

Kerry Agribusiness/Teagasc

Joint Programme 2020 - 2023



Sustainable
Farming



Farm
Advice

KERRY

Farming
for a
New Decade



Teagasc
Association of Food Development Activities



Profitable
Systems

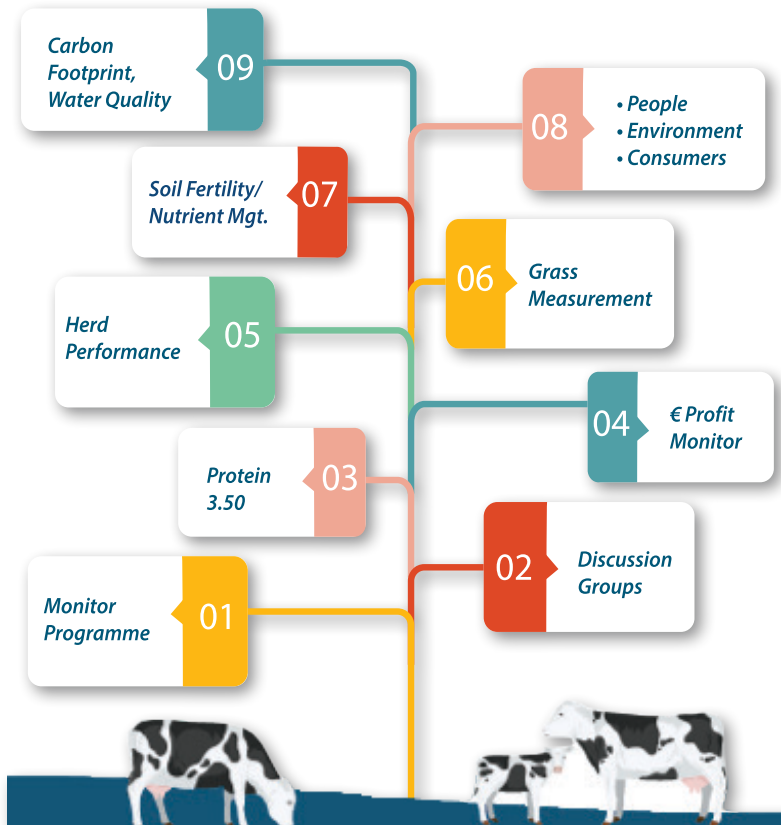


Enjoyable
Farming

Our Mission

We will empower our client farmers by providing them with up-to-date technical advice and financial expertise to set and achieve financial goals. The joint programme provides a blueprint for profitable, safe and environmentally sustainable farming while ensuring a good work life balance and quality of life.

2020
and beyond

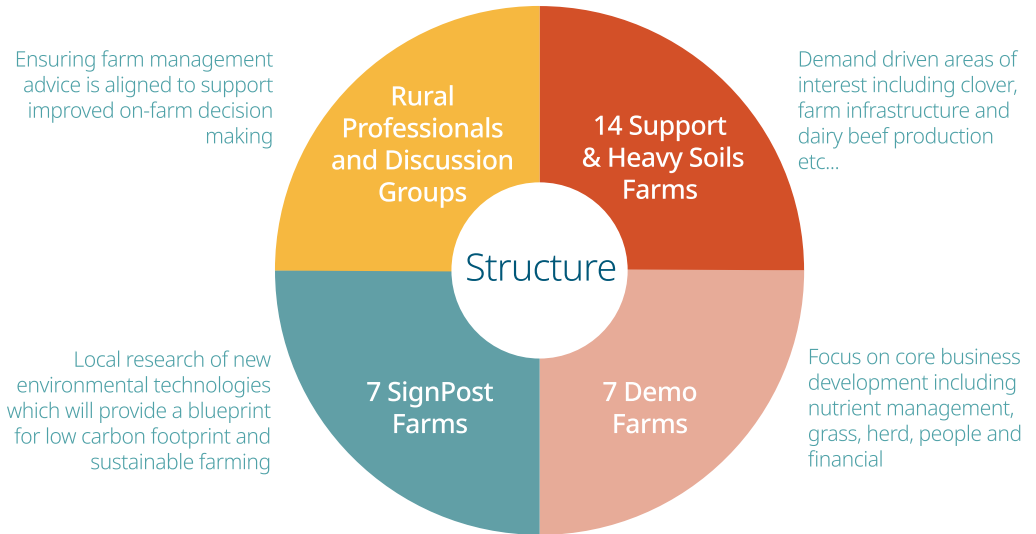


1994

The Kerry Agribusiness/Teagasc Joint Programme commenced in 1994. This programme is an innovative concept of peer-led learning and knowledge transfer. This was the first such programme in Ireland and formed the foundation of sustainable dairy production within the Kerry Agribusiness milk supplier base.

