

IRISH FARMERS MONTHLY



DEROGATION EXTENSION

HARD WON, BUT NO SOFT LANDING

INTERVIEW

PATRICK DONOHOE
CEO, ANIMAL HEALTH IRELAND

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JANUARY 2026

EDITORIAL



Matt O'Keeffe, Editor

THE PRICE OF PEACE AND PROSPERITY

If we needed certainty on European Union priorities, it came in the closing weeks of 2025. Increased defence

spending is now the most important focus for Europe. It has taken a few years of war on the EU's eastern flank, as well as the retreat by the US from being the major protector of Europe, to affirm a conviction that further threats to peace now exist in the form of Putin's expansionist ambitions. It is not adequate to arm the Ukrainians in defence of their country. The realisation has finally dawned that, whatever the outcome of the Russo-Ukrainian conflict, permanently increased defence spending will be required to protect European democracy. Why are we highlighting this issue in the first *Irish Farmers Monthly* editorial of 2026? Because it has huge implications for Irish agriculture in the years ahead. We know that the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) budget for the next five years after 2026 may be significantly reduced in real terms. That will directly impact Irish farm incomes. Ireland is already a net contributor to the general EU budget. In addition, there will be an expectation that the Irish government should make up any shortfalls in our CAP allocation. That may be the case as we look at current exchequer surpluses. There is no certainty that these surpluses will continue and, in any case, Irish politicians, or at least those with an ounce of sense, realise that greatly increased defence spending will also be a necessity. Add in huge infrastructure demands which have to be financed over the next decade, and the allocation to agriculture is unlikely to increase substantially, if at all. Across the European Union, there are financial, debt, and productivity challenges. Germany and France, especially, are now facing the reality that these challenges cannot be ignored any longer. Britain, our single most important trading partner and nearest neighbour

is also in economic difficulty with little evidence that the Starmer government is willing to take the hard decisions needed to reverse overspending and underfinancing. For the European Union, an urgency in adopting the Mercosur trade agreement after several years of prevarication is understandable. There is an optimism, perhaps exaggerated, that Europe's economic challenges can be overcome by increased trade opportunities. Irish and European cattle producer worries that beef prices may be sacrificed in the stampede towards Mercosur ratification are regarded as inconsequential compared to the opportunity of selling more industrial goods and services to three hundred million South Americans. Environmental and production standard deficits are ignored in the hope that Europe can trade itself into a better economic place. The minds of European political leaders have been concentrated by the realisation that the soft trade climate between the EU and the US is over, with or without Trump in the White House.

The potential cost for the EU of Ukraine becoming an EU member, prematurely it should be noted in view of its alleged corruption problems, is also dawning on politicians across the continent. To fund Ukraine's vast farm sector alone, at the levels of existing EU food producers, would be alarmingly costly. Increased CAP financing for an enlarged EU cannot be guaranteed, given the financial woes of many member states, who already have so many calls on their own budgets. Add in a severe reluctance by EU citizens to be burdened with increased taxation, and the way forward for Europe is unclear. Peace plans acceptable to Russia may include Ukrainian neutrality, locked out from NATO and EU membership. The rebuilding costs for its EU neighbour and ally will still be significant.

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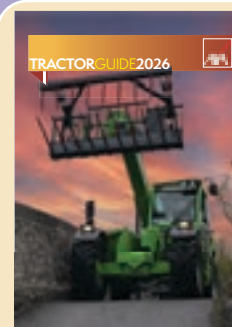
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HARD-WON DEROGATION EXTENSION

Lest food producers are unaware of the scale of opposition to the three-year extension of the nitrates derogation, the Sustainable Water Network (SWAN), a grouping of 25 environmental organisations, described the decision as 'going against what the science is saying, the law is meant to protect, and what is in the best interest of the general public and farmers.' The derogation, SWAN says, 'allows more manure to be stored and used by certain derogation farms'. In fact, this is not an allowance, it is a costly requirement for targeted farms to increase their manure-storage capacity. In addition, the demands on derogation

food producers will include extended buffer zones, lower fertiliser limits, and increased inspections. The requirements of the Habitats Directive will also impact those farmers affected. The Government and everyone involved in supporting an extension of the derogation should be commended for their efforts, given the opposition to it. As a matter of satisfying curiosity, many of SWAN's member organisations receive substantial funding from Government to assist their efforts in what could be perceived as trying to thwart government policy. The 25-member environmental umbrella body consists of: An Taisce, Bat Conservation Ireland, BirdWatch Ireland, Carra/Mask/Corrib

