2025

Annual Report & Financial Statements

Teagasc

Agriculture and Food Development Authority

Teagasc Strategy 2025-2028

Innovating for Impact:
Improving competitiveness and resilience in the agri-food sector

Our Vision
To be an independent and trusted driver of a competitive and resilient agri-food system.

Our Mission
To empower the Irish agri-food sector to develop through scientific leadership, expert knowledge and innovation support.

Our Strategic Focus
Competitiveness & Resilience

Our Sectoral Priorities | An agri-food sector that will:

Be more **productive**

Be more **environmentally sustainable**

Be more **attractive**

Be more **innovative**

Our Enabling Priorities | Teagasc will:

Develop **our people** to their best capability

Enhance **operational excellence**

Embrace **digital technologies and infrastructure**

Facilitate better **collaborations**

Our Core Values

Fostering **RESPECT**

Striving for **EXCELLENCE**

Acting with **INTEGRITY**

Introduction

The 2025 Teagasc Annual Report is built on the structure outlined in the Teagasc Statement of Strategy 2025-2028 **Innovating for Impact:** Improving competitiveness and resilience in the agri-food sector. The 2025 report reflects our sectoral priorities and the enabling priorities which will enhance our ability to deliver on our sectoral priorities. A particular focus is paid on concrete Teagasc performance metrics as well as activities furthering these priorities.

Contents

Vision

To be an independent and trusted driver of a competitive and resilient agri-food system.

Mission

To empower the Irish agri-food sector to develop through scientific leadership, expert knowledge and innovation support.

Teagasc at a glance

Teagasc – the Agriculture and Food Development Authority – is the national body providing integrated research, advisory and training services to the agriculture and food industry and rural communities.

Research

Teagasc couples research and knowledge transfer in four programme areas:

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

Each of these programmes is composed of research, development and knowledge-transfer/industry-development departments. Research is conducted at seven dedicated locations, while knowledge transfer professionals are located throughout the country.

Our annual research portfolio comprises some 550 projects, carried out by 310 researchers in our centres throughout Ireland.

In order to maximise the impact of our research, Teagasc actively collaborates with research organisations across the world. This collaboration stretches from individual projects and publications right up to formal alliances and partnerships.

Advice

The Teagasc Advisory Service, which works through a nationwide office network organised into 13 regional units, provides a local service to all Teagasc clients and stakeholders. Advisors assist farmers with all aspects of their farm businesses: production, farm management, succession, diversification, applications for national or European Union (EU) schemes etc.

Farmers can also receive advice by engaging with Teagasc Programmes such as the Signpost Programme, DairyBeef 500, Grass10, Future Beef or the Better Farming for Water Campaign, Agricultural Sustainability Support and Advisory Programme (ASSAP) etc.

Education

The Teagasc Education Programme is delivered via four primary course streams:

Further education (Level 5 & 6) via full-time (FT) courses;

Further education (Level 5 & 6) via Part-Time (PT) and Distance Education (DE) 'Green Cert' courses;

Apprenticeships;

Teagasc support to Higher Education courses.

The strong practical element across all courses is a fundamental component of Teagasc's unique role and offering in education, and is backed up by a strong emphasis on practical and hands-on learning that cannot be delivered through the classroom alone.

Teagasc Authority Members

Back row: Mr. John Paul Fenlon, Mr. Seán O'Sullivan, Mr. Donald Scully, Ms. Elaine Houlihan.
Front row: Ms. Elizabeth Reynolds, Ms. Louise Byrne, Professor Thia Hennessy, Mr. Liam Herlihy – Chairperson, Ms. Vanessa Kiely O'Connor, Dr. Helen Sheridan. **Inset pictures:** Mr. Liam Woulfe and Ms. Alice Doyle.

New Authority Member in 2025

Mr. Sean O'Sullivan

Sean O'Sullivan was appointed to the Teagasc Authority in December 2025 for a five-year term by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Martin Heydon T.D. Sean O'Sullivan brings extensive agri-business knowledge and experience to the Teagasc Authority, having served as CEO of Cork Marts until his retirement in 2025. He initially joined Cork Marts as financial controller in 1995 and was appointed to the role of CEO less than 18 months later. A qualified accountant and member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants, he has held senior finance and management roles and currently serves on education boards and the Golden Jubilee Trust. The appointment of Sean O'Sullivan followed the departure of Liam Woulfe from the Teagasc Authority. First appointed in 2015, Liam Woulfe served two full terms on the Authority with his final term expiring in July 2025.

Teagasc Executive Team

Professor Frank O'Mara
Director

Professor Pat Dillon
Director of Research

Dr. Stan Lalor
Director of Knowledge Transfer

Mr. Alan Phelan
Chief Operating Officer

Chairperson's Statement

Teagasc Chairperson Liam Herlihy

Sectoral performance

Overall, the average Irish farm income in 2025, was up by about 48% to almost €54,000. This very welcome development was largely driven by the increase in beef related income on drystock farms, with increased incomes also recorded on dairy farms and tillage farms.

Low incomes have been a serious long-term challenge on many cattle farms in Ireland. However, incomes increased substantially in 2025. Averaged over the year, prices for weanlings, store and finished cattle were up dramatically on 2024 levels. Higher cattle prices drove the improvement in margins. The average income on a cattle-rearing farms in 2025 was approximately €24,000, an increase of 74% on the modest 2024 level.

Finished cattle prices increased considerably, with the annual average price up 39% on the 2024 level. However, prices paid for young cattle increased to a much greater extent than in 2024. Farms with a dairy-beef enterprise did particularly well in 2025. Production costs in the 'cattle other' system (mostly finishers) did increase, but the average income for 'cattle other' farms still increased to approximately €33,000, up 81% on 2024.

While animal feed prices remained relatively steady in 2025, feed volumes were up, mainly due to the favourable output prices. Fertiliser prices increased in 2025, but usage was nonetheless up 2024.

Favourable establishment conditions during late 2024 and into 2025 prompted an increase in the area of winter cereal crops. As a result, cereal production in 2025 was in line with the five-year average, but considerably up on the 2024 level. Favourable weather continued through 2025 which led to higher output. However, a large harvest internationally led to lower international and Irish cereal prices.

The average income on a tillage farm in 2025 was approximately €55,000, an increase of 33% relative to 2024. Whilst production levels on tillage farms did increase in 2025, some of the increase in income on specialist tillage farms in 2025 was due to higher margins on a subsidiary beef farming enterprise and higher coupled tillage direct payments. Market based net margins in recent years on tillage farms have remained low.

An excellent start to the grazing season and favourable peak season grass growth meant milk production increased almost 5% relative to 2024. Higher milk prices prevailed for much of the year, but fell considerably towards year end. For 2025 as a whole, milk prices were 3% higher than in 2024. Dairy farmers also benefitted from much higher calf, young cattle and cull cow prices which added over €27,000 in additional income to the average dairy farm in 2025. The average dairy farm income in 2025 was close to €153,000, an increase of 41% over the previous year.

Sheep and lamb prices in 2025 increased by about 6% on the record levels in 2024. Higher prices reflect the reduction in sheep supply across the EU. Production costs were down marginally on the previous year, but sheep output volume also fell in 2025. However, sheep farms with a secondary cattle enterprise did benefit from the rise in cattle prices. Overall, margins and income for sheep farms increased, with incomes averaging a little over €29,000 in 2025, an increase of 7% on the average for 2024.

Pig production was less profitable in 2025, although pig production increased by 5% in volume terms. Pig prices declined as the year progressed. As a result, pig prices in 2025 were on average 6% lower than in 2024. Due to a 3% drop in feed prices in 2025, production costs were marginally lower. This resulted in a reduction in margins on pig farms, with an estimated margin over feed of 79 cent per Kg for 2025.

New Statement of Strategy

In December Teagasc launched its new Statement of Strategy 2025-2028 **Innovating for Impact:** *Improving competitiveness and resilience in the agri-food sector.*

With a focus on competitiveness and resilience, the new Statement of Strategy marks a reorientation of priorities for the organisation, setting out an ambitious roadmap to strengthen productivity, environmental sustainability, attractiveness and innovation in the agri-food sector in the years ahead.

This is in line with the EU's renewed focus on competitiveness and food security and the Irish Government's Action Plan on Competitiveness and Productivity. Strengthening both environmental sustainability and the economic viability of Ireland's family-based farming model remains essential.

The new strategy is designed to position Teagasc to be responsive, flexible and adaptive in a rapidly changing environment. I believe it is ambitious and that **'Innovating for Impact'** will ensure that Teagasc continues to be relevant to our stakeholders.

National events

In July we had the biennial Teagasc Moorepark open day. Themed *''Innovating for the Future'',* the 2025 event focused on emerging dairy technologies, environmental sustainability, and the business of farming. As always, it attracted a huge attendance, estimated at 14,000.

In June Oak Park was the venue for the Teagasc Crops and Technology Open Day delivered in partnership with the Irish Farmers Journal. One highlight of this event was the launch by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Martin Heydon T.D. of the new tillage capability within AgNav.

Another highly significant event was the Teagasc Water Quality Conference held in October. The aim of the conference was to understand the current policy, science and practice around agriculture and water quality, and to examine what can be learned from the catchment approach taken in New Zealand.

Undoubtedly boosted by the generally positive mood in the industry the Teagasc Beef Conference held in Athenry County Galway in November enjoyed exceptional attendance.

Infrastructure developments

The Paddy O'Keeffe Innovation Centre extension was opened in April 2025 at Teagasc Moorepark. The building extension provides modern office and collaborative workspace for up to 50 staff and students, specifically dedicated to advancing Irish grassland and dairy research.

The most significant Teagasc infrastructure development in 2025 was the opening of the National Agricultural Sustainability Research and Innovation Centre (NASRIC) at Johnstown Castle, County Wexford by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Martin Heydon T.D.

The 2,000 m^2 facility represents a major national investment of €12.7m NASRIC supports scientific work in critical agricultural and climate areas including: water quality and soil health; greenhouse gas emissions and carbon farming; nutrient efficiency and farmland biodiversity.

Teagasc Finances and Code of Practice

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine allocated State Grant Aid of €175.437m to Teagasc in 2025, an increase of €5.017m over the 2024 allocation of €170.42m. The 2025 out-turn produced savings of €2.99m for capital (2024 produced savings of €0.857m for superannuation and €2.4m for capital).

Total Teagasc income in 2025 was €248m, which was €8m (3.3%) greater than in 2024. Throughout 2025 Teagasc managed elevated cash flow risk arising from an unplanned slowdown in payment of funding for externally funded research projects by a main funder.

Total Teagasc expenditure in 2025 was €249m which was €3m (1.2%) greater than in 2024. There was an increase of 13 in the average number of staff employed, and with general public sector pay increases the 2025 pay bill of €115m was €6m more than in 2024.

Teagasc invested €14.9m in fixed assets in 2025 including €12.4m on buildings and €2.5m on plant and equipment. Superannuation costs increased by €2.258m to €49.861m in 2025.

Teagasc continues to adhere to the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies.

Teagasc Authority

July marked the end of Liam Woulfe's membership of the Teagasc Authority after two full terms. I would like to acknowledge the huge contribution Liam made over his ten years on the Authority. His engagement and commitment to his role as an Authority member were exceptional from start to finish.

In December, Sean O'Sullivan, a qualified accountant, joined the Authority replacing Liam Woulfe. I, and the whole Authority, look forward to working with Sean over coming years.

In conclusion, I would like to thank Teagasc Director, Professor Frank O'Mara, his senior team, and all Teagasc staff for their excellent work in 2025.

Pictured at the launch of the new Teagasc Statement of Strategy (2025 – 2028) are from left to right: Teagasc Director, Professor Frank O'Mara; Ms. Sinéad McPhillips, Secretary General of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine; Liam Herlihy, Chair of the Teagasc Authority; Professor Maeve Henchion of Teagasc, who led the development of the strategy; and Mr. Paul Maher, Head of International Relations and Corporate Strategy.

Report of the Director

Teagasc Director, Professor Frank O'Mara.

Favourable weather and positive market price developments provided the basis for a good year in 2025 across much of Irish agriculture. Good weather and higher fertiliser use contributed to grass production increasing to 13.2 t DM/ha (11.8 t DM/ha in 2024) across farms with data in PastureBase Ireland. Growing conditions and good weather at sowing and harvesting also led to good crop yields, but falls in prices compared to 2024 led to disappointing incomes on tillage farms. While markets and prices for outputs and inputs are major determinants of profit and incomes, technical performance is also very important, and this is where Teagasc plays a major role through its research, advisory and education activities.

The focus of our activities is guided by our 2025-2028 Statement of Strategy, **Innovating for Impact.** Improving the competitiveness and resilience of the agri-food sector is our strategic focus and we will work to support the sector to be more productive, more environmentally sustainable, more attractive and more innovative. To enable this, we will develop our people to their best capability, enhance operational excellence, embrace digital technologies and infrastructure, and facilitate better collaborations.

There are many initiatives that Teagasc undertakes to deliver **Innovating for Impact.** A large part of our research and advisory programme is focused on improving productively in a sustainable manner. We continued to deliver our Climate Action Strategy, and the Better Farming for Water Campaign where six catchment co-ordinators were appointed. We had a range of activities to support generational renewal, including a new initiative: Generational Renewal week. Our pilot plants, Moorepark Technology Ltd, the National Prepared Consumer Foods Centre and the National Centre for Brewing and Distilling, had a busy year supporting innovation at industry level.

Teagasc delivers integrated research, advisory and education activities in support of **FoodVision 2030,** and **Innovating for Impact.** Our Advisory Service provided support to all farmers and had contracts with 42,520 clients. The role-out of the Advisory Strategy continued and the updated advisory role structure has now been introduced across seven of our 13 regions. A central component of the strategy is the creation of the Enterprise Advisor roles which are focused on providing technical and farm business development advice. We also maintained the key role of advisors in income support schemes, supporting 39,554 farmers with BISS applications, part of a total of 146,420 scheme interventions on behalf of clients. In total, there were 142,834 one-to-one advisory contacts in 2025.

The total number of peer-reviewed articles published by Teagasc researchers in 2025 was 653, an increase of 23 on 2024. The strong international and national reputation of Teagasc research is demonstrated by the fact that in the years 2020 to 2025, 60.8% of Teagasc peer-reviewed articles listed international collaborators, with a further 34.8% listing national collaborators.

External competitive research funding is very important in resourcing the Teagasc research programme. Teagasc was awarded external research funding valued at €25.7m in 2025, that will be drawn down over the next three to six years. 37 projects received Irish funding with the total contribution to Teagasc being €14.7m. The largest Irish funders were the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) and Research Ireland who awarded funding to Teagasc of €11.7m and €2m respectively. Fifteen projects were funded by the European Commission, mainly through Horizon Europe (HEU), with a total contribution to Teagasc of €7.9m.

National campaigns and joint programmes with industry such as the Signpost Programme, joint programmes with eight dairy co-ops, Future Beef and DairyBeef 500 and Grass10 are very effective at highlighting important issues and adding momentum to the translation of research-based advice to farmers. We are very grateful to the collaborators and stakeholders in all these campaigns.

Mr. Chris Ovenden prepares meat samples for sensory analysis at Teagasc Ashtown.

Supporting food and other agri enterprises

Teagasc provides significant innovation support to the enterprise sector through collaborative and contract research, access to our pilot plants, and technical services and consultancy. A highlight in 2025 was 25 new industry funded collaboration agreements, leading to a total of 48 active industry collaborations at year-end. Technical research services generated €2.44m income across industry and non-industry, supporting 327 clients, including 223 Start-ups, SMEs, Multinationals and 104 Public Agencies. Moorepark Technology Limited and the National Prepared Consumer Foods Centre continued to have high levels of usage by industry. The National Centre for Brewing and Distilling was opened by Minister Heydon, and eight consultancy agreements were signed with distillery and beverage companies.

In a national context, Teagasc performs strongly. It consistently generated approximately 16-17% of all industry-derived research expenditure between 2020 and 2025. Its licences, options and assignments (LOAs) represented 22% of all LOAs recorded nationally in 2025. Together, these indicators demonstrate Teagasc's strong capability to convert publicly funded research into tangible industry impact across the agri-food and bioeconomy sectors.

Capacity building

Teagasc had 3,638 learners who received a QQI award in 2025 and these students are important for the future of the sector. A highlight of the year was 47 apprenticeship completions, representing the first completion of this stream. In addition to Teagasc courses, 1,375 students in third level institutions were supported in our colleges. Our education programmes are based on a strong foundation of practical, science-based training and we continued to invest in our facilities to ensure we can deliver this to a high standard.

The Teagasc Education Strategy 2025–2030 was approved by the Authority at its meeting in April 2025. It outlines a comprehensive approach to ensuring that Teagasc continues to play a pivotal role in supporting the development of a sustainable, innovative and resilient agri-food sector. Significant work was carried out in 2025 to implement the 19 Actions in the Strategy such as curriculum revalidation and the development of an admissions policy.

The Teagasc Walsh Scholars Programme is one of the most important post-graduate education programmes in the country, and it makes a very significant contribution to building capacity for the agri-food sector. At the end of 2025, there were 247 active scholars across 26 higher education institutions in Ireland and internationally. Expenditure on the programme increased from €6.9m in 2024 to €7.7m in 2025. The scholars are from 43 countries across five continents and 13% were registered for their degrees in international universities.

Supporting policy development

Teagasc supports the government, particularly the DAFM in policy making. Our research provides a strong evidence base to policy makers and Teagasc experts provide significant support across many areas. In 2025, a significant amount of work was done to complete six technical reports commissioned by the DAFM on aspects of agriculture and water quality. Teagasc also made three submissions to public consultations, including a submission on the principles for developing carbon farming in Ireland. Teagasc made five written submissions to or appearances at Oireachtas committees. Finally, Teagasc staff sit on many committees and working groups established by government and agencies, and provide expert technical input and advice.

Communications and events

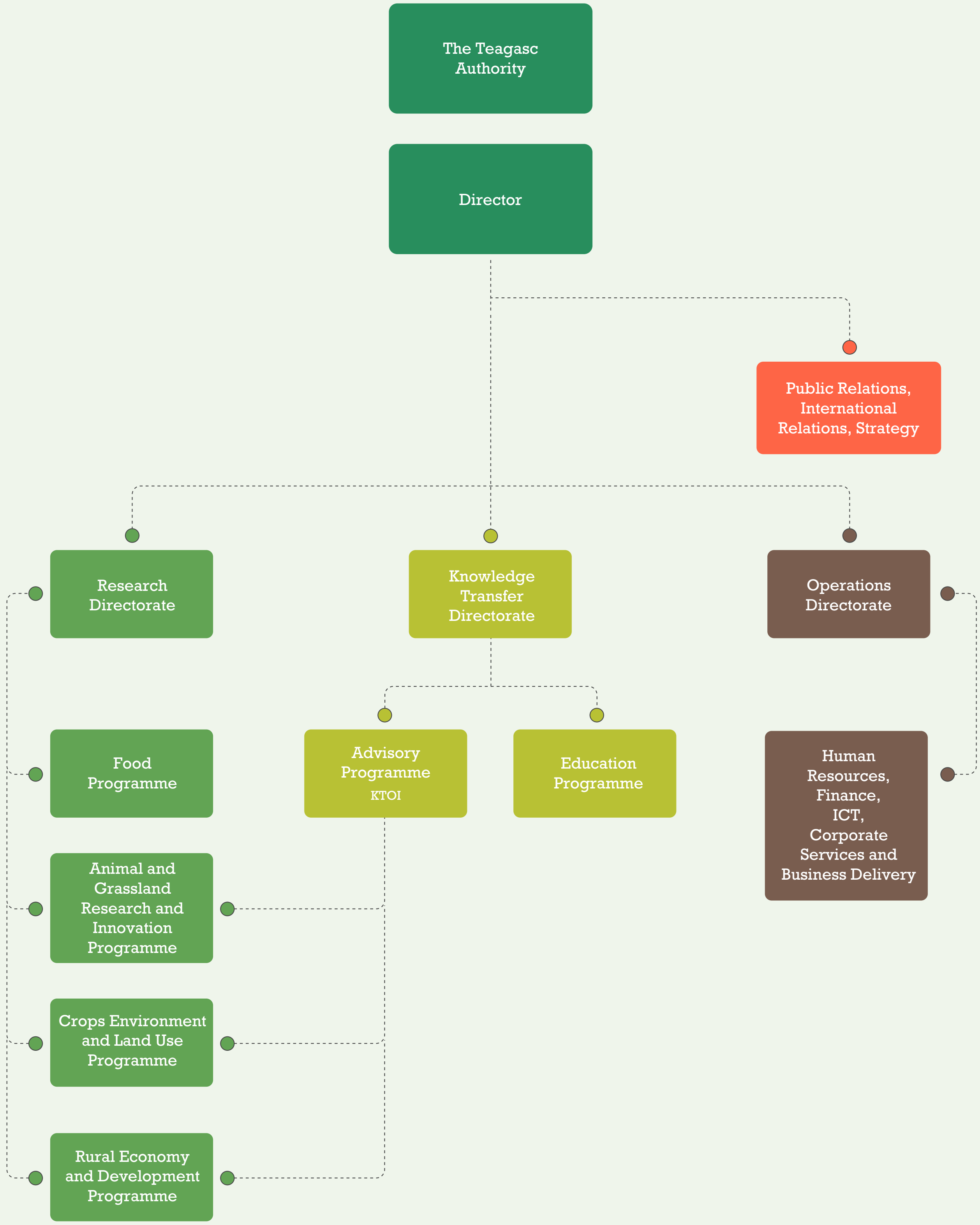
Teagasc uses multiple channels and events to disseminate its knowledge and complement the engagement we have through one-to-one advisor-farmer engagements and discussion groups. Teagasc now has a strong digital presence, complementing its print publications. It has 13 e-newsletters targeting different sectors, eight podcast series, posts on five social media channels, and Teagasc Daily posted 1,400 articles which secured 1.1m visits in 2025. This complements the 4m visits to our website. This content is freely available to all farmers, as are the many events and conferences organised throughout the year at a national or regional level. Finally, Teagasc staff make many contributions on radio, TV and in national and local newspapers and magazines.

Our staff and supporters

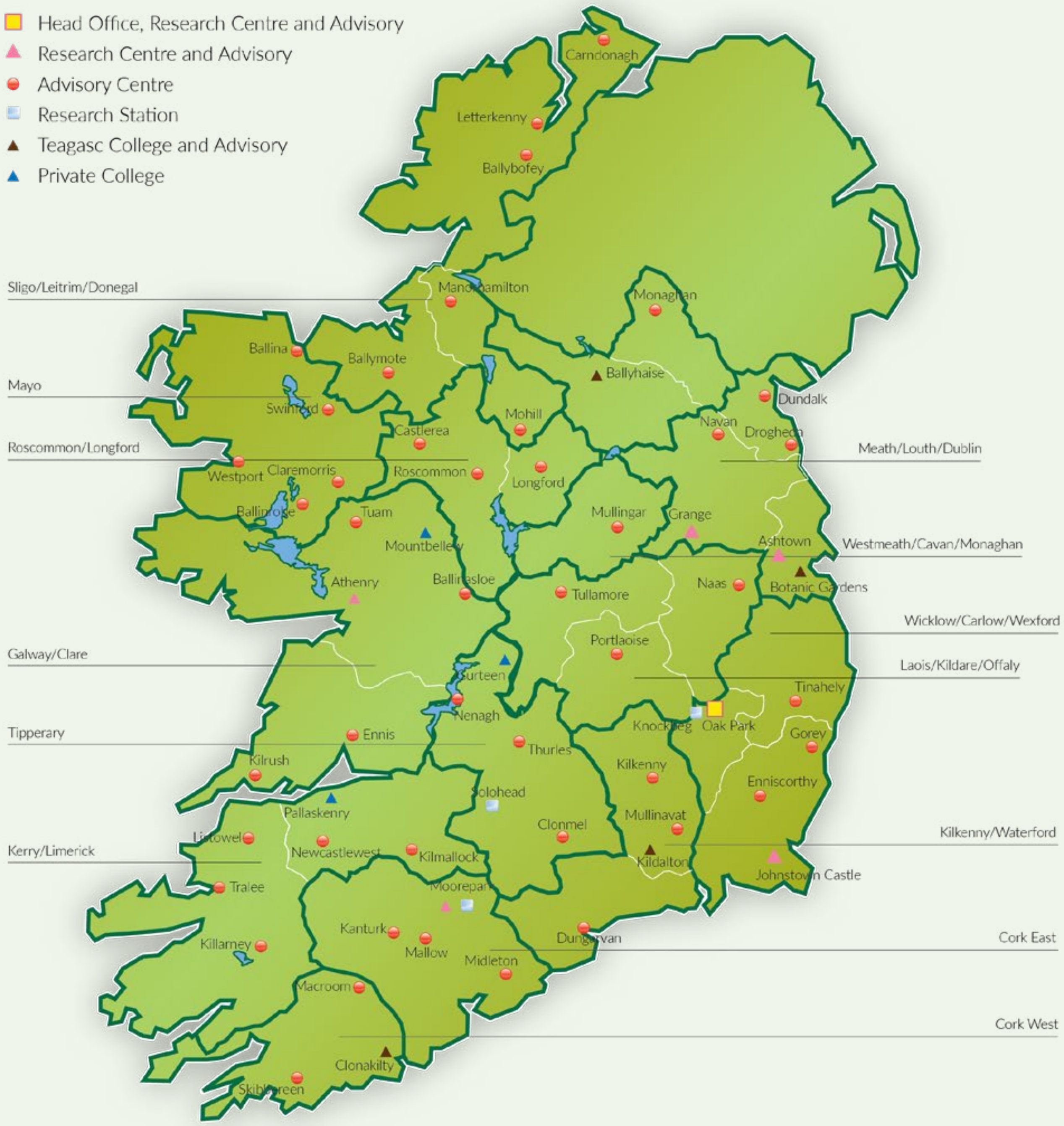
I want to thank all my colleagues for their dedication and hard work in 2025 without which our achievements and outcomes would not have been possible. I also thank our farmer clients, students, and other users of Teagasc services for their continued support. We are very appreciative of the support of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and many other organisations in Ireland and beyond who we partner with. This support and partnership is crucial in enabling us to do our important work of supporting the Irish agri-food sector.

Frank O'Mara

Organisational Chart



Teagasc Offices & Centres



Teagasc activity and performance in 2025

This section reviews the level of activity Teagasc carried out in 2025 to service its stakeholders: farmers, horticulturalists, foresters, food and agri-businesses and policy makers.

Advisory support to farmers

Teagasc provides support to all farmers by freely disseminating advice on technical, environmental and farm management issues through multiple channels. Teagasc events are open to all farmers. The number of contracted clients availing of Teagasc services in 2025 was 42,448. Client numbers have remained relatively stable over the last seven years albeit there has been a slight drop over the last two years (3.4%).

Analysis of data from the National Farm Survey (NFS) suggests that around half of all CAP support payments in Ireland are linked to farms receiving Teagasc advisory services, despite these clients representing roughly one-third of all farmers. This equates to approximately €1.008 billion euros comprising €582m in Pillar I and €426m in Pillar II payments.

Using the same data from the NFS suggests that Teagasc clients account for an estimated:

- 59% of utilisable agricultural area
- 74% of dairy cows
- 51% of beef cows
- 74% of tillage area

Data from the NFS and ICBF shows that Teagasc clients generally have better technical and financial performance than the average of all farms.

	Teagasc clients	**Non-clients**
Grass utilisation on dairy farms (tonnes DM/ha)	8.5	7.7
Bulk milk Somatic cell counts ('000 cells/ml)	163	175
Cost of milk production (€/kg MS)	€4.57	€4.65
Grass utilisation on suckler farms (tonnes DM/ha)	5.90	5.41
Grass utilisation on dairy-beef farms (tonnes DM/ha)	8.16	5.98
ICBF data on Teagasc client's vs all ICBF herds		
	Teagasc clients	**All ICBF herds**
Suckler cow replacement index	€97*	€92
Suckler cow, calving interval	393	396
Suckler cow, calves/cow/year	0.84	0.83

*Teagasc Discussion Groups

Teagasc applied modest increases in its advisory fees in 2025 to cover the increasing costs (mainly staff costs) of delivering its advisory service. Total advisory income in 2025 was €15m, up from €14.68m in 2024.

Advisory activity

Total farm visits by advisors decreased by 866 in 2025 to 19,857. With the majority of ACRES tranche 1 farmers choosing to be scored for Low Input Grassland (LIG) in years 1,3 and 5, there was a reduced demand for farm visits. As noted below, farm visits by newly established Enterprise Advisors increased by 63% in 2025 compared to 2024.

Discussion groups continue to be a critical method of knowledge transfer and a very efficient method of increasing contact time with farmers for technology transfer. A total of 7,783 farmers across all the main farm enterprises are members of discussion groups. There are 102 KT Scheme Discussion groups with 1,571 members in addition to 393 non-KT Discussion groups with 6,212 members.

The number of women-only discussion groups has increased from 10 groups to 15 with a total membership of 295.

Profit Monitors completed increased in 2025 to 1,748 which is a very positive development.

Teagasc advisors and administration staff supported 146,420 scheme interactions including applications and follow up support across all applicable schemes including BISS, Derogation, TAMS, Dairy, Beef and Sheep schemes.

A wide variety of public events took place across all regions including Farm Walks, Technical Workshops, Seminars, Webinars, weekly slots on local radio combined with press articles in local papers.

Further details of advisory activities and those of specialist and specialised advisors in Knowledge Transfer and Development Departments are given in the infographic.

Industry supported joint programmes and other collaborations

The technical advisory programme operates across all enterprises including dairy, beef, sheep and tillage. The Advisory Service and KT specialists partner with dairy co-operatives through dairy joint programmes. Other partnerships with industry include Future Beef, DairyBeef 500, the ASSAP programme and the Signpost Programme. The advisory service is also involved in the delivery of the Teagasc BETTER Farm Sheep and Tillage programmes.

Teagasc operate nine dairy industry joint programmes with co-operatives across the country. These joint programmes are critical to the dairy programmes in the regions and enable the Teagasc dairy programme to reach out to dairy farmers outside of the Teagasc client base. The Boortmalt joint programme supporting malting barley production and the tillage element of the Signpost Programme provides critical links in the tillage sector.

Other important programmes with industry support include the Signpost Programme and the ASSAP; Teagasc advisors funded by the Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage). Under the Better Farming for Water Campaign, six catchment co-coordinators have been appointed. Work has started in collaboration with local authorities, advisors and ASSAP staff to bring about an improvement in water quality in these catchments.

Further details of the technical programme are provided in the infographic and in the Sectoral Priorities section of the Annual Report.

Advisory strategy

Progress continues on implementing the Teagasc Advisory Strategy. In 2025, key actions were

- The Schemes Support Unit continued to make significant strides by providing training and technical support for advisors on regulations and scheme requirements, helping advisors and administrative staff in the regions to handle the volume and complexity of schemes, and building very productive working relationships with DAFM;
- a new Laois/Kildare/Offaly region was established;
- the updated advisory role structure has been introduced across five more regions (Kerry/Limerick, West Cork, East Cork, Roscommon/Longford and Galway/Clare), which means seven regions have now transitioned, with the remaining six regions due to follow in the second half of 2026.

A central component of the strategy is the creation of the Enterprise Advisor roles. Analysis on the activities of the enterprise dairy and drystock advisors during 2025 shows a 63% increase in farm visits conducted and a 70% reduction in office-based activity when compared with the activities of these advisors in 2024. Therefore, the change of roles achieved what the strategy set out to achieve in having this cohort of advisors out on farms to a much greater extent at the critical times of year for decision making on farms. Specialised Schemes Advisors are carrying out some of the schemes-related work of clients serviced by the Enterprise Advisors, but there has also been a dependence on recruiting temporary advisors to increase the capacity of enterprise advisors for technical work.

Education programme activity

There were 1,647 'Green Certificate' qualifications completed in 2025, down from 2,085 in 2024. Most of the decrease is in Distance and Part-time Education (combined reduction of 456). There were 405 full-time completions on the Teagasc and Private Colleges (reduction of 29) and 47 Apprenticeship completions, representing the first completion of this stream. The decline in enrolments (166) was less than the decline in completions, indicating that Green Cert demand may be stabilising after a prolonged period of high demand over the last decade.

Teagasc also supported approximately 1,500 students in linked Higher Education Courses.

Student and course fees income in 2025 was €3.667m, very similar to the €3.635m figure for 2024.

Further details of Education Programme activity are shown in the infographic.

Knowledge Transfer activities

by Teagasc regional advisors

End of Year 2025

42,520 Clients

3,084 Discussion group meetings

1,481 Regional Articles, Local Radio

15,773 ACRES

5,387 ACRES Support including LIG walking

22 No of Level 5 Courses

301 No. of Level 5 Graduations

19,857 Farm visits

618 Webinars

71 ACRES Courses

343 Farmers trained

28 Level 6 Courses

283 No. of Level 6 Graduations

146,420 Total Scheme Client Interventions

19,800 Signpost Advisory Participants

21,672 Technical Consultations/ Visits

247 Farm walks

677 Climate Visits*

2,278 Climate Consultations Phone/Office*

39,554 Basic Payment Scheme Submissions

7,817 Beef Welfare Scheme

120,720 Office consultations

965 ASSAP Visits*

354 ASSAP Consultations*

500 ASSAP Phone consultations*

20 Nitrates Derogation Courses

439 Farmers trained

5,622 Climate Office Work

560 Climate Phone Consultations

175 Workshops

196 Meetings and Seminars

3,268 Nutrient Management Plans

4,736 Derogation Applications

17,580 Plans on CRM

2,699 TAMS

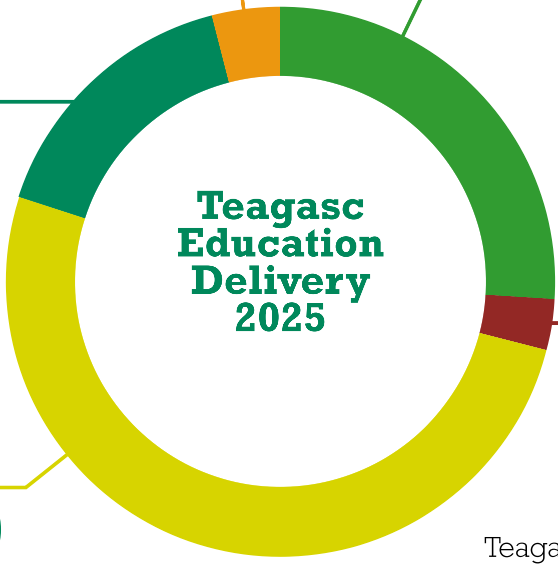
*** already included in total visits / consultations**

Enhancing human capital (Education)

Components*
171

Full Time
929

Part Time
730



Apprentices
150

Distance Education
2,149

Teagasc colleges are at Ballyhaise, the National Botanic Gardens, Clonakilty and Kildalton

1,375
Teagasc Linked Higher Education Participation

ATU/DkIT/MTU/SETU/TUS/UCC/UCD

16
Further Education (FE) Courses

11x Level 6 Courses

5x Level 5 Courses

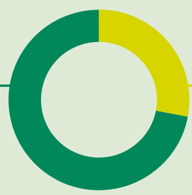
4 Higher Education (HE) Apprenticeship Programmes

x3 **Level 6** Programmes

x1 **Level 7** Programmes

3,638
Learners who received a QQI Award

Male **68%**



Female **32%**

***Components refer to learners who take modules within a course.**

Education Strategy

The Teagasc Education Strategy 2025–2030 was approved by the Teagasc Authority at its meeting in April 2025. It sets out a bold and future-focused vision for land-based education in Ireland. Building on a strong foundation of practical, science-based training, the strategy outlines a comprehensive approach to ensuring that Teagasc continues to play a pivotal role in supporting the development of a sustainable, innovative and resilient agri-food sector.

Three overarching Strategic Ambitions anchor this strategy:

1. **Programmes** – delivering high-quality, science-informed, and practically-based education and training to support a progressive and skilled land-based workforce.
2. **Learners** – providing accessible, inclusive, and well-supported learning environments that cater to the diverse needs and aspirations of learners.
3. **Teams** – investing in a highly motivated and capable education workforce, underpinned by strong governance, professional development, and cross-organisational collaboration.

These ambitions are enabled by six Strategic Enablers of: Science-based curricula; Practical-based learning; Modern, fit-for-purpose facilities; Skilled and supported staff; Digitalisation and innovation; and Strategic partnerships and collaboration.

