

EPC(2) 08-05(p3) Annex A

FARMING FOR THE FUTURE – ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION June 2005

NUMBER	ACTION POINT	LEAD ORGANISATION/ OFFICER	STATUS OF ACTION	COMMENTS
ACTION POINT 1	Assembly Govt will work for an effective international trading and labelling system; and lobby for tighter meat import rules	OCVO/ Christianne Glossop Also FMD/ Norma Barry	ON GOING	<p>Responsibilities transferred from DEFRA to HM Customs & Excise (HMCE) in April 2003. As part of the Step change HMCE now have 9 meat detector dogs and handlers operational, which were made operational in January 2004 with a view to increase the number of dog detection teams to 10 in 2005. X-ray equipment is also another enforcement tool which, is being used more effectively. Customs has produced revised high-impact leaflets and posters. Customs have paid for almost 7 million ticket wallets and inserts explaining the rules for issue to UK travellers. Customs is also working with foreign Embassies and High Commissions as well as airlines, which also are used in third countries. The FSA has taken forward work to deliver step change in the enforcement, co-ordination and delivery of local authority inspection of imported foodstuffs and products of animal origin at ports.</p> <p>Actions include:</p>

- Delivered a national training programme to all UK authorities on the effective control of imported food. In Wales all local and port health authorities were represented:- 3,500 plus detection staff have anti-smuggling responsibilities for products of animal and plant origin.
- Annual review of controls on imports of animal products published July 2004.
- Increased sampling and surveillance checks on imported food at ports of entry; which has reflected in Products of Animal Origin Legislation
- Developing a resource database for the use by port authorities; and Development of intelligence sharing mechanism with HMCE.
- Raise awareness amongst communities who may bring back food items from their trips abroad. Bi-lingual leaflets and posters have been produced. A branded mobile unit has been touring the country visiting cultural, religious and community events to promote the campaign.
- Advertising campaign aimed at UK travellers

				<p>using the internet, which use innovative eye-catching images to encourage users to find out more on illegal products.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defra and Customs explore further the possibility of introducing on the spot-fines and working more with airlines and magistrates.
ACTION POINT 2	<p>Assembly Govt will work for reform of CAP-subsidies which</p> <p>- are decoupled from production levels; equal balance between CAP/RDP</p>	Rory O’Sullivan/CPD	ACHIEVED	CAP reform Implemented from 1 st January 2005
	<p>- improves the basis for funding agri-environmental schemes</p>	Mike Dunn/ECM	ON GOING SEE Annex 4B (item 2)	<p>The new entry-level agri-environment scheme (to be known as Tir Cynnal) was opened for applications in April 2005 by means of the new Single Application Form. EC approval is anticipated by end of June 2005. Subject to that approval and secondary legislation being in place, farmers who applied this year are likely to be offered agreements in late 2005 and early 2006, with the first payments being made in the first part of 2006/07.</p>

ACTION POINT 3	Assembly Govt will establish working group of industry interests to advise on mid term review of CAP	CPD/ Rory O'Sullivan - transferred to RPD/ Sue Armitage in June 2004	ACHIEVED	CAP reform implemented from 1 st January 2005.
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ACTION POINT 4	Assembly Govt will establish working group of industry interests to advise on Tir Mynydd 2	CPD/ Rory O'Sullivan	ACHIEVED	Minister announced on 21 st March 2005 that changes to the Tir Mynydd 2006 scheme would be kept to the minimum. Details were sent to farmers as part of the Single Application Form 2005 pack.
ACTION POINT 5	Assembly Agriculture & Rural Affairs Dept will appoint permanent member of staff in Brussels	CPD/ Rory O'Sullivan	ACHIEVED	Appointment made on 15 October 2001.
ACTION POINT 6	Assembly Govt will press UK Government to review Supermarkets' Code of Practice	FMDD Norma Barry	ACHIEVED	The Office of Fair Trading conducted a focussed compliance audit of the four main supermarkets bound by the code to establish hard facts on the operation of the Code as a basis for further action. The report of the audit published in March 2005 found little evidence to suggest the Code was being breached.

