

Teagasc Notes for week ended Friday January 25th

Forestry Advisory Clinic takes place in Dungarvan

Landowners who are considering establishing a forest can avail of a private and personalised one-to-one consultation with an experienced forestry adviser. This Forestry Advisory Clinic takes place in the Teagasc offices in Shandon, Dungarvan on Tuesday 29th of January. The consultation is arranged by appointment.

This Clinic is part of an extensive nationwide series of Forestry Advisory Clinics organised by the Forestry Development Department of Teagasc promoting the establishment of forestry as a sustainable and rewarding land use on Irish farms.

The Forestry Programme offers landowners and existing forest owners many options in relation to forest establishment with a range of attractive grants and annual premium categories available.

Dr Nuala Ní Fhlatharta, Head of Teagasc's Forestry Development Department said "Landowners consider forestry for many reasons, such as supplementing farm income or creating a biodiverse native woodland. That is why a land use change to forestry, like any new farm enterprise, will raise many questions."

John Casey, local Teagasc Forestry Adviser agrees, "It is important to get answers to your questions before creating a farm forest. You need to understand the requirements of the Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) and other farm schemes. These Teagasc Forestry Advisory Clinics are an ideal opportunity to flesh out the details of how forestry might work for you."

A consultation with your local Teagasc Forestry Adviser will provide independent and objective advice, empowering you to make informed decisions. For instance:

- What options are provided under the Forestry Programme 2014-2020?
- What grants and premiums are available?
- How does forestry interact with other farm schemes, e.g. BPS, GLAS, etc.?
- How can forestry improve farm income and the environment?
- How to apply and get the job done right first time?
- What to expect from harvesting and timber sales?

Although the emphasis for the upcoming clinics is on new planting; existing forest owners, regardless of what stage their forest is at, can also avail of this opportunity to pick up valuable management tips.

Prior booking of a one-to-one forestry consultation is essential. To book your appointment, contact the Dungarvan office on 058-41211. Please bring maps and other relevant information on the day to optimise the advisory experience and outcome.

These clinics provide an ideal opportunity to get answers to your forestry questions – don't miss it!

For further details, visit www.teagasc.ie/forestryclinics

Are you interested in learning more about grassland management?

The answer to this question should be yes for most livestock farmers. Its our cheapest feed, numerous studies have demonstrated the improvements in farm profitability from increasing grass utilisation on the farm, it improves the sustainability of the farming enterprise and it gives us competitive advantage in the market place.

Teagasc Kilkenny and Waterford are establishing groups / courses of like minded farmers who want to learn more about grassland management under the Grass 10 programme. There are 2 options for farmers who might be interested in attending:

1. **Grassland Management** skills development i.e. grow more grass and utilise more grass
Managing grass is a challenging task on Irish livestock farms and if not used correctly can impact greatly on farm profitability. This course involves:
 - On-farm practical experience on managing grass all-year round
 - Build confidence to make grazing decisions
 - Increase profit by utilising more grass!
2. **Developing grazing infrastructure** i.e. improve grazing infrastructure on your farm
The biggest limitation to grass utilisation on many Irish farms is grazing infrastructure. This course involves:
 - On-farm practical experience to improve grazing infrastructure on your farm
 - Working together with other farmers to achieve higher returns from grazing infrastructure
 - Increasing grass utilisation and profit as a result!

Remember every ton grass DM/ha eaten is worth €105/ha to a drystock farmer & €173/ha to a dairy farmer.

These groups / courses are open to farmers from all enterprises - dairy, beef & sheep farmers. The groups will meet 5-6 times per year over 2 years and there is the option to gain a qualification at the end of the 2 years. These will be delivered on-farm with advisors/specialists & farmer coaches. The course is free to Teagasc clients.

Is this something that employees might be interested in? There are a lot of intensive farm across the region now employing significant labour. An employee that is well trained in grassland management is a very valuable resource to have on any farm. Could you perhaps send one of your employees for training? There is a dual benefit from this – 1. The employee has a skill which is of economic benefit to the farm 2. The employee is gaining a qualification which is an important part of keeping staff motivated and interested.

If you are interested in this initiative, please contact your local Teagasc office in Kilkenny, Mullinavat or Dungarvan to discuss the options. The is free to Teagasc clients.



Events

Contract Heifer Rearing Information meeting on Tuesday 5th February @ 11am at Teagasc Office, Dungarvan. Tom Curran Financial Specialist will detail the system and returns for those interested.

Early Spring Grass Walk on the farm of John Raggett, Stoneyford on Thursday the 24th January at 11am KT Approved Event.

Spring Tillage Seminar will take place on Thursday, 24th January at 7.45pm in the Teagasc Office, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford. Topics will include Crop Planning and Margins 2019, Spring Cereal Varieties and Sowing Rates, Crop Nutrition to achieve savings, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Enable Conservation Tillage Project (ECT).

Speakers: Eammon Lynch, Ciaran Collins, Teagasc Tillage Specialist, Jimmy Staples, Teagasc ECT Advisor.