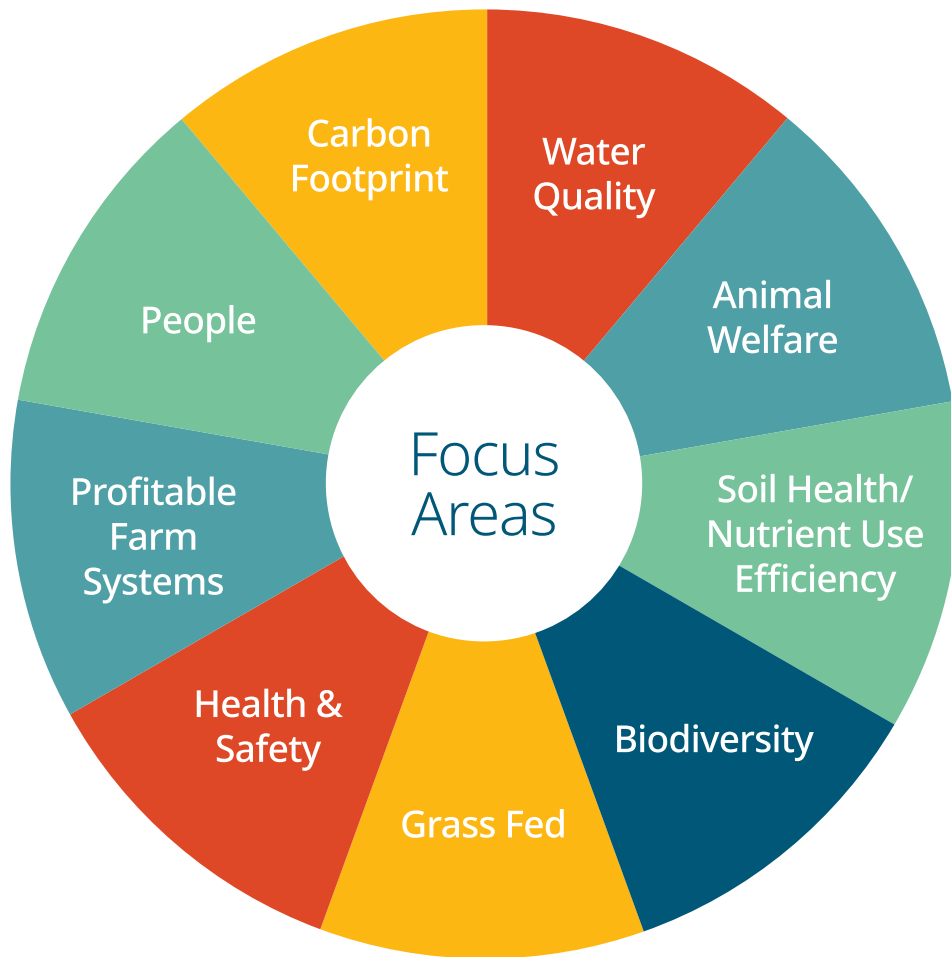
The programme focusses on empowering our milk suppliers with the most up-to-date technical advice and financial expertise to enable them to run profitable, enjoyable and environmentally sustainable dairy farm businesses.

To inform the restructuring of the new Kerry Agribusiness/ Teagasc Joint Programme, which will focus on farming for a new decade, we undertook a comprehensive milk supplier survey. Milk suppliers identified environmental obligations, labour and limited land base as the main factors likely to impact their business.



Respondents wanted to learn from high performing farmers, have local and timely events and wanted practical demonstrations at on-farm events. Milk suppliers highlighted the importance of receiving farm management information through numerous pathways including the MilkedIn APP, Newsletter, on-farm events and one-to-one consultations.

