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**Mark O'Sullivan**

THE EU Nitrates Derogation provides farmers with an annual opportunity to make an application to farm at a higher stocking rate than 170kg organic nitrogen per hectare.

The derogation is subject to certain key measures designed to protect the environment and meet the requirements of the nitrates directive. It is available to grassland farmers and has an upper limit of 250kg/ha.

The terms and conditions for derogation 2022 were announced lately by the Department of Agriculture, Food & Marine (DAFM) with the proviso that all applications this year will be provisional, pending the much-awaited finalisation of Ireland's fifth nitrates action plan with the European Commission in March of this year.

The closing date for derogation applications and the filing of fertiliser accounts for 2021 will be April 14th (Holy Thursday), with all returns being made online only.

Derogation farmers must spread all slurry by Less (low emission slurry spreading) and have all slurry spread by October 8th in 2022 (October 1st is the proposed date for 2023).

All derogation applicants must comply with the minimum slurry storage requirements of 16 weeks (Zone A).

Glas participants in derogation will no longer be eligible for Glas payments on either Less or protection of water-courses from bovines as these measures are now enshrined in law for all farmers farming

above the 170kg organic N/ha level.

Meal or rations fed to grazing livestock >2 years of age cannot exceed 15% crude protein in the period April 15th to September 30th.

Watercourses as identified on OSI 1:5,000 scale maps must be fenced from cattle, a minimum of 1.5m from top of bank or water's edge with no water trough within 20m.

New derogation applicants in 2022 with no soil samples will have to assume index 4 for phosphorus for farm.

This means there will be no chemical P allowance. Existing derogation farmers who take on new lands owned or rented also will assume index 4 for phosphorus if no soil analyses are available.

Any derogation farmers approved under the new DAFM soil sampling programme must use the results of these analyses in their nutrient management plans if received before March 15th 2022.

Course requirements stipulate that new derogation applicants will be required to complete a nutrient use efficiency module and a farming sustainably/water protection module by December 31st 2022.

Grassland management requirements stipulate that existing derogation farmers who completed 20 grassland measurements on pasture base Ireland (PBI) in 2021 must again complete a minimum of 20 grass cover measures in 2022.

New derogation farmers can a) complete 20 grass measures on PBI or b) attend



Biodiversity options include leaving at least one whitethorn or blackthorn plant to mature, per hedgerow, on the farm. (Photo: Shutterstock)

two grassland workshops and complete a minimum of three grass covers on PBI in 2022.

This measure also applied to those existing derogation farmers who attended grassland management courses in 2021.

The requirement to incorporate clover in reseeded mixtures remains as farmers strive to reduce chemical ni-

trogen application on farm to improve water quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions on the farm.

Biodiversity options include to cut and maintain hedges on a three-year rotation (ie a third per year to ensure flowers and fruit in hedgerows on farm for wildlife).

Another option is to leave at least one white/blackthorn

plant to mature, per hedgerow, on the farm.

For further information and assistance with your derogation application for 2022, contact the Teagasc office in Clonakilty, Macroom or Skibbereen as soon as possible.

• Mark O'Sullivan is a business and technology dairy advisor in the Teagasc office in Clonakilty.

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David Brown launched its Q cab in 1975 and later upgraded to the VQ cab in 1977, as shown here, with its widened doors for easier access.

Considerable power from a small engine

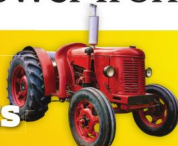
THE 1970s saw the introduction of turbocharging to four-cylinder tractors in order to increase horsepower. The performance and popularity of tractors such as the Ford 7000 set many manufacturers on a quest to add a turbocharged option to the top of their portfolios.

Innovative David Brown announced their offering at Smithfield Show in 1974 in the form of the 91hp 1410 and 1412 tractors. The 1412 produces a considerable 91hp from its small 3.6l engine. A high specification tractor, selective hydraulics, oil cooler, hydrostatic steering, as well as 540 and 1000 speed PTO all came as standard.