Significant work was carried out in 2025 to implement the 19 Actions in the Teagasc Education Strategy. Examples include:

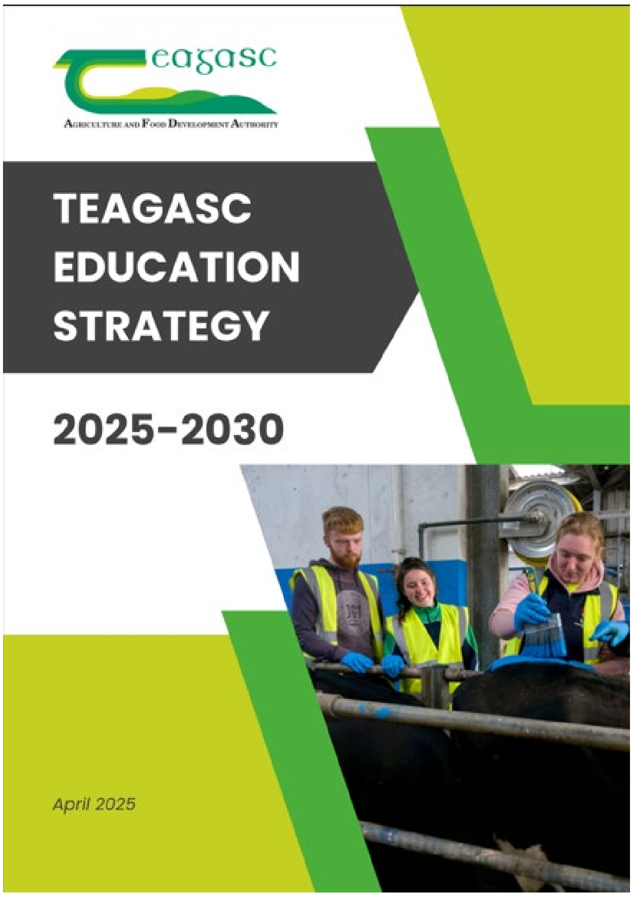
Curriculum Revalidation This major project is well underway with a target submission date to QQI of June 2026. Working groups are focused on key thematic areas of programme content or design. For instance, under Programme Design and Structure, the work will examine how modules are brought together into a coherent programme, including Universal Design for Learning (UDL), Quality Assurance, and Assessment. The Curriculum Revalidation will underpin several other actions in the strategy.

Curriculum Development and Standards Unit (CDSU) Review A review of the CDSU commenced in 2025. The review team includes external expertise and is chaired by an external expert.

Admissions policies to ensure learner success An admissions policy has been agreed and college principals are responsible for reviewing and signing off the new entry requirements.

Systems and Facilities A project to introduce a new timetabling system is progressing to the demonstration phase and remains on track for implementation in the next academic year. In parallel, a number of capital projects were carried out in the Teagasc colleges.

Strengthen relationships with Private Agricultural Education Providers New MOUs and SLAs have been agreed with the private colleges.



Agreements with Private Agricultural Colleges

In 2025, Teagasc formally signed a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and updated Service Level Agreements (SLAs) with Ireland's three Private Agricultural Colleges:

- Gurteen College
- Salesian Agricultural College, Pallaskenry
- Mountbellew Agricultural College.

The agreements include a five-year MOU between Teagasc and each of the three colleges and two-year SLAs with each institution. These agreements cover key areas including governance, funding and operational supports, programme delivery, and quality assurance provisions.

The Private Agricultural Colleges deliver a significant proportion of Teagasc's full-time agricultural student cohort and provide valuable access routes for adult learners, contributing to national reach in agricultural education and training.

Strengthening these relationships was identified as a priority action in Teagasc's Education Programme Strategy and marks a key milestone in supporting sustainable, high-quality provision across the sector.

Pictured at the signing of the new Memorandum of Understanding and Service Level Agreements between Teagasc and the Private Agricultural Colleges at Teagasc Head Office, Oak Park, Carlow, on 16 December 2025 were: (L-R) Dr. Anne-Marie Butler (Head of Education, Teagasc); Teagasc Director, Professor Frank O'Mara; Jon Parry (Principal, Gurteen College); Edna Curley (Principal, Mountbellew Agricultural College); Derek O'Donoghue (Principal, Salesian Agricultural College Pallaskenry); Stan Lalor (Director of Knowledge Transfer, Teagasc) and Betty Cuddihy (Head of Education Administration, Teagasc)

Education staff training

The In-Service Training (IST) programme for Teagasc education staff is a key part of developing education programmes across colleges and regions. It ensures teachers, education officers and technicians are up to date in terms of technical knowledge but also helps to develop teaching and assessment practices.

Dedicated discussion groups across key subject areas such as drystock, environment and machinery are a form of 'community of practice' including education staff and KT specialists. To complement in-person IST and discussion groups a series of webinars in various subject areas are organised on an ongoing basis.

During 2025, 29 individual IST and discussion group days were organised. In addition, National Education IST days have been trialled over the last two years to specifically address classroom-related topics. The most recent one of these days, held at the end of November had an attendance of just over 100 education staff and looked at the education strategy, revalidation and learner support.

Apprenticeships

Teagasc's involvement in apprenticeships began following a national call in 2017 for consortia-led apprenticeship proposals and reached a significant milestone with the completion of the first cohorts of apprentices from its higher education apprenticeship programmes in Agriculture, Horticulture and Sportsturf. These apprenticeships strengthen "earn while you learn" pathways into Higher Education and skilled employment. The graduation event took place in Tullamore in February 2025.

Research publications

Measuring the impact of research is important for Teagasc. Science excellence and societal impact are the two main approaches used to identify research impact. Each year, Teagasc conducts a bibliometric analysis of the performance of its articles in peer-reviewed journals as one of the main indicators of science excellence. Some of the highlights of the 2025 report are:

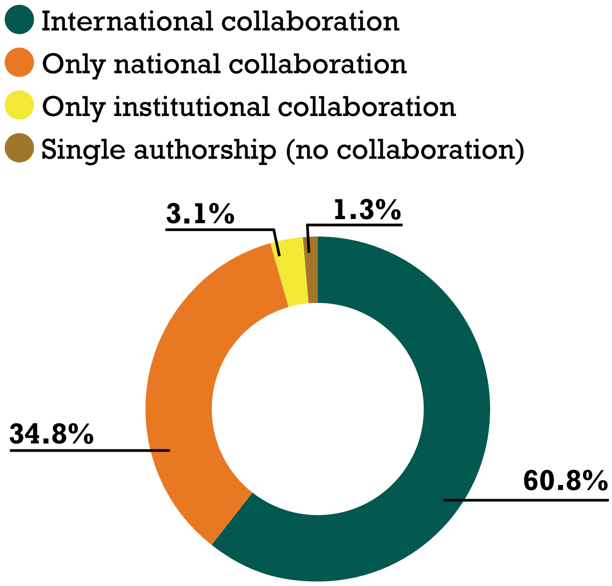
The total number of peer-reviewed articles published by Teagasc researchers in 2024 was 653, an increase of 23 on 2025.

Teagasc supports the move towards open access publications and 75.19% of our publications were open access, well above the 50-60% nationally reported by the National Open Research Landscape Report.

In terms of citations, Teagasc publications are performing above the global average for similar publications.

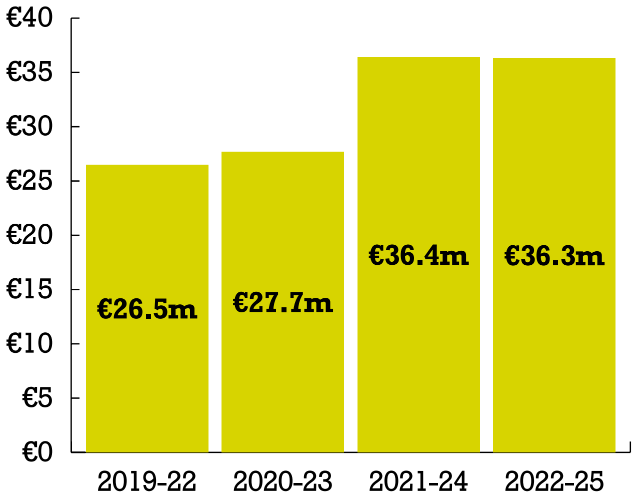
The strong international and national reputation of Teagasc research is demonstrated by the fact that in the years 2020 to 2025, 60.8% of Teagasc peer-reviewed articles indexed by the research evaluation tool SciVal listed international collaborators, with a further 34.8% listing national collaborators.

Scholarly Output at Teagasc by Amount of International, National and Institutional



External research funding

To complement its grant aid from DAFM, Teagasc competes for external research funding, which allows it to enhance its research programme, and also drives collaboration with national and international researchers and institutes. Teagasc was awarded external research funding valued at €25.7m in 2025, that will be drawn down over the next three to six years. This is a reduction in comparison to 2024 (€53.2m) which was an exceptional year and was influenced by a large DAFM call and the VistaMilk Phase 2 award from Research Ireland. Given the variation in funding available in different years, a multi-year average is a useful indicator of trends. The four-year average over recent years shows a steady rate of funding until this year, which highlights an overall sustainable level of funding.

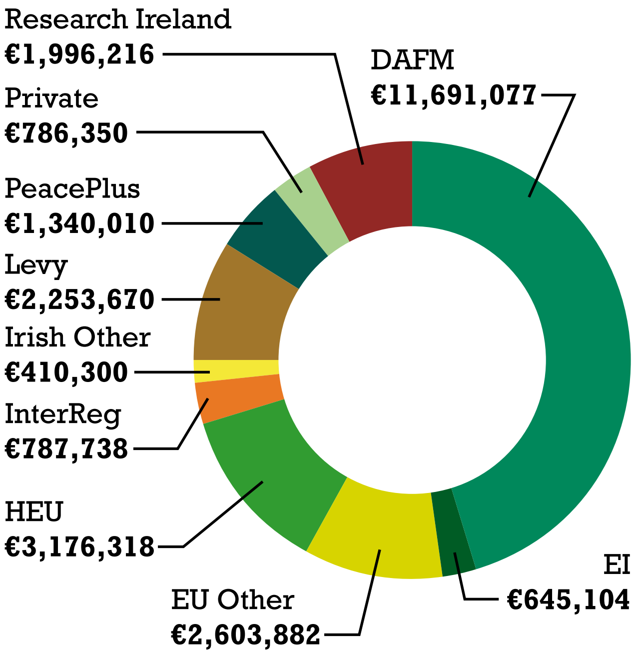


Four-year rolling average of external research funding

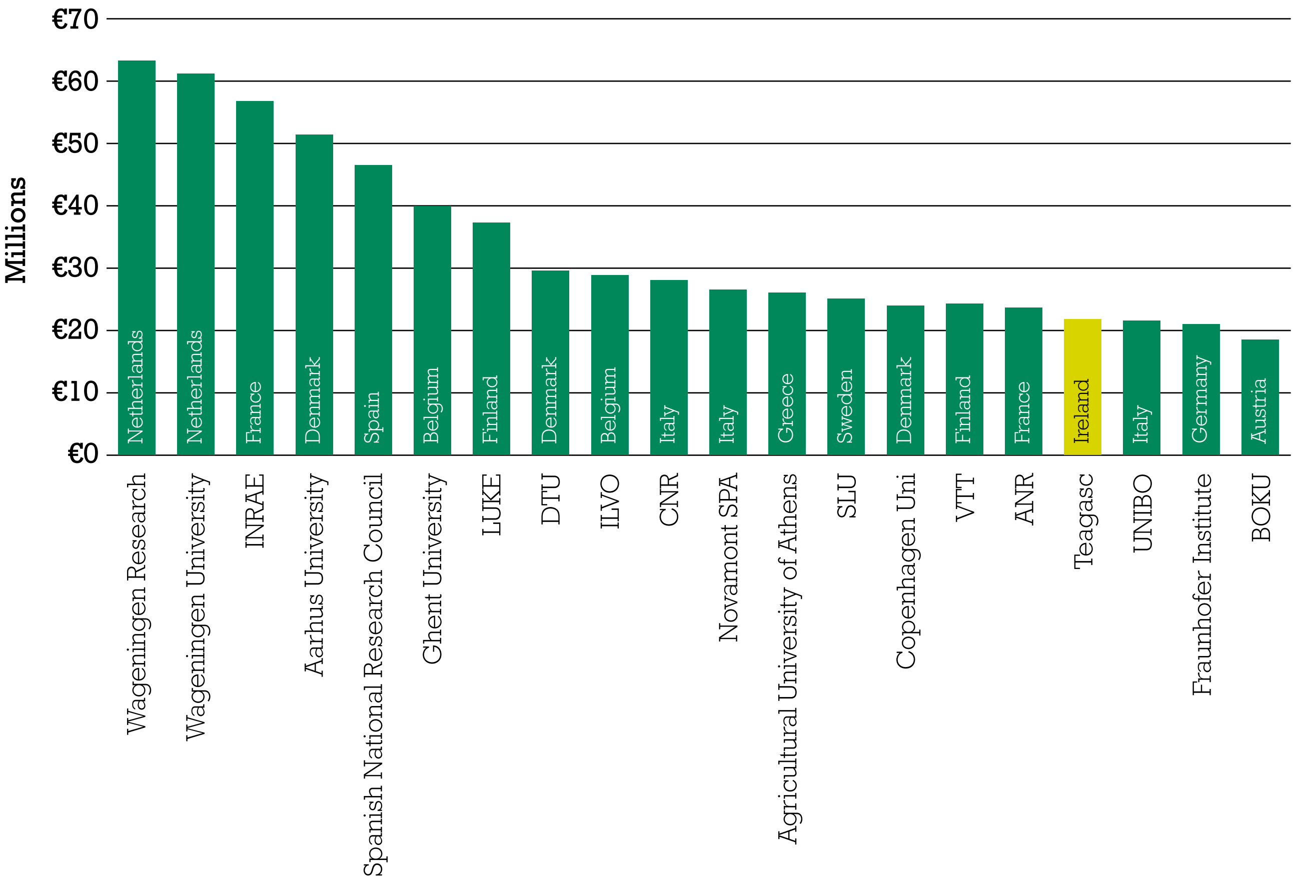
In 2025, 37 projects (with a total value of €37m) received Irish funding with the total contribution to Teagasc being €14.7m. The largest Irish funders were the DAFM and Research Ireland who awarded funding to Teagasc of €11.7m and €2m respectively. Fifteen projects with a total value of €148m were funded by the European Commission, mainly through Horizon Europe (HEU) with a total contribution to Teagasc of €7.9m. The remainder of the €25.7m awarded in 2025 came from a number of other sources and industry levies (Dairy Levy and Pig Levy). Details are shown in the figure below.

The European Commission's Research and Innovation funding programme, Horizon Europe (HEU), runs from 2021 to 2027. To the end of 2025, Teagasc has secured €27.3m from HEU, with 11 new HEU projects worth a total of €3.2m to Teagasc signed in 2025. In Ireland, Teagasc is ranked 8th in terms of total funding awarded and 6th in terms of number of projects awarded, despite having a much narrower breadth of research than our universities. Cluster 6 of HEU which targets food, bioeconomy, natural resources, agriculture and environment, is the main area relevant to Teagasc, and it accounts for only 9% of the HEU budget. For this cluster, Teagasc is ranked 17th across all institutions in the EU for total funding secured and is the only Irish institution in the top 20, as outlined in the figure below.

External research funding awarded in 2025 by source



Total funding in Cluster 6, Horizon Europe



The Walsh Scholars Programme

The Teagasc Walsh Scholars Programme supports postgraduate researchers undertaking projects aligned with Teagasc priorities in agriculture, food, environmental science and rural development. The programme combines research training with professional development, international collaboration and partnerships with higher education institutes in Ireland and abroad. It helps develop scientific capability, innovation and leadership in the agri-food sector, while also promoting wellbeing, collaboration, engagement and transferable skills.

The Walsh Scholars Programme continues to operate through a mixed funding model, with 57% of Walsh Scholars funded by Teagasc, 40% funded through external sources, and 3% jointly funded by Teagasc and external partners. At the end of December 2025, the programme supported 247 active scholars across 26 higher education institutions in Ireland and internationally (not including those on KT Masters programme) which represents an increase of 30 on the number at the end of 2024. This was mostly due to an increase in the number of externally funded scholars. Expenditure on the programme increased from €6.9m in 2024 to €7.7m in 2025 with €4.34m expenditure from Teagasc grant aid (a decrease of €0.221m) and €3.317m from external funding (an increase of €0.99m). The programme remains predominantly doctoral in focus with 97% of the Walsh Scholars enrolled in PhD programmes.

Walsh Scholar of the Year 2025

Luca van Dijk, a PhD student in Teagasc's Animal and Grassland Research and Innovation Programme, was awarded the Walsh Scholars Gold Medal, the highest honour presented to a postgraduate within the programme.

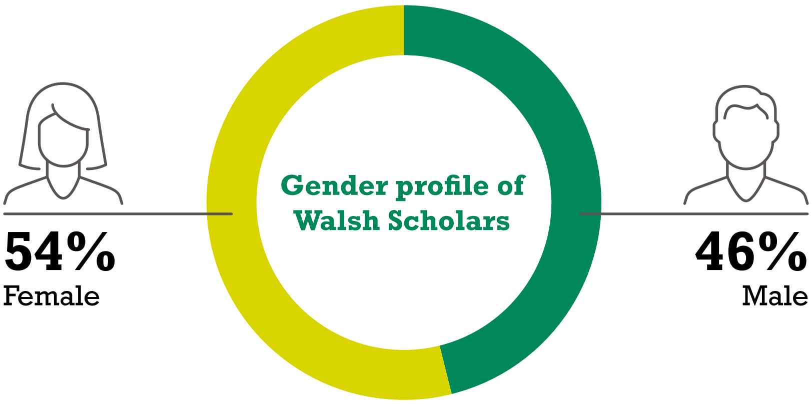
Luca's research examined the health and welfare of young calves transported from Ireland to the Netherlands, a key live export route. Her findings demonstrated that prolonged fasting during transport has a greater negative impact on calf welfare than the journey itself. Importantly, her research showed that providing milk replacer during ferry transport significantly improves calf health and wellbeing, with direct relevance for Irish and EU policy.

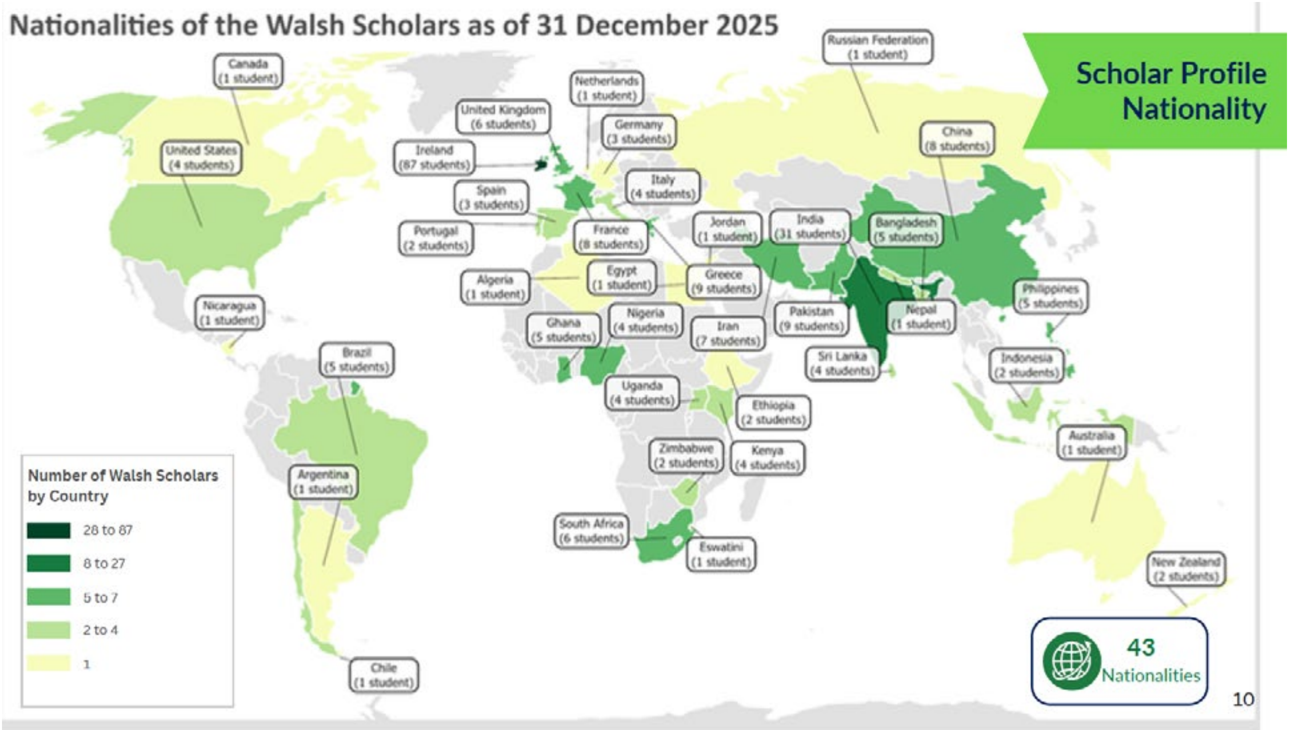
Originally from the Netherlands, Luca was a Walsh Scholar registered with Munster Technological University (MTU), supervised by Dr. Muireann Conneely (Teagasc) and Dr. Gearóid Sayers (MTU). Prior to joining Teagasc, she completed a Master's degree at Wageningen University. She intends to continue her work in animal welfare through postdoctoral research.

Pictured are: (Dad) Niek van Dijk with (Mom) Ellen Smit; Liam Herlihy, Teagasc Chairman; Luca van Dijk; Professor Pat Dillon, Director of Research, Teagasc; Dr Gearóid Sayers, Munster Technological University; Teagasc Director, Professor Frank O'Mara; Jane Kavanagh, Head of Research Development and Walsh Scholars at Teagasc; Professor Laurence Shalloo, Head of the Animal & Grassland Research and Innovation Programme, Teagasc.

Key activities, achievements and developments in 2025

- 247 active Walsh Scholars across 26 HEIs in Ireland and internationally
- €7.7m invested in postgraduate research and researcher development
- 43 nationalities represented across five continents
- Revised terms and conditions implemented to strengthen governance and accountability
- New governance and approval framework introduced
- Programme extension policy approved to improve consistency and oversights
- 16 training events delivered through the autumn/winter Training Series
- 340+ structured training places provided to Walsh Scholars
- First Teagasc AI training programme for doctoral researchers launched
- LinkedIn audience increased by 53% during 2025
- LinkedIn engagement rate (10.9%) significantly outperforming typical LinkedIn organisation page
- 47 Walsh Scholars completed their scholarships





Higher Education Institutions (HEI) Partners

26 partners

UCD (University College Dublin)	89	University of Birmingham	2
UCC (University College Cork)	69	University of Nottingham	2
Technological University Dublin (TU Dublin)	16	Atlantic Technological University (Galway-Mayo)	1
Munster Technological University (MTU)	12	CEU Cardinal Herrera University	1
University of Galway	11	DCU (Dublin City University)	1
TCD (Trinity College Dublin)	9	Heriot-Watt University	1
Wageningen University (WU)	8	Queen's University Belfast	1
South East Technological University (SETU)	5	Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB)	1
Maynooth University	4	University of Edinburgh	1
University of Limerick	3	University of Göttingen	1
Dundalk Institute of Technology	2	University of Reading	1
Harper Adams University	2	University of Valencia	1
SRUC (Scotland's Rural College)	2	University of Waterloo	1

Strong Irish Partnership
The majority of students (90%) were registered with Irish Institutions

Top Host Institutions
University College Dublin remained the largest host institution with 89 Scholars, followed by University College Cork with 69

Global Reach
Scholars are also registered at insitutions in the UK, the Netherlands, Canada, and Spain

Valued International Partners
Wageningen University continued as a key interantional partner

Strong Academic Network
Programme maintained a strong network of nationsl and internationsl academic partnerships

Industry engagement and commercialisation of research

Key metrics of industry collaborations, commercialisation activity, and innovation outcomes delivered during 2025 demonstrate both the scale and depth of engagement with industry. These include the number of companies collaborating with Teagasc, the scale of collaborative research activity, the progression of intellectual property through the innovation pipeline, and the commercial returns generated through licensing and other mechanisms.

- 141 New Industry Engagement Agreements
- €1.17m Licensing Income
- 40 New Licences Options & Assignments
- 25 Innovation Disclosures 4 Patents Filed
- 8 Training Events 286 Researchers Trained

Industry engagement at Teagasc spans the full innovation pathway, from early-stage technical problem-solving, product development and pilot-scale activity through to long-term strategic research partnerships. A highlight is the 25 new industry funded collaboration agreements, leading to a total of 48 active industry collaborations at year-end. Some examples are outlined.

Industry Engagement in 2025

25 new Industry Collaborations

8 Innovation Vouchers

€3.08m income from industry

12 of new projects are Vistamilk Centre

VistaMilk

55 Engagement Enabling Agreements

46 companies

13 are repeat collaborators

Innovation Partnership with Atlantic Dawn - Maria Hayes

- Advancing existing Teagasc peptide IP from marine resources
- Enterprise Ireland-funded; strong Blue Economy opportunity
- Supported application and industry agreements

VistaMilk 2 - GHG Hub - Ben Lahart

- Major output from Phase 1 now expanded in Phase 2
- Five Co-ops: Ornua, Carbery, Kerry, Dairygold & Lakelands continuing to sponsor national GHG solutions agreed to 2030
- Demonstrates long-term industry commitment to climate action

Innovation Partnership with Aurivo Dairy Ingredients - Noel McCarthy

- Optimised process approaches to improve hydration, solubility and stability of dairy powders
- Enhanced consistency of product increasing commercial competitiveness
- Enterprise-Ireland Funded and generating expertise for both Teagasc and Aurivo

Technical services also act as an important gateway into deeper engagement with Teagasc. Across Teagasc, these services are delivered through all Teagasc Research Centres, utilising specialist expertise, dedicated innovation infrastructure at facilities including:

- the National Prepared Consumer Foods Centre (NPCFC), Ashtown
- the BioTest Facility, Moorepark
- the Bioprocessing Suite, Moorepark
- the National Centre for Brewing and Distilling, Oak Park
- the Biomethane Processing Centre at Grange,

These assets enable companies to access applied research capability across the agri-food value chain, supporting innovation, competitiveness and sustainability. Highlighted below, technical research services generated €2.44m income across industry and non-industry, including €1.79 m from the Food Programme, supporting 327 clients, including 223 Start-ups, SMEs, Multinationals and 104 Public Agencies.

Technical Services in 2025

€2.44m
income from all Technical Services

223
Client Companies engaged with in 2025

€1.79m
Food Programme income

53
new Consultancy Agreements

The National Centre for Brewing and Distilling (NCBD) completed its first full year of targeted industry engagement in 2025, supported by Engage@Teagasc. Eight consultancy agreements, generating €30k in income, were signed with distillery and beverage companies, focused on testing, analysis and technical support. The centre offers a range of facilities including pilot scale facilities.

The National Prepared Consumer Foods Centre (NPCFC) plays a central role in supporting innovation within Ireland's prepared consumer foods and ready-to-eat sector. A recent review of activity from 2021–2025, highlights the NPCFC delivered 1,000 research and innovation trials, supported 300 food and drink innovations, trained 400 industrial professionals and achieved a 66% client return rate.

National Prepared Consumer Food Centre (2021 - 25)

1,000
Research & Innovation Trials

66%
Client Return Rate

440m²
Pilot Plant

300
Food & Drink Innovations

400
Industrial Professionals Trained

In 2025, Moorepark Technology Ltd (MTL) continued to deliver critical pilot-scale, product development, and validation services to the agri-food sector. MTL supported 84 client companies in 2025, including 23 new entrants, reflecting strong and growing demand. Between 2021 and 2025, MTL has supported over 500 companies and enabled the production of ingredients with an estimated value of €60–80m. With a 44% client return rate and access to a 5,000m² pilot plant facility, MTL continues to act as a critical national platform for industry innovation.

Moorepark Technology Limited (2021- 25)

8,400
Research & Innovation Trials

44%
Client Return Rate

5,000m²
Pilot Plant

€60-80m
Worth of Ingredients Produced

500
Client Companies Supported

Teagasc is a partner in the BIA Innovator which continues to support food entrepreneurs and scaling SMEs through incubation space, technical facilities and entrepreneurship training.

Across 2024/2025, BIA supported more than 40 innovations, contributed to 106 jobs and trained over 800 entrepreneurs and learners.

Bia Innovator

Supported over 40
innovations in 2024/2025

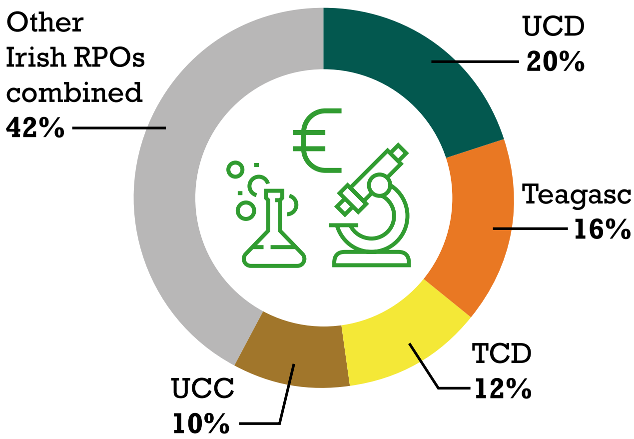
106 JOBS
created

Over 800
entrepreneurs & learners benefited from BIA EOLAS training in 2024

In 2025, 25 new Innovation Disclosures Forms (IDFs) were recorded. At the end of 2025, Teagasc maintained a portfolio of 30 active patent families with four new patent applications filed during the year. Licensing remains the primary route through which Teagasc intellectual property is transferred to industry. In 2025, 40 Licences, Options and Assignments (LOAs) were executed, six of these were Licences, contributing to a growing portfolio of 97 active agreements and generating over €1.17m in licensing income.

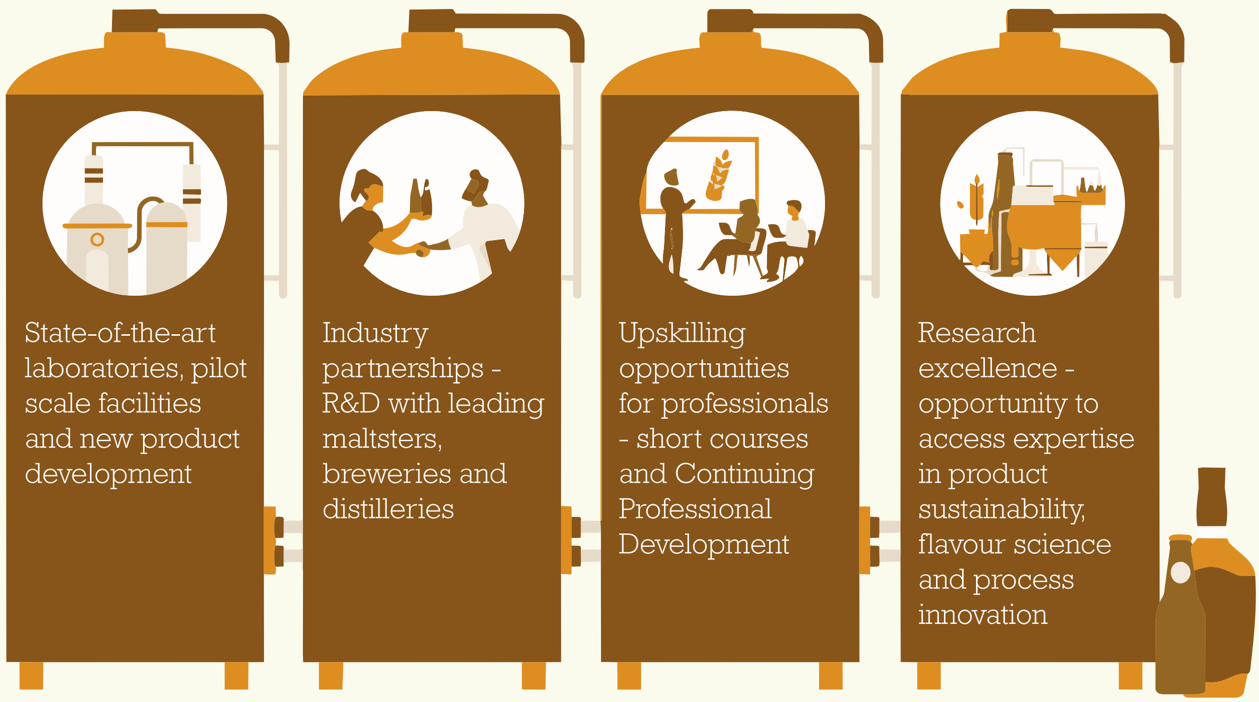
In a national context, Teagasc performs strongly. It consistently generated approximately 16-17% of all industry-derived research expenditure between 2020 and 2024. Its licences, options and assignments represented 22% of all LOAs recorded nationally in 2024. Together, these indicators demonstrate Teagasc's strong capability to convert publicly funded research into tangible industry impact across the agri-food and bioeconomy sectors.

Average Annual Share of National Industry-Derived Research Expenditure across 20 RPOs (2020–2024)

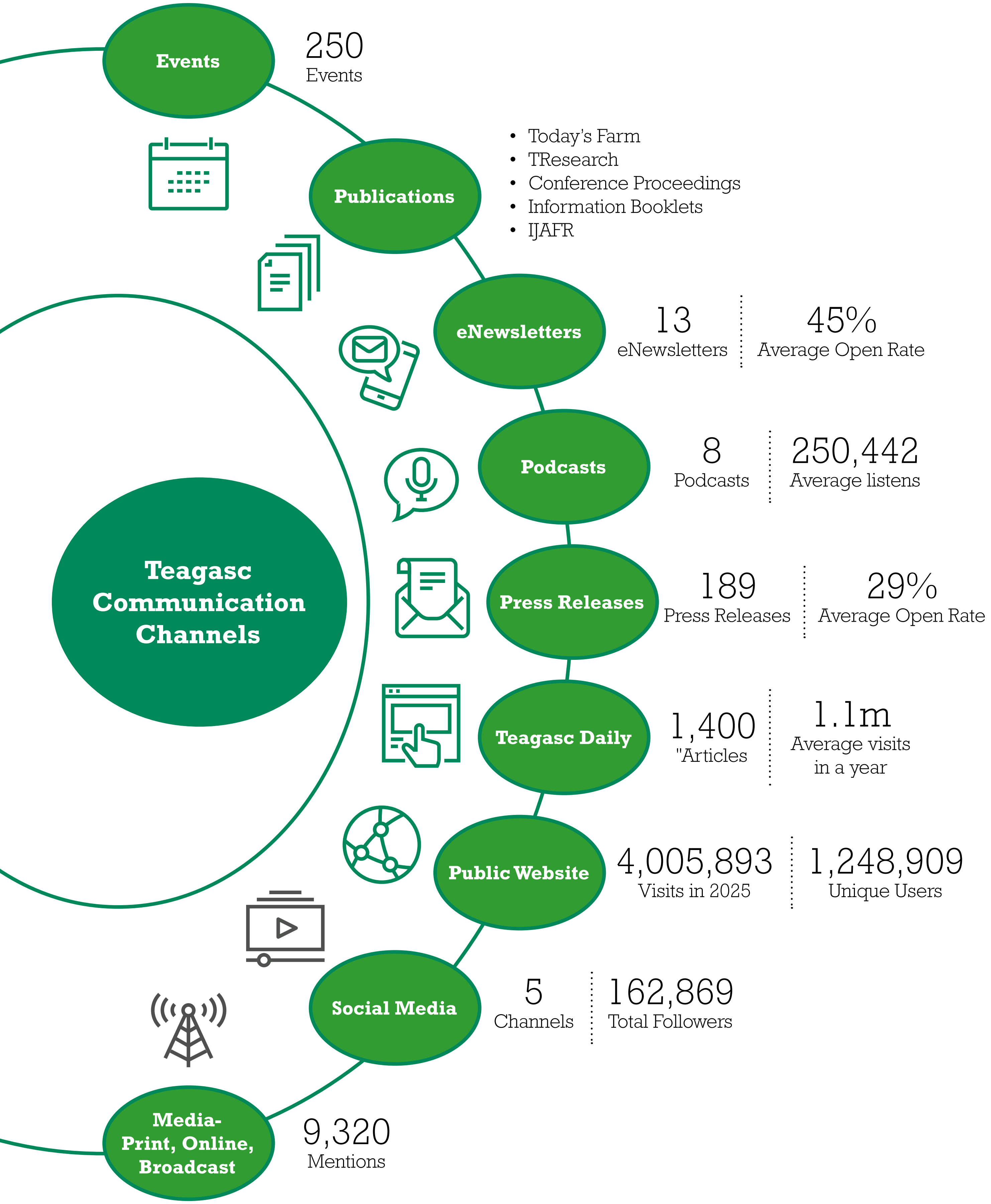


Crafting the future of brewing and distilling

The National Centre for Brewing and Distilling is a state-of-the-art hub supporting industry-centred research through stakeholder collaboration. The centre focuses on advancing the science and craft of malting, brewing and distilling, offering support in the following areas:



Communications activity in 2025



Major national events and conferences

National Enterprise Open Days

Date	Event	Location
21 June 2025	Sheep 2025 Open Day[1]	Athenry
25 June 2025	Teagasc Crops and Technology Open Day[2]	Oak Park
2 July 2025	Moorepark Open Day – Innovating for the Future	Moorepark

[1] Sheep 2025 was organised jointly by Teagasc, Bord Bia, the DAFM, Irish Farmers Journal, Sheep Ireland and Irish Country Meats

[2] Technology Exhibition and Demonstration organised in collaboration with the Irish Farmer's Journal

New National Teagasc Events

Date	Event	Location
29 October	Water Quality Conference	Killenard
11 November	Farming for a Better Climate: Practical and Emerging Solutions	Tullamore

Recurring Teagasc National Conferences

Date	Event	Location
28 January 2025 30 January 2025	National Lowland Sheep Conference	Tuam Trim
29 January 2025	National Tillage Conference	Lyrath Hotel
19 February 2025	National Hill Sheep Conference	Dungarvan
2-3 September 2025	Upland Farming Symposium	Kells CAFRE Hill Farm, Glenwherry
7 October 2025 8 October 2025	National Pig Conference	Tipperary Cavan
21 October 2025 23 October 2025	National Broiler Conference	Monaghan Limerick
4 November 2025	Food Innovation Gateways – Smarter Food	Moorepark
18 Nov 2025	National Beef Conference	Athenry
26 Nov 2025 27 Nov 2025	National Dairy Conference	Clonmel Cavan
3 Dec 2025	Outlook Annual Conference	Dublin

Competitions and Awards

Date	Event	Location
8-11 January	BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition 2025	RDS
10 April	Teagasc Farm Forestry Award	RDS
15 May	Walsh Scholar of the Year Competition and Gold Medal Award ceremony	Ashtown
22 May	Teagasc FBD Student of the Year	Dublin
20 June	Sustainable Grassland Farmer of the Year Competition	Moorepark
1 October	Teagasc FBD Environmental Sustainability Awards	Killenard

National Events with Teagasc Presence

Date	Event	Location
29 May to 2 June	Bloom	Phoenix Park
10 August	Tullamore Show	Tullamore
16 – 18 September	National Ploughing Championships	Tullamore

Submissions to and appearances at Oireachtas Committees

Written submission to the Joint Committee on Agriculture and Food in relation to Com (2024) 577 Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL amending Regulations (EU) No 1308/2013, (EU) 2021/2115 and (EU) 2021/2116 as regards the strengthening of the position of farmers in the food supply chain.

