
Introduction

Joe and Alicia Whitty farm 62.7Ha (155acres) of utilisable land on the banks of the river Barrow in Dunganstown Co. Wexford. Daughter Eimear, who is in sixth year in secondary school is also actively involved in the daily farming activities and her sisters Aoife and Niamh also live on the farm making this a real family effort.

The Whittys converted to organic farming in 2007 and initially operated a mixed suckler, tillage and free range pig system, with a lot of the pork and beef sold direct to the customer. Joe also ran an agricultural contracting business at the time. But dairy was always at the back of Joe's head but milk quota restrictions prevented this from happening.

In 2015 Alicia was working off farm and college fees were increasing, they decided to enable them to generate a full time living off the farm, they would convert to organic dairying and Alicia joined Joe in running the farm.

The main enterprise on the farm now is organic dairying with milk supplied to Glenisk for yogurt and milk production.

The Whitty's are presently preparing to milk 67 cows over the next twelve month period. They currently produce both winter and summer milk, but the majority of the herd calve in the Autumn.

All replacement stock are reared on the farm and much of the winter diet of the cows is sourced from home-grown feeds including grass silage, red clover silage, barley/pea combi crop and oats.

Land Farmed 2021

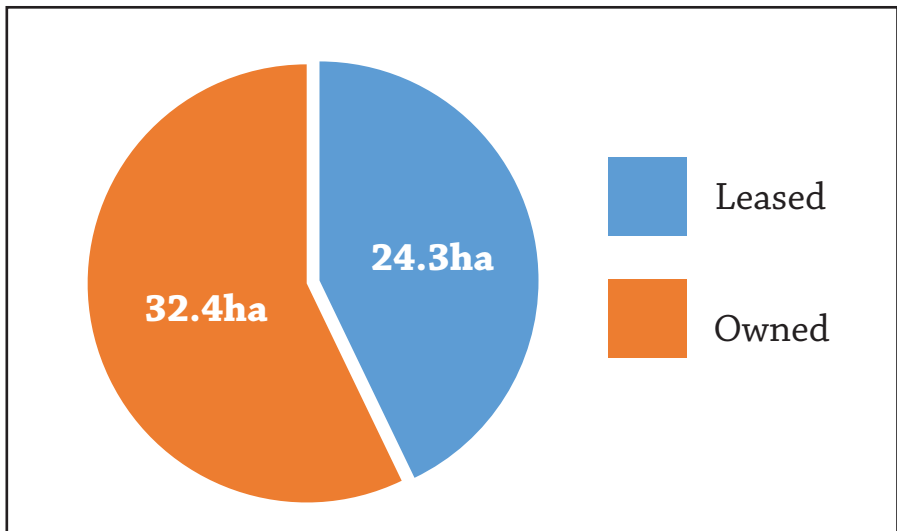
Table 1 - Land Farmed (forage area only) 2021

Land Status	Area (forage)
Owned	24.3 ha (60 acres)
Leased	32.4 ha (80 acres)
Total land farmed (forage)	56.7 ha (140 acres)

There is 56.7 Ha of forage area being farmed along with another 4Ha of SAC land, which is maintained as a habitat area and is on the banks of the river Barrow. There is also 2Ha of forestry on the farm.

Of the 56.7Ha of forage area, 8Ha is used annually to grow cereal crops and a further 2Ha is left as fallow land.

Figure 1: Land Details



The Dairy Herd

When the Whittys entered organic conversion they had to try source organic cows. They sourced 27 heifers from an organic herd in Donegal and another 10 heifers in smaller batches from organic herds across the country. They also purchased 11 conventional heifers under a derogation from their certification body. This allowed the Whittys milk 48 cows in their first year of organic dairying. The cows were mainly a black and white herd with most having some level of cross breeding in their background.