ACTION POINT 7	Assembly Govt will press UK Government to commission research jointly with major retailers on alternative distribution systems	FMDD Norma Barry	ACHIEVED	Regularly raised with DEFRA Ministers – formally and informally. WDA produced a summary report on food distribution into, out of and across Wales in Autumn 2004. Currently investigating options for future action in Wales.
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ACTION POINT 8	Assembly Govt will take all necessary steps to eradicate FMD and minimise the risks of animal health diseases. Plus press the UK government for strict meat import controls	OCVO/ Christianne Glossop	ON GOING	<p>Following the implementation of Disease Control (Wales) Order 2003 in March 2003 we are operating standard movement regime. The Welsh FMD Contingency Plan was first published on 1 April 2003, was tested during Exercise Dragon on 30 September 2003 and has been reviewed and following consultation was republished on 1 April 2004. A generic Exotic Diseases Plan is being developed in consultation with stakeholders and partners, which will include the specific requirements for FMD, Avian Influenza, Newcastle Disease and Classical Swine Fever. Expect consultation on the plan in July 2005 and publication in December 2005.</p> <p>An action plan for tackling illegal meat imports was published on 26 March (See action 1 above). An</p>

annual report was published in July 2004, which reviewed the controls on imports of animal products from April 2003 to March 2004. A VLA risk assessment report was also published in July 2004, which showed that in the year ending April 2004 the number of illegal import seizures of products of animal origin has doubled to 15,838 and the figure for April to December 2004 was 16,910 seizures, which indicates an increase in enforcement. The full GB strategy and final plan was published in June 2004.

Following extensive consultation with stakeholders on the principles on which a new GB Strategy on bovine TB would be based, the Welsh Assembly Government published a Government strategic framework for the sustainable control of bovine TB in Great Britain on 1 March 2005.

The EPC inquiry report into bovine TB was published in August 2004. Based on its findings the Committee recommended that the Assembly could put in place a number of measures to contribute to the containment and reduction of bovine TB through its existing powers. In response to recommendation 4 of the Inquiry report, the Assembly established a Wales TB Action Group in November 2004 in order to consider the other recommendations of the Inquiry in detail. The Action Group, which

				has now met on five occasions, will shortly be advising the Minister on measures that the Assembly Government might take to tackle bovine TB in Wales.
NUMBER	ACTION POINT	LEAD ORGANISATION/ OFFICER	STATUS OF ACTION	COMMENTS
ACTION POINT 9	Assembly Govt will work with other UK Agriculture Depts and FSA to maintain strict measures to eliminate BSE	OCVO/ Christianne Glossop	ON GOING	BSE incidence continuing to fall in Wales much as predicted by scientific models. Continuing to work with other Government departments' e.g. on testing for BSE and scrapie. The Over Thirty Month (OTM) rule is one of the main BSE controls and with limited exceptions keeps older cattle out of the food supply. The OTM rule has been a very effective measure against BSE. However, in light of the decline in the BSE epidemic, the FSA has recommended that it would be consistent on the basis of the risk involved for Government to lift the OTM rule if a robust testing system was in place. Defra, Scottish and Welsh Assembly Government Ministers announced the start of a managed transition towards the lifting of the OTM rule in December 2004. The FSA, advised by an Independent Advisory Group, has been asked to advise Government when the replacement-testing regime is robust. In parallel to trials of the testing regime, the FSA is currently consulting on draft legislation to replace the OTM rule and the Assembly Government is consulting on a Required Method of Operation that abattoirs would have

				to sign if they wished to test OTM cattle going into the food chain.
NUMBER	ACTION POINT	LEAD ORGANISATION/ OFFICER	STATUS OF ACTION	COMMENTS
ACTION POINT 10	<p>Assembly will work with other UK Agriculture Depts and the farming industry to eradicate scrapie.</p> <p>Assembly led industry-working group being set up.</p>	OCVO/ Christianne Glossop	ON GOING	<p>The 3 year WEGS II launched 26 June 2003. The scheme has had an excellent take-up and an internal review of Year 1 demonstrated that 88% of member's survey thought the scheme was "worthwhile" or "very worthwhile". A WEGS II Artificial Insemination Service, administered by Hybu Cig Cymru/ Meat promotion Wales was launched in July 2004. Together with Defra and the other Devolved Administrations, the Assembly Government launched a voluntary NSP scheme to help flocks that have previously had a scrapie problem in April 2004. As a result of EC legislation, a compulsory scheme for flocks that have a confirmed case of scrapie (after the date of the enforcing regulations) came into force from November 2004. Following a strategic review of the NSP, the Assembly Government is working closely with Defra and SEERAD on a compulsory ram genotyping scheme to be introduced at the end of 2005 that will implement EU legislation for a compulsory ram genotyping</p>

