Michael Creed
Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine

- Born in Macroom, Minister Creed was educated at St. Colman's College, Fermoy, De La Salle College, Macroom, at University College Cork and the College of Commerce, Rathmines.
- He was a member of Cork County Council from 1987 until 2007. He was elected chairman from 2005 to 2006.
- He was first elected to Dáil Éireann at the 1989 general election and retained his seat until 2002.
- After regaining his Dáil seat at the 2007 general election, he was party spokesperson on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (2007–10). At the 2011 general election he topped the poll in the first preference vote and in the 2016 general election he was the first to be elected.
- He was appointed Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine on 6 May 2016.

Tara McCarthy is the Chief Executive of Bord Bia. She was previously Chief Executive for Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM), Ireland’s seafood development agency. Tara brings with her over 20 years’ experience in the wider food industry. Tara has operated in overseas markets for 10 years in Germany, France and Belgium and holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree with an MBS in Marketing from Smurfit Business School, an affiliate of IMD Business School, Switzerland. Tara has been a regular contributor to the Government’s Food Harvest 2020 and Food Wise 2025 reports and succeeded in delivering a number of instrumental initiatives for the Irish Food Industry under the ‘Pathways for Growth’ programme. Ms. McCarthy was previously Director of the Food and Beverages Division in Bord Bia, the Irish Food Board and has led a team of Senior Executives on the development of the seafood, dairy, prepared foods, alcohol and small business sectors.
Jim Bergin was announced as CEO Designate of Glanbia Ireland in February 2017. Glanbia Ireland is a new joint venture combining Glanbia Ingredients Ireland, Glanbia Consumer Products and Glanbia Agribusiness, 60% owned by Glanbia Co-op and 40% owned by Glanbia plc.

The formation of Glanbia Ireland was recently approved by shareholders of Glanbia Co-op and Glanbia plc and is expected to be formally established on 2<nd><apple-data-detectors://3>July 2017<nd><apple-data-detectors://3>.

Glanbia Ireland will be a world class, ambitious, integrated agri-food business, with a diverse portfolio of quality ingredients, leading agri and consumer brands, with the proven talent to succeed in the global market.

Glanbia Ireland will be an enterprise of scale, with a 2.4 billion litre milk pool exporting to over 60 countries, revenue of €1.5 billion and over 1,800 employees.

Glanbia Ireland will own leading consumer and agri brands such as Avonmore, GAIN Animal Nutrition, Kilmarden Cheese, Premier Milk, mymilkman.ie<http://mymilkman.ie/> and Wexford. Jim joined the Glanbia Group in 1984 and has held a number of senior positions including Finance Director Agribusiness and subsequently Group Business Process Director. He joined the Ingredients Business as Operations Manager in May 2003 and was appointed Chief Executive of Dairy Ingredients Ireland in March 2005.

He was appointed CEO & Director of Glanbia Ingredients Ireland in November 2012, which is a joint venture company owned by Glanbia Co-Op (60%) and Glanbia Plc (40%).

Jim is also a director of Ornua Co-operative Society Ltd & was Chairman of the Irish Dairy Industry Association (IDIA) from 2011-2013.

Jayen Mehta is Senior General Manager (Planning & Marketing) at Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd. (Amul) based in Anand, India.

Amul is India’s largest food products marketing organization with annual sales turnover of US$ 4.2 billion. Amul is a cooperative federation of 3.6 million milk producers with annual milk volumes of 7 billion litres. It ranks among the top 15 dairy companies of the world.

Jayen has been associated with Amul since 27 years. He has rich experience in domestic and international marketing of entire Amul range of products. He has a good understanding of corporate planning, brand building, product management, advertising, supply chain management, exports and social media.

He is a graduate in business management and has done post graduation in Rural Management from the Institute of Rural Management, Anand (IRMA).
Dr Gerrit Smit was appointed Managing Director in January of Yili’s European R&D Center based in The Netherlands. This centre aims to bridge Yili’s Innovation Center in China with strategic collaborating parties in Europe, including academia, contract research institutes, key suppliers as well as other dairy and food companies.

Before this role Gerrit worked as Senior Vice President R&D at Valio, Finland, from 2011-2015, where he was responsible for the R&D portfolio and in particular the overall long term strategy, as well as open innovation with external partners (OI). Previous to that, he worked in Unilever from 2004-2011 as Research Director covering the areas of flavour and consumer research as well as leading Open Innovation in the area of flavours. He was also a member of the global management team of the Unilever Food and Health Research Institute for 6 years at Unilever.

From 1993 until 2004, Gerrit worked at NIZO in The Netherlands, where he held various positions. Most recently, he was member of the board of the organisation and headed the department of Flavour, Nutrition and Ingredients. During the same period, in 2003, he was awarded a professorship at Wageningen University (NL) in Molecular Flavour Science.