Livestock Enterprise

Table 2: Average Livestock Numbers 2020/2021

Animal Type	2020	2021
Dairy Cows(incl dry cows)	57	67
0 – 1 year Olds	4	11
1 – 2 Year Olds	9	1
2+ Year	8	2
Stock Bull	2	2
Whole Farm Stocking Rate	1.32LU/ha	1.38LU/ha
Grassland Stocking Rate	1.61LU/Ha	1.67LU/Ha

Breeding Strategy

As the initial dairy herd were comprised of heifers, the need for replacements were low in the first four years. During these years the Whittys ran a Belgian Blue bull and Hereford bull with the herd and purchased in Friesian heifer calves from other organic dairy farmers as replacements.



In 2020 the Whittys used a small number of AI straws and in January 2021 a large number of AI straws were used resulting in 25 cows calving down at present to AI. As the herd matures, the requirement for replacements is increasing.

Looking forward, the Whittys are aiming for a robust low maintenance cow. In Joe's own words "Big Holsteins don't suit my system". They are using a lot of Shorthorn straws on their cows as "they are hardy, fertile without comprising on milk yield". They aim to use a lot of sexed semen in the upcoming breeding season as there is not much demand for Friesian bulls calves from organic beef farmers.

Whitty's Production System

Presently the herd is an Autumn/Spring (80%/20%) calving herd. Autumn calving is used to capitalise on improved milk price for milk supplied over the winter months to the organic processor (Glenisk, Tullamore). Milk price is paid at a flat rate with no bonus for increased solids. However this system is also higher cost as higher levels of organic concentrates have to be fed.

Milk Production Details 2020

Table 3: Milk Production 2020

Milk Sold	320,000litres
Milk yield per cow	5614 litres /cow
Average Butter Fat	3.7%
Average Protein	3.37%
Concentrate use (average over year)	~840kgs / cow

Table 4: Whitty's Pricing System 2020

Fixed Price Contract of:
60c/l from November to March
Average price 37c/l from April to October
Average price 47.7c/l in 2020

Whitty's Dairy Calving Statistics

Table 5: HerdPlus – Whitty's Dairy Calving Statistic
(01/07/20 - 30/06/21)

	1/07/20 - 30/6/21	National Average
Calving Interval (days)	380	388
Spring 6 week calving rate (%)	100	67
Autumn 6 week calving rate (%)	41	46
Calves per cow per year	1	0.93
Current replacement rate (%)	25	19
Cows Culled in period (%)	9	20
Average no. lactations/cow	3.6	3.6
Recycled cows (%)	8	12
Replacements bred to Dairy AI (%)	33	58
% of heifers calved @ 22-26 months of age	67	74

Source www.icbf.com



Whitty's Land Use Details 2021

Table 6: Land Use Details 2021 (Ha)

Combi crop – Barley/Peas (for Grain)	1.20
Combi crop – Barley/Peas (For silage)	4.85
Spring Oats	2.0
Red Clover silage (sown 2020)	7.7
Multi Species Swards (sown 2020)	1.2
Grass/white clover years 1- 7	25.24
Permanent Pasture	12.51
SAC Designated Habitat	4.00
Forestry	2.00
Fallow land	2.00
Total Ha	62.7

Grazing and Silage Regime

Grazing Platform

- The farm is split into 3 blocks with a 20Ha block located 15 miles from the homefarm and another 4Ha block located 3miles from home
- The home block has a dairy milking platform of 24 hectares with potential to access another 8Ha for one grazing in the year if needed
- Most paddocks are 2acres in size but it is the Whittys intention to increase paddock size for greater flexibility
- A 12 hour wire is used throughout the year for grazing
- Cows are generally grazed outdoors from mid-February to mid-November, depending on weather conditions

- Heavier covers (approx. 1500 - 2,000kgs DM/Ha) are typically grazed and a high residual (approx. 6cm) is left
- Paddocks are topped regularly to maintain quality and to aid weed control.
- Paddocks are closed early in the Autumn (late September) to have early spring grass