				<p>scheme. The voluntary GB wide NSP ram genotyping scheme will be wound up.</p>
<p>ACTION POINT 11</p>	<p>Assembly Govt will work with DEFRA and Scottish Executive to introduce sheep identification</p>	<p>OCVO/ Christianne Glossop</p>	<p>ON GOING</p>	<p>New tagging requirements came into force on 1 February 2003. Assembly part-funding research project by HCC into sheep ID and has played active part in Brussels and Defra in clarifying EU proposals for EID. A package of proposals was agreed in December 2003. Although more acceptable, the package still includes the possibility of double tagging being introduced from July 2005 and mandatory Electronic Identification of breeding ewes from Jan 2008. The UK has applied for a derogation not to introduce double tagging rather to retain the id system currently in force A decision on the request is awaited following the FVO Mission assessment in January it's not possible at this stage to judge the outcome. The EID pilot by HCC has continued to provide useful data about the practical and technical issues surrounding implementation of such a system. The final report is due in July and officials will ensure that the results and conclusions are fed into the UK report on EID that has to be submitted to the Commission by June 2006.</p>

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ACTION POINT 12	Assembly Govt will continue to support the strategy for controlling bovine TB through trials and testing and keep research under review	OCVO/ Christianne Glossop	On going	<p>In light of the continuing increase and spread of bovine TB, and in order to prevent further geographic spread of the disease, a number of short-term measures which were consulted upon in 2004 were implemented from November 2004. These include: a recalculation of routine testing intervals, zero tolerance of overdue tests, a more rigorous approach to identifying potential new TB hotspots and the introduction of rigorous testing schedules for new and reformed herds. A Pre-Movement Testing Sub-Group was established in partnership with Defra and the Scottish Executive to develop a detailed proposal for pre-movement testing of cattle. The report of the group on the introduction of a statutory requirement for bovine TB pre-movement testing in Great Britain has been presented to the Defra Chief Veterinary Officer. The UK Governments response will need to be agreed with the Welsh Assembly Government and also the Scottish Executive and will be followed by consultation on a detailed proposal for pre-movement testing. Timing of consultation is likely to be autumn 2005. The EPC inquiry report into bovine TB was published in August 2004. Based on its findings, the Committee recommended that the Assembly could put in place a number of measures to contribute to the containment and reduction of bovine TB through its existing powers. In</p>

response to recommendation 4 of the Inquiry report, the Assembly established a Wales TB Action Group in November 2004 in order to consider the other recommendations of the Inquiry in detail. The Action Group, which has now met on five occasions, will shortly be advising the Minister on measures that the Assembly Government might take to tackle bovine TB in Wales. Following extensive consultation with stakeholders on the principles on which a new GB Strategy on bovine TB would be based, the Welsh Assembly Government published a Government strategic framework for the sustainable control of bovine TB in Great Britain on the 1st March 2005

NUMBER	ACTION POINT	LEAD ORGANISATION/OFFICER	STATUS OF ACTION	COMMENTS
ACTION POINT 13	Assembly Govt will secure the extension of farm assurance to all sectors of Welsh production	FMDD Norma Barry	ON GOING	Achieved in red meat sector in Wales. Use of Welsh Lamb and Welsh Beef branding dependent on having farm assured status. In addition, Hybu Cig Cymru/Meat Promotion Wales have worked with British pig Executive to establish Quality British Pork brand – again, to use this brand producers must be Farm Assured.

