



Teagasc Organic Farm Walk
on the farm of
Barry & Sharon O'Hagan,
Glenboy, Manorhamilton, Co. Leitrim,
Friday 25th September 2026



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine



Introduction

Barry and Sharon are farming in Manorhamilton Co. Leitrim on four separate blocks of land. This farm began its' conversion to organic farming in 2023 and has full organic status since 2025. The majority of the land is owned by Barry and Sharon with 6 Ha of land leased. The farm consists of a midseason lambing flock of ewes with both Barry and Sharon working full-time off farm and farming part time.

The sheep enterprise consists of a flock of 145 ewes with a scanning rate of approximately 1.7 annually. All lambs are sold as stores through local organic sales in Drumshanbo and Manorhamilton Marts

Farm Details and Land Use

The farm is split into 4 blocks with a mix of commonage, rough grazing, and lowland ground. Overall, the holding is made up of the grassland for grazing of 48 Ha of grassland and 10 Ha of commonage.

The grazing area is currently stocked at 0.51 LU per hectare.

Flock Performance

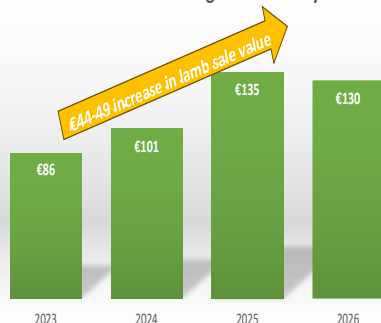


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Barry & Sharon's Farming System

Flock Performance				
	2023	2024	2025	2026
No Ewes	152	125	89	115
Scanning Rate	1.8	1.51	1.55	1.67
No Ewes Barren	6	10	6	4
Barren %	4	8	7	3
Weaning rate	1.50	1.31	1.34	1.49
Land Details				
	2023	2024	2025	2026
Lowland (owned)	42	42	42	42
Lowland (Leased)	0	0	6	6
Commonage	10	10	10	10
Adj Stocking rate	0.62	0.51	0.31	0.51

Lamb Sale Value change over last 4 years



Overall lamb sales in 2023 €15663 vs €18720 (projected) in 2026 from 37 less ewes

How?

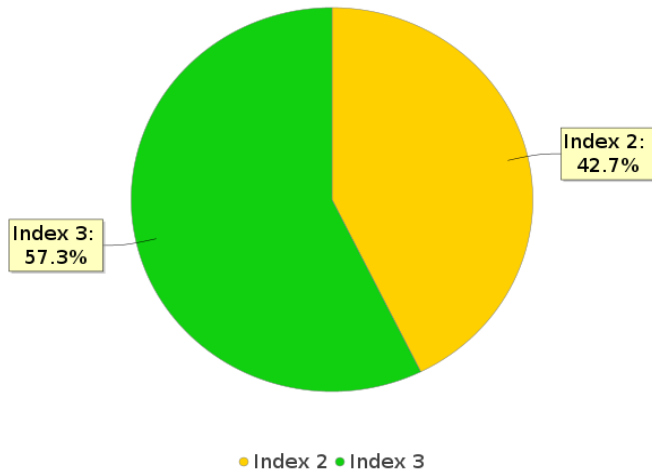
- Change in genetics- ewe flock
- Move to a higher sale value sire- ram
- Management improvement/adaption to organic system

Barry and Sharon have increased the value of lambs sold on the farm over the past four years by €44-49 per head. This has been achieved through improved genetics with a move to a higher value sire and also an improvement in the genetics of the ewe flock.

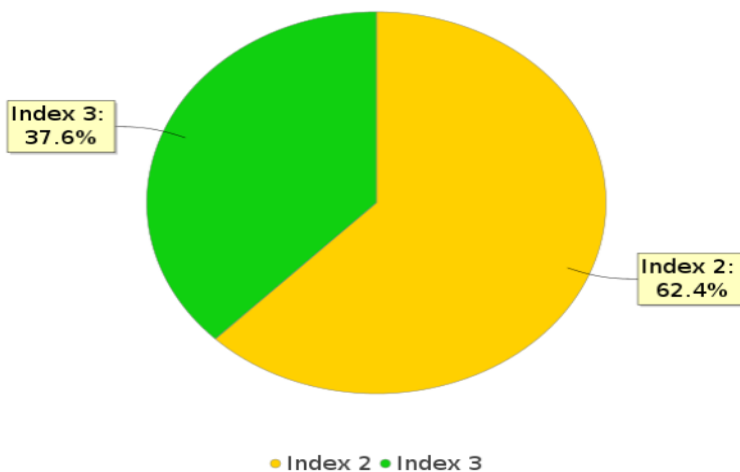
Barry and Sharon have also adjusted to the principals of organic farming and the management within the organic system on the farm has improved.

