

REGIONAL REVIEW

TEAGASC CORK EAST REGIONAL ANNUAL REVIEW 2021



241,371
DAIRY COWS



417,317
BEEF CATTLE



33,081
SUCKLERS



114,305
SHEEP

TOTAL FARMS

COUNTY
CORK
CORK
EAST
TOTAL
HERDS

13,704
6,635
5,076

AVERAGE
SIZE
AVERAGE
AGE

38.7Ha
55YRS

Over 30%

OF FARMERS HAVE A SPECIALIST
DAIRY ENTERPRISE

Over 43%

OF FARMERS HAVE A SPECIALIST
BEEF ENTERPRISE

14%

OF FARMERS HOLDERS
ARE FEMALE

Welcome

Welcome to the first edition of the Cork East Annual Regional Review. This report summarises the regional activities in 2021 and summarises the main enterprises in the region. I would like to acknowledge the hard work of staff in Cork East and commend our stakeholders for their ongoing support – in particular the 4 dairy Co-ops Dairygold, Glanbia, North Cork Co-op and Kerry, all the farm organisations and the many stakeholders involved from time to time on specific problem issues – for example LAWPRO, Cork County Council, DAFM, local contractors and merchants among others.



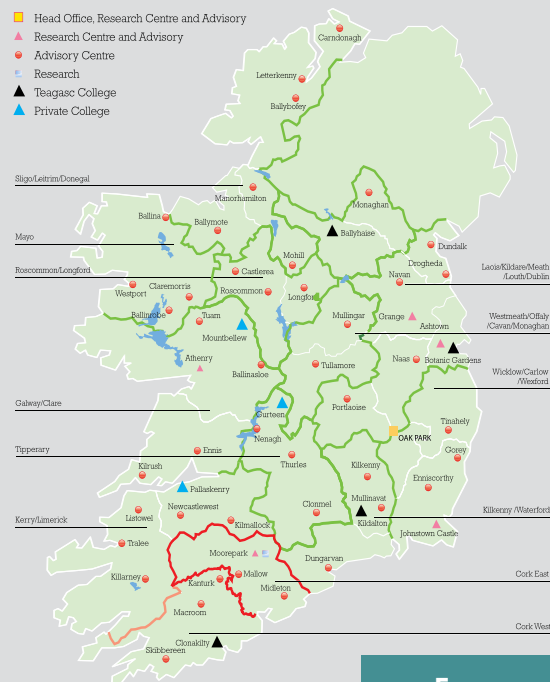
The most significant enterprise in the Cork East Region is beef with 2880 specialist beef producers but closely followed by specialist Dairy at 2237 farms. Dairy Advisory staff in the region almost double the drystock reflecting the complexity of the farm businesses involved. Factoring in beef producers in mixed grazing and mixed cropping groups, then almost 60% of the farms have a beef enterprise. Total flock numbers in the region are 271 with total sheep numbers 114,305 of which 29,641 are Ewes. Specialist tillage makes up 8% of the farms (nationally this stands at 3%).

John Horgan, Regional Manager
Cork East



TEAGASC CORK EAST REGIONAL ADVISORY TEAM

Teagasc advisory offices are based at **Midleton, Fermoy, Mallow & Kanturk**
There are 12 Signpost farms in the Region
with all locations visible on the map below.
The Signpost farms have a critical role to play
in delivering the climate message to farmers
in the Region.



Kanturk

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Kanturk,
Co. Cork,
P51 YR8E

T:(029) 50886

Mallow

Teagasc
Sandfield,
Mallow,
Co. Cork
P51 NF82

T: (022) 21936

Fermoy

Moorepark,
Moorepark West,
Fermoy,
Co. Cork,
P61 RX43

T:(025) 42244



A total of 12 Signpost farms have been
identified for the Cork East Region:

DAIRY

Tom O'Connell,
Joe Morrissey,
John, Breda & Tim O'Riordan,
Sean Moher,
Tim & Mary Leader Ltd,
Larry, Jack & Annette Kearney,

FUTURE BEEF

Kay O'Sullivan,
Breda O'Sullivan & Ed Curtin,
Ger McSweeney,

DAIRY CALF TO BEEF

Pat Collins,

TILLAGE

Tom Barry,
Darren Allen,

Gurteen Farm, Gurteen, Inniscarra
Rostellan, Midleton
Monee, Mourneabbey
Croghmore, Mitchelstown
Glenleigh Upper, Rathcoole
Barnahash, Rathcormac

Glynn, Mourneabbey
Banane, Rowels, Meelin, Newmarket
Toorenbawn, Millstreet

Dower, Castlemartyr

Monanimy, Killavullen
Ballymaloe, Farm, Shanagarry.

Midleton

Teagasc,
Knockgriffin,
Midleton,
Co. Cork
P25 XW72

T: (021) 463 1898

REGIONAL REVIEW

TEAGASC CORK EAST REGIONAL ANNUAL REVIEW 2021

Farming in the Region – Census of Agriculture 2020

The 2020 Census of Agriculture indicates that since the previous Census in 2010, the number of farms in County Cork has fallen by 3.64 % from 14,222 to 13,704.

The average farm size in County Cork has increased slightly by from 38.2 hectares to 38.7ha. Farming in Cork East is vital to the local circular economy in our many towns and villages. It supports a large number of jobs and upstream and downstream industries in the region.

