

# Teagasc Discussion Groups

## Top 10 benefits of discussion group membership



# What is a discussion group?

Discussion groups consist of local farmers who meet regularly on farms to see, discuss and learn about technologies and practices that may be applied on their own farms. Typically discussion groups consist of 10 to 15 farmers, who meet between 6 and 12 times per year.



*“ The social aspect has been vital in keeping the group together over the years. Being able to share your farming experiences and use group meetings to solve problems on your farm is invaluable. ”*



*“ I hosted a group meeting in July. I was in denial about the drought, thinking we'd have rain any day. After the meeting I followed the plan set out by the group. I was in control of my forage situation for the rest of the drought and had my winter feed sorted. ”*

# 10 ways a Teagasc Discussion Group can benefit you!



## Make More Money!

Research shows that farmers in discussion groups make more money than farmers who aren't, because technologies are more rapidly adopted.



## A Good Social Network

Farming can be lonely. Difficult weather and market conditions can make the going really tough at times. Groups get you out of your own working environment and give you a chance to share your farming experiences, good or bad, with like-minded individuals.



## Personal Development

Discussion group members learn how to interact with others, share information and grow their self-confidence. Many farmers have gone on to contribute to the industry or their local community following their personal development in groups e.g. chairperson of local sports club, community group etc..



## Receive technical information at the right time

Discussion group members have a mix of experience and educational qualifications. Timely technical information from fellow discussion group members, facilitators, can help make the best decisions for what you face on your farm that month.



## Public Responsibility

Groups pride themselves in creating a positive public perception of farming and the environment that they work and live in. This helps to enhance the image of food production and local countryside management



## You'll do more planning

Good discussion groups formulate an annual plan with scheduled meetings for the year. Members replicate this annual plan for their farming practices e.g. start date for breeding, end date of breeding etc. This provides structure to your farming year and a better lifestyle.



## Positivity

Progress made by discussion group members is underpinned by the positive support that they receive from their group. Farming constantly changes, being with a positive group will help you deal better with these changes.



## Benchmarking Farm Performance

On many farms off-farm income acts as a cushion for the farm finances. Completing the annual Teagasc Profit Monitor puts focus on farming finance. Group members say the Teagasc Profit Monitor result's meeting is the most important of the year.



## Awareness of Schemes

A sizeable portion of drystock income comes from successful participation in schemes like GLAS, BDGP, BEEP etc. Your facilitator and fellow members can contribute advice on the rules of these schemes and their appropriateness for group members.



## Problem Solving

Someone else in the group has seen it happen before and can point you in the right direction. This is crucial during a crisis.



# Join a Teagasc Discussion Group today!

Contact your local Teagasc regional office below who will put you in contact with a local facilitator that will find a group for you. Also, if a group of like minded farmers come together, a new group can be formed.

A Teagasc client can become a group member for €100-€150 depending on farm size and structure.

County	Office	Phone
Carlow	Teagasc, Oak Park	059-9183555
Cavan	Teagasc, Ballyhaise	049-4338300
Clare	Teagasc, Ennis	065-6828676
Cork East	Teagasc, Middleton	021-4631898
Cork West	Teagasc, Clonakilty	023-8863130
Donegal	Teagasc, Ballybofey	074-9131189
Dublin	Teagasc, Kinsealy	01-8459026
Galway	Teagasc, Athenry	091-845200
Kerry	Teagasc, Killarney	064-6632344
Kildare	Teagasc, Naas	045-879203
Kilkenny	Teagasc, Kilkenny	056-7721153
Laois	Teagasc, Portlaoise	057-8621326
Leitrim	Teagasc, Mohill	071-9631076
Limerick	Teagasc, Kilmallock	063-98039
Louth	Teagasc, Dundalk	042-9332263
Mayo	Teagasc, Ballina	096-22077
Monaghan	Teagasc, Monaghan	047-81188
Offaly	Teagasc, Tullamore	057-9321405
Longford	Teagasc, Longford	043-3341021
Meath	Teagasc, Grange	046-9061100
Roscommon	Teagasc, Roscommon	090-6626166
Sligo	Teagasc, Ballymote	071-9183369
Tipperary	Teagasc, Clonmel	052-6121300
Waterford	Teagasc, Dungarvan	058-41211
Westmeath	Teagasc, Mullingar	044-9340721
Wexford	Teagasc, Johnstown Castle	053-9171350
Wicklow	Teagasc, Tinahely	0402-38171

