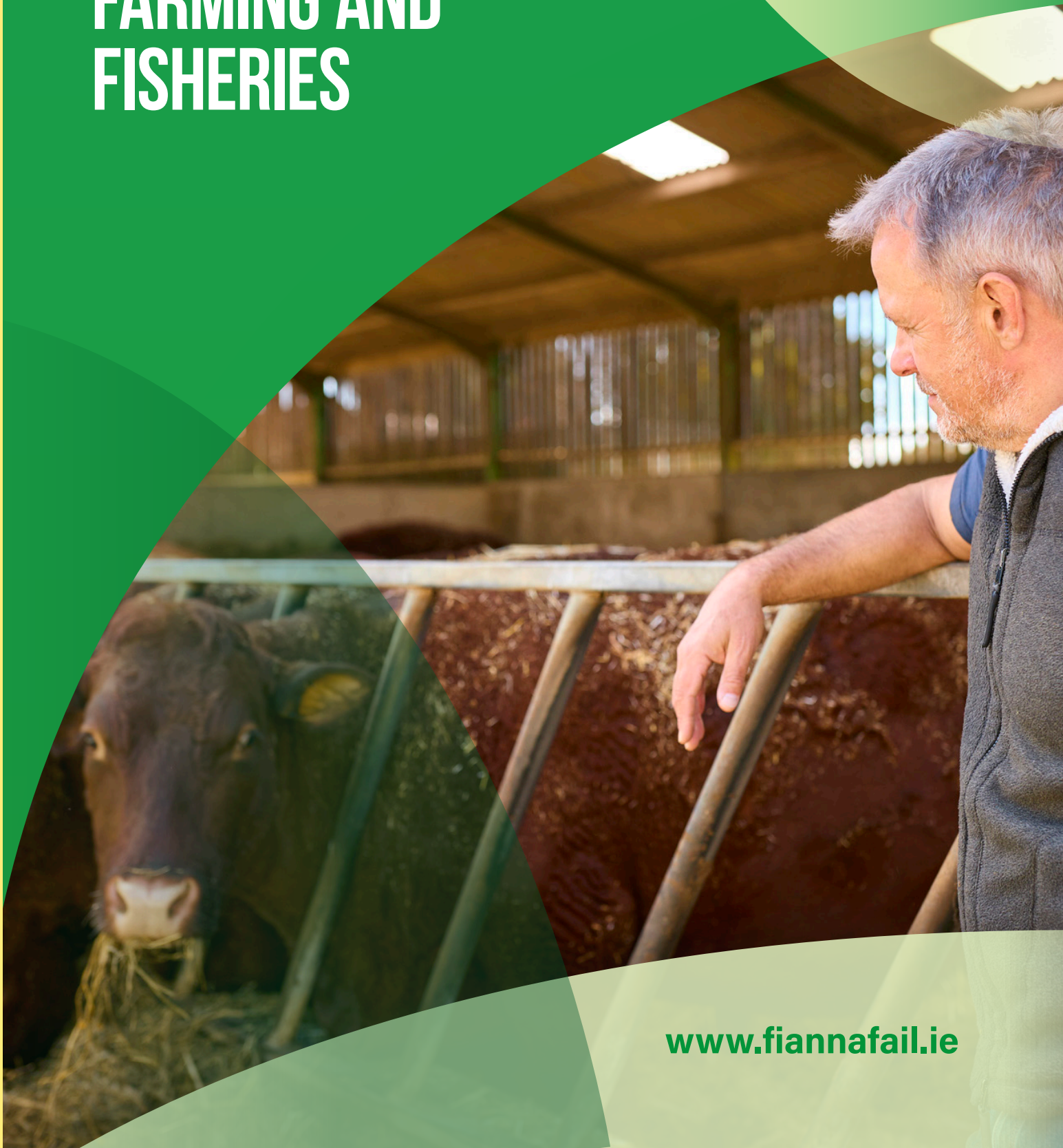


**MOVING FORWARD. TOGETHER.  
AG BOGADH AR AGHAIDH. LE CHÉILE.**

# FARMING AND FISHERIES





**MOVING FORWARD. TOGETHER.  
AG BOGADH AR AGHAIDH. LE CHÉILE.**

# Introduction

Farming and fishing are hugely important to our country. It has been a great honour for Fianna Fáil to hold the portfolio of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, working every day to better the position of Irish farmers and fishers. That work is important. It is also challenging, but it is work that brings huge opportunity and it is most definitely work that Fianna Fáil wants to continue in the next government to drive further progress in these sectors.

In Government, we have put in place unmatched farm supports as we recognise the hard work farmers do must be underpinned economically to drive investment and production. Since 2020, over €9bn has been paid out to farmers to support family farms.

Our commitment to improve incomes is stronger than ever and we will build further on the unprecedented payments we've have secured across our agri sector.

We need a strong Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) with an increased budget. This must support youth coming into the sector, a challenge that Fianna Fáil has proactively acted on through our initiation of a Commission on Generational Renewal.

In government we have enhanced the Targeted Agriculture Modernisation Scheme (TAMS), the organic scheme introduced has seen huge uptake and when necessary, we intervened in response to specific challenges for pig, horticulture and tillage farmers.

