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JANUARY 2023

EDITORIAL

Matt O'Keeffe, Editor



UNCERTAIN FUTURE

As we move into 2023, there is a degree of apprehension as to what this new year will bring for farming. Teagasc's *Outlook 2023: Economic Prospects for Agriculture* predicted an uncertain period ahead for commodity prices, with high input costs continuing to erode farm profitability. Any price forecasts are predicated on current knowledge around global supply, demand and, as we now fully realise, geopolitical instabilities. Add in climatic conditions and the impact of political and trade policies, and one would almost wonder how any rational or realistic food-production predictions can be made. But one can only work with the current 'knowns'. The 'unknowns', including, as we have seen in the recent past, pandemics and wars, must be dealt with as and when they occur. The resilience of food production need not be dwelt upon. Despite everything that was thrown at the food production, processing, and supply sectors over the past two years, the global population continues to be fed, some better than others, it should be added. That resilience will be even more sorely tested in the years ahead. As governments across the world act, or react, to climate change by imposing carbon reduction demands on all sectors of the economy including food production, the ability to continue supplying food in abundance is in doubt. Reduced chemical fertiliser use, lower stocking rates, the potential banning of several critical crop protectants and the proposed retirement of vulnerable land, can only result in a diminished ability to produce food. The argument that these impositions are necessary may have validity in some circumstances and geographical regions. One way or the other, such actions have consequences.

From an Irish-farmer perspective, there is an innate desire to use our farms as productively as possible. Food production is what we are

good at, most especially livestock production. An accident of geography means that we have climatic conditions that allow us to grow low-value carbohydrate grass and turn it into high-quality, nutrient-dense meat and dairy proteins. This year will be the beginning of a long and testing period for Irish agriculture. Producing food while lowering emissions will require fundamental change across all our farms. While we know that some changes in management practices deliver environmental benefits, as well as being either economically neutral or positive, many others will result in lower productivity. Not only that, lowering the nitrates ceiling along with cow-banding measures, will inevitably distort land sales and lease prices. Not only that, the grass-based input system for producing milk will also come under pressure as farmers attempt to maintain output by importing buffer feeds. Whatever the merits of higher per-cow output, it is not the grazing model we are using to market Irish milk and beef as having a unique selling point. Many of the actions being introduced or contemplated for Irish farms are already being implemented strongly in other countries, particularly in the Netherlands, France and Germany, the powerhouses of European food production.

There is not even a debate as to whether these impositions will reduce food production. It is a given that a reduction in intensity will inevitably result in lower output. That is accepted, certainly in political and policy-making circles as a necessary side effect of lowering pressure on the natural environment. It is not a cynical response to wonder whether lower food production in Europe and further afield is not, to some extent at least, in food producers' best interests. Supply and demand have always determined price. In a future of higher input costs and lower output opportunities, we must hope that this continues to be the case.

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LAND TAX – FARMERS WILL BECOME UNWILLING SELLERS

Call it what you will but the imposition of a tax on zoned land will be a major burden for many landowners. Farmers who are actively managing lands that are designated as zoned must feel particularly hard done by. In most cases, they did not pursue a development status for their farmed land, whatever the location, yet now find themselves caught up in a complex and erratic government strategy to open up more land for residential building. While this intention may have merit, it should not result in forced farm-land sales.

This onerous tax will result in many farmers being unwilling sellers. Returns

from crop- or livestock-farmed land rarely deliver a three per cent margin on its value. Land zoned for development and valued accordingly could never produce enough profit from farming to meet a three per cent tax. Add on income tax and the proposition becomes ludicrous. Sale is the only option. Taken to its logical conclusion, most farmland designated as zoned could come on the market very quickly. That would depress prices and deprive landowners of a legitimate expectation of receiving a premium price for land with a high-end value to the buyer and developer.

CONTINUITY AT AGRICULTURE HOUSE

Minister Charlie McConalogue has retained the keys to Agriculture House, with his Ministers of State Martin Heydon and Pippa Hackett also retaining their briefs. On balance, most objective observers consider that Minister McConalogue is doing a reasonably good job as agriculture minister. His knowledge has been impressive, particularly given the huge complexities involved in agricultural policy. Now that there is a Fine Gael taoiseach in place, the dynamic between all ministers and the head of government will, inevitably, change. It must be hoped that a reasonably good working relationship will be maintained. Charlie McConalogue has shown some steel in his dealings with farm organisations and opposition spokespeople.

His affable manner should not be mistaken for weakness. The strategy of at least appearing to actively engage with farmers has worked well and even though there was criticism of more listening than hearing in the countrywide briefings on the new iteration of the Common Agricultural Policy, the minister's willingness to engage with every single questioner until they all ran out of questions showed considerable stamina on the part of the Donegal TD. He must be fully aware that the next period in office is likely to be even more challenging. There are several chickens coming home to roost in the next two years. A herd cull under the guise of nitrates reductions and cow banding, allied to a potential voluntary reduction in dairy and suckler cow numbers, will be problematic. Sufficient financing for a voluntary cessation or reduction in breeding bovines will have to be found. If a scheme is not attractive, there will be mediocre take-up. If the income foregone is reflected in the finance provided, the scale of funding required will be quite mouth-watering.



Overall winner of the Guild of Agricultural Journalists Awards 2022, Ciaran Moran from the *Farming Independent*, with chair of the judging panel, Tom McGuire; FBD Trust's Michael Berkery; and president of the Guild of Agricultural Journalists, Richard Halleron.

GUILD AWARDS HIGHLIGHT JOURNALISTIC CALIBRE

Last month saw the Guild of Agricultural Journalists Awards 2022 presented in Killashee House Hotel. The awards, held in association with FBD, had not been presented in person since pre-Covid-2019, so the atmosphere was wonderful as colleagues, peers and friends had a chance to catch up. The judging panel, chaired by Tom McGuire, acknowledged the vast array of journalistic talent in the room but it was the *Farming Independent*'s Ciaran Moran, who took the overall award, and The Bull bronze trophy, on the night. Ciaran won the prestigious award for his comprehensive look at the Beef Tribunal, 30 years later.

Another winner on the night, however, was agricultural journalism, with the winners of all the awards displaying a great knowledge and affection for agriculture.

We are fortunate to have so many talented people from across the island of Ireland forging their careers in agricultural journalism. Congratulations to all the 2022 awards recipients, we wish them continued success in their careers.

The Bull was presented to the Guild in 1976 by Bord Baine (Ornuia) in memory of the late Vincent Colgan, PR manager for the Dairy Board. The first winner of The Bull was Michael Miley who worked for RTÉ at the time.

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LANIGAN'S BALL AT ICSA

The Irish Cattle and Sheep Farmers Association (ICSA) came up with the perfect compromise last month when their presidential election resulted in a dead heat. Rather than the crude mechanism of picking a candidate's name out of a hat, the two candidates – outgoing president, Dermot Kelleher and challenger, Sean McNamara – agreed to a rotating presidency, much like the example shown by the Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael leaders in sharing the role of taoiseach. It is a two-year presidential term so Dermot will hold the office for 2023 with Sean taking over for the following year. The power-sharing agreement for the leadership includes a proviso that Sean will assume a position on the ICSA management committee in 2023. The two candidates agreed to work

together in the best interests of farmers and the ICSA, which is surely praiseworthy at a time when there are so many farming issues of greater importance than individual ambitions. Dermot Kelleher runs a suckler farm at Inchigeela in west Cork with his wife Mary and son Christopher. Alongside the sucklers, they keep a herd of pedigree Charolais cattle, with another son, Tim, breeding pedigree Zwartbles sheep. He has been president of ICSA since December 2020. Sean McNamara runs a mixed sheep, suckler, and beef farm at Lismacaffrey in Westmeath. In addition to farming, he operates a cattle and sheep haulage business as well as being a livestock agent, buying cattle for other farmers and exporting live sheep and cattle.

WAS MARTIN A SUCCESSFUL TAOISEACH?

The credibility and integrity shown by outgoing Taoiseach Micheál Martin over the past two and half years, despite mediocre opinion polls for his party, deserves to be acknowledged. Doesn't it?

He took difficult decisions, particularly in his first few months as leader of the country, and, in conjunction with the Health Service Executive (HSE), guided us out of the pandemic. He also showed compassion by allowing 70,000 displaced Ukrainians to seek refuge in Ireland, though the full implications of that magnanimous approach remain to be seen.

He and his government were calm and composed for the most part, especially when compared to the political debacle playing out in the UK and the departure of three prime ministers – May, Johnston and Truss – in quick succession. Our government is a model of stability by comparison. The now former taoiseach recently stated his intention to lead Fianna Fáil into the next election. Time will tell, but sometimes you are better to quit while you're ahead, especially after a Dáil standing ovation at his tenure's end. A major task for the new taoiseach, Leo Varadkar and for Micheál Martin as his



foreign-affairs minister, is to get Anglo-Irish relations back on track and safeguard the Northern Ireland Protocol for the benefit of everyone on the Island of Ireland. Leo Varadkar is no novice to the role of taoiseach and we can expect him to drive strong agendas around housing, health and economic strategies in the coming months.

BALD, GREY AND LIMPING

It generated a laugh when one attendee of the Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers' Association (ICMSA) AGM described most of the people in the room that day as 'bald, grey, and limping'. There was another chuckle when a farmer said he was all of those things! These were two of very few moments of levity at the mammoth AGM, and while everyone saw the funny side, these comments highlighted a much more serious issue within Irish farming today – the age profile.

According to the Central Statistics Office (CSO) Census of Agriculture in 2020, the age profile of farmers has changed over the last 30 years, and there are now fewer under the age of 45 and considerably more aged 65, or over. In 2020, almost one third of all farm holders were aged 65 or over compared to just above one fifth in 1991. In 1991, 33.1 per cent of farm holders were under the age of 45, whereas in 2020 this age group represented 20.8 per cent of all farm holders. The proportion of farm holders under 35 has been falling consistently since 1991 but there was a slight increase in the proportion in this youngest age category between 2010 and 2020, from 6.2 per cent to 6.9 per cent. The age profile is just one of many challenges on a long list up against Irish agriculture today, but maybe it is one of the most significant? After all, if we don't have a 'next generation' to hand down to, then where to for Irish agriculture? The new iteration of the Common Agricultural Policy aims to support – financially and otherwise – young farmers in the industry. Let's hope that starts to make an impact on those age averages sooner rather than later. But there is still doubt as to whether it goes far enough, with Macra national president, John Keane recently stating that young farmers are a 'rare breed'.



CONGRATS TO CLAAS DEALER OF THE YEAR

We were delighted to hear that Maurice Kelly and his team won the prestigious Class Dealer of the Year for 2022. Based in Borris in Co. Carlow, with a second branch in Abbeyleix in Co. Laois, Kelly's was established in 1957, and has been a Claas dealer for many years. Congrats to all there. Pictured accepting the award on behalf of the company was Kelly's managing director, Maurice Kelly and senior vice-president of Claas Europe, Trevor Tyrrell.

COW BANDING UNEASE

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) confirmed to us, at the time of print, that the January 2023 implementation of cow banding is going ahead, despite opposition from farmers throughout 2022 for it to be postponed. It came to the fore at the Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers' Association (ICMSA), raised on several occasions by different farmers, with one saying to the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Charlie McConalogue, that he wasn't asking the minister, but was telling him, to delay its implementation. Minister McConalogue explained that cow banding was non-negotiable and was a condition of Ireland's nitrates derogation, which, he reminded the room (a few times) was something only three countries in Europe were in receipt of – Ireland being one of them. The main issues, as we see it, are that farmers do not fully understand the new system, due to a lack of clear communication and information from the DAFM (according to farmers); and that panicked decisions will be made by farmers because their hands are being forced. In response to a query from *Irish Farmers Monthly*, the DAFM said that it was developing a 'simple and efficient mechanism' to verify the appropriate nutrient excretion rate based on each dairy herd's milk production. This proposed mechanism, the DAFM said, aims to: minimise any administrative burden being placed on farmers; and allow the earliest possible confirmation of which band each dairy farmer should fall into. The DAFM also said that had been working with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to finalise an amendment to the Nitrates Regulations to facilitate the sharing of data in preparation for the introduction of banding (due to happen on January 1, 2023). We will watch how this plays out but meanwhile, there is a nitrates-banding calculator on the DAFM's website that can help farmers estimate their herd's indicative band. It can be accessed here: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/c9563-rural-environment-sustainability-nitrates/#nitrates-derogation>



Colostrum is (still) king

Maeve Regan,
Head of Ruminant Nutrition, Agritech

The importance of colostrum and the 3-2-1 rule are well known, however conversations still arise about how best to avoid disease outbreak in the calf shed. As we face into another spring a 'back to basics' approach needs to be taken with colostrum protocols.

Hygiene

Cleanliness is a huge dictating factor as dirt contamination is known to have a negative effect on passive transfer. With this in mind, it is vital that all feed equipment is disinfected before colostrum is fed, and that good hygiene protocols are applied throughout the colostrum collection process. It is important to remember that a newborn calf will first pick up an infection through its navel or mouth. Therefore, the teats and underbelly of the cow along with contact with the bedding are a source of infection for a newborn calf. Prolonged time spent in the calving area/calving pens can often be a key factor in disease transfer in herds.

Storage

Excess colostrum can be stored in a fridge at 4°C, however it can only be refrigerated safely for 24-48 hours as bacteria can still grow. It is an all-too-common sight to see buckets of colostrum in the parlour/dairy, where bacterial counts can double every twenty minutes. Pooling colostrum is also a topical debate on farm. A dam-to-calf system is obviously the ideal situation, however during a compact calving period, this can sometimes be difficult to achieve in every situation. It is very important to remember that colostrum quality can vary dramatically between cows, leading to increased disease risk and poor quality colostrum entering the pool. Where pooling occurs, colostrum must be Brix tested prior to pooling.

Quality

Factors that affect colostrum quality are short dry periods, high parity, high yielders (dilution effect) and poor nutrition in the dry period. Vaccination of the dam is also a key consideration to help avoid scour outbreaks, however, passive transfer from the vaccine only occurs from dam-calf via colostrum and transition milk, so all the above still applies.

For more information on colostrum management, contact your local Agritech Sales Advisor or visit www.agritech.ie.



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InTouch

NEW YEAR, NEW CHALLENGES

CATHAL BOHANE
HEAD OF INTOUCH NUTRITION

We have just started a new year and, with it, some new challenges are emerging. The arrival of the fifth Nitrates Action Programme delivered some significant changes – the most important of which begins this month. While we all have an opinion on these changes, we must now focus and channel our energy into creating a plan to keep these changes from impacting us negatively – and possibly even utilising them to improve our productivity and profitability. While environmental changes and legislation can be seen as constraints on the business, we need to understand that, moving forward, farms will only continue to exist if they have a sound environmental footing. Making environmental changes is mostly driven by a desire to increase efficiency on-farm, and this should be a priority going forward, no matter what.

While there are changes ahead relating to the slurry-spreading window, soiled-water storage, and fertiliser applications, the most significant change is the new livestock excretion rates, or banding, as it is commonly known. The amount of nitrogen (N) allowed per livestock unit will change from its current 89kg to the numbers outlined in the table below, based on the average yield of a herd between 2020 and 2022, inclusive.

Band	Yield	Nitrogen (N)	Phosphorous (P)
1	< 4,500kg	80kg	12kg
2	4,500–6,500kg	92kg	13.6kg
3	> 6,500kg	106kg	15.8kg

While these new guidelines allow for those in Band 1 to potentially increase their stocking rate (SR) by 10%, the guidelines require a reduction in the SR of Bands 2 and 3 by 3% and 19%, respectively. Notably, 98% of InTouch customers fall within Bands 2 and 3, resulting in an average drop of 14 cows per farm, with the most extreme decrease being 69 cows. This is based on cows only and assumes the maximum SR when no other corrective action is taken. While there is no clear protocol on how the industry will allocate bands to farms due to gaps in the data, the fact that these numbers are calculated based on historical milk yields means that you should already know which band your operation falls within, so working toward the future should now be your goal. There are a number of ways to adjust these numbers moving forward, including:

- ▶ Changing the SR (more land, contract rearing, flying herds);
- ▶ Changing yields (increase or decrease, depending on nutrition and genetics); and
- ▶ Reducing the milk supplied to calves (seek veterinary advice before committing to this approach).

Exporting slurry

Every farm will be different and will have different targets, so getting sound advice on this subject is important. It is also important to make a decision about this issue soon rather than leaving it to another time.

For now, we would like to wish all our customers and readers a very happy and prosperous new year.

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REDUCTION IN CATTLE-SLAUGHTER AGE A KEY TARGET OF CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Reducing the slaughter age of beef cattle, and a reduction in the age at first calving of suckler beef cows are two of a range of measures to be taken by the agriculture sector under the Climate Action Plan 2023, approved by Cabinet at the end of December. The plan also seeks to follow recommendations of the Food Vision sectoral groupings and supports land-use diversification options for livestock farmers, such as anaerobic digestion, forestry, and tillage to incentivise voluntary livestock reductions.

The plan sets out the overall actions required by the sector to achieve a 25 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2030.

This includes a reduction of between three and three-and-a-half months' (from 26 to 22-23 months) in slaughter age of cattle; reducing chemical nitrogen use to a maximum of 300,000 tonnes; increased adoption of protected urea; improved animal breeding by focusing on low-methane traits; improved animal feeding; and miscellaneous measures, including extended grazing and roll out of a methane-reducing slurry additive. Additionally, the plan targets an increase in organic farming to up to 450,000 hectares (ha), and an increase in the area of tillage to up to 400,000ha. Commenting, Minister for Agriculture Food and the Marine, Charlie McConalogue, said: "In agriculture, the focus is on reducing nitrogen and methane emissions, while increasing carbon capture and storage and contributing in a positive way to the decarbonisation of the energy system.

"We need to accelerate progress through reduced application of nitrogen-based fertilisers, replacing them with protected urea and reducing the age of cattle finishing."

Reacting to the Climate Action Plan, Irish Farmers' Association president, Tim Cullinan, said: "A lot of further engagement is needed with farmers to achieve emissions reductions while developing the sector.

"The world needs more food and Irish farmers all well placed to produce food in an environmentally efficient manner. We are committed to reducing emissions, but it cannot be at the expense of farmers' livelihoods or by reducing output," he said.

"The debate has become unnecessarily divisive with far too much focus on cattle numbers. The focus must be on reducing emissions, not on reducing cattle numbers," he added.

He said the introduction of methane-reducing feed additives to our grass-based system must be expedited, and other technological advancements must be embraced.

"It must be remembered that farmers are citizens too, and they and their families will have to adapt to the changes in the transport and energy sector," he said.

NEW €4.8m AGTECH AND HERD-HEALTH HUB FOR LYONS FARM

Construction of a €4.8m ag-tech innovation and herd-health hub is expected to be completed at University College Dublin's (UCD) Lyons Farm in quarter three of 2023. Funded by Enterprise Ireland, UCD, and a philanthropic donation from manufacturer and distributor of veterinary pharmaceuticals and animal-health products, Bimeda, the state-of-the art facility will include lab spaces, meeting rooms, offices and an exhibition space.

The development of the AgTechUCD Innovation Centre and the UCD Bimeda Herd Health Hub 'represents a new phase in UCD's commitment to innovation, entrepreneurship and outreach in areas of agriculture, food and veterinary medicine', according to Professor Alex Evans, UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science. "This farm-based facility will co-locate educators, researchers, innovators and service providers in a single location allowing them to work together on enhancing Ireland's capabilities and progress in agricultural and veterinary sciences," he said. UCD Lyons Farm, the university's research and teaching farm, located in Kildare, is a fully functioning farm comprising of 250 hectares of land, with dairy, beef, sheep, equine, crop and environmental research, teaching and commercial facilities.

The AgTechUCD Innovation Centre will promote and accelerate early-stage start-ups and SMEs with disruptive innovations in the agri, agtech, agrifood and veterinary sectors, as they build their innovative businesses into leading enterprises creating jobs. Director, AgTechUCD Innovation Centre, Niamh Collins, said: "As the only on-farm workspace hub in Ireland focused

on promoting and accelerating agri-businesses and start-ups the AgTechUCD Innovation Centre will assist client companies to access on-farm experimental facilities, enabling them to test and trial products and services in a real-world environment.

The establishment of the UCD Bimeda Herd Health Hub will provide a national facility for dairy herd-health education, research and consultancy and is an important strategic development for the UCD School of Veterinary Medicine. Chair of Bimeda Animal Health, Donal Tierney, said: "We are delighted to be associated with the UCD Bimeda Herd Health Hub and the contribution it will make to the development of the agritech sector in Ireland. Bimeda is an Irish-owned company founded 50 years ago. Our association with UCD Lyons Farm in establishing the UCD Bimeda Herd Health Hub recognises the contribution the agricultural sector has made to the success of Bimeda worldwide." Dean and head of UCD School of Veterinary Medicine, Professor Michael Doherty, added: "We are delighted that construction of the UCD Bimeda Herd Health Hub has commenced at UCD Lyons Farm. Dairy herd health is an important element of UCD's One Health initiative which is focused on maximising the health and wellbeing of people, animals, and the environment.

"In addition, [the hub] will support the delivery of state-of-the art training to undergraduate and postgraduate students in the UCD School of Veterinary Medicine."

The development of the UCD Bimeda Herd Health Hub will also support the provision of UCD's flagship distance-learning graduate certificate in dairy herd health.



Damien O'Reilly
EU Affairs and
Communications manager, ICOS

LETTER FROM BRUSSELS

Greetings from my new office in Brussels. That is an introduction I never thought I would utter in my life. But here I am writing to you from the ICOS office on the seventh floor of the Copa-Cogeca headquarters on Rue de Treves, nestled between the EU Commission building around the corner and the EU Parliament down the street.

As I embark on this exciting new challenge, this year is a very special year for ICOS as, along with the nation, we celebrate 50 years in Europe. This office has been here from when we joined the European Economic Community, alongside our colleagues in the Irish Farmers Association. The Danes, who occupy this building are also celebrating the golden jubilee of accession to the EU. Since landing out here towards the end of 2022, I have been busy getting to know my new colleagues from across the continent and those who represent the co-operative movement in their country. While in search of a place I can call home here, I have been easing my way into my new role as EU Affairs and Communications manager with ICOS. What struck me in the first weeks of attending meetings both at home and here in the Belgian capital has been the clear focus on climate change, biodiversity loss, and sustainability.

Listening to the various scientists, experts and policy makers talk about the tricky pathway forward to producing safe traceable food while meeting the three key pillars of sustainability (economic, social and environmental), it occurred to me how little the general public know about this work behind the scenes. Food production alongside transport and energy is very much in focus in terms of meeting key obligations to decarbonise.

And while we all talk about changing to electric cars, improving public transport options, reducing flying and retrofitting our homes and workplaces to play our part in helping meet transport and industry targets, the direction of travel for the agri-food sector is probably not as clear. For farmers and consumers alike, we remain somewhat confused about how we can be more sustainable from farm to fork.

Yet the only show in town is finding ways and means to make food production greener while not upsetting the importance of maintaining the vibrancy of rural communities and the security of income for the value chain from inside the farm gate to the shop shelf.

I look forward to keeping you up to speed with progress in that regard from here in Brussels via this column next month and in the months ahead. And, I hope to find a nice abode too!



IFA RECORDS OPERATIONAL SURPLUS OF €313K

The Irish Farmers' Association (IFA) recorded an operational surplus of €313,080 to the year ending March 31, 2022. The annual accounts were approved at a meeting of the National Council in mid-December and show that the surplus comprises €122,472 (after tax) from normal IFA activities, and €190,608 (after tax) from IFA Telecom. IFA national treasurer, Martin Stapleton, said the return of many activities that were restricted during Covid-19 is reflected in expenditure, which increased by circa €1m compared to the previous year. According to the accounts, membership contributions increased from €9,179,288 in 2021 to €9,460,075, while expenditure on membership recruitment increased from €226,760 in 2021, to €390,433 in 2022.

But the national treasurer said it is difficult to draw comparisons from one year to the next due to the impact of Covid-19 on IFA activities.

"The next financial year to March 2023 will reflect a full return to normal activities. We have also considerable inflationary pressure in the system, like everybody in the economy. This will pose challenges in terms of managing our resources for next year, and the years ahead," he said.

The increase in the value of investments at March 31, 2022 was €1,559,534. This resulted in an overall accounting surplus of €1,872,614 with the total consolidated assets of the association at €16.4m. "We are fortunate to have reasonable reserves in the Association which have been built up over the years. However, even since year end, share values have declined globally so we cannot be complacent. The reality is that in order to go toe to toe with major political institutions such as the EU, our own State, and well-resourced global businesses, we need to maintain a strong balance sheet," the national treasurer said.

TEAGASC REPORT PREDICTS 15% DROP IN MILK PRICE IN 2023

A recent report from Teagasc predicts that milk prices are likely to fall by 15% in 2023, as global milk-production growth resumes and demand growth eases. The report, *Teagasc Outlook – Economic Prospects for Agriculture*,

expects that average milk price in 2023 should still be sufficient to cover the production-cost increases experienced over the last 18 months. Nevertheless, according to the report, margins will remain high in 2023 and there should be a return to growth in milk production of, perhaps, 4 per cent. While dairy-farm incomes are forecast to be lower in 2023, the forecast average dairy farm income of €104,000 would still be one of the highest recorded.

This is to happen against a backdrop of another year of high agriculture production costs in 2023. As well as that, the uncertainties created by Russia's invasion of Ukraine are likely to remain, global economic growth rates are set to slow, with some regions moving into recession and this could have some negative impact on food demand.

Cattle prices are forecast to increase in 2023 and particularly during the first quarter of the year. Stable volumes of beef production (domestically and in key export destinations) are expected to constrain rising cattle prices in the second half of 2023. The forecast is that average finished cattle prices will be 4 per cent higher in 2023 and that young cattle prices will increase by 5% in 2023. The availability of additional support under Pillar II of the new Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) will benefit cattle producers. Average incomes are forecast to rise on cattle farms in 2023, with

an increase of 11 per cent in prospect for cattle-rearing farms to €9,700, and an increase of 2 per cent for other cattle farms to €17,300.

Lamb prices are forecast to increase by 2 per cent, on average, in 2023. On farms with mainly sheep, incomes will continue to be boosted by the receipt of payments from CAP Pillar II schemes, according to the outlook. In 2023, these payments will be from the new Sheep Improvement Scheme. With a forecast 4 per cent increase in costs, the average income on sheep farms in 2023 is forecast to decline by 2 per cent, leaving the average income at just under €19,500. Cereal prices are forecast to be lower in 2023. The high cereal yields achieved in 2022 are unlikely to be repeated in 2023. There is likely to be little relief on the cost side, but some additional support under the new CAP will provide some benefit, such as the ACRES scheme and additional protein payments. Overall, the average tillage income in 2023 is forecast to fall by 48 per cent to €33,000.

Pig prices are forecast to continue to improve in 2023. A 22 per cent increase in pig prices is forecast and this would restore profitability in the sector to a more normal level. Pig production is expected to fall slightly in 2023 as an outcome of the contraction of the sow herd that occurred in 2022.

According to the report, the traditional average farm income measure has become redundant as an indicator of typical farm income performance across the wider agricultural sector and a forecast of average income for 2023 was not reported.



