

Laois/Kildare/Meath/Louth/Dublin Advisory Region Strategic Plan

2015 - 2020



Teagasc Mission Statement

To support science-based innovation in the agri-food sector and wider bioeconomy so as to underpin profitability, competitiveness and sustainability.

Teagasc Goals

1. Improve the competitiveness of agriculture, food and the wider bioeconomy.
2. Support sustainable farming and the environment.
3. Encourage diversification of the rural economy and enhance the quality of life in rural areas.
4. Enhance organisational capability and deliver value for money.

Teagasc Office Locations in the Laois/Kildare/Meath/Louth/Dublin Region

Laois/Kildare/Meath/Louth/Dublin Advisory Region

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Teagasc, Advisory Office, Grange, Dunsany, Co. Meath
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On behalf of all the staff in the Laois/Kildare/Meath/Louth/Dublin region, I am delighted to present the Teagasc Advisory and Education Strategic plan for the period 2015/2020. This plan was developed in consultation with local staff, enterprise specialists and stakeholders in the region through a series of workshops, enterprise team meetings and staff meetings and reflects the needs, opportunities and challenges facing farming and rural development over the next five years.

This regional strategic plan is aimed at creating the best advisory and farm education focus to lead, develop and maximise the potential of farming and rural areas in conjunction with the wider agri-industry.

The key elements of our development targets, as outlined in the strategic plan are based primarily on the targets identified in the Food Harvest 2020 strategy. Despite the increasing demands on our services coupled with staff cutbacks under the employment control framework, we are determined to play a key role in achieving the objectives set out in this plan. Maintaining advisory and education staff numbers at 2012 levels is also essential to ensure the future long term viability of the service. We will work closely with our clients and all our partners to ensure that agriculture continues to be a major driver of the economic and social well-being of the region.

Larry O'Loughlin

Regional Manager, Teagasc, Laois/Kildare/Meath/Louth/Dublin

Laois/Kildare/Meath/Louth/Dublin Regional Strategic Plan – Summary Actions

- Increase dairy output in region by 40% + (spring and winter milk).
- Promote new entrants into dairying.
- Increase beef output by 20% in the region.
- Increase emphasis on discussion group activities for dairying, beef, sheep and tillage farmers.
- Teagasc will target a 5% increase in sheep numbers.
- Extend and promote the BETTER farm programmes.
- We will actively promote the establishment of drystock producer groups.
- We will work closely with livestock marts to improve trading in drystock.
- We will promote grass fed beef as a speciality product.
- Promote improvement of crop rotation in tillage farming.
- Promote reduction in Green House Gases including the use of Carbon Navigator facilities.
- Facilitate the maximum uptake of GLAS in co-operation with strategic partner FRS.
- Encourage land collaboration especially long term leasing and share farming.
- Continue to provide Distance learning courses to meet needs of new entrants.
- Work closely with relevant agricultural colleges in delivery of part time and other courses.
- Underpin all our advisory activities and education courses with the Farm Safety message.

Importance of farming in Laois/Kildare/Meath/Louth/Dublin

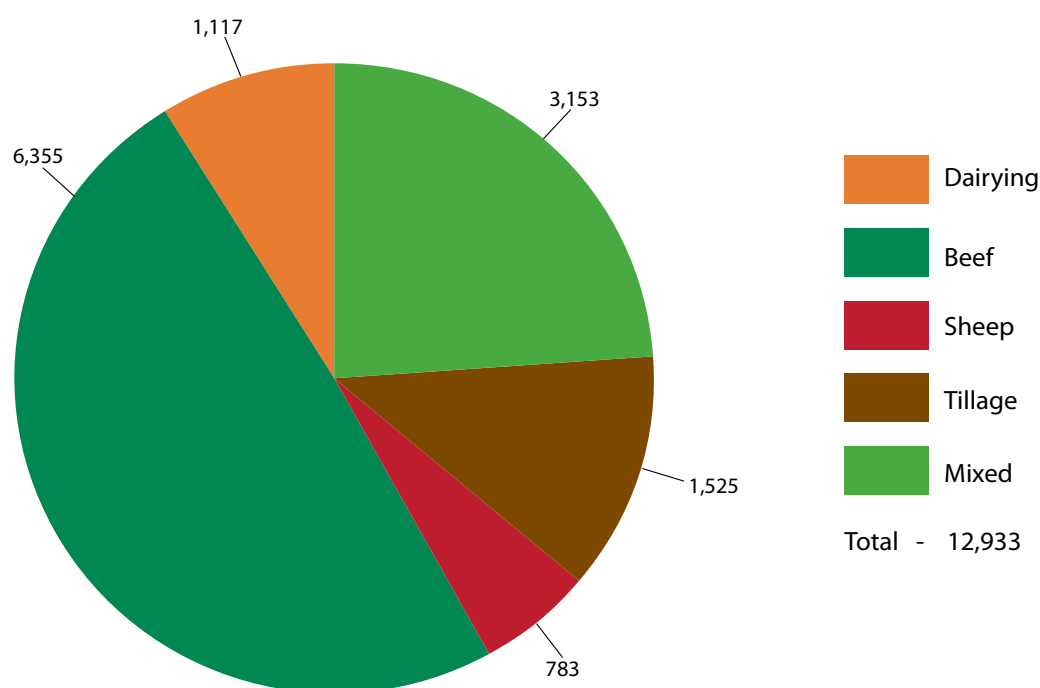
The region consists of the counties – Laois, Kildare, Meath, Louth and Dublin with a total land area of 535,000 hectares. There are a total of 12,933 farms in the region (CSO 2011) with an average farm size of 41.4 ha. The value of output from farming in the region is €591.6 million of which approximately €250 million is from direct payment transfers.