Census Data shows the average age of the farm holder is Cork 55. The average agricultural area per farm is 38.7 Ha. It also shows that 14% of farm holders are female.

Dairy farming is a critical enterprise in the region with almost 1,700 dairy clients and 241,371 cows involved. Beef and sheep are also very important with the suckler to weanling enterprise the pre-dominant beef enterprise along with lowland sheep being the predominant sheep enterprise. Tillage is prevalent in the eastern part of Cork East region while pigs, poultry, forestry and horticulture play a smaller but not insignificant role in the agri sector.

Mission

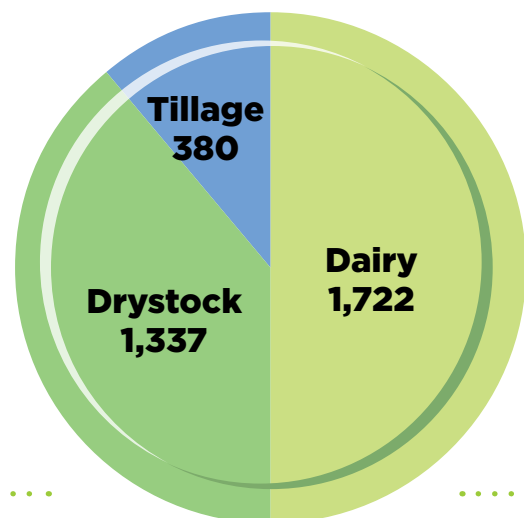
To provide scientific leadership and support to Irish farmers and food companies in achieving a sustainable food system.

Vision

'For Teagasc to be a globally recognised leader in developing innovative science based solutions for the sustainable transformation of our land resources into products and services for the benefits of society'.

COVID restrictions limited face to face contact with farmer clients for much of 2021 but great progress was made with group meetings and farm visits once restrictions were lifted. 2022 will see a return to public farm walks in dairy, beef and sheep and seminars applicable to all sectors throughout the year.

TOTAL CLIENT EAST CORK 3,439



Our Values

'Teagasc seeks to be professional, responsive, efficient, innovative, accountable, independent and scientifically excellent in carrying out its functions.'

FARM ENTERPRISE TYPES



241,371
DAIRY COWS



417,317
BEEF CATTLES



114,305
SHEEP



35,423Ha
TILLAGE

TEAGASC CORK EAST REGIONAL ADVISORY TEAM

Teagasc Regional Network Offices

Teagasc is the national body providing integrated research, advisory and training services to the agriculture and food industry and rural communities. The overall goal of the Teagasc Advisory Programme is to support the on-going development of sustainable family farms in Ireland, through efficient and effective knowledge transfer (KT) activities. The programme currently supports almost 140,000 individual farmers with 42,000 farmers contracted to Teagasc for services annually.

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Dairy Enterprise

Of the over 1.5 million Dairy cows in the country almost 30% are located in County Cork. CSO 2020 figures show that County Cork also has the highest level of specialist Dairy farms also at almost 30%.

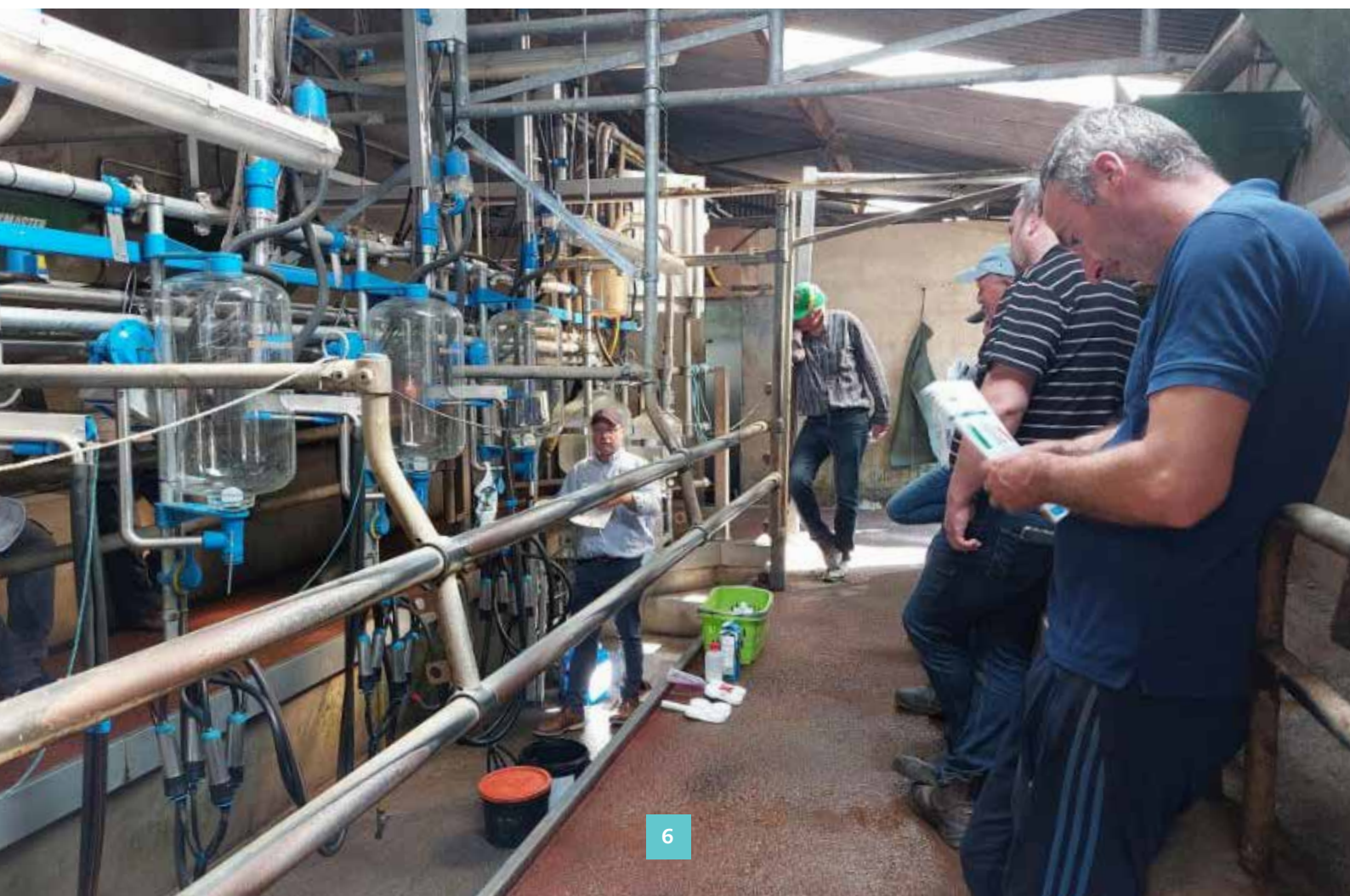
Cork East has approx. 55% of the Cork Dairy herds (2232) and Dairy client numbers are 1722. Advisory staffing in the region is reflected in this with 11.5 Dairy Advisors + 3 Advisors in Joint Programme. 50% of Cork East Clients have Dairying as their main enterprise. Stocking rates on these farms is reflected in the high percentage i.e approx 48% of Dairy clients who are derogation farms. These 850 farmers in derogation rely on intensive support from Teagasc Advisers to comply with detailed regulations.