April Higgins



Niall Claffey

ELANCO TEAM EXPANDS WITH TWO NEW APPOINTMENTS

Animal-health provider, Elanco, has welcomed two new team members, Niall Claffey and April Higgins, to support growth in the Irish ruminant and pet industries. Having worked in management, technical and sales positions in a start-up livestock trade business, as well as in agricultural media, while running a dairy herd at home, Niall holds an excellent knowledge of the ruminant sector. In his new role as territory business manager, he will be working with vets and the trade to help provide solutions for farmers and pet owners in the east of the country. Meanwhile, April has taken on the role of territory manager, supporting buying groups in the south of Ireland. With previous experience of account management in a pharmaceutical company and more than six years' experience working in the livestock feed sector, she says she is looking forward to developing relationships with customers all while running a sheep and beef farm at home.

Elanco Irish sales manager, Rona Campbell, said the appointments will strengthen the company and help to grow the Irish side of the business. "These new appointments will be valuable assets to help bolster our existing team, as they support our customers and the wider farming and pet industries."

DAFM INSPECTOR TAKES UP MII DIRECTOR ROLE THIS MONTH

An agricultural inspector at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) and former agricultural attaché in Washington DC, has been appointed director of Meat Industry Ireland (MII). Dale Crammond, who has worked at the DAFM for over 20 years in the areas of environmental sustainability and trade, as well as managing national and EU research programmes, will take the reins this month (January 2023), Ibec confirmed.

He succeeds Joe Ryan who stepped into the role in June 2022 following the departure of Cormac Healy in May 2022, who became director of Drinks Ireland. But just one month later, Ibec announced that Joe was stepping down to take up a role outside the organisation.

Speaking on his appointment, Dale said: "I am looking forward to leading MII in what is a period of huge opportunities for the industry, despite emerging economic challenges.

"The meat sector in Ireland, from farm through to processing and export, is one of the most important indigenous industries in the national economy, supporting in excess of 120,000 individual farmers and generating total sales of more than €4.5bn. Rurally located meat-processing plants act as a key economic contributor by providing direct employment in many Irish towns with additional supplementary jobs generated in distribution, transport and services. Irish beef, pork and lamb are exported and enjoyed by consumers all over the globe and I look forward to assisting the industry to further build on progress." Dale holds a bachelor's degree in agricultural science from University College Dublin and a master's degree in environmental sciences from Trinity College Dublin.



Pictured at the launch of the farm-safety video series: Teagasc's Francis Bligh; Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine with responsibility for Farm Safety, Martin Heydon; Farm TV's Harry Hill; farmer participants in the series, John and Bernie Fitzgerald; Teagasc's John McNamara; HSA's Pat Griffin; and FBD Insurance's Ciaran Roche.

VIDEO SERIES LAUNCHED ON MANAGING FARM SAFETY AND HEALTH

A series of 13 videos covering a range of farm-safety and health hazards has been launched. The videos, which show best practice relating to facilities and behaviour on farms, feature a large number of farm families, including more than 50 people who contributed to the videos. This farm-safety initiative was led by Teagasc health-and-safety specialists, Dr John McNamara and Francis Bligh, in association with FBD Insurance and the Health and Safety Authority (HSA), and produced by Farm TV. At the launch, Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Martin Heydon, complimented all involved in the production of the series. "The videos are short and concise. Each one, which takes a couple of minutes to view, contains a wealth of information on how farmers can make changes, which not only protect themselves and their loved ones, but also helps them to carry out their work more efficiently. "Every year there are thousands of non-fatal incidents on farms. I firmly believe if we can reduce these then we will reduce the number of fatal and life-changing incidents."

Teagasc senior health-and-safety specialist, Dr McNamara explained that the videos can be used to enhance the quality of farm health-and-safety training courses and social-media video content.

"Teagasc research shows that visual materials are very positively received and motivate adoption of both safe behaviours and improved farm facilities for safety and health."

Risk manager FBD, Ciaran Roche, said: "FBD believes that this video series can help make a real difference in improving safety culture and behaviour on Irish farms. By showing farmers best practice on video this will allow farmers to implement these safety standards on their own farms, making Irish farms a safer place for everyone."

Senior inspector with the HSA, Pat Griffin said: "Simply reading about farm health and safety has a limited effect but viewing these videos and practicing what is shown is a strong approach to gain change." The videos can be viewed by clicking on the following link: <https://www.teagasc.ie/rural-economy/farm-management/farm-health--safety/videos/>

EU AGREES LAW TO FIGHT GLOBAL DEFORESTATION AND FOREST DEGRADATION

The European Union (EU) has agreed to adopt a law that will ensure that goods placed on the EU market will no longer contribute to deforestation and forest degradation in the EU and anywhere else in the world. This has come as a result of a 'provisional political agreement' between the European Parliament and the European Council. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) estimates that 420 million hectares of forest – an area larger than the European Union – were lost to deforestation between 1990 and 2020. In terms of net area loss (the difference between area of forest cleared and new surface of forests planted or regenerated), the FAO estimates that the world lost around 178 million hectares of forest cover in the same period of time, which is an area triple the size of France. "Since the EU is a major economy and consumer of these commodities, this step will help stop a significant share of global deforestation and forest degradation, in turn reducing greenhouse gas emissions and biodiversity loss," according to a statement from the EU. When the new rules enter into force, all relevant companies will have to conduct strict due diligence if they place on the EU market, or export from it: palm oil, cattle, soy, coffee, cocoa, timber and rubber as well as derived products (such as beef, furniture, or chocolate). These commodities have been chosen on the basis of a thorough impact assessment identifying them as the main driver of deforestation due to agricultural expansion. Commenting on the development, executive vice-president for the European Green Deal, Frans Timmermans said it marks an important turning point in the global fight against deforestation. "As we make the green transition in the European Union we also want to ensure that our value chains become more sustainable as well. Combatting deforestation is an urgent task for this generation, and a great legacy to leave behind for the next."



SINN FÉIN TRIES TO WIN FARMERS' FAVOUR

WOULD YOU GIVE THEM A VOTE?

BERNIE COMMINS REPORTS ON THE COMMITMENTS SOUGHT BY FARMERS, AND ASSURANCES GIVEN BY SINN FÉIN (SF) LEADER, MARY LOU McDONALD, AT A RECENT FARMING-ORGANISATION MEETING, IF HER PARTY WERE TO FORM PART OF A COALITION GOVERNMENT

Deputy Mary Lou McDonald was keen to convey from the outset that she wasn't just a Dub who knew nothing about farming, when she travelled to Limerick last month to give the keynote address at the Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers' Association's (ICMSA) annual general meeting. And she also made it clear that her party, too, has a farming heritage – in the north, anyway.

Her own farming heritage goes the long way to Tipperary – to a dairy farm in the the Glen of Aherlow to be precise – from where her mother's family hail. And the party, she explained to the more-than-200-strong crowd of mostly male farmers 'has a long track record of representing farmers and championing Irish food production.'

"It was no accident that our party selected agriculture as one of the two ministries that Sinn Féin took in the northern executive, or that we retained that ministry for a full decade," she told the ICMSA gathering. And later, in response to one of the journalists given a few minutes to question her further, she confirmed that she would 'very much welcome the prospect of a SF minister for

agriculture' in the republic also. Throughout a questions-and-answers session that lasted for close to 50 minutes, commitments were sought by farmers on topics ranging from the SUSI grant to ensuring the Green Party did not form the next government, from inheritance tax to the nitrates derogation and climate change. And certain assurances were made by Deputy McDonald who was flanked by her agriculture spokesperson, Deputy Matt Carthy, to whom she directed the more technical questions. "My own view is that a government without Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil for the first time in a century gives us the latitude, the energy, to do things differently, to build on what we have, and to innovate," she replied to one farmer who told her: "I don't want to burst your bubble, but more than likely if you go into government, you will have to form it with other parties."

And when that farmer asked if she would 'take Mr Ryan with her', she answered: "I am conscious that it is the electorate that will decide the balance of things." Reading the 'no-shade-of-green' room she was in, she went on: "I take it that Mr Ryan is popular



I don't want to burst your bubble, but more than likely if you go into government, you will have to form it with other parties

in your household, I am feeling the love emanating from you." While this generated a chuckle, it is worth noting that no assurance was made about excluding the Green Party because the reality is, as that farmer pointed out, Sinn Féin will have to rely on others so the proof of what that party can do for farmers, will be in whatever coalition pudding they may be part of. Although Deputy Carthy, much later on, once again jumped on the anti-green bandwagon, and stated that the best-case scenario would be for no Green TDs to be elected to the Dáil. Cue another round of applause. This farming organisation address may have been a first, but it won't be the last time that Sinn Féin tries to sway the minds of

the rural farming community not to tick the Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael boxes at the next general election. Let's take a look at some of things deputies McDonald and Carthy told ICMSA farmers in a bid to win their favour.

SUSI AND FARM ASSETS

In relation to the Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI) grant for third-level students, one farmer asked for commitment that, if SF were in government, his 'assets won't come against him when his children are going to college.'

To this, Deputy McDonald said: "Your assets should not come against you in respect of the SUSI grant, but we want to move to a system where the registration fees are taken out of the equation. We need to be really thinking about the next generation of farmers, the sustainability, the longevity, into the next generation, how do we keep people on the land through various retirement schemes, and through education."

DAIRY BEEF CALF SCHEME

The five-year €25m payment for the dairy beef calf scheme was criticised by one farmer who asked if SF would be willing to increase that substantially? Deputy Carthy took this question and assured the farmer that this will be discussed further in the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Agriculture, Food and the Marine, on which he sits. However, he admitted that in its alternative budget, SF did not provide additional money for the scheme: "One of the good things we do as a party every year is to produce an alternative budget which says precisely what we would do if we were in government at that time and what our priorities are. The difficulty, and the bad part about that from our perspective, is that we don't get away with bullshitting you on issues like this because we didn't provide for additional money for the dairy calf to beef scheme.

"To be frank, we want to analyse it further, we want to engage with the beef sector and dairy sector to ensure that the scheme itself is fit for purpose from both perspectives and that it actually serves us into the future. One of the things that the Oireachtas committee has already committed to holding hearings on, but it is one of the things that we will be engaging with ICMSA on. It does need to have a dedicated scheme for it, we want to make sure that the correct model is being used. So,

we are absolutely up for engaging with you on this, but at the moment, we don't have additional funding provided for it."

WEALTH TAX

Despite previous assurances that SF's proposed wealth tax would not hit working farmland, machinery and buildings, one farmer wanted 'a solid, iron-clad undertaking' that such a tax would not apply to farmers assets. "The objective for Sinn Féin is a balanced, progressive taxation system to fund all of the services that we all rely on," Deputy McDonald said. "Working assets, farm assets are distinct from other assets that we would look to capture in a wealth tax. I can give you that assurance that you have asked for," she said.

SEQUESTRATION

On the specific issue of carbon sequestration from hedgerows, Deputy McDonald was asked if such sequestration should be measured and accounted for.

While she did not seem to deal directly with hedgerows or farmland, specifically, she answered: "In terms of innovation on the farm, you put up your solar panels and you are doing your bit for sustainability and for renewables and energy independence, but as things are currently measured, that doesn't measure up against a tick for you in terms of your sectoral emissions. I think that is a problem.

"For us to fix that, you have to fix the reporting

and measurement apparatus at a European level. I don't think it is fair if farmers innovate on their farms, reduce their carbon footprint and don't get credit for that, that is wrong. Can I guarantee you that straight into government we can change that? No, I am not going to mislead you and say that we can, but we are going to have to have that conversation at EU level."

CHEAP FOOD

One farmer asked if SF accepted that consumers have been under-paying for food, and that there can either be sustainable food production that is fairly paid for, or a cheap food policy: "We can't have both," he said. Deputy McDonald said that she would not propose moving to a policy of cheap food production, adding that she did not think it had to be an either-or situation.

"We have to keep the consumer in mind, but the war in Ukraine has taught us two things: we need to be energy independent, that is just an imperative for this island. Secondly, we need sustainable food production. We can't be complacent about these things. I don't think it is a choice between quality or cheap. We have to defend the quality of the product that Ireland produces, but then when you get to the issue of the consumer being able to afford what is in offer then you are looking at a whole range of things such as whether we have a low wage economy, or whether people have higher rewards; whether or not public services are provided; all of these



things come into play. We need to look at the market chain, who is taking the cream of the profit in terms of the price that the consumer is paying. But I would not, and I am sure you are not proposing that we move to cheap food production."

SUCKLER-COW REMOVAL/ REDUCTION SCHEME

A voluntary measure proposed in the final report of the Food Vision Beef and Sheep Group to reduce suckler-cow numbers was raised, with one farmer asking about the €1,350-per-cow payment which was indicated in the report for suckler-cow reduction. Deputy Carthy answered that he is 'continuously disappointed on the focus on measures aimed at reducing the number of suckler cows, for a number of reasons.' "There are a couple of traits of the Irish suckler herd that are really important. In many respects, it is the brand that has given Ireland the positive image globally. During my time in Brussels, when you would go into a supermarket looking for meat, it would be 'entrecôte Irlandaise' with a picture of a farmer with a cow and calf somewhere along the west of Ireland. That is an image that people have in respect of Irish farming and that is an image that should be protected," he said. "The difficulty is [...] even though it is the most valuable, it is the least profitable, and that is what we have always said should be the focus – to ensure that those who are running extensive beef enterprises, being of huge benefit to local community and economy, need to be able to pass that on to the next generation. It is disappointing that every single time we put together a so-called climate advisory group, their proposal is that we reduce the number of suckler cows, even though they emit less than other types of beef production. I don't support this notion [...] If anything, I would be proposing that suckler farming become an endeavour that is attractive to the sons and daughters of existing farmers." To this response, the farmer said: "Ye better get into power soon, or we won't be there."

INHERITANCE TAX

On the issue of inheritance, Deputy Carthy assured the farmer gathering: "We support the continuation of existing reliefs in terms of inheritance of farms and want to make it as easy as possible for a new generation of farmers to take over and we are open to all

SOUNDBITES

Farmer: If you want farmers' votes, you are going to have to tell them what you are going to do. I am sitting here with the last 20 minutes waiting for a new policy change from where we are already, I haven't heard one thing. Enough of the waffle.

Deputy Carthy: We don't support compulsory rewetting – that is not to say that there isn't a role for rewetting but if a landowner is willing to rewild their land, then they need to be fully supported and compensated for doing so.

Deputy Carthy: Because she is more diplomatic than me, Mary Lou has said we will negotiate with everyone depending on their mandate, but the best-case scenario is obviously that the Greens don't have any TDs elected in the next Dáil.

Deputy Carthy: In terms of the fixed price contracts, obviously government can't intervene in terms of those contracts but I do think that pressure can be exerted on co-ops.

engagement and proposals in that regard. We want to give farmers who want to retire, the ability to do so."

CLIMATE CHANGE AND NITRATES DEROGATION

One farmer, in derogation, spoke of his frustration at the possibility of that derogation being decreased or removed if Ireland's water quality doesn't improve, especially when raw sewage from nearby villages is entering the water system. "There is no farmer in this room spreading €1,000 per tonne of fertiliser for it to be lost in a stream. I have two villages on either side of me where there are no treatment plants whatsoever and there is raw sewage going straight into the river. So, in a few years' time when they tell me that the quality hasn't improved, are they going to look at the two villages next to me, or are they going to say it is my fault? The SF leader said that there has to be a rational basis for monitoring, measuring and protecting water quality.

"But be in no doubt, for us, water quality is an absolute must and as part of the nitrogen derogation, water quality has to be protected. I think we need the statutory agencies to be

more exacting and less generalist when they are actually making these measurements. If one farmer isn't living up to the standards expected, well then, that is on him or her, the whole population shouldn't be punished for that, so we need to be more exacting."

MERCOSUR

On the controversial Mercosur Trade deal, that same farmer said: "Every time I hear the about the Mercosur trade deal or the CETA agreement with Canada, my heart skips a beat, it seems like agriculture is the one you can sell out in this country. On a practical level, you see the rainforests being cut down, and hormone-produced beef being imported to the EU and then we have a government that turns around and tells farmers here what we should be doing [to reduce climate change]."

Deputy McDonald said if the world is serious about dealing with the climate emergency, then a lot of the old orthodoxies are up for questioning. "What we need and we have argued this case consistently and strongly with government at a domestic and a European level, is consistency of approach, it would make very little sense to look for a linear drop in the herd in Ireland, if it is a thing that products from cattle elsewhere in the world have a larger negative impact. That's nutty, that doesn't make any sense. The government was put under sufficient pressure with Mercosur to at least now be ambivalent on it. They said they won't sign up, but they haven't said they'll put a stop to it, which is exactly what they should do."

METHANE CALCULATION

One farmer raised the issue of conflicting views around ruminant methane calculation. He was referring to a report from the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which claimed that the warming impact of methane, as calculated by the Global Warming Potential (GWP) could be overestimated by about 400%. "What science will you adopt? One that accurately reflects it, or one that keeps stitching us up like the guys that are in power at the moment?" he asked. Deputy McDonald's response was: "I am no expert on methane calculation, far from it, but I am aware that there is a debate around the best and most accurate measurements, and we need to be true to the best scientific advice of the moment, and in government, that is what we will do."



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IMPORTANCE OF MASTITIS CONTROL AND BENEFITS OF MILK RECORDING

AS WE APPROACH THE ONSET OF THE BUSY CALVING PERIOD ON IRISH DAIRY FARMS, AND THE START OF ANOTHER LACTATION, ELANCO ANIMAL HEALTH TERRITORY MANAGER, NIAL CLAFFEY SPEAKS WITH ELANCO ANIMAL HEALTH'S DR WESLEY POWER ON HOW TO CONTROL MASTITIS IN A CHANGING LANDSCAPE FOR FARMERS, AND TO MUNSTER BOVINE'S DR MARTIN KAVANAGH ON THE BENEFITS OF REGULAR MILK RECORDING

As one of the most economically detrimental diseases across Irish dairy herds, effective management of mastitis is key for farmers up and down the country. However, this must be achieved while being mindful of antibiotic stewardship. While a holistic approach is needed at farm level, vets play a crucial role in helping farmers implement mastitis best practice on farm, and through a more targeted approach, it is possible to keep the disease at bay, while reducing the risk of antibiotic resistant mastitis strains developing. In 2021, a study by Teagasc found that a case of mastitis costs a farmer an average of €60/cow/year. Saying that, during the period of more favourable milk prices like we are experiencing now, a drop in yield – as a result of mastitis – could be even more costly than before. This cost includes sub-clinical impacts,

such as penalties for lowered milk quality and lowered levels of milk production, as well as the clinical costs of antibiotics, veterinary labour, and culling.

SOMATIC CELL COUNT

"Raised somatic cell count (SCC) is an indicator of sub-clinical mastitis," said veterinary technical consultant at Elanco, Dr Power. "However, farmers don't always act on this, despite increasing SCC levels leading to a costly expense for the farm. The costs incurred are typically associated with lowered milk yield, reduced cow health and fertility," he explained.

"It's common to see two periods of increased mastitis levels through the lactation cycle; the first is during the 30 days post-calving and the second is when cows are dry." And, during

these times, farmers should be particularly vigilant to signs of mastitis, he said.

"The infection may not appear to be adversely impacting cows, particularly during drying off. However, once cows enter a state of negative energy balance, which occurs around calving, an infection can dramatically impact their health and performance due to their suppressed immunity."

CONTROLLING MASTITIS IN THE HERD

By having a well-rounded approach to mastitis prevention – which includes encompassing good staff practices, improved herd management and environmental considerations – farmers can see the benefits of this in yield and herd health. Some additional areas for farmers to consider when controlling mastitis infections on farm are:

1. Herd environment – avoid overcrowding and ensure cubicles are regularly cleaned, have dry bedding, and have lime regularly applied;
2. Cleanliness – reduce the risk of standing in manure by ensuring all passageways are regularly scraped and the collecting yard is



Herd environment and cleanliness are key considerations for farmers in the control of mastitis.

- cleaned down after every milking;
- 3. Handling procedure – during milking, operators should always wear gloves, ensuring these are regularly washed and disinfected or changed for a new pair, especially after touching a cow with a high SCC;
 - 4. Parlour procedure – the parlour, including all clusters, should be washed down and disinfected after each milking and liners should be regularly replaced;
 - 5. Nutrition – cows with a body condition score within ideal perimeters of 3-3.5 are significantly less likely to be impacted by a weakened immune system and multiple illnesses, including mastitis, can be prevented; and
 - 6. Antibiotic treatment – where treatment is required, a narrow-spectrum antibiotic should be used as a first port of call.

MILK RECORDING

According to sustainability and business development manager at Munster Bovine, Dr Martin Kavanagh, one of the first steps to better tackle mastitis issues involves regular milk recording.

“By taking regular milk recordings of all animals, rather than intermittent one-off tests for individual cows, farmers can act swiftly when heightened SCC levels are recorded. Often, this is the only way to catch early cases, as there are no visible signs of subclinical mastitis,” he said.

Farmers often perceive milk recording as an added expense and increased workload

throughout the year. However, its value should not be underestimated.

“The initial costs of regular milk recording can be hugely outweighed by catching early cases of mastitis and reducing the rapid spread of cases across a herd,” he said.

“Changes to legislation at the start of 2022 stipulate that no dairy farmer should be applying a blanket dry-cow treatment to the whole of their herd, unless they have clear evidence of this being necessary.

“Through regular herd milk recording, farmers can easily identify individual cows requiring treatment,” he added.

INCREASED RECORDING

As farmers come to terms with new antibiotic regulations here in Ireland, there has been a noticeable increase in milk recording at farm level. Looking at figures from the Irish Cattle Breeding Federation (ICBF) at the start of December 2022, there were over 1.1 million cows recorded. This represents a 131,843 head or 13.5% increase in 2022 when compared to the number of cows recorded in 2021.

IDENTIFICATION AND TREATMENT

Martin notes that it is crucial for farmers to take samples from any infected milk, once they have been alerted of a cow with a high SCC, to identify the strain of mastitis present.

“Farmers may attempt to do this themselves; however, the risk of cross contamination is significantly increased when tests aren’t collected by a trained professional.

“Identifying the strain will determine the most effective course of treatment and avoid the inappropriate use of antibiotics which contributes to the development of resistance.”

Vets and farmers must make better decisions on classifying mastitis by understanding the origin of cases, he added. “By doing so, they will reduce unnecessary antibiotic usage in accordance with increasing societal pressure and government regulation.”

He also noted that identifying the strain of mastitis present on a farm is also crucial to understand how contagious it could be, and whether treatment is an effective way to deal with cows with recurrent cases, or if culling should be considered.

Recorded cows by milk-recording organisation: 2021 versus 2022				
Organisation	2021	2022	Difference (head)	Difference (%)
Munster	540,111	624,860	84,749	15.7
Tipperary	22,307	22,959	652	2.9
Progressive	415,506	461,918	46,412	11.2
Total	977,924	1,109,767	131,843	13.5

Figure 1. Recorded cows up to December 2, 2022. Source: ICBF.



A novel approach to calf housing in New Zealand.

NEW ZEALAND THE BIG ISSUES

AFTER A LONG AND SUCCESSFUL CAREER WORKING WITH VOLAC INTERNATIONAL, PAT CAHILL IS NEARING RETIREMENT. RECENTLY, HOWEVER, HE SPENT SOME TIME IN NEW ZEALAND WORKING WITH THE COMPANY'S NUTRINZA DISTRIBUTOR THERE. IN PART TWO OF THE SERIES, PAT CONTINUES TO SHARE HIS NEW ZEALAND EXPERIENCE, AND DISCUSSES SOME OF THE BIG ISSUES FACING FARMERS AND CONTRACTORS

As I mentioned in my piece in the December issue of *Irish Farmers Monthly*, labour availability is a serious problem on New Zealand farms. Having travelled many countries over the past year, I am conscious that, post-Covid-19, farm labour shortage is a world problem, without any clear cause or explanation. The same is true in the urban settings in New Zealand, but in farming circles it is even more serious.

Most New Zealanders do not want to be involved in farm labour. It is a tough job. On twice-a-day-milking farms it involves starting at 5am and finishing at 5pm, with a rota necessary for weekends, and living in quite remote areas at times. The current pay levels are quite good as they had to increase to a level to attract employees, but the sector is still mostly dependent on non-nationals. There is quite a mix of Filipino, Indian, Brazilian and Fijian workers, but, in truth, the farm workers cross many nationalities.

On my many visits to farm contractors I was really surprised to see that most of

the bigger contractors are very dependent on Irish workers. Some of the serious contracting teams have 50 to 100 workers and, generally, 10 to 15 of these are Irish seasonal workers, with many returning for up to 10 seasons and some also settling permanently in these locations. During Covid-19 restrictions, these businesses say they suffered from the lack of this Irish labour resource and the positive view is that our Irish colleagues in these businesses are held in very high regard by the farm contractors.

TECHNOLOGY

As in every sector, technology is increasingly important in farm businesses, and I think the lack of labour and the large scale of farms are really driving this in New Zealand. Helicopter spraying of hilly areas, top dressing and general grass spraying is very common – maybe a bit too common. Some of the herbicide chemistry still allowed in New Zealand has been banned for quite some time in Europe. No matter how careful we try to be,

helicopter spreading is a rough estimate. There is serious work ongoing in New Zealand with drones to refine the ability to spot spray, spread fertilisers and general sprays which should seriously improve the efficiency, safety and environmental protection here. Cow collars have begun to get greater recognition over the past two years. The initial thrust towards adoption of the animal identification technology is for health, fertility cycling and rumination and it is proving very effective here. I talked to a farmer who has installed the Halter system, which includes virtual fencing, and is quite novel. It really allows the farmer to maximise his pasture usage without the continuous movement of fences. He already claims after only four months that he is seeing serious productivity gains, while decreasing his labour requirement substantially.

RETURN VISIT TO KAYCEE FARM

I had a long visit to Kaycee Farm in Wellsford. On my first visit to New Zealand several years ago, it was one of only three farms I knew that had installed



a computerised feeder system for 500 calves. Last spring, they installed eight Lely robots on their 600 Jersey-cow holding. It is a predominantly grass farm, with cow paddocks up to 1.2km away. The farm is in quite a remote area and the difficulty of keeping labour drove the management decision to install milking robots. After a steep learning curve involving the dismantling of their 48-unit rotary and installation of the robots in a two-month period, they are very happy with the outcome.

Four Turner family members comprise the total labour input on the farm now, including making their own grass silage and rearing 600 calves. They are very impressed with the huge flow of information from the robots and feel that they can really push on with productivity in the next season. Like the Turners, there are increasing numbers of farmers opting for computerised calf feeding and the development and introduction of the new feeding systems capable of rearing 250 calves with each unit will, I am sure, accelerate this technology roll-out.

GROUNDWELL - POLICY AND REGULATIONS

At one stage when I was making appointments during my sojourn in New Zealand, two farmers said to me that they were tied up in the 'groundwell'. I was a bit worried for them as I couldn't figure what dangerous-sounding operation this involved, but soon realised it was the farmer protests against the new government

emissions guidelines and the increasingly onerous consent and regulatory system being imposed on their farms. Since I arrived in New Zealand, without exception, I have seen nothing but anger, worry, and disillusionment among farmers at their government's policies especially, though not solely, around environmental regulation and production restrictions.

