

www.irishfarmersmonthly.com

IRISH

SEPTEMBER 2022

FARMERS

MONTHLY



NPA FOCUS:

ALL THE HAPPENINGS AT PLOUGHING 2022

- + BORD BIA'S MICHAEL MURPHY ON THE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES AHEAD FOR FARMERS
- + JOHN DARDIS DISCUSSES HIS VISION FOR THE ROYAL DUBLIN SOCIETY



PRE-HOUSING DOSE: DO YOU KNOW THE SCORE?

WORMER

FLUKICIDE

5 WEEKS PRE-HOUSING

7 WEEKS POST-HOUSING

SINGLE ACTIVE WORMER

5 WEEKS PRE-HOUSING



SINGLE ACTIVE FLUKICIDE
7 WEEKS POST-HOUSING

The rules of the game are changing and farmers adopting a responsible approach should consider a pre-housing dose of **Taurador® Pour-On** this autumn.

Using a long-acting wormer **5 weeks before housing** can prevent reinfection and remove the need to dose at housing.

USE MEDICINES RESPONSIBLY. Manufactured and Distributed in NI by: Norbrook Laboratories Ltd, Station Works, Newry, Co. Down, BT35 6JP. Distributed in ROI by: Norbrook Laboratories (Ireland) Ltd, Rossmore Industrial Estate, Monaghan, County Monaghan. Legal Category: UK: [POM-VPS] ROI: [POM] Taurador® 5mg/ml Pour-on Solution for Cattle contains 5mg/ml doramectin. Solantel® 200mg/ml Pour-On Solution for Cattle contains 200mg/ml closantel. For full details on these products please see the summary of product characteristics (SPC) available at: UK: www.vmd.defra.gov.uk/ProductInformationDatabase/search ROI: www.hpra.ie/homepage/veterinary/veterinary-medicines-information/find-a-medicine Advice on the use of these products should be sought from the medicine prescriber. | 5659-LA(C)-v1a-NI/ROI-30/08/22


Norbrook®
www.norbrook.com



KEEPING AN EYE ON THE BALL

Lest farmers need reminding, they need to ensure that they concentrate on the important things at all times. Months of discussion and argument around sectoral emissions targets are only one distraction among a range of issues that could easily undermine both confidence and determination among farmers. Of course, these sectoral targets are important but, ultimately, the bottom line in terms of profitability must be safeguarded or farmers will not survive or thrive in a very uncertain world. As food producers, farmers are a more critical element of society than at any time over the past five decades. Food insecurity is now a dominant theme in every agriculture-related discussion. Whether it is war or weather, the ability to produce an abundance of food for an increasing global population, is now in serious doubt. We can blame war and we can blame climate change for the increasing fragility of the food chain. The combination of both at the same time makes it critical that farmers are not distracted from their main obligation, which is to profitably produce quality food in sufficient quantities that there is enough for everyone. Given the huge increases in production costs, there is now a realisation that cheap food is consigned to history. While food prices may or may not retreat from their current levels, they will not return to the lows of previous times. It is simple economics. Food is expensive to produce and an adequate price to reflect production costs and a decent profit margin for the primary producer must be available if it is to be produced in sufficient quantities to feed over seven billion people across the world. Barring unforeseen circumstances, that population figure will rise by another two billion persons within the next

two decades. It is only now that the political decision makers are coming to a realisation that a balance must be struck between the need to curtail the vectors of climate change and at the same time ensure that adequate food supplies are secured. Even without a war in Europe or the aggravating effects of climate change, the planet's capacity to grow food was already being undermined by increased urbanisation, an insatiable demand for scarce potable water and a misconception that cheap food would always be available in abundance. Eventually, and that time has come, the ability or willingness on the part of food producers to deliver vast quantities of food at or under the cost of its production, had to come to an end. We have now reached a stage in human progress when there must be a reassessment of social priorities. Food production has been declining in order of importance, in favour of 'wants' rather than 'needs'. In western society, the average percentage of a family's income devoted to food purchases dropped into single figures in the past decade. Such skewed household expenditure cannot continue. A fundamental realignment of the value of food versus more frivolous spending choices is now inevitable. Put bluntly, we can live without the latest iphone, cheap flight to New York or the trendiest clothes brand. Yet even now, there is a reluctance to consider the real facts in relation to food. It is no longer a cheap and abundant commodity. Food is a critical resource that will become increasingly scarce; a scarcity driven by high production costs, increasingly onerous regulatory standards and the need to balance the environmental costs of food production with the necessity to ensure that millions of people do not starve in the time ahead.



Editor: Matt O'Keeffe Editorial Director: Miriam Atkins Sheep Editor: Gerry Murphy Machinery: Noel Dunne
 Production: Niall O'Brien Advertising Manager: Brian Murphy
 Commercial and Advertising Manager: Anna Douglas Accounts: Tricia Murtagh Administration & Subscriptions: Sue Nolan
 Chief Executive: Rebecca Markey Printing: W&G Baird Publishers: IFP Media Subscription: €46 per annum
 Irish Farmers Monthly, Castlecourt, Glenageary, Co. Dublin.
 Tel: +353 1 7096900. e-mail: miriamatkins@ifpmedia.com www.irishfarmersmonthly.com
 Copyright IFP Media 2022. No part of this publication June be reproduced in any material form without the express written permission of the publishers.



CONTENTS

- 4 Upfront
- 8 Business News
- 14 INTERVIEW
Michael Murphy, Bord Bia
- 16 INTERVIEW
John Dardis, RDS
- 21 Trade mission focuses on market development
- 24 FEATURE
New Zealand Weather Woes
- 28 FEATURE
Harvest Completed
- 73 Making the Most of Autumn Grass
- 76 Management Hints
- 84 Machinery
- 97 ICMSA
- 98 Farm Safety
- 100 Rural Life
- 102 Very End

FOCUS PLOUGHING

- 33 NPC 2022 Happenings
- 40 Anna Marie McHugh on the Return of the Ploughing
- 44 Manitou unveil new telehandler
- 46 McHale's presence at this year's Ploughing
- 48 Argo brands on show
- 53 Map and Traffic Routes

OSAT PLOUGHING
 HY IN THE CHALLENGES AN
 FARMERS
 VISION FOR THE ROYAL

BASF IRELAND

We hear that Joe Lynch is retiring after over 40 years of service with BASF. In the late 1950s Denis Coakley Ltd. started distributing BASF fertilisers in Ireland. In 1983 the agreement between both parties was dissolved and BASF started distributing its range of products from a new headquarters in Clonee. Joe Lynch, who is highly respected by his peers, has, for the past decade, headed up the sales division of BASF. We wish Joe a happy retirement; he certainly deserves it after a lifetime committed to the agri-sector.

NEW NAME FOR GLANBIA COOP

Tirlán is the new corporate name for Glanbia Ireland and its owner Glanbia Coop. Land of plenty or abundance is the nearest approximation to a direct translation of the Gaelic word. Together with a logo that draws on ancient Ogham writing, the new branding should draw positive acclaim, and general acceptance.

The long planned and much anticipated new corporate name and logo for the farmer-owned businesses was announced on the last day of August. All part of the de-merger agreement between Glanbia Plc and the farmer-owned Glanbia Coop, after the Coop bought up the remaining forty percent of the Irish dairy and grain

processing assets of the Plc., this name change represents the final part of the mission by the Coop to take full control of processing assets on behalf of its members. Along with a share spin-out, members and especially milk and grain suppliers to the new entity can look forward to continuing buffering of prices from the Coop's valuable Plc dividend income stream.

The name change, which was substantially funded by the Plc was agreed as part of the de-merger agreement. The Plc keeps the Glanbia brand name and the Coop takes on the new moniker of Tirlán. Readily recognisable brand names such

as Avonmore milk and butter, Kilmeaden cheese, the Gain brand and other ancillary brand names will continue to be used by the Coop so, for many purchasers and consumers, not a lot will change in terms of the all-important brand recognition. There is the little matter of an SGM of the Coop membership to formally agree the new name adoption, but since members have already agreed on a name change, it is unlikely that there will be much opposition to the name itself. With milk prices at historic highs, and grain producers receiving decent returns for the produce, there would be little enthusiasm for rocking the new boat.





Pneumonia is the most common killer of cattle over 1 month of age¹



**Bovilis®
INtranasal RSP™ Live**

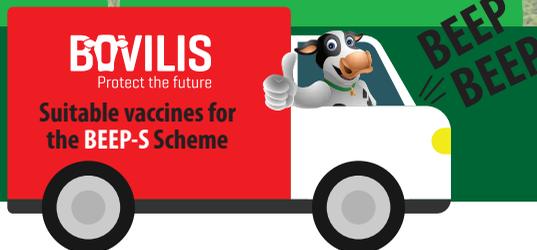


**Bovilis®
Bovipast RSP**



**Bovilis®
IBR Marker Live**

**TALK TO YOUR VET ABOUT THE
BOVILIS® VACCINE RANGE**



1. Anon 2020. AFBI/DAFM All-Island Animal Disease Surveillance Report 2019.

Bovilis IBR Marker live contains live, attenuated IBR marker vaccine BHV-1 strain GK/D (gE-). For the active immunisation of cattle against infectious bovine rhinotracheitis virus. Bovilis Bovipast® RSP contains inact. BRS Virus strain EV908, Pi-3 Virus strain SF-4 Reisinger and *Mannheimia haemolytica* A1 strain M4/1. Bovilis INtranasal RSP Live: contains live, bovine respiratory syncytial virus (BRSV), strain Jencine-2013, live bovine parainfluenza virus type 3 (PI3), strain INT2-2013.

Withdrawal periods: Zero days. Legal Categories: ROI [POM(E)] NI [POM-V]

Use medicines responsibly

For further information see SPC, contact prescriber or
MSD Animal Health, Red Oak North, South County Business Park, Leopardstown, Dublin 18, Ireland.
Tel: +353(0)1 2970220. E-Mail: vet-support.ie@msd.com Web: www.msd-animal-health.ie

MSD Animal Health Ireland - Cattle & Sheep

MSD Animal Health Ireland @msd_ah

For more information visit
bovilis.ie



WELCOME BACK RDS DUBLIN HORSE SHOW

Last month saw the return of the Dublin Horse Show which attracted large numbers to the RDS. The event, which is celebrating its 147th year, is the oldest horse show in the world and considered to be amongst the most prestigious equestrian events globally. Walking around the RDS, you can see how special the Horse Show is. Breeders, competitors, exhibitors and the general public mingle with each other, enjoying a common interest in all things equestrian. While the crème de la crème of world class showjumpers was competing in the Main Arena, the Simmons Court Arena as well as Rings One and Two were devoted to breeders, young performers and every equine category from the Irish Draught to the Connemara pony. Land Rover and Longines have long associations with the RDS as sponsors of both the Land Rover Puissance, and the Longines FEI Grand Prix of Ireland. Ireland's impressive win of the much-coveted Aga Khan Trophy was certainly the icing on the cake, after a tense and thrilling jump-off against the French. The win certainly rounded off a fantastic week for the Irish Team, which had qualified for the 2024 Paris Olympics only the previous week.

The weather was kind also to the organisers which allowed families flock in large numbers to the Show. Earlier in the week, the historic Ladies Day and the Very Best Dressed were in full swing, as over 400 ladies and gentlemen competed in their finest attire to win a €10,000 voucher. In the end the judges voted for Tiffany Yang Fei, from Dalkey, County Dublin.

This year's show certainly lived up to our expectations. Congratulations to Geraldine Ruane CEO of the RDS, and Professor Eoin Lewis, President of the Society, and all the team at the RDS.



BROADBAND FINALLY ROLLING OUT

After much delay, the rolling out of rural broadband is gaining momentum. The 'fibre-to-the door' utility has the potential to transform rural Ireland, especially if the move to home-based working remains both popular and productive in the longer term after the Covid epidemic forced its initial introduction on a broad scale. Purchasers of the service should note that it will not be provided by NBI (National Broadband Ireland). It is the builder of the infrastructure only. A range of service providers are listed for each locality and, hopefully, there will be opportunities to engage in some price haggling with these companies. After all, ultimately, it is the same service they are all providing with the same infrastructure and broadband speed options available all across the country over the next few years. The 'shop around' advice for utility contracts and purchases is now gaining increasing urgency with massive price hikes across all services. Highspeed broadband contracts should be no different.



HOT SPOT

Last month saw exceptional temperatures in Ireland with an average of 25C five days in a row. However, Oak Park in Carlow and Moorepark in Fermoy reached temperatures of 31C, both these hot spot locations are, of course, Teagasc research centres. Despite the heat, the organisation continues to pursue viable strategies to allow Irish farmers to farm sustainably on the 'three-legged stool' of economic, social and environmental sustainability. The environmental challenges are the biggest issues facing farmers and the agricultural industry with the sectoral emissions target for agriculture requiring a 25 per cent reduction in emissions by 2030. Teagasc should be ideally placed to meet these challenges head on. It has over 500 scientific and technical staff across the country engaged in cutting edge research and technology developments.

Several key staff have been appointed to critical roles in Teagasc in recent times. Former Head of Research and now Teagasc Director Frank O'Mara is driving the organisation's emphasis on sustainable farming with Pat Dillon as Director of Research, Anne Marie Butler as Head of Education and Tom O'Dwyer leading the Signpost programme. We extend our sympathies to Pat Dillon on the death of his beloved wife Claire last month.

It is not an exaggeration to state that the future of Irish agriculture is dependent on the state body successfully challenging itself to meet the needs of a changing environment and agriculture industry.

CON LUCEY RIP

The sudden death of Con Lucey last month was met with sadness by all who knew him. He worked with the IFA for over 35 years from 1973 and excelled in the position of IFA Chief Economist for 30 of those years until his retirement in 2008. He filled the role with diligent research, rational and objective analysis, and economic and financial expertise.

As Chief Economist of the IFA, Con's was always a voice of reason and common sense. His grasp of economics was exemplary and was totally respected both within IFA and among political leaders, business people and the Departments of State with whom he engaged. Anyone who lobbied for farmers or negotiated on their behalf knew that if they had Con Lucey's briefing documents in their hands they were on firm ground. In 2015 Con was brought back from his retirement for a short-term consultancy to help steady the IFA ship in the aftermath of the financial controversies that rocked the farm organisation to its core. The fact that IFA has recovered much of its prestige and influence since then, is in no small way due the advice and recommendations made by Con Lucey at that time of crisis. May he rest in peace.



Optimise Performance for Autumn

Maeve Regan,
Head of Ruminant Nutrition, Agritech

This summer, our focus has mostly been on grass, ensuring its availability and trying to maintain quality. For many parts of the country, grass quality has been somewhat of a struggle and now that some welcome rain has arrived, it is important that our focus returns to achieving optimum performance from grass with our priority groups of animals; the main milking herd and our replacement heifers.

Milking Cows

As always, we are hoping to control the decline in milk production from here to the end of lactation. Milk yield in normal conditions will drop by off 2.5% per week or 10% per month once we get to mid lactation. Any drop greater than this indicates an energy deficit – which would signal that grass quality is deteriorating or the herds dry matter intake requirement is not being met.

However, milk protein and butterfat should be incrementally increasing at this point, with the target being + 0.05% per month. Milk protein is driven by energy and where grass quality has suffered, so too has milk protein percentages this summer.

Replacement Heifers

It is a good time to reassess where we stand with the next generation of milking cows. Ensure that heifers are still on track to achieve their target weight for their age (% of mature weight). By weighing now, compared to weighing at the point of housing, this allows the opportunity to identify heifers that are behind their target, and make alternative plans for those that are not on track. The threshold figure for 2022 spring born weanling heifers is approximately 190 kg in mid-September (approximately 33% of an assumed mature weight of 570 kg). Heifers that are lighter than this should be separated into their own group and given priority access to high quality grass and supplementary concentrates, depending on how below target they are.

Higher weight gains can be achieved from grass compared to winter/silage diets and a good response to autumn supplementation can be achieved. Research shows that youngstock at grass in summer can achieve weight gain of 0.85 kg/head/day on a grass only diet. While in the autumn, where 1 kg of concentrate plus high-quality grass is offered, an average daily gain of 1 kg/head/day can be achieved.

For further advice on mid-lactation cow and replacement heifer nutrition, contact your local Agritech Sales Advisor or visit www.agritech.ie.



www.agritech.ie



AGRI AWARE CHALLENGE TY STUDENTS TO CREATE SUSTAINABLE FOOD SOLUTIONS

Agri Aware is launching Environmental Innovators nationwide, the brand new Transition Year Programme, supported by BiOrbic Bioeconomy SFI Research Centre. Environmental Innovators will introduce students to the various challenges that our environment faces due to the food system and also the challenges the food system creates for the environment. The programme consists of the four main chapters of Waste, Climate, Biodiversity and Land Use with interactive video, mapping and debate tasks offered throughout. The end-of-programme project ask is for students to propose their own ideas for the world's future food system. Five group finalists will be invited to BiOrbic Bioeconomy SFI Research Centre at University College Dublin to tour the facilities and to present their idea to agri-food stakeholders. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to meet like-minded peers and demonstrate their learning. The Environmental Innovators finalists will present their propositions in January. The National Champions will receive a grand prize of €250 each. Alan Jagoe, Agri Aware Chairman, said: "Ireland is a world leader in sustainably farmed food. Through this programme, Transition year students will have the opportunity to seek out further sustainable food solutions as the world changes. Environment Innovators is a programme we are very proud of given the pressures on global food supply. Finally, all of us at Agri Aware would like to thank UCD and BiOrbic for their help in getting this programme to schools." Derek O'Brien, Executive Director of BiOrbic Bioeconomy SFI Research Centre said: "Now more than ever we need innovative thinking to address our most pressing environmental challenges. BiOrbic is delighted to have partnered with AgriAware to develop the Environmental Innovators programme, which will support young people to develop new ideas and solutions for a sustainable future."

Consistently releases

with unique leaching bolus technology, for a consistent supply of trace elements, compatible with animals' daily requirements.

Ireland's
number 1
selling sheep
boluses



Supplements for
6
months

Also available without copper.



Proud member of
**IRISH
GRASSLAND
ASSOCIATION**

Contact
rory.dicker@animax-vet.com
087-0635950
or visit animax-vet.com



Be sure with
Tracesure

Previously Allsure in ROI



FARMHAND CELEBRATES 60 YEARS

Farmhand - the well-known Irish distributor of Krone, Amazone, Quicke, Zuidberg and APV - are turning 60 years old. The firm was founded in 1962 as a 50/50 partnership between Denis Scrivener and Bernard Krone II. It later became a wholly Scrivener owned company in the early 1990s. The company has passed through two generations since then; from Denis to his son John and then to John's children Paul, Sinead and Stephen who run it today with the help of 50 full time staff.

Farmhand has distributed for many different brands and has been through four premises moves before settling in their purpose built Damastown facility in 2008. However, the company ethos has not changed and this is something Paul Scrivener is strong on. "We see ourselves as specialist distributors of farm machinery, we don't get involved in retail business and we only sell machinery from suppliers who are very focused on what they do. Along with this, we see the family business structure as critical to our success, like us, all our dealers and most of our suppliers are family businesses," commented Paul who is Managing Director.

Although Farmhand is 60 years old, they are not standing still. They recently completed the expansion of their facility to double their indoor capacity. This brings the entire facility to over 7 acres with a warehouse/ office area of 6300 square meters. "We are constantly looking at ways that we can improve our premises so that we can be more efficient in serving our customers. Stock is all important in farm machinery and it's vital that we have the right machines and parts in stock to keep our customers working. Along with that, we see investing in our premises as a key component in attracting the best staff," commented Sales & Marketing Director, Stephen Scrivener.

What's in store for the future? "We are keen to drive on with our success. We have had a good few years and have invested heavily in IT systems and facilities to allow us to grow further. I think longevity is our most important business goal and we hope to be able to sustainably grow the business over the next 60 years and hopefully leave it in a good place for the next generation," said Parts Director, Sinead Scrivener.

VACCINATING LIVESTOCK THIS AUTUMN AND WINTER? TAKE 5 MINUTES TO READ THIS ARTICLE

Respiratory disease costs, on average, €93 per affected calf when considering the direct costs such as treatment and labour. The effect on growth rates can be an even larger cost - a moderate case of pneumonia can reduce daily live weight gain (DLWG) by up to 72g/day - equivalent to a 22Kg loss over a 10 month period and in severe cases a reduction of 202g/day (61Kg over a 10 month period) has been recorded

During periods of stress such as weaning, grouping and housing, animals' requirements for trace minerals increase.

Stress often results in animals' dry matter intakes (DMI) reducing which means that whilst demand for trace minerals has increased, intakes have actually decreased, and it is not uncommon to see weanlings, fall into poor trace mineral status during this period.

Many animals will also be vaccinated at the same time as weaning and housing. Vaccination increases the demand for trace minerals as they are required for the body to respond to a vaccine and create antibodies which will then provide protection against specific diseases. Selenium (Se), Copper (Cu) and Zinc (Zn) in particular are vital for vaccine response.

When a group of cattle are vaccinated the response to that vaccine by the individuals within the group will vary. Factors such as nutrition, stress, vitamin and mineral status, and the general health of the animal being vaccinated will affect how the immune system responds to the vaccine.

Therefore, stressors such as weaning and transport can exacerbate trace mineral imbalances which could lead to reduced response to vaccines.

It is worth emphasising that trace minerals have poor intestinal absorption regardless of the source. This poor oral absorption is further reduced by antagonists such as sulphur, molybdenum, calcium & iron. Daily oral intake of trace minerals are essential to meet maintenance requirements in cattle, but at high demand periods like weaning or vaccination intake can fall in response to stress. Consequently clinical or sub-clinical deficiency can develop.

Studies from leading universities have demonstrated the beneficial effects of strategic injectable trace mineral (ITM) supplementation. In particular by enhancing the immune responses to vaccination.

The effects of ITM supplementation with concurrent vaccination have been measured. Compared to controls, animals treated with an ITM supplement at the time of vaccination had significantly greater neutralizing antibody titres against IBR on days 14, 30, and 60 post vaccination.

Strategic ITM supplementation bypasses the harsh rumen environment, rapidly raising circulating mineral levels in cattle within 8-10 hours, and after 24 hours the trace mineral concentrations in the storage organs like the liver are at raised concentrations.

Vaccination is a powerful tool to prevent infections; ask your veterinary surgeon how an injectable trace mineral supplement could help to enhance vaccine response and therefore immunity in your herd.

REFERENCES AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

THE VIRBAC TEAM IN IRELAND

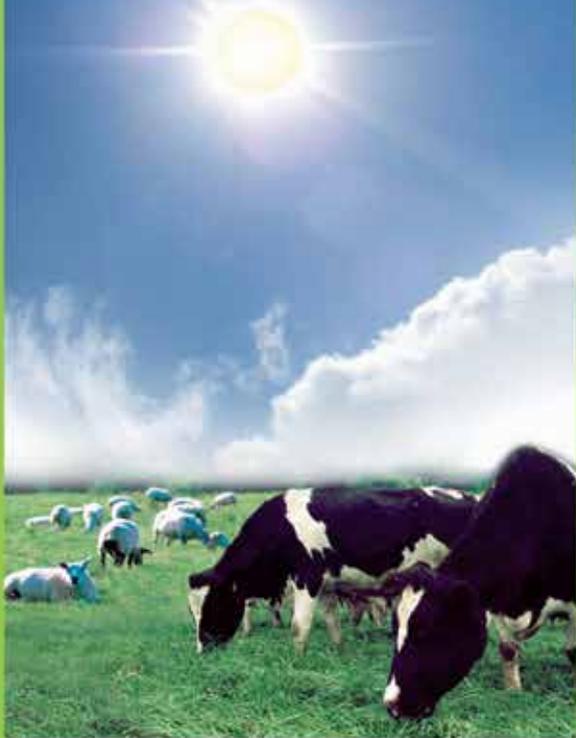
Oliver Dillon (086) 8210418 (North East, East, South East)
Peter Gannon (086) 7725514 (North West, West, South West)
Joanna McNally +447887422565 (NI)
Eugene Smyth (086) 8210912

FURTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM:

Virbac Ltd. Unit 16 Woolpit Business Park, Windmill Avenue,
Woolpit, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk IP30 9UP.
Tel: +44 (0) 1359 243243 and SPC. Use medicines responsibly.



Good times for Agri-Food Business!



In these challenging times you need to employ the best available talent!

For experienced management, clever marketing, enthusiastic sales or technical people contact us.

You are assured of a cost effective & personal service for your personnel requirements.

From creative adverts in the media, recruitment PR to selection & interview, you can rely on us.

THE
dePaor
CONSULTANCY

Loreto Road, Cavan, Ireland
Tel +353 49 4361158
Mobile +353 86 2557643
E-mail recruit@depaor.ie
www.depaor.ie

RECRUITMENT

C.V.s urgently required from ambitious, energetic and enthusiastic graduates. So e-mail or phone us today!

FARMERS URGED TO TAKE PART IN NEW PILOT HEALTH & WELLBEING PROGRAMME



Willie Drohan, Programme Co-ordinator Clare Thoma, Minister of State with responsibility for Farm Safety, Martin Heydon TD and local Waterford farmer Maighread Barron.

Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture with responsibility for Farm Safety, Martin Heydon TD has launched a free health and wellbeing programme aimed at providing farmers with the tools to live and work productively and safely. The new 6-week KT programme, developed especially for FarmConnect, is being rolled out in counties Waterford and Roscommon on a pilot basis from mid-September and was officially launched on Willie Drohan's farm in Lemybrien, County Waterford. FarmConnect is a European Innovation Partnership (EIP-Agri) project, funded by the Department of Agriculture, Food, and the Marine and the EU's Rural Development Programme. It's focused on the physical and mental impact that contemporary farming challenges are having in Ireland. After extensive planning, the Programme's rollout will begin on Monday, September 19th at various rural venues in both counties. Waterford and Roscommon were selected for the pilot due to their contrasting Agri profiles and the input of local farming representatives. The aim is to recruit 64 farmers in each county to participate in the six-week programme with the promise that they will be better, literally, for the FarmConnect experience. Skilled and experienced facilitators from the Agriculture Advisor and Community Development sectors have been trained to deliver the Programme in group settings.

RGFI BIOMETHANE CONFERENCE

The Ireland Biomethane Conference, to take place in November 2022, looks set to provide timely information to delegates on the latest policy developments underpinning an indigenous biomethane industry in Ireland and across the EU. Conference organiser, Renewable Gas Forum Ireland (RGFI) say speakers will be drawn from the EU Commission, Irish Government and State Agencies, as well as other EU member states who are leading in AD Biomethane. "With our grass-based agriculture, Ireland has the highest potential for biomethane production per capita in the EU according to the European Commission, providing a strong opportunity to develop a thriving Indigenous biomethane industry, support energy security and, importantly for Irish farmers, reduce agricultural emissions. RGFI has collaborated extensively with producers, farmers, consumers and relevant Irish Government Departments as well as the EU Commission to develop an agreed vision and roadmap for AD biomethane in Ireland. We are now on the cusp of the development of this sector in Ireland and our vision is that farmers and the food industry be central to the production of sustainable biomethane, bio-fertiliser and carbon farming," says JP Prendergast, Chairman of RGFI. A Conference dinner on 9th November will be addressed by US Senator Marc Pacheco, who was responsible for the Global Warnings Solutions Act. Senator Pacheco (who has strong Irish connections) is currently serving as the Dean of the Massachusetts Senate and is the founding chair of the standing Senate Committee on global warming and climate change. Tickets are available from Eventbrite.

Agriculture can power a cleaner energy future

Biomethane is a renewable gas that can be made from agricultural waste and seamlessly replace natural gas.

It is a proven solution for reducing on-farm emissions and delivering cleaner air and waterways.

It can also support additional income streams and jobs in rural communities.

Learn more at www.gasnetworks.ie/biomethane



InTouch

AUTUMN: BUILDING FOR THE WINTER

CATHAL BOHANE, HEAD OF INTOUCH NUTRITION

It has been an unusual year, to say the least. Few would have predicted the milk and beef prices we are experiencing now, which have been tempered somewhat by the increased costs businesses face. The weather has again played its part, and many farms are experiencing a kind of 'micro-climate' where some farms have drought and lack grass while others receive rain. The drought-like conditions lead to increased feeding on some farms in the absence of grass, which could not happen at a worse time, as farms focus on building grass.

Looking after the intake of cows will allow everything else to take care of itself over the next number of months. It is important to keep some grazed grass in the diet and avoid running out. So, rationing is crucial. For example, spring cows producing 20 litres will initially be on 2-3 kg of concentrate and grass, but beyond this, you are lacking intake and need to introduce a conserved forage. Reacting to this too late will mean a drop in valuable milk yield, which is hard to recover at this time of the year.

As we dig into the silage pit or bales, we also need to take stock of our usage and silage type. We need to ensure that we have enough silage for the coming winter and spring and that it is of good quality. The temptation is to use it now when milk price is high, but we will need high-quality silage more next spring when cows achieve higher yields. Cows will eat approximately 600 kg of silage per month, even when half their diet comes from grazed grass.

Autumn-calving cows need special attention during this period, as they struggle to recover their intake post-calving to meet their energy demand. Grazed grass and concentrate alone are insufficient for these cows, especially as we go further into September when the days get shorter and dry matter and quality drops off. How did these cows perform last year, what is the expected milk yield and what feeds are available to be fed?

We also need to assess how we build farm cover to extend our rotation later into the year as we come to the end of the fertiliser season. Some paddocks that have been affected by drought over the last number of weeks will struggle to generate the growth that we might hope for over the next while, and this must be accounted for. Regular farm walks are important to monitor growth rates or reactions to temperatures and water.

KEENAN
an Alltech company

Alltech

MSD ANIMAL HEALTH ADD AUTOMATED SOMATIC CELL COUNT SENSORS TO SENSEHUB PORTFOLIO



William Minchin (extreme right) pictured with colleagues John Heslin and Michelle Crowley at the recent MSD AH One Health and Sustainability Conference.

MSD Animal Health have added an extensive range of products and expertise to their offering in recent years. With the acquisition of Antelliq in 2019 (global leader in animal health digital tracking, traceability and monitoring technology), IdentiGEN (DNA-based animal traceability solutions for Livestock and Aquaculture) in 2020 and LIC Automation Ltd. (leader in automation and technology for the dairy industry) in 2021, the company is increasing

their focus in the agricultural technology market.