Gerrit obtained his MSc Degree in Molecular Microbiology and Biochemistry, at Utrecht University, and his PhD Degree in 1988 at Leiden University. He also worked as a post-doc for two years in R&D in the United States, followed by two years at Leiden University.

Doug Glade
Executive Vice President
Dairy Farmers of America inc

Doug joined DFA in 2012 as executive vice president of commercial operations.

In this role, he is responsible for the commercial operations of DFA’s Ingredients, Consumer Brands, Beverage and Dairy Foods, and Supply Chain divisions, as well as DFA’s wholly owned subsidiary, DairiConcepts.

Prior to his time with DFA, Doug served in a variety of executive operations roles for companies such as Nestlé, Novartis, Solo Cup, Merisant and Monsanto.
Yves Jozefiak
Business Development Director
Bericap

Yves is actively developing business opportunities with local, regional or international accounts in the Food business segment (milk, dairy, edible oil, spice and dry food).

EMBA Management ICN Nancy/Georgia Tech, Masters in International Business EM Stansbourg, 25 years experience in international sales development in the field of industry including packaging.

Experience with matrix organisations and issues involved in hierarchical and line management. Design and implementation of management of change within the company. Experience in setting up business abroad. Developer of field network relations, manager of multicultural teams, experience in high-level political and commercial lobbying

Kevin Bellamy
Global Strategist
Rabobank

With a global exposure of €24bn dairy is one of Rabobank’s most important sectors. As Global Sector Head, Kevin leads the team of people around the globe servicing the banks dairy clients and is responsible for banking many of the largest dairy organisations around the globe.

Kevin joined the Rabobank dairy team of bankers and dairy experts in 2011, he was previously the Executive Director of the Global Dairy Platform (GDP), a global consortium of over 60 companies with a collective turnover of over USD 100 billion annually, focusing on collaboration across the industry on key issues affecting dairy demand including nutrition, sustainability and marketing.

In the past, Kevin has also been Chief Executive Officer of the UK Milk Development Council, and has served on a number of dairy related Boards around the world. Kevin Bellamy is a Chartered Director and MBA
Ricardo Cotta Ferreira
Director of New Business and Corporate Relations
Itambe

An Economist with Master´s Degree in Applied Economics at ESALQ-USP. Currently responds as Business Development Director and Institutional Relations at Itambé (3rd largest dairy company in Brazil with USD1bi of annual revenue). There, he takes care of B2B sales, exports and development of the Food Service area.

He is also a MBA Professor in Agribusiness Management at Fundação Getúlio Vargas (FGV).

Before that, he was Head of Technical Department at Brazilian Agriculture and Livestock Confederation (CNA) where he led several studies about agribusiness with the Congress and Federal Executive.

He also worked for two years at the Brazilian Ministry of Agriculture (MAPA) where he was the first Director at the Department of Agribusiness International Promotion. He elaborated several technical work on the International Agricultural Negotiations of which Brazil has participated, like WTO, FTAA and EU-MERCOSUR free trade agreement.

Daryl Gehlig
Group Category Dairy Director
Promasidor South Africa (Pty) Ltd

Initially working as a Science, Biology and Geography teacher in Durban until 1988, Daryl Gehlig started work for Nestlé South Africa in 1989 and remained there until 2002. During this time he worked a Medical District Manager, managing and training a team of pharmaceutical representatives who worked closely with hospitals, clinics and general practitioners across Nestlé’s range of infant formula products.

In 1991 he moved to Johannesburg as Product Specialist - Infant Milks, following which he was promoted to the position of Product Manager - Infant Milks and Cereals. During his time with Nestlé Daryl held a range of positions including Senior Product Manager – Nestlé Culinary Milk Range and then Category Manager – Milk and Nutrition Division.

In November 2002 Daryl moved to Promasidor as Group Dairy Category Marketing Director, reporting directly to the Chief Executive Officer. In this role he is responsible for the Group’s strategic direction within the dairy category as well for overall brand performance. Annual turnover for dairy in Promasidor is USD 650 million. This is driven through 30 countries in West, East, Central and Northern Africa.

Daryl studied at Natal University from 1978 to 1981 and graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biological Sciences. He has also completed a range of general management courses during the course of his career.
Azam Khan
Senior Product Manager
ColourMatrix

Azam Khan graduated from University of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, with Bachelors in Applied Science in Civil Engineering in 1997. Over the last 18 years, Azam has worked in Plastics processing and production industry, in various roles as Key Account Manager, Field Application Development Manager, Product and Project Manager.