Additionally, the survey highlighted the key role that other rural professionals such as vets play in farm management decision making. Hence, the new structure as outlined above provides an opportunity for all milk suppliers to engage with the Joint Programme.



Now in its 9th phase, the current Kerry Agribusiness/ Teagasc Joint Programme is focussed on farming for a new decade with increased emphasis on reducing carbon footprint, enhancing water quality and providing safe and nutritious food to our global customers.

We engage a range of communication channels to provide relevant, timely and robust advice and support to all our milk suppliers.



Herd EBI: €152
6 week calving rate: 88%
Calving interval: 366 days
Milk solids per cow: 467 kgs

William Dennehy, Currow, Co. Kerry

Milking 95 cows by the bank of the Brown Flesk river, in 2019, he received a grassland merit award for investment in grazing infrastructure. Multiple entry and exit points were installed with the addition of spur roadways. He is using low emission slurry spreading and is planning on using protected urea.

William's focus is on:

- Environmental sustainability
- Increasing the fertility sub-index
- Cash flow management



Herd EBI: €138
6 week calving rate: 80%
Calving interval: 358 days
Milk solids per cow: 450 kgs

Patrick & Paula O'Hanlon, Tarbert, Co. Kerry

Patrick and Paula began their farm business journey when Patrick's parents transferred the farm in November 2016. They are currently milking 97 cows and intend to increase the herd size further to optimise the stocking rate on the farm. Patrick's parents are still actively involved in supporting the running of the farm business.

Their vision is to improve the financial and environmental sustainability of their farm business, by improving soil fertility; growing and utilising more pasture and improving grazing and farmyard infrastructure.



Herd EBI: €159
6 week calving rate: 83%
Calving interval: 362 days
Milk solids per cow: 428 kgs

Joe Carroll, Ballyheigue, Co. Kerry

Joe is farming a 25.5ha milking block near Ballyheigue on the Wild Atlantic Way. The farm was purchased in 2011 and he is currently milking 80 cows. Joe is focussed on improving herd longevity and milk solids production with a target of 4 lactations per cow. Improving grazing infrastructure is also a key focus to increase the number of days at grass. Protected urea was used in 2020. Options are being explored to enhance biodiversity on-farm.



Herd EBI: €156
6 week calving rate: 81%
Calving interval: 380 days
Milk solids per cow: 515 kgs

Michael & Alex McCarthy, Feenagh, Co. Limerick

Michael and Alex, farming together for the past three years, are milking 167 cows and are very focussed on farming in an environmentally friendly manner.

Michael & Alex are focussed on:

- Overall herd health
- EBI to increase fat and protein percentages
- Labour efficiency
- Biodiversity and nitrogen use efficiency



Herd EBI: €148
6 week calving rate: 86%
Calving interval: 368 days
Milk solids per cow: 479 kgs

Gerry & Niall Moloney, Crecora, Co. Limerick

Gerry and Niall farming together for the last 5 years are milking 172 cows on a 61ha milking block. After a period working off-farm, Niall returned to farming and was the 2018 Young Grassland Farmer of the Year.

Main focus for Gerry & Niall is on:

- Increasing the herd EBI and enhancing the herd to achieve its potential
- Increased emphasis on cash flow management
- Improving labour efficiency
Optimise nitrogen use



Herd EBI: €145
6 week calving rate: 75%
Calving interval: 377 days
Milk solids per cow: 442 kgs

Sean & Diarmaid Fitzgerald, Cratloe, Co. Clare

Sean and Diarmaid are farming in partnership for the last four years. They are milking 124 cows. They make good use of contractors for fertilizer, slurry and silage to improve labour efficiency. They are using low emission slurry spreading and protected urea.

The Fitzgerald's are focussed on:

- Incorporating more clover into the swards
- Increasing the biodiversity on-farm
- Correcting soil fertility
- Improving cash flow management



Herd EBI: €145
 6 week calving rate: 85%
 Calving interval: 365 days
 Milk solids per cow: 527 kgs

Andrew Killeen, Doonbeg, Co. Clare

Andrew is farming in Doonbeg since 1992. He is currently milking 104 cows on a 45.9ha milking block and was one of the inaugural Monitor Programme farmers on the 'Protein Project'.

The importance of sustainable farming on heavy soils is front of mind for Andrew. He is very focussed on animal breeding and grazing infrastructure to facilitate on-off grazing.



