

## **IGFA Statement**

### **IGFA concerned for animal welfare as a result of fuel cost protests**

**8 April 2026**

Fuel cost protests continue throughout the country and have blocked access to ports. Traffic has been stopped entering various ports including Foynes and Ringaskiddy and this has created huge problems for the animal feed sector. Feed mills require various materials to manufacture compound feed and need to collect these materials almost daily from ports. Without these ingredients they cannot manufacture feed for Irish animals, resulting in knock-on impacts on the production of Irish milk, meat and eggs.

Storage at mills is very limited and this, combined with the lack of time given to prepare, means feed production is being seriously hampered by these blockades. Mills need frequent access to feed materials at ports to ensure the consistent manufacture and supply of feed. Protests blocking the ports are making this impossible.

Irish feed mills manufacture feed for farmers throughout the country and IGFA is concerned that extended disruption to feed material supplies will hinder our ability to produce feed, creating a real risk of animal welfare issues for all livestock sectors, with pig and poultry most affected.

The disruption today has been very difficult to manage but if this action continues or is extended to other ports, there will be lasting impacts for feed manufacturers and farmers. Farm business incomes will be directly damaged as access to feed and other farm inputs will be restricted and milk and animal collections obstructed. Most significantly, the longer this goes on, the greater the risk for animal welfare and for serious impacts on animal health.

Some mills have had to reduce production to a minimum today. IGFA members have been working on solutions such as trying to share product available between mills and sourcing product from ports that are not as badly affected. However, this is proving very difficult with blocked roads and motorways. There are also reports that compound feed cannot be delivered to some farms as a result of disruption on the roads.

Animal Feed manufacturers need access to feed materials in ports as soon as possible so that our farming customers can continue to feed properly and safeguard the welfare of their animals.