<p>ACTION POINT 14</p>	<p>Assembly Govt will consider how delivery of food related studies in schools can be enhanced. To work closely with FSA, amongst others.</p>	<p>SPD/ Keith Davies</p>	<p>ON GOING</p>	<p>Better School Fund 2005 – 06 is supporting the activity of the Health School Scheme. Grant funding is intended to allow LEAs to provide training for teachers as part of the wider healthy school development. FSA Wales have commissioned lesson plans to accompany their interactive games on nutrition and food hygiene which are to be placed on the NGfL Cymru website.</p> <p>The FSA have piloted a combined nutrition and food hygiene course developed mainly for pupils aged 13-14 years and intended for delivery post key-stage 3 SATs in a number of secondary schools in Wales in July 2003. Feedback from teachers and participating pupils is currently awaited. The FSA have made 1 contact with Estyn regarding including reference to a whole-school approach to healthy eating in the inspection framework.</p> <p>Delivery of food related studies 1 feature in the work of the Health Minister’s Food and Fitness Task group on which both DfTE and ACCAC are represented. The Food and Fitness Action Plan for Children and Young People will be issued for consultation in July ’05. This makes reference to ACCAC consulting on the position of healthy living, food and physical activity in the school curriculum as part of the curriculum review.</p>
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ACTION POINT 15	Farming Unions will work with WLBP to encourage all Welsh lamb and beef farmers to become farm assured	FMDD Norma Barry	ACHIEVED	PGI status for Welsh Lamb and Welsh Beef means that any producer wanting to use these brands must be farm assured.
ACTION POINT 16	WDA will establish a food accreditation scheme with a distinctive kite mark	FMDD Norma Barry	ACHIEVED	The 'True Taste' scheme is now in its 4 th year and earning this award is recognised as a means of increasing sales etc.
ACTION POINT 17	WLBP to review criteria for FAWL and consider the potential commercial merit in incorporating new standards on animal health	OCVO/ Christianne Glossop	ON GOING	As per action point 13.
ACTION POINT 18	Bespoke standards will be specified where appropriate to realise the market potential for niche products such as Welsh Black Beef	FMDD / Norma Barry	ON GOING	Welsh Assembly Government has held extensive talks with Hybu Cig Cymru and the Welsh black Beef Cattle Society. Procurement systems improved – not least through financial support to increase processing capacity for Welsh black Beef – and marketing support under consideration.

ACTION POINT 19	Assembly Govt to consult on how more integrated organisational arrangements dedicated to Welsh livestock industry can be created	FMDD / Norma Barry	ACHIEVED	Hybu Cig Cymru/ Meat Promotion Wales now widely recognised as the key promotional body for red meat in Wales. HCC also successful in obtaining new markets for Welsh red meat overseas.
ACTION POINT 20	Assembly Govt to encourage Welsh public sector organisations to consider writing farm assurance standards etc into their tender specifications	FMDD / Norma Barry	ON GOING	Attention now moved on ensuring more Welsh produce purchased by Welsh public service. Wales leading the way as far as UK administrations are concerned – see new actions –annex 4B.

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ACTION POINT 21	WDA will work with WTB through the Taste of Wales scheme to encourage/ promote hospitality, food festivals and food trails using top quality Welsh produce.	FMDD/ Norma Barry	ON GOING	Three national Wales Food and Drink Awards, sponsored by the WDA, held to date. The 4 th Annual Awards event will be held November 2005. Extremely successful with numbers of applications increasing year on year. WDA are supporting Welsh food and drinks at some 41 food festivals across Wales and abroad.

ACTION POINT 22	Assembly Govt will monitor the farm machinery ring initiative to see if worth expanding	FMDD/ Norma Barry	ACHIEVED	Assembly Government officials contributed to the preparation of an operational contract between the WDA and the Machinery Rings, which came into effect 1 st January 2002, and continue to monitor this initiative. The Machinery rings form an integral part of the Farming Connect service.
ACTION POINT 23	Assembly Govt and the WDA will support the Agri-food partnership in working up an industry action plan to develop horticulture in Wales	FMDD / Norma Barry	ACHIEVED	Horticulture Strategy Group Action Plan Published and kept under review as part of the Strategy Towards 2007 document.
ACTION POINT 24	Farming Connect to promote good practice on developing a more sustainable approach to the management of Welsh woodlands	FMDD Norma Barry	ACHIEVED	Farming Connect offers free woodland management advice (funded by Forestry Commission) and free timber processing advice (funded via the WDA), including grant aid. The first Farming Connect grant awarded in February 2002 was to a saw mill project. To date, over 120 consultancy reports completed and 43 projects approved under Timber Processing Grant scheme and over £193k paid in grant aid. The grant scheme is now closed to applications.