Growing Grass on an Organic Dairy Farm

- The aim is to maximise the amount of quality grass-clover swards fed and to minimise the amount of concentrates purchased.
- When asked about his attitude to clover, Joe Whitty's response was "I love clover, clover is my friend, I can't see how you'd survive in organic farming without it"
- To help achieve this, re-seeding using grass mixes which include either white or red clover and sowing cover crops of arable silage (barley and peas) is carried out on the holding annually
- 1.2Ha of multi Species Swards were sown in 2020 and the Whittys are keen to increase the area under MSS going forward
- The target on this farm is to reseed 6 – 10Ha annually
- In 2015, Joe sowed a field with a Timothy and Cocksfoot mix and he finds the cows milk the best in this paddock

"I love clover, clover is my friend, I can't see how you'd survive in organic farming without it"

Joe Whitty





Multi Species Swards

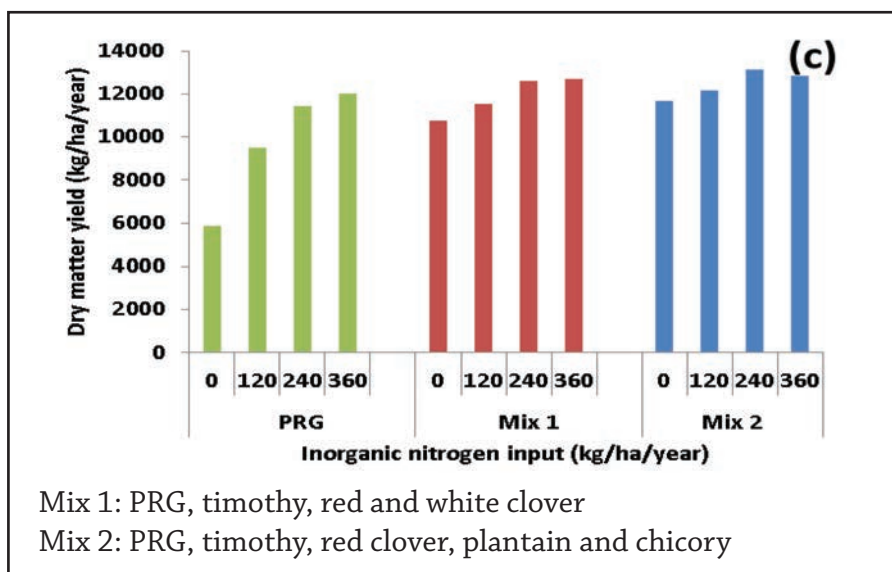
- In 2020 2 paddocks comprising of 1.2Ha of multi Species Swards were sown with Multi Species Swards
- Calves grazed one of the paddocks for most of the summer and have yet to receive a worm dose
- The seed mix was purchased from Western Seeds and was similar to mix show at bottom of this page
- The Whittys are very happy with the multi species swards and intend to sow more fields to it in the coming years
- Teagasc trials from Grange have shown that MSS swards are capable of growing 11.8Ton Dry matter/Ha with zero chemical Nitrogen

70% Organic Harmony Grazing Ley Contains:	Kilos
Organic ABERGAIN Tetraploid Late Perennial Ryegrass	4.00
Organic LAURA Meadow fescue	2.55
Organic WINNETOU Timothy	2.00
Organic LUXOR Cocksfoot	0.45
Organic GARANT Red Clover	0.10
Conventional ABERSWAN White Clover	2.00
Conventional AVISTO Red Clover	0.60
Conventional ERMO Alsike Clover	0.30
Conventional PUNA II CHICORY Herb	0.30
Conventional AGRI TONIC Herb	0.30
Conventional TETRIS Smooth-Stalked Meadow Grass	0.10
Conventional BURNET Herb	0.10
Conventional SHEEPS PARSLEY Herb	0.10
Conventional YARROW Herb	0.10
Total	13.0

Multi Species Swards – Trial work

- The benefits of Multi Species Swards has been investigated on numerous sites across the country including Teagasc Grange which, in conjunction with UCD, found that MSS swards were capable of growing 11.7ton DM/Ha in a zero N situation (See table 7)
- Teagasc Johnstown Castle have demonstrated that MSS help suppress weeds in a new reseed versus an unsprayed ryegrass sward. They have also shown MSS to outperform ryegrass in drought situations
- Numerous sites across the country are currently investigating yield potential, weed suppression, drought tolerance, appropriate post grazing residuals, anthelmintic benefits, optimal sward composition, Nitrous oxide emissions, persistency and the impact on biodiversity of MSS