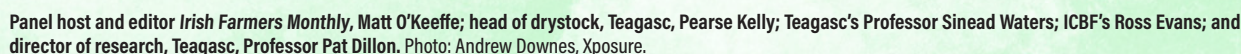
Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern's political party is extremely unpopular with the farming community at present. I think it started with the very rigorous regulations around Covid-19, when many farmers could not source employees, but the increasing vexation is building around several issues. Farmers coming towards the end of their careers have no stomach for the growing number of regulations coming down the track. The government regulatory body is disliked and feared in equal measure. However, if you compare the New Zealand regulatory system around silage/slurry/wash-off management and fertiliser management, it is probably 20 years behind where we have been regulated towards in Ireland. I believe that the regulations around run-offs, feeding pads and silage clamps will get tighter and tighter on New Zealand farms over the next decade. In addition, the excess numbers of calves relative to the requirements in the New Zealand beef market and the difficulty of creating value from the Kiwi/Jersey cross, is one of the bigger problems the New Zealand farm sector is facing, and I think it might be the biggest push towards major change in the current farming systems.

Grass and maize silage often stored in earthen banked pits in New Zealand.



DAMPENED ENTHUSIASM

In recent years, the increased levels of governmental intervention have definitely had a negative effect on the enthusiasm to farm in New Zealand. Unlike the land value inflation over the last 20 years, land prices have stalled. There are many farms up for sale with no buyers available. There are marginal farms, developed for dairying only 30 years or so ago, which are now being bought up by the forestry sector or government and planted in pine trees. Offsetting carbon tax is where the new profitability lies, it would appear. One farm I visited last November had bought back recently sold forest land and the newly planted pine trees were being incorporated into baleage (should be plenty of fibre present). The balance is precarious at present between commercial dairy farming and carbon farming.



IF DRY-STOCK FARMERS NEEDED REASSURANCE THAT MANAGEMENT CHANGES ON THEIR FARMS TO ACCOMMODATE EMISSION REDUCTION TARGETS CAN BE ENVIRONMENTALLY AND ECONOMICALLY POSITIVE AND VIABLE, THEY RECEIVED THOSE ASSURANCES AT TEAGASC'S NATIONAL BEEF CONFERENCE 2022, WRITES MATT O'KEEFFE

methane production would allow energy to be channelled into increased meat or milk productivity in the animal. No residue issues from these methane-reducing compounds have been identified, which is also highly reassuring.

Teagasc researcher, Dr Dominika Krol, told the audience of cattle producers that several of the marginal abatement cost curve (MACC) actions deliver clear, economic benefits as well as assisting in the pursuit of lower-carbon livestock production. The use of protected urea is price competitive with calcium ammonium nitrate (CAN) and is more effective in slowly releasing nitrogen as well as virtually eliminating the more volatile nature of urea as a fertiliser. There was a discussion on whether 'Ban CAN' should be considered in order to quicken the pace of adoption of protected urea, especially on dry-stock farms where adoption has been slower



Pictured at the National Beef Conference 2022 were Mervyn Cooke and David Hyde from Aughrim, Co. Galway.
Photo: Andrew Downes, Xposure.

than on dairy farms.

Head of drystock at Teagasc, Pearse Kelly, responded that such a measure should not be necessary as the advantages of protected urea become increasingly obvious. In addition, he mentioned the fact that, with lower fertiliser inputs, generally, on dry-stock farms, the big gains will be delivered on dairy farms from widespread adoption of protected urea, and that is already happening. Dominika also outlined the benefits of adopting low emission slurry spreading (LESS) technologies in tandem with selective slurry application rates, as well as weather and seasonal timing of applications. Pearse provided a follow-up commentary on both fertiliser and slurry use with the pertinent advice that improving pH through adequate liming has the capacity to greatly increase soil fertility and boost the benefits of chemical and organic fertilisers. Getting back up to the tonnages of lime spread in the 1970s and 1980s would do a lot, he added, to promote increased productivity in our soils.

ALL IN THE GENES

Ross Evans, an Irish Cattle Breeding Federation (ICBF) geneticist, outlined ongoing progress in the Economic Breeding Index (EBI) and the additional breeding traits being researched and introduced into the index, which can add economic gain as well as improve other aspects of sustainable animal production. The Dairy/Beef sub-Index was discussed at some length as was the more novel genetic potential to breed for animals with lower methane-production genetics. Research into breeding is always a balance between what is theoretically and practically achievable. While some traits

in some cattle breeds or breed lines are identifiable, unless the heritability of those traits is reasonably strong, their application in commercial cattle breeding is not always practical in a reasonable timescale. What was generally agreed was that purchasers of young stock for beefing do require far more data than is generally available around the beefing potential of those stock. The sooner universal genotyping is introduced and is readily available for scrutiny the better the outcomes from dairy calf to beef production, for instance.

AGE IS IMPORTANT

Whoever said that age is just a number, certainly did not mean it to be employed in relation to cattle farming. There was intense discussion, led by Colin Byrne and Paul Crosson of Teagasc's Grange Animal and Grassland Research Centre, around the benefits of reducing the age at first calving of suckler heifers. Add in the drive towards lowering the age of animals at slaughter and the importance of age in cattle farming is fully understood.

Moving from an understanding of the economic and environmental benefits of reducing age across those breeding and slaughter life-stages towards a faster adoption of the necessary practices to make them happen on a wider scale in the national cattle herd is another matter entirely. Progress is being made but not enough and not sufficiently fast enough to ensure that these age changes can make a viable contribution towards reducing our emission figures in cattle production. As Colin and Paul said, the economic outcomes are positive for lower age of slaughter as well as for a reduced age

of first calving. Those heifers go on to have longer, more productive lives than their older counterparts. The Teagasc Grange research is clear and unambiguous: 'Differences of 75 per cent and 12 per cent can be achieved in net margin per cow and carbon footprint, respectively, when calving at 24 versus 36 months of age.'

24-MONTH-CALVING IN PRACTICE

The truth is always in the practice and Future Beef farmer, Shane Keaveney, confirmed the success, economic and otherwise, of his on-farm experience with two-year calving of his suckler heifers. Shane's key performance indicators (KPIs) are impressive and demonstrative of what can be achieved with good management and breeding practices. Calving interval in the Keaveney suckler herd is 362 days compared to a national average of 393 days. Even within that national average, the extremes are staggering. The top 10 per cent achieve an interval of 358 days, far lower than the dairy-herd average, while the bottom 10 per cent have an extended calving interval of 437 days.

The calf-per-year figure for the Roscommon-based Keaveney herd is also worth highlighting. The figure of 1.04 calves per eligible female on the farm compares very favourably to the national average of 0.87 calves. Shane's cows deliver 0.02 more calves than the top 10 per cent of Irish suckler herds. The bottom 10 per cent figure can only be described as abysmal with that minority of herds only producing 0.68 calves per cow per year on average. The potential increased productivity and profitability from improving those KPIs runs to many millions of euros if compounded across the Irish suckler herd.



THE CONTINUING EMPHASIS ON ANIMAL WELFARE AND, ESPECIALLY, CALF CARE WAS REFLECTED IN A PAPER DELIVERED BY DR EMER KENNEDY AT TEAGASC'S NATIONAL DAIRY CONFERENCE, WRITES MATT O'KEEFFE

CALF WELFARE THERE IS NO ROOM FOR COMPLACENCY

Animal welfare on Irish farms is very high by international standards, but there is no room for complacency, according to Emer, whose presentation dealt with management and housing guidelines and their roles in achieving excellent calf welfare. Consumers, she pointed out, are increasingly insisting on validated standards of production and animal welfare when they purchase livestock produce.

The reality on many Irish dairy farms is that numbers of cows have increased substantially since the abolition of quotas, she said. Compact spring calving is the norm and that has led, not only to a significant increase in calf numbers, but also a peak period when large numbers of new calves are born on the farm in a short space of time. The workload to manage these calves, the labour available, and the infrastructure to house and feed these calves have had to be substantially increased. Automation of feeding has, in many cases, greatly assisted in ensuring that calf welfare and management have remained high, especially at a time when labour is at a premium both in terms of availability, calibre, and cost.

HOUSING REQUIREMENTS

In her presentation, Emer approached the subject of calf housing through analysis of data and survey material on farmer attitudes towards extended care of non-replacement calves on farms. The results were positive. Most farmers believe that they can cope with extending the period they need to keep calves on the farm before sale, if necessary. Generally, it is believed that there is adequate housing space available to cope with any extended timescale, as a result of weather or marketing conditions or increasing regulation around calf movement. As well as adequate floor and air space for calves, there is a guideline that a 'one-in-20' floor slope is best to help maintain clean and dry bedding areas. This feature is lacking in many calf houses as confirmed in the Teagasc survey material.

THE '1-6 RULE'

Emer reiterated a mantra she has been preaching, to good effect, for several years at calf-rearing events. The '1-6 rule' is all about best practice in those crucial early hours, days, and weeks in a calf's life.

- ▶ Feeding high-quality, first-milking beestings/colostrum and feeding it within

hours after birth are the first two parts of the rule.

- ▶ Three litres fed within two hours of birth, is the best way to ensure that maximum antibodies are absorbed by the calf in that critical period. Stomach-tube feeding does take the guesswork out and ensures that the calf gets the right amount of colostrum as soon as possible after birth but there is an absolute need to keep that equipment clean, so having several tubes available is recommended.
- ▶ Next up in the calf rule book is the transition period for the new-born during which at least four feeds of transition milk (early post-calving milk) are given to the calf.
- ▶ The daily intake recommendation is for a calf to be getting at least five litres of transition milk every day.
- ▶ Finally, part six of the rule states that by one week of age, calves should be offered six litres of milk or milk replacer split into two feeds. As ever, this may vary somewhat depending on individual calves.

The increasing automation of calf feeding often means that, as the weeks go on, calves always have access to adequate milk or milk

replacer. That, of course, is not a free-for-all and computerised automatic feeders do offer very detailed analysis and management of a calf's daily feeding pattern and intake levels. This, in turn, provides calf managers with a high level of data around the health of individual calves.

TESTING COLOSTRUM

We now have the technology to ensure that colostrum quality is adequate to meet the nutritional needs of the new-born calf. A hand-held Brix refractometer allows colostrum to be tested quickly and provides an immediate reading of colostrum quality. A reading value in excess of 22 per cent is recommended. In essence, this is a measurement of density, and, in scientific terms, the 22 per cent minimum means that the new-born calf is consuming three litres of colostrum containing greater than 50g/L of immunoglobulins within those important first post-birth hours, when the calf has no natural resistance and is dependent on its mother's milk to provide it with defensive antibodies. Many of the health challenges that

assail young calves can and will be avoided by providing a calf with those defensive antibodies in the first hours after birth, Emer said.

ONGOING MANAGEMENT

While colostrum and good quality milk and/or milk powder are a prerequisite to the nutritional needs of a young calf, the need to provide a fresh, clean water source at all times, along with regularly replenished and replaced concentrate feed, was highlighted. The long-term aim is to encourage rumen development for the calf's subsequent lifelong diet and digestive needs. There is a regular debate and discussion at calf-rearing events about the need for and type of roughage to be provided. There is no definitive answer as fresh straw or good quality hay are equally adequate at the early dietary stage. Roughage does not provide much early growth stage nutrition, per se, but it does have a role.

A ROLE FOR EVERY CALF

A subject that was not dealt with at length at the conference was the absolute need

to ensure that all new-born calves have a viable role. We have seen where the historical New Zealand strategy in relation to low-economic-value calves has led that industry. Along with public dissatisfaction with some environmentally weak farm practices, the general public in New Zealand are highly critical of some animal-welfare practices, most especially in relation to the treatment of low- or no-value, non-replacement calves on many New Zealand dairy farms. Such an approach cannot be countenanced on Irish farms in future. What may be a cost-effective, economic decision is not a publicly acceptable approach. Pure economic decisions must be tempered with the need to maintain public and consumer acceptance of our production and livestock-management practices. It is noteworthy that Teagasc and the dairy-processing co-ops are moving quickly to ensure that even a small minority of our dairy farms are not caught short in terms of public awareness and acceptance of how our livestock are managed and cared for throughout their lives.

For a healthier start and to improve gut condition, digestion and growth rates



RESPOND NOW!



Choose from 2 different delivery methods:



Response Paste,
15g (single application)
or 35g (double application)
given at birth



Response Capsule,
2 given at birth

Your calves will benefit from colostrum, beneficial bacteria, egg powder and vitamins.

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T.P. Whelehan on **(01) 4688900** or email **info@provita.co.uk**



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The FBD Young Farmer of the Year Awards 2022 which took place recently.

FARMING FOR OUR FUTURE

THE WINNERS OF THIS YEAR'S FBD YOUNG FARMER OF THE YEAR, IN ASSOCIATION WITH MACRA, REPRESENT THE BEST OF IRELAND'S YOUNG FARMERS WHO ARE LEADING THE WAY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS. HERE, WE TALK TO OVERALL WINNER CHRISTOPHER TUFFY ABOUT HIS PRIORITIES FOR THE NEW YEAR

Christopher is a spring-calving dairy farmer from Sligo, milking on a leased block. He farms alongside his parents, partner Eimear and baby Iarlaith. Talking to *Irish Farmers Monthly*, he says that he has had his eye on the FBD Young Farmer of the Year trophy for a while now: "I'm delighted to win this title because it means an awful lot to me, especially being the first winner from Sligo. I'm a very proud Sligo man. I am the fourth member of Matt Ryan's discussion group to take the award and I have been watching the others win over the last few years, so I have had my eye on the cup for long time!"

Category winners

Dairy category: Christopher Tuffy

Land Mobility category: Michael Quigley

Drystock category: Edward Roe

Other Enterprises category: Frank Melody

Best New Entrant award: Kieran Dunphy

Biodiversity Young Farmer of the Year: Andrew McMenamin

WINNING ATTRIBUTES

Commenting on the competition and the winning entrant, chair of the judging panel Joe Healy noted: "There was an extremely high standard from all the contestants at semi-final and final level and their knowledge, and positivity, towards the challenges and the opportunities in Irish agricultural was second to none." Tomás Ó Midheach, CEO, FBD Insurance, added: "This award is very well deserved, it is a testament to Christopher's hard work, passion and dedication. FBD Insurance is proud to partner with FBD Trust to continue our long-standing relationship with Macra and the FBD Young Farmer of



Tomas Ó Midheach, CEO of FBD with Young Farmer of the Year 2022 Christopher Tuffy.

The FBD Young Farmer of the Year awards are run annually by Macra in partnership with the IFA. The competition was launched in 1999 and has been successful in raising the profile of young farmers within their community by recognising their achievements and contribution to farming. Adjudication candidates are judged under the following criteria:

- ▶ Farm business initiative and innovation;
- ▶ Knowledge of production costs and returns;
- ▶ Vision and planning for the future farm business;
- ▶ General agricultural, environmental protection and sustainability knowledge;
- ▶ Involvement in agri sector and the community;
- ▶ Personal development initiatives; and
- ▶ Farm safety.

the Year awards. We are proud to support awards which celebrate the achievements of our young farmers and their contribution to farming. Our hope is that these awards will inspire the next generation of farmers to build strong and sustainable farm businesses for the future."

DRIVING EFFICIENCIES

Christopher grew up on a small dairy farm in west Sligo where his father used to work 60 acres in three blocks: "It was a lovely system for one man, but when I came home from college it wasn't big enough for me, so we leased another block. We are milking around 150 cows and the focus is on efficiencies and looking to reduce our carbon footprint. We have introduced white clover, covering around 15 per cent of the grazing platform



Chair of the judging panel, Joe Healy, addressing the audience.



Tomas Ó Midheach, CEO of FBD with Young Farmer of the Year 2022 Christopher Tuffy.

now, with plans to increase this to 40 per cent next year. We are also using protected urea. We are trying to be as efficient as we can." Does Christopher believe that Irish farmers are doing enough towards achieving the climate action targets in place?

"There is a lot of work being done on the ground and I don't think this is reflected in the mainstream media. There is so much negativity out there. But I understand that we still need to do an awful lot more.

One issue I think is important for young Irish farmers is that there is some incentive for those who are hitting their targets and we need more support. It frustrates me that not everyone is towing the line and those who are do not get the recognition they deserve." For the coming year, Christopher says the focus will be to increase performance of the herd and to hit his clover targets. "We need to continue to drive efficiencies and fine-tune our dairy enterprise every year"

INSPIRING THE FUTURE

Commenting on Christopher's win, John Keane, president of Macra, said: "Christopher has demonstrated the skills and knowledge that it takes to be the pinnacle of Irish agriculture. I know that Christopher will inspire many young people to become farmers for the future but also to inspire those already farming to improve and develop."

TRACTORGUIDE2023



The McCormick X6.414 P6-Drive, winner in the Best Utility category at the Tractor of the Year awards, 2023.



Efficiency and design upgrades make the 6R a popular choice for farmers and contractors

We take a look at some of the key features of the 6R 185 that appealed to Irish farmers and contractors following John Deere's upgrade of that series, and we look at the compact four-cylinder 6120M, which has also been popular here



The 6R 185 has been a popular choice among farmers and contractors.

When launched at the end of 2021, John Deere's popular 6R range comprised 14 'new-generation' models ranging from 110-250hp. It was the compact, efficient, six-cylinder 6R 185 that the company believed would be the most popular, pitched as a specialist transport machine for farmers and contractors who spend plenty of time on the road. And for those in need of a power boost, the IPM feature delivered an additional 49hp to take the machine up to 234hp.

The 6R 185 is an agile tractor, due to its short wheelbase of just 2.76m, which makes it more compact than the larger 6R models which have wheelbase lengths of 2.8m or 2.9m.

This feature, combined with the proven 6.8L John Deere PowerTech PSS engine and highly efficient AutoPower transmission, has made this tractor particularly fuel efficient on the road, according to the company.

John Deere's 6R 250 flagship model has already set a new efficiency standard in transport applications, and John Deere is 'convinced that the 6R 185 will be a worthy heir in this class'.

Another key feature of the 6R 185 is the integrated 1-Click-Go AutoSetup system, which makes tractor and implement settings much quicker and easier to use. The operator can save up to 90 per cent of display clicks in the field and the tractor is always perfectly adjusted.

John Deere's E-joystick – particularly useful for front-loader work – means operators can freely configure the layout of the buttons and can easily change the direction of travel using the reverser button, while a special hand-detection system replaces the former safety flap.

For front loaders, there is a dynamic weighing system that allows

weighing on the move, without having to stop. In addition, the Return to Position feature enables the loader to be placed into the correct position with one click, while Level to Horizon avoids spilling the bucket load.

Power and manoeuvrability in Deere's 6120M

John Deere's four-cylinder 6120M tractor has become another popular machine for Irish farmers and contractors. It offers an IPM power boost from 120-145hp and has excellent suitability for front-loader work.

With a high payload of 4.7 tonnes (t), it has a compact and flexible design due to its 2.4m wheelbase. The 6120M is also built to handle even the heaviest of implements, with the robust category 3N rear hitch having a maximum lift capacity of up to 5,700kg.

The four-cylinder 6120M features higher standards of comfort, performance, manoeuvrability and visibility compared to previous models in the range.

This is a more compact 6M Series tractor than John Deere offered previously, with the low bonnet design providing a clear view to the front of the machine. In addition, a slimmer steering wheel cowl and the newly designed panoramic window in the cab roof provides full visibility for loader work and operating in confined spaces.

Improved manoeuvrability is a result of the short wheelbase, which allows a tight turning circle of only 4.35m on the 6120M. Despite their slim design, these full-frame concept tractors feature a maximum permissible gross weight of 10.45t, which means an unrivalled payload capacity in this class of up to 4.7t.



The four-cylinder 6120M.

Tech-focused iCON a firm favourite



JCB's Fastrac iCON 4000 series and 8000 series, launched in 2022, introduced us to an all-new, impressive electronics infrastructure to deliver 'higher levels of performance and convenience while giving operators unprecedented choice in the way they operate their machine' the company said. JCB set out to achieve this with three key features: iCONFIGURE, which creates a bespoke control experience for every operator;

iCONNECT, which integrates advanced precision agriculture technology; and iCONTROL, which redefines operation through new driveline software. The Fastrac 4220 iCON turned heads at the 2023 Tractor of the Year (TotY) awards, enough to win the Sustainable TotY category – and for good reason. Here are some of the features of the Fastrac iCON:

- New iCON armrest console with position-adjustable 12-inch colour touch-screen display;
- Optional integrated Isobus for efficient touch-screen implement control;
- Fully integrated GPS guidance and precision farming application options;
- Smart Transmission Control for added powertrain efficiency and operator comfort;
- Unique choice of 'classic' and 'pro' joystick transmission control formats;
- Multi-function auxiliary joystick with configurable buttons, rocker and x-y hydraulic controls;
- Memory for up to 50 different control profiles for different machines and

operators;

- JCB Headland Turn Assist now has up to 50 individual sequences with up to 50 steps each; and

- New automatic climate control air conditioning with solar load and temperature monitoring.

Commenting, JCB agriculture managing director, John Smith said: "We had three major objectives with this important project for the JCB Fastrac: to create a bespoke operator experience; integrate electronics technology such as ISOBUS and GPS guidance; and redefine the already high level of operator control and driving comfort that the Fastrac offers. "At the same time, we wanted to maintain a familiarity in terms of the controls and information displays to ensure existing users can quickly adapt to the new system. Feedback from our extensive development and testing work with evaluation customers shows we have achieved all of these objectives, making the Fastrac an even more attractive proposition in terms of performance, productivity and operator appeal."

A worthy winner

When 26 leading agri-machinery journalists agree on what machine deserves victory in the Best Utility category in the 2023 Tractor of the Year awards, you know you are on to a winner. And McCormick's X6.414 P6-Drive is very worthy one, indeed! The judges commended McCormick for bringing 'open-field technology to the multi-purpose tractor segment, recognising the need for greater versatility for tractors in this segment and the demand for precision-farming technology'. The X6.414 P6 was designed with versatility, performance and comfort in mind, and that is what we got. Stage V compliant thanks to the exhaust gas post-treatment system, the range features models X6.413, X6.414 and X6.415, powered by 4.5-litre, 16-valve, four-cylinder FPT NEF 45 engines with a maximum power output of

146hp on the winning model.

The model's strengths are the front axle with independent suspension, four-wheel braking, the P6-Drive transmission with six PowerShift gears and four robotised ranges, manufactured by Argo Tractors, the McCormick High Vision Cab (cab with FOPS-approved panoramic roof, additional hatch for natural ventilation and LED field lights). Also improving driving comfort is the mechanical cab suspension, designed with high-quality materials and equipped with ergonomic controls, 12-inch touch screen monitor and Smart Pilot Plus multifunction joystick, capable of simultaneously controlling the transmission, front loader, front hitch and hydraulic system. Additionally, it has a four-speed power take-off with synchronised option. The front hitch can lift up to 2,500kg, while



the electronic rear lifting system can lift up to 7,200kg. The hydraulic system is closed centre with a flow rate of 114L/min, capable of supplying up to seven spool valves.

Also available is the PSM Precision Steering Management system for satellite guidance, which interfaces seamlessly with the Isobus system for controlling the implements and with McCormick Fleet & Remote Diagnostic Management, a fleet management and remote diagnostics system.



Make/Model	Drive	No. of gears	Max linkage (kg)	Engine (hp)	PTO (ISO)	Price € (excl. VAT)
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COMPACTS



McCormick X2.55.

JCB

403 AG Plus	-	-	1,215*	50	-	65,682
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*Full turning tipping load for wheeled loading shovels.

JOHN DEERE

1026R	4wd	2-range Hydro	525	26	-	19,555
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Cabbed version is €26,823 excl. VAT

2026R	4wd	2-range Hydro	560	26	-	22,830
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Cabbed version is €30,098 excl. VAT

2032R	4wd	2-range Hydro	615	32	-	29,295
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Cabbed version is €36,819 excl. VAT

2038R	4wd	2-range Hydro	615	38	-	31,841
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Cabbed version is €39,365 excl. VAT

3025E	4wd	2-range Hydro	615	25	-	24,719
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3038E	4wd	2-range Hydro	615	38	-	28,558
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3039R	4wd	12+12 PowrReverser	995	39	-	38,634
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No cabbed version available with PowrReverser transmission

3039R	4wd	3-range eHydro	995	39	-	40,075
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Cabbed version is €49,464 excl. VAT

3046R	4wd	3-range eHydro	995	46	-	42,190
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Cabbed version is €51,579 excl. VAT.

LANDINI

2-055 Mistral	4wd	12x12	1,200	49	540/1,000	39,600
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2-060 Mistral	4wd	12x12	1,200	57	540/1,000	41,950
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Rex3-070F	4wd	12x12	2,700	55	540/1,000	43,830
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Rex3-080F	4wd	12x12	2,700	68	540/1,000	44,675
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MASSEY FERGUSON

Make/Model	Drive	Cab\ Platform	No. of gears	Hydrostatic	Max linkage (kg)	Engine (hp)	Price € from (excl. VAT)
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MF1520A Mech	4wd	Platform only	8Fx8R	-	60	20	24,420
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MF1525H Hydro	4wd	Platform only	-	3 speed Hydro	1,100	25	29,890
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Make/Model	Drive	Cab\ Platform	No. of gears	Hydrostatic	Max linkage (kg)	Engine (hp)	Price € from (excl. VAT)
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MF1735M Hydro	4wd	Cab\Platform	-	3 speed Hydro	1,200	35	43,430*\
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*Plat Hydro ** Cab Hydro							54,300**
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MF1740M Hydro	4wd	Cab\Platform	-	3 speed Hydro	1,200	40	49,460*\
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*Plat Hydro ** Cab Hydro							60,350**
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MF1750M Hydro	4wd	Cab	-	3 speed Hydro	1,580	49	67,910
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MF1755M Mech	4wd	Cab	12Fx12R	-	1,580	54	65,500
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MF1765 Mech\Hyd	4wd	Cab\Platform	12Fx12R	3 speed Hydro	1,600	67	60,660*\
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* Plat Mech **Cab Mech *** Cab Hydro							71,530**\
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							73,950***
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New Models 2022

MF1740E	4wd	Platform only	8Fx8R	Mech	1,000	40	36,750
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MF1755E	4wd	Platform only	12Fx12R	Mech	1,200	55	47,660
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Make/Model	Drive	No. of gears	Max linkage (kg)	Engine (hp)	PTO (ISO)	Price € (excl. VAT)
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McCORMICK

X2.55	4wd	12x12	1,200	49	540/1,000	39,600
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X2.60	4wd	12x12	1,200	57	540/1,000	41,950
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X3.70F	4wd	12x12	2,700	55	540/1,000	43,830
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X3.80F	4wd	12x12	2,700	68	540/1,000	44,675
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NEW HOLLAND

Boomer Series

Boomer 25 Compact	4wd	Hydro	450	24.7	-	19,823
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Boomer 25	4wd	Hydro	650	27	-	21,856
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Boomer 35 CAB	4wd	12+12	820	38	-	37,151
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Boomer 35 CAB	4wd	Hydro	820	38	-	39,252
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Boomer 35 ROPS	4wd	12+12	820	38	-	29,046
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Boomer 35 ROPS	4wd	Hydro	820	38	-	29,655
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Boomer 40 CAB	4wd	12x12	820	41	-	39,999
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Boomer 40 CAB	4wd	Hydro	820	41	-	42,100
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Boomer 40 ROPS	4wd	12x12	820	41	-	31,893
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Boomer 40 ROPS	4wd	Hydro	820	41	-	32,502
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Boomer 45 CAB	4wd	16x16	1,250	47	-	41,495
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Boomer 45 CAB	4wd	Hydro	1,250	47	-	43,596
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Boomer 45 ROPS	4wd	16x16	1,250	47	-	33,389
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Boomer 45 ROPS	4wd	Hydro	1,250	47	-	33,998
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Boomer 50 CAB	4wd	16+16	1,250	52	-	43,021
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Boomer 50 CAB	4wd	Hydro	1,250	52	-	45,122
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Boomer 50 ROPS	4wd	16+16	1,250	52	-	34,917
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Boomer 50 ROPS	4wd	Hydro	1,250	52	-	35,526
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Boomer 55 CAB	4wd	16x16	1,250	57	-	44,711
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Boomer 55 CAB	4wd	Hydro	1,250	57	-	46,812
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Boomer 55 ROPS	4wd	16x16	1,250	57	-	36,604
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Boomer 55 ROPS	4wd	Hydro	1,250	57	-	37,213
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SONALIKA

Solis 16 Rops	4wd	6+2	500	16	16	8,617
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Solis 20 Rops	4wd	6+2	500	20	17	10,000
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Solis 26 Rops	4wd	6+2	600	26	23	10,902
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Solis 26 Rops	4wd	Hydrostatic	600	26	23	13,398
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Solis 50 Rops	4wd	12x12	2,500	50	48	24,382
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Solis 50 with cab	4wd	12x12	2,500	50	48	26,788
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MF 5700 M | 95-135 HP

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New Holland T4.75S.