MSD Animal Health are relaunching the automated somatic cell count (SCC) sensors acquired from LIC Automation Ltd. Formerly known as Saber SCC, this product will now be known as the 'SenseHub® Somatic Cell Count Sensor'. The SenseHub in-line SCC sensors can be retrofitted to any existing parlour and provides quick and accurate real-time SCC results for individual animals within just two minutes of cupping. After the cups are attached, the sensor automatically detects milk flow and begins the test. A 2ml sample of milk is automatically mixed with reagent and undergoes an automated California milk test (CMT) to determine the SCC. The result is displayed via an optical indicator light with the colour representing one of five SCC ranges.

MSD Animal Health have taken the livestock monitoring technology market by storm working with various partners including veterinarians, farmers, milking processors and their distributors to accelerate the adoption of SenseHub® on Irish dairy farms. William Minchin, Director of MSD Animal Health's Ruminant Business Unit, said: "While MSD Animal Health has made these acquisitions at a global level, it is important that MSD Animal Health Ireland provide the right product for the Irish market. We evaluated the portfolio following each acquisition and opted for the products most suitable for the Irish market at this time. Of course, some of these products and/or solutions are already on offer in the marketplace, and in that case we looked for improvements following conversations with farmers and industry representatives."

"We have seen an unprecedented demand for our SenseHub® livestock monitoring solution that provides heat and health monitoring for cattle farmers. Our SenseHub® collars are fully integrated with our Allflex drafting gate which has been a game changer for Irish dairy farms. In addition, we have seen a renewed appreciation for our Allflex Electronic Identification (EID) tags following the change in tag design and introduction of a 3-year warranty through Mullinahone Co-op."

According to William, the adoption of agricultural technology at farm level is accelerating at an exciting pace and customer support is crucial for the company to meet farmer expectations. "We know we have quality products, and we are excited by the possibility of further integrations and the addition of new products to our portfolio. The foundation of our company is our staff. To support our product portfolio, over the last 12 to 18 months we have recruited many of the top people from the agricultural industry to our team. We will continue to expand our technology offering and we have the top-class service and support to do so," added William.

THE SWEET TASTE OF TRADITION

Ease of
handling
and high
palatability
makes
molasses the
ideal feeding
solution

t: 069-65311

e: info@premiermolasses.ie

w: www.premiermolasses.ie

Harbour Road, Foynes, Co. Limerick.



**PREMIER
MOLASSES**
Delivering Solutions



YouTube



EMBRACING OPPORTUNITY

BORD BIA'S INTERIM CEO MICHAEL MURPHY DISCUSSES THE KEY CHALLENGES FOR THE IRISH AGRI-FOOD SECTOR AND HIGHLIGHTS OUR NATION'S ADVANTAGE ON THE WORLD STAGE WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF SUSTAINABILITY.

According to Michael Murphy, sustainability will be our differentiator in the next decade, in terms of delivering a really good return for Irish farmers. "I really think, at this stage, the debate is over on the targets. We now need to set about delivering those targets by working together and positioning Irish food and drink as the most sustainable in the world... and getting credit for it with customers. That also means ensuring a viable future for Irish farmers. We need to embrace sustainability - we're good at it and we could be even better at it. Farming is part of the solution to climate change, it's not the problem.

There's technology out there, and there's technology to come, that will enable farmers to reduce or mitigate their impact on the environment. The truism for farming families is that they want to leave the farm in better condition than when they got it. Farmers want to do the right thing, but they also want to do it in a way that gives them a viable income."

Continuing, Michael notes that the metrics of the past have been around productivity and production but, he says, the issue now is that some of those metrics have changed. "The metrics of the future are very much around sustainability, around carbon, around biodiversity."

SUPPORTS

Commenting on the supports in place for farmers, Michael says: "I think we need to look at the relative position we are in compared to other countries. The Government funds our food marketing and promotional agencies, like Bord Bia. It funds research and technology at farm level with Teagasc. We have the likes of ICBF... we have Animal Health Ireland. We have a great infrastructure."

"There's a transformation coming and we should embrace it. It could be very exciting for farmers and it could position Irish food in an even stronger way, globally. I think the commitment on investing in technology

should be given more credit for the work they do, particularly within Origin Green. "We need to give farmers and farm leaders the tools to really communicate Origin Green and to give credit for what they've already achieved. Since Origin Green was launched in 2013, we've started measuring carbon at farm level. We can now demonstrate reductions in carbon impact from farmers. But it is important that we give farmers the tools and the messaging so that they can actually compete with the noise that's out there at the moment."

"Origin Green does not just belong to Bord Bia. Origin Green is Ireland's. Our concentration up to now was selling those key messages around sustainability to our key customers around the globe and they have bought into Origin Green. On average,

"FARMING IS PART OF THE SOLUTION TO CLIMATE CHANGE, IT'S NOT THE PROBLEM."

we now have two or three customers a week coming in here and trying to get under the bonnet of Origin Green. They see the value. But we also need to up our game on the communication of Origin Green. We concentrated in the first decade on putting the infrastructure in place and securing these customers. The next stage is to ensure that this is communicated back to farmers and that what we are doing is recognised.

PGI FOR IRISH BEEF

Continued progress on obtaining PGI status for Irish beef is ongoing and Michael is confident of success in this ambition: "We have a really viable application which has gone back into the Commission. We are very confident that we will have a positive outcome for that by the end of the year. We're now in the preparation stage as to how we exploit that. What PGI does is that it gives us an opportunity to reposition Irish beef as consumers in Europe recognise PGI as something very special. If you look

at other PGI products in Europe they can sell, on average, 5 to 10 per cent higher, so consumers are willing to pay for them."

TRADESHOWS

During Covid restrictions, trade shows and in-person meetings were not possible. Now, the organisation is back to a busy schedule of international events: "It's brilliant that trade fairs are back. That's our life blood. While we coped very well with the virtual world there is really no substitute for building strong relationships with buyers who understand our markets. We can take some of the benefits from virtual meetings, but we still need to be out there at trade fairs around the world. It is not just about the product - customers are looking for suppliers that help them with their business. They want partners that can deliver sustainable products and that can also help them to build their business. It's about selling a partnership and helping your customers to improve their business. You need that personal contact to build these relationships."

CONCLUDING

Michael will be stepping down as Interim CEO in November when Jim O'Toole takes up the mantle. Commenting about his time in the hot seat, he says: "I'm passionate about Bord Bia. There's a lot of work to be done but we have a great team here at Bord Bia. The role I will be returning to is very much around building that team. It's really about attracting the talent, whether that's to Bord Bia or attracting the talent to the wider food industry. So, I'm very happy to be returning to that and driving that on."

In conclusion, he reiterates that we should tackle the challenges ahead in a collaborative manner: "We need to put our best foot forward as an industry in a collaborative way, to help the farmers through an uncertain time. We need to rebalance the message and articulate the positive things that the farming community are doing for climate change. I think farmers will embrace the challenges ahead and there are benefits for those farmers in terms of value for the market... and also in terms of the profitability of their operations. It will be hard - we've acknowledged that - but there isn't a plan B."

and maintaining production is realistic, but I think we can do it in a more effective way by maximising the use of the inputs so there is nothing wasted. Teagasc have shown that moving from CAN to protected Urea is cheaper and more effective. None of us want to see the inputs into agriculture not used to their maximum impact. There may be situations where maximum production and optimum production are two different things. Overall, Irish agriculture has to remain vibrant and to continue to grow its value and return for the marketplace."

ORIGIN GREEN

While many farmers are feeling scapegoated when it comes to tackling climate action, Michael is keen to stress that farmers

A CLEAR VISION FOR RDS

MATT O'KEEFFE TALKS TO JOHN DARDIS, CURRENT VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE ROYAL DUBLIN SOCIETY, ABOUT THE ORGANISATION'S VISION.

Born in Kildare, John studied Agricultural Science at UCD before returning to the family farm. He takes up the story: "It was a traditional mixed enterprise farm. I took on the management of the farm in my early 20s when my father signed over ownership to me, an unusual undertaking at the time to take over at such a young age.

We went into beef production during those years and that was a profitable enterprise in the early years of EU membership. The farm is now in the ownership of my son, also John, who leases it out as an arable farm. He is working in Chicago for Glanbia. After college, I worked in the advisory services for a short time and then went farming. I got a call from the Irish Farmers Journal and, after a short interview with the late Paddy O'Keefe, I began an 18-year career in journalism, initially writing about the horticulture sector and subsequently as tillage editor. Intensive tillage, using newly developed fungicides, was taking off

and it was an exciting time in the sector. I won an Agricultural Journalist of the Year Award during my time with the Journal. We organised a series of very successful tillage conferences in the Green Isle Hotel, which

attracted both Irish and international attention."

A POLITICAL PERSPECTIVE

John was an early supporter of the Progressive Democrats: "My interest in politics began after attending a meeting at which Des O'Malley spoke. I was elected as a local Councillor in Kildare and also contested a European election. I was then nominated to Seanad Eireann where I was a member for 18 years, as well as taking on the deputy leadership of the PDs for ten years. After retiring from the Seanad in 2007, I renewed my involvement with the RDS. During my time with the Journal we had organised a major tillage event at Punchestown in collaboration with the RDS. It was a voluntary effort also involving the Department and Teagasc among others. So that was my initial exposure to the workings of the RDS. I progressed on to the RDS Council and the Agriculture Committee as well as the Board of Management. That eventually led to my role as vice-president."



President Higgins and John Dardis



**WE ARE PROUD
OF OUR PAST.
AND READY FOR
A BRIGHT FUTURE.**

Introducing Tirlán.
The new name for Glanbia Ireland.

Visit us at the National Ploughing Championships
Block 2, Row 13, Stand 219

 **Tirlán**

MOVING ON FROM THE SPRING SHOW

Most people of a certain age would associate the RDS with the running of the Spring Show, as John confirms: "The Spring Show was the public face of the RDS for many people. I was involved as a steward and came to fully appreciate the huge voluntary effort involving so many people. It ran from the early 1800s and all these things have a lifespan. Eventually, traffic and access and support from country people became challenges and the decision was taken to end the event. As a charity, the RDS has a huge philanthropic role and we refocussed on issues including sustainability and rural development in the agriculture sector. We are a neutral space in that there are no vested interests involved so we serve an important role as an organisation that can bring people together for the common good."

"The RDS has rejuvenated itself many times over its near 300-year existence. We have just completed a new strategy to take us over the next five years."

AWARDING EXCELLENCE

"Part of our ongoing activity is the use of our forty-acre campus at Ballsbridge. The hosting of the Horse Show is the most obvious public use of the space, but it is far more than just a physical venue. It is an asset to create the revenues that allow us to engage in the activities we believe are important for the organisation and for the country. Those include annual awards for farming, forestry, sustainability, and our livestock awards which have been in place for much of the history of the RDS. Our aim is to recognise excellence in all its aspects. There are role models that deserve recognition. We have an annual Enterprise Award as well as Honorary Life Membership. Rachel Blackmore received the award for her achievements in the equine sector. Tom Arnold received the award this year in recognition of his huge contribution to Irish agriculture and the European Movement."

A VOLUNTARY SOCIETY

The RDS has a professional executive team, but at the core of the organisation is its voluntary nature, as its vice-president asserts: "There are a lot of people who are anxious to contribute to the work of the Society. So long as you can show that there

are positive outcomes to the work that is done, then people are willing to commit their time and effort. We have a broad voluntary membership who bring a huge diversity of skills and knowledge to their involvement in the RDS. They are often people who have retired from other roles in business and society. They have the time and expertise to contribute hugely to the development of the aims and aspirations of the RDS. We are conscious of the need to develop our financial resources to promote the betterment of Irish society. That's not a new development. Back in the 1730s the RDS was instrumental in planting 50 million trees. There is lots of talk about tree planting today, but it is not a new idea. The National Museum, the National Gallery, the Botanic Gardens, these were all founded and developed by the RDS during its long history. It continues to develop new approaches to support Irish society. The Young Scientists exhibition is an example. STEM learning in our schools is another area we support. While the public face of the RDS, including the Horse Show, is important, of greater importance is what goes on behind the scenes, that is at the heart of what the RDS stands for. Each generation of members can find something important to contribute at a given time." John is an obvious choice to

become president of the philanthropic organisation at the end of this year. One of John's principal goals would be to get a new Anglesea Stand built to replace the existing one which was constructed in 1928 at a cost of £32,000.

AN ORGANISED LIFE

Taking on the presidency of the RDS would inevitably curtail John Dardis's other lifelong interests. A keen rugby player in his youth, he was also a noted rugby referee for many years. These days, he enjoys attending Leinster and Ireland games. Likewise, his long love of freshwater fishing will probably be somewhat restrained by the responsibilities of RDS leadership. Nevertheless, when the salmon are running in the waters of Lough Corrib, John will hope to find time to cast a line. "If you organise your life with any degree of efficiency, there will be time to do all the things that are important to you."





Pork & Bacon, so versatile!

Always choose pork and bacon with the Bord Bia Quality Mark. It ensures your food has been produced to the highest Bord Bia quality standards, verified at every stage.

BORD BIA
IRISH FOOD BOARD



Pork Meatballs with Coriander and Coconut Milk recipe available at: www.bordbia.ie/pork

'Science working for you'

Visit Teagasc's large outdoor exhibit at **Block 3, Row 17, Stand 282** as we demonstrate how farmers can produce profitably while reducing environmental impact.



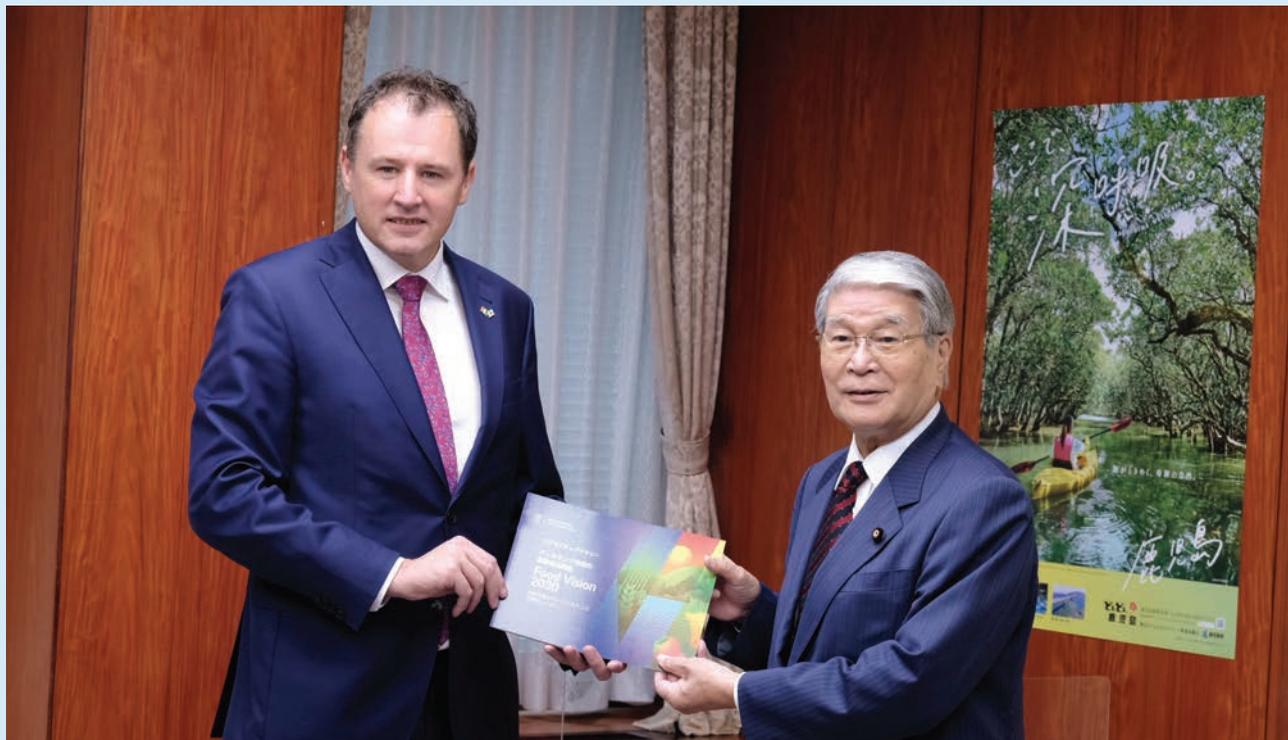
Inside the Teagasc marquee

- Talk with experts on any farm enterprise or issue related to farming....
- Or try your tractor driving skills on a state of the art simulator
- Download the new Teagasc app!
- Or learn about career opportunities at Teagasc

Block 3, Row 17, Stand 282

ASIAN TRADE MISSION FOCUSES ON MARKET DEVELOPMENT

THE RECENT AGRI-FOOD TRADE MISSION TO ASIA, COVERING JAPAN AND SINGAPORE, FOCUSED ON MARKET ACCESS AND DEVELOPMENT FOR IRISH FOOD, IN PARTICULAR MEAT PRODUCTS.



Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine Charlie McConalogue TD, and Mr Tetsuro Nomura, Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, in Japan.

Speaking ahead of the Trade Mission, Minister Charlie McConalogue noted that this trade mission to Japan and Singapore represents a critical opportunity to further promote Ireland's high quality, safe and sustainably produced food and drink products in Japan, Singapore and the wider South-East Asian premium markets. "We have successfully opened and expanded market access for Irish beef and sheepmeat exports to Japan in recent years, and this trade mission provides us with another opportunity to promote these exports to Japan. This is our third trade mission to the region since 2017 and I am excited to build on the great work that has been done before. My key focus is on opening and developing new markets that will grow our world class food sector in order to deliver stronger returns to the farm families of Ireland

who are the bedrock of our industry." "This Trade Mission will strengthen and build ties between Ireland and the region in relation to agri-food trade. It will raise awareness of Ireland's sustainable food production systems and our commitment to supporting business-to-business relationships which can make a real difference to Irish food and drink exporters." Bord Bia's launch of its three-year regional strategy will be the focus of its part of the trade mission to Japan and South-East Asia. Its new regional strategy outlines a target of €800 million in Irish food and drink exports to South-East Asia by 2025, led by the dairy and meat sectors.

JAPAN

Total agri-food exports to Japan in 2021

amounted reached almost €180 million, a 20 per cent increase when compared to 2020 and a 350 per cent increase over the last decade, according to CSO trade statistics. Last year, dairy exports to Japan, mainly cheddar cheese, amounted to €66 million; with pigmeat exports at €50 million; and beef exports were valued at over €28m. Fish (€16 million) and beverages (€10 million) are other important export categories.

Minister McConalogue commented: "Ireland's positive relationship with Japan is going from strength to strength as evidenced by the Taoiseach's recent visit in July and the vibrant trading partnership between our countries. This has seen Irish food exports to Japan continue to grow over the last few years even when faced with the recent global supply chain shocks. We share many

cultural outlooks on food and farming so this will be a great opportunity to enhance our relationship. I look forward to building on the strong Government to Government relationships we have during my meetings with my counterparts in Japan and to promoting Ireland's high quality food offering in this valuable market."

SINGAPORE

Singapore is a critical regional hub in South-East Asian supply chains. In Singapore, Minister McConalogue and Bord Bia CEO Michael Murphy attended Food & Hotel Asia (FHA) trade show where 10 Irish companies participated. FHA is the largest trade event of its kind in the region attracting over 80,000 visitors. FHA featured a Bord Bia pavilion aimed at building reputation among trade media of Irish food and drink industry. Minister McConalogue stated that: "The South-East Asian market continues to grow at pace and represents a priority target market for diversification of Irish food exports. I look forward to setting out Ireland's commitment to sustainable food production and our ambition for Ireland to be a world leader in Sustainable Food Systems, encompassing sustainability in all its dimensions – environmental, social and economic. I am also pleased to support a number of our leading food exporters in engaging with high value customers in this market and showcasing the quality of the offering from Irish food producers."

Michael Murphy, Chief Executive of Bord Bia, said: "Irish food and drink exports to

South-East Asia last year were valued at €535 million, a 25 per cent increase on 2020. These figures demonstrate that even against the backdrop of the challenges posed by the pandemic alongside other macro factors such as logistical issues and higher dairy prices, customers in this region are still committed to sourcing sustainable, quality produce they trust. Irish dairy exporters are well positioned to supply ingredients to manufacturers producing western style bakery, functional drinks and other consumer products, while retailers and restaurants across this region are finding success with Irish meats, seafood and alcohol. Ireland's national sustainability programme, Origin Green, resonates particularly well in this sector and Bord Bia's new strategy will provide a roadmap for these food businesses to explore and substantially increase their business with Ireland."

MEAT MARKET ACCESS

Minister McConalogue met with Mr Tetsuro Nomura, Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and separately with Mr Katsunobu Kato, Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare, to discuss a range of issues of mutual concern, as well as opportunities for further cooperation.

Minister McConalogue commented: "The joint leaders' statement signed by Taoiseach Micheál Martin with Prime Minister Kishida during his visit to Japan last month reflects the depth of the bilateral relationship between our two countries. I was very pleased to meet Minister Nomura and Minister Kato, to congratulate each of them

on their recent appointments to these key Ministries; to outline our Food Vision 2030 ambition for Ireland to be a world leader in sustainable food systems; and to explore opportunities for future collaboration, particularly in the field of research and innovation.

"In terms of meat market access, my Department has engaged in detail with the Japanese authorities over recent years, including locating an agricultural attaché in the Embassy of Ireland in Tokyo. This effort is now paying off – we have market access to Japan for pigmeat; our beef market access was further enhanced last year to include minced meat and burgers; and market access for sheepmeat was achieved in 2019. "I also raised Ireland's application for market access for poultry meat, which is currently at desktop review stage, and which I hope will be progressed in the time ahead. Japan sets high standards for food imports, and meeting these exacting requirements is an endorsement of the animal health, welfare and food safety controls systems enforced by my Department as the competent authority certifying meat exports. Irish food companies can now avail of these new market opportunities, with support and guidance from Bord Bia.

"Japan and Ireland have many cultural connections especially around our deep respect for our farm families as well as our love of high-quality food. Ireland and our world-class food sector is well-placed to deliver safe and sustainable food exports to Japan in the time ahead."

WORLD STEAK CHALLENGE

The eagerly awaited World Steak Challenge is back this year, taking place taking place on the 27th and 28th of September in Dublin, putting the very best cuts of beef to the test. Now in its 8th year, the competition showcases the top steak producers and suppliers from around the world, all competing in the three categories of fillet, rib eye and sirloin. With more entries than ever before from 20 different countries worldwide, the steaks are high for this year's challenge.

Coming top for the last three years is a Finnish Ayrshire sirloin from JN Meat International; fed up to 500 grams of chocolate daily, the steak was praised by judges for its sweet and tender taste. With previous winners including steak farmers, cattle farmers and ranchers, beef processors, brands and wholesalers, this global competition has hundreds of entries already this year and provides an opportunity to highlight product quality on a global scale.

This year's Challenge is taking place in conjunction with the official host partner, Bord Bia, the equipment partner, Synergy Grill Technology and the judging partner, FIRE Steakhouse. The awards will be announced at the Round Room at the Mansion House in Dublin, the perfect setting for the awards following Ireland's success of winning a record-breaking 46 golds at last year's event. All the 46 gold-medal winning cuts were grass-fed with the most popular, the sirloin scoring 19 medals, followed by rib eye which won 16 and the fillet with 11.



WHEN DETAILS
MATTER

NEW MECHFIBER+ RANGE

Farming is changing and our diet feeders are evolving to help you drive increased productivity.

Every intricate detail has been fine-tuned and enhanced to take the unique MechFiber mix to the next level.

With a new paddle design providing better mix quality and consistency and brand new features such as the KEENAN 4G controller, telematics and design elements, the MechFiber+ is proven to deliver results and help you drive increased productivity.

059 977 1200

 @KEENANGlobal  @KEENANsystem

 @keenan_system

keenansystem.com

#changeformthebetter



KEENAN
an  Altech company

NEW ZEALAND WEATHER WOES

OLIN GREENAN AND HIS FARMING COLLEAGUES IN NEW ZEALAND HAD WHAT OLIN DESCRIBED AS A 'BIZZARE' PERIOD OF WEATHER SINCE MID-WINTER, UP TO THE END OF JULY, WHEN HE SPOKE TO MATT O'KEEFFE

"We had a very dry period with the normal Autumn rains never materialising. We never got sufficient moisture until well into June. As a result, our pasture cover entering the calving season was very low. It was a real struggle with pre-calving covers nowhere near where they should have been. That put us on the back foot before we even got started, with a lot of supplements being used that should normally have been set aside for filling any gaps in the feed regime later on in the summer."

UNPRECEDENTED MILK PRICE

Olin took a sanguine view that things even out in the longer run and was planning his way through to better times. His thoughts on milk price were extremely positive: "Without putting any other context on it, the price outlook is positive. Factor in higher costs and

the picture is not as clear cut. A nine-to-ten-dollar milk price outlook is unknown territory for us in New Zealand. Prior to last year the forecasts were sitting around the six-dollar mark."

"However, there's a lot more to the story and the big challenge is the phenomenal cost inflation that is running in tandem with increased milk price. It really is quite frightening and there's nothing we can do about it. Increased energy costs are the biggest single factor. As well as some energy element trickling through into any input that comes onto the farm, including fuel, feed and fertiliser, there are also increases in labour costs. Everyone that works on a farm has to spend more to live so that has to be taken into consideration in wages. These increased costs are having a huge impact on farm profitability, despite higher milk prices."

Long term production slow down
The general perception in Ireland is that the rate of increase in milk volumes year on year in NZ is slowing. Olin concurs: "The phrase 'peak cows' has been used. There may even be a contraction in cow numbers. However, that doesn't necessarily lead to an overall drop in production per se. Fewer, more efficient cows may end up producing the same or more milk. As far as expansion and more land being converted to dairy, that is over, as far as I can see. The slow down last season was more weather related with farmers unwilling to chase extra production through feeding costly supplementary feed. The profitability would have been marginal at best."

INDUSTRY-LED CLIMATE APPROACH

The attitude to climate change emission



reductions has been different to the Irish approach: "The industry including Dairy NZ, NZ Beef and Lamb, as well as farmers sat down together, agreed they had a unique set of circumstances and decided to meet the situation on the front foot as regards solving the challenges facing the industry. The idea was to have the strategy farmer-led, rather than being told what to do and having solutions imposed on us. There was a lot of farmer input and consultation. The argument that methane is a short-lived gas was factored in as a defence. That was recognised as valid. Ultimately, there was a set of measures recommended to government that farming would have its own emissions pricing system. The aspiration is that the industry will be allowed to set its own emissions cost and pricing structure. It will be an on-farm measure with farmers paying a set base

IF YOU LOOK ACROSS THE WORLD, IT'S A DIFFICULT TIME TO BE A DAIRY FARMER, BEING CRITICISED CONSTANTLY. AT THE SAME TIME, IT IS IRONIC THAT FOOD SECURITY HAS NOT BEEN AS IMPORTANT SINCE WORLD WAR TWO."

price. Monies paid by farmers can then be reallocated to finance other measures, all with the ultimate aim of reducing overall emissions. From the outside, it is a positive response from the industry. However, as you can imagine, this strategy has not gone down well with other sectors of the NZ economy. The questions are being asked as to why agriculture is seen as being given special dispensations. It's not a done deal because of this kick-back from the other sectors. At least we have been proactive in coming up with proposals, but the ultimate outcome is not yet clear. If you look across the world, including Ireland and the Netherlands, it's a difficult time to be a dairy farmer, being criticised constantly. At the same time, it is ironic that

food security has not been as important since World War Two."

CLIMATE IMPACT ON GRASS PRODUCTION

We have long known that the inclusion of clover in the sward has been part and parcel of NZ dairy farm management for generations. It's not all positive right now as Olin explains: "We are getting harsher and harsher summers with more extended dry periods. That's particularly the case on the peat type soils we are farming on in this area. There were trials done on these soils outside of Hamilton in the early period of the production season. Very high soil temperatures were measured. That means that ryegrasses are finding it very difficult to survive and thrive with farmers struggling to maintain pasture persistency. That is driving a renewed examination of mixed species pastures. It looks like we have two things going on. The climate is changing and there is the challenge of feeding cows adequately while reducing methane emission levels as far as possible. There is a lot of work going on in developing methane inhibitors with research being financed. Not everyone has the ability to feed a methane inhibiting supplement, though, and that will be a specific challenge to widespread adoption on farms." Different infrastructure cost base Most NZ cows are outwintered so the cost and infrastructural implications of providing massive slurry storage facilities are not as pressing in New Zealand, Olin says: "We don't have that need for extended storage of slurry, though we have had to develop facilities for more effluent storage for the wetter periods of the year. On the other hand, the proposed system of emission charges will add considerable cost to the farm if brought in as currently proposed. It all makes it more difficult to run a farm profitably."



PHYSIOLITH

→ PHYSIO +

Soil Conditioner with Root Stimulant

THE PRODUCT



Marine Calcium Soil Conditioner

25.7% Ca – 1.5% Mg

Higher solubility, porosity and reactivity than conventional lime



Root Stimulant

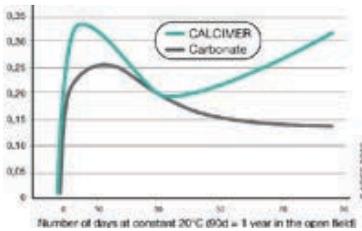
Seaweed Extracts
Plant hormone stimulation for root, plant growth and health



BENEFITS

Soil Surface pH

- ✓ Liming agent to maintain soil pH
- ✓ Higher solubility and reactivity than standard (carbonate) lime



Source of Calcium

- ✓ Essential plant nutrient
- ✓ Soil structural benefits
- ✓ Balancer for high soil magnesium to improve soil structure

Grow & Use more Grass

- ✓ Higher grass yield
- ✓ Healthier swards and faster recovery after grazing
- ✓ **1.6 t/ha of additional DM** measured in on-farm trials
- ✓ Unlocking upto 50kg of additional N from the soil reserves.