2021 was a good year for dairying. The average dairy farm income is estimated at €94,000, a 28% increase on the 2020 average. This increase was underpinned by a number of factors including generally good grass growing conditions, increased milk yield per cow and an increase in the price paid for milk



However some increases in production costs were also observed including feed and fertiliser costs which increased by 16% and 10% respectively. Currently the 'typical Irish dairy farm' has a herd size, a stocking rate and an average farm size of 83 cows, 2.05 LU/ha and 60 ha respectively.

Assuming that normal weather conditions prevail in 2022, forecasts for the dairy sector indicate a decline in average farm income to approximately €80,000 despite an expected milk price of 40.6 c/L for the year. This decline is driven by a 13% increase in production costs. Further price rises of 6% and 120% are forecast for feed and fertiliser. A forecasted decline in the quantity of fertiliser used will be partly balanced for by an increase in the quantity of concentrate fed in the coming year.





241,371

TOTAL COW NUMBERS

AVERAGE DAIRY HERDS **2,232**

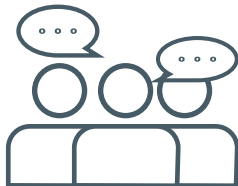
95 COWS AVERAGE HERD SIZE

1,722 DAIRY CLIENTS

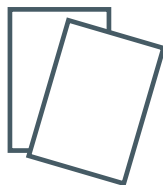


13.5 DAIRY ADVISORS

52 DISCUSSION GROUPS



850 DEROGATION PLANS



4 JOINT PROGRAMMES

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to acknowledge the valuable information provided by and co-operation of:

- Census of Agriculture 2020 CSO Office
- Teagasc National Farm Survey
- DAFM

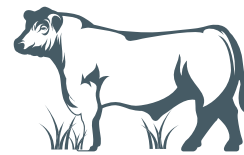


Beef Enterprise

Beef enterprises in the region can be characterised as diverse and dynamic systems. Main systems are: Suckler calf-to-beef, dairy calf to beef, weanling/store to beef.

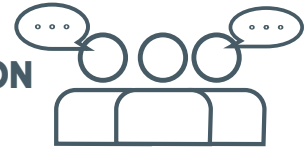
There are 1718 suckler herds with a total of 33,081 cows in the region. Total 'other' cattle numbers total are 230,404 reflecting the diversity of cattle systems in the region. A key development for the region in 2021 was the focus on the Dairy calf to beef systems. There are 2 Grass 10 groups operating in the region with the key aim of supporting the sustainability and viability of Cattle farms. There are 6.5 Advisors in the region supporting 1305 clients.

2021 on beef farms was characterised by a year of rising beef and mart prices but also increasing costs. Weanling and store live prices rose by an average of 8% and 9% per Kg respectively with beef carcass prices 12% higher than in 2020. Total costs rose by an average of 8% due especially to increases in feed (+20%), fertiliser(+7%) and energy costs (+16%).



