

# Teagasc Signpost Programme Newsletter

Issue 8 - February 2022

In this month's newsletter, Teagasc has developed a compendium of 20 factsheets providing the latest technical advice on soils, nutrients and fertiliser, the link to all 20 is provided. Mark Plunkett, Soil and Plant Nutrition Specialist provides some useful tips on managing fertiliser inputs on tillage farms in 2022 and we also meet two Signpost Farmers, Richard Long, Dairy beef farmer from Waterford and Tom Barry, Tillage farmer, Cork. We present 3 good reasons to use protected urea in 2022. Shay Ryan, Signpost farmer from New Ross, Co. Wexford gives some insight into his experiences of using protected urea in the last few years. Our decision support tool for this month is a Slurry Spreading Calibration Tool. We get a research update from Paul Smith on a recent project that showed that some beef cattle can produce up to 30% less methane emissions, on average, for the same level of productivity. The Environment Edge podcast team discuss N losses in Agriculture with Eddie Burgess, Agricultural Catchments Specialist.



## Soils, Nutrients and Fertiliser Factsheets

Teagasc has developed a compendium of 20 factsheets providing the latest technical advice on soils, nutrients and fertiliser. Farmers are urged to focus on Nutrient management planning, optimisation of soil fertility, using organic manures strategically and increasing clover in swards, all balanced with prudent fertiliser usage.

[Click here to read them](#)

## Climate Actions for February

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 February.

Use protected urea, its cheaper than CAN or standard urea and delivers 13% higher yield than urea

Get your slurry analysed for nutrient content

Spread slurry close to when grass growth is taking off using LESS equipment

Save good quality slurry for silage ground which has the biggest demand

Continue to spread lime through February to save up to 80 kg N / ha

Grazing animals feed themselves and spread their slurry

[Click here to read the Climate Actions for February](#)

## Understanding Greenhouse Gas Emissions on Irish Farms

In this video, Signpost Simon explains greenhouse gas emissions, the targets for Agriculture and where do farmers start to reduce emissions. Watch the video below or click on the button for more information.

[Understanding Greenhouse Gas Emissions](#)



[Watch our Signpost Farmer explain Greenhouse Gas Emissions](#)

## Fine Tuning Fertiliser Applications in 2022

The situation in crop production has certainly changed with current high fertiliser prices. In 2022, managing production costs will need extra attention in order to maintain profitability. The following are a number of steps to consider when making fertiliser decisions over the coming weeks and months:

- Up to date soil analysis
- Nitrogen
- Break crops
- Organic manures
- Green covers

[Get the full advice here!](#)

## Three reasons to use protected urea in

## 2022

Protected urea allows farmers to spread urea based nitrogen during the growing season without the worry of nitrogen (N) being lost from the field through ammonia emissions. It also reduces greenhouse gas emissions and nitrate leaching when compared to CAN. Find out why you should be including protected urea in your fertiliser strategy in 2022.

[Get the full advice here!](#)

## Dairy Signpost Farmer Shay Ryan

Hear from Dairy Signpost farmer Shay Ryan who explains his experiences with protected urea over the last few years.



[Click here to watch the video!](#)

## Meet some of our Tillage Signpost Farmers



**Richard Long**

Situated just outside Ballymacarbry, Co. Waterford, Richard Long operates a calf to beef system where all animals are carried to slaughter under 24 months of age.

[Click to read more about Richard](#)



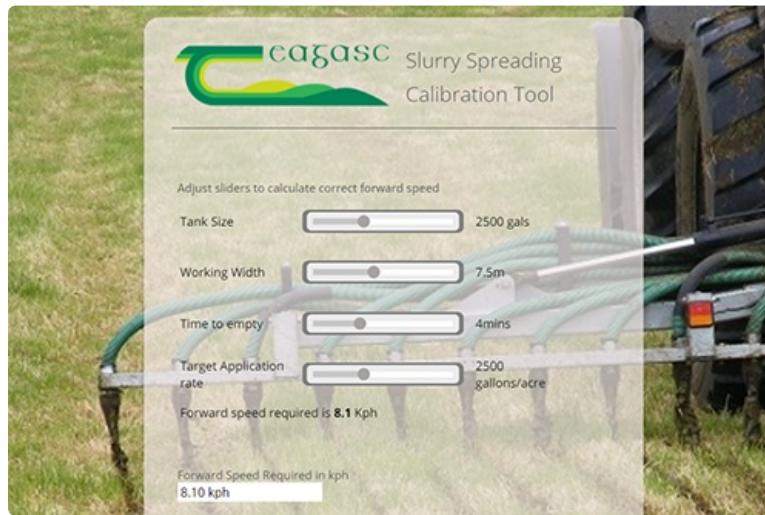
**Tom Barry**

Tom Barry farms in Killavullen outside Mallow in Co Cork. The 280 hectare tillage farm is spread over a number farms in the North Cork area.

[Click to read more about Tom](#)



## Decision Support Tools



## Careful application of slurry this spring



As chemical fertiliser prices have increased significantly for this spring it is worth noting that value of organic fertilisers has also increased with 1,000 gallons of slurry nearly doubling in value and is now worth €54. These tips will help to maximise the returns from slurry applications and protect the environment:

[Click here to read in full](#)

## Promising results from Ireland's first large scale measurement of methane emissions in beef cattle



The first large scale characterisation of methane emissions in Irish beef cattle conclusively shows that some beef cattle can produce up to 30% less methane emissions, on average, for the same level of productivity.

[Read more here!](#)

# The Environment Edge Podcast



With a huge focus on gathering vital data over the last decade, six catchments and over 300 farmers participating in the programme with the aim of improving water quality, Eddy Burgess, Agricultural Catchments Specialist with the Teagasc Agricultural Catchments Programme joins Cathal and Deirdre on the latest Environment Edge podcast to discuss nitrogen loss from agriculture and the programme's Working Together for Water Quality week.

[Listen in here](#)

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