

Forest establishment walks

Teagasc, in association with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM), will hold a series of forest walks from 21 March to 1 April. At each event, forestry experts from Teagasc and the Department will focus, in particular, on forest establishment and early management. All events commence at 2pm.

Registration is necessary at www.teagasc.ie/forestwalks2022.

County	Nearest town	Date	Woodland type	Advisor
Cavan	Ballyhaise Village	Tuesday 29 March	Mature forest & reforestation	Kevin O'Connell 087 1216159
Clare	Kilmaley	Friday 1 April	New conifer forest	Michael Somers 087 1216163
Cork	Crosshaven	Wednesday 23 March	Native woodland	John Casey 087 2242283
Donegal	Ballybofey	Monday 28 March	Young broadleaves	Steven Meyen 087 6775158
Galway	Headford	Tuesday 22 March	Agroforestry	Noel Kennedy 087 9090504
Kildare	Kill	Thursday 24 March	Native woodland	Liam Kelly 087 9090495
Limerick	Shanagolden	Thursday 31 March	Young conifer and broadleaves	Jonathan Spazzi 087 7102739
Longford	Ballycloghan, Carrickboy	Tuesday 22 March	Native woodland	Liam Kelly 087 9090495
Mayo	Kilmovee	Tuesday 29 March	Native woodland and conifer crop	Noel Kennedy 087 9090504
Roscommon	Brideswell	Thursday 24 March	Native woodland	Noel Kennedy 087 9090504
Tipperary	Rearcross	Friday 25 March	Conifer thinning	Michael Somers 087 1216163
Wexford	New Ross	Wednesday 30 March	Mixed woodland	Frances McHugh 087 6222111
Wicklow	Laragh	Thursday 24 March	Native woodland & conifer	Frances McHugh 087 6222111

College Open Days

Hear about courses available and meet staff, at the following colleges:

Friday 4 March 2022

- **Teagasc Ballyhaise Agricultural College**
Ballyhaise, Co. Cavan, H12 E393. Time: 10am - 1pm.
- **Teagasc Clonakilty Agricultural College**
Clonakilty, Co. Cork. P85 AX52. Time: 10am - 12 noon.
- **Teagasc Kildalton Agricultural College**
Piltown, Co. Kilkenny, E32 YW08.
Tours start at 10am and 11am.
(Apologies if your edition of *Today's Farm* arrived after these dates.)

Wednesday 9 March 2022

- **Gurteen College Open Day**
Gurteen College, Ballingarry, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary, E53 TP93. Time: 10:30am - 12:30pm.
- **Teagasc College of Amenity Horticulture Open Day**
Teagasc College of Amenity Horticulture, National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Dublin 9, D09 VY63. Time: 12 noon - 3pm.

Saturday, 26 March 2022

- **Salesian Agricultural College Open Day**
Pallaskenry, Co. Limerick, V94 V8N3. Time: 11am - 2pm

Soils, nutrients and fertiliser factsheets

This compendium of 20 soils, nutrients and fertiliser factsheets is designed to assist farmers with nutrient management planning, optimisation of soil fertility, using organic manures strategically and increasing clover in swards, all balanced with prudent fertiliser usage.

A compendium of 20 factsheets has been assembled by Teagasc to provide the latest technical advice and are available for all farmers to view and download on <https://www.teagasc.ie/crops/soil-soil-fertility/soils-nutrients-and-fertiliser-factsheets>. They can also be viewed and downloaded on the 'Publications' section of the Teagasc website at <https://www.teagasc.ie/publications/2022/soils-nutrients-and-fertiliser-factsheets.php>.

They cover soil testing, lime application, organic manures, clover, P and K advice and protected urea. There are also detailed enterprise factsheets with practical advice for farmers with cattle, sheep, dairy and tillage businesses. The importance of growing enough grass this year and securing enough fodder for next winter are also addressed in individual factsheets.

Teagasc has a detailed programme of knowledge transfer events, published articles, videos and podcasts providing information for farmers as part of the Soils, Nutrients and Fertiliser campaign. These are available through www.teagasc.ie and other Teagasc digital platforms.

Teagasc Manual on Drainage and Soil Management

The great variety of soils and soil problems means that every drainage challenge on mineral soils is unique. Careful investigation of the site, professional diagnosis, prudent assessment of the costs/benefits, expert implementation of a planned project and due consideration of environmental factors are all essential.

The Teagasc Manual on Drainage and Soil Management is laid out to easily provide answers for readers seeking information on any aspect of drainage or soil management.

