

REGIONAL REVIEW

TEAGASC KERRY LIMERICK REGIONAL ANNUAL REVIEW 2021



227,000
DAIRY COWS



512,000
SHEEP



580,000
BEEF & SUCKLING

Average Age
of farmers

57 yrs

Average
Farm Size

36 Ha

13.5%
of Farm Holders
are Female

Welcome

Welcome to the Teagasc Kerry Limerick Regional Annual Review. This short report summarises the advisory and education activities of Teagasc in Kerry Limerick during 2021 and the main farm enterprises in the region which we deal with.

I would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the Teagasc advisory, education and administration staff in the Kerry Limerick region, especially during the COVID pandemic. I also commend our stakeholders in the region for their ongoing support, in particular the farmers in the region, the Co-op's, (Kerry Agribusiness, North Cork Co-op and Dairygold) all the farm organisations and the many other businesses including solicitors, accountants, banks, LAWPRO, Kerry County Council, Limerick County Council, DAFM, Leader Groups and Partnerships with whom we interact each year.

Majella Moloney
Teagasc Regional
Manager Kerry Limerick

KERRY/LIMERICK REGION ADVISORY OFFICES

The map below shows our eight Advisory Offices: Kilmallock, Newcastle West, Listowel, Tralee, Killarney, Cahersiveen, Dingle and Kenmare. Also shown are the locations of the 9 Signpost farms in the Region

A total of 9 Signpost farms have been identified for the Region:

1. Tomas O'Leary – Sheep
2. John Joe Fitzgerald- Sheep
3. William Dennehy- Dairy (Kerry Agribusiness)
4. Joe Carroll – Dairy (Kerry Agribusiness)
5. Patrick O'Hanlon – Dairy (Kerry Agribusiness)
6. Gerry and Niall Moloney – Dairy (Kerry Agribusiness)
7. Michael and Alex McCarthy – Dairy (Kerry Agribusiness)
8. Ciaran Bartley – Dairy Beef 500
9. Sean Barry – Dairy (Dairygold)



www.teagasc.ie/signpost



CAHERSIVEEN

The Courthouse,
New Market St,
Carhan Lower,
Cahersiveen,
Co. Kerry

Tel: (066) 947 2452

KENMARE

The Court
House
Kenmare.

Tel: 064 - 6641275.

KILLARNEY

Cleeney
Roundabout,
Derreen,
Killarney,
Co. Kerry.

Tel: (064) 663 2344

DINGLE

Dingle Hub,
Pairc Ghno
Cuilin,
Dingle

Tel: 066 7125077.

TRALEE

Austin Stack
Park, Teagasc,
The Pavilion,
Tralee, Co. Kerry,
V92 VOHT

Tel: (066) 712 5077

LISTOWEL

Clieveragh,
Listowel,
Co. Kerry

Tel: (068) 21266

KILMALLOCK

Gortboy,
Kilmallock,
Co. Limerick

Tel: (063) 98039

REGIONAL REVIEW

TEAGASC KERRY LIMERICK REGIONAL ANNUAL REVIEW 2021

Farming in the Region - Census of Agriculture 2020 and ICBF Data 2021

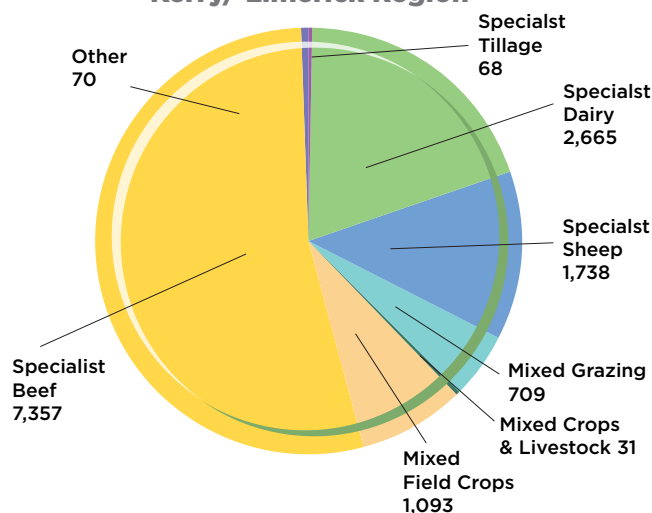
The 2020 Census of Agriculture indicates that the number of farms in Region has fallen by 3.87 % from 14,394 to 13,837 since the previous census in 2010. In addition the average farm size in region has increased by 4.52 % from 34.25 hectares to 35.8 hectares. Farming in the Kerry Limerick region is vital to the local circular economy in our many towns and villages. It supports a large number of jobs and businesses in the region.

