



## National Dairy Awards – Germinal Responsible Grassland Manager of the Year

**Niall Moloney, Kerry Agribusiness Demonstration farmer, was crowned Germinal Responsible Grassland Manager of the Year at the recent National Dairy Awards.**

The award recognises innovative grassland management practices which enhance the environment whilst maintaining production levels. This win recognises the Moloney's focus on reducing nitrogen fertiliser inputs on farm through the incorporation of white clover in grazing swards and red clover in silage swards.



Niall Moloney, Crecora with Dr. Mary McEvoy, Technical Director for Germinal Ireland.

## MILK MARKETS UPDATE

Dairy Markets have weakened again in recent weeks with no respite currently evident. Skim Milk Powder and Butter prices are falling on both spot and futures markets with Cheese prices holding up slightly better. The latest GDT auction saw the price index move down 3.3 % reflecting current market sentiment. The recovery in dairy prices predicted by analysts for the latter half of this year is now very much in question.

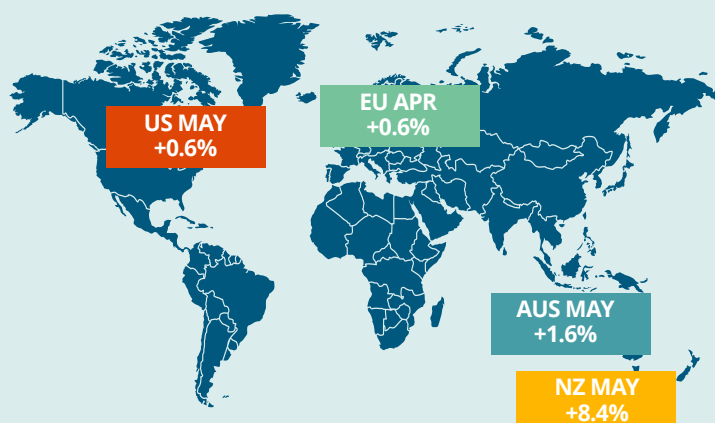
### Global Supply

Milk Production is still growing and not falling as fast as was expected. The New Zealand season is just starting off as Europe passes peak and the US is continuing in positive territory month-on-month.

### Global Demand

The demand side of the market is currently the issue and is nowhere near where it needs to be for markets to recover, despite the considerable fall off in pricing.

The anticipated recovery in the latter half of this year looks more unlikely at this point as spending power at consumer level globally is being eroded out by general food inflation and high interest rates. Europe continues to lag on dairy demand with talk of orders being cancelled and pushed out. Buyers are not interested in buying forward at the moment as they are nervous about consumers buying patterns.





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# Farm Safety Week

17<sup>TH</sup> – 21<sup>ST</sup> JULY 2023

Farm Safety Week is a collaborative campaign, initiated by the Farm Safety Partnership in the UK, that brings together farming organisations from the UK and Ireland on the topic of farm safety. Farm Safety Week is led by the IFA in Ireland and supported by Teagasc.

The main objectives of Farm Safety Week are to raise awareness, share positive stories, highlight new safety related technologies and challenge farm safety attitudes while encouraging farmers to look after their physical and mental health.

Each day in Farm Safety Week follows a different theme. Keep an eye on local and national media for further updates and events.

**Day 1:** Farm Safety Week Launch

**Day 2:** Quad Safety – focusing on updated quad safety rules

**Day 3:** Livestock handling – Talk's at local Marts

**Day 4:** Long term health - in collaboration with Irish Heart Foundation

**Day 5:** Nominate a Farm Safety Hero

# Energy Efficiency & Solar Panels

**As part of the overall farm business, energy costs and efficiencies are increasingly important. Electricity costs can vary drastically between farms (€15-€45/cow/year).**

It is important to analyse your costs and see if savings can be made. The main electricity uses on a dairy farm are:

- Bulk tank 52%
- Hot Water 22%
- Vacuum pump 19%
- Lighting 6%

There are many opportunities to install solar panels on farms either on land or on roofs of farm

buildings. Planning permission is not required for most rooftop solar installation unless you are in a safeguarding zone.

TAMS 3: Solar Capital Investment Scheme (SCIS) is now available at 60% on solar panels and batteries with a standalone investment up to €90,000.

If you do not avail of the full amount one year, you can avail of the rest the next year. Solar energy generally tends to have less than 4 years payback.

Farmers can apply for grant aid for a system that produces 25kWp with no battery. TAMS aided systems can avail of the clean export guarantee (ESB grid connection necessary). Extra electricity produced can be exported back to the grid. Sizing guidelines cap the generation capacity. The Cap is the total annual consumption with the max size (kWp) being the annual consumption ÷ 950 kWh.

Accelerated Capital Allowances are available for the installation of solar panels with 100% of the cost in year 1. The ACA is either 50% (higher rate of tax) or 25% (lower rate of tax). Dairy farms that operate a spring calving system produce most of their milk in Spring and Summer.

**Table 2: Energy-saving investments, possible savings and payback period.**  
**Figures excluding grant aid or capital allowances.**

Action	Cost of action	Annual saving	Simple payback
Move to cheapest supplier	None	€500	Immediate
Milk pre-cooling (installing a plate cooler)	€3,200	€1,000	Three years
Install night rate electricity	None	€1,000	Immediate
Synchronise water heater with nightly rate	€50	€170	< 1 year
Variable speed drive (VSD) on the vacuum pumps	€3,300	€460	7 years
Solar thermal heating	€4,000	€350	> 10 years
Heat recovery system (in addition to pre-cooling)	€3,500	€500	7 years
Micro photovoltaic system	€6,000	€700	8.5 years
Wind turbine	€25,000	€800	> 30 years





## Kerry Agribusiness/Bord Bia Sustainability Course Now Live

In collaboration with Bord Bia, Kerry Agribusiness has developed a free online farm dairy sustainability course to provide suppliers with on-demand access to information and resources surrounding -

- Greenhouse gas mitigation
- Soil health optimisation
- Improving and protecting Irish waters
- Sustainable energy use

As our understanding of sustainability develops, so will the course, providing suppliers with a wealth

of information covering government legislation, new research and case studies from farmers themselves.

The interactive course is now live and can be accessed via the Farm Sustainability Learning Hub on the BordBia Producers Portal.

Suppliers will receive a link to the portal via text and the MilkedIn App to login and enrol on the Kerry Farm Sustainability Course. Upon successful completion of the 5 short modules and quiz, suppliers will receive a congratulatory certificate as well as a €50 rebate to their milk account.