Soil

Grass

Animals

Soil Health

- ✓ Optimised soil pH for soil biology and earthworms
- ✓ Porous nature of Calcimer® provides habitat for essential soil bacteria and fungi to flourish



Nutrient Uptake

- ✓ Soil pH optimises nutrient availability in the soil and efficiency of fertilisers
- ✓ Root stimulant allows better nutrient uptake by the plant roots
- ✓ Natural source of trace elements
- ✓ Breakdown of organic matter and slurry to release nutrients

Grass Quality

- ✓ Nutritionally superior grass with higher Calcium and Phosphorus contents
- ✓ **13-18 % increase in P content**
- ✓ **8-17 % increase in Ca content** (On-farm grazing trials comparing mineral contents in grazed grass with or without physiolith application)



Soil health is drawn into focus as the challenges around fertiliser price and fertiliser limits continue. Irish soils are amongst the most productive and healthiest soils in the world, however we can do more to tackle the short, medium and long term challenges of Irish agriculture.

The soil contains a large pool of labile nitrogen (N). The labile N can be converted from an organic form to a plant available form of N through the process of mineralisation. Mineralisation is driven by soil biological activity. Studies carried out by Grassland Agro have found that grassland soils across the island of Ireland have on average a store of 350 kg N/Ha of labile N which could potentially be made available throughout the year.

FERTILISER

The key to unlocking the soils labile N is through optimising the three pillars of soil health: Soil chemical, physical and biological properties. Soil chemistry is the representation of a soils fertility using soil pH and Morgan's soil test. It is important that soil pH is maintained as is the single major factor dictating overall soil health. Soil biology can now be tested by using the Bioscan Solvita test.

Soil structure can be assessed using the Grass VESS method. Grassland Agro have over 40 agronomists across the country working with farmers to optimise soil health and perform sampling. In the same study performed in 2021, it was found that soil structure poses a major threat to overall soil health and soil mineralisation potential on grassland soils.

SOIL BIOLOGY

It's our soil biology that turns organic N (plant unavailable) into plant available N through a process caused mineralisation. Mineralisation is a simple process where the organic nitrogen is broken down by fungi, bacteria and earthworms and turned into plant available forms. It is paramount that soil pH is optimised (6.3-6.5) to ensure a habitat for soil biology to live and work effectively.

Increasing the bacteria and fungi in the soil will release more N. Mineralisation will also increase phosphorus (P) and Sulphur (S) availability from soil reserves. The soil supply of N from mineralisation will become available throughout the year from the soil reserves. Subsequently by increasing this baseline of N from the soil reserves, application rates of chemical N can be reduced.

SOIL STRUCTURE

Soil structure is very important to provide the best living conditions for soil fungi, bacteria and earthworms. Soil pH has a very important role in soil structure as it can help create structure in the soil and also increase biological activity and root development. Structure is also very important in determining nutrient availability; the impact of poor soil structure can be seen during the summer as P becomes less available to the plant and as a result, animals can be seen licking or chewing on stones.

This is sometimes witnessed on soil P index 4 soils but the nutrients cannot be taken up by the plant because of poor soil structure. Soil structure also results in poor or shallow rooting. Roots are very important as they are responsible for the uptake of nutrients. Optimal soil structure creates better drainage, warmer soils, early grass growth and causes better nutrient filtration and storage to improve water quality.

SOIL HEALTH

Through priming and kick starting soil biology and improving soil structure through the application of a soil conditioner like Physiolith, more N can be unlocked from the soil reserves. On farm trials have shown an additional release of 60 kg N/ha from the soil in a single season. These soil conditioners will increase the efficiency of the chemical and organic fertiliser applied throughout the year, reducing the requirement for chemical N. Physiolith is an ideal partner for organic manures such as slurry and will fast track the release of the organic fraction of slurry N which can be used to offset chemical nitrogen.

Maximising the soil supply of N through mineralisation due to increased biological activity will offset chemical N and maintain growth as legislation and fertiliser reductions loom. These soil properties are fundamental to tackling the environmental, economic and social sustainability issues facing all Irish agriculture.



If you would like to find out more about Grassland Agro and what services we provide, you can do so by;

- Contacting your local Grassland Agro representative
- Visiting our webpage www.grasslandagro.ie
- Following us on our social media channels
- You can also tune in to our pod cast "The Sod Pod" streaming fortnightly.

HARVEST COMPLETED



A HARVEST THAT BROUGHT REASONABLE YIELDS AND HIGH-QUALITY GRAINS ALSO HAD SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGES, AS BOBBY MILLER EXPLAINED TO MATT O'KEEFE IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE HARVEST.

“With a few exceptional days of wet weather, the conditions for this year’s harvest were ideal. That allowed farmers to get the work done efficiently and quickly. Winter barley yields were very mixed with some good performances but also several crops that did not deliver. Some of that can be put down to severe BYDV infections as well as outbreaks of take-all in some fields. Winter wheat yields were more impressive and generally consistent across the country. Oilseed crops delivered respectable yields and the main concern at the end of August was that conditions were too dry for sowing, even though the optimum time to sow winter OSR is in the latter half of August. The oat crop gave good yields to most growers this year and spring barley had good average yields except for very dry ground and areas which might be deficient in nutrients.” Spring wheat and beans were on the verge of harvesting and were expected to yield well.

A VOLATILE MARKET

Volatility was the word Bobby to describe grain prices at the end of August: “Huge volatility in grain prices driven by uncertain yields across Europe and North America. Currency fluctuations are also impacting on price. Severe drought conditions in parts of the Corn Belt in the States as well as across large areas of China are also causing a lot of grain price uncertainty. Add in the war in Ukraine and it’s easy to see how uncertain the entire grain market is right now.”

ENERGY CHARGE

Malting barley should secure a premium price but that premium has been eroded, as Bobby confirmed: “Malting barley has been a hot topic of conversation among growers for several reasons. The premium has been reduced in tandem with prices generally. An energy charge was introduced unexpectedly just before the harvest. This charge was announced just as growers were about

to deliver grain. It is a processing and handling cost and should be borne by the grain assemblers not the growers. We have enough energy costs to handle already. Because of the low moistures growers were losing out with reductions in overall tonnages compared to grain delivered at 20 per cent moisture. Tillage farmers were shocked that this energy surcharge was agreed to. It has a knock-on effect when farmers go in to negotiate price and conditions for their other crops. Ultimately, these came about after negotiations, we understand, between IFA and Boormalt. There has also been controversy around the percentage division between brewing and distilling barley in the grading system. Growers had to ensure they had 30 per cent distilling grade barley and 70 per cent brewing quality, even though, when that stipulation was announced, it was months too late for growers to influence the outcome by managing fertiliser inputs.



“TILLAGE NEEDS TO BE MORE PROFITABLE IF IT IS TO COMPETE FOR LAND. THAT IS ACHIEVABLE WITH THE RIGHT INVESTMENT, ESPECIALLY IN MORE FOOD GRADE CROPS AS DISTINCT FROM FEED GRADE CROPS.”

Previously, this would have been managed in-house by assemblers as grain comes in. It has cost growers a lot of money, in some cases because they were locked in by forward pricing and then found they were short of supply for the percentages required. We are working hard to deliver on environmental sustainability and took a hit on economic sustainability through no fault of our own.

DRY GRAIN

Bobby is in no doubt that weather conditions, while excellent for harvesting, contrived to reduce profitability in one particular aspect: “Growers would have been better off harvesting grain at 20 per cent or 21 per cent moisture this year rather than down at 15 per cent or even down at 12 per cent or below in some cases. The extreme heat in July drove down moistures down incredibly quickly as grain was being harvested. Moisture was falling by up to four per cent in a couple of days. There is a difference in tonnage between grain cut at 20 per cent and grain at 10 per cent of

almost ten per cent in weight. That’s a huge reduction in yield not made up for in lower moisture levels. That hundred kilos loss per tonne is the profit on that tonne of grain.

UNCERTAIN FUTURE PROSPECTS

There is a lot of uncertainty about the next season, even as growers plan ahead, says the Grain Growers Group representative: “We don’t know where we stand in terms of fertiliser price or availability. It’s a key concern as well as the price of crop protectants. All the indications are that these will be price hiked again in the coming months. While 2022 was a very worrying year and thankfully we had a half decent year with good harvesting weather and reasonable average yields, 2023 will definitely be more expensive in production costs especially winter barley and wheat production costs.”

The benefits of tillage

The Stradbally grain grower highlighted the potential benefits of increased tillage acreage: “We know that agriculture has to reduce emissions by 25 per cent. Tillage

can help in that regard because Irish grain production could be considered as carbon neutral. Therefore, the more tillage we have in the country the better. Having said that, if its not profitable then the acreage is not going to expand. Tillage needs to be more profitable if it is to compete for land. That is achievable with the right investment, especially in more food grade crops as distinct from feed grade crops. The OSR I grew this year was exported to the UK because there was a limited market here. That’s an example of potential opportunity but unless investment is made in processing, marketing and utilisation the sector will not improve or expand.”

NITRATES NEGOTIATIONS

The Nitrates challenge is an important issue for grain growers: “It has been a key worry for us since last March. When we heard that we were expected to cultivate all our land post-harvest it didn’t make sense on any level. We got talking to the Department and Teagasc officials and I want to acknowledge their positive response. Without the practical solutions it would have put enormous energy, time and labour costs on growers despite the fact that it wouldn’t have been of any benefit to the environment. Our Grain Growers Group put a lot of effort into delivering a practical solution that works for everyone. It’s not perfect but what is in this world? The focus is on climate and tillage growers are prepared to do their share so long as the proposals are practical and positive.”



Meet our team of
farm specialists at
**THE PLOUGHING
CHAMPIONSHIPS**
Block 1, Row 12,
Stand 199

An aerial photograph of a ploughing competition. A large herd of black and white cows is being driven in a circular pattern by a red tractor. The scene is set on a lush green field.

**Want to be
rewarded for your
low claims record?**

Get up to 30% off AXA SMART FARM INSURANCE.

Know You Can

axa.ie/farm • 0906 435070 • In Branch

Terms & conditions apply. Claims free on your farm for the past 3 years. Windscreen claims are excluded. AXA Insurance dac is regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland.



NATIONAL AND WORLD PLOUGHING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2022

Ratheniska, Co Laois
September 20th, 21st & 22nd

McHale

SILAGE FEEDER &
STRAW BLOWER
RANGE

Visit us at the
Ploughing

Block 2 | Row 14
Stand Number

235

Up to
40%
Straw Savings*

Designed to Blow Straw & Feed Wet Silage & Haylage

C430 LOADING VOLUME
2.2m³



1.3m
CONVEYOR LENGTH

C460 LOADING VOLUME
3.65m³



1.7m
CONVEYOR LENGTH

C470 LOADING VOLUME
4.65m³



2.2m
CONVEYOR LENGTH

C490 LOADING VOLUME
6.85m³



3m
CONVEYOR LENGTH

CALL TODAY

Irish Sales Rep.- James Heanue- 087 247 2399

*Based On User Experience

NPC2022 HAPPENINGS

WELCOME TO THE NATIONAL PLOUGHING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2022!

- ▶ This is the 91st National Ploughing Championships and the 67th World Ploughing Contest
- ▶ The National & World Ploughing Championships will take place in Ratheniska, Co Laois on September 20th, 21st & 22nd
- ▶ Europe's largest out-door event setting trends since 1931
- ▶ Trade exhibition returns for the first time in 3 years - 300,000 visitors are expected over the 3 days and there will be over 1,700 exhibitors with firm favourites returning and several new & exciting businesses attending for the first time
- ▶ There will be 26 international teams from all over the globe competing in the World Ploughing Contest
- ▶ Sustainability is a key objective at NPC 2022 with food waste processed through an anerobic digester to create energy, huge promotion of recyclable products, solar panel lighting towers, cardboard compacters, waste separation operations, litter fines, all brochures printed on paper from a sustainable forest and will be fully recyclable etc.
- ▶ Agri-food fair – discover a vast array of uniquely Irish crafts, artisan food and beverages
- ▶ Machinery at the core of the exhibition with millions of euros worth of agricultural & plant machinery on display. With cutting edge technology, technical experts on hand for free consultations
- ▶ Prestigious 'Machine of the Year' competition
- ▶ Country style at it's best with Celia Holman Lee running 3 fashion shows daily and super prizes for the 'Best Dressed Country Style' competitions
- ▶ Government of Ireland village
- ▶ Agri-tech pavilion
- ▶ Daily 'Reach out country music' radio show hosted by Trudi Lawlors with all the big country music stars between 1pm and 3pm
- ▶ International exhibitors, visitors & buyers from all around the world
- ▶ Estimated economic impact of €45 million for the Irish economy
- ▶ Enterprise Ireland Innovation Arena where ground breaking technologies and cutting-edge ideas come to the fore. International buying delegations will be on hand to seek out potential development opportunities. Innovation Awards for the best projects to set these entrepreneurs on their way to exciting futures. Previous year's winners have gone on to become huge global success stories
- ▶ National Brown Bread Baking competition finals with a prize of €15,000 for the overall winner and the honour of having your loaf sold for 12 months in all 150 Aldi stores nationwide
- ▶ Hunt Chase and Pony Games
- ▶ 32 National Ploughing Classes with the best competitors from all over the country battling it out including loy digging and horse ploughing
- ▶ Sheep Shearing
- ▶ Vintage Display
- ▶ Threshing
- ▶ Cookery and Craft Demonstrations
- ▶ Ireland's Biggest Pop Up Shopping Centre – hundreds of companies in these shared retail space make shopping for a huge variety of clothes and other items a real pleasure
- ▶ Motor Show
- ▶ Education & Training
- ▶ Live Music & Dancing at the bandstand
- ▶ House, Home & Garden
- ▶ Rural Organisations
- ▶ Financial Services
- ▶ Fun Fair Amusements
- ▶ Playground
- ▶ Health, Lifestyle & Tourism
- ▶ Quality livestock at the Ploughing – an ultimate Showcase of all Livestock farming needs, breed societies, live exhibits and displays, health, genetics, feed, equipment and all the farm services required for the livestock producer.



IRELAND TO HOST THE 67TH WORLD PLOUGHING CONTEST

Ireland will have the tremendous honour of holding this year's World Ploughing Contest in Ratheniska, Co Laois on September 21st and 22nd.

World Ploughing Organisation General Secretary Anna Marie McHugh said: "I am delighted that twenty-five countries from all over the globe from Africa to Australia will be participating in this year's World Ploughing Contest in Ireland. The very best international ploughing competitors and their teams will be battling it out on Irish soil in September to become supreme World Champions." The call came from the World Ploughing Board 'could another country step up and host the 2022 World Contest' following the unprecedented cancellation of the event, which had been due to take place this year in Russia. There will be huge excitement in Ireland as the World Ploughing Contest comes to Laois for the first time with crowds of hundreds of thousands in attendance and 1,700 exhibitors expected.



AGRI-INNOVATORS AND BUSINESSES TO PARTICIPATE IN ENTERPRISE IRELAND'S INNOVATION ARENA COMPETITION

Enterprise Ireland's Annual Innovation Arena Awards 2022 competition physically returns to this year's National Ploughing Championship event.

The Innovation Arena Competition, which is run in partnership with the National Ploughing Association, is an annual competition that invites businesses and innovators in the agritech sector to enter their pioneering agri-related products and services for consideration. For the last two years, the awards have been held virtually. However, this year will see the return of the hugely popular 'Enterprise Ireland Innovation Arena' at the three-day National Ploughing Championship. There are a number of prizes across several categories, and those short-listed have been invited to showcase their products and innovative agritech solutions at the 'Enterprise Ireland Innovation Arena', alongside the winners from the virtual competition in 2020 and 2021. Ireland has a long and proud history in the agricultural sector, and now global leaders are increasingly turning to Irish ag-tech innovators for solutions. At the Innovation Arena at the National Ploughing Championship, the future of Irish agritech will be on display, including a wide variety of future proofing solutions along with the latest advances in agri machinery. Last year's competition attracted more



than 50 entries, and the overall winner was Brandon BioScience, from Kerry, who developed a new seaweed-based bio stimulant, which is used in a new Terra range of granular nitrogen fertilisers that improve sustainable farming. The award categories in this year's competition includes the Established Company 'Innovator of the Year Award', the Start-up Company 'Innovator of the Year Award' 2022, the Sustainable Agriculture Award, Agri-Safety Award and Young Innovator of the Year.

Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Leo Varadkar said: "The Innovation Arena Competition brings together some of the brightest minds in Ireland's agricultural sector every year. Ireland is synonymous with agriculture, and it is our own entrepreneurs who are helping to shape

the future of the sector."

NPA Managing Director, Anna May McHugh said: "We are delighted to be partnering with Enterprise Ireland again this year to see the return of the tremendously successful Innovation Arena. The Innovation Arena Awards at the National Ploughing Championships are a wonderful opportunity for anyone who has a good business idea, product or service to showcase at Europe's largest outdoor event with approximately 300,000 visitors and international buyers from all over the world. Throughout the years the Innovation Arena at Ploughing has seen some of the most ground-breaking technologies and amazing cutting-edge ideas, with previous winners going on to have serious success in business both in Ireland and on the global stage."

BRIDGESTONE

New VT-TRACTOR

Low fuel consumption

Reduced soil compaction

Great traction



OVER 30 SMALL COMPANIES SET TO PLOUGH FOR NEW BUSINESS AT LOCAL ENTERPRISE VILLAGE

Small businesses from across the country will have an opportunity to promote themselves at one of Ireland's biggest events as part of this year's Local Enterprise Village at the National Ploughing Championships from the 20-22nd September in Rathiniska, County Laois.

The initiative of the Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs) will see 31 small businesses, one from each LEO, take a stand in the Local Enterprise Village in the heart of the Ploughing Championships, opening their businesses up to almost 300,000 prospective customers across the 3 days of the event.

There will be a variety of products and services on show for the visitors to this year's Ploughing Championships to enjoy, which includes food, fashion, agtech products, farm safety equipment, spirits, sportswear and even skincare for animals!

The Local Enterprise Village was launched by Damien English, T.D., Minister of State for Business, Employment and Retail along with some of the businesses that will be involved including handmade children's furniture company Lucy & Me, luxury natural skincare and home products Jo Browne and Donegal designer Bernie Murphy.

Minister English emphasised how positive it is to have this opportunity back for small businesses: "The Local Enterprise

Village at the Ploughing Championships will showcase the very best of our small business community from across the country. I look forward to joining with almost 300,000 people at the Ploughing and have the opportunity to meet with some of the businesses embedded in our communities and who are the drivers of local economic growth and job creation. Visitors to the Village can expect to see the depth and diversity of amazing small businesses who are supported by Government through their Local Enterprise Office." Kieran Comerford, from the Local Enterprise Offices, outlined what a significant opportunity this is for these businesses: "Small businesses very rarely get an opportunity like this and it could be a significant event for them all in the growth of their business. They will be at the very heart of the action at the Ploughing Championships getting the chance to tell their stories and sell their products and services to a massive new audience, an audience that will be excited to be back following a two-year break. "We have been working with these businesses across the Summer to ensure they maximise this opportunity through sales and marketing training and stand design. The Local Enterprise Village is always a great buzz and no doubt will be one of the big hits for visitors to Rathiniska this September." NPA President James Sutton said: "It is

wonderful to see that so many diverse and interesting companies will be represented at this year's National Ploughing Championships' 'Local Enterprise Village.' This is a fantastic opportunity for these small local businesses to showcase their products to the 300,000 visitors expected throughout the 3 days." The Local Enterprise Village is just one of a number of initiatives that the Local Enterprise Offices run, to foster entrepreneurship across the country. Others include Local Enterprise Week, the National Enterprise Awards, the Student Enterprise Programme, National Women's Enterprise Day and Local Enterprise Showcase. The Local Enterprise Offices in local authorities are funded by the Government of Ireland through Enterprise Ireland.

Established in 2014, the Local Enterprise Offices are the essential resource for any entrepreneur looking to start a business or any small business that is looking for support or advice to help them grow. Since their inception eight years ago, the Local Enterprise Offices have helped create over 20,000 jobs across the country. The LEOs work with thousands of client companies across Ireland in a diverse range of sectors offering mentoring, training, expert advice and financial supports to small businesses. For more information see www.LocalEnterprise.ie

FENDT

fendt.co.uk | Fendt is a worldwide brand of AGCO.



Fendt Early Bird



Fendt Early Bird 2023.

Fendt Early Bird 2023 starts on 5th July 2022. Enjoy exclusive price advantages on our huge Early Bird sale for products in the field of harvesting equipment and forage harvesting technology. Find out more at www.fendt.com/earlybird



Scan me to
find out more

It's Fendt. Because we understand Agriculture.



KEEPING YOU SAFE

The Ploughing and FBD: Keeping You Safe child safety wristband project will be an important feature again at this year's National Ploughing Championships.

This important endeavour will involve the distribution of over 40,000 white wristbands at all of the event entrances, which will allow a contact phone number to be written on the band in case the wearer wanders off amidst the large gathering.

"We are delighted to be partnering up with FBD again on this excellent safety concept as all can now rest assured that loved ones will be returned safely in case they wander away in the massive crowds that will be in attendance. With 300,000 visitors expected over the course of the three days these wristbands give reassurance and great peace-of-mind to all attending the event and add immensely to visitor experience", said NPA MD Anna May McHugh. "A day at Ploughing is a brilliant family day with something of interest for all ages and tastes and children are particularly well catered for with a Playground, Baby Changing Areas, Fun Fair, Pony Games, over 1,000 Animals of all types, Junior Baking Competitions, Sporting Heroes, TV Stars, Sweet & Toy Stands and much more," she added.

FBD CEO Tomás O'Midheach said "Everyone at FBD Insurance is delighted to return and support Ploughing this year. We are especially pleased to continue our support for the wristband child safety initiative. Over the years, this important initiative has proved incredibly useful in protecting children should they become separated from their parents or loved ones while attending the largest event in the Irish farming calendar."

THE NATIONAL BROWN BREAD BAKING COMPETITION IS BACK!

ALDI will once again sponsor the National Brown Bread Baking Competition, in association with the National Ploughing Association (NPA) and the Irish Countrywomen's Association (ICA) for the 8th year.

All finalists will attend the finals from September 20th - 22nd at the National Ploughing Championships in Ratheniska, Co. Laois. ALDI Ireland Group Buying Director, John Curtin said: "At ALDI, we are a proud supporter of Irish suppliers and producers, so we are delighted to sponsor The National Brown Bread Baking Competition once again this year. Last year's winning product 'Aisling's Brown Bread' has been a great success, and we want to ensure that Ireland's best bakers have the opportunity to take part in this fantastic competition again this year. We look forward to sampling some of Ireland's best brown bread in the coming weeks and announcing the winner on



September 22nd at the National Ploughing Championships in Ratheniska, Co. Laois." NPA Managing Director, Anna May McHugh, said: "The NPA is delighted that the hugely popular National Brown Bread Baking competition is taking place for the 8th year in a row. Every year the interest grows and the standard escalates with hundreds of entries from all around the country. The

National Ploughing Championship returns for the first time since 2019, from September 20th to 22nd with the highly anticipated National Brown Bread Baking winner being announced on the final day - it is not to be missed!" The winning brown bread will be stocked in all ALDI stores in Ireland for twelve months and the winner will receive a first prize of €15,000.



THE NEW SERIES 5.

UNIQUE CAPABILITIES, MULTIPLE POSSIBILITIES.



SERIES

5

landini.it/en

LANDINI SERIES 5 STAGE V. THE ULTIMATE LEVEL OF HIGH-TECH UTILITY.

The new **Landini Series 5 Stage V** is a truly versatile tractor, designed with maximum efficiency and reliability in mind, with automotive-style superior comfort to make the perfect working partner around the farm.

Contact your local dealer today to find out more or call us direct on: (+44) 1302 757550



Landini®

Passion for Innovation.



From left: Denis Keohane, John Tracey, John Whelan, Patsy Condron, Anna May McHugh, managing director; Mick Mahon, chairman; Anna Marie McHugh, John Deery, Tom Fahey and PJ Lynam. Picture: Alf Harvey.>>

RETURN OF THE PLOUGHING

ALL EYES ARE ON RATHENISKA, COUNTY LAOIS, FOR THE RETURN OF THE NATIONAL PLOUGHING CHAMPIONSHIP THIS MONTH. ANNA MARIE MCHUGH RECENTLY SPOKE TO MATT O'KEEFFE ABOUT PREPARATIONS FOR THE EVENT

"It's a case of planned chaos at this stage in early September. We have a full house of exhibitors with a waiting list for late applicants. Our priority continues to be to have an agricultural and ploughing emphasis because that is as it should be. Our patrons want diversity and that is always taken into account in having variety in our exhibition space, whether that is in demonstrations, machines or general product exhibitions. We were working in the dark to some extent after two years of a Covid absence as to whether the support would be there from competitors, exhibitors and the general public. However, it quickly became clear that there is a huge appetite among ploughing contestants, exhibitors and the public to have an opportunity to attend the Ploughing."

THIRTY-SEVEN KILOMETRES OF ROADWAY

The statistics for infrastructure being put in place for the Laois event are quite staggering as Anna Marie outlines: "There are thirty-seven kilometres of steel trackway alone. That's the level of infrastructure needed to run the Ploughing properly. We promised the exhibitors that there would be a roadway right up to their stand and when you have

hundreds of exhibitors and stands then the infrastructure, whether that's trackway, electricity, wifi, water and the rest, has to be delivered to a high standard. We pride ourselves on delivering in that regard. The site has to be built so that it is, as far as possible, capable of dealing with a range of weather conditions. There was a time when we thought that rain and soft surfaces were the biggest challenge possible. Tullamore taught us that wind can be a major problem. That was an extreme once-off that we hope we won't have to face again."

LOCKED-UP ENTHUSIASM

Anna Marie is conscious of the desire of people to participate in outdoor events this year after the extended lockdowns since 2019: "We have had very positive ticket sales and the real proof of interest is in the fact that our NPA members are so enthusiastic about the return of the Ploughing.

We are advising visitors to buy entry tickets online because we don't want people to be disappointed if it turns out that their chosen attendance day is sold out before the event. It also allows attendees to get in more quickly than queueing to purchase tickets on the day."

NO ROOM FOR COMPLACENCY

While most observers believe that the Ratheniska site is perfect for this huge outdoor event in terms of access to the site, traffic management and overall ease of crowd management, Anna Marie is taking a proactive approach: "Just because it all worked well previously doesn't make us complacent. You are only as good as your last day out. It is a compact site with good road infrastructure around it. But it still must be managed well in terms of signage, traffic direction and sheer manpower to ensure that it all goes off well without any problems or unacceptable delays. That's why we work so closely with the Gardaí and the County Council in preparing and refining and ultimately carrying out the traffic plan. It worked well seven years ago, and our aim is for it to work at least as well this time. One of the big positives is that there is so much carparking close to the site thanks to the cooperation and involvement local landowners."

A COSTLY EXERCISE

The NPA has had virtually no income for the past two years and costs have risen significantly, as they have across the entire economy. As a consequence, exhibitor fees

CASHFLOW SOLUTIONS TAILORED TO YOUR BUSINESS NEEDS

WE BACK BRAVE

David O'Leary
Dairy Farmer, Co Kerry.



Talk to us about financial flexibility for your business, with cashflow solutions like the Farmer Credit Line.



Backing Brave



Customer received a gratuity. Lending criteria, terms and conditions apply. Over 18s only. Security may be required. Allied Irish Banks, p.l.c. is regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland.

have increased, though not inordinately, as Anna Marie confirms: "Our fee increases are around thirteen per cent, that's marginal given the increased costs associated with running the event. It's not about making profits. We need to remain viable and have enough in the kitty to carry us through to the next time out."

WORLD PLOUGHING

The Ukrainian war necessitated a change of venue for the World Ploughing Championships. The NPA offered to host the event at short notice: "There would usually be three or four years to prepare for a World Ploughing. The calendar and venues are

set out to 2037. That's how far ahead the planning process is normally. Three months ago, the governing body decided that Russia was not a suitable venue. We agreed to make it happen in Ireland at short notice. There have been big challenges, especially with accommodation and the logistics generally associated with getting competitors and machines into the country and arranging a full programme for competitors and officials outside of the pure ploughing competitions themselves. They will be here in Ireland for eight to ten days so it has taken a lot of organisation in a short space of time. We are delighted to have pulled it all together in a short time frame. The hotels in the region

have helped us as far as possible to make this happen and we are grateful for that. There are two hundred official international delegates together with many hundreds of connections arriving for the World Ploughing so it is no small feat. Despite the challenges in making it happen, it is a huge honour and what better way to celebrate the return of the Ploughing than hosting the World Ploughing Championships. From a personal perspective it is the first time that Laois has hosted the world event so that makes it extra special." *The National and World Ploughing Championships are being held at Ratheniska in county Laois on Tuesday 20th, Wednesday 21st and Thursday 22nd of September.*

Certa managing director Andrew Graham; Anna May McHugh, NPA managing director and Mick Mahon, NPA chairman at Certa, Tullamore for the launch of Certa as the official fuel supplier to Ploughing 2022 at Ratheniska, Co. Laois 20th-22nd September next.



CERTA FUEL THIS YEAR'S 'PLOUGHING'

NPA ARE DELIGHTED TO TEAM UP WITH CERTA AS THE OFFICIAL FUEL SPONSOR FOR THIS YEAR'S NATIONAL PLOUGHING CHAMPIONSHIPS.

Celebrating this collaboration, over one hundred promotional road sign billboards were erected at strategic locations throughout the country and a competition was set up to win a pair of complimentary tickets to this year's event, where entrants could simply take a photo of a sign in their locality and share on NPA/Certa socials.

At the Certa/Ploughing launch NPA Managing Director Anna May McHugh spoke of the sponsorship: "I am delighted that Certa are on board this year as the official fuel sponsorship partner of the largest outdoor event in Europe with

300,000 visitors expected throughout the 3 days. Certa will supply all of the event fuel requirements for the 3 days including fueling all the generators for powering the site, the lighting towers that extend out to a radius of over 30 km from the main site, all the event machinery, upwards of 350 competitors tractors and nearly 50 international competitors who will be battling it out in 67th World Ploughing Contest."

Andrew Graham Managing Director of Certa said: "After the postponing of the 2020 event, and limited attendance in 2021, it is truly excellent to see the National

Ploughing Championships return full throttle for 2022. At Certa, we are delighted to be working closely with the NPA as the official fuel & lubricants sponsors of this year's event. We are especially proud to be supplying our low-carbon, commercial biofuel - HVO to power all of the NPA generators on site which will reduce carbon emissions by up to 90 per cent compared to previous years when diesel powered the generators.

This is a great milestone for the event which is so central to Ireland's rural community and we're all greatly looking forward to an amazing three days in Co. Laois!"