Written submission to the Joint Committee on Agriculture and Food in relation to The European Commission's Proposal (July 2025) for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the conditions for the implementation of the Union support to the Common Agricultural Policy for the period from 2028 to 2034 – Com (2025) 560.

Appearance at Oireachtas Committee on Agriculture and Food on 10th December 2025 on the topic Supports and resources needed for Private Advisory Service Providers to deliver effective advice on Nitrates and Water Quality Improvements.

Appearance at Oireachtas Joint Committee on Climate, Environment and Energy meeting on 1st October 2025 on identifying the key barriers that may prevent Ireland from meeting its 2026-2030 climate change targets.

Appearance at Oireachtas Committee on Agriculture and Food on 9th July 2025 on the topic Farmer Mental Health and Wellbeing.

Appointments to National / International Committees

Teagasc staff serve on many committees and working groups. The table below outlines appointments to National Committees / Commissions / Groups in 2025, usually at the request of a Minister or Department.

Appointed to the Advisory Committee for Veterinary Medicines to the Health Products Regulatory Authority by Minister for Health	Dr. Orla Keane, AGRIP Grange
Farm Safety Partnership Advisory Committee (an advisory committee to the HSA)	Francis Bligh, KT Outreach and Innovation
CAP-Post 2027 Stakeholder Consultative Committee	Dr. Kevin Hanrahan, REDP Athenry
*Commission on Generational Renewal (established by Minister of Agriculture, Food and the Marine)	Dr. Emma Dillon, REDP, Athenry
Independent Advisory Committee on Nature Restoration (established by Dept of Housing, Local Government and Heritage)	Dr. Stan Lalor, Knowledge Transfer
Chair of the Leaving Certificate Agricultural Science Specification Development Group (established by National Council for Curriculum and Assessment which is a statutory body of the Department of Education)	Dr. Anne-Marie Butler, Education
Board of Forest Certification Ireland, (established by Minister of State Healy-Rae, DAFM)	Frances McHugh, Forestry Development Department
National Windblow Taskforce (established by Minister of State Healy-Rae, DAFM)	John Casey, Forestry Development Department
New Technologies Group (established by EPA)	Dr. Karl Richards, Teagasc Climate Centre

*Established in 2024 and completed its report in 2025

Statutory or equivalent services provided by Teagasc

Recognition of Prior Learning

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is a process by which prior learning is identified, assessed and acknowledged. Teagasc course applicants can seek RPL for individual components, entry to a programme or a full award from the suite of QQI accredited education programmes.

In 2025, 306 learners were eligible for exemptions and RPL.

Equivalence of Qualifications for Trained Farmer status

Teagasc also assess the equivalence of qualifications from agricultural further and higher programmes to determine if they meet the educational requirement to confer trained farmer status for Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine schemes and Revenue tax exemptions. The context is that trained farmers who are seeking tax exemptions on transfers of lands or applying for DAFM schemes must hold an eligible qualification and as per section 654A Taxes Consolidation Act (TCA) 1997, the list of approved/eligible qualifications is provided. Teagasc is also identified in the TCA to certify qualifications as being equivalent to a qualification that is listed in the table and as being deemed by the Qualifications and Quality Assurance Authority of Ireland to be at least at a level equivalent to that qualification. In 2023, the act was amended to include that Teagasc are now responsible for publishing and maintaining the list of all trained farmer qualifications. See https://teagasc.ie/education/approved-trained-farmer-qualifications/

In 2025, 380 letters were issued by Teagasc for applicants seeking trained farmer status for the purposes of Revenue tax exemptions and DAFM Schemes.

Restructuring & Consolidation Relief Certification

Many farm holdings in Ireland are made up of a number of fragmented blocks of land which can result in inefficiencies in management. Farmers wishing to restructure and consolidate their farm holdings by disposing of land parcels a distance away from their main land blocks and acquiring land closer can encounter barriers in the form of Capital Gains Tax (rate 33%) and Stamp Duty (rate 7.5%) levied on land transactions.

Teagasc specialist Ruth Fennell supports families with advice around generational renewal.

Reliefs from these taxes are available subject to conditions. Teagasc is the authority designated in legislation and ministerial guidelines to certify that the pattern of sales, purchases and exchanges complies with the statutory conditions of consolidation and restructuring (including distance reduction and timing), which is a prerequisite for CGT and Stamp Duty relief. Teagasc Certification Officers, trained and supported in the adjudication process, carry out this task for all applicant farmers. In 2025 Teagasc issued 91 certificates covering a total of 2,646 hectares of land transactions.

Business Plan Certification for Tax Measures

Three tax measures widely used by farmers are subject to state-aid rules which require that applicants complete a business plan. These measures are Stamp Duty relief and Stock Relief for young trained farmers and the tax credit available to partners in a Succession Farm Partnership. Teagasc certifies business plans, prepared using its 'My Farm – My Plan' template and certification is required in order for applicants to claim these state-aid-regulated tax measures. A total of 855 certificates were issued by Teagasc in 2025 following on from 893 certificates issued in 2024. Young Trained Farmer Relief from Stamp Duty, the measure most widely availed of, was worth €19.8m to applicants in the 2024 tax year.

Teagasc has issued a total of 5,409 certificates since certification of business plans became a requirement in 2016. These certificates have been issued on the basis of reviewing completed business plans from approximately 4,508 applicants.

Teagasc has over 30 Certification Staff involved across the 13 Regional Units in providing this certification service to both clients and non-clients. Teagasc view this as an important initiative to encourage business planning by farmers at the early stages in their farming career.

Milk quality standards

Teagasc, supported by the Dairy Research Trust provides milk samples with a certified compositional result, under the Teagasc Milk Standards Subscription Service which are used as an internal check for the accuracy of the rapid infrared spectrometers used to determine milk composition in Irish milk testing laboratories. These samples and a certificate of analysis of composition as determined under our accreditation from INAB (ISO17025:2017), were distributed to 20 milk processor sites around the country on a weekly or monthly basis with ~ 14,000 milk samples issued in 2025.

Teagasc also provides a monthly proficiency scheme which provides anonymous monitoring across milk testing labs in Ireland to track the accuracy of determination of milk composition, ensuring transparency in terms of the price paid to milk suppliers.

The National Reference Laboratory for Veterinary Drug and Pesticide Residues

This laboratory, located at Ashtown, delivers part of the National Residues Monitoring Plan which is administered by the DAFM. It is an ISO/IEC 17025 laboratory accredited by INAB (scope 038T) and one of the first ISO/IEC 17025–accredited laboratories in Ireland. The laboratory provides validated testing for nearly 130 substances (listed under scope 038T), including banned nitrofuran drugs, anthelmintics, anticoccidials, carbamate pesticides, pyrethroids and, more recently, antiviral drugs.

Testing covers a broad range of matrices — edible animal tissues, milk and dairy products, aquaculture species, eggs, honey and animal biofluids — and includes official food inspection samples collected from slaughter plants, farms, egg packers and import control.

The work of the laboratory supports food safety and public health and enables timely regulatory action, risk mitigation and informed public-health decisions, thereby safeguarding vulnerable populations and maintaining consumer confidence in the food supply. It is also critical to supporting the export of Irish food into the EU and other key international markets.

As a leading EU research laboratory in residue analysis, Teagasc has developed robust analytical methods, particularly for anthelmintics and nitrofurans, that are now applied by many other EU laboratories. The lab has provided method transfer and training across Europe and internationally, coordinating BTSF training in veterinary drug residue analysis for nearly ten years and training close to 80 scientists from developing countries and EU accession states.

Awards

In 2025, Teagasc or its staff received the following awards from external bodies

Recipient	Award	Awarding body
AgNav	Sustainability Initiative of the Year – Products & Services	The Grocer Gold Awards
AgNav	Sustainability Award	British Culinary Federation Awards
AgNav	Highly Commended for Best Dairy Sustainability Initiative of the Year	National Dairy Awards
AgNav	One of the top 20 global innovations accelerating Sustainable Livestock Transformation	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
Prof Dr. Pat Dillon	Distinguished Member Award	Agricultural Science Association
Dr. Bridget Lynch	ASA Fellowship	Agricultural Science Association and FBD
Prof Paul Cotter	Clarivate Highly Cited Researcher (top 1% globally)	Clarivate
Amin Kargar	Best Application of AI in a Student Project	AI Ireland
Dr. Eimear Gallagher **Dr. Sinéad McCarthy** **Dr. Emily Crofton**	Conference Ambassadors (for Euro Sense 2024 conference)	Fáilte Ireland
Harikrishnan Manikyaparambil	PROM Mobility Grant 'Our Shared Ocean' Mobility and Travel award	National Agency for Academic Exchange Marine Institute
Dr. Mariana Macas	Travel Bursary	CI Seligman

Submissions to Public Consultations

Teagasc Submission to the Public Consultation on Principles for Developing Carbon Farming in Ireland	**DAFM**
Teagasc Submission to the SOLAS Further Education and Training Strategy 2025-2029	**SOLAS**
Teagasc submission to the Mid-Term review of the Forestry Programme 2023-2027	**DAFM**

Reports commissioned by the DAFM

The reports listed below were requested by the DFAM and submitted during 2025. They are available to download from the Teagasc website.

Modelling the impact of over winter green cover on soil water Nitrate concentrations in Irish Tillage systems

Slurry and dairy soiled water volume estimates – Final data summary

An environmental and economic assessment on the impact of possible reductions in the maximum chemical nitrogen allowances for main arable crops

Environmental and economic modelling of the impact of adjustments in the maximum stocking rates permitted under Ireland's Nitrates Derogation

An environmental and economic assessment on the impact of possible reductions in the maximum chemical nitrogen allowances for all grassland stocking rates

Improving slurry nutrient distribution on dairy farm holdings

Modelling Irish Agricultural GHG Emissions and Mitigation to 2050: Scenarios for the Carbon Budgets Working Group

Productivity

Driving efficiency through enhanced herd/crop health, accelerated genetic gain, and the adoption of advanced, data-driven technologies.

- Productivity in agricultural and food systems
- Food processing
- Bioeconomy
- Diversification and Entrepreneurship

Productivity in agricultural and food systems

New industry performance review

'Advancing Innovation, Sustainability and Technical Performance of the Agri-Food Sector'. This new document was published by Teagasc in January. It sets out key indicators of the performance of the main farming enterprises in the agri-food sector from a technical and productivity point of view. It also looks at farm incomes and indicators of environmental and social sustainability.

Enterprise highlights

Dairy

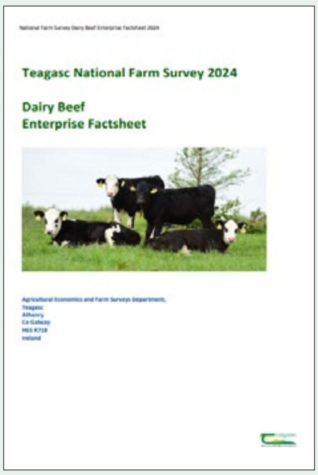
Moorepark Open Day

The Teagasc Moorepark Open Day 2025, held on July 2, focused on the theme "Innovating for the Future". The event provided a strategic roadmap for dairy farmers to improve profitability and sustainability amid changing environmental policies and economic conditions.

Grassland Productivity: Teagasc researchers presented a strategy to increase grass growth by 20%. Data showed that while the average farmer grows 9.5t DM/ha, top-performing farms reach 15.2t DM/ha, highlighting a significant opportunity for improvement.

Enterprise factsheets for Dairy, Cattle (Single Suckling, Cattle finishing, Dairy-beef), Lowland lamb, and Cereals published in October 2025.

Factsheets



Attendees at the Teagasc Moorpark Open Day 2025

Cost Control and Resilience: With production costs rising by 50% since 2020, Teagasc staff emphasized the necessity of cost control, better grass utilisation, and reduced reliance on purchased feeds to build system resilience.

Technology and Innovation: Interactive "villages" showcased solutions in breeding, reproduction (EBI, DBI, sexed semen), slurry management, and farm infrastructure. A VistaMilk showcase highlighted farm-ready, low-carbon technologies.

Health & Safety: An interactive safety trail was featured to raise awareness about machinery blind spots, livestock handling, and ATV safety.

Dairy-Beef Integration: There was a strong focus on the dairy-beef sector, noting a large increase in sexed semen usage (over 350,000 straws in 2025) to reduce male dairy calf numbers.

Dairy award

Winners of the 2025 NDC and Kerrygold Quality Milk Awards, the Ryan family of Lisheen, Moyne, Thurles, Co. Tipperary. Teagasc plays a central role in the competition, providing technical expertise, judging support, and hosting farm walks to showcase winning farmers.

Research

Research conducted at Teagasc Moorepark, supported by the VistaMilk Research Ireland Centre, evaluated the impact of adjusting automatic cluster removal (ACR) settings on milking performance.

The research has led to improved milking efficiency through reduced (by 14%) milking duration and reduced overmilking. The approach is applicable across an estimated 250,000 to 300,000 cows in Ireland, with potential for wider international reach.

These improvements enhance parlour throughput, reduce labour demand, and support better cow comfort during milking. Importantly, these gains in efficiency are achieved without compromising milk yield or quality, directly benefiting farm profitability and milking system performance.

Beef

Key research and studies completed or reported in 2025 include:

Suckler Beef Research (Derrypatrick Herd and at Teagasc Grange)

- Pasture Type & Sire Maturity: Evaluation of the impact of grass-only vs. grass-clover pastures combined with different sire types (Aberdeen Angus vs. Charolais) on animal performance and environmental footprint.
- Red Clover Inclusion: A study on using red clover and perennial ryegrass silage over winter to measure impacts on animal growth and methane emissions.
- Suckler Cow Efficiency: Research aimed at increasing the 6-week calving rate and overall conception rates, with findings supporting 24-month calving strategies.
- Winter Feeding Studies: Comparing the performance of beef calves offered red clover silage against standard perennial ryegrass silage.
- Methane Monitoring: As part of the RumenVentory project seasonal methane emissions were measured across suckler cows, calves, and replacements to establish country-specific values.
- Soil Nutrient Management: Study of soil nitrate leaching on grass-only vs. grass-clover paddocks

Research

Cattle, sheep, and horses can be born with extra or missing chromosomes. Affected animals may appear physically normal but the conditions can cause infertility or premature death. As a result, farmers may unknowingly rear infertile animals with no way to identify them until breeding fails and rearing costs are already incurred.

At €60 per animal, conventional chromosome testing (karyotyping) is not economically viable at national scale. Teagasc pioneered an automated detection method using Single Nucleotide Polymorphism (SNP) genotype data already collected through national evaluations, enabling chromosomal screening at no additional cost. This research demonstrated that routine genotyping data can reliably identify infertile animals before they enter breeding programmes.

Sheep

Sheep 2025 Open Day

The Sheep 2025 event was held in June at the Teagasc, Mellows Campus, Athenry, County Galway. It offered an unparalleled opportunity for farmers, industry professionals, and the general public to explore the latest innovations and trends in the Irish sheep Industry.

Research

Key sheep research projects and updates in 2025 included:

- National Lameness Survey (2023–2024): Walsh Scholar Jake Delaney reported findings showing that over 20% of surveyed farmers struggled to correctly identify scald and foot rot. The study also highlighted that Contagious Ovine Digital Dermatitis (CODD) was present on approximately 50% of the farms surveyed.
- Sustainable Hill Sheep Grazing Study: A new study led by PhD student Michael Dever began, using GPS tracking collars to monitor the grazing location and behaviour of ewes with single lambs. The study aims to evaluate how different turnout times (4, 8, or 10 weeks post-lambing) affect ewe/lamb performance and vegetation management.

- Store Lamb Finishing Trials: Researcher Dr. Frank Campion completed trials on forage brassica crops, demonstrating that hill-bred lambs achieved average growth rates of 130g/day during autumn/winter. Trials also investigated organic lamb finishing options and clover-based swards.

Teagasc Director, Professor Frank O'Mara, addressing the Teagasc Pig Conference in Cavan.

Pigs

Education and Training

In 2025 the Teagasc Pig Development Department adopted a new Education and Training Strategy. The new training programme is designed to support continuous professional development through a combination of national, regional, and on-farm learning opportunities.

The programme incorporates bespoke workshops tailored to the specific needs of pig producers and farm staff, ensuring practical relevance and immediate application on commercial farms. Regional workshops focus on emerging industry challenges, pig management, technical innovation, pig welfare, biosecurity, health & safety and sustainability.

This flexible and targeted approach strengthens skills, promotes best practice adoption, and supports the long-term sustainability and competitiveness of the Irish pig sector.

Pig Welfare

With the EU's focus on animal welfare and pending legislative changes, the Horizon Europe-funded WelFarmers project supports pig farmers in meeting these challenges. Bringing together all stakeholders, it promotes Good Practices (GPs) in four key areas: the anticipated farrowing crate ban, managing pigs with undocked tails, floor design and space allowance, and pain-free castration. The project aims to deliver practical solutions to help farmers adapt to upcoming regulations. In 2025 Ireland had a winning Good Practice, Teagasc client Jason McGrath of Ashleigh Farms in Waterford, developed and adopted a loose lactation and comingling system.

Conference

The Teagasc Pig Farmers' Conference 2025 brought together pig producers, industry stakeholders, researchers, and advisors to discuss the latest developments shaping the Irish pig sector. Held in the Horse and Jockey Hotel and Farnham Estate, the conference featured expert presentations on sow housing, nutrition, biosecurity, welfare, and grower pig performance.

The event provided a key platform for knowledge transfer, networking, and practical discussion, supporting farmers in improving efficiency, sustainability, and long-term resilience within the Irish pig sector.

Poultry

Teagasc Annual Layer Conference

Teagasc provides advisory and educational services to the Irish poultry sector. In May 2025 Teagasc organised a poultry conference focussing on key industry issues including eggshell quality, ventilation, water quality, and sustainability.

Crops

Crops and Technology Open Day

The 'Crops and Technology Open Day' at Teagasc Oak Park was organised in conjunction with the Irish Farmers Journal. The open day covered the latest research on all the main tillage crops and horticultural field crops and a major machinery demonstration, with a particular focus on sprayers and the technology available for more accurate applications.

Teagasc Crops Forum "Protecting yields and adding value"

The Teagasc Crops Forum took place on 10th September, in Co. Kildare.

International Potato Day

In December 2023, the United Nations proclaimed 30th May as International Potato Day, recognising the crop's critical role in global food security. Momentum for this declaration was sparked during the World Potato Congress held in Dublin in May 2022.

May 30th 2025 marked the very first International Potato Day. Teagasc Potato Breeder, Dr. Denis Griffin gave a special talk at the joint Teagasc, Bord Bia and Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine stand at Bloom. Dr. Griffin discussed the Teagasc/IPM Potato Group breeding programme at the Teagasc Crops Research Department in Oak Park, Carlow and the traits being pursued to improve future potato crops.

Tillage research outputs

- Developed and deployed an updated blight-control strategy to address growing resistance issues. No major blight incidences recorded.
- Provided ongoing updates to the industry about herbicide resistant grassweed threats and practical strategies to eradicate or minimise farm exposure.
- Deployed and demonstrated bi-cropping on farms in the south-east; bi-cropping was featured at the Teagasc Crops and Technology open day in Oak Par in June, where a feed compounder showcased use of bi-cropped material in rations.
- Six specific cover-crop walks highlighting water-quality benefits; water was a minor topic in many technical meetings and publications in 2025.

In March Teagasc won €828, 603 for the Future Cereals research project, a major study to improve crop resilience and agricultural productivity in Ireland.

Led by Dr. Susanne Barth and Dr. Fiona Thorne, the project was awarded this sum as part of the Research Ireland Frontiers for the Future Programme. The core goal is to address major agricultural challenges and improve how crops adapt to climate change

Horticulture

Mushrooms

Disease control on mushroom crops is a major challenge, with an estimated 7 to 8% of Irish crops lost annually to disease. Due to the development of resistance and regulatory withdrawals, only one fungicide remains available to mushroom growers in Ireland.

A Teagasc project evaluated whether biocontrol-based treatments could provide effective disease management and assessed the resistance status to the key fungicide.

The study demonstrated that biocontrol effectiveness depends on combining treatment with other Integrated Pest Management strategies, increasing the sector's knowledge on how to maximise their effectiveness. The first biocontrol-based treatment developed for use in the mushroom industry is now being rolled out to growers.

Cut foliage

Teagasc provides agronomic advice, sectoral development through demonstration, and supports ongoing research projects and supports the strategic policy direction of the cut foliage sector.

Cut foliage research: New Leaves - This project identified novel foliage plant lines to feed into the cut foliage sector in Ireland in response to growing demand from export and home markets. In addition, information was gathered on threats from pests and diseases that damage cut foliage plantations. Additionally a first phase of a cut foliage Eucalyptus tree improvement programme funded under DAFM Horticulture Innovation & Diversification scheme (2025) commenced in collaboration with the Teagasc Forestry Development Department.

At the Teagasc exhibit at Bloom 2025 Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine Martin Heydon T.D., Timmy Dooley T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine with special responsibility for Fisheries and at the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications with special responsibility for the Marine, Teagasc Director, Professor Frank O'Mara, and Minister of State with special responsibility for Research and Development Noel Grealish T.D.

Bloom

'Horticulture is Life' was the theme of the joint Teagasc, Bord Bia and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine stand at Bloom in the Food Village.

The interactive feature showed how the organisations work together to support the Irish horticulture industry and growers, to deliver top quality local sustainable produce and plants.

Dr. Michael Gaffney, Acting Head of the Teagasc Horticulture Development Department said; "We are highlighting the role the Irish horticulture sector plays in securing our national food supply in a sustainable and innovative way into the future. We have a particular focus on integrated pest management, using natural methods to control pests."

Research

Research is ongoing to assess the impact of transitional change to more sustainable food systems on food sensory, quality and safety attributes. Trials are ongoing on the impact of interventions for more sustainable horticulture production systems including assessment of emergent risks.

Orchard fruits

Results on the third harvest from the Research Systems Apple Orchard in Teagasc Oak Park were disseminated. Specific objectives to identify opportunities within three minor crops have been completed. A list of potential diversification options has been compiled in coordination with Bord Bia.

Forestry

Michael Healy-Rae T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine delivered a welcome address to mark the beginning of the 11th Integrate Network Annual Meeting that took place in Dublin in October.

Minister Healy-Rae is pictured addressing delegates during a visit to the forest at the Teagasc National Research Centre in Oak Park, where participants explored the local marteloscope in-forest training facility for forest owners and took part in a hands-on workshop on a new forest biodiversity survey methodology.

Storm damage

Over two hundred and fifty forest owners attended Teagasc demonstrations providing guidance on managing forestry storm damage.

Research

The 'AshforFuture' project combined research on ash dieback tolerance with a national citizen science initiative to identify healthy trees. Citizens acted as distributed observers, submitting over 300 reports with images and providing access to scientists for sampling healthy trees.

Reported trees were verified, and selected genotypes were collected and grafted for inclusion into breeding and conservation programmes. Activities included stakeholder training, collaboration with local authorities and community groups, and the development of tools such as disease severity scoring scales.

The initiative has significantly increased the identification of potentially tolerant ash trees, with public reports rising from 73 to 332 within one year. This enabled the collection and grafting of 389 genotypes from 26 counties, which are now integrated into national breeding and conservation programmes.

Grass

Research

A Teagasc project identified sulphur nutrition as a key factor for improving the nitrogen use efficiency of applied fertiliser nitrogen on Irish grassland soils while also increasing herbage yields and potentially reducing nitrate losses to water.

This work is having national impact by increasing the awareness of the importance of sulphur in fertilisation programmes, particularly in silage swards. Continued optimisation of sulphur use has the potential to increase grassland productivity, improve nitrogen use efficiency, reduce farm N balances and decrease nitrate leaching to water supporting the sector in addressing current environmental and productivity challenges.

Teagasc Walsh Scholar Megan Boch and researcher Aine Murray prepare protected urea fertiliser samples for application to experimental grass plots.

National Ploughing Championships

The full range of Teagasc activities was on show at the National Ploughing Championships in County Offaly in September 2025. The overall theme was Science Supporting Farming and a substantial Teagasc staff engaged with visitors to the event on topics as varied as food and health, biodiversity, agricultural production, education, water protection and other environment related issues.

Among VIPs visiting the Teagasc marquee and outdoor exhibits were United States Ambassador Edward S. Walsh pictured here with Teagasc Director, Professor Frank O'Mara and Chairperson Liam Herlihy and Dr. John Tobin of Teagasc Moorepark.

Progress: All on track
Outputs include:

Signpost Advisory Programme

- 15,995 farmers have registered.
- 11,846 sustainability plans completed.
- Signpost farms have made good progress in implementing technologies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Signpost farmers received individual sustainability reports.
- Additional 67 farms deep soil sampled under Signpost Soil Carbon Project.

DairyBeef 500: Sustainable Dairy Beef Production

- On-farm discussion groups supported by DairyBeef500 team nationwide.
- Annual performance report on DairyBeef500 Programme completed and circulated to stakeholders.
- New monitor farms for DairyBeef500 being recruited.
- 35 farmers completed new entrant course in August with 50 more underway.
- First two New Entrants to Dairy Beef Courses completed with new courses planned.

Grass10

- 13 Grass10 events completed across six regions.
- Grass10 walk held on farm of Billy Gilmore, Tuam, Drystock Grassland Farmer of the year.
- Grass10 updates published and contributions given to Ovicast & Beef Edge podcasts.

Future Beef: Sustainable Cattle Production

- National farm walks held on three farms.
- Discussion groups held on eight Future Beef farms.
- Seven online IST days delivered to Future Beef farmers and one in person.
- Profit Monitors completed, good uptake of PastureBase Ireland for programme farms.

Better Farming for Water Campaign

- Campaign launched 30 May 2024
- BFFW Steering Group (external) and Implementation Group (internal) established.
- Recruitment of six Catchment Coordinators progressed - three posts filled by end of year.
- Head of Water Quality KT position advertised.

Food processing

National Prepared Consumer Foods Strategy

The National Prepared Consumer Food Centre Strategy (2025-2030) was launched in July, by Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Noel Grealish T.D. at Teagasc Ashtown, Dublin.

The centre aims to enhance the competitiveness of Ireland's prepared consumer foods sector through technical support and research, contributing to sustained growth. Ireland's prepared consumer food sector has made significant strides in recent years. This new strategy has been developed to continue growth and enhance the prepared consumer food sector.

Teagasc chairperson Liam Herlihy said; "The National Prepared Consumer Foods Centre is well established as a centre of excellence, helping companies across the country to pilot collaborative, industry-led innovation, access cutting-edge food research, and develop scalable, market-ready solutions."

Since opening in 2018 the National Prepared Consumer Food Centre has completed over 520 projects with over 350 food companies providing technical support, training and access to services.

Pictured from (L to R): Ciara McDonagh, Teagasc Ashtown; Teagasc Director, Professor Frank O'Mara; Noel Grealish T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Liam Herlihy, Teagasc Chairperson and Dr. Shay Hannon, Teagasc Ashtown.

Research

A team of scientists, led by Teagasc, reviewed existing data to determine the extent to which microbiome connections across food chains impacted on human, animal and global health. The resulting publication appeared in the high-profile journal *Frontiers in Science,* was accompanied by a webinar (viewed almost 300,000 times on YouTube), and was accompanied by articles tailored for public and younger audiences. These outputs highlighted the work's relevance with respect to policy, importance for developing countries and other societal impacts.

Functional ingredients

Teagasc scientists developed functional ingredients through targeted fermentation of food biomass.

Carotenoids and mannitol compounds were developed at laboratory level.

National Centre for Brewing and Distilling

In May, Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM), Martin Heydon T.D., officially opened the National Centre for Brewing and Distilling in Teagasc, Oak Park, Carlow.

DAFM funding has been used to equipment the centre to help producers in the beverage sector to pilot new products and innovate their production practices. In addition to supporting beverage producers, the equipment in the National Centre for Brewing and Distilling will also be available to students who undertake educational courses in brewing and distilling.

The initial funding investment by the centre was used to buy malting equipment to allow testing of grains, including native grains, for malting and to facilitate the production of small batches of specialised malts for the craft beer and spirit drinks sectors. Previously much of this testing was conducted overseas because of the lack of such facilities domestically.

Minister Heydon said: "This important facility has been established for the benefit of producers to test and pilot their production processes for beer and spirit drinks, including testing the types of grains they use in their products. I am pleased that this equipment can be used by students who have an interest in pursuing a career in the drinks sector."

Teagasc Director, Professor Frank O'Mara commented at the opening: "The development of higher value markets for tillage farmers has been a priority of our crops research programme for a number of years and increasing the use of Irish grain in the drink sectors has been one of the areas we have been researching. Teagasc has invested significantly in this area, without the support of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, for the capital equipment this wouldn't have been possible."

Pictured at the official opening of the National Centre for Brewing and Distilling in Teagasc Oak Park, Carlow were; Teagasc Director, Professor Frank O'Mara, Gemma Merrins, National Centre For Brewing and Distilling, Liam Herlihy, Teagasc Chairperson, Martin Heydon T.D., Minister for Agriculture Food and the Marine, and Lisa Ryan, Manager of the National Centre for Brewing and Distilling.

Meat alternatives

A group of international scientists met at Teagasc Ashtown in Dublin in April, to discuss the possible future role of meat alternatives in European diets. The meeting was held as part of an EU research project known as ComMEATted, which examines the conditions under which consumers may consider introducing more meat alternatives into their diets.

The gathering brought together representatives from five European partner organisations, including Teagasc and University College Cork (UCC). Discussions centred on a series of recent stakeholder interviews conducted across Europe, capturing perspectives on both traditional and alternative protein production.

Reflecting on the discussions, Professor Maeve Henchion of Teagasc emphasised the significance of the research for Ireland, stating: "Ireland is a major producer and exporter of dairy and beef, and while beef, sheepmeat and dairy markets are very strong at the moment, we must understand how meat alternatives are perceived.

The event highlighted the diversity of opinions across the five participating countries. While common themes emerged, there is no consensus on what a transition towards more meat alternatives could look like.

Healthy food systems

Teagasc researchers have mapped how microbes underpin our food systems – and how we can stop their decline. When microbiomes are diverse and balanced, they keep our food safe, nutritious, and sustainable, and our planet healthy—but the quality of these networks is declining across the whole system.

This can be seen in the uptick of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), crop failures, loss of microbial diversity in soil, water, and the human gut, and increased food spoilage. This is due in part to a combination of highly processed diets that disrupt natural microbiomes, the climate crisis, intensive farming, antibiotic and fertiliser overuse, and pollution.

"Microbes explain everything from why strawberries rot and how farmed salmon get sick, to why locally produced, minimally processed and probiotic-rich foods are good for our health," said first author Dr. Paula Fernández-Gómez from Teagasc Food Research Centre and APC Microbiome Ireland. "Declining microbial health is mirrored in the health of people and planet—showing up in dwindling food quality and availability, and in rising chronic disease for animals and plants."

Cheese colourant innovation

This research-industry collaboration addressed a key limitation of traditional annatto-based cheese colourants, where 10 to 20% of the pigment is lost to whey, reducing its commercial value, product quality and sustainability. Teagasc supported Cybercolors Ltd. in advancing the scientific understanding of their patented emulsion-based cheese-colouring system as an alternative to annatto.

Healthier porridge

This Teagasc project focuses on creating added value for Irish tillage farming through advanced nutritional profiling of oats. Although oats are widely promoted for heart health, the amount of porridge required to achieve those clinical benefits can vary considerably between products. This is due to significant differences in nutrient composition across oat varieties, particularly in β-glucan, the soluble fibre responsible for cholesterol-lowering effects.

Depending on the oat variety, reaching the same cardioprotective dose could require anywhere from four to 24 tablespoons of rolled oats per day - a very significant difference for consumers and product developers alike.

NutriOats is a multidisciplinary research project investigating the nutritional composition, digestibility and potential health effects of Irish-grown oats. In the largest nutritional diversity screening to date, this project revealed an exceptionally wide compositional spread among 95 cultivars, among them Irish and European open-source heritage oats.

Findings include some high yield varieties with over 20% protein content, which are suitable for the growing global plant protein food market. Seed growers are starting to use these results to prioritise cultivars that combine superior nutritionally quality with strong yield and resilience traits

Bioeconomy

Bioeconomy

The bioeconomy plays a vital role in meeting Ireland's climate targets, supporting biodiversity, and creating sustainable jobs across regions. Significant progress has been made through initiatives like the National Bioeconomy Action Plan 2023-2025 and the updated National Planning Framework. However, ensuring these national strategies are effectively embedded into local and regional planning remains a priority.

In May representatives from local county councils, regional assemblies, and national government departments met with Teagasc to discuss regional bioeconomy development in Ireland. The conclusion was that regional collaboration is key to unlocking Ireland's bioeconomy potential

Utilising plant resources

Processes were developed by Teagasc in 2025 for fractionation using wet processing techniques. Examples of processing technologies evaluated include: wet fractionation, evaporation, fermentation, hydrodynamic cavitation, extrusion, wet milling, and high-shear turbulence drying. Beverages were produced with lupin, pea and chickpea protein isolate based on a commercial process. Plant concentrates and syrups were made using an evaporator.

ShapingBio

The EU-funded ShapingBio project has released a comprehensive policy brief outlining key recommendations to support the European Commission in creating an optimal framework for a sustainable and competitive European bioeconomy. The recommendations fed into the EU Bioeconomy Strategy, expected to play a crucial role in advancing Europe's transition towards a circular, climate-neutral economy. They will also support bioeconomy development in Ireland through Teagasc, which was involved as a partner in the project.

"The bioeconomy plays a vital role in meeting Ireland's climate targets, and in supporting biodiversity. It also provides opportunities to create sustainable jobs across regions. Therefore, within ShapingBio, we took a focused look at the regional perspective, working with the Southern Assembly and MTU. This will help to help coordinate policy at EU, national and regional level," according to Prof. Maeve Henchion, Teagasc.


Professor Maeve Henchion and Noha Mahmoud

Zero carbon food manufacturing

Teagasc scientists at the National Prepared Consumer Food Centre worked in collaboration with NutriStock, an Irish food-tech start-up, to address the growing need for sustainable, nutritionally enhanced foods, alongside the challenge of developing a scalable and commercially viable production system in Ireland.

NutriStock's goal was to meet global demand for healthier, low impact meal solutions by integrating novel technologies with traditional processes to create a zero waste and zero carbon production model. Working closely with Teagasc, NutriStock developed and scaled its novel food production system while exploring alternative processing and cooking technologies.

Teagasc provided support in product development, process optimisation, and the integration of advanced and emerging technologies essential to maintaining nutritional integrity and ensuring commercial viability.

Through pilot-scale trials and technical expertise, Teagasc helped transform NutriStock's concept into a scalable manufacturing model. This collaboration enabled the development of high value, liquid based nutritious products, designed to meet export markets requirements, accelerating NutriStock's progress toward commercialisation.

The project has significantly strengthened NutriStock's capacity to produce high value food product through the establishment of a scalable production system, culminating in the establishment of a production facility in County Wexford.

Blue economy

Teagasc welcomed the announcement of new funding under the Shared Island initiative to support the growth of Ireland's bioeconomy, with a particular focus on the blue bioeconomy.