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

Average Age 56.6 Yrs +19% Dairy cows change since 2017
Average farm Size 36Ha -18% Suckler cows change since 2017

Dairy farming is a very significant enterprise with almost 2,700 dairy farmers and 227,000 cows involved in the region. Beef and sheep are also very important with the suckler and weanling enterprise the predominant beef enterprise. Tillage occurs in North Kerry and Mid Limerick, while pigs, poultry, forestry and horticulture play a smaller but not insignificant role in the agri sector.

**Farm Type
Kerry/ Limerick Region**



FARM ENTERPRISE TYPES



227,000
DAIRY COWS
2,700 FARMS



580,000
BEEF AND SUCKLING
7,400 FARMS



512,000
SHEEP
1,740 FARMS

KERRY/LIMERICK REGION ADVISORY TEAMS

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.

Kilmallock Office (Tel: 063 98039)

Majella Moloney,
Regional Manager

Ann Morris,
Regional Staff Officer

Adrian Bourke,
Business & Technology Advisor - Dairy

Eoin Horgan,
Business & Technology Advisor - Dairy

Padraig Fogarty,
Business & Technology Advisor - Dairy

Aileen Walsh,
Business & Technology Advisor - Drystock

Pat Blackwell
Business & Technology Advisor - Drystock

Padraig Fitzgerald,
ASSAP Advisor

Paddy Murphy,
Education Officer

Breda Gleeson,
Administration

Josephine O'Leary,
Administration

Newcastlewest Office (069) 61444

Tim Doody,
Business & Technology Advisor - Dairy

Tom O'Connor,
Business & Technology Advisor - Dairy

Shane Randles,
Business & Technology Advisor - Dairy

Kevin Fitzgerald,
Business & Technology Advisor - Drystock

John Paul Lenihan, Business & Technology Advisor - Drystock

Margaret M. O'Brien, Administration

Killarney Office (064) 6632344

Ger Courtney,
Business & Technology Advisor - Dairy

Ger O'Sullivan,
Business & Technology Advisor - Dairy

Kevin Stagg,
Business & Technology Advisor - Dairy

Matt O'Sullivan,
Business & Technology Adviser - Drystock

Kevin O'Sullivan,
ASSAP Advisor

Stephen Flattery,
Education Officer

Caroline Flaherty,
Administration

Tom Houlihan,
Forestry Specialist



Right: Teagasc ASSAP advisor Padraig Fitzgerald speaking at a farm walk on the farm of Gerry and Niall Moloney, Crecora, Co Limerick.

Listowel Office (068) 21266

John McCarthy,
Business & Technology Advisor - Dairy

Claire McAuliffe,
Business & Technology Advisor - Dairy

Meabh Dore,
Business & Technology Advisor - Dairy

Robert Prendiville,
Business & Technology Advisor - Dairy

David Trant,
Business & Technology Advisor - Drystock

James Lyons,
Business & Technology Advisor - Drystock

Louise Keane,
Administration

Tralee Office (066)7125077

Denis Brassil,
Business & Technology Advisor - Dairy

Noreen O'Donovan,
Business & Technology Advisor - Dairy

Eamonn Dempsey,
Business & Technology Advisor - Drystock

Meadhbh Johnston,
Business & Technology Advisor - Drystock

Eugene O'Doherty,
Business & Technology Advisor - Drystock

Sarah Collins,
Administration

Teagasc Mission, Vision and Values

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.

Our Values

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

Dairy Enterprise

Kerry Limerick is synonymous with good dairy farming due to the mild climate and long growing season allied with top quality fertile free draining soils. The region is a significant national producer of milk, with a dairy cow population of 227,000 cows.