33,081
SUCKLER COWS
AND 1,718 HERDS

16 BEEF
DISCUSSION
GROUPS



6.5 DRY STOCK
ADVISORS

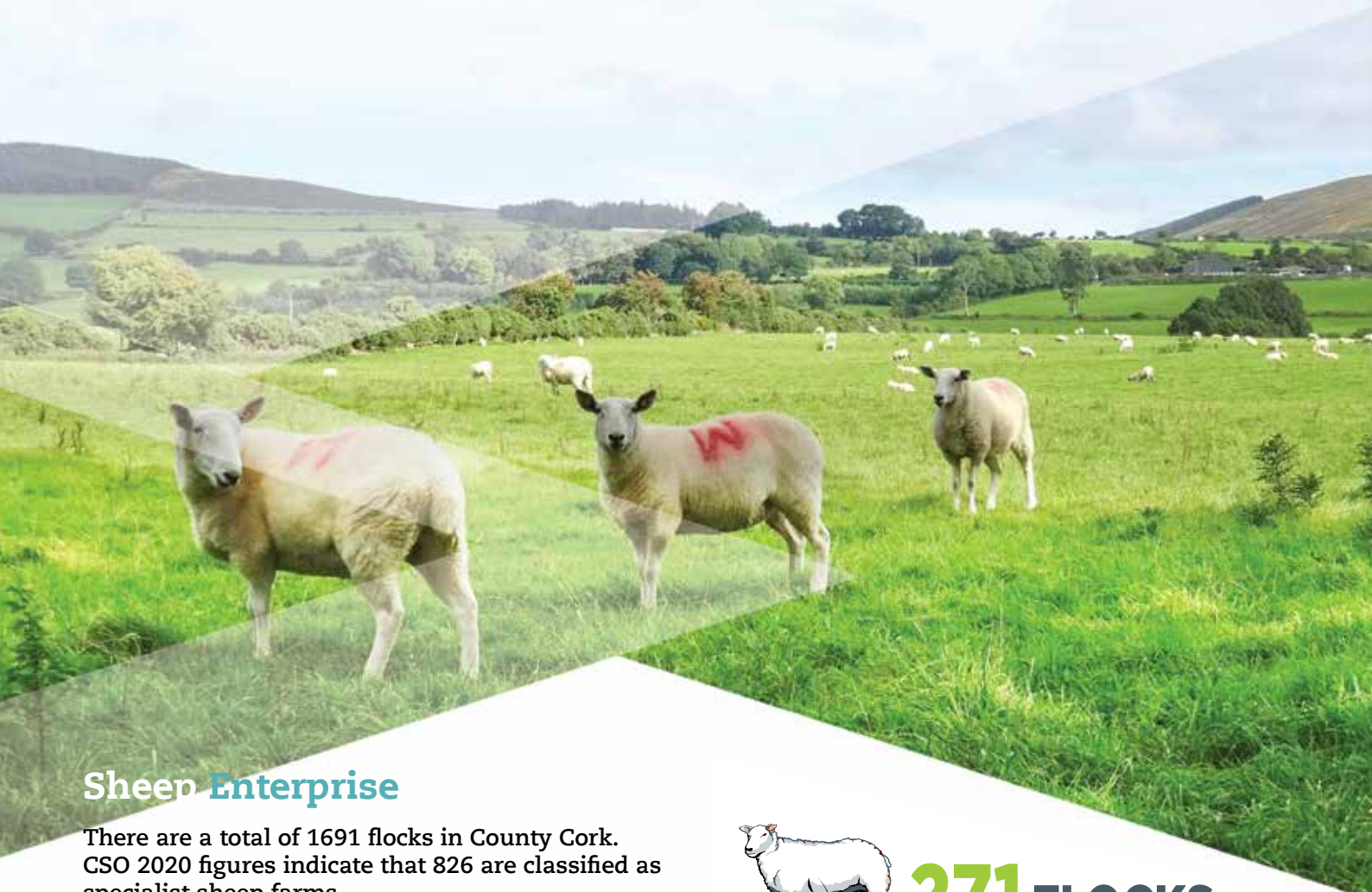
**SIGNPOST
FARMS**

**1 DAIRY BEEF
500 FARM
3 FUTURE
BEEF FARMS**

Gross Margin per hectare on cattle rearing farms rose by 5% with a very small increase in net margin per hectare. Gross margin per hectare on cattle finishing farms rose by 10% with a modest increase in net margin per ha. (+€72). Total numbers of cattle slaughtered dropped by approximately 90,000 head in 2021 and live exports reduced by over 12,000 head. The number of calves born to the suckler herd dropped by 1% compared to 2020.

It is expected that there will be a further 12% increase in expenditure costs in 2022 on Irish beef farms driven again by increased fertiliser, feed and fuel costs. Beef prices are not expected to change significantly in 2022 due to current high global beef prices, a limit on EU imports due to high shipping costs and an overall drop in beef production within the EU. Numbers for slaughter in the first half of the year are not expected to exceed 2021 levels but there may be increased cattle slaughtering's in the back end due to an expected higher availability of prime cattle numbers as the year progresses. With rising input costs and no expected increase in annual average beef prices, margins on beef farms are likely to reduce in 2022 compared to 2021.





Sheep Enterprise

There are a total of 1691 flocks in County Cork. CSO 2020 figures indicate that 826 are classified as specialist sheep farms.

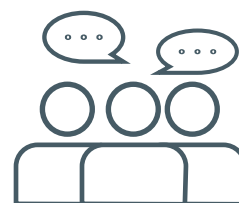
Within Cork East there are 271 flocks with a total of 114,305 sheep. Ewe numbers in the region are 29,641. 2 Drystock advisors have responsibility for leading the sheep programme, supported by the National Specialist and Research teams. There are 2 sheep discussion groups in the region.

Irish lamb prices in 2021 are estimated to have increased in the order of 30% on the previous year, according to National Farm Survey (NFS) data, with record high prices being maintained right throughout the year. However, total costs also increased by around 20% resulting in an estimated 26% average increase in gross margin on mid-season lowland sheep systems.



