

Donegal Creameries Plc

Interim results for the six months ended 30 June 2009

€'000	H1 2009	H1 2008	Change
Revenue	57,718	69,642	-17.1%
Profit before tax	1,504	3,479	-56.8%
Profit for period	677	3,112	-78.2%
Operating Cash Flow	4,793	4,413	+8.6%
EPS c	6.8	30.8	-77.9%
EPS c (Adjusted)*	14.0	24.8	-43.5%
Dividend per share	7.0c	7.0c	-
Net debt	22,201	22,810	-2.7%
Net asset value per share	€6.09	€6.74	-9.6%

* Earnings per share before impact of revaluations of investment properties and CGT rate change.

The background against which these figures are being reported has undoubtedly been difficult. The environment for agri-inputs in general and dairy in particular has been unprecedented for both producer and processor alike. This has been created by a combination of poor commodity markets, poor weather and a shortage of cash liquidity particularly at a farm level. In addition to this our border location and the well documented weakening of sterling has impacted on the trading of agricultural-inputs in the North West.

Against this background the Group continues to be profitable due to the diversity of its businesses and continues to reduce its dependence on commodity products by focusing on its value added dairy, organic food and seed potato businesses.

Group turnover declined by €11.9m. In the Dairy business the volume of milk collected was down by 3.3% and traded milk prices were significantly down. The sales volumes and prices of agricultural inputs were behind significantly on the same period of 2008. This was due to a combination of reduced commodity prices on animal feedstuffs and fertiliser, compounded by weak demand at farm level due to poor milk prices and increased competition from Northern Ireland mills due to the weakness of sterling.

The Group's balance sheet remains strong with total assets of €111.2m and equity of €62.6m. Net debt has fallen from €26.7m at the year-end to €22.2m reflecting a reduction in both working capital requirements and capital expenditure.

An interim dividend of 7c per share will be paid on 4 December 2009 to shareholders on the register at 13 November 2009.

Operations Review

In compliance with International Financial Reporting Standard ('IFRS') 8, 'Operating Segments' the Group has determined that the segmental analysis be revised to four main segments, Dairy, Agri-inputs, Potatoes and Property and Investments. Prior half year numbers have been restated to reflect these changes.

Dairy

Turnover in the Dairy Division was down 23% to €23.1m, reflecting the significant decline in global dairy commodity pricing. Milk producers have had the most challenging season in memory facing a combination of very poor prices and persistent inclement weather. The segmental result of €1.3m reflects the growth in value added dairy products and a satisfactory performance in our liquid milk business. As outlined in the full year 2008 results, we remain on track for the launch of further value added dairy products during the second half of 2009. With regard to commodity dairy products the current situation is unsustainable for both producer and processor alike and the only positive note is that the situation appears to have bottomed out with expectations for an improvement during 2010.

Agri-inputs

The Agri-inputs Division produced a very poor result in the first half of 2009. This was mainly due to competitive issues arising from the effect of a weakening sterling (which traded at near parity with the euro in December 2008) on the local market giving rise to significant cross border imports resulting in a collapse in margins. Furthermore customers of the Agri-inputs Division had a very challenging six months with prices for their own outputs at periodic lows. This division made a loss of €1.6m in the first half of the year compared to a profit of €1.2m for the same period in 2008. The outlook for the second six months is improving as sterling has strengthened and poor weather conditions have increased demand.

Potatoes

Turnover in the Potato division increased by 11% to €13.2m generating profits of €0.8m, up 5% on the same period last year. The sack printing operation was sold in June 2009 and this division is now focussed on the seed potato and organic vegetable businesses. The growing program for this season is proceeding as planned and although yields and markets have yet to be decided we expect another strong performance in the second half of the year. As in prior years, this division will deliver most of its sales and profits in the last quarter.

Property and Investments

The property market remains challenging. There have been no sales or disposals in the first half of the year. Rental incomes are on budget and the Letterkenny student residences had a strong Summer. The conversion of the Grianan Estate to organic status continues and it is expected to have the first full harvest of organic crops later this year. The 400 cow dairy unit will be producing organic milk from spring 2010.

Following a decision by An Bord Pleanala, Northwestern Livestock Holdings Ltd now have full planning permission in Sligo for 775 units on 79 acres which will remain valid for 10 years.

Associates

Monaghan Middlebrook Mushrooms has performed in line with budget and this is expected to continue for the full year.