The total number involved in farming as a percentage of the population is approximately 3.6% on basis of 36,000 people involved in farming and a population for region of 2 million. The proximity to Dublin and other big centres of population (Dundalk/Navan/Naas/Portlaoise) positions the region as a very important agriculture/food production location. It also affords ample opportunities for off farm employment and diversification. The total labour units involved directly in agriculture for the region is 16,783.

Farming Systems

All agriculture and horticulture enterprises contribute to farming in the region. This is broken down into the following:

Figure 1 - Farm classification by type of farm for Laois/Kildare/Meath/Louth/Dublin 2010



Source: CSO Census of Agriculture 2010

A total of 1,296 farms have income from non-agricultural activity including agri-tourism, contracting and forestry. Because of the regions size and geographical spread there is a high diversity of activity and farming enterprises across the Region.

Land Type and Soil Fertility

Because of the size of the region (from south Laois to north Louth) there is a huge variation of land type and soil fertility. All soil types are in the region including Podzols, Brown Podzolic, Brown Earth and Peat. There is a high percentage of arable land in the region with all counties having excellent arable land especially South Laois, East/North Kildare, North Dublin, South/East Meath and South Louth.

With the exception of the mountain ranges (Slieve Bloom, Dublin Mountains and Cooley Mountains) the region is flat and very suitable to grass based enterprises such as beef, dairying and sheep and these enterprises spread across the region with Laois and Meath doing most dairying (1,017) and Laois/Kildare and Meath doing most beef (5,463). Kildare/Meath/Louth have most sheep flocks (617). Tillage is evenly spread in the tillage areas across the region (1,525).

Soil fertility is an important issue (P, K and Lime) and needs constant attention. Soil samples analysed from farms in region showed a similar pattern to the national picture of low soil Phosphorous(P) and Potassium(K) levels. The problem with low soil P and K levels is found across all farm enterprises in the region. Declining soil pH is limiting the potential of many farms within the region.

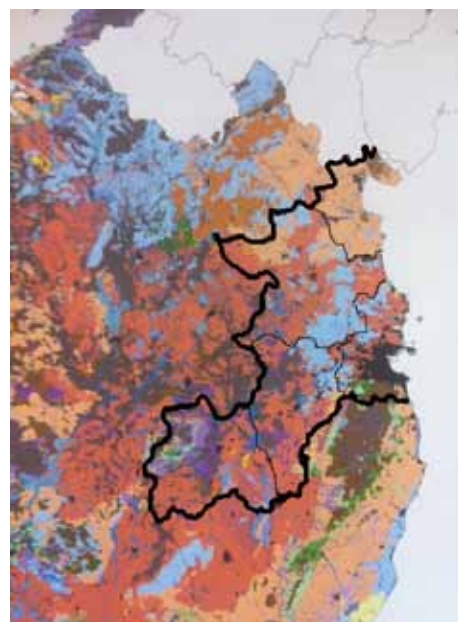


Figure 2 - Soil Map of the Region

Farm size

The average farm size in the region is 41.4 hectares. On a county basis –

- Laois: 37 Hectares
- Kildare: 44 Hectares
- Meath: 42 Hectares
- Louth: 36.4 Hectares
- Dublin: 47.6 Hectares

798 farms are over 100 hectares and 2508 are greater than 50 hectares. Land rental is an important part of the farming structure in the region with a total of 4,553 farms renting 116,369 hectares (average 25 ha. per farm rented). The average number of parcels per farm is 3.6 for the region with 1,539 farms having 7 or more parcels.

Anticipated Trends for next 3- 5 years

It is anticipated that dairy output in the region will increase by 40-50% (both spring and winter milk). The higher target will depend on the number of new entrants/conversions in the region. This increase will occur through a 30% increase in dairy cows (100k-130k) and increase in production per cow by 10/15%. Most of the increase will come from spring milk production. Age profile will improve as we are likely to see an increase in new entrants and successors. Overall this increased expansion will require significant back up support. Beef output is expected to increase by 20% within the next 5 years. There will be a reduction in suckler farms (10/15%) with a corresponding increase in rearing, or trading enterprises. A small number of new entrants into beef is expected (<3%).