Make/Model	Drive	No. of gears	Max linkage (kg)	Engine (hp)	PTO (ISO)	Price € (excl. VAT)
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51-80HP

CASE IH

Farmall A

55	2wd	12+12	2,700	55	36,093
55	4wd	12+12	2,700	55	44,670
65	2wd	12+12	2,700	65	37,084
65	4wd	12+12	2,700	65	45,659
75	2wd	12+12	2,700	75	38,629
75	4wd	12+12	2,700	75	47,205

Farmall C

55	2wd	12+12	2,500	56	45,433
55	4wd	12+12	2,500	56	49,728
65	2wd	12+12	2,500	65	47,706
65	4wd	12+12	2,500	65	52,001
75	2wd	12+12	2,500	75	49,294
75	4wd	12+12	2,500	75	53,589

DEUTZ FAHR

3 Series

3050 Basso	4wd	SS 12x12	1,200	51	-	39,910
3050	4wd	SS 12x12	1,200	51	-	40,160
3060	4wd	SS 12x12	1,200	59	-	42,160

5D

5070 D Keyline	4wd	SS 15+15	2,500	66	-	57,070
5080 D Keyline	4wd	SS 15+15	2,500	76	-	59,170
5070 DF Keyline	4wd	SS 8x8	2,700	66	-	46,710
5080 DF Keyline	4wd	SS 8x8	2,700	76	-	48,450

SS = synchro shuttle.

FENDT

207 S Vario Gen3	4wd	-	-	79	-	97,860
208 S Vario Gen3	4wd	-	-	84	-	99,980

JCB

407 AG	-	-	3,326	64	-	75,358
TM220	-	-	2,200	74	-	105,427
525-60	-	-	2,500	74	-	75,000



John Deere 4066M compact.

Make/Model	Drive	No. of gears	Max linkage (kg)	Engine (hp)	PTO (ISO)	Price € (excl. VAT)
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JOHN DEERE

4052M compact	4wd	3-range eHydro	1,229	52	-	37,888
4052M with 12x12 PowrReverser transmission is €36,155.						
4066M compact	4wd	3-range eHydro	1,229	66	-	39,206
4066M with 12x12 PowrReverser transmission is €37,473.						
4052R compact*	4wd	3-range eHydro	1,229	52	-	53,342
4066R compact*	4wd	3-range eHydro	1,229	66	-	56,826
5050E	4wd	9+3	1,800	49	-	34,958
5058E	4wd	12+12	1,800	60	-	39,816

This is the price of an Open Station with the basic transmission. There are also TechCenter cab options with or without A/C but it's only available with the 24x12 PowrReverser (40km/h) transmission.

5067E	4wd	12+12	1,800	68	-	43,775
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As above, but you don't have to get the 24x12 transmission to order this one with a TechCenter cab.

5075E	4wd	12+12	1,800	75	-	46,285
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As above

50756F (fruit)	4wd	12+12	2,888	75	-	57,145
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Open Station price. Cabbed version is €57,145, 4wd in base, 2wd version available for €3,761 cheaper.

50756L (low profile)	4wd	24+24	2,218	75	-	58,911
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Cabbed version is €69,614.00 excl. VAT.

50756N (narrow)	4wd	12+12	2,888	75	-	63,500
50756V (vineyard)	4wd	12+12	2,888	75	-	64,709
5075M	4wd	16+16	4,326	75	-	61,252

Price includes economy cab. No Open Station option for 5075M.

*The 4052R and 4066R compact prices include ComfortGard cab. The 5075M and 5090M models are also available with 2wd.

KUBOTA

L1522 (ROPS)	4wd	8F/8R	1,750	52	N/A	29,311
L1552 (ROPS)	4wd	HDS	1,750	52	N/A	33,245
L2522 (CAB)	4wd	16F/16R	1,750	52	N/A	42,846
L2622 HST CAB	4wd	HST 3 Range	1,750	62	N/A	52,607
M4-063	4wd	18F/18R	2,500	66	N/A	51,676
M4-063 (ROPS)	4wd	18F/18R	2,500	66	N/A	43,769
M4-073	4wd	18F/18R	2,500	74	N/A	54,640
M4-073	4wd	36F/36R	2,500	74	N/A	55,866

FENDT

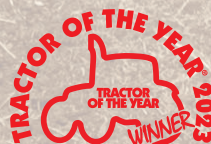
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Make/Model	Drive	No. of gears	Max linkage (kg)	Engine (hp)	PTO (ISO)	Price € (excl. VAT)
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LANDINI

4-060	4wd	24/24	3,000	61	540/1,000	54,200
4-070	4wd	24/24	3,000	68	540/1,000	55,550
4-080	4wd	24/24	3,000	75	540/1,000	57,270
5-085	4wd	24/24/	3,900	75	540/1,000	68,050

MASSEY FERGUSON

MF3 Series

MF3 VI	4wd	12\12:24\24:24\12	2,500	75	-	POA
MF3 SP	4wd	12\12:24\24:24\12	2,500	75	-	POA
MF3GE	4wd	12\12:24\24:24\12	2,500	75	-	POA
MF3FR	4wd	12\12:24\24:24\12	2,500	75	-	POA
MF3 WF	4wd	12\12:24\24:24\12	2,500	75	-	POA
MF3 AL	4wd	12\12:24\24:24\12	2,500	75	-	POA

VI = vineyard version; SP = special version; FR = fruit version; GE = ground effect version; WF = wide fruit version; AL = alpine version.

MCCORMICK

X4.60	4wd	24/24	3,000	61	540/1000	54,200
X4.70	4wd	24/24	3,000	68	540/1000	55,550
X4.80	4wd	24/24	3,000	75	540/1000	57,270
X5.085	4wd	24/24/	3,900	75	540/1000	68,050

NEW HOLLAND

T4S

T4S.55	2wd	8+8	-	55	-	42,568
T4S.55	4wd	8+8	-	55	-	50,809
T4S.65	2wd	8+8	-	65	-	43,594
T4S.65	4wd	8+8	-	65	-	51,836
T4S.75	2wd	8+8	-	75	-	45,111
T4S.75	4wd	8+8	-	75	-	53,091

T4

T4.55	2wd	12+12	2,760	58	-	57,442
T4.55	4wd	12+12	2,760	58	-	62,746
T4.65	2wd	12+12	2,760	65	-	59,128
T4.65	4wd	12+12	2,760	65	-	64,432



Same Delfino 50.

Make/Model	Drive	No. of gears	Max linkage (kg)	Engine (hp)	PTO (ISO)	Price € (excl. VAT)
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T4.75	2wd	12+12	2,760	75	-	60,383
T4.75	4wd	12+12	2,760	75	-	65,687
T5						
T5.80 mech	4wd	12+12	3,884	80	-	76,774
T5.80 DC	4wd	24x24	3,884	80	-	87,830
T5.80 P/S	4wd	12+12	3,884	80	-	82,871

All above with cab.

SAME

DELFINO

Delfino 50 Basso	4wd	SS 12x12	1,200	51	-	39,930
Delfino 50	4wd	SS 12x12	1,200	51	-	40,190
Delfino 60	4wd	SS 12x12	1,200	59	-	42,190

DORADO

Dorado 80 Natural	4wd	SS 15+15	3,500	66	-	57,070
Dorado 90 Natural	4wd	SS 15+15	3,500	76	-	59,170

FRUTTETO

Fruttetto 70 Natural	4wd	SS 8x8	3,050	66	-	46,710
Fruttetto 80 Natural	4wd	SS 8x8	3,050	76	-	48,450

VALTRA

A75SH	-	-	-	75	-	63,930
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MORE INFO

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Make/Model	Drive	No. of gears	Max linkage (kg)	Engine (hp)	PTO (ISO)	Price € (excl. VAT)
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81-150 HP

BELARUS

Belarus 320	4wd	14+4	2,200	45	45	19,200
Belarus 622	4wd	14+4	2,400	60	60	25,200
Belarus 578	4wd	14+4	3,000	70	70	26,400
Belarus 920	4wd	14+4	3,200	81	81	28,800
Belarus 952	4wd	14+4	3,200	90	90	31,800
Belarus 920.3	4wd	14+4	3,200	85	85	30,000
Belarus 952.3	4wd	14+4	3,200	95	95	32,400
Belarus 1025	4wd	16+8	3,200	105	105	36,000
Belarus 1025.3	4wd	16+8	3,200	110	110	37,200
Belarus 1221.3	4wd	16+8	3,200	135	135	48,000
Belarus 1523.3	4wd	16+8	3,200	150	150	62,400

CASE IH

Farmall A

90	4wd	12+12	4,400	87	-	72,241
100	4wd	12+12	4,400	99	-	75,741

Farmall C

90	4wd	12+12	4,400	86	-	65,081
100	4wd	12+12	4,400	99	-	69,355

Farmall CPS

90	4wd	12+12	4,400	86	-	67,286
100	4wd	12+12	4,400	99	-	72,100
110	4wd	12+12	4,400	107	-	75,161
120	4wd	12+12	4,400	114	-	79,216

Farmall C Hi-Lo

90	4wd	PS24+24	4,400	86	-	72,844
100	4wd	PS24+24	4,400	99	-	77,065
110	4wd	PS24+24	4,400	107	-	80,049
120	4wd	PS24+24	4,400	114	-	84,050

Farmall C Hi-Lo HD

100	4wd	PS24+24	4,400	99	-	94,628
110	4wd	PS24+24	4,400	107	-	97,647
120	4wd	PS24+24	4,400	114	-	101,652



Belarus 920.

Make/Model	Drive	No. of gears	Max linkage (kg)	Engine (hp)	PTO (ISO)	Price € (excl. VAT)
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Luxxum

100	4wd	32 x 32	4,701	97	-	114,510
110	4wd	32 x 32	4,701	107	-	117,405
120	4wd	32 x 32	4,701	117	-	121,371

Vestrum CVX

100	4wd	CVT 40km/h	5,600	100	-	132,727
110	4wd	CVT 40km/h	5,600	110	-	136,101
120	4wd	CVT 40km/h	5,600	120	-	141,368
130	4wd	CVT 40km/h	5,600	130	-	145,665

Maxxum

125	4wd	PS16x16	7,115	125	-	133,584
145	4wd	PS16x16	7,115	145	-	141,149
150	4wd	PS16x16	7,115	145	-	145,378

Maxxum Multicontroller

125	4wd	PS24x24	7,864	125	-	146,112
145	4wd	PS24x24	7,864	145	-	153,683
150	4wd	PS24x24	7,864	145	-	158,124

Maxxum CVX

125	4wd	CVT 40km/h	7,864	125	-	162,477
145	4wd	CVT 40km/h	7,864	145	-	170,160
150	4wd	CVT 40km/h	7,864	145	-	174,646



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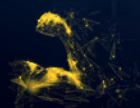
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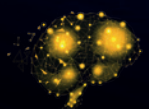
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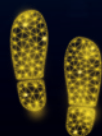
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Deutz Fahr 5125 Stage V.

Make/Model	Drive	No. of gears	Max linkage (kg)	Engine (hp)	PTO (ISO)	Price € (excl. VAT)
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Puma

140	4wd	SP 18x6 40km/h	8,257	140	-	155,767
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150	4wd	SP 18x6 40km/h	8,257	150	-	160,790
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Puma Multicontroller

150	4wd	FPS18x6 50km/h	8,257	150	-	178,949
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Puma CVX

150	4wd	CVT 50km/h	8,257	150	-	202,198
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CLAAS

Nexus 220 S/M/L/XL	2/4wd	24/24 or 30/30	3,100	85	540	POA
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Nexus 230 S/M/L/XL	2/4wd	24/24 or 30/30	3,100	92	540	POA
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Nexus 240 S/M/L/XL	2/4wd	24/24 or 30/30	3,100	103	540	POA
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Nexus 260 S/M/L/XL	2/4wd	30/30	3,100	120	540	POA
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Arion 410 CLASSIC (Stage V)	4wd	16+16	4,500	90	540/1000	POA
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Arion 410 C (Stage V)	4wd	16+16	4,500	90	540/1000	POA
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Arion 410 CIS (Stage V)	4wd	16+16	4,500	90	540/1000	POA
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Arion 420 CLASSIC (Stage V)	4wd	16+16	4,500	100	540/1000	POA
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Arion 420 C (Stage V)	4wd	16+16	4,500	100	540/1000	POA
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Arion 420 CIS (Stage V)	4wd	16+16	4,500	100	540/1000	POA
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Arion 430 CLASSIC (Stage V)	4wd	16+16	6,000	115	540/1000	POA
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Arion 430 CIS (Stage V)	4wd	16+16	6,000	115	540/1000	POA
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Arion 440 CLASSIC (Stage V)	4wd	16+16	6,000	125	540/1000	POA
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Arion 440 CIS (Stage V)	4wd	16+16	6,000	125	540/1000	POA
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Arion 440 CIS+ (Stage V)	4wd	16+16	6,000	125	540/1000	POA
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Arion 450 CLASSIC (Stage V)	4wd	16+16	6,000	135	540/1000	POA
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Arion 450 CIS (Stage V)	4wd	16+16	6,000	135	540/1000	POA
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Arion 450 CIS+ (Stage V)	4wd	16+16	6,000	135	540/1000	POA
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Arion 460 CLASSIC (Stage V)	4wd	16+16	6,000	145	540/1000	POA
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Arion 460 CIS (Stage V)	4wd	16+16	6,000	145	540/1000	POA
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Arion 460 CIS+ (Stage V)	4wd	16+16	6,000	145	540/1000	POA
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Arion 470 CLASSIC (Stage V)	4wd	16+16	6,000	155	540/1000	POA
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Make/Model	Drive	No. of gears	Max linkage (kg)	Engine (hp)	PTO (ISO)	Price € (excl. VAT)
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Arion 470 CIS (Stage V)	4wd	16+16	6,000	155	540/1000	POA
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Arion 470 CIS+ (Stage V)	4wd	16+16	6,000	155	540/1000	POA
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ARION 510 CLASSIC (Stage 5)	4wd	24+24	6,500	125	540/1000	POA
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Arion 510 CIS / CIS+ (Stage 5)	4wd	24+24	6,500	125	540/1000	POA
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Arion 510 CEBIS (Stage 5)	4wd	24+24	6,500	125	540/1000	POA
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Arion 510 CMATIC CIS+ /						
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CEBIS (Stage 5)	4wd	CVT	6,500	125	540/1000	POA
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Arion 530 CIS /						
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CIS+ (Stage 5)	4wd	24+24	6,500	145	540/1000	POA
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Arion 530 CEBIS (Stage 5)	4wd	24+24	6,500	145	540/1000	POA
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Arion 530 CMATIC CIS+ /						
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CEBIS (Stage 5)	4wd	CVT	6,500	145	540/1000	POA
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Arion 610 CLASSIC (Stage 5)	4wd	24+24	6,500	145	540/1000	POA
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Arion 610 CIS / CIS+						
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(Stage 5)	4wd	24+24	6,500	145	540/1000	POA
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Arion 610 CEBIS (Stage 5)	4wd	24+24	6,500	145	540/1000	POA
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Arion 610 CMATIC CIS+ /						
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CEBIS (Stage 5)	4wd	CVT	6,500	145	540/1000	POA
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DEUTZ FAHR**5D**

5090 Keyline	4wd	SS 15+15	2,500	88		64,980
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5100 Keyline	4wd	SS 15+15	2,500	97		67,070
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5095 D LS	4wd	SS30+15	3,600	95		79,840
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5105 D LS	4wd	SS30+15	3,600	106		83,050
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5095 D GS	4wd	30+15	3,600	95		83,050
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5105 D GS	4wd	30+15	3,600	106		86,260
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5 Series

5095 LS	4wd	SS10+10	4,525	102		87,050
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5095 GS	4wd	10x10	4,525	102		92,820
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5100 LS	4wd	SS10+10	4,525	95		88,780
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Fendt 300 Vario.

Make/Model	Drive	No. of gears	Max linkage (kg)	Engine (hp)	PTO (ISO)	Price € (excl. VAT)
5100 GS	4wd	10x10	4,525	95		94,570
5105 LS	4wd	SS10+10	4,525	106		90,800
5105 GS	4wd	10x10	4,525	106		96,270
5115 LS	4wd	SS10+10	4,855	116		91,940
5115 GS	4wd	10x10	4,855	116		97,730
5125 LS	4wd	SS10+10	5,410	123		94,740
5125 GS	4wd	10x10	5,410	123		100,540
6C Series						
6115 C PS	4wd	20x20	5,410	126		112,720
6115 C RV Shift	4wd	20x16	7,000	126		129,520
6115 C TTV	4wd	CVT	7,000	126		135,030
6125 C PS	4wd	30x30	7,000	136		126,060
6125 C RV Shift	4wd	20x16	7,000	136		134,120
6125 C TTV	4wd	CVT	7,000	136		139,690
6135 C PS	4wd	30x30	7,000	143		130,710
6135 C RV Shift	4wd	20x16	7,000	143		138,730
6135 C TTV	4wd	CVT	7,000	143		144,340
6 Series						
6130.4 RV Shift	4wd	20x16	9,200	136		152,780
6130.4 TTV	4wd	CVT	9,200	136		173,590
6140.4 RV Shift	4wd	20x16	9,200	147		156,420
6140.4 TTV	4wd	CVT	9,200	147		177,230

FENDT
200 S Vario Gen3

209	4wd	-	-	94	-	102,365
210	4wd	-	-	104	-	105,408
211	4wd	-	-	114	-	109,609

300 Vario Gen4

311	4wd	-	-	113	-	124,216
312	4wd	-	-	123	-	127,858
313	4wd	-	-	133	-	130,941
314	4wd	-	-	142	-	136,884

500 Vario Gen3

512	4wd	-	-	131	-	151,245
513	4wd	-	-	141	-	155,134
514	4wd	-	-	156	-	159,025

700 Vario Gen6

714	4wd	-	-	150	-	180,814
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JCB

532-60 AG	-	-	3,200	109	-	95,736
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JCB TM 320.

Make/Model	Drive	No. of gears	Max linkage (kg)	Engine (hp)	PTO (ISO)	Price € (excl. VAT)
532-70 AG	-	-	3,200	109	-	109,200
532-70 Super	-	-	3,200	130	-	124,800
532-70 Xtra	-	-		150	-	132,000
538-60 AG	-	-	3,800	109	-	105,760
538-60 Super	-	-	3,800	130	-	121,951
538-60 Xtra	-	-		150	-	129,560
542-70 AG	-	-	4,200	109	-	121,200
542-70 Super	-	-	4,200	130	-	133,200
542-70 Xtra	-	-		150	-	140,406
560-80 Super	-	-		130	-	147,600
560-80 Xtra	-	-	6,000	150	-	158,052
TM 320	-	-	3,200	130	-	133,800
TM320S	-	-	3,200	150	-	143,572
413S	-	-	5,410	150	-	145,200
TM420	-	-	4,100	150	-	162,000

JOHN DEERE

5090M	4wd	16+16	4326	90	-	62,179
Open station price. Cabbed version starts at €68,779 for economy cab. 4wd in base, 2wd version available for €3,763 cheaper.						
5100M	4wd	16+16	4326	100	-	65,171
Open station price. Cabbed version starts at €71,771 for economy cab.						
5115M	4wd	16+16	4326	115	-	69,693
Open station price. Cabbed version starts at €76,293 for economy cab.						
6090M	4wd	24+24	4350	90/100	-	87,053
6100M	4wd	24+24	4350	100/111	-	89,670
6110M	4wd	24+24	4350	110/122	-	92,359
6120M	4wd	24+24	4350	120/133	-	95,769
6130M	4wd	24+24	5700	130/144	-	101,716
6140M	4wd	24+24	5700	140/155	-	105,761
6145M	4wd	24+24	6400	145/161	-	114,009
6R 110	4wd	24+24	6400	110/135	-	116,474
6R 120	4wd	24+24	6400	120/145	-	120,059
6R 130	4wd	24+24	6400	130/156	-	126,446
6R 140	4wd	24+24	6400	140/166	-	131,103
6R 145	4wd	20+20	7650	145/192	-	148,002



Kubota M5-112

Make/Model	Drive	No. of gears	Max linkage (kg)	Engine (hp)	PTO (ISO)	Price € (excl. VAT)
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KUBOTA

M5-092	4wd	36F/36R	4,100	95	NA	65,092
M5-112	4wd	36F/36R	4,100	110	NA	69,111
M6-101 Utility	4wd	24F/24R	5,000	104	NA	68,709
M6-111 Utility	4wd	24F/24R	5,000	111	NA	73,634
M6-121 Utility	4wd	24F/24R	6,100	123	NA	81,041
M6-131 Utility	4wd	24F/24R	6,100	133	NA	86,168
M6-141 Utility	4wd	24F/24R	6,100	143	NA	97,347
M6-122	4wd	24F/24R	7,000	123	NA	98,858
M6-132	4wd	24F/24R	7,000	133	NA	103,446
M6-142	4wd	24F/24R	7,000	143	NA	107,094
M7-133 Access	4wd	30F/15R PS	9,400	130	NA	128,160
**FROM						
M7-153 Access	4wd	30F/15R PS	9,400	150	NA	131,765
**FROM						
M7-153 Premium	4wd	30F/15R PS	9,400	150	NA	148,385
**FROM						
M7-153 Premium KVT	4wd	CVT	9,400	150	NA	167,723
**FROM						

Make/Model	Drive	No. of gears	Max linkage (kg)	Engine (hp)	PTO (ISO)	Price € (excl. VAT)
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LANDINI

5-100	4wd	24x24	4,500	95	540/1,000	82,590
5-110	4wd	24x24	4,500	102	540/1,000	84,076
5-120	4wd	24x24	4,500	114	540/1,000	86,741
6-125H	4wd	36x12	6,000	119	540/540E/1,000/1,000E	97,390
6-135H	4wd	36x12	6,000	127	540/540E/1,000/1,000E	100,395
6-135RS	4wd	24x24	7,200	125/135	540/540E/1,000/1,000E	120,095
6-145RS	4wd	24x24	7,200	135/145	540/540E/1,000/1,000E	122,500
6-155RS	4wd	24x24	7,200	145/155	540/540E/1,000/1,000E	125,570

MASSEY FERGUSON

MF3VI 85	4wd	15\15:30\30:30\15	2,800	85	NA	POA
MF3VI 95	4wd	15\15:30\30:30\15	2,800	95	NA	POA
MF3 VI 105	4wd	15\15:30\30:30\15	2,800	105	NA	POA
MF3 VI 115	4wd	15\15:30\30:30\15	2,800	120	NA	POA
MF3 SP 85	4wd	15\15:30\30:30\15	2,800	85	NA	POA
MF3 SP 95	4wd	15\15:30\30:30\15	2,800	95	NA	POA
MF3 SP 105	4wd	15\15:30\30:30\15	2,800\3,000	105	NA	POA
MF3 SP 115	4wd	15\15:30\30:30\15	2,800\3,000	120	NA	POA

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Landini 6-155RS

Make/Model	Drive	No. of gears	Max linkage (kg)	Engine (hp)	PTO (ISO)	Price € (excl. VAT)
MF3 GE 85	4wd	12\12:24\24:24\12	2,500	85	NA	POA
MF3 GE 95	4wd	12\12:24\24:24\12	2,500	95	NA	POA
MF3 GE 105	4wd	12\12:24\24:24\12	2,500	105	NA	POA
MF3 FR 85	4wd	15\15:30\30:30\15	2,800\3,000	85	NA	POA
MF3 FR 95	4wd	15\15:30\30:30\15	2,800\3,000	95	NA	POA
MF3 FR 105	4wd	15\15:30\30:30\15	2,800\3,000	105	NA	POA
MF3 FR 115	4wd	15\15:30\30:30\15	2,800\3,000	120	NA	POA
MF3 WF 85	4wd	15\15:30\30:30\15	2,800\3,000	85	NA	POA
MF3 WF 95	4wd	15\15:30\30:30\15	2,800\3,000	95	NA	POA
MF3 WF 105	4wd	15\15:30\30:30\15	2,800\3,000	105	NA	POA
MF3 WF 115	4wd	15\15:30\30:30\15	2,800\3,000	120	NA	POA
MF3 AL 85	4wd	15\15:30\30:30\15	2,800\3,000	85	NA	POA
MF3 AL 95	4wd	15\15:30\30:30\15	2,800\3,000	95	NA	POA
MF3 AL 105	4wd	15\15:30\30:30\15	2,800\3,000	105	NA	POA

VI = vineyard version; SP = special version; FR = fruit version; GE = ground effect version; WF = wide fruit version; AL = alpine version.

