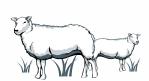


#### **FARM ENTERPRISE TYPES**





180,352 53,232
DAIRY COWS SUCKLER COWS
1,740 FARMS 2,500 FARMS





160,109 19,652<sub>Ha</sub>
SHEEP 837 EADMS 831 FARMS

#### Welcome

Welcome to this edition of the Tipperary annual regional review. This report summaries the regional activities in 2021 and summaries the main enterprises in the region. I would like to acknowledge hardworking staff in the region and commend our stakeholders

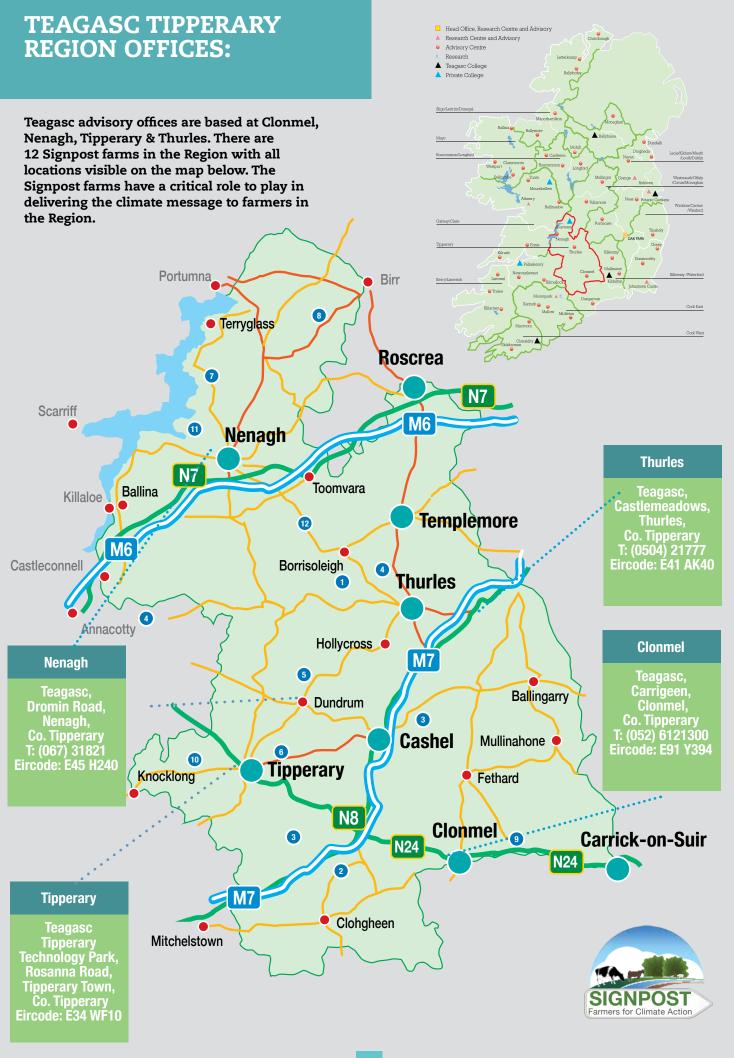


for their ongoing support – in particular the dairy co-op's who run joint programmes with us for the benefit of their suppliers, all the farm organisations and the many stakeholders involved from time to time for specific problem issues - for example LAWPRO, Tipperary County Council, DAFM, APHA, local contractors and merchants among others. I would like in particular to acknowledge the farming and rural communities in the County who work closely with us to provide a better living for themselves and their families as well as providing a sustainable future for the next generation.

**Donal Mullane Tipperary Regional Manager** 







# GASC TIPPERARY AD

Farming in the Region - Census of Agriculture 2020

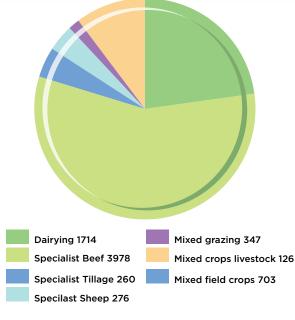
The census of agriculture 2020 indicates that since the previous census of 2010 number of farms in the Region has fallen from 7,739 to 7,404 that is a decrease of 335.

