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Some drystock systems in the red

Page 20



Blight Special feature

Pages 27 - 30



Cushion the lift linkage

Page 38

Luxembourg:

Beef compensation agreed

By Paul Meade and John Shirley

A SCRAMBLE for a share of the EU BSE compensation fund is underway following this week's EU Farm Council agreement on the new higher figure of about £70 million for Irish farmers.

Almost £57 million of this fund is earmarked for top-ups on the Suckler Cow Premium and the 10 and 22 month special beef premiums. Lobbying is already underway for a slice of the £13.3 million balance which will be allocated at national discretion.

In addition to the above the EU farm council gave an undertaking this week to support the continuation of the Slaughter Premium, North and South, under new less stringent rules.

While there has been a general welcome for the package, the IFA

and Fianna Fail farm spokesman Bernard Cowen pointed out that the £70 million at best only compensates for only 50 per cent of the BSE losses. They point the need for compensation for the ongoing losses.

Farm Minister Ivan Yates stressed

that he secured 10 per cent of the overall compensation even though it has only seven per cent of EU beef production. He said that he will continue to strive for compensation from the 1996/97 farm budget.

Continued on back page



Temporary leasing - small suppliers to get priority

MINISTER Ivan Yates has announced changes to the second and third phases of the temporary leasing scheme. Priority will be given to milk suppliers under 35,000 gallons, and within this category, total priority will be given to producers under 30,000 gallons who were allocated quota over the past two years.

Any quota which remains after these allocations will go to producers in the 35,000 to 55,000 gallon category, and then, if quota is still available, it will go to producers with quotas of 55,000 gallons and over.

This announcement follows the special meeting of the Milk Quota Review Group this week, which was called to discuss the crisis over lack of quota under temporary leasing.

● See page 3 for further details.

Loading hay

At Cullen, Co Tipperary Willie Conway is helped by Donnacha O'Halloran and Kevin Flynn load bales of first crop hay, selling at £1.60 a bale.

Photo: Tony O'Gorman