

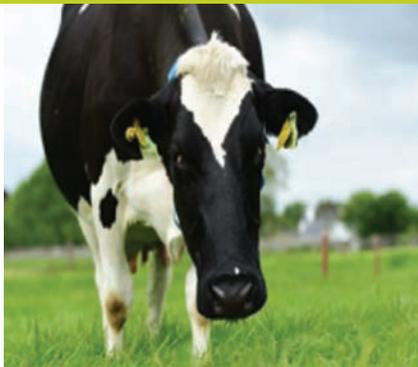
Education  
Programme

Animal & Grassland  
Research and  
Innovation  
Programme

# Teagasc Professional Diploma in Dairy Farm Management



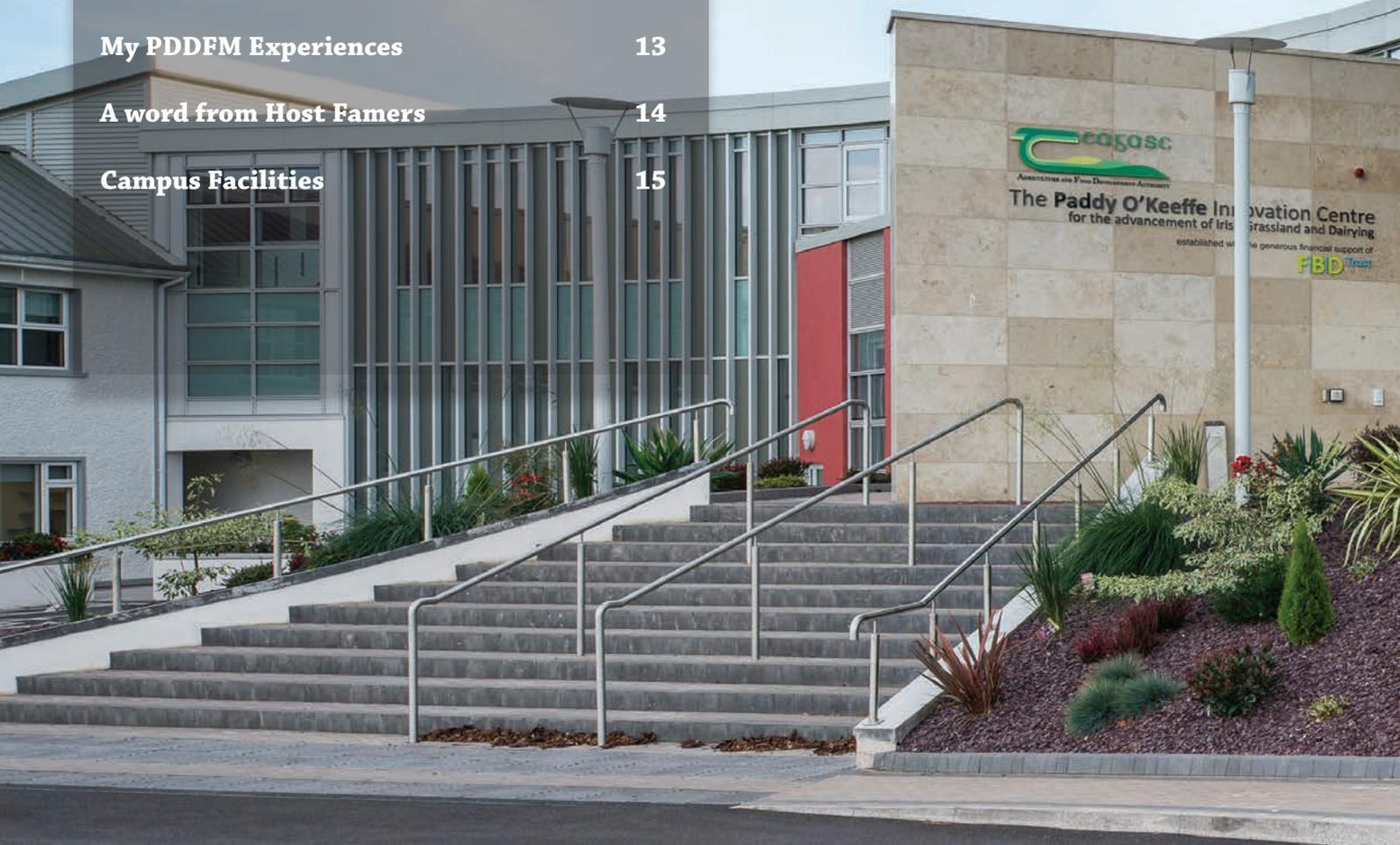
**Specific purpose Level 7 award validated  
by University College Dublin**



