



## **AIB announces EUR50 million support package for Agri Sector**

**30th April 2013**

AIB announces a EUR50 million support package for farmers and farm suppliers dealing with the current severe fodder shortages.

AIB recognises the on-going challenges facing the agricultural industry due to the sustained unseasonal weather conditions and has been working hard to afford farmers every support through this period. The announcement of this support package today aims to further demonstrate the Bank's commitment to helping farmers deal with the impact on farm cash flow which may not be fully apparent until the autumn or winter months. AIB's support package combines both short term and medium term finance options, including:

- Next day business decision on short term loans up to €25,000 for immediate working capital needs, for qualifying customers
- Flexible working capital finance by way of an AIB Farmer Credit Line at a competitive interest rate
- A new 'AIB Farm Restructure Loan' to support the restructuring and consolidation of short term debt, where appropriate, at a discounted rate, up to a maximum of €100,000 per business

AIB's Head of Business Banking, Ken Burke, said: "We understand the stress and pressures currently facing farmers, due to the sustained nature of the current weather related difficulties. Not only has the severe shortage of fodder been affecting farmers across the country, the situation is further exacerbated by poor grass growth to date this Spring. We have been working to flexibly support each farmer on a case by case basis, however, AIB feels that it is necessary to ring fence a package of short and medium term measures to support the sector through this period of difficulty.

"While the intensity of the current situation will be relieved with a return to normal weather and grass growing conditions, the impact on farm cash flow may not be fully apparent until the autumn or winter months. We are committed to working with our farming customers through this year and into 2014 to manage the impact on their business".

AIB strongly urges farmers or farm suppliers currently experiencing weather related cash flow pressure to talk to their relationship manager, branch or business centre as early as possible. AIB also has a dedicated help line in place for farmers, 1890 47 88 33 which is available Monday to Friday 8am to 9pm and Saturdays from 9am to 6pm.

**-Ends-**

***For further information, please contact:***

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Note to editor:

AIB Farm Restructure Loan will be available between 16th May 2013 and 28th March 2014