While the 1410 has a 12-speed synchromesh gearbox, the 1412 is fitted with David

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David Brown's ground-breaking 'hydraulic' transmission.

Controlled by a lever to the right of the dashboard, 1-4 can be engaged on the move, without clutching, while also providing engine braking.

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David Brown launched its Q cab in 1975 and later upgraded to the VQ cab in 1977, as shown in the photo, with its widened doors for easier access.

VITAL STATISTICS

Tractor
David Brown 1412

Horsepower
91hp

Engine
3.6l

Years of manufacture
1974-1979

doors closed off the rear of the cab with a heater and radio also on offer.

The right wing of the cab offered a single opening window, with a toolbox housed on the opposite wing.

Also worthy of note was the Deluxe Sekura cab option.

Interestingly, the half a million tractor produced by David Brown at Melham, West Yorkshire, was a 1412 and to celebrate the milestone, the tractor was treated to royal purple paint on the top of the cab as well as purple decals.

The tractor was auctioned at the Smithfield show in 1977, with the proceeds donated to the Queen's Silver Jubilee Fund.

• Contact Peter at psob1987@gmail.com or see Instagram @flashphotoscork

Save money by saving time for financial planning



Seamus O'Mahony

AS we have passed through the opening month of 2022, we look forward to longer brighter days, with relaxing Covid restrictions, positive growth projections coming from our Central Bank, so let's grasp on to this optimism and believe, as Dermot Kennedy's song goes, that 'better days are coming.'

This theme is also apt for our farming community, as despite the increased workload, it's the time for new life on the farm, with calving season and indeed lambs appearing here and there.



Before looking forward, it would be remiss of me not to review 2021 and comment on it as a whole from a finance aspect.

Despite the challenges, 2021 will be recorded as a very positive year of returns for most sectors. Strong equity returns witnessed from March 2020 continued right through 2021 with global stock markets finishing the

year up 32%. The year began in an optimistic fashion with investors drawn to positive developments in relation to vaccines, the continued support of government policies globally, and the green shoots of renewed economic activity.

No different to the agri sector, we saw some sectors perform better than others such as energy albeit coming from record lows, pharmaceutical, technology, along with real estate and finance.

These positive returns were shared and experienced in varying portions dependent on the assets held by individuals in their financial planning portfolios.

We have seen significantly

present with significant price hikes on basic inputs required year on year. We are led to believe that this is transitory – but what is transitory?

In a sense it means 'that its duration will be short enough so as not to permanently affect economic behaviours and inflation expectations.'

Central Banks are very conscious of this real threat and are cautiously planning forward a step-by-step approach to dealing with same, so as not to impact on global growth.

2021 has been a strong year for most sectors of the economy despite the significant challenges it brought with it, so it is imperative that we review our individual unique set of circumstances and move forward better informed to face the headwinds of 2022.

It's inevitable that each year will bring its own challenges – but as a labour force, the agri sector is no different, we have become more better skilled and educated to assess these headwinds and there are various advisory services to engage with and chat it out. Proper planning and mak-

ing time for this, is key in any management role and the farming enterprise is no different.

Discussion and engagement with various parties will assist not only from a monetary point of view, but also a more visible roadmap to identify opportunities in a supported environment.

Farming, like many other industries, has become such an intensive business, that it easy to keep the head down without looking at the bigger picture.

Everyone seems to have less free time, but it is imperative that we make this time for our own well-being.

Striking a good balance ideally with planning will absolutely help the work and life synergy to better outcomes under so many headings.

In summary, 'better days are coming' under so many aspects, with obvious challenges, so let's plan and embrace, to optimise the outcome.

• Seamus O'Mahony is a financial planner with FDC Group in West Cork.



Despite the challenges, 2021 will be recorded as a very positive year of returns for most sectors. (Photo: Shutterstock)

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