Sheep farming is expected to remain relatively static with a small number converting to dairying or exiting. Tillage farming will also remain static with a small number changing to dairying (<10%); land availability will be a significant issue over the next 5 years resulting in land price and rental increases. This will result in the need for an increase in collaborative farming across all enterprises especially long term leasing and share farming. This will also drive an expansion in land drainage and improvement. Low levels of soil fertility on new dairy farms combined with P restrictions on the most intensive holdings will present a serious challenge as will slurry storage capacities on dairy/beef farms.

Resources

The region consists of 5 counties: Laois, Kildare, Meath, Louth Dublin.

There are 7 offices in the region all in good repair and we operate from 1 clinic in Rathdowney

- Teagasc, Portlaoise, Co. Laois – includes an education centre (seating for 40 people)
- Teagasc, Naas, Co. Kildare – includes an education centre (seating for 40 people)
- Teagasc, Kinsealy, Co. Dublin – includes an education centre (relocating to Ashtown)
- Teagasc, Navan, Co. Meath – includes an education centre (seating for 40 people)
- Teagasc, Grange, Co. Meath – includes skills training and education centre (seating for 40 people)
- Teagasc, Drogheda, Co. Louth – includes an education centre (seating for 40 people)
- Teagasc, Dundalk, Co. Louth – includes an education centre (seating for 50 people)

All centres in Region are used frequently for meetings, courses and other Teagasc groups and outside organisations.

There are three research centres in the region as follows: Beef Research Centre Grange, Food Research Ashtown and Horticulture Research Kinsealy (relocating).

Figure 3 - Adviser Numbers in Laois/Kildare/Meath/Louth/Dublin Advisory Region (including Education Officers)

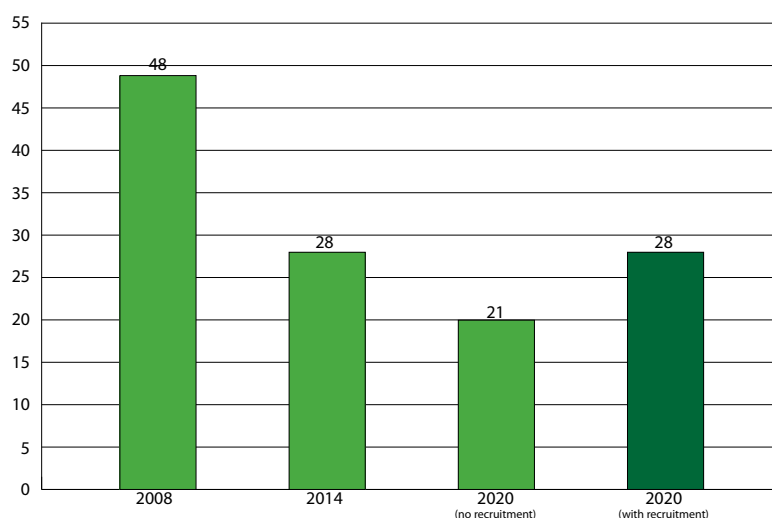


Table 1 - Trends and predictions Laois/Kildare/Meath/Louth/Dublin staff 2008-2020

Staff Type	2008	2014	2020	Staff required to achieve 2020 targets
Adviser	44	25	19	25
Education	4	3	2	3
Administration	14	9.5	8.5**	10*
Staff Total	62	37.5	29.5	38

*Introduction of GLAS and other Department Schemes will necessitate extra admin staff in each office

** Job sharing

Education

The numbers of young farmers who have completed the Green Cert course in the region or at agricultural college from 2011 -2014 is outlined in Table 2. Projections in enrolments reveal that there will up to 80 young farmers completing the Green Cert. Course in 2020.

**Table 2 - Young farmers from Laois/Kildare/Meath/Louth/Dublin completing Green Cert Courses
- 2010 to 2020**

Course Description	2011	2012	2013	2014	2020
No. of young farmers trained in the region	60	100	80	80	80
No. of young farmers trained in colleges	99	108	150	160	160
Total	159	208	230	240	240

