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# Farm Advisory Services - Best Practice in Ireland

Catherine Lascurettes  
Dairy Executive  
Irish Farmers' Association



# IFA

# The history of FAS in Ireland

1900 onwards

- **Dept of Agriculture** establishes **Agriculture Colleges** to train young farmers
- **Agricultural instructors** trained to give day classes to farmers

1980 onwards

- Setting up of **ACOT** (national advisory and training body) to take over the Ag Colleges
- ACOT initiated the **Certificate in Farming**, a key training programme for new entrants to farming

1988 onwards

- **Teagasc** is created to replace ACOT and take over **research, education** and **advisory**.
- **Discussion Groups (KT)** are established, to promote peer to peer learning of best practice in(dairy) farming. Those are facilitated mostly by Teagasc advisors

2010 onwards

- **Knowledge Transfer** first introduced for dairy farmers using unspent RDP funds.
- KT today in Ireland: **20,000 farmers** involved
- More **private** advisors/consultants involved



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# 11 members – farmers/farmer orgs prevalent

Chairman (farmer)

3 x Representatives of Farm Organisations (farmers)

1 x Representative of ICOS (farmer)

2 x Representatives of universities

1 x Representative of DAFM

2 x Representatives of agri-food industry

1 x Representative of Teagasc staff





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# Teagasc Budget and Expenditure

## Funding from:

- State grant-in-aid; fees for research; advisory and training services; national and EU competitive research programmes; revenue from farming activities; commodity levies.

## Budget:

2017: €145m + €33.5m earned income

75% National Exchequer + EU funds

## Expenditure:

40% = Research

30% = Advisory

30% = Education



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# Teagasc – The Agriculture and Food Development Authority

- Teagasc = farm advisory services in Ireland
- Provides **independent, world class production research**:
  - Moorepark – Dairy (also some processing research there in collaboration with industry)
  - Grange – Beef
  - Oakpark – Crops
- Provides **independent advisory services**
- Runs **Agricultural Colleges**



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# Concerns re. FAS (Teagasc and Private)

- **Greater reliance on Discussion Groups/KT** for advisory (20,000 farmers, 1,200 KT/Discussion Groups – each facilitated by a Teagasc or Private consultant)
- Loss of **one-to-one**, customised advice
- Increasing role of consultants in helping farmers **fill CAP related application forms** (Area Aid, Basic Payment...)
- But – little input from FAS in **problem solving** around those
- KT payments going through advisory service - **restricts farmers' negotiation power** on consultancy/advisory fees



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# Thank you for your attention!

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