

**Standard Report
On
Methods and Quality**

**for
<Output, Input & Income in Agriculture 2007>**

This documentation applies to the reporting period:
<2007>

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CENTRAL STATISTICS OFFICE
Skehard Road, Cork
021 453 5000
www.cso.ie

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1 Overview

The *Output, Input & Income in Agriculture* release contains estimates of National Agricultural Accounts for a twelve month period from January to December 2007. It also includes revisions for earlier years, 2003-2006. Three estimates are prepared in each 12-month period for the agricultural accounts. *See Periodicity in 2.5.*

This release presents the calculation of Agricultural Income (Operating Surplus) by the CSO using the Output Method (also known as the Production Approach). The basic elements are output, intermediate consumption and value added (output less intermediate consumption).

The information is not derived directly from survey data but from a combination of sources including administrative data, industry sources and several CSO surveys, both agricultural and non-agricultural. This release is a national and European requirement and the current series includes data back to 1990.

2 General Information

2.1 Statistical Category

Combination of administrative data, industry sources, non-agricultural CSO surveys and agricultural CSO surveys.

2.2 Area of Activity

National Accounts

2.3 Organisational Unit Responsible, Persons to Contact

Business Statistics Directorate

Hilda McCarthy Tel: +353 21 4535084 Email: Hilda.McCarthy@cso.ie

Martina O'Callaghan Tel: +353 21 4535333 Email: Martina.ocallaghan@cso.ie

2.4 Objectives and Purpose; History

The main purpose of the *Output, Input & Income in Agriculture* release is to produce information on the economic activities of the agricultural sector over a given accounting period. This allows an analysis of the production process of the agricultural industry and the primary income generated by it during that period.

2.5 Periodicity

The reference period is a 12-month calendar year. Three estimates are prepared in each 12-month period for the agricultural accounts.

- The first, or Advance estimates, are generally released in early December of the reference year for which the accounts are prepared. The Advance estimate contains actual data for 9, and in some cases, 10 months of the year. The remaining months need to be estimated to complete the data for the year.
- In February of the year following the reference year, Preliminary estimates are prepared. This includes revisions to the first estimate where updated data is available.
- In June of the year following the reference year, the Final estimates of the agricultural accounts are prepared. This final estimate includes any further revisions not already incorporated into the second estimate.

2.6 Client

The Economic Accounts for Agriculture (EAA) are both a national and European requirement.

2.7 Users

- Eurostat
- CSO- National Accounts
- Department of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (DAFF)
- Teagasc
- Bord Bia
- Farming Groups, IFA, ICMSA.
- General Public

2.8 Legal basis

Regulation (EC) No 138/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 December 2003 on the economic accounts sets the legal basis for establishing a harmonized methodology for the compilation of the Economic Accounts for Agriculture (EAA). The Economic accounts for agriculture (EAA) are a satellite account of the European System of Accounts (ESA95), providing complementary information and concepts adapted to the particular nature of the agricultural industry.

3 Statistical Concepts, Methods

3.1 Subject of the Statistics

The EAA are based on the Industry concept (i.e. a collection of local KAU's –kind of activity units- that perform same or similar activities). The set of Agricultural Accounts provides a wide range of indicators on the economic activities in the agricultural sector: Output, Intermediate Consumption, Gross and Net Value Added, Compensation of Employees, Taxes and Subsidies on product/production, Net Operating Surplus, Net Entrepreneurial Income.

3.2 Units of Observation/Collection Units/Units of Presentation

The EAA are based on the Industry concept.

In old methodology, prior to 2002, all agricultural holdings in Ireland were treated collectively as one 'National Farm'. This meant that flows on the same farm and between different farms were not accounted for in the agricultural accounts, as these flows would cancel each other out in the overall "national farm". With the new methodology, however, the concept of the "national farm" has been replaced by the use of the individual farm as a unit. The important difference is that inter-farm transactions (e.g. the sale of cereals or cattle from one farm to another) are now captured in the statistics both as an output and as an input to the agricultural sector.

Outputs refer to the goods or services produced by the agricultural industry, while inputs refer to the goods and services consumed to produce units of outputs.

The adoption of the agricultural holding as the local unit for the agricultural industry in the National Accounts and EAA is based on an agreed EAA statistical approach. While the local unit is an individual farm, the EAA data is aggregated and presented at national level only. A regional breakdown at NUTS III level is made available during t+1 and 2007 regional data can be viewed at <http://www.cso.ie/releasespublications/documents/agriculture/current/agriacc.pdf>.