Teagasc Laois/Kildare/Meath/Louth/Dublin Clients

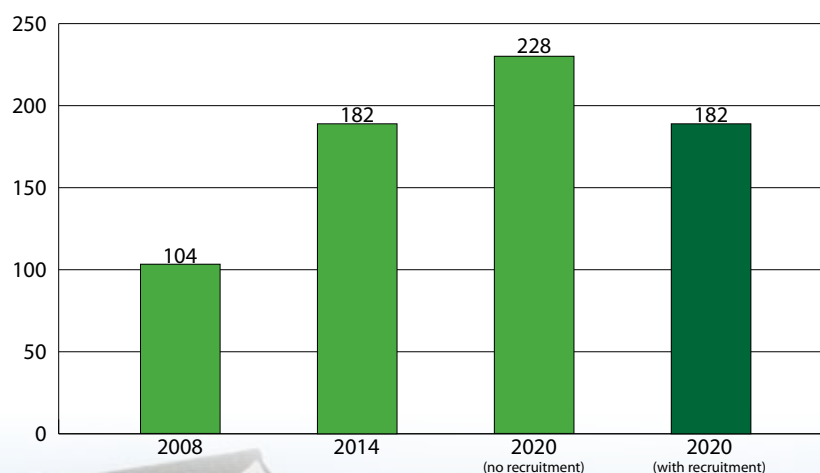
Table 3 below presents the distribution of Teagasc clients in the Region by contract type and adviser. 20% of our clients are dairy producers, 48% are drystock producers, 8% are tillage producers while 19% of Teagasc clients avail of our soils and environment service.

Table 3 - Teagasc Laois/Kildare/Meath/Louth/Dublin Clients

	Clients	Total Farmers in Region	Advisers
Dairy	909	1,117	5
Beef & Sheep (incl. Soils & Env)	3,070	8,806	16
Tillage	586	2,841	3
Total	4,565	12,764	24

Of the total number of Teagasc clients (4,565), 3,185 are recipients of the Business & Technology Advisory Service

Figure 4 - Ratio of Clients per Adviser in Laois/Kildare/Meath/Louth/Dublin Advisory Region



Navan office - One of seven advisory & education centres in the region

Partners in the Region

- **Teagasc Researchers/Specialists** provides an essential back-up support service to staff in the region.
- **Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine** – meetings with staff and local Department officials are ongoing across the region.
- **Dairy Co-ops** – we operate joint programmes with Glanbia and Lakelands in the region.
- **Farm Organisations** – We have close working relationship with all farm organisations in the region – and are also members of other stakeholders groups.
- **ICBF** – especially useful for breeding/herd fertility information, with a significant interaction with staff in the region.
- **Agricultural Consultants** – we deal with private agents both formally (sub-contracting) and informally (local one/one meetings).
- Meat Factories/Agricultural Merchants/Livestock Marts
- Bord Bia – market trends and opportunities in meat/milk/tillage section.
- Local and National Agricultural Press (Print , Radio and Television)

In addition to the above we have a beneficial and generally localised interaction with the following organisations/professional bodies. With many of these organisations we co-operate for events/conferences/open days/seminars/workshops.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Local Authorities/Local Development Organisation, AI Stations, Animal Health Ireland (AHI), Banks, IFAC, Farm Relief Service (FRS), Health & Safety Authority (HSA), Universities, Local Veterinary Surgeons, Sheep Ireland, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Coillte, NETB (Education and Training Board) (Previously VEC's), Institutes of Technology, Forest Group Owners, Inland Fisheries Ireland.



Farm Demonstration - Public events a key element of Knowledge Transfer Programme

Overall Expected Changes / Targets for Farming in The Region for 2020

Challenges for Farming in the Region

The improvement in the general economy will give rise to labour shortages in the sector, especially with a proximity to major centres of population. This will be compounded with an ageing farm profile especially in some sectors (beef/sheep). The Greening rules within CAP as well as increasing environment/pollution regulations (Nitrates Directive) under Cross Compliance will also present challenges for both farmers and Teagasc staff, as will the new GLAS Scheme.

Of particular concern is the issue of land availability in the region. There is a need to improve efficiencies in all the main enterprises. There will be an increasing need to partake in collaborative farming such as leasing, share farming and partnerships.

Providing educational courses for up-skilling farmers and on scheme requirements will also be a significant demand in the coming years.



Knowledge Transfer in action, County Kildare



Dairy farming is a very important enterprise in the region

Overall Expected Changes/Targets for Dairy for 2020

The abolition of milk or other quotas will initially create much greater price volatility in all sectors over the coming years. Expansion costs and credit availability will present a series of challenges especially in dairy and beef. Based on consultation with Teagasc Dairy Advisers and Dairy Industry Personnel we anticipate a 40% increase in milk supplied by farmers throughout the Region.