Water Protection Group, Cavan Leitrim Environmental Awareness Network, Celebrate Water, Coastal Concern Alliance (associate), Coastwatch, Dodder Action, ECO-UNESCO, Friends of the Earth, Friends of the Irish Environment, Irish Peatland Conservation Council, Irish Whale and Dolphin Group, Irish Wildlife Trust, Longford Environmental Alliance, Macroom District Environmental Group, Nature Network of Ireland, River Shannon Protection Alliance, Salmon Watch Ireland, Save the Swilly, Slaney River Trust, StreamScapes, The Environmental Forum, Voice of Irish Concern for the Environment. For more on the extension of our nitrates derogation, turn to page 12.

QUESTION MARKS OVER GLYPHOSATE STUDY

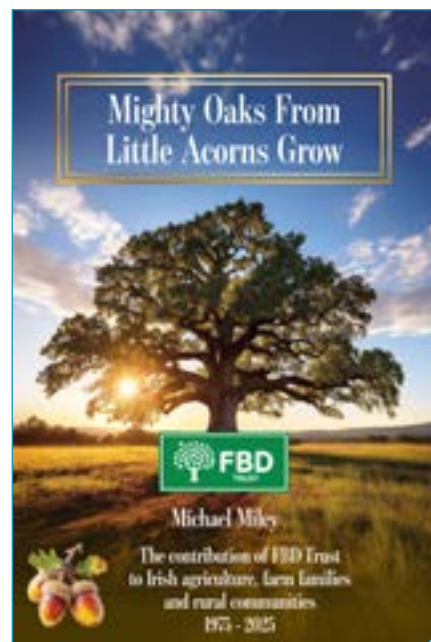
While there is no immediate likelihood of a European-wide ban on glyphosate use, with a 10-year-use extension secured in 2023, the pressure continues with the latest revelation from SAFE, a Brussels-based, consumer-focused NGO, suggesting that a 25-year-old study on the safety of the herbicide was biased. SAFE insists that the study used as

the basis for the risk assessment leading to the first authorisation of glyphosate in the EU in 2002 may have been drafted by the staff of Monsanto, the main producer of glyphosate-based herbicide, RoundUp.

That aside, there have been numerous objective scientific studies carried out in the interim, none of which reached definitive conclusions that glyphosate is a carcinogenic risk to human health. Food producers across the EU rely on the herbicide to effectively control weeds prior to planting as well as in post-cropping field management. Many of the strategies to reduce nitrogen fertiliser use, including clover and mixed sward establishment, rely on glyphosate to ensure weed-free planting conditions in an efficient and cost-effective manner.

FIFTY YEARS A-GROWING

Many of us get a little confused when it comes to FBD. Everyone knows the gestation story. An insurance company dedicated to serving the needs of the Irish farm sector was established in the late 1960s with the initial share capital mainly provided by farmers investing fifty pounds each to get it established. Since then, the company has grown to be a major insurance player in both agriculture and the general Irish market and is the only indigenous insurance company in Ireland. The three-legged FBD stool now encompasses FBD Holdings (the insurance wing), Farmer Business Developments (a farmer-controlled investment vehicle with a 26 per cent shareholding in the insurance company), and FBD Trust, an extraordinarily successful entity established to support agricultural endeavour and rural Ireland generally. FBD Trust celebrated 50 years last month with a dinner and book launch at the Farmer Business Developments-owned Castleknock Hotel. Michael Miley compiled the book, entitled 'Mighty Oaks from Little Acorns Grow' and led a series of eulogies on the Trust's many and varied philanthropic disbursements over the past 50 years, from the representatives of recipient organisations at the Castleknock event. IFP Media, publisher of *Irish Farmers Monthly*, published the historical tome on behalf of FBD Trust. Since its foundation the Trust has provided almost €70m in financial support across agricultural research, advice and education.



Ten years ago, the Trust provided €2m to assist in the establishment of the Paddy O' Keeffe Innovation Centre at Moorepark, and three years ago was instrumental in the development of the Pádraig Walshe Research Centre for sustainable animal and grassland research at the same venue. Teagasc, UCD, Macra, the Ronald McDonald House, which provides accommodation for the parents of sick children adjacent to the new children's hospital, are also among the organisations and services that have benefitted from the Trust's largesse. Michael Berkery chairs the Trust's board of directors, who give their time and expertise free of charge for the continuing betterment of rural Ireland.