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**This programme is the recognised standard for professional dairy farm managers**





# The Dairy Industry: Potential shape and size of sector in 2025

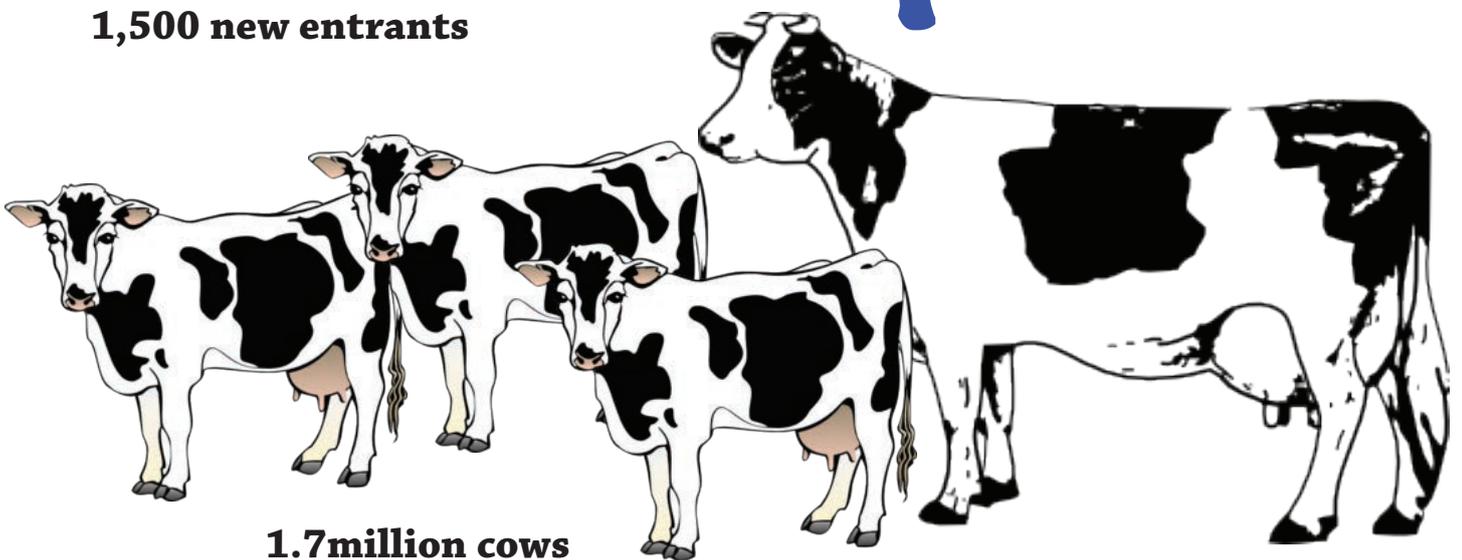
**100% increase in national milk solids  
production compared to 2007-2009**

