



Teagasc Signpost Programme Newsletter

Issue 16 - November 2022

In this month's newsletter, Tom O'Dwyer, Head of the Signpost Programme, presents the Signpost Sustainability Results 2021, the baseline year. We have farmer updates from the Newford Farm in Athenry, Co. Galway as well as tillage farmer Tom Tierney, Kildare. Aoife Leader, postgraduate student with Teagasc, has an interesting brochure on the actions that Shay Ryan, Signpost Dairy Farmer, is taking to enhance biodiversity on his farm. We have our usual climate actions as well as an article from Karl Richards explaining carbon sequestration. We have a number of videos from Signpost Sustainability Week and we would encourage all partners to share these videos on your own platforms. We want to congratulate Belview Eggs who have received the Lidl Ireland award for establishing a carbon footprint for free range egg production in Ireland and being part of the Signpost Programme has demonstrated their commitment to sustainability. The Environment Edge podcast discusses derogation farming and what the future holds for farmers with higher stocking rates.



Establishing the Baseline

In the Nov/Dec issue of Teagasc Today's Farm, Dr. Tom O'Dwyer, Head of the Signpost Programme discusses the performance of the demonstration farmers involved in the Signpost Programme in 2021 using data gathered by the National Farm Survey farm recorders.

Read more here

Signpost Sustainability Results 2021



In this webinar Tom O'Dwyer presents the progress of the Signpost farmers in Year 1 of the programme. 2021 is the baseline year for the programme and the results set out the environmental metrics for these farms including total emissions, emissions footprint, ammonia emissions as well as nitrogen use efficiency and phosphorus use efficiency.

Watch video here



Shay Ryan

The Irish farming landscape is defined by a range of biodiversity features. Best practice in the management of these features is an integral part of sustainable farming. Farmers like Shay Ryan, Teagasc-Tirlán Signpost Future Farmer, play a crucial role in protecting farmland biodiversity. Through the Biodiveristy Brochure he codeveloped Shay highlights the space for nature on his farm and the actions he takes to enhance farmland biodiversity.

Read more here



Newford Farm

Newford suckler -tobeef demonstration farm is 68 ha situated in 4 blocks close to Athenry Co Galway. The farm was established by Teagasc and Dawn Meats with the support of the Irish Farmers Journal and McDonalds in 2015.

The Newford herd consists of 95 dairy cross Aberdeen Angus and Hereford cows, stocked at 2.42 Lu/ha Newford Farm's aim is to generate a high profit from a grass-based suckler-to-steer and heifer-beef production system using 100% 5 star terminal Al sires calving from the beginning of February.

Read more here



Tom Tierney

Tom farms on heavy soils and grows a combination of winter and spring cereals with spring beans and winter oilseed rape. Tom describes the ease with the harvest in 2022 due to exceptional weather conditions but the takeall and BYDV were very prevalent in early drill crops due to the good sowing conditions in 2021 and the kindness in which crops were established during autumn 2021. Tom has monitored crops intensively for foliar diseases and eliminated fungicides at key timings.

Read more here

Climate Actions for November

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 November.



Read the full Climate Actions for November here

Soil Carbon Sequestration



Soil carbon sequestration is an important mechanism that removes carbon dioxide from the air and storing it in the soil, improving a number of aspects of soil health.

Read article in full here

Increasing Farm Biodiversity



One of the objectives of the Signpost programme is to achieve 10% biodiversity on all the farms. In this clip, Signpost Dairy Farmer, Tim Leader, and Teagasc colleagues explain how to manage a new hedge to help meet this target.

Watch video here

Steps to Reducing Emissions on Your Farm



In this video Siobhan Kavanagh, Communication & Engagement Specialist to the Signpost Programme, outlines the first steps to reducing emissions on your farm

Watch video here

Why Farmers are Engaging with Climate Action



In this video we meet some of the Signpost Programme farmers who are actively engaging with Climate Action. Francis & Bernie Gonley, sheep farmers from Sligo, Michael McGuigan, suckler beef farmer from Meath, Dermot Walsh, dairy farmer from Cork, Peter O'Hanrahan, dairy calf to beef farmer from Kilkenny, Matty Moore, pig and tillage farmer from Offaly and Kay O'Sullivan, forestry and organic beef farmer from Cork.

Watch video here

Signpost Sustainability Week



Rosarie O'Connor, Munster Bovine talks to a group on Signpost dairy farmer Conor O'Briens farm in



Signpost Climate Action launched during Signpost Sustainability Week



Thomas Ryan Michael Hassett Tirlan,
Aoife Leader Sandra Hayes Teagasc ,
Host Signpost dairy farmer Steven
Fitzgerald and his wife Catriona,
Stevens mum and dad Noirin and
Richie and Richard O Brien regional
manager of KK/ WD with Eanna
Loughrey Teagasc, picture taken
during Sustainability Week.



During this webinar which took place on Friday the 14th of October, as part of Sustainability Week, Mark Gibson discusses with Seamus Kearney, Signpost Training & Development Specialist and Deirdre Hennessy, Researcher Moorepark the steps to reducing chemical nitrogen use on farm.

Lidl Ireland Climate Supplier of the Year - 2022



(from left to right: Dermot Herlihy, Rachel Johnson and Rebecca Tierney - Teagasc Poultry Adviser to Belview Eggs)

Lidl Ireland recognise Belview Eggs for establishing a carbon footprint for Free Range egg production in Ireland and Ireland's first poultry farmer to be part of the Teagasc Signpost Programme. Belview Egg Farm are Teagasc's poultry Signpost Farm with Rebecca Tierney as their poultry adviser. The company was established in 1978 by Dermot & Nicola Herlihy with a mere 5,000 hens and has since grown to Ireland's fourth largest egg packing centre and the largest egg packer and producer in Leinster. The company is currently run by Dermot Herlihy and Rachel Johnson. Belview supply eggs to Lidl, Musgraves, Iceland, Applegreen, BWG, Glanbia and Tesco. The packing centre employs 30 staff and additional 10 staff on their two poultry sites.

Read more here



Click on the link below to enter your competition photo for Sustainability Week

Click here to enter

The Environment Edge Podcast

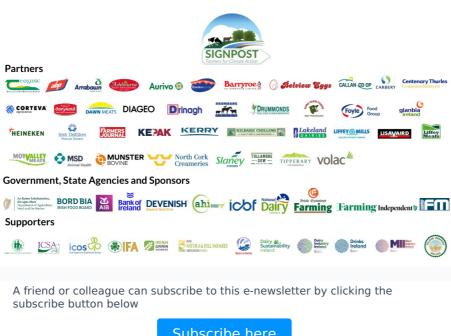


Derogation farming – are you aware of the current situation in Ireland? And what does the future holds for farmers with higher stocking rate?

Teagasc Environmental Specialist, Tim Hyde, joins Deirdre and Cathal on the latest Environment Edge podcast to discuss just that.

Listen to podcast here

Signpost Programme Partners



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



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