The €4.5m investment, announced by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, will support the delivery of AIMBIO, All Island Marine Bio-based Refineries for Circular Blue-Bioeconomy. The project is coordinated by Teagasc and brings together a strong all-island partnership of academic, research, and industry stakeholders. It was announced ahead of Bioeconomy Ireland Week 2025, where the blue bioeconomy was one of the core themes.

Teagasc Director, Professor Frank O'Mara, commented: "This is a timely and strategic investment that builds on Teagasc's strengths in applied research, specialist infrastructure skills development and innovation. We are proud to lead the collaborative AIMBIO project as part of a broader drive to harness Ireland's marine bio-resources in a sustainable, circular way."

Diversification and Entrepreneurship

Pictured are: (Back) Elaine Leavy, Organic Advisor Teagasc; Fintan Phelan, Teagasc; David Leydon, IFAC; Niall Ryan, DAFM; Amy Ward Whelan, IFAC; Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Martin Heydon, T.D.; Jim Hogan, Organic farmer, Rathrush, Carlow; Teagasc Director, Professor Frank O'Mara; Marianne Mulhall, Organic Advisor Teagasc, Martin Bourke, Organic Advisor, Teagasc. Front; Padraic Hogan and James Hogan, Rathrush, Carlow.

Organic farming

Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Martin Heydon, T.D., launched a Feasibility Study on Producer Organisations (POs) in the Irish Organic Sector. The purpose of this report, commissioned by Teagasc, is to evaluate the potential role of POs in enhancing and supporting the Irish organic agricultural sector.

Organic farming research:

- Teagasc research projects on organic farming ongoing with new European Innovation Projects initiated in 2025.
- Preliminary results on economic performance of Irish organic farms based on the Teagasc NFS Organic farming sample were presented at the Outlook 2026: Situation and Outlook for Irish Agriculture 2026 (held December 2025).
- Organic farming farm demo walks and seminars conducted throughout 2025 led by Teagasc organic specialists and advisory colleagues.

Paul Beecher, a Teagasc Equine Signpost farmer, with Sean Keane Teagasc equine specialist.

Equine

ECHO: Equine Health and Education

In a significant step forward for equine welfare in Ireland, a new collaborative initiative called Equine Collaboration for Health and Outreach (ECHO), was launched to provide support and education relating to sustainable health protection of equines.

Pasture management

Equine Pasture Management Workshops – 'Integrating soils, grazing, biodiversity and water quality' delivered by Teagasc and the Irish Equine Centre, were held in collaboration with the Irish Thoroughbred Breeders Association (ITBA). These provided an opportunity to engage with soil, grassland, biodiversity, and water quality specialists, alongside stud farm hosts to discuss optimising pasture management for healthy horses.

Supporting the future of Irish horse breeding

Since its launch in 2023, the Agricultural Consortium and Teagasc's Farm Apprenticeship Programmes have become a key part of agricultural education in Ireland, reshaping how young people enter farming, elevating farm business management, and building a more skilled, resilient agricultural workforce. The programme began with 98 farms in 2023 and by September 2025, it had grown to over 200 SOLAS approved registered employers.

Teagasc will bring this successful model to the equine sector, where there is strong demand to combine on-farm experience with formal education and to develop the next generation of skilled thoroughbred (TB) and sport horse (SH) leaders and professionals.

Industrial hemp

Teagasc faciliatated a Textiles Composites International conference on industrial hemp at the Teagasc Food Research Centre, Ashtown, Dublin. The event drew attention to the promising role of industrial hemp in sustainable development, while also highlighting the need for strategic market and structural developments to support its growth in Ireland.

Environmental Sustainability

Supporting farmers in reducing emissions, improving water quality, enhancing biodiversity, and developing carbon farming models.

- Supporting farmers to reduce emissions, sequester carbon, improve water quality, and enhance biodiversity
- Advance research and adoption of carbon farming and nature based solutions
- Harness opportunities for optimising land use

Supporting farmers to reduce emissions, sequester carbon, improve water quality, and enhance biodiversity.

Teagasc Climate Centre

Researchers within the Climate Centre had a successful year increasing externally projects from 60 to 82 with a total value of €40m across the nine pillars of the centre. This funding enables researchers to expand their research teams to address the objectives of reducing emissions, enhancing biodiversity and underpinning sustainable food systems.

Researchers published over 150 scientific peer reviewed journal papers in 2025 underpinning farmer and industry advice and supporting policy. The centre pillars came together in a series of pillar workshops to share ongoing research and identify new collaboration opportunities. Importantly the Climate Centre brought together experts from across the Teagasc Research and Knowledge Transfer Directorates to put forward Teagasc scientific capability to inform the development of a national carbon farming framework.

Conference

In December 2025 the Climate Centre launched an all-island research conference, "Agriculture and Land Use in Ireland — Pathways to a Sustainable Future," to be held in May 2026. The conference will serve as a national focal point for climate-smart agriculture, bringing researchers, industry and policy makers together to accelerate collaboration, showcase innovations and co-develop evidence-based mitigation and adaptation pathways.

Teagasc hosted the ICOS (Integrated Carbon Observatory System) Ireland Science Meeting and Flux Tower Workshop. The event showcased Ireland's critical scientific role within the pan-European network, which delivers high-precision, long-term observations of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and carbon dynamics across various ecosystems. The meeting highlighted the quality and standardisation of measurements from Ireland's total network of 40 flux towers (of which 28 are in the Teagasc National Agricultural Soil Carbon Observatory), which produce multisite, multiyear data essential for national and EU climate policy and carbon-removal certification.

Carbon flux tower quantifying carbon fluxes in a rape field and the location of the National Agricultural Soil Carbon Observatory sites across Ireland.

New centre at Teagasc Johnstown Castle

The Official Opening of the National Agricultural Sustainability Research and Innovation Centre (NASRIC) took place in November at Johnstown Castle, Co. Wexford. The event was officiated by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Martin Heydon T.D. Pictured (l–r): Dr. David Wall, Head of Enterprise at Teagasc Johnstown Castle; Liam Herlihy, Chair of the Teagasc Authority; Teagasc Director, Professor Frank O'Mara; Martin Heydon T.D., Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine; and Dr. Karen Daly, Head of Department, Environment, Soils and Land Use.

Set within the Johnstown Castle campus the 2,000m^2 state-of-the-art laboratories represents a significant national investment of €12.7m and a strong commitment to improving the sustainability of the Irish agriculture.

Building on decades of world-class research conducted at Teagasc, Johnstown Castle, the new laboratories at NASRIC will further support research excellence in water quality, soil health, greenhouse gas emissions, carbon farming, nutrient efficiency and farmland biodiversity to provide tools and actions for sustainability on Irish farms.

Speaking at the opening, Minister Martin Heydon T.D. said: "The investment in this facility at Teagasc demonstrates Ireland's leadership in science-based solutions for sustainable agriculture. The work carried out here will be critical in helping our farmers produce high-quality food while protecting our natural resources and meeting climate targets."

VistaMilk

A major new research collaboration, based at the VistaMilk Research Ireland Centre based in Teagasc Moorepark, was launched in 2025 to accelerate greenhouse gas mitigation in Ireland's pasture-based dairy sector. The 'Greenhouse Gas Hub' will see collaborative, co-funded research take place between the VistaMilk Research Ireland Centre, the Teagasc Climate Centre and five leading dairy co-operatives: Carbery Group, Dairygold, Kerry Dairy Ireland, Lakeland Dairies, and Ornua.

The €48m VistaMilk Research Ireland Centre brings together over 130 scientists across 13 research-performing organisations to deliver breakthrough science and digital innovation for pasture-based dairy systems. It aims to enhance environmental sustainability, economic viability, animal welfare, and human health.

The research programme comprises industry-led projects aligned across four integrated themes: soil, pasture, animal, and food. These higher technology readiness level projects are supported by cross-cutting platforms in agri-food informatics, emerging technology, and impact, with a strong emphasis on stakeholder and end-user engagement.

At the launch of Phase 2 of the VistaMilk Research Ireland Centre in Teagasc Moorepark, Fermoy, Co. Cork, are (L-R): Teagasc Director, Professor Frank O'Mara; Noel Grealish T.D., Minister of State with special responsibility for research; Professor Donagh Berry, Director VistaMilk; Martin Heydon T.D., Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine; and Dr. Siobhán Roche, Research Ireland.

Joint funding

In 2025 Ireland and New Zealand announce €5.2m for agri-climate projects.

Three research projects aimed at developing new technologies to reduce and account for agricultural greenhouse gas emissions are to receive funding of €5.2m as part of the Ireland-New Zealand Joint Research Initiative (JRI).

Pictured at the announcement were Dr. Bill Callanan, Chief Inspector at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM); Dr. Dominika Krol, Teagasc; Dr. Patrick Forrestal, Teagasc; Dr. Sinéad Waters, University of Galway (representing Dr. Damien Martin, UoG); and Sir Trevor Mallard, New Zealand Ambassador to Ireland.

Nutrient planning

Teagasc and other consultants delivered a range of knowledge transfer activities promoting the importance and benefits to farmers of optimising nutrient management strategies as a key contributor to reduced gaseous emissions and improved water quality.

- Over 21,500 Nutrient Management Plans (13,187 by Teagasc advisors) were submitted on NMP Online in 2025
- NMP development and upgrading work continued to the end of 2025 with additional mapping capabilities and reporting functionality
- A total of 39,033 soil samples were processed by Teagasc for analysis on behalf of clients in 2025
- 5,025 Farming for Water EIP applications were submitted, including 2,182 (43%) submitted by Teagasc

Teagasc tillage advisor Lisa O'Toole demonstrates how to measure the dry matter content of slurry using a hydrometer.

AgNav

AgNav, the online sustainability platform for Irish farmers, was awarded Sustainability Initiative of the Year at the Grocer Gold Awards in London, UK, beating six other finalists in the sustainable products and services category.

Host Naga Munchetty with (front row, l-r), Dr. Siobhan Jordan, Teagasc, Edel McEvoy, Bord Bia, Dr. Natasha Browne, Teagasc, Mick Houlihan, Bord Bia, Chris Tyas, Chair, GS1 UK (award sponsors). Back row: Seán Deane, Bord Bia, Adam Leyland, Editor-in-Chief, The Grocer.

AgNav and tillage

A new tillage capability within AgNav was launched by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Martin Heydon T.D. at the Crops and Technology Open Day in Teagasc Oak Park in June 2025. The addition of tillage will allow tillage farmers to calculate the carbon footprint of their crops, marking a significant advancement in sustainability tools for Irish tillage farmers. The first phase of the development of AgNav provided this facility for dairy and beef enterprises.

Research

A project completed in 2025 provided the first reliable dataset regarding current slurry and dairy soiled water volumes. Findings revealed that actual volumes produced on farms are significantly higher than previously estimated. This evidence directly informed revisions to the Government's 6th Nitrates Action Programme, particularly in relation to storage requirements and farm management practices.

By improving nutrient use efficiency and reducing risks of nutrient losses, the work supports sustainable dairy farming and water quality protection. It also strengthened policy confidence, enabling evidence-based decision-making, and highlighted the value of on-farm monitoring.

Research

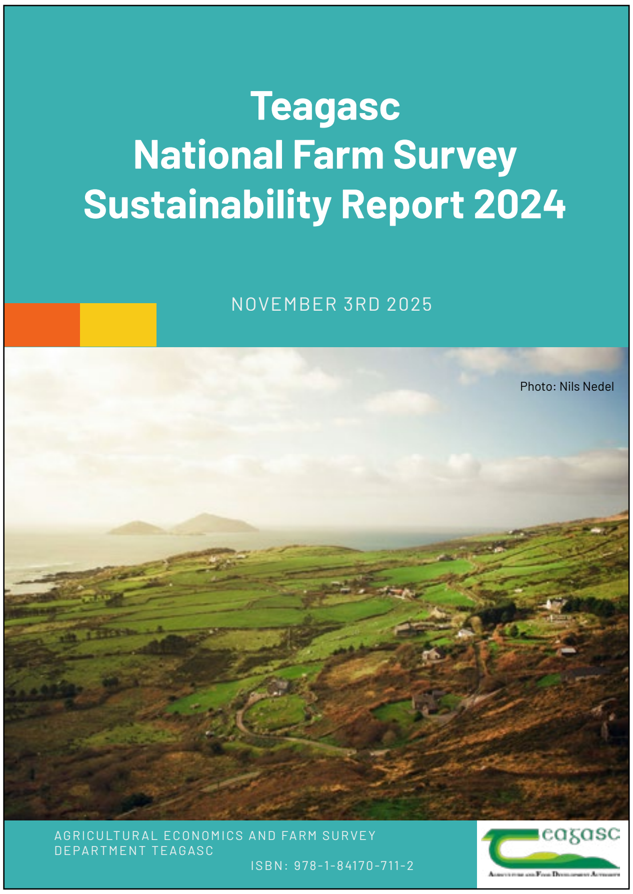
The €uro-Star sheep breeding indexes have been proven to increase farm profitability while reducing the carbon footprint per kilogram of carcass produced. As climate targets increasingly focus on emissions intensity per animal, a new component to the breeding indexes is required to quantify total animal emissions while continually improving flock productivity.

Approximately 20,000 individual animal methane emissions records have been measured by Teagasc in collaboration with Sheep Ireland. This data has enabled the development of genetic models that predict the methane emissions from individual animals. Simultaneously, life cycle assessment has been undertaken to calculate the associated carbon costs with traits already included in the sheep breeding indexes. The integration of methane breeding predictions combined with the calculated carbon emission values on key traits underpinned the creation of a new methane sub-index within the €uro-Star sheep breeding indexes.

Greenhouse gas model

In 2025 Teagasc updated the dairy cow greenhouse gas inventory model in collaboration with the EPA and ICBF. A scientific paper detailing the overall process is planned.

Sustainability report



The Teagasc Sustainability Report focusing for the year 2024 was released in November 2025. A new sustainability data visualisation dashboard, featuring over a decade's worth of sustainability metrics for Irish farming was also presented. The Sustainability Report and the Sustainability Dashboard both use Teagasc NFS data to track the progress of Irish dairy, cattle, sheep and tillage farms in improving their economic, environmental and social sustainability.

Dr. Trevor Donnellan, Head of the Teagasc Agricultural Economics and Farm Surveys Department and co-author of the report noted: "The new Sustainability Dashboard charts a wide range of aspects of sustainability for Irish agriculture. It will aid in the understanding of the sustainability performance of Irish agriculture and will be of use to a wide variety of stakeholders."

Lead author of the report, Dr. Cathal Buckley, Teagasc Rural Economy and Development Programme noted that; "In terms of environmental sustainability, measured on a whole farm or per hectare basis, it is notable, that greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions declined across the average dairy, cattle and sheep farm in 2024. Lower stocking rates contributed to lower animal related GHG emissions which was sufficient to offset the higher GHG emissions associated with an increase in chemical nitrogen fertiliser application rates. A declining trend was also evident for ammonia emissions.

The report also illustrates the continuing adoption of actions to address environmental emissions, particularly in the case of dairy farmers. For example, in 2024, 45% of slurry application on cattle farms and 85% of slurry application on dairy farms was undertaken using Low Emissions Slurry Spreading (LESS) equipment.

Dairy farmers also made further progress in the transition to lower emissions from chemical fertiliser in 2024, with 40% of the total nitrogen applied in 2024 in the form of protected urea. However, the usage of protected urea on drystock farms remained low, at between 9 to 14% of total chemical N applied for sheep and cattle farms respectively.

Two new social sustainability indicators developed by Dr. Marie Merlo, of the Teagasc Rural Economy and Development Programme are included in the Report. These indicators are measures of food security. They are based on an assessment of the protein generated across the different farm systems. Results indicate that the average dairy farm generates enough protein per hectare to meet the yearly requirement of 20 people, while the corresponding figures for the average tillage, cattle and sheep farm are 15, 4 and 3 respectively.

Collectively, these systems generate enough protein to meet the requirement of circa 36m people. Even when allowance is made for the protein in animal feed, results indicate these systems collectively provide protein provision to meet the requirement of 30m people.

Commenting on the release of the report, Teagasc Director, Professor Frank O'Mara, stated: "The new interactive Sustainability Dashboard re-enforces Teagasc's commitment to generating and publishing sustainability metrics to present a clear picture of the strength and weaknesses of

Irish agriculture is a sustainability context. It will assist policy development and policy evaluation."

Signpost Farms Programme

Teagasc launched Signpost Report 2025: Demonstrating Climate Action in Irish Agriculture marking the completion of the fourth year of the national Signpost Programme. Since 2021, the programme has led climate action on Irish farms through the promotion of science-based solutions, tailored advisory support, and strong farmer engagement.

Martin Heydon T.D. with Dr. Siobhán Kavanagh of the Teagasc Signpost Programme and Teagasc Director, Professor Frank O'Mara.

Farming for a better climate

The Signpost Programme and the Teagasc Climate Centre hosted a conference titled "Farming for a Better Climate: Practical and Emerging Solutions."

Pictured at 'Dairying at Dusk' – An Evening Walk through the Award-Winning Farm of John and Brendan Walsh, Ballylooby, Cahir, Co. Tipperary organised by Teagasc, FBD and Dairygold are (front row) hosts Claire, Brendan, John, Maria and Helena Walsh with (back row) William Ryan, Dairygold; Rena Ryan, FBD; and Dr. Tom O'Dwyer, Head of Teagasc Signpost Programme.

The Walsh family farm in Ballylooby, County Tipperary are farming in tune with nature. At an open day in June hundreds of visitors, from the young to the old, walked the farm to see how this food producing farm are taking steps to protect the environment. It was clear for visitors to see the work put in to maintain and enhance the hedgerows, planting new hedges, and managing existing ones to provide food for the birds, pollen for the pollinators and shelter and shade for the livestock. Twenty pollinators were found on the farm when the biodiversity assessment was carried out on the farm in 2022 as part of the Teagasc Signpost Programme.

John Walsh outlined the care he takes when planting a new hedgerow, from selecting the plant mix, to the pruning in the first three years, and then the management subsequently to ensure a wide base, eight foot tall and whitethorns flourishing every 50 metres.

Launching the Grassland awards, as part of the Grass10 campaign were: Front: Sean McMahon, Grassland Agro, Liam Herlihy, Teagasc Chairperson, Michael Berkery, FBD Trust, Martin Heydon T.D., Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, John Macnamara, Grass10 Chairperson. Back: Aidan Bugler, Teagasc, Donal Walsh, AIB, David Cummins, DAFM, Lorcan Roche Kelly, Irish Farmers Journal, Paul Maher, Teagasc, Mary Dunphy, FBD.

Managing grassland with less nitrogen fertiliser inputs and with greater reliance on biological nitrogen from clover can reduce cost of production, increase animal performance and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The Sustainable Grassland Farmer of the Year competition has run successfully for the last eight years. This has been a key pillar of the Grass10 campaign in helping farmers to achieve better grazing management practices. Many farmers have made great progress and have become ambassadors for the Grass10 campaign. Further progress can still be made on the level of pasture production and utilisation.

Overall Winner of the Teagasc/FBD Environmental Sustainability Award 2025 was Don Somers, Tillage Farmer, Oylgate, Co. Wexford.

Pictured (L to R): Teagasc Director, Professor Frank O'Mara; Michael Berkery, FBD; Timmy Dooley T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and at the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications; Don Somers, Overall Winner; Gillian Somers; and Dr. Tom O'Dwyer, Teagasc.

Teagasc scientists Dr. Fiona Brennan and Dr. Veronica Nyhan published Farming for Soil Health in December 2025.

Teagasc participated in the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Global Conference on Sustainable Livestock Transformation, at FAO Headquarters in Rome, Italy, from 29 September to 1 October 2025.

Climate action

Joe Cunningham, Chief Executive of LOETB, commented: "We are delighted to partner with Teagasc on the rollout of the Climate Action and Farm Sustainability programme which will help address one of the most pressing challenges facing farming today. Equipping agricultural professionals with this knowledge and expertise will support farmers in reducing farm emissions, while ensuring long-term viability and sustainability of the farm for future generations."

Dr. Tom O'Dwyer; Teagasc; Teagasc Director, Professor Frank O'Mara; Joe Cunningham, Chief Executive of LOETB; Jolene Hall and Grainne McGrath, LOETB; Mark Plunkett, Cian Condon and Mark Gibson, Teagasc.

Global Climate Observing System

The Teagasc Agri-Food Business and Spatial Analysis Department hosted a two-day workshop in April in Teagasc Ashtown, on Ireland's role in monitoring Essential Climate Variables (ECV) as part of its role in the Global Climate Observing System- Ireland (GCOS-Ireland) committee.

The committee consists of nominees from Met Éireann, EPA, Marine Institute, ICHEC (Irish Centre for High End Computing) and Teagasc. GCOS-Ireland works to ensure the sustained provision of reliable physical, chemical and biological observations and data records for the total climate system – across the atmospheric, oceanic and terrestrial domains, including hydrological and carbon cycles, for Ireland.

The role of GCOS-Ireland is to coordinate and promote the GCOS observing principles relating to Essential Climate Variables (ECVs) of relevance to Ireland. The committee reports on 'The Status of Ireland's Climate' and makes recommendations regarding the sustainability of the Irish ECV observing system. The most recent report is 2020. Teagasc participates by hosting Met Éireann weather stations, Irish Soil Moisture Monitoring Network (ISMON) soil moisture sites, as well as the Teagasc National Agricultural Soil Carbon Observatory (NASCO) network of towers measuring greenhouse gases (GHG's).

Improving water quality

European Commissioner for the Environment, Water Resilience and a Competitive Circular Economy, Jessika Roswall, visited Ireland in November, following an invitation extended by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Martin Heydon T.D. The Commissioner was able to see farming in Ireland first hand, whilst also engaging with public representatives and stakeholders on Ireland's Nitrates Derogation request. The visit also provided an opportunity to view work on the bioeconomy.

Commenting on the visit, Minister Heydon outlined: "In the context of the good work that Ireland is doing on actions to improve water quality and Ireland's request for continuance of the Nitrates Derogation, I felt it an important step to invite Commissioner Roswall to visit Ireland and today marked an opportunity to engage directly with the Commissioner."

Professor Geraldine Duffy, Teagasc, Commissioner Roswall, Teagasc Director, Professor Frank O'Mara and Minister Heydon at Teagasc Ashtown.

Water Quality Conference

A major conference on water quality, organised by Teagasc, was held in October. The aim of the conference was to understand the current policy, science and practice around agriculture and water quality, and to examine what can be learned from the catchment approach taken in New Zealand.

Pictured at the conference are Professor Richard McDowell, Principal Scientist at the New Zealand Institute for Bioeconomy Science Limited; Dr. Jenny Deakin, Programme Manager with the EPA; Teagasc Director, Professor Frank O'Mara; Marie Archbold, Senior Advisor, Water Advisory Unit, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH); and Liam Herlihy, Teagasc Chairperson.

WaterMARKE

Researchers in the WaterMARKE project investigated how the complementary use of research and knowledge exchange can achieve greater uptake of farm level water quality mitigation measures to ultimately secure an improvement in water quality as required by the Water Framework Directive.

The WaterMARKE project was funded by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) and involved economic, psychology and scientific researchers from Teagasc and the University of Galway.

Noel Meehan, Head of Teagasc Water Quality Knowledge Transfer Department commented: "WaterMARKE identified behavioural drivers and barriers for farmers in adopting water quality protection actions.

The project also identified obstacles encountered by advisory services in providing advice and support to farmers in adopting these measures. The research shows that advisors also need training and upskilling in the provision of water quality advice, something that the Better Farming for Water Campaign is working to achieve with both Teagasc and private advisors."

Catchment Co-ordinators

As part of the Better Farming for Water (BFFW) campaign, Teagasc appointed six Catchment Co-ordinators to lead a multi-actor approach to improve water quality in eight of Ireland's most important rivers.

The Catchment Co-ordinators will work in each of the selected catchments, and co-ordinate the efforts of all relevant stakeholders to put in place a comprehensive plan to improve water quality. Stakeholders include farmers, Teagasc, private agricultural consultants, industry representatives, the Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO), local authorities, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM), Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) and community groups.

In addition three BFFW Steering Committee meetings were held in 2025; a new Teagasc Water Quality Department established, and Head of Department appointed; seven Catchment Implementation Group Oversight Committees were established. Catchment characterisation and action prioritisation work was completed for the eight catchments.

Nitrates Action Programme and Derogation

In 2005 Teagasc completed five reports at the request of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Martin Heydon T.D. This is in line with commitments made in Water and Agriculture – a Collaborative Approach as part of the ongoing work in preparing Ireland's next Nitrates Action Programme and importantly securing a continuance of Ireland's Nitrates Derogation.

The reports are:

- Environmental and economic modelling of the impact of adjustments in the maximum stocking rates permitted under Ireland's Nitrates Derogation
- Slurry and dairy soiled water volume estimates – Final Data Summary
- Improving slurry nutrient distribution on dairy farm holdings
- An environmental and economic assessment on the impact of possible reductions in the maximum chemical nitrogen allowances for all grassland stocking rates
- An environmental and economic assessment on the impact of possible reductions in the maximum chemical nitrogen allowances for main arable crops

Research

Ireland's Nitrates Derogation permits farmers to operate at an organic nitrogen (N) stocking rate above 170 kg/ha within the framework of EU regulations. Drawing on robust data from the Teagasc NFS (2021–2023), a 2025 study quantified the proportion of dairy farms exceeding the 170 kg/ha threshold and evaluated the economic implications of removing the derogation. It also examined a range of mitigation strategies to offset the associated economic impact, including land rental, slurry export, contract rearing, and herd reduction.

The analysis estimated that approximately 49% of dairy farms in Ireland, accounting for 65% of national milk production, operated above the 170 kg/ha organic N stocking rate limit. Requiring these farms to comply with an organic N stocking rates of less than 170 kg/ha would result in a reduction of approximately 203,719 cows (14%) and a decline in milk production of 1.2 billion litres (15%) at national level. The findings highlight the substantial economic costs of compliance. Herd reduction emerged as the most economically determinantal adjustment, while alternative mitigation strategies also entail significant, though comparatively lower, adjustment costs.

Biodiverse agriculture

Increasing plant diversity in agricultural grasslands boosts yields, reducing reliance on fertiliser

Higher plant diversity in agricultural grasslands increases yields with lower inputs of nitrogen fertiliser. That is the headline finding of a landmark, international study led by Trinity College Dublin that paints a promising picture for more sustainable agriculture.

Dr. John Finn, Senior Researcher at Teagasc, who is a leading co-author of the research said: ''Across a variety of sites and environmental conditions, our study shows conclusively that six-species multispecies mixtures are not only better yielding than grass monocultures with higher inputs of nitrogen fertiliser, but they also outyield combinations of perennial ryegrass and white clover.''

An image titled "Bee the Change" was officially announced as the overall winner of Teagasc's Vision of Research and Innovation photography competition 2025.

Dr. Saorla Kavanagh explains how farmers can optimise soil biology.

The launch of "The Grasslands of Ireland" book took place during an Extensive Grassland Biodiversity Event on 12 June in Birr, Co. Offaly, hosted by Teagasc and the Heritage Council. Pictured (L-R): Dr. Catherine Keena, Countryside Management Specialist, Teagasc; Teagasc Director, Professor Frank O'Mara; Dr. John Feehan, author and ecologist; Dr. Helen Sheridan, Associate Professor, UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science; Virginia Teehan, Chief Executive, The Heritage Council; and Catherine Casey, Head of Climate Change, The Heritage Council.

Farming and Biodiversity national network

The three-year Farmer-focused Biodiversity and Agricultural Knowledge Network (FarmBioNet) Horizon project launched in January 2025. FarmBioNet aims to help farmers and foresters to provide habitats for biodiversity on their land.

A core activity within the FarmBioNet Research Project is the creation of Farming and Biodiversity national networks (FaB NNs), consisting of farmers, foresters, researchers, NGO's, advisors, policy makers and other relevant Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS) actors. The national networks will gather and disseminate knowledge and information relating to biodiversity-friendly farming (BFF) practices.

FarmBioNet will create 12 national networks across its partners and together will form the European Thematic Network for Farming and Biodiversity. The national networks will host workshops, farm walks, and national and international farm exchange visits.

Ireland's national network kick-off meeting, led by Teagasc, took place on 26th of February with a total of 46 attendees with a range of backgrounds (farmers, advisors, academia and research, education, NGOs, business and policy makers and government).

Hill Farming

In September, the College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE) and Teagasc hosted a joint Upland Open Day at the (CAFRE's) Hill Farm Centre, Glenwherry, Ballymena, Co. Antrim.

Research

Over five years including 2025, the Teagasc Clover150 programme delivered significant on-farm and industry impact. Participating farmers successfully established clover on 75% of their farm area, achieving an average sward clover content of 19%. The incorporation of clover reduced nitrogen fertiliser use by 60 kg N/ha, to an average of 176 kg N/ha, while herbage production was maintained at 14 t DM/ha. This resulted in a reduction in farm-gate nitrogen surplus to 150 kg N/ha, thereby lowering the risk of environmental nitrogen losses and reduced farming input costs.

The programme provides a proven blueprint for clover establishment, management and nitrogen reductions strategies, with wider industry influence evident with white clover seed sales having doubled to 353 tonnes since 2021.

Advance research and adoption of carbon farming and nature-based solutions

Raised bogs and fens

A study led by Teagasc highlighted the critical relationship between the drainage status of peat soils and localised rainfall in water table management. These findings will be critical in identifying and targeting suitable sites for water table management, and ultimately maximising carbon storage potential in agricultural grassland peat soils.

Actively managing the water table of peat soils is an important tool to reach the EU target of climate neutrality by 2050. As the water table of peat soils drop, carbon dioxide emissions increase, due to the introduction of oxygen to the system and the breakdown of organic matter.

As part of the ReWet project, researchers monitored six Irish peatland sites, four fens and two raised bogs, between September 2023 and August 2024. Using 30 monitored dip wells and hourly precipitation measurements, the relationship between water table rise, event rainfall and the water storage capacity of the soil was investigated.

Teagasc advisor Colm Barry and farmer Tomas O'Reilly visit land on the Glenmore commonage on the Cooley peninsula in County Louth.

Teagasc submission on carbon farming

In November Teagasc contributed to the public consultation on Ireland's Carbon Farming Framework. The submission pointed out that Ireland is well placed to become a European leader in carbon farming, supported by strong national datasets, farm advisory capacity, and scientific expertise. Teagasc argued that as the framework evolves, it should also incorporate livestock methane mitigation which is an important element of the Teagasc Marginal Abatement Cost Curve (MACC).

The submission advised that a successful framework must be simple, farmer-friendly, environmentally sustainable and cost-effective. Engagement from farmers, land managers, foresters, and private investors will depend on clarity, low administrative burden, and meaningful incentives. Transaction costs must be minimised, with funding directed primarily towards climate actions.

The submission warned that significant investment is required in the area of verification. Integrated digital systems and models, combined with existing datasets (e.g., Land Parcel Identification Suystem (LPIS), National Fertiliser Database) will be essential, when linked through the AgNav digital platform, to ensure a positive environmental impact. Robust Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) must be aligned with the EU CRCF but must not be burdensome or impractical.

The submission stated that the framework should reward the protection and maintenance of existing carbon stocks in addition to increasing carbon stocks, ensuring that early adopters or high-carbon farms are not penalised.

On longevity and liability, the submission said that activity periods should follow CRCF guidance. Reversal liability should distinguish between management changes and force-majeure events, with mechanisms for transferring obligations during land leasing or farm succession. Sustainability requires that carbon-farming actions align with biodiversity, water and soil objectives.

The Teagasc document said whole-farm accounting will require significant data integration, with AgNav acting as the national platform for emissions accounting and monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV). For validation and verification, Ireland should build on existing certification systems, leverage administrative datasets, and employ targeted audits focused on observable, durable actions.

The submission advocated that integration with existing initiatives such as Ireland's strong agricultural advisory and education system, the Teagasc Climate Centre, and the Signpost Programme, is essential for scaling carbon farming. Demonstration farms should serve as critical "living labs" to build confidence and refine MRV and payment systems.

The submission concluded that the strongest opportunities for Irish farmers lie in the implementation of technologies with proven science (Teagasc MACC) and MRV capacity. Key barriers include unclear communication, low carbon payments, market uncertainty, administrative complexity, liability concerns, and limited advisory capacity. Addressing these through clear guidance, proportionate MRV and data governance will be essential.

Carbon and finance

In 2025, carbon farming activity in Teagasc centred not only on measuring farm-level mitigation, but also on financing verified results. Within the LIFE Carbon Farming project, monitoring and reporting continued on Future Beef farms using AgNav, with forecasted carbon savings averaging 142 t CO2/farm over five years. Teagasc researchers also explored the potential to monetise these potential savings through a proposed carbon credit pilot.

Parallel survey research on 110 firms found strong interest in investing in low-carbon projects, especially in renewable-energy, while interest in agricultural carbon farming pointed to emerging opportunities connected to carbon insetting (the practice of investing in emission-reduction or carbon-removal projects directly within a company's own supply chain or value chain), long-term competitiveness and broader sustainability opportunities.

Farmer John Dunne (left) and his son John are commercial suckler farmers in County Laois whose farm is a demonstration farm for good production and environmental practise.

Harness opportunities for optimising land use

Sustainability and resilience

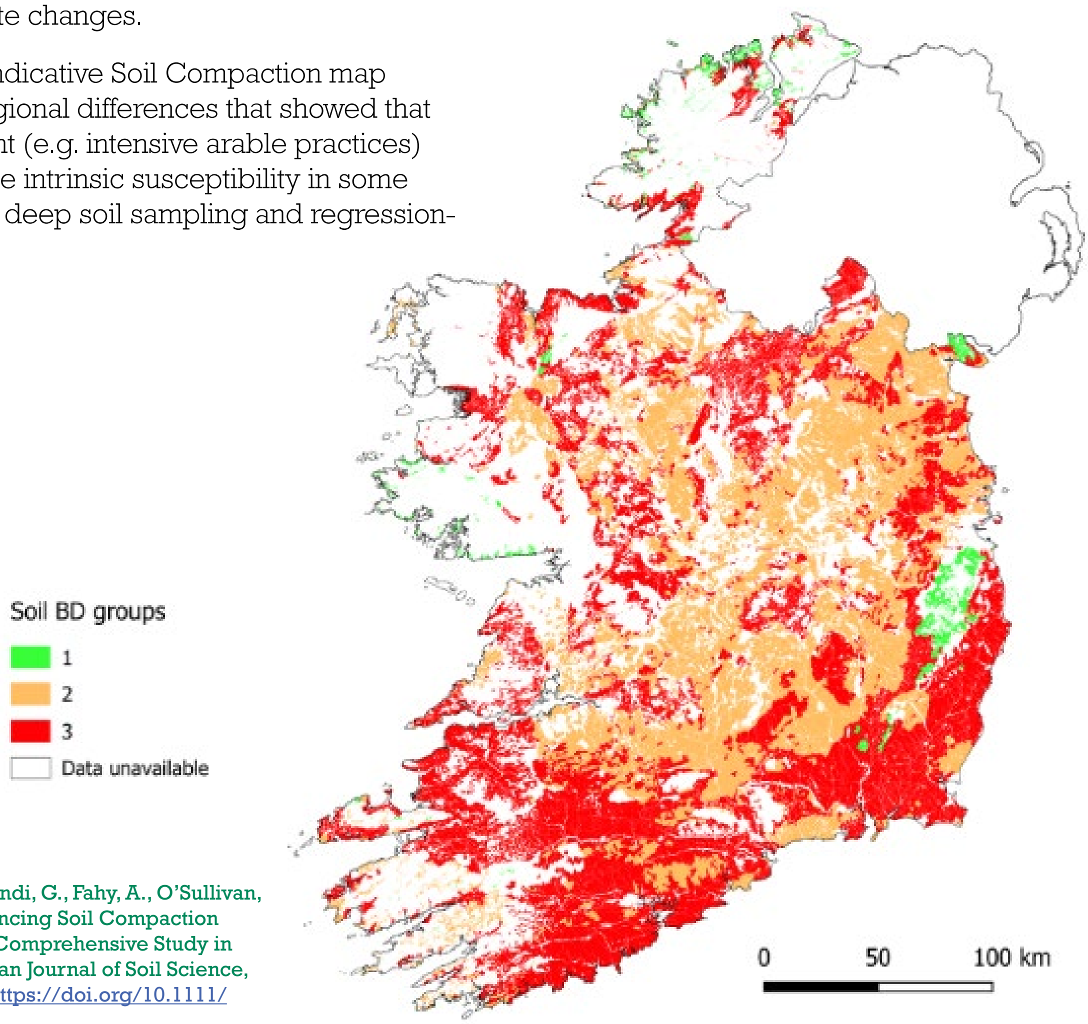
As part of Teagasc efforts to optimise land use for sustainability and resilience, a suite of complementary studies in 2025 produced spatially explicit tools and insights. A large-scale systematic review and cross-case analysis found that land use is shaped by regulatory instruments, but these can be effectively combined with softer approaches with farmers' choices rooted in social contexts.

The need for greater policy coherence that integrates socio-cultural and structural factors, while prioritising context-sensitive approaches was identified. Within the U-Protein project, the current and future biophysical suitability of multiple protein crops was mapped with Shared Socioeconomic Pathways modelled to guide strategic crop choices that incorporate adaptation for greater protein security under future climate changes.

