# Minutes of the Fifty-Second Meeting of the Farm Animal Welfare Advisory Council

**Location:** Heritage Hotel, Portlaoise

Date: 11th December 2013

Present: Chairperson Professor P Fottrell, Brid Farrell (DAFM), Niall O’Nuallain (DAFM), Conor Dowling (ISPCA), Alison Hanlon (UCD), Barbara Bent (WSPCA), Ray Doyle (ICOS), Sean O’Laoide, John O’Roarke (Veterinary Ireland), Kevin Kinsella (IFA), Bernadette Earley (TEAGASC), Henry Burns (IFA), John McConnell (DARDNI)

Apologies: Arthur O’Connor (Veterinary Ireland), Stephen Foley (CILDEHS).

Secretary: Alan P O’Brien

**Presentation from Martin Farrell (DAFM) on Equine Identification Legislation**

1. **Presentation from Sean O’Laoide (Westmeath County Council) on implementation of the Control of Horses Act 1996**
2. **Minutes**

* The Minutes of the previous meeting 12th September 2013 were accepted with changes.

1. **Matters Arising**

* The Chairman welcomed John McConnell from DARDNI to the Council.
* The IFA thanked the Chairman for resolving the issue on codes of practice.
* UCD asked that it be recorded that the figures quoted on pig mortality at the last meeting are correct and FAWAC should examine this.

1. **Education Working Group**

The most recent booklet on Code of Practice for Marts Selling Equines (Horses and Donkeys) has gone to the printer and will be available early in the new year.

* The IFA agreed to make a presentation to the next Council meeting on pig welfare.

1. **EWS**

* An EWS Steering Group Meeting was held in October. The fodder situation is reported to be good. Restricted herds are causing some problems but the overall numbers on EWS at-risk lists are reducing.
* Farmers and PVPs must be reminded that tail docking of bovines is illegal.
* The Steering Group has been extended to include ICMSA, Teagasc and Veterinary Ireland.
* Veterinary Ireland commended the IFA on its work in assisting farmers across the country.

**Equine Welfare**

* The Council agreed to support the drive for registration of equine premises and transfer of (equine) ownership.
* ISPCA called for increased cooperation between Local Authorities and DAFM, particularly regarding urban horse issues.
* The ISPCA also raised again the issue of sulky racing.

1. **AOB**

*Animal Health and Welfare Act 2013 (Number 15 of 2013)*

The Secretary said that this will be commenced early in the new year.

*Sheep Attacks*

The ISPCA advised that the microchipping of dogs is extremely important in preventing attacks on sheep. The IFA agreed and DAFM said that it will advise welfare bodies that dogs who have attacked sheep are not to be re-homed.

*Acutely Injured Animals*

A research proposal will be available shortly.

*Fodder Crisis*

Teagasc has issued a paper on the costs of the Fodder Crisis. The IFA will circulate this to the Council.

The Chairman wished to thank all Council Members for their work through the year.

***End***