**Average herd size 100 cows**

**16,500 dairy  
farms**

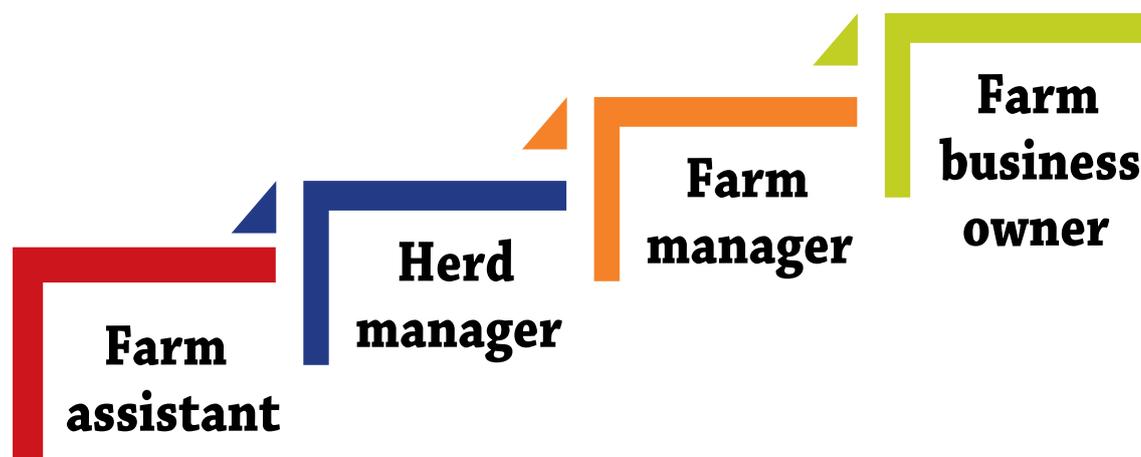


**1,500 new entrants**



**1.7million cows**

## Dairy Career Pathways



### Formal education

Leaving Certificate, Level 5 Certificate in Agriculture

Level 6 Advanced Certificate in Agriculture – Dairy Herd Management

Professional Diploma in Dairy Farm Management or Level 7 or 8 degree (majoring in Agriculture)

Any of the previous qualifications: Level 6 upwards.

### Essential skills

Daily farm tasks - livestock handling, milking. Machinery and equipment operation. Farm maintenance/ Fencing. Health and safety compliance.

Milking Operation, stock husbandry, herd health and welfare, grassland management, health and safety compliance, work organisation, task supervision. Herd recording /administration.

Herd management activities, Farm administration and book keeping, Farm performance evaluation, Farm software applications, Staff supervision, Communication, Time management, Health and safety management.

Herd management activities, Responsible for income and expenditure, Strategic planning, Opportunity analysis, Business management, Human resources and payroll, Negotiation, Health and safety management.

## Educated farmers

### What are the benefits of agricultural education?



Increased farm size



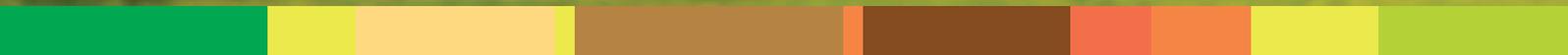
Greater income per hectare than average



More efficient

**The mission of our programme is to provide young enthusiastic dairy farmers with the latest research and best practice management knowledge to successfully run large scale dairy operations in their future careers.**





## Welcome to the Teagasc Professional Diploma in Dairy Farm Management



**Professor Gerry Boyle,  
Director, Teagasc**

*“The Professional Diploma Course in Dairy Farm Management combines best practice dairy herd management training with a secure practical learning mentored environment to equip the next generation of dairy farmers with the competencies and behaviours to be successful dairy farmers in the future.”*



**Tony Pettit  
Head of Education**

*“Students that take this course will form the backbone of the dairy industry. The long term future of the Irish dairy sector is in your hands and young people like you. On behalf of Teagasc we wish you every success in making the most of the opportunities presented to you here.”*



**Dr Pat Dillon  
Head of Animal & Grassland, Research and Innovation  
Programme**

*“The excellence of education and practical training experience you will receive will prepare you for the many newer challenges facing the dairy industry in the future and allow you to run your future business to its full potential.”*