Table 7: Teagasc Grange DM Yield of MSS Vs PRG



2021 seeding programme on the Whitty Farm

Table 8: Reseeding carried out on the farm in 2021

When	Re-seed type	Ha
Early March	Barley/Pea combi crop (for silage). Seed purchased from Western seeds along with some home-grown seed.	4.85ha
Early March	Spring Oats (for grain for winter cow diet) Variety sown was Firth at 50-60kgs/acre	2ha

When	Re-seed type	Ha
Late April	Barley/Pea combi crop (for grain) undersown with grass and oats.	1.20ha
Late April	Grass Clover sward Outside block for silage. Fruithill farm D2 mix used.	4.9ha
Early May	White Clover silage mix Sown for silage, after red clover. Fruithill farm 2.4 mix.	2.0ha
Early September	Grass Clover sward Milking Platform for grazing. Fruithill farm D2 mix	3.2ha
Total area seeded		18.15Ha



Table 9: Example of seed mixture used on the farm in 2021

Content label for D2 Pennanent Pasture,70% Organic				
Batch No. 30092M weigh kg 20 Closing Date: 01/03/21				
Species	Variety	% organic	% conventional	Weight Conventional kg
Red Clover	Taifun 4n	2		
White Clover	Apis		5	1.00
White Clover	SW Hebe	5		
Yellow Clover	Virgo		1	0.20
Meadow Fescue	SW Minto	11		
Meadow Fescue	Cosmopolitan		14	2.80
Timothy	Switch	13		
Per. Ryegrass Tetra	Karatos	10		
Per. Ryegrass Tetra	Rivaldo	14		
Per. Ryegrass Tetra	Astonhockey	9		
Smooth Meadowgrass	Chester		4	0.80
Red Fescue	Reverent	5		
Cocksfoot	Swante		5	1.00
Red Clover	Monaco	2		
Total %/kg		71	29	

Organic Regulation for Seed Usage

- Must seek permission to use un-treated non-organic seed from your Organic Certification Body (OCB).
- This permission must be granted by the OCB before purchasing this un-treated non-organic seed.
- Conventional treated seed is not permitted to be used.



Silage Production 2021

- A large percentage of silage on this farm comes from cutting paddocks at times of excess growth
- In early to mid-May, there was 6Ha of silage cut from the milking block and 12Ha cut from outside blocks.
- Approx. 50% of paddocks are cut for bales at some stage in the year. No paddock is cut twice in a year to avoid depleting nutrients from paddocks.

Table 10: 2021 Silage Results

<i>Item</i>	<i>Units</i>	<i>Desirable Values</i>	<i>Result</i>	<i>Status</i>
<i>Dry Matter</i>	%	20 - 30	30.1	-
<i>pH</i>	-	4 - 4.7	4.7	Good
<i>Ammonia N</i>	% of Total N	< 10.1	5.4	Good
<i>ASH</i>	%	< 8.6	8.7	Moderate
<i>NDF</i>	%	< 45.0	48.20	Moderate
<i>DMD</i>	%	> 68.9	71.1	Good
<i>ME</i>	MJ/kg	> 9.8	10.2	Good
<i>Crude Protein</i>	%	13.5 - 17	13.8	Good

Table 11: 2021 Red Clover Silage Result

<i>Item</i>	<i>Units</i>	<i>Desirable Values</i>	<i>Result</i>	<i>Status</i>
<i>Dry Matter</i>	%	20 - 30	30.1	-
<i>pH</i>	-	4 - 4.7	4.7	Good
<i>Ammonia N</i>	% of Total N	< 10.1	5.4	Good
<i>ASH</i>	%	< 8.6	8.7	Moderate
<i>NDF</i>	%	< 45.0	48.20	Moderate
<i>DMD</i>	%	> 68.9	71.1	Good
<i>ME</i>	MJ/kg	> 9.8	10.2	Good
<i>Crude Protein</i>	%	13.5 - 17	13.8	Good