Main Strategic Actions or Changes Required

- Increase dairy output in region by 40% + (spring and winter milk).
- Teagasc will continue to promote sustainable dairy farming systems involving high grass utilisation, the use of suitable genetics, compact calving, cost control, labour efficiency and milk quality.
- We will focus on core work and outsource/offload non-core work including Derogations and other compliance related work; we will continue to provide Basic Payment planning and application services to our farmer clients (although this decision may be reviewed if the associated workload is too great).
- We will identify new entrants/ successors to existing dairy farms (in collaboration with Teagasc colleagues and Co-op personnel) and provide appropriate group-based and one-to-one support to them.
- We will place a continued emphasis on the delivery of a quality discussion group experience for dairy farmers in the region and ensure that all dairy farmers who wish to participate in the new RDP Knowledge Transfer groups are facilitated.
- We will maintain and increase if possible, 21 Dairying Discussion Groups across the Region.
- Given the importance on dairy farming to the region, and the increase in output likely, an additional Dairy Adviser is being sought (external recruitment), to maintain our dairy advisory number at 6 advisers. The delivery of the dairy advisory programme will be dependent on maintaining this advisory number.
- We will work with our Advisory colleagues (other enterprises, Education) to identify young farmers for Advisory support and to provide appropriate environmental advice where needed.
- We will continue our on-going public events programme to facilitate knowledge transfer of all aspects of dairy farming.



Dairy cow numbers expected to increase by 30%



Beef Farm Walk - Drystock farming is an integral and important part of farming in the region

Overall Expected Changes/Targets for Beef for 2020

Lack of profitability, a high dependency on EU payments, increased production costs and the age profile of operators are some of the major challenges facing the region's beef farmers. Teagasc strategy is to stabilise suckler cow numbers in the region by improving profitability and where appropriate to exploit the opportunity of an increasing number of beef calves from the dairy herd and develop dairy Calf to Beef enterprises on suitable farms across the Region. Teagasc programmes will incorporate financial monitoring, increasing stocking rate, compact calving nutrient management planning and farm safety.

Main Strategic Actions or Changes to be implemented

- A significant Technical programme will be delivered to clients and beef farmers within the region.
- We will continue to promote the uptake among beef producers of new technologies designed to improve farm economic and environmental sustainability.
- Promotion of the use of superior quality genetics will be carried out by promoting and encouraging beef farmers to use high star rated Bulls/Replacements within the suckler herd in the region.
- Encourage wide use of Teagasc/Bord Bia carbon navigator on beef farms within the region.
- We will continue to promote sustainable beef and suckler farming systems involving high grass utilisation, the use of suitable genetics, compact calving, cost control, labour efficiency and beef quality.
- We will focus on core work and outsource/offload non-core work including Derogations and other compliance related work; we will continue to provide Basic Payment planning and application services to our farmer clients depending on staff complement.
- Teagasc in the Region will examine and facilitate where possible the development of beef producer groups in the context of proposed EU supports.
- Teagasc will work with livestock marts in the region to assist in marketing of stock for both export and domestic demand.
- Teagasc will continue to implement and facilitate a BETTER Farm Beef Programme in the region.
- Teagasc will re-examine the current BTAP groups to re-organise groups where needed to make them more effective under the proposed Knowledge Transfer Group programme.
- The region will forge closer links with Ballyhaise Agricultural College to support group work.
- Teagasc will endeavour to accommodate part time farmers who are in discussion groups.
- Teagasc, where feasible, will get involved in promoting specialised products in the region e.g. Grass fed Beef.
- The delivery of our Drystock advisory programme will depend on the maintenance of our Drystock advisers number at 12 advisers.
- Teagasc in the region will foster closer links between dairy and drystock farmers to encourage mutually beneficial developments such as contract heifer rearing.



Overall Expected Changes/Targets for Sheep for 2020

The challenges facing the region's sheep farmers are similar to those of beef farmers.

Teagasc will target a 5% increase in sheep numbers and improved numbers of lambs per ewe reared through better breeding and nutrition management.

Main Strategic Actions or Changes to be implemented

- Teagasc will target a 5% increase in sheep numbers. This increase is dependent on lamb prices and dairy commodity prices over the period.
- Continue to promote sustainable sheep systems in the region involving high grass utilization, weaning rate, use of superior genetics and supply of quality lamb carcass.
- We will continue to promote the uptake among sheep producers of new technologies designed to improve farm economic and environmental sustainability.
- Continue the focus on efficient use of grass to provide a lower cost base for lamb production.
- Focus will be on our core work commitments and will continue to provide sheep farmers with advice regarding Basic Payment. This is a critical part of sheep farmers income.
- The delivery of a quality discussion group programme will be central to knowledge transfer to our farmer clients. Sheep farmers in our regional area who wish to partake in the new RDP Knowledge Transfer groups will be facilitated.
- Promotion of the use of superior quality genetics will be carried out by encouraging sheep farmers to use high star rated rams through Sheep Ireland recording scheme.
- We will continue to work with our advisory colleagues to identify young or existing farmers who would benefit from advisory support or/and educational training through our education colleges/ centres.
- Teagasc will continue to implement and facilitate a BETTER Farm Sheep Programme in the region.



