

# Department of Agriculture and Food 2004 EU Suckler Cow Premium Schemes

## Helpsheet

**This Helpsheet should be read in conjunction with the Terms and Conditions of the Suckler Cow Premium Schemes and before completing your application form.**

### Points of Information

**1. Application Period:**

The application period will run from 2 January 2004 to 30 June 2004. Only one application per producer is allowed.

**2. Application Procedure:**

- It will not be necessary to list the tagnumbers of cows being submitted for Suckler Cow Premium except where your herd is restricted under the BTE Schemes at the date of application. If your herd is restricted at the date of application you must list the tagnumbers of the cows on which you are applying for premium on form SC2004A.
- You must list the tagnumbers of any heifers being submitted for premium at Schedule 2 of form SC2004.
- The Cattle Identity Cards/Passports of each animal (cows and heifers) on which you apply for premium must be submitted with your application. If your herd is restricted your Cattle Identity Cards/Passports are being held by your Local District Veterinary Office and therefore need not be submitted with your application. **Only Cattle Identity Cards/Passports of animals being applied on should be submitted with the application form.**

**3. Suckler Cow/Heifer Ratio:**

- There is no compulsory 15% heifer requirement in 2004.
- However, applicants have an **option** to apply on heifers up to a maximum of 40% of the total number of animals for which premium is requested.

#### Ready Reckoner for Cow/Heifer Ratio

No. of Animals for which Premium is being applied on	40% Maximum Heifer Option	No. of Animals for which Premium is being applied on	40% Maximum Heifer Option	No. of Animals for which Premium is being applied on	40% Maximum Heifer Option
1	0	37-38	15	74-76	30
2-3	1	39-41	16	77-78	31
4-6	2	42-43	17	79-81	32
7-8	3	44-46	18	82-83	33
9-11	4	47-48	19	84-86	34
12-13	5	49-51	20	87-88	35
14-16	6	52-53	21	89-91	36
17-18	7	54-56	22	92-93	37
19-21	8	57-58	23	94-96	38
22-23	9	59-61	24	97-98	39
24-26	10	62-63	25	99-101	40
27-28	11	64-66	26	102-103	41
29-31	12	67-68	27	104-106	42
32-33	13	69-71	28	107-108	43
34-36	14	72-73	29	109-111	44

To establish the maximum number of heifers, get 40% of the total number of animals on which you intend to apply for 2004 Suckler Cow Premium. Where the answer is not a whole number, round down to the nearest whole number if the decimal is less than 0.5. If the decimal is 0.5 or more, round up to the nearest whole number.

**Example 1:** you intend applying on 117 animals. 40% is equal to 46.80 so the maximum number of heifers you may apply on is 47 (round up to the nearest whole number).

**Example 2:** you intend applying on 16 animals. 40% is equal to 6.4 so the maximum number of heifers you may apply on is 6 (round down to the nearest whole number).

**A Heifer should be at least 8 months old at the date of application. If a heifer is replacing a suckler cow or a heifer already applied on it should be at least 8 months old at date of replacement.**

**4. Replacement Animals:**

If, during the retention period of the Scheme, a cow or a heifer dies or is sold, you **must ensure** that

- i) Replacement takes place within 20 days of the loss or disposal of the animal being replaced;
- ii) The replacement details are entered in the herd register within 7 days of replacement;
- iii) The replacement animal is properly tagged and registered, i.e. tagged within 20 days of birth and registered on the electronic database within 7 days of tagging and must have a valid cattle identity card/passport;
- iv) The replacement animal is of an eligible beef breed for the purposes of the Schemes.

**While it is not necessary to notify your local District Livestock Office of replacement details the CMMS electronic database must be kept up-to-date at all times so as to facilitate the required checks on any replacements.**

**5. On-Farm Death of an Animal and No Replacement Animal:**

If an animal on which you have applied for premium dies and you are not in a position to replace her, you must notify the Cattle Movement Monitoring System within 10 days of the finding of the death in order that it be excused the 6 months retention period requirement. While no premium will be paid on the animal, it will not lead to any reduction penalty on the remaining eligible animals.

**6. Stocking Density:**

The Stocking Density for 2004 is 1.8 livestock units per hectare.

**7. Milk Quota for Small-Scale Milk Suppliers:**

The milk quota limit for farmers applying under the 2004 Suckler Cow Premium Scheme for Small-Scale Milk Suppliers is 200,000 litres (43,994 gallons). If you increase your milk quota, either temporarily or permanently, to exceed 200,000 litres during a 12 months period starting from the day your application is received by the Department you will lose all 2004 Suckler Cow Premium.

