

# DAIRY FARMERS

## Checklist of Measures to Reduce GHG Emissions

**Climate change is perhaps the greatest challenge facing the world right now. Farmers can be a part of the solution!**

What are you doing on your farm to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions? Have you thought about the climate actions that you can take in the future to reduce emissions?

Take a few moments to read the following statements and tick those that you agree with.

**Only tick 'Yes' if you can answer with 100% honesty and certainty.**

### Animal Productivity Measures

Yes

1. My Herd EBI is increasing by €10 per year
2. I make breeding/ culling decisions based on milk recording results
3. I used 10% sexed semen (1 in 10 of total AI straws) in my herd in this year's breeding season
4. I have a herd health plan & use bulk milk screening to monitor my herd for infectious diseases
5. My herd average SCC is less than 100,000 cells/ml
6. My herd average lactation number is > 4.0 (cows in herd)
7. My herd replacement rate is less than 20%

### Fertiliser Measures

Yes

8. All of my fertiliser N spread this year has been spread as protected urea
9. All of my soil samples are at optimum pH levels (> 6.2 for mineral soils, peat soils 5.5 – 5.8)
10. All of my soil samples are at optimum P & K levels
11. All of my grazing swards have clover incorporated
12. I follow a Fertiliser Plan/ Nutrient Management Plan for all of my fertiliser decisions
13. I have reduced my fertiliser N application rates in the last three years

### Grassland Management Measures

Yes

14. All of the milking platform area is well serviced with both roadways and water infrastructure
15. I use the Spring and Autumn Rotation Planners to maximise length of the grazing season
16. I record grass covers weekly on PastureBase (> 25 covers recorded per year)
17. I make grassland management decisions based on PastureBase reports
18. My pre-grazing cover during the main grazing season is 1,400 – 1,500 kgDM/Ha

### Slurry Measures

Yes

19. I have enough slurry storage to hold all slurries until 1<sup>st</sup> February
20. 75% of all slurry is spread before 1<sup>st</sup> May
21. Slurry is applied using LESS equipment (dribble bar, trailing shoe or injection system)
22. I have reduced my fertiliser N application rates following slurry application

### General

Yes

23. I have a picture of what my farm will look like in five years time
24. I know the carbon footprint for my farm
25. I know what the total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are for my farm

**How do you score? Count the ticks**

/25