IFA president, Francie Gorman and his son, Tom.



IFA AND THE BRUSSELS BLOCKADE

There was a time when Irish farmer tractorcades were confined to the roads and streets of Ireland. In the week before Christmas, however, the Irish Farmers' Association's (IFA's) president, Francie Gorman, drove a John Deere tractor, courtesy of Templetoohy Farm Machinery, from IFA HQ in Dublin to the port of Rosslare, taking the ferry to France and then onwards to Brussels. And, no, this wasn't a kind of modern-day promotion for Kerrygold butter. There may be faster ways to reach the Belgian capital, but there are no better means of capturing headlines and promoting the cause of farming. In fact, Francie, accompanied by his young son, Tom, were joining French farmers at Dunkirk as part of a Europe-wide COPA/COGECA convoy of tractors converging on Brussels to coincide with a major EU Council meeting. The aim was to highlight a range of critical challenges facing the sector, including Mercosur, financial shortfalls in the next Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) budget and over-regulation in the sector. The protest also focussed on the lower beef production standards for Brazilian beef entering the EU, as evidenced by the recent recall of meat with hormones and the investigation by the IFA and the *Irish Farmers Journal* last November. As well as showing solidarity with fellow European farmers, Francie Gorman and his organisation were surely conscious that the publicity would pile further pressure on taoiseach Micheál Martin in the run-up to major decisions being made by EU leaders at the European Council. Later this year, Ireland holds the presidency of the EU at a time when several policy discussions will be concluded, most especially around the future of the CAP and the level of funding that will be reserved for it over the next five years.

NOT RECORD-BREAKING ENOUGH

In excess of one million Irish dairy cows were milk recorded last year. That represents over 60 per cent, or more than nine thousand herds, a significant increase on five years ago. The Irish Cattle Breeders Federation (ICBF) has been encouraging milk producers to adopt milk recording on at least four occasions across the production cycle. Still, it's disappointing to note that there are around six thousand herds not being recorded. Quite how producers can make objective decisions around breeding, culling, mastitis control or feeding, without regular milk recordings, is beyond comprehension. Having no knowledge of total bacteria count (TBC), somatic cell count (SCC), yield or solids data must make it difficult to manage a herd to best effect. It should also be noted that the 'holdouts', those who don't put any value on milk recording, are a stubborn cohort, with fewer than ten thousand additional cows milk recorded in 2025 compared to 2024. All of this is against a background where milk-processor co-ops have a range of financial incentives in place around herd health and environmental improvements through bonus-payments-per-litre incentives, with milk recording being particularly encouraged. Milk price threatens to be at a low ebb at least up to and beyond peak production this year, and a reflex, cost-cutting exercise would be to omit milk recording for the coming months. It would be a false economy.



Colostrum Remains King

Colin Pollock
Technical Support Manager, Agritech

We're now just a matter of weeks away from welcoming the next generation of calves on farm. Replacement heifers born in the coming weeks will calve down in February 2028 and become the herd's mature stalwart cows of 2031.

The influence we can have on the beginning of their lives will long be felt regarding longevity, milk production and overall herd health.

The calf's first opportunity for infection is via the navel or mouth – and its first contact from both will happen in the calving pen. The underbelly, teats and calving pen bedding are the first source of possible infection for a new-born calf, which is why dry cow cubicle management matters.

Prolonged time spent in calving areas can lead to disease transfer in herds, especially where unhygienic conditions arise. It's vital that all feed equipment is disinfected before colostrum is collected and fed. Dirt contamination of colostrum can also negatively impact on passive transfer, which makes cleanliness imperative.

Storage is also important. Open buckets of colostrum in the parlour are an all-too common sight. Where ambient conditions arise, bacterial counts can double every 20 minutes. A dam-to-calf system is obviously the ideal. However, during extremely compact calving periods, this can prove difficult to obtain.

Colostrum quality can vary between cows depending on age/parity, volume produced, dry period length, and dry cow nutrition, etc. Avoid pooling and, preferably, use a one-cow to one-calf option. Where pooling occurs, colostrum must be Brix tested to avoid dilution with poor quality colostrum.

Vaccinating the dam will also reduce risks around calf health. However, it's worth noting that passive transfer from a vaccine only occurs from dam-calf via colostrum and transition milk.

