Project Farmers

Kevin McGrade, Dromore, Co Tyrone

Robin Clements, Trillick, Co Tyrone

David Brady, Tierlahood, Stradone, Co Cavan

Nigel Corbett and family, Banbridge, Co Down

Bill Brown, Millisle, Co Down

Charles Clarke, Bailieborough, Co Cavan

Dairylink Ireland

supported by
Program objectives

Dairylink – ‘Best use of farm resources to drive profit’.

- Challenge farm resource mix
- Develop resilient business
- Build skill set
Program objectives

Dairylink – ‘Best use of farm resources to drive profit’.

- Herd fertility, genetics
- Grass management
- Replacement heifers
- Animal health
- Soil fertility
- Cashflow budgeting
- Capital expenditure
- Labour management

Knowledge Transfer

Using project farmer experience

Real Information

Good & Bad
KT Structure

- Project experience
- Real time events on farm
- Target audience

IFJ Weekly report
Dairylink Annual farm walk
Media
CAFRE BDG

Dairylink Ireland
Where to focus?

Common Approach

• Holistic farm business development with primary view to improve farm profitability and sustainability.

• focus on four key areas – Profitability & cash management, Capital development, Herd health & fertility, Grass & forage management.

Others? Measure to manage
## Dairylink - Group Progress

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Project start 2015 data</th>
<th>Project end 2017 data</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grass growth (tDM/ha)</td>
<td>9.8</td>
<td>11.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nitrogen used (kg N/ha)</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of area optimal for grass growth. (%)</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average herd size (cow no.)</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milk solids sold (kg/cow)</td>
<td>523</td>
<td>541</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milk Solids sold(kgs/ha) (platform)</td>
<td>825</td>
<td>1252</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concentrate supplementation (kg/cow)</td>
<td>1768</td>
<td>1485</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calving Interval (days)</td>
<td>389</td>
<td>383</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dairylink - Group Progress