



**AIB recognises Mairead McGuinness's Outstanding Achievement in Irish Agricultural Journalism
10th November 2004**

AIB will present a special award to Mairead McGuinness MEP for her outstanding contribution to agricultural journalism. The presentation will take place at the AIB sponsored Guild of Agricultural Journalism Awards evening which will be held in Dublin on Friday 12th November.

Since becoming the first woman to graduate from Agricultural Economics in UCD in 1980, Mairead has had a very successful career in agricultural journalism. A 24 year career of print and broadcast journalism has seen Mairead writing for the Irish Farmers' Journal and the Farming Independent, as agriculture editor. In addition, she has made a significant contribution to broadcast journalism most notably as editor of Ear to the Ground , RTE's rural affairs programme. She twice served as chairperson of the Guild of Agricultural Journalists.

Married to Co Meath farmer, Tom Duff, with four children, Mairead also served as chairperson of the Consumer Liaison Panel before her most recent success – that of being elected as a member of the EU Parliament, representing the Ireland-East constituency. Mairead serves on the Parliament's Agriculture and Rural Development Committee and also on the Budget and Petitions Committees. Commenting on the announcement, Michael Dowling, Head of Agri Strategy – AIB, said that "Mairead McGuinness has made an outstanding contribution to agricultural journalism. As the driving force behind two of agriculture's leading media titles, Mairead has been to the forefront of agricultural and rural affairs journalism. Her success in introducing agricultural matters to a wider rural, and many urban, audiences is particularly noteworthy. AIB are delighted to be able to make the inaugural presentation of this award to Mairead".

Ends