Make/Model	Drive	No. of gears	Max linkage (kg)	Engine (hp)	PTO (ISO)	Price € (excl. VAT)
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MF 4700M Platform

MF 4708 M	2/4wd	12x12	3,000	82		56,640
MF 4709 M	2/4wd	12x12	3,000	92		61,820
MF 4708 M (Dyna 2)	2/4wd	24x24/2	3,000	82		58,920
MF 4709 M (Dyna 2)	2/4wd	24x24/2	3,000	92		64,100

MF 4700M Cab

MF 4708M	2/4wd	12x12	3,000	82		66,920
MF 4709M	2/4wd	12x12	3,000	92		69,770
MF 4708M	2/4wd	24x24/2	3,000	82		69,200
MF 4709M	2/4wd	24x24/2	3,000	92		72,050
MF 4710M	4wd	12x12	3,000	100		62,820
MF 4710M	4wd	24x24/2	3,000	100		65,100

MF 5700M

MF 5709M	4wd	16x16/4	4,300	95		82,950
MF 5710M	4wd	12x12	4,300	105		81,610
MF 5711M	4wd	12x12	4,300	115		84,470
MF 5710M	4wd	16x16/4	4,300	105		85,800
MF 5711M	4wd	16x16/4	4,300	115		88,650
MF 5712M	4wd	12x12	5,300	125		90,680
MF 5713M	4wd	12x12	5,300	135		93,530

MF 5S series

MF 5S.105	4wd	16x16/4	6,000	105		101,500
MF 5S.115	4wd	16x16/4	6,000	115		104,410
MF 5S.125	4wd	16x16/4	6,000	125		106,160
MF 5S.135	4wd	16x16/4	6,000	135		111,000
MF 5S.145	4wd	16x16/4	6,000	145		113,850
MF 5S.105	4wd	24x24/6	6,000	105		104,880
MF 5S.115	4wd	24x24/6	6,000	115		107,710
MF 5S.125	4wd	24x24/6	6,000	125		111,450
MF 5S.135	4wd	24x24/6	6,000	135		114,300
MF 5S.145	4wd	24x24/6	6,000	145		117,150

MF 6S Series

MF 6S.135 Dyna-6	4wd	24x24/6	7,100	135	150	129,840
MF 6S.145 Dyna-6	4wd	24x24/6	7,100	145	160	132,690
MF 6S.135 Dyna-VT	4wd	CVT	9,600	135	150	156,080
MF 6S.145 Dyna-VT	4wd	CVT		145	160	158,930



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McCormick X5120.

Make/Model	Drive	No. of gears	Max linkage (kg)	Engine (hp)	PTO (ISO)	Price € (excl. VAT)
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McCORMICK

X5.100	4wd	24x24	4,500	95	540/1,000	82,590
X5.110	4wd	24x24	4,500	102	540/1,000	85,195
X5.120	4wd	24x24	4,500	114	540/1,000	87,500
X6.125	4wd	36x12	6,000	119	540/540E/1,000/1,000E	97,390
X6.135	4wd	36x12	6,000	127	540/540E/1,000/1,000E	100,395
X6.413	4wd	24x24	7,200	125 (135)	540/540E/1,000/1,000E	120,095
X6.414	4wd	24x24	7,200	135 (145)	540/540E/1,000/1,000E	122,500
X6.415	4wd	24x24	7,200	145 (155)	540/540E/1,000/1,000E	125,570

NEW HOLLAND

T5

T5.90 P/s	4wd	12+12	3,884	90	-	83,837
T5.90 Mech	4wd	12+12	3,884	90	-	77,739
T5.90 DC	4wd	24x24	3,884	90	-	88,516
T5.100 P/S	4wd	12+12	3,884	100	-	87,507
T5.100 Mech	4wd	12+12	3,884	100	-	81,409
T5.100 DC	4wd	24x24	3,884	100	-	92,125
T5.110 P/S	4wd	12+12	3,884	110	-	90,557
T5.110 DC	4wd	24x24	3,884	110	-	95,523
T5.120 P/S	4wd	12+12	3,884	117	-	94,553
T5.120 DC	4wd	24x24	3,884	117	-	99,466
T5.100 DC 1.5	4wd	24x24	3,884	100	-	93,554
T5.110 DC 1.5	4wd	24x24	3,884	110	-	96,513
T5.120 DC 1.5	4wd	24x24	3,884	117	-	100,439

Above are Cab inclusive.

T5 EC Stage V

T5.100	4wd	16+16	5,420	100	-	107,152
T5.110	4wd	16+16	5,420	110	-	110,128
T5.120	4wd	16+16	5,420	117	-	114,102

T5 Stage V AutoCommand

T5.110 AC	4wd	CVT	5,500	100/110	-	131,833
T5.120 AC	4wd	CVT	5,500	110/120	-	135,224
T5.130 AC	4wd	CVT	5,500	120/130	-	140,396
T5.140 AC	4wd	CVT	5,500	130/140	-	144,716

T5 Stage V DCT

T5.110 DCT	4wd	DCT	5,500	100/110	-	121,616
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Sonalika Solis 90.

Make/Model	Drive	No. of gears	Max linkage (kg)	Engine (hp)	PTO (ISO)	Price € (excl. VAT)
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T5.120 DCT	4wd	DCT	5,500	110/120	-	124,729
T5.130 DCT	4wd	DCT	5,500	120/130	-	129,599
T5.140 DCT	4wd	DCT	5,500	130/140	-	133,857

T6 Stage V

T6.155 EC	4wd	16+16	7,864	125/155	-	128,991
T6.155 AC	4wd	CVT	7,864	125/155	-	153,607
T6.155 DCT	4wd	DCT	7,864	125/155	-	143,149
T6.160 EC	4wd	16+16	7,864	-	-	135,057
T6.160 DCT	4wd	DCT	7,864	-	-	150,111
T6.175 AC	4wd	CVT	7,864	145/175	-	159,551
T6.175 DCT	4wd	DCT	7,864	145/175	-	149,756
T6.180 EC	4wd	16+16	7,864	145/175	-	138,033
T6.180 AC	4wd	CVT	7,864	145/175	-	163,212
T6.180 DCT	4wd	DCT	7,864	145/175	-	153,419

T7 SWB

T7.190 RC	4wd	18+6	8,257	150/190	-	162,933
Classic	40km/h					
T7.190 PC	4wd	18+6	8,257	150/190	-	168,542
Classic	40km/h					
T7.190 RC	4wd	18+6	8,257	150/190	-	169,900
Sidewinder	40km/h					
T7.190 PC	4wd	18+6	8,257	150/190	-	174,180
Sidewinder	40km/h					
T7.190 AC	4wd	CVT	8,257	150/190	-	193,090
Sidewinder	50km/h ECO					

SAME

Dorado 90 Natural	4wd	SS 15+15	2,500	88	-	64,980
Dorado 100 Natural	4wd	SS 15+15	2,500	97	-	67,070
Dorado 95 LS	4wd	SS 30+15	3,600	88	-	79,840
Dorado 105 LS	4wd	SS 30+15	3,600	106	-	83,050
Dorado 95 GS	4wd	30+15	3,600	88	-	83,050
Dorado 105 GS	4wd	30+15	3,600	106	-	86,260
EXPLORER						
Explorer 95 LS	4wd	SS 10+10	4,525	102	-	87,050
Explorer 95 GS	4wd	10x10	4,525	102	-	92,820
Explorer 100 LS	4wd	SS 10+10	4,525	95	-	88,780
Explorer 100 GS	4wd	10x10	4,525	95	-	94,570



New Holland T6.180.

Make/Model	Drive	No. of gears	Max linkage (kg)	Engine (hp)	PTO (ISO)	Price € (excl. VAT)
Explorer 105 LS	4wd	SS10+10	4,525	106	-	90,800
Explorer 105 GS	4wd	10x10	4,525	106	-	96,270
Explorer 115 LS	4wd	SS10+10	4,855	116	-	91,940
Explorer 115 GS	4wd	10x10	4,855	116	-	97,730
Explorer 125 LS	4wd	SS10+10	5,410	123	-	94,740
Explorer 125 GS	4wd	10x10	5,410	123	-	100,540
VIRTUS						
Virtus 115 PS	4wd	20x20	5,410	126	-	112,730
Virtus 6115 RV Shift	4wd	20x16	7,000	126	-	129,510
Virtus 125 PS	4wd	30x30	7,000	136	-	126,070
Virtus 125 RV Shift	4wd	20x16	7,000	136	-	134,110
Virtus 135 PS	4wd	30x30	7,000	143	-	130,720
Virtus 135 RV Shift	4wd	20x16	7,000	143	-	138,720

SONALIKA

Solis 90	4wd	12+12	3,500	90	90	38,211
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VALTRA

A85SH	4wd	12x12	-	85	-	66,855
A95SH	4wd	12x12	-	95	-	69,780
A105MH	-	12x12	-	105	-	73,690
A115MH	-	12x12	-	115	-	76,615
A125LH	-	12x12	-	125	-	79,540
A135LH	-	12x12	-	135	-	82,465
A105MH4	-	16x16	-	105	-	79,145
A115MH4	-	16x16	-	115	-	82,070
G105H	-	24x24	-	105/110	-	98,620
G115H	-	24x24	-	115/120	-	101,292
G125eH	-	24x24	-	125/130	-	103,963
G135H	-	24x24	-	135/145	-	106,635
G105A	-	24x24	-	105/110	-	100,707
G115A	-	24x24	-	115/120	-	103,378

Make/Model	Drive	No. of gears	Max linkage (kg)	Engine (hp)	PTO (ISO)	Price € (excl. VAT)
G125eA	-	24x24	-	125/130	-	106,050
G135A	-	24x24	-	135/145	-	108,721
G105V	-	24x24	-	105/110	-	105,270
G115V	-	24x24	-	115/120	-	107,942
G125eV	-	24x24	-	125/130	-	110,613
G135V	-	24x24	-	135/145	-	113,285
N135H	-	30x30	-	135/145	-	127,240
N135A	-	30x30	-	135/145	-	142,070
N135V	-	30x30	-	135/145	-	146,274
N135D	-	CVT	-	135/146	-	151,528



Valtra G Series.



Make/Model	Drive	No. of gears	Max linkage (kg)	Engine (hp)	PTO (ISO)	Price € (excl. VAT)
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151-200 HP

CASE IH

Puma

165	4wd	SP 18x6 40km/h	8,257	165	168,445
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Puma Multicontroller

165	4wd	FPS 18+6 50km/h	8,257	165	186,114
185	4wd	FPS 18+6 50km/h	10,463	180	224,150

Puma CVX

165	4wd	CVT 50km/h	8,257	165	208,663
175	4wd	CVT 50km/h	8,257	180	216,038
185	4wd	CVT 50km/h	10,463	180	249,655

FPS = full power shift.

SP = semi power shift.

CLAAS

Arion 550 CIS/CIS+ (Stage 5)	4wd	24+24	6,900	165	540/1,000	POA
Arion 550 CEBIS (Stage 5)	4wd	24+24	6,900	165	540/1,000	POA
Arion 550 CMATIC CIS+ / CEBIS (Stage 5)	4wd	CVT	6,900	165	540/1,000	POA
Arion 630 CIS/CIS+ (Stage 5)	4wd	24+24	6,900	165	540/1,000	POA
Arion 630 CEBIS (Stage 5)	4wd	24+24	6,900	165	540/1,000	POA
Arion 630 CMATIC CIS+ / CEBIS (Stage 5)	4wd	CVT	6,500	165	540/1,000	POA
Arion 650 CIS/CIS+ (Stage 5)	4wd	24+24	8,000	185	540/1,000	POA
Arion 650 CEBIS (Stage 5)	4wd	24+24	8,000	185	540/1,000	POA
Arion 650 CMATIC CIS+ / CEBIS (Stage 5)	4wd	CVT	8,000	185	540/1,000	POA
Arion 660 CIS/CIS+ (Stage 5)	4wd	24+24	8,000	205	540/1,000	POA
Arion 660 CEBIS						

Make/Model	Drive	No. of gears	Max linkage (kg)	Engine (hp)	PTO (ISO)	Price € (excl. VAT)
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Claas Arion 660-510.

(Stage 5)	4wd	24+24	8,000	205	540/1,000	POA
Arion 660 CMATIC CIS+ / CEBIS (Stage 5)	4wd	CVT	8,000	205	540/1,000	POA

DEUTZ FAHR

Agrotron 6 Series

6150.4 RV Shift	4wd	20+16	9,700	156	-	160,060
6150.4 TTV	4wd	CVT	9,700	156	-	180,870
6155.4 TTV	4wd	CVT	9,200	156	-	194,700
6155 TTV	4wd	CVT	9,200	156	-	199,830
6160.4 PS	4wd	30+15	9,700	163	-	164,770
6160.4 RC Shift	4wd	54+27	9,700	163	-	173,450
6165.4 TTV	4wd	CVT	9,200	163	-	198,570
6160 PS	4wd	30+15	9,700	171	-	171,890
6160 RC Shift	4wd	54+27	9,700	171	-	180,540
6165 TTV	4wd	CVT	9,200	163	-	203,810
6170.4 PS	4wd	30+15	9,700	171	-	170,120
6170.4 RC Shift	4wd	54+27	9,700	171	-	178,790
6175.4 TTV	4wd	CVT	9,200	171	-	206,370
6170 PS	4wd	30+15	9,700	171	-	177,230
6170 RC Shift	4wd	54+27	9,700	171	-	185,900
6175 TTV	4wd	CVT	9,200	171	-	220,330
6180 PS	4wd	30+15	9,700	192	-	185,970
6180 RC Shift	4wd	54+27	9,700	192	-	194,640
6185 TTV	4wd	CVT	9,200	188	-	225,950
6190 PS	4wd	30+15	9,700	192	-	197,060
6190 RC Shift	4wd	54+27	9,700	192	-	202,150
6190 TTV	4wd	CVT	9,200	192	-	244,400



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Fendt 516 Vario.

Make/Model	Drive	No. of gears	Max linkage (kg)	Engine (hp)	PTO (ISO)	Price € (excl. VAT)
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FENDT

500 Vario Gen3

516 Vario	4wd	-	-	171	-	169,669
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700 Vario Gen6

716 Vario	4wd	-	-	171	-	188,861
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718 Vario	4wd	-	-	188	-	200,211
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720 Vario	4wd	-	-	209	-	209,013
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700 Vario Gen7

720 Vario	4wd	-	-	203	-	223,620
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JCB

419S	-	-	6,695	195	-	192,500
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Fastrac 4160 ICON

Fastrac 4190 ICON	4wd	CVT	8,000	189	-	210,200
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TM420S	4100	-	-	175	-	177,600
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JOHN DEERE

6155M	4wd	20+20	7,650	155/172	-	122,266
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6155MH (high-clearance)	4wd	20+20	7,650	155/172	-	140,737
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6175M	4wd	20+20	9,050	175/194	-	140,586
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6195M	4wd	20+20	9,050	195/216	-	151,477
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6R 150	4wd	20+20	6,400	150/177	-	150,421
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6R 155	4wd	20+20	7,650	155/203	-	157,635
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6R 165	4wd	20+20	7,650	165/213	-	172,360
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6R 175	4wd	20+20	9,050	175/223	-	177,604
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6R 185	4wd	20+20	7,650	185/234	-	183,103
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6R 195	4wd	20+20	9,050	195/244	-	193,033
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KUBOTA

M7173 Access	4wd	30F/15R PS	9,400	170	N/A	140,117
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M7173 Premium	4wd	30F/15R PS	9,400	170	N/A	156,000
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M7173 Premium KVT	4wd	CVT	9,400	170	N/A	178,476
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Massey Ferguson 6S Series.

Make/Model	Drive	No. of gears	Max linkage (kg)	Engine (hp)	PTO (ISO)	Price € (excl. VAT)
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LANDINI

7-165 Robo 6	4wd	30+15	9,300	155 (165)	540/540E/1,000/1,000E	139,170
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7-170 Robo 6	4wd	30+15	9,300	155 (165)	540/540E/1,000/1,000E	148,980
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7-175 Robo 6	4wd	30+15	9,300	165 (175)	540/540E/1,000/1,000E	143,320
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7-175 V Shift	4wd	CVT	9,300	165 (175)	540/540E/1,000/1,000E	164,000
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7180 Robo 6	4wd	30+15	9,300	166 (175)	540/540E/1,000/1,000E	153,110
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7180 V Shift	4wd	CVT	9,300	166 (175)	540/540E/1,000/1,000E	174,150
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7-200 Robo 6	4wd	30x15	9,300	180 (190)	540/540E/1,000/1,000E	181,155
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MASSEY FERGUSON

MF 6S Series

MF 6S.155 Dyna-6	4wd	24x24/6	7,100/8,100 E	155	175	136,790
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MF 6S.165 Dyna-6	4wd	24x24/6	7,100/8,100 E	165	185	141,400
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MF 6S.180 Dyna-6	4wd	24x24/6	7,100/8,100 E	180	200	148,740
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MF 6S.155 Dyna-VT	4wd	CVT	9,600	155	175	162,580
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MF 6S.165 Dyna-VT	4wd	CVT	9,600	165	185	167,190
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MF 6S.180 Dyna-VT	4wd	CVT	9,600	180	200	171,470
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MF 7S Series

MF 7S.155 Dyna-6	4wd	24x24/6	8,100	155	175	143,950
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MF 7S.165 Dyna-6	4wd	24x24/6	8,100	165	185	148,850
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MF 7S.180 Dyna-6	4wd	24x24/6	8,100	180	210	156,930
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MF 7S.155 Dyna-VT	4wd	CVT	9,600	155	175	168,460
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MF 7S.165 Dyna-VT	4wd	CVT	9,600	165	185	173,360
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MF 7S.180 Dyna-VT	4wd	CVT	9,600	180	210	181,740
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MF 7S.190 Dyna-VT	4wd	CVT	9,600	190	220	184,590
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MCCORMICK

X7.417	4wd	30+15	9,300	155 (165)	540/540E/1,000/1,000E	139,170
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X7.617	4wd	30+15	9,300	155 (165)	540/540E/1,000/1,000E	148,980
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X7.418	4wd	30+15	9,300	165 (175)	540/540E/1,000/1,000E	143,320
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X7.418 VT	4wd	CVT	9,300	165 (175)	540/540E/1,000/1,000E	164,000
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X7.618	4wd	30+15	9,300	166 (175)	540/540E/1,000/1,000E	153,110
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X7.618 VT	4wd	CVT	9,300	166 (175)	540/540E/1,000/1,000E	174,150
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X7.620	4wd	30x15	9,300	180 (190)	540/540E/1,000/1,000E	181,155
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Kubota M7173.

Make/Model	Drive	No. of gears	Max linkage (kg)	Engine (hp)	PTO (ISO)	Price € (excl. VAT)
NEW HOLLAND						
T7210 RC Classic	4wd	19+6	8,255	165/208	-	169,372
T7210 PC Classic	4wd	19+6	8,256	165/209	-	173,652
T7210 RC Sidewinder	4wd	19+6	8,257	165/210	-	174,128
T7210 PC Sidewinder	4wd	19+6	8,257	165/210	-	178,404
T7210 AC	4wd	CVT	8,257	165/210	-	199,436
T7225 AC LWB	4wd	CVT	8,257	180/225	-	207,039
T7230 PC Sidewinder	4wd	19x6	8,647	180/225	-	229,161
T7230 AC Sidewinder	4wd	CVT	8,647	180/225	-	246,352
T7245 PC Sidewinder	4wd	19x6	8,647	200/245	-	238,500
T7245 AC Sidewinder	4wd	CVT	8,647	200/245	-	255,704
T7195 s	4wd	18+6	8,647	-	-	199,293
T7215 s	4wd	18+6	8,647	-	-	208,469

Make/Model	Drive	No. of gears	Max linkage (kg)	Engine (hp)	PTO (ISO)	Price € (excl. VAT)
VALTRA						
N155eH	-	30x30	-	155/165	30x30	129,368
N175H	-	30x30	-	165/201	30x30	133,294
N155eA	-	30x30	-	155/165	30x30	145,296
N175A	-	30x30	-	165/201	30x30	147,766
N155eV	-	30x30	-	155/165	30x30	149,500
N175V	-	30x30	-	165/201	30x30	151,970
N155eD	-	CVT	-	155/166	CVT	157,008
N175D	-	CVT	-	165/201	CVT	159,477
T145H	-	30x30	-	155/170	30x30	141,594
T155H	-	30x30	-	165/180	30x30	145,659
T175eH	-	30x30	-	175/190	30x30	153,167
T195H	-	30x30	-	195/210	30x30	167,163
T145A	-	30x30	-	155/170	30x30	154,969
T155A	-	30x30	-	165/180	30x30	159,034
T175eA	-	30x30	-	175/190	30x30	167,718
T195A	-	30x30	-	195/210	30x30	185,924
T145V	-	30x30	-	155/170	30x30	160,648
T155V	-	30x30	-	165/180	30x30	164,713
T175eV	-	30x30	-	175/190	30x30	173,397
T195V	-	30x30	-	195/210	30x30	191,245
T145D	-	CVT	-	155/170	CVT	168,845
T155D	-	CVT	-	165/180	CVT	172,910
T175eD	-	CVT	-	175/190	CVT	181,594
T195D	-	CVT	-	195/210	CVT	199,442



Make/Model	Drive	No. of gears	Max linkage (kg)	Engine (hp)	PTO (ISO)	Price € (excl. VAT)
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200 HP+

CASE IH

Puma Multicontroller

200	4wd	FPS18+6 50km/h	10,463	200		230,595
220	4wd	FPS18+6 50km/h	10,463	220		239,360

Puma CVX

200	4wd	CVT 50km/h	10,463	200		256,238
220	4wd	CVT 50km/h	10,463	220		264,997
240	4wd	CVT 50km/h	10,463	240		272,316

Optum CVX AFS CONNECT SERIES

250	4wd	CVT 50km/h	11,058	250		334,099
270	4wd	CVT 50km/h	11,058	270		345,706
300	4wd	CVT 50km/h	11,058	300		363,109

Magnum AFS CONNECT SERIES

310	4wd	23+6 or 19+4	11,703	311		POA
340	4wd	23+6 or 19+4	11,703	340		POA
400	4wd	PS 21 x 5	11,703	396		POA

Magnum CVX AFS CONNECT SERIES

310	4wd	CVT	11,703	311		POA
340	4wd	CVT	11,703	340		POA
380	4wd	CVT	10,929	379		POA

Magnum Rowtrac AFS CONNECT SERIES

400	4wd	PS 21x5	10,929	396		POA
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Magnum Rowtrac CVX AFS CONNECT SERIES

380	4wd	CVT	10,929	379		POA
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CLAAS

Axion 800 CIS / CIS+ (Stage 5)	4wd	24+24	9,500	205	540/1,000	POA
Axion 800 CEBIS (Stage 5)	4wd	24+24	9,500	205	540/1,000	POA
Axion 810 CIS/CIS+ (Stage 5)	4wd	24+24	9,500	215	540/1,000	POA
Axion 810 CEBIS (Stage 5)	4wd	24+24	9,500	215	540/1,000	POA
Axion 810 CMATIC CIS+/CEBIS (Stage 5)	4wd	CVT	9,500	215	540/1,000	POA
Axion 830 CIS / CIS+ (Stage 5)	4wd	24+24	9,500	235	540/1,000	POA
Axion 830 CEBIS (Stage 5)	4wd	24+24	9,500	235	540/1,000	POA
Axion 830 CMATIC CIS+/CEBIS (Stage 5)	4wd	CVT	9,500	235	540/1,000	POA
Axion 850 CIS+ (Stage 5)	4wd	24+24	10,200	264	540/1,000	POA
Axion 850 CEBIS (Stage 5)	4wd	24+24	10,200	264	540/1,000	POA
Axion 850 CMATIC CIS+/CEBIS (Stage 5)	4wd	CVT	10,200	264	540/1,000	POA
Axion 870 CMATIC CIS+/CEBIS (Stage 5)	4wd	CVT	10,200	295	540/1,000	POA
Axion 920 CMATIC CIS+/CEBIS (Stage 5)	4wd	CVT	10,950	325	540/1,000	POA
Axion 930 CMATIC CIS+/CEBIS (Stage 5)	4wd	CVT	10,950	355	540/1,000	POA
Axion 930 TERRA TRAC (Stage 5)	4wd	CVT	10,950	355	540/1,000	POA
Axion 940 CMATIC CIS+/CEBIS (Stage 5)	4wd	CVT	11,250	385	540/1,000	POA
Axion 950 CMATIC CIS+/CEBIS (Stage 5)	4wd	CVT	11,250	410	1,000	POA
Axion 960 CMATIC CIS+/CEBIS (Stage 5)	4wd	CVT	11,250	445	1,000	POA
Axion 960 TERRA TRAC (Stage 5)	4wd	CVT	10,950	355	540/1,000	POA
Xerion 4200 Trac	4wd	CVT	15,400	462	1,000	POA
Xerion 4200 Trac +	4wd	CVT	15,400	462	1,000	POA
Xerion 4200 Trac VC	4wd	CVT	15,400	462	1,000	POA
Xerion 4200 Saddle Trac	4wd	CVT	15,400	462	1,000	POA
Xerion 4500 Trac	4wd	CVT	15,400	490	1,000	POA
Xerion 4500 Trac +	4wd	CVT	15,400	490	1,000	POA



Case IH Puma Multicontroller.

Make/Model	Drive	No. of gears	Max linkage (kg)	Engine (hp)	PTO (ISO)	Price € (excl. VAT)
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Xerion 4500Trac VC	4wd	CVT	15,400	490	1,000	POA
Xerion 5000 Trac	4wd	CVT	15,400	530	1,000	POA
Xerion 5000 Trac +	4wd	CVT	15,400	530	1,000	POA
Xerion 5000 Trac VC	4wd	CVT	15,400	530	1,000	POA

DEUTZ FAHR

Agrotron 6 Series

6210	4wd	30+15	9,700	216	-	210,110
6210 RC Shift	4wd	54+27	9,700	216	-	215,200
6210 TTV	4wd	CVT	9,200	216	-	257,720
6230	4wd	30+15	9,700	230	-	221,320
6230 RC Shift	4wd	54+27	9,700	230	-	226,410
6230 TTV	4wd	CVT	9,200	230	-	265,150
6230 HD TTV	4wd	CVT	10,000	230	-	285,600

Agrotron 7 Series

7250 TTV	4wd	CVT	10,000	247	-	287,030
7250 HD TTV	4wd	CVT	11,100	247	-	300,400

Agrotron 8 Series

8280 TTV	4wd	CVT	11,100	287	-	333,920
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Agrotron 9 Series

9290 TTV	4wd	CVT	12,000	295	-	346,960
9310 TTV	4wd	CVT	12,000	312	-	352,970
9340 TTV	4wd	CVT	12,000	336	-	367,500

FENDT

700 Vario Gen6

722 Vario	4wd	-	-	228	-	220,268
724 Vario	4wd	-	-	246	-	231,075

700 Vario Gen7

722 Vario	4wd	-	-	223	-	232,371
724 Vario	4wd	-	-	243	-	186,268
726 Vario	4wd	-	-	262	-	247,645

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JCB Fastrac 4220.

