon sequestration on beef farms such as grassland management techniques, simplified cropping techniques and the potential role of agroforestry.
 Production Efficiency & Meat Quality	Impact of animal feeding and stress on meat quality	Identify feeding and stress management strategies (on farm and during transport) that can alter meat quality, as perceived by consumers (appearance, eating quality, shelf-life, credence attributes)
	Optimizing the number of calves per cow per year in suckler beef herds	Identify strategies (nutritional, health, animal and data management, genetics) to accomplish (or get close to) target production of one live calf per cow per year.

Further detail about the Priority Topics is available on the BovINE website www.bovine.eu and on the Bovine Knowledge Hub (BKH) – www.bovine-hub.eu



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3. Further information regarding the project including requests for interviews with the Theme Leaders, Project Manager, or other project team members, and/or audio-visual content (photos/videos) please contact Rhonda Smith & Marie Saville in the UK at bovine@minervacomms.net +44 (0) 1264 326427 / +44(0)7887-714957
4. BovINE has a Network Manager (NM) based in each of the 9 member states (Belgium, Estonia, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Poland, Portugal & Spain) building networks across their beef farming communities. Contact information for each NM can be found on the BovINE website: <http://www.bovine-eu.net/network-managers/>
5. This Press Release and further information on the Priority Topics is available in other languages. Click on the flags on the Home Page of the BovINE website to access all translated materials of that country.
6. This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 rural renaissance programme. Project No: 862590 under call H2020-RUR-2019-15. Further information is available at <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/862590>

7. BovINE Project partners

No. *	Participant organisation name	Country	Partner type
1	Teagasc - Agriculture and Food Development Authority Project Coordinator – Prof. Maeve Henchion maeve.henchion@teagasc.ie Project Manager – Richard Lynch: richard.lynch@teagasc.ie	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 (IDELE)	France	Applied research/advisory
6	Fédération Nationale Bovine (FNB)	France	Beef farmers association.
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 association
11	Faculdade de Medicina Veterinaria	Portugal	Research
12	ACBM- Associação de Criadores de Bovinos Mertolengos	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 für Tiergesundheit	Germany	Research



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16	Bundesverband Rind und Schwein e.V	Germany	Farmers association
17	Minerva HCC Ltd	UK	SME – communications
18	NPO Liivimaa Lihaveis	Estonia	Non-Profit Organisation

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