SmartCow

First Call for proposals for "Transnational Access" to Research Infrastructures

Prof. Richard Dewhurst
SRUC: Scotland's Rural College

What is Transnational access?

- Funding for other industry/academics to run studies in facilities of SmartCow partners

- <u>Transnational</u> = in a different state (generally member/associated state of the EU)

- <u>Access</u> = Providing access to 20 leading cattle research facilities in Europe

- These facilities have:
  - Around 2,500 dairy and 1,000 beef cattle
  - Diversity of breeds and environmental conditions
  - High quality measurements (feed efficiency, emissions, digestion, metabolism,…..)

SRUC – Dairy Centre

SRUC – Beef Centre

WUR-DLO – Dairy Campus

Wageningen University – Carus (Dairy)

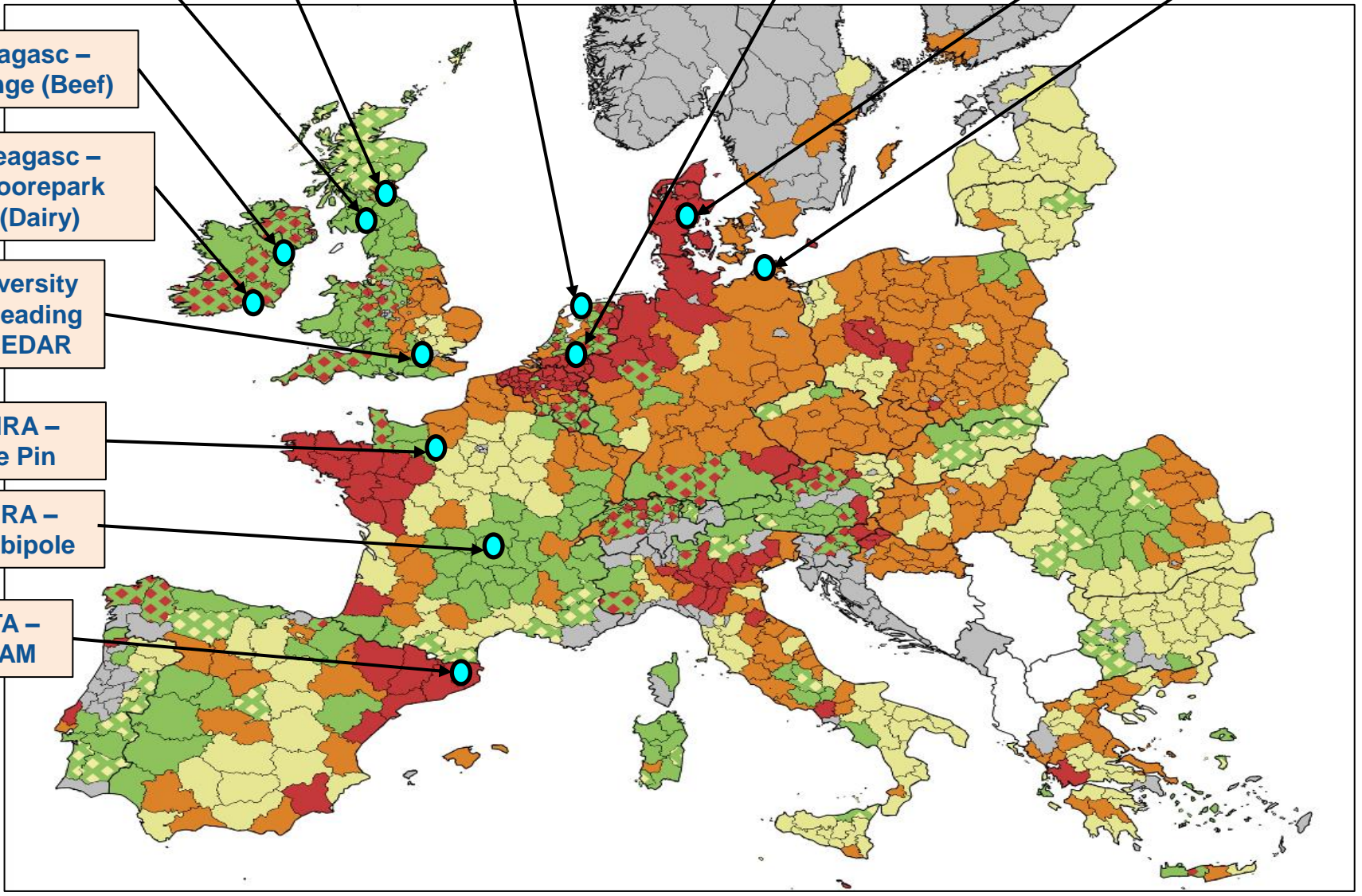Aarhus University – DKC

FBN – EFC

Teagasc – Grange (Beef)

Teagasc – Moorepark (Dairy)

University of Reading – CEDAR

INRA – Le Pin

INRA – Herbipole

IRTA – EVAM

Budget

- Roughly 1.5 M€ : supporting ~30 experiments
- Project funds <u>host facility costs</u> – such as animal care, monitoring, sampling & sample preparation
- Project does not cover additional data and lab analysis costs
- Project does not cover external users' own costs (other than a contribution to T&S costs for set-up meetings at the host facility)

Calls and project evaluation

- Project evaluation and selection will be run within the SmartCow project
- First call launched: June 2018
- Forms at http://www.smartcow.eu/calls/

- Two-stage application process:
- Short pre-proposals: 30 September 2018
- Selected full proposals: 30 November 2018

- *Subsequent calls: April 2019 and April 2020*

First stage application

- Short pre-proposal form
- Check on eligibility and feasibility within available facilities (Executive Committee in consultation with facility managers)
- Decision within 3 weeks
- If they have not already done so, applicants will then be encouraged to discuss with relevant facility managers

Second stage application

- Full application form
- Evaluation criteria:
  - Science quality, innovation, expected impact
  - Availability of facility
  - Expertise of the User Group
  - Networking and training benefits (later slide)
- Two independent referees (1 external)
- Comments on feasibility of the work from the relevant facility manager
- Executive Committee will make decisions within 8 weeks of submission

Priorities (broad!)

- New users (expanding the user community)
- Early-career scientists
- Users who don't have access to facilities in their area

- Efficient use of feed resources
- Mitigation options to reduce GHG/other emissions
- Efficient & robust animals, adaptation to climate change
- Animal health and welfare
- Product quality
- Precision cattle farming
- Phenotyping & monitoring tools: biomarkers, sensors
- Detailed behaviour, digestion and metabolism studies

Conditions of funding

- Expectation to publish results as soon as practicable (pending IP protection)
- Funding source must be acknowledged
- Completion of follow-up questionnaire to help improve the process

Further details

- Access Management Team provide advice on facilities and services to potential users:

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- Full details at http://www.smartcow.eu/calls/