How Research Impacts my Farm Business

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Background

• Three way partnership – LJG Dairy
• Spring calving cross bred herd
• Supplying Barryroe Co-op
• Farming 190 ha
  – 122 ha milk platform
• Cow numbers
  – 2003 – 56 cows
  – 2018 – 405 cows
Grassland

- Herbage production
  - 2017 – 15.3 t DM/ha
  - 2016 – 15.1 t DM/ha
  - 2015 – 16.5 t DM/ha
What’s important on my farm?

Sustainable System

- Animal Genetics
- Grassland
  - Soil fertility
  - Herbage production & utilisation
- Labour
  - Skilled work force
  - Goal - train 4 to 5 students a year
- Finance
  - Milk price/cost of production control
- Lifestyle and Family
Where do I get my Research information

- Discussion groups
- Co-op meetings
- Research/Demonstration farms
- Open days
- Local Papers
- Conferences
- Text messages/Whatsapp groups
Research networks used for information

- Pasturebase Ireland
- ICBF
- Co-op reports/App
- Discussion group
- Profit Monitor
- Teagasc Moorepark and Clonakilty
- Irish Grassland Association
Challenges to Research

• Relevant research
  – short/medium/long term issues

• Research to farm practise
  – more on farm research

• Grazing research at field scale
  – large scale studies
  – multiple years

• Simple clear messages linked to farm sustainability and profit

• Engage farmers at the start of your research – not the end
What has research changed on my farm

- Grassland measuring and budgeting
- Perennial ryegrass monoculture
- Inclusion of White Clover
- Forage crops
- Crossbreeding
- Partnerships
- Labour - contractor and outsourcing of work
- Milking 13 times a week
- Once a day calf feeding