ACTION POINT 25	Assembly Govt will co-ordinate production of a biomass strategy	ECM/ Mike Dunn	ACHIEVED	A Woodland Development and Biomass Strategy Group produced a draft action plan which was debated in Plenary in June 2002. A steering group is being set up to monitor and co-ordinate the on-going delivery of the action plan, as well as consider the wider implications of new policies, concerns and initiatives for the farm woodland and biomass sectors. This is being taken forward by the Forestry Commission.
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ACTION POINT 26	Set up two industry-strategy groups for sea fishing and inland fisheries to develop potential for industry and tourism	CPD ECM/Mike Dunn	ACHIEVED	Both groups have produced plans. The "Development of Welsh fisheries and aquaculture sector" plan and the "Strategy for the recreational fisheries for Wales". These two strategies, plus recommendations from the recently published No 10 Strategy Report into UK fisheries will form the basis of an all-Wales Fisheries Strategy which is expected by the end of 2005. Steering and Stakeholder groups has been constituted to advise on the production of the Strategy

<p>ACTION POINT 27</p>	<p>Assembly Govt will in consultation with WLGA investigate potential for farmers to generate income through recycling of organic waste</p>	<p>ECM/ Mike Dunn</p>	<p>ACHIEVED</p>	<p>The Animal By-Products (Wales) Regulations 2003 came into force on 31 October 2003. This will permit the composting of catering waste. Studies into waste compost funded by the Assembly Government as part of Wales Waste Strategy (involving WLGA). Also grant aid given to a farm waste plastic recycling scheme.</p> <p>Free advice to be provided by Wales Environment Trust to farmers in Wales from November 2003 via Farming Connect on development of on-farm composting.</p>
<p>ACTION POINT 28</p>	<p>Assembly Govt and WDA will work with partners to put Farming Connect into practice</p>	<p>FMDD Norma Barry</p>	<p>ACHIEVED</p>	<p>The service is now well established -more than 6,396 registrations have been made through the Farming Connect helpline, with 3,697 plans completed, over 1,734 applications for capital grants approved to date and over 2,160 farms participating in ICT training. A Pause and Review of Farming Connect has been undertaken and the report and it's recommendations were approved by Ministers in February 2004. Staff are currently working on implementing the recommendations. Apart from non-agricultural FEG in Objective 1 area, the budget for capital grants has been fully committed. The service continues to offer free business advice, planning advice, 50% funded training and access to a network of Development</p>

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ACTION POINT 29	ELWa will review skill needs of agri-food sector and identify action to be taken to meet these needs	ECM/ Mike Dunn in conjunction with LLD/ Neil Thomas	ACHIEVED	<p>ELWa appointed Miller Research to carry out a review. In line with the outcomes of the review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The 3 food centres in Wales have established Food Network Wales (FNW) and two successful conferences have been held. ● Agri-Food Partnership is developing strong links with ELWa via the Farm Development Group and work is ongoing. Further progress is expected at the next review stage.
ACTION POINT 30	Assembly Govt will take steps to promote the Rural stress helpline to the farming community	CPD/ Jasper Roberts	ACHIEVED	The helpline promoted to all farmers via Gwlad magazine.

ACTION POINT 31	ELWa will review the provision of initial vocational education and training for those entering into the industry	FMDD Norma Barry in conjunction with LLD/ Neil Thomas	ACHIEVED	Review concluded that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Coleg Sir Gâr and Coleg Llysfasi will have lead responsibility for taking forward the development of agriculture provision in South and North Wales respectively. ● The Welsh College of Horticulture will lead the development of horticulture provision in Wales.
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ACTION POINT 32	Farming Connect will provide specialist provisions for the YFCs, such as Young Farmers Angels, to help them prepare business plans	ECM/ Mike Dunn	ON GOING	A working Group has been established with partner organisations to develop ideas and to consider how to take the ideas forward.

ACTION POINT 33	Assembly Govt proposes to give top priority to young farmers in allocating sheep and suckler cow quota	CPD/ Rory O'Sullivan	ACHIEVED	Overtaken by Implementation of CAP reform January 1 st 2005. See action point 2. Sheep and Suckler Cow quota have been abolished. Overtaken by Cap Reform.
ACTION POINT 34	Young farmers angels to promote share farming and help young farmers reach suitable agreements	ECM/ Mike Dunn	ON GOING	As for Action Point 32.
ACTION POINT 35	Assembly Govt and CCW propose to award young farmers additional points in Tir Gofal scoring system, to help them gain access to the scheme	ECM/ Mike Dunn	ACHIEVED	Introduced in the application round which closed on 31 May 2003
ACTION POINT 36	Assembly Govt will publish new planning policy guidance for rural areas	ECM Mike Dunn	ACHIEVED	Planning Policy Wales published in March 2002. Planning advice was introduced as part of the Farming Connect initiative in 2004.