Azam joined ColorMatrix Europe Ltd in 2013 as a Strategic Project Manager leading development and commercialization of next generation products and technologies. He currently works as Senior Product Manager for ColorMatrix’s polymer additives portfolio.

His focus over the last two years has been on barrier and protective products for food and beverage packaging and developing new colour technologies for extrusion blow moulding.

Prior to joining ColorMatrix, Azam worked at SABIC (previously GE Plastics Ltd.). During his 10 years at SABIC he held roles of increasing commercial responsibility. His work at SABIC included a range of market segments, including Healthcare, Aerospace, Consumer Electronics and PS packaging. Before that, Azam worked for consumer electronics moulding company based in Scotland.

Dr Judith Bryans
President of International Dairy Federation
Chief Executive of Dairy UK

Dr Judith Bryans took over the running of Dairy UK in October 2013. Prior to that she was Director of The Dairy Council, a position she held from 2006. Internationally, Judith is a Board member of both the International Dairy Federation (IDF) and the European Dairy Association (EDA). She previously chaired the EDA Nutrition Working Group and is now overseeing the EDA Scientific Advisory Board Dairy, Nutrition and Health.

Additionally, she chaired the IDF Standing Committee on Nutrition and Health for several years and served on the IDF Science Programme Coordination Committee. In the UK, Judith is a Board member of a number of organisations including The Dairy Council, Dairy Energy Savings and the Milk Marketing Forum. Judith has a PhD from King’s College London and is a Registered Nutritionist.
Mr. Shi Dongwei, aged 52. He joined the Mengniu group in 2017 as the executive president, who is responsible for public affairs of the Group. Mr. Shi worked for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the PRC from 1989 to 2001. He then served as the director of global government affairs in China region of Lucent Technologies, Inc. in the United States, the vice president in China region of Agilent Technologies in the United States, the vice president of Starbucks Coffee Company and Alibaba Group. Mr. Shi has 16 years of experience in public affairs. He graduated from department of diplomacy in China Foreign Affairs University and received a bachelor’s degree in laws. He then obtained a master’s degree in diplomacy and trade from Monash University in Australia. He is also the part-time professor in the department of public administration of Chinese Academy of Governance.

Libby Costin leads Marketing for Tetra Pak Packaging Solutions. In her role, Libby is responsible for marketing strategy, consumer and industry intelligence, category management and portfolio deployment for the Tetra Pak Packaging business globally.

She also oversees the development of extensive, proprietary research on key beverage categories such as Dairy, Juice, Still Drinks, Food and Wine, developing a strategy to identify and drive new business opportunities worldwide.

Prior to joining Tetra Pak in February 2012, Libby held a number of senior sales and marketing positions in the food and beverage industry. During her 15 years at PepsiCo. she led a sales team in China of 10,000 people, developing business growth strategies and “go-to-market” planning. In the US she led the integration of Tropicana, Gatorade and Quaker foods upon acquisition of Quaker by PepsiCo.

Libby holds a BA degree from Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts.
Carmel Collins is General Manager of Kerry Taste & Nutrition’s Dairy and Snack businesses in Europe and Russia.

With a food science background, and a focus on evolving market needs, Carmel has provided leadership in developing and implementing growth strategies for key markets, across a range of products, categories and geographies.

Over a 20 year career, Carmel has held senior positions in research, business development and general management across Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

Carmel has a keen interest in innovation, and remains closely involved in the development of new products at Kerry. She holds a Bachelor of Science (Nutritional Science) form University College, Cork.

Richard Walton works as an R&D manager in the Research & Development Division of Meiji Co Ltd. He has extensive experience in R&D and with patents related to dairy, functional foods and beverages, medical foods and pharmaceuticals. He is also responsible for international research collaborations and R&D related information technology.

During the course of his studies, he obtained a BA in Chemistry from Hendrix College (USA) in 1985 and subsequently a PhD in Organic Chemistry from Duke University (USA) in 1990. He was a Japan Science and Technology Agency Fellow at the Institute of Physical and Chemical Research (RIKEN) from 1991 to 1993, before joining Meiji. In addition to internal research planning and support activities, Richard has chaired multi-company working groups on intellectual property in Japan and led research collaborations with international partners. He is a member of the IDF Standing Committee on Marketing and led the organization committee for the marketing conference at the 2013 IDF World Dairy Summit in Yokohama.

Richard has given numerous international presentations on food R&D in Japan and Japanese food claims at events such as IDF Summits, ILSI conferences, InnoBev, Dairy Innovation and the World Dairy Congress.
Raquel Melo is Vice President of Innovation and New Business Development at Land O’Lakes Inc., a $14B farmer-owned agri-business cooperative based in Arden Hills, Minnesota in the United States, where she is responsible for driving growth strategy, innovation, and new business development efforts including acquisition growth strategies.