3.3 Data Sources

CSO Agriculture Surveys

- Livestock Slaughterings
- Agricultural Price Indices
- June Livestock Survey
- December Livestock Survey
- Farm Structure Survey (FSS)
- Agricultural Labour Input Survey
- Milk Statistics
- Census of Agriculture (2000)
- Cereals Supply Balance Sheet

CSO Non-Agriculture Surveys

- Earnings of Industrial Workers
- Consumer Price Indices
- Wholesale Price indices
- Trade Statistics
- Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS) Data
- Industrial Earnings & Labour Costs

Other CSO Data

- National Accounts
 - (i) Gross Fixed Capital Formation &
 - (ii) Financial Intermediation Services Indirectly Measured (FISIM)

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food (DAFF)

- Quantities and (some) values on Live Trade, Poultry, Eggs, Honey, Seeds, Fruit & Vegetables, Other Crops, Feed, Fertilizer, Subsidies, Cereals. (SA996 Inquiry)
- Subsidies paid by DAFF
- Cattle Movement Monitoring System (CMMS)
- Milk Superlevy

Teagasc

- National Farm Survey Data –Intermediate Consumption Data.
- Average Fleece Weights.

Other Sources

- Revenue Commissioners
- Irish Stud Farms
- APHA (Animal Plant & Health Association)
- Central Bank of Ireland/ACC Bank
- Irish Horse Board
- Bord Na Mona
- Bord Glas
- Bord Bia
- Labour Court
- ICMSA

3.4 Reporting Unit/Respondents

As 3.2 & 3.3 above.

3.5 Type of Survey/Process

The EAA are compiled using agricultural sector data from both administrative and non-administrative sources. Publically available data is obtained from printed reports & media or downloaded from internet websites. For all other data, letters and e-

mails are issued from the CSO Agriculture Accounts section requesting tables of required data to be returned by a specified date. These are followed up with telephone reminders closer to the deadline for returns. Internal CSO data, both from the agricultural division and other areas, is used in the compilation of the EAA.

3.6 Characteristics of the Sample/Process

3.6.1 Population and Sampling Frame

Not Applicable.

3.6.2 Sampling Design

Not Applicable.

3.7 Survey Technique/Data Transfer

By post, email, telephone, Internet or from printed media

3.8 Questionnaire (including explanations)

Survey forms are generally not suitable to collect the required data, and are therefore not used. Instead, letters and e-mails are issued from the CSO Agriculture Accounts Section requesting tables of required data to be returned by a specified date

See Appendix I & II attached.

Appendix I: Request Form sent to Stud Farms re: earnings from Short Term Stay Mares.

Appendix II: Request letter sent to DAFF on subsidies paid in Agriculture.

3.9 Participation in the Survey

While participation is voluntary, all returns are necessary for completion of the Accounts. The results of various other surveys across the office, both agricultural and non-agricultural are used in the compilation of the EAA.

3.10 Characteristics of the Survey/Process and its Results

Quantity and price data are collected for outputs and inputs in agriculture.

Much of the quantity data collected for the outputs are national figures, e.g., animal slaughterings, cereals production etc. However some, such as National Farm Survey (NFS) data are on a per farm basis. The NFS provides per-farm estimates for many of the intermediate consumption items. These are grossed up by the number of holdings in the industry, as estimated by the CSO's Farm Structure Survey (FSS).

The agriculture accounts process places a value on each of these components of output and intermediate consumption (along with other variables), enabling us to

arrive at an overall operating surplus for the Agriculture industry as outlined below. The derived Operating Surplus below is the main indicator for agricultural income.

Gross Agricultural Output @ Basic Prices

less

Intermediate Consumption

equals

Gross Value Added at Basic Prices

plus

Net Subsidies on Production

less

Depreciation

less

Compensation of Employees

equals

Operating surplus

where

Gross Agricultural Output @ Basic Prices is the total of all outputs produced by the agriculture industry valued at the producer price and including any subsidies directly linked to a product less any taxes on those products. VAT is excluded from this calculation.

Intermediate Consumption consists of the value of the goods and services consumed as inputs by the production process, excluding fixed assets. In agriculture accounts such inputs would include fertilizers, feedstuffs, energy, crop protection etc.

Gross Value added at Basic Prices is output valued at basic prices less intermediate consumption valued at purchasers' prices.