Each section begins with a brief introduction and a list of the questions addressed within it. The questions are repeated in each section to ensure easy navigation. The manual can be downloaded for free at https://www.teagasc.ie/media/website/environment/soil/Teagasc_Drainage_Manual_2022.pdf

Printed versions of the manual can be purchased for €40. To order, please contact Oakpark Reception on +353 (0)59 9170200 or email to info@teagasc.ie.

Discount available to Teagasc clients.

Spring Beef Grass walks

These upcoming walks will focus on spring fertiliser applications, the value of slurry, making the most from soil sample results and ensuring you make enough silage in 2022.

Find out more at www.teagasc.ie/beefgrasswalks.

Date	Location	Time
2 March	Michael & Tom Roddy, Dundalk, Co Louth	2pm
2 March	Gerard Mulligan, Mohill, Co Leitrim, N41 EY75	2pm
3 March	Aidan Maguire, Navan, Co Meath, C15 W4C2	2pm
4 March	Colin Tyner, Arklow, Co Wicklow, Y14 X440	11am
4 March	Mark Geoghegan, Newtowncunningham, Co Donegal, F93 PR90	11.30am
7 March	Dermot Costello, Nenagh, Co Tipperary, E45 WF58	2pm
8 March	Gavin White, Abbeyshrule, Co Longford, N39 X967	11am
8 March	Brendan McKearney, Castleblaney, Co Monaghan, A75 YN25	2pm
9 March	Michael Carroll, Bagenalstown, Co Carlow, R21 P030	11am
9 March	Conor McGrath, Tullamore, Co Offaly, R35 TP60	11am
10 March	Daryl Good, Aherla, Co Cork, P31 F250	1pm
10 March	Paddy O'Brien, Ramsgrange, Co Wexford, Y34 FT62	11am
10 March	Oliver O'Hara, Leckaunaskeagh, Co Leitrim, F91 Y8P6	3pm
11 March	Jimmy Madigan, Ballyhale, Co Kilkenny, R95 W407	11am
15 March	Ted O'Connell, Stradbally, Co Waterford, X42 T992	11am
15 March	Alan Redican, Ballymote, Co Sligo, F56 KF30	2pm
15 March	Brian Murphy, Shrile, Co Mayo, H91 Y076	3pm
16 March	William Scott, Donegal Town, Co Donegal, F94 D524	11.30am
22 March	Michael Culhane, Ballygarreen, Co Clare, V94 Y2N6	11am
23 March	Tim Mulcahy, Whitechurch, Co Cork, T34 T102	2pm
24 March	Ciaran Bartley, Boher, Co Limerick, V94 XD23	2pm

ADVERTORIAL



Developing calves from the inside out

Maeve Regan,
Head of Ruminant Nutrition, Agritech

Newborn calves are born with undeveloped rumens, yet they will spend most of their lives as fully functioning ruminants. Rumen development begins within the first few days/weeks after birth and is advanced by exposure to healthy bacteria from the environment and the consumption of solid feeds. Hence, the importance of introducing a high energy/18% crude protein calf starter ration from approximately 3 days of age, with free access to fresh clean water and high-quality clean straw (no haylage or silage).

Weaning should not be considered until calves are consuming at least 1-1.5kg of concentrates per head per day – signalling that the calves dry matter intakes can cope with the transition to a solid feed diet.

Importance of diet for early rumen development



A. Milk Only



B. Milk & Hay



C. Milk & Grain

Rumen development at six weeks. When fed milk only (A) the rumen has no papillae and is white in colour, meaning there is little feed absorption possible. When fed milk and grain (C) the rumen at six weeks shows developed papillae and is dark in colour, allowing for significant feed absorption.
Source: Penn State University

What is happening to dairy calves at grass?

Year on year, in the proceeding weeks after turnout to grass, cases of calves suffering from setbacks such as summer-scour syndrome or calf wasting symptoms have been reported.

Spring grass is very high in oils like CLA (conjugated linoleic acid), sugars and potentially nitrogen, and to a young undeveloped rumen, this can be hard to adjust to. In addition, low covers of grass also have very little fibre, which is a key substrate for good rumen health. Ensuring greater rumen development in early life will help combat these issues, alongside practises such as, offering concentrates post-turnout, grazing slightly heavier covers of grass, using a strip-wire to ensure stem is being grazed as well as leaf and/or offering a fibre source at first to ease the transition.

For further calf rearing advice, contact your local Agritech sales advisor or visit www.agritech.ie



www.agritech.ie