Make/Model	Drive	No. of gears	Max linkage (kg)	Engine (hp)	PTO (ISO)	Price € (excl. VAT)
728 Vario	4wd	-	-	303	-	253,850
800 Vario S4						
822 Vario	4wd	-	-	226	-	230,429
824 Vario	4wd	-	-	246	-	236,210
826 Vario	4wd	-	-	265	-	240,900
828 Vario	4wd	-	-	287	-	249,594
900 Vario Gen7						
930 Vario	4wd	-	-	296	-	288,410
933 Vario	4wd	-	-	326	-	299,421
936 Vario	4wd	-	-	355	-	307,845
939 Vario	4wd	-	-	385	-	316,417
942 Vario	4wd	-	-	415	-	320,254
1000 Vario Gen3						
1038 Vario	4wd	-	-	396	-	365,503
1042 Vario	4wd	-	-	435	-	376,075
1046 Vario	4wd	-	-	476	-	386,656
1050 Vario	4wd	-	-	517	-	395,120
Tracked Tractors						
900 Vario MT Gen2						
938 Vario MT	-	-	-	380	-	389,918
940 Vario MT	-	-	-	405	-	396,592
943 Vario MT	-	-	-	431	-	407,262
1100 Vario MT Gen1						
1151 MT	-	-	-	511	-	396,791
1156 MT	-	-	-	564	-	417,495
1162 MT	-	-	-	618	-	436,123
1167 MT	-	-	-	673	-	464,955

JCB

435s	-	-	9,296	252	-	219,408
Fastrac 4220 ICON	4wd	CVT	8,000	220	195	217,249
457S	-	-	13,438	282	-	253,000
Fastrac 8330	4wd	CVT	10,000	335	310	280,500



John Deere 8R.

Make/Model	Drive	No. of gears	Max linkage (kg)	Engine (hp)	PTO (ISO)	Price € (excl. VAT)
JOHN DEERE						
6R 215	4wd	20+20	9,050	215/259	-	204,468
6R 230	4wd	IVT	9900	230/281	-	234,985
6R 250	4wd	IVT	9900	250/301	-	244,701
7R 270	4wd	e23	13,010	270/297	-	314,312
7R 290	4wd	e23	13,010	290/319	-	323,099
7R 310	4wd	e23	13,010	310/341	-	338,731
7R 330	4wd	e23	13,010	330/363	-	349,608
7R 350	4wd	IVT	13,010	350/388	-	372,099
8R 280	4wd	16+5	9,000*	280/308	-	306,623
8R 310	4wd	16+5	9,000*	310/341	-	322,358
8R 340	4wd	16+5	9,000*	340/374	-	341,214
8R 370	4wd	e23	9,000*	370/407	-	370,096
8R 410	4wd	e23	9,000*	410/443	-	388,519
8RT 310	Tracked	e23	8,800*	310/341	-	468,575
8RT 340	Tracked	e23	8,800*	340/374	-	495,714
8RT 370	Tracked	e23	8,800*	370/407	-	512,588
8RT 410	Tracked	e23	8,800*	410/443	-	529,882
8RX 310	4-track	e23	9,000*	310/341	-	528,599
8RX 340	4-track	e23	9,000*	340/374	-	543,171
8RX 370	4-track	e23	9,000*	370/407	-	553,917
8RX 410	4-track	e23	9,000*	410/443	-	573,493
9RX 490	4-track	18+6	9,072	490/539	-	611,477
9RX 540	4-track	18+6	9,072	540/594	-	646,552
9RX 590	4-track	18+6	9,072	590/649	-	679,150
9RX 640	4-track	18+6	9,072	640/691	-	699,853

Tractor engine power ratings are quoted according to ECE-R24 (compact models) and ECE-R120 or 97/68/EC test standards at rated speed, and with Intelligent Power Management (IPM) where applicable. AutoPower IVT transmission also available on models from the 6090M to the 8R/RT 370.

*Lift capacity on 8R Series models measured at 610mm behind coupler, rather than max lift.



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Massey Ferguson 7S Series.

Make/Model	Drive	No. of gears	Max linkage (kg)	Engine (hp)	PTO (ISO)	Price € (excl. VAT)
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MASSEY FERGUSON

MF 7S Series

MF 7S.210 Dyna-VT	4wd	CVT	9,600	210	220	187,090
MF 8 S						
MF 8S.205 Dyna-7	4wd	28x28/7	10,000	205	225	188,390
MF 8S.225 Dyna-7	4wd	28x28/7	10,000	225	245	194,090
MF 8S.245 Dyna-7	4wd	28x28/7	10,000	245	265	199,790
MF 8S.265 Dyna-7	4wd	28x28/7	10,000	265	285	205,490
MF 8S.285 Dyna-7	4wd	28x28/7	10,000	285	305	213,990
MF 8S.205 DynaE-Power	4wd	28x28/7	10,000	205	225	192,260
MF 8S.225 DynaE-Power	4wd	28x28/7	10,000	225	245	197,960
MF 8S.245 DynaE-Power	4wd	28x28/7	10,000	245	265	203,660
MF 8S.265 DynaE-Power	4wd	28x28/7	10,000	265	285	209,360
MF 8S.285 DynaE-Power	4wd	28x28/7	10,000	285	305	213,400
MF 8S.205 Dyna-VT	4wd	CVT	10,000	205	225	219,420
MF 8S.225 Dyna-VT	4wd	CVT	10,000	225	245	225,120
MF 8S.245 Dyna-VT	4wd	CVT	10,000	245	265	230,820
MF 8S.265 Dyna-VT	4wd	CVT	10,000	265	285	236,520
MF 8S.285 Dyna-VT	4wd	CVT	10,000	285	305	242,220
MF 8S.305 Dyna-VT	4wd	CVT	10,000	305	305	244,720

MF 8700S Series

MF 8727S	4wd	CVT	12,000 E	270	300	236,380
MF 8730S	4wd	CVT	12,000 E	300	330	243,500
MF 8732S	4wd	CVT	12,000 E	320	250	250,630
MF 8735S	4wd	CVT	12,000 E	350	370	262,760
MF 8737S	4wd	CVT	12,000 E	370	400	268,460
MF 8740S	4wd	CVT	12,000 E	400	405	273,010

NEW HOLLAND

T7 LWB

T7260 PC	4wd	19+6	50km/h	8,647	220/260	-	247,843
Sidewinder							
T7260 AC	4wd	CVT	50km/h	8,647	220/260	-	266,899
Sidewinder							
T7270 AC	4wd	CVT	50km/h	10,463	240/270	-	276,251
Sidewinder							



Valtra T Series.

Make/Model	Drive	No. of gears	Max linkage (kg)	Engine (hp)	PTO (ISO)	Price € (excl. VAT)
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T7 HD

T7 275 HD	4wd	CVT	50k ECO	-	-	288,199
T7 290 HD	4wd	CVT	50k ECO	11,058	710/288	299,965
T7 315 HD	4wd	CVT	50k ECO	11,058	300/313	317,067

T8

T8.410 AC	4wd	CVT	-	9,130	340/409	411,393
T8.410 UC	4wd	18+4	-	9,130	340/409	389,063
T8.435 AC	4wd	CVT	-	9,130	380/435	452,806
T8.435 UC	4wd	18+4	-	9,131	380/436	429,064

T8 Smart Track

T8.435 AC ST	4wd	CVT	-	9,130	380/435	538,057
T8.435 UC ST	4wd	18+4	-	9,131	380/436	531,267

E = electronic control

CVT = infinitely variable

VALTRA

T215H		30x30		215/230		177,625
T235H		30x30		235/250		188,672
T255H		30x30		250/271		199,478
T215A		30x30		215/230		196,386
T235A		30x30		235/250		207,433
T255A		30x30		250/271		218,239
T215V		30x30		215/230		201,707
T235V		30x30		235/250		212,754
T255V		30x30		250/271		223,560
T215D		CVT		215/230		209,904
T235D		CVT		220/250		220,951
Q225		CVT		230/250		230,958
Q245		CVT		245/265		236,369
Q265		CVT		265/290		243,584
Q285		CVT		285/305		250,799
Q305		CVT		305/305		258,014
S274		CVT		270/300		277,404
S294		CVT		295/325		283,059
S324		CVT		320/350		296,319
S354		CVT		350/380		309,481
S374		CVT		370/400		319,426
S394		CVT		400/405		333,564



MYCOTOXINS: THE HIDDEN PERFORMANCE KILLER

IN THIS ARTICLE, **PAULA MCCOOEY**, POULTRY MANAGER AT ALLTECH IRELAND, DISCUSSES HOW MYCOTOXINS CAN IMPACT BIRD HEALTH AND PERFORMANCE

Mycotoxins are harmful, naturally occurring substances produced by certain moulds (fungi). These fungi commonly grow on feedstuffs and tend to multiply during adverse weather conditions.

Mycotoxins are produced both in the field pre-harvest and also during the subsequent storage of ingredients and feeds. They are not just present in parent grains but may also appear on farm via by-products, complete commercial feeds, bedding materials and storage bins.

More than 500 mycotoxins have been identified to date, and that number is steadily increasing. Adding to the complexity of the mycotoxin challenge in the animal feed supply chain is the fact that mycotoxins are

invisible to the naked eye, leading to them commonly being referred to as 'hidden thieves'.

HOW DO MYCOTOXINS AFFECT POULTRY?

All poultry species are affected by mycotoxins, which can be detrimental to the health and performance of the flock. Various poultry species respond differently to mycotoxin challenges, and clinical signs of exposure to mycotoxins can be difficult to detect.

Poultry species have varying risk levels related to mycotoxin exposure depending on the type of bird. Turkeys, layers and breeders are in a higher risk category than chickens and ducks, mainly because they live longer and are more sensitive to mycotoxins.

Younger birds are also in a higher risk category because their immune systems are not as well-developed, which makes them more sensitive to contaminated feed. The mycotoxin risk level also depends on which mycotoxins are present and the number of mycotoxins in the feed, since mycotoxins have a greater impact at higher quantities and can have negative, synergistic effects when they interact with each other.

HOW DO YOU KNOW IF YOU HAVE AN ISSUE?

Mycotoxins can be the root cause of numerous problems on-farm, including digestive disorders, reproduction issues, reduced performance and immunity



challenges. The symptoms of mycotoxin contamination can be many and varied, but the outcome, in all cases, is reduced performance and lost profits. Some issues that can be related to mycotoxin contamination include:

- ▶ Reduced feed consumption;
- ▶ Poor growth rates;
- ▶ Reduced egg production;
- ▶ Reduced feed conversion efficiency;
- ▶ Increased susceptibility to diseases;
- ▶ Increased mortality rates;
- ▶ Poor eggshell quality;
- ▶ Reduced fertility;
- ▶ Leg problems; and
- ▶ Unevenness.

Carefully monitoring animals, being able to recognise the symptoms and completing post-mortem diagnoses – combined with conducting an adequate feed analysis – will provide the most accurate means of diagnosing a mycotoxin issue in large flocks.

When considering mycotoxins in feed, it is not a question of whether any will be present but, rather, how much. The key to successfully implementing a mycotoxin management programme and choosing the appropriate mycotoxin binding solution is to understand the contamination profile of the ingredients or feeds you are using.

Alltech's 37+ lab, based in Dunboyne, Co. Meath, tests raw materials and finished feeds for mycotoxin contamination. The 37+ lab tests samples for 54 different mycotoxins, demonstrating the broad-spectrum challenge they can pose. Reports are generated for each sample that are specific to the species being fed.

MYCOTOXIN MANAGEMENT ON FARM

Outlined below are several important steps to take to successfully manage and mitigate mycotoxins on any operation:

- ▶ Inspect feed bins regularly for mould, dampness or leftover feed;
- ▶ Blow out old feed between crops;
- ▶ Establish a cleanout programme for feed bins;
- ▶ Ensure that regular maintenance is carried out on feed bins and pans; and
- ▶ Swab hoppers and feed pans after cleaning and disinfection and maintain records.

CONCLUSION

Mycotoxins are known as hidden thieves, as they are tasteless, odourless and invisible – but ever-present. Poultry producers should be aware of the potential symptoms of mycotoxin contamination and take steps to reduce the risk of mycotoxin contamination on their farms. The first step in successfully managing mycotoxins is to identify the risk by analysing the feed.

Evolve for easier calving



Calving is the cornerstone that directly impacts milk production, cow health and reproductive performance during the subsequent lactations. A successful calving starts with the **Evolve Dry Cow** Programme.

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MESSAGES

- How to use these management hints.
- Plan to be a better farm manager this year.
- Develop standard operating procedures (SOPs) for all tasks on your farm.
- Prevent animal problems by good 'herding'.
- Plan to grow more grass and have more in springtime.
- Make your calving and calf-care requirement list.
- Manage replacements by the weight they are now.



By Matt Ryan

HOW FARMERS USE THESE MANAGEMENT HINTS!

- » The way I suggest you use these management hints, which are very general in their advice, is as follows:
 - Firstly, email the hints to all staff and family members for them to read/study;
 - Secondly, read through the hints yourself, marking out, in red, the important points and those most relevant to your farm situation. This takes approximately one hour;
 - Thirdly, organise a weekly meeting with all involved to discuss opinions and suggestions – if weekly is not always possible, you must have a monthly meeting;
 - Fourthly, agree an action plan and priorities and allocate responsibilities; and
 - Lastly, at the weekly sessions, people with responsibility should be asked to report back on progress.
- » This approach will work on family-run farms and is badly needed on most.
 - Communication on farming matters leaves a lot to be desired on many farms – it was always that way but must, and can, improve!
 - On some farms, the daughter or son is totally treated as a worker, and given no decision-making or planning responsibility.
 - Much communication takes place in the milking parlour (not an ideal environment) or sheds.
 - Setting up a formal get together for the morning using these management hints as a basis for discussion will greatly improve communication. Night-time sessions are a disaster as people are tired and would rather be home, watching TV.
- » We all need to be reminded of tasks to do and decisions to make because we forget.
 - With timely *Irish Farmers Monthly* management hints, we endeavour to give you that reminder.
 - I sometimes emphasise the 'why' because once we know why we should do something, then we tend to do it with more commitment and urgency.
 - It is said that the difference between a good and bad farmer is one week. Think about it in the context of monthly planning tasks.
- » Those of you who know about time management will know that the most valuable time you will spend is devoted to 'important,

non-urgent' activities. These are:

- Reviewing past year's performance, past week's task, based on fact;
 - Planning and preparing for next month and for long-term;
 - Preventative care; and
 - Visualising the future.
- » These management hints are all about these activities. You need to read them carefully, disagree, modify the ideas to suit your situation.
 - » Some farmers, as a result of reading them, make out their own to-do list, comprised of one-person or two-person chores.
 - » Either way, what is important is that you act and do the things you should on time.
 - » This allows you to price and order farm inputs in a business-like manner.

BEING A BETTER MANAGER IN 2023

- » A good new year's resolution.
- » Most farmers are working so hard, they haven't time to really manage the farm. They are working on loose routines to get things done and are making plans as they fly from one job to the next.
 - This is very stressful and almost certainly is one of the reasons that farms under-perform and farmers are totally stressed out.
- » To manage a farm, you must have a plan, and this must evolve from good, up-to-date records. Establish where you are and then plan forward.
- » Farmers, who are serious about staying in business and maximising profit should use the following management-recording tools:
 - Dairy Profit Monitor;
 - Cost control planner;
 - ICBF milk recording;
 - ICBF herd-health recording;
 - Grass measure every week and record online (PastureBase Ireland - Teagasc);
 - Breeding chart, plus breeding plan;
 - Condition score chart – done six times per year;
 - Mastitis (clinical) chart;
 - Lameness chart;

- Fertiliser programme/nutrient - management plan; and
 - Farm - safety statement.
- » If you don't put these in place in early January, you won't use them during the year.
- » Arising from these, the overall farm can be developed; a financial plan, a grassland plan, a breeding plan, etc.
- The financial plan and the cost-control plan should be done now based on last year's accounts. If you are unable to do so, seek help from your adviser.
 - The grassland plan must be done now so that you farm adequate hectares to provide enough grass to maximise yield and at the same time have adequate silage for all your stock next winter. Your adviser will have this planner.
 - Do the breeding plan now, because you will be too busy in February and March:
 - ▶ When to start mating (MSD); when to start heat recordings; when to start metrickcheck, who and when to start synchronisation, etc.
- » Using these tools, I would be very confident that comparative costs can be kept low (that is key), that 11-14t/ha of grass can be utilised, that a 90per cent six-week calving rate can be achieved by farmers who are willing and have good management capabilities.
- The driver of profit from here on will be costs, because milk price will fluctuate greatly from one year to the next.
- » You might say you haven't the time to do all this recording. Well, you should make time because this work will, according to the experts, deliver you €60-€200 per hour extra profit. The larger the outfit the greater the profit.
- How can you make this happen? We will discuss later.
- » For sure, using these tools will leave far more profit this year than driving a tractor around the farm spreading slurry, fertiliser, topping, doing all milkings, etc.
- » Farmers who have a good adviser should have these individual reports analysed and reported on. Then you, the farmer, should act on the recommendations.

DEVELOP SOPs FOR YOUR FARM

- » SOPs are now common on most well-run dairy farms.
- » What are they?
- They are specific, written instructions to supplement normal on-farm training as to how we do things on the farm.

» What are their benefits?

- They enable all farm staff to work towards the farm's overall goals.
 - They provide direction for all staff on specific task procedure.
 - Communication is improved – there is less chance of ambiguity of message.
 - Training time is reduced.
 - Tasks are completed to a consistent standard.
 - Emergency staff will know the standard way of doing things at a glance.
 - They create a sense of teamwork on the farm.
- » SOPs, generally, should be:
- Written in bullet points with not more than seven per SOP on a single page;
 - They should be clear, readable and understood by all;
 - They must be farm specific and linked to the farm's goals;
 - They must be located near the workstation where required;
 - Pictures help the understanding;
 - Laminate them – a laminator is not very expensive;
 - Take feedback on content but, more particularly, monitor how staff are implementing the SOPs. If poorly, check out why;
 - Review and update regularly; and
 - Continue to train staff on how to perform tasks on the farm and train them to follow the SOP as outlined.
- » The following are examples of calf-rearing SOPs:
- Calf-shed procedure;
 - Managing new-born calf;
 - Calves on feeder;
 - Sick-calf identification and treatment; and
 - Cleaning calf shed.
- » From this, you can see that all tasks must be broken down into short, specific sections.
- » Students and staff should be encouraged to photograph them, store on phone and refer to them whenever the need arises.
- » Many farmers use WhatsApp to great effect, to record the correct way to do certain tasks such as milking, dehorning, etc.

PREVENT ANIMAL PROBLEMS BY GOOD 'HERDING'

- » Even though animals are housed they must be 'herded' two to three times per week, watching out for:
- Animals not feeding when others are;
 - Lamé or tender animals (remove from group and treat);



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- Empty animals (are they sick?);
 - Injured animals (remove from group immediately);
 - Bullying (take out the bully as they prevent resting and regular feeding);
 - Lice, coughing, scratching, etc. (dose and/or treat);
 - Sore eyes;
 - Dribbling, etc. (check for IBR and pneumonia); and
 - Abortions (check if salmonella is the cause).
- » Cows should be put through the footbath on three consecutive days once per month to prevent lameness.
- » All vaccinations, where possible, should be done in January to reduce the workload in February and March.
- » If you haven't vaccinated for leptospirosis, do it now.
This includes all breeding animals, including the heifers, for the bull this year.
- » If salmonella scour was a problem in calves last year, vaccinate now – talk to your vet.
- » Cows that are within 30-40 days of calving should get 100g/day of pre-calving mineral.
- So, you need a wide feeding face and throw it on the silage twice a day (three times if feeding face is less than 1.5ft/cow)
- » The beneficial effect of the dry-cow mastitis tube is now ending:
- Cow is at greater risk of mastitis;
 - Stress must be minimised (each cow needs one cubicle) as her life is more stressed as she gets near calving;
 - Cubicle beds must be cleaned every day and passages must be cleaned two to three times per day; and
 - Use lime (protect your eyes), sawdust or chopped straw on the beds.
- » Calving and calf houses must be ready for the imminent calving-season start.
- Houses must be clean, disinfected, and well-aired without draughts.
 - Have your calving jack, all back-up requirements in place as well as all gates secure.
- » Body condition score (BCS) – you can't do much now about February-calving thin cows, but fat (3.4+ BCS) should be put on restricted/poor-quality feed.
- Yearling heifers should now be 47 per cent of their mature body weight or approximately 260kg.
 - If less than that, they can make 320 mating weight targets on May 1 by now feeding 2-3kg meal (18-20%P) with good silage.

GROW MORE GRASS

- » We are only growing 60-70% of the grass quantity we could and must grow on our farms – this is due to:
- Poor soil fertility – we should never again allow this to enter the debate on farm walks, as it is too obvious;
 - Poor grass varieties; and
 - Poor grassland and grazing-management practices.
- » An absolute necessity now is to get a soil test done on the whole farm and act on the results.
- » Nitrogen (January/February): Minimise nitrogen (protected urea, only) use by using slurry and background nitrogen to supplement lower quantities of protected urea.

- Apply 2,500 gallons/ha on one-third of the farm, covers less than 700kg, to be grazed from March 17 to end of the first rotation.
 - Apply 23 units urea on each of the remaining area on the milking platform – best growth results when those fields have ryegrass and have a soil temperature of 5.5oC.
 - Spread the nitrogen in January/February on dry farms and February/March on wet/late farms.
- » Lime – there is no fertiliser more important than this and it gives best value for money. I don't know what words to use to get you to apply lime, but you are wasting your time farming without having soil Ph 6.3+.
- » Phosphorous and potash – as a result of all the environmental talk, many farmers don't know how much P and K to use:
- As a basic requirement, apply two bags 0:10:20 on grazing fields, three to four bags 0:7:30 on silage fields (reduced with slurry use); and
 - For Index 1 and 2 you need much more.
- » Slurry spreading – to get more efficient use of slurry, you must use low emission slurry spreading (LESS) with a trailing shoe or band spreader. This saves 20 units nitrogen/2,500 gallons – a saving of €30-40 per acre.
- Spread from January 12-31, depending on your slurry storage zone; and
 - Use the umbilical system but never, ever more than 2,500 gallons/acre – it is brilliant, as you minimise roadway damage, soil compaction and you free up labour.
- » When planning to spread fertiliser or slurry, check the weather forecast to be sure you have two to three dry days after spreading.
- Don't spread within 1.5 yards of a river, stream or well.

CHECKLIST FOR CALVING AND CALVES

- » Now is the time to get your ducks in a row for calving, as follows:
- Calving intervention guide booklet available;
 - Develop SOPs for identifying cows due to calve;
 - Calving jack with ropes in good working order;
 - Bottle of lubrication plus examination gloves;
 - Iodine disinfectant – you need to apply 10-15ml to each naval;
 - Stomach tube is an essential requirement to ensure new-born gets his colostrum requirement within a few hours of birth. Check that the bag is not leaking or that the tube isn't worn or damaged.
 - ICBF calving book with biro and pencil;
 - Calf tags and tagger;
 - Bottle of calcium and magnesium plus flutter valve;
 - Hydrated lime – required to disinfect calving pen after calvings;
 - Have you an adequate number of calving pens;
 - Have you a restraining gate in one or two calving pens;
 - Is the camera in good working order;
 - Have you a worker/overseer worked out for your staff, family and yourself? A night-time calver for large herd or where two to three farmers combine, has real merit, costing €70-120 per night;
 - SOPs – Are they laminated and nailed to the calving pen wall?

» **The following is your checklist for a successful early calf rearing season:**

- Develop SOPs for calf rearing and management;
- Do you have adequate space available for all calves;
- Are the pens hygienically clean and disinfected? Cyclix and Kenocox best;
- Hot water provided;
- Soap, gloves, and handwashing facilities;
- Calf feeders with teats, buckets and scrubbing brush;
- Medical requirements at hand, such as, electrolytes, provision to treat scour, pneumonia, etc.;
- Disinfectant facilities ready for inside and outside calf shed;
- Bedding material;
- Do you have adequate area available for all calves? See Table 1; and
- Get your adviser or discussion group to check over the calf-house ventilation.

Table 1: Effect of calving rate and age at sale on peak calf numbers for 100 cow-herd

6-week calving rate	Age at sale of beef calves	Peak calf numbers	Space required sq. meters
70%	2 weeks	47	80
70%	4-5 weeks	58	100
85%	2 weeks	50	85
85%	4-5 weeks	69	118

Source: Teagasc.

ARE YOU READY?

- » With 60-70% of your cows calving in February, list out your cows' expected calving date in your diary and move the early February calvers into an area on their own.
- » Has your milking machine been serviced?
 - This is a must-do task before starting the spring calving.
- » Prevent mastitis by keeping the animals' environment very clean and minimise feeding and bullying stress.
 - Move the expectant cows into the calving area seven to 10 days before and practice night-time silage feeding.
 - If mastitis in heifers has been a problem – more than 10% of them calved down with it last year – teat seal them four to six weeks before calving.
- » Rest well and book relief help for a few days per week.
 - Work hours are going to be 12-16 hours per day but get help before accidents happen due to tiredness and running from one job to the next.
 - Being tired will result in you being cross, irritable, impatient, not able to think straight and not respectful of family/employees/ other farm visitors.
 - At this late stage, it will be very difficult to get help so, what can you do:
 - ▶ Get your contractor do some or all of the following tasks: spread slurry, spread all fertiliser, feed silage to all stock, dehorn calves, your contract calf rearer may be in a position to take your calves earlier;
 - ▶ There are a lot of students living at home at weekends that would be only too glad of an income from milking and

general farm work – so put the word around; and

- ▶ Transition year students are another good resource.
- » Kill ragwort now by spraying in early January with MCPA or 24D.
- » Young farmers, male and female, must make it high priority to join their local Macra club. The benefits are enormous:
 - It provides a constant source of friends – never more important in an era where isolation is becoming the norm;
 - It acts as a valuable training ground so that you will be able to rationally debate your views in other non-farm situations;
 - Socialisation is fundamental to all our wellbeing; and
 - You will meet like-minded people from your own age group.

ARE BULLING HEIFERS (R2S) ON TARGET?

- » Too many farmers' first calvers are producing over 700-1,000 litres of milk less than their genetic potential. This also manifests itself in lower lifetime yields, higher culling rates, and longer calving intervals for second calvers.
- » Target weights now for yearling heifers should be 47 per cent of the cows' mature weight:
 - British Friesians – 260kg;
 - Jersey Crosses – 250kg; and
 - Holsteins – 265kg.
- » Heifers below target must be fed extra meal from now:
 - For every 1kg they are under target, they will need an extra 5kg of meal (16-18% P). If they are 10kg off target you must feed 50kg of meal over the next 30 days.
 - Plan to get them to grass in early February with 2kg meal.
 - Animals over target need no meals if they have good silage.
- » It is crucial to manage in-calf heifers carefully over the next few weeks:
 - It would be a good idea to now mix in-calf heifers with thin cows to minimise stress, post calving, when they will be exposed to 'bullying'.
 - 'Run' in-calf heifers through the milking parlour from now, feeding them 1-2kg meal to get them familiar with the parlour and the new routine.
 - Of course, they must be getting pre-calving mineral from 40 days before expected calving date.
 - More than the cows, they must be kept on very clean cubicles/ bedding pre-calving because their intakes can be as low as 4-6kg DM and their immune system will be very low making them very vulnerable to mastitis infection.
- » As an aside, heifer calves that get severe scour will never reach their full potential because they will not be able to digest food effectively because the scour 'burns off' the tops of the papillae in the gut. You are forewarned!

Best wishes for a happy, healthy, and prosperous new year to all my readers.

REMEMBER

Monitoring, manpower, motivation and management are the four legs of your springtime table.



ROBUST, POWERFUL MACHINES: T5 EXPANSION TARGETS 90-120HP SEGMENT



New Holland has expanded its range of T5 tractors, with the new T5S mid-size utility models and with the upgraded T5 Utility Powershuttle. The target of this new range, the company says, is to provide the 90-120hp segment with new, robust, powerful and easy-to-use machines that ensure the maximum level of performance and productivity to get the job done, in all conditions.