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ACTION POINT 37	Assembly Govt will revise and publish the 'Farmers Guide to the Planning System'	ECM/ Mike Dunn	ACHIEVED	The advisory guide "A Farmer's Guide to the Planning System" was published in August 2003.
ACTION POINT 38	Publication of a progress report and updated action programme on improving Assembly services to farmers	RPD/ Sue Armitage	ACHIEVED	A Benefits Realisation Report setting out what has been achieved through the Joint Initiative for Government Services Across Wales has been prepared and formally submitted to HM Treasury in May 2005. Copies of the report have been circulated to the main stakeholder group and the Farming Unions. A note on JIGSAW achievements has also been circulated to the Welsh Assembly Government Cabinet.
ACTION POINT 39	The introduction of a new IT system in the Assembly's Agriculture Dept. to improve speed and efficiency of payments	RPD Sue Armitage	ACHIEVED	<p>In 2003 and 2004, for each scheme, payments to farmers began on the first day allowable by EC. In each case previous performance has been exceeded.</p> <p>Following the CAP Reform measures introduced recently, the Rural Payments IT system as developed will be used and enhanced, where required, to administer the Single Farm Payment (SFP). This new scheme has replaced the existing Bovine and Ovine schemes, which ceased to exist beyond the 2004 scheme year. The first SFP payments are scheduled to be paid in December 2005. In addition, Tir Mynydd will continue to operate as currently, certainly for the immediate future, and payments for the 2005 scheme Commenced</p>

in February 2005.

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ACTION POINT 40	Introduce the new independent Appeals system for farmers	RPD Sue Armitage	ACHIEVED	<p>Independent Appeals system became fully operational on 31 October 2001.</p> <p>To date 1,514 Stage 1 appeals have been received for consideration by the DEOs. 1,394 have been addressed, 221 of which have been successful (16% success rate). There have been 482 Stage 2 appeals, (i.e. for consideration by Cardiff Appeals Unit). 322 cases have been addressed, 129 of which were successful (40% success rate). There have been 30 Stage 3 appeals to the Independent Panel. 17 hearings have been held and the Minister has accepted the panels' recommendation to uphold the Stage 2 decision to reject the appeal in all 14 cases. Of the remaining 13 applications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● 6 Will not proceed to panel (either the farmer awarded an ex gratia payment or applications withdrawn/rejected)● 6 hearings have yet to be held● 1 hearing has been postponed because of the farmer's ill health.

				<p>The Single Farm Payment Scheme and Miscellaneous Direct Support Schemes is now in force. A new fast track 2 stage appeals process has been introduced to establish Single Payment Entitlements. To date 855 Stage 1 appeals (consideration by the DEO) have been received 524 have been addressed of which 156 have been successful or partially successful (30%. There have been 51 stage 2 applications (Independent Panel) 9 Panel Hearings have been undertaken to date. The Minister has yet to consider the Panels' recommendation. The remaining 42 hearings will be undertaken in due course.</p>
ACTION POINT 41	Introduce E-business opportunities in the form of electronic claims submission.	RPD/ Sue Armitage	ON GOING	<p>There is a dependency on Government Gateway to provide secure access to our systems. Since the Assembly currently has no plans to implement the Government Gateway, we understand that alternative means of supporting electronic claims submission is being investigated by the Merlin project. In the meantime we will continue to plan to implement E-business opportunities for farmers in line with UK Government targets, making use of Merlin infrastructure, as it becomes available.</p>
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ACTION POINT 42	The Farming unions will work with the Assembly to ensure that the proportion of farmers using BACS reaches 90%	RPD/ Sue Armitage	ON GOING	Take-up now stands at 75%. We are currently writing to our remaining customers seeking their Bank details in order to move them over to the BACS system in time for their Single Farm payment.
ACTION POINT 43	Assembly Govt will work with the unions and others to ease the burden of red tape without compromising standards	RPD/ Sue Armitage But also cross Group & Assembly	ON GOING	In general the new Single Payment scheme will involve less paperwork for farmers. This year (2005), farmers were required to complete only one application form for: IACS Single Payment Scheme, Tir Mynydd, Aid for Energy Crops, Protein Crop Premium Scheme, and the new Agri environment entry level scheme Tir Cynnal.
ACTION POINT 44	Decision on whether to implement the pilot Small Farmers scheme to simplify CAP payments	CPD/ Rory O'Sullivan	ACHIEVED	Not implemented overtaken by CAP reform.
ACTION POINT 45	Assembly Govt in consultation with Farming Connect will define environmentally-friendly best practice models of sustainable farming.	CPD Mike Dunn	ACHIEVED	The Farming Connect Environmental Strategy was launched at the Winter Fair on December 2nd 2003.

