

IGFA
THE IRISH GRAIN & FEED ASSOCIATION



IGFA Manifesto National Elections November 2024



INTRODUCTION

The Irish Grain and Feed Association (IGFA) is the united voice of the compound feed manufacturers, feed material importers, grain intake and premix companies in Ireland.

The Irish Feed Industry produces approximately 5.7 million tonnes of animal feed, provides employment for thousands of people throughout the country and is an essential partner in the Irish rural economy. The overall value of the animal feed industry to the Irish economy is approx. €2.5-3bn.

Our full members include feed manufacturers, feed importers and grain collectors. Our ancillary members are mostly additive and premix manufacturers.

Our members are from both independent and cooperative businesses and many are family run companies that have been at the heart of Irish rural life for generations.

IGFA calls on the next Irish Government to

Feed Safety



- Prioritise extensive discussions with Feed industry representatives before agreeing government positions on Feed Safety issues.
- Fight against imposing unnecessary additional controls and administrative burdens that compromise security and supply and potentially impact our ability to operate sustainably. They can also add significantly to costs that have to be passed up the chain with obvious impacts on food price inflation.
- Ensure the review of the Feed Additive Regulation stimulates innovation to address current health and environment challenges and embraces advances in animal nutrition science.

Trade



- Ensure that trade in feed materials and ingredients is not sacrificed in disputes arising from disagreements in other sectors.
- Work within the EU to maintain positive trade relationships with our global partners, strengthen strategic and balanced trade partnerships and safeguard market access to reliable and sustainable feed ingredient supplies.
- Insist that Irish interests on trade are understood by EU decision makers and that the impact of trade decisions on Irish agriculture is known and recognised.
- Recognise the extreme vulnerability of EU vitamin and amino acid production and add an Irish government voice to support measures to ensure it survives and thrives. Measures could include stimulation of production in the EU and strategic long-term partnerships with others.
- Streamline regulation and consider the impact of new proposals on the farming and feed sector. The aim should be to improve food security by reducing the burden on Irish business and costs of compliance. Irish businesses should not be disadvantaged compared to competitors.

Sustainability



- Ensure that the production of native grain is not hindered by environment regulation on plant protection that compromises the competitiveness of Irish farmers on global markets.
- Drive efficiencies on farm to deal with the nitrates challenge. This should include improving genetics and breeding, better grassland management and nitrogen use and optimising nutrition.
- Avoid broad-brush measures that could have unintended consequences. Simply requiring lower and lower crude protein in compound feed will impact milk production levels and negatively impact the environmental footprint per litre of milk produced.
- Call for practical, enforceable regulations when considering alternative feed ingredients. These should advance and improve the circular economy but uphold the integrity of both the feed chain and, ultimately, the food supply chain.
- Seek out the expertise in the feed industry on sustainability issues and broaden the base of agriculture stakeholders consulted on these issues. IGFA members are in constant contact with farmers and understand what is happening on the ground.