A national Indicative Soil Compaction map revealed regional differences that showed that management (e.g. intensive arable practices) can over-ride intrinsic susceptibility in some areas, while deep soil sampling and regression-tree analysis identify intrinsic soil properties as primary determinants of soil organic carbon potential with land use and management acting as important modifiers for climatesmart SOC enhancement.

A 'soillandscape' fuzzy model offers 'finerscale site selection' and membership rules for practitioners to optimise sampling and locally tailored land use and management decisions. Collectively, these outputs emphasise the need for 'context-sensitive', spatially explicit approaches to land use and management that include detailed soil information to optimise sustainable land use.

Soil bulk density (BD) is an indicator of soil compaction.



Shahrokh, V., Bondi, G., Fahy, A., O'Sullivan, L., (2025). Advancing Soil Compaction Assessment: A Comprehensive Study in Ireland, European Journal of Soil Science, 76(3), e70122, https://doi.org/10.1111/ejss.70122

Attractiveness

Fostering generational renewal, promoting farming careers, improving farm safety, and facilitating collaborative, flexible, and sustainable farming systems.

- **Lead the design and adoption of more attractive, resilient and labour efficient farm systems**
- **Support generational renewal**
- **Deepen understanding of societal, market and cultural factors shaping the attractiveness of farming**

Lead the design and adoption of more attractive, resilient and labour efficient farm systems

Attractive workplaces

During 2025, progress was made in advancing a framework for attractive and productive farm workplaces. This involved conducting co-design workshops to refine the definition of an attractive and productive dairy farm workplace, and to identify the strategies and pathways required to support its delivery.

Three key themes arose from this research focused on working conditions, employment relations, and the wellbeing of people working on the farm. A range of cross-cutting factors that can support more attractive workplaces were also identified including workplace design, support systems, and education/ training.

In parallel, work commenced on the development and validation of new approaches to measure labour input on farms, including GPS- and Bluetooth beacon-based methods. A suite of benchmarks to measure an attractive farm workplace were also defined, and the next phase of the work will focus on testing their usability, robustness, and practical relevance in farm settings.

Research

PhD students began work in this field in 2025:

Develop desirable and attractive workplaces and careers for current and prospective farmers

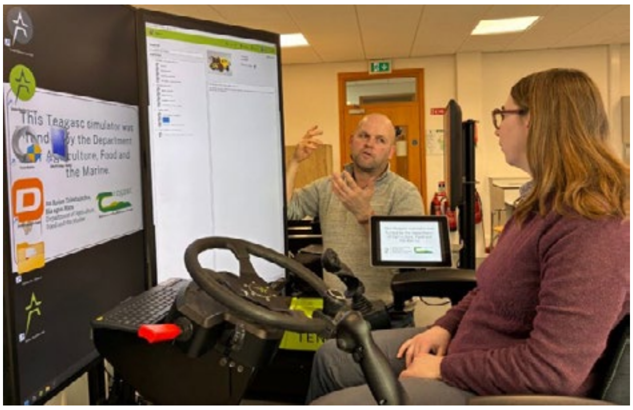
- Designing benchmarks and pathways toward attractive farm workplaces (Valerie Guiney) – Data collection to-date has shown key benchmarks for attractive and productive farm workplaces and has highlighted pathways to achieve such
- Investigating factors that influence the attractiveness of dairy farming careers (Padraig Lacey) - the PhD aims to reevaluate the focus of Generational Renewal from one of farm transfer and farm development to one of a broader understanding of attraction, identity and attachment to rural life as a central component to the development of facilitating Generational Renewal.

Further enhance work/life balance and farms and farmers' reputation for employee attraction, development and retention

- Evaluate and develop decision support mechanisms to support time management and the adoption/ cost benefit of key labour saving innovations (Neil O'Leary) – Data collection to-date has validated GPS measurement of labour time-use as a means to measure labour input with the aim of developing a decision support system
- Employment dynamics in Irish dairy farming: People, productivity and technology (Bridget Craig) – Data collection to-date has focused on developing a model to estimate the future people-requirements of Irish dairy farms

Farm safety

Farm risk seminar



Professor Florence Becot, US farm safety expert is pictured seated on one of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)–funded machinery simulators at the Teagasc College of Amenity Horticulture, Dublin, ahead of a Teagasc seminar addressing the "Farm Risk Paradox". Also pictured is Paddy Smith, College Lecturer, Teagasc, College of Amenity Horticulture, National Botanic Gardens.

The seminar in December 2025, explored why high rates of farm injuries persist despite decades of research and safety awareness campaigns. Professor Florence Becot of Pennsylvania State University presented findings from recent research that highlight the need to broaden conventional approaches to farm safety outreach.

Promoting farmers' health

Teagasc supported strategies to improve men's health in Ireland, including all farmers. The strategies are contained in 'The Real Face of Men's Health, 2025 Republic of Ireland Report'.

The report was produced by Men's Health Forum in Ireland (MHFI) in association with the 'Movember' movement which promotes Men's Health globally. The report indicates that premature death among males in Ireland is 40% higher when compared to females. The five leading causes of premature death amongst males in 2022 in Ireland were: cancers, diseases of the circulatory system; external causes of injury and poisoning, diseases of the respiratory system; and diseases of the digestive system.

Pictured at the launch of an Arthritis Ireland /Teagasc publication at the Teagasc Dairy Open Day in Moorepark, Fermoy, Co. Cork are Tim O'Sullivan, Chairperson Arthritis Ireland, Dr. Stan Lalor, Director of Knowledge Transfer Teagasc, Michael Healy-Rae T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine with special responsibility for Forestry, Farm Safety and Horticulture, Gráinne O'Leary, Chief Executive Arthritis Ireland and Dr. John McNamara, Health & Safety specialist Teagasc.

Farmyard design for safety

Teagasc placed a strong focus on safe farmyard design during Farm Safety Week in July with a number of free on farm events taking place across the country.

Human farm safety

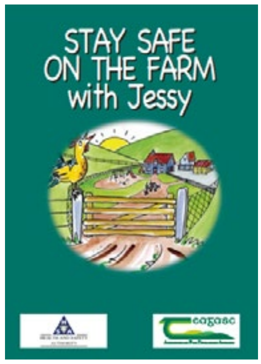
A pioneering initiative by Teagasc which blended digital learning and creativity to promote farm safety among children took place in June 2025.

A Stay Safe with Jessy webinar hosted by Alison Maloney of Teagasc was live streamed to over 8,000 primary school children in the country from the Teagasc studio in Oak Park, Carlow. Joining Alison in studio was Jessy the Sheepdog and Francis Bligh, Farm Safety Specialist in Teagasc.

Adding an exciting interactive element to the event, a live stream to St. Joseph's National School in Rathwire, Co. Westmeath brought pupils directly into the experience, where Alma Jordan of AgriKids engaged with them and the online audience in real time.

Children created bright and colourful farm safety signs to warn others about dangers on farm. During the webinar, the winners of the Stay Safe with Jessy Art Competition were officially announced. The overall winner was Hannah Riney, Realt na Mara, Co. Kerry

Jessy, our Teagasc Farm Safety Mascot, was originally developed in 2007 by the late Lily Nolan of Teagasc and the HSA. The storyline in the book follows a dog called Jessy and her three puppies as they encounter various dangers on the farm.



Research

Internationally, farmers face significantly elevated risk of cardiovascular disease (CVD), yet they are 'hard-to-reach' through conventional health services.

The 'Farmers Have Hearts Cardiovascular Health Programme' (FHH-CHP), developed through a Teagasc Walsh Scholarship, delivered a farmer-centred CVD intervention to 868 livestock farmers. The programme combined CVD health screenings at livestock marts and agri-branches with tailored lifestyle change support.

Programme effectiveness was evaluated after one year. Findings demonstrated measurable improvements in health outcomes and behavioural change and were published and disseminated to national and European policy makers.

Pension coverage

Low farmer pension coverage and late retirement are limiting generational renewal. Teagasc research compared EU pension systems to identify potential solutions to support Irish farmers in transitioning to retirement.

It explored pension coverage among Irish farmers, and in comparison, with five European countries. The research also analysed different national approaches to farm retirement schemes, identified gaps in Ireland's current system and suggested practical policy recommendations.

The solutions identified included the payment of Pay Related Social Insurance by successors/family members from when they begin working on-farm; the introduction of transitional provisions to ensure those currently not adequately covered by the system do not remain disadvantaged; and, as auto-enrolment does not extend to the self-employed farming community, consideration should be given to its extension to farmers in some form. Its exclusion exacerbates the requirement for a state pension system that is inclusive of all farmers.

These insights and other findings were listed in key recommendations of the government's Generational Renewal Report (2025).

Research for European Parliament

A report prepared for the European Parliament by economists from Teagasc (Dr. Trevor Donnellan, Dr. Fiona Thorne, Dr. Jason Loughrey and Dr. Emma Dillon) and Wageningen Social and Economic Research (WUR) found that farm incomes across the European Union have become more volatile in recent years and that existing support measures need to be better targeted if they are to protect the long-term viability of farming. The report contributes to ongoing discussion on the future direction of EU agricultural policy.

The study examined how farm incomes have evolved over the past decade, with particular focus on the period from 2020 to 2024, when farmers faced sharp increases in input costs, high inflation, and significant fluctuations in output prices. Using EU-wide data and detailed case studies for Ireland, the Netherlands, Spain, Poland and Hungary, the report assessed how current policy supports perform, and how they could be improved to respond more effectively to the challenges facing farmers in Ireland and across the EU.

The report showed that rising fertiliser, feed, and energy costs from 2021 onwards led to a squeeze on farm margins across the EU. Output prices increased later in many sectors, but not to the same extent everywhere, and by 2023 farm incomes had fallen in several Member States as costs remained high while prices weakened.

For Ireland, the analysis highlights the strong exposure of the farming sector to global commodity markets, the importance of direct payments for beef and sheep farms, and the growing influence of environmental policy constraints on production decisions.

Across the EU, Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) payments continue to make up a substantial share of farm income, averaging around one-third of total income. However, the report notes that these payments are mostly fixed in nominal terms and their real value has fallen in recent years due to inflation. Direct payments provide stability and predictability, but the study concluded that they are often not well targeted to those farms most in need. A large proportion of support is still linked to farm size rather than to income vulnerability, environmental constraints, or structural disadvantage.

Measures under the current CAP such as voluntary coupled support, eco-schemes and supports for young farmers and disadvantaged areas have improved targeting, but they represent a smaller share of the overall CAP budget.

The report found that risk-management tools such as insurance schemes, mutual funds and income stabilisation instruments could play a much bigger role in protecting farm incomes, but uptake across the EU remained low. Farmers often see these schemes as complex, costly or difficult to access, while in some member states the necessary data and administrative systems are not fully developed.

One of the key recommendations of the report is the need for more timely and more complete data on farm income. Current indicators often become available too late to allow policy makers to respond quickly to sudden changes in market conditions. The report recommended broader measures of farm household income, combined with improved use of farm survey data, could help design support schemes that are more responsive to the real economic pressures on Irish and European farm families.

The study evaluated a range of possible policy options for the future CAP and concludes that no single measure can address all income challenges. Instead, a balanced mix of supports will be needed. Among the options identified were:

- linking payments more closely to farmer need rather than farm size,
- expanding the use of risk-management tools,
- indexing payments to inflation to protect their real value,
- maintaining crisis reserve mechanisms for severe shocks,
- and combining income support with measures that improve environmental performance and competitiveness.

The report stresses that viable farm incomes are essential not only for food production, but also for meeting wider EU objectives on climate, biodiversity, rural development, and generational renewal.

The findings come at a time when discussions between EU member States and the European Parliament have begun on the future direction of EU agricultural policy after 2027. Irish and European farmers will continue to face economic, climatic, and geopolitical uncertainty, making the design of income supports a central issue for the next CAP reform. The study concludes that better targeting of support, improved risk-management systems and stronger data for policymaking will be key to ensuring that farm policy delivers both economic stability for farmers and value for taxpayers.

Support generational renewal

Knowledge Transfer Programme

A bespoke knowledge transfer programme for generational renewal included the production of a Generational Renewal workshop report which was submitted to the Commission on Generational Renewal in Farming. A Succession Day workshop was piloted.

Generational Renewal Commission

The Commission on Generational Renewal, chaired by Aidan O'Driscoll, issued its report in September. Dr. Emma Dillon of Teagasc is a member of the commission.

Teagasc Generational Renewal Week

Teagasc organised five events to take place during Generational Renewal Week in September. Teagasc hosted a hybrid programme of events on generation renewal. Included were three webinars and two farm walks. Ruth Fennell, Teagasc specialist said; "The average age of Irish farmers is currently 59. Many report that they have no identified successor, or that potential successors are not planning to return home to farm. There has never been a more critical time to address this pressing issue."

FRS Co-Op and VistaMilk announce PhD research partnership to support generational renewal on dairy farms.

FRS Co-Op and VistaMilk Research Ireland Centre signed a new collaboration agreement to support a PhD doctorate to investigate employment dynamics in Irish dairy farming with a focus on people, productivity, technology and generational renewal.

Transferring the Family Farm Clinics

Teagasc continued its highly successful annual series of "Transferring the Family Farm Clinics", with six events attracting 1,300 participants.

Pictured at the launch of a Share Farming and Succession Pathways event on 22nd May at Gurteen Dairy Farm, Shinagh Estates, Bandon, Co. Cork are (L to R): Dr. Grainne Hurley, Dr. Conor Hogan, Teagasc; Gus O'Brien of Shinagh Estates Ltd; Kerry Desmond, Share farmer; Ruth Fennell, Teagasc; Darragh O'Donovan, Carbery.

Publication

'Securing the Future of Irish Farms – Approaches for Generational Renewal' is a new publication produced by Teagasc for its Generational Renewal Week 2025 which ran from 8 September until 12 September.

Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine with special responsibility for Farm Safety, Michael Healy-Rae T.D. (right), announced the investment of €320,000 in seven ewe simulators for use by students completing agricultural training courses. Pictured at the launch in Pallaskenry Agricultural College are Majella Moloney, Teagasc Regional Manager Kerry/ Limerick, Derek O'Donoghue, Principal, Pallaskenry Agricultural College, Niall Blake, College Lecturer.

Teagasc / FBD Student of the Year 2025

The awards, sponsored by FBD, were presented to the top graduates of Teagasc Level 6 agriculture, horticulture, equine and forestry training programmes in 2025.

Robyn Dowling completed the Level 6 Advanced Certificate in Horsemanship (Equitation) at the Teagasc Kildalton College in Piltown, County Kilkenny. In addition to winning the Overall Teagasc / FBD Student of the Year 2025 award she was also successful in the 'Other Land Based Category'.

Teagasc chairperson Liam O'Herlihy; Teagasc Director, Prof. Frank O'Mara; Student of the Year Robyn Dowling; Minister Noel Grealish; Teagasc head of education Anne-Marie Butler; FBD Trust chairperson Michael Berkery.

Research

Generational renewal and career progression

A Teagasc Walsh Scholar Diarmuid Delaney began a PhD degree in 2025 investigating how to: Develop clear pathways for farmers to step back from farming, and young farmers to enter and progress in the sector. This includes developing and investigating the feasibility of collaborative farming models. Data collection to date has focused on developing an understanding of the future intentions of Irish dairy farmers, and the potential of collaborative farming models.

Education challenge

Clonakilty Agricultural College was the proud host of the 2025 Macra and Teagasc Colleges Challenges Day, held on 12th February. Eight teams from agricultural, equine and horticultural colleges across the country gathered to compete in a range of events designed to test their skills, teamwork and problem-solving abilities. It features competitions in traditional stock judging, tractor driving, welding, fencing and low-cloche construction, as well as a mix of sporting challenges and practical challenges using online tools to innovatively address challenges arising from modern land use.

Clonakilty Agricultural College were the overall winner and delivered a standout performance, excelling across multiple disciplines to be crowned overall winners on home ground. The competition was marked by strong performances from all colleges, with several challenges sharply contested. Students demonstrated their expertise and adaptability, making for an exciting and hard-fought contest.

2025 Macra and Teagasc Colleges Challenges Day Overall Winners: Clonakilty Agricultural College, pictured with Elaine Houlihan, Macra President and Dr. Anne-Marie Butler, Teagasc Head of Education.

Deepen understanding of societal, market and cultural factors shaping the attractiveness of farming.

New framework

In 2025, a research framework that specifies what attractiveness means in practice was developed by Teagasc. The framework identifies the concrete components of working conditions and job quality on Irish farms including farmer health and safety, mental health and wellbeing, work organisation, gender balance, and farm enterprise viability.

This framework traces how improvements across each dimension contribute to more attractive farm systems, and ultimately to generational renewal and the social sustainability of Irish agriculture. This framework increasingly underpins how Teagasc organises its research and policy engagement in this area.

Research grounded in this framework has produced tangible outcomes at European level. The On Feirm Ground programme, which trains farm advisors in mental health signposting, was communicated to EU policy makers through the SafeHabitus Horizon Europe project. This engagement directly informed the inclusion of a specific provision on advisor training for farmer mental health support in European Commission proposals for the post-2027 Common Agricultural Policy (Article 20(3a)) — a concrete instance of Irish research shaping the design of EU agricultural policy.

Across Teagasc, research engaging with different dimensions of the attractiveness framework is being carried out in a number of programmes and departments. This includes work on labour efficiency and workplace conditions in the dairy sector, the development of expanded social sustainability metrics in the NFS, research on gender and generational factors in farm performance, and analysis of pension and social protection systems as structural determinants of farm succession and generational renewal.

Professor Frank Vanclay of the University of Groningen presented principles relevant to implementing the European Commission's ambitious Vision for EU Agriculture at Teagasc's Mellows Campus on 29 May, offering practical guidance on making farming more attractive. Professor Frank Vanclay (centre) is pictured at the seminar with Dr. Áine Macken-Walsh, Teagasc Sociologist and Paul Maher, Teagasc Head of International Relations and Corporate Strategy.

Social Sustainability of Farming

Attractiveness of Farming

Working conditions & job quality

Health & Safety | Mental health & wellbeing | Gender

Income & farm viability | Labour | Work organisation & management

Members of the women-only Teagasc Tara Dairy Discussion Group with their facilitator Vincent Treacy.

Teagasc Supporting Women in Agriculture

Food Vision 2030 continues to acknowledge the vital role of gender equality in ensuring the long-term sustainability and resilience of the agri-food sector and is committed to advancing gender balance across all levels through targeted actions and initiatives.

Throughout 2025, Teagasc delivered a number of initiatives which included:

- Showcasing a better recognition of farmers through use of more gender-neutral language and imagery.
- Capturing proposed outcomes and impacts of new research, and final reports from Teagasc supported research for both internal and externally funded projects.
- Providing information on collaborative farming including opportunities for women in agriculture through the delivery of workshops and information campaigns specific to the female farmer on farm partnerships and their benefits to the farmer and future successor.
- Co-ordinating a collaborative workshop which identified potential gaps in Teagasc's current research programmes and gathering insights for future research on women in agriculture.

Innovation

- Build on existing and new pilot plants and research assets to accelerate impact across enterprises
- Grow innovative capacity of the agri-food industry
- Build and support the digital, technical, and entrepreneurial capacity of farmers, farm staff, food businesses, food operators etc

Build on existing and new pilot plants and research assets to accelerate impact across enterprises

Engage@Teagasc

Engage@Teagasc Technology Transfer Office, has played a key role in fostering a culture where entrepreneurship is embedded within Teagasc research activity. In support of this objective, a number of targeted programmes have been developed, including two flagship initiatives specifically designed to accelerate the translation of research into commercial opportunities.

The annual Teagasc START Fund, which has been running since 2021, supports early-stage ideas with spin-out or high commercial potential. Using this fund Teagasc researchers can avail of up to €15,000 per team to further develop an early-stage concept, be it through proof of concept, market research or developing the business proposition. In 2025, following a competitive funding call and peer review by an external expert panel, Engage@Teagasc awarded funding to four novel pre-commercialisation projects. As these successful projects come to fruition, their outcomes will help inform future collaborations and commercialisation funding proposals.

Complementing this is FAST-IP (Food and Agriculture Sustainable Technology Innovation Programme) launched in 2024, which is focused on increasing innovation in the food and agriculture sector leading to the creation of start-ups and high potential jobs. Delivered in-collaboration with UCD, the €7m programme forms part of Enterprise Ireland's Innovators' Initiative which is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment.

In 2025, the programme's first cohort completed their participation, with four teams submitting strong applications to the Enterprise Ireland Commercialisation Fund. The programme also welcomed its second cohort in September 2025, based at AgTech UCD, Lyons Farm, where they are working closely with Teagasc researchers to develop needs-led solutions. To date, over 20 Teagasc researchers have supported the programme.

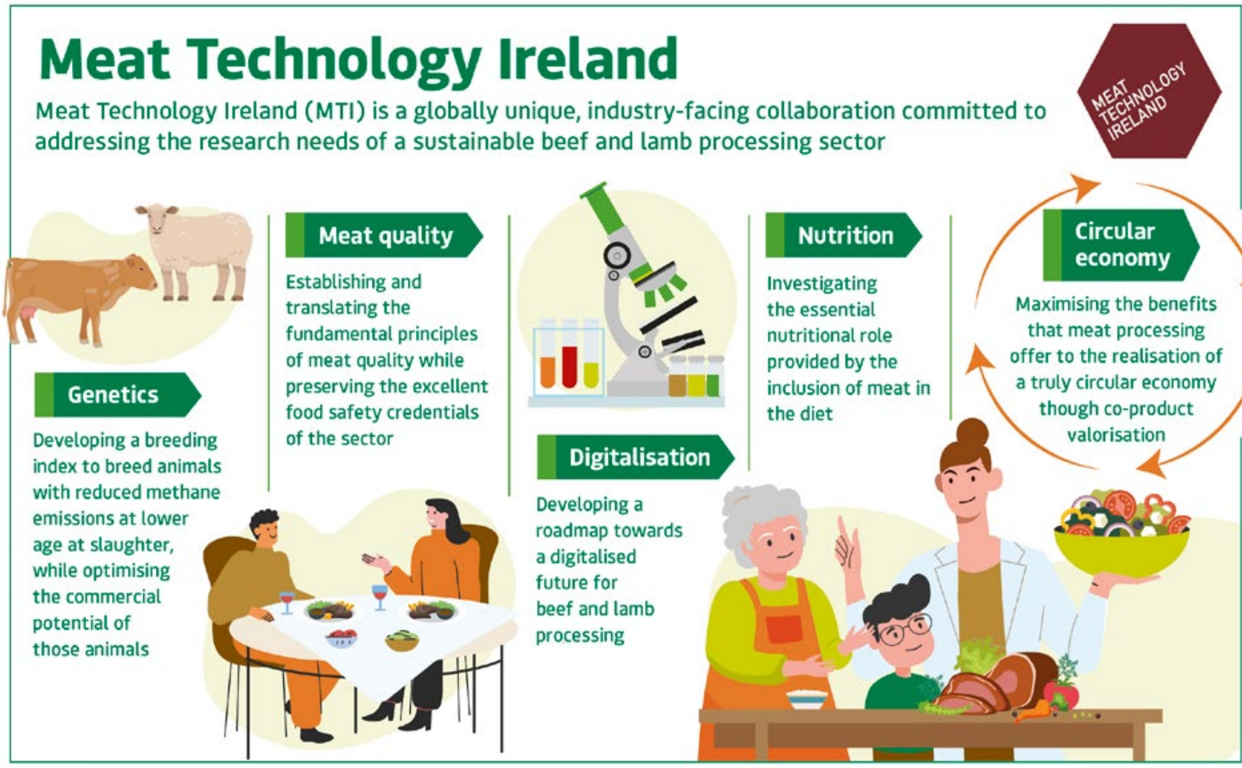
Together, the START Fund and FASTIP form a cohesive platform that supports innovation from idea generation to commercialisation that strengthens Ireland's agri-food innovation landscape and contributes to sustainable economic growth.

BSAS 2025

Dr. Karl Walsh (Head of the Research Division of DAFM), Prof. David Kenny, Teagasc and President of British and Irish Society of Animal Science (BSAS), Dr. Sinéad Waters (University of Galway and co-chair of the BSAS 2025 local organising committee), Minister Noel Grealish (Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine with responsibility for Food Promotion, New Markets, Research and Development) and Dr. Paul Smith (Teagasc and BSAS Trustee)

For only the second time in its 80-year history, the British and Irish Society of Animal Science (BSAS) hosted its flagship scientific conference in the Republic of Ireland, following its last visit to Croke Park in 2018. The event took place from 8th to 10th April 2025 in Galway, and brought together scientists, industry leaders, policy makers, and students to discuss the future of livestock science.

Grow innovative capacity of the agri-food industry



Case Study: Fire&5th partner with National Brewing and Distilling Centre

Supporting Innovation in Non-Alcoholic Spirits®

Demand for premium non-alcoholic beverages is growing rapidly, creating challenges for companies seeking to scale products while maintaining distinctive flavour and quality. For Fire&5th, preserving their signature "fire and spice" sensory experience during product expansion required specialised technical expertise and pilot-scale support. Fire&5th partnered with Teagasc's NCBD to develop and scale two new products. Through small-batch formulation, pilot trials, and ongoing technical review, Teagasc supported recipe refinement while ensuring product stability, consistency, and readiness for bar trials. The collaboration enabled successful scale-up toward commercial launch, demonstrating how Teagasc expertise helps Irish companies de-risk innovation, accelerate product development, and bring differentiated products to market. *''The technical and collaborative support from Teagasc helped us move rapidly from concept to scaled-up bar trials with confidence in product performance. This builds on the support we received during the Food Works programme''* - Fire&5th

Case Study: Long-Term Licensing Impact — AnaBio Technologies

Challenge: A patented Teagasc technology licensed to AnaBio Technologies' created an opportunity to support an Irish nutritional supplement company in bringing a new tablet-based AnaBio™ Technologies ingredient product to market. The ingredient had strong potential health benefits but was unstable over time and poorly absorbed by the body, limiting its commercial viability and consumer impact.

Solution: AnaBio Technologies applied Teagasc-licensed microencapsulation technology to develop a dairy protein encapsulated version of the ingredient. This improved both shelf-life stability and bioavailability, enabling the ingredient to be incorporated into a robust tablet formulation.

Outcome: The optimised manufacturing process has been licensed by AnaBio Technologies to its client, allowing the company to manufacture and commercialise the encapsulated ingredient. Market launch is expected in 2026, demonstrating how Teagasc-licensed IP can continue to progress towards market several years after the original licence was executed.

Impact: The case demonstrates the long-term value of Teagast's IP portfolio and its role in enabling Irish companies to develop differentiated, science-based products. The licence provides a return to AnaBio Technologies on its R&D investment, supports revenue generation for the supplement producer, and creates potential for export growth in the health and wellness market.

Case Study: Potato Breeding and Licensing Programme

Buster - A Breakthrough in Sustainable Potato Production

Challenge: IPM POTATO GROUP Potato Cyst Nematode and late blight are major threats to potato production, reducing yields and increasing BUSTER reliance on crop protection inputs.

Teagasc Solution: In partnership with IPM Potato Group, Teagasc developed 'Buster', a potato variety using marker-assisted breeding to combine resistance to PCN and late blight with lower nitrogen and PCN BUSTER water requirements.

Impact Delivered: Buster supports more sustainable potato production, reduces input reliance and creates commercial potential in Irish and international markets, showing how Teagasc breeding expertise and licensing deliver practical industry impact.

Case Study: New Product Case Study - Novel Clover Varieties

Clodagh & Dungloe - Advancing Sustainable Grassland Productivity

Challenge: Irish agriculture needs to reduce reliance on chemical SOLDOR nitrogen while maintaining productive grassland systems.

Teagasc Solution: Through the Pasture Innovations partnership, Teagasc and Goldcrop developed 'Clodagh' and 'Dungloe', white clover varieties bred for Irish conditions, with improved growth, persistence and natural nitrogen fixation.

Impact Delivered: Now commercialised, these varieties support livestock productivity, reduce input costs and lower environmental impact, demonstrating how Teagasc breeding and licensing can deliver climate-smart innovations to farmers.

Teagasc Options

In autumn 2025, Teagasc again provided its Farm Business Options Training Programme across the country, offering farmers and farm family members the chance to diversify their enterprises and explore new business opportunities. The programme is delivered in collaboration with Local Enterprise Offices, providing accessible, locally relevant training throughout the autumn months.

The training is designed for those seeking to improve farm income, or branch into fresh ventures such as renewable energy, artisan food production, organic farming, and rural tourism. It offers practical guidance on business planning, connects participants with mentors, and links them with agencies that can provide ongoing support. Workshops feature guest farmers who have successfully diversified their enterprises, along with Teagasc and industry specialists ready to answer questions.

Food diversification

The Teagasc Food Programme continued to support food system diversification and healthy food choices through digestion, nutrient profiling and gut health research. This included advances made possible through significant involvement in many large national centres (APC Microbiome Ireland [microbiomes and gut health], VistaMilk [dairy and health] and FHI [focus on health promoting fermentates] and European consortia (CoDiet [healthy diets], DOMINO [fermented foods]and GiantLeaps [plant based protein].

The VistaMilk Research Ireland Centre officially launched its second six-year phase (€26.2m) on April 3, 2025, at Teagasc Moorepark in Fermoy, County Cork. (L-R): Teagasc Director, Professor Frank O'Mara; Dr. Elena Hayes, Teagasc, Professor Donagh Berry, Director VistaMilk, Noel Grealish T.D., Minister of State with special responsibility for research;; Martin Heydon T.D., Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine; Dr. Siobhán Roche, Research Ireland, Professor Laurence Shalloo and Professor Pat Dillon, Teagasc, Mr. Liam Woulfe Teagasc.

Build and support the digital, technical, and entrepreneurial capacity of farmers, farm staff, food businesses, food operators etc.

Entrepreneurship Training

More than 20 Teagasc researchers have supported FAST-IP participants to date through technical expertise, mentoring and access to research infrastructure across Teagasc sites.

Food Works

This is a joint initiative of Teagasc, Bord Bia, and Enterprise Ireland, that has supported 131 high-potential food start-ups between 2012-2025. Teagasc provides technical expertise and innovation support to Food Works companies, with specialist input in 2025 across its sites in Moorepark, Ashtown (including the National Prepared Consumer Food Centre) and the National Centre for Brewing and Distilling, Oak Park.

In 2025, the Food Works partnership:

- mentored 11 founders (eight companies) selected from 44 applicants, 27% of whom were female
- 80% innovations were novel food products and 20% food technology innovations spanning across prepared consumer foods, beverages, food supplements and ingredients.

Business strategy course

In 2025 the Teagasc Outreach and Innovation department collaborated with the UCD Michael Smurfit Business School to deliver the Certificate in Business Strategy for farmers. This course is certified at QQI level 8.

Teagasc dashboards

In October 2025, Teagasc launched a new NFS on-line Fertiliser Dashboard, providing a comprehensive view of fertiliser and lime use, and fertiliser prices in Ireland from 2005 to 2024.

The interactive dashboard offers farmers, farm advisors, researchers and policy makers detailed insights into the use of the nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium and lime across Irish agriculture. The dashboard is based on data collected through the Teagasc NFS, which surveys almost 900 farms annually and represents about 88,000 Irish farms nationally, making it the most authoritative source of farm-level data in the country.

Users can quickly explore data on output prices, production costs, profit margins and aspects of farm enterprise technical performance. With over a decade's worth of data included, users can make comparisons across enterprises as well as reviewing trends over time.

Teagasc Research Directorate 2025

Permanent researchers
172

Contract researchers
142

Funding secured from public funding agencies, charities and levies
€27.3m

Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe projects ongoing in 2025
57

Horizon Europe funding -
17th
in Europe for total funding secured in agri-food and bioeconomy theme

Horizon Europe funding -
16th
in Europe for total number of projects secured in agri-food and bioeconomy theme

Active patent families
30

Income from licences/options/assignment agreements
€1,172,127

Number of Walsh Scholars for 2025
247

Licences/options/assignments agreements signed with industry
40

New publicly-funded research projects secured in 2025
61

Invention disclosures
25

Strategic Enablers

- Develop people to their best capability
- Enhance operational excellence
- Ensure a modern and efficient infrastructure that deploys digital technologies
- Engage in better collaboration

Develop people to their best capability

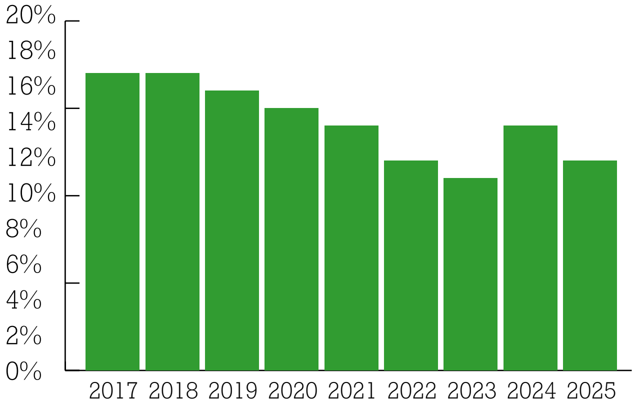
During 2025 Teagasc continued to implement the Public Sector Duty (Section 42, IHREC Act 2014). We continue to deliver the actions in our action plan. These actions address access for people with disabilities to Teagasc stakeholder groups, publications, website, research outputs, learner support, surveys, recruitment, reviews and evaluations, corporate documents, NFS, webinars, blended/hybrid learning, and Teagasc courses.

In addition, actions are ongoing to support stakeholders who may be dealing with mental health or literacy issues. We continue to update our plans and policies from an inclusion perspective, bearing in mind the experience of marginalised groups.

Gender Pay Gap

Teagasc's Gender Pay Gap was 12% as at 30th June 2025. This is a positive step as we are back on our trajectory to closing the gap.

Teagasc Gender Mean Pay Gap



Teagasc continue to recruit many women into professional roles and support them to advance their careers through staff development structures. Female staff continue to take student accolades from the Teagasc Leadership Development Programme, are amongst the highest cited researchers, and are leading many national and international consortium collaborations.

Under Teagasc gender equality initiatives, we continue to deliver a series of events and in 2025 Teagasc launched a new Hormonal Health policy to support all colleagues with hormone-related experiences.

DE&I Strategy Development

In summer 2025 Teagasc ran a comprehensive DE&I survey to inform our strategy development process and worked towards improved outcomes for diverse staff groups. The findings of the survey were shared with the Senior Leadership Team and manager groups.

Diversity in the workplace now encompasses a broad spectrum of identities and experiences, including but not limited to gender, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, disability, neurodiversity, socioeconomic background, and more. Inclusion is driven by perceptions of fairness, respect, and belonging, and is essential for unlocking innovation, improving decision-making, and ensuring that all Teagasc staff, students, and stakeholders can reach their full potential.

The new Teagasc DE&I Strategy, Advancing Diversity, Equity & Inclusion in Teagasc: Strategy 2025–2028 "Building an accessible & supportive organisation" contains a renewed vision, strategic objectives, and actionable commitments to ensure that DE&I is not only embedded in Teagasc's policies and practices but is lived every day across all levels of the organisation.

Employment & support of staff with disabilities

Article 27 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) requires the Irish State to recognise the right of persons with disabilities to work, on an equal basis with others.

The provisions of Article 27 are:

- People with disabilities have the right to work, on an equal basis, with others.
- People with disabilities should have effective access to vocational guidance, placement, and training.
- Employing people with disabilities should be promoted through affirmative action and other measures.
- People with disabilities should be provided reasonable accommodation at work.
- Work experience as a measure to employ people with disabilities should be promoted in the open labour market.

Teagasc is committed to all of these provisions, further, Part 5 of the Disability Act 2005 outlines that as a public sector organisation, Teagasc is required to meet a minimum target of employment of 6% of staff with disabilities. This is monitored annually through a staff survey. Teagasc has partnered with a number of organisations on employment placement programmes.

In 2025, 93 employees in Teagasc reported a disability using the definition of disability as defined in the Disability Act 2005. This was 5.88% of the total (1,582).

Supporting women

For International Women's Day 2025, Teagasc focused on accelerating action for gender equality, hosting an internal event at the Moorepark Food Research Centre featuring leadership expert Breda McCague to discuss career development and allyship.

Additionally, Teagasc partnered in the "Women Step Into Farming" event with the European Commission Representation in Ireland to highlight women's roles in Irish agriculture.

Other Highlights and Initiatives:

- Internal Focus: This Teagasc event focused on the "Accelerate Action" theme, aiming to advance women in leadership and close the gender pay gap.
- "Women Step Into Farming" event: Dr. Anne-Marie Butler, Head of Education at Teagasc, participated in a panel discussion highlighting the need for increased representation and support for women in the sector.
- Support for Women in Agriculture: Efforts align with the 2025 Action Plan to promote women-led rural innovation and the national Women in Agriculture initiative.

Learning and development strategy

A capability framework, e-learning, recognition of learning and the concept of Learning & Development Ambassadors and Culture of Learning progressed well in 2025 as part of the Teagasc Learning and Development Strategy 2024-2027.