Table 12: 2021 Combi-Crop Silage Result









<i>Item</i>	<i>Units</i>	<i>Desirable Values</i>	<i>Result</i>	<i>Status</i>
<i>Dry Matter</i>	%	20 - 30	30.1	-
<i>pH</i>	-	4 - 4.7	4.7	Good
<i>Ammonia N</i>	% of Total N	< 10.1	5.4	Good
<i>ASH</i>	%	< 8.6	8.7	Moderate
<i>NDF</i>	%	< 45.0	48.20	Moderate
<i>DMD</i>	%	> 68.9	71.1	Good
<i>ME</i>	MJ/kg	> 9.8	10.2	Good
<i>Crude Protein</i>	%	13.5 - 17	13.8	Good

Source FBA

Milking cows winter diet

- The Whittys will put a bale of grass silage, red clover silage and combi-crop silage into the diet feeder to form the basis of the milking cows winter diet
- 2kgs/head of the rolled barley and pea mix will then be added to the diet feeder
- 5kgs of a 18% protein ration will be feed to cows in the milking parlour
- Combined, this gives a diet that comprises of 16% protein content, is well balanced in terms of energy and protein, and is capable of producing a daily average output of 27litres/cow

Steps to growing and feeding Barley/Pea Combi Crop on the Whitty farm

1.		<p>1 load of dairy sludge is brought onto the farm annually. This is mixed with Farmyard manure and applied to all tillage ground pre-sowing. After ploughing slurry is applied.</p>
2.		<p>In early March, 35-40kgs seed/Ha (Western seeds combi-crop mix) is sown on 4.8Ha. Joe has his own one pass machine to do all reseeded with.</p>
3.		<p>After 2-3 weeks when seeds emerge watery slurry is applied with a dribble bar</p>
4.		<p>In mid-August, the crop is harvested yielding 24Ton of grain (2ton/acre) and 57 bales of straw.</p>
5.		<p>The grain is stored in a loose shed and turned regularly with a loader to get moisture content down to 15%</p>
6.		<p>The grain is then transferred to an open top meal bin for winter storage.</p>
7.		<p>The grain is rolled as it exits the bin and transferred directly to the diet feeder for mixing with the on farm forage to complete the cow's winter diet</p>
8.		<p>Barley/Pea combi crops typically contain 14 – 18% protein content making them a very efficient way of getting home-grown protein onto the farm</p>

Livestock Diets


- Under organic regulations: At least 60% of the dry matter in daily rations of herbivores shall consist of roughage, fresh or dried fodder or silage. A reduction to 50% for animals in dairy production for a maximum period three months in early lactation is allowed.

Animal Welfare in Organic Farming

Livestock Health

- A healthy herd in organic farming is achieved by a combination of good management, sound nutrition and good animal husbandry skills.
- When a farm undergoes conversion to organic status an Animal Health Plan is required to be drawn up by the veterinary practitioner, who specifies the current animal health issues on the farm and how the farmer will tackle these problems into the future, while conforming to the requirements of organic certification standards.
- Detection of problems needs to be early, and timely veterinary advice is invaluable – when an animal is ill the organic farmer reacts in the same manner as their conventional neighbour and veterinary assistance is required immediately

Conventional Veterinary Treatments Permitted

- Animals for meat consumption: 1 course antibiotics within 12 months.
 - Animals for breeding: 2 courses antibiotics within 12 months.
 - Dairy Mastitis: 2 courses antibiotics within 12 months, otherwise the cow is removed from the milking herd.
 - If limits exceeded, organic status is taken away from animal.
- 

Withdrawal Periods for use of Veterinary Products

- Min 7 days adhered to if no period specified.
- Under 18 days triple the withdrawal time.
- Between 18-28 days adhere to a 56 day withdrawal period.
- 29+ days twice the withdrawal time.
- If treated with organophosphates, lose organic status permanently.

Mutilations

- Prior approval is required from your Organic Certification Body before any mutilations are undertaken.
- To avoid suffering to the animal adequate anaesthesia and/or analgesia must be administered in all cases.