Sheep trading, County Louth

The value of output from farming in the region is over half a billion euro most of which is exported

Overall Expected Changes/Targets for Tillage for 2020

Our tillage programme will facilitate an expected increase in collaborative farming/share farming within the sector, and help consolidate and stabilise the numbers of tillage farms across the Region.

Main Strategic Actions or Changes to be implemented

- Aim to increase emphasis on rotations, promote share farming with dairy farmers as an alternative to short term renting of land. Monitor Septoria resistance in wheat.
- Develop a closer relationship with IFAC to get better financial analysis and encourage more tillage farmers to use the Teagasc eProfit Monitor system.
- Aim to get extra advisory capacity in Meath/Louth to deal with the extra volume of work that will come to us in the future.
- Reduce time given to scheme work to a maximum of 1 month per year (outsource some SFP).
- Target specific farms to concentrate farm walks/events for the season with an emphasis on financial analysis (also double up for CEF event farms).
- Work with discussion groups to target lower costs of production per tonne.
- Run a targeted campaign (in tillage over 2 years) to increase clients interaction with DAFM online system.
- Implement a costed machinery model on a number of farms.
- Tillage farms will be supported to comply with the Sustainable Use Directive (SUD).
- Explore with interested parties the possibilities arising from the proposed re-development of the Sugar Beet industry.



Tillage farming, County Dublin
Tillage is an important enterprise in relevant areas of each county in the region

Overall Expected Changes/Targets for Pigs for 2020

Despite significant imports of pig meat annually, Ireland is a net exporter of pig meat and of live pigs. The average size of commercial sow herds in Ireland is 496 sows. Food Harvest 2020 proposes increased production to achieve annual disposals of 4.8 million head by expanding the national breeding herd to 200,000 sows and increasing sow productivity from 21.8 to 24 pigs produced per sow per year.

Main Strategic Actions or Changes to be implemented

- Ensure all clients maximize profits by better recording and more prompt analysis of performance figures.
- Improve communication via - website, videos, workshops, groups.
- Provide research driven information linked to Profit Monitor findings. Eg. Carcass output per sow in relation to genetics, health, housing, management! FCE in terms of genetics, feeding system, diets, compound milling v's home milling.
- Benchmark our performance on an individual farm and national farm basis to ensure we are improving our profitability.
- Monitor pig feed costs and devise ways to reduce these in the future.
- Improve output in terms of number of pigs produced/sow/year. FCE and ADG in the growing section.



Ireland is a net exporter of pig meat and live pigs

Overall Expected Changes/Targets for Environment for 2020

Low carbon farming will move centre stage and the Sustainable Use Directive for sprays will be implemented during this period. There will be a continued focus on improving water quality through the Catchment and other Environmental Programmes. Teagasc will provide a GLAS planning service in partnership with the Farm Relief Service to interested clients across the Region. Derogation planning will move onto a common regulated platform hosted by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, involving stricter deadlines and compliance monitoring.

Main Strategic Actions or Changes to be implemented

- Continue to support sustainable farming systems within the parameters of good environmental practices.
- Support the development of commonage framework plans associated with CAP reform and GLAS.
- Implement the online NMP (spring 2015) in association with soil fertility awareness.
- Use knowledge transfer in the promotion of good drainage techniques.
- Create an awareness of Cross Compliance issues particularly in regard to Nitrates, water quality, GAEC.
- Support the implementation of GLAS scheme and work in partnership with the Farm Relief Service in ensuring all potential applicants can join the scheme.
- Promote the reduction of GHG, including the use of Carbon Navigator facilities.
- Create an awareness of Bio-diversity with particular regard to EFA's, threats from invasive species, noxious weeds, and the promotion of CRRU, (campaign for responsible use of rodenticides - rat poison).
- Teagasc will facilitate courses in Sustainable Use Directive (SUD), Bio-Diversity and Water Quality Protection (Catchment Areas).
- Teagasc will continue to support the Dunleer Catchment Programme which currently operates in parts of Co. Louth.
- The provision of an Environmental Advisory Programme will be dependent on the maintenance of 5 Soils and Environmental Advisers in the Region.



The best of Irish Landscape, County Louth
Ireland's rural landscape, maintained by farmers is a huge asset to the country

Overall Expected Changes/Targets for Education 2020

Teagasc provides a key education and training service to farming in the region. There is exceptional demand for distance learning education and part time education courses at present. This will remain high with the education incentives under the Common Agricultural Policy.