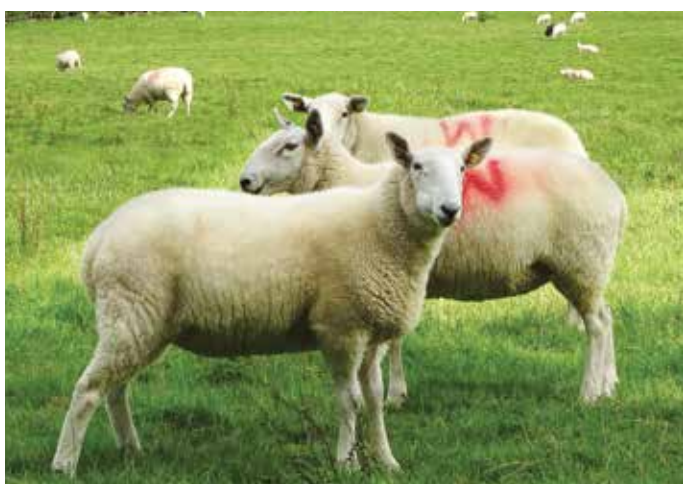
271 FLOCKS
114,305 SHEEP

2 DISCUSSION GROUPS



In particular, the cost of concentrate feed for sheep increased by 40% in 2021 due to a combination of an increase in the concentrate price coupled with a significant increase in the volume being fed at farm level. The indications are that lamb prices are set to remain strong, albeit with a modest price decrease of an estimated 5% below the record 2021 levels.

However, with much higher production costs in 2022, in particular feed and fertiliser, gross margins are expected to fall by around 15% below 2021. It is likely that with fertiliser prices up by 120% the response will be to reduce the level of fertiliser used in an effort to offset some of the rise in production costs. If reduced fertiliser usage leads to a fall in grass production, this can in turn lead to an increase in the use of concentrate feed.



Cereal Enterprises

There are 1439 tillage farms (of whom 800 are specialised tillage) in County Cork over a total of 35,423 Ha. Barley is the largest area at 29K ha, wheat at 4k ha and Oats at 2.4K Ha.

The Tillage Advisory programme in Cork East is delivered to 380 tillage clients by a total of 1.4 tillage advisors. Key activities include discussion groups and webinars. Public crop walks at the DAFM cereal test station at Ballyderown, Kilworth are led by the local Advisors with the support for the Tillage specialist and research teams from Oakpark. Interaction with industry and trade is extremely successful through the series of public events.

Key programmes include:

- ECT Project (Enable conservation tillage). Rob Coleman Castlemagner
- Teagasc Dairygold Joint programme: malting barley, protein crops & sustainability
- Sigpost farms: Tom Barry, Killavullen and Darren Allen, Shanagarry



Potato Sector County Cork

Average area of maincrop potatoes is approx. 600ha. Area for seed potato production is insignificant with a small amount of earlies for early market. Like most counties market is dominated by the variety Rooster.

2021 was a good year for tillage farming. Despite the cold first half of the year there was adequate plant stands, moisture and sunshine to give high yields. Good weather at harvest allowed all crops to be saved in good condition and the excellent prices increased margins of all crops. The average gross margins increased by 90% compared to 2020. This resulted in a predicted net margins increase of €525 per hectare compared to 2020.

There are significant challenges for 2022 with nitrogen fertiliser prices close to three times the cost in 2020. However this cost is somewhat offset by the continued buoyant prices for cereals at the moment. There is a little scope to reduce nitrogen inputs in 2022, with research showing that savings of between 25-35 kg of nitrogen per hectare will result in a minimal loss of yield and increased margins.

Rapid incorporation of imported cattle or pig slurry may be an option to help reduce fertiliser costs on some farms. In 2022 where yields return to normal and factoring in increased costs of 35%, average margins for cereals are predicted to fall to €260 per hectare.

County Cork	2018	2019	2020	2021
Potatoes– Early	78.76	69.96	66.49	47.33
Potatoes– Maincrop	504.59	632.31	624.70	643.78
Potatoes– Seed	0.3	14.8	0.2	5.48

Sign Post Programme

The Signpost programme is a multi-annual campaign to lead climate action by all Irish farmers, and achieve early progress in reducing gaseous emissions from Irish agriculture while also improving water quality, maintaining and in some cases improving biodiversity, reducing costs and creating more profitable and sustainable farming enterprises.

It will also act as a test bed for on-farm carbon sequestration measurements so that this can in time be taken into account by the EPA in the national Greenhouse Gas inventory. It is a collaborative programme led by Teagasc and including all relevant industry partners and state bodies such as Bord Bia.



The programme is well resourced within the region and supported by the joint programmes associated with the majority of the farms. Each of the offices is linked to at least one of the Signpost farms, all main enterprises are catered for and are supported by the Advisors

in each location and by the ASSAP Advisor. Each farm is used for public events, discussion group visits and on-farm adoption and demonstration of the key technologies required to address industry emission targets.

There are 12 signpost farms in the region. The Signpost farms have a critical role to play in delivering the climate message to farmers in the Region.

DAIRY

Tom O'Connell,
Joe Morrissey,
John, Breda & Tim O'Riordan,
Sean Moher,
Tim & Mary Leader Ltd,
Larry, Jack & Annette Kearney

Gurteen Farm, Gurteen, Inniscarra
Rostellan, Middleton
Monee, Mourneabbey
Crogmore, Mitchelstown
Glenleigh Upper, Rathcoole
Barnahash, Rathcormac

FUTURE BEEF

Kay O'Sullivan,
Breda O'Sullivan & Ed Curtin
Ger McSweeney,

Glynn, Mourneabbey
Banane, Rowels, Meelin, Newmarket
Tooreenbawn, Millstreet

DAIRY CALF TO BEEF

Pat Collins,

Dower, Castlemartyr

TILLAGE

Tom Barry,
Darren Allen,

Monanimy, Killavullen
Ballymaloe, Farm, Shanagarry.

ASSAP Water Quality

There is one ASSAP advisor in the region on the Teagasc Staff. Dairygold Co-op have ASSAP Advisors that deal directly with their milk suppliers in our region. Priority areas for action (PAAs) have been selected for the targeted campaign aimed at improving water quality in certain catchments.

There are 8 active PAAs where farm assessments are ongoing: Owentaraglin, Allow, Upper Deel, Farahy, Ogeen, Awbeg, Martin and Upper Funshion In addition we are dealing with MCPA issues as they arise in terms of an education programme for farmers regarding water quality.

Climate change

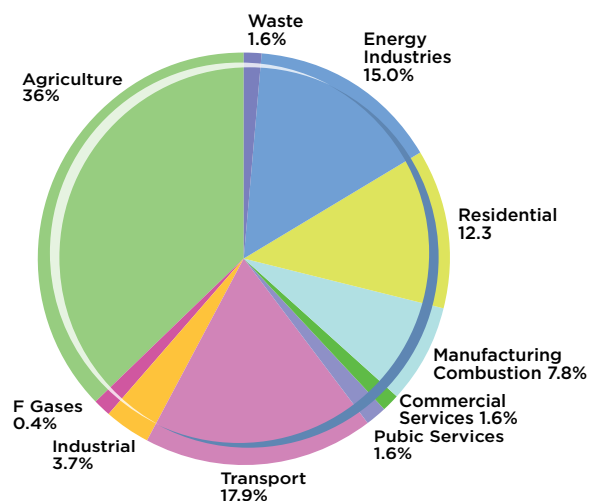
Climate change is one of the biggest challenges facing farmers over the next decade. Agriculture accounts for 36% of GHG emissions in Ireland.

Ambitious targets have been set for Irish Agriculture between now and 2030 to reduce GHG emissions by between 22-30%. Teagasc have designed the Marginal Abatement Cost Curve (MACC) roadmap to help farmers achieve this target but the various components require immediate adoption by farmers. The purpose of the Signpost Programme is to identify and demonstrate to farmers locally, the measures farmers need to adapt now to assist Irish Agriculture reach these targets. Each of the 12 Signpost farms has an associated advisor supported by national specialist advisors from the programme.



In addition to the GHG issues, there are also water quality issues and targets to be met. Priority areas for action have been selected for a targeted campaign aimed at improving water quality in certain catchments. The ASSAP advisory service is free in these areas.

Figure 1: Profile of GHG Emissions 2020



Agricultural Education

Education- There are 2 education classes on going in the region- one part time and one distance education. Typical group sizes are 30-40 learners and they meet all of our enterprise advisors during the delivery of the Modules.

Practical skills within the modules are delivered and assessed in conjunction with our colleagues in Clonakilty Agricultural College. Discussion group meetings are facilitated by regional staff on Benchmark farms. A new Distance Learning Course is scheduled to start in October and the link to the on line application is available on the Public Site.



Business as usual as the part time students visited Benchmark farm for Farm Performance Measurement Module during 2021



37 + 30

**DISTANCE
LEARNING
STUDENTS**

**PART
TIME
STUDENTS**



**THERE ARE
2 STAFF FTE'S INVOLVED
IN COORDINATING
THESE COURSES**



**TEAGASC
PROMOTES
FARM HEALTH
AND SAFETY**



**PRACTICAL
SKILLS
TRAINING PROGRAMMES
INCREASE**



Farm Management

The Farm Management Department provide a range of supports to advisors, specialists and clients when completing specific tasks for their clients. The work is not enterprise specific, but the work is primarily focussed on key areas, which include:

- 3500 BPS Applications
- Financial Efficiency of the farm business using the Teagasc Profit Monitor analysis.
- Farm Planning
- Certification of Business Plans for Government Tax reliefs. (851 certificates issued in 2021)
- Farm Succession (online public events (2 events attended by 1500) and advisor support with clients)
- Basic Payment Application form completion support
- Collaborative Farming support and promotion on collaborative farming methods (for example; Registered Farm Partnerships (RFP), Contract Rearing and Share Farming) There were 441 new RFP applications in 2021 with 3465 RFP's now on the register.
- Buildings design support and the associated grant aid scheme (TAMS) support.

In 2021 a major upgrade of the Teagasc Profit Monitor analysis software was completed, so that a more detailed analysis of farm business will be carried out. The new programme is available now for 2021 analysis. This is the starting point in making Budgets and plans for the future. Farmers often make large investment decisions, which need design and funding, so continued support will be provided in this area in 2022. Last year out of 50,233 clients advisors completed some 43,000 Basic Payment Scheme applications, and this will continue, as the scheme is such an important source of income for Irish farmers.

