

Teagasc – ConnectEd OAD Milking Conference 2021

Michael John Delaney,
Ballykealy,
Durrow,
Co. Laois

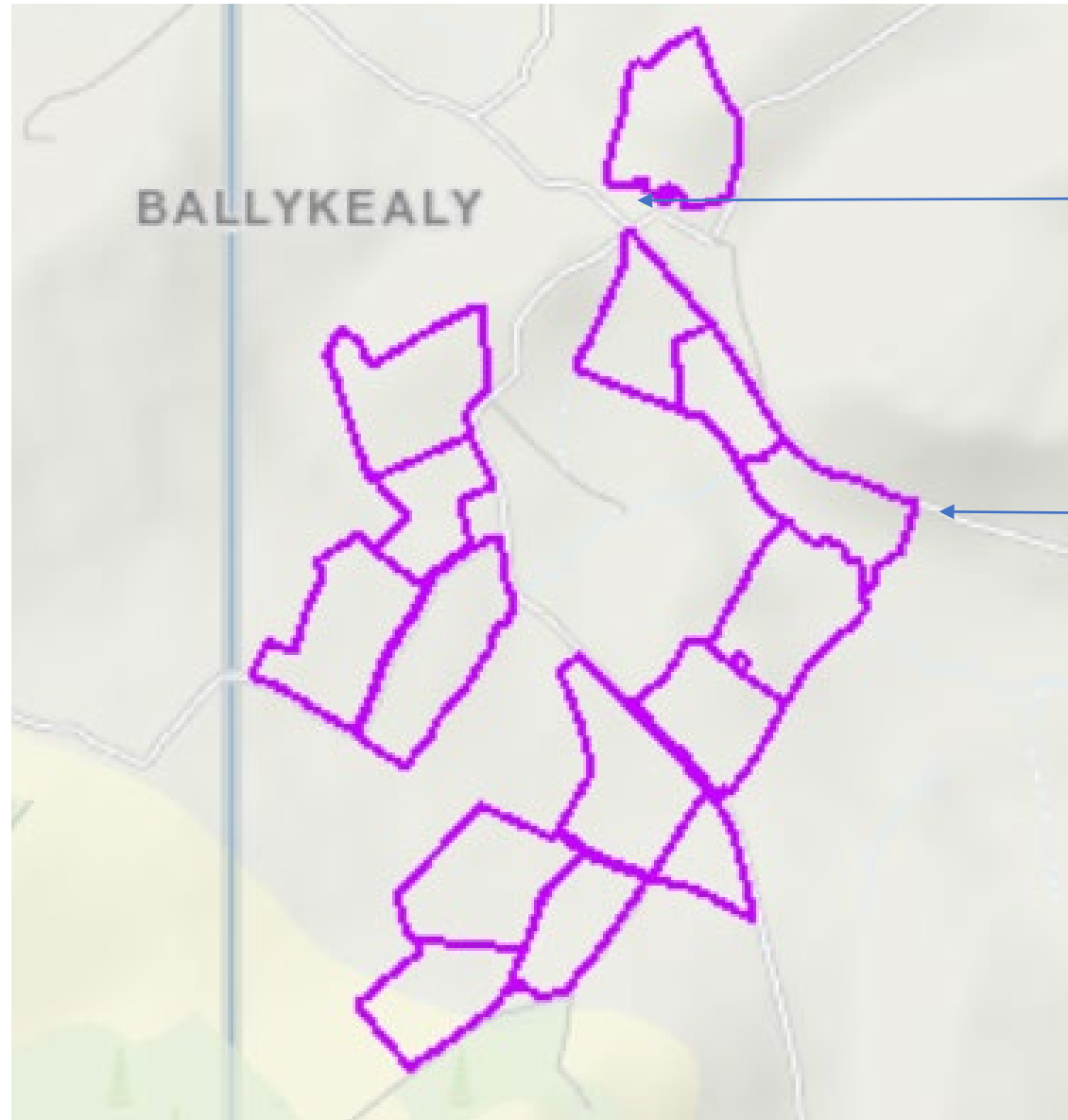
14th January 2021

Intro & Farm Background

1996 - 2012 : 25 cow mixed farm to 90 cows (organic growth)

- 2013 -2020 : 90 -100 cows OAD .
- Farming 45 hectares of land (34 Ha milking platform)
- 100 spring calving cows (High EBI Friesian)
- Medium / clayey soil type lands
- Fragmented farm with, steep climbs, 1.5 kms walking distance to farthest paddocks with 200 ft incline from yard.
- Contract rearing of heifers – cow only dairy farm
- 10 unit herringbone, 120 cubicles on farm
- Target herd size : 110 cows

Farm Layout



Farmyard

Main Road

Transition to OAD & Why ?

- Commenced OAD in March 2013 (88 cows)
- **WHY ?**
- Combination of occurrences – public road surface deterioration, increase in road traffic, increase in cow no.s, increase in cow fatigue / lameness, long working days, milk lorry collection times, farming enthusiasm low.....
- **Transition** : attended 1st OAD farm walk in 2012 = “eureka moment”, spring 2013 made decision, end of March – full O.A.D.
- No going back
- Now OAD milking 7.30am (2.5 hrs at peak yield)
- Typical day finish time varies a lot but with great flexibility

Ballykealy OAD Cows at grass



Production Performance / Cow

	2013 (1 st Year OAD)	2018	2019	2020
Milk yield / cow (l)	3491	4684	4600	4397
Protein %	3.67	3.75	3.84	3.86
Butter fat %	4.33	4.50	4.54	4.72
Milk solids per cow	288	398	397	389
S.C.C.	206,000	218,000	198,000	215,000

Herd E.B.I & Fertility

1. EBI Herd Summary

Average EBI for all dairy cows with; (i) a known sire (or milk recorded progeny with a known sire) and (ii) are currently on your farm.

* Number of animals that are missing an EBI result

Animal Group	Num of Cows	Milk Kg Fat % Prot %	Surv% CI Days	Milk % Cont	Fertility % Cont	Calv % Cont	Beef % Cont	Maint % Cont	Mgmt % Cont	Health % Cont	EBI €
Cows with EBI	100	-54		€ 30	€ 79	€ 24	€ -11	€ 11	€ 2	€ -1	€ 135
Missing EBI*	2	3.6 0.10	1.7	19%	50.4%	15.2%	-6.9%	6.8%	1.3%	-0.4%	
Total Cows	102	3.0 0.08	-4.7								

2019 Calves	26	-18		€ 53	€ 80	€ 33	€ -11	€ 11	€ 3	€ 0	€ 169
Missing EBI*	0	8.8 0.17	2.0	27.9%	41.8%	17.4%	-5.5%	5.7%	1.6%	-0.1%	
Total Calves	26	5.7 0.11	-4.3								

Financial Performance – Teagasc Profit Monitor

	2017	2018	2019	2020
Gross Output per Cow	€1841	€1808	€1812	€1752
Variable Costs per Cow	€695	€1100	€724	€720
Fixed Costs per Cow	€434	€508	€417	€397
Net Margin per Cow (excl. own labour)	€713	€200	€671	€635
Co-op Milk Price per litre sold	39.7 c	38.3 c	37.9 c	39.3 c

Summary & Key Learning Points

- “A good TAD cow can be a good OAD cow”
- Need high EBI stock with good milk solids and fertility
- OAD works well with a Black and White Cow
- OAD offers great flexibility for individuals / farm families
- “It`s been a life changing experience – it has put the excitement back in farming”
- “Have courage in your conviction to change”

Thanks for your Attention

Questions ?