Training for managers

A proposal including design, content, enrolment protocol and branding for a modular learning programme for managers was developed in 2025. A leadership conference for Teagasc managers was addressed by Simon Coveney.

Teagasc Together

A large number of Teagasc initiatives were recognised as exemplifying the Teagasc Together ethos of cross-organisation co-operation. These include as examples: Ground Truth which was a citizen science project focused on creating awareness and education around soil health. Together Beyond Borders is an initiative which strengthens inclusion and support for international colleagues across the organisation.

The Sustainable Efficiency project saw 2,200 agreements and documents across Teagasc digitally signed through DocuSign. This reduced time, cost and paper. DocuSign demonstrates how coordinated support from ICT and operational teams can deliver consistent, efficient and transparent processes that benefit staff, partners and clients across the organisation.

Enhance operational excellence

New Corporate Strategy

Teagasc launched its new Statement of Strategy 2025-2028 **"Innovating for Impact:** *Improving competitiveness and resilience in the agri-food sector"* in December, at the Teagasc Food Research Centre, Ashtown.

With a focus on competitiveness and resilience, the launch marks a reorientation of priorities for the organisation, setting out an ambitious roadmap to strengthen productivity, environmental sustainability, attractiveness and innovation in the agri-food sector in the years ahead. This is in line with the EU's renewed focus on competitiveness and food security and the Irish Government's Action Plan on Competitiveness and Productivity.

Strengthening both environmental sustainability and the economic viability of Ireland's family-based farming model remains essential. Commenting on the importance of the agri-food sector – contributing €19.1bn to gross value added at factor cost and exporting to over 180 countries worldwide in 2024, Liam Herlihy, Chair of the Teagasc Authority said:

"We will continue to work with holders of over 130,000 farms and over 200 companies from across the agri-food system to address complex challenges but also to seize new opportunities. With its integrated model of research, education, and advisory services, Teagasc is uniquely positioned to drive innovation, sustainability, and resilience for farmers, industry, and society."

Mr. Herlihy described the new strategy as ambitious, emphasising that "**'Innovating for Impact'** will ensure that Teagasc continues to be relevant to its stakeholders. It is designed to position Teagasc to be responsive, flexible and adaptive in a rapidly changing environment."

He highlighted the strong synergies between Teagasc and a broad range of partner agencies and other organisations with aligned remits and a shared commitment to supporting the growth and transformation of the agri-food sector. In particular, the close strategic alignment with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM), Enterprise Ireland, Bord Bia, and Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM) reflects a collective national ambition to foster innovation, drive sustainability, and enhance global competitiveness.

Working with partners across the agri-food sector, Teagasc will introduce measures to attract highly skilled young people into farming, with a particular focus on increasing the participation of women and part-time farmers. As the sector faces growing risks from market disruptions, geopolitical tensions, and economic shocks, the strategy places greater emphasis on innovation to increase value-added production and expand market opportunities.

The strategy builds on several recent Teagasc initiatives including its advisory, education and climate strategies, as well as specific initiatives relating to water quality, strategic communications and international development. It includes more than 40 new initiatives that will shape the agri-food industry over the next three years. These initiatives will be reviewed during the lifetime of strategy to ensure that Teagasc is achieving real impact.

Pictured from left to right: Teagasc Director, Professor Frank O'Mara; Sinéad McPhillips, Secretary General of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine; Liam Herlihy, Chair of the Teagasc Authority; Professor Maeve Henchion of Teagasc, who led the development of the strategy; and Paul Maher, Head of International Relations and Corporate Strategy

Enhance Operational Excellence Pogramme

Good governance is a given within Teagasc to meet the justifiable demands from society for the highest levels of corporate governance from all public bodies. At the same time, change is constant in the world of work and digital technology and AI are developing rapidly. Teagasc must be innovative, responsive and efficient in delivering its programme and embed continuous change, Lean methodologies and system improvement as a natural way of working.

To achieve this Teagasc committed within its new Statement of Strategy to develop an Operational Excellence Programme (OEP) to introduce new systems and work practices that will reduce the administrative burden on staff, support effective prioritisation and deliver a better service to clients and stakeholders.

This OEP which commenced in 2025 will empower 70 business units to drive operational excellence and good governance through a focus on process improvement opportunities based on leveraging technology and Lean and project management methodologies.

In 2025 work began on the following initiatives to guarantee delivery of Teagasc's Operational Excellence objectives:

- Roll out of a new suite of Management Insights Reports to further strengthen management reporting through use of visualisation and data analytic tools. This is making it easier to access key information from multiple sources and aid data driven decision making.
- A key digital operations project, 'Procure to Pay' was identified which is using Lean Six Sigma principles to focus on eliminating inefficiencies, strengthening internal controls, and enabling smarter, technology-supported workflows. Once complete this project will deliver improved services for stakeholders, increased organisational efficiency and reduced administrative burden on staff.
- Ensuring systems and structures are optimised through a comprehensive internal governance and efficiency review of Teagasc farm operations.

In addition to Operational Excellence being an enabling priority of the Teagasc Statement of Strategy it demonstrates Teagasc is actively implementing a programme of efficiencies and cost reductions to achieve tangible savings in operational costs and delivering continuous improvement.

Evaluation

Evaluation initiatives in 2025 included:

Research: Teagasc's Clover and Multi Species Sward Research Programme was reviewed by an external expert. The review, which took place over two days in Oak Park, assessed a portfolio of research and associated knowledge transfer documentation. The review report presented a summary of research carried out over a fifteen-year period together with recommendations for future research.

Education: In conjunction with the Department of Education, Whole College Evaluations of Kildalton and Pallaskenry Agricultural Colleges were conducted. This involved assessing documentation, policies and procedures, engaging with staff, learners and host farmers, and observing practical and classroom teaching sessions. The evaluation team comprised of two staff from the Department of Education and the Teagasc Senior Evaluation Officer.

Advisory: An evaluation of Teagasc's key knowledge transfer publications, Today's Farm magazine and advisory newsletters was carried out by external consultants. This comprehensive evaluation examined the effectiveness, relevance, and sustainability of those publications. The assessment was conducted to ensure these publications continue to meet client needs in an evolving communication landscape characterised by increasing digital adoption and changing information consumption patterns.

The restructuring of the advisory service in two pilot regions continued to be evaluated in real time to provide a mechanism to capture feedback from the pilots that can quickly inform the roll out of the restructuring to other regions. This work will continue with five advisory regions in 2026.

Other evaluations in 2025: Several other evaluation studies were started in 2025 and will be completed in 2026 including the Review of Teagasc's Curriculum Development & Standards

Teagasc Operations Directorate 2025

ICT

100% ICT Infrastructure availability

39 ICT Projects completed

€2.9m invested in ICT projects

Supported **3,049** PCs

5,208 network devices under management

People

441 recruitment competitions

4,930 applications

70 staff completed level 6 – 10 QQI courses

New Mentoring programme launched with over **70** mentors trained and available to mentor staff

1,562 e-learning programmes completed by Teagasc staff members (non-mandatory)

Corporate Responsibility & Sustainability

% Procurement Projects incorporating Green Public Procurement (GPP) = **75%**

Four additional solar PV installations totalling **235 kWp** generating up to **177 MWh** per year

Health & Safety

2,545 Bi-Monthly H&S Audits completed in 2025 across Teagasc

2,654 H&S Improvement actions completed in 2025 across Teagasc

Finance

Managed Teagasc budget of **€248**m

34,000 supplier invoices

297 research project grant claims and reports completed

Payroll delivered to **1,504** staff and **1,751** pensioners

Teagasc Research, Advisory and Education Programmes operate from 10 multi-building sites and 45 stand alone offices. Teagasc also uses farm land and offices under rental agreements.

Unit and an evaluation of the National Climate Centre.

Customer Action Plan

Teagasc's Customer Action Plan for 2023 – 2025 introduces a series of initiatives designed to build on progress while establishing a framework to measure, report on, and continuously enhance the quality of our services.

The following are a selection of delivery highlights from 2025:

- A new podcast, The Poultry Edge, was launched, bringing the total number of podcasts produced to eight, with total listens of 250,442.
- Following a pilot launched in 2024, dedicated Learning Support Officers were put in place across all Teagasc colleges in 2025, delivered in collaboration with the Laois Offaly Education and Training Board.
- New users to the various social media accounts were provided training and issued with guidelines on video production. The Digital Media Policy continued to provide guidance to staff on the appropriate use of digital media.
- The Complaint Management Procedure was updated and promoted to colleagues via internal communication channels.

A new Customer Action Plan for 2026-2028 was developed during 2025 for launch in 2026.

Teagasc – Irish Language

The Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021 was enacted to build on the progress made under the Official Languages Act 2003 and to increase and improve the provision of public services through the medium of Irish. The primary objectives of the Act are that:

- 20% of recruits to the public sector will be competent in the Irish language by 2030;
- All public services in the Gaeltacht and for the Gaeltacht will be provided in Irish;
- All public offices in the Gaeltacht will operate through the medium of Irish;
- A National Plan for Irish Language Public Services will be developed; and
- A system of Language Standards will be introduced in place of current language schemes.

Work is ongoing towards compliance with the specific measures and targets Teagasc are required to implement under the Action Plan for Irish Language Public Services 2026-2028 published in January 2026. Teagasc is seeking assistance provided by the Department in navigating this new initiative and will continue to enhance the level of services provided bilingually.

One of the key provisions of the 2021 Act is a statutory obligation for public bodies in relation to advertising and communications with the public. Section 10A places specific duties on public bodies in relation to the way they communicate in the State's official languages. The provision is of considerable importance as it sets out that all public bodies will be required to do at least 20% of their annual advertising in Irish and 5% of their advertising spend in Irish language media.

Section 10A further provides that public bodies must file an electronic compliance return based on the advertising placed by the public body annually. Teagasc submitted its electronic return to An Coimisinéir Teanga on 28 March 2025 and is therefore compliant with the reporting requirements set out in the Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021.

Teagasc Corporate publications: Annual Report, Customer Charter, Customer Action Plan, Statement of Strategy are all published in both Irish and English. 15% of Press Releases annually are published in Irish and are available on the public website. Other actions include: Editorial comment in the Teagasc publications Today's farm and TResearch are bilingual.

Oireachtas Members' Enquiries

A total of 16 enquiries were received in 2025 all were responded to with the target timelines.

Ensure a modern and efficient infrastructure that deploys digital technologies

Building a Data Value Platform

Teagasc continued to advance its artificial intelligence (AI) capabilities during 2025, building on more than two decades of expertise in machine learning, predictive modelling and data-driven research. During the year, the organisation moved from early experimentation with generative AI towards a more structured and governed model of adoption, with a strong emphasis on responsible use, staff capability development and practical organisational impact.

AI development during 2025 was aligned with the Teagasc Statement of Strategy 2025–2028, which identifies digital technologies, artificial intelligence and other leading-edge technologies as important enablers of competitiveness, resilience and innovation across the agri-food sector.

The strategy highlights the role of AI and digitalisation in areas such as productivity improvement, sustainability, operational excellence, advanced data analytics, decision support and future technology adoption. Teagasc's AI programme directly supports these objectives through the development of governed AI platforms, data value infrastructure, staff capability development and AI-enabled operational supports.

A focus during 2025 was the establishment of formal governance structures to support the responsible adoption of AI across the organisation. Teagasc formally approved its AI Policy in July 2025, aligned with the EU AI Act and Ireland's National AI Strategy Refresh. The policy established a framework for AI governance, lifecycle management, ethical oversight, risk classification and staff responsibilities.

During 2025, the AI Ethics and Compliance Committee became operational, providing oversight of AI systems, governance processes and high-impact AI applications, while the AI Register began to formalise system ownership, review and accountability.

The organisation also introduced foundational AI literacy training, focusing on responsible use, privacy, risks and human oversight. The training commenced across staff groups, alongside role-specific adoption supports for advisory, research, education and operational teams.

This tiered approach supports progressive capability development across the organisation, from core AI literacy and responsible use through to more advanced applications in automation, agents and data integration. The emphasis throughout the year remained that AI should augment staff expertise rather than replace professional judgement.

Business continuity and cyber security

During 2025, Teagasc continued to strengthen its cyber protection and business continuity arrangements. Internal peer reviews of business continuity plans were completed across all business units to support quality assurance and consistency. Building on this work, a programme of unit-level workshops is planned for 2026, with a focus on communication, awareness and the testing of continuity arrangements.

Teagasc also enhanced its technology design and ICT portfolio in 2025 to further strengthen data recovery and disaster resilience capabilities. The ICT function progressed incident response planning and capability development, including participation in independently facilitated incident response tabletop exercises.

Throughout 2025, Teagasc aligned its cyber security activities with the requirements of the EU NIS2 Directive for entities of Importance, in preparation for its transposition into Irish law.

Teagasc continued to invest in ICT infrastructure and facilities, upgrading servers and replacing staff laptops with new hardware running windows 11. It continued with its programme of security enhancements, including projects that delivered:

- Speedier restoration capacity for its key systems
- Tighter control for more privileged user accounts
- Enhanced anti-malware for desktop and email

Digital transformation

Teagasc continued its digital transformation journey in 2025. Some of the key projects completed that contribute to digital enablement included:

- A New Water and Biodiversity Sustainability Planning tool for advisors, which supports the key ASSAP water quality programme. This allows advisors to develop and monitor water quality improvement actions and to monitor the effectiveness of these actions.
- Continued development of the AgNav platform including the addition of carbon calculation functionality for tillage farms.
- A project was completed that involved the enhancement of multiple systems to support new organisation structures introduced to support Teagasc's new Advisory Strategy.
- Teagasc introduced a cloud Office Collaboration toolset for staff and students, bringing in much improved options for collaborating internally and externally.
- A new, modern Laboratory System was rolled out, providing enhanced support for laboratory processes, including a quality assurance module, and easier workflow development.
- Major improvements to management insight reporting through enhanced adoption of Power BI.
- Development of a range of in-house, contained, AI platforms for staff use across research, advisory and education programmes.
- A new online Library System was implemented.
- An improved Content Management System was introduced for the Teagasc public website.
- The Forestry Calculator was modernised.

Data protection

The inventory of personal data which is processed and retained by Teagasc was reviewed by all Business Units in Quarter 1 2025. This was achieved by Business Units engaging in the Data Protection Annual Reviews of the Data Retention Schedule and the Record of Processing Activity, for their respective areas.

The Data Protection Co-ordinators Network played a pivotal role in working with Business Unit Managers and staff members, to ensure that the inventory was reviewed and kept up to date, as necessary. Training was provided to both the Data Protection Co-ordinators Network and to Business Unit Managers, with a focus on implementation. The Teagasc Data Protection Officer provided advice and guidance and held meetings with Business Units who required clarification in relation to the Data Protection reviews.

The completion and ongoing review of the Data Retention Schedule and the Record of Processing Activity are central to Teagasc demonstrating compliance with the GDPR and complying with the GDPR Principles especially the Principles of Storage Limitation and Data Minimisation.

There was a total of three training sessions provided to the Data Protection Co-ordinators Network and Business Unit Managers by the Data Protection Officer. Mandatory Data Protection training was successfully provided to Teagasc users through the Teagasc Learning Platform which contributed towards continuously educating Teagasc system users throughout the organisation on Data Protection.

Support was provided to Business Units throughout Teagasc for projects and activities over the course of 2025. The necessary due diligence was completed through the Data Protection Impact Assessment process. Data Incidents reported to the Data Protection Officer were recorded and a risk assessment carried out in relation to all Data Incidents.

Freedom of Information

Teagasc comes under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 and all requests submitted to Teagasc in 2025 were responded to as required under the legislation. Teagasc have experienced an increase in the volume of requests submitted under FOI. A training session was delivered to Business Unit Managers to refresh knowledge and build awareness of FOI in the organisation.

Customer Relationship Management (CRM)

Enhanced CRM functionality through transition to a cloud based and mobile-enhanced platform was developed during 2025 to support in-field advisory activities. The design phase is 80% complete.

Virtual Reality

Teagasc Forestry built on its previous piloting of virtual reality by developing a VR compatible video of Agroforestry during 2025. The video highlights the development stages of Agroforestry, combining trees and livestock on the same land.

Capital projects

During 2025 Teagasc undertook an extensive programme of infrastructural upgrades to enhance the organisation's capabilities. At the commencement of the year, four large capital projects were underway at various different stages of the project lifecycle. A total of just over €10.5m was expended on infrastructural projects during the period, which included the completion of two large capital and thirty-nine minor capital projects. The following are a selection of some of the projects progressed during 2025:

Pictured in Teagasc Moorepark, Fermoy, Co. Cork at the official opening of a €3.17m extension to the Paddy O' Keeffe Innovation Centre for the advancement of Irish Grassland and Dairying to enhance Teagasc's capacity in research for the Irish agri-food sector are: Noel Grealish T.D., Minister of State with special responsibility for research, Teagasc Director, Professor Frank O'Mara; Martin Heydon T.D., Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Professor Laurence Shalloo, Teagasc Head of the Animal and Grassland Research and Innovation programme and Dr. Emer Kennedy, Teagasc Senior Research Officer.

- National Agricultural Sustainability Research & Innovation (NASRIC), Johnstown Castle

This €12.7m project was completed during 2025 and officially opened by Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Martin Heydon T.D. in November 2025. It provides state of the art laboratories to enable cutting edge research to take place in order to identify practical solutions to reduce carbon emissions on our farms. It comprises a 1,450m^2 two-storey building of new high grade laboratory space along with a refurbished area of 1,750m^2 with modifications to existing offices and staff facilities.

- Padraig Walshe Centre for Sustainable Animal & Grassland Research, Moorepark AGRIC

In parallel with NASRIC, the Padraig Walshe Centre aims to facilitate research that can provide innovative solutions to reduce the environmental impact and improve the efficiency of Ireland's dairy and beef sectors. The facility will, among other things, attempt to maximise the utilisation of information captured from key Teagasc animal resources, including experiments conducted on rumen cannulated cows, cows divergent for the EBI, and alternative breeds. The project consists of circa 1,550m^2 of laboratories and ancillary facilities along with a 1,000m^2 metabolism house. The building was brought through design and tender stage with final approval confirmed in 2025, allowing construction work to commence in early 2026.

- Experimental Cattle Feeding Unit, Grange Research Centre

This project involved the construction of accommodation for 200 cattle within a 1,250m^2 unit, thus allowing feeding and other research trial work to be conducted.

Minor Capital Projects. In addition to the projects listed above, €4.2m was invested in smaller projects (less than €500k), carried out across sixteen locations which aimed to improve facilities and capabilities across Teagasc. These included energy, health and safety and disability access upgrades along with environmental improvements.

NASRIC, Johnstown Castle

Clonmel Advisory Office

An example of one of these projects was the Clonmel Advisory Office project. This upgrade resulted in improved functionality for clients and staff, which incorporated enhanced disability access, fire safety improvements along with energy efficiency enhancements.

In the management of its building projects Teagasc aims to provide high quality infrastructure that supports innovation in food and agriculture while achieving best practice environmental and energy standards all underpinned by a desire for strong value-for-money.

Energy Report

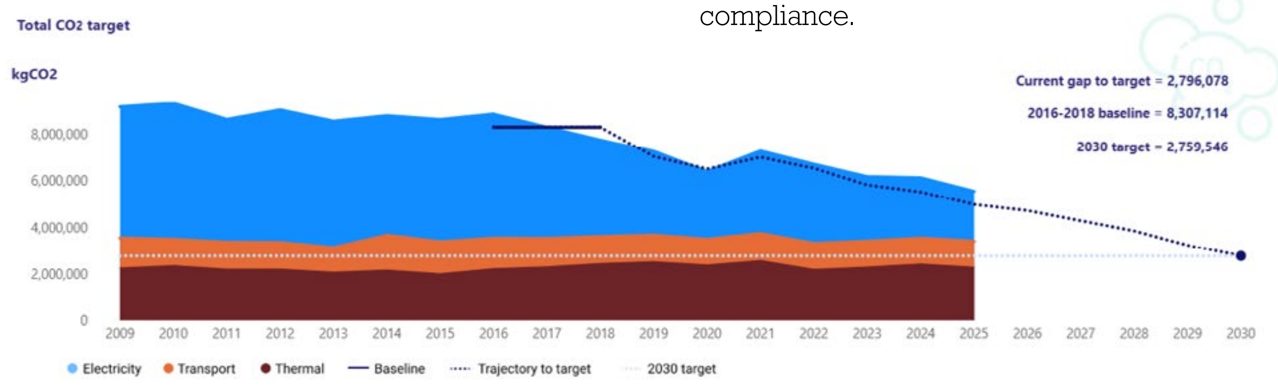
Teagasc operates out of 55 primary locations nationwide varying in scale from large multi-building campuses to small local advisory offices; the locations break down into:

- 10 Large Campuses (plus the Botanics College) averaging at just over 6,900m² of treated/conditioned floor area
- 53 Advisory Offices averaging at just under 340m² of treated/conditioned floor area (including rental properties)

As part of the requirement of the Climate Action Mandate (CAM) Teagasc is required to reduce its CO_2 by 50% by 2030 and improve its energy efficiency by 51%.

Energy related greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions: see table below which shows progress made by year end 2025:

- Implementation of the CAM: Teagasc is actively working on the implementation of deliverables as set out in CAM and has completed and formally submitted the organisation's 2025 statement on energy compliance.



Solar PV – Total installed PV by end of 2025			
Total Size (kWp)	**Installation Cost**	**Estimated Savings kWh (Per year)**	**Carbon Displaced (Kgs)**
1518 kWp	€1,567,572	1,254,054	387,503

Teagasc also introduced a further five electric vehicles into its fleet in furtherance of achieving CO_2 reductions.

Compliance with Circular 1/2020. Over the 6-year period 2020 – 2025 Teagasc has made payments to the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications Climate Action Fund (CAF) to offset the climate effects of official air travel.

Year	Kilometres travelled via flights	Tonnes of CO_2 applicable	Payment to CAF
2020	406,536 km	35.308 tonnes/CO_2	€918.00 (€26.00 per tonne)
2021	324,608 km	28.111 tonnes/ CO_2	€941.72 (€33.50 per tonne)
2022	2,391,916 km	202.47 tonnes/ CO_2	€8,302.37 (€41.00 per tonne)
2023	3,190,373 km	274.141 tonnes/ CO_2	€13,295.88 (€48.50 per tonne)
2024	3,003,431 km	205,597 tonnes/CO_2	€11,523.43 (€56.00 per tonne)
2025	2,782,882 km	226.40 tonnes/CO_2	€14,376.40 (€63.50 per tonne)

Teagasc has energy related projects planned for 2026 which will see the development of a number of large energy and CO_2 reduction projects focusing on the decarbonisation of thermal heating at a number of our Research Centres & Colleges.

Engage in better collaboration

In 2025 Teagasc welcomed the announcement that Ireland secured over €1 billion in funding from Horizon Europe, the EU's flagship programme for research and innovation.

This milestone highlights the growing contribution of Irish researchers to European science and innovation, including major success in the areas of agriculture, food, and the bioeconomy.

Commenting on the achievement, Teagasc Director, Professor Frank O'Mara, said: "Ireland's Horizon Europe success reflects the excellence and commitment of our national research system. Teagasc is proud to contribute to this, working closely with partners across universities, research institutes and industry to develop solutions for farmers, food systems, forestry, and the wider bioeconomy.

"Teagasc is also proud to note its position as the only Irish organisation ranked among the top 20 applicant organisations across Europe in the area of Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment."

Some key projects led by Teagasc in Horizon Europe include Step-Up, which is providing a comprehensive impact assessment and cost-benefit quantification of current livestock farming systems.

Also, SafeHabitus is strengthening farm health and safety knowledge and innovation systems; and RefreSCAR, which is improving coordination of national and European bioeconomy research and innovation programmes.

Professor Pat Dillon, Director of Research at Teagasc said "Teagasc has secured €27.6m in direct funding from Horizon Europe since the programme began in 2021. More importantly, this involvement positions Teagasc as a coordinator and partner in projects with a total value of €764m. Through these collaborations, Teagasc can access and share a wealth of research and innovation results from across Europe for the benefit of Irish stakeholders. We look forward to continuing this engagement, building partnerships, and delivering impact from European research for Irish farming and society."

Collaboration

International Research Collaborations

SE Sveriges Lantbruksuniversitet - Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences **8**

DK Kobenhavns Universitet - UCPH **6**

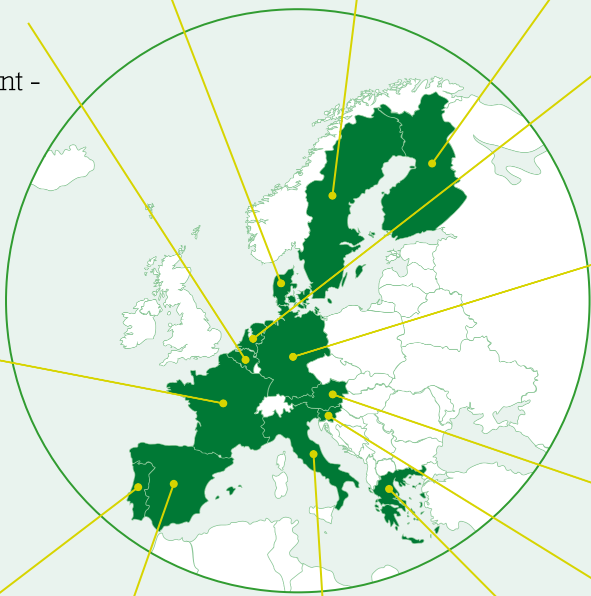
FI Luonnonvarakeskus - LUKE **14**

FI MAA- Ja Metsatalousministerio (MMM) **6**

BE Eigen Vermogen Van Het Instituut Voor Landbouw- En Visserijonderzoek - EV ILVO **18**

BE Universiteit Gent - UGent **10**

NL Wageningen University and Research - WUR **31**



DE Forschungszentrum Julich GMBH - FZJ **10**

DE Bundesanstalt für Landwirtschaft und Ernährung - BLE **8**

DE Leibniz-Zentrum Fuer Agrarlandschaftsforschung (ZALF) E.V. ZALF **6**

FR Institut National de Recherche Pour L'Agriculture, L'Alimentation et L'Environnement - INRAE **27**

FR Institut De L'Elevage - IDELE **12**

AT Aarhus Universitet - AU **18**

SL Univerza V Ljubljani - UL **6**

PT Consulai, Consultoria Agro Industriatrial LDA - CONSULAI **12**

IT Consiglio per la Ricerca in Agricoltura e L'analisi Dell'Economia Agraria - CREA **12**

IT Ministero Dell'agricoltura, Della Sovranita' Alimentare E Delle Foreste - MASAF **7**

IT Consiglio Nazionale Delle Ricerche - CNR **6**

GR Geoponiko Panepistimion Athinon Agricultural University of Athens **13**

ES Agencia Estatal Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Cientificas - CSIC **17**

ES Institut De Recerca I Tecnologia Agroalimentaries IRTA - CERCA **6**

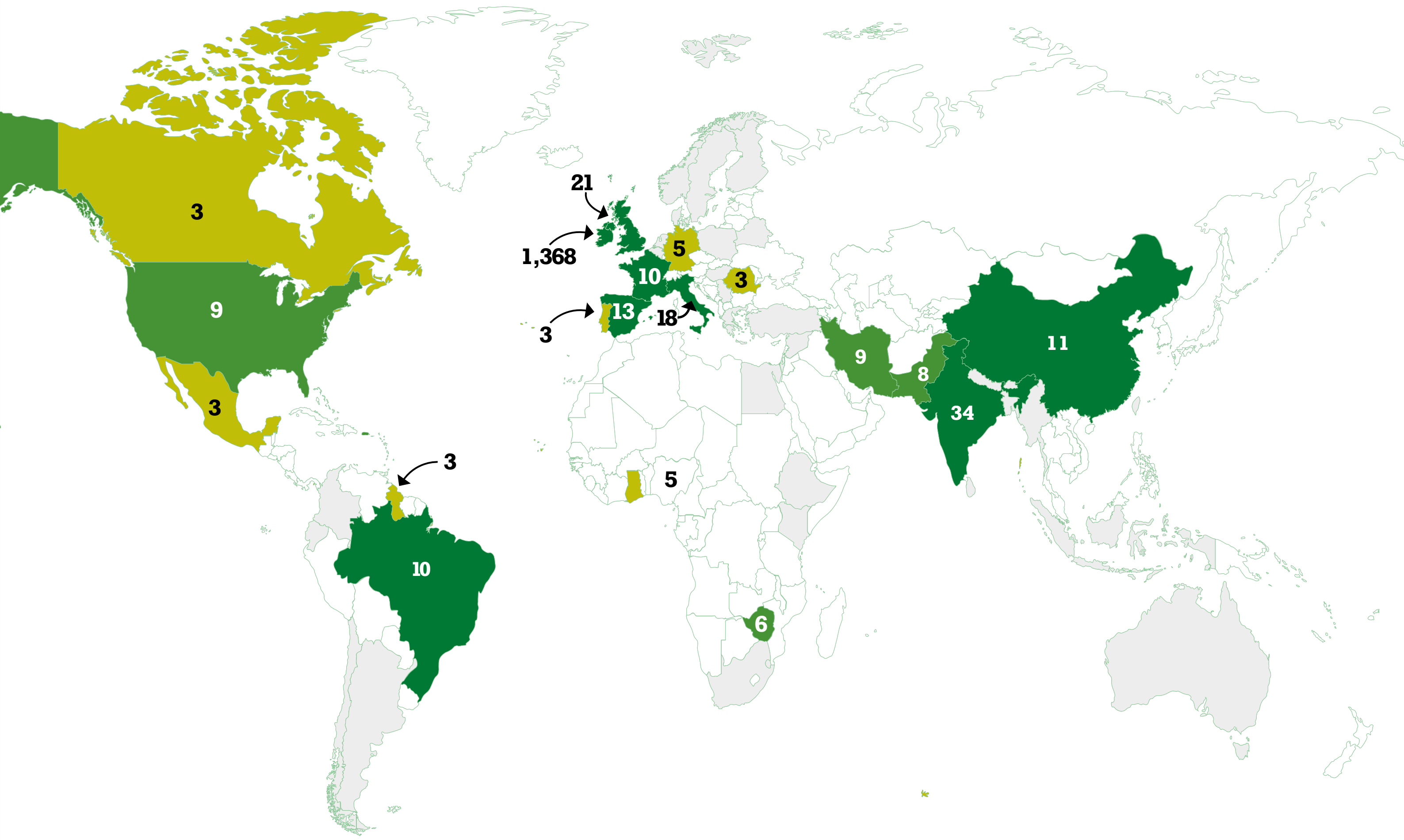
Teagasc Staff Nationalities

1,591 staff from 52 countries

Irish	1,368
Indian	34
British	21
Italian	18
Spanish	13
Chinese	11
Brazilian	10
French	10

American	9
Iranian	9
Pakistani	8
Zimbabwean	6

German	5
Ghanaian	5
Portuguese	3
Romanian	3
Columbian	3
Mexican	3



Argentinian	2
Chilean	2
Ethiopian	2
Greek	2
Israeli	2
Dutch	2
Serbian	2
South African	2
Swazi	2
Bangladeshi	1

Belarusian	1
Belgian	1
Bhutanese	1
Croatian	1
Ecuadorian	1
Egyptian	1
Finnish	1
Hungarian	1
Indonesian	1
Kenyan	1

Maltese	1
Myanmar	1
Nepalese	1
Norwegian	1
Polish	1
Sri Lankan	1
Swedish	1
Syrian	1
Taiwanese and Tobago	1
Turkish	1

Awards

Agricultural Science Association's Distinguished Member Award and Agricultural Science Association's Fellowship Award

Professor Pat Dillon, Director of Research in Teagasc received the 2025 Agricultural Science Association's Distinguished Member Award.

Donal Whelton, Head of Agri in AIB, Professor Pat Dillon, 2025 recipient of the Agricultural Science Association's Distinguished Member Award, and President of the ASA, Susan Maher.

Pictured at the Presentation of the ASA fellowship sponsored by FBD were (L to R): Dr. Michael Berkery, FBD Trust, Dr. Bridget Lynch, ASA Fellowship recipient and President of the ASA, Susan Maher.

The annual ASA Fellowship, organised by the ASA and FBD was awarded to Dr. Bridget Lynch, Head of the Agricultural Catchment Programme in Teagasc.

The ASA Fellowship generously sponsored by FBD is open to applications from all full ASA members with a minimum of five years' experience working in the Irish agri-food industry.

Teagasc International Development and Relations 2025

In 2025, the majority of our Development Programme provided support to Institutes in East Africa. Across our programme we work in co-operation with Sustainable Food Systems Ireland (SFSI), Department's of Agriculture and Foreign Affairs, a number of Irish Embassies, UCD, UCC, the Ireland-Africa Rural Development Committee (IARDC) and the Irish Forum for International Agricultural Development (IFIAD).

Kenya

The Dairy Kenya Ireland Project funded by Irish Aid through the Embassy of Ireland Nairobi continued to strengthen the research linkages between Teagasc and KALRO (Kenya Dairy Research Institute) as well as funding some important outreach activities with collaborating partners Baraka Agricultural College and Development Pamoja along with Local Dairy Co-Ops.

Visitors from Kenya and Eritrea pictured on the farm of David Conway in Tipperary facilitated by local Teagasc advisor Michael Freaney.

Eritrea

Climate Smart Dairy
ERITREA

The **EU funded CSARIDE** project in Eritrea moved into its final year of activity during 2025 where the focus continued to be on finalising a number of Masters and PhD studies funded by the project as well as providing some targeted support to the development of aspects of milk processing in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, the local research institute (NARI) and the agriculture training college (HAC). See up to date reports at https://www.csaride.org/.

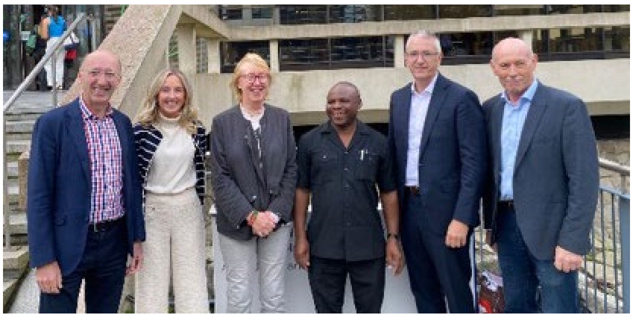
Tanzania

The Maziwa Faida Project in Tanzania completed year four of its five year term during which the TALIRI (dairy research centre) in Tanga further developed its staff and programmes supported by Irish Aid through the Embassy of Ireland in Dar es Salaam. Could say that some highlights are show in the accompanying photographs.

Minister Neal Richmond visited the project in Tanga.

Five staff in Tanzania completed a Master's Programme funded under the project.

Dr. Zabron Nziku (TALIRI) was part of the Teagasc team at the Ploughing where he met staff, clients and young farmers." – at the National Ploughing Championships.



Teagasc UCD and TALIRI review thesis reports from UCD Master's students hosted in Tanzania by TALIRI.

Ethiopia

March 2025 – Visit by Ethiopian delegation from Woilata Sodo University to Teagasc Oak Park

November 2025 – Teagasc support UCD led return visit to Wolaita Sodo University, Ethiopia

Sustainable food systems

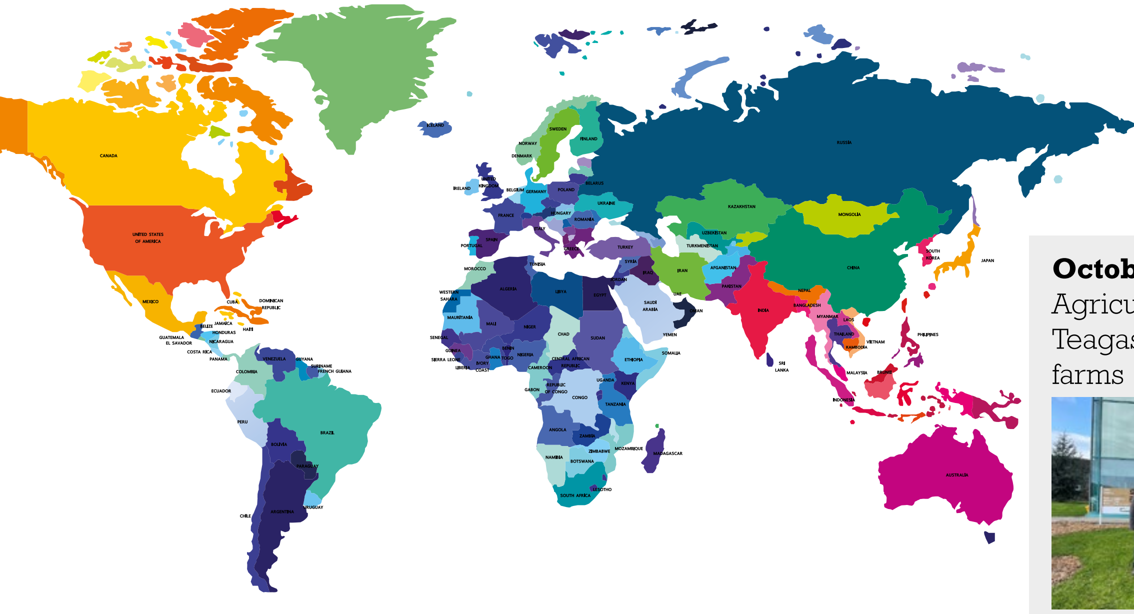
Some examples are highlighted below

September - At the National Ploughing Championships

US Ambassador

Australian Ambassador

Czech State Senate Committee



April - Pigs Team in Malta

April - SFSI / FAO Group visit farm in Co. Laois

July – Potato Team in Guatemala

October - Minister for Agriculture Cyprus at Teagasc Grange and local farms

December - Belgian Ambassador visits Moorepark

Report of the Authority and Consolidated Financial Statements

Financial Year Ended 31 December 2025

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GOVERNANCE STATEMENT AND AUTHORITY MEMBERS' REPORT

Governance

The Authority of Teagasc was established under the Agriculture (Research, Training and Advice) Act, 1988. The functions of the Authority are set out in the First Schedule of this Act. The Authority is accountable to the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine and is responsible for ensuring good governance and performs this task by setting strategic objectives and targets and taking strategic decisions on all key business issues. The regular day-to-day management, control and direction of Teagasc are the responsibility of the Director and the senior management team. The Director and the senior management team must follow the broad strategic direction set by the Authority, and must ensure that all Authority members have a clear understanding of the key activities and decisions related to the entity, and of any significant risks likely to arise. The Director acts as a direct liaison between the Authority and management of Teagasc.