ULM 412 H
ULM 415 H

ULTRA LIGHT MANITOU

Overall width

1.49m

4.30m

Max Lifting Height

Overall height

1.92m



Compact size for easy trailer towing



Panoramic roof gives great visibility



Range of attachments

Introducing the new Ultra Light Manitou range. The ULM machines are very compact making them easy to tow on a trailer and perfect for working in tight spaces.



For more information please visit www.manitou.com or call 01202 810400

50
YEARS
MANITOU
UNITED KINGDOM 1972 - 2022



MANITOU UNVEIL NEW TELEHANDLER

Manitou ULM Manitou Group has revealed and launched the new ultra-compact telehandler model which has been designed to meet the needs of users who want a versatile machine that's easy to use and easy to transport.

The Ultra Light Manitou named the "ULM" has 2 models available, the ULM 412 H with a lifting capacity of 1250kg and the ULM 415 H with a lifting capacity of 1500kg, both with a lift height of 4.30 m. The ULM 412 H offers a transportable weight at 2500kg whilst the 415 H has a weight of 2700kg (depending on the configuration). Both transportable by a trailer with a PTAC of 3,500kg. Its dimensions are among the most compact on the market with a width of just 1.49 m and a height of 1.92 m, this machine has been perfectly designed for a number of sectors including construction, agriculture, landscaping and equestrian. This ultra diverse and compact telehandler enables users to work in the smallest of spaces and easily travel between customer sites with a single trailer, significantly cutting costs and increasing production time.

DRIVER EXPERIENCE

Inside, the operator has an unobstructed 360° view. Camille Rouvrais, product manager, says: "We replaced the roof grille with a transparent, shock-resistant polycarbonate window, which complies perfectly with the requirements of the FOPS standard". The visibility improvements also apply to the operator's lateral view. The side view is clear as the hydraulic hoses are inside the boom and the engine cover at a lower position to the right of the operator. The ULM is distinctive for its small height, however don't let the height put you off as the ground clearance is high at 29cm, enabling it to move across difficult terrain without any problems. Equipped with a 35hp engine, the ultra-compact telehandler offers a maximum hydraulic flow of 48 lit/min. The machine is equipped with a flow sharing distributor, enabling several hydraulic movements to be carried out at the same time.

ATTACHMENTS DESIGNED FOR YOU

A range of attachments has been specially designed for this model allowing it to be used for even more applications. From forks to carriages, hedge cutters, pot clamps, branch cutters, big bag handlers and snow blades, the possibilities are endless.



KUHN CENTER IRELAND

WORK YOUR SOIL WITH THE BEST KUHN TILLAGE EQUIPMENT THIS AUTUMN



  @kuhncenterireland

KUHN CENTER IRELAND,
CARRIGROHANE ROAD,
CORK,
IRELAND



sales@kuhncenterireland.ie



www.kuhncenterireland.ie



Killian Griffith 0861839842



Michael Dillion 0879957254

KUBOTA LOADER RANGE FOR M-SERIES TRACTORS

A full range of MX-built Kubota loaders is now available for M-series tractors including the M4, M5, M6 and M7 models which span the 66-170hp sector.

Designated the LK range, the orange-liveried loader models provide an integrated, high-precision materials handling solution for M-series tractors, enabling customers to choose a tractor and high-performance loader package that closely suits their needs. There are three series of loader available, badged LK U (utility-mechanical), LK M (mechanical) and LK H (hydraulic). And all three series differ in specification, lift capacity and tractor suitability. LK U and LK M versions offer a mechanical parallel lift and a headstock that uses automatic mechanical attachment locking, while LK H loaders benefit from a hydraulic parallel lift system. All models can be equipped with the optional Mach 2 coupling for loader and attachment hydraulic services, which delivers simultaneous coupling of hydraulic and electrical connections in a single action. Loader numbers closely reflect lift capacities, which extend from 1,180kg to 2,410kg depending on model, while maximum lift height at the pivot pint is from 3.5m to 4.15m. Buyers can choose from three control systems to suit their model of LK loader. These include

the cable-operated ProPilot joystick; a low-pressure servo-based FlexPilot joystick; or the electronic e-Pilot S control system. Push-button control options are available for auxiliary services, and depending on the model, these can also include a fourth hydraulic service and an automatic return to dig function. Fitting and removing the loader from the tractor is a straightforward process, thanks to Fitlock - the mechanical latching mechanism that secures the loader onto the tractor's brackets. The operator only needs to leave the cab once to unlock the loader, as the drive-in format relocks automatically when engaged. Fitlock uses a coloured mechanical indicator - visible from the inside and outside the cab - to provide an easy visual reference of the loader's status; locked or unlocked. In addition, LK H models can be equipped with the optional Fastlock attachment connection and Speedlink 3rd and 4th service connections, enabling attachment swaps without needing to leave the cab. Integral parking stands and pivot pins with protected grease nipples add to the operator convenience, as does the Shock Eliminator hydraulic boom suspension system, while pipework protection comes from passing hydraulic hoses through the inside of the loader boom.



One cost you can fix.

Save more with an M7003 Series.

€1162
Per month †

@ 0%
FLAT RATE*
Fixed payments
5+55

& 5YRS
/3000 hrs
Kubota care
warranty

Talk to your dealer today about our premium package offer. *Terms and Conditions Apply. Business Users only.

†This example is based on a Kubota M7173 with an RRP of €142,746 and a balance to finance after deposit and/or part exchange of €69,720. *Terms and conditions: Finance for business purposes only. Subject to acceptance and affordability checks. Applicant must be 18 or over. 5-year/3000 hour extended warranty. Promotion valid until 31st December 2022. 0% finance available on new equipment only. The equivalent of 5 monthly rentals due in advance followed by 55 monthly rentals. Finance is available on up to 50% of the RRP. The finance product offered under this promotion is Hire Purchase. First payment, full VAT and a documentation fee of €60 are due on signing. An option-to-purchase fee of €60 (plus VAT) will be collected with the final payment. You will own the machine when all payments have been made. Alternative finance options are available. Terms and Conditions apply. Images are for illustrative purposes only. As funder we may pay a commission, fee or other remuneration to credit brokers who introduce business to us, please contact them if you require more information. Kubota Finance is a trading style of BNP Paribas Leasing Solutions Limited. Finance provided by BNP Paribas Leasing Solutions Limited, Northern Cross, Basing View, Basingstoke RG21 4HL. Registered in England No. 901225.



www.kubota.co.uk

For Earth, For Life
Kubota



MCHALE PLANT SALES 'BEST EVER' PRESENCE AT PLOUGHING

A prominent exhibitor at this year's 2022 National Ploughing Championships at Ratheniska will be well-known Birdhill and Rathcoole distributor, McHale Plant Sales. Promising what their sales director, Denis McGrath says will be "our best ever and most comprehensive display", McHale will attend with two dedicated, exhibition spaces, one displaying models from Komatsu and Komatsu Forest and the other featuring models from the Italian-made Merlo range.

KOMATSU

Komatsu units featured will include a model WA320-8 and a smaller WA80M-5 from their popular WA wheel loader series. A favourite amongst agricultural contractors, the heavy-duty WA320 is specified for agricultural use with quick-release front bucket and forks attachments for silage harvesting, grain storage and bulk materials handling. Amongst other Komatsu exhibits will be a

PC170LC-11 large excavator, a PC30MR-5 mini excavator and a PC138US-11 - an ultra-short excavator with its long reach and tight tail swing which McHale Plant Sales expects will appeal to contractors whose own reach extends into construction, drainage, pipe laying, hedge thinning, fence building and other farm applications.

Komatsu Forest

For forestry contractors, a 800-series timber Forwarder from the Komatsu Forest range will also feature.

MERLO

Highlighted on the Merlo stand will be telehandlers developed for agricultural and construction applications. For agricultural users, the popular Merlo TF Turbofarmer range and Merlo MF Multifarmer ranges, models likely to feature will be drawn from the Merlo TF Turbofarmer range - main-selling units such as TF35.7, TF42.7, TF50.8 and TF65.9 turbo farmer, and Merlo MF Multifarmer MF34.7 and MF34.9 units - the

latter combining a telehandler at the front with tractor-like features at the rear that include PTO and a 3-point linkage. Construction units to be shown will include a full spec Roto 50.26S Plus and some models from the Panoramic range. Also displayed will be one of the most intriguing machines to feature at the show: the recently introduced Merlo Cingo tracked carrier.

Geared for farm and agricultural uses, and for landscaping, small-scale construction and utilities applications, the step-on-and-drive Cingo is a highly versatile trailer-size, dump truck (and numerous other applications machine) with capacity to carry loads from 400 kg to 1200 kg. Rapid coupling devices allow numerous different attachments to be used.

A low centre of gravity for maximum stability on slopes, with tracks that apply less ground pressure and provide greater adherence on uneven and irregular terrain are amongst its other characteristics.

FARMDROID: SOLAR-POWERED SEED-N-WEED ROBOT

IAM Agricultural Machinery has announced that it has been appointed the sole distributor for FarmDroid ApS.

IAM Agricultural Machinery will be showcasing it for the first time in Ireland at this year's National and World Ploughing Contest. FarmDroid FD20 is the world's first fully automatic robot that can take care of both sowing and weed control. The FarmDroid robot enables farmers to reduce the cost of sowing and weed control while doing it CO2 neutral, and pesticide-free.

With GPS technology FarmDroid sows the crops in the field and marks precisely where every single crop is placed. Subsequently, it performs mechanical weed control both between the rows and inter row, securing effective, precise, and non-chemical weeding of the field. The unique sowing precision enables the robot to clean the crops closely, eliminating the need for manual or chemical weed control. The four solar panels placed on top of the robot produce power for a battery package that ensures up to 24 hours daily

and CO2-neutral operation of the robot. In this way, you do not need to charge the batteries externally.

According to the company, you can let your FarmDroid work in the field throughout the entire season with a clear conscience and without worrying about the weather.

"FarmDroid is the first truly commercial autonomous robot operating on farms around the world and we are delighted to partner with them" Sales & Business Development Director Pat Kenny.

FARMDROID

Visit us at
the Ploughing
STAND 246



I.A.M. Sales: 00353 (0) 56 7765826

Martin Owens: 00353 (0) 87 9061920

Pat Kenny: 0044 (0) 74 933 44833

www.iam.ie



NEW LANDINI AND MCCORMICK TRACTORS TO MAKE THEIR DEBUT AT IRISH AND WORLD PLOUGHING 2022

MAJOR PRESENCE FOR ARGO BRANDS AT COUNTRY'S LEADING FARM EVENT AND THE WORLD PINNACLE OF PLOUGHING FOLLOWS FURTHER INVESTMENTS IN IRISH MARKET

AgriArgo UK, the UK and Ireland branch of McCormick and Landini tractor manufacturer ARGO Tractors, is stepping up its presence at Ireland's National Ploughing Championships this year, following further recent investment in its Irish business. A number of new Landini and McCormick products will make their national debut on ARGO Tractors' stand, while visitors will also be able to obtain the latest model tractors and other merchandise. The Sept 20-22 event, which also plays host to the World Ploughing Championships, takes place at Ratheniska, County Laois.

LANDINI 4 AND 5 SERIES

Landini has a strong following in Ireland, and taking a key role at this year's

Ploughing will be the latest four-cylinder 4 and 5 series. Suited to livestock work and light handling, they are well-matched to the all new Landini loaders. The 4 series consists of three models with power outputs of 61, 68 and 75hp, all with a 2.1m wheelbase. Specification includes a 3,000kg mechanical rear linkage, 52 l/min hydraulic system and optional front linkage and PTO. The 5 series comprises 95, 102 and 114hp models, with the flagship 5-120 Dynamic a finalist in the Best Utility category of Tractor of the Year 2022.

LANDINI 6RS ROBO-SIX TRACTORS

It is also hoped that an example of the new Landini 6RS Robo-Six tractor range will be on display. Designed for versatility, performance and comfort, a 2.56m wheelbase and 55-degree steering angle mean these new models are particularly stable and manoeuvrable. Power comes from 4.5 litre, 16-valve, four-cylinder Stage V FPT NEF 45 engines. Maximum horsepower

complete with engine power management is equivalent to the last three numbers in the 6-135 RS, 6-145 RS and 6-155 RS model designations.

The 24F/24R Robo-Six transmission features six powershift steps and four ranges, with a further 16 creep speeds in each direction optional. Pre-programmed Eco and Power modes minimise fuel consumption or maximise performance and workrates. A new Landini High Vision cab features panoramic roof and ventilation hatch. Further specification includes four-speed rear PTO, closed-centre hydraulics with 123 l/min pump capable of supplying up to seven electronic spool valves, and a 7.2t electronic rear hitch, plus optional 3.2t front hitch. Maximum rear tyre size is 650/60 R38, and maximum gross weight 9.5t.

NEW FROM MCCORMICK

McCormick highlights will include the new X7 SWB models launched globally at EIMA in Italy last November. There are four semi-



powershift P6-Drive transmission models and two VT-Drive CVT tractors, with four-cylinder powerplants in the X7417 P6-Drive (165hp max) and X7418 P6-Drive (175hp), and six-cylinder engines in the X7617 and X7618, which have the same power ratings. The two VT-Drive CVT tractors are the 165hp/four-cyl X7418 and 175hp/six-cyl X7618. With both transmissions, a 'Stop & Action' clutch/brake system allows drive disengagement via the brakes.

Stage V FPT turbocharged/intercooled engines feature common rail electronic fuel injection, cutting fuel consumption and emissions and boosting response. Utilising the turbocharger's throttle valve, deceleration can be aided through use of the engine brake as well as the rear brakes. The 3.5t front linkage redesign boosts visibility, while rear lift capacity is 9.3t, and up to eight rear spool valves can be specified, as can 123 or 160 l/min closed-centre hydraulics and mechanical or semi-active electronic cab suspension.

Wheelbase is 2.65m on four-cylinder and 2.76m on six-cylinder tractors.

Also on show will be new Stage V McCormick X6.4HD P6-Drive tractors: the 135/145/155hp X6.413, X6.414 and X6.415 (max power)- recently announced as a finalist in the coveted Tractor of the Year 2023 competition. With 4.5-litre FPT NEF 45 four cylinder/four valve engines, a compact powertrain and transmission layout creates a wheelbase of 2.56m, aiding stability and manoeuvrability. The four-range/six-step P6-Drive semi-powershift provides 24F/24R speeds, extendable to 40R/40R with the creep option. Implement attachment specification includes a four-speed rear PTO, rear lift capacity of up to 7t and optional 2.5t front linkage. Closed-centre hydraulics feature a 123 l/min pump capable of supplying up to seven spool valves. "Ireland is particularly important for our Landini brand, and also for McCormick, underlined by recent investments including a dedicated service manager and dealer

roll-out of the ARGO 4.0 suite of digital tools," says Ben Agar, business development director at ARGO Tractors UK & Ireland.

"We're looking forward to a major presence at the Ploughing, with not only a full line of machines, but also something for every enthusiast with our full range of new and classic models, clothing and merchandise – and we'll be offering some special merchandise promotions in advance of the show. That coupled with our latest Finance promotions means there is a warm welcome for every farmer on the ARGO Tractors stand."

AgriArgo UK distributes Argo Tractors products in the UK and Ireland. Landini and McCormick machines are supplied through independent dealer networks. Both also supply specialist Valpadana tractors. Argo Tractors is one of the world's leading manufacturers of tractors for agricultural and grounds care use, producing Landini, McCormick and Valpadana products in a multi-factory industrial complex in Italy.



MCHALE PRO GLIDE NON-CONDITIONER MOWER RANGE

Building on the comprehensive Pro Glide conditioner mower range, McHale are proud to launch the first products in the Pro Glide non-conditioner mower range.

On stand 235 at this year's National Ploughing Championships, McHale will be displaying the new McHale Pro Glide R310 non-conditioner rear mower and the new McHale Pro Glide B910 non-conditioner combination mower.

Following a direct request from the market, McHale's design team have combined their specialist knowledge to develop this new range of non-conditioner mowers.

The McHale Pro Glide R310 is fitted with a 3m cutter bar to provide a cutting width of 3.1m using a 7-disc bed. On the McHale Pro Glide B910 combination mowers, 3.4m cutter bars provide a fixed cutting width of 9.1m when accompanied with a front mower. All 3.4m cutter bars are equipped with 8-discs to provide a clean cut.

Both the McHale Pro Glide R310 and B910 utilise proven technology from the conditioner mower range and benefit from a number of novel features which result in better ground following ability and quicker reaction times to changes in ground conditions.

James Heanue, Irish Sales Manager for McHale, said: "Our conditioner mowers have established themselves in the world market as a premium product over the last number of years, but some customers are requesting a plain, non-conditioner mower, so following customer feedback we are launching the Pro Glide R310 & B910 on our stand at the National Ploughing Championships. These heavy-duty non-conditioner mowers leave a clean-cut crop and stubble to produce quality forage. Our team of engineers have designed the mower to provide superior floatation over rough ground using the same 3D Ground Tracking Technology as our conditioner mowers. I feel these mowers offer a number of unique features which will deliver better ground floatation ability and a clean quality cut." The new R310 & B910

non-conditioner mowers are equipped with a number of common features as standard such as unique patented ground following technology, adjustable ground pressure control and robust bed design which make these mowers a smart choice for farmers and contractors alike.

3D GROUND TRACKING TECHNOLOGY

Similar to the conditioner mowers from McHale, the Pro Glide R310 and B910 utilises the same 3D Ground Tracking Technology to provide excellent ground following capabilities to deliver superior floatation. The 3-dimensional ground contour tracking allows the mower to easily mow on rough or undulating terrain and still deliver optimal results.

Most rear mowers have a central pin which only allows the mower to move left and right and not to adjust to changes in ground conditions. The McHale Pro Glide mowers are different in that it is fitted with a patented 3D ground tracking suspension unit which delivers better cutting performance by allowing the mower to move independent of the tractor in the following movements:

- ▶ Move left and right
- ▶ Move forward and back
- ▶ Let the cutter bar move back and up if it collides with an obstacle

The 12° forward/back movement of the mower ensures a precision floatation of the cutter bar for a clean cut in all ground conditions while the 17° left/right movement means the cutter bar smoothly glides over humps and hollows. The floatation of the cutter bar is achieved using a large compensating spring to provide excellent ground following. This easily adjusted pressure system delivers a superior cutting performance in a quick and simple manner. If the mower comes in contact with an immovable object, the mechanical break back will be triggered. The break back will swing the machine backwards and over the obstacle before the spring-loaded design automatically

returns the cutting unit to the original working position when clear of the obstacle.

CUTTER BAR

The cutter bar on the Pro Glide non-conditioner mowers is powered by a heavy-duty, right-angle gearbox which are positioned behind the inner top hat. In comparison to using drive belts, which can slip in heavy crop, the direct drive ensures an even and continuous distribution of power across the gears in the cutter bar. The design of the rounded low profile front edge lets the fully welded cutter bar glide smoothly over the ground. The slanted leading edge of the cutter bar allows for clean forage separation and reduces ground contamination even when working in lodged crops and wet conditions. Large heavy duty 25mm spur gears take the PTO power and transfer it to the discs. Each individual disc is driven by a smaller spur gear. The spur gears which drive the individual discs are mounted forward on the cutter bars which deliver maximum cutting performance even when working in lodged crops. The mowing discs are specifically designed to maximise crop flow. Each mowing disc has its own individual protective safety mechanism, if a collision occurs, the mechanism will shear in order to protect the drive. The quick-change blades are angled at 10° to ensure a clean and even cut. They are also free to spin 360° which makes them self-cleaning and stops them fouling on the knives on neighbouring discs. The knives orbit with a generous overlap, which ensures a clean cut and a smooth flow of cut material is discharged to the rear of the machine. For transportation, the R310 & B910 mowers fold vertically to position themselves behind the centre point of the tractor for safe transport. This transport position allows for the mowers to distribute their weight evenly across the rear of the tractor for ease of transport on the road while also providing the driver with a clear view of the rear-view mirrors.



AMAZONE CAYENA 6001-C

Amazone Cayena 6001-C, the new grain and fertiliser version of the recently introduced tine seeder. With an increasing emphasis on applying a starter nitrogen fertiliser when establishing an oil seed rape crop, or to add P & K to the seedbed to help make specifically phosphate available to the developing seedling, the Cayena 6001-C with its increased hopper capacity and simple software for calibration is the flexible all-rounder. In the spring, where soil moisture is at a premium, it can also be used to apply the full level of fertiliser needed for that crop in one application at drilling. The pressurised 4,000 litre tank, bigger than that on the standard Cayena,

is split in a ratio of 60:40 and is equipped with two fully electric-drive metering systems. Seed and fertiliser are placed together into the seed furrow via the same delivery tube. With this fully sealed, pressurised tank system, the application of high rates of seed-fertiliser combinations is always ensured. Of course, if required, the tank can also be filled just with seed. By selecting the single product function on the AMATRON 4 on-board computer, the seed is then not just metered from the two hoppers simultaneously but first the rear section of the tank is emptied, in favour of the front section, to make sure that weight is kept on the tractor's rear axle so that

traction is always maintained. Also, another interesting application is for when using the Cayena tine seeder as a direct drill for sowing catch crops. Then, when using a mixture of both fine and coarse seeds, again the divided tank can be made use of, so that the blend can be sown more homogeneously without worrying about a de-mixing effect.

Due to its excellent germination credentials, the Cayena tine seeder, is now well established in the drill market. Renowned for its low draft requirement, the 6m seeder needs just 140 hp to pull it and, because of the minimal amount of wearing parts in soil contact, it offers also very low running costs. The second benefit of the three-stagger arrangement of the narrow, slim line chisel points, which are just 12mm across and at a row spacing of 16.6cm, is that the minimum amount of soil is disturbed when drilling. The areas between the rows remaining untouched thus reducing weed seed germination and practical experience has shown that crops drilled with the Cayena display noticeable signs of reduced grass weed populations.

AMAZONE

CAYROS

MOUNTED REVERSIBLE PLOUGH

- **Mechanical or Hydraulic furrow width adjustment**
- **Automatic stone safety release**
- **Simple sliding headstock design**
- **Longer plough bodys to suit larger tyres**

For more information or to arrange a demo contact Declan on +353 87 827 3266



TANCO AUTOCUT AT NPC 2022

Tanco manufacture the most comprehensive range of bale wrappers on the market at their Bagenalstown, Co. Carlow, Ireland factory and distribute to over 40 countries worldwide.

Their range of wrapper's consist of both conventional turntable and satellite type machines for round and square bales. Building on years of technical know-how in the development of forage equipment Tanco have created a new triple mower system with front and rear cutting and conditioning widths of 8.9m and 9.8m. The Tanco AUTOCUT front and rear triple mowers have been built from the ground up and designed to deliver greater productivity through improved weight distribution, horsepower and cutting widths. The Autocut M3 & M9 Autocut mower's will be on Tanco's stand at the 2022 Ploughing Championship's, Row 16, Stand 226). COMER Heavy Duty 56 Series cutter bars with shear hub protection and quick attach blades are

used in the Tanco Autocut. The Heavy Duty 56 Series uses 25mm gear's, 58 teeth on the drive gear's and 18 teeth on the driven gears. Cutting widths of 2.8m (9ft 2') are achieved with the 7-disc M3.c front mower, and overall's widths of 8.9m (9ft 2') with the M9.c 8-disc and 9.8m (32ft 2') for the M10.c 9-disc rear mowers. The front M3.c mower is a 'pull type' front mower and uses a rail system to achieve 850mm of vertical travel, $\pm 16^\circ$ of bed movement left and right and 19° travel front to back, this is a product of 680mm travel along the rail and provides the M3.c mower with superb contour following capability.

The Tanco Autocut rear wheel's steer 40° through a linkage system connected to the Autocut headstock, as the tractor turn's the Autocut wheel's steer. The steering system features a unique system that Tanco call Active Steer. Active Steer allows the Autocut rear wheel steering to be controlled via the

tractor hydraulics for extra manoeuvrability and will reset to centre when the tractor hydraulics are put into the float position. The Active Steer system also incorporates a fast and slow reaction steering, when the Autocut mower beds are lowered Active Steer is in the fast reaction position, and when the Autocut mower beds are in the raised position Active Steer is in the slow reaction position. The Active Steer system fast reaction ensures the Autocut rear mower's follow the line of the tractor when mowing as well as ensuring easy manoeuvrability when the mower beds are raised. From when Tanco was founded in 1966 they have always used innovative designs and processes to create machinery that is highly regarded by their customer's not only for consistency and durability, but for uncompromising quality and this has continued through to the present day with the Tanco Autocut mower.

We've always got your back.



Last year we paid 99%* of claims, so you can feel confident that we'll be here when you need us.

To arrange your farm insurance visit, call our experts today or come see us at the Ploughing Championships. Block 1, Row 20, Stand number 316



DIANE MCGARRIGLE
086 136 7543
NORTH WEST



JOE NOLAN
086 022 0519
SOUTH EAST



BILL MEANEY
086 143 6343
MIDLANDS/WEST



PAT MAHER
086 047 5422
MIDLANDS/EAST



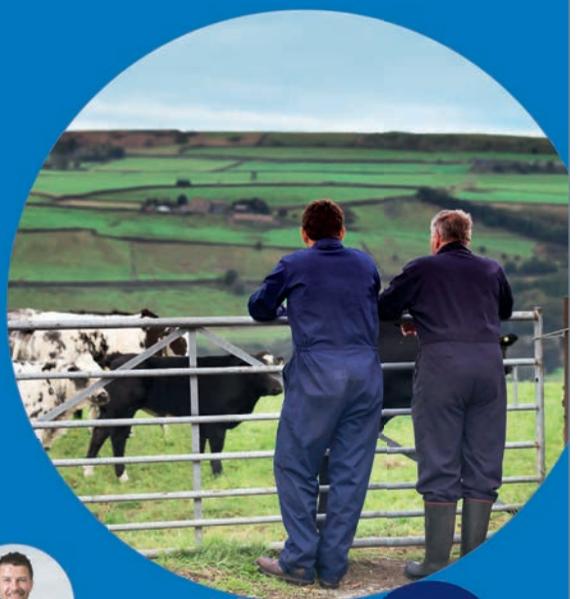
MIKE O'DONOGHUE
086 831 2441
SOUTH MUNSTER



WILLIE PHELAN
086 074 6780
EAST MUNSTER



JP AHERNE
086 411 3797
MUNSTER



*From January to December 2021, on average we paid out on 99% of motor, home, van, farm and windscreen insurance claims. Zurich Insurance plc is regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland.

GETTING THERE

ACCESS ROUTES TO THE NATIONAL PLOUGHING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2022

BLUE ROUTE

Traffic from Cork/Munster:

Traffic travelling northbound on the M8 will exit at Junction 4 (Johnstown, Urlingford) and proceed onto R439 (old N8) where it will travel to Durrow Co. Laois. From Durrow traffic will continue forward onto the N77 (old N8) to Abbeyleix. In Abbeyleix traffic will turn right onto the R425 to Ballyroan village, continue forward to Cashel Cross bearing right onto R427 to Money Cross and will proceed to parking beside the event grounds.

Parking: Patrons travelling this route will park in the designated BLUE Car Parks on the left and right hand side of the R427 just beside the event grounds at Ratheniska.

PURPLE ROUTE

Traffic from Dublin/ Leinster/ North:

Traffic travelling southbound on the M7 will exit at Junction 15 Cappakeel, Co. Laois and proceed left onto the L3930 where it will travel to Vicarstown. In Vicarstown, it will turn right onto R427 and travel to Stradbally Co. Laois. In Stradbally traffic will turn right on the N80 for approx. 400 meters and will then turn left at Abels Corner onto the R427. Traffic will proceed to parking beside the event grounds.

Parking: Patrons travelling this route will park in the designated PURPLE Car Parks on the left and right hand side of the R427 just beside the event grounds at Ratheniska.

BROWN ROUTE

Traffic from Limerick/ Kerry/ South West:

Traffic travelling northbound on the M7 will exit at Junction 17 Toghher, Portlaoise and proceed left onto N77 towards Portlaoise town. Traffic will be diverted right at Meelick onto the L6310 where it will turn right onto the R426 and onto Sheffield Cross.

At Sheffield Junction traffic will turn right again and proceed onto Money Cross to parking beside the event grounds. Traffic travelling northbound on the R445 (old N7) will be diverted back onto the M7 Motorway at Junction 18 where it will proceed to parking with the rest of Limerick/ Kerry/ South West traffic.

Parking: Patrons travelling this route will park in the designated BROWN Car Parks on the left hand side of the R427 just beside the event grounds at Ratheniska.

GREEN ROUTE

Traffic from the West/North West:

Traffic travelling from the west on the N80 will proceed to Mountmellick town. Approaching the town Traffic will take a left onto the L20972. Continuing on this road to take a right onto the L423. Traffic will join the R422 and travel as far as Kennels Cross, Emo, Co. Laois. At Kennels Cross traffic will turn right onto R419 and travel forward to the R445 (Old Dublin Rd), turning right and proceed towards Portlaoise.

In Kilminchy, Portlaoise traffic will turn left for approx. 200 meters and then turn right at Rathbrennan onto the R425 travelling forward to Bloomfield Cross. At Bloomfield Cross, traffic will turn left onto N80 and proceed to Dysart where it will turn right onto a one-way system along the L6772 as far as Ratheniska village. Traffic will proceed to parking beside the event grounds.

Parking: Patrons travelling this route will park in the designated GREEN Car Parks near the Church at Ratheniska Village near event grounds.

YELLOW ROUTE

Traffic from South East/ Carlow:

Traffic travelling from Carlow and South East will travel through Simmons Mill Cross roads on the N80 and continue forward towards Stradbally town via the Windy Gap. At Court Square, Stradbally, traffic will turn left onto the L3837 (Timahoe Rd) and go to Timogue Cross Roads where it will turn right onto L7835 (One-way system). Traffic will proceed to parking beside the event grounds.