Net Subsidies on Production are subsidies on production less taxes on production. Subsidies on production are subsidies other than those on products. Examples are payments for the rural environmental protection scheme and the area based compensatory allowance scheme. Taxes on production consist of VAT over-/under-compensation from farmers who have opted for the flat rate VAT system, and motor taxation paid by farmers.

Depreciation relates to the foreseeable wear and tear and obsolescence of fixed capital goods. It is calculated on the basis of the probable economic life of the asset. It is not calculated for breeding livestock or for non-produced assets such as land.

Compensation of Employees includes remuneration by employers to employees for work done in an accounting period; in this case, one year. It does not include the remuneration of work undertaken by the farmer or by non-salaried family farm members.

Operating surplus measures the surplus (or deficit) accruing from production before taking account of any interest, rent or similar charges payable on financial or tangible non-produced assets borrowed or rented by the enterprise.

3.11 Classifications used

Outputs are classified as follows:

Livestock

Cattle, Pigs, Sheep, Horses, Poultry,

Livestock Products

Milk, Other Products (Wool, Honey)

Crops

Barley, Wheat, Oats, Potatoes, Mushrooms, Other Vegetables, Fruit, Turf, Other Crops & Forage Plants.

Inputs are classified as follows:

Intermediate Consumption:

Feedingstuffs, Fertilizers, Seeds, Energy, Maintenance & Repairs, Services, Crop Protection Products, Veterinary & Pharmaceutical, Other goods, Forage Plants, Contract Work.

The above classifications are specific to the EAA.

3.12 Regional Breakdown of Results

The 3 releases for the *Output, Input & Income in Agriculture* series do not provide regional summaries. A regional breakdown at NUTS2 & NUTS 3 level is provided in a later publication at T+10months approximately. This can be viewed at <http://www.cso.ie/releasespublications/documents/agriculture/current/agriacc.pdf>.

4 Production of the Statistics, Data Processing, Quality Assurance

4.1 Data Capture

Data Capture: By Data Management System (DMS), by post, email, telephone, internet or from printed media. This data is then inputted manually into Excel spreadsheets.

IT Tools: DMS, PC SAS, Microsoft Word, Lotus Notes Email, Microsoft Excel, Database Direct, Internet. All of the above IT tools are used to process data made available to us.

4.2 Coding

Not Applicable.

4.3 Data Editing

A number of edits, such as range and consistency checks, are run in Excel to check for unusual results or data.

Implied Price Change Checks: The change in value index is divided by the change in volume index to give an implied price change. This should approximate the change in price indices as provided by the Agriculture Prices section. This exercise can be carried out for each output and some input items (e.g. feed & fertilizer) for which a price index is available from the Agriculture prices section.

$$\frac{\text{Value T}}{\text{Value T-1}} \div \frac{\text{Volume T}}{\text{Volume T-1}} = \text{Implied Price Change.}$$

4.4 Imputation (for Non-Response or Incomplete Data Sets)

Imputation applies to Advance & Preliminary Estimate only.

For the Advance estimate, accurate data for January to September is generally available by November. October-December quantities for outputs and inputs need to be estimated. The main account items to be estimated for Quarter 4 are slaughterings and stock changes for the livestock items; i.e. cattle, sheep & pigs. Milk quantities are also estimated for Quarter 4.

Quantities for Quarter 4 are estimated using year-to-date trends, year on year trends and the forecasts of industry experts such as Bord Bia and DAFF officials.

Price estimates to year-end are provided by Agriculture prices section.

Microsoft Excel is the main processing tool used here.

Imputation is generally not necessary for the final estimate as there is little if any missing data by this stage.

Imputed data is revised as soon as actual data becomes available.

4.5 Grossing and Weighting

For the most part, grossing and weighting does not apply to the estimates. However for some of the Input items taken from the Teagasc National Farm Survey (NFS), grossing is applied. The NFS provides average per-farm estimates and represents just 1% of the population. The average costs per farm are grossed up by the number of agricultural holdings that the NFS represents. As this does not include pig farms, additional calculations are carried out to estimate costs incurred on pig farms and this is included with total costs.

4.6 Computation of Outputs, Estimation Methods Used

The value of each item in the accounts can be calculated where both price and quantities are available. Microsoft Excel is the main tool used in compilation of Agriculture Accounts.