Organic Animal Housing Standards

- Adjustments to meet organic standards may be necessary – depends on farm situation.
- Housing is not compulsory.
- At least 50% of floor area must be bedded.
- Straw, rushes or untreated wood shavings are acceptable bedding materials and these need not be organic.

- All animal housing is subject to inspection and approval by the Organic Certification Body.
- See Table 8 for organic space requirements.
- Cubicles are permitted if they are of optimum size for the animals on the holding. At least 3m² per individual animal must be allowed for dairy cows.
- Cubicles must be clean and dry and bedded at all times

Table 13: Minimum Housing Area per head and by weight

Animal	Minimum Indoor Areas (net area available to each animal)	
	Live-weight Minimum (kg)	m ² /head
Calves; Beef Cattle; Bull Beef;	Up to 100kg	1.5
	Up to 200kg	2.5
	Up to 350kg	4.0
	Up to 500kg	5.0
Suckler Cows		6.0
Dairy Cows	Up to 600kg	6.0 min.
	Over 600kg	1m ² /100kg
Breeding Bulls		10m ²
Sheep		1.5m ² per ewe 0.35m ² per lamb



Capital costs to convert to dairying

- When the Whittys converted to dairying in 2015, €45,000 was spent to start the conversion process. An existing shed was converted into a milking parlour.
- Because Joe carried most of the construction work himself, costs were kept low
- A new bulk tank is being installed this winter and a new machinery/straw shed may be constructed in 2022

Table 14: Farmyard infrastructure investments since 2015

	Investment	Cost
2015	8 unit milking parlour	€27,000
2015	Second Hand 5,200 litre bulk tank	€8,000
2015	ESB connection, Meal Bin, Dairy	€10,000
2016	New Calf House	€15,000
2018	Converted straw bedded shed to cubicle house including slatted tank	€30,000
2019	New Silage Slab and concrete yards	€12,000
2020	New Calving Pens	€9,000
2020	2 Extra Units in Milking Parlour	
2021	New Slatted Tank	€10,000



Soil Nutrients and Manure Management

- The aim of organic farming is to maintain soil fertility levels by efficient recycling of farmyard manure, slurry and or compost that is normally generated on the farm.
- Management of organic farms should ensure regular inputs of manures and a level of microbial and earthworm activity sufficient to breakdown organic matter and ensure continuous and efficient nutrient cycling.
- Keeping soils at a pH that facilitates organic matter breakdown and nutrient recycling is essential for successful organic farming.
- Organic manure nutrient content can vary widely depending on the source of nutrients and it is advisable to have the nutrient content of manures checked through laboratory analysis. Table 9 outlines the results of analysis of a samples of farmyard manure taken on the farm this year.

Table 15: Farmyard Manure Analysis

Analysis Type	Farmyard Manure Sample 1	Typical Nutrient content of FYM (SI 610 2010)
Chemical Analysis:		
Total N Nitrogen (kg/t fw)	2.49	4.5
Total P Phosphorus (kg/t fw)	0.50	1.2
Potassium (kg/t fw)	5.21	6.0
Total Dry Matter (% , dw)	18.6	

* FYM N 30% available (Teagasc research findings) 1t FYM = ~1m³ approx.

Note: FYM analysis carried out by Southern Scientific Services Ltd, Co. Kerry

Sources of Nutrients on the Farm

- Nitrogen from atmospheric fixation by clover.
- Slurry from over wintering of animals indoors.
- Farmyard manure (FYM) from the straw bedding used over-wintering the animals. Approximately 100 bales of straw are used annually.
- Organic concentrate feed ~840kgs/cow ~5kg P/tonne concentrate usage.
- Dairy sludge (organic certified) imported onto the farm

Where & When are Nutrients Spread




In general:

- **FYM & Dairy Sludge** is spread in autumn on tillage ground and also prior to ploughing at re-seeding. The use of a straw chopper and

turning FYM a number of times reduces the bulk of material and ensure ease of spreading.

