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GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

Agriculture Committee

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IRELAND

Information Supplied in Respect of LIVE PIGS AND PIGMEAT

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A. PRODUCTION: PRODUCTION MEASURES AND POLICIES

A.1. Statistical data on total volume of production

Year	Production
	Live pigs
	('000 head)
1965	1,954
1966	1,767
1967	1,554

A.2. Trends in production and estimates for 1970

Output in 1965 reached a record level; but a downward trend in production then commenced and this was not checked until 1967. The aim is to have an output of 2 million pigs per annum by 1970.

A.3. Statistical data on carry-over stocks and stockpiles

There are no governmental stockpiles, and private carry-over stocks are not significant.

A.4. Factors which affect production

About 60 per cent of pigmeat production is sold on the domestic market and from the demand side an important factor is the price of pigmeat relative to beef and lamb prices. A substantial number of the pig herds are small in size and pig producers can move into or out of pig production quickly, depending on the returns they are currently making or anticipating from their enterprise. In recent years there has been considerable technological progress in the pig industry resulting from improvements in quality of the breeding stock, in management techniques and from increased investment.

A.5. Policies of governments or other bodies likely to influence production, other than those listed under B

The following are the main governmental measures which affect production:

Quality and management

There are a number of schemes in operation for the purpose of improving quality. These include schemes such as progeny testing, and leasing of good quality boars to breeders. Grants are paid to assist the building of pig houses.

Increase in sow numbers

Since 1966 certain grants have been paid in respect of farrowed sows.

B. PROTECTION AND SUPPORT MEASURES AND POLICIES

B.I. Internal measures

B.I.1. Inventory of the instruments of support

Bacon factories are required to pay minimum prices in respect of pigs of good quality delivered to them.

The great bulk of pigs are sold by producers to bacon factories, either directly or through agents or dealers. There is no system of pooling of receipts. The guaranteed minimum prices put a floor under domestic market prices - the actual level of which is at times in excess of the minimum prices. Pigmeat for export is purchased from the processors, mainly in the form of bacon, by a central agency (the Pigs and Bacon Commission) which is responsible for the export marketing of pigmeat.

B.I.2. Levels of guaranteed prices and of support prices

Guaranteed prices for good quality pigs have over the three years under review been increased from a range of $62.44 per 100 kgs. to $70.00 per 100 kgs. at the beginning of 1965, to a range of $64.12 per 100 kgs. to $74.48 per 100 kgs. at the end of 1967. These are the carcass weight prices.

B.I.3. Amount of producer subsidies

There is no direct producer subsidy as such but producers benefit from the Exchequer support referred to at D.2 below.

B.I.4. Average returns to producers

The average dead-weight price per 100 kgs. in each year was as follows:

1965	$66.92
1966	$70.56
1967	$73.60

B.I.5. Method of determining returns for producers

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B.II. Measures at the frontier

1. Quantitative restrictions

Imports of live pigs and bacon are subject to quantitative control.

2. Import duties

Pigmeat, fresh, chilled or frozen

(1) Heads and feet: duties vary from $6.72 per 100 kgs. (United Kingdom origin) to a maximum of $10.08 per 100 kgs.

(2) Other: duties vary from $13.44 per 100 kgs. (United Kingdom origin) to a maximum of $20.15 per 100 kgs.

Pigmeat, salted, in brine, smoked or dried

(1) Bacon and hams: full rate: $20.16 per 100 kgs.: preferential rate: $13.44 per 100 kgs. (products of United Kingdom and Canadian origin free of duty).

(2) Heads and feet: duties vary from $6.72 per 100 kgs. (United Kingdom) to a maximum of $10.08 per 100 kgs.

(3) Other: duties vary from $13.44 per 100 kgs. (United Kingdom) to a maximum of $20.16 per 100 kgs.

Prepared or preserved pigmeat (canned or otherwise)

(1) Bacon and hams: full rate: $20.16 per 100 kgs.: preferential rate: $13.44 per 100 kgs. (products of United Kingdom and Canadian origin free of duty).

(2) Heads and feet: duties vary from $6.72 per 100 kgs. (United Kingdom) to a maximum of $10.08 per 100 kgs.

(3) Other: duties vary from $9.40 per 100 kgs. (United Kingdom) to a maximum of $20.16 per 100 kgs.

C. CONSUMPTION AND INTERNAL PRICES

C.1. Statistical data on consumption

Pigmeat

Year	Total consumption	Per caput consumption
	('000 metric tons)	(Kgs. per annum)
1964	73	25.6
1965	81	28.3
1966	76	26.4

C.2. Trends in consumption and estimates for 1970

Pigmeat consumption reached a record level in 1965. Output in 1966 and 1967 showed a sharp decline, prices rose and consumption fell. The decline in output has been reversed in 1968 and consumption is expected to increase again. Total annual consumption for 1970 is estimated at about 80,000 metric tons.

