



**AIB confirms support for farmers
9th August 2006**

AIB to take a sympathetic approach to financial difficulties experienced by farmers as a result of weather conditions throughout the summer.

AIB is aware of the difficulties that some farmers are experiencing during the summer of 2006. Prolonged wet weather during May forced many farmers to buy last year's fodder while the recent prolonged dry weather has severely stunted grass growth in many parts of the country. Many farmers are grazing their second cut silage and feeding higher than expected levels of concentrates. While the impact of these conditions varies greatly across regions, some farmers may experience financial pressure as a result.

AIB wants to assure these customers that where these weather problems result in financial pressure and difficulties, AIB will take a flexible and sympathetic approach in assisting farmers in finding a solution. To facilitate this, we ask farmers that anticipate difficulties to make early contact with their AIB branch who will work with them to minimise the financial impact to their farm and household.

Michael Dowling, Head of Agri Strategy, said: "The two extremes of weather conditions which farmers have contended with this summer have caused considerable strain and pressure for individual farmers and farm families this summer. AIB has always taken a strategic view of farming and this has often required extending considerable flexibility in partnering with farmers through short-term difficulties. Our farming customers can be assured that we will take a similar approach to the current situation."

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