

Teagasc briefing for Oireachtas and European Parliament members

6th December 2023



NFS Family Farm Income

2021, 2022, 2023e & 2024f

		2021	2022	2023e	2024f	2023e vs 2022	2024f vs 2023e
		'000 Euro				% change	% change
Dairy		98.7	148.0	59.0	86.0	-60	+46
Cattle Rearing		10.9	8.3	10.3	11.5	+24	+12
Cattle Other		17.3	18.6	18.6	20.1	0	+8
Sheep		20.7	16.3	17.0	18.3	+4	+8
Tillage		56.6	76.0	30.0	50.0	-61	+67
Average		34.4	44.9	24.8	32.2	-44	+30

Note: Figures are rounded for the purposes of presentation

CAP - Supporting farmer participation

- Introduction of new CAP schemes in 2023
 - BISS/CRISS/ECO – 42,800 applications
 - Follow-up support (new AMS systems and administrative checks)
 - New system in 2023
 - Derogations
 - 4,600 farmers supported (applications / records / nutrient management plans)
 - ACRES
 - 13,000 ACRES applicants (2022)
 - Field Scoring & Courses in 2023
 - 4,000 (*estimate*) applicants for Tranche 2 (ongoing)
 - TAMS 3
 - 900 applications
 - Knowledge Transfer Group Scheme:
 - Applications for 111 groups (1700 farmers) - commencing in 2024

c. €2bn/yr
Hugely
important for
rural viability

- Temporary advisory staff required and in place to support the workload

Organic Farming

- 4,030 organic farmers currently in Organic Farming Scheme (100% increase since 2022)
- Organic Farming Scheme currently open (until Dec 15th). **Estimated that there will be close to 5,000 farmers farming organically in 2024**
- National Target is 7.5% of land area to be farmed organically by 2027 and 10% by 2030. (4,000 farmers equates to approximately 4% of land area)
- **Teagasc have a team of 3 organic specialists and 7 organic advisors**
- The 5 year “Growing Organics” programme will enable knowledge transfer between organic farmers
- 20 new organic discussion groups formed – commencing in Jan 2024
- Gro-FarmS is a new 4 year cross enterprise organic research initiative that will commence in January 2024
- 25 hour Organic Farming Principles course is primary organic educational tool

Added value opportunities to support Crops and Horticulture



- **National Centre for Brewing & Distilling (2023)**
- Validates the added value potential of Irish grains (rye, wheat, Irish maize) for malting/brewing/distilling
- ~ €1M invested to date (DAFM + Teagasc)
- Supports sectoral training, research and innovation from agronomy through to finished product
- Phase II expansion plans underway due to sectoral interest



- **Research orchard** (2700 trees with 48 varieties)
- Goal to identify varieties suitable for the Irish climate
- To meet consumer and market needs
- To identify improved orchard management (maximum yield efficiency and fruit quality)



Teagasc Education – Land Based Apprenticeships

- National call for the development of new apprenticeship programmes (2017)
- Five land based apprenticeships – Sportsturf, Agriculture * 2, Horticulture, Equine

First cohorts in 2023

Programme	Commencement Date	Location
Horticulturist (NFQ L6) – Yr 1	Oct 2023	College of Amenity Horticulture
Sportsturf (NFQ L6) – Yr 1	Nov 2023	Kildalton College
Farm Technician (NFQ L6) – Yr 1	Dec 13 th 2023	Clonakilty College
Farm Manager (NFQ L7) – Yr 1	Dec 4 th 2023	Kildalton College



Horticulture



Sportsturf



Teagasc Climate Action Strategy

Launched 1 Dec 2022

3 Key Pillars of Climate Action

Signpost
Advisory
Programme

AGNAV



icbf



The Signpost Programme

Lead and support the transition of Irish farming towards more sustainable farming systems



Signpost Advisory Programme



Available to all farmers



Enhanced advisory & training support



“Know My Number – Make My Plan”
- supported by a Digital Platform called AGNAV



Engage with 50,000 farmers between now & 2030

> 9,000
enrolled
year to
date

Registration & Commitment

Know My Number

Make My Plan

Support for Action
(3 year programme)