## Why choose the Teagasc Professional Diploma in Dairy Farm Management?



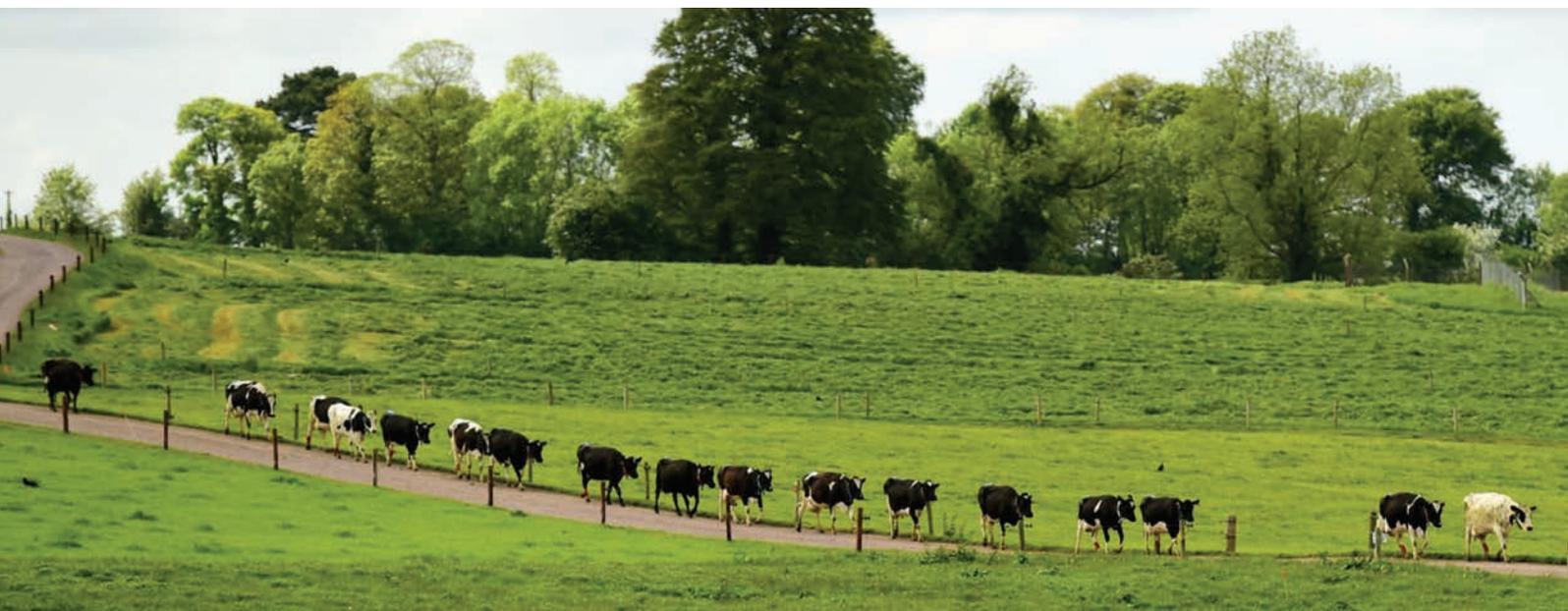
*Dr Emma-Louise Coffey  
Programme Co-ordinator*

As programme co-ordinator I am pleased to introduce you to the Professional Diploma in Dairy Farm Management (PDDFM).

During this programme you will be exposed to the brightest minds in the dairy industry (farmers, researchers, advisors industry experts etc.), with different backgrounds and each with a depth of professional experience. As a result, your thinking will be challenged and you will learn to integrate different perspectives into your approach to business and society.

I believe that success is achieved through people. When you have the right competencies and skills, you can achieve anything.

Come and talk about your future. I look forward to meeting you.



## Teagasc Professional Diploma in Dairy Farm Management (PDDFM)

The PDDFM will allow you to fulfil ambitious career plans and maximise your potential. The programme is a positive, transformative experience by enhancing your knowledge and skills and enhancing your managerial toolkit.

Through the programme you will not only make new friends but also build up your professional network of contacts. Unique to the PDDFM programme you will have access to world leading researchers, specialists, educators and top class dairy farmers. The connections you make during the PDDFM programme will provide you with support throughout your lifetime.

The programme strives for quality and excellence and the following skills will be developed:

- Technical skills – grassland management, stockmanship, herd health, milking skills
- Financial skills – cash flow management, business planning, budget setting
- Business skills – planning, goal setting, business performance analysis, work organisation
- Interpersonal skills – communication, team management, staff supervision,
- Quality control skills – safety, food quality, food assurance
- Sustainable farming skills – environmental management combined with profitable production

**Start date:** Mid-September

**Delivery method:** Block releases - typically 3 days per month in Teagasc, Moorepark or Kildalton College. The remainder of the time will be spent on an approved high performance Host Farm.