Main Strategic Actions or Changes to be implemented

- Continue to deliver two Distance Education Green Cert. courses to meet the requirement of Young Trained Farmers post 2014.
- Focus on core work to meet the Green Cert specifications and work closely with the outsource team to provide quality courses.
- Identify approximately 40 new entrants/successors annually and provide them with appropriate group based one-one support by email and other communication methods.
- Place with our colleagues a continued emphasis on the delivery of seven relevant, quality discussion group experiences for students in the region.
- Work closely with our Advisory colleagues and schools to identify appropriate training for young farmers.
- Monitor students on placement and support and guide potential Master/Host farmers.
- Work closely with local Agricultural and Horticultural Colleges (Ballyhaise/Gurteen/Botanicals) and provide assistance in the delivery of Part/Time courses.
- Provide training to farmers filling out the Self-Assessment Document to meet H&S requirements.



Teagasc staff and students during Distance Learning Education Course in County Meath

Overall Expected Changes/Targets for Horticulture 2020

There is considerable potential for the development of horticulture at both production and value-added levels. The need for on-going industry modernisation remains a key priority to attain the efficiencies required in a competitive global horticultural industry. New EU regulations concerning pesticides were enacted in November 2009. These, together with the volumes of existing regulations including the Nitrates Directive, hygiene regulations, etc., will have major implications for all growers, as well as the input and output service industries.

Main Strategic Actions or Changes to be implemented

- Teagasc will set up a National Horticultural Forum to address the interaction between horticultural growers and retail markets, including supermarkets.
- Continue to foster the success of CMP Producer Organisations with other sectors of the industry.
- Improve the flow of knowledge to the industry via a Research and Knowledge Transfer programme.
- Teagasc in the region will work with the National College of Amenity Horticulture (Botanic Gardens) to foster horticultural training in the region.
- Teagasc in the Region will continue to seek provision of a Specialised Adviser, to meet the demands of the potato production sector in the Region, particularly in Meath/Louth/Dublin.



Horticultural Production in County Dublin
There is considerable potential for the development of horticulture in the region

Expected Changes/Targets for Forestry for 2020

With increasing emphasis being placed on the carbon benefits of forestry, we expect to see a small but steady increase in the area under forestry within the region. The new Forestry Programme will be key to delivering an increase of 2-3% in forestry in the Region (most of the increase will come in the Laois/Kildare area).

Main Strategic Actions or Changes to be implemented

- Teagasc will promote and inform potential land users of new forestry support schemes.
- Will implement a knowledge transfer programme on good forest management in the context of forest health.
- Educate forest owners on forest management, timber harvesting and marketing timber.



Teagasc will promote forestry on suitable land in the region

Teagasc in the Region will work with alternative enterprise specialists and research in the promotion and development of Other/Alternative Enterprises on relevant and interested farms.

Main Strategic Actions or Changes to be implemented

Goats

- Provide advisory support to Goat farmers on a national basis.
- Work with partners to support and develop industry and marketing of milk/meat.
- Establish research herd in conjunction with our Research partners.

Organics

- Teagasc will continue a programme of Knowledge Transfer to the organic sector.
- Help and develop market opportunities and liaise with retail outlets for organic products.
- Work with Organic Research and Innovation to develop and provide innovation to the organic sector.

Equine

- Support the new ETAP Scheme under the RDP programme for 2015.
- Support the equine advisory programme where events are held in the region.

Teagasc will continue to deliver an alternative enterprise course in a different location in the Region each year.

Teagasc will work with enterprise specialists and researchers to promote suitable alternative enterprises

Main Strategic Actions or Changes to be implemented

All our activities in both advisory and education will endeavour to create, at all times and opportunities, the awareness and importance of farm health and safety. We will work closely with the Farm Organisations, the HSA, the Department of Agriculture and other interested organisations including EMBRACE Farm to reduce and minimising all farm accidents across the Region.



The Farm Safety message will underpin all our Knowledge Transfer & Education Programmes

Main Research Requirements Specific to this Advisory Region

- Research into genetic improvement in Beef/Sheep
- Contract heifer rearing demonstration unit in Teagasc Grange
- Heavy Soils/ Drainage demonstration site
- Case studies of successful conversion/ expansion within the Regional Unit
- Market advantages of grass fed Beef
- Improvements in Labour Efficiency
- Grazing Bulls at Grass (Varying Group sizes)
- Focus on cost reduction strategies for suckler and other cattle systems
- Efficacy of pesticides against main diseases
- Teagasc should explore, through food research, the potential of new product development of ware Potatoes
- Nutrient efficiency in crops
- Measures to comply with greening, i.e. cover crops management, protein crops