Research has shown where passive transfer is 100% successful, mortality rates of <5% are achievable. In stark contrast where passive transfer rates of 85-90% is achieved, mortality rates can increase to ~ 8%.

Treat colostrum management with the respect and attention it deserves.

For further advice, contact your local Agritech Sales Advisor or visit www.agritech.ie



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InTouch

CATHAL BOHANE
HEAD OF INTOUCH NUTRITION

CALM BEFORE THE STORM

Happy new year, everyone. With each new year, comes a new set of challenges! And while a lot of things are outside our control, we do have some control over what is happening on our farm. January brings a welcome break for farmers – if they have dry cows – before the start of the very busy calving season, and there are some things that we can do now to ensure that it is a successful season.

BODY CONDITION

Are cows in the correct condition for calving and are they changing condition? It is hard to see this if you are always looking at them but sometimes an advisor, nutritionist or experienced eye on the farm can give you an independent view. A useful tip here is to use your camera phone to take pictures of cows from the back/side, including the freeze brand. It is amazing how changes can occur over a few weeks and go unnoticed to the human eye. Dry cows should be eating, drinking, or lying down chewing the cud. They should not be idly standing around and if they are, then you must investigate the cause and address it.

NUTRITION

You must ensure there is adequate feed space for cows as they get bigger, and especially as cows calve. If all cows are eating at once or are rushing for feed, you need to review – are they out of feed for too long, is poor mix quality causing sorting? Feeding good silage is also key. Many farms will use the edge and top of pits to feed dry cows as they are not milking but with this you could be causing a lot of harm. Waste silage generally has a high ash content and higher mineral content and for animals that you are balancing mineral intake this can cause havoc. On top of this, mycotoxins and mould are more prevalent in these areas leading to issues that can be as mild as poor thrive to as extreme as cows slipping calves. This isn't about feeding the best quality silage but rather the cleanest silage. All rotten silage should be discarded. Finally, double check the dry matter (DM) intake in the diet. While the diet might be balanced, intake on a dry matter basis could be 10-20 per cent off, leading to BCS change in the wrong direction.

MINERALS

It is essential to feed the required level of a good mineral within one month, or so, of calving. Check the label on the bag for the required inclusion and weigh out. As cows begin to calf, observe their calving speed; cleaning and adjustment could be needed in things like magnesium to alleviate any issues. Speaking to your mineral supplier or nutritionist would be a worthwhile phone call at this stage.

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SECOND BIOSECURITY STRATEGY LAUNCHED FOR FARMED ANIMALS

The second National Farmed Animal Biosecurity Strategy (2025-2030) was recently launched by Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Martin Heydon. The strategy comprises six key objectives:

- ▶ Investigate and use novel methods to distribute information on biosecurity and expand the availability of biosecurity information online.
- ▶ Continue work on developing and publishing Codes of Practice for farm biosecurity.
- ▶ Identify and address barriers to the implementation of effective and consistent biosecurity measures through research, including department and other stakeholder funded research.
- ▶ Collaborate with farm organisations, educational and advisory service providers, veterinary practitioners, and other stakeholders to promote effective, sustained biosecurity practices through evidence-based behavioural change strategies.
- ▶ Increase awareness amongst stakeholders of the legislative obligations and biosecurity related provisions in both national and EU legislation.
- ▶ Continue engagement and collaboration between the competent authorities in Ireland and Northern Ireland in relation to an all-island approach to disease prevention and control.

The first strategy was launched in 2021 and its key highlights included:

- ▶ The number of farmers availing of Targeted Advisory Service on Animal Health (TASAH) biosecurity reviews for pigs and poultry increased by 105 per cent from 2021 to 2024, meaning that biosecurity is being more efficiently monitored on Irish farms.
- ▶ The introduction of Bioscore Dairy, a tool that facilitates the identification of deficits in biosecurity management practices and comparison between dairy farms and benchmarking nationally. To the middle of December 2025, 1,388 reviews had been completed.
- ▶ Biosecurity codes of practice have been developed and published for indoor commercial pigs, poultry, and dairy cattle.
- ▶ Development of **biosecurity.ie** website in conjunction with Animal Health Ireland.
- ▶ Increased collaboration between competent authorities in Ireland and Northern Ireland.

Commenting on emerging biosecurity threats, Minister Heydon said:

"Geographically