

Teagasc Business Strategy Course

Teagasc will run the course in Business Strategy in collaboration with the UCD Michael Smurfit Business School and Macra Skillnet again this autumn. The course is residential and participants will need to be available on the following dates.

- November – Tuesday 1, Wednesday 2

and Thursday 3 2022.

- December – Tuesday 6 and Wednesday 7.

The course, which consists of modules covering topics such as strategy formulation, negotiation, managing yourself and others, leads to an accredited Level 8 qualification. There

are no academic barriers to joining the course (no leaving certificate/points etc are needed) provided you have been managing your farm business for three years or more.

For further details, contact Mark.moore@teagasc.ie or phone 087 417 9131.



Graduates of the 2021 course include: Jerry Duggan, Colum Walsh, Peter Robinson, Donal Sweeney, Tom Dunne, Leonard Betts, Grainne Hurley, James Skehan, Gerry Fallon, John Sampson, Marianne Mulhall.

2022
RDS Teagasc
Farm Forestry Award

First prize: €2,000
Runner-up: €1,000

*Recognising
the sustainable integration
of forestry and farming*

www.rds.ie/agriculture/forestry

Closing date: Sunday 31 July 2022

2023 RDS Teagasc Farm Forestry Award – now open for entry

The Teagasc Farm Forestry Award recognises working farmers who are integrating forestry and farming for environmental, social and economic benefits. It acknowledges the farmer's role in actively integrating and managing the forest to support farm viability and to strengthen wider farming sustainability.

The award is part of the annual RDS Forest and Woodland Awards, which are Ireland's national forestry awards.

Prizes

- The winner in each category will receive €2,000, an RDS silver medal and a perpetual trophy.
- The runner-up in each category will receive €1,000 and a special certificate of merit.

How to enter - application forms are available on the RDS website www.rds.ie/agriculture/forestry or via email from forestry@rds.ie. Closing date for entries is Sunday 31 July 2022.

For further information, contact your local Teagasc forestry advisor or go to www.teagasc.ie/forestry

ADVERTORIAL



Considering finishing cattle at grass in 2022?

Maeve Regan,
Head of Ruminant Nutrition, Agritech

The art of beef production centres around converting feed into kilograms of carcass as efficiently as possible. With predicted rising concentrate feed prices this winter, the efficiency of producing this kilo of carcass must be assessed. Feed costs account for 75% of variable costs in Irish beef production. Grazed grass is the cheapest feedstuff available to us, and this year above any other, the opportunity to finish a high percentage of cattle at grass must be strongly considered.

Typically, when cattle are housed for finishing, the cost per kg of live weight gain increases by up to 50% compared to grass-based finishing. To put this into perspective in 2022, a kilo of dry matter (DM) of grazed grass will equate to approximately 12c/kg, relative to one kg of silage at 21c/kg DM and concentrate costs are expected to be closer to 45-50c/kg DM.

Therefore, the question must be asked, is there a proportion of animals on farm that can achieve adequate fat cover and live weight gain to be slaughtered directly from grass this summer? In many cases, later maturing animals will require an indoor finishing period, but can this feeding period be shortened by feeding at grass prior to housing? Supplementation rates at grass will depend on grass availability, grass quality and animal type. A high energy, low protein supplement will suffice at grass. Typical feeding rates will be 0.5-1kg concentrate/100kg liveweight.

Grassland management

It has long been stated that regardless of the finishing period occurring at grass or indoors, the economic sustainability of any beef production system depends on optimizing the contribution of grazed grass to the lifetime diet of an animal.

Excellent grassland management will underpin the success of finishing cattle efficiently from grass. Energy is the main driver of live weight gain, which will be achieved by utilising top quality grazed grass (rotational grazing (18–21-day round), targeting pre-grazing covers of 1,300-1,500 kg DM/ha). At a time of year where maintaining grass quality can be quite difficult, an emphasis must be placed on walking grazing ground to make timely informed decisions.

For further advice on finishing cattle from grass contact your local Agritech Sales Advisor or visit www.agritech.ie

The Beef Edge Podcast
The Beef Edge is Teagasc's weekly podcast covering news, information, tips and advice for beef farmers.

Presented by Catherine Egan, The Beef Edge provides insights and opinion to improve your beef farm performance.

How do I listen?
The Beef Edge is available on:

iPhone Android Spotify

Open the camera on your phone & scan the QR code for more information



www.agritech.ie