

Teagasc Organic Webinar

24th November 2021

*'Are you considering converting
to organic farming?'*

**My Story : Jim Hogan, Rathrush, Rathoe
Co Carlow**

Introduction

- Rathrush Farm located in Rathoe Co. Carlow
- Beef, Tillage, Sheep and Forestry
- Started the conversion to Organic Farming in October 2020



Overview

- Why Organics
- Changes made
- One year on
- Future plans



Why Organics?



Hereford Cattle grazing Fodder Rape



Didn't use much
fertilizer



Pat Lalor is
over 20
years
farming
organic





“If you look after the soil, the soil will look after the crop”

Jimmy & Eddie Mulhall of Coolanowle Organic Farm





Flahavans Organic Oats

Ross & Amy
Jackson



A close-up photograph of a field of green oat plants. The plants are tall and have long, narrow leaves. The grain heads are visible, showing the developing oat grains. The background is a dark, blurred field of similar plants.

Organic Trial

Spring Oat yielding
2 tons p/ac

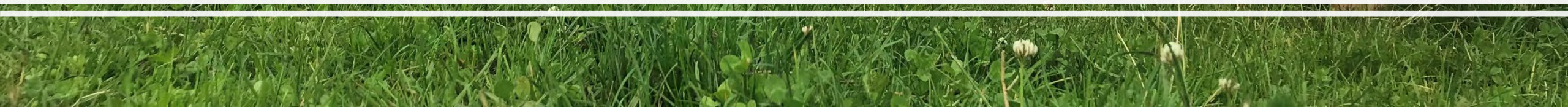
Planning

- Picked a conversion date
- Sowed multispecies
- Sowed red clover
- Sowed winter oats
- Brought some ewes





Beef Enterprise





Feed





Health Plan



Sheep Enterprise



Ewe Breed



Sheep flock



Lambing

Tillage Enterprise



Ploughed field ready for sowing



Sowing winter wheat

Winter oats



Winter oats end May



Same crop two weeks later

Arable Silage



Arable silage pea triticale mix



Harvesting arable silage



How am I getting on one year later?

- Cannot have same crop in organic/non-organic land.
- Wet area in non-organic land
- Had to mark off shed for spray press in yard.
- I marked off house and garden too.
- Oats yielded 1.4 tons to 2.7 tons p/ac
- Happy with silage/grazing ground
- Happy with arable silage
- Paperwork
- Inspections













The Future

- That our farm would be a better farm when we pass it on to the next generation.





Advice

- Look at the videos on organics
- Talk to teagasc
- Talk to the organic bodies
- Go to farm walks
- Try something out for yourself
- Plan
- Thank you