Finance

The Board has adequate cash and bank facilities in place to fund the Group's plans. In the first half of 2009 this has been further improved by a reduction in borrowings of 17% to €22.2m. Operating cash flow improved by 9% to just under €5m. In the first half of 2009, the Group invested €1.4m in capital expenditure focused primarily on value added dairy and organic projects. Income tax expense in the income statement reflects the change in the rate of Capital Gains Tax from 22% to 25% in the period which increased our deferred tax liability.

Outlook

The poor performance in agri-inputs and commodity dairy products in the first half of 2009 was a key impact on the Group's overall first half result. However, good progress continues to be made in the strategic growth areas of valued added dairy, organic food and seed potatoes. The Board are confident that the markets for agri-inputs will return to a more sustainable position as sterling strengthens, commodity prices stabilise and milk prices improve. The Group's strategic plan to reduce dependence on commodity businesses continues to progress well and a combination of new product launches and acquisitions will enhance this position in the second half of 2009. The Board remains confident of the full year performance of the Group and achieving full year adjusted EPS of 30 cents per share.

Geoffrey Vance
Chairman

**Unaudited condensed consolidated interim income statement
For the six months ended 30 June 2009**

	Note	2009 Unaudited €'000	2008 Unaudited €'000
Continuing operations			
Revenue	5	57,718	69,642
Cost of sales		(49,194)	(58,797)
Gross profit		8,524	10,845
Other income		42	978
Distribution expenses		(3,778)	(4,040)
Administrative expenses		(4,403)	(4,319)
Results from operating activities		385	3,464
Finance income		1,203	331
Finance expenses		(1,230)	(952)
Net finance expense		(27)	(621)
Share of profit of associates		1,146	636
Profit before income tax		1,504	3,479
Income tax expense		(827)	(367)
Profit for the period		677	3,112
Attributable to:			
Equity holders of the Company		691	3,127
Minority interest		(14)	(15)
Profit for the period from continuing operations		677	3,112
Earnings per share			
Basic earnings per share (euro cent)	6	6.8	30.8
Diluted earnings per share (euro cent)	6	6.6	30.1

**Unaudited condensed consolidated interim statement of comprehensive income
For the six months ended 30 June 2009**

	Note	2009 Unaudited €'000	2008 Unaudited €'000
Other comprehensive income			
Foreign exchange gain/(loss)		727	(538)
Revaluation of investment property upon transfer from property, plant and equipment		-	1,111
Defined benefit plans actuarial gains/(losses)		200	(149)
Net change in fair value of available for sale financial assets		(841)	(5)
Tax on other comprehensive income		82	(222)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Other comprehensive income for period, net of income tax		168	197
Profit for the period		677	3,112
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total comprehensive income for the period		845	3,309
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
Total comprehensive income attributable to			
Equity holders of the parent		775	3,357
Minority interest		70	(48)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total comprehensive income for the period		845	3,309
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Unaudited condensed consolidated interim statement of financial position
As at 30 June 2009

	Note	30 June 2009 Unaudited €'000	31 Dec 2008 Audited €'000	30 June 2008 Unaudited €'000
Assets				
Property, plant and equipment	8	16,404	16,208	16,861
Goodwill		1,876	1,876	1,876
Intangible assets		656	393	33
Investment property	9	41,701	41,758	41,537
Investments in associates		12,880	11,800	17,177
Other investments, including derivatives		2,249	3,266	3,744
Trade and other receivables		196	196	197
Total non-current assets		75,962	75,497	81,425
Inventories		7,415	10,499	8,031
Trade and other receivables		27,548	29,241	30,657
Cash and cash equivalents		267	-	997
Total current assets		35,230	39,740	39,685
Total assets		111,192	115,237	121,110
Equity				
Issued capital		1,337	1,337	1,337
Share premium		2,975	2,975	2,975
Other reserves		1,532	1,691	3,700
Retained earnings		55,783	54,810	61,331
Total equity attributable to equity holders of the company		61,627	60,813	69,343
Minority interest		998	928	1,053
Total equity		62,625	61,741	70,396
Liabilities				
Loans and other borrowings		19,126	20,154	21,278
Employee benefits		860	1,073	-
Trade & other payables		481	303	308
Deferred tax liabilities		7,045	6,681	6,170
Total non-current liabilities		27,512	28,211	27,756
Loans and other borrowings		3,342	3,918	2,529
Current tax		359	-	627
Trade and other payables		17,354	21,367	19,802
Total current liabilities		21,055	25,285	22,958
Total liabilities		48,567	53,496	50,714
Total equity and liabilities		111,192	115,237	121,110