- **Slurry** is generally spread early in the growing season to maximise use of its nitrogen content and help promote early grass growth.
- **Dairy and collecting yard washings** are spread on grazing paddocks throughout the year.









Table 16: Nutrients off-takes of various farm products (P & K)

P & K off-takes		P (kg)	K (kg)
Milk (1,000 litres)		0.9 - 1	1 - 1.5
Silage (1 ton DM)		3 - 4	25
Leaching (1,000 mm rainfall)			~ 10

Sources of Organic Manures that are permitted to be imported onto Organic Farms

- Imported farmyard manure or slurry must come from stock that have been outside during the year, not from intensive pig and poultry units where animals are inside all the time or from zero grazing farming systems. Farm yard manure must be composted for at least 3 months before it can be land spread.
- Dairy processing sludge is available from some dairy processors who have sludge registered with an Organic Certification Body.

Available Nutrient Content & Guide Value (€) of Organic Manures

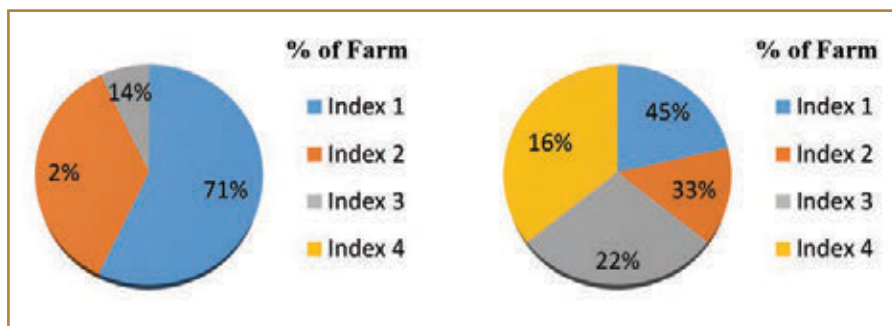
<p>Value of farm yard manure based on 2014 Nitrates Directive values</p> <p>1 Tonne (~1m³)</p>  <p>=</p>  <p>1 tonne is worth €10</p>	<p>Value of cattle slurry based on Teagasc Figures</p> <p>1,000 gallons (~4.5m³)</p>  <p>=</p>  <p>1,000 gallons (7% D.M.) is worth €23</p>
<p>Value of dairy sludge based on Glanbia Ballyragget analysis (permitted on Organic farms from approved Dairy Processors)</p> <p>Dairy Sludge- 1 tonne (~1m³)</p>  <p>=</p>  <p>1 tonne is worth €17</p>	<p>Value of organic chicken manure</p> <p>Organic Chicken Manure 1 tonne (~1m³)</p>  <p>=</p>  <p>1 tonne is worth €50</p>

Source:Teagasc

Soil Phosphorus (P) and Potassium (K) Levels on Whitty's Farm

Figure 2: P Index Levels on Farm

Figure 3: K Index Levels on Farm



Phosphorus (P)

Phosphorus is necessary for early plant growth and root development.

Permitted Phosphorus Products that can be used

- P27-Physlag- 11%P- €488/tonne
- Fruithill Farm – Dolophos- 11% €760/tonne
- *Super Basic Slag 1.8-2.5% P (plus some liming effect) €99/tonne min order 5 tonne.
- *Rock Phosphate dust €360/tonne

* In soils with a high pH (>6.5) Rock Phosphate and Basic Slag become less effective.

Potassium (K)

Potassium (Potash) is essential for grain, root and forage crops. Large amounts are removed in conserved crops (hay and silage).