It also shows that in Tipperary the average age of the farm holder is 56 years and the average agricultural area per farm is 42ha's and it also shows that 32% of the farms are less than 20ha's and that 13% of farm holders are female.

The most important enterprises in the Region are dairy and beef production with a significant increase in milk production since the abolition of quotas. Milk production during that period has increased by almost 70%. At the same time the number of suckler cows in the Region has dropped from 74,186 in 2010 to 53,232 in 2020. There are 3,978 specialist beef producers and 276 specialist sheep producers with mixed grazing on 347 farms.

42 Ha Average 13% of farm holders are female





### FARM ENTERPRISE TYPES









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.'

## TEAGASC TIPPERARY 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**

Since the abolition of quotas Tipperary has been at the forefront in the expansion of milk production with an overall increase of approximately 70% since the removal of quotas.

Cow numbers have increased from 113,339 in 2010 according to the CSO to 180,352 in 2020. Our advisors are facilitating 30 Dairy Discussion Groups and 10 Dairy Grass Discussion Groups in the Tipperary region.

Joint Programmes with all the milk processors in the County have played a vital role in knowledge transfer to dairy farmers at a time of significant expansion. Maximum utilistation of grass has been underpinned by 12 Grass 10 courses operating in the Region in 2021.

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.









8 ADVISORS



30 DISCUSSION GROUPS



6 DAIRY JOINT PROGRAMMES

6 SIGNPOST FARMS

#### **ACKOWLEDGEMENTS**

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

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



# **Beef Enterprise**

Tipperary has traditionally been a mixed farming County and beef production is a very important enterprise on 55% of farms throughout the County. There are over 3,000 suckler farms in the Region with 53,232 suckler cows.

There are 7 drystock advisors facilitating 15 discussion groups in the Region. 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%). 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 ports due to high shipping costs and an overall drop in beef production within the EU.





Region with sheep on the ground.

Irish lamb prices in 2021 are estimated to have increased nearly 30% on the previous year according to the National Farm Survey date 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 low land sheep systems in particular the cost of concentrate of feed for sheep increased by 40% in 2021.

The indications are that lamb prices are set to remain strong, albeit with a modest price decrease of 5% below the record 2021 levels.



However, much higher production costs in 2022, in particular feed and fertiliser, gross margins are expected to fall by around 15% below 2021.





# **Cereal Enterprises**

The Tillage sector in Tipperary has several advantages as it is primarily free draining easily tillable soil which provides an ideal seed bed for crops to grow.

The sector is now mainly a supplier of feed grains to the livestock sector, it also produces a range of raw materials for the drinks industry, is a producer of high quality oats that are used in food and feed markets and exported around the world.

The tillage sector has many favourable environmental credentials when compared to other enterprises and in Tipperary there is a large quantity of mills and feed producers which significantly reduce the distance grain has to travel. The fact that grain output has not reduced, despite our tillage acreage falling by forty-two percent since 1980, is notable. These extraordinary productivity gains show how adept our growers have been at adopting advanced crop production technologies.

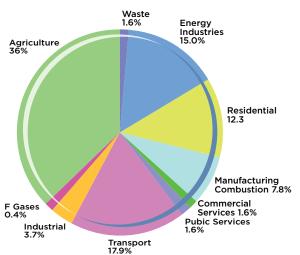


# Climate Change and Environment

Climate change is one of the biggest challenges facing farmers over the next decade.

There is a lot of negative commentary about farming in the media as agriculture accounts for 36% of GHG emissions in Ireland. (Fig.1) Ambitious targets have been set for Irish Agriculture between now and 2030 to reduce GHG emissions by between 22-30%. Teagasc have designed a roadmap to help achieve this target but it requires immediate buy in from farmers. This is the purpose of the Signpost Programme – to identify and demonstrate to farmers locally, what measures farmers need to adapt now to assist Irish Agriculture reach these targets.

