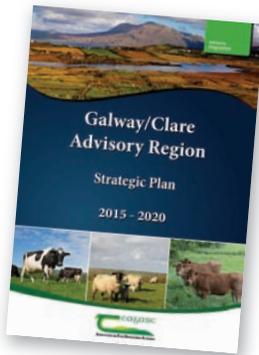


Advisory Updates

March 2015

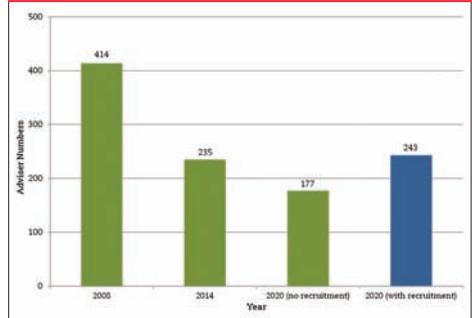
Regional Strategic Plans launched

Last month, the Teagasc Advisory Service completed a detailed strategic planning exercise across all 12 advisory regional units. The main purpose of this exercise was to engage with stakeholders and staff regarding the future services to be provided for farmers and the agricultural community in the context of Food Harvest 2020 targets and the post milk quota era. Each plan describes the opportunities and challenges facing agriculture at a regional level and details the strategic actions that Teagasc intends to implement. Each strategic plan highlights the need for a well-resourced advisory service if the Food Harvest 2020 targets are to be achieved. The graph (right) shows that the number of front line Teagasc advisers has decreased by 45% since



2008. Teagasc Board member Tommy Cooke said: "It is imperative that we maintain a strong advisory service. Because of increasing demand for Teagasc Advisory Services and reduced staff numbers, advisers are carrying unsustainable workloads and this is putting the achievement of Food Harvest 2020 at risk."

Figure 1. Trends and projections in the number of front-line Teagasc advisers 2008 – 2020.



Each strategic plan clearly sets out the minimum number of advisers required to support their

farming region between now and 2020. During the launch of the Regional Strategic Plans, Minister of State, Tom Hayes, highlighted the critical role the Teagasc Advisory Service has in

supporting farmers over the coming years. All strategic plans can be accessed on the Teagasc public website or from regional advisory offices.

GLAS now open

GLAS is the new agri-environment scheme, part of the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020. A total of €1.4bn has been allocated to GLAS over the lifetime of the programme, allowing a standard package of up to €5,000 for eligible farmers per annum, with an additional package of

€2,000 per annum for those in GLAS+, in return for exceptional environmental commitment. GLAS is an options-based scheme with over 30 measures to consider. Farmers must decide which options are suitable for their farm. Examples include:

Have you tillage?	€/year
Priority actions	
10ha of catch crops (max 30ha)	1,550
10ha of min till (no max)	405
Other actions	
3ha of environmental fallow (max)	2,250
3ha of wild bird cover (max)	2,700
1,430m of 6m arable margins (no max)	1,000
5,000m of 6m arable margins	3,500

Will you plant hedges/trees or rejuvenate hedges?	€/year
Plant trees in field corner (max)	405
Plant 200m of new hedge (max)	1,000
Coppice 1,000m hedge (max)	2,200
Lay 1,000m hedges (max)	3,700

If proceeding with a GLAS application, consider all other options such as archaeology, bird, bat, bee options and traditional orchard. Farmers should contact their local Teagasc office

Have you grassland?	€/year
Priority actions	
Low emission slurry spreading	1,000
3ha of wild bird cover (max)	2,700
Extensive grassland	
10ha of low input grassland/ traditional hay meadow (max)	3,140
Watercourses	
Fencing all watercourses	333m 500
1.5m – no drinking points	3,333m 5,000
Riparian margins (30m)	333m 1,200
	1,200m 4,320
Stonewalls	1,000m 700

for information on GLAS planning services including charges. For further information on the scheme visit www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmers/chemespayers/glas/