



# Swards *for the* Future

## CONFERENCE & WORKSHOP

8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2022

Teagasc, Animal and Grassland Research and Innovation Centre,  
Moorepark, Fermoy, Co. Cork

Teagasc are hosting an exciting two day conference and workshop on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> and Friday 9<sup>th</sup> of September 2022 to explore resilient Swards for the Future at Teagasc, Animal and Grassland Research and Innovation Centre, Moorepark, Fermoy, Co. Cork.

There are many challenges for Irish agriculture, such as achieving reductions in environmental emissions and addressing rising costs of production. While grassland continues to be the lowest cost feed for milk and meat production systems in Ireland, it also provides other benefits such as carbon sequestration and increased biodiversity. The objective of this conference and workshop is to provide an overview of the latest research findings and current best practice in grass-white clover and multi-species swards. The conference will provide the first opportunity to view cutting-edge research on mixed species swards, including new species under trial. The development of a ranking index for clover cultivars will also be introduced. Advisors, farmers and researchers will all share their experiences, providing excellent opportunities for discussion and learning.

A conference dinner will take place at Vienna Woods Hotel, Glanmire, Cork on Thursday evening 8<sup>th</sup> September.

Sponsored by:



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

## OPENING AND WELCOME

Role of white clover in helping Irish agriculture meet climate targets

*Prof. Laurence Shalloo*

## SESSION 1 – PROFITABLE PRODUCTION FROM GRAZING

Better management of dairy nitrogen with grass-white clover swards

*Deirdre Hennessy, William Burchill & Agnes van den Pol*

Grass-white clover swards for drystock production

*Philip Creighton, Nicky Byrne & Peter Doyle*

Economic value of grass and grass-white clover

*Peter Doyle & Tomas Tubritt*

## TEA/COFFEE BREAK

## SESSION 2 – GRASSLAND: ADDRESSING THE ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGE

The role of multispecies swards for dairy and beef systems

*Brendan Horan, Tommy Boland, John Finn & Luc Delaby*

What does grazing do for carbon sequestration?

*Katja Klump, INRAe, France*

## LUNCH

## SESSION 3 – FIELD VISIT TO MOOREPARK RESEARCH FARM AND PLOTS

- Visit the long term (over 10 years) grass-white clover grazing study at Moorepark to discuss grazing management aspects and the latest results in terms of sward clover content, biological nitrogen fixation, and herbage and milk production. Delegates will also see how methane is measured in grazing research and hear the latest results from the study comparing grass-only and grass-white clover.
- Moorepark are examining herbage production and species persistence from a number of multispecies swards with varying complexity of species. Researchers will present results from the current plot studies. There will also be an opportunity to visit the lysimeters and learn about on-going nitrate leaching research.
- This will be the first opportunity to visit the new research on grazing traits for clover (white and red), alternative grassland species and perennial ryegrass. The research which will lead to the development of the economic index for red and white clover cultivars will be discussed.
- Learn about the latest developments in the Teagasc grass, clover and other grassland species breeding programme with insights into the future direction of the programme.

## CONFERENCE DINNER (OPTIONAL)

Vienna Woods Hotel, Glanmire, Cork | 19:30

#### **SESSION 4 – WHERE TO NEXT?**

Where to next? The role of additional species in grass-white clover swards – production and environmental benefits

*Trevor Gilliland, Queens University Belfast*

The agronomy and feeding value of red clover silage

*Nicky Byrne & Michael Dineen*

#### **TEA/COFFEE BREAK**

#### **SESSION 5 – GETTING CLOVER TO WORK ON FARM: RESEARCHER, ADVISOR AND FARMER EXPERIENCES**

On-farm clover establishment and performance

*Michael Egan & Caitlin Looney*

Clover adaption at farm level: An advisors viewpoint

Clover on farm: A farmer's expectations from white clover incorporation on their farm

Clover on farm: A farmer's experience of establishing and managing white clover and what it is bringing to their business

Summary of key points and future research direction

*Michael O'Donovan*

#### **LUNCH**

#### **FIELD VISIT TO CURTINS RESEARCH FARM**







AGRICULTURE AND FOOD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



## Registration

### **REGISTRATION FEE - €100**

The registration fee includes attendance at the two day event, lunch on both days, tea/coffee breaks and proceedings booklet.

### **CONFERENCE DINNER - €55**

Vienna Woods Hotel, Glanmire, Cork on Thursday evening 8<sup>th</sup> September at 19:30

To register, scan the QR code

Or contact;  
Eithne Gowen,  
Teagasc Moorepark  
025-69182  
Eithne.Gowen@teagasc.ie