**Duration:** 48 months



## Teagasc Professional Diploma in Dairy Farm Management

The programme aims to maximise the on-farm experience while complementing it with the relevant theory and best practice methods. As well as learning from experienced agribusiness researchers, consultants and teachers you will learn from other students through classes that are interactive and discussion based. While on work experience, students will have the opportunity to implement their technical knowledge in an active learning environment.

### Programme objectives:

On completion of the PDDFM course, students will be able to:

- Plan ahead and understand the implications of management decisions on future production
- Set and implement a whole farm system strategy and technically manage to support this strategy
- Organise and plan work load and achieve target performance in a busy and dynamic work environment
- Analyse farm business performance, identify areas for improvement and implement essential decisions
- Master both familiar and unfamiliar events while delivering target results



## Mode of study

The programme is unique in that students will complete two years professional work experience on approved progressive commercial dairy farms. For three consecutive days per month students, will attend block release days in Teagasc Animal & Grassland, Research and Innovation Centre, Moorepark or Kildalton College. This 30 credit programme consists of four modules:

- Dairy Technology (10 credits)
- Dairy Farm Management (5 credits)
- Growing your Dairy Business (5 credits)
- Professional Work Experience (10 credits)

You will be paid while on placement on at least two approved host farms with the opportunity to complete part of your work experience overseas.

## Support during placement

Students sign a contract of employment at the start of each placement period. The programme coordinator maintains regular contact with students during work experience. This is fundamental to ensure that the programme runs smoothly and students maximise the opportunities available to them.

Regular contact will include:

- Phone calls
- Farm visits (twice per year minimum)
- Emails
- Texts



## Career opportunities

The programme offers career opportunities for ambitious dairy farmers who want to develop their skills to run successful dairy herds. Past graduates have successfully gone on to manage and expand their own family farm, become commercial farm managers and are involved in share milking opportunities.

## Testimonials

### **Conor Kearney, Co. Carlow**

*“We encouraged Conor to do the course to improve and develop his knowledge and skills before returning home fulltime. Since completing the programme we have fully converted the farm from a large scale tillage enterprise to milking 300 cows. The course gave Conor the training and skills required to really drive the business forward. He got a fabulous two year education with Teagasc. He has top class information at his fingertips, he has access to the top people and I am really pleased about that.”* **Eddie Kearney (father)**



*Conor Kearney pictured with his parents on their 300 cow farm in Co. Carlow*

*“I relished the opportunity to develop my managerial skills by working with the best, most progressive farmers in the country/ world. I am now more confident and have no doubt that I have the knowledge and skills to take the business to the next level.”* **Conor Kearney**

## Ruth Kerrigan, Farm Manager



*Ruth Kerrigan being presented with her Certificate in Professional Diploma in Dairy Farm Management by Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Simon Coveney, TD. along with Professor Alex Evans, UCD and Dr. Frank O'Mara, Teagasc.*

*"I learned a huge amount from the host farmers I worked with and also from many of the top farmers. I got invaluable advice from interacting with all these people which would have been very difficult to access outside this programme." **Ruth Kerrigan***

## My Professional Diploma in Dairy Farm Management experience

### **Micheal O’Sullivan, managing 180 cows in Tipperary**

*“I chose the practical Professional Diploma in Dairy Farm Management because I believe that on-farm experience is the best way to learn and develop the necessary skills to become a successful dairy farmer.”*



### **Ricki Fitzgerald, managing the Next Generation Herd at Teagasc**

*“The programme work days in Moorepark are intensive but we are learning from some of the best experts in the country on profitable dairying. It’s great getting to know the others in the programme.”*



### **Ciaran Fogarty, Farm Manager**

*“Since completing the Professional Diploma in Dairy Farm Management, I entered into a collaborative arrangement with Adrian and Pierce Casey, Co. Waterford. We’ve increased herd size from 180 to 220 cows and we’ve increased tonnes of grass dry matter grown from 13 to 15 tonne per hectare over 2 years.”*





## A word from Host farmers

**Kevin Twomey,  
Ballyhooly, Co. Cork**

*“By participating in the Professional Diploma in Dairy Farm Management programme I feel that students have a unique opportunity to learn from the best dairy farmers both in Ireland and New Zealand and I would strongly encourage them to do so.”*



