

Looking after the environment on your farm

As farmers you are being asked to do more to look after the environment on your farm. This worksheet sets out to identify areas of your farming system where action could be taken to improve sustainability and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Steps to action

Step 1: Complete the checklist below to help you identify actions that you might take on your farm to reduce GHG emissions



Actions to reduce GHG emissions

	Yes/no
I am using protected urea	
I am applying lime to low pH soils	
Maintain/build soil fertility (P and K)	
I use low-emission slurry spreading equipment (LESS)	
I am reducing chemical nitrogen (N) by 10kg	
I am incorporating clover into my grassland swards	
I have a paddock grazing system and walk the farm weekly	
I am producing a calf/cow/year by keeping records and culling poor/empty cows	
I am selecting four- and five-star beef sires on the replacement/terminal indexes	
I am calving heifers at 22-26 months and aiming for a 20% replacement rate	
I have a herd health plan	

DID YOU KNOW?

Many of the technologies that reduce GHG emissions will also reduce costs and improve the profitability of your beef enterprise.



Actions to improve biodiversity



Retain a thorn sapling (or bunch of thorns) in all topped hedges

Do not top escaped hedges

Don't sow – let it grow. Cherish what is growing wild.

Actions to improve water quality



Use pollution impact potential (PIP) maps to identify if your farm is at risk from diffuse phosphorus (P)/sediment or N losses to waters

For P and sediment losses, 'break the pathway' with a riparian margin, earthen mound or settlement pond

For nitrate losses, improve N-use efficiency by applying N at the right time, right rate, and right locations, and using the right product

Step 2: Identify three actions that you can take in the next 12 months:



Action 1

Action 3

Action 2



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