Parking: Patrons travelling this route will park in the designated YELLOW Car Parks on the left hand side of the L7835 beside the event grounds at Ratheniska

GREY ROUTE

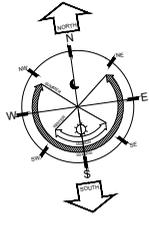
Traffic from South East (Kilkenny):

Traffic travelling from Kilkenny/South East along the N78 will turn left at Newtown Cross Roads and continue forward along the R430 to The Swan. Just outside The Swan Village, traffic will turn right onto the R426 and continue to Timahoe Village. In Timahoe traffic will be diverted to two routes depending on the volumes: 1. Traffic will be diverted onto the L3838 (Stradbally Rd) towards Timogue Cross and left onto the L7835 where it will merge with the 'YELLOW route' (South East Carlow Traffic). Traffic will proceed to parking as set out in 'YELLOW Route' parking on previous page. 2. Traffic will continue through Timahoe village on the R426 towards Money Cross. At Loughteague Lane, traffic will turn right onto L78354. Traffic will proceed to parking by turning right off the L7837 and proceeding as close to BLUE Car Parks and YELLOW Car Park as possible.

Parking: Patrons travelling this route will park in GREY Car Park, which is off the right hand side of the L78354 close to the car park.

NATIONAL & WORLD PLOUGHING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2022 RATHENISKA, CO LAOIS

LEGEND	
	FIRST AID POSTS
	TOILETS
	ATM LOCATION
	BABY CHANGING
	ICA
	FASHION SHOW
	PLAYGROUND
	CATERING
	SHOP
	MEDICAL CENTRE
	GARDA STATION
	MEETING POINT
	INDOOR EXHIBITORS CAR PARK
	MOBILITY HIRE
	G / PG - GATES / PEDESTRIAN GATES



LOCAL SERVICE ROAD IN BLUE L-7832



CATEGORIES LEGEND

[Orange]	PLOUGHING
[Red]	EMERGENCY SERVICE ROUTE
[Light Green]	AGRI ADVISORY / FARM INPUTS, DAIRY, LIVESTOCK - ANIMAL HEALTH, EQUIPMENT/BREEDS.
[Grey]	BUILDINGS, FARM, CONCRETE
[Blue]	MACHINERY, ATVS, TRAILERS, TRANSPORTERS, PUMPS & ALLIED EQUIPMENT, TYRES, TOOLS, COMPONENTS
[Dark Green]	FORESTRY & RELATED INDUSTRIES
[Light Blue]	FINANCIAL SERVICES, GOVERNMENT DEPTS, STATE BODIES, POLITICAL BODIES, MEDIA, EDUCATION, TRAINING, RURAL ORG.
[Yellow]	RELIGIOUS, CHARITABLE, NGO, FUNDRAISING
[Brown]	MOTOR & TRUCKS
[Purple]	BUILDINGS/HOUSE & HOME, RENEWABLE ENERGY, HOUSE & HOME
[Light Green]	HORTICULTURE, GARDEN EQUIPMENT, GARDEN FURNITURE
[Yellow]	FOOD & BEVERAGES
[Pink]	HEALTH, LIFESTYLE, TOURISM, RETAIL, CANINE, CRAFTS

JKD

JK Design

Architectural Drawing, Design and Planning
 Tullamore, Stradbally, Co. Laois
 Mobile: 086 3640366
 E-mail: j.kilbride@jkdesign.ie

OSI Licence no:- CYAL50251397

BOI TO GIVE AWAY OVER 1,000 HEDGEROW PLANTS AT PLOUGHING

Bank of Ireland is placing an added focus on biodiversity and sustainability at the forthcoming National Ploughing Championships. The Bank, which returns this year as an official event partner of the annual Ploughing showcase, will be giving away over 1,000 Department of Agriculture approved native Irish hedgerow plants to people visiting its stand on the Ratheniska site. One of the Bank's central ambitions at the Ploughing focuses on promoting the importance of enhanced biodiversity and sustainability in supporting customers to make their own green transition. The gifting of these plants acts as a further reminder to people of the journey needing to be travelled in order to meet vital environmental challenges. Bank of Ireland will also have personnel on-hand at its event area on all three days to support customers looking to open new current accounts and directly engaging with its agri-sector customers. The latest hedgerow gifting initiative follows on from the Bank boosting the value of

its Sustainable Finance Fund to €5 billion in 2022, providing key finance for the development of Ireland's renewable energy sector and also supporting more Irish drivers in making the switch to electric vehicles. Eoin Lowry, Head of Agri Sector, Bank of Ireland said: "Bank of Ireland is delighted to be heading back to the National Ploughing Championships as a major supporter of the event, as I'm sure are the hundreds of thousands of visitors excited to get back to the annual agri highlight for the first time since 2019. Our goal is to underline the importance of the role everyone can play in promoting biodiversity and taking steps to improve sustainability, so to be able to hand out over 1,000 hedgerow plants over the three days is major move in the right direction." NPA Managing Director Anna May McHugh said "NPA are delighted to be partnering with Bank of Ireland again this year and are fully supportive of this key environmental hedgerow plant give away as sustainability is a key objective at this year's National



Ploughing Championships. This year at 'Ploughing' there will be numerous sustainability initiatives, for example the NPA will be promoting the use of recyclable products, food waste will be converted into energy through an anaerobic digester and there will also be solar panelled lighting towers, cardboard compactors, litter fines and waste separation operations on-site."

SLURRYQUIP CERBERUS TANKERS



CERBERUS TANKERS

1. better visibility
2. better balance, it leaves more weight on tractor for traction compared to a standard rear mounted version
3. Much reduced tail swing so reducing possible damage when turning
4. More maneuverable due to shorter wheelbase as wheel have repositioned
5. Capable of fitting a flow meter properly on overhead macerator feed pipe
6. Optional automatic or manual downhill emptying
7. Optional incab computer to calculate spreading speed and records volumes spread
8. Slurryquip only use their own design ProCut macerator that handles the silage present in Irish slurries with ultimate ease and no blockages.
9. We also only use 50mm which provide a much more even spread with smaller pipes



TRIOLIET DIET FEEDERS

- 5m³ to 52m³ tractor drawn models available.
- Consistent mix every time.
- Even discharge of feed every time.
- Low horse power requirements.
- Finance offers available now.



Full stock of spare parts available for all makes of tanker. STORZ couplings and fittings now in stock.
SALE SERVICES AND REPAIRS OF ALL MAKES OF DIET FEEDERS



Credit:
Thomas Hoebbel
Photography

AXA AT PLOUGHING

At this year's Ploughing Championship, AXA will be joined by four partners offering information on farm planning and management; advice on securing farm livelihoods; sustainable energy options; and innovative safety initiatives.

Each day AXA will host technical briefings for farmers on the New Rep Scheme for CAP, with expert advice on the important facts. AXA will have sound advice from the Agricultural Consultants Association; sustainable energy options from Local Power; guidance on securing livelihoods from the Irish Natura and Hill Farmers Association; and innovative farm safety solutions from Agri Guardian.

Visitors can review the wealth of information and relax with a coffee in the AXA chill zone from the on-site coffee bar. Learn about AXA's sustainability achievements and activities at the plant wall, and the recycling area will take care of visitor waste.

While visitors are busy on the AXA stand, children will be entertained by Aoife Raleigh and Maria Corcoran, who will put on a science show with a circus twist. It's a fun way of learning about the environment, sustainability, ecology, energy and the circular economy while enjoying circus acrobatics! The AXA stand offers information and entertainment for the whole family.

Experts in your field

30-22nd September
National & World
Ploughing Championships
SUCKNEY & ASSOCIATES
MAGNETIC TO USE

Save Time in Comfort

I73 BALESHEAR

With the i73 BaleShear operators can stay within the safety of the cab. Bales up to 1.55m in diameter are picked and split into passageways, diet feeders and feeding rings.

Join us at stand **266**



Or visit us at
www.tanco.global



TANCO



KUBOTA INTRODUCES M6-001 UTILITY SERIES

Kubota (UK) Ltd has taken the covers off a cost-sensitive, five-model M6-001 Utility series tractor range. As the successor to the MGX models, the M6-001 Utility series spans 104-143hp, and meets EU Stage V emissions thanks to an improved exhaust after-treatment package that contributes to a lower cost of ownership.

Short wheelbase models include the M6-101U and M6-111U, and both use a 3.8-litre Kubota V3800 four cylinder engine. Maximum power outputs are 104hp and 111hp, with maximum torque figures of 346Nm and 379Nm respectively. These two models weigh 4.3 tonnes, and use a 2.54m wheelbase. Long wheelbase M6-121U, M6-131U and M6-141U use Kubota's 6.1-litre V6108 four cylinder engine. Power outputs are 123hp, 133hp and 143hp, with maximum torque figures of 503Nm, 544Nm and 586Nm respectively. These three larger models weigh 4.8 tonnes, and use a 2.68m wheelbase.

Engine technology on all models has seen an improvement in exhaust after-treatment, with DOC and DPF performance increased to deliver greater operational flexibility and lower cost of ownership. DPF regeneration

can now be achieved at a much lower engine speed – typically 1,200rpm down from 2,000rpm – and using a much lower working temperature of just 50 degrees C. The latter makes regeneration much easier to achieve with light engine loads, lower noise levels and a reduced fuel burn.

The DPF cleaning interval for M6-001 Utility range is 8,000 hours for the 6.1 litre engine, and up to 6000 hours for the 3.8 litre engine, again contributing to lower operating costs. Engine oil change intervals are every 500 hours on all models.

All M6-001 Utility models get a 40kph semi-powershift transmission, which uses eight powershifts in three mechanical ranges to provide a 24x24 gearbox. The option of a creeper range increases the choice of ratios to 32x32. Transmission functionality includes auto-shifting in each range, and a sensitivity dial – the latter allows operators to adjust the responsiveness of gear changes to suit load on the tractor.

Operator comfort is provided by an air suspension seat in the same cab frame shared with M6-002 and M7003 models, while front axle suspension is available as an option. A wide sunroof offers generous

visibility for those looking to equip the M6-001 Utility with a loader, of which there are two variants – 3.7m or 4m lift height to the pin, and maximum lift capacities of 1,950kg or 2,200kg respectively. A fixed displacement open centre hydraulic system provides 71 and 77 litres/min of oil flow respectively for short- and long-wheelbase models, while two mechanically operated spool valves are fitted as standard. Two additional spools are optional. Cat III rear linkage includes electronic linkage control with a five-tonne lift capacity on short wheelbase models and 6.1 tonnes on long wheelbase tractors. PTO equipment comprises a two-speed 540/1000 as standard, with a 540 Eco available as an option. All models can be equipped with an optional front linkage with 2.6 tonnes lift capacity, an optional 1,000rpm front pto, and the capability to run pto-powered equipment while stationary. M6-001 Utility models also benefit from Kubota's portal front axle with bevel gear drive, offering generous ground clearance and a 55-degree steering angle.

WIN A HONDA QUAD BIKE WITH FBD INSURANCE

Visitors to the FBD Insurance stand at the National Ploughing Championships this year will have the opportunity to enter the competition to be in with the chance to win a Honda TRX520FM6 Quad Bike. The team of FBD Insurance experts will be on hand and they

can answer any questions guests might have on all things related to insurance. Come meet the team and have a cup of tea or coffee and a chat! And that's not all... other entertainment at the FBD Insurance stand includes a dedicated Kids Zone for smaller children to enjoy and a photo mirror where visitors to the stand are encouraged to strike their best pose! Keep an eye on the FBD Insurance social channels for more information on what's happening on the FBD Insurance stand at the National Ploughing Championships 2022.

FBD Insurance, Ireland's leading farm insurer, has been protecting Irish farmers, consumers and businesses for over 50 years. FBD is proud to be the only truly Irish insurer, providing a wide range of products to suit your needs including; farm, tractor, jeep, car, home, van, business and life & pension cover products. FBD Insurance's network of 34 local sales offices, together with phone support team based in Mullingar, gives customers peace of mind and knowledge that whenever you need us, we are always close by. FBD Insurance Group Ltd trading as FBD Insurance is regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland.



National Ploughing Championships 2022

The Minister for Agriculture, Food; and the Marine, Charlie McConalogue T.D., and Ministers of State Pippa Hackett and Martin Heydon T.D. invite you to visit the Department's stand at the National Ploughing Championships at

Block 3, Row 18, Stand 293

Staff from the Department will be available to assist with your queries on a wide range of current schemes and services and provide information on the new schemes being introduced under the CAP Strategic Plan 2023 – 2027.

gov.ie/agriculture



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine



How to inspect & maintain your chainsaw. **Andy Walsh, Husqvarna Aftermarket Manager.**



When in use it is essential that a chainsaw is inspected and maintained daily to keep it at optimum performance and provide maximum safety.

Firstly a chainsaw is only as good as the edge that is on the chain. You can have the biggest, most powerful engine in the world driving the chain at the fastest speed achievable but without the chain being sharp it will not cut properly. All that will happen is that you will lean on the saw in an attempt to make it cut which will cause severe damage to your bar, your chain and your drive sprocket necessitating their replacement at quite a financial cost to you.

The golden rule to operating any chainsaw is that when you find yourself leaning on a dull chain forcing it to cut it is time to stop and sharpen it. If you do this each and every time it will only take a few minutes to do as about 3 wipes of the file on each cutter will get the chain performing again. Selecting the correct filing equipment is vital to doing the job right. If sharpening with a file the most important thing to get right is the size of the file as this sets the top plate angle. You will need a filing guide to set the side plate angle and a depth gauge to check and set the raker setting which is done with a flat file. A quick chat with your local Husqvarna chainsaw dealer will get you sorted.

At the end of each day's work it is highly advisable to inspect and perform some basic maintenance to keep your saw in good working order and to have it ready to go the next time you need it. Start by taking off the clutch cover and cleaning it thoroughly as this cover houses your chain brake mechanism which, in the case of a kick back, can save your life. If there are any defects or broken parts in this mechanism do not use the saw and bring it to your local Husqvarna service dealer, for repair. Clean out around the clutch drum and clutch as dirt in this area can affect the cooling of the saw. Take off the guide bar and inspect it for damage. If there are any burrs on the edge of the bar these must be removed or they will eventually crack and break rendering the bar un-useable. A tip here is to wear gloves and use a hand held tool called a bar rail dresser to avoid serious damage to your hand. Clean out the groove in the bar with a bar groove scraper to ensure good flow of oil to the chain. Make sure that you turn the guide bar to get the full life from it. Put the chain on and tension properly. If you have a sprocket nosed guide bar adjust the chain so that it sits well into the bar but is still easy to pull round by hand. Then sharpen the chain. Next remove the top cover and the starter cover and clean around both areas as this is where the air to cool the engine is taken in and circulated. Check the spark plug lead and the cap for any damage and if you find any replace the offending parts do not repair as you may get tracking through the repair and especially when it's wet you can get a very nasty shock from the 25000 volts that are generated by the ignition coil. Next check all of the safety devices on the saw to see that they are in place or that they are in working order. They are the chain catcher, the trigger lock and the on/off switch. If any of these are not in working order or are missing **DO NOT OPERATE THE SAW BEFORE THEY ARE REPLACED**. If you invest a few minutes, each day you use your saw, to inspect and maintain it the saw will reward you with good performance for years to come.

Your local Husqvarna Service dealer will be only too happy to help with advice and service back up to your saw. We strongly recommend the use of genuine Husqvarna Bars, Chains- especially the new X-Cut chain & Accessories. All of these plus Husqvarna XP alkylate fuel and PPE are available from your local Husqvarna dealer - see www.husqvarna.ie for dealer info.

Visit our stand at the National Ploughing Championships.
20th to 22nd September 2022.
Row 2
Stand 429



Husqvarna



TC 138



The TC 138 is a user-friendly tractor ideal for homeowners having small to mid-size gardens. With a cutting width of 97cm and cylinder displacement of 452 cm³.

RRP: €3,102.75 **Special Offer Price: €2,800.00**

TC 238TX



Husqvarna TC 238TX is a powerful and comfortable tractor, developed for use in medium- to large-sized gardens. With a cutting width of 97cm and cylinder displacement of 656 cm³.

RRP: €4,914.00 **Special Offer Price: €4,400.00**

TC 242T



Husqvarna TC 242 T is a powerful tractor, developed for use in medium- to large-sized gardens. With a cutting width of 108cm and cylinder displacement of 656 cm³.

RRP: €4,331.25 **Special Offer Price: €3,900.00**

TC 242TX



Husqvarna TC 242TX is a powerful and comfortable tractor, developed for use in medium- to large-sized gardens. With a cutting width of 108cm and cylinder displacement of 726 cm³.

RRP: €5,617.50 **Special Offer Price: €5,000.00**

Visit our stand at the National Ploughing Championships.

Row 2

Stand 429

Offer end on 31st of September.

Find your local dealer at <https://www.husqvarna.com/ie/dealer-locator>



Husqvarna



FIRST CUT AT THE WORLD PLOUGHING SITE 2022

The first cut of silage has been harvested off over 200 acres of this year's World ploughing championships site in Rathineska Co Laois. Contractors Roger Perry and Booth brothers were enlisted to clear the great crop of grass, for a local dairy farm. There were two

harvesters involved and a fleet of 14 tractors and trailers. The scale of the grass harvesting operation puts the scale of the World ploughing championships in context. A mix of brands of tractors and trailers were enlisted to get the job done. This is the first step towards

clearing the site for the event at the end of the summer, with another cut closer to the time. Seeing the site cleared down to the ground really opens your eyes to the scale of the event and the time and effort required to get it set up for the 20th and 22th of September.

www.abbeymachinery.com



ABBEY
MACHINERY
since 1947

ABBEY DIET FEEDERS THE FUTURE OF FEEDING

- Unparalleled chopping and mixing ability
- Rapid feed-out
- Engineered for long trouble free life
- Comer Gear Box; Digistar Weight System
- Variety of feed-out options
- Warranty and Nutrition Support

ASK ABOUT OUR NEW PLUS MODELS

[@AbbeyMachinery](https://twitter.com/AbbeyMachinery) [@AbbeyMachinery](https://facebook.com/AbbeyMachinery)

ROI SALES: MICHAEL KINSELLA +353 (0)86 854 0365
NI SALES: DAVID O'MALLEY +44 (0)73 931 16850

Abbey Machinery Ltd. Clonalea, Toomevara, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary, Ireland. Telephone : 00353 67 26677 | Fax : 00353 67 26778 | jinfo@abbeymachinery.com

PRACTICAL ADVICE FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING

HSE will be attending this year's event to provide a wealth of information and advice to visitors to the National Ploughing Championships. Visitors to the HSE stand can avail of an array of advice and health information. Drop by to learn about getting your family started on a healthy lifestyle, quitting smoking, sepsis, vaccination programmes for children, the season flu and Covid-19, dementia support, cancer prevention programmes such as BowelScreen and Diabetic RetinaScreen, SunSmart - skin cancer prevention for outdoor workers, job opportunities in the National Ambulance Service and many other health topics from our experts. HSELive will also be on hand to provide information about your health and social care entitlements such as medical cards, GP Visit Cards, Fair Deal and much more. Carmel Cullen of HSELive says: "Our team are here to help with any queries or questions you might have in relation to services. We can help you book your COVID-19 vaccine, sign you up for a QUIT plan, advise on medical card applications and we can direct you to the many services within our health system. Drop by Block 3, Row 20, Stand 328 where one of the team will be delighted to assist you, or chat to one of our roving team members if you spot them."

September is also World Alzheimer's Month. There are approximately 64,000 people living with dementia in Ireland at this time. With this number expected to more than double to 150,131 by 2045, more of us are going to find ourselves living with dementia or supporting a loved one with dementia. The HSE Dementia Understand Together Team will be at the Ploughing Championships on Tuesday 20 September to talk about support and services available post diagnosis, both from health services and through social and community initiatives and groups. In addition, their partners at the Alzheimer Society of Ireland will also be at the Ploughing Championships each day with their mobile information service and can provide information and advice to people with dementia, carers, supporters and anyone who may have concerns about their own brain health and well-being or that of a friend or family member.

The National Ambulance Service also has

a range of career opportunities available. They'll be on hand on Tuesday 20th to talk to people about how to get involved and demonstrating CPR throughout the day. "We are looking forward to promoting awareness of a range of career opportunities in the ambulance service. The NAS has a variety of opportunities for people from all walks of life who wish to build careers with us while playing an important role in their local communities. We currently have opportunities for Qualified Paramedics and at various times of the year we have opportunities for Student Paramedics, Intermediate Care Operatives

(EMTs) and Emergency Medical Call Takers. Meanwhile, recent research shows that 29 per cent of current smokers in Ireland either are trying to quit or are actively planning to do so. If you quit smoking for 28 days, you are 5 times more likely to quit for good. At this year's Ploughing Championships, HSE's QUIT Service is on-hand to give lots of practical personalised support to help you stop smoking for 28 days and beyond. At the HSE QUIT stand you can have your breath carbon monoxide levels checked and avail of a free one-to-one stop smoking consultation with a HSE Stop Smoking Advisor.



**Visit us at the
Ploughing Championships
Block 3, Row 5, Stand 88**

 **CormacTagging.ie**



KVERNELAND GROUP IRELAND EXHIBITS PROFESSIONAL RANGE OF MACHINERY

KVERNELAND GROUP IRELAND IS SHOWCASING ITS PROFESSIONAL RANGE OF MACHINERY AT THIS YEAR'S WORLD PLOUGHING CHAMPIONSHIP. THE PRODUCT OFFERING OF 5M AND 6M QUALIDISCS DISC HARROWS AND U-DRILL JOINS NEW PRODUCT LAUNCHES OF THE RT880 MERGER AND 5387 MT TRIPLE MOWERS ON THE STAND.

"This year we're committed to showing our top of the range products in each category to underline our ambition to increase awareness of the quality and depth of the company's portfolio," says Philip English, Managing Director, Kverneland Group Ireland.

SALES COMPANY OF THE YEAR 2021

"Coming into this year we have a special reason to be confident, not only in our market offering but in the Kverneland Group Ireland team. The company's performance last year resulted in winning the Sales Company of the Year 2021. We performed strongly in a number of key strategic areas with increasing market share, for example, our successful expansion of the Kverneland baler range to include the 6500F fixed chamber baler. This achievement is awarded by the Kverneland Group management and voted on by our colleagues across the entire Group so it's extremely gratifying to have the success of the

team recognized", says Philip.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the award can only now, belatedly, be presented to the Company on the Kverneland stand at the Championships by Mr. Yasukazu Kamada, President and CEO of Kverneland Group accompanied by Mr. Arild Gjerde, Executive Vice President, Sales & Marketing on the first day of the show.

HARVEST NEW PRODUCT LAUNCHES

With the continued growth of the triple mower market, Kverneland are expanding their range with two new triple mower conditioner combinations. These new 8.75M combinations, the 5387 MT and the 5387 MT with belts, feature the company's patented QuattroLink, "racecar" suspension. The mowing unit is pulled by four suspension arms fitted onto a fixed carrying arm that allows the mowing unit to float independently over the field, adjusting highly accurately and instantly to any changes in ground contours.

"We've kept this important feature in the

new models now offered as a fixed arm solution with a compact build at an extremely competitive price point for the Irish market. We have bridged the gap between our entry-level triple mowers, the 5087's MT and 5090's and the top of the range 53100MT BX 10.2m working width Vario arm. The triple mower range now has a solution for the self-sufficient farmer right up to the busy contractor" finishes John Doyle, Harvest Product Manager.

ROC MERGER

With the introduction of the ROC merger to the Irish market, Kverneland widens the product offering in harvesting of forage. "We believe this machine is unmatched with regards to efficiency and build quality," says John. "The ROC merger ensures clean forage with substantially reduced pollution of the swath. This means your baler or harvester will manage far more efficiently with less wear and tear and your stock will appreciate its quality. All the research suggests better



quality silage means higher average daily milk yields and improved milk composition, a persistent objective for all dairy farmers," finishes John.

TILLAGE

On the tillage front, Arable Product Manager Leonard Hovenden, continues the roll out of the company's latest offering on ploughs, drills and disc harrows. Kverneland has a full range of professional equipment for all requirements, and the company is using this event as a showcase of some of their larger equipment, geared towards the larger arable farmer and contractor. "With so many factors to consider, time and weather constraints, operational pressures and increasing government legislation, the requirement of larger machines is increasingly relevant. Kverneland believe by offering this larger equipment and optimizing efficiency and output, environmental impacts can be reduced," says Leonard Hovenden, arable product manager.

3300 S VARIOMAT

The 3300 S range of reversible mounted ploughs feature the company's recent innovations carried over from the award winning 2500 S iplough range. The aero profile leg, centrally adjusted skimmers, new design of Auto reset leaf spring system and the TTS (trailer transport solution that allows the plough to follow the tractor like a trailer when in transport for increased safety).

6M U-DRILL

The Kverneland u-drill is a trailed seed drill combination available in working widths of 3.0m rigid and 4.0m and 6.0m folding to carry out seedbed preparation, levelling, reconsolidation, seeding and pressing in one pass. This seed drill combination, designed with the lowest weight possible requires relatively low pulling force. Also offered is the U-drill plus, the plus stands for the extra feature of the grain and fertiliser version to apply either grain and fertiliser or, alternatively, two different

sorts of seeds at the same time. The divided hopper equipped with two metering devices achieves this.

5M QUALIDISC - DISC HARROW

With the introduction of the New Generation Qualidiscs range from 3m rigid up to 7m folding version, Kverneland has improved the performance of Qualidiscs Farmer and Pro models. This is achieved by adjusting the disc section arrangement to improve the penetration that ensures complete cutting of the soil surface and enhancing the levelling effect on each side.

This extremely flexible disc harrow allows shallow or deeper cultivation, seedbed preparation or cover crop seeding, which all require excellent penetration, cutting, levelling and consolidation performance.

To complete the stand also on display will be the Kverneland FastBale and Mounted A12 Sprayer, Siloking Feeders, McConnell Hedgecutters and Robocut RC56.

NEW APP FOR AGRICULTURAL CONTRACTORS AND FARMERS

Ag-drive, a new digital app helping agricultural contractors and farmers to manage their business more effectively and improve cashflow, has been shortlisted for an innovation award by Enterprise Ireland, and will appear in the Innovation Area at the National Ploughing Championships 2022.

Ag-drive was developed by farmer and contractor Will Dunn, in response to frustrations his family business experienced, and after he spent a year working on large farms in Australia and New Zealand. The app launched in summer 2021, initially in the UK, and is now available in Ireland.

"As contractors and farmers, we knew there must be a better way to manage teams, timesheets, and get our invoices out quickly and easily to improve our cashflow. Ag-drive replaces time-consuming paperwork with digital timesheets, field mapping, job recording for teams of any size, health and safety checks, and integrations with common accounting software for easy invoicing," explains Will.

"We're taking the pain and hassle away from running a busy contracting or farming business, by putting everything on your phone, on a cloud-based system. "We've had great feedback from early users of the app in Ireland, and we're looking forward to

demonstrating the benefits to farming and contracting businesses at the ploughing match in September." The platform connects seamlessly with accounting software QuickBooks, Sage, and Xero, for simplified invoicing and record keeping, ensuring

customers know exactly what work has been completed and when. Each job sheet can be attached to the invoice for complete transparency.

"Ag-drive is improving the way the contracting and farming industry works by making every job accountable and traceable. Regular invoicing is more efficient than doing it a handful of times a year and integrating



Ag-drive with accounting packages takes away a lot of the hassle associated with traditional paper-based timesheet systems," explains Will.

Since launch, the app has been regularly updated in response to user feedback, including recent improvements to the team jobs function to allow multiple operators to record their work under one job, specify multiple locations for a job, and to schedule a job without allocating any one specific operator, giving flexibility to businesses. Invoicing using the user's preferred currency and local tax rate is also now available.

The Ag-drive app is available on both iPhone and Android smartphones and has been designed for simplicity to support all users. A desktop version is also available and is mainly used for invoicing and processing time/job sheet information.

Will Dunn has been nominated for the Agritech innovator of the year in the British Farming Awards 2022 and shortlisted for Best Farm Management Software in the Enterprise Ireland Innovation Arena at the National Ploughing Championships. He was also a finalist in the LAMMA Show's young engineer of the year 2022 and runner up in Barclays Agritech accelerator program 2021.




FOR ULTIMATE EFFICIENCY CHOOSE EMC



*For more information please
contact our sales team*

☎ Killian Griffith 0861839842

☎ Michael Dillion 0879957254

**CORK MACHINES LTD,
CARRIGROHANE ROAD,
CORK,
IRELAND**

Power
Technology

MCCORMICK

POWER, COMFORT AND VERSATILITY



McCormick X7 SWB. Stability, maneuverability and versatility.

The new X7 SWB from McCormick offers a powerful combination of power and performance in either 4 or 6 cylinder packages. A modern McCormick is packed full of features and technology, built from reliable, proven components. A true workhorse that delivers versatility day in, day out. With tailored warranty and finance packages to suit every farm, why not try a new McCormick?

Speak to your local dealer or call us direct to book a demo on: (+44) 1302 757550



SCAN ME.

ARGO TRACTORS

McCormick is a trademark of Argo Tractors S.p.A.



mccormick.it/en

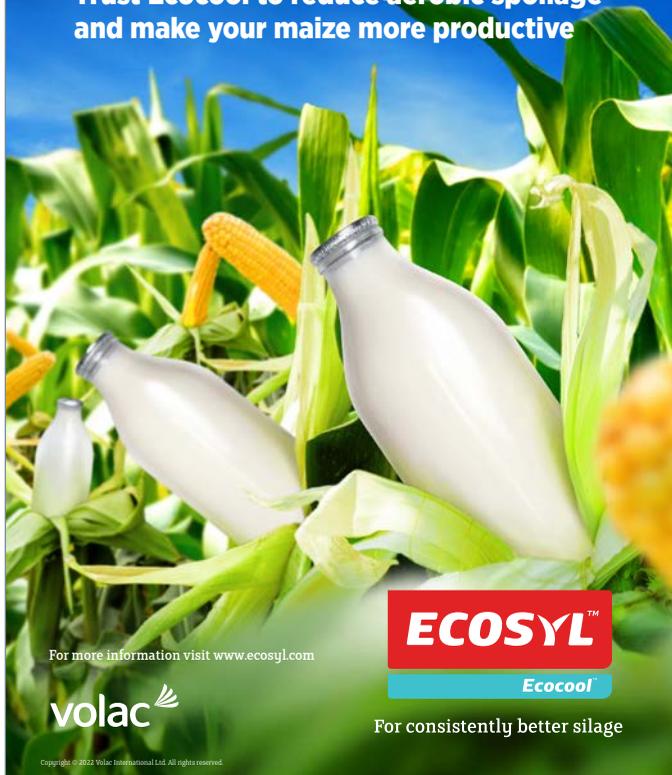


VÄDERSTAD LAUNCHES THE NEW CARRIER XT 425-626

VÄDERSTAD, ONE OF THE WORLD'S LEADING COMPANIES IN TILLAGE, SEEDING AND PLANTING, INTRODUCES THE NEW DISC CULTIVATOR CARRIER XT 425-625. WITH AN EASY MACHINE SETTING AS WELL AS ROTATING DISC AXLES, CARRIER XT IS BUILT TO OPTIMIZE THE TILLAGE RESULT DEPENDING ON THE WORKING DEPTH.

