OSheaFarms

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History

Since the 1830's the O'Shea family have farmed on the banks of the river Suir in Piltown, Co Kilkenny.

In 1969 John, Dick, Seamus and Joe O'Shea were farming 195 acres

Today the next generation of the family are farming approximately 1500 acres

We specialise in the production of top quality fresh carrots and potatoes as well as growing cereals and milking cows.

OShea Farms

Iverk Produce was established by the O'Shea family in 1980 as the marketing arm of O'Shea Farms.

In the Late 80's Iverk Produce Partnered with Fyffes now Total Produce, to open a new fresh fruit and Veg distribution centre in Piltown.

Today Iverk supplies quality fresh fruit and vegetables to Aldi and Supervalu supermarkets nationwide as well as supplying the wholesale/retail and food service sector in the South East.

IVERK PRODUCE

O'Shea Farms

O'Shea Farms and Iverk Produce employ approximately 220.

Irish products are sourced from over fifty growing partners, allowing us to shorten the distance from farm to fork, minimising our environmental impact.

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In the last number of years we have started to work closely with Meadowfresh Foods a fresh Produce processing company located in Co. Waterford.

Meadowfresh annually process approximately 8,000 tonnes of our potatoes and 3,000 tonnes of our carrots.

Minimising waste product ensures maximum return for our growers.

Enviromental Awarness

Sustainability

- As custodians of the land, we take our commitment to operating in a sustainable way very seriously.
- We have taken several initiatives to reduce our impact on the environment and improve our sustainability and overall energy efficiency.

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INTERGRATED WETLAND WASTE WATER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

All of the waste water we produce is treated in our 13 acre Reed bed system. Reed beds are a natural, environmentally friendly, low energy, ecologically sustainable solution to the treatment of waste water.

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PACKAGING

We have taken several measures to reduce our packaging waste, such as introducing reusable crates and pallets. All of our cardboard and plastic waste is segregated and recycled. Where possible we use reusable crates and boxes and we also have increased our unit sizes in an effort to reduce outer packaging waste.

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Energy savings.

We have replaced our lighting with low energy lighting that only uses 30% of the energy of the old system.

We have also used variable speed drives throughout or production lines to improve the energy efficiency of the lines, which can result in energy savings of up to 33%.

We have replaced refrigeration units with more efficient lower kwh units that provide the same level of cooling.

In 2015 we constructed a 2,000m2 potato cold store and during the design stage we hired an expert from Holland to ensure that the cold store was designed to be as efficient as possible, particular attention was paid to insulation , cold bridging and air circulation.

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In October 2015 we installed 960 individual solar panels, which at the time was Ireland's largest photovoltaic solar energy installation.

Advisors to the project were Carlow Kilkenny energy agency CKEA.

Installation completed by Solar electric Ireland.

Grant funded by SEAI 18% (approximately).

The panels will generate about 208,000kw of electricity per year, which is enough to power up to 40 homes.

The Solar project will go some distance to reducing our overall carbon footprint, and will provide us with sustainably produced electricity for up to 30 years.

Modules: 960 x Conergy Power Plus 260 Wp Modules.

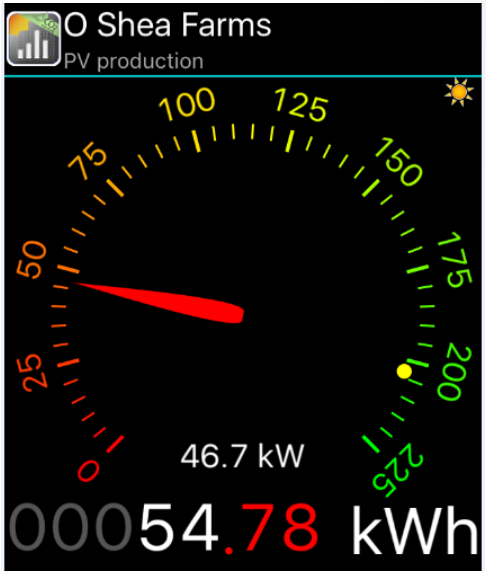
Inverters: 8 x SMA Sunny Tripower 25,000 TL.

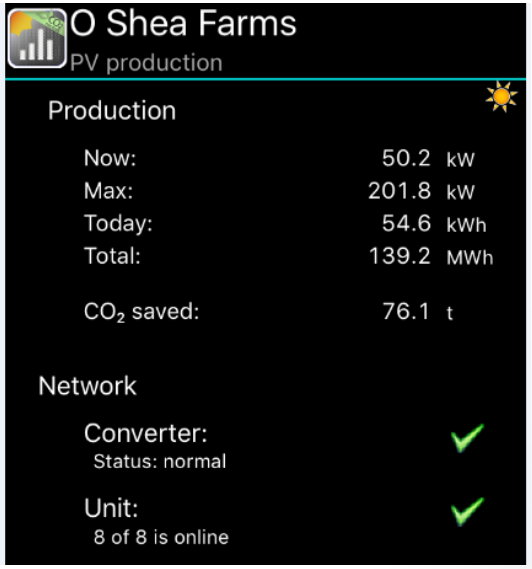
Orientation: East-West.

Budgeted Yield: 208,000 kwh per year.

Actual yield for 12 months to the 31/12/2017: 195,553 kwh

Actual yield for 12 months to the 31/12/2018: 212,894 kwh





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Solar auto generation:

Advantages

- Ease of installation.
- Not very obtrusive.
- Low maintenance as there is no moving parts
- Over the lifetime of the Solar panels they will produce 12% of our annual electricity bill.

Challenges

- Correlation between high electricity usage and low prices at present.
- Up front capital costs.
- Payback is relatively long at 8 to 10years approx.(at present unit prices of electricity).
- Electricity has to be used as it is produced .

Plans for the Future

- We are working with CKEA and another energy consultant on an energy audit and another energy consultant on an ongoing basis to identify areas where we can conserve electricity.
- There is many large roofs on our site and there may be opportunity to install more Solar , if a tariff is brought in so we can export any excess to the Grid or if there is grant support.
- We are also at the early stages of investigation of both Anaerobic digestion, wind energy and battery storage.
- The dream is to be 100% energy independent in 10years.