



**AIB announces lowest ever interest rate for Milk Quota Restructuring Loan Scheme  
25th March 2003**

AIB today (Tuesday 25th March) launched its 2003 Milk Quota Restructuring Loan Scheme. At current interest rates, the AIB Loan Scheme is available to farmers at 4.25% - the lowest ever interest rate for a Milk Quota Loan Scheme.

The affordable acquisition of additional milk quota is a central issue for Irish dairy farmers who are striving to expand and develop their dairy enterprises. AIB's Milk Quota Loan Scheme, providing low cost and flexible finance, will assist these farmers in purchasing additional quota.

This Loan Scheme is market linked (AIB Variable Prime Rate + 1.125%) and will be adjusted for future ECB interest rate changes as they arise. Loans are designed to be as flexible as possible and borrowers can choose a repayment schedule to suit their individual cashflows. Likewise, farmers can elect loan terms of up to 7 years depending on individual circumstance.

Making the announcement, Michael Dowling, Head of Agri Strategy, AIB Bank said "It is important that financial institutions work with the farming sector, assisting it to grow and develop, enabling Irish agriculture to compete in the dynamic marketplace it now faces. This product is only one of AIB's products tailored to suit farmers needs and it is a further illustration of the Bank's support for progressive farmers as they develop their business."

Details of the Loan Scheme and brochures are being distributed through the milk purchasing companies and also through AIB Loan Scheme co-ordinators.

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