Emissions Reduction





Sign into your account



IE

6

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Login

- Digital tool that drives 'Know my number – Make my plan'
- Draws most information from existing databases
- Decision support functionality
- Compatible with national inventory

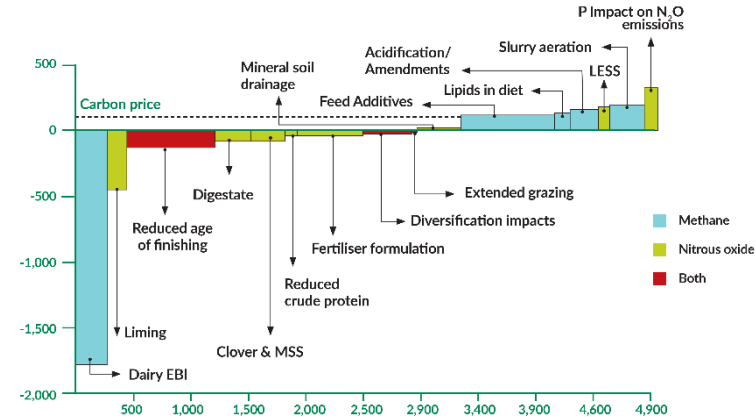


Some research outputs



- MACC 2023 launched in July
- Peer-reviewed paper on area of drained grassland peat soils
- Promising work on feed additives
- Soil carbon measurements continuing (National Agricultural Soil Carbon Observatory - NASCO)
- €12.7 investment in Johnstown Castle in **National Agricultural Sustainability Research & Innovation Centre (NASRIC)**

MACC 2023



NASRIC



Teagasc appoints permanent head of climate centre

Aisling O'Brien

September 12, 2023 8:00 am



The Teagasc Authority has confirmed the appointment of Dr. Karl Richards as the permanent head of the Teagasc Climate Centre.



How are we doing so far?

2030 target in MACC	Progress to date
Reduce nitrogen fertiliser use by 30%	2023 sales of N fertilise below this level
Protected urea constitutes 95% of straight fertiliser nitrogen	13% in 2023 (22% of straight chemical N)
Average age at finish of beef cattle reduced by 3 months	Reduced by c. 2 months over last decade Progress in 2023 ?
Feed additives fed to 50% of dairy cows during grazing and 65% of housed cattle	Active research area On-farm trial on 20 Signpost Dairy Farms



Water quality

- Agricultural Catchments Programme
 - 16 years of measurements
 - c. 850,000 samples at each catchment outlet
- ASSAP
 - c. 2,500 farms visited in 2023
 - To date, 20,000 issues identified, farmers agree to rectify 94% of these, and 65% of mitigation actions fully implemented or in progress
 - New €60m EIP in 2024
- Advisory support to farmers affected by reduction to 220kg/ha



Farming for
Water Quality



Investments in research, innovation and education



NASCO - Soil carbon

€2m investment



Greenfeeds to measure methane

€2m investment



NASRIC (National Agricultural Sustainability Research and Innovation Centre)

