

Waterford farmers to receive €2.2 million in disadvantaged scheme



Pictured at the National Ploughing Championships at Ratheniska on Wednesday last were, from left: Tim O'Leary (Deputy President, IFA), Minister of State Paudie Coffey, Eddie Downey (IFA President) and Thomás Ryan (IFA Environment and Infrastructure Executive).

A total of 1100 farmers in County Waterford will be in receipt of payments totalling €2.2 million via the 2014 Disadvantaged Areas Scheme, out of a total national pot of €149 million.

Speaking at the National Ploughing Championships in Ratheniska on Wednesday last, Minister of State Paudie Coffey described the payments as "extremely important" to farmers throughout Waterford.

"I know a lot of farmers in Waterford are dependent on this payment so the fact that this money is being issued on time is to be greatly welcomed," he said. "It is expected to take about a week for all payments to be issued."

He added: "It is also important to note that there are a significant number of farmers who appear ineligible for this payment under their stocking provisions.

"I am sure many of those affected are eligible but they must submit the appropriate documentation to the Department so that payments can be issued. I would encourage all farmers who believe they are eligible in Waterford to present their horse passports, sheep registers, etc to the Department to assure payment."

Minister Coffey said the payments were essential to provide cash-flow and secure agri-business in Waterford.

"I am very pleased that more farmers are receiving their payment on time; the number of farmers being paid in the first tranche is up from 58,000 last year to 71,500 in 2014.

"Minister Coveney has also confirmed that arrangements are on target to allow payment of the 50 per cent advance of the Single Payment, with effect from October 16th. This is another very important payment which assists farmers' cash flows."

According to Minister Coffey: "Despite the good weather, it has been a challenging year for farmers across the country. However the economy is beginning to improve and the contribution of the agri-business sector has been significant in this recovery..."

"The Government is committed to rebuilding a sustainable and robust economy, we are determined that the recovery will not be threatened or wasted and improving systems to assist the farming community is part of this plan."