Grow more milk

Trust Ecocool to reduce aerobic spoilage and make your maize more productive



For more information visit www.ecosyl.com

ECOSYL™

Ecocool

volac

For consistently better silage

Copyright © 2022 Volac International Ltd. All rights reserved.

The Carrier XT is the newest addition to its family of Carrier disc cultivators, used for high-speed primary tillage and seedbed preparation. It can handle all the versatile challenges of modern farming – from ultra-shallow tillage to a deeper incorporation.

The Carrier XT is available in three different working widths: 4,25 metres, 5,25 metres or 6,25 metres. The machine can either be delivered as trailed or mounted versions. All Carrier XT models can be equipped with a range of both single- and double packer options. A main feature of Carrier XT is its hydraulically rotating disc axles. Thereby Carrier XT is able to optimize the cut-out performance at shallow depth, while increasing the depth precision at deeper working depths. By increasing the disc angle towards the soil, the disc will increase its penetration ability. By changing the tilting angle of the disc, the cut-out surface is shifted. Väderstad have put in much research and knowledge to finetune these angles to maximise the field performance, says Wolfram Hastolz, Director Tillage Product Management, at Väderstad: "As a result, Carrier XT has the ability to optimize the disc angles to its working depth. For the farmer, this is seen in a full cut-out at shallower working depth, as well as an excellent depth keeping and reduced soil flow at deeper working depths. Both of these factors contribute to a lower diesel consumption. Carrier XT can either be fitted with the 450mm disc, 470mm TrueCut disc or the ultra-shallow CrossCutter Disc. The disc diameters leads to an intensive tillage operation. Each disc is built from high-quality Swedish V-55 steel at our own Genuine Parts factory Väderstad Components. This ensures a high wear resistance and long-lasting field performance." It will be available to order from October 2022.

MACRA NA FEIRME ACTIVITY AT PLOUGHING



housing, as well as fireside chats with some of Macra's award winners from the past year. The organisation will also be launching something very exciting on Wednesday, 21st of September, in the Macra na Feirme tent so make sure to call in and get an exclusive view of what it is!

If you have been thinking of getting involved in Macra na Feirme or are simply wondering what it is all about, please feel free to come and chat to any of the staff in the tent, no matter what day you are there. From agriculture events - like farm walks and upskilling opportunities - through to Macra Agricultural Skillnet and to the compact competitions calendar, which is kicking off once again, Macra has so much to offer. There will also be lots of information on upcoming events like Macra's annual Rally, Queen of the Land and this year's FBD Young Farmer of the Year, so stop by to find out more about them all.

Macra na Feirme welcomes everyone to come and chat to them at their stand at this year's National Ploughing Championships. There are plenty of talks and discussions

planned over the three days so keep an eye on Macra's social channels to see who we will be talking to in the tent. Discussions include: FBD Young Farmer of the Year, rural



DOES YOUR MOWER HAVE?

- DUAL CONDITIONING PLATES FRONT AND REAR - MAXIMUM CUTTING PERFORMANCE
- QUATTRO LINK - 4 ARM RACECAR SUSPENSION - PERFECT GROUND FOLLOWING
- ROUND DISCS - EXPEL FOREIGN OBJECTS AND REDUCE SHOCK LOAD
- 100% WORKING WIDTH BREAKBACK - NON-STOP MOWING






2 YEAR WARRANTY

MOWING WITH KVERNELAND

RELIABLE EFFICIENT PROFESSIONAL

OUTSTANDING CUTTING PERFORMANCE

WHEN FARMING MEANS BUSINESS
www.kverneland.ie

JOHN DOYLE: 087 101 3053
GREG TENNYSON: 087 700 9689
ALLAN HETHERINGTON: 0044 7826544630

*TERMS AND CONDITIONS

SCIENCE WORKING FOR YOU

The full range of Teagasc research, advisory and education activities will be represented at the event. So, whether your interest is in beef, sheep, dairy or tillage, an expert will be present. If you are interested in ACRES, farm management, transferring your family farm, downloading an app or podcast, or furthering your education with Teagasc there will be someone to talk with you and answer your queries.

Young and old, will have the opportunity to test their machinery safety skills. DAFM is investing substantially in machinery simulators for use in education settings and one will be available on our stand.

The Teagasc Food programme will showcase world-leading research and expertise in Food for Health, Food Quality, and Food Innovation. VistaMilk will present a 3D cow model accessorised with sensors demonstrating digitalisation in the dairy industry.

The outdoor area of the exhibit will demonstrate how Teagasc is using science and the latest technologies to help farmers feed the world sustainably, protect the environment and reduce the output of greenhouse gases.

Other outdoor exhibits will include cover crops, soil profiles, red and white clover, managing high production swards, forestry and biodiversity.

Managing parasite resistance and plant nutrients will also feature in our outdoor exhibit area.

Also, Teagasc is hiring! If you want to find out the opportunities and benefits of a career with Teagasc, you can talk to one of the HR team at the event: Visit Teagasc at Block 3, row 17, stand 282.

JFC | AGRI

EVOLUTION

Evolution Automatic Calf Feeder

- ✓ Labour Saving
- ✓ Stress Free Weaning
- ✓ Improved Live Weight Gain
- ✓ Daily Feed Performance Reports
- ✓ Dual Hopper system
- ✓ Feed up to 140 calves
- ✓ Simple to calibrate
- ✓ Easy-to-use



Come visit us on
Block 2, Row 10, Stand 162 at the
National Ploughing Championships

01691 320 003 | jfcevolution.com



UCD FOCUS ON SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainable Agri-Food Systems is the theme for the UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science at the National Ploughing Championships 2022 (Block 3, Row 15, Stand 258). Over the course of the three days, visitors can hear about the latest developments taking place in research and innovation within the school through a range of live experiments and short talks.

UCD and AgriAware will once again be co-located for 2022 and together will deliver an exciting programme of talks in the Big Green Shed on a range of topics including Careers in Agriculture, Leaving Certificate Study Guides, the Sustaining Ireland campaign and much more.

As the only university in Ireland with a school devoted to agriculture and food science, a visit to this stand is a must for anyone considering a career or further education in agriculture, forestry, horticulture, food science or human nutrition.

UCD offers a range of exciting programmes at undergraduate, postgraduate and executive education levels with staff and students available over the three days to discuss the wide range of options available.

With so many career opportunities available to graduates, the UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science are inviting Alumni to visit the stand and contribute to video testimonials that will provide an insight to prospective students on the wide range of career paths open to them. A detailed schedule of activities will be available in advance of the event. Visit www.ucd.ie/agfood or follow the school social media accounts @ucdagfood for updates.

IFAC INNOVATE



Ifac are delighted to be attending the Ploughing Championships as part of the Enterprise Ireland Innovation Arena. This is the fourth year that Ifac have sponsored the Best Newcomer Award. Previous winners include MartEye, StrongBó and Moonsyst. The Award includes consultancy and accountancy services for one year. David Leydon, Head of Food and Agribusiness, noted: "We're excited to work with Enterprise Ireland on this Award. Building the agtech ecosystem is vital as we develop our export sector as well as working on solutions to meet Ireland's climate change ambitions. MartEye, StrongBó and Moonsyst are working closely with Ifac and we're delighted to see the progress they are making." With over 400 people employed across Ireland, Ifac work with businesses on tax planning, accountancy, corporate finance, payroll, financial planning and consultancy. Ifac's stand can be found in the Innovation Arena and the Ifac team will be there to speak with farmers, food businesses and agribusinesses.



JOIN macra TODAY!

WWW.MACRA.IE/JOIN-MACRA









**FROM HIKING, TO SPORTS, TO NIGHTS OUT,
TO FESTIVALS,
WE HAVE SOMETHING FOR ABSOLUTELY EVERYONE!**



[@MACRANAFERRIME](https://www.instagram.com/macranaferrime)

WHAT'S ON OFFER AT THE EUROPEAN UNION STAND?

#EUPloughing



What is the EU doing for Agriculture and Rural Communities?
Visit our stand at the Ploughing and find out!

Block 3 Row 16 Stand 271

A new Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) will come into effect from January 2023, which paves the way to 2027 for a fairer, greener and more performance-based CAP. This will be key to securing the future of agriculture and forestry, as well as achieving the objectives of the European Green Deal. It will seek to ensure a sustainable future for European farmers, provide more targeted support to smaller farms, and allow greater flexibility for EU countries to adapt measures to local conditions. **Come and find out what these proposals would mean for you at the European Union Stand. Experts on the CAP have travelled from Brussels to answer your questions.**

Máiread McGuinness, European Commissioner for Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union will be on hand to talk about her vision for the future of Europe in the uncertain times in which we live.

Engage with MEPs: Find out the latest news from the Irish Members of the European Parliament, have your say in our online survey and learn how to engage with the European Parliament!

Farmers' queries: This is a unique opportunity to get specialist information on all your farming queries. The European Commission will have experts on-hand to reply to your questions on the EU's veterinary rules and agricultural issues.

What is the EU doing for you?: Staff from the European Commission and European Parliament will be on hand to respond to your questions, queries and views about the European Union and what it is doing for Ireland.

European Structural and Investment Funds: Discover what the EU is doing in your Region through the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund. These Funds work together to invest in areas such as: education; research; transition to low carbon economy; urban regeneration and job creation; the seafood sector and coastal community development; and contributing to a sustainable and healthy economy across the whole of the country.

Find out more at: www.eufunds.gov.ie #euinmyregion

SOLVIT: Unfair rules or decisions and discriminatory red tape can make it hard for you to live, work or do business in another EU country. So, if you (as an EU citizen or business) face extra obstacles in another country because a public authority isn't doing what is required under EU law...SOLVIT can help. SOLVIT is a free assistance service, tasked with reminding the authorities in question what your EU rights are while working with them to solve your problem. Find out more at www.ec.europa.eu/solvit

EUGO Network: The EUGO Network represents the Points of Single Contact portals in each EU country, which allow service providers to: access information they need; complete necessary administrative procedures online; and thereby helps to establish businesses in other Member States or to provide services across borders. Find out everything you need to know at www.pointofsinglecontact.ie

Your Europe: Living, working, travelling, studying or doing business in another EU country? Our team will be on hand to provide assistance and give you a tour of the Your Europe portal, a comprehensive information portal to help you discover your rights across borders. Find out more at www.ec.europa.eu/youreurope

"We face significant challenges in this time of geopolitical unrest around the world. Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine is impacting on energy and commodity prices - including farm inputs, like fertiliser. Global food security concerns are to the fore. Supply chain disruptions due to the Covid pandemic remain problematic. And the impact of climate change is ever more visible with droughts, heat waves and massive forest fires. Tackling climate change is a priority, with all sectors required to reduce emissions towards our legally binding targets of climate neutrality by 2050, with a 20pc reduction by 2030. Europe's oldest policy - the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) - is changing too - retaining its function to provide support to farmers, while addressing biodiversity loss and climate change."



European Commissioner, Máiread McGuinness

Consumer Protection Advice: Advisers from the European Consumer Centre (ECC) Ireland will explain your cross-border EU consumer rights when shopping online, EU air passenger rights, what to do if your holiday goes wrong and more.

European Movement Ireland: How can you influence the future of Europe, what's ahead of our Irish MEPs in the European Parliament and what's in store for the EU over the coming years? European Movement Ireland is on hand to answer your questions about the EU and to share advice and information with anyone looking to work or study in the EU, including job and internship opportunities in the EU institutions.

Schools: A range of free material on the European Union - including books, brochures and maps - is available for teachers and students.

And Kids' Corner: Scalextric is back! Try our energy bike to see if you can pedal-power a Scalextric circuit with electric toy racing cars. Test yourself against the competition! Discover our interactive quiz for kids - the more you know the more prizes you get!

If you are not at the Ploughing and have any questions about the European Union, you can visit the website of the European Commission Representation in Ireland: www.euireland.ie.

Follow us on social media

#EUPloughing, #FutureofEurope, #FutureofCAP

www.facebook.com/EUIreland

www.twitter.com/euireland

www.instagram.com/euireland/

MAKING THE MOST OF AUTUMN GRASS NOW



EDDIE PHELAN, RUMINANT COMMERCIAL MANAGER - ALLTECH IRELAND, EXAMINES THE IMPORTANCE OF GETTING GRAZING BACK ON TRACK FOR THE AUTUMN

In recent weeks, grass growth has been very slow in certain parts, and with many second cuts happening in the last 10 days with the recent spell of good weather, farms have been left struggling to meet demand. The reintroduction of second cut silage ground into the grazing platform will help reduce the overall stocking rate on the grazing platform.

The recent rainfall has alleviated the drought-like conditions, and this combination of heat and rain has resulted in higher growth rates. But realistically, it will take up to three weeks before any substantial grazing covers of >1,300 kilograms of dry matter (DM) per hectare (Ha) are to be available consistently. To allow grass covers to recover, it is vital to protect regrowth and allow tillers to establish. On many farms, rotation lengths have been pushed out to 24 days to achieve covers worthy of grazing. These grass plants have been under stress over the last

number of weeks, resulting in a lot of seed head production, even at covers of 1,200 kilograms DM. The actual value of grazing these paddocks is poor, as most of the plants never reach the three-leaf stage but instead grow a far higher stem-to-leaf ratio.

PLAN

Before the close-up period for fertiliser, spreading nitrogen (N) across the grazing block would be beneficial. Grass can grow 30 kilograms DM/day/Ha in September for every unit of N applied. Spreading N with growth rates in the low 20 kilograms DM/day has little to no benefit as the plant cannot uptake the N available unless there is a higher percentage of clover in the sward.

To capitalise on a resurgence in grass growth, a plan must be put in place to get grazing back on track for the autumn, with vital steps such as:

- Complete a farm walk to assess exactly where the farm is and the average farm cover. Ideally, farm covers should be 750 kilograms DM/Ha with a stocking rate of 2.5 LU/Ha.
- Use the grass wedge to allocate kilograms of grass and maintain the cow's diet dry matter intake (DMI) requirements.
- Don't follow a strict rotation pattern and graze low covers (<600 kilograms DM/Ha), as this will stunt grass growth.
- Any reseeding done in recent weeks will need to be grazed at covers of 1,000–1,100 kilograms DM/Ha in order to help tillering of the grass plant. Try to graze these covers with lighter cattle, such as weanlings, to prevent roots from being pulled out of the

ground.

- Use supplementary forage and concentrate to make up dry matter intake requirements of the cow. If buffer diets are introduced too slowly, there will be a faster dip in the lactation curve. Using good quality bale silage >70 DMD in the autumn can help build covers for the spring while maintaining milk production. Building covers for the spring is farm specific. On wetter farms that will not get out in early February, the time to build covers can be delayed by up to two weeks, as with a later turn out date, it is important to capitalise on getting as much grass in the cow's diet as possible over the whole lactation. Building covers too early on wetter farms can result in a lot of dead material at the base of the sward. Grass plants need light at the base to grow and encourage tiller development.
- Focus on two areas when considering concentrate supplementation while building grass covers: First, feeding the cows based on stage of lactation and production and, second, feeding the grass wedge. Focus on what the cow is producing first and assess the kilograms of dry matter intake required. Once the cow's production energy needs are taken care of, focus on feeding the grass wedge. The table below shows the guidelines for how much concentrate should be fed while maintaining grass in the diet during autumn.

Grass intake (kg/cow/day)	Concentrate guidelines (kg/litre)
<6	0.33
6–10	0.22
>12	0.11



While completing this year's winter feed budget, allowing enough silage for buffer feeding in the autumn is crucial. In a typical buffer diet for farms building grass covers, a dairy cow can eat between 15–20 kilograms of fresh weight silage per day. This works out at 3–5 kilograms DM of silage per day while grazing. A typical 100-cow herd would need two bales of silage weighing 700–800 kilograms of fresh weight, along with 3 kilograms of concentrate in the parlour with 10 kilograms DM of grass to meet their daily intakes. For a 100-cow herd buffering feeding for a month while still grazing 10 kilograms DM of grass/day, the requirement here would be 60–70 bales of silage. As less grass becomes available in the diet, the silage would need to increase, so it is very farm specific. In order to complete a full feed

budget for your farm, speak to your local nutritionist.

KEY POINTS

- Grass growth curves are beginning to show a positive return in the coming weeks.
- Assess the amount of grass currently available on-farm.
- Set an average farm cover target to reach in three weeks.
- Apply nitrogen now for the best response as grass growth levels reach 30 kilograms DM/Ha.
- Adjust supplement based on the amount of grass that can be allocated. Use the grass wedge.
- Feed the cow first and feed the grass wedge second.



Planet of Plenty™



Meet Ronan.

**Fourth-generation farmer.
Farming on the edge of the Atlantic.**

In a sustainability programme with Alltech, Ronan reduced his carbon footprint by 30% — the equivalent of taking 167 cars off the road.

“We have a responsibility to the land, to the generations gone by and the generations ahead.”

—Ronan Síochru, farming on the Dingle peninsula for a Planet of Plenty™.

MESSAGES

- The farm year starts NOW, September.
- Start the 280-day grazing season plan now.
- Do the autumn rotation plan and grass BUDGET now.
- To overcome the grass deficit blanket spread the last N in early September.
- Avail of a FREE Vet 'call-out' to advise on parasite and mastitis control,
- Replacement stock below targets must be fed meals
- Identify and prioritise culling of cows now.
- September is a big Ploughing care month – BCS cows!



By Matt Ryan

FARM YEAR STARTS IN SEPTEMBER

- » September is a vital month in driving and increasing next year's farm profit.
- » Your 280-day cowherd grazing season plan starts now.
- » Cow condition plan starts now.
- » Ploughing care plan now will set you up for year.
- » Financial review is necessary to minimise tax pay and also start the financial plan for next year.
- » Test silage, soil and Ploughing status now.
- » Replacement Heifers, if not on weight target, must be managed to achieve.

COW-HERD GRAZING SEASON OF 280 DAYS

- » The average cow-days at grass for the whole herd by my client groups is 255 days. This is influenced by:
 - Let-out date: which is influenced by:
 - Ground conditions,
 - The amount of grass available,
 - Farmer attitude.
 - Housing date, which is influenced by:
 - Ground conditions,
 - The amount of grass available,
 - Farmer attitude.
 - Calving pattern: this has a major influence because cows that are not calved are not let-out to grass; hence the need for compact calving.
- » As every day of extra grazing is worth €2.80 per cows, we must strive to graze grass for as many days in the year, as our farms allows.

A 10 day increase in the grazing season increases profits by €28/cow and reduces the carbon footprint by 1.7%.

That gain is got by having them grazing for only 3 hours.

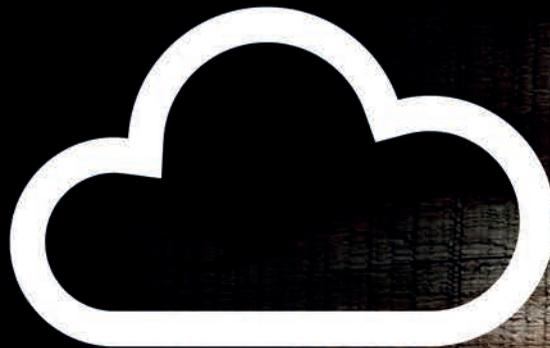
- » Therefore, we must challenge ourselves to keep cows at grass longer in the autumn and let them out earlier in spring. Hence the need to compact calving.
- » First task is to do your Autumn Rotation Plan on PastureBase/AgriNet now:
 - A very simple, effective area-based plan to ensure you allocate the correct area for grazing each day so that you can stay grazing for as long as possible, while at the same time stopping when you should so as to have grass in spring.
 - All you must do is decide on the start (range 20th September to 10th October) and finishing (range from 15th October to 25th November) dates for last rotation. But you, the manager, must challenge yourself to maximise these dates.
 - For those of you already using it, look back on those for the last few years and ask yourself 'were there any lessons to be learned from them?' Could I have started the last rotation later? Could I have stayed out longer? Did I leave a high enough farm cover (AFC) going into the winter? Did I have too little AFC in spring?

Did I leave too much with the result it rotted? Did I do excess poaching damage that could be avoided and how?

- Discussion groups should ensure all members are doing it. If not, the facilitator should help.
- » For more 'advanced computer literate farmers' and those farmers who have changed their spring calving pattern, a grass feed budget covering the period from now until May is a MUST DO task.
 - Several farmers have changed their spring calving pattern for next year by synchronization and therefore will have higher grass demands next spring which may result, without planning, in 'running out of grass'.
- » An autumn grass budget is an absolute essential tool to save on meal costs and make more profit (Table1)
 - A very profitable return for not more than 1 hour on the PastureBase/AgriNet Grass Budget programme can be achieved.
 - If you unable to do it, get help from your adviser or discussion group.
- » What will an autumn feed budget show/tell you?
 - When to expect high covers and what actions are necessary,
 - When to dry off and cull cows,
 - When to introduce meal; the plan must be such that low levels of meals are fed before 1st Oct (then start with 2kg) and when to increase to 3kg (not before 1st Nov),
 - When and quantity to introduce high quality baled silage - none before 1st Nov if possible
 - And, finally, when to house all cow – must be kept out as long as possible on grass.
- » To do the budget you must know a few bits of information before you start:
 - Intake per cow and autumn target farm cover (AFC) – see Table 1
 - Friesian cows, milking 1.4kgMS/day will require 16.5kg DM/day, while Jersey X's require 3.6% less or 16kg. This will decrease as the MS yield decreases from month to month.
 - You will also need to know the calving pattern, preferably by week (make a good 'guestimate', for next spring.
 - You will also need to know the potential growth rates on your farm for autumn and spring. PastureBase will give you previous years' performance and if you have not done before they will give you county/regional figures for planning.
 - You will also need to know the AFC targets for next spring:
 - Depending on stocking rate (SR) the target opening AFC in February should be 900 -1100kgs DM/ha.
 - The target in early April should be 600 – 700 kgs DM/ha to facilitate SR of 4.7 to 4.9 cows per hectare of grazing from mid-April – this allows the farm to maximise the area cut for 1st Cut silage.



Storm. Powerful, fast and effective.



Pasta



Secure



Available in Secure and a new Pasta formulation.

- The fast way to eliminate rodent infestations
- Delivers a lethal dose in a single feed
- Effective even against resistant strains
- Save time and money in application

www.pestcontrol.basf.com

 **BASF**
We create chemistry

Storm® contains flocoumafen. Storm® is registered trademark of BASF. Use biocides safely. Always read the label and production information before use.

Date	2.5 Cows/ha		3.0 Cows/ha		3.5 Cows/ha	
	Cover/ Cow	AFC	Cover/ Cow	AFC	Cover/ Cow	AFC
1 st Sept	300	750	330	990	280	770
15 th Sept	425	1050	370	1110	340	1200
1 st Oct	400	1000	380	1150	335	1175
15 th Oct	350	880	340	1020	285	1000
1 st Nov	280	700	275	820	240	830
1 st Dec	550 - 700		700 - 800		750 - 850	

Table 1: Target Autumn Covers per cow and Total farm cover (AFC)

- » Rotation length for 1st, 15th and 30th September should be 30, 35 and 40 days respectively.
- » You are grazing the 2nd last rotation in September, and it is very important to get yourself grazing the correct paddocks now so that you will be grazing the correctly situated paddocks in the spring. Obviously, you should be able to graze the driest paddocks first in spring and they should also be near the milking parlour.
- » As a general principle you should graze the silage ground twice before closing in April. This will have a major influence on which paddocks to graze first and last in the last two autumn rotations.
 - If you want to close fields for silage on 1st April, for cutting on 20-25th May, then you must graze approx. half your paddocks before starting to graze the silage area from around the 15th March to 1st April and graze other 8 to 10 paddocks from 1st to 10th April (magic day),
 - This grazing sequence must be mirrored in the Sept and Oct rotations,
 - If you plan to graze the silage area twice before closing, with an average closing date of 15th April, and a 6-week cutting date of 10th June, then you must graze your silage area 1st in spring and again from 10th to 20th April.
 - Again, this must be mirrored in Sept/Oct rotations.
 - This may sound complicated but talk to your Adviser and Discussion Group for clarification as it is worth a lot of money in savings on meal and higher milk solids.

LAST NITROGEN

- » The amount of Nitrogen - protected urea - you can use now depends on how you have managed your nitrogen allocation use to date this year.
 - You can't put on any if you have used all of your allocation by now.
 - If you are in that boat, then, if you have slurry or soiled water available you should cover as many acres as possible to

maximise the benefit of the nitrogen therein.

- » All your bag nitrogen must be used before 15th September.
 - If you spread after that you are subject to penalty and response is poor.
 - To be able to apply 30units/acre on all acres at milking platform farmers must apply none or very little on outside land blocks.
 - Because of low grass covers on farms this year, bulk spread all your nitrogen over the whole farm in early September – this will maximise growth to build up grass.
- » Your last day for spreading slurry is 15th October. It would be a good idea to delay spreading until 1st-15th October any 'left over' slurry because the nitrogen therein will contribute to grass growth and grass 'protection' in November – a kind of anti-freeze effect.
- » What are the recommended rates of Nitrogen in September? Depends on the stocking rate (See Table 2). It is worth noting, because of the growth rates achieved in August and the mineralisation of N, there may be no N required at low stocking.

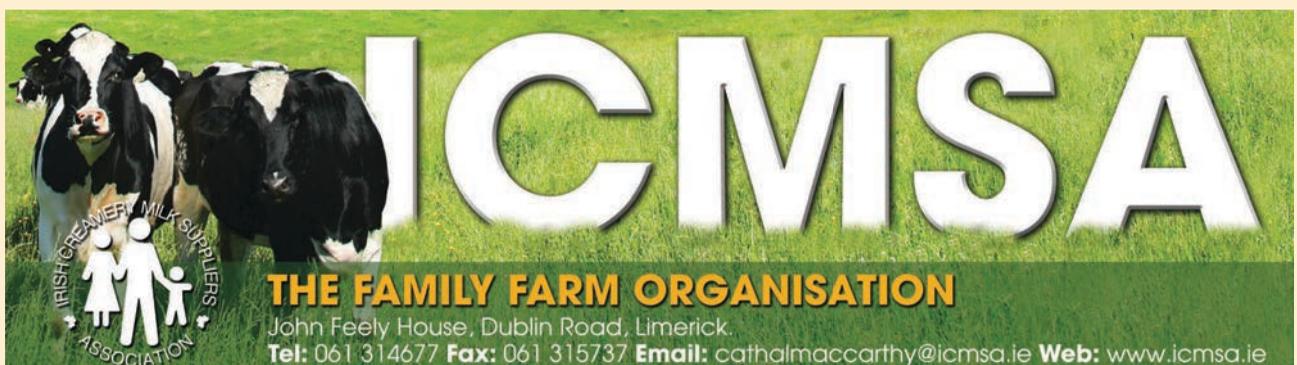
Cows per hectare	Units per Acre September	Total Units/Acre for year
2.24 or less	None	133-175
2.24-2.35	20	205
2.35-2.47	28	226
2.47-2.94	20	200

Table 2: Recommended rates of Nitrogen for different Stocking Rates in September

- » Low stocked farms, 2.24 cows per hectare or less, need no nitrogen because the nitrogen already spread, and "background" nitrogen is adequate to grow the amount of grass required.
- » Farmers with 2.47 cows per hectare (1 cow per acre) should apply 28 units acre on the 5th-10th September on the entire farm.
- » Soiled water or slurry can be used in early October as a source of Nitrogen.

ANALYSE SILAGE, SOIL DUNG SAMPLES

- » Silage should now be analysed for feeding value and for minerals.
 - With a feed analysis you can estimate the quantity of feed you have available in dry matter and feeding value.
 - You will know whether to buy straw for over-fat cows; how much meal to feed to thin cows and, more importantly, you will know which silage to keep for feeding to milking cows in spring.
 - The mineral analysis will indicate to you what you need in a pre-calving mineral mix and what minerals may be deficient in cows next breeding season.



ICMSA

THE FAMILY FARM ORGANISATION

John Feely House, Dublin Road, Limerick.
 Tel: 061 314677 Fax: 061 315737 Email: cathalmacCarthy@icmsa.ie Web: www.icmsa.ie

AHV LAUNCHES RUFO - A GROUND-BREAKING BOOST FOR TMR DIETS FED IN IRELAND



Animal Health Vision (AHV) has launched a new feed additive, RuFO, designed specifically to improve rumen function in dairy cows.

The new product has been formulated purposely for inclusion in Total Mixed Ration (TMR) diets. Its development recognises fully, the very high inclusion rates of forage in the diets fed to dairy cows throughout the year in Ireland.

AHV Managing Director for the UK and Ireland, Adam Robinson, explained the role that RuFO can

play in delivering higher levels of production efficiency.

"The quantity and activity of rumen microbial population determines the efficiency with which all diets are utilised.

"RuFO has been designed specifically to promote an environment within the rumen that is fully conducive to the growth and activity of those microbial populations that ultimately produce optimal levels of health and productivity. This is being achieved by improved utilisation of feed, which - in turn - releases more energy and protein to the microbes and the animal.

"As a consequence, the use of RuFO will help deliver improved production, fertility and overall health outcomes."

AHV nutritionist Michael McGonigle takes up the story:

"RuFO has been extensively trialled on dairy farms throughout Ireland. Participating farmers have consistently confirmed the attainment of improved lactation-related performance, more efficient use of feed, better fertility and improved health status across their herds."

A fundamental driver of RuFO is that of allowing farmers to reduce the protein levels within the TMR diet, while not incurring any reductions in subsequent performance. The new feed supplement has been extensively trialled in Ireland under commercial farming conditions.

Paddy Gunn is farm manager on the dairy unit owned by Paddy Harte at Kilglas, Rooskey, Co Roscommon.

The farm is home to 62 pedigree Holstein cows, soon to become 100, and two milking robots.

Paddy explained:

"The unit was established three years ago with in-calf heifers bought in at that time. The animals were selected on the basis of their ability to produce high levels of milk solids.