The Nitrates Derogation is a priority focus and with our experience Fianna Fáil knows what is needed, both politically and in terms of supports, to make sure that derogation is extended.

Fianna Fáil has provided significant investment across all areas of the seafood sector. Total government spend across the seafood sector over the five-year period 2020 - 2024 was in excess of €800 million, which includes investment of almost €160m in State owned public marine infrastructure. We ensured that a comprehensive range of supports were made available to the sector to mitigate the impacts of Brexit.

We deeply value the role of agriculture and fishing in the future of this country, and the contribution it makes to the lives of all citizens. If returned to government, Fianna Fáil will continue to make sure that potential is resourced, is delivered upon and that the value of these sectors is recognised by all.

## Protecting and Improving Farm Incomes

Fianna Fáil is investing significantly more in Agriculture with €278m in our plan versus €87m with Fine Gael over the next 5 years.

You can count on Fianna Fáil to deliver on our commitments as our track record speaks for itself. We delivered support for sheep, increasing payments from €10 to €25. We promised €200 for the suckler cow and delivered €225. We have also increased funding for the tillage sector from €3m to €50m. .

For the dairy sector, Fianna Fáil have fought hard and will continue the fight to retain the Nitrates Derogation as a national priority. We also introduced a new dairy beef scheme paying €40 per calf that is benefitting both the dairy and beef industries.

You can count on Fianna Fáil to continue to support our farm families if given another mandate to serve.

### ***If returned to government, Fianna Fáil will:***

- Increase supports for farming sectors to include a payment of €350 per suckler cow and €35 per ewe.
- Approve €300m for tillage over five years to grow the sector.
- Increase existing financial support for the Dairy Beef scheme to €100 per calf.
- Introduce a new income volatility taxation measure, which would allow a farmer to voluntarily defer up to 5% of his/her gross receipts in any one year.
- Boost financial incentivisation to drive the use of genetically superior beef AI/stock bulls.
- Examine establishment of a one stop shop for farmers to access emergency assistance from government.
- Review rates payable under the Farm Plan Scheme on designated land.
- Increase the rates under Farm Assist and the Rural Social Scheme by €60 per week over the lifetime of the next government.

## Driving food security and sustainability forward together

The way forward for farming and our approach is putting food production to the fore. Climate Change is impacting globally. Irish farmers, who have real capacity to grow food, must be and will be backed by a Fianna Fáil government.

Alongside this, we will provide opportunities for farmers to invest in energy production, to tap into the potential their assets offer them. Farmers have demonstrated a willingness to support changes necessary for the environment but that ask must be proportionate. A Fianna Fáil government will only ask from farmers what can be delivered by farmers.

We will also ensure that Irish farm families are not scapegoated by climate action and support the Irish agricultural sector to continue to be a world leader in carbon-efficient food production through targeted environmental schemes.

### ***If returned to government, Fianna Fáil will:***

- Ensure that the agricultural sector is supported through the Infrastructure, Climate and Nature Fund.
- Ensure that all restoration measures under the Nature Restoration Law (NRL) will be completely voluntary.
- Introduce a Climate Data-Use Performance Payment that financially rewards farmers for delivery on emissions reductions and biodiversity actions at farm level.
- Introduce an Emergency Weather and Flood Damage Scheme for farm businesses.
- Incentivise farmers to produce energy for their own use or to diversify their farm income by selling excess energy to the grid.



## Ensure a fully funded CAP that works for farmers

We have secured almost €10bn between EU and Exchequer funding to support our 130,000 farm families for the period 2023 to 2027.

Given the competing demands at EU level, a fully funded CAP post 2027 is more vital than ever to secure and enhance direct payments for our primary producers.

### ***If returned to government, Fianna Fáil will:***

- Fight at European level for a fully funded budget in the next CAP and reject any proposals to undermine CAP funding.
- Negotiate at EU level for CAP payments that are straightforward for farmers, reduce red tape and ensure controls are balanced and proportionate.
- Ensure that a Farm Retirement Scheme that assists generational renewal is included in the next CAP programme.
- Actively work at EU level to secure additional funding – separate to CAP to support environmental ambition on farms.



## New markets and increased transparency

Fianna Fáil in government has secured EU Protected Geographical Indication (PGI) status for 'Irish grass-fed beef', ensuring premium prices for farmers. We have also opened new markets for Irish beef in China and the Republic of Korea.

Under Fianna Fáil, we have delivered on our promise to establish An Rialálaí Agraibhia (The Agri-Food Regulator) ensuring transparency in the food chain. Into the future, we will resource this office to ensure it has the powers necessary to be proactive in their work.

In demonstration of our commitment to fairness, we have also put in place an independent Agricultural Review Panel with farmer representation.

### ***If returned to government, Fianna Fáil will:***

- Intensify efforts to open new markets for Irish food products.
- Bring forward a successor strategy to Food Vision 2030.
- Ensure transparency in the food supply chain and fair prices for farmers by giving An Rialálaí Agraibhia (the Agri-Food Regulator) the power to compel participants in the supply chain to provide the necessary price and market information.



