



Dairy summit

The Prospectus Report has been credited with presenting a clear way forward for the Irish dairy industry - and the general thrust of the document is valid. But the perceived wisdom of Irish farmers receiving a poor price on a constituents basis by European standards, does not bear real analysis - neither does the often repeated assertion that the industry is based on export refunds for commodities sold outside of the EU bear scrutiny.

About 70% of total Irish dairy output is sold within the EU - 85% if you exclude casein. The 15% sold outside the EU includes products such as baby food and fat filled powder (ie, milk powder filled with vegetable fat instead of butter).

As the industry gears up for the Ministerial dairy summit, a lot is riding on the recommendation of the Prospectus Grouping - the analysis to which it is subjected should be thorough and searching.