Both the T5S and T5 Utility Powershuttle are extremely versatile tractors with a wheelbase of 2,350mm and a weight of approximately 4 tonnes (t) offering high-performance and easy-to-use features. These models further enhance the broader T5 range from 80-140hp, to include the T5 Utility DualCommand, T5 ElectroCommand, T5 DynamicCommand, and T5 AutoCommand.

SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES

According to New Holland, the new sub-range have high-performing engines in common, together with ATS and hydraulic systems, but differ in overall dimensions, weight, axles and tyre offering, with a significant difference evident in the cab.

Both models feature a FPT F5 Stage V four-cylinder engine with 3.6L displacement. The optimised design of the turbocharger and pistons guarantees strong performance and fuel efficiency, with maximum power delivered at just 1,900rpm and best-in-class maximum torque (450Nm for the T5.100S and 506Nm for the T5.120 Utility Powershuttle)

delivered at a low 1,300rpm, with excellent torque rise of up to 47% for rapid recovery under load.

The tractors incorporate an exhaust after-treatment system that integrates a diesel oxidation catalyst, diesel particulate filter and selective catalytic reduction unit in a single, maintenance-free, compact solution that fits completely under the hood, ensuring perfect visibility and manoeuvrability, high ground clearance and easy loader installation. The tractors have a 600-hour engine service interval, and all daily maintenance can be easily carried out only from the left-hand side.

PERFORMANCE AND PRODUCTIVITY

The T5S features a choice of 12x12 or an optional 20x20 creeper mechanical or powershuttle transmission for smooth and rapid direction changes without using the clutch. On the other hand, the upgraded T5 Utility powershuttle comes with a powershuttle-only transmission that ensures smooth and rapid direction changes without using the clutch.

Both T5S and T5 Utility Powershuttle mount a hydraulic system that features twin pumps: a 36L/min pump dedicated to the steering and a second one with up to 82L/min for the services. The new MegaFlow pump, can ensure faster loader cycle times and fast raising and lowering of implements. Complementing this is a 540/540E/1,000rpm electro-hydraulically engaged PTO with soft

start activation, eco function, and ground speed ability. Up to three hydraulic remote outlets can be specified, all with push-pull system for easy connection. T5S and T5 Utility Powershuttle tractors can be ordered with an integrated front-loader-ready package from the factory and further options include factory-fitted front hitch and PTO.

The two new models differ in the type of front axle, gross vehicle weight (GVW) and maximum rear tyres that make the new offering ideal to target different customers: the ones searching for a lighter versatile tractor could focus more on T5S; while the ones looking for a larger and heavier utility tractor could appreciate the upgraded T5 Utility Powershuttle. The T5S features a lighter Class 1 HD axle with a flange-to-flange width of 1,584mm, while the T5 Utility Powershuttle features a Class 1.5 HD Large axle with a flange-to-flange width of 1,789mm, which makes the tractor ideal also for the heaviest jobs with loader. The GVW for the T5S is 6.5t and for the T5 Utility Powershuttle, it is 7t. The maximum size of rear tyre T5S could mount is R34 (SRI 750) while, for the first time, the upgraded T5 Utility Powershuttle could mount R38 (SRI 800) rear tyres. Both tractors can be ordered with front loader ready from factory. In addition, front PTO and front linkage can also be specified. The rear lift has been completely redesigned and now features two external lift cylinders, to increase performance and facilitate servicing. The



maximum lift capacity for T5S is an outstanding 4.4t, with a maximum lift capacity of 5t for the T5 Utility Powershuttle. T5S features Lift-o-Matic controls and the T5 Utility Powershuttle features the popular Lift-o-Matic plus system.

COMFORT AND VISIBILITY

Both tractors deliver comfort and visibility in cabs perfectly matched to the different requirements of the tasks they excel in. T5S tractors benefit from a new, ample, four-post cab design providing 320 degrees of visibility. The flat-deck cab is accessed via full-length doors, and an air-suspended seat and high-visibility sunroof for loader work add to the excellent operator comfort. While the T5S tractors fit in at the lower end of the T5 line, they can be specified to a high degree if required. Options include PLM Connect telematics, EZ-Pilot autoguidance and the Isobus UT/TC-capable IntelliView 4 display. The T5 Utility Powershuttle, on the other hand, has a comfortable 6-pillar VisionView cab that still allows you to have everything under control with great visibility. The main controls are very intuitive and easily accessible on the operator's right side for excellent ergonomics. The spacious cab offers easy access to the driving area, a quiet environment with just 76db, and the comfort of an air-suspended seat and excellent ergonomics. The design of the new T5S four-pillar cab and T5 Utility Powershuttle six-pillar cab satisfies the requirements of customers working with space constraints. In fact, both tractors stay below 2.65m of overall height with the upgraded T5 Utility Powershuttle representing a benchmark in the range thanks to the super low-profile roof which guarantees an overall height below 2.6m with R34 tires. According to New Holland, this new series of utility tractors is bursting with new features, the most comfortable and spacious cab, cleaner and responsive engines, stronger linkages and high hydraulic capacity.

New Holland global head of tractors, Oscar Baroncelli, said: "These new additions to the range prove the reputation of the T5 family as the most versatile, compact machines with best-in-class performances together with ease of usage and maintenance."



TIME FOR SOME SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

And so, readers, 2023 begins. Last year went by in a flash for me. Post-pandemic travel restrictions were lifted and I was able to visit parts of Europe again, and

machinery manufacturers there. There is such a great sense of freedom when you can travel around without restriction and barriers to enter other countries, and see how they are operating culturally and business-wise. I spent a lot of time in north Italy, the hub of engineering, particularly around Bologna and adjoining cities. These places were hard hit during the pandemic but are starting to bounce back and shops, bars and restaurants are witnessing an increase in business from tourists and locals. Sadly, some closed over the pandemic, never to reopen and the same happened in certain parts of Ireland.

As we move further away from the grips of Covid-19 restrictions and, hopefully away from the virus, we must spare a thought for the many loved ones who passed away over the last few years, many of whom didn't get the farewell that they deserved. Let's hope 2023 starts and finishes well for everyone.

Back to the business at hand, and it is great to see the price of diesel and fuel, in general, start to get back to some sort of normality. At the time of print, prices were 30-40c/L less than in November 2022, which is very welcome on the domestic and agriculture front.

There is a large increase in farmers now going organic with beef or sheep farmers making up around 80 per cent of new entrants, some of whom also have tillage enterprises. This sees more than 4,000 farmers making the switch to organic in recent times. It is reported that the EU is stepping away from a complete ban on sprays after concerns were raised by Member States that all herbicides, fungicides and other pesticides would be disallowed from 2024. This is good news for the tillage sector. On the dairy side of things, there have been rumblings of a potential cow-number cap on milking-parlour grants under TAMS. Dairy farmers who are milking more than 120 cows may be excluded from grant support, it is understood, something that the ICMSA and IFA are not best pleased about.

Pig prices are set to increase by 22 per cent in 2023 – very welcome news, indeed, for this sector, which has seen price levels over the last 18 months put farmers into very difficult situations.

There has been a spate of sheep kills on farms by dogs over the past few months, which is very distressing for farmers and their families, and for the remaining sheep left in the flock. I am firmly in support of reckless dog owners being severely dealt with. If you own a dog, you should be responsible for its whereabouts and actions at all times. And we need robust laws to deal with this ASAP.

Teagasc has stated that farm incomes will come under pressure in 2023 due to fertiliser, feed and fuel prices. Connected to that, I have seen €450 to €510 an acre quoted in certain parts of the country, for land lease, with many bidders driving the prices up and up. Is this the bridge too far? Will it be the norm for the coming year? It is time for some sense and sensibility when it comes to paying these prices per acre. I suppose it is down to supply and demand, but it doesn't half hit the bottom line.

On the machinery front New Holland has just introduced a prototype methane tractor that is set to run on liquified natural gas instead of compressed natural gas like the T6.180 model currently on the market. This could be a game changer for tractors!

It was great to see Agromek 2022, Northern Europe's largest joint agricultural show, take place in Denmark last month after a four-year absence. Irish machinery was well represented at the show, which was attended by more than 45,000 people and featured 540 exhibitors in 12 halls. This is certainly a show to put on the list to visit this year. Later this year, in November, sees the return of what is considered the world's leading agricultural machinery trade show, Agritechnica, and my advice is to get booking straight away for this as accommodation will be at a premium. Congratulations to Kellys of Borris, run by the Kelly family, who have been named Claas dealer of the year.

And last but certainly not least, don't forget to browse through our comprehensive 2023 Tractor Guide in this issue to see what is on offer. Until next month, farm safely and farm wisely.



Tom Murphy
Professional Agricultural
Contractors of Ireland



DESERVING OF A FAIR RETURN

Happy new year! Christmas is well and truly behind us now and agricultural contractors and farmers face into another year in the continuing cycle of agricultural life. Wouldn't it be great if, like the majority of occupations, they could look forward to a guaranteed and fair return for the incredible amount of time and effort they put into producing food for our tables; time that does not take into account unpaid work carried out by family members throughout the year, especially at harvest time? As we commence a new year, it is appropriate to remember the 12 people who lost their lives during farming accidents, and the many people who were injured during 2022. They and their families are in our thoughts and remembered in our prayers, together with all

those we have lost over the years. For many in the agricultural sector, this can often be a lonely time of year with many feeling isolated. This is confirmed by recent research presented to the Health and Safety Authority (HSA) Farm Safety Partnership (funded by the European Innovation Partnership). This report deals with the huge pressures that the majority of farmers face in relation to time management, with 50 per cent of farmers 'chasing their tails' to complete jobs and 55 per cent undertaking jobs by themselves that they know they should have help with. All of the above is exacerbated by a severe and continued shortage of labour and of course the prohibitive cost of labour where it is available.

NOWHERE TO TURN

The report also highlights the general sense that this group, in particular, feel they have nowhere to turn to, to share their problems. Here, we must applaud the Dairygold Co-operative Group, which, in association with the Samaritans, has set up a dedicated phone line to take calls from those working in agriculture that need a shoulder to lean on for advice or help. Staff handling these calls are fully trained and understand the unique pressures facing those working in agriculture. If you need to talk

to someone, you can free-call 116 123 (even on a mobile without credit). It is my belief there is a link between the pressures farmers endure and the number of serious injuries and fatalities experienced in this sector. I also believe that financial worries directly impact farmers' mental health. These are worries that could be eased if the European Commission and the government would agree a fair farmgate price. For too long, agricultural production has been heavily subsidised not only by the excessive hours that farmers and agricultural contractors work, but by all that free family labour. Meanwhile, it appears that those further up the chain cash in big time by dictating the farmgate price, thus contributing in no small way to the pressures that farmers and indeed contractors are already under. While I am sure that many of our bureaucrats would disagree with my take on the above, I would remind them that Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) subsidies only just help farmers survive, and at at what cost to their health? I can guarantee no bureaucrat would swap places with a farmer or a contractor. If they are confident the farmgate price is fair, show us the evidence that has brought them to this conclusion and on which they have based the CAP policy.

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OFF-ROAD TYRE MANUFACTURER BRANDS HYDROFLATION A SAFETY RISK

Off-road tyre manufacturer, BKT, says that the practice of hydroflation should be abandoned as it is a safety risk and is no longer necessary. Hydroflating was seen as an effective solution for ballasting operating equipment, according to BKT. The idea is that the weight of the water would provide tyres with greater traction, more grip, and help prevent slippage. "However, the practice of hydroflating can seriously compromise operator safety," said a BKT spokesperson.

"This is because each tractor is checked and registered with air-inflated tyres only. These are the basis of calculations relating to the inertial forces while running and to the transmission of vibrations, particularly on the road." If tyres are water ballasted, especially in relation to high-powered tractors travelling at speeds even exceeding 50/60km/h, all safety parameters regarding driving dynamics (such as lane changes, under- and over-steering bends, etc.) and the transmission of vibrations are completely ignored, the company said, and this can cause serious problems. "Thanks to innovation, there is a new generation of tyres that can completely satisfy the needs of agricultural operators, without the risk of compromising safety. Specific products for every situation, terrain and purpose are designed to offer maximum traction in all operating conditions.

Latest-generation tyres such as very high flexion (VF), enable agricultural machinery to carry heavier loads at reduced inflation pressure, according to BKT. VF technology is also designed to offer greater traction and to prevent slippage.



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VALTRA UNVEILS AWARD-WINNING Q SERIES

Designed, engineered, and manufactured in Finland, Valtra's award-winning Q series is the ideal tractor for large farms and contractors seeking a machine in the 230-305hp range. Valtra's fifth-generation tractors have been designed to offer the customer the best possible tractor experience, the company said, with 'redesigned cabs, a new look, new transmission and engine features, and a completely new smart display'.



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THE MOST POWERFUL PUMA EVER

Case IH describes its new Puma 260 CVXDrive as the 'most powerful and advanced Puma' ever and with up to 302hp for PTO, hydraulic and transport applications, we are inclined to believe the hype. Designed with arable farmers and contractors, the new tractor delivers elevated levels of power, performance, and productivity, with reduced operating costs plus increased up-time thanks to long service intervals and pro-active connected services. At the heart of this new flagship model is the Case IH AFS Connect system comprising the AFS Pro 1200 touch-screen monitor, AFS Vision Pro operating system and AFS Vector Pro receiver. These allow the operator to configure tractor management and precision farming functionality to their specific requirements. Farmers or contractors can administer and optimise farm, fleet, and management data from a desktop PC or mobile device, at any time, while extended remote capabilities include screen sharing. AFS AccuGuide auto guidance and AFS AccuTurn Pro automated headland management technology further increase convenience and productivity. Delivering the power is a fuel-efficient FPT NEF six-cylinder engine rated at 260hp with a maximum, unboosted output of 280hp. With engine power management, this figure

climbs to 302hp for PTO, hydraulic and transport applications. Quieter and more efficient, the new CVXDrive's continuously variable transmission allows 50km to be achieved at just 1,550rpm for optimum fuel economy. Productivity is further enhanced by its patented Advanced Trailer Braking system which stabilises tractor and trailer, and up to 24 powerful LED lights for improved night visibility. The Puma 260 CVXDrive is equipped with bigger and stronger front and rear axles. The optional 2.05m-diameter 710/70 R42 rear tyres increase the footprint by up to 18 per cent maximising traction and carrying capacity while minimising soil compaction. Ideal for customers who require high power output, but not a larger, heavier tractor, it is fitted with a rear linkage that can lift 10,468kg, and a hydraulic system with a flow rate of up to 170L/min. The cab is a true highlight with increased space, more storage, and better visibility. The maximum sound level inside the cab is just 66dB, which is comparable to that of a luxury car! The semi-active hydro-pneumatic cab suspension isolates the operator from vehicle movement, and they can adjust it to suit individual preferences or changing terrain. The optional Case IH Advanced Vehicle Suspension (AVS) system takes this to another level by integrating the

semi-active cab suspension, rear hitch and front axle suspension, sophisticated software reacting to changing surfaces for an even smoother ride. Providing the operator with a panoramic view from their state-of-the-art mobile office, the cab features wider steps for easier, safer entry and exit, conveniently placed grab handles, new fenders which enhance side visibility and a windscreen wiper with up to 240° of coverage. Inside, a multitude of functional and convenience features include a key fob which provides keyless operation in conjunction with the engine starter button, subwoofer speaker to optimise sound quality from the stereo system, additional space for personal belongings, plus an integrated coolbox to keep food and beverages cool and fresh. A premium leather seat with active suspension is optional. At the heart of the operator's workspace, the ergonomic MultiController armrest now incorporates more features, all of which are convenient to use and fully customisable. There is a 750-hour service interval and serviceability and reliability are further improved by a new hydraulic circuit which has 30% fewer connections and is quieter.

STAGE V MAKEOVER FOR ARION 400

Last year saw the arrival of the latest Stage V version of the popular Claas Arion 400 range. As part of the move to the latest Stage V emissions standard engine, the Arion 400 received a comprehensive makeover, which, in addition to a redesign, includes the availability of a new top-of-the-range model, the Arion 470, which has a maximum power output of 155hp, plus the availability of a power boost in all models from the 115hp Arion 440 and above. Carried over from the previous version, in addition to the standard cab, there is the option of either a low-profile cab or the unique panoramic version, which provides unrestricted visibility over a loader over its full lift arc. There is still the option of either a 16/16 QuadriShift, which is standard in the Arion 410/420, or the 24x24 HexaShift in the Arion 430 and above and, as before both the loader and the main tractor functions are all controlled using the multifunction control lever. All models are available with either the Claas CIS or CIS+ control



packages, which include 14 functions in the multifunction control lever and display in the right-hand A pillar. CIS+ adds a high contrast monitor, electrohydraulic spools and the Claas Sequence Management (CSM) headland management system. The Arion 400 combines the benefits of a long wheelbase of 2.49m (Arion 410 and Arion 420) or 2.53m (Arion 430 – Arion 470) with a short overall length, and the total gross vehicle weight has been increased to 9t, permitting payloads of up to 3.8t. Under the newly designed bonnet, all models are powered by 4.5L four-cylinder Fiat Powertrain (FPT) engines, which

incorporate the latest four-valve technology and turbochargers with intercooling. Turbochargers from the Arion 430 upwards are also fitted with a wastegate. The Stage V after-treatment system cleans the exhaust gases using an effective combination of SCRof (selected catalytic reduction on filter) technology and a diesel oxidation catalytic converter (DOC). This means that the engines not only run cleanly, but are still highly efficient, with low diesel and low AdBlue consumption. Torque has also been increased by 8 per cent, which is available across a wide power band.



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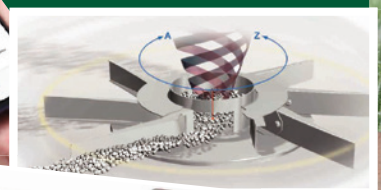
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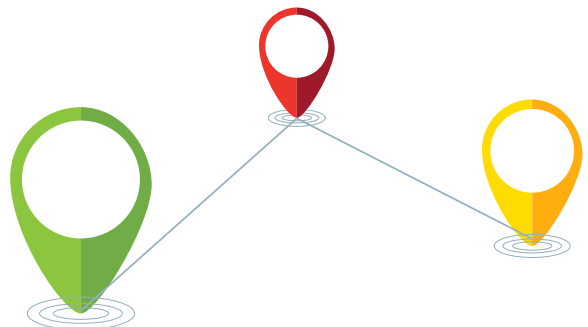
DEUTZ-FAHR 6.4 SERIES – ALL-ROUNDERS ON THE FARM

After renewing the high horsepower (hp) models of the 6 series, Deutz-Fahr unveiled the all-new family members of the 6.4 Series at EIMA 2022 – lighter platform machines in the 130-150hp range. These tractors feature compact dimensions, a new and exclusive powertrain based on brand-new engines, highly efficient transmissions, and new front axles. The result is an integrated system delivering outstanding performance in all conditions, superior draft capacity and excellent global efficiency, whether driving on public roads, working in the field, or around the farm. The new models are available in three variants – 6130.4, 6140.4 and 6150 – boasting maximum power outputs of 136hp, 147hp and 156hp, respectively, and all three variants are offered with a choice of two transmission types: the innovative RVshift, which won with its full Powershift concept the EIMA Technical Innovation award; and the continuously variable TTV transmission.

The technological features of the new 6.4 models make them the perfect choice, according to Deutz-Fahr, for any farm that needs a machine capable of tackling a wide variety of tasks, from soil preparation and hay-making, general front-loader work and feeder wagon to high-speed road transport and stationary PTO tasks, and even for snow-clearing. Comfort is also a feature of the 6.4 Series tractor with suspended MaxiVision cabs with ergonomic multifunction armrests and intuitive controls, front axles with hydraulic suspension and a choice of specific SDF Smart Farming Solutions for precision farming.

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Alongside the compact dimensions of its four-cylinder architecture, the new FARMotion 45 engine combines outstanding reliability and efficiency with extremely low operating costs. Contributing to the extraordinary efficiency of the engine is an electronically controlled, high pressure, common rail, fuel-injection system. The system not only maximises torque and power delivery and allows for a flat torque curve but also optimises fuel combustion, reducing both consumption and noise. The electronically managed VTG variable turbocharger geometry ensures lag-free response to changes in load, while the electronically controlled viscstatic fan reduces power losses and fuel consumption. Maintenance-free hydraulic tappets adjust valves continuously to keep the engine running in optimum operating conditions.



PRECISION SOFTWARE WINS MAJOR AWARD FOR AMAZONE

Amazone's GPS ScenarioControl was the winner of the software category at the recent Farm Machine 2023 awards, which took place at SIMA in Paris. ScenarioControl, which automates headland border spreading operations, can be used with the AmaTron 4 ISOBUS terminal and the AmaTron Twin app.

According to the company: "The precise application of fertiliser exactly where it is required plays a critical role in saving costs. Various border-spreading procedures are used to provide environmental compliant spreading. The GPS ScenarioControl system is used to automate certain functions on the Amazone fertiliser spreader based on a previous recorded scenario, preventing operator errors during applications." Some advantages of GPS ScenarioControl include:

- ▶ Always using the same switch points in the field – this reduces workload by following a previously recorded scenario; prevents operator error; leads to optimised, efficient fertiliser usage; ensures legally-compliant fertiliser application is guaranteed; and
- ▶ Always the same spreading pattern across the field – assists drivers who are unfamiliar with the fields; supports inexperienced drivers; and reduces driver workload.



Field with complete route planning and saved, georeferenced scenarios. The activated machine functions are stored behind every switch point.



MERGENTO – A CUT ABOVE THE REST AT MACHINERY AWARDS

The new Mergento VT 9220 merger from grassland specialist, Pöttinger, was the winner of the 'forage harvesting' category at the recent Farm Machine 2023 awards, which took place at SIMA in Paris. This is a coveted award in agricultural technology, which is presented by trade journalists working for farm magazines. The jury praised how Mergento collects the forage using the pick-up, while dirt and stones remain on the ground. Without further contact with the ground, cross conveyor belts transport the forage to the swath. The machine's conveyor unit was highlighted as the 'heart of the Mergento'.

Pictured at the awards: editor Matériel Agricole, Ulysse Dubroeuq; managing director research and development, Pöttinger, Dr Markus Baldinger; director Pöttinger, France, Eric Yoder; and owner, Klaus Pöttinger.



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OUTSTANDING IN ITS FIELD – THE FENDT 700 VARIO

With the launch of the seventh generation of the Fendt 700 Vario, the German company delivered a machine with a completely new ground-up design, increased power, upgraded technical innovations and much more. Its 728 Vario turned all the judges' heads at the 2023 Tractor of the Year (TotY) awards, and it was successful at SIMA too.

Here, we take a look under the bonnet, over the bonnet, and everywhere in between to see what is so good about this seventh-generation sensation.

The new range has five models – 720 Vario, 722 Vario, 724 Vario, 726 Vario and 728 Vario – with a power range from 203-283hp.

The Fendt DynamicPerformance (DP) extra power concept releases up to 20hp of extra power in the Fendt 728 Vario DP via a demand-dependent control system precisely when it is needed, making it possible for the top model to achieve maximum performance of up to 303hp. The extra power concept is not tied to driving speed or special application pick-ups, and

functions purely dynamically, even when PTO work is carried out at a standstill.

POWER AND ECONOMIC CONSUMPTION

The Fendt 700 Vario was developed with a low power-to-weight ratio, with a high-performance range, flexibility and the careful use of resources and the environment in mind. The six-cylinder AGCO Power engine with 75L capacity has been completely redesigned for the power spectrum. Exhaust gas after-treatment takes place via a diesel oxidation catalytic converter (DOC), diesel particulate filter (DPF) and with selective catalytic reduction (SCR) without exhaust gas recirculation. It meets the required Stage V exhaust emission standards.

ALL-WHEEL DRIVE

Intelligently controlled all-wheel drive management is one of the advantages of Fendt VarioDrive. It drives the front and rear axles as needed and distributes the power dynamically. In the field, the full tractive force

is available and stresses are avoided when driving on roads or curves. The so-called pull-in-turn effect pulls the machine into the curve during turns, resulting in a particularly small turning circle with full tractive power and less soil compaction.

HIGH TORQUE, LOW ENGINE SPEED

The innovative low-speed Fendt iD concept is already familiar from the larger tractors. All components, such as the engine, transmission, hydraulics and cooling system, were designed according to the so-called 'high torque, low engine speed' principle. In this way, the 700 Vario achieves high torque even at low engine speeds, and saves fuel.

POWER-TO-WEIGHT RATIO, MANOEUVRABILITY AND GROUND PROTECTION

With a power-to-weight ratio of just 30.5kg per horsepower and compact external dimensions, the Fendt 728 Vario is particularly manoeuvrable and exerts as little pressure

as possible on the ground. Depending on the work application, the range can be flexibly ballasted at the front, as well as at the rear on the rear wheels. A gross vehicle weight of up to 15 tonnes (t) allows it to be used as a heavy towing tractor. The exclusive Concentric Air System (CAS) ventilation and cooling concept has been consistently designed for low engine speeds, compact construction and fuel efficiency. Optimum tyre pressure reduces slip and ground pressure. The fully integrated Fendt VarioGrip tyre pressure control system increases the contact area with the ground and boosts tractive power by up to eight percent. When driving on the road, the air pressure is raised and thus the rolling resistance is reduced.

HIGH VARIANCE FOR GLOBAL REQUIREMENTS

The 726 and 728 Vario models are equipped with large 650/85R38 tyres (2,050mm diameter) as

standard. For medium-sized farms, customers can choose tyres with the dimension 650/65R42 (diameter of 1,950mm) for the rear tyres, among others. The Fendt 720, 722 and 724 Vario models are equipped with this dimension as standard. The 60-inch gauge is common in North America, Australia and South Africa and is mainly used in row crop farming.

SAFETY EVEN WITH HEAVY TRANSPORT

For the first time, a new trailer brake assistant is optionally available for the 700 Vario, ensuring an even tow even on hilly terrain and thus safe driving behaviour.

When driving downhill, if the tractor detects that the trailer is pushing too hard, the trailer's pneumatic brakes are activated. Trailer brake assist will be available from the end of 2023.

OTHER FEATURES AT A GLANCE

- » The tractor and implements are operated simply and individually via the multifunction joystick.
- » Cabin air filtration – category 4 protection according to the EU standard EN15695 protects the driver from dust, liquid crop protection agents and their vapours.
- » Continuous panoramic window with a viewing angle of 77 degrees, and side window wiper.
- » Two optional cameras for the front and rear.
- » Improved performance of the air conditioning system.
- » Drinks and food can now be kept both chilled (0-16°C) and warmed (45-65°C) in a cool and warm box.
- » Six different seat configurations.
- » New generation of Fendt front loaders – the Fendt Cargo Pro 6,100 will be available from the end of 2023; and the Fendt Cargo 6,100.
- » Powerful high-performance hydraulics.
- » Fendt Care Services up to eight years.

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LEMKEN ACQUIRES STAKE IN DUTCH AG-TECH COMPANY

Lemken has acquired a stake in Dutch ag-tech company, Track32, with the aim of accelerating the development of smart technologies, the machinery company said.

