

COVID-19 – LIVESTOCK MARTS – SUGGESTED PROTOCOL

31st March 2020

Dear Mart Manager,

The following points are suggested protocols for buying and selling in marts during the COVID-19 restrictions. These suggestions have been approved in principle by DAFM and will form the basis of your standing operating procedures (SOPs) that need to be lodged with your local DVO for approval. You **cannot** resume the trading of livestock until your SOPs have been approved.

1. Selling farmers contact the mart via phone, email, etc., indicating type, approximate weight, breed, etc. of animals for sale.
2. Mart contacts relevant farmers with an interest for these type of animals and ideally agree a price per kilo.
3. Selling farmers contacted on price per kilo being offered and, if accepted....
4. Time, date and number of animals to be delivered to mart is agreed. This facility will be operational five (5) days per week to minimise traffic and people.
5. Selling farmer enters mart, washes hand with the required hand sanitisers, drops cards into a large post-box and backs trailer into mart entry point.
6. Mart staff only unload animals and they are weighed and entered into AIM.
7. Seller views the weights from a single designated point and waits until the buyer views animals separately.
8. Buyer has also been notified of time and date, and views animals separately to seller and on entry to mart facility washes hands with the required hand sanitiser. After inspecting the cattle or sheep and if happy, agrees sale.
9. Seller notified that the buyer is accepting all stock or not, if applicable, and leaves the mart premises with any rejected animals.
10. Buyer pays mart via card payments only and collects passports in mart office, separated by 2 metres at all times.
11. Mart staff load all animals only. Mart staff adhere to all necessary health and safety protocols.
12. Buyer and seller separately hand sanitise prior to departure and have no contact throughout the process.

I will revert later in the day when I have more clarity from DAFM but use this as your starting point. I thank you for your help and assistance in trying to make this a reality.

Best regards,
Ray Doyle
Livestock & Environmental Services Executive