C.3. Retail and wholesale prices on internal markets

(1) Live bacon pigs - average annual market prices 1965/67 (US dollars per 100 kgs. dead-weight)

1965	1966	1967
$66.92	$70.56	$73.61

(2) National average retail prices of pigmeat 1965/67

	Bacon ($ per kg.)		Ham ($ per kg.)		Fresh pork
	Streaky	Shoulder	Uncooked	Cooked	($ per kg.)
Mid-Feb. 1965	$1.36	$0.90	$1.48	$2.49	$1.25
Mid-May 1965	$1.37	$0.90	$1.48	$2.49	$1.25
Mid-Aug. 1965	$1.37	$0.92	$1.47	$2.53	$1.24
Mid-Nov. 1965	$1.37	$0.93	$1.49	$2.54	$1.23
Mid-Feb. 1966	$1.36	$0.93	$1.49	$2.56	$1.26
Mid-May 1966	$1.34	$0.94	$1.49	$2.60	$1.28
Mid-Aug. 1966	$1.37	$0.94	$1.56	$2.75	$1.27
Mid-Nov. 1966	$1.38	$0.94	$1.56	$2.78	$1.29
Mid-Feb. 1967	$1.39	$0.94	$1.51	$2.81	$1.31
Mid-May 1967	$1.41	$0.94	$1.57	$2.85	$1.31
Mid-Aug. 1967	$1.42	$0.95	$1.58	$2.90	$1.32
Mid-Nov. 1967	$1.43	$0.95	$1.62	$2.89	$1.33

There are no official wholesale prices available for pigmeat.

C.4. Factors influencing internal consumption

Consumption of pigmeat, especially bacon, is at a high and fairly steady per caput level. The main factor affecting consumption is the comparative level of prices for other meats, particularly beef.

C.5. Policies and measures affecting consumption

There are no consumer subsidies and the product is not used in domestic or international welfare schemes or in other non-commercial disposals.

D. INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND PRICES

D.1. Statistical data on the volume and value of imports and exports by source and destination

(a) Imports

The only significant imports are imports of certain classes of live pigs (mainly old sows) from the United Kingdom; details for the period under review are as follows:

Live Pigs

Year	Quantity ('000 head)	Value ($'000)
1965	30	1,842
1966	27	1,649
1967	11	645

(b) Exports

(i) Live pigs (exported to the United Kingdom only)

Year	Quantity ('000 head)	Value ($'000)
1965	5	287
1966	1	61
1967	5	269

(ii) Exports of pigmeat products 1965/67

Pork

Year	United Kingdom		Other countries	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
	(metric tons)	($'000)	(metric tons)	($'000)
1965	16,991	8,419	3,715	3,351
1966	5,672	3,596	3,331	3,572
1967	2,240	1,545	718	749

Bacon and Ham

Year	United Kingdom		Other countries	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
	(Metric tons)	($'000)	(Metric tons)	($'000)
Bacon				
1965	26,570	18,259	116	136
1966	28,260	21,866	151	167
1967	23,762	18,766	114	130
Ham				
1965	164	151	116	96
1966	143	151	68	84
1967	162	189	16	18

D.2. Levels of export prices prevailing in various markets; levels of import prices

(a) Average import prices (c.i.f.)

Live pigs (US dollars per head)

1965 = 62
1966 = 60
1967 = 61

(b) Average export prices (f.o.b.)

(i) Live pigs (US dollars per head)

1965 = 61
1966 = 50
1967 = 58

(ii) Average export prices (f.o.b.) for pigmeat products 1965/67
(US dollars per metric ton)

Producer	United Kingdom			Other countries		
	1965	1966	1967	1965	1966	1967
Pork	495	634	670	904	1,072	1,043
Bacon	687	774	790	1,168	1,104	1,139
Ham	922	1,078	1,164	825	1,232	1,100

The vast bulk of the exports of pigmeat is consigned to the United Kingdom, the prices received being determined by the varying conditions which obtain in that market.

D.3. Export aid measures and policies.

(a) Nearly all pigmeat exports are channelled through the Pigs and Bacon Commission which receives (a) a grant from the Exchequer and (b) a contribution from a levy on all pigs slaughtered for bacon. The current rate of this levy is £1.44 per pig. The following are the grants paid by the Exchequer, the effect of which is reflected in the returns received by pig producers:

	Exchequer grant ($)
1965/66	8,680,000
1966/67	3,360,000
1967/68	3,700,000

The figures relate to the financial year ended 31 March. Figures for calendar years are not readily available.

(b) There are no stock management policies relating to exports.

(c) There are no non-commercial transactions or policies affecting exports.

D.4. Bilateral agreements affecting imports or exports

Ireland is a participant in the multilateral understanding on the supply of bacon to the United Kingdom market.