**Brian Reidy,  
Tubbercurry, Co. Sligo**

*“This programme provides the framework for the foundation of a great career.”*



**Jamie Costin,  
Ring, Co. Waterford**

*“Hosting a student from the PDDFM programme means I am kept up-to-date with latest information from Teagasc, the student brings new energy to the farm by querying what we are doing, exploring new methods and contributing to the farm’s performance in every way possible”*

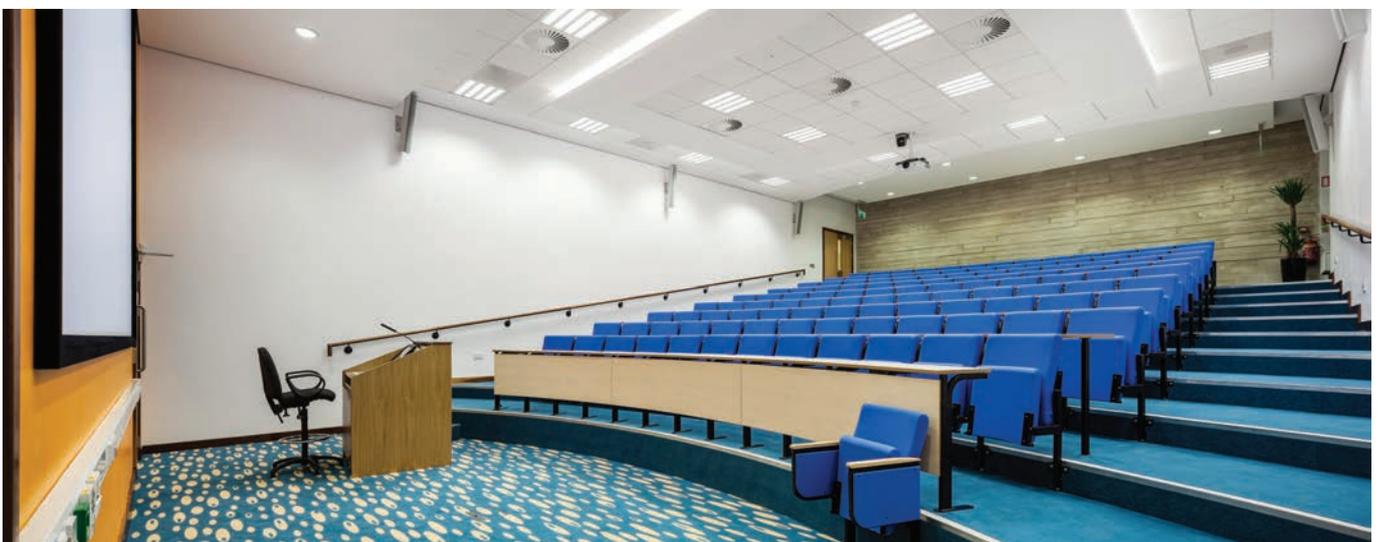


## Campus Facilities

Students will attend lectures/discussion groups/workshops at Teagasc Animal & Grassland, Research and Innovation Centre, Moorepark or Kildalton College for approximately 4 weeks per year. At Teagasc Moorepark you will interact with leading dairying researchers. Facilities at Moorepark and Kildalton College include a state of the art lecture theatre with SMART board technology for customised learning, dedicated IT infrastructure and interactive learning and socialising environment.



## Campus Facilities







## Admissions/Contacts

### **Recruitment and entry requirements**

Applicants must possess a Level 6 Advanced Certificate in Agriculture or an equivalent major agricultural award. Applicants will be shortlisted and candidates will be interviewed prior to selection for entry into the programme.

### **Application process**

Direct to Kildalton College. Applications can be found on:

<https://www.teagasc.ie/education/courses/professional-farm-management-diploma/>

### **Programme fees:**

€990 per annum (subject to review)

### **Contacts:**

**[www.teagasc.ie](http://www.teagasc.ie)**

### **Programme Co-ordinator:**

Dr Emma-Louise Coffey  
Animal & Grassland Research and Innovation Centre  
Teagasc Moorepark  
Fermoy  
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PC1 C996  
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Email: [emmalouise.coffey@teagasc.ie](mailto:emmalouise.coffey@teagasc.ie)

### **Additional Contact Details:**

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