The collaboration with the 3 joint programmes, Kerry Agribusiness, Dairygold and NCC in the region enables Teagasc Kerry Limerick to extend world class Teagasc Dairy research onto our Dairy farms.

Nationally 2021 was a good year for dairying. The average dairy farm income is estimated at €94,000, a 28% increase on the 2020 average. The increase was underpinned by a number of factors including 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.



National Dairy Conference in Kerry

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 respectively. A decline in the quantity of fertiliser used will be partly balanced for by an increase in the quantity of concentrate fed during the year.



Paddy Murphy
(Teagasc Education
Officer) welcoming
attendees to James
Flaherty's (Beef
Monitor Farm Walk)
Cordal, Castleisland,
Co. Kerry.



Farm Walk at Gerry
and Niall Moloney's
Crecora, Co. Limerick



Teagasc Dairy Advisors Denis Brassill (1st left) and Eoin Horgan (2nd right) at Once a Day farm walk on the Daly's Farm in Kerry.



2,700
FARMS

227,000

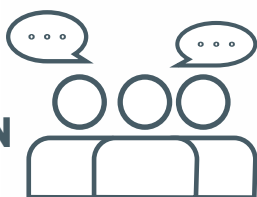
DAIRY COWS
AVERAGE FARM
SIZE **84 COWS**



15 ADVISORS



69 DISCUSSION
GROUPS



KERRY AGRIBUSINESS,
DAIRYGOLD AND
N.C.C. JOINT
PROGRAMMES

6 SIGNPOST
FARMS

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



Teagasc Once A Day Milking Farm walk.

Beef Enterprise

Beef farming is a significant farm enterprise in Kerry Limerick with the majority participating in the Suckler to Weanling enterprise.

The year 2021 was good year for beef prices. However, costs also rose during the past 12 months. Nationally 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 to rises in feed costs (+20%), fertiliser costs (+7%) and energy costs (+16%). Driven mainly by strong market prices, gross margin per hectare increased on both on cattle rearing farms (5%) and cattle finishing farms (10%). Both systems saw a modest increase in net margin per hectare. Total numbers of cattle slaughtered nationally 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.



Teagasc Advisor Eugene O'Doherty (2nd Right) at James Flaherty's Beef Monitor Farm Walk, Castleisland, Co. Kerry

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.

 **580,000**
BEEF & SUCKLING
3,000 SUCKLER FARMS

 **10** **DRYSTOCK ADVISORS**

12 **BEEF DISCUSSION GROUPS**


1 **SIGNPOST FARM**

1 DAIRY BEEF 500 FARM





Sheep Grassland Farmer of the Year Farm Walk attendees.

Sheep Enterprise

Sheep farming is also a significant enterprise in the region particularly in Co. Kerry. The region has 280,000 breeding ewes, which accounts for 10% of the national flock. Hill sheep farming is a major enterprise in the Dingle and Iveragh Peninsulas of south Kerry. There are 2,500 sheep flocks in Kerry totalling 480,000 sheep including 263,000 ewes.

Irish lamb prices increased by up to 30% in 2021 compared to 2020 according to National Farm Survey (NFS) data. Prices were very strong and remained so 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. 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.



Kevin O'Sullivan Teagasc Advisor (2nd left) together with Michael Gottstein Teagasc Head of Sheep (1st right) at the Sheep Grassland Farmer of the Year Walk.

The indications for 2022 are that lamb prices are set to remain strong, albeit with a modest price decrease, estimated at 5% below 2021 levels. However, with much higher input costs in 2022, in particular feed and fertiliser, gross margins are expected to fall by around 15%.

 **280,000 BREEDING EWES**

1,740 FARMS AVERAGE EWE NO'S **110**

 **2 SHEEP ADVISORS**

2 SIGNPOST FARMS

2 SHEEP BETTER FARM PROGRAMME FARMS



TEAGASC
ACTIVELY PROMOTES
WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE



Sheep Grassland Farmer of the Year Farm Walk.



Pat Murphy C.E.O. Primary Dairy & Agribusiness (Kerry Agribusiness) addresses the crowd on Sustainability issues at a recent Dairy Production farm walk in Co. Kerry. Also in picture (L to R) (Teagasc Advisors) John Paul Lenihan, Kevin O'Sullivan and Rob Prendiville.

A total of 9 Signpost farms have been identified for the Region:

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7. **Michael and Alex McCarthy – Dairy (Kerry Agribusiness)**
8. **Ciaran Bartley – Dairy Beef 500**
9. **Sean Barry – Dairy (Dairygold)**



Attendees at Teagasc Kerry Farm Walk

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.

The programme also involves the improvement of water quality, maintenance of water quality, and in some cases improving biodiversity, reduction of costs and creation of more profitable and sustainable farming enterprises.

The programme will also act as a test bed for on-farm carbon sequestration measurements so that sequestration can 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.

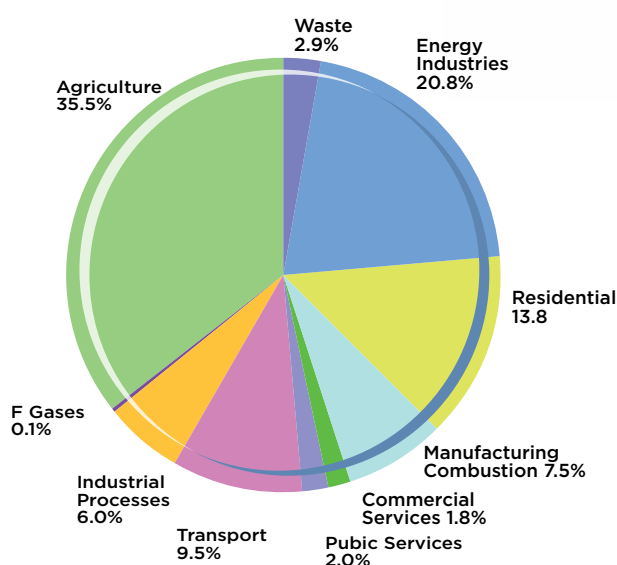


Climate change and Environment

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 adopt now to assist Irish Agriculture reach these targets. Each of the 9 Signpost farms has an associated advisor supported by national specialist advisors from the programme.

Figure 2: Profile of GHG Emissions 1990

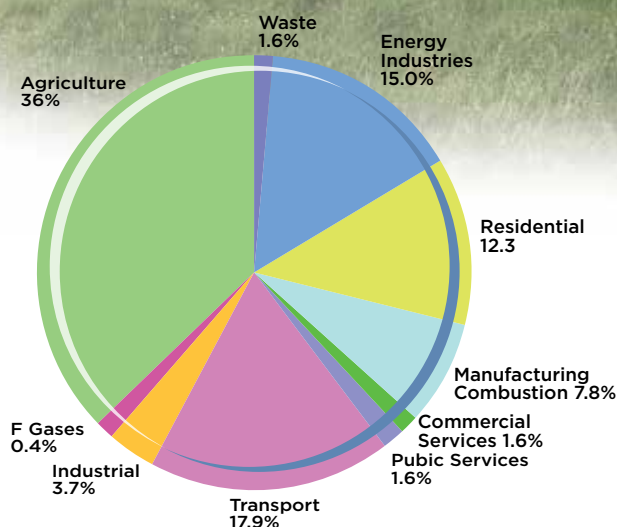


In addition to the GHG issues, there are also water quality issues and targets to be met. Priority Areas for Action (PAA) have been selected for a targeted campaign aimed at improving water quality in certain catchments. The ASSAP advisory service (Agricultural Sustainability Support and Advisor Programme) is providing a free service in these areas targeting an improvement in water quality.

Teagasc Kerry Limerick are significantly involved in both the planning of the Hen Harrier and the Pearl Mussel EIP programmes. Environmental schemes in the CAP are very important in Kerry Limerick especially in the Drystock sector. In the new CAP, the focus on the environment is increasing further with new schemes such as the AECM. (agri. environment climate measure) likely to be available shortly.



Figure 1: Profile of GHG Emissions 2020



Cereal Enterprises

Tillage farming has the least land area of all the enterprises accounting for less than 70 farms in the region.

Tillage is predominately located in the North Kerry and Mid Limerick areas of the region. 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 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.



Attendees at G.V.M. Mart Premises, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick viewing the Hoof Trimming demonstration.

Education

The QQI Level 5 and Level 6 (Part-Time and Distance Education) Certificate in Farming courses are delivered in the Kerry Limerick region. The Distance Education Course is delivered in collaboration with Salesian Agricultural College, Pallaskenry, Co. Limerick.

We have a team of advisors delivering modules on the Part-Time Certificate in Farming Course located in our Killarney Co. Kerry Education Centre. The region has a number of demonstration farms and also the use of the college facilities to deliver training and assessment in practical skills and discussion group requirements. Courses commence in the autumn on a 2 year rotation.



Hoof Trimming demonstration organised by Teagasc Advisor Eoin Horgan, held on the G.V.M. Mart Premises, Kilmallock.



Teagasc Head of Advisory Dermot McCarthy (1st Right) at the presentation of Green Certs to graduating students, Killarney, Co. Kerry.

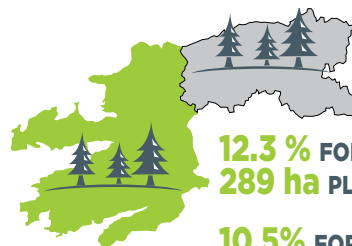


Teagasc Advisor Eamon Dempsey meeting a client at the Teagasc Dingle Office, located in the Dingle Hub.

Forestry

In County Kerry, Forestry accounts for approximately 12.3% of the land area (over 58,583ha), of which 38,740 is privately owned and 19,840 is publicly owned (Coillte). In 2020, a total of 289 hectares of new forest was established.

The number of individual owners that have afforested in Kerry since 1980 is 2,181. In County Limerick, Forestry accounts for approximately 10.5% of the land area (over 28,295ha), of which an estimated 18,315 is privately owned and 9,980 is publicly owned (Coillte). The number of individual owners that have afforested in Limerick since 1980 is 1,088.



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

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.

During 2021, the Teagasc Forestry Development Department was very active and continued to provide advisory, training and educational support to new and existing forest owners through a wide range of engagements.

These included comprehensive one-to-one advice and a range of local and national events such as forestry workshops, virtual forest walks, live broadcasts, timber marketing and wood use webinars, forest owner group support, on-site events and forestry input to agricultural education courses. An extensive range of events planned for 2022 can be viewed on the forestry section of the Teagasc website.

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 and is primarily focused on key areas, which include:

- Financial Efficiency of the farm business using the Teagasc Profit Monitor analysis.
- Farm Planning
- Certification of Business Plans for Government Tax reliefs.
- Infographic – 851 certificates/1500 attendees at succession events/441 new registered farm partnerships
- Farm Succession
- Basic Payment Applications
- Collaborative Farming support and promotion on collaborative farming methods
- Targeted Agricultural Modernisation Scheme support.

In 2021, a major upgrade of the Teagasc Profit Monitor analysis software was completed with new report formats to make information more user friendly for farmers and discussion groups. Nationally Advisors completed 43,000 Basic Payment Scheme applications in 2021. Farm Succession is a challenge due to the age profile of Irish farmers. It is important to support farm families to make decisions on this topic while keeping farms viable will continue to be prioritised in 2022.

SCHEME PAYMENTS FOR THE REGION

BPS	Basic Payment Scheme	€151,000,000
GLAS/REAP	Green, Low-Carbon, Agri-Environment Schemes	€19,000,000
BDGP	Beef Data and Genomics Programme	€2,300,000
BEEP-S	Beef Environmental Efficiency Programme	€2,850,000
ORGANICS	Organics	€750,000
TAMS	Targeted Agricultural Modernisation Scheme	€3,200,000

Pigs

There are 13 integrated sow herds with an average herd size of 640 sows in the Kerry Limerick region. In addition to this there are 3 finisher herds.

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.



**16 PIG FARMS
IN THE REGION**
510 AVERAGE HERD SIZE
10,200 SOWS



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 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 price of 159 cent per kg dead weight is marginally lower than the five year average (2017-2021) of 161 cent 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. 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



Horticulture

The Teagasc horticultural programme is focused on applied technology adoption.

It aims to identify and shape the best practical applications of research knowledge in order to enhance the efficiencies and capabilities of growers and enterprises in the sector. Focus continues on labour-saving technologies, evolving production systems to limit the requirements for crop protection products, and increasing economic and environmental sustainability. Brexit and Covid-19 have negatively influenced input costs, labour availability and supply chains, the demand for horticultural produce including food and plant material has never been higher.

A work permit scheme was announced late in Q4 which will permit 1,000 workers from outside the EU to be hired into the horticulture sector in 2022, alleviating some of the chronic labour shortages experienced in 2021 season. In recent months, growers have seen unparalleled increases in costs of key inputs to the horticulture sector in Ireland. Considerable volatility remains as primary producers try to forward plan business for 2022 and manage cash flows. In an environment where cost planning is difficult, risk is increasing very significantly for primary producers.

Rural Enterprise/Farm Diversification

Each year a Farm Diversification Options course is offered to farmers in the Region. Expert speakers are invited in over 4-6 nights to inform interested farmers of opportunities to further develop their farm. This can include adding value to existing production or diversifying into something new.

The 2021 Farm Business Options webinar provided an innovative channel to communicate farm business messages to farm families. A further farm diversification course will take place in the autumn of 2022 and all farmers are welcome.



Organic Farming

At present in Ireland, there is approximately 90,000 hectares under organic production, which represents 2% of the agricultural area.

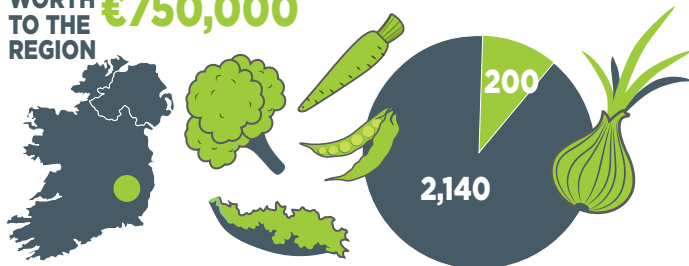
The current Programme for Government has a target to align Ireland's organic land area with that of the current EU average of 7.5% approx. There are currently 2,140 organic farmers (incl. 317 2021 applicants) participating in the DAFM Organic Farming Scheme (OFS). The Kerry Limerick region has 200 organic farmers operating. 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.

ORGANIC FARMING

**IRELAND AGRICULTURAL
ORGANIC AREA 2%
ORGANIC PAYMENTS
WORTH
TO THE REGION**

€750,000

**200 (10.7%) ORGANIC FARMS
IN THE REGION.
2,140 ORGANIC
FARMERS NATIONALLY**



Equine Enterprise

2021 was an excellent year with a record number of five figure sales returns at public auctions, thanks largely to online marketing improvements.

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. The specialist team is also now supported by 12 equine contact advisors across the country to provide local equine support.

Goats

There is a clear and continuing shortage of goat's milk, particularly for cheese production.

In spite of efforts to the contrary, some markets were substantially undersupplied towards the end of the year. The establishment of the Inishowen Goat Products Company (facilitated by Teagasc involvement) begins production in Q1/2 2022 and will be a major breakthrough in the sector.

Media and Social Media...

Staff in the Kerry Limerick Region write a weekly article for the Kerryman Newspaper and record weekly radio interviews for the Radio Kerry farming programme, with occasional radio interviews on farming and agricultural topics for the local Limerick radio station.

The region is active on Facebook and Twitter with technical content and notices of farm events. During Covid; Zoom and Skype have been used to deliver discussion group meetings and additionally webinars have become a very useful platform used by Advisors for delivering technical information to their farmer clients.

Communication Content

Articles	3/Month
Videos	3/month
Radio Interviews	4/Month
Webinars	8/Year
Social Media Posts	Daily

Communication Media

Regional Webpage	Updated Weekly
Social Media	Daily
Local Radio	Weekly
Local Press	Fortnightly
Puca	1-2 Texts per Week
Whatsapp	Regular updates



WEBINARS
158,000
ONLINE
READERS



50
ARTICLES
IN LOCAL
NEWSPAPERS
50,000 WEEKLY
READERS



58 **RADIO**
INTERVIEWS
VIRTUAL
FARM WALKS



SMS
MESSAGING
SERVICES

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

