

Teagasc Grange – beef

Beef 2022 – Supporting sustainable beef farming

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The theme of BEEF2022 is 'Supporting Sustainable Beef Farming'. Best practice and latest research findings in relation to grazing management, animal nutrition, beef genetics, reproductive management, animal health and farm planning are the main focus.

Key questions to be addressed include:

- What is the most suitable beef production system for you and your farm?
- What are the key performance targets for efficient beef systems?
- How do you meet these performance targets?
- How can beef farmers farm profitability in the context of extreme price volatility?

The core technologies and management practices for efficient beef farms will be covered within 'Technology Villages'. These will include:

- **Environment, including Signpost Farms:** An overview of the pathways to carbon neutrality and broader aspects of environmentally sustainable beef farm systems.
- **Sustainable grassland:** Latest research and best practice in grassland management.
- **Suckling systems:** Including participants from the 'Future Beef Programme' and updates from the Derrypatrick and Newford Herds.
- **Dairy-beef systems:** The Grange dairy-beef systems experiment, the 'DairyBeef 500 Campaign' and key elements of successful dairy calf-to-beef systems.
- **Growing and finishing cattle village:** Grass-based and indoor finishing systems, including nutrition, genetics and health.
- **Meat quality:** Including a large presence from Bord Bia highlighting the importance of grass-fed beef and Quality Assurance as unique selling points for international customers.
- **Advisory and education:** An overview of the pathways for a career in



agriculture, issues around succession and inheritance and the implications of policy reform.

• **Farming lifestyle:** Beef farms are overwhelmingly family farm business and therefore health and safety and achieving a good work-life balance is critical.

There will be live displays in relation to low emissions slurry application, grazing management and health and safety throughout the day. Livestock from various suckler and dairy-beef studies at Grange will be on display.

There will also be workshops on calf rearing, anti-microbial and anthelmintic resistance, drafting cattle for slaughter and two-year-old calving.

In the afternoon, there will be a forum on the sustainability of Irish

beef farming. Irish beef is known globally for its high standard of production and nutritional benefits. It is predominantly grass-fed, pasture-raised and fully traceable from farm to fork.

Irish beef has a very low carbon footprint and farms are audited every 18 months, with the aim of lowering it further. Family-run beef farms are the backbone of rural communities in Ireland. In the afternoon, a panel of experts will address these credentials.

BEEF2022 is your opportunity to see first-hand the results of Teagasc's comprehensive research and innovation programme and to meet Teagasc research, advisory and education staff. We look forward to meeting you on Tuesday 5 July.