Unaudited condensed consolidated statement of changes in equity

Attributable to equity holders of the Group

<u>Group</u>	Share capital €'000	Share premium €'000	Trans- lation reserve €'000	Reserve for own shares €'000	Revalua- tion reserve €'000	Fair Value reserve €'000	Share option reserve €'000	Retained earnings €'000	Total €'000	Minority interest €'000	Total equity €'000
Balance at 1 January 2008	1,337	2,975	(532)	(129)	2,410	1,633	119	58,353	66,166	1,101	67,267
Comprehensive income	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,127	3,127	(15)	3,112
Other comprehensive income	-	-	(505)	-	889	(5)	-	(149)	230	(33)	197
Acquisition of own shares	-	-	-	(219)	-	-	-	-	(219)	-	(219)
Share-based payments	-	-	-	-	-	-	39	-	39	-	39
Balance at 30 June 2008	1,337	2,975	(1,037)	(348)	3,299	1,628	158	61,331	69,343	1,053	70,396
Balance at 1 January 2009	1,337	2,975	(3,301)	(348)	3,817	1,317	206	54,810	60,813	928	61,741
Comprehensive income	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	691	691	(14)	677
Other comprehensive income	-	-	643	-	-	(841)	-	282	84	84	168
Share-based payments	-	-	-	-	-	-	39	-	39	-	39
Balance at 30 June 2009	1,337	2,975	(2,658)	(348)	3,817	476	245	55,783	61,627	998	62,625

Condensed consolidated interim statement of cash flows
For the six months ended 30 June 2009

	2009	2008
	Unaudited	Unaudited
	€'000	€'000
Operating activities		
Profit for the period	677	3,112
Adjusted for		
Depreciation	1,164	1,191
Amortisation of Intangible Assets	73	
Changes in fair value of investment property	325	(592)
Defined benefit pension charge	143	78
Net finance costs	27	621
Share of profit of associates	(1,146)	(636)
Gain on sale of property, plant and equipment	(16)	(11)
Income tax expense	827	367
	<u>2,074</u>	<u>4,130</u>
Change in inventories	3,231	436
Change in trade and other receivables	3,131	83
Change in trade and other payables	(2,821)	655
Equity settled share-based payment transactions	39	39
Changes in provisions and employee benefits	(79)	-
	<u>5,575</u>	<u>5,343</u>
Interest paid	(673)	(765)
Defined benefit pension contributions paid	(157)	(197)
Income tax refunded	48	32
Net cash from operating activities	<u>4,793</u>	<u>4,413</u>
Cash flows from investing activities		
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment	63	57
Acquisition of shares and loan in associate	-	(684)
Purchase of own shares	-	(219)
Acquisition of other investments	(22)	-
Acquisition of property, plant and equipment	(1,402)	(2,761)
Interest received	82	65
Dividends received	2	7
Acquisition of investment property	-	(2,894)
Repayment of loan by associate	455	255
Proceeds from sale of investment property	-	161
Net cash from investing activities	<u>(822)</u>	<u>(6,013)</u>
Cash flows from financing activities		
Payment of finance lease liabilities	(27)	(31)
(Repayment)/drawdown of borrowings	(1,577)	5,738
Net cash from financing activities	<u>(1,604)</u>	<u>5,707</u>
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	2,367	4,107
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January	(2,655)	(2,743)
Effect of exchange rate fluctuations on cash held	555	(367)
Cash and cash equivalents at 30 June	<u>267</u>	<u>997</u>

Notes to the condensed consolidated interim financial statements

(1) Reporting entity

Donegal Creameries Plc (the “Company”) is a company domiciled in Ireland. The condensed consolidated interim financial statements of the Company as at and for the six months ended 30 June 2009 comprise the Company and its subsidiaries (together referred to as the “Group”) and the Group’s interests in associates and jointly controlled entities. The consolidated financial statements of the Group as at and for the year ended 31 December 2008 are available upon request from the Company’s registered office at Ballyraine, Letterkenny, County Donegal.

