

Kiskeam Farm, Cork

This farm is located near Kiskeam, Co. Cork. It has a 50:50 mix of free draining and heavy clay soil with poor permeability, elevation is at 240 metres and rainfall annually in excess of 1,700mm. There are 100 cows milking. Overall stocking rate is 1.5 LU/ha, stocking rate on the milking platform is 2.7cows/ha. There has been a significant investment in soil fertility over the last 3 years.

Teagasc Advisor: Neily O Sullivan (Neily.OSullivan@teagasc.ie)

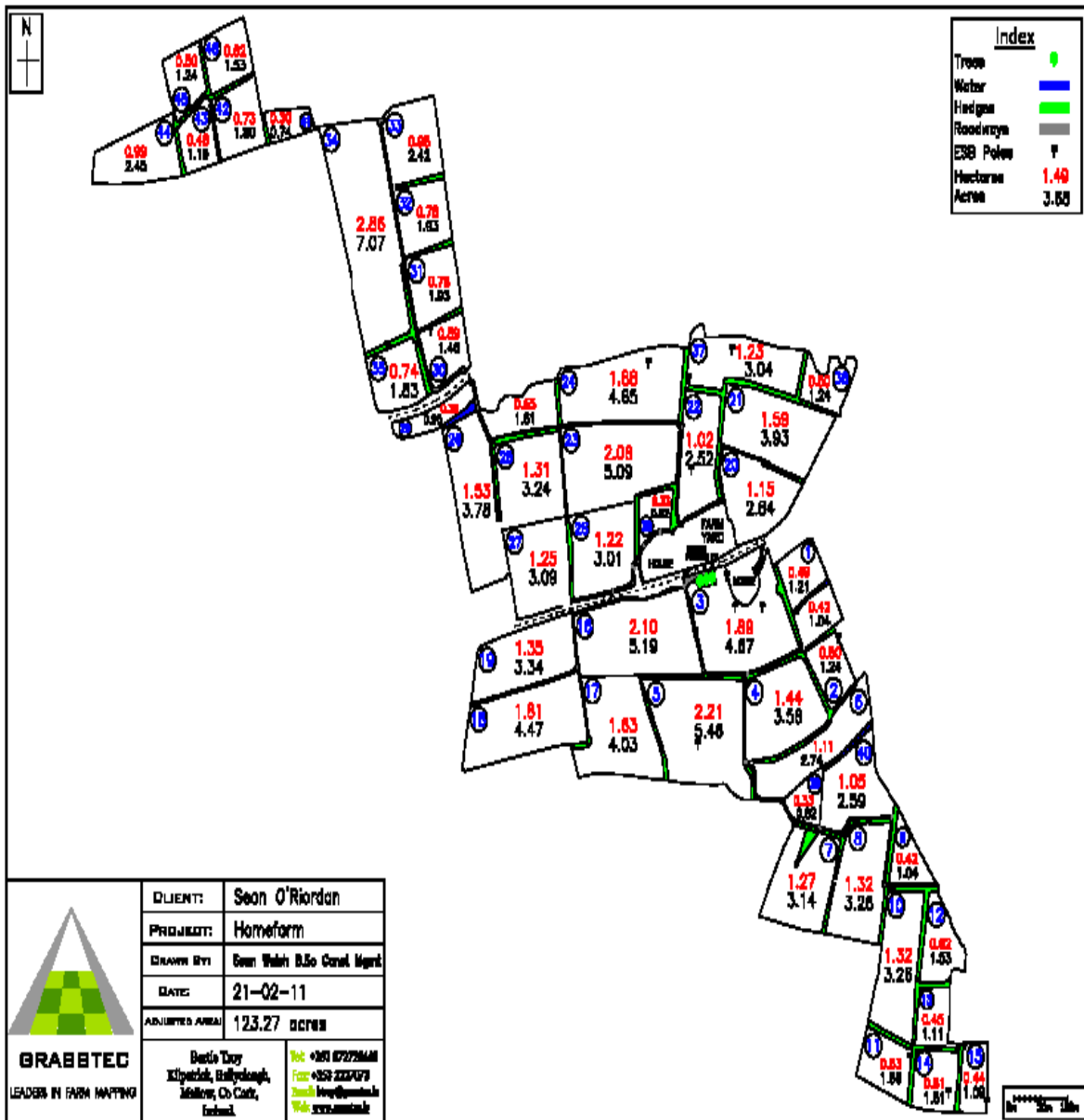


Table 1. Farm Performance

Year	Herd Size	Stocking rate MP	Area MP Ha	EBI Total	EBI Fertility	6 Week Calving %
2011	75	2.53	29.6	104	60	78
2012	81	2.26	35.8	118	73	77
2013	77	2.21	34.8	143	78	87
2014	89	2.22	40.1	168	93	87
2015	95	2.38	39.9	174	93	84
2016	100	2.38	42	101	47	76
2017	99	2.48	40	113	50	83
2018	97	2.62	37	143	54	82
2019	100	2.7	37	154	61	85

Herd size has grown from 75 in 2011 to 100 in 2019. The compact 6 week calving rate is reflected in EBI data and allows farmer to delay start of calving until 10th February (EBI base change 2016).

Table 2. Dairy Outputs

Year	Milk solids Kg	Gross Output €/Ha	Gross Output c/litre	Total Costs €/Ha	Total costs c/litre	Net costs €/Ha	Net margin c/litre
2011	890	2614	36.1	1430	19.7	1184	16.4
2012	699	2025	34.1	1542	26	483	8.1
2013	836	2406	39.9	1788	29.6	618	10.2
2014	826	2875	42.9	1436	21.4	1439	21.5
2015	1007	2522	32.3	1583	20.3	939	10
2016	961	2168	28.7	1411	19.1	757	9.6
2017	1090	3175	37.58	1674	19.81	1501	17.77
2018	1100	3029	35.17	2146	24.91	883	10.25
2019	1160	3219	38.37	1884	1141	1335	15.92

Milk solids production per hectare has grown from 890 kgs in 2011 to 1160 kgs in 2019. The effects of the very wet summer of 2012 is starkly illustrated with milk solids of 699 kgs per hectare.

Table 3. Grass production Tonnes Dry Matter/Ha

The effects of the very wet year in 2012 are evident with growth of 5.9 tonnes per hectare in 2012.

Year	Start Grazing	End Grazing	Total Grown
2011			8.4
2012			5.9
2013	26 th Feb	29 th Oct	8.8
2014	25 th Mar	27 th Nov	10.1
2015	30 th Mar	2 nd Nov	10.6
2016	14 th Mar	28 th Oct	8.6
2017	11 th Mar	8 th Nov	8.5
2018	24 th Feb	19 th Nov	10.0
2019	28 th Feb	15 th Nov	12.4

