

# Teagasc Signpost Programme Newsletter

Issue 11 - June 2022

In this month's newsletter we present a factsheet on the establishment of multispecies swards (MSS). Some of you may have applied for the DAFM scheme for MSS so this factsheet will come in useful. We also have an update from Johnstown Castle on their experiences of using MSS. We profile 3 Signpost farmers (Alex McCarthy, Dairy Farmer, Co. Limerick, John Barry, Beef Farmer, Co. Tipperary and Don Somers, Tillage Farmer, Co. Wexford). We have timely climate actions for this month as well as a new decision support tool for biodiversity - Biodiversity Management Practice Assessment Tool - Linear Habitats. We have some short video messages from HRH Prince Charles visit to Shane Fitzgerald's farm on drones and Signpost, how carbon is measured and the use of protected urea. Aoife Leader, PhD. student at Teagasc Kilkenny shares the actions that four Signpost farmers are taking to improve the linear biodiversity features on their farm.

As we pass the 1st anniversary of the launch of the programme Tom O'Dwyer gives us a summary of whats been happening in the Signpost Programme. The Environment Edge this month talks to Catchment scientist, Eva Mockler about water quality and the tools the EPA Catchment Science & Management Unit are developing to help us make improvements.



## Sowing Multi-Species Swards Factsheet

This informative factsheet outlines from site selection and preparation to the various methods of reseeding.

[Read Factsheet in Full Here](#)



### Alex McCarthy

We are farming in a partnership milking 170 cows on a grass based system. We farm 104 hectares. A major challenge we see coming at us over the next couple of years are the environmental challenges. We want to increase biodiversity on our farm and have incorporated another



### Don Somers

To date has a lot of field operations is complete for the main crops on the farm. Winter oilseed rape crops are looking very good overall with all field work complete. There is some club root present which is been put down to growing short term brassica type cover crops in the



### John Barry

John farms with his father Jim in Newtown, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary. He started off-farm employment with FRS in Spring 2021. He is farming 72.3Ha in three distinct blocks. The soil is generally dry free draining mineral soils and there is a gradual slope on the farm. John has an 80

400 meters of hedgerow on the farm. We have been doing this over the last number of years. Last year we put in about one kilometre of hedgerow.

[Read more here](#)

rotation. My winter wheat is looking good and the last application of nitrogen was applied using an N sensor & variable rate N application and this looks to have worked well to date.

[Read more here](#)

cow suckling to store system consisting of 47 spring and 33 autumn calving suckler cows. The males are sold as 18 month store beef. Heifers not retained for breeding are also sold as stores.

[Read more here](#)

## Climate Actions for June

Each month, we present climate actions that farmers can take to reduce gaseous emissions. These actions will be practical and timely. See below climate actions for the month of June.



**Cut N fertiliser rate on grass clover swards**

**Apply N on grassland at 0.5-1.0 unit per day for a range in growth rate of 50-100 kg DM / ha / day**

**If applying slurry for 2nd cut remember to use LESS**

**Check your fodder stocks after 1st cuts are harvested**

**Use Dairy Beef Index (DBI) when using beef bred AI bulls on your dairy cows**

**Monitor breeding performance to ensure fertility targets are met**

[Read the full Climate Actions for June here](#)



**Fearghus Foyle, Geo Aerospace talks about using drones & aircrafts**

[Watch here](#)



**James Rambaud, Teagasc explains how carbon is measured**

[Watch here](#)



**Sandra Hayes, Teagasc on using Protected Urea**

[Watch here](#)

## Linear Biodiversity Habitats

Check out our self assessment tool for linear habitats.



[Click Here to Read More](#)



Aoife Leader (PhD student) shares the actions that 4 Signpost farmers in the Kilkenny Waterford Region are taking to improve the management of the Linear Biodiversity habitats on their farm.

[Click Here to Read More](#)



### **Multi Species Swards - grazing trial at Johnstown Castle**

Despite lower fertiliser nitrogen, dairy cattle on multi-species swards performed similarly to a herd on grass-clover

[Click Here to Read More](#)

## **Commissioner Mairead McGuinness visits Signpost Farm**



EU Commissioner Mairead McGuinness, recently visited Signpost farmer, Alan Clarke at Kilinkere, County Cavan. Commissioner McGuinness had the opportunity to see first-hand the work that farmers are doing to reduce gaseous emissions and be more environmentally sustainable.

## Signpost Programme Update

*Signpost celebrates its 1st anniversary and Tom O'Dwyer, Head of Signpost, reflects on the last 12 months of the programme.*



### ***The Signpost Programme Celebrates its First Birthday Tom O'Dwyer, Head of Signpost Programme***

The Signpost Programme celebrated its first birthday on 21st May last. The Teagasc-led, whole of industry, collaborative approach to supporting farmers in climate action was formally launched in May 2021. A lot has happened since then. This short article summarises the highlights of the past 12 months.

[Click Here to Read More](#)

## The Environment Edge Podcast



The Environmental Protection Agency is responsible for protecting and improving the environment in Ireland which is done through providing environmental data, assessments and evidence to inform decisions and policy. Catchment scientist, Eva Mockler joins Deirdre and Cathal on the latest Environment Edge podcast to chat about water quality and the tools the EPA Catchment Science & Management Unit are developing to help us make improvements.

[Click here to listen](#)

A promotional banner for a Sheep Open Day event. It features the Teagasc logo at the top left, a close-up photo of a sheep's head on the right, and the event details in white text on a green background. A green button with white text is at the bottom right.

**Teagasc**  
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# Sheep Open Day

Saturday, 18 June | 10am  
Teagasc, Athenry, Co. Galway

[Click here!](#)

Join us in Athenry on Saturday, 18 June and take the opportunity to review the latest research and technical advice from the Teagasc Sheep programme and its practical application at farm level. On the day there will be a mix of technical presentations and interactive workshops dealing with all the main areas important to Irish sheep production. The open day is free to attend and all sheep farmers and those involved in the sector are welcome.

[Click Here for More Information](#)

A promotional banner for BEEF2022. It features the Teagasc logo at the top left, an illustration of three cows in a field, and the event details in large, bold text. A green button with white text is at the bottom right.

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Produce Supported by **FBD**

# BEEF2022

Supporting Sustainable Beef Farming

Tuesday  
**5 July**  
Teagasc  
**Grange**

[Book your ticket!](#)

We are delighted to invite all beef farmers and stakeholders in the Irish beef industry to BEEF2022, on Tuesday 5th July at the Teagasc, Animal & Grassland Research and Innovation Centre, Grange, Co. Meath.

[Click Here for More Information](#)

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Teagasc, HQ,  
Oak Park,  
Carlow.  
R93 XE12  
signpost@teagasc.ie