## Supporting young people to enter the agricultural industry

The issue of succession planning is one which is constantly raised by farmers. The uncertainty about succession and the perceived lack of support is something which is a major worry and Fianna Fáil wants to implement a comprehensive response.

Fianna Fáil trebled the value of payments to young farmers and created multiple schemes to support inter-generational farm transfers and has now put in place a Commission on Generational Renewal to develop future proposals.

It is a vital national interest that farming continues as a vibrant, family-based industry in Ireland. Therefore, farms must be treated differently in various areas.



### ***If returned to government, Fianna Fáil will:***

- Acknowledge the central role of succession planning for farmers, instituting a formal national programme to advise and assist farmers with succession issues.
- Amend Fair Deal Scheme regulations to ensure that it does not hinder succession planning and respects the unique position of agricultural land.
- Work to attract young people into farming.
- Continue to support the category of farmers known as the ‘forgotten farmers.’
- Deliver the recommendations of the Women in Agriculture Action Plan, in particular addressing barriers for women farmers within the taxation system.
- Investigate ways to encourage young people to live and work in rural Ireland through supportive taxation measures and additional support in CAP schemes.
- Bring the Traditional Farm Buildings grant in line with the vacant property refurbishment grant.
- Ensure that there are sufficient General Employment Permits (GEPs) to support the ambitions of the agri food sector including the equine and horticulture industries

## Retaining the Nitrates Derogation

Fianna Fáil is absolutely committed to securing the retention of Ireland's Nitrates Derogation at EU level, while improving our water quality. Our grass-based system, in tandem with our climate and soil type support the case for maintaining the derogation and Fianna Fáil in Government has and will make this case at every level.

Fianna Fáil secured cabinet approval for a whole of Government plan in support of securing the derogation, which will entail all stakeholders working in unison to achieve this very objective.

### ***If returned to government, Fianna Fáil will:***

- Protect Ireland's derogation by continuing to promote our case at European level based on the significant difference between Irish farming and other countries, and the action we are taking to improve water quality.
- Ensure that our water improvement ambitions are properly resourced with one-to-one support for farmers by expanding the Agricultural Sustainability Support and Advisory Programme (ASSAP).
- Create a permanent "Farming for Water" scheme for all relevant areas to directly aid farmers with advice, support and resources.
- Introduce a water quality investment scheme.

## Securing Ireland's Fishing and Maritime Future

Since 2020, Fianna Fáil has successfully championed a comprehensive re-evaluation of the Common Fisheries Policy. Fianna Fáil has consistently called upon the European Commission to work with Member States on developing a way forward that will restore balance to the respective fishing opportunities and promote support, following Brexit.

We have invested significant funding into the seafood sector and strengthened industry representation by officially recognising two new inshore fishery producer organisations. We also reopened the Spurdog as well as Northwest herring fisheries and provided vital financial support to smaller inshore boats.

Approximately €125.5m has been invested in the six State Fishery Harbour Centres, delivering key projects. These include the Dinish Wharf Expansion and Breakwaters at Castletownbere (€48m) and the Smooth Point Pier Extension at Killybegs (€35m).

### ***If returned to government, Fianna Fáil will:***

- Reestablish a dedicated Minister of State of the Marine who will work with the Cabinet Minister.
- Promote innovation in fisheries and aquaculture.
- Explore incentives for boats to land their catch in Irish ports, stimulating the domestic processing sector.
- Advocate for Common Fisheries Policy reforms that reflect Ireland's share of fish species caught in its waters, ensuring fairer quotas.
- Promote the uptake and development of marine education courses and degree programmes.

## Coastal Communities

75% of Ireland's population live in coastal counties, where maritime activities sustain thousands of livelihoods in these communities.

Fianna Fáil believes that we can balance the need for economic development with environmental protection, to bring about a sustainable and prosperous future for our coastal communities.

We will also continue to promote the diversification of coastal economies to create new opportunities beyond traditional industries.

### ***If returned to government, Fianna Fáil will:***

- Ensure coastal communities directly benefit from the growth of offshore renewable energy projects.
- Review and enhance conservation measures for marine ecosystems and wildlife, including expanding Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), and establishing wildlife sanctuaries.
- Support the continued sustainable development of our aquaculture sector.
- Establish a Maritime Regeneration, Development and Conservation Fund, to support marinas, harbours, and tourism development and measures to address coastal erosion.
- Strengthen the governance and involvement of fisheries communities in local development planning.
- Work with Fáilte Ireland to launch a Marine Tourism Strategy aimed at attracting domestic and international tourists to coastal villages, boosting local economies.
- Promote eco-tourism by supporting wildlife activities like whale and dolphin watching, protecting marine species while growing the tourism industry.
- Introduce initiatives to preserve maritime cultural heritage.







**MOVING FORWARD. TOGETHER.  
AG BOGADH AR AGHAIDH. LE CHÉILE.**

Head Office 65-66 Lower Mount Street,  
Dublin 2, D02 NX40

**Tel:** 01 676 1551

**Email:** [info@fiannafail.ie](mailto:info@fiannafail.ie)

[www.fiannafail.ie](http://www.fiannafail.ie)