(2) Statement of compliance

These condensed consolidated interim financial statements have been prepared in accordance with international financial reporting standard (IFRS) IAS 34 *Interim Financial Reporting*. They do not include all of the information required for full annual financial statements, and should be read in conjunction with the consolidated annual financial statements of the Group as at and for the year ended 31 December 2008.

The financial statements are presented in euro, which is the company’s functional currency. All financial information presented in euro is rounded to the nearest thousand. They are prepared on the historical cost basis except that the following assets and liabilities are stated at their fair value: derivative financial instruments, financial assets classified as available-for-sale and investment property.

These condensed consolidated interim financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 10 September 2009.

(3) Accounting Policies

The accounting policies and methods of computation adopted in the preparation of the Group Condensed Interim Financial Statements are consistent with those applied in the Annual Report for the financial year ended 31 December 2008 and are described in those financial statements.

Except as described below, the Group did not adopt any new International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) or interpretations in the period that have had a material impact on the Group Condensed Interim Financial Statements for the half year.

(a) Change in accounting policy

(i) Determination and presentation of operating segments

As of 1 January 2009, the Group determines and presents operating segments based on the information that internally is provided to the Group’s chief operating decision maker. This change in accounting policy is due to the adoption of IFRS 8 *Operating Segments*. Previously, operating segments were determined and presented in accordance with IAS 14 *Segment Reporting*. The new accounting policy in respect of segment operating disclosures is presented as follows:

Comparative segment information has been re-presented in conformity with the transitional requirements of IFRS 8. Since the change in accounting policy only impacts presentation and disclosure aspects, there is no impact on earnings per share.

An operating segment is a component of the Group that engages in business activities from which it may earn revenues and incur expenses, including revenues and expenses that relate to transactions with any of the Group’s other components. An operating segment’s operating results are reviewed regularly by the chief operating decision maker to make decisions about resources to be allocated to the segment and assess its performance, and for which discrete financial information is available.

Notes to the condensed consolidated interim financial statements

(3) Accounting Policies *(continued)*

(a) Change in accounting policy *(continued)*

(i) Determination and presentation of operating segments *(continued)*

Segment results that are reported to the chief operating decision maker include items directly attributable to a segment as well as those that can be allocated on a reasonable basis. Unallocated items comprise mainly investments in associates (and others), loans and borrowings, cash and cash equivalents, finance expenses and income tax assets and liabilities.

Segment capital expenditure is the total cost incurred during the period to acquire property, plant and equipment, and intangible assets other than goodwill.

(ii) Presentation of financial statements

The Group applies revised IAS 1 *Presentation of Financial Statements* (2007), which became effective as of 1 January 2009. As a result, the Group presents in the consolidated statement of changes in equity all owner changes in equity, whereas all non-owner changes in equity are presented in the consolidated statement of comprehensive income. This presentation has been applied in these condensed interim financial statements as of and for the six months period ended on 30 June 2009. Comparative information has been re-presented so that it also is in conformity with the revised standard. Since the change in accounting policy only impacts presentation aspects, there is no impact on earnings per share.

(4) Estimates

The preparation of interim financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of accounting policies and the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, income and expense. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

Except as described below, in preparing these condensed consolidated interim financial statements, the significant judgements made by management in applying the Group's accounting policies and the key sources of estimation uncertainty were the same as those that applied to the consolidated financial statements as at and for the year ended 31 December 2008.

During the six months ended 30 June 2009, management, in consultation with an independent actuary, reassessed its estimates in respect of employee benefits. The valuation of the defined benefit pension obligation has been updated to reflect current market discount rates and rates of increases in salaries and inflation. The significant changes in estimates are discount rate 5.7% (31 December 2008: 5.6%), inflation 2.3% (31 December 2008: 2.0%) and salary increases 3.8% (31 December 2008: 3.5%).

(5) Segment Information

The Group comprises the following reportable business segments:

- *Dairy*

The assembly, processing and distribution of liquid milk, bulk milk trading and the production, distribution and marketing of added value dairy products including the Rumlbers brand of breakfast products.

- *Agri-inputs*

The manufacture, sale and distribution of farm inputs.

- *Potatoes*

The growing, sales and distribution of seed potatoes and organic vegetables.

- *Property and investments*

Includes the rental, development and sale of property assets.