Quantities and values for slaughtering of 3 of the main outputs (Cattle, Sheep & Pigs) are processed in PC SAS. Milk values are calculated in an Excel spreadsheet, as are all other outputs, inputs & value-added items.

e.g. the value of cattle output is derived as follows:

Slaughtering in licensed meat export premises
+Cattle Slaughtering
+Live Exports
- Live Imports
+/- Change in Livestock numbers
+Subsidies on product
-Levies on Product
= Total Cattle Output at Basic Prices

The above method can also be applied to the other livestock items i.e. pigs & sheep. A full list of computation methods used for each account item can be found in the appendix to the following 2003 *Output, Input & Income in Agriculture* release.

http://www.cso.ie/releasespublications/documents/agriculture/2003/oiifin_2003.pdf

For each account item, 3 values are calculated. A current value, a constant value (current year quantities at base year 2000 prices) and a t-1 previous year value (current year quantities at previous year prices).

The volume changes for 2007 can be calculated by comparing the total value in 2007 at average 2000 prices against the total value in 2006 at average 2000 prices. Constant Values at base year 2000 are required for National Accounts.

4.7 Other Quality Assurance Techniques Used

Verification: Once received, data is quickly checked through for any obvious errors. Large deviations from previous periods or expected values are queried with the respondent and changed if necessary. Otherwise, note is taken of the explanation for the change.

Consultation: Advice of senior staff and colleagues with strong statistical backgrounds can be sought out to arrive at best practice in particular with regard to forecasting for the Advance Estimate in December.

Crosschecking: Some of the data, i.e. slaughterings and exports can be cross-checked against an Industry Publications, e.g. Bord Bia Market Monitor (weekly publication).

Checking: Once an account item has been completed, usually by either a Clerical officer or an Executive Officer, it is passed to the next supervisor for checking. The checking process of the individual account items is escalated upwards to statistician level. The completed release tables, along with an explanatory note on significant year-on-year changes is passed to the Senior Statistician in Agriculture for analysis before proceeding to release stage.

Teagasc NFS Data: The NFS survey has a small sample size. In 2007, a sample of 1151 units was selected to represent a population of 111,913 (all holdings excluding pig farms and very small farms). Due to the relatively small sample size, 3 possible NFS results are calculated for year N and an average of these 3 years is taken. This is carried out by taking NFS results for Year n-2 and adjusting these to year n values using appropriate price and volume indices. Secondly, taking NFS results for Year n-1 and adjusting to Year n values by appropriate price and volume indices. The third results are actual NFS results as provided by Teagasc for Year n. An average of the 3 of these totals is used in our accounts as an estimate for year n.

5 Quality

5.1 Relevance

- Regulation (EC) No 138/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 December 2003 on the economic accounts sets the legal basis for establishing a harmonized methodology for the compilation of the Economic Accounts for Agriculture (EAA).

-Along with their own research, Teagasc use our *Output, Input & Income in Agriculture –Advance Estimate* to form the basis of their Annual Review and Outlook Conference in December of the reference period each year.

-DAFF use CSO accounts data in their Annual Review & Outlook publication.

-Revenue Commissioners use an early estimate of Agricultural Income in deciding whether to adjust the farmer's flat rate VAT in the December budget each year.

5.2 Accuracy and Reliability

5.2.1. Sampling Effects, Representativity

Not Applicable.

5.2.2. Non-Sampling Effects

5.2.2.1 Quality of the Data Sources used

The compilation of *Output, Input and Income in Agriculture* draws on a large number of sources for its data as outlined in 3.3 above. The main data providers are CSO, DAFF & Teagasc.

General comments:

-The data provided is generally suitable for use in the accounts having regard to coverage of participants in the particular agricultural activity and the reference period.

-File structure, file formats and variables measured are consistent over time and the data within the files is directly comparable with previous periods.

-Discrepancies/possible errors in the data can be checked and verified with a contact in each office and explanations provided.

Data from Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food (DAFF)

-DAFF provides administrative data as recorded by them, e.g., Data on Subsidies & Superlevies should exactly match amounts paid/received by DAFF office.

-Administrative data on Cattle numbers is available from the Cattle Movement Monitoring System (CMMS) as maintained by DAFF. While the trends in CMMS largely track those measured by CSO's own livestock survey, the absolute values do not agree.

Data from Teagasc NFS

-Sample for the Teagasc NFS survey is selected by CSO Ag.Register section.

-Glossary of terms and concepts is appended to the main NFS publication to aid clarity and understanding.

-Due to the small sample size, however, CSO take an average of 3 years NFS data adjusted to year n by appropriate volume and price indices. See note in 4.7 above.

