

# TILLAGE

January 2024

## Planning for 2024

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*Take the time to carefully plan your crops for 2024.*

### Crops

Spring barley area normally increases after a wet autumn; however, spring barley seed supply is tight this year. Therefore it is important to carefully plan your crops and consider all options.

### Spring sowing of winter wheat varieties

Teagasc and Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) variety trials show that winter wheat varieties can be successfully sown up to mid February; however:

- vernalisation is not an issue for wheat sown up to mid February but harvest date will be later than spring wheat;



**CROP  
ROTATION  
IN ARABLE  
LAND  
AT LEAST**

**2**

**different crops must  
be sown at parcel  
level over a four-year  
cycle.**

# TEAGASC ADVISORY NEWSLETTER

## TILLAGE

- yield will be closer to spring wheat – inputs need to be tailored based on expected yield, especially nitrogen (N);
- similar seed rate to spring wheat; and,
- do not sow in March.

### Beans

Teagasc research shows there is no significant yield difference between establishment methods for beans, but direct drill methods offer savings over plough/one pass. Aim to establish 30 plants/m<sup>2</sup>. Here are five tips to achieve a high yield.

1. Choose a high fertility site with medium/heavy soil.
2. Plant early (February/March). April crops can be successful but risks are higher.
3. Ensure pH is >6.5.
4. Test seed. DAFM-certified seed ensures ascochyta levels are less than 1% and that seed is free from stem nematode.
5. Use pre-emergence herbicides, as post-emergence options are very limited.

### Prioritise premium crops

Malting barley, seed crops, and equine, gluten-free and food grade oats command a premium. Sowing of these should take precedence over feed crops.

### Replanting autumn-sown crops

Replanting decisions should be delayed until growth starts. Where a crop has completely failed the decision is simple, but if some plants survive, deciding is harder. Replanting is seldom cost effective. With



*Beans are an excellent break crop option for 2024.*

spring seed scarce, managing a thin crop with reduced inputs might be more viable.

### Spring barley

Spring barley seed supply will be tight this year. Native seed will be supplemented with imported to make up the shortfall. Let your supplier know your requirements as soon as possible. Don't skimp on seed rates. Yield in barley is closely related to ear number so plan to establish 300 seeds/m<sup>2</sup>. This means sowing 350 seeds/m<sup>2</sup> in good conditions or 180kg/ha (11.5st/ac) at 51g thousand grain weight (TGW).

### Crop rotation in arable land

As part of conditionality farms with an arable area >10ha must implement a crop rotation. At least two different crops must be sown at parcel level over a four-year cycle. 2023 was year one, so at least two different crops are required within an arable parcel from 2023-2026. No derogation has been granted for crop diversification for 2024. Therefore farmers must comply with crop diversification (two/three-crop rule) in 2024.

## Teagasc tillage podcast

For all the latest tillage news the Teagasc tillage podcast is available on the Teagasc website, Apple Podcast, Spotify or by scanning the QR code.



## National Tillage Conference

January 31 – 9.00am-4.00pm  
Lyrath Convention Centre, Kilkenny

The National Tillage Conference (NTC2024) will feature research updates and a series of practical, interactive workshops where attendees can engage with researchers and advisors to discuss issues, including:

- tillage and dairy sector synergies;

- getting to grips with grassweeds;
- what the 2030 Food Vision Tillage Group recommendations mean for the sector;
- disease control decisions for 2024; and,
- getting the most out of a bean crop.

Pre-registration is required at:

[www.teagasc.ie/news--events/national-events/events/national-tillage-conference-2024.php](http://www.teagasc.ie/news--events/national-events/events/national-tillage-conference-2024.php).

## Signpost tillage event

**Location:** Farm of John Crowley,  
Tinnashrule, Ferns, Co.  
Wexford, Y21 TX82.



Thursday, January 18  
11.00am-1.00pm

**Topics covered:**

- cover crops – destruction and incorporation;
- hedge management – increasing bio density without affecting field usability; and,
- water quality for spring cropping.



This Signpost event will look at hedgerow management.

### Spring seminars

Spring tillage seminars are taking place now (Table 1). Topics will include:

- crop costs and returns, and spring crop choices;
- nutrient management planning;
- spring cereal varieties and spring sowing of winter wheat; and,
- assessment and economics of replanting autumn-sown crops.



*Spring sowing of winter wheat will be on many farmers' minds.*

**Table 1: Spring tillage seminars.**

County	Venue	Date	Time
Wexford	Riverside Park Hotel, Enniscorthy	January 22	7.30pm
Cork	Munster Arms Hotel, Bandon	January 23	7.30pm
Carlow	Seven Oaks Hotel, Carlow	January 24	7.30pm
Tipperary	Teagasc office, Nenagh	January 25	11.00am
Galway	Teagasc office, Athenry	January 25	7.30pm
Wicklow	Arklow Bay Hotel, Arklow	January 26	11.00am
Kerry	Ballyroe Heights Hotel, Tralee	January 29	7.30pm
Waterford	Park Hotel, Dungarvan	January 30	11.00am
<b>NTC2024</b>	<b>Lyrath Convention Centre, Kilkenny</b>	<b>January 31</b>	<b>9.00am</b>
Meath	Teagasc office, Navan	February 1	7.30pm
Wexford	Horse & Hound, Ballinaboola, New Ross	February 1	7.30pm
Laois	Teagasc Education Centre, Portlaoise	February 6	7.30pm
Louth	Teagasc office, Dundalk	February 7	7.30pm
Kilkenny	Teagasc office, Kilkenny	February 7	7.30pm
Offaly	Tullamore Court Hotel, Tullamore	February 15	7.00pm
Donegal	An Grianan Hotel, Burt	February 29	8.00pm
Dublin	Rolestown Inn, Swords	TBA	7.30pm