



DIRECT PAYMENTS

Nearly BGN 760 Million Direct Payments were received by farmers

In November State Fund Agriculture transferred the first tranche of BGN 23 888 930 to 8190 livestock farmers under the Scheme for Transitional National Coupled Support for Ewes and She-Goats for Campaign 2017. The payment rate for one eligible for support animal for the first tranche is BGN 28.36. Transitional national support is granted only for the sectors for which national top-ups had been provided in 2013 as the maximum budget is a decreasing function of the budget approved by the EC for the national supplement schemes for 2013.

State Fund Agriculture transferred a total of over BGN 40.5 million to 11 864 livestock farmers under three schemes for Campaign 2017. Under the Coupled Support Scheme for Cows for Meat and/or Heifers a total of BGN 14 752 815 were received by 6 486 farmers. Under the Coupled Support Scheme for Meat Cows under Selection Control BGN 2 957 972 were paid to 264 farmers. Another amount of BGN 22 770 278 was distributed among 5 573 farmers under the Coupled Support Scheme for Dairy Cows for Campaign 2017.

In December State Fund Agriculture continued to pay the financial support under three coupled schemes to 3097 livestock breeders who received BGN 58 966 155 million. Under the Coupled Support Scheme for Dairy Cows under Selection Control BGN 33 239 645 were paid. Under the Coupled Support Scheme for Ewes and/or She-Goats under Selection Control BGN 22 042 309 were transferred. A subsidy of BGN 3 684 201 is also allocated under the Coupled Support Scheme for Buffaloes.

At the end of December State Fund Agriculture transferred over BGN 636 million to 57 826 applicants under the Single Area Payment Scheme. The calculations were made under an indicative rate of BGN 194.63 per ha. For Campaign 2017, the total SAPS support budget is BGN 741 million.

RDP

SFA prepared an analysis of the 2015 call for applications under the sub-measure 4.1 Investments in agricultural holdings

Pursuant to the Transparency Policy of the Executive Director Zhivko Zhivkov regarding the activity of the State Fund Agriculture - RA, an analysis of the submitted and contracted project proposals of the first admission in 2015 was prepared under the sub-measure 4.1 Investment in Agricultural Holdings. The analysis focuses on providing the public with an information about the areas in which project proposals respectively for investments have been submitted and in which areas the highest number of grant contracts have been concluded. Concerning the concluded contracts, a comparative analysis of the allocation of the contracted funds by priority sectors - Fruit and Vegetables sector, Livestock sector, Essential Oil and Medical Crops Sector or projects with a combination of the listed sectors is made.



The most common mistakes of young farmers

The State Agriculture Fund also publishes an analysis of the most common mistakes made in submitting the applications for support under sub-measure 6.1. Start-up Support for Young Farmers of Measure 6 Development of Farms and Enterprises of the Rural Development Program (RDP) for the Period 2014-2020. The analysis, which summarizes the most common mistakes of the young farmers from previous calls for applications, aims to facilitate and assist the farmers in future.

A budget for projects with 36 points ranking under sub-measure 4.1 of the RDP 2014-2020 is provided

By Order a budget was set for "under condition" contraction over the budget for the applicants of the first call /14.04.2015 - 08.06.2015/ under sub-measure 4.1 Investments in Agricultural Holdings of the RDP 2014-2020, namely for candidates who received between 38 and 33 points on the final ranking. Up to now, with additional agreements, the conditional clauses of the candidates' contracts with 38 and 37 points were removed. As a result of annulled or terminated contracts at the initiative of the beneficiaries or of the State Fund Agriculture - PA as well as due to the failure to fulfill the obligation to start the investment within the time limit, a residual budget is sufficient to finance the project group, who received 36 points on the final ranking of the first call of the sub-measure.

IN BRIEF

In November, the SFA-PA paid BGN 6 158 609 State Aid De minimis according to Regulation (EC) 1408/2013 to 14 902 farmers who are raising dairy cows and/or buffalo-cows, cows for meat, ewes and/or she-goats.

The Managing Board of the SFA-RA decided at a meeting to reschedule the credits granted to the livestock breeders in the period 2008-2012 and to the potato producers who received loans in 2012. The amount of the interest on the deferment of the liabilities is 4%.

SF Agriculture decided at its Managing Board meeting to provide BGN 4 993 904 for measures implemented under the State Aid Scheme Support to Compensate the Costs of Farmers Related to the Implementation of the Measures under the State Prophylactic Program and the Programs for Surveillance and Liquidation of Animal Diseases for the period 1 July - 30 November 2017. The aid is granted in the form of subsidized services and covers up to 100% of the eligible costs for services related to the implementation of the measures of the State Prophylactic Programme and the Programmes for surveillance and liquidation of animal diseases.

At a meeting of the Managing Board of State Agriculture Fund – PA it was decided to provide a financial resource of BGN 1 044 775 million to make up for damages caused by adverse climatic events which can be equalized to natural disasters occurred in 2017.

The Managing Board of State Fund Agriculture distributed an additional resource of BGN 1 million to breeding associations under the State Aid Scheme for establishing and maintaining a herd-book and for determining the productivity and genetic qualities of the animals for 2017. With the additional funds allocated, the budget of state aid was increased from BGN 5 496 685 to BGN 6 496 685.

State Fund Agriculture paid BGN 994 315 to 149 farmers under the State Aid Scheme in order to compensate costs related to the implementation of measures under the National Programme of Measures for Control of the Tomato Mining Moth - Tuta absoluta Meyrick (Lepidoptera). The total area declared by them is 1 652 ha.

Beekeepers received over BGN 2 398 Million under De minimis for 2017

State Fund Agriculture transferred over BGN 2 398 500 to 4 348 beekeepers under the de minimis scheme for 2017. The rate of support for one bee family is BGN 4.77. By decision of the Managing Board of the State Fund Agriculture in the middle of November, a budget of BGN 2 400 000 was allocated to the sector. The minimum de minimis aid was received by beekeepers who look after between 20 and 200 bee families inclusive. The financial support has been provided to the sector to cope with the consequences caused by adverse weather conditions leading to low honey production in 2017.



BGN 73 million have been transferred for reduced excise duty on gas oil

State Fund Agriculture transferred a first tranche of BGN 72 872 000 to 8 250 farmers under the scheme Aid in the Form of a Discount on the Value of Excise Duty on Gas Oil Used in Primary Agricultural Production. Funds paid represent 87.21% of the approved state aid amount for all applicants. The remaining part, amounting to about BGN 11 million, will be paid to all 8 250 farmers with a second tranche in the beginning of 2018. The budget for 2017 under the scheme for reimbursing farmers' costs for the purchased fuel in 2016 is BGN 84 million at a rate of BGN 0.40 per liter.

The minimum support is paid to farmers in Bourgas region

The SFA paid BGN 45 488 for minimum de minimis aid under Regulation (EU) No 1408/2013 to 52 farmers suffered by the adverse climatic event - flood in 2017 in Bourgas Region.