Herd EBI: €84
 6 week calving rate: 91%
 Calving interval: 375 days
 Milk solids per cow: 450 kgs

John Galvin, Ardfert, Co. Kerry

John started farming in Ardfert five years ago. He is currently milking 55 cows on a 18.6ha milking block. John was the 2019 Teagasc Grass10 coach for Kerry.

His focus areas for the farm are on:

- Improving fat and protein by using high EBI AI sires
- Grazing infrastructure - incorporating spur roadways on the grazing platform
- Financial management



Herd EBI: €132
 6 week calving rate: 91%
 Calving interval: 372 days
 Milk solids per cow: 461 kgs

John & Michael Casey, Causeway, Co. Kerry

In partnership since 2018, John and Michael are milking 114 cows on a fragmented farm. To improve herd genetics, low performing and late calvers were replaced with higher EBI animals – 50% of the herd are now first and second lactation.

The Casey's are focussed on:

- Growing 15 tonnes/ha of grass on the milking block while reducing N use
- Establishing a better work life balance
- Using technologies such as protected urea to improve environmental sustainability
- Targeting 550 kg of milk solids per cow



Herd EBI: €181
6 week calving rate: 84%
Calving interval: 355 days
Milk solids per cow: 403 kgs

David O'Leary, Cordal, Co. Kerry

David is farming a 34ha leased block near Castleisland with an additional 11ha owned, used for silage and rearing replacements. David milked 48 cows in his first year farming and plans on milking 80 cows in 2021. David has reseeded 30% of the land in three years.

His main focus is on:

- Optimising nitrogen use efficiency
- Establishing clover
- Cash flow management
- Herd health & maturity



Herd EBI: €133
6 week calving rate: 76%
Calving interval: 381 days
Milk solids per cow: 535 kgs

William Daly, Newmarket, Co. Cork

William is farming near Newmarket for the last six years. He purchased the land in 2013 and converted it from tillage to grassland. He is milking 127 cows.

William is focussed on:

- Continued improvement in soil fertility
- Improving herd health status and ensuring cows stay in the herd for multiple lactations
- Labour efficiency



Herd EBI: €124
6 week calving rate: 85%
Calving interval: 378 days
Milk solids per cow: 419 kgs

Stephen McAuliffe, Loughill, Co. Limerick

In partnership with his brother Brian, Stephen is in his fourth year of a long term lease on a farm near Loughill. They are milking 168 cows.

Farm focus areas:

- Ensuring all paddocks are at optimum soil fertility
- Achieving a greater number of lactations per cow to increase the milk solids yield per cow
- Improve labour efficiency



Herd EBI: €166
6 week calving rate: 78 %
Calving interval: 369 days
Milk solids per cow: 557 kgs

Declan, Eileen & Kieran Murphy, Effin, Co. Limerick

Milking 140 cows, Declan, Eileen and Kieran have been farming the family farm for three years. Their main focus is on increasing the number of lactations per cow and also improving the fat and protein percentages. While most of the soil fertility has been corrected on the milking platform they want to continue on that trajectory and improve the soil fertility on the remainder of the land. Additionally, they are focussed on improving labour efficiency and infrastructure on the farm.



Herd EBI: €168
6 week calving rate: 83%
Calving interval: 366 days
Milk solids per cow: 580 kgs

Dermot & Micheal Kavanagh, Lispole, Co. Kerry.

Dermot and Micheal are farming in partnership for two years. They are milking 88 cows on a 28.5ha milking block. They want to focus on increasing the amount of grass grown while reducing nitrogen use. A target of 4 lactations per cow is also established. Their final objective is putting more emphasis on cash flow management.

Location of Joint Programme
Demonstration & SignPost Farms



Andrew
Killeen

Sean &
Diarmaid
Fitzgerald

Gerry &
Niall
Moloney

Declan,
Eileen &
Kieran
Murphy

Joe
Carroll

Patrick
& Paula
O'Hanlon

Stephen
McAuliffe

Michael
& Alex
McCarthy

John &
Michael
Casey

John
Galvin

David
O'Leary

William
Daly

Micheal
& Dermot
Kavanagh

William
Dennehy



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KERRY

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AGRICULTURE AND FOOD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY