

Will EWE *'Paint It Pink'* This October?

MSD Animal Health calls on farmers to join in on cancer awareness initiative

Friday October 23rd 2015: MSD Animal Health is calling on farmers across Ireland to show their support for the Irish Cancer Society (ICS) by painting their farm gates pink this month. The Irish Cancer Society's 'Paint it Pink' campaign aims to raise awareness, and much-needed funds for the charity, by encouraging businesses and local communities to have a pink-themed October. In addition to its call on the farming community, MSD Animal Health is also making a financial contribution to ICS in support of its fundraising efforts.

Commenting on the initiative, Seamus Maguire, General Manager, MSD Animal Health, said: *"We're calling on farmers around the country to join us in marking 'Paint it Pink' month by adding a splash of colour to their farm or land. Cancer touches the lives, and affects the extended families, of so many Irish people today. MSD Animal Health are delighted to support ICS this month in raising awareness of a extremely deserving cause."*

MSD has become a leader in corporate responsibility in Ireland, and was recently ranked as the top contributor in Ireland, based on pure corporate funding support, and fourth overall in terms of total contribution including employee fundraising, volunteerism and in-kind donations. The global healthcare company contributed over €1.6 million to 474 Irish community groups in 2014, through a series of flagship corporate responsibility initiatives, including local Neighbour of Choice partners, fundraising days, local community investments and a wide range of patient partnership programmes. MSD employees also volunteered nearly 1,400 hours of their time throughout the year.

MSD Animal Health is dedicated to preserving and improving the health, well-being and performance of animals, and is a global leader in the research, development, manufacturing and sale of veterinary medicines. It is a subsidiary of MSD's Human Health business, which provides healthcare solutions and innovative medicines in areas such as diabetes, heart disease, immunology, oncology, infectious diseases, women's health and anaesthesiology.

For more information, or to donate, visit www.cancer.ie/paintitpink

ENDS

Photo caption: Pictured marking Irish Cancer Society's 'Paint it Pink' month are: William Minchin, Ruminants Marketing Manager, MSD Animal Health; Seamus Maguire, General Manager, MSD Animal Health; and Maureen Prendergast, Veterinary Advisor, MSD Animal Health.

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Notes to the Editor

About MSD

MSD, known as Merck in the United States and Canada, has operations in more than 140 countries. In Ireland, MSD employs over 2,000 people across its five sites in Dublin, Carlow, Cork, Tipperary and Wicklow. Its extensive Irish operations encompass manufacturing, commercial and marketing facilities.

MSD is a leader in healthcare, dedicated to helping the world be well through a wide range of innovative health solutions. This includes the development, production and distribution of prescription medicines, vaccines and biologic therapies as well as animal health products.

MSD's commitment to research and to increasing access to healthcare across the world is demonstrated by clearly focused policies, far-reaching programmes and life-enhancing partnerships.