Soil Fertility

Phosphorus

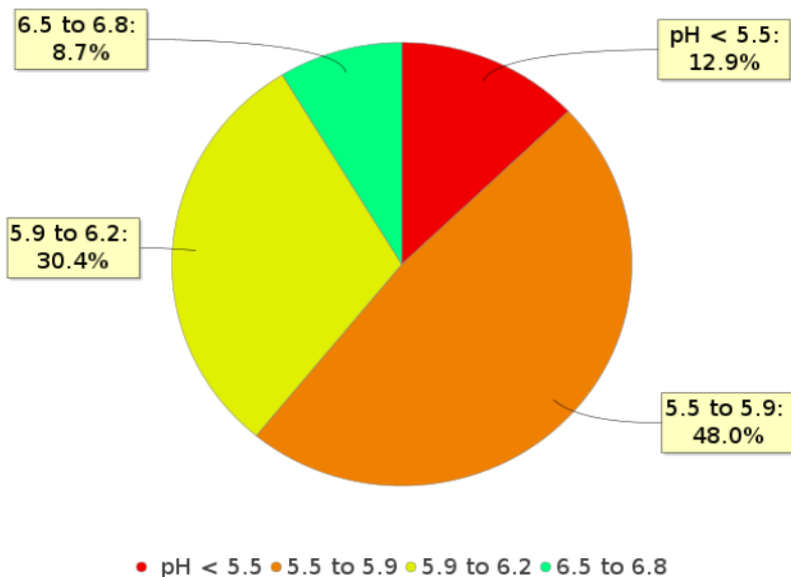


Potassium



57.3% of the farm is index 3 for P and the remaining 42.7% is index 2. 63.4% of the farm is index 2 for K with the remaining 37.6% at index 3 for K. This is maintained and built with the use of soilworx pelleted poultry manure. The aim is to produce farmyard manure and slurry in the future to help build the soil fertility of the farm.

pH



The pH of the soil on the farm is an area that Barry & Sharon have started to improve but it still requires a lot of work with only 8.7% of the farm at the optimal level for pH. This is an area that organic farmers should focus on first before trying to build the fertility level of the soil.

Grazing Management

Livestock are grazed on a rotational basis around the farm using a paddock system. Topping is carried out as necessary to improve grassland performance and to control weeds. A rotation/reseeding programme is also implemented to improve grass quality and also suppress the weed burden on the farm.

Winter Feed Management

The winter diet is made up predominantly of grass silage and a mixed ration (Pea, Barley Oat mix) is used to feed ewes pre lambing.

The meal on the farm is sourced directly from an organic grower in Co. Donegal. The two farmers have developed a relationship over the years, and this system works well for both farms.

Grassland Management

Grass is managed on a rotational paddock-based system with the use of topping for the control of weeds and rushed as required. Clover has been trialled on the farm and will be used into the future.

White Clover on the Farm

White clover will be included in any reseeding mix used to try to increase the productivity of the grazing ground.

Red Clover Trial on the Farm

Red Clover Mix 1: AberClaret (11 packs required)

kg/ pack	Variety	Type
2.60	Organic AberChoice	Perennial Ryegrass Diploid
2.60	Organic AberLee	Perennial Ryegrass Diploid
5.30	Organic Briant	Perennial Ryegrass Tetraploid
3.90	Aberclaret	Red Clover
0.60	AberSwan	White Clover Medium
15.00		

Red Clover Mix 2: Fearga (11 packs required)

kg/ pack	Variety	Type
2.60	Organic AberChoice	Perennial Ryegrass Diploid
2.60	Organic AberLee	Perennial Ryegrass Diploid
5.30	Organic Briant	Perennial Ryegrass Tetraploid
3.90	Fearga	Red Clover
0.60	AberSwan	White Clover Medium
15.00		

A red clover variety trial is currently being carried out on the farm with Aberclaret and Fearga the two varieties of red clover being used. This trial is being replicated on many organic farmers across the country with the aim of measuring the persistency of the red clover varieties over a period of time.