Farm Succession is a challenge with the age profile of Irish farmers, and supporting families to make important decisions on this topic while keeping farms viable will continue to be prioritised in 2022. In many situations Collaborative farming methods have become part of both succession and development plans, this work will continue to be supported and developed across the organisation with help from this unit. A new CAP will commence in 2023, so in 2022 advisors will be supported in helping our clients to prepare for the new challenges ahead so that the CAP targets can be achieved while helping clients maximise support payments.

Forestry

The area of forest is estimated to be 770,020 ha or 11% of the total land area of Ireland (National Forest Inventory 2017).

Of the total forest area, 391,357 ha or 50.8% is in public ownership, mainly Coillte. County Cork had 90,020 Ha of forestry in the 2017 survey which is 12.1% of the total land area.

The evolving Irish forest sector is highly important to rural economies and at a national level. There are now 390,000 hectares of private forests. Since 1980, almost 19,000 farmers have received support to establish new forests. Many private forests are approaching maturity and the forecasted net realisable timber volume is 1.74 million cubic metres (m3) for 2022, up from 1.46 million m3 in 2021. The mobilisation of this important resource represents both a challenge and an excellent opportunity.

New planting in 2021 will be about 2,000 ha, down from 2,434 ha in 2020. The challenge is to sustainably increase planting levels to approach national targets set at 8,000 ha. The Climate Action Plan 2021 describes afforestation as the 'single largest land-based climate change mitigation measure available to Ireland'. Forest creation, well planned and executed, can also enhance biodiversity, improve water quality, provide shade and shelter for farm animals and amenity opportunities. DAFM's Afforestation Grant and Premium scheme supports planting through afforestation grants and annual premium support. Annual premiums are paid for 15 years and typically range €510 to €680/ha. New forests may also be eligible for Basic Payment.



2,000 Ha in 2021/
GPC FROM €510 -€680 PER HA FOR 15 YEARS
€446M EXPORT VALUE
€34-40,000 PER HECTARE STANDING PRICE

Forestry Development Officer based in Mallow office with a broad diversity of activities to support forest owners, stakeholders and Advisors.

- 3 online afforestation workshops (av. 110 attendees)
- Support local education programme
- Virtual forest walk – management of young forests (54 attendees)
- 3 Ha woodland for water project at Moorepark (in association with ASSAP)
- Project with Cork C.C /Climate action Office – woodland creation on public
- Community project: Grow your Future in conjunction with 3 mallow schools (1,000 trees planted)

Pigs

There are 16 commercial pig farms in Cork East with an average herd size of 990 sows and six commercial finisher farms.

The Irish pig sector is the third most important agricultural enterprise in Ireland after milk and beef, accounting for 8% of GAO and employing 8,500 people. There are 280 commercial pig farms comprising 200 sow breeding/integrated farms with an average herd size of 700 sows and 80 specialised finisher farms, with a national output of 3.9 million pigs. The sector enjoyed a buoyant period of profitability in 2019 and 2020, with export value reaching almost €1 billion in 2020. Unfortunately higher feed ingredient prices and a lower international pigmeat demand reduced the sector's profitability in 2021. The prices of the main pig feed ingredients increased in Q3 and Q4 in 2021.

The annual average feed cost in 2021 was 118 cent per kg dead weight. That is 9 percent higher than the 2020 and 5 year average of 109 cent per kg dead weight. At 159 cent per kg dead weight, the 2021 Irish pig price was significantly lower than the 174 cent per kg average for 2020. This decrease was primarily attributed to the lower volumes of Irish pigmeat exports to China. This price of 159 cent per kg dead weight is marginally lower the five year average (2017-2021) of 161 cent per kg dead weight.



**16 COMMERCIAL
PIG FARMS**
990 AVERAGE HERD SIZE
6 FINISHER FARMS



AVERAGE FEED COST
2021 118C PER KG DEAD WEIGHT
/5 YEAR AVERAGE IS 109C
PER KG DEAD WEIGHT
/2021 MARGIN OVER FEED
WAS 41C PER KG DEAD WEIGHT

The 2021 'Margin Over Feed' (MOF) per kg was 41 cent/kg dead weight. During 2021 the monthly MOF reached a peak at 53c/kg in May and then gradually decreased to 19c/kg dead weight in December. The volume of Irish pigs slaughtered increased marginally to 3.93m in 2021, which was an increase of 0.1m pigs on the 2020 level. In 2021, of the 3.93m pigs of Irish origin that were slaughtered, 0.43m were slaughtered in Northern Ireland, down on 2020. The average Irish slaughter weight continued to trend upward in 2021, with an estimated average sale weight of 116 kg. This is an increase of 13 kg since 2010. While the key immediate challenge for producers is profitability there are some other significant health (reducing the use of antibiotics and a ban on the use of Zinc Oxide as a feed additive) and welfare (rearing pigs with intact tails) challenges. While the carbon footprint of pig production is low, there is an onus on producers to try reduce it further via improved sustainable pig production.



Rural Enterprise

Options Programme

The Teagasc Options for Farm Families Programme is designed to:

- Provide new thinking
- Generate new ideas
- Generate additional income on and off farm

The programme typically consists of a series of workshops covering a wide range of topics. During Covid-19 restrictions, the programme was presented through a series of online webinars. We held a one hour live webinar where a number of local panellists discussed the diversified farm businesses that they had set up. The national and international audience typically exceeded 100 attendees at each webinar, and the recordings were published online afterwards for viewing by others who wished to do so.