**Figure 1: Profile of GHG Emissions** 2020



# What is the Signpost 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 with national specialist advisors to the Signpost Programme along with in this Region, 2 soils and environment advisors, 1 ASSAP advisor and the 12 Signpost farms.

#### A total of 12 Signpost farms have been identified for the Tipperary Region:

Name	Address	Main Enterprise	Programme
John & Debbie Sheridan	Borrisoleigh	Dairy	
John & Brendan Walsh	Clonmel	Dairy	
Mark Lonergan	Cashel	Dairy	
John Ryan (J&M Dairies)	Thurles	Dairy	
Edwin Thompson	Dundrum	Dairy	
Solohead Research Farm	Tipperary	Dairy	
Edward Kelly	Dromineer	Dairy	
Gurteen College	Roscrea	Dairy	
JP Hammersley	Lattin	Beef	
John Barry	Newtown	Beef	
Des Powell	Templederry	Sheep	

# **ASSAP/Water Quality**

There are 13 priority areas identified in the region, Dead & Cauteen, Inch/ Bilboa, Nenagh/ Lwr Clareen, Clashawley, Lorrha, Aherlow, Toem/Cappawhite, Ballyfinboy, Little Brosna, Borrisoleigh, Lingaun, Ara and the Bunnow. The main issues identified are Nitrogen and Phosphorus losses in these areas. MCPA is also an issue in small pockets of the region such as Dundrum and Kilcommon, this requires ongoing attention and while some progress has been made in these areas, the problem remains and requires further attention







The students are facilitated on the course by 2 education officers as well as exposure to the enterprise advisors who deliver modules of the course and all the practical skills and discussion group requirements. The practical elements are delivered on a number of local farms as well as our agricultural colleges. There are courses in farm safety, grass measurement, derogation training as well as financial courses provided throughout the Region.







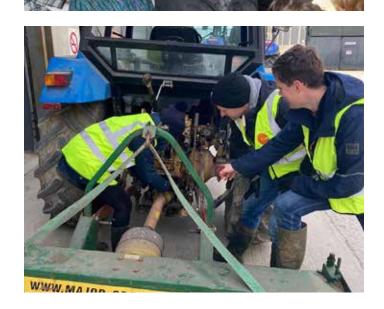
THERE ARE
2 EDUCATION
OFFICERS PLUS
ENTRPRISE ADVISORS
DELIVERING
THESE COURSES



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. The work is not enterprise specific, but the work is primarily focussed 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.
- 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. Last year advisors completed some 43,000 Basic Payment Scheme applications. 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

BPS	Basic Payment Scheme	€86,078,380
BDGP -	Beef Data and Genomics Programme	€1,801,315
BEEPS	Beef Environmental Efficiency Programme	€2,023,394
TAMS	Targeted Agricultural Modernisation Scheme	€3,146,722
ORGANICS		€513,527
GLAS	Green, Low-Carbon, Agri-Environment Scheme	€6,593,016

Total Scheme payments to the region is

€112,808,689



851
BUSINESS PLANS
FOR GOVERNMENT
TAX RELIEFS
COMPLETED
NATIONALLY



### **Forestry**

In Tipperary, forestry cover accounts for 11.8% of land area or 50,241 Ha. This forest asset is both privately owned and the property of Coillte (The State Forestry Company). There are 1,500 forest owners in Tipperary, with a cumulative area of 18,913 Ha owned by farmers.

The evolving Irish forest sector is vital to rural economies and national levels. 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 meters (m3) for 2022, up from 1.46 million m3 in 2021. The mobilisation of this critical resource represents both a challenge and an excellent opportunity.

New planting in 2021 is 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. 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.



11.8% Forestry cover in Tipperary or 50,241 Ha.

There are 1,500 forest owners in Tipperary, with a cumulative area of 18,913 Ha owned by farmers.

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.

# **Pigs**

There are just 22 commercial pig producers in Tipperary with an average size of 655 sows. There has been no expansion in recent years but numbers have been stable.