Herbal/Multi-species Ley

Herbal leys contain a diverse range of grasses, herbs and clovers. Its aim is to produce a well-balanced forage and not just large volumes of grass. Many of the species used are deep rooting and have the ability to unlock nutrients from deeper in the soil profile. The herbal mixture does not demand high fertiliser inputs and is therefore ideally suited to organic farming. These leys provide increased levels of minerals and vitamins to livestock. Also, when herbal leys are grown for around four years, they have the ability to naturally improve soil structure with their deep roots

Organic Regulation for Seed Usage

- Organic seed database with details of suppliers and available organic seed www.organicxseeds.com
- Must seek permission to use un-treated non-organic seed from your Organic Certification Body (OCB).
- A derogation must be obtained from the OCB for use of any untreated non organic seed prior to sowing.
- Conventional treated seed is not permitted to be used.

Sources of Nutrients Used on the Farm

- Farm-yard manure applied in autumn on grazing, silage ground where available.
- Soilworx – applied on silage ground and on some grazing paddocks where required.
- Lime where required.

Animal Welfare in Organic Farming

Livestock Health

- A healthy herd in organic farming is achieved by a combination of good management, sound nutrition and good animal husbandry skills.
- Detection of problems needs to be early, and timely veterinary advice is invaluable – when an animal is ill the organic farmer reacts in the same manner as their conventional neighbour and veterinary assistance is required immediately.

Conventional Veterinary Treatments Permitted

- Animals for meat consumption: 1 course antibiotics within 12 months.
- Animals for breeding: 2 courses antibiotics within 12 months.
- Dairy Mastitis: 2 courses antibiotics within 12 months, otherwise the cow is removed from the milking herd.
- If limits exceeded, organic status is taken away from animal.

Withdrawal Periods for use of Veterinary Products

- Double the withdrawal period for all products.
- Ensure all products used are approved by the organic body
- Abbi may have their own withdrawal periods

Animal Health on the Farm

The switch to organics has not led to any adverse effects with regard to animal health on the farm.

Faecal analyses are taken to assess the level and identify the type of internal parasites if present.

Organic Animal Housing Standards

- Adjustments to meet organic standards may be necessary – depends on farm situation.
- At least 50% of floor area must be bedded.
- Straw, rushes or untreated wood shavings are acceptable bedding materials and these need not be organic.
- All animal housing is subject to inspection and approval by the Organic Certification Body.
- See Table 5 below for space requirements.

All cattle are housed for the winter on straw with slatted feeding areas. The ability to feed stock on a slatted area reduces the soiling of straw bedding and in turn reduces the quantity required throughout the winter months. The sheep are out wintered.

Table 8: Minimum Housing Area per head and by weight

Animal	Minimum Indoor Areas (net area available to each animal)	
	Live-weight Minimum (kg)	m ² /head
Calves; Beef Cattle; Bull Beef; Suckler Cows	Up to 100kg	1.5
	Up to 200kg	2.5
	Up to 350kg	4.0
	Up to 500kg	5.0
		6.0
Dairy Cows	Up to 600kg Over 600kg	6.0 min. 1m ² /100kg
Breeding Bulls		10m ²
Sheep		1.5m ² per ewe 0.35m ² per lamb



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Organic Certification in Ireland

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine is the competent authority (i.e. - the Department's Organic Unit is based at Johnstown Castle Estate Wexford) for regulating the organic sector and ensuring that the obligations and requirements of Council Regulation (EC) No. 834/2007 as amended and adhered to. The Organic Unit of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine have designated Official Certification Bodies whose role is to certify organic producers, farmers and processors through and inspection process of each individual's unit or farm. Further information can be sourced from these organic certification bodies:

IOA (Irish Organic Association)

13 Inish Carraig, Golden Island, Athlone.

Tel: (090) 64 33680 www.irishorganicasssociation.ie

Email: info@irishoa.ie

Organic Trust,

Office A1, Town Centre House,

Dublin Rd, Naas, Co. Kildare

www.organictrust.ie

Email: info@organictrust.ie



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Targeted Agricultural Modernisation Scheme Organic Capital Investment Scheme (OCIS)

A standard rate of aid of 60% on investments up to a ceiling of €90,000 for all organic farmers.

How to Apply and Closing Date:

Online applications only through www.agfood.ie facility.

Full details and T&C:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/0e509-tams-3/>

Queries:

DAFM Organic Unit, Johnstown Castle: (053) 91 63400

Organic Processing Investment Grant Scheme

Grant aid of up to 60% on facilities for the processing, preparation, grading, packing and storage of organic products with minimum level of investment in excess of €3,000.

More Details:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/service/51e8d-organic-processing-investment-grant-scheme/#rate-of-payment>

DAFM Organic Unit, Johnstown Castle: (053) 91 63400

Notes:

