

# Livestock Systems Department

## Title

Sustainable expansion of Irish dairy production

## Abstract

This multi disciplinary project aims to combine the broad range of expertise and skills within Teagasc research and knowledge transfer directorates to develop solutions and tools that will assist Irish dairy farmers to overcome the challenges of a significant expansion in output following the abolition of quotas. This primarily desk based project will develop models of production systems in a non-quota environment that optimise profitability and environmental efficiency depending on the most limiting fact of production. The project will also develop a new tool for use by dairy farmers and their advisors, that integrates all of the budgeting, cash flow management and benchmarking functions that are required by farmers in a single web based multi access programme with a centralised database linked to other industry databases that hold relevant financial information. The project will also quantify the labour requirement and type of usage on larger dairy farms to identify systems and work practices that optimise labour efficiency on larger dairy farms. The final task of the project will analyse the national animal database to identify the relationships between herd size and a range of economically important dairy cow traits such as survivability, fertility and production

**Project Leader:** Padraig French

**Programme/Subprogramme/RMIS Number:**

AGRIP – Moorepark Livestock Systems-Sustainable Production Systems-6375

**Start Date:** 1/1/13 **End Date:** 31/12/16