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 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 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



22 COMMERCIAL PIG PRODUCERS





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

Horticulture in Tipperary consists of mainly mushroom production, nursery stock, and apple growing.

While Brexit and the Covid-19 pandemic have negatively influenced import costs, labour availability and supply chains, the demand for horticultural produce including food plant material have never being higher. In recent months, growers have seen unparalled increases in costs of key inputs in the horticultural sector in Ireland. Considerable volatility remains as primary producers try to forward plan business for 2022 and manage cashflows. In an environment where cost planning is difficult, risk is increasing very significantly for primary producers.

The Teagasc Horticultural programme is focused on applied technology adoption, trying to identify and shape the best practical applications of research knowledge in order to enhance the efficiencies and capability of growers and enterprises in this sector. Focus continues on labour saving technologies, evolving production systems to limit the requirements for crop protection products, and increasing economic and environmental sustainability.

# **Rural Enterprise**

#### **Options**

Diversification & Alternative Enterprises continue to be a big factor for Tipperary farmers.

Each year an Options Course is offered in the Region. Expert speakers are invited over 4 nights to inform interested farmers opportunities to diversify their farm business. Many new start-ups have been created from the Options Programme. This can include adding value to existing production on diversifying into something new. The 2021 Farm Business Options Webinars provided an innovative channel to communicate farm business

messages to farmers.

The courses provide exposure to the courses of funding and other supports such as the Leader Company and LEO's as well as business planning, taxation, marketing and new product development.





#### **Equine Enterprise**

Tipperary is a renowned producer of horses in the thoroughbred and sport horse sectors. 2021 was an excellent year for the sport horse sector with a record number of 5 figure sales returns at public auctions thanks largely to online marketing improvements.

The equine advisory team provide support across breeding/production, husbandry, sustainability and income generation, all of which were covered in THE LETS TALK EQUINE WEBINAR series on the first Tuesday of the month. The specialist team is now supported by 12 equine contract advisors across the

#### **ORGANIC FARMING**

IRELAND AGRICULTURAL ORGANIC AREA 2%

ORGANIC FARMS
IN TIPPERARY





1,823 ORGANIC FARMERS NATIONALLY



There are 148 Organic Farmers in Tipperary farming 6,678 ha's. In Ireland there is approximately 90,000 ha's under organic production which accounts for 2% of the agricultural area. The current programme for Government has a target to align all organic land area with that of current EU average 7.5% approximately. There are currently 1823 organic farmers participating in the organic scheme (OFS). Funding for the 2022 Organic Farming Scheme (OFS) is up 21 million euro from the 16 million euro in 2021 allocation allowing for the opening of OFS for new entrants

# Media and Social Media...

The Tipperary Region has an excellent profile on all media platforms.

Advisors do weekly interviews on technical and other relevant farming issues on local radio in addition to an active online presence on twitter and facebook, most advisors are using What'sApp groups with their clients. During Covid, Zoom and LYNC have been used to deliver discussion group meetings and webinars have become a very useful platform in replacing former public events.

We deliver Derogation and other technical courses through zoom throughout the year. This forum has proved very popular with farmers as it reduces time spent away from the farm. Our advisors are producing approximately 20 videos in the year mainly of a short duration as well as a number of videos with our partners under the Joint Programmes. Our advisors are regular contributors to the local newspapers as well as having slots on the main Co-Op newsletters in the Region.



Today'sFarm

15 WEBINARS 100 AVERAGE ATTENDANCE



50 VIDEOS

#### **Communication Content**

Articles
Videos
Radio Interviews
Webinars
Social Media Posts

4/Month 1-2 /month 2/Month 8/year daily

**Updated Weekly** 

FB/ Twitter/ You Tube

1-2 Texts per Week

#### **Communication Media**

Regional Webpage Social Media..... Zoom Local Radio

Local Radio Local Press Puca

Whatsapp



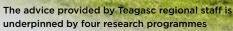
60 RADIO INTERVIEWS

# 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.



- 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



