



**ANIMAL HEALTH IRELAND**  
Contributing to a profitable and sustainable farming and agri-food sector through improved animal health

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## **NEW CHAIR ANNOUNCED FOR ANIMAL HEALTH IRELAND BOARD**

The Board of AHI announced today the appointment of James Lynch as the new Chair of the Board. Mr Lynch is a progressive dairy farmer from Sixmilebridge in Co. Clare who has in-depth knowledge of the agri-food industry and extensive Board experience at the highest level. Committed to public service for more than 15 years, James has dedicated his leadership capability, broad knowledge and wise counsel to Boards, management teams and farmers across Irish industry. In these roles Mr Lynch has developed broad experience in corporate governance related to strategy, risk management, compliance, stakeholder engagement and communications.

On accepting the appointment, Mr Lynch said “I am delighted to have been appointed Chair of Animal Health Ireland and I look forward to working with the Board, the management team and all our various stakeholders. In working to achieve the benefits for livestock producers and processors, AHI is best placed to deliver on our commitments for all our stakeholders to ensure a profitable and sustainable farming and agri-food sector into the future. On behalf of the farmers of Ireland and on behalf of the Board, I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Mike Magan for his leadership, hard work and dedication to AHI since this organisation was founded in 2009”.

David Graham, CEO said “I congratulate James on his appointment as Chair and look forward to working with him in this capacity. His breadth of experience and expertise, gained both as a farmer and from a range of board activities, will benefit AHI as we continue our work to contribute to the sustainability of the sector”.

James’ involvement in the Irish agri-food industry spans a great number of years. He was a board member of Dairygold Co-op for 10 years from 2008 until 2017 and during this time he served as Vice Chair from 2012 to 2014 and served as Chair of the Board from 2015 to 2017 where he led the Board and organisation in supporting the ethos of maximising returns for its members. He actively participated in, and helped to create and support, the strategic direction for the Co-op preceding and post EU quota abolition. During this time as Chair of the Co-op, James represented Dairygold Co-op on the Board of ICOS where he negotiated and supported the implementation of a code of conduct within Co-Operatives to support members with their milk supplies.

From 2015 – 2017, James was a Board member and member of Rules Committee in Ornu. He successfully participated in dealing with the key challenges of identifying and developing routes to markets and adding value to products against the backdrop of a rapid expansion of milk volumes at farm and processor level. James’ understanding of the commercial landscape supported Ornu’s strategy to strengthen and grow its brand and its exports internationally.

Sitting on the first Board of Munster Animal Breeding Group following its formal establishment in 2007, James became one of its longest serving Board Members until he retired in 2015. A key highlight of James’ time on the Board was to support the development of Ireland’s second AI stud, built to manage potential of disease and maximise biosecurity within the national stud.

During the period 2009 to 2015, as Board member of ICBF, James worked with Teagasc and other industry stakeholders to develop and implement strategies to provide cattle breeding information services to the Irish dairy and beef industries.

In 2013 James was appointed as an industry expert to the Bord Bia Dairy Advisory Board to advise on the strategy required at farm and industry level to aid the marketing of Irish dairy produce across the globe. He remained on the Advisory Board until 2017.

Currently, James also sits on the National Animal Health Strategy Review Body that independently monitors the development and implementation of actions set out for collective participation among agri-food industry stakeholders to achieve optimal animal health in Ireland. James was appointed to the role based on his proven track record in governance and ensuring structures and controls are in place to oversee the implementation strategy to deliver organisational objectives.

Apart from all his involvement in the industry bodies, James and the Lynch family will be remembered for being honoured and proud to host a visit to their farm in 2012 by the current Chinese Premier Xi Jinping. The Chinese Premier visited the farm to observe the quality of milk production and farming techniques in operation in Irish agriculture.

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