

## PIG OPEN DAYS

- **Date:** 9 May 2023.
- **Venue:** Teagasc Moorepark.
  
- **Date:** 11 May 2023.
- **Venue:** Teagasc Ballyhaise.

This is your opportunity to see first-hand the results of the comprehensive research programme undertaken by Teagasc, and to meet researchers, advisors and postgraduate students.

Attendees will be brought to different stations covering: managing the pig environment, improving pre- and post-weaning management and nutrition, managing disease, grower/finisher management and feeding, and sustainability.

Please register for these open days by contacting Niamh Allen at 025 42457 or [niamh.allen@teagasc.ie](mailto:niamh.allen@teagasc.ie)

## BEST PRACTICE IN MILKING COURSE – TIPPERARY

- **Dates:** 17 to 18 May 2023.
- **Event time:** 9am to 4pm.
- **Venue:** FRS Roscrea, Derryvale, Roscrea, Tipperary.

This course takes place over two days on 17 and 18 May from 9am to 4pm each day.

The theory exam takes place on 31 May in FRS Roscrea. This course is suitable for dairy farmers or anyone who wishes to work part-time or full-time as a dairy farm relief operator.

## BEST PRACTICE IN MILKING COURSE –LIMERICK

- **Venue:** Pallaskenry Agricultural College, Pallaskenry, Co Limerick.
- **Event time:** 9am to 4pm, 24 and 25 May.

## BEST PRACTICE IN MILKING COURSE – CORK

- Venue:** Teagasc Moorepark, Fermoy, Co Cork.
- Event time:** 9am to 4pm, 14 and 15 June.

## BEST PRACTICE IN MILKING COURSE - CAVAN

- Venue:** Teagasc Ballyhaise Agricultural College, Ballyhaise, Co Cavan.
- Event time:** 9am - 4pm, 21 and 22 June.

### About the best practice in milking course

This programme was developed in



conjunction with Animal Health Ireland (AHI) and FRS Farm Relief Services (FRS) Network. The programme is designed to develop your skills as a milker to ensure that all cows are milked effectively and efficiently.

This course is unique as it brings together the theory element of milking and the practical implementation of the theory.

A customised DVD aids its delivery and acts as a reference guide after the course for the milker.

The tutors for the course have been specifically trained and course content approved by the experts in the area of milking best practice.

### Course content

- Preparation for milking.
- Milking routine.
- Cluster attachment.
- Milk quality.
- Washing up.
- Mastitis prevention.
- Drying off.

You can book on the Teagasc website or contact Attracta Dooley, FRS, on [adooley@frstraining.com](mailto:adooley@frstraining.com) or on (086) 130 0409.

Please note attending this course requires 100 hours' prior milking experience.

## AGRITOURISM 2023

- Date:** 22 May 2023.
- Event time:** 10am to 3pm.
- Venue:** Teagasc Food Research Centre, Ashtown, Dublin 15. Eircode: D15 DY05.

### Promising perspectives of attracting international visitors to rural areas

Teagasc Rural Development Department, together with the Irish Self Catering Federation of Ireland (ISCF) are hosting an agritourism conference on Monday 22 May in the Teagasc Food Research Centre, Ashtown, Dublin 15, from 10am to 3pm.

## BLOOM

Bloom is a general garden and lifestyle show with approximately 100,000 people attending over five days. In 2023, it will take place from 1 to 5 June 2023. Visit the Teagasc Bloom section on our website and come and visit the Teagasc stand. Scan the QR code, right, using your smartphone camera for more.





### SHEEP OPEN DAY - GURTEEN COLLEGE, 17 JUNE 2023

**Event time:** 10am.

**Venue:** Gurteen Agriculture College, Ballingarry, Co Tipperary. Eircode: E53 TP93.

SHEEP 2023 will be the largest dedicated sheep industry event of 2023. Following on from very successful past events held on the Teagasc Athenry Campus, this year's event will take place in a new venue, Gurteen Agricultural College, Roscrea, Co Tipperary, E53 TP93.

Attractions on the day include:

- Extensive range of commercial exhibitors.
- Sheep breed competitions.

### SALESIAN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE OPEN DAY 24 JUNE

Hear about the courses offered at Salesian Agricultural College.

**Venue:** Salesian Agricultural College, Pallaskenry, Co Limerick, V94 V8N3.

**Event time:** 11am to 1pm.

### TEAGASC MOOREPARK DAIRY OPEN DAY

**Date:** 4 July 2023.

**Venue:** Moorepark, Co Cork.

**SHEEP 2023 will be the largest dedicated sheep industry event of 2023.**

## ADVERTORIAL



## Forage decisions are just around the corner!

Maeve Regan,  
Head of Ruminant Nutrition, Agritech

Poor grazing conditions in March resulted in many herds struggling to keep a consistent level of grass in the diet, leading to a high proportion of silage being fed. Grass silage relative to grazed grass as we know, is not going to be as energy dense.

However, in some cases, feeding this level of silage to milking herds during early lactation, highlighted the importance of having a reserve of high-quality grass silage available. It is also fair to say that surplus bales were not as plentiful after last year's dry summer period. When milk protein is falling, and milk production is compromised, the energy gap is too much, and silage quality may not be exactly where we would expect it or want it to be.

Energy content of grazed grass varies from 1.05 UFL per kg dry matter for leafy fresh spring grass, to 0.85 UFL per kg dry matter for stemmy autumn grass. However, relative to grass silage (72-77% dry matter digestibility silage varying from 0.81-0.86 UFL) grazed grass has a significantly higher energy content.

Having high quality first cut silage in the yard will not be based on one single decision, but on multiple influencing factors including reseeding programmes on silage ground, cutting date, fertiliser/nutrient plans, ensiling management (the harvesting and pitting process), the use of a silage additive, the list goes on. Small tweaks to the overall typical silage plan on farm can have a significant impact on the cost of bridging that energy gap when it comes to the shoulders of the year.

### Quantity over quality – the age-old question

Well-managed silage swards closed from mid-late March for targeted cutting in late May should have yields of 9-10 tonne/acre. Where cutting is delayed for the sake of chasing added bulk, second cut yields are compromised and annual grass production reduced.

This is defeating the purpose, and adding considerable cost to achieve quality silage; be it for buffer feeding the milking herd next autumn/spring, or supplementing dry stock/youngstock next winter.

**For further advice, contact your local Agritech Sales Advisor or visit [www.agritech.ie](http://www.agritech.ie)**



[www.agritech.ie](http://www.agritech.ie)