The panellists gave short presentations for the first half of the webinar and a question and answers session was held for the second half, where the live audience could send in questions for the speakers.

The Cork East Options webinar for 2021 is available at the following link: <https://www.teagasc.ie/publications/2021/farm-business-options-webinar---award-winning-potato-cheese-and-pet-farm-enterprises-in-co-cork.php>

Organic Farming

Cork, as Ireland's largest county with the highest overall number farmers, also has the most organic farms and total organic hectares.

There are almost 200 farms signed up to the OFS in Cork, farming some 9,000ha organically.

The next closest county is Roscommon with 170 farms farming 7,500 organic hectares.

The Irish Organic Retail market is worth €162 million with a further €44 million generated by direct sales. The market for organic food in Ireland grew by 10.5% in 2017.15

The Cork East Region is well represented in the Signpost Programme by Organic Farmer Kay O'Sullivan, Garrynagearagh, Mourneabbey, Mallow, Co.Cork.

Kay runs a spring calving suckler to store/beef system along with a lowland ewe system. There are currently 25 cows, 11 heifers & 75 ewes. The cows are all bred to 100% AI, typically to pedigree Angus bulls.

Selected paddocks are reseeded on the farm each year. For the past 2 years herbs & chicory are also included in the mix for reseeding





Horticulture

Horticulture production in Ireland only uses 0.5% of available agricultural land yet is worth over €360m per annum at the farm gate.

It is a sector more dependent on high levels of capital investment and high-value crop production under glasshouses and protected structures.

On/off Farm Diversification/Energy & Renewables

The 2021 Farm Business Options webinars provided an innovative channel to communicate farm business messages to farm families.

The Teagasc and Local enterprise Office (Roscommon) **Farm Business** pilot in March 2022 will provide a template to run similar collaborative events throughout the Teagasc regions. These six night courses will focus on Business planning, taxation, marketing and new product development. The AgroFossilFree Horizon 2020 project commenced and led to the development of an Agri-Platform for fossil free technologies across Europe.

Presentations at various online webinars on Energy and the RDS Renewables in Agriculture stakeholder event provided up to date information on Energy & Renewables. In 2022, the Energy and Farm Business Show is set to bring an incredible day full of unmissable insights into the latest revolutionary products transforming the industry!

The market for organic food in Ireland grew by 10.5% in 2017.15 This mirrors a growing trend right across Europe and underlines the opportunities for increased production of organic food products. Funding for the 2022 Organic Farming Scheme (OFS) is up €21 million from the €16 million 2021 allocation, allowing for the opening of the OFS for new entrants in 2022.

Equine Enterprise

2021 was an excellent with a record number of five figure sale returns at public auctions, improvements in online marketing was reflected in prices received.

However rising input and production costs emphasise the need to produce quality animals as sustainably as possible. The equine advisory team provides support across breeding/production, husbandry, sustainability and income generation, all of which were covered in the Let's Talk Equine Webinar series on the first Tuesday of the month. New initiatives in 2021 included the re-establishment of equine newsletters, a photo competition highlighting equines and biodiversity will be sustained in 2022, along with an Equine Health Campaign and sustainability topics relevant to equine. The specialist team is also now supported by 12 equine contact advisors across the country to provide local equine support.

Media and Social Media...

Cork East has a long tradition of media presence within the county through the traditional platforms of radio and print.

Digital media, in particular social media platforms, came to the fore at the start of the COVID-19 era. This method of interaction with our clients and the general public is now mainstream with almost daily publications on Facebook, Instagram and Youtube. COVID adaptations to knowledge transfer to clients and discussion groups/Grass 10 groups was facilitated over Zoom (progressed from Lync). Webinars and the huge volume of derogation courses were all successfully run via Zoom. Whatsapp groups of advisors and discussion groups have added an extra dimension to maintain excellent links amongst colleagues and with clients

Communication Content

Articles

2/Month
Today's Farm/
DG Milk Matters
2/Month
6/year
Daily

Radio Interviews

Webinars

Social Media Posts

Communication Media

Regional Webpage

Social Media.....

Puca

Whatsapp

Updated Weekly
FB/ Twitter/ You Tube
1-2 Texts per Week



WEBINARS

VIRTUAL
FARM WALKS



50

NEWSPAPER
ARTICLES

24

MONTHLY
NEWSLETTERS



26 x NO.
RADIO
INTERVIEWS

1,700
FACEBOOK
FOLLOWERS



The benefits of being a Teagasc client

Clients have access to Teagasc advisors by phone, arranged on-farm visits, discussion groups etc. Teagasc regional offices are also in regular contact with clients via text and other media about deadlines and other urgent messages.

Teagasc clients receive technical newsletters, tailored to their enterprise mix, ten times per year through the post. In addition the Teagasc magazine **Today's Farm** is also delivered to clients six times per year.

The advice provided by Teagasc regional staff is underpinned by four research programmes

- Crops, Environment and Land Use
- Food
- Rural Economy and Development
- Animal and Grassland Research and Innovation

The Teagasc annual research portfolio comprises some 300 research projects, carried out by 500 scientific and technical staff in our research centres throughout Ireland. In addition to the education officers in each region Teagasc education offers a wide range of agricultural, horticultural, equine and other courses at four Teagasc colleges and works closely with three private colleges.

How do you become a Teagasc client?

Contact your local Teagasc office



AGRICULTURE AND FOOD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
www.teagasc.ie