Teagasc is a registered charity in the Republic of Ireland (Registered Charity Number 20022754) and is granted charitable status under Section 207 of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997 (CHY 9086).

Authority responsibilities

The work and responsibilities of the Authority are set out in the Agriculture (Research, Training and Advice) Act, 1988, which also contains the matters specifically reserved for Authority decision. Standing items considered by the Authority include:

- declaration of interests,
- reports from committees,
- financial reports/ management accounts,
- performance reports, and
- reserved matters.

Section 12(1) of the Agriculture (Research, Training and Advice) Act, 1988, in conjunction with S.I. No.418 of 2011, requires the Authority of Teagasc to keep, in such form as may be approved by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine with consent of the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, all proper and usual accounts of money received and expended by it.

In preparing these financial statements the Authority of Teagasc is required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently,
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent,
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that it will continue in operation, and
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.

The Authority is responsible for keeping adequate accounting records which disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, its financial position and enables it to ensure that the financial statements comply with Section 12(1) of the Agriculture (Research, Training and Advice) Act, 1988. The maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information on the Teagasc website is the responsibility of the Authority.

The Authority is responsible for approving the annual business plan and budget. An evaluation of the performance of Teagasc by reference to the annual business plan and budget was carried out on 04 March 2026.

The Authority is also responsible for safeguarding its assets and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Authority considers that the financial statements of Teagasc give a true and fair view of the financial performance and the financial position of Teagasc at 31 December 2025.

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT AND AUTHORITY MEMBERS' REPORT

Authority performance review

An external performance evaluation of how the Authority operates was undertaken in 2025.

Authority structure

The Authority consists of a Chairperson and ten ordinary members, all of whom are appointed by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine. The members of the Authority are typically appointed for a period of five years (and may be re-appointed for a second term to a maximum of ten years in total) and meet on a monthly basis, except in August. The table below details the appointment period for the Authority members in place during 2025:

Authority member	Role	Period of appointment
Herlihy, Mr. Liam	Chairperson	17 September 2018 – 16 September 2023 and 17 September 2023 – 16 September 2028
Byrne, Ms. Louise	Ordinary Member	15 February 2023 – 14 February 2028
Doyle, Ms. Alice	Ordinary Member	27 January 2024 – 26 January 2029
Fenlon, Mr. John Paul	Ordinary Member	06 November 2024 – 05 November 2029
Hennessy, Prof. Thia	Ordinary Member	23 May 2018 – 22 May 2023 and 23 May 2023 – 22 May 2028
Houlihan, Ms. Elaine	Ordinary Member	02 October 2023 – 01 October 2028
Kiely O'Connor, Ms. Vanessa	Ordinary Member	02 October 2023 – 01 October 2028
O'Sullivan, Mr. Seán	Ordinary Member	18 November 2025 – 17 November 2030
Reynolds, Ms. Elizabeth	Ordinary Member	07 July 2020 – 06 July 2025 and 07 July 2025 – 06 July 2030
Scully, Mr. Donald	Ordinary Member	06 January 2022 – 05 January 2027
Sheridan, Dr. Helen	Ordinary Member	21 December 2023 – 20 December 2028
Woulfe, Mr. Liam	Ordinary Member	29 April 2015 – 28 April 2020 and 03 July 2020 – 02 July 2025

The Authority has established five committees, as follows:

1. **Audit and Risk Committee (ARC):** comprises three Authority members and one external member. The role of the ARC is to support the Authority in relation to its responsibilities for issues of risk, control and governance and associated assurance. The ARC is independent from the financial management of the organisation. In particular, the committee ensures that the internal control systems including audit activities are monitored actively and independently. The ARC reports to the Authority after each meeting, and formally in writing annually.

The members of this committee during 2025 were: Prof. Thia Hennessy, Chairperson, Ms. Elizabeth Reynolds, Ms. Louise Byrne and Mr. Seán O'Sullivan. Ms. Elizabeth Reynolds assumed the position of chair of the committee upon Prof. Hennessy's appointment cessation on 27 August 2025. Mr. Seán O'Sullivan joined the committee on 17 December 2025. The external members were Ms. Ita Howe, who retired from the committee in 2025 and was replaced by Ms. Bernadette Costello. There were four meetings of the ARC in 2025.

2. **Research Committee (RC):** comprises four Authority members. The role of the RC is to support the Authority in reviewing and considering matters relating to the Research Programme in Teagasc and to report and make recommendations to the Authority, as well as adopting good practice.

The members of this committee during 2025 were: Dr. Helen Sheridan, Chairperson, Ms. Alice Doyle, Mr. John Paul Fenlon and Prof. Thia Hennessy. There were two meetings of the RC in 2025.

3. Finance and Operations Committee (FOC): comprises four Authority members. The role of the FOC is to support the Authority in reviewing and considering matters relating to the Operations Programme in Teagasc and to report and make recommendations to the Authority, as well as adopting good practice.

The members of this committee during 2025 were: Mr. Liam Woulfe, Chairperson, Mr. Liam Herlihy, Mr. John Paul Fenlon, Ms. Vanessa Kiely O'Connor, Mr. Donald Scully and Ms. Elizabeth Reynolds. Mr. Liam Herlihy assumed the position of chair of the committee upon the cessation of Mr. Woulfe's appointment on 02 July 2025. Ms Elizabeth Reynolds retired from this committee on 24 April 2025. There were three meetings of the FOC in 2025.

4. Advisory & Education Committee (AEC): comprises five Authority members. The role of the AEC is to support the Authority in reviewing and considering matters relating to the Advisory and Education Programmes in Teagasc and to report and make recommendations to the Authority, as well as adopting good practice.

The members of this committee during 2025 were: Ms. Vanessa Kiely O'Connor, Chairperson, Ms. Alice Doyle, Mr. John Paul Fenlon, Ms. Elaine Houlihan and Mr. Donald Scully. There were two meetings of the AEC in 2025.

5. Nominations Committee (NC): comprises five Authority members. The role of the NC is to consider vacancies on the Teagasc Authority and make recommendations on how best to fill the vacancies.

The members of this committee during 2025 were: Mr. Liam Herlihy, Chairperson, Prof. Thia Hennessy, Ms. Elizabeth Reynolds, Mr. Donald Scully, Dr. Helen Sheridan and Mr. Liam Woulfe, who retired on 02 July 2025. There were four meetings of the NC in 2025.

Schedule of attendance, fees and expenses

Schedule of attendances at the Authority and Committee meetings for 2025 is set out below including the fees and expenses received by each member:

Authority Meetings 2025	08 Jan	05 Feb	05 Mar	02 Apr	09 May	04 Jun	01 Jul	03 Sep	01 Oct	05 Nov	03 Dec	Fees 2025 €	Expenses 2025 €
Herlihy, Mr. Liam	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	20,520	8,008
Byrne, Ms. Louise	√	√	-	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	-	1,358
Doyle, Ms. Alice	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	-	√	11,970	1,425
Fenlon, Mr. John Paul	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	-	1,004
Hennessy, Prof. Thia	√	√	-	√	√	√	√	√	-	√	√	-	1,347
Houlihan, Ms. Elaine	√	√	-	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	11,970	2,741
Kiely O'Connor, Ms. Vanessa	√	-	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	11,970	2,045
O'Sullivan, Mr. Seán											√	1,444	-
Reynolds, Ms. Elizabeth	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	11,970	3,574
Scully, Mr. Donald	-	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	-	√	11,970	-
Sheridan, Dr. Helen	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	-	√	√	-	-
Woulfe, Mr. Liam	√	√	√	√	√	√	√					6,001	1,552
												87,815	**23,054**

Teagasc incurred hospitality and accommodation expenses of €25,733 on behalf of Authority members in 2025. Four Authority members did not receive a fee under the One Person One Salary (OPOS) principle. Ms. Ita Howe, external member of the ARC, did not receive a fee under the One Person One Salary (OPOS) principle.

Gender Balance in the Authority membership

As at 31 December 2025, the Authority had 7 (64%) female and 4 (36%) male members. The Government target as set out in the Annex to the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies issued in September 2020 is a minimum of 40% representation of each gender in the membership of State Boards.

Audit & Risk Committee	27 Feb	27 Aug	05 Nov	17 Dec
Hennessy, Prof. Thia	√	√		
Reynolds, Ms. Elizabeth	√	√	√	√
Byrne, Ms. Louise	√	√	√	√
Costello, Ms. Bernadette			√	√
Howe, Ms. Ita	√			
O'Sullivan, Mr. Seán				√

Research Committee	07 May	03 Dec
Sheridan, Dr. Helen	√	√
Doyle, Ms. Alice	√	√
Fenlon, Mr. John Paul	√	√
Hennessy, Prof. Thia	√	√

Finance and Operations Committee	24 Apr	29 Sep	15 Dec
Woulfe, Mr. Liam	√		
Herlihy, Mr. Liam	√	√	√
Fenlon, Mr. John Paul	√	√	√
Scully, Mr. Donald	-	-	-
Reynolds, Ms. Elizabeth	-		
Kiely O'Connor, Ms. Vanessa		√	√

Advisory & Education Committee	05 Mar	03 Sep
Kiely O'Connor, Ms. Vanessa	√	√
Doyle, Ms. Alice	√	√
Fenlon, Mr. John Paul	√	√
Houlihan, Ms. Elaine	-	√
Scully, Mr. Donald	√	√

Nominations Committee	04 Mar	03 Sep	30 Oct	03 Dec
Herlihy, Mr. Liam	√	√	√	√
Hennessy, Prof. Thia	√	√	√	√
Reynolds, Ms. Elizabeth	-	√	√	√
Scully, Mr. Donald	√	√	√	√
Sheridan, Dr. Helen	-	√	√	√
Woulfe, Mr. Liam	√			

Key personnel changes

There was one new appointment to the Authority, one reappointment and one retirement from the Authority in 2025.

Disclosures required by the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies (2016)

Disclosures required by the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies (2016)
The Authority is responsible for ensuring that Teagasc has complied with the requirements of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies ("the Code"), as published by the Department of Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation in August 2016. The following disclosures are required by the Code:

Consultancy costs

Consultancy costs include the cost of external advice to management and exclude outsourced 'business-as-usual' functions.

	2025	2024
	€'000	€'000
Legal advice	115	317
Financial/ tax advice	14	28
Pensions/ human resources advice	174	103
Architectural/ engineering advice	779	1,447
Research advice	639	540
Other	255	202
Total consultancy costs	1,976	2,637
Consultancy costs capitalised	634	1,262
Consultancy costs charged to Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves	1,342	1,375
Total	1,976	2,637

Legal costs and settlements

The expenditure in the reporting period on legal costs, settlements and conciliation and arbitration proceedings relating to contracts with third parties. This does not include expenditure incurred in relation to general legal advice received by Teagasc which is disclosed in consultancy costs above.

	2025	2024
	€'000	€'000
Legal fees – legal proceedings	4	10
Counterparty legal costs	-	-
Settlements	185	206
Total	189	216

The total number of cases included in the 2025 settlements is 21 (2024: 26).

Travel and subsistence expenditure

Travel and subsistence expenditure is categorised as follows:

	2025	2024
Domestic	€'000	€'000
Authority	24	31
Employees	5,071	5,194
Walsh Scholars	132	143
International		
Authority	-	-
Employees	770	880
Walsh Scholars	72	92
	6,069	6,340

Hospitality expenditure

The Statement of Income and Expenditure includes the following hospitality expenditure:

	2025	Reclassified 2024
	€'000	€'000
Authority hospitality	26	25
Staff hospitality	34	42
Client hospitality	-	6
Total	60	73

The 2024 comparative was reclassified as it was identified that some hospitality expenditure had been miscategorised in the Staff and Client categories.

Statement of compliance

The Authority has adopted the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies (2016) and has put procedures in place to ensure compliance with the Code. Teagasc was in compliance with the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies for 2025.

Teagasc is a signatory of the Charities Governance Code, which is overseen by the Irish Charities Regulator. The Authority reviewed and approved Teagasc's annual report form on 01 October 2025.

Mr. Liam Herlihy
Chairperson
30 June 2026

Mr. John Paul Fenlon
Member of the Authority
30 June 2026

STATEMENT ON INTERNAL CONTROL

Scope of responsibility

On behalf of Teagasc I acknowledge the Authority's responsibility for ensuring that an effective system of internal control is maintained and operated. This responsibility takes account of the requirements of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies (2016) and the Charities Governance Code.

Purpose of the system of internal control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a tolerable level rather than to eliminate it. The system can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance that assets are safeguarded, transactions authorised and properly recorded and that material errors or irregularities are either prevented or detected in a timely way.

The system of internal control, which accords with guidance issued by the Department of Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation, has been in place in Teagasc for the year ended 31 December 2025 and up to the date of approval of the financial statements.

Capacity to handle risk

Teagasc has an Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) comprising three Authority members, one of whom is the chair, and one external member with financial and audit expertise. The ARC met four times in 2025.

Teagasc has also established an internal audit function which is adequately resourced and conducts a programme of work agreed with the ARC. The function is supported by external firms providing internal audit services.

The ARC has reviewed the risk management policy which sets out Teagasc's risk appetite, the risk management processes in place and details the roles and responsibilities of staff in relation to risk. The policy has been made available to all staff who are expected to work within Teagasc's risk management policies, to alert management on emerging risks and control weaknesses and assume responsibility for risks and controls within their own area of work.

Risk and control framework

Teagasc has implemented a risk management system which identifies and reports key risks and the management actions being taken to address and, to the extent possible, to mitigate those risks.

A risk register is in place which identifies the key risks facing Teagasc. The risks have been identified, evaluated and graded according to their significance. The register is reviewed by the Authority monthly and by the ARC quarterly. The outcome of these assessments is used to plan and allocate resources to ensure risks are managed to an acceptable level.

The risk register details the controls and actions needed to mitigate risks. Responsibility for operation of controls assigned to specific staff. I confirm that within the Teagasc control environment:

- procedures for all key business processes are documented,
- financial responsibilities are assigned at management level with corresponding accountability,
- there is an appropriate budgeting system with an annual budget which is kept under review by senior management,
- there are systems aimed at ensuring the security of the information and communication technology systems,
- there are systems in place to safeguard the assets, and
- control procedures over grant funding to outside agencies ensure adequate control over approval of grants and monitoring and review of grantees to ensure grant funding has been applied for the purpose intended.

STATEMENT ON INTERNAL CONTROL

Ongoing monitoring and review

Formal procedures have been established for monitoring control processes and control deficiencies are communicated to those responsible for taking corrective action, and to management and the Authority where relevant, in a timely way. I confirm that the following ongoing monitoring systems are in place:

- key risks and related controls have been identified and processes have been put in place to monitor the operation of those key controls and report any identified deficiencies,
- reporting arrangements have been established at all levels where responsibility for financial management has been assigned, and
- there are regular reviews by senior management of periodic and annual performance and financial reports which indicate performance against budgets/ forecasts.

Procurement

I confirm that Teagasc has procedures in place to ensure compliance with procurement rules and guidelines. Total procurement related expenditure was €67.4m in 2025.

Teagasc monitors the compliance status of its purchase orders. In 2025 Teagasc raised 274 purchase orders for value in excess of €25,000, with total value of €28m. It found 2 non-compliant procurements with a total value of €246,763 (2024: €191,930). Notwithstanding that these procurements were non-compliant Teagasc is satisfied that good value for money was achieved.

Advance payment of grants

I confirm that Teagasc has procedures in place to ensure compliance of pre-funded grants. Teagasc provides advance grant funding to private agricultural colleges and to universities. Teagasc was given derogated sanction from the Department of Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation to continue the practice of pre-funding grants in 2025.

Review of effectiveness

I confirm that Teagasc has procedures to monitor the effectiveness of its risk management and control procedures which is informed by the work of the internal and external auditors, the Audit and Risk Committee which oversees their work, and the senior management within Teagasc responsible for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

I confirm that the Authority conducted an annual review of the effectiveness of the internal controls for 2025 on 04 March 2026.

Internal control issues

No weaknesses in internal control that require disclosure in the financial statements were identified in relation to 2025 apart from non-compliant purchase orders.

Mr. Liam Herlihy
Chairperson
30 June 2026

Ard Reachtaire Cuntas agus Ciste
Comptroller and Auditor General

Report for presentation to the Houses of the Oireachtas

Teagasc – the Agriculture and Food Development Authority

Opinion on the financial statements

I have audited the financial statements of Teagasc for the year ended 31 December 2025 as required under the provisions of section 12 of the Agriculture (Research, Training and Advice) Act 1988. The financial statements comprise the consolidated statement of income and expenditure, the consolidated statement of comprehensive income, the statement of financial position of the group and of Teagasc, the consolidated statement of changes in capital and reserves, the statement of changes in capital and reserves of Teagasc, the consolidated statement of cash flows, and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In my opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the group and of Teagasc at 31 December 2025 and of the group's income and expenditure for 2025 in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard (FRS) 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland*.

Basis of opinion

I conducted my audit of the financial statements in accordance with the International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) as promulgated by the International Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions. My responsibilities under those standards are described in the appendix to this report. I am independent of Teagasc and have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the standards.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Report on information other than the financial statements, and on other matters

Teagasc has presented certain other information together with the financial statements. This comprises the annual report, the governance statement and Authority members' report, and the statement on internal control. My responsibilities to report in relation to such information, and on certain other matters upon which I report by exception, are described in the appendix to this report.

I have nothing to report in that regard.

Seamus McCarthy

Seamus McCarthy
Comptroller and Auditor General

30 June 2026

Report of the C&AG (continued)

Responsibilities of Authority members

As detailed in the governance statement and Authority members' report, the Authority members are responsible for

- the preparation of annual financial statements in the form prescribed under section 12 of the Agriculture (Research, Training and Advice) Act 1988
- ensuring that the financial statements give a true and fair view in accordance with FRS 102
- ensuring the regularity of transactions
- assessing whether the use of the going concern basis of accounting is appropriate, and
- such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Responsibilities of the Comptroller and Auditor General

I am required under section 12 of the Agriculture (Research, Training and Advice) Act 1988 to audit the financial statements of Teagasc and to report thereon to the Houses of the Oireachtas.

My objective in carrying out the audit is to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement due to fraud or error. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with the ISAs, I exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. In doing so,

- I identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements whether due to fraud or error; design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks; and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- I obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal controls.
- I evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures.
- I conclude on the appropriateness of the use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, on whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on Teagasc's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my report. However, future events or conditions may cause Teagasc to cease to continue as a going concern.
- I evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

I report by exception if, in my opinion,

- I have not received all the information and explanations I required for my audit, or
- the accounting records were not sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited, or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records.

Information other than the financial statements

My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information presented with those statements, and I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with my audit of the financial statements, I am required under the ISAs to read the other information presented and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or with knowledge obtained during the audit, or if it otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact.

Reporting on other matters

My audit is conducted by reference to the special considerations which attach to State bodies in relation to their management and operation. I report if I identify material matters relating to the manner in which public business has been conducted.

I seek to obtain evidence about the regularity of financial transactions in the course of audit. I report if I identify any material instance where public money has not been applied for the purposes intended or where transactions did not conform to the authorities governing them.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Note	2025 €'000	2024 €'000
Income			
Oireachtas grants	4	184,313	179,024
EU funding	5	8,388	6,880
Livestock trading income		6,042	5,076
Operational income	6	41,622	44,470
Gain on disposal of fixed assets	12	97	14
Other grants, donations and voluntary levies		4,517	3,875
Sale of goods		174	193
Research and technology services		2,511	2,289
Total Income		247,664	241,821
Expenditure	7	(247,797)	(240,001)
Operating (deficit)/surplus		(133)	1,820
Interest receivable		254	217
Surplus before transfers and taxation		121	2,037
Transfer to Capital Account	23	(1,526)	(6,490)
Deficit for the financial year before taxation		(1,405)	(4,453)
Taxation	11	2	31
Deficit for the financial year		(1,403)	(4,422)
Deficit attributable to			
Teagasc		(1,327)	(4,344)
Non-controlling interest		(76)	(78)
		(1,403)	(4,422)

The Statement of Cash Flow and Notes 1-35 form part of these financial statements.

Liam Herlihy

Mr. Liam Herlihy
Chairperson
30 June 2026

Frank O'Mara

Professor Frank O'Mara
Director
30 June 2026

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Note	2025 €'000	2024 €'000
Deficit for the financial year		(1,403)	(4,422)
Actuarial gain on retirement benefit liabilities	10	75,392	63,327
Adjustment to deferred retirement benefit funding	10	(75,392)	(63,327)
Total comprehensive income for the year		(1,403)	(4,422)
Teagasc		(1,327)	(4,344)
Non-controlling interest		(76)	(78)
		(1,403)	(4,422)

The Statement of Cash Flow and Notes 1-35 form part of these financial statements.

Liam Herlihy

Mr. Liam Herlihy
Chairperson
30 June 2026

Frank O'Mara

Professor Frank O'Mara
Director
30 June 2026

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

		Group		Teagasc	
		2025	2024	2025	2024
	Note	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Non-current assets					
Property, plant and equipment	12	156,945	155,769	146,724	145,198
Investments	14	927	768	928	769
Deferred Tax	22	72	70	-	-
		157,944	156,605	147,652	145,967
Current assets					
Inventories	15	7,596	7,198	7,596	7,198
Receivables: amounts falling due within one year	17	35,954	32,165	35,237	31,494
Cash and cash equivalents	18	41,816	45,405	39,104	42,583
		85,366	84,768	81,937	81,275
Payables: amounts falling due within one year					
Payables and accruals	19	25,835	27,557	24,937	26,695
Deferred income	21	33,273	32,711	33,085	32,503
		59,108	60,268	58,022	59,198
Net current assets		26,258	24,500	23,915	22,077
Total assets less current liabilities		184,202	181,105	171,567	168,044
Payables: amounts falling due after one year					
Deferred income	21	14,537	10,935	14,503	10,935
Payables and accruals	20	-	626	-	345
		169,665	169,544	157,064	156,764
Deferred retirement benefit funding	10	906,169	979,777	906,169	979,777
Retirement benefit liabilities	10	(906,169)	(979,777)	(906,169)	(979,777)
Net assets		**169,665**	**169,544**	**157,064**	**156,764**
Capital and reserves					
Capital account	23	146,724	145,198	146,724	145,198
Revenue reserves	24	10,196	11,601	10,340	11,566
Capital contribution		12,745	12,745	-	-
		169,665	**169,544**	**157,064**	**156,764**
Reserves attributable to Teagasc		163,381	163,183	157,064	156,764
Non-controlling interest		6,284	6,361	-	-
		169,665	**169,544**	**157,064**	**156,764**

The Statement of Cash Flow and Notes 1-35 form part of these financial statements.

Mr. Liam Herlihy
Chairperson
30 June 2026

Professor Frank O'Mara
Director
30 June 2026

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN CAPITAL AND RESERVES
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

GROUP

		Capital account	Capital contribution	Revenue reserves		Capital contribution	Total
					Non-controlling interest	Non-controlling interest	
		Group	Group	Group			
	Note	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
At 1 January 2024		**138,707**	**6,400**	**15,925**	**94**	**6,345**	**167,471**
Deficit for the year		-	-	**(4,344)**	**(78)**	-	(4,422)
Actuarial loss on retirement benefit liabilities	10	-	-	**63,327**	**-**	-	63,327
Adjustment to deferred retirement benefit funding	10	-	-	**(63,327)**	**-**	-	(63,327)
Total comprehensive income		-	-	**(4,344)**	**(78)**	-	(4,422)
Amounts capitalised in respect of purchased assets	12	17,710	-	**-**	**-**	-	17,710
Net amount released on disposals	12	(32)	-	**-**	**-**	-	(32)
Less: amortised in line with asset depreciation	12	(11,187)	-	**-**	**-**	-	(11,187)
At 31 December 2024		**145,198**	**6,400**	**11,585**	**16**	**6,345**	**169,544**
			163,183			**6,361**	**169,544**
Deficit for the year		-	-	**(1,327)**	**(76)**	-	(1,403)
Actuarial gain on retirement benefit liabilities	10	-	-	**75,392**	**-**	-	75,392
Adjustment to deferred retirement benefit funding	10	-	-	**(75,392)**	**-**	-	(75,392)
Total comprehensive income		-	-	**(1,327)**	**(76)**	-	(1,403)
Amounts capitalised in respect of purchased assets	12	14,444	-	**-**	**-**	-	14,444
Net amount released on disposals	12	(35)	-	**-**	**-**	-	(35)
Less: amortised in line with asset depreciation	12	(12,883)	-	**-**	**-**	-	(12,883)
At 31 December 2025		**146,724**	**6,400**	**10,257**	**(61)**	**6,345**	**169,665**
			163,381			**6,284**	**169,665**

The Statement of Cash Flow and Notes 1-35 form part of these financial statements.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN CAPITAL AND RESERVES
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

TEAGASC

	Note	Capital account €'000	Revenue reserves €'000	Total €'000
At 1 January 2024		**138,707**	**15,807**	**154,514**
Deficit for the year		-	(4,241)	(4,241)
Actuarial loss on retirement benefit liabilities	10	-	63,327	63,327
Adjustment to deferred retirement benefit funding	10	-	(63,327)	(63,327)
Total comprehensive income		138,707	11,566	150,273
Amounts capitalised in respect of purchased assets	12	17,710	-	17,710
Net amount released on disposals	12	(32)	-	(32)
Less: amortised in line with asset depreciation	12	(11,187)	-	(11,187)
At 31 December 2024		**145,198**	**11,566**	**156,764**
Deficit for the year		-	(1,227)	(1,227)
Actuarial gain on retirement benefit liabilities	10	-	75,392	75,392
Adjustment to deferred retirement benefit funding	10	-	(75,392)	(75,392)
Total comprehensive income		-	(1,227)	(1,227)
Amounts capitalised in respect of purchased assets	12	14,444	-	14,444
Net amount released on disposals	12	(35)	-	(35)
Less: amortised in line with asset depreciation	12	(12,883)	-	(12,883)
At 31 December 2025		**146,724**	**10,339**	**157,063**

The Statement of Cash Flow and Notes 1-35 form part of these financial statements.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

GROUP

	Note	2025 €'000	2024 €'000
Cash flow from operating activities	27	10,957	18,146
Interest paid		-	-
Taxation		-	-
Net cash flow from operating activities		10,957	18,146
Cash flow from investing activities			
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets	12	(14,932)	(17,757)
Receipts from sales of tangible fixed assets	12	132	48
Payments to acquire investments	14	-	(1)
Interest received		254	217
Net cash used in investing activities		(14,546)	(17,493)
Net (decrease)/ increase in cash and cash equivalents		(3,589)	653
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January		45,405	44,752
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December		41,816	45,405
Cash and cash equivalents consists of:			
Cash at bank and in hand	18	26,816	35,405
Short term deposits	18	15,000	10,000
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December		41,816	45,405

The Statement of Cash Flow and Notes 1-35 form part of these financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. General information

Teagasc (the Agriculture and Food Development Authority of Ireland) was established under the Agriculture (Research, Training and Advice) Act, 1988. The mission of Teagasc is to support science-based innovation in the agri-food sector and the broader bioeconomy that will underpin profitability, competitiveness and sustainability. Teagasc's principal and registered office is at Oak Park, Carlow.

Teagasc owns a 57% share in Moorepark Technology Limited, whose principal activity is the provision of services for Research and Development.

2. Summary of significant accounting policies

The basis of accounting, and significant accounting policies adopted by Teagasc, are set out below. They have all been applied consistently throughout the year and for the preceding year.

2.1 Statement of compliance

The financial statements of Teagasc for the year ended 31 December 2025 have been prepared in accordance with FRS 102, the financial reporting standard applicable in the UK and Ireland issued by the Financial Reporting Council (FRC).

2.2 Basis of consolidation

For the purposes of these financial statements, the 'Teagasc Group' comprises the parent entity Teagasc and its subsidiary Moorepark Technology Limited. The accounting policies and accounting period of the subsidiary are consistent with those of the Group. Inter-company transactions and balances and gains on transactions between group companies are eliminated. The investment in the subsidiary is accounted for at cost less impairment. Details of the subsidiary are provided in Note 14.

2.3 Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, except for certain assets and liabilities that are measured at fair values as explained in the accounting policies below. The financial statements are in the form approved by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine with the concurrence of the Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation under Section 12 of the Agriculture (Research, Training and Advice) Act, 1988 in conjunction with S.I. No.418 of 2011. The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to Teagasc's financial statements.

2.4 Revenue recognition

Oireachtas grants
Teagasc receives government grants in respect of research and other projects (revenue grants) and capital grants to fund capital investment. Revenue grants that do not include performance criteria are recognised as income on a cash receipts basis. Grants received which impose specific performance criteria are credited to deferred income and recorded as a creditor until the relevant performance criteria have been met and the grants are recognised as income.

Sale of goods
Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised when the significant risks and rewards of ownership of the goods have passed to the buyer, usually on dispatch of the goods, the amount of revenue can be measured reliably, it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the entity and the costs incurred or to be incurred in respect of the transaction can be measured reliably.

Advisory fees
Teagasc receives income for annual advisory service contracts, annual discussion group contracts and additional advisory services provided. Income from annual advisory service contracts, and discussion group contracts, is recognised in the accounting period when the relevant invoice has issued. Income in relation to additional advisory services is recognised in the accounting period in which the service is rendered and the outcome of the contract can be estimated reliably.

Accrued income
Income earned on goods/ services delivered, but unbilled, is recognised in accordance with contractual terms as accrued income on the Statement of Financial Position. Income earned on research projects, but unclaimed, is recognised as accrued income on the Statement of Financial Position, taking into account the individual rules of all funding bodies.

Royalty income
Royalty income is recognised on an accruals basis in accordance with the substance of the relevant agreements.

Tuition fees
Revenue is recognised over the period of instruction.

Comparative figures
Comparative figures have been regrouped and reanalysed, where necessary, on the same basis as those for the current period.

2.5 Employee benefits

The Group provides a range of benefits to employees, including paid holiday arrangements and defined benefit pension plans.

Short term benefits
Short term benefits, including holiday pay and other similar non-monetary benefits, are recognised as an expense in the period in which the service is receivable.

Defined benefit pension plans
The Group operates defined benefit pension schemes which are funded annually on a pay as you go basis from monies available to it, including monies provided by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, and from contributions deducted from staff salaries. Pension Scheme liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method. Actuarial valuations are obtained annually and are updated at each Statement of Financial Position date.

Teagasc also operates the Single Public Services Pension Scheme (Single Scheme), which is the defined benefit scheme for pensionable public servants appointed on or after 01 January 2013. Single Scheme members' contributions are paid over to the Department of Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation.

Retirement benefit costs reflect retirement benefits earned by employees in the period and are shown net of staff pension contributions which are retained by the Group. The Single Public Services Pension Scheme contributions are remitted to the Department of Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation. An amount corresponding to the retirement benefit charge is recognised as income to the extent that it is recoverable and offset by grants received in the year to discharge retirement benefit payments. Actuarial gains or losses arising from changes in actuarial assumptions and from experience surpluses and deficits are recognised in the Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income for the year and a corresponding adjustment is recognised in the amount recoverable from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

Retirement benefit liabilities represent the present value of future retirement benefit payments earned by staff to date. Deferred retirement benefit funding represents the corresponding asset to be recovered in future periods from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

2.6 Leases

At inception Teagasc assesses agreements that transfer the right to use assets. The assessment considers whether the arrangement is, or contains, a lease based on the substance of the arrangement.

Operating leases
Leases that do not transfer all the risks and rewards of ownership are classified as operating leases. Payments under operating leases are charged to the income statement on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease.

2.7 Taxation

The taxation expense for the period comprises current and deferred tax recognised in the reporting period. Tax is recognised in the income statement. Current or deferred taxation assets and liabilities are not discounted.

Current tax
Current tax is the amount of income tax payable in respect of the taxable profit for the year or prior years. Tax is calculated on the basis of tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the period end.

Management periodically evaluates positions taken in tax returns with respect to situations in which applicable tax regulation is subject to interpretation. It establishes provisions where appropriate on the basis of amounts expected to be paid to the tax authorities.

Deferred tax
Deferred tax arises from timing differences that are differences between taxable profits and total comprehensive income as stated in the financial statements. These timing differences arise from the inclusion of income and expenses in tax assessments in periods different from those in which they are recognised in financial statements.

Deferred tax is recognised on all timing differences at the reporting date except for certain exceptions. Unrelieved tax losses and other deferred tax assets are only recognised when it is probable that they will be recovered against the reversal of deferred tax liabilities or other future taxable profits.

Deferred tax is measured using tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the period end and that are expected to apply to the reversal of the timing difference.

2.8 Research and development

Expenditure on research activities is recognised as an expense in the period in which it is incurred.

2.9 Tangible assets

Property, plant and equipment
Property, plant and equipment are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Such costs include costs directly attributable to making the asset capable of operating as intended.

Land is not depreciated. Assets under construction are not depreciated. Depreciation is provided on all property, plant and equipment at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset on a systematic basis over its expected useful life as follows:

Computer equipment	3 years
Plant and vehicles	5 years
Hi-tech laboratory equipment	5 years
Research plant and equipment	10 years
Laboratory and office equipment	10 years
Farm buildings	20 years
Other buildings	50 years

A half year's depreciation is charged in the year of acquisition and disposal of assets.

The carrying values of property, plant and equipment are reviewed for impairment when events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value may not be recoverable. If there is an indication of impairment the impairment loss, or the reversal of an impairment loss, is recognised immediately in the Consolidated Statement of Income and Expenditure.

The estimated useful lives, residual values and depreciation methods are reviewed, and adjusted as appropriate, at the end of each financial year.

The gain or loss, being the difference between the sales proceeds and the carrying amount of the asset, arising on disposal or retirement of an item of property, plant and equipment is recognised in the Consolidated Statement of Income and Expenditure. Any amount in the revaluation reserve relating to that asset is transferred to retained earnings directly.

Fully depreciated plant and equipment is retained in the financial statements until it is no longer in use.

Assets for re-sale
Tangible assets are classified as held for sale when the carrying amount is expected to be recovered principally through a sale transaction and a sale is highly probable. They are stated at the lower of carrying amount or fair value less cost to sell.

Impairment of non-financial assets
At each financial year end date non-financial assets not carried at fair value are assessed to determine whether there is an indication that the asset (or asset's cash generating unit) may be impaired. If there is such an indication the recoverable amount of the asset (or asset's cash generating unit) is compared to the carrying amount of the asset (or asset's cash generating unit).

2.10 Financial assets

Investment in subsidiary
The investment in the subsidiary Moorepark Technology Limited is measured at cost less impairment. If there is objective evidence of impairment, an impairment loss is recognised in the Consolidated Statement of Income and Expenditure in the year.

Other investments
Investments listed on a recognised stock exchange are measured at their fair value, and movements are recorded through the Consolidated Statement of Income and Expenditure and the Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income. Other financial assets comprising investments in unquoted shares and financial investments are measured at their fair value if this can be reliably determined; otherwise, they are measured at the value attributed to them at the date of acquisition less impairment. If there is objective evidence of impairment, an impairment loss is recognised in the Consolidated Statement of Income and Expenditure and the Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income in the year.

2.11 Inventory

Biological assets
Livestock and own farm produce are valued using the fair value model. Fair value is determined on the basis that animals and own farm produce are sold on the open market. Gains and losses, which arise from these valuations, are reflected in full in income.

Other inventory
All other inventory is stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

2.12 Receivables

Receivables are recognised at fair value, less a provision for impairments. The provision for impairments is a specific provision and is established when there is objective evidence that Teagasc will not be able to collect all amounts owed to it. All movements in the provision for impairments are recognised in the Consolidated Statement of Income and Expenditure.

2.13 Payables

Payables, including trade and other payables and deferred income, are initially recognised at transaction price, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Advanced research grants, where a portion of the funds received are due to be paid to partnering organisations/collaborator research bodies when specific performance criteria are met, are included in note 19.