State of the art environmental research facilities at Johnstown Castle

€9m allocated + €3.7m



New Centre for Sustainable Animal and Grassland Research

€6m contribution from FBD Group toward the c. €12m cost

To be named after Padraig Walshe

DAFM funding

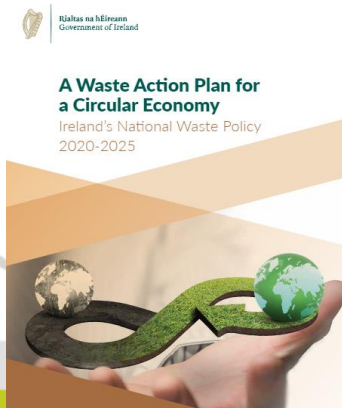
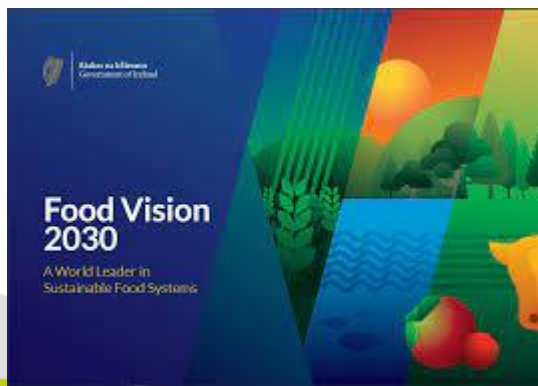
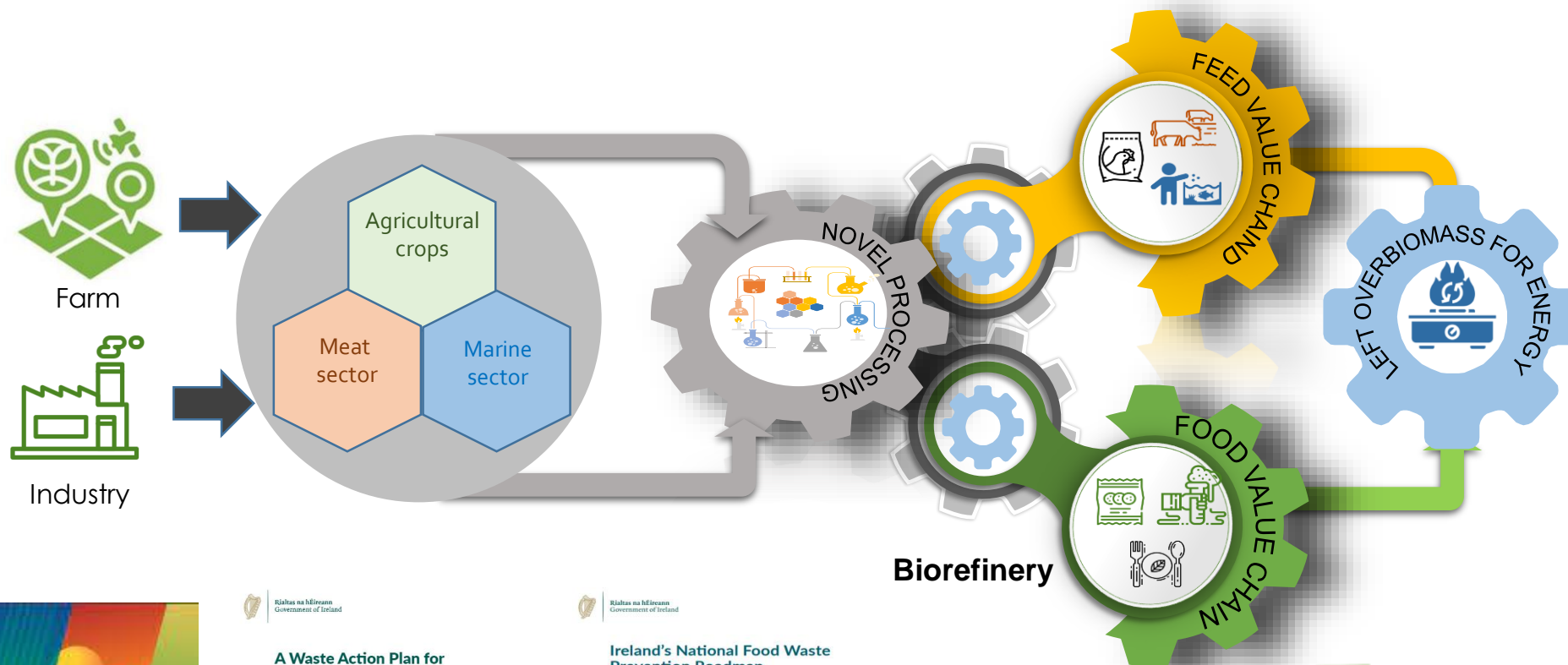
Machinery, equine and bovine simulators

(18 + 4 + 22)

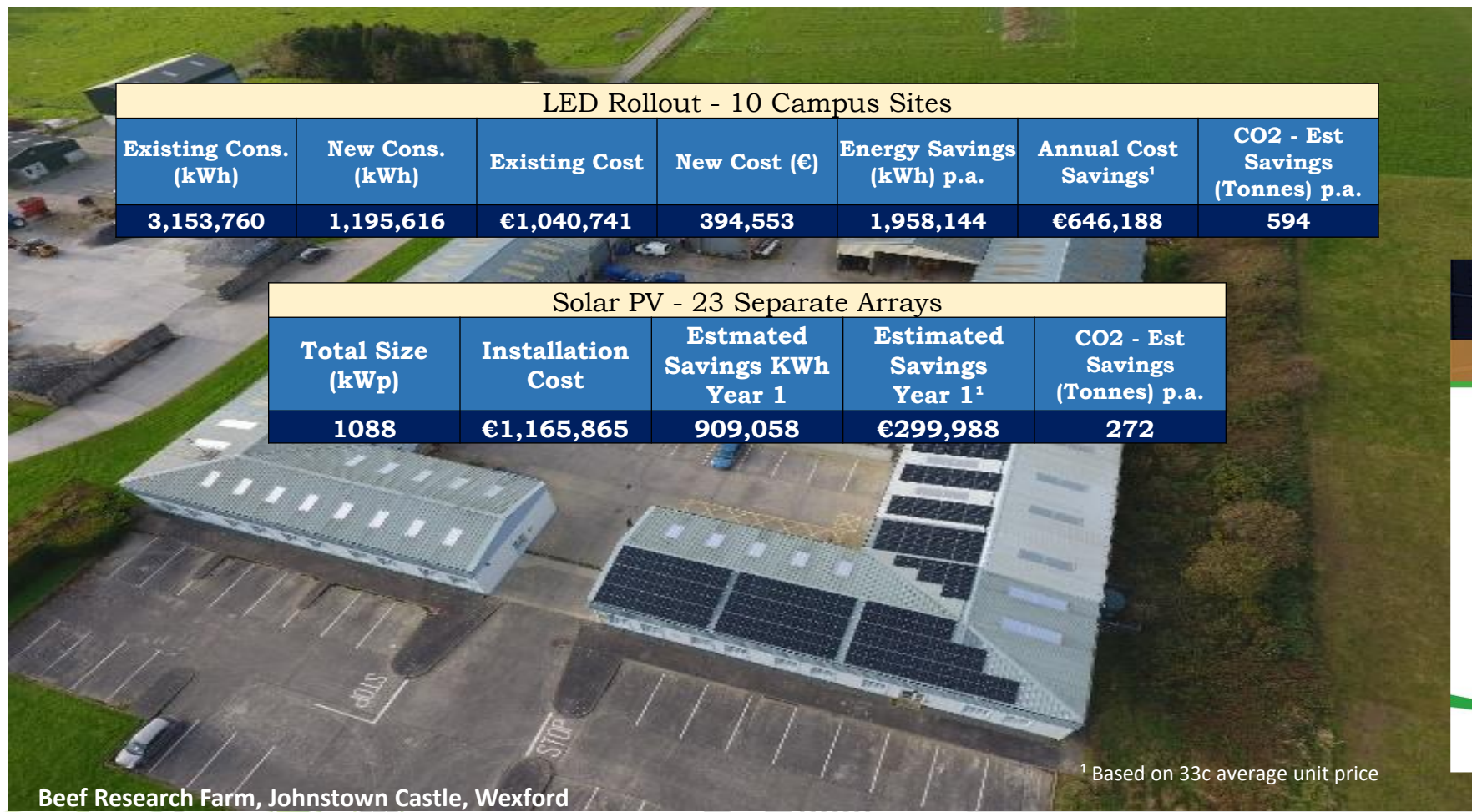
€2m investment



National Food Bio-Circularity Centre



Teagasc Solar PV / LED



SOLAR PV (SOLAR PANELS)

Introduction

Solar photovoltaic (PV) technology converts the principle that energy in the sun is converted to electricity. PV cells are used to convert solar radiation into direct current (DC) electricity. The DC electricity is then converted to alternating current (AC) electricity for use in buildings or export to the grid. When light shines on the PV cell, an electric field is created across the silicon conducting layer, which causes electricity to flow.

Cabling is required to connect the generated electricity to the grid. A generation meter is used to monitor the total electricity output from the panels and where appropriate, an export meter measures electricity exported to the national grid.

Solar PV siting

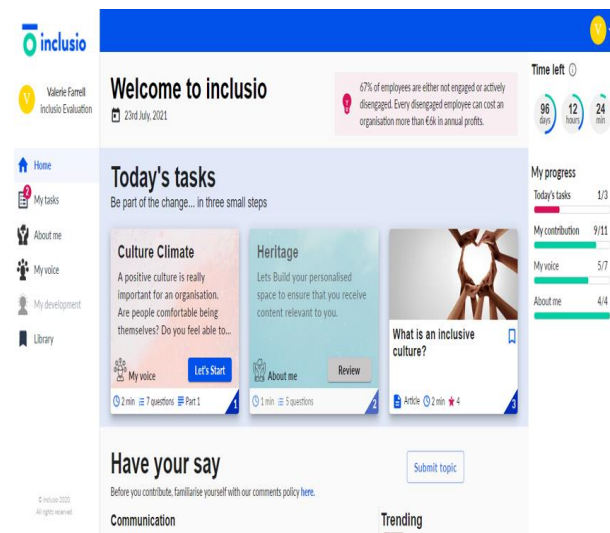
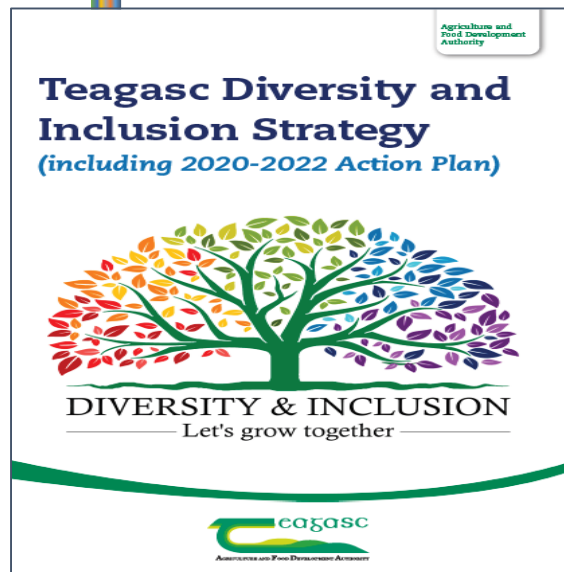
As a renewable energy source, solar PV is a clean and sustainable energy source. The energy available from the sun is measured in kilowatt hours per square metre per year (kWh/m²/year). The angle and orientation of the solar array is very important. Generally a photovoltaic installation requires a large, south-facing roof or field space. Panels are either pre-constructed encapsulated glass/plastic or in some cases may take the form of roof tiles or semi-transparent PV glazing units. There are some costly systems which can track the sun over the course of a day throughout the year. A traditional roof up to a pitch angle of 35° is best for PV output. Trees, chimneys and other buildings should be avoided to minimise any shading effect.

VAT (flat rate farmers)

From January 1, 2012 a flat rate farmer can claim back the VAT incurred on the purchase of a solar PV system, which is designed to be used mainly or solely in his or her farming business. The PV system must be used on a 'Type B' Product Register. This Register is the public database maintained by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) containing a list of products which comply with the energy efficiency criteria of that Authority. It can be accessed at the SEAI website: www.seai.ie. The claim is made through the Revenue Commissioners VAT 18 form.

Teagasc
Agriculture and Food Development Authority

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion



- Diversity and Inclusion Culture Audit
- Year of Diversity and Inclusion 2022
- Diversity and Inclusion Training
- Inclusive Recruitment Training
- Focused campaigns: Pride, Transgender,
- Webinars on Neurodiversity
- Disability Accommodations Passport
- Leadership Programme for Female Staff
- Mentoring for Female Staff
- Female only Discussion Groups
- Women in Agriculture Dialogue

