

# Meeting the challenge of the CAP reform



## A Farmers' View

James Wray

## Introduction - My farm

- Roe Valley... Dungiven to Limavady



## Introduction - My farm

- Roe Valley... Dungiven to Limavady
- 20 mile radius
- 4<sup>th</sup> Generation farmers
- Farm in partnership with my father
- Active Farmers
- Claim SFP
- Some historic in our single farm payment

## Current working arrangements

### Crop split

• Potatoes	240 acres
• Cereals (wheat & Barley)	550 acres
• Grass	110 acres
• Scrub	<u>20 acres</u>
	920 acres

## Current working arrangements



## Active Farmer

- Definition

*“payment entitlements should be allocated to the person enjoying decision-making power, benefits and financial risks in relation to the agricultural activity on the land for which such allocation is requested”*

## Active or Inactive Farmer ?



## Active Farmer

- Definition
- We are actively farming 920 acres
- My single farm payment from 2014 will now be diluted across the whole acreage farmed **in 2015** give me a new value per entitlements

## Greening

- 30% of individual payments come from Greening budget
- *As an arable farmer a minimum 30 % of my single farm payment will be taken away unless I can show that I am “greening”*



## Crop Diversification

- Between **10 and 30 ha = 2 crops**- main crop must not exceed 75% of the arable land
- **More than 30Ha = at least 3 crops** – main crop not exceeding **75%** and the two main crops shall not exceed **95%** of the arable land. Third crop therefore must be more than **5%** of the arable land.
- **impact – very small**
- **Just requires good forward planning**

## Ecological Focus

- Applies to farms of over 15 Ha of arable land
- 5% of the land must be an ecological focus area.
- Ecological focus area must be arable land
  - EFA uses
- Fallow
- Landscape features
- Buffer strips
- Willow
- Catch crops/green cover
- Nitrogen fixing crops



## EFA on my Farm

- **920 acres farmed at 5%**
- I will need 46 Acres
- Hedges
- Ditches
- Buffer strips
- Wet corner of a field
- An awkward shaped part of a field
- Fallow



## Challenges – New Working relationships / structures

- Short term stability is dependant on DARD delivering a timely accurate communication to address the complexities around directing funds to only those actively farming the land going forward.

## Challenges – New Working relationships / structures

- What the landowners will look like when they read that they may not be entitled to SFP in 2015



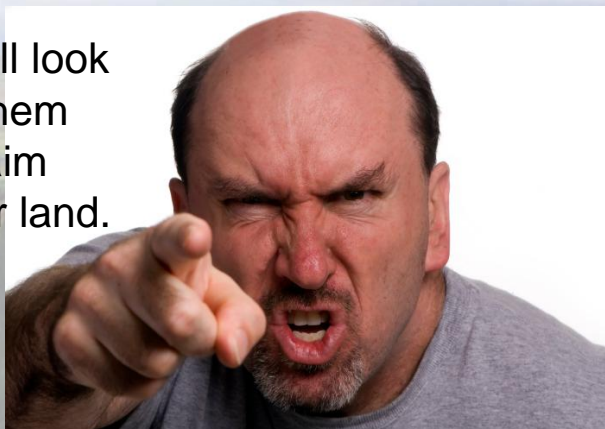
## Challenges – New Working relationships / structures

- What the landowners will look like when I confirm that they may not be entitled to SFP in 2015.



## Challenges – New Working relationships / structures

- How they will look when I tell them that I will claim SFP on their land.





## Challenges – New Working relationships / structures

- Access to land 2015 - may be problematic especially for potato producers
- Nitrates Regulations- land controller agreements (detail can we / cant we split holdings)
- Greening Crop diversifications requirement on land not owned – the practical delivery implications which will strip out efficiency
- Young Farmer criteria –

## Forward Planning

- **Information gaps**
- matters for consideration
  - guidance required - Eligible Active Farmer information required immediately – must clearly illustrate who is eligible to claim under the new scheme
- - Rebasing the land area farmed in 2015 – impact on land not owned (conacre/leases) How do you value the worth of land not owned in this transitional period to a flatter rate.
  - Implementing details on all Greening requirements for example
    - When is a hedge not a hedge?
    - Who will measure the hedges?
    - How will we measure the hedges?

# Opportunities

Secure land for  of years

# Opportunities

- Opportunities are usually disguised as hard work, so most people don't recognize them. (Ref: Ann Landers, available from [www.brainyquotes.com](http://www.brainyquotes.com))
- There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure.

(Ref: Colin Powell, available from [www.brainyquotes.com](http://www.brainyquotes.com))

- Thank you for your attention.

