



# Dairy Calf to Beef: it's good to talk

Discussion groups specific to Dairy Calf to Beef farmers are now running in Teagasc regional units across the country.

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**T**he membership of the new discussion groups comprises farmers within a fairly close geographical area who operate dairy calf to beef systems. They meet regularly (every one to two months) on a participant's farm and typically have 10-15 members.

The meetings are facilitated by the local Teagasc technical beef advisor in conjunction with a DairyBeef500 program advisor. As with all discussion groups the idea is to share first hand experience and adopt new technologies.

## What are the benefits?

• **Problem solving** As with most discussion groups there is a range of experience and knowledge present. Depending on the time of year different technical topics arise.

Challenges encountered by individual farmers have generally been experienced previously by their col-

leagues. Current topics are discussed by group members and Teagasc facilitators.

## • Information at the right time

The aim is greater efficiency, sustainability and profit. Hearing the details of new technologies from facilitators and or participating group members, allows individual farmers to complete tasks and adopt the technologies quicker.

• **A social network** Many farmers work on their own, sometimes in isolated parts of the country. When coupled with difficult weather conditions, poor market prices and other challenges, this can make farming a difficult occupation. Getting out of your own yard, sharing experiences, seeking solutions and realising that many others often face the exact same challenges can be reassuring.