Lemken has previously worked with Track32 to develop a hoeing machine – the IC-Weeder AI – that can reliably distinguish sugar beet from weeds, even under high weed pressure. Acquiring a holding in the Dutch company, according to Lemken, gives it the opportunity to 'develop technologies of the future, in-house, in collaboration with a competent partner'.

Managing director of the Lemken Group, Anthony van der Ley, says he is pleased that the current investment establishes a sound basis for continued cooperation in the future. "This will accelerate the development of smart technologies and ensures continuity. For Track32, our cooperation delivers planning security and great potential for growth." Track32's founder, Joris IJsselmuiden explains: "As a company that specialises in software and artificial intelligence, we also develop solutions for arable farming and greenhouse



processes. With Lemken as an investor and client, we will be able to concentrate even more on the further development of our software and will benefit from closer proximity to end customers."

According to Lemken, this investment also offers additional benefits besides great market potential, namely in terms of sustainability. The agricultural machinery specialist says it is confident that machines equipped with this

technology will make a major contribution to regenerative agriculture. Track32's expertise will allow Lemken implements to be used even more precisely and in more versatile ways, so that intelligent machines can be controlled not only by human operators, but also by robots, for example. Lemken and Track32 are currently collaborating on a number of joint projects to achieve this objective.

Lamma 2023 sees Kubota (UK) Ltd roll out more options for the 104-143hp M6001 Utility series as it focusses on improving comfort, versatility and efficiency, according to the company. These options include the introduction of front-axle suspension, front linkage, and front PTO. The M6001 Utility series was first introduced at the 2022 Lamma show, offering five models from 104-143hp, and meeting EU Stage V emissions with an improved exhaust after-treatment package that contributes to lowering the cost of ownership. Short wheelbase models comprise the M6-101U and M6-111U, which use a 3.8L Kubota V3800 four-cylinder engine producing maximum power of 104hp and 111hp respectively. With a 2.54m wheelbase, these two models offer maximum torque figures of 346Nm and 379Nm. M6-121U, M6-131U and M6-141U sit on a longer 2.68m wheelbase, and use Kubota's 6.1L V6108 four-cylinder engine as found in the M6002 and M7003 tractor series. At launch, only the range-topping M6-141 utility model was equipped with front axle suspension. The suspended front axle can now be factory-fitted to the other four lesser-powered models as an extra cost option, improving ride quality and operator comfort. Further versatility for all M6001 Utility tractors is the addition of a front linkage and front PTO package. The



linkage comprises a Cat IIIN format with a 2.8t lift capacity. The use of fold-up lower link arms simplifies integration with a loader. In addition, buyers can also add a double-acting spool outlet with the front linkage, while the front PTO pack comprises a 1,000rpm speed. Front mudguards are now available for the short wheelbase M6-101U and M6-111U models. Engine technology on the M6001 Utility series brought improvements to diesel oxidation catalyst and diesel particulate filter (DPF) performance. DPF cleaning intervals are 8,000 hours for the 6.1L engine, and up to 6,000 hours for the smaller 3.8L engine. Across the series, a 40km/h semi-powershift transmission is used, which provides eight

powershifts in three mechanical ranges to create a 24x24 gearbox. The option of a creeper range increases the choice of ratios to 32x32. Operator comfort is provided by an air suspension seat in the same cab frame shared with M6002 and M7003 models, while front axle suspension is available as an option. A wide sunroof offers generous visibility for those looking to equip M6001 Utility models with a loader, of which there are two variants. A fixed displacement open centre hydraulic system provides 71L/min and 77L/min of oil flow respectively for short- and long-wheelbase models, while two mechanically operated spool valves are fitted as standard. One additional rear spool is optional.

ZETOR TO UPDATE PROXIMA ENGINE THIS SPRING

If you are in the market for a machine this year, whether for farming or forestry, or you are looking for more specialised municipal equipment, then the Zetor Proxima may be worth a look. For now, it is powered by a four-cylinder stage 3B, 16-valve turbo-charged Zetor diesel engine, with a 76-106hp range over three model lines: Proxima CL with a 12x12 mechanical SynchroShuttle gearbox; Proxima GP with a 16x16 SynchroShuttle Mechanical PowerShift gearbox; and the most powerful Proxima HS with a 24x24 electrohydraulic PowerShuttle gearbox with PowerShift and PowerClutch. However, mid-spring 2023 will see the introduction of an updated Stage 5 Deutz TCD 3.6 four-cylinder turbocharged engine, ensuring the emissions meet the current legislation through a combination of a particulate filter (DPF), together with exhaust gas recirculation, selective catalytic reduction (SCR), and diesel oxidation catalyst (DOC). The engine will also see the power range increase to 80-120hp. The rear of the tractor is equipped with a Cat 2 three-point linkage, delivering a maximum lifting power of 44kN. The HitchTronic system measures the soil resistance, using the value to automatically regulate the rear three-point



linkage, meaning the operator only needs to set the implement depth. The independent rear PTO is available with 540/540E and 1,000 speeds, plus ground speed. The choice of two, three or four double-acting spools come complete with a free flow return, and are mechanically controlled from the cab, with the GP and HS available with optional EHR control. The falling object protective structures (FOPS)-rated cabin provides a safe and comfortable work environment. Zetor's Forterra falls into the mid-sized tractor market, offering three model lines: Forterra CL with a 24x18 mechanical SynchroShuttle gearbox with PowerShift; Forterra HSX with a 30x30 electrohydraulic PowerShuttle gearbox with PowerShift; and the range-topping Forterra HD with a 30 x 20

Electrohydraulic PowerShuttle gearbox with PowerShift and PowerClutch. All models are powered by a four-cylinder, 16-valve turbo-charged Zetor stage 5 diesel engine with power ranging from 96-147hp and high torque values, giving the Forterra the ability to work at low speeds with a high load without the need for frequent gear changes. Emissions are controlled, ensuring they meet the current legislation, through a combination of a particulate DPF, together with exhaust gas recirculation, SCR, and DOC.

The rear four-speed PTO offers 540/540E/1000/1000E, allowing the Forterra to work with a huge range of powered implements. The PTO speed is clearly displayed on the dashboard and operators can select automatic PTO operation, engaging and disengaging the PTO in relation to the position of the rear three-point linkage. The HSX and HD can benefit from Feedback Control Start, engaging the PTO in soft start independently to the PTO load. The CL features a Cat 2 rear linkage with the option of upgrading to Cat 3N with a maximum lift force of 77kN. The HSX comes with the same Cat options as the CL, but with an increased maximum lift of 85kN, matching the larger HD, which is equipped with Cat 3. The HitchTronic control measures the soil resistance, using the value to automatically regulate the rear three-point linkage, meaning the operator only needs to set the implement depth.

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AWARD-WINNING MF 5S SERIES – THE ULTIMATE LOADERS

Massey Ferguson ended 2022 on a high with its versatile 'ultimate loader' MF 5S Series scooping the Farm Machine 2023 Award for tractors less than 120hp. The prestigious honour from Groupe La France Agricole was presented at a special ceremony at SIMA in Paris in November. Offering best-in-class visibility and an industry-leading 4m turning radius, the narrowest steep-nosed bonnet and practical features, the MF 5S Series comprises supreme-loader tractors, and with optional front-axle suspension, a high payload and greater linkage capacity, they are powerful performers in the field and on the road. The MF 5S Series comprises five models from 105hp to 145hp. All come with a choice of 'essential', 'efficient' and 'exclusive' specifications, which provide a range of performance-enhancing features to suit all types of farms and applications, according to Massey Ferguson.

All are powered by the latest AGCO Power 4.4L, four-cylinder engines that meet the latest Stage V emissions regulations, with straightforward all-in-one selective catalytic reduction technology.

MF 5S Series tractors come with a choice of either the Dyna-4 or Dyna-6 SuperEco. There is also the brake-to-neutral feature, which disengages drive when the brakes are applied.

All cabs are equipped to a high specification, and, for exclusive and efficient models, there is a new armrest. As used in the recently launched flagship MF 8S range, this houses the Multipad joystick that controls a number of functions including forward/reverse shuttle, linkage and spool valves. High performance out in the field is ensured thanks to the robust three-point linkage, which can lift up to 6,000kg – 14% more than the previous models. Developed for mounting with the new suspended axle, the latest front linkage is an integrated design that helps maintain the industry-leading 4m turning radius. With front linkage capacity increased from 2,500kg to 3,000kg, this enables operators to improve efficiency by carrying out two operations at the same time with larger, wider implements. Thanks to its impressive 9.5t gross vehicle weight, which is 12% higher than before, the MF 5S can also safely carry and handle larger loads.

COMPLETE CONNECTIVITY

MF 5S Series tractors can be fully connected with MF Connect telemetry an option on all. The Geofencing function improves logistics management and security by sending alerts to smart phones and mobile devices if and when machines leave or enter pre-defined areas. Massey Ferguson's Datatronic 5 terminal is standard on exclusive models and



an option on efficient. This ISOBUS compatible touch-screen operator information station monitors all the tractor functions and controls any ISOBUS compliant implement. Datatronic 5 can also run MF Technologies/Smart Farming Suite providing precision farming functions including MF Guide automatic steering, as well as MF Section Control and MF Rate Control, which can now handle and manage up to 96 sections, three booms and five products. Pre-installed MF TaskDoc software is used to create field records, as applied maps, log fuel use, make job reports as well as keep an accurate account of all inputs to every hectare.



Pat McCormack,
President, ICMSA

RURAL IRELAND RUNS ON MILK

Entering a new year, the message that we at ICMSA hear being sent by the Government about the agri-sector is that, rather than being an economic and social asset to our country, we are a problem. Our sector is a problem that has to be 'solved'. That's the way our interaction with the Government is being framed and that's the basis on which policy is being handed down. Farming is a problem and here's the next load of restrictions and regulations by way of an answer to that problem. Ten years ago, after the financial crisis that wrecked the economy, we were begged to knuckle down to farming and work to produce the food and rebuild our exports through our traditional strengths. Government practically ordered us to expand. And we did. And, it was Irish food exports that rebuilt the export profile of this country, but that's all eaten bread now... or drunk milk.

Now, the farming and food sector has to be reduced by a quarter or a half or whatever reduction some environmental activists deem to be necessary. And we'll probably read about it first in the newspaper, or hear about on the radio.

We have to get past this completely false presentation of Ireland's climate challenge that has farming and food as an obstacle to progress. This is not an 'either/or' between Irish farming and meeting our climate targets. It never has been and if we persist in looking at it that way then we'll end up failing on both.

Very influential elements in our decision-making process don't seem particularly alarmed by this trend. They should be,

because we certainly are.

The energy of rural Ireland is not wind or solar or even diesel—rural Ireland runs on milk. The focus on environment to the exclusion of food will almost certainly mean that, in the words of UN Secretary-General António Guterres, at the G20 Summit in Bali in November 2022: "We are on the way to a raging food catastrophe."

ICMSA will be part of solutions that start from and proceed within the bounds of science and logic. Some consistency would also be welcome; everyone wants emissions to be lowered, but no-one wants to give up their sun holidays. We live in an age of jaw-dropping double standards where, often on the same news bulletin, we have calls for compulsory reductions of cow numbers while surging sales of hundreds of thousands of overseas flights to sun destinations by budget airlines are announced as though it were a good-news story.

Emissions from farming? That's a national problem with mandatory targets aimed at reduction of the whole national sector. Emissions from air travel? That's none of our business and bon voyage! We seem to have arrived at a very odd decision about the distinction between good and bad emissions. But that wouldn't be the only odd decision we are going to be grappling with in Ireland.

The recent Supreme Court decision around costs of environmental objections is also of significant concern. On the face of it, this judgment must surely mean very prolonged periods of incredibly expensive legal process with only one side – those seeking

permission to build – being in any way liable for what would surely be staggering costs involved. The State is now committed to effectively underwriting any costs to any objections where the objections arose on environmental grounds. This must increase the already dizzying number of cases where the State was effectively mounting legal challenges against its own decisions. Through subventions and funding of agencies like An Taisce and numerous other groups, taxpayers are already in a position where they were funding both sides of horrendously expensive legal battles – the State agencies that had given third party entities permission for building and the state-supported NGOs that were objecting to those projects proceeding. The net effect of the Supreme Court judgment is that so long as the objection can be filed under any kind of environmental heading, then the State is obliged to cover all the costs associated with that objection.

The An Taisce action on the Nitrates Derogation is of huge concern to our members and our Executive Committee decided recently that ICMSA should apply to be a notice party to this case. The State won't fund our legal action, farmers will have to fund it ourselves and ICMSA has decided to use our resources to defend our members' position and to insist that our voice is heard on this matter. The action is of huge significance to, not only our members, but to the whole dairy sector and the wider rural economy. If An Taisce succeeds on this matter, it will have huge negative implications for our sector and ICMSA expects the State to resolutely defend its position on this matter.



THE DANGERS OF HYDROGEN SULPHIDE

CIARAN ROCHE, FBD RISK MANAGER, STRESSES THE DANGERS OF HYDROGEN SULPHIDE ON THE FARM, NOTING THAT A SINGLE LUNGFUL OF SLURRY GAS CAN KILL



Working with slurry is an extremely dangerous activity if it is not managed safely. Sadly, too many people have needlessly lost their lives by asphyxiation, drowning and accidents involving the PTO when handling slurry.

Considering that most farmers know that one lungful of slurry gas can kill, it astonishes me that many farmers still continue to agitate slurry with cattle in sheds. There are three main hazards you should risk assess and manage when handling slurry. They are: slurry gases; slurry tank openings; and the slurry tanker/the PTO.

SLURRY GASES

A number of highly toxic and flammable gases are produced during the bacterial decomposition of slurry and high levels of these gases are released during the agitation of slurry. Inhaling these gases, which include hydrogen sulphide, ammonia, methane, and carbon dioxide, can be lethal. Because hydrogen sulphide and carbon dioxide (CO₂) are heavier than air they can displace oxygen and, therefore, present a suffocation hazard in tanks and poorly ventilated areas. In particular, hydrogen sulphide is extremely poisonous both to people and animals. Hydrogen sulphide is colourless and it has a 'rotten egg' smell at low levels but cannot be smelled at higher levels. Repeated or prolonged exposures may cause eye inflammation, headache, fatigue, irritability, insomnia, digestive disturbances, and weight

loss. To prevent the risk of being overcome by hydrogen sulphide gas you should always follow the golden rules around ventilation, evacuation and agitation.

Ventilate: where possible, choose a windy day as this will allow the gas to disperse quickly; open all shed doors and outlets.

Evacuate: all persons and all animals.

Agitate:

- ▶ do not stand on or near slats or the agitation point;
- ▶ agitate from outside the shed if at all possible (for sheds with internal agitation points you should strongly consider moving the agitation points to an external area);
- ▶ do not attempt to enter the shed until at least 30 minutes after agitation has finished, remember toxic gases are being released even if you cannot smell them
- ▶ two people should be present if possible;
- ▶ do not smoke or use a naked flame within the vicinity of the shed being agitated, as slurry gases are highly flammable;
- ▶ never enter the slurry tank unless you are trained and competent in working in confined spaces and are wearing suitable breathing apparatus and a harness attached to a lifeline controlled by at least two other adults positioned outside of the area.

SLURRY TANK PROTECTION

Many children, farmers and contractors have drowned in unprotected slurry tanks. All

open slurry tanks must be fenced off with an unclimbable safety wall or fence at least 1.8m in height, and locked gates of the same standard should be fitted at the access point. For all other tanks, the first step is to provide safety manhole access covers at the agitation points.

If the tank does not have a safety manhole access cover, additional precautions need to be taken. Temporary covers or guardrails must be used to protect the opening and warning signs should be put in place. However, this is not an ideal situation and these slats should be replaced with safety access covers.

Remember that slats can degenerate over time, and fail. With this in mind, it is imperative that slats are regularly inspected and replaced if damaged.

BEWARE OF THE PTO

Extreme caution must be taken when operating the PTO, as entanglement in it can lead to loss of life and limb. Exposed bolts, universal joints or other projections on rotating components can grab clothing, resulting in instant entanglement. Always ensure that the PTO is fully guarded with a PTO-shaft guard, U guard and O guard. By following these simple precautions you will minimise the risks associated with slurry.

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A man and a woman are walking a dog on a dirt path in a rural setting. The man is wearing a flat cap, a plaid shirt, and a dark jacket, holding a walking stick. The woman is wearing a blue vest over a white sweater and blue jeans. The dog is a brown and white spaniel. In the background, there are farm buildings and a fence.

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Mary Kissane, whose cows were stolen from her north Kerry farm last November, speaking at the ICMSA AGM. Photo: Don Moloney.

TRESPASSING AND THEFT – THE UGLY SIDE TO LAND ACCESS

RURAL CRIME AND TRESPASSING WERE HOT TOPICS OF DISCUSSION AT A RECENT FARMING-ORGANISATION MEETING, WITH FARMERS CRITICAL OF THE LACK OF RURAL POLICING AND CALLING FOR GREATER RESOURCES TO BE MADE AVAILABLE, WRITES BERNIE COMMINS

‘The goodwill of private landowners allows the people of Ireland to enjoy access to many areas for outdoor recreation’ according to the recently published National Outdoor Recreation Strategy (NORS). It goes on to say that through the efforts of many community groups working with local farmers, new opportunities for access to trails and green spaces are being developed all the time.

This positive rural-news story came a few days before the annual general meeting of the Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers’ Association (ICMSA), which heard of a much uglier side to land access across the Irish countryside. In addition to complaints about gardaí failing to return calls, the farmer gathering heard stories of intimidation and threatening behaviour aimed at them from some members of the public who had no permission to be on their land, while issues relating to empty rural garda stations, and a lack of gardaí on the beat were also raised, as well as the growing scourge of livestock theft.

STOLEN COWS

You could hear a pin drop in the room of more than 200 farmers as Mary Kissane shared the story of how five of her cows were stolen from her farm in Tarbert, north Kerry, at the

end of November. The 73-year-old who lost her husband earlier in 2022, told the room: “We got a phone call at five past 11 [at night] to tell us that the cows were out on the road, and our neighbour had put them in. We went over the next morning and there was five missing,” she said. Neighbours helped to search for the cows, but they were nowhere to be found, and at 1.10pm, she said her son rang the guards.

“They [gardaí] were out at another case, and they came to Tarbert at six o’clock that evening. Now I have locks on gates, locks on everything, what can I do? I don’t think I will get back my cows, I have very little hope. Every day that goes, it is getting less and less [likely].”

This is just one of several cases of livestock theft reported in recent months with farmers in Cork, Kilkenny, Roscommon and Laois on the receiving end of this type of criminal behaviour.

GARDA REPRESENTATIVES

Rural crime and trespassing on land are not new phenomena, but this AGM item was significant enough for assistant garda commissioner, Paula Hilman and chief superintendent Padraic Jones of the Garda National Community Engagement Bureau to attend the meeting. There, they spoke of the recently launched Rural Safety Plan 2022-2024; Operation Thor, which targets organised crime gangs; the role and significance of community policing; and the importance of reporting crime, even if there is a feeling that it is not going to make a difference. “We can only put those operations in place and have a meaningful outcome once we have engagement from yourselves, the eyes and ears of the public,” said chief superintendent Jones. “Because, unfortunately, we don’t have the resources to have a garda in every farmyard or on every street, so we rely on the public hugely in

An Garda Síochána confirmed to *Irish Farmers Monthly* (at time of print) that, over the course of 2021 and 2022, there were reports of 73 incidents of sheep theft, involving 1,144 animals, while 49 incidents of cattle theft were reported, involving 353 animals. Forty-five horses were stolen in a reported 31 incidents, while 17 other reports to the gardaí involved the theft of other animals/livestock, and fewer than 10 reports of poultry theft involved 138 birds over the two years.

preventing, and also detecting some of these crimes," he added.

FRUSTRATION

But what emerged, as farmers shared their stories, was that the two things the chief superintendent focused on above, caused much of the farmers' frustration: insufficient numbers of gardaí in rural towns and villages; and a belief that reporting rural crime doesn't yield results, or even a call back from the gardaí in some instances.



I am still waiting for a response to six phone calls I made last July

One farmer said an encounter with threatening and abusive trespassers on his land led him to call the gardaí, only to receive a call back four-and-a-half hours later. "If you are outside in your own field and you are confronted by a gang of six or seven individuals, it is a very lonely place. And if we make a 999 call, I think we should be able to expect a very quick response, but this is not what we are getting. I am still waiting for a response to six phone calls I made last July."

'SOMEONE WILL GET HURT'

This, he said, was not just a local issue. "I raised this at a national council meeting and very quickly I realised that this was a national issue, of trespassers coming onto our lands being threatening and abusive with a total disregard for the fact they are on private property."

The same farmer said that on the morning of the AGM, he received a call from a farmer friend of his who told him that 'they come down through the farmyard now and they give him the two fingers when he is inside in his kitchen, as they pass his window.' "This is getting worse, it is getting to a point where someone will get hurt or killed, be it a farmer or a trespasser, and nobody wants to see that. We want more prompt action from the gardaí if a 999 call is made, I think as taxpayers and citizens, it is our right that if I make a 999 call, that there will be help on the way."

A Waterford-based farmer raised the issue of empty rural garda stations, which, in his case, means there are no gardaí within

17 miles of his house. "We have two local stations and there is no one in them," he said. And he referenced the disconnect that exists between rural communities and the gardaí, when the local stations are no longer operational. "You are made to feel like more of a criminal than the person you are complaining about [when you ring the urban stations]. Gardaí in these stations need to cop themselves on, and I make no apology for saying that," he said.

Farmers sought advice on 'what force' they could use if they are being threatened, with one attendee asking if a farmer's home was broken into, did they have the right 'to blow them back out the front door' with a legally held shotgun?

Assistant garda commissioner, Paula Hilman and chief superintendent, Padraic Jones.
Photo: Don Moloney.



REPORT IMMEDIATELY

The main message that the garda representatives stressed throughout the meeting was the need to and importance of reporting all crime and incidents of trespassing and intimidation – and not to engage with trespassers if you feel under threat.

"In terms of trespass, we would encourage you not to engage with people on the land if you feel you are outnumbered or if you feel there is a threat. That is when we encourage that reporting takes place immediately," the chief superintendent said.

"And we would encourage you to be aware

of the evidence around you in relation to those people, how they got on to your land or your farm, for example, if we have a car registration or a description of individuals, that can be very helpful. If we are not in a position to respond immediately, then we would have some evidence to commence inquiries." He explained that although gardaí have power of arrest for trespass – broadly speaking – they must find the trespassers in the act at the time. "I want the message to go out that we should report at all times, because that allows us to develop information and awareness and to put in place plans to deter that [behaviour]. If you think that you have been let down by the garda response, I would point you to our crime prevention officers who are our network of people on the ground, their contact details are on the garda website," the chief superintendent stated. He told the gathering that where there have been pockets of illegal activity and really good community engagement, it has helped the gardaí make good progress.

This was backed up by the assistant commissioner who said: "If there is one message that you take away, it is that you report and encourage people to report. We do what is called information-led policing, we put 'resource to risk' and we use data to employ our resource, so if people aren't reporting, then it is not coming up on our Pulse system."

CRIME-PREVENTION MEETINGS

A call for crime-prevention meetings to take place around the country in 2023 was met with a commitment from the garda representatives to deliver on that.

"We will liaise with our crime-prevention officers and we can have local events like this, and we can do that over the first six months of 2023," said the assistant commissioner.

"We don't have all the answers, but we will listen and do our utmost best at national and local levels," she said.

ICMSA president, Pat McCormack said:

"Together we can do a significant amount to reduce and, over time, to eradicate it [rural crime]. Some of the key messages, we need to report, and yee [gardaí] need to respond."

Crime prevention officers

You can find out who your crime prevention officer is here: <https://www.garda.ie/en/crime-prevention/>

FARMERS CARRY THE COST OF TRACTOR REGULATION

As it does every January, this edition of *Irish Farmers Monthly* contains a comprehensive tractor guide outlining the brands, specifications, and prices of tractors available to Irish farmers.

A new tractor represents a considerable investment and should be the subject of scrutiny to confirm that money is well spent. Adequate horsepower to cater for the myriad of uses tractors are put to on farms is of central importance. As power tools, tractors have few peers in terms of versatility, efficiency and productivity. Tractor design, comfort and performance have improved considerably in recent years and continuous research and development expenditure by manufacturers promise ongoing improvements. When we consider the initial expense associated with tractor purchase, we usually attribute much of the cost to increases in raw materials including steel, labour, and energy costs associated with the manufacturing process. There is another expense factor that has added considerably to tractor purchase costs over the past two decades. When the European Union initiated a process of regulating emissions from diesel-powered tractors and other engines, it set off a cost-inflation factor to the ultimate owner that continues to impact today. Investment in the development of more efficient engines has succeeded in delivering more

output power for reduced fuel input. That emphasis on increased efficiency has been an ongoing quest since Ferguson, Ford, Deere, and others brought the first internal combustion tractor engines to market well over 100 years ago. The quest to reduce emissions including carbon dioxide and nitrogen oxide is a more recent development, driven by regulation as well as an increasing realisation by tractor manufacturers of the pollutant and health impacts of exhaust-fume residues. There has been significant additional cost associated with the implementation of improved emissions standards. In recent years, we have also seen the imposition of mandated reductions in particulate matter from the exhaust residues of tractors. Starting at Tier 1 emissions regulatory standards introduced 20 years ago, the emissions standards have incrementally risen over the past two decades to today's Tier 5 stage. These upgrades have been welcome developments, not only for tractor users who now operate in a cleaner working environment, but they are also a positive development for the general public and for our surrounding environment. There has been and continues to be a significant cost attached to these higher emissions standards. Billions of euros have been expended by tractor and engine manufacturers in achieving these emissions

improvements. These additional costs have, ultimately, been passed on to the end user – in the case of tractors, predominantly the farming community. Farmers recognise the validity of achieving these environmental improvements through improved tractor-engine technology. However, these are additional costs incurred by farmers that are disregarded in any analysis of the efforts being made by farmers to reduce emissions and achieve climate-change-mitigation successes.

Much emphasis has been put on the targets set for reduction in carbon-associated emissions from food production. There has been much less, if any, recognition of the success at considerable cost, it should be said, of farmers in increasing food production efficiencies. Purchasing and operating technologically advanced tractors is one such action that does not receive the recognition it deserves. How have farmers managed to consistently increase food production for an increasing global population?

It didn't happen by accident, but rather, by the implementation of advanced technologies which carry significant additional costs. Lower-emission tractors are an obvious example. Farmers deserve credit for the financial costs they have borne in the furtherance of higher environmental and human health standards.

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National Sheep Conference 2023

Tuesday, 24 January | Hillgrove Hotel, Monaghan
Thursday, 26 January | Brandon House Hotel, New Ross

Both conferences begin at 7pm

For more information see: www.teagasc.ie/sheepcon23



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National Tillage Conference 2023

Wednesday, 25 January | 9am
Lyrath Estate Hotel, Kilkenny

For more information see: www.teagasc.ie/tillagecon23

National Hill Sheep Conference 2023

Wednesday, 15 February | 7pm
Westlodge Hotel, Bantry, Co. Cork

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