Raquel has held Director of Marketing and Director of Innovation roles with Kemps LLC, HP Hood, and Dairy Farmers of America (DFA). She began her Marketing Career at General Mills, Inc.

She is currently the Vice-Chair of The Brand Lab, a non-profit organization dedicated to expanding access to marketing careers for under-privileged young people.

Raquel holds an MBA from Harvard Business School. A native Spanish speaker, she was born in The Dominican Republic and grew up in New York City.

Harikrishnan Pillai is a Senior Operations Consultant specialising in technical feasibility studies, technical/operational due diligence and financial modelling in food and drink industries. He has managed Zenith’s projects in UK, USA, Africa and Middle East, and Asia Pacific.

Prior to joining Zenith in 2011, Hari used to work in the IT and telecommunications industry managing projects in business intelligence and software product development for a range of clients from UK and USA.

An Indian national, Hari is fluent in Malayalam, Hindi and English. He holds an MBA from the University of Nottingham and a degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Calicut.
Kyle Wehner, co-founder and CEO of Dreaming Cow, graduated from Massey University, Palmerston North, New Zealand, with a degree in agribusiness and has over 10 years of value-added processing experience. Kyle currently manages day to day activities at Dreaming Cow, from production to sales, with the CTO, National Sales Director and Operations Manager reporting directly to him. Kyle also handles all marketing and packaging development and liaisons with multiple high level marketing and design firms to continue to build the brand equity that Dreaming Cow has developed over the last 6 years.

Janelle Wehner, Co-founder and Chief Technical Officer of Dreaming Cow, manages technical improvements pertaining to increased production and fine tunes quality control metrics to ensure quality is not sacrificed in the name of production. Janelle is a Food Technology graduate from Massey University, Palmerston North, New Zealand, with over 10 years of value-added processing experience. Janelle is directly responsible for all product development and quality systems, and she also currently oversees administrative staff at Dreaming Cow. Kyle and Janelle work closely together on Dreaming Cow’s Strategic Plan to ensure that Dreaming Cow has a clear vision to follow as it grows.

Teddy Ivanov is the founder and CEO of Balkan Treasure, a US company that has embraced the Bulgarian Yogurt heritage and elevated its health benefits and taste characteristics to 21st century through coupling ancient tradition, pure ingredients and innovative flavours.

Teddy is a professionally trained chef of Bulgarian origin who embarked on further developing his culinary carrier in the USA in 1998. Throughout several years of success with 4-star restaurants in St. Louis, MO and expanding in this field with his own restaurant and catering business, he kept his passion for Bulgarian yogurt on high alert. He even became the Missouri Ambassador of Healthy Food for Schools, a movement spearheaded by Jamie Oliver in the UK and popularized by US chefs, passionate about our future generations' culinary health. In the past five years he delved into the fastest moving industry trend and developed the unique, yet authentic brand of Bulgarian yogurt “YoBul!”

A visionary in every culinary endeavour and a professional with deep industry knowledge and passion, Teddy aims to master the Art of Bulgarian Yogurt while bringing a breath of fresh air to an industry dominated by giants. In 2016 he introduced his brand to the US market to great excitement among consumers whose palates were amused and captivated by such innovative flavours as his trade mark Rose yogurt, inspired by the famous fragrant Bulgarian rose. He combines the best in Bulgarian Yogurt tradition, roots his production in local US farming and shoots up the end result with inventive, imaginative and lively flavours that excite and promise new frontiers.
Matthew Havers has experience of all elements of the food supply chain. Raised on a family farm, he has worked at a leading FMCG intelligence and insights company, and then combined these experiences to launch PECK drinks. Matthew collaboratively runs the family farm, including 16,000 free range hens, which also serves as the production hub for drinks manufacturing. Frustrated by the lack innovation surrounding eggs, Matthew started experimenting with egg products to replace his Whey powders for sports recovery, and continually worked to create products that have the health benefits of egg, but can be consumed conveniently and 'on the go'.

PECK is the world's first Protein Beverage to combine Egg White, Soya Milk and Fruit Juices to give a 100% Clean Label, Dairy Free refreshing beverage. We add no artificial colours, flavours, sweeteners or preservatives, and use only 'second grade' eggs that reduce the waste footprint from our own egg production, as well as from local farms. Protein drinks are the first range of products to be launched, but PECK have an dairy free innovation pipeline across categories based on convenience and Health & Wellness.

Brian Reidy is a experienced Corporate Banker working primarily with large cap food and agri companies. He has over twenty years banking experience, having previously held roles in SME business banking and retail banking before starting with Rabobank in 2009.