Teagasc Science into Practice

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Head of Drystock Knowledge Transfer Department, Teagasc

27th European Grassland Federation General Meeting Cork
Thursday, 21st June 2018
Teagasc Knowledge Transfer Objectives (Drystock)

- Increase the **profitability** and **competitiveness** of Irish beef and sheep production systems.
- Improve the **environmental sustainability** of Irish beef and sheep production systems through improved **nutrient use efficiency** and **reduced greenhouse gas emissions**.
- Enhance the **quality and safety** of Irish beef and sheep meat
- Assist in the **delivery of new technologies** to key stakeholders within the Irish beef and sheep industries
- Contribute to the achievement of the targets set out in **Food Wise 2025**.
Teagasc Drystock Knowledge Transfer Strategy

- Increased Grass Utilisation per Hectare
- Improved fertility performance in our national suckler herd and ewe flock
- Sustainable increase in profitability of beef and sheep farms
- Higher annual gains in genetic improvement in our beef and sheep animals
- Enhanced animal health on our beef and sheep farms
Teagasc Regional Units & Advisory Offices

12 Regional Units

Over 50 Advisory Offices

110 - 120 Drystock Advisers
Strategy achieved through…..

- Local regional units have **annual drystock business plans**

- Technical **in-service training** on beef & sheep topics provided by enterprise specialists to Teagasc advisors and education staff

- One to one farm advice from advisors to clients (150 – 250 clients / advisor)

- 5,000 beef farmers and 2,000 sheep farmers in **Knowledge Transfer Groups**

- Knowledge transfer publications and newsletters distributed monthly.

- Significant number of **public knowledge transfer events** held locally annually.

- **Agricultural Colleges** have beef and sheep enterprises for use by students and for public events
Strategy achieved through…..

- Teagasc provides in-service training to Private Agricultural Consultants through the **Teagasc ConnectEd Programme**

- Regularly publish material on **websites & social media**

- Manage and operate a number of **Demonstration Farmer Programmes** funded by industry
  - Teagasc – Irish Farmers Journal BETTER Farm Beef Programme
  - Teagasc – Green Acres Calf to Beef Programme
  - Teagasc BETTER Sheep Programme

- **National Beef and Sheep Conferences** held annually.

- **Major Open Day** held every second year at our Beef and Sheep Research Centres (5,000 – 10,000 attendances)
Collaborations
Teagasc Green Acres Calf to Beef Programme

- 3 Year Dairy Calf to Beef Programme
- 5 Main Sponsors & 1 Media partner
- 10 Participating Farms
- 8 Counties represented (Midlands & North East)
- 1 Full Time Adviser
- Targeting to achieve a **Net Margin of €500** per hectare
- Demonstrating best practice under 6 pillars

**Location of the farmers**
- Conor Greene
- Christy Dowd
- Michael Ryan
- John Lalor
- Michael Flynn
- Eamon Kirk
- David Drum
- Ben Sweeney
- Joe Farrell
- Pat Bowden
Teagasc Green Acres Calf to Beef Programme

- Monthly articles in the Farming Independent
- Regular Open Days on the Farms
- Updating of the Sponsors staff
- KT Groups visit the farms
- From 2014 to 2017:
  - Gross margin per ha has risen by 106% (€513 to €1,058)
  - Net Margin has risen from -€40 to €475 per ha
Teagasc Beef & Sheep Websites

Beef

Cattle farming is the enterprise taking place on the greatest number of farms in Ireland. Through knowledge transfer and research programmes, Teagasc work with the sector to be competitive and sustainable.

Research  Grassland  Breeding & Genetics

Nutrition  Animal Health  Demonstration Farms

Sheep

Sheep production is the fourth most important animal enterprise in Ireland, operating on both hill and lowland farms. The teagasc research and advisory programmes centre around low cost grass-based production systems.

Research  Grassland  Breeding & Genetics

Nutrition  Animal Health  BETTER Farm Sheep
Teagasc Drystock Knowledge Transfer on Social Media

@TeagascBeef Twitter

@TeagascSheep Twitter

@TeagascBeef Facebook

YouTube
Impact of Teagasc KT Drystock Programme

Achieved through:

- In-service training of advisers
- One to one contact with clients
- Joint Industry Programmes
- KT discussion groups meeting 6 – 7 times per year
- Major Open Days
- Annual National Conferences
- Regular Publications
- High number of on farm events annually

Exit Surveys: Very positive feedback

Beef Discussion Groups: Increased from 80 to 297

Sheep Discussion Groups: Increased from 30 to 121

Teagasc Beef eProfit Monitors: Over 1,200 completed annually

Teagasc Sheep eProfit Monitors: Over 400 completed annually
Some Impact Indicators………

**Grass**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grass Utilised (t/ha) on beef farms</th>
<th>2010 – 2012</th>
<th>2014 - 2016</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All National Farm Survey (NFS)</td>
<td>5.33</td>
<td>5.75</td>
<td>+8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teagasc Clients (NFS)</td>
<td>5.59</td>
<td>6.05</td>
<td>+8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Beef Breeding**

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<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Suckler Herds (ICBF)</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>+40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sheep Breeding**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lambs reared per ha</th>
<th>2010 – 2012</th>
<th>2014 - 2016</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All National Farm Survey (NFS)</td>
<td>9.20</td>
<td>10.20</td>
<td>+11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teagasc Clients (NFS)</td>
<td>9.69</td>
<td>10.28</td>
<td>+6%</td>
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For More Information Contact
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Thank You