**8. Restricted Herd:**

If your herd is restricted you should complete form SC2004 in the normal way and indicate in the box provided that your herd is restricted. You should also complete form SC2004A by listing the tagnumbers of the suckler cows on which you wish to apply for premium.

**9. Personal Public Service Number (PPS No.):**

It is necessary to collect PPS Numbers for all Scheme applicants. Therefore, if this number is not already preprinted on your application form you are required to enter it in the box provided. If the PPS Number is preprinted on your application form and is incorrect please provide the correct number.

If you do not have a PPS number you should contact your Local Office of the Department of Social and Family Affairs for information on how to apply for one.

## **Common Questions – 2004 Suckler Cow Premium Schemes**

**Q1. I have a quota of 40 suckler cow rights. Am I required to include heifers on my application form?**

**A.** No. There is **no requirement to include heifers** on your application under the 2004 Suckler Cow Premium Scheme. However, if you wish, you have **the option** of including heifers up to a maximum of 40% of the total number of animals for which you are applying for premium. In your case, you can include up to 16 heifers on your application form.

**Q2. I have a quota of 15 suckler cow rights and I intend to apply on 12 cows and 3 heifers. One of the heifers will calve during the retention period. Have I to replace this animal with an uncalved heifer?**

**A.** No, as there is no requirement to maintain a minimum number of heifers under the 2004 Suckler Cow Premium Scheme.

**Q3. I have a quota of 7 suckler cow rights and I intend to apply on 6 cows and 1 heifer. If I sell one of the cows and the heifer during the retention period have I to replace these animals with another cow and heifer?**

**A.** While you must replace these animals within 20 days of the sale, you have the choice of replacing them with 2 cows **or** 2 heifers **or** with another cow and heifer, (see Ready Reckoner – for 7 animals you can put up to 3 heifers on your claim).

**Q4. I have 20.4 hectares of forage land which I have declared on my 2004 Area Aid application. On how many livestock units am I entitled to payment of livestock premium?**

**A.** The Stocking Density limit for the 2004 Livestock Premium Schemes is 1.8 livestock units per forage hectare. You are therefore entitled to payment of premium on up to a maximum of 36.72 livestock units (i.e. 20.4 x 1.8), provided your animals are otherwise eligible. The Stocking Density limit applies across all the premium schemes and account is taken of the ewes, if any, you have applied on under 2004 Ewe Premium Scheme; any bullocks/bulls applied on under 2004 Special Beef Premium Scheme; the Milk Quota held by you at 31 March 2004/1 April 2004, if any, as well as the animals you apply on under the 2004 Suckler Cow Premium Scheme.

**Q5. If I apply on a heifer which, at date of application, is aged 14 months (i.e. 0.6 lu) and it subsequently calves during 2004, what livestock unit value is attributed to that animal for the purpose of calculating my stocking density in respect of the 2004 Livestock Premium Schemes?**

**A.** The livestock unit value of the animal remains 0.6 lu for the purpose of the 2004 stocking density limit.

## **National Envelope – a) Suckler Cows/Heifers Calving for First Time in 2004**

### **A Top-Up amount will be payable on suckler cows and/or heifers which establish:**

- a) Entitlement under the 2004 Suckler Cow Premium Scheme;
- b) Have calved for the first time during the calendar year 2004;
- c) Whose calves are properly tagged and recorded on the CMMS database.

The Top-Up amount will be payable to the producer in whose herd the animal calves.

The Top-Up amount will also be payable on suckler cows/heifers which replace suckler cows/heifers on which premium has been applied on provided they qualify as at a), b) and c) above and also provided that the replacement has taken place in accordance with paragraph 31 of the Terms and Conditions of the Scheme.

The maximum number of Top-Up amounts payable to a farmer will be the lesser of 20% of the total number of animals on which 2004 Suckler Cow Premium has been paid or 20% of the total number of Suckler Cow Premium quota rights held by the farmer for the 2004 marketing year, provided that these cows/heifers meet the conditions set out above.

The actual Top-Up amount payable per eligible animal will not be determined until the number of eligible animals has been ascertained. It is anticipated that the rate of payment will be in the region of €100.