QNHS Data

It is possible, due to small sample size, that QNHS data for Agricultural employees does not accurately reflect employment trends in Agricultural sector.

5.2.2.2 Register Coverage

Not Applicable.

5.2.2.3 Non-response (Unit and Item)

Not Applicable.

5.2.2.4 Measurement Errors

The risk of measurement error is low. Very limited use is made of questionnaires, thus eliminating any respondent bias/error etc.

5.2.2.5 Processing Errors

All work goes through an extensive checking process after completion, ensuring verification of each step of the computation right back to source data. Managers in the section check all work. The checking process flows from Clerical Officer to Executive Office to Higher Executive Officer to Statistician level.

All amendments/changes are commented on in the Excel cell. The source of the data is also listed here and a paper copy of the data is kept on the file to enable checking and verification at each stage.

5.2.2.6 Model-related Effects

Not applicable.

5.3 Timeliness and Punctuality

5.3.1 Provisional Results

Advance Estimates are published in December of the reference year mainly to meet Eurostat requirements for agricultural data c. Nov 30th each year. This Eurostat deadline was met in 2007. The Advance Estimate publishes just one table of data at a summarised level.

5.3.2 Final Results

The Preliminary (2nd) estimate is produced in early February to meet Eurostat requirements. The Final (3rd) estimate is produced in mid-June though the Eurostat requirement here is not until Sept 30th.

The final release in June of n+1 contains more detail and tables of data on the various subcomponents than the 2 preceding releases. The main Table 1 is expanded to include values for all the main components of Income. Four additional tables are included in the Final release covering Output Quantities, Stock Changes, Volume Indices, & Subsidies.

The main differences between Eurostat results and national results are with regard to values for goods output and fodder. Eurostat values goods output at basic prices (i.e., including subsidies received and levies paid) while national results show goods output at producer prices (i.e. the price received by the producer before subsidies/levies are paid.) Subsidies/Levies are recorded separately in the national results.

Eurostat values for cereals include Inter-Farm & Intra-Farm sales while national results do not. However, Eurostat values for fodder do not include Inter-farm or Intra-farm sales of cereals (barley, wheat and oats) but national results do.

At the final level, no difference exists between Eurostat data and National data.

5.4 Coherence

There is no similar report on output, input and income in Agriculture produced in Ireland. There are some related reports such as Teagasc NFS publication, DAFF Review & Outlook and some isolated articles/reports on various sectors, (eg beef industry or dairy sector) but none that cover the industry as a whole.

Northern Ireland Trade data:

Since 2002, the Live Export data from the Cattle Movement Monitoring System (CMMS) appears to be higher than would be expected. To overcome this, we apply the annual percentage change in CMMS data each year to the old Northern Ireland Live Exports per DAF from 2002 and similarly each year thereafter.

Implied Price Check:

Coherence checks are carried out with regard to price movements for the major account items (see 4.3).

5.5 Comparability

The Economic Accounts for Agriculture (EAA) are based on a harmonized methodology; therefore, results across the EU member states are comparable. For various reasons, results over time may not always be directly compared; however a note to this effect is generally added to the explanatory text of the release. e.g. Operating Surplus in 2005 was up over 22%. This was as a result of paying out large amount of arrears for subsidies on product after the introduction of the Single Farm Payment. Consequently, in 2006, there was a large drop in operating surplus as a result of the large amount of subsidy arrears paid in 2005. The ceasing of Sugar Beet production in Ireland in 2005 also led to a cessation of this item in the accounts series. Generally, however, the time series, which dates back to 1990, is consistent over time.

See also 5.3.2 for differences between national results and those sent to Eurostat.

5.6 Accessibility and Clarity

5.6.1 Assistance to Users, Special Analyses

The release is made available on the CSO website at 11am on the day of release. Hard copies are posted to contacts on a mailing list on the day of the release. The databank is updated on the morning of the release to ensure the entire series, back to 1990, is available through the Database Direct application on the CSO website.

<http://www.cso.ie/px/pxeirestat/database/eirestat/eirestat.asp>

The front page of the release lists contact names and telephone numbers for more information if necessary, as well as postal addresses for the Cork and Dublin offices, email addresses and a unique reference number for the release.

The background notes at the back of the release aid understanding of the main terms used in the table(s).

Additional tables of data are compiled for the following users:

Revenue: Detailed breakdown of current & capital inputs, On-farm consumption, stock changes, direct sales to final consumers.