ACTION POINT 46	Recommendations from the stocktake of the Tir Gofal scheme will be published. Also scheme kept under review	/ECM Mike Dunn	ACHIEVED	<p>Recommendations were presented to Agriculture and Rural Development Committee on 7 November 2001 and the amending SI was approved on 29th January 2003 (see action point 35)</p> <p>The scheme is being kept under review as part of CAP review process.</p>
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ACTION POINT 47	Assembly Govt will continue to prioritise the promotion of suckler cow beef production and the growth of crops in upland areas	CPD/ Rory O'Sullivan	ACHIEVED	Overtaken by CAP reform See Action Point 2.
ACTION POINT 48	Assembly Govt will press UK Government to bring forward effective commons management associations legislation	Planning Division/ Kay Powell Supported by Mike Dunn, ECM	ON GOING	Common Land Policy Statement issued jointly by DEFRA and the Welsh Assembly Government in 2002. A Commons Management Bill is currently being drafted. The Government has made it clear that it hopes to bring forward legislation in 2005/06.

ACTION POINT 49	The WTB and the CCW will work with local authorities and national parks to develop exemplar integrated countryside and tourism development projects	ECM/ Mike Dunn & EPQ/ June Milligan	ACHIEVED	Support programme for integrated leisure and tourism projects - Adfywio - was launched by CCW and WTB on 28 March 2002. Over the two years of the scheme, 193 projects were supported, with grant support of £5.2m. The scheme is now closed.
ACTION POINT 50	Assembly Govt will take advice from the CCW in considering the future evolution of Welsh land use.	ECM Mike Dunn	ON GOING	As for Action point 2.

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ACTION POINT 51	Assembly Govt will commission research to identify ways in which changes to farming and forestry practice may reduce green house gas emissions.	ECM Mike Dunn	ON GOING	<p>DEFRA is continuing its reports on greenhouse gas inventories for Wales. The latest one was issued in February 2004 and covered the period 1990-2001. DEFRA is also running contracts on projections of inventories for non-carbon dioxide emissions, and these will include agricultural emissions of methane and nitrous oxide.</p> <p>We are discussing work, with SERAD in the lead, to look at developing a better model of emissions/sinks for organic soils. One of the outcomes would be an</p>

assessment of land-use change of emissions/sinks.

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ACTION POINT 52	Assembly Govt will continue to operate the most restrictive policy for GMOs within the framework of EU legislation.	Norma Barry/ Food & Market Development	ON GOING	<p>Wales' restrictive approach to GM crops has been an example to other EU regions wishing to adopt similar approaches. Wales is one of the founder members of the network of 30 regions pressing the Commission for the strictest possible interpretation of GM crop co-existence measures and was represented at regional co-existence conference in Austria in April 2004 and Italy in February 2005.</p> <p>In April 2005 the EPC Minister and Ministers from other regions in the GM network met the European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development to explain their concern about unrestricted cultivation of GM crops and push for strict EU Coexistence measures.</p> <p>Co-existence: The Assembly Government has been working in co-operation with the other UK administrations to develop suitably robust GB-wide co-existence measures to protect conventional and organic produce from GM crop cross-contamination. However, if an agreement cannot be achieved on GB-wide measures, Wales will draft its own legislation. In September</p>

2004, the Assembly held a workshop in conjunction with similar initiatives in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland, to discuss the technical issues underlying co-existence measures. The workshop was attended by experts from various farmers' union groups, NGO groups and university faculties and discussed issues of agronomic measures, a GM crop register, adventitious presence thresholds in organic produce, and voluntary GM-free zones. The outcomes of the workshop will be used in the production of a forthcoming public consultation paper.

The EPC Minister has written to the Secretary of State at Defra urging her to consider introducing new primary legislation to underpin a robust coexistence and liability regime for the UK

Legislation: Domestic legislation to enforce the EU Transboundary Movement, Traceability and Labelling and consequential amendments to the Deliberate Release Directive is due to be considered in plenary on 14th June with a view to coming into force on 30th June 2005.