### **Common Questions – Suckler Cows/Heifers Calving for First Time in 2004**

**Q1. Heifer calves in Herd A on 3 January 2004. Application lodged by Herdowner A on 3 February 2004 and the animal in question is applied on. Is this animal eligible for payment of a Top-Up amount?**

**A.** Yes, this animal is eligible for payment of a Top-Up amount if all the other conditions of the Scheme are met.

**Q2. Heifer calves in Herd A on 3 January 2004. Herdowner A sells this animal without declaring it for Suckler Cow Premium. Herdowner B applies on this animal in June. Is there a Top-Up amount payable on this animal?**

**A.** Suckler Cow Premium is payable on this animal to Herdowner B but there is no entitlement to a Top-Up amount as the animal in question calved in Herd A but was not included in Herdowner A's application.

**Q3. Herd A declared 10 cows for Suckler Cow Premium on 7 January 2004. Buys in one in-calf heifer on 5 May 2004 (before end of retention period) as a replacement for an animal listed on the application. Checks against the CMMS database confirm that this is an eligible replacement. Heifer calves 1 September 2004 (i.e. after the end of retention period). Is the Top-Up amount payable on this animal?**

**A.** Yes, the Top-Up amount is payable.

**Q4. Herdowner A declared 10 cows for Suckler Cow Premium on 6 January 2004. He sells a cow on 20 August 2004 and buys in an in-calf heifer on 25 August 2004 (both dates after the end of retention period) to replace her. The heifer calves on 1 September 2004. Is the Top-Up amount payable on this animal?**

**A.** No, the Top-Up amount is not payable on this animal as replacement has taken place outside of the six months retention period and is not therefore governed by the Terms and Conditions of the Scheme.

**Q5. Herdowner A declared 10 cows for Suckler Cow Premium on 6 January 2004. He sells one cow on 3 July 2004 (i.e. inside the retention period) and has 20 days in which to replace this cow. He buys in an in-calf heifer on 12 July 2004 (after the end of retention period). Checks against the CMMS confirm that this is an eligible replacement. Heifer calves on 1 September 2004. Is the Top-Up amount payable on this animal?**

**A.** Yes, the Top-Up amount is payable on this heifer as the cow has been replaced within the 20 days of the date of sale, in compliance with the requirements of the Scheme.

### **National Envelope – b) Heifers not calving in 2004.**

#### **A Top-Up amount will be payable on heifers which establish:**

- a) Entitlement under the 2004 Suckler Cow Premium Scheme;
- b) Do not calve during the 2004 calendar year.

The Top-Up amount will also be payable on heifers which replace other heifers on which premium has been applied on provided they qualify as at a) and b) above and also provided that the replacement has taken place in accordance with the Terms and Conditions of the Scheme.

The maximum number of Top-Up amounts payable to a farmer will be the lesser of 15% of the total number of animals on which 2004 Suckler Cow Premium has been paid or 15% of the total number of Suckler Cow Premium quota rights held by the farmer for the 2004 marketing year, provided that the heifers meet the conditions set out above.

The actual Top-Up amount payable per eligible heifer will not be determined until the number of eligible animals has been ascertained. It is anticipated that the rate of payment will be in the region of €80.

## Common Questions – Heifers not calving in 2004.

**Q1. I am applying for premium on 9 cows and 4 heifers. Am I entitled to a Top-Up amount on these heifers if they do not calve in 2004?**

**A.** The Top-Up amount will be payable on a number of heifers representing 15% of the total number of animals on which you have applied for premium provided they meet the conditions set out above. In this case you will be entitled to top-up on 2 heifers.

**Q2. Can the same animal qualify for both Top-Up amounts?**

**A.** No. One Top-Up amount is payable on suckler cows/heifers which calve for the first time during the calendar year 2004 while the other Top-Up amount is payable on heifers which do not calve during the same period, subject to the limits set out above. Consequently, it is not possible to receive both Top-Up amounts on the same animal.

### Completing your Application Form

1. If you applied for Suckler Cow Premium in 2003 your Name, Address and Herdnumber will be preprinted on your 2004 application form. If your PPS/RSI number has not been preprinted on your application form enter it in the spaces provided.

If your PPS/RSI number has been preprinted and is incorrect please provide the correct PPS/RSI number.

#### Completing Schedule 1.

2. Decide which of the Schemes you should enter.

If you are not supplying milk to a creamery or other commercial outlet, you should enter the Scheme for Non-Suppliers of Milk and should not supply milk for 12 months after you apply.

If you are supplying milk commercially, had a milk quota on 31 March 2004/1 April 2004 which does not exceed 200,000 litres (43,994 gallons) and have suckler cows surplus to the cows you need to produce that quota, you should enter the Scheme for Small-Scale Milk Suppliers and should not increase your milk quota either temporarily or permanently to exceed 200,000 litres for an unbroken 12 months period starting in each case on the day the application is received by the Department.