DAFF: Stock changes.

Eurostat: Unit Values for Outputs.

National Accounts: Personal Consumption Expenditure (PCE) tables.

5.6.2 Revisions

Revisions are made to data with each new release.

Below are listed the results for Goods Output, Intermediate Consumption and Operating surplus and the revisions made to them between the first and third estimates for 2007.

Value as at Month/year	Goods Output 2007 (€'000)	Intermediate Consumption 2007 (€ '000)	Operating Surplus 2007 (€'000)
Dec 2007	€5,627	€4,012	€2,510
Feb 2008	€5,674	€4,015	€2,636
June 2008	€5,703	€4,064	€2,597
% change Dec'07-Jun '08	+1.4%	+1.3%	+3.5%

5.6.3 Publications

5.6.3.1 Releases, Regular Publications

Output, Input & Income in Agriculture 2007 –Advance Estimate

Output, Input & Income in Agriculture 2007 –Preliminary Estimate

Output, Input & Income in Agriculture 2007 –Final Estimate

The release is available on the CSO website:

<http://www.cso.ie/releasespublications/documents/agriculture/current/oifin.pdf>

5.6.3.2 Statistical Reports

Table 1 from the final release is recreated in Chapter 11 of the Statistical Yearbook of Ireland.

<http://www.cso.ie/releasespublications/documents/statisticalyearbook/2007/Chapter%2011%20Agriculture%20and%20Fi...pdf>

5.6.3.3 Internet

The release is available on the CSO website:

<http://www.cso.ie/releasespublications/documents/agriculture/current/oiifin.pdf>

5.6.4 Confidentiality

There are no confidentiality constraints/issues with data in this release. All the information is aggregated to industry level.

However, there would be confidentiality concerns for some of the data received, e.g. returns from individual stud farms would be considered highly sensitive on their own. However, this data is aggregated in our published results. Similarly, with returns received from APHA (Animal Plant Health Association). APHA has considerable market share and their returns are not identifiable within our published results.

6 Additional documentation and publication

Data for all EU 27 can be found and compared on the following Eurostat Database:

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page?_pageid=1996,45323734&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL&screen=welcomeref&open=/data/agric/agri/aact/aact_eaa&language=en&product=EU_MAIN_TREE&root=EU_MAIN_TREE&scrollto=360

See also section 5.5 for comparability issues between national data and Eurostat data.

The entry for this statistic under StatCentral (the portal to Ireland's official statistics) is at

<http://www.statcentral.ie/viewStat.asp?id=11>

APPENDIX I

01 October 2007

EARNINGS FROM SHORT TERM STAY FOREIGN MARES

Dear «Title». «LastName»,

In November of each year you supply us with information relating to Horse Output for use in the compilation of our Output, Input and Income in Agriculture advance estimates.

I would be grateful, if you would supply us with information for 2007 in relation to short-term stay foreign mares, i.e. mares which come to Ireland for nominations only, but do not stay for the duration of the pregnancy, by Tuesday 30th October 2007.

Short-term stay foreign mares only (2007)

- The average nomination fee charged
- The number of nominations per year
- The average stay in weeks
- The weekly charge for board and maintenance

You are assured that all information provided to us would be treated as strictly confidential. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

This November we are updating our database of data suppliers. Could you please confirm your contact details with your return?

For your convenience the information can be sent to us by mail, fax, e-mail or taken over the phone (see contact details below).

Regards,
Mary Gallivan

Agriculture Output
Central Statistics Office
Skehard Road
Cork

Tel: +353 21 4535335
Fax: +353 21 4535555
Email: mary.gallivan@csso.ie

APPENDIX II

S.A. 996

October 1, 2007

Mr. Kevin Joe Galligan
Department of Agriculture and Food,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Dear Mr. Galligan,

In November of each year your department supplies us with an estimate of National and EU subsidy payments to agriculture for use in the compilation of our Output, Input and Income in Agriculture advance estimates.

I would be grateful, if you would supply me with an estimate for 2007 by Tuesday 30th October 2007.

You are assured that all information provided to us would be treated as strictly confidential. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

For your convenience the information can be sent to us by mail, fax, e-mail or taken over the phone (see contact details below).

Yours sincerely

Mary Gallivan
Agricultural Output
Central Statistics Office
Skehard Road
Cork

Phone: +353-21 4535335
Fax: +353-21 4535555

Email: mary.gallivan@csso.ie