Notes to the condensed consolidated interim financial statements

(5) Segment Information *(continued)*

Business segments

For the six months ended 30 June 2009

	Dairy		Agri-Inputs		Potatoes		Property/Investments		Other		Consolidated	
	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Segment revenue	23,094	29,896	20,873	27,444	13,241	11,933	2	2	508	367	57,718	69,642
Segment result	1,324	586	(1,616)	1,198	809	769	(113)	941	(19)	(30)	385	3,464
Net Finance Costs											(27)	(621)
Share of profit of associates											1,146	636
Income tax expense											(827)	(367)
Profit for the period											677	3,112

There were no inter-segment transactions in the period (2008: nil)

Notes to the condensed consolidated interim financial statements

(5) Segment Information *(continued)*

Business segments

For the six months ended 30 June 2009

	Dairy		Other		Agri business		Potatoes		Property/ Investments		Consolidated	
	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Segment net assets	9,442	8,118	599	535	15,204	19,108	8,841	10,632	42,656	42,250	76,742	80,643
<i>Unallocated</i>												
Other investments											2,249	3,744
Cash and cash equivalents											267	997
Investment in associates											12,880	17,177
Loans and borrowings											(22,468)	(25,995)
Deferred tax liability											(7,045)	(6,170)
Net assets											62,625	70,396

Geographical segments

For the six months ended 30 June 2009

	Island of Ireland		Europe		Rest of the World		Consolidated	
	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Revenue from external customers	51,671	64,148	5,001	4,542	1,046	952	57,718	69,642

Notes to the condensed consolidated interim financial statements

(6) Earnings per share

The calculation of basic and diluted earnings per share is set out below:

Profit attributable to ordinary shareholders

	2009	2008
	Continuing operations €'000	Continuing operations €'000
Profit for the period	677	3,112
Profit attributable to ordinary shareholders	691	3,127

Weighted average number of ordinary shares In thousands of shares

	2009	2008
Weighted average number of ordinary shares in issue for the year	10,286	10,286
Weighted average number of treasury shares	(144)	(138)
Denominator for basic earnings per share	10,142	10,148
Effect of share options on issue	257	239
Weighted average number of ordinary shares (diluted) at 30 June	10,399	10,387

Earnings per share

	2009	2008
Continuing operations		
Basic earnings per share (euro cent)	6.8	30.8
Diluted earnings per share (euro cent)	6.6	30.1

Notes to the condensed consolidated interim financial statements

(7) Dividends

No dividends were paid in either the 6 months ended 30 June 2009 or the 6 months ended 30 June 2008. The Board has proposed the payment of an interim dividend of 7.0 cent per share on 4 December 2009 (7.0 cent per share in 2008) to holders of shares on 13 November 2009.

(8) Property, plant and equipment

Acquisitions and disposals

During the six months ended 30 June 2009, the Group acquired assets with a cost of €1,402,000 (six months ended 30 June 2008: €2,761,000). Assets with a net book value of €47,000 were disposed of during the six months ended 30 June 2009 (six months ended 30 June 2008: €186,000), resulting in a gain on disposal of €16,000 (six months ended 30 June 2008: gain of €11,000).

(9) Investment Property

Acquisitions and disposals

During the six months ended 30 June 2009, the Group did not acquire any investment properties (six months ended 30 June 2008: €2,894,000).

Investment property was impaired by €325,000 in the period, partially offset by foreign exchange gains on land held in Sterling.

(10) Related parties

Transactions with key management personnel

Key management personnel receive compensation in the form of short-term employee benefits, post-employment benefits and equity compensation benefits. Key management personnel received total compensation of €316,000 for the six months ended 30 June 2009 (six months ended 30 June 2008: €324,000). Total remuneration is included in "administration expenses."

Other related party transactions

	Transaction value		Balance outstanding	
	Period ended		As at	
	30 June		30 June	
	2009	2008	2009	2008
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Sale of goods and services				
Sales by group to directors	298	402	122	81
Purchases by group from directors	(527)	(716)	(103)	(163)
By parent to associates	-	906	-	660

Notes to the condensed consolidated interim financial statements

(11) Net Debt

Balance at 31 December 2008	(26,727)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	2,367
Effect of exchange rate fluctuations	555
(Repayment)/Drawdown of borrowings	1,577
Repayment of finance Leases	27
Balance at 30 June 2009	(22,201)

(12) Capital Commitments

At 30 June 2009 there were capital commitments of €231,000 (2008: €182,000) authorised by the directors and not provided for in the financial statements.