#### Example:

In the example below the applicant has completed Schedule 1. He has indicated that he wishes to apply for the Scheme for Non-Suppliers of Milk. He has completed his declaration confirming that the total number of cows, both dairy and suckler, maintained by him on his holding is 8. He has declared that he wishes to apply for the 2004 Suckler Cow Premium Scheme on 8 cows and 2 heifers at least 8 months of age. In order to receive payment on 10 animals he needs a quota of 10 premium rights.

**PLEASE ENCLOSE PASSPORTS / CATTLE IDENTITY CARDS FOR ALL ANIMALS NOW BEING SUBMITTED FOR PREMIUM (EXCEPT THOSE IN HERDS RESTRICTED AT THE APPLICATION DATE).**

**SCHEDULE 1: APPLICATION**

I have read the Terms and Conditions of the Scheme I am entering, understand them and agree to be bound by them.

I hereby make the declarations and give the undertakings required by those Terms and Conditions. In particular, I undertake to maintain the total number of cows and heifers submitted for Premium for **6 MONTHS** from the day after this application is received by the Department of Agriculture and Food.

I WISH TO ENTER THE FOLLOWING  
2004 SUCKLER COW  
PREMIUM SCHEME  
(place ✓ in one box only)

Scheme for Non-Suppliers of Milk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
OR	
Scheme for Small-Scale Milk Suppliers with Quotas which do not exceed 200,000 Litres (43,994 Gallons) at 31 March 2004/1 April 2004	<input type="checkbox"/>

IF YOU HOLD A MILK QUOTA, PLEASE STATE THE SIZE OF THAT MILK QUOTA HERE IN LITRES.

	LITRES
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THE TOTAL NUMBER OF COWS, BOTH DAIRY AND SUCKLER, OWNED, POSSESSED, HELD AND MAINTAINED BY ME ON MY HOLDING ON THE DATE OF APPLICATION IS

0   0   8
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**A. SUCKLER COWS (BEEF BREEDS) BEING SUBMITTED FOR SUCKLER COW PREMIUM (DO NOT LIST TAGNUMBERS ON FORM SC2004A UNLESS RESTRICTED HERD)**

I WISH TO APPLY FOR SUCKLER COW PREMIUM ON

0   0   8
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SUCKLER COWS

**B. HEIFERS (BEEF BREEDS) BEING SUBMITTED FOR SUCKLER COW PREMIUM**

I WISH TO APPLY FOR SUCKLER COW PREMIUM ON

0   0   2
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HEIFERS AT LEAST 8 MONTHS OLD.



# CHECKLIST on APPLICATION FORM

PLEASE AVOID COMMON ERRORS FOUND ON APPLICATIONS BY  
CARRYING OUT EACH CHECK BELOW WITH CARE.

- Have your Herdnumber, Name and Address been entered correctly on the application form?
- If your PPS/RSI number has not been preprinted on the application form have you entered it in the space provided? If it is preprinted and is incorrect please provide details of the correct number.
- Have you completed Schedule 1 properly?
  - By ticking which Suckler Cow Premium Scheme you wish to enter.
  - By indicating the size of the milk quota held (if any).
  - By inserting the total number of dairy and suckler cows held and maintained by you on your holding at date of application.
  - By inserting the number of suckler cows on which you wish to apply for premium.
  - By inserting the number of heifers on which you wish to apply for premium.
- Have you completed Schedule 2 properly?
  - By listing the Tagnumbers of the heifers on which you wish to apply for premium.   
You have the option to apply on a number of heifers up to a maximum of 40% of the total number of animals for which premium is being requested.
- By Indicating in the relevant box
  - The total number of animals (cows plus heifers) on which you wish to apply for premium.
  - The number of Cattle Identity Cards/Passports enclosed with the application.
  - Whether or not your herd is Restricted.
- If your herd is restricted have you completed Form SC2004A?
- Have you completed Schedule 3 properly by ticking the relevant box to indicate locations where the animals applied on will be maintained for the retention period and declaring any additional locations where they will be maintained and no more than two places where your animals can be inspected?
- Have you signed and dated your application form. (Where more than one person is registered under the same herdnumber, each person must sign the application.)
- Have you enclosed the Cattle Identity Cards/Passports of all animals applied on?

BY ENSURING THAT YOUR APPLICATION IS IN ORDER, YOU CAN FACILITATE EARLIER  
PAYMENT WITHOUT PENALTIES