Permitted Potassium Products that can be used

- Patent Kali – 25% K 17% S 6% Mg €725/tonne
- Sulphate of Potash – 42% K 16% Sulphate €650/tonne

Financial Performance - 2020 Teagasc e-Profit Monitor Analysis

Production Type	Liquid > 60%	Whitty's	Target
Autumn Calving			
FARM			
Dairy Cows		57	
Stocking Rate (LU/ha)		1.25	
Litres Milk Produced/cow		5,789	
Litres Sold/Cow		5,614	
Co-Op Price (c/Litre)		47.68	
GROSS OUTPUT		c/Litre	c/Litre
Milk Sales		46.23	37.65
Plus Cow & Calf Sales & Calf Transfers		6.09	3.58
Minus Cow & Repl Purchases & Repl Transfers		6.73	3.51
+/- Inventory		<u>1.03</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Gross Output		46.63	37.72
VARIABLE COSTS		c/Litre	c/Litre
Feed		10.24	6.00
Fertiliser		0.48	2.40
Veterinary		0.9	1.00
AI/Breeding		0.11	0.70
Contractor		0.16	1.50
Other Variable Costs		<u>4.00</u>	<u>1.60</u>
Total Variable Costs		16.50	13.20
Gross Margin		30.13	24.52
FIXED COSTS		c/Litre	c/Litre
Machinery		4.24	1.40
Car/ESB/Phone		1.82	1.15
Depreciation		2.17	1.60
Other Fixed Costs		2.69	1.60
Common Cost		27.41	18.95
Common Profit		19.21	18.77
Note:			
•Cow numbers include both milking and dry cows			
•Other fixed costs including hired labour, interest and land lease are not included in common costs. Direct payments excluded from gross output.			

Future Goals

- No plans to increase stock numbers, improve quality of existing herd
- May consider a OAD grass fed system in near future
- Contract out more of the machinery work
- Enjoy a better work life balance



Organic Certification



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

A major factor that distinguishes organic farming from other approaches to sustainable farming is the existence of internationally acknowledged standards and certification procedures. The standards for organic production within the European Union are defined and enshrined in law by Council Regulation EC 834/2007 as amended.

In Ireland the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine is the competent authority (i.e. - the Department's Organic Unit is based at Johnstown Castle Estate Wexford) for regulating the organic sector and ensuring that the obligations and requirements of Council Regulation (EC) No. 834/2007 as amended and adhered to.

The Organic Unit of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine have designated Official Certification Bodies whose role is to certify organic producers, farmers and processors through an inspection process of each individual's unit or farm. Further information can be sourced from these organic certification bodies:

IOA Irish Organic Association

Unit 13 Inish Carraig, Golden Island, Athlone.

Tel: (090) 64 33680 www.irishorganicassociation.ie

Organic Trust

2 Vernon Avenue, Clontarf, Dublin 3.

Tel: (01) 853 0271 www.organictrust.ie

Demeter

40/11 Woodhall Rd, Edinburgh. EH13 ODU. Scotland.

Tel: (0044) 131 478 1201 www.demeter.net

Global Trust Certificate Ltd.

3rd floor, Block 3, Quayside Business Park, Mill Street, Dundalk, Co Louth.

Tel: (042) 93 20912 Fax: (042) 93 8686 Email: info@gtcert.com

BDA Certification- Organic and Demeter

The Painswick Inn Project, Gloucester, Gloucestershire, GLS 1QS, United Kingdom.

Tel: (0044) 145 376 6296 Fax: (0044) 145 375 950

Targeted Agricultural Modernisation Scheme Organic Capital Investment Scheme (OCIS)



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

On Farm Scheme

A standard rate of aid of 40% on investments up to a ceiling of €80,000 (i.e. can generate a grant of €32,000 from an investment of €80,000). For qualifying young organic farmers who meet the specific eligibility criteria, the standard rate of aid is 60% on investments up to a ceiling of €80,000.

How to Apply and Closing Date:

Online applications only through www.agfood.ie facility.

Full details and T&C:

<http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmingsectors/organicfarming/organicsscheme/organiccapitalinvestmentschemeocis/>

Queries:

DAFM Organic Unit, Johnstown Castle: (053) 91 63400

Organic Processing Scheme

Grant aid of up to 40% on €1.75 million (i.e. can generate a grant of €700,000 for an investment of €1.75 million) in facilities for the processing, preparation, grading, packing and storage of organic products with minimum level of investment in excess of €3,000.

More Details:

<http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/press/pressreleases/2015/august/title,84203,en.html>

Queries:

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