"And this is what they have been achieving. The herd is split into autumn and spring calving groups. The cows are currently averaging 32½L of milk per day. Some of the cows are giving 10,000L from 3 tonne of meal.

He added:

"As the cows matured, their average milk yields increased. Last year, it got to the stage where the single robot, that was initially installed, could not cope with the milk coming off the farm.

"The decision was taken at that stage to invest in a second robot. An ongoing extension of the main shed will provide cubicle spaces for an additional 38 cows.

"This ties-in with the number of home bred heifers that are due to calve later in the autumn."

The Harte cows were placed on the RuFO ration since last October and have been retained on it since then.

Paddy Gunn again:

"Fresh TMR is placed in front of the cows each morning. The RuFO inclusion rate is 100g/cow/day.

"The requisite amount of the product is weighed out and placed in a JCB shovel along with a dairy mineral blend.

"The mixture is then dropped into the feeder wagon as it is mixing the overall TMR. It's a very straightforward process. All the cows in the milking group receive the RuFO ration.

"They are topped-up with additional nuts while in the milking chamber."

Paddy noticed an improvement in cow condition quite soon after RuFO was included in their diets.

He added:

"Members of the AHV team have regularly sieve tested the dung produced by the cows over the past few months.

"This work is confirming that a considerably higher proportion of the diet is being



Paddy Gunn with AHV Nutritionist Michael McGonigle

digested than would formerly have been the case."

Michael McGonigle was a recent visitor to the Harte farm.

"RuFO has been extensively tested on dairy farms across Ireland," he said.

"And the results achieved to date have been very encouraging."

Many of the farmers involved in the trial work have been able to reduce the crude protein content of their overall dairy ration by 5% while feeding RuFO to their lactating cows.

"Taking this approach obviously reduces meal bills. But it is only scratching the surface in terms of what RuFO can actually deliver," Michael further explained.

"As has been fully verified on the Harte farm, body condition will improve from the get-go. Animals will come into full milk very quickly. Thereafter, they will be able to sustain very high levels of output throughout their lactations."

He continued:

"As a consequence, fertility levels will improve significantly. All the farmers on the RuFO trial are confirming that cows are showing very strong heats and excellent conception to first service rates.

"But more than that, the cows look really well while on the RuFO diet. Feet-related problems became less of an issue as did the other health-related problems that can crop up with dairy cows on a regular basis."

Another of the RuFO trial farmers is Richard Newell, who farms near Katesbridge in Co Down. He was equally impressed with the new additive.

"For us, the big driver behind the new product was the significant improvement in fertility that it delivered across the herd," Richard explained.

"The calving interval of the cow group on the RuFO diet fell by 21 days. In addition, the average number of straws needed to get these cows back in calf fell from 31 to just 1.9.

"This development alone represented a tremendous saving for the business."

Michael McGonigle continued:

"RuFO also acts to reduce heating in the TMR diet. All the farmers on the trial reported a consistent and significant reduction in heating levels within the rations fed to their cows.

"This is of huge benefit to palatability and, crucially, feed quality. The heating process causes degradation of nutrients, so when we prevent heating when using RuFO, we maintain the nutrient value of the TMR diet.

"Another beneficial impact of securing optimal rumen health is the ability of cows to better deal with the performance-related problems that can be caused by mycotoxins.

"Recent surveys have confirmed that mycotoxins are becoming more prevalent in the silages fed to dairy cows throughout Ireland."

Michael concluded:

"RuFO has been designed to deliver improved performance levels across an entire herd or within a specific herd group.

"RuFO's success in maintaining feed quality, promoting efficient digestion, and supporting overall cow health and performance has been evident, alongside its hugely worthwhile return on investment."

**For further information, contact Michael McGonigle on 087 649 7366
You can visit AHV at this year's World Ploughing Championships, Ratheniska, Co Laois at Stand 48 Row 2.**

- » Soil testing should be done, particularly if not done for a few years. There is only one way out of low nitrogen allowances and that is to have soil fertility at optimum levels. Fertiliser, lime, P & K, grows grass! It is essential to apply LIME at every chance you get to increase pH on every acre to 6.3.

A FREE VET VISIT TO YOUR FARM?

- » Yes, this to help you comply with the new requirement of a veterinary prescription for antiparasitic medicines which comes into effect from 1st December 2022.
 - You will also be able to get two faecal egg counts done for free.
 - Log into animalhealthireland.ie; then click on AHI Bulletin – parasite control; then click on Register for a Parasite Control TASAH consult and fill in your details.
- » It is now more important than ever to chat your Vet in relation to an animal preventative care plan:
 - This coming autumn you will have to use selective dry cow control measures under veterinary supervision.
 - He can give you a free visit/consultation to help you sort out your dry cow management. But you must have:
 - Four milk recordings for each cow,
 - Recorded the number of clinical mastitis cases during the year.
 - Have an overall herd SCC of less than 200,000, and,
 - Be a participant in ICBF's Herd Plus.

As above click on the AHI web page, go to Cell Check and register.

- » Teat sealing is the way of the future when drying off cows, but you must know what you are about.
 - Get your last milk recording done 2 weeks before dry off so that you have very current information when making the decision,
 - If you haven't done so before, this year go gradually, select your best 10% SCC cows and they must have had no clinical mastitis this year.
- » If you are not doing milk recording, you still have time to do two, one now and one 2 weeks before dry off, so as to be able to decide which cows, if any, need no dry cow drug, based on SCC and mastitis cases.
- » With the mastitis changes that are coming there is no point in 'giving out' what is proposed is for the betterment of all humans so that we don't 'run out' of drugs to treat various human infections due to drug resistance.
 - Use your Vet extensively to plan and advise you,
 - Sell off high SCC cows and/or with a history of clinical mastitis – do it this autumn as grass is very scarce.

CONDITION SCORE COWS

- » Do a body condition score (BCS) on all cows in late September, as later is too late because it leaves you with fewer remedial options to rectify a problem.
- » The target cow condition score (CS) now is 2.7 or greater.
 - You must identify cows that are thinner than that now and plan some course of action for them.
 - If you wait, they will calve down thin and not milk well next year or go incalf.
- » One condition score is about 50kg liveweight in a Friesian and 40 kg in a Jersey cross cow.
 - Dry cows need more energy to gain liveweight than milking cows, because they use feed less efficiently for weight gain when they are not milking,

- To gain 1kg of liveweight/day a dry cow requires 46MJ ME whereas 39 MJ ME will be required while she is milking.
- Therefore, we should try to put on weight gain before we dry off cows,
- The drying off BCS should be 3.25; therefore, for a cow with a BCS of 2.7 now she must put on an extra 25 kgs weight (over and above calf weight gain). This cow will have to get an extra 93kgs meal over next 60 days or 1.5kgs/cow/day of a low protein/high energy ration.
- » Your options for these thin cows are to:
 - First up, scan all cows now to confirm pregnancy – will enable you make an informed decision,
 - Usual recommendation is to feed meals - the high milk price will make this advice attractive.
 - Once per day milking (OAD) has some merit.
 - Or 3in2 milking; that is 3 milkings in 2 days as more MS produced.
 - Or dry off 12-16 weeks before expected calving date.

Ploughing

- » September is a big preventative care month!
- » Salmonella, could put a farmer out of business, resulting in cow abortions at 7-9 months.
 - Vaccination must be done in early September.
 - The chances are incalf heifers are being done for the first time and need two injections, 3 weeks apart, the second one before late September. This is very important because the animal has no protection for 2 weeks after the 2nd injection. So, she could abort.
- » It is essential to vaccinate weanling replacement now for Leptospirosis at 6 months old – be guided by drug type advice.
- » Watch out for hoose among weanlings:
 - Yellow/white doses will kill hoose worms and give 2-3 weeks protection and longer with good grassland management.
 - There is gross over-use of the ivermectin-type products resulting in most young cows suffering from worms – more expensive to treat them as they are heavier.
- » If calves have stomach worms (sticky dung around tail head) they must be dosed.
- » Fluke (stomach fluke) may be a problem on some farms.
 - Caused big losses some years, even on dry farms,
 - It is worth getting dung samples analysed (cost €50) to confirm presence of fluke (particularly for dry farms)
- » Vasectomise male calves now to prepare for next year:
 - If you have not got any, go out and buy (one per 50 cows at least); he will be a great supplement to heat detection next year.
- » Mastitis/high SCC: Some serious offenders (2+ cases/year) should be dried off NOW while young cows who are a problem should be tested with the CMT test and acted on.

IDENTIFY COWS TO CULL NOW

- » Choosing cows to cull must consider more than reproductive performance. The potential they must remain in the herd and create additional profit must be weighed against the cost of keeping them until the next calving.
- » Prepare a cull list, which could be refined into "must cull" and "would like to cull" categories.
 - The first group should be 'cows that are empty,'
 - Scanning for pregnancy must be done now,
 - Recycling them in a spring calving herd cannot be justified,

Don't lose a slice of your farm.



Call us today to create your Succession Plan.

With over 40 years' experience, we understand that every succession story is unique. To plan ahead and secure peace of mind for you, your family and your farm's future, contact our specialist team of advisors today.

Call us on **1800 334422** or visit **www.ifac.ie**

- Milking them on to fatten rarely pays, as well as complicating things,
- The second group should be cows with high SCC and clinical mastitis, and prioritised on the following basis:
 - ▶ Have had two or more clinical cases in year plus moderate SCC levels and that had received a dry cow treatment.
 - ▶ Cows with SCC's of 250,000+ over the year.
- The 3rd group should be lame cows having had more than 2 lameness treatments during the year.
- The 4th group might be cows that have tested positive for Johnes, being prone to milk fever, grass tetany and other metabolic problems.
- Late calver's; being April and May. If they have low EBI/Fertility status, there should be no argument.
- Another group might be slow miller's, difficult/cross cows in parlour.
- Poor performers as measured by:

COW index on the Herd Plus,

Kgs milk solids (MS) per kg of body weight (BW)

Low % Fat and Protein.

- Culling should be based on a combination of these, and it is obvious that good records are essential.
- » Culling should take place from September on, to reduce stocking rate on the grazing platform to 2.8 cows/ha. A good milk price/meal cost ratio may change that advice.

ARE YOUR REPLACEMENTS ON TARGET?

- » In calf heifers have been neglected on many farms over the last few years at this time of year:
 - Weanling heifers (R1's) must be 33% of mature weight on 1st Sept (170-190 kgs)
 - In calf heifers (R2's) must be 73% of mature weight on 1st Sept (400-430 kgs).
- » Divide up your replacement heifers now by weight:
 - Under target heifers are obviously one group but grossly overweight/fat animals are equally an issue,

Animals that are fat/overweight will not milk well during 1st

lactation and neither in their lifetime. They will be more difficult to get in calf.

- For every 10kg an R2 is under target now she will need an extra

60 kg of meals. Therefore, feed under-weight heifers 1-2 kgs meal as well as grazing in front of the strong heifers.

- The same principle goes for the weanlings(R1's) but they will require approx 40 kgs meal (17-18%P) per 10 kg weight required. Overweight R1's, gaining more than 0.8kgs/hd/day will under-perform as cows. Therefore, restrict feed intake.
- » A weighing scales is a very good investment for discussion groups (one between every 3-4 members). Remember, the saying "that which is measured is managed".
- » If you have heifers out on contract, get the weights now and, based on advice here, take remedial action.

BITS & PIECES

- » Ground conditions are great with very low grass covers, therefore, spread a substantial amount of LIME now at 2 tons/acre.
- » Paddocks must be grazed out well (< 4cms), otherwise, poor autumn tillering will result due too many dung-pads/tall grass areas. It will be hard to graze out paddock after rain as they will be very rich in nitrogen.
- » Unless paddocks have very high pre-grazing covers cutting and bailing is not recommended.
- » Reseeds: Be careful not to sow later than mid-September; spray for weeds early; graze at a cover of 1000kgs DM and apply 60 units/acre of N at and post sowing.
- » On low stocked farms there is NO justification to feed more than 1-2 kgs meal but feeding 5-6kgs meal plus 5-6 kgs Silage/zero grazed grass with 5-6 kgs grazed grass can be justified this autumn because of grass scarcity.
- » If you have been feeding silage during the drought, do another check on the amount of winter feed (dry matter) available and act early to remedy.
- » Apply Potash now so-as-to have all fields in Index 4.
- » If you consider that electricity 'black-outs' may occur this winter, then an electricity generator may be a good investment for you.
- » To minimise tax, invest in forward buying of fertiliser, appropriate maintenance work, necessary capital investment

"Physical fitness is to mental fitness what water is to life"

Vince Lombardi

FARMEC

MX

The Best for Less

You can own an MX loader for as little as € 100.00 plus VAT per month. T&C apply

- On / Off tractor in less than 30 seconds.
- Unrivalled visibility.
- Largest diameter pins and bushes.
- Market leading paint quality available in all tractor colours.
- Fully integrated package (Loader, Front Linkage and Implements)
- 7500 customised tractor brackets to suit all makes.



CONTACT OUR SALES TEAM

Stephen 087 9543332

Garry 087 2503491

Tel: 01 8259289 www.farmec.ie

BARGAIN MX SULKY TROSE AKAC AerWay FILL

CLAAS CMATIC

– Geared for Growth.



CLAAS CMATIC CVT is a fully stepless transmission that provides seamless acceleration and deceleration between 0 – 50 kph. Delivering uninterrupted power for maximum productivity and minimising fuel usage, CMATIC boosts efficiency in the field and on the road. With 3 simple drive modes, the auto stretch brake feature, tractor implement control and engine droop adjustment the operator's day becomes a much more comfortable and controlled experience.

CLAAS CMATIC – Geared for Growth.

Contact your local CLAAS dealer today for further details.



Learn more about
CLAAS CMATIC

Scan me.

claas.ie

CLAAS



LANDINI 6H SERIES: STYLE AND POWER OF THE NEW 130HP UTILITY

Landini SERIES 6H T-Tronic, the new addition to the Argo Tractors family, is a tractor that represents performance, versatility, design and comfort. One of the main innovations is the Stage V emission engine, thanks to DOC-DPF-SCR technology. Additional features include closed-centre hydraulics, suspended cab and axle. The Landini SERIES 6H T-Tronic is brilliantly positioned in the Utility category, suitable for open field, haymaking and typical farm operations, enhancing performance and efficiency, optimising style and ergonomics.

The range offers two models, both powered by a 16-valve, 3.6-litre F36 engine: 6-125H, capable of producing 119 horsepower, rising to 127 in the 6-135H version. Fuel consumption is reduced by 10 per cent thanks to innovative solutions and tank capacity has been increased to 170 litres (previously 150). Maximum torque has also

been increased, with both models reaching 518 Nm at 1300 rpm.

The hydraulic system has been upgraded to a closed circuit (CCLS) of 110 litres/minute, with 38.5 litres for steering: a solution that allows greater hydraulic performance and increased productivity in front loader handling. At the same time, lower fuel consumption and less noise during operation are guaranteed. 34 litres of oil can be taken out, plus an extra 10 litres with optional tank to operate tipping trailers. The range also includes the "Power Beyond" system that ensures the use of the full 110 l/min flow rate. There are up to seven spool valves, two of which are mid-mounted and three mechanical, as well as a flow selector that doubles the outputs and a solenoid valve for implements that require certain flow rates, with the possibility of an additional two spool valves, also at the rear and also electronic.

The transmission ensures the correct speed for each specific application. This is thanks to the tried and tested 36+12 scheme with HML (3 speed under load) and Reverse Powershuttle with modulated engagement. The speeds become 48+16 thanks to the creeper. As an option, "Park-lock" — a brake system with a gear in the transmission — is available for greater safety.

Full frontal visibility is ensured by the installation of the Stage V after-treatment system and the SCR system under the bonnet, ensuring a compact tractor line that is true to the new Landini family feeling. Visibility is fully expanded by the 4-pillar cab and the sunroof with opening hatch for natural ventilation of the cabin. All front loader operations are therefore made easier, as is night work thanks to the 10 LED work lights.

Greater attention is given to operator comfort by the mechanical cab suspension

A GLOBAL VILLAGE



Well readers as I pen this month's column I decided to look at what happened in the corresponding issue last year and these were the hot topics at the time: we were addressing sustainability climate re thinks structural changes to CAP reform, price volatility, labour, plus much more besides... sound familiar? Roll one 12 months and the list is still the same except fuel prices

and input costs top the conversations now, both inside and outside the farm gates. I have spent some time in Europe over the last month with various machinery manufacturers and Central Europe is a complete dust bowl with record autumn temperatures being recorded in certain areas. Crops are under stress and there is an ever-present threat of fires. Simply put, the plains of Europe are on fire and Pakistan is flooded. We are clearly seeing the real effects of climate change and global warming. Now, more than ever before, we have to sit up and take notice - on a local, national and global basis - about how we really need to address the ever-changing face of climate issues going forward. The questions are: Is it too late? Is the damage done and irreversible? Are we only plugging the holes in an already burst dam? And, if not, what can we do to help? Agriculture will play its part, there is no doubt about that. But it will be interesting to see where the rest of the industrial world fits in. There is no point in some countries banning coal fired electrical stations and other countries building them. I know this is a simplistic view on my behalf, but it is a reality all the same. This is now a global village: what happens on one continent affects another. Now, down to the business in hand. I see that farmers in the west of Ireland are going to fair better than their counterparts in the east of the country under the new Agri Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES). This is down to the schemes being more suitable to more marginal land and structures. Tillage farmers are a little happier now as prices for grain are heading in the right direction again. Glanbia has lifted the base milk price for July and others have also followed, leaving the dairy sector once again in a healthy state as we head for the end of the third quarter of the year. Over the last few weeks there has been very little change in the beef and sheep trade factories and marts remain busy. Prices are at an acceptable level with a few bumps along the road but nothing major. Reports are showing nationwide that green diesel has risen by 22 cent a litre over the last few weeks. Reports from the machinery industry in Europe are showing the demand for new machinery is slowing down, with lead-in times for delivery of new machinery still being a problem. The supply of components is causing major issues but has been getting slightly better. Any farmer or contractor wishing to purchase a piece of equipment for next season will want to start talking to their local dealer ASAP. New telehandler registrations are up 12 per cent with a total of 377 units registered to date. Farmhand, the well-known machinery importer and distributor, is celebrating 60 years in business and I would like to wish them the very best for the future. Fendt tractors have taken the covers off their new generation 7 700 Vario range - more on that in the October issue. And, finally, all roads lead to Ratheniska, Co Laois, for the welcome return of the National Ploughing Championships on the 20th, 21st and 22nd September. They will also host the World Ploughing Championships this year and record crowds are expected so get on down to Laois and celebrate all that is great in Irish agriculture. So until next month, farm wisely and farm safely.



system with 96 mm cylinders and by the ergonomic solutions adopted on the control console, which features a new joystick for loader, hitch and half-speed engagement. Comfort that is also demonstrated during road transport thanks to the option of a suspended front axle with brakes.

The electronically controlled rear power lift has a load capacity of 6,000 kilograms, while the auto PTO system activates/deactivates the PTO at a specific hitch height. There is also an anti-pitch system that dampens the stresses from uneven ground during transport.

Optional equipment includes the L30 front loader and front hitch that can lift up to 2,250 kilograms, with front PTO.

The Landini SERIES 6H can take advantage of the best technology available from the Italy-based company. Thanks to the open architecture of the tractor, it is able to take a number of satellite guidance systems and the ISObus system - to make the tractor communicate with the implements - ensures maximum efficiency and fuel control. Moreover, thanks to Landini Fleet & Remote Diagnostic Management, it is possible to manage the tractor fleet by reducing operating costs and establishing machine productivity through the control of working parameters and tractor telemetry. Remote diagnostics, on the other hand, allow machine downtime to be reduced by intervening remotely for software updates.

A technology compatible with the requirements of Industry 4.0.



AGRICULTURE - STAND YOUR GROUND



Tom Murphy

Professional Agricultural Contractors of Ireland

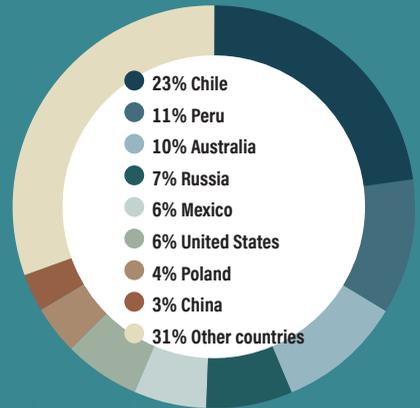


Some may find this controversial, but I believe there are other ways to address the global warming crisis. Over the years world leaders have pushed the carbon footprint problem on to the next generation. They target agriculture as the bad boy and as a major contributor to climate change; rather than face the real problem; the obsession with car ownership, saying that's all sorted by the rapid move to all electric vehicles; thus saving the planet.

LITHIUM

If we want sustainable food production to feed the world we cannot treat agriculture on a par with other industries. The medium and long term effects of our obsession with car ownership will do more damage to the planet than agriculture.

The production and use of Electric Vehicles (EVs) require three components; lithium, copper and concrete and mining lithium and copper has significant consequences on the



World reserve of Copper, 2020
Source: Government of Canada

world's carbon footprint. The majority of the world's lithium reserves are located in the "lithium triangle", Chile, Argentina and Bolivia who along with China, are the top four lithium producers and have little regard for environmental issues with appalling emission records. The mining of lithium is far from eco friendly using 500,000 gallons of water per ton to extract. It is already causing water shortages to agriculture, river pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. Analysis of global data project demand for lithium will grow by a compound annual rate of 25% from 2020-2024, mainly to service the production of EVs, which is expected to increase from 3.4million to 12.7 million over the same period. The World Economic forum and the International Energy Agency both warn that lithium is not only required for EV production but is also for the production of laptops, mobile phones, planes, trains, bikes, and all types battery operated products. These organizations predict it will not be possible to meet world targets set for conversion to EVs. If this is so we face a transport crisis and in the process agricultural production will be severely damaged throughout the world.

COPPER

Now let's look at the demand for copper in relation to vehicles. A conventional car requires 23kg, a hybrid electric car 40kg and plug in hybrid cars 60kg. A battery electric car requires 83kg plus 8kg for the charger. Whilst many copper mines are located in countries signed up to emission protocols, the top producers; Chile, Peru and China have scant regard for world concerns on global warming.

A LONG WAY TOGETHER



AGRIMAX FORCE

Por mais complexas que sejam as suas necessidades, o AGRIMAX FORCE é o seu melhor aliado para aplicações de aragem do solo e transporte com tratores de alta potência. Graças à tecnologia IF (Increased Flexion - Melhor Flexão), este pneu radial é capaz de transportar cargas pesadas com uma pressão de inflação mais reduzida do que a de um pneu padrão, reduzindo a compactação do solo e proporcionando uma excelente tração. O AGRIMAX FORCE se destaca também pelo talão reforçado que contribui para uma vida útil estendida do pneu, garantindo ótimo desempenho mesmo em altas velocidades e reduzindo o consumo de combustível.

O AGRIMAX FORCE é a solução da BKT em termos de produtividade e resistência para tratores de alta potência.



Chetan Ghodure
Balkrishna Industries Ltd, India
Email: chetang@bkt-tires.com
Mobile: +917021000031

BKT

GROWING TOGETHER

in f t u o e bkt-tires.com



MF 5700 M | 95-135 HP

NOT HERE TO BE AVERAGE.

A STRAIGHTFORWARD YET GUTSY, MULTI-TASKING POWERHOUSE WITH A CHOICE OF TRANSMISSIONS AND SIMPLIFIED OPERATOR ENVIRONMENT.

THERE'S NOTHING AVERAGE ABOUT THIS TRACTOR.

AVAILABLE WITH **1 + 5 SEMI ANNUALS @ 0% (UP TO 45% RRP)***

SPEAK TO YOUR LOCAL MASSEY FERGUSON DEALER FOR MORE INFORMATION
OR VISIT WWW.MASSEYFERGUSON.COM/EN_IE



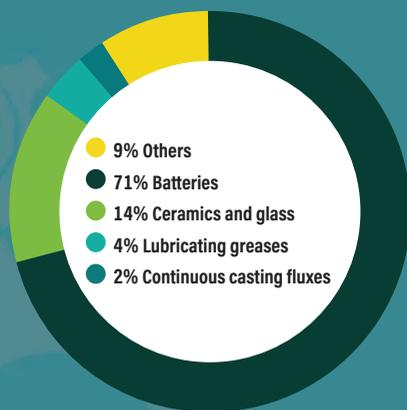
MASSEY FERGUSON

BORN TO **FARM**

MASSEY FERGUSON® is a global brand of AGCO.

WWW.MASSEYFERGUSON.COM/EN_IE

*Ts/Cs apply. Finance is provided through our finance partner AGCO Finance. AGCO Finance Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority only in respect of agreements regulated by the Consumer Credit Act 1974. AGCO Finance Limited only lends business to business and on business assets. Terms and Conditions apply. All applicants must be 18 years or older. Any quotation is subject to formal credit approval. Alternative repayment profiles are available upon request should the advertised profile not meet the cash flow requirements of your business, an Admin fee will be payable on signing and an option to purchase fee (HP only) will be payable at the end of the agreement. Offer is subject to change at any time. All quotes are valid for 14 days and should the cost of borrowing increase between the quote date and the actual signing of the documents then AGCO Finance reserve the right to request that the quote is recalculated.



Global uses of Lithium, 2020
Source: Government of Canada

CONCRETE

Concrete is the world's biggest polluter, emitting 7 per cent of GHG, if this industry was a country its' global emissions would be greater than the European Union or India combined and just behind China and USA. Concrete is the biggest component in road building and more roads are planned every day to cope with our obsession with the car. Our world leaders would have us believe

they have saved the planet by changing to EVs. The UK has allocated £27 billion under the Road Investment Strategy 2020-2025 for new roads, the construction of which requires the use of heavy machinery, tree felling, steel, tunnelling, lighting and of course concrete. All of these are significant contributors to GHG emissions. Looking at the transport policies of other countries, trillions have been allocated to new roads and maintenance, based on the use of EVs, all in the face of the overwhelming evidence that there will not be enough raw materials to produce EVs. A report by Transport for Quality of Life declared transport to be the worst performing sector for carbon emissions, but then goes on to recommend a faster move to EVs - without taking into account any of the negatives associated with this sector. The lobbying power of the three sectors I have singled out, together with ancillary industries, far outweigh that of agriculture. But for goodness sake, let's stop being so defensive, stop apologizing and don't be seen as the problem at the table. I believe

the public, if given the choice, of an efficient, reasonably priced public transport system (including rural communities) would cut their car use drastically. The billions that have been spent on EVs is a waste and a travesty.

DAVID AND GOLIATH

When dealing with emissions one cannot compare Agriculture with other sectors. Agriculture has, over recent decades, reduced its emissions and will continue to do so, which is more than can be said for other major polluters. It might be a David and Goliath situation but those who want to ignore the facts by taking the path of least resistance must be challenged.

As always, I back Farmers and Agricultural Contractors who, despite constant criticism, put food on our table and help to feed the world. History will show that the global warming issue was once again foisted on future generations and the legacy of this generation of leaders is "we gave people electric cars, we couldn't feed them all too".

The new Carrier XT

Carrier XT has the ability to optimise the disc angles to its working depth. This creates a full cut-out at a shallower working depth or reduced soil flow at a deeper working depth. Both of these factors contribute to a lower diesel consumption.

Learn more at vaderstad.com

Carrier XT can either be delivered as a trailed or mounted version. The working width is 4.25, 5.25 or 6.25m. All Carrier XT models can be equipped with a range of both single and double packer options.



VÄDERSTAD

Where farming starts

DEUTZ-FAHR 5 SERIES 95 TO 126HP IN DEALER STOCK AND READY TO GO!



Scan for more information
on the 5 Series Stage V

THE NEW 5 SERIES - YOU CAN CHOOSE THE APPLICATION.



*Finance for business purposes only. Subject to acceptance and affordability checks. Applicant must be 18+. RoI Only. **Promotion valid until 30.09.2022.** Available on new equipment only. **Payment profile of 1+59 monthly payments @ 1.5% flat rate p.a. Based on maximum balance to finance of 50% of RRP.** The finance product offered under this promotion is Hire Purchase. 1st payment, full VAT and a doc fee of €100 are all due on signing. An option-to-purchase fee of €100 (+ VAT) will be collected with the final payment. You will own the equipment when all payments have been made. Alternative finance options are available. T&Cs apply. Annual admin fee of €40 (+VAT). Images are for illustrative purposes only. Finance provided by BNP Paribas Leasing Solutions Limited, Northern Cross, Basing View, Basingstoke RG21 4HL. Registered in England No. 901225. As funder we may pay a commission, fee or other remuneration to credit brokers who introduce business to us, please contact them if you require more information.

To find your nearest dealer visit deutz-fahr.com

DEUTZ-FAHR is a brand of SDF

5 SERIES + FZ model Loader

ON FARM FROM	€78,347**
DEPOSIT	€28,170
BALANCE TO FINANCE	€50,177**
MONTHLY PAYMENTS AT 1.5% FLAT RATE P.A.:	
1ST PAYMENT	€899**
59 PAYMENTS @ 1.5%	€899**

'Business users only' fees apply.

See terms and conditions.*

Offer available until 30th September 2022.

**Inclusive of VAT





MODERN SOLUTION

Have you tried buying a tractor, combine or baler recently? Then you might have experienced hurdles previously unknown to buyers and sellers. Inflation, war, and climate crisis: Ireland's farmers and contractors who have been trying to buy farm machinery this year have experienced the immediate impact of global developments. Increasing prices, machine shortages, and long delivery times have put Ireland's farmers' productivity at risk.

E-FARM.COM, a Europe-wide operating platform for used farm machinery from Germany, claims to have the answer to these modern-day's challenges. Looking at more than 500 sold tractors, combines and more in 2022 only, we think they might be right. Here is why:

You name it, they got it. Massive shortages in supply have led to longer waiting times for new machinery, less choices at the dealers and an increased demand for use machines, too. Instead of being able to get the exact model or brand desired at the local dealer, farmers now have to take what is available – at longer delivery times. E-FARM operates Europe-wide with a reliable network of dealers and extensive database, thus, has the capacities to provide you with machinery to suit your needs in no time.

Speaking of time: Have you ever heard a farmer say they have too much of it at hand? We bet not. E-FARM knows this and offers service solutions from individual machine search to secure transport to easy trade-in of your old machine.

PARTNER PROMOTION

Or take a look at their neutral inspection: No matter where your desired machine is located, they will send out an independent DEKRA expert, who will not only thoroughly check the machine, but also provide you with a detailed inspection report. Just think about the possibilities this offers: You will be able to buy from all over Europe without having to set a foot outside your door. Save yourself the trip to the dealer and decide on your machine from the comfort of your home. Don't miss a day: Farming has forever been time-critical, with high dependencies on the weather. Nature does not wait for men and machines to be ready. So, you got to be prepared in case of machine breakdowns. E-FARM is aware of that. That is why they offer several warranty options for those used machines that have gone through their inspection process. Not only will you be protected against high repair costs, but also not held up by delays when time is short. Repairs will be done in no time. If the situation calls for a new machine, E-FARM claims to have record-breaking delivery times, thanks to their tight network of reliable transport companies.

Interested in trying E-FARM.COM's services, too? Check out what they have to offer at e-farm.com

Urgently seeking a machine?



01/07/2022 Greece

Customer's John Deere 6210R broke down in an accident

08/07/2022 Germany

New John Deere 6215R on it's way to the customer



Get in touch with us for the best used farm machinery deals and enjoy our services!



Inspection

Know everything about your machine with your personal report



Transport

Lay back, and enjoy your machine delivered to your farm



Warranty

Protect yourself against high repair costs in case of damage



Safe payment

Pay risk-free only after you receive your machine

 E-FARM.COM

APPROVED BY ANDY, RIGHT FOR YOU.

bisadv.com



New Holland prefers **AMSOIL** lubricants

AWARD WINNING PLOUGHMAN



- Low Fuel Consumption, up to 15%* less draft effort compared to leading competitors
- 165 years of Plough making experience
- The Plough parallelogram geometry makes it easily adjustable

*Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

NEW HOLLAND TOP SERVICE 00800 64 111 111 24/7 SUPPORT AND INFORMATION.

The call is free from a land line. Check in advance with your Mobile Operator if you will be charged. Alternatively call 01 2421881



www.newholland.com/ie



J.H. FITZPATRICK LTD HOST CASE AND MCHALE DEMO DAY

Last month J.H. Fitzpatrick Ltd hosted a Case tractor and McHale equipment demonstration day outside Monasterevin Co. Kildare. On display was a full line up of Case tractors along with a wide range of McHale equipment, which included mowers front and rear, rakes, fixed and variable chamber balers, fusion balers and the McHale C4 straw blower and much more besides. Below is some of the pairing ups on the day.





Save up to €537* on your Energy Bills



- ✓ 20% off for 18 months*
- ✓ €120 cashback*
- ✓ New and Exclusive IFA member offer
- ✓ Available to new and existing* customers
- ✓ Access to unmissable rewards
- ✓ 100% green electricity available
- ✓ Smart meter plans available

Call us today on 0818 924 852



In association with



Terms and conditions apply. All IFA Member Services power offers are for a defined period only. Please note that after this period, you need to contact us to ensure that the offer is applied for a further term as we cannot automatically re-apply the discount without your permission. Save up to €537 (Inc. VAT) by signing up the New and Exclusive IFA Member Electricity Only Offer from Bord Gáis Energy over 18 month fixed term contract. (Savings includes €120 Cash Back credit which must be claimed within 12 months) Savings made against Bord Gáis Energy's standard electricity Rural 24 Hour unit rate that went into effect on the 1st May 2022 and using an average annual consumption of 4200 kWh pro rata across 18 months. The savings figure assumes no current customer discounts in place and no cash back has been claimed and is available to new & existing BOE customers 20% off Bord Gáis Energy's standard electricity Rural 24 Hour Tariff for 18 months, in association with IFA. €120 cashback must be claimed within 12 months. There is an annual charge for PSO* levy of €56.24 inc. VAT (€51.60 excluding VAT) per annum. The Commission for Regulation of Utilities has announced an increase in PSO effective from 1 October 2021.* The Public Service Obligation Levy is a government subsidy.



THE NEW CLAAS VARIANT 500

FOR THE 2023 SEASON, CLAAS IS INTRODUCING NEW VARIANT 500 VARIABLE CHAMBER ROUND BALERS. IN ADDITION TO CONSISTENT FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONAL AREAS LIKE THE PRESSURE CONTROL SYSTEM, THESE NEW BALERS ARE CHARACTERIZED BY LARGER TYRE OPTIONS, SIMPLIFIED MAINTENANCE AND A NEW DESIGN.



The VARIANT 500 series comprises four models. The VARIANT 560 RC and 565 RF can create bales from 0.90 to 1.60 m in diameter, while bale diameter with the VARIANT 580 RC and 585 RF is up to 1.80 m. The new VARIANT 560 RF and 580 RF both feature a spiral ROTO

FEED rotor, while the VARIANT 565RC and 585RC both come with a spiral ROTO CUT four-star cutting rotor that ensures excellent forage quality and high baling density. The VARIANT 565 RC and 585 RC also incorporate heavy duty drive components such as

reinforced drive chains, a strong cutting rotor with 8 mm double-tine stars and special knife protection for where the baler is heavily used and primarily for silage. Both balers are equipped with a 17-knife cutting mechanism with a theoretical chop length of 60 mm. The standard PRO rotor drop floor can be lowered hydraulically to clear blockages at the push of a button from the tractor cab, while the knives are automatically depressurized. In order to prevent blockages in advance, the PRO rotor drop floor compensates for uneven swaths by being able to lower itself by up to 30 mm and automatically return to its original position. An acoustic signal warns the driver before the rotor is blocked, so that there is enough time to reduce the driving speed.

OPTIMIZED SMART DENSITY PRESSURE CONTROL SYSTEM WITH SOFT CORE

A key focus for the engineers from Metz-Weippy has been on the new baling pressure

www.wrshaw.ie



W.R.Shaw

SaMASZ



SPECIALISING IN
New Holland Tractors, Farm Machinery & Spare Parts

M-Hale



See our
new & ex-hire
tractor range



Carlow Sales Michael Eagers 087 - 7971700

Lyons & Burton
The Machinery People



Billy Shaw 086 - 2566006
Jack Thompson 086 - 8506499

Kilcock Sales
Colm Geraghty 087 - 3572617
James Carroll 087 - 9135141

control. This includes a new hydraulic control block with independent lines for both belt tensioning arms. This means that both the position and the baling pressure can be measured independently for both arms. The newly developed control software not only optimizes the baling process, so that perfectly formed bales leave the chamber even under difficult operating conditions in grass silage. The new regulation also achieves a higher bale density in the outer area of the bale, which better protects the bales from the effects of the weather. As a further effect, this allows an even more precise adjustment of the soft core if required, for example when baling hay. The dimensions and baling pressure of the soft core can be adjusted independently of one another for all operating conditions.

BINDING WITH EDGE COVERING NOW STANDARD

In the binding area, most noticeable is the ideal position of the net roll, which is 25 cm lower than in the previous generation and thus enables easy and safe roll changes. Thanks to the new net brake, which is independent of the roll diameter,

for absolutely constant net tension, a further improved feed plate and the new knife release guarantees a reliable and trouble-free completion of the tying process under all operating conditions. The tried-and-tested comfort net wrap for the fully automatic binding process has been carried over from the previous series in the VARIANT 500. The same applies to the COVERED XW net wrap, which is 1.30 m wide to cover the edge of the bale, which is now part of the standard equipment.

SIMPLIFIED HITTING AND MAINTENANCE

All VARIANT 500 balers are factory-fitted with Kennfixx plug-in couplers as standard, which, thanks to their colour-coding can be quickly and easily assigned. New inline filters also ensure reliable separation of foreign bodies in the hydraulic oil. Thanks to the revised design of the drawbar, it is now possible to better adapt it to the tractor and, at the same time, to align the VARIANT horizontally for all wheel sizes. The adjustment of the pickup wheels has also been redesigned so that they can be more easily and finely adjusted to the operating conditions. The central oil lubrication works

with a new oil tank and a new, mechanically driven oil pump, whereby the positions of the brushes have been changed for better lubrication with low oil consumption. This relieves the burden on the environment and reduces operating costs thanks to the longer service life of the drive chains.

CEMIS 700 REPLACES OPERATOR AND COMMUNICATOR II

After the introduction for the DISCO high output mowers, the QUADRANT square balers and the ROLLANT fixed chamber balers in summer 2020, the VARIANT 500 round balers with variable chambers are now also getting the CEMIS 700 ISOBUS terminal with an ergonomic design in a classy black look with smooth and easy-to-clean surfaces. In addition to 10 backlit ISOBUS hard keys, there is a rotary/push control on the terminal as a control element. The high-contrast color display with touch surface offers a 7-inch screen diagonal and automatic day/night switching. The camera input can be used to display real-time images from up to two cameras, which can be switched at the push of a button or automatically.

COMPACT-SOLITAIR

PRECISE WITH HIGH IMPACT

Contact your local dealer
to arrange demo of LEMKEN
3 meter Compact Solitair.

The Compact-Solitair can be used for both mulch and conventional plow seeding. It combines high impact with optimum seedbed preparation and can be combined with a wide range of tillage implements. Convince yourself of the many advantages:

- Large seed hoppers for high area output
- Optimum seedbed through use of power harrow/ compact disc harrow under all operating conditions
- Versatile due to combination also with precision seeder Azurit
- Exact placement depth and optimum soil contact through OptiDisc double disc couler
- Large volume wheels for optimum reconsolidation and precise depth control

lemken.com

Contact: Derek Delahunty, LEMKEN Area Sales Manager
00353 86 0203886, d.delahunty@lemken.com

The Agrarunion company



NETWORKS



ARE YOU SURE IT'S SAFE?

Always ask yourself the question, are you sure it's safe?

When working on the farm, remember to always look up and look out for overhead electricity wires.

Plan ahead when moving high loads or operating farm machinery and stay clear of electricity poles, stays and overhead wires.

Always stay safe and stay clear of electricity wires.

For emergencies call:
1800 372 999

Supply interruption updates:
powercheck.ie

Follow us on twitter:
[@ESBNetworks](https://twitter.com/ESBNetworks)

For more information:
esbnetworks.ie

Serving all electricity customers

BUDGET MUST DISPEL IMAGE OF 'MANAGED DECLINE' OF COMMERCIAL FARMING



Pat McCormack,
President, ICMSA

The budget to be delivered on September 27 must be viewed as one of the fast-dwindling opportunities for the Government to show that their policy regarding commercial farming is categorically not one of 'managed decline'; Doubtless Minister McConalogue and many if not most of his colleagues would furiously deny any such labelling.

But nobody with any ear to rural Ireland can seriously deny the widespread perception that the Government has taken a decision to 'wind down' our commercial farming sector and, within that, to specifically target commercial family dairy farms.

Attending recent shows, I have been struck by the almost unanimous opinion of the farmers I met that – regardless of their official stance – a policy of 'managed decline' has been decided upon by the Government and that whenever officialdom is faced with a choice that either supports commercial farming or disadvantages it, then it will unfailingly choose to the latter. ICMSA did not necessarily subscribe to that belief, but we do understand how so many have arrived at that conclusion: even the most cursory glance at the Government's record on every single issue pertaining to farming seems to demonstrate a bias against commercial farming and very specifically against

commercial family dairy farms.

Budget 2023 provides the Government with a very obvious opportunity to show farmers and the wider agri-sector that they are anti-farming. But 'soft words' and vague aspirations about 'new income streams' aren't going to cut it anymore; we have all moved beyond this kind of generic chat and even if some ministers remain wedded to this kind of soft-focus 'feelgood' chat, the rest of us are in the mood for hard proposals based on hard data that will be matched by hard cash funding. We're not in the mood for any more rhapsodising about the income farmers could make from renewables 'if only somebody could do x or y or z'. This kind of pap is generally spouted by the very same people who should be doing the x and y and z. We keep hearing this and we keep being made aware of the raging double-standards that have bedevilled this debate from the word 'Go' and which will hobble the transition to lower emissions that is the motive for all this effort and policy-shift. A really obvious example of this double standard is the difference between the way the Government looks at, for instance, data centres and the way it looks at our dairy sector. Our officials and state agencies seem to contort themselves looking for ways to accommodate vast energy-consuming

foreign-owned data centres located in rural areas but employing less people than the nearby Co-op store. Meanwhile, there's a steady flow of regulations and restrictions and costs all aimed at farmers and coming from every direction that all combine to make it harder day-by-day to produce the food that is the real economic and indigenous infrastructure of these rural communities. I am constantly amazed that more rural TDs seem oblivious to the degree to which their rural constituencies had now identified this double standard. They see it and they don't like it one bit.

It's not our place to point out the obvious to rural TDs, but nobody can say they weren't told. In fairness to some representatives from all parties, we are aware of individual politicians who admit their confusion over official policy. But that won't be anywhere near enough come a General Election and we think that there's going to be a degree of shock at the extent to which traditional farmer support will either stay home or switch. At the time of writing Budget 2023 will be delivered in just under four weeks and if ever there was a time to signal that the Government understands the extent of disappointment and downright anger amongst the farming communities, then this is it.





NEW REGULATION FOR QUAD BIKE TRAINING & HELMET WEARING



CIARAN ROCHE, FBD RISK MANAGER, OUTLINES THE NEW LEGAL REQUIREMENTS REGARDING QUAD BIKE TRAINING AND HELMET WEARING, WHICH COME INTO EFFECT IN NOVEMBER 2023

In recent years the number of fatal and serious work-related accidents involving Quad Bikes, in particular in agriculture and forestry, has given rise to great concern. New legal requirements regarding Quad Bike (All-Terrain Vehicles/ATVs) operation under the "Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (General Application) Regulations" are due to come into effect on the 20th of November 2023. These regulations require that all operators of Quad Bikes, in all workplaces must have successfully completed a Quad Bike Training Course provided by a registered training provider to a QQI Standard or equivalent. Additionally all such operators must wear appropriate head protection while operating a Quad Bike. The lead-in time from now until November 2023 is to allow sufficient time both for training bodies to build capacity and for operators of quad bikes to seek out and do this professional training. A Quad Bike is a fantastic aid for farm work as it is designed to cope with a wide variety of terrain types, but if it is operated unsafely it quickly creates significant risks of death or severe injury to the operator. The most important safety issues with sit astride quads are training, experience, wearing personal protective equipment, maintenance and a good knowledge of the terrain. The main causes of deaths or serious injury with Quad Bikes are from:

- Being thrown off when vehicle overturns or after loss of control

- Collisions with structures, trees, poles, other vehicles etc
- Being trapped/asphyxiated/drowned under an overturned machine
- Pedestrians being struck or run over by a Quad Bike

The underlying causes are usually one or more of the following:

- Lack of formal training or experience
- Poor physical mobility
- Excessive speed, especially turning at excessive speed
- Carrying a passenger or an unbalanced load
- Tipping on a bank, ditch, rock, rut or bump
- A steep slope combined with other factors, e.g. ground or load conditions
- Towing excessive loads with un-braked equipment
- Poor quad maintenance

Get Training: All Quad Bike operators must be trained, as this will provide them with the safe operating skills and knowledge to operate a Quad Bike safely. The training must include the use of any towed equipment or attachments if applicable.

Wear appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): Head protection is vital, as a helmet can significantly reduce the number and severity of serious head injuries. Operators should always wear an approved helmet. Refer to your quad manufacturers' recommendation. A helmet should fit your head comfortably and securely. Wearing

a helmet with a face shield or goggles protects your eyes and will help your vision. Additional PPE such as gloves and safety footwear must also be worn.

No Passengers: Never carry a passenger on a Quad Bike. The long seat is for active riding, allowing operators to shift their body weight backwards and forwards for different slope conditions, and is not for carrying passengers.

Trailed equipment and loads: Overloading your quad can lead to an imbalance in weight distribution which can negatively affect braking. Ensure all riders know the manufacturers recommended towing capacity and drawbar loading limit. Always operate within these requirements. Remember that your ability to control the quad by your body movements will be considerably reduced when carrying a load or towing a trailer. Risk assessment is key.

When selecting trailed equipment look for: Over run brakes; Swivel hitch drawbar; Bead lock rims on wheels; A low centre of gravity and a wide wheel track; A long drawbar; Attachment points for securing a load.

Maintain your machine: Machine maintenance is key. Tyre pressures should be checked regularly. Servicing should be carried out in accordance with manufacturers' guidelines. Remember that a poorly maintained Quad Bike can lead to accidents. Always Think Safety First.

GET A 15%* DISCOUNT ON A NEW POLICY
When you get quotes for more than one product from FBD.

Visit your local branch or call **0818 617 697** to find out more.

*Terms, conditions and normal underwriting criteria apply.
15% discount available on a new policy when you have an existing FBD Insurance policy in place or get multiple quotes at the same time.

FBD Insurance Group Ltd trading as FBD Insurance is regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland.
Underwritten by FBD Insurance plc.

SUPPORT.
IT'S WHAT WE DO.





WE'RE HANDING DOWN A 15%* SAVING TO FARMERS.

Talk to Ireland's leading farm insurer, for a great quote on your tractor insurance plus get an extra 15%* discount when you get quotes for more than one product.

Visit your local branch or call
0818 617 697 to find out more.

*Terms and conditions and normal underwriting criteria apply. 15% discount available on a new policy when you have an existing FBD Insurance policy in place or get multiple quotes at the same time.

SUPPORT.

IT'S WHAT WE DO.



FBD
INSURANCE

DOING OWL WE CAN TO SAVE THE BARN OWL

**A NEW
GOVERNMENT
SCHEME IS BOTH
BENEFITTING
FARMERS AND
HELPING TO
CONSERVE BARN
OWLS**

A new measure to conserve barn owls has recently been made available to farmers across the country in the new Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES).

Designed by BirdWatch Ireland and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, the project, introduced last June, encourages farmers to install a barn owl box on their farm, to provide a safe and secure nesting site and encourage breeding. In fact, the scheme also benefits farmers, as barn owls are natural predators of rodents. In having one live on your farm, you automatically reduce the use and the negative effects of rodenticide (rat poison). In addition, you receive a government payment of €36.48 per nesting box, per year. "It's a win-win situation for both the farmer and the barn owl," says wildlife photographer and conservationist John Carrig, who has been working in wildlife preservation for 22 years and runs The Barn Owl Project, a

Visit: thebarnowlproject.ie
for more information

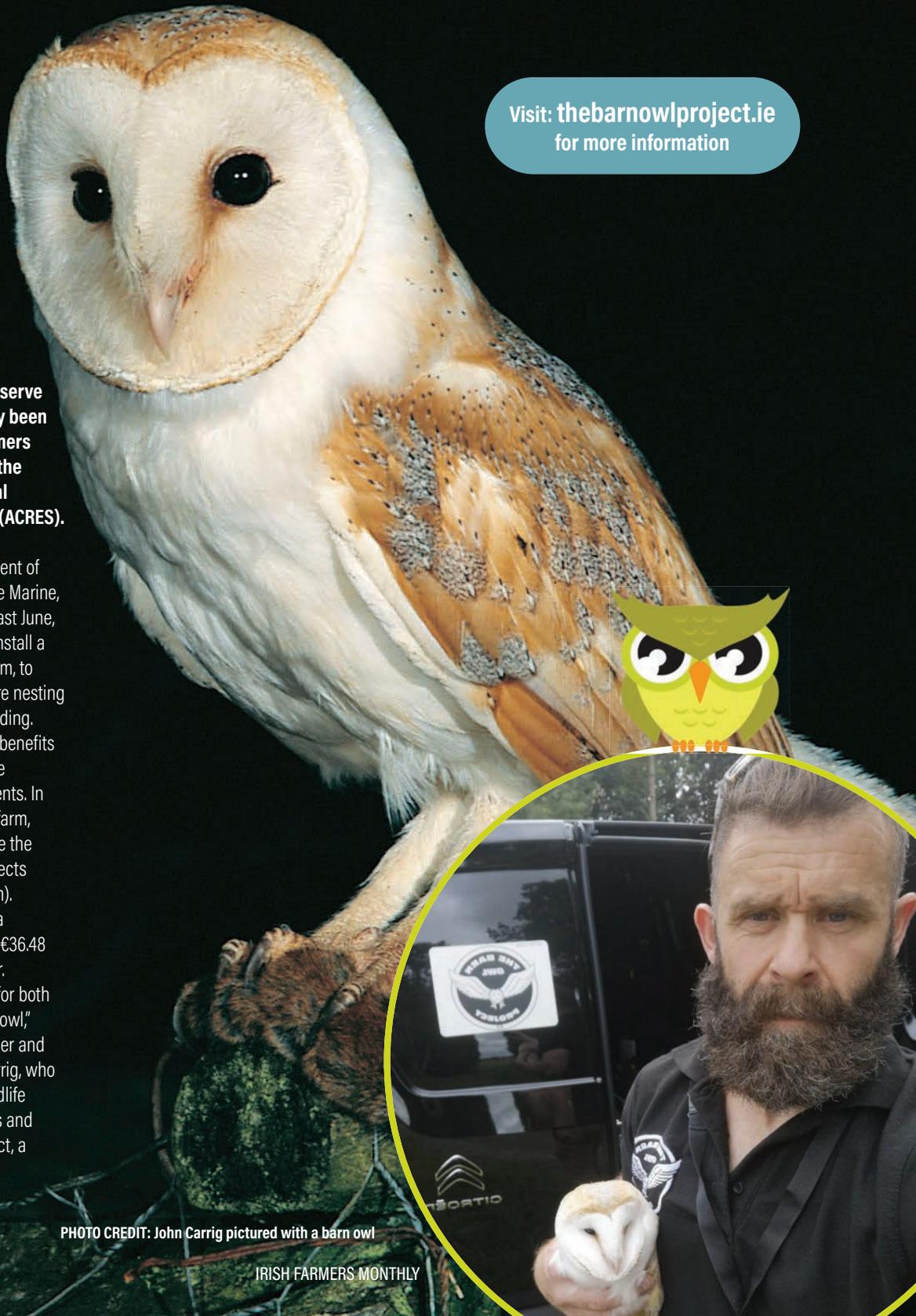


PHOTO CREDIT: John Carrig pictured with a barn owl

voluntary scheme set up in 2019, to protect barn owls. Barn owls have of course, long been associated with farming practices in Ireland, and traditionally nest in old stone farm buildings. However, it's a species which has struggled in recent decades and, due to widespread declines in its population and range, is now worryingly a Red-listed Bird of Conservation Concern in Ireland. Several factors have led to this decline, including changes in how the land is used, the intensification of farming which has

“THE REALITY IS THAT WITHIN 10 OR 12 YEARS, THERE’S A STRONG CHANCE THAT BARN OWLS IN IRELAND WILL BE COMPLETELY GONE.”

caused the loss of a suitable habitat for the bird, the loss of traditional nesting sites such as old stone farm buildings, and an increased use of rodenticide.

Rat poison is not only killing their prey, but also making the birds ill. It's believed that between 88% and 90% of living barn owls in Ireland have some level of rodenticide in their system. This means they can't hunt correctly or breed.

“Barn owls eat rats, mice, and shrews,” explains John. “It's really only since rat poison became cheap that the birds are declining, which means they're being killed by rodenticide. The reality is that within 10 or 12 years, there's a strong chance that barn owls in Ireland will be completely gone,” he adds. John cautions against overly interfering with the eco system. “People give out about foxes, stoats, and pine martins, but all of these animals kill and eat mice and rats. If you've got a farm where you've no barn owls and you've killed all the foxes, the stoats, and the pine martins, then you've got a serious problem because you will be overrun by rats.” The installation of nesting boxes could however help to conserve this stately bird

with its beautiful white feathers and elegant hooked beak.

To be suitable for the installation of a nesting



box, a farm must be located more than 500 metres away from a motorway or a dual carriageway, as road traffic is another major killer of barn owls. In addition, the farm cannot have an altitude higher than 300 metres, as upland areas are not suitable for barn owls. The habitat must also be suitable. Farmers should therefore choose to have grass margins – grassland or arable, low input grassland, winter bird food, overwinter stubble, and unharvested cereal headlands. The nesting boxes need to be built to specific measurements and are roughly half a metre by half a metre squared.

There's a hole in the box and a drop down from which the owlets emerge once hatched. “If the box isn't built correctly, and if the drop down isn't deep enough, the owlets will get to the entrance and fall down onto the ground,” says John. “Unlike other garden birds, their parents won't feed them once they fall out, and they therefore die, so it's important that the boxes are built correctly.”

It's a relatively simple step which has great benefits not only for the barn owl but for the farmer too. “If you have a barn owl on your farm, it's likely to kill two to three times more rats and mice than rat poison will,” says John. “What's more, rodenticide can be put down only in certain places for a certain amount of time, but one barn owl can kill anything from 700 to 1,200 rats and mice a year. If you have a pair of breeding barn owls for example and they have four owlets, then you're likely to kill up to 7,000 rodents per year.”

John advises farmers who are planning to quit the use of rodenticide to get a cat whilst they install a nesting box, as a temporary measure until the barn owl has nested in the box. “Once the barn owl is installed you can give the cat away as they also attack birds,” he says. “It's a good interim measure.”

The Barn Owl Project frequently receives phone calls from farmers who have found juvenile owlets on the ground that need to be returned to the nest. “Normally we would come down and check the bird out. Its condition depends on how long it has been out of the nest. If it's doing well, we take it away for a few days and feed it, before returning it to the nest.”

The Barn Owl Project is fully licenced by the National Parks and Wildlife Service. It not only studies and monitors the nests of barn owls with cameras, but it also gives advice to farmers and the general public about how to conserve the species. In addition, it gives talks on the subject to schools, farming communities and other organisations. It has two vets and two vet nurses who give their time freely along with the other volunteers.

The project has



a gofund me page but receives no official funding. The volunteers pay for food and medication for young owlets when needed. “This is something I'm passionate about,” says John. “I'm at a point in my life when I have a small mortgage so for me it's a way to give back.”

“We set the project up because, although there are plenty of studies on the matter, there wasn't enough hands-on work being done to conserve barn owls. We wanted people in communities across the county to get involved and to take ownership of the conservation. Conservation is not for the chosen few. It's up to everyone to play their part.”

ENVIRONMENTAL HYPOCRISY



Buy fast fashion. It's cheap, cheerful and disposable, even though we know, deep down, that somewhere along the production chain there are costs: human and environmental.

Don't ask questions...we might not like the answers.

Don't burn Irish peat. Don't use it for horticulture. Don't convert it into electrical energy. So far, so good, until the realisation dawns that we will continue to import peat products from other countries. Better there than here.

We banned nuclear power production in Ireland but continue to import electrical energy from Britain, a significant proportion of which is produced from nuclear power stations.

Ban the exploration or exploitation of Irish fossil fuel reserves not already in use. Then, continue to import oil, gas and coal from other countries indefinitely.

Campaign for the banning of any further Data Centre development in Ireland. Then, promote that campaign through social media, which has, surprise, a huge dependency on data centres. Ditto, double our mobile phone use while being critical of the development of data centres, which facilitate that doubling of mobile phone usage. Our photographic memories are now stored in the Cloud and anyone who doesn't realise that all these technological developments are totally reliant on access to vast amounts of data storage space, is living in cloud-cuckoo land.

Demand that the development of further land-based wind turbine developments be curtailed, allowing only the construction of marine-based turbines. Then demand that these should not be within sight of land. Out of sight is out of mind. Do this while also demanding that energy costs be reduced and that there are no interruptions in energy supply.

Demand that the numbers of Irish cattle on Irish farms be reduced substantially, displacing highly carbon-efficient meat and milk

production to regions with greater carbon intensity production, lower animal welfare standards and higher environmental impact.

Promote the replacement of nutrient-dense meat and milk products with alternative nutrient-light foods, that require vast amounts of potable water in their production and are highly processed. Pseudo-meat products, especially, are the true definition of industrial food production.

What are we good for if not doing what we do best? Whether that is a surgeon performing operations, a salesman selling goods and services or a farmer producing food. The hope is that whatever your occupation, you can do it better than someone else, somewhere else. That is the essence of competition and success. Irish dairy farmers produce milk more efficiently than most of their counterparts across the world. Their carbon footprint is lower per kilo of production than other producers in other countries. Why then do critics insist that Irish milk producers should produce less, ignoring the economic reality that if we produce less, others will produce more under less benign environmental conditions? The critics of Irish dairy production blithely dismiss the concept of carbon leakage, despite economic proof to the contrary.

No matter, better that we outsource our peat purchases, our oil, gas and coal requirements, our demand for data storage, our dairy production and our nuclear energy needs. At least it won't happen in our backyard. We scorn the practice of gas fracking, though we won't ask too many questions as to where the gas is coming from when the lights begin to dim this coming winter. We won't turn down electricity supplied from our nearest neighbour because it might contain some nuclear-generated energy. We won't ask too many questions because the answers might embarrass us. Look at us, we are doing our bit to save the planet, except that we are not, not really. We are just hypocrites.

THE NDC FARMER AMBASSADOR PROGRAMME

REAL FARMERS,
REAL STORIES



Niall Moore, Co. Waterford



Louise Crowley, Co. Limerick



Angela Brickley, Co. Laois



Nicole Keohane, Co. Cork



Tom Power, Co. Waterford



One Dairy Voice

ndc.ie/farmer-ambassadors



Protecting Irish family farms for over 20 years*



BOVILIS BOVIVAC® S

The **ONLY** vaccine for Bovine Salmonellosis

Half of Irish dairy herds have exposure to Salmonella¹



Talk to your vet about vaccinating against Salmonella now

*Salmonella infection not only causes disease in animals; it is a major threat to human health. *Salmonella typhimurium* is the second most common type of Salmonella to cause disease in humans.

Bovilis Bovivac S contains inactivated cells of *Salmonella dublin* and *Salmonella typhimurium*.

Use medicines responsibly

Legal category: ROI **POM (E)** NI **POM-V**

Withdrawal period - Zero days

For further information see product SPC, or contact MSD Animal Health, Red Oak North, South County Business Park, Leopardstown, Dublin 18, Ireland. Tel: +353 (0)1 2970220 Email: vet-support.ie@msd.com

Web: www.msd-animal-health.ie

1. O'Doherty, E., Sayers, R. and O'Grady, L., 2013. Temporal trends in bulk milk antibodies to *Salmonella*, *Neospora caninum*, and *Leptospira interrogans* serovar hardjo in Irish dairy herds. *Preventive Veterinary Medicine*, 109(3-4), pp.343-348.