2.14 Provisions and contingencies

Provisions
Provisions are recognised when the Group has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of past events; it is probable that an outflow of resources will be required to settle the obligation; and the amount of the obligation can be estimated reliably.

Provisions are measured at the present value of the expenditures expected to be required to settle the obligation using a pre-tax rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the obligation. The increase in the provision due to passage of time is recognised as a finance cost.

Contingencies
Contingent liabilities arising as a result of past events, are not recognised when (i) it is not probable that there will be an outflow of resources or that the amount cannot be reliably measured at the reporting date or (ii) when the existence will be confirmed by the occurrence or non-occurrence of uncertain future events not wholly within the Group's control. Contingent liabilities are disclosed in the financial statements unless the probability of an outflow of resources is remote.

Contingent assets are not recognised. Contingent assets are disclosed in the financial statements when an inflow of economic benefits is probable.

3. Critical accounting estimates and judgements

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported for assets and liabilities as at the Statement of Financial Position date and the amounts reported for revenues and expenses during the year. However, the nature of estimation means that actual outcomes could differ from those estimates.

The following judgements have had the most significant effect on amounts recognised in the financial statements:

Useful economic lives of property, plant and equipment
The Group depreciates the tangible fixed assets over their estimated useful lives after taking into account their estimated residual values. The estimated useful life reflects management's estimate of the period that the Group intends to derive future economic benefits from the use of the Group's tangible fixed assets. The residual value reflects management's estimated amount that the Group would currently obtain from the disposal of the asset, after deducting the estimated costs of disposal, as if the asset were already of the age and in the condition expected at the end of its useful life. Changes in the expected level of usage and technological developments could affect the economics, useful lives and the residual values of these assets which could then consequentially impact future depreciation charges. See Note 12 for the carrying amount of tangible fixed assets.

Valuation of investments
At the end of each financial year, an assessment is made on whether there are indicators that Teagasc's investment in the subsidiary is impaired. Where necessary, Teagasc's assessments are based on the estimation of the value-in-use of the assets by forecasting the expected future cash flows for a period of up to 5 years, using a suitable discount rate in order to calculate the present value of those cash flows. See Note 14 for the carrying amount of investments.

Impairment of receivables

Teagasc assesses receivables on a continuous basis for any objective evidence of impairment by considering factors, including the ageing profile, the creditworthiness and the past collection history of each debtor. If the financial conditions of these debtors were to deteriorate, resulting in an impairment of their ability to make payments, additional allowances may be required. See Note 17 for the carrying amount of trade and other receivables.

Retirement benefit obligation

Teagasc has an obligation to pay retirement benefits to certain employees. The cost of these benefits and the present value of the obligation depend on a number of factors, including life expectancy, salary increases, asset valuations and the discount rate on corporate bonds. Management estimates these factors in determining the net retirement benefit obligation in the Statement of Financial Position. The assumptions reflect historical experience and current trends. See Note 10 for the disclosures relating to the retirement benefit scheme.

Provisions

The Group makes provisions for legal and constructive obligations, which it knows to be outstanding at the year-end date. These provisions are generally made based on historical or other pertinent information, adjusted for recent trends where relevant. However, they are estimates of the financial costs of events that may not occur for some years. As a result of this and the level of uncertainty attaching to the financial outcomes, the actual outcome may differ significantly from that estimated.

4. Oireachtas grants

	Subhead	2025 €'000	2024 €'000
Vote 30: Agriculture, Food and the Marine Grant-in-aid for general expenses	C.5	172,309	167,175
Food research and agriculture research	C.3	10,972	8,086
Agricultural and equine simulators	C.3.5	564	453
Agricultural catchments programme	B.3	2,832	2,609
Knowledge transfer programme	B.7	623	772
National Prepared Consumer Foods centre	C.4	135	311
National carbon observatory	C.10	48	102
Grant for forestry publicity and awareness and training	B.10	660	705
Grant for forestry education	B.10	42	22
Retirement Benefit Funding			
Net deferred funding for retirement benefits		1,784	3,895
ASC remitted to Vote 30		(3,579)	(3,355)
Single public sector pension scheme remitted to DPER		(2,077)	(1,751)
		184,313	179,024

A grant without any performance criteria is recognised in income when the grant proceeds are received. Oireachtas grants received which impose specified future performance conditions are recognised in income when those conditions have been met. Oireachtas grants, received before income recognition is satisfied, are recorded as separate liabilities in the Statement of Financial Position. At year end, Teagasc had unfilled conditions included in the Statement of Financial Position as liabilities with respect to the following:

	Note	2025 €'000	Reclassified 2024 €'000
Food research and agriculture research	21	14,962	11,614*
National carbon observatory	21	-	48
National Prepared Consumer Foods centre	21	230	266
Agricultural and equine simulators	21	-	564*
National Centre for Brewing and Distilling	21	1,079	899
		16,271	13,391

* The 2024 balances in Note: 21 have been reclassified as a number of grants had been miscategorised.

5. EU funding

	2025 €'000	2024 €'000
Farm Survey Income	529	196
INTERREG	320	101
Marie Curie	373	201
Horizon 2020	1,077	1,866
Horizon Europe	4,291	2,840
Other EU Income	1,798	1,676
	8,388	6,880

Horizon Europe is the main financial tool through which the European Union supports research and development activities covering almost all scientific disciplines.

5. EU funding (continued)

A grant without any performance criteria is recognised in income when the grant proceeds are received. EU grants received which impose specified future performance conditions are recognised in income when those conditions have been met. EU grants, received before income recognition is satisfied, are recorded as separate liabilities in the Statement of Financial Position. At year end, Teagasc had unfilled conditions included in the Statement of Financial Position as liabilities with respect to the following:

		2025	2024
	Note	€'000	€'000
Horizon 2020	21	697	1,920
Horizon Europe	21	7,734	7,252
Marie Curie	21	1,009	450
Other EU Income	21	4,124	3,825
		13,564	13,447

6. Operational income

	Operations	Knowledge Transfer	Research	2025	2024
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Advisory service fees	-	14,475	67	14,542	14,058
Course fee income	-	4,727	591	5,318	5,556
EI/ RI and other state agencies research	-	1,145	6,850	7,995	9,842
Collaborative/ co-funding industry research	-	-	3,093	3,093	3,946
Other fees	-	925	3,763	4,688	5,264
Other farming operations	-	1,458	3,093	4,551	4,318
Miscellaneous income	219	242	974	1,435	1,486
	219	22,972	18,431	41,622	44,470

A grant without any performance criteria is recognised in income when the grant proceeds are received. State agency grants received which impose specified future performance conditions are recognised in income when those conditions have been met. State agency grants, received before income recognition is satisfied, are recorded as separate liabilities in the Statement of Financial Position. At year end, Teagasc had unfilled conditions included in the Statement of Financial Position as liabilities with respect to the following:

		2025	2024
	Note	€'000	€'000
Research Ireland	21	8,947	8,856
Enterprise Ireland	21	2,203	2,618
		11,150	11,474

7. Expenditure

	Operations	Knowledge Transfer	Research	2025	2024
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Pay (Note 9)	10,175	46,250	58,633	115,058	109,008
Travelling and subsistence	307	2,745	3,020	6,072	6,340
General operating expenses (Note 8)	12,796	10,819	28,861	52,476	52,265
Financial charges	220	104	2	326	407
Depreciation (Note 12)	412	2,467	10,837	13,716	12,063
Grants to private colleges (Note 28)	-	3,147	-	3,147	3,125
Student and other grants	313	407	118	838	869
Cost of livestock purchases	-	18	1,370	1,388	755
Cost of research and development services	-	-	306	306	374
Walsh scholarship grants	-	734	7,089	7,823	7,686
	24,223	66,691	110,236	201,150	192,891
Staff training				658	717
Retirement benefits (Note 10)				45,989	46,393
				247,797	240,001

In 2025 138 (2024: 140) staff received overtime payments. The highest aggregate amount paid to an individual was €25,454 (2024: €29,158).

8. Analysis of general operating expenses

	Operations	Knowledge Transfer	Research	2025	2024
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Farming supplies/ services	10	1,865	5,955	7,830	7,881
Maintenance/ repairs	2,243	2,805	7,646	12,694	11,365
Rents/ rates/ insurances	1,375	651	1,689	3,715	3,220
Postage/ telephones	659	1,205	314	2,178	2,143
Power/ fuel/ petrol	158	855	3,017	4,030	3,449
Laboratory supplies	-	-	4,015	4,015	3,804
Printing/ stationery/ publicity	558	1,227	1,113	2,898	3,206
Seminar/ classroom/ library supplies	43	831	1,016	1,890	2,140
Services of external agencies	1,156	595	1,111	2,862	4,118
Student and staff canteen supplies	94	399	627	1,120	1,316
Audit fee	90	-	18	108	93
ICT supplies/ services	6,000	94	794	6,888	6,989
Legal/ professional fees / client settlements	391	136	783	1,310	1,697
Miscellaneous programme costs	-	120	642	762	712
Special events and miscellaneous	19	36	121	176	132
	12,796	10,819	28,861	52,476	52,265

9. Staff

The average number of staff employed by Teagasc during the year was as follows:

	2025	2024
Professional	973	968
Technical	150	146
Administrative/ clerical	274	269
Farm/ domestic	105	106
	1,502	1,489

9. Staff (continued)

Employee short-term benefits breakdown

Employees' short-term benefits in excess of €60,000 are categorised into the following bands:

Employee benefits	2025 Teagasc Number of employees	2024 Teagasc Number of employees
€60,000 to €69,999	194	169
€70,000 to €79,999	142	160
€80,000 to €89,999	121	118
€90,000 to €99,999	103	72
€100,000 to €109,999	22	26
€110,000 to €119,999	25	28
€120,000 to €129,999	53	40
€130,000 to €139,999	16	19
€140,000 to €149,999	10	6
€150,000 to €159,999	3	1
€160,000 to €169,999	-	-
€170,000 to €179,999	-	1
€180,000 to €189,999	-	2
€190,000 to €199,999	4	1

Note: For the purposes of this disclosure, short-term employee benefits in relation to services rendered during the reporting period include salary, overtime, allowances and other payments made on behalf of the employee, but exclude employer's PRSI.

Aggregate employee benefits

	2025 €'000	2024 €'000
Staff short-term benefits	100,608	98,727
Termination benefits	-	16
Retirement benefit costs	45,989	46,393
Employer's contribution to social welfare	9,976	9,354
	156,573	154,490

The total number of staff employed (WTE) at year end was 1,515 (2024: 1,489). There were no termination benefits in 2025 (2024: €15,700).

Staff short-term benefits

	2025 €'000	2024 €'000
Basic pay	96,468	94,733
Overtime	1,174	1,126
Allowances	2,966	2,868
	100,608	98,727

Note 9 above refers to Teagasc employees basic pay, overtime and allowances only. Note 7 pay costs of €115.058m are the total costs for the group including pension contributions on externally funded projects.

9. Staff (continued)

Key management personnel

Key management personnel in Teagasc consist of the members of the Authority, the Director and three divisional directors reporting to the Director. The total value of employee benefits for key management personnel is set out below:

	2025	2024
	€'000	€'000
Salaries and other short term benefits:		
Key management remuneration	858	827
	858	827

This does not include the value of retirement benefits earned in the period. The remuneration figure includes €87,815 in fees paid to Authority members. The key management personnel, except for those on the Authority, are members of the Teagasc pension scheme and their entitlements in that regard do not extend beyond the terms of the model public defined benefit superannuation scheme.

Director's salary and benefits

The Director's remuneration for the financial period was as follows:

	2025	2024
	€'000	€'000
Basic pay	198	192
Total remuneration	198	192

The Director is a member of the Teagasc pension scheme and his entitlements in that regard do not extend beyond the model public sector defined benefit superannuation scheme. The value of retirement benefits earned in the period is not included above.

10. Retirement benefit plans

Section 9 of the Agriculture (Research, Training and Advice) Act, 1988 provides for the establishment of schemes for the granting of retirement benefits in respect of staff appointed by Teagasc and staff transferred to Teagasc from An Chomhairle Oiliúna Talmhaíochta and from An Foras Talúntais.

Pending the approval of draft pension schemes by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, the Minister for Finance and the Oireachtas, Teagasc operates pension schemes on an administrative basis. Teagasc is cooperating with the relevant government departments to secure the formal approval of the pension schemes.

Teagasc also administers two pension schemes (the Agricultural Colleges Staff Pension Scheme 1985 and the Agricultural Colleges Spouses' and Children's Contributory Pension Scheme 1985) in respect of certain staff employed by privately owned Colleges of Agriculture and Horticulture, the cost of whose salaries is borne by the exchequer through the agency of Teagasc.

The above schemes are defined benefit pension schemes. No separate fund is maintained, and no assets are held to finance the payment of retirement benefits and gratuities. The actuarial estimate of future liabilities accruing in regard to future benefits is shown on the Statement of Financial Position.

10. Retirement benefit plans (continued)

The average number of monthly retirement benefits paid during the year was 1,751 (2024: 1,759).

i. Analysis of total retirement benefit costs charged to income and expenditure account

	2025	2024
	€'000	€'000
Current service cost	18,408	17,917
Interest on scheme liabilities	36,326	36,583
Staff contributions	(5,166)	(4,752)
Additional Superannuation contributions	(3,579)	(3,355)
	45,989	46,393

ii. Movement in net retirement benefit liability during the financial year

	2025	2024
	€'000	€'000
Net retirement benefit liability at 01 January	979,777	1,039,209
Current service cost	18,408	17,917
Benefits paid	(52,950)	(50,605)
Interest on scheme liabilities	36,326	36,583
Actuarial loss	(75,392)	(63,327)
Net retirement benefit liability at 31 December	906,169	979,777

iii. Deferred funding asset for retirement benefits

Teagasc recognises as an asset an amount corresponding to the unfunded deferred liability for retirement benefits on the basis of the set of assumptions described below and a number of past events. These events include the statutory basis for the establishment of the pension schemes, and the policy and practice currently in place in relation to funding public service pensions including contributions by employees and the annual estimates process. While there is no formal agreement regarding these specific amounts with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Teagasc has no evidence that this funding policy will not continue to meet such sums in accordance with current practice.

Net deferred funding for retirement benefits in the year

	2025	2024
	€'000	€'000
Funding recoverable in respect of current years retirement benefits	54,734	54,500
Resources applied to pay retirement benefits	(52,950)	(50,605)
	1,784	3,895

The deferred funding asset for retirement benefits as at 31 December 2025 was €906m (2024: €980m).

10. Retirement benefit plans (continued)

iv. History of defined benefit obligations

	2025	2024	2023	2022
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Experience gain/ (loss)	662	(850)	(25,710)	(14,690)
Percentage of present value of scheme liabilities	-0.1%	0.1%	2.5%	1.5%
Changes in assumptions	74,730	64,177	(49,926)	473,677
Percentage of present value of scheme liabilities	-8.2%	-6.6%	4.8%	49.4%
Actuarial gain/ (loss) recognised in other comprehensive income	75,392	63,327	(75,636)	458,987

The cumulative actuarial gain recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income amounts to €211.55m (2024: €136.158m).

v. General description of the scheme

The pension schemes are defined benefit final salary pension arrangements with benefits and contributions defined by reference to current "model" public sector scheme regulations. The schemes provide a retirement benefit (one eightieth per year of service), a gratuity lump sum (three eightieths per year of service) and spouse's and children's retirement benefits. Retirement age for pre-01 April 2004 members will be compulsory on reaching age 70. These members also have an entitlement to retire without actuarial reduction from age 60. Public servants appointed on or after 01 April 2004 and pre-01 January 2013 have a minimum retirement age of 65. Retirement benefits in payment (and deferment) normally increase or decrease in line with general public sector salary inflation.

Teagasc operates the Single Public Service Retirement Benefits Scheme (Single Scheme) which is the defined benefit scheme for pensionable public servants appointed on or after 01 January 2013. The scheme is based on a career averaging model. Retirement for those entrants will be compulsory on reaching age 70.

The valuation used for disclosures has been based on an actuarial valuation by a qualified independent actuary on 13 January 2026 in order to assess the scheme liabilities at 31 December 2025.

The principal actuarial assumptions used to calculate liabilities are as follows:

	2025	2024
	% per annum	% per annum
Inflation rate	2.10	2.10
Salary rate	3.60	3.60
State pension	3.60	3.60
Pension rate – Main Scheme	2.85	2.85
Pension rate – Single Scheme	2.10	2.10
Scheme liabilities discount rate	4.40	3.80

10. Retirement benefit plans (continued)

The mortality basis adopted allows for improvements in life expectancy over time, so that life expectancy at retirement will depend on the year in which a member attains retirement age (age 65). The table below shows the life expectancy for members attaining age 65 in 2025 and 2045.

Year of attaining 65	**2025**	**2045**
Life expectancy – males	86.70	88.00
Life expectancy – females	89.30	90.05

On the basis of these and other assumptions and applying the projected unit method the present value of pension scheme liabilities is as follows:

	2025	**2024**
	€'000	**€'000**
Total accrued retirement benefit liability	906,169	979,777

11. Tax on profit on ordinary activities

	2025	**2024**
	€'000	**€'000**
Based on results for the year:		
Current tax charge	-	-
Deferred tax (Note 22)	(2)	(31)
	(2)	(31)
Provision in respect of prior years:		
Corporation tax	-	-
	(2)	(31)

The tax charge for the year is lower than the charge that would result from applying the standard rate of Irish corporation tax to the profit on ordinary activities. The differences are explained as follows

	2025	**2024**
	€'000	**€'000**
(Loss)/ profit on ordinary activities before taxation	(1,406)	(4,453)
(Loss)/ profit on ordinary activities multiplied by Standard rate of corporation tax in Ireland -12.5%	(176)	(557)
Effects of:		
Excess of capital allowances over depreciation	(11)	4
Higher tax rate on profits	3	4
Unutilised trading losses	30	19
Parent loss/ (profit) on ordinary activities multiplied by 12.5%	154	530
Current tax charge for the year	-	-

The tax charge arises in the operations of the subsidiary Moorepark Technology Limited.

12. Property, plant and equipment

GROUP

	Land	Buildings	Assets under construction	Plant and equipment	Total
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Cost or valuation					
At 1 January 2024	6,697	181,803	6,495	131,131	326,126
Additions	-	3,743	7,751	6,265	17,757
Assets completed	-	1,137	(1,137)	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	(754)	(754)
At 31 December 2024	6,697	186,683	13,109	136,642	343,131
Additions	-	8,266	4,170	2,496	14,932
Assets completed	-	10,880	(12,437)	1,557	-
Disposals	-	(18)	-	(614)	(632)
Reclassification	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2025	6,697	205,810	4,842	140,081	357,430
Accumulated depreciation and impairment losses					
At 1 January 2024	-	82,362	60	93,595	176,017
Charge for year	-	4,887	-	7,176	12,063
Disposals	-	-	-	(718)	(718)
At 31 December 2024	-	87,249	60	100,053	187,362
Charge for year	-	4,779	-	8,937	13,716
Disposals	-	(13)	-	(579)	(592)
At 31 December 2025	-	92,015	60	108,411	200,486
Carrying value					
At 31 December 2025	6,697	113,795	4,782	31,670	156,944
At 31 December 2024	6,697	99,434	13,049	36,589	155,769

12. Property, plant and equipment (continued)

TEAGASC

	Land	Buildings	Assets under construction	Plant and equipment	Total
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Cost or valuation					
At 1 January 2024	6,697	168,763	6,510	122,066	304,036
Additions	-	3,711	7,752	6,247	17,710
Assets completed	-	1,137	(1,137)	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	(748)	(748)
Reclassification	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2024	6,697	173,611	13,125	127,565	320,998
Additions	-	8,266	4,151	2,028	14,444
Assets completed	-	10,880	(12,424)	1,544	-
Disposals	-	-	-	(580)	(580)
Reclassification	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2025	6,697	192,756	4,852	130,557	334,862
Accumulated depreciation and impairment losses					
At 1 January 2024	-	77,405	60	87,864	165,329
Charge for year	-	4,554	-	6,633	11,187
Disposals	-	-	-	(716)	(716)
At 31 December 2024		81,959	60	93,781	175,800
Charge for year	-	4,438	-	8,445	12,883
Disposals	-		-	(545)	(545)
At 31 December 2025	-	86,397	60	101,681	188,138
Carrying value					
At 31 December 2025	6,697	106,359	4,792	28,876	146,724
At 31 December 2024	6,697	91,652	13,065	33,784	145,198

Certain fixed assets entrusted to Teagasc are protected by statute and may not be sold.

Teagasc has 55 offices/colleges/centres of which 50 are owned by Teagasc and the remaining 5 are rented. One of the rental agreements expires in less than one year, two between two and five years and two agreements are long-term leases of greater than five years.

12. Property, plant and equipment (continued)

Disposal of property, plant and equipment

	Proceeds/ costs 2025 €'000	Proceeds/ costs 2024 €'000
Proceeds from sale of non-property assets	137	48
Net book value of fixed assets disposed	(40)	(34)
Gain on disposal of fixed assets	97	14

13. Heritage assets

Group and Teagasc

Period houses in Kildalton College, Ballyhaise College and Oak Park Research Centre are part of the working infrastructure of Teagasc and are as such capitalised on the Statement of Financial Position at original cost.

Certain heritage assets at Johnstown Castle Research Centre, including the castle, agricultural museum and walled garden were not originally recognised in the Statement of Financial Position as information on the cost or value of these heritage assets could not be obtained at a cost which was commensurate with the benefits to users of the financial statements. These assets were subsequently developed as a tourist and heritage attraction. The development project involved renovation of the castle and construction of a visitor centre which became operational in 2019. The centre is managed and operated by Irish Heritage Trust. All construction costs have been capitalised and are depreciated in line with Teagasc's property, plant and equipment accounting policy.

14. Investments

	Group		Teagasc	
	2025	**2024**	**2025**	**2024**
	€'000	**€'000**	**€'000**	**€'000**
Investment in quoted shares	633	483	633	483
Investment in unquoted shares	294	285	295	286
	927	768	928	769

Investments in quoted shares	Group		Teagasc	
	2025	**2024**	**2025**	**2024**
	€'000	**€'000**	**€'000**	**€'000**
Fair value at 1 January	483	526	483	526
Gain / (Loss) on fair value movement in the year	150	(43)	150	(43)
Fair value at 31 December	633	483	633	483

Investments in unquoted shares	Group		Teagasc	
	2025	**2024**	**2025**	**2024**
Value at acquisition date	**€'000**	**€'000**	**€'000**	**€'000**
At 1 January	285	281	286	282
Additions	-	1	-	1
Revolving fund/fair value movement	9	3	9	3
At 31 December	294	285	295	286

Net book value	Group		Teagasc	
	2025	**2024**	**2025**	**2024**
	€'000	**€'000**	**€'000**	**€'000**
At 1 January	285	281	286	282
Movement in unquoted shares	9	4	9	4
At 31 December	294	285	295	286

Analysed as:	Group		Teagasc	
	2025	**2024**	**2025**	**2024**
	€'000	**€'000**	**€'000**	**€'000**
Glanbia plc	556	434	556	434
Kerry Group plc	77	49	77	49
Moorepark Technology Limited	-	-	1	1
Wexford Milk Producers Limited	-	1	-	1
Lakeland Dairies	10	10	10	10
Aurivo	2	2	2	2
Tirlán Co-Op Ltd	11	13	11	13
Carbery Creameries Ltd	105	87	105	87
Barryroe Creameries Ltd	6	5	6	5
Dairygold Co-Op Society Ltd	69	69	69	69
Dairygold Co-Op Society (Revolving fund)	91	98	91	98
	927	768	928	769

14. Investments (continued)

Details of investments:

Company name	Country of incorporation	Registered number	Number of shares	Market/ Nominal value per share at 31.12.2025	Dividend received	Nature of business of company
Glanbia plc (Market Value)	Ireland	129933	38,120	€14.59	2025 - €12,800 2024 - €11,192	Global nutrition company
Kerry Group plc (Market Value)	Ireland	111471	984	€78.00	2025 - €1,289 2024 - €621	Provider of taste and nutrition technologies
Moorepark Technology Ltd	Ireland	168270	5,102	€0.13	2025 - €nil 2024 - €nil	Provision of services for R&D
Lakeland Dairies Co-Operative Society Ltd	Ireland	4622R	10,438	€1.00	2025 - €nil 2024 - €nil	Milk production and supply
Aurivo Co-Operative Society Ltd	Ireland	5113R	1,715	€1.00	2025 - €34 2024 - €34	Milk production and supply
Tirlán Co-Operative Ltd	Ireland	4928R	11,172	€1.00	2025 - €1,715 2024 - €1,408	Milk production and supply
Kerry Co-Operative Ltd	Ireland	3618R	131	€1.25	2025 - €nil 2024 - €435	Milk production and supply
Carbery Creameries Ltd	Ireland	2899R	101,723	€1.03	2025 - €nil 2024 - €nil	Milk production and supply
Barryroe Co-Operative Ltd	Ireland	1736R	5,849	€1.00	2025 - €nil 2024 - €nil	Milk production and supply
Dairygold Co-Operative Society Ltd	Ireland	4621R	69,433	€1.00	2025 - €nil 2024 - €nil	Milk production and supply

Teagasc has invested €650 in share capital of Moorepark Technology Limited and has a 57% holding in the paid-up share capital of the company.

The percentage shareholding in all of the other organisations listed is negligible and does not give Teagasc a controlling interest.

15. Inventories

	2025	2024
	€'000	**€'000**
Livestock	6,546	6,242
Farm produce, fertilisers and feeding stocks	785	704
General supplies	265	252
	7,596	7,198

Stocks are stated after provision for impairment of €nil (2024: €nil).

15. Inventories (continued)

Reconciliation of movements in livestock:

	2025	2024
	€'000	€'000
Balance at 1 January	6,242	5,406
Purchases	1,388	754
Sales	(5,148)	(3,778)
Births	1,431	1,391
Deaths	(274)	(163)
Fair value adjustments	2,907	2,632
Balance at 31 December	6,546	6,242

16. Assets held for sale

At 31 December 2025, included in the carrying value of assets are the following assets held for sale:

	2025	2024
	€'000	€'000
Land/buildings at Kinsealy East, Co. Dublin	122	128
Land at Ballyhaise, Co. Cavan	1	-
Land at Kells Road, Navan, Co. Meath	1	1
Balance at 31 December	124	129

The sale of land/buildings at Kinsealy East, Co. Dublin to the Land Development Agency was completed in January 2026 for €1.6m.

17. Receivables

	Group		Teagasc	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Trade receivables	8,580	7,520	8,131	6,938
Other receivables	338	185	152	136
Accrued operational income	13,841	12,163	13,841	12,163
Accrued Oireachtas grant income	10,999	9,757	10,999	9,757
Prepayments	2,142	2,529	2,114	2,500
VAT and other taxes	54	11	-	-
	35,954	32,165	35,237	31,494

All amounts included above fall due within one year.

Trade receivables are stated after provision for impairment of €144,347 (2024: €167,762).

18. Cash and cash equivalents

	Group		Teagasc	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Cash at bank and in hand	26,816	35,405	24,104	32,583
Short-term deposits	15,000	10,000	15,000	10,000
	41,816	45,405	39,104	42,583

19. Payables – amounts falling due within one year

	Group		Teagasc	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Trade payables	1,257	1,409	970	1,310
Other payables and accruals	12,140	12,309	11,552	11,569
Advanced research grants due to partnering organisations	5,751	7,861	5,751	7,861
Legal provisions	301	475	301	475
PAYE/ PRSI	3,421	3,319	3,398	3,296
Value added tax	588	795	588	795
Withholding tax/ RCT	157	240	157	240
Other payroll deductions	2,220	1,149	2,220	1,149
	25,835	27,557	24,937	26,695
Payables for taxation and social welfare included above	4,166	4,355	4,142	4,332

Included in Teagasc's other payables and accruals of €11.55m are: repairs and maintenance costs €2.15m, wages, salaries and other payroll related costs €2.97m, (including an annual leave accrual of €1.93m), professional fees including legal and analytical services €1.05m, equipment and capital items €1.65m, general operating costs including utilities €1.31m, farm running costs €820k, ICT costs €510k, other accruals €340k, grants/ seminars €350k, public relations and advertising €190k and travel and subsistence €200k.

The payment of trade payables varies between on demand and thirty days. Prompt payment interest and compensation of €32,973 was payable on trade payables in 2025 (2024: €39,277). PAYE/ PRSI, value added tax and withholding tax are subject to terms of relevant legislation. Interest accrues on late payment of taxes in line with the terms of relevant legislation. No interest was due at the end of the financial year for late payment of taxes.

Other amounts included within payables not covered by specific note disclosures are unsecured, interest free and repayable on demand.

20. Payables – amounts falling due after more than one year

	Group		Teagasc	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Other payables and accruals	-	281	-	-
Advanced research grants due to partnering organisations	-	345	-	345
	-	626	-	345

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

21. Deferred income

Teagasc carries out public funded research in collaboration with partner research performing organisations in accordance with contracts with other State Institutions, principally the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. Grants in respect of such research are taken into account as income when the corresponding expenditure has been incurred under each contract. At 31 December 2025 the source and amount of deferred income in respect of research and other projects was as follows:

Grant/ other deferrals	Government Funding Department	Reclassified Opening Deferred	Cash Received	Taken to income	Deferred within 1 year	Deferred > 1 year
		€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Bord Iascaigh Mhara	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	88	(9)	79	-	-
Food research and agriculture research	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	11,459*	13,103	9,725	10,779	4,057
Era Net	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	155	19	48	104	22
Marine Institute	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	6	45	51	-	-
National Carbon Observatory	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	48	-	48	-	-
National Prepared Consumer Foods Centre	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	266	100	135	230	-
National Centre for Brewing and Distilling	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	899	900	720	1,079	-
Agricultural and Equine Simulators	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	564*	-	564	-	-
Enterprise Ireland	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment	2,618	3,730	4,146	1,685	518
Research Ireland	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment	8,856	4,446	4,354	6,013	2,934
Environmental Protection Agency	Department of Environment, Climate and Communications	71	272	243	39	61
Subtotal		25,030	22,606	20,113	19,929	7,592

21. Deferred income (continued)

Grant/ other deferrals	Government Funding Department	Reclassified Opening Deferred	Cash Received	Taken to income	Deferred within 1 year	Deferred > 1 year
		€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Subtotal		25,030	22,606	20,113	19,929	7,592
Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland	Department of Environment, Climate and Communications	-	32	32	-	-
Agricultural Sustainability Support and Advisory Programme	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment	53*	80	133	-	-
Irish Aid	Department of Foreign Affairs	280	256	261	96	179
European Union		13,447	5,406	5,290	7,039	6,525
General research and other deferrals		3,158*	10,272	8,699	4,656	143
Course and accommodation fees		1,678	1,891	1,919	1,553	98
Group total		43,646	40,543	36,447	33,273	14,537
Teagasc		43,438	40,435	36,286	33,085	14,503

Teagasc is the coordinator on a number of research projects where Teagasc carries out research with other partnering organisations. An element of the advanced grants received for the collaborative projects is payable to those partnering organisations. * The opening balances of Note: 21 have been reclassified as a number of grants had been miscategorised under ‘Grant/ other deferrals’.

22. Provision for liabilities

Deferred tax	Group		Teagasc	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
At 1 January	(70)	(39)	-	-
Charged to income and expenditure account	(2)	(31)	-	-
At 31 December	(72)	(70)	-	-

Components of deferred taxation	Group		Teagasc	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Unutilised trading losses	(309)	(294)	-	-
Accelerated capital allowances	237	224	-	-
	(72)	(70)	-	-

23. Capital Account

	2025	2024
	€'000	€'000
At 1 January	145,198	138,707
Transfer from Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves		
- Income used to purchase fixed assets	14,444	17,710
- Amounts released on disposal of fixed assets	(35)	(32)
- Income amortised in year in line with depreciation of asset	(12,883)	(11,187)
	1,526	6,491
At 31 December	146,724	145,198

24. Revenue reserves

The revenue reserves represent cumulative comprehensive income recognised as at the reporting date.

25. Non-controlling interest

The non-controlling interest comprises the other shareholders' equity investment together with their capital contribution to expand facilities in Moorepark Technology Limited.

26. Leases

Operating leases
At 31 December Teagasc had future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	Group		Teagasc	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Leases which expire:				
Within one year	934	943	934	943
Between two and five years	2,550	2,192	2,550	2,192
After five years	2,990	1,814	2,990	1,814
	6,474	4,949	6,474	4,949

27. Reconciliation of surplus to cash flow from operating activities

	2025	2024
	€'000	€'000
Deficit for the year before taxation	(1,405)	(4,453)
Depreciation expense	13,716	12,063
Fair value adjustments on biological assets	(2,907)	(2,632)
Fair value adjustments on investments	(159)	40
Gain on disposal of tangible fixed assets	(97)	(14)
Interest paid	-	-
Interest income	(254)	(217)
Transfer to capital account	1,526	6,490
Total operating cash flows before movements in working capital	10,421	11,277
Decrease in inventory	2,509	1,905
Decrease in receivables	(3,789)	487
Increase in payables	1,816	4,477
Cash flow from operating activities	10,957	18,146

28. Private colleges

Teagasc provides support to three privately owned agricultural colleges, Gurteen Agricultural College, Mountbellew Agricultural College and Salesian Agricultural College Pallaskenry as follows:

	2025	2024
	€'000	€'000
Grants to private colleges	3,147	3,125
Salary costs of staff seconded to private colleges (included in the total pay expenditure in Note 7 above)	335	392
External service provider costs for teaching services provided to private colleges (included in the general operating expenditure in Note 8 above)	110	130
	3,592	3,647

Income of €375,320 (2024: €455,716) was received from private colleges for course resources provided by Teagasc and the agreed share of Rural Development Programme course learner fees. This includes income from Technological Universities of €115,310 (2024: €173,508) was received by Teagasc towards modules delivered in the private colleges.

29. Commitments

Capital commitments
Teagasc had capital commitments outstanding at 31 December 2025 amounting to €10.994m which relate to construction of buildings and facilities at Moorepark Research Centre €10.542m, Kildalton College €230k, Athenry Research Centre €147k, Johnstown Castle €35k, Clonmel Advisory Office €24k and Skibbereen Advisory Office €16k.

Grant commitments
Teagasc had grant commitments outstanding at 31 December 2025 amounting to €11.266m which relate to Walsh scholars €7.156m, private colleges €3.396m and other grants €714k (2024: €12.038m).

30. Authority members – disclosure of transactions

The Authority has adopted procedures in accordance with the guidelines issued in 2016 by the Department of Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation in relation to the disclosure of interest by Authority members and the Authority has adhered to these procedures. There were no transactions in the year in relation to the Authority's activities in which the Authority members were involved.

31. Contingent liabilities

The Authority has made provision in the financial statements reflecting its best estimate of the liability arising. The Authority is of the view that there are no contingent liabilities.

32. Related party transactions

The following transactions were carried out with related parties:

Sales of goods and services:

	Group		Teagasc	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Subsidiary	-	-	7	9
Grassland Agro	54	120	54	120
Drummonds Ltd	1	20	1	20
	55	140	62	149

Purchases of goods and services:

	Group		Teagasc	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Subsidiary	-	-	545	735
	-	-	545	735

Payable to related parties:

	Group		Teagasc	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Subsidiary	53	19	53	19
	53	19	53	19

The receivables and payables arise from sales and purchase transactions, respectively. The receivables and payables are unsecured in nature and bear no interest. No provisions are held against receivables from related parties during the year (2024: €nil).

Under the terms of the Moorepark Technology Limited Shareholders' Agreement, Teagasc has undertaken to:

(i) discharge from its own resources, all costs associated with the company's engagement and/or employment of a senior manager, one technician and the Company Secretary; and

(ii) indefinitely underwrite utility, stores, accounts and effluent overheads.

Teagasc's provision of staff to MTL cost €351k in 2025 (2024: €338k).

The cost of Teagasc's provision of effluent and security services to Moorepark Technology Limited in 2025 was €211,000 (2024: €114,000).

Grassland Agro was an industry partner providing €50k in funding for Grass 10 programme in 2025. The company also paid Teagasc for a short training course in 2025. Mr. Liam Woulfe, Authority member, has an interest in Grassland Agro and in Drummonds Ltd.

33. Financial instruments

The Group and Teagasc have the following financial instruments:

	Group		Teagasc	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Financial assets that are equity instruments measured at fair value through consolidated statement of income and expenditure				
Listed non-current asset investments	633	483	633	483
Unlisted non-current asset investments	294	286	295	286
Financial assets				
Trade receivables	8,580	7,520	8,130	6,938
Other receivables	338	185	152	136
Cash in hand (including short-term deposits)	41,816	45,405	39,104	42,583
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost				
Trade payables	1,257	1,409	970	1,310
Other payables	12,140	12,309	11,553	11,569
Advanced research grants due to partnering organisations	5,751	7,861	5,751	7,861

34. Events after the reporting period

There have been no significant events, outside the ordinary course of business, affecting the Group since 31 December 2025.

35. Approval of the financial statements

The Authority approved the financial statements on 04 March 2026.

teagasc

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY