

Diarmuid Cremin Profile

Three Year Review Event

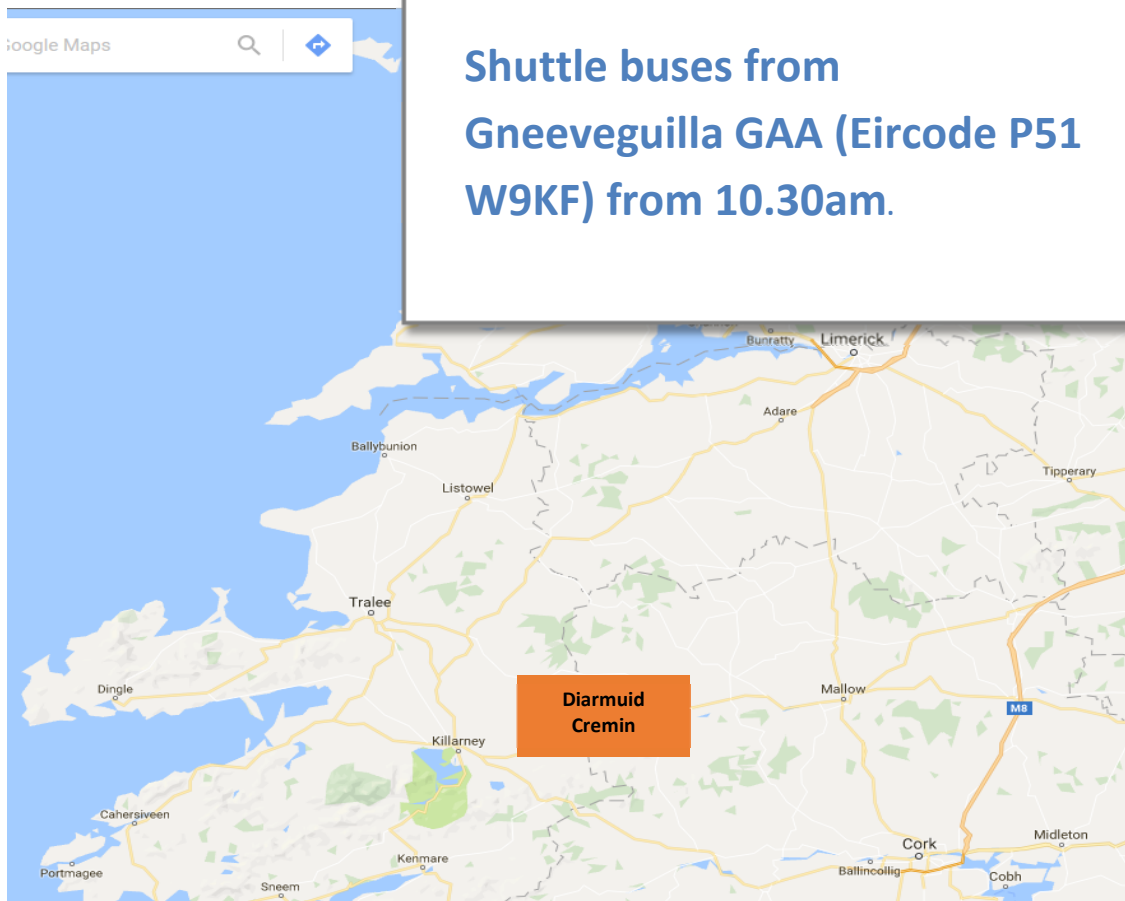
Diarmuid Cremin farms with his family near Gneeveguilla in East Kerry.



Teagasc/Kerry Agribusiness

**Farm Walk Thursday April 18th
2019.**

**Shuttle buses from
Gneeveguilla GAA (Eircode P51
W9KF) from 10.30am.**



Diarmuid joined the monitor farm group in early 2016 and working closely with his Teagasc Advisors, grass and local discussion group is following a farm development plan that

aims to increase farm profitability and improve labour efficiency leading to a better work/life balance.

Diarmuid milks a herd of **65 cows** on a milking block area of 23 ha (57ac) or a stocking rate of 2.8 LU/Ha. Young stock are carried on an additional 3.2 ha of good ground. 66% of silage requirement is harvested from the milking block with the rest cut from short term rented ground. An area of 12 ha rough grazing contributes some mid summer grazing for replacements.

The key focus in Diarmuid's development plan is to achieve a sustainable living from a 65 cow herd. Diarmuid's approach is not to complicate the system and focus on the areas that give best return on effort.

Continuous herd improvement through better breeding

-Herd EBI is €170 with a big emphasis on fertility and milk solids production from a more easily maintained cow.

-Last year's production was 466 kgs Ms/Cow (Milk protein % of 3.62% and Butterfat of 4.42%)

Fertility drives milk solids production through a 95% six week calving rate & 365 day calving interval. The herd is mature with the cows that were culled averaging 5.7 lactations in 2018.

-Concentrate use of 700kgs/cow in 2017 increased to 1200kgs/cow in 2018.

Grass Growth

Lifting grass production is a key focus for Diarmuid. The following features will be discussed on the day

-12.2 tonnes DM/ha grown in 2018 v 13.3 tonnes DM/HA in 2017 and plans to achieve 14 t DM/ha in 2019.

- Impact of investing in lime and P/K build- up fertilisers over the past three years. Annual soil test results monitored progress.
- How new reseeds have performed including one monoculture Abergain sown in 2017
- Impact of gravel mole drainage on a 2 ha heavy clay paddock
- Use of spur roads that help grazing in Spring & Autumn.
- How 35 grass measurements per year has allowed Diarmuid have better quality grass for the herd and harvest high quality surplus silage
- How working closely with other farmers in the Monitor, grass and local discussion groups has helped Diarmuid in his decision making

Cash Flow Management

Cash Flow management is always a challenge yet Diarmuid and his family have kept a tight rein on cash flow ensuring that all spending is carefully evaluated. Diarmuid has some valuable tips that help the family retain 50% of receipts.