



As 2022 comes to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our milk suppliers for their continued custom and support, in what has been an exceptional year in many ways for the Irish and global dairy industry.

The conditions that have underpinned farm-input and milk pricing in 2022 commenced in 2021 as the geopolitical wrangling on gas supplies between Germany and Russia drove historically high gas pricing in the latter half of the year. Gas, being a key raw material in nitrogen production, in turn drove fertiliser pricing to new heights as we entered the new fertiliser season in Ireland, for 2022. The Russian invasion of Ukraine in February compounded the energy supply situation further and served to throw massive uncertainty and resulting price inflation into the cereals market as supply disruption and sanctions took hold.

It was inevitable that input pricing and general uncertainty would impact milk output growth in the latter half of 2021 and into 2022 especially in higher cost production systems across the globe leading to a more favourable supply/demand dynamic, up to Quarter 3 of this year. Combined with input pricing pressure on the supply side, it is worth noting that we are also beginning to see an impact on milk-output growth across some dairy exporting countries relating to the implementation of legally binding environmental measures.

The Irish dairy industry will have its own legally binding environmental measures to contend with as we go forward into 2023 and beyond. The Nitrates Action Programme (NAP) which is designed to prevent pollution of surface waters and groundwater from agricultural sources and to protect and improve water quality sees very significant change from January 2023, with the introduction of new excretion rate bands. The obligation on the agricultural sector to achieve a 25% reduction in absolute carbon emissions by 2030 will also not be achieved without considerable change and that change will have to happen in the short term.

Separately, I would like to mark the outstanding performance of the Hayes Family (Killorglin) in winning the Kerry Agribusiness Quality & Sustainability Awards 2022. The nine finalists in our Quality & Sustainability Awards exemplified the very best in sustainable farming and farm management and the awards provide us with an opportunity to recognise the excellence in farming across our catchment. I also want to congratulate the Egan Family (Abbeydorney) who were one of 13 farming families across Ireland to reach the finals of this year's NDC & Kerrygold Quality Milk Awards.

On behalf of all Kerry Agribusiness staff, I would like to wish you and your family a very Happy Christmas and New Year!

James O'Connell,
General Manager



Pictured at the recent Kerry Agribusiness "Farming under the new Nitrates Regulations" event are Sean McCarthy Kerry Agribusiness, Ruth Hennessey LAWPRO, Brendan Horan Teagasc & Ted Massey DAFM.

Bumper Christmas Draw

€10,000 in Prizes

Spend €50 in your local Kerry Agribusiness Store and enter our Christmas Draw.

Guaranteed winners in every store!
Thanks for your Custom.



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Need a Stocking Filler - why not surprise a family member or friend with a Kerry Agribusiness Voucher which can be purchased in any of our stores.

Farming under the New Nitrates Regulations

Kerry Agribusiness recently hosted two information evenings in Limerick and Kerry which were focused on farming under the New Nitrates Regulations.

Invited guests Ruth Hennessey LAWPRO, Ted Massey DAFM Nitrates & Biodiversity and Brendan Horan Teagasc Moorepark gave excellent presentations and there were lots of questions and debate on both nights from what were very well attended events.



Flor Kerrisk, Thomas Laide & Con Daly



Adrian Keane, Kenneth O'Connell & Aidan Stack



Ger Courtney, Mike Behan & Padraig McCarthy



Donal Hayes, Neilly Doherty, Eoghan McCarthy & Sean Coffey



Ailish Moriarty, Tom Murphy, Donal Counihan & Sean Brosnan



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Kerry Agribusiness/Teagasc Monitor Farm Programme

The main focus of the current Monitor Programme is to enhance the financial and social viability of our 14 monitor farms and to work with this group to monitor and develop practices that enhance the environmental sustainability of the farms. The following is a brief update on some of the sustainable actions and average performance across the monitor farms in 2022:

On Average

- 100 tonnes of lime applied per farm.
- 90% of slurry applied using LESS with 70% spread before mid-May.
- Chemical Nitrogen use was 176 kgs N/ha, a reduction of 17% V's 2021.
- Slurry contributed an additional 26 kgs N/ha.
- Protected urea accounted for 47% of total chemical N use.
- Clover swards on 25% of the milking block – these paddocks received 50 to 100 units chemical N/acre topped up with soiled water/dilute slurry.
- Average milk solids per cow of 530 kgs with 3.68% protein & 4.33% butterfat.
- Carbon intensity of 0.81 kgCO₂ eq / kg FPCM.

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✓ Contact your local area office



If you have any questions/comments on the Newsletter please CONTACT US VIA EMAIL AT enquiries@kerryagribusiness.ie