

Tillage from Grassland

Economics and Supply of materials

Ploughing grassland to plant a tillage crop is being encouraged in 2022 by the Department of Agriculture Food and Marine with the introduction of the Tillage Incentive Scheme worth €400/ha for qualifying farmers. The incentive is to offset the increased costs in 2022 compared to 2021.

Farmers should tread carefully as all tillage crops need to achieve relatively high yields before realising profitability. Below are costs of production and possible margins for spring barley and maize and beet.

	Spring Barley	Maize	Beet
Materials	285	262	452
Fertiliser	834	1297	1426
Machinery	488	804	804
Misc.	71	42	502
Total Variable Costs	1678	2405	3184
Price €/t	275	60	50
Straw	250		
Tillage Incentive Scheme	400	400	400
Gross Margins (€/ha inc Straw and TIS)			
Barley @7.0t/ha	897		
Maize @ 50 t/ha		995	
Beet @ 75t/ha			966

Notes: See Teagasc Costs and Returns for specific details on input quantities.

Fertiliser prices included – CAN €995/t, 0-7-30 €1025/t, 13-6-20 €1060/t. Other Fixed Costs not include; Lime €120/ha, Glyphosate €55/ha, Remedial works €100/ha. Land rental is not included

Tillage Incentive Scheme (TIS)

For a farmer to be eligible for the scheme the farmer must fulfil the following criteria

1. There must be an increase in the total area of eligible crops grown on the holding in 2022 versus 2021.
2. The land on which the additional crops are grown must not have been in crop production in 2021 and must have been in grassland i.e. one of the crops considered as grassland in the list below.

Eligible tillage crops for TIS 2022 are:

- Oats – spring
- Oats – winter
- Wheat – winter
- Wheat –spring
- Rye
- Barley – winter
- Barley – spring
- Oilseed Rape – winter
- Oilseed Rape – spring
- Maize
- Fodder/sugar beet

Eligible area where the above crops must be sown

- Alfalfa
- Clover
- Fallow
- Grass Year 1
- Grass Year 2
- Grass Year 3
- Grass Year 4
- Grass Year 5
- Grassmeal
- Hemp for Food Use
- Hemp for Industrial Use
- Lucerne
- Miscanthus Sinensis
- Permanent Pasture
- Potatoes
- Red Clover
- Willow

No mixed crops are allowed e.g., arable silage, mixed cropping etc.

Other criteria

- The TIS is open to all farmers
- The farmer claiming the TIS must show the increased tillage area on their 2022 BPS application
- The farmer must comply with the Crop Diversification Rules (Three crop rule) but DAFM have looked to the EU to change this
- Beans are not eligible – a grower cannot get the protein payment and the TIS
- Wild bird cover is not covered (so far ... but this may change)

Examples

	Grower 1	Grower 2	Grower 3
Tillage area on BPS 2021 (ha)	25	100	0
Additional tillage crops in 2022 (ha)	10 ha (Maize)	15 (S. Barley)	10 (S. Barley)
Total arable area in 2022 (ha)	35	115	10
Additional tillage crops (2022) planted into grassland (which was in grassland in 2021) (ha)	10	5	10
Area eligible for TIS funding (ha)	10	5	10

Note: Grower No 2 planted and extra 15 hectares in 2022 compared to 2021 but 10ha of this area was into land which was spring barely in 2021 – not sown into grassland therefore the 10ha is not eligible.

Grower No 3 is a grassland only farmer in 2021 who then plants 10 ha of barley in 2022.