

Dates for your diary

Edited by
Catherine Keena,
Countryside Management
Specialist

GLAS

Traditional Hay Meadows can be cut after July 1.
Low-Input Permanent Pasture (LIPP) can be topped after July 1.

REAP

Before your advisor carries out the second-year field assessment, consider fencing off new grass margins to leave space for nature and to increase Results-based Environment Agri Pilot (REAP) payments. Ensure claims for trees or hedges are made, including the submission of photos by July 31.

AETS courses

Agri-Environment Training Scheme (AETS) courses will enable farmers to:

- prepare for the new agri-environment scheme – Agri Environment Climate Measures (AECM);



Traditional Hay Meadows can be cut after July 1.

- be paid €156;
- learn about results-based payments; and,
- have a social opportunity to meet with other farmers.

Contact your local Teagasc office if interested.

Biodiversity on farmland

Messages from the Teagasc biodiversity stand at Bloom.



1

Biodiversity includes the range of native Irish flora and fauna and the habitats in which they exist.



2

Biodiversity is essential for life on earth – but is in crisis.



3

Pollinators are an important part of our biodiversity – but are in decline.



4

Native species of Irish provenance are best – when planting trees and hedges.



5



Don't sow – let it grow. Value what is growing wild – part of our native Irish biodiversity.



6

Farmland is important for biodiversity.



7

Do not top escaped hedges and do not let topped hedges escape.



8

Allow individual thorn trees to mature within topped hedges.



Cherish our species-rich grasslands.



Teagasc Johnstown Castle Open Day – technologies for farms of the future. Tuesday, August 30, 2022 – Environment Research Centre, Johnstown Castle, Co. Wexford. Practices to enhance on-farm biodiversity will be demonstrated.

EIP UPDATE

MacGillycuddy Reeks EIP



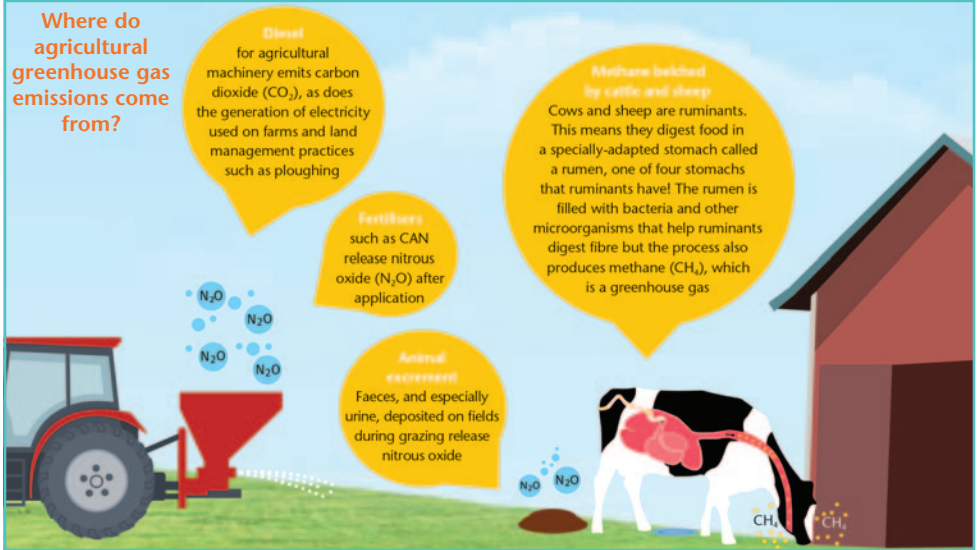
Above: Project Manager of the MacGillycuddy Reeks EIP Trisha Deane demonstrating the treatment of the Invasive Alien Species *Rhododendron ponticum*. Having made a cut on the stem with a hatchet, herbicide is immediately sprayed onto the cut stem. The blue dye helps to keep track of treated plants. See: <https://www.macgillycuddyreekskerry.com/images/EIP-publications/Rhododendron-March-2022.pdf>.



Flor McCarthy explaining his experience of the benefits of grazing cattle in early summer on *Molinia* or purple moor grass, making the areas grazable by sheep later in the year, which were previously unsuitable for sheep.

MESSAGE FROM SIGNPOST

Where do agricultural greenhouse gas emissions come from?



MESSAGE FROM ASSAP

Controlling rushes

Best practice when using pesticides specific to rush control:

- MCPA shall not be used from September 30 to March 1;
- use approved application methods – for example, MCPA cannot be used in a weed licker/wiper or knapsack;
- weed licking/wiping with glyphosate is the safest chemical control method where waterbodies are at risk;
- the applicator must be a trained professional pesticide user;
- spraying for rushes on marginal land is not necessary to satisfy Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) eligibility as topping or grazing will suffice; and,
- new guidelines from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) suggest containment (topping and removal of rushes) is a more sustainable strategy than suppression for rush control, where extensive farming is practised on a poor sward with poor soils, poor drainage, high rainfall, and which is a risk to watercourses.