Engagement with Stakeholders

How we engage with Local Stakeholders

- Through our industry Joint Programmes with Glanbia and Lakeland Dairies and develop opportunities for increased co-operation with Co-op Farm Development Advisers.
- Teagasc will work jointly with the Co-Operatives/Animal Health Ireland and other relevant organisation to improve milk quality and livestock disease status in the Region.
- Teagasc will continue to engage and interact with all Farm Organisations in the Region. (IFA, ICMSA, ICSA, Macra na Feirme)
- Teagasc in the Region will continue to work closely with both statutory and non-statutory local development organisations.
- Increase engagement with IFAC and other accountancy firms to streamline the provision of data for Profit Monitor analysis
- Continue to utilise ICBF, DAFM, Co-op reports to advise our farmer clients
- Examine the possible link-up with UCD (new dairy unit in Lyons Estate)
- Continue to meet with discussion group chairpersons within the Region on an annual basis
- Teagasc will continue to meet with the main stakeholders (farmers, group chairmen) twice a year to get feedback and advise on areas that need to be worked on.
- Teagasc in the region will establish a forum to meet with other industry professionals (banks, accountants, solicitors etc.) to highlight the role of Teagasc in the region and to explore how we can work more closely with other professions. For example, closer links with accountants could streamline the collection of Profit Monitor data.
- Will hold workshops/conferences with local financial/legal and accountancy firms on alternative years across the region.
- Participate in many campaigns. Staff in Region will respond along with local stakeholders on emergency situations that arise.
- Teagasc will work with our Strategic Partner the Farm Relief Service in the provision of a GLAS Planning Service.

Staffing

The biggest risk to the delivery of our Annual Advisory/Education Business Plan designed to achieve the objectives in our Strategic Plan 2015/2020 is non replacement of staff. In addition to outsourcing of some scheme work and Partnerships (Glas Planning), Teagasc in the Region will need to maintain our Advisory/Education staff numbers at 2012 levels in order to achieve our Knowledge Transfer and Educational objectives.



Discussion Group session in County Laois - The development of discussion groups in all enterprises will be a key element of our Knowledge Transfer Programme in the region

Laois/Kildare/Meath/Louth/Dublin Advisory Region Staff Details

Teagasc, 1 Park Villas, Portlaoise Co. Laois - Tel: 057 8621326

Larry O'Loughlin	Regional Manager	087 2562434
John Challoner	S&E Adviser	087 2549213
Thomas Everard	B&T Drystock Adviser	087 2997726
Paul Gilligan	B&T Drystock Adviser	087 6845675
John Kennedy	B&T Drystock Adviser	087 9273786
Con Moloney	S&E Adviser	087 2997395
Fintan Monahan	B&T Dairy Adviser	087 2900382
Mary Holohan	Administration	057 8682199
Sadie Bergin	Administration	057 8621326

Teagasc, Friary Road, Naas, Co. Kildare - Tel: 045 879203

Margaret Butterfield	Education Officer	087 7590450
Fiona Doolan	B&T Drystock Adviser	087 2585022
John Hardy	B&T Drystock Adviser	087 9511567
Edward O'Loughlin	B&T Dairy Adviser	087 6458543
Christopher Watson	B&T Drystock Adviser	087 2318374
Ivan Whitten	B&T Tillage Adviser	087 2318397
Grace Conlon	Administration	045 899782
Ann May Merins	Administration	045 879203
Des Garrett	General	-

Teagasc, Grange, Dunsany, Co. Meath - Tel: 046 9061100

Edmond Heffernan	B&T Drystock Adviser	087 2581451
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Teagasc, Kells Road, Navan, Co. Meath - Tel: 046 9021792

Cian Condon	B&T Drystock Adviser & Goat Adviser	087 9196515
Edward Egan	B&T Drystock Adviser	087 1201744
Colin Finnegan	S&E Adviser	087 9962643
Aidan Fleming	B&T Drystock Adviser	087 9188057
Bernard Keogan	B&T Dairy Adviser	087 6624483
Bernadette Nulty	Education Officer	087 9139222
Vincent Treacy	B&T Dairy Adviser	087 2581474
Kathleen Clarke	Administration	046 9068121
Catherine McConnell	Administration	046 9068122
Joan Nicholson	General	-

Teagasc, Dublin Advisory Office, Kinsealy, Malahide Road, Dublin 15 - Tel: 01 8459026

Sean Finn	B&T Drystock Adviser	087 9138792
Shay Phelan	B&T Tillage Adviser (also Naas)	087 7985195
Teresa Rooney	Administration	01 8459026

Teagasc, Dublin Road, Dundalk, Co. Louth - Tel: 042 9332263

Niall O'Lamhna	S&E Adviser	087 9094746
Hugh Rooney	B&T Drystock Adviser	086 8789498
Briege Kelly	Administration	042 9354122
Caroline McGeough	Administration	042 9354120

Teagasc, Slane Road, Drogheda, Co. Louth - Tel: 041 9833006

Conor Dobson	B&T Tillage Adviser	087 4173241
John Lawlor	B&T Dairy Adviser	087 6624480

Notes

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Our rural landscape is part of our heritage and all our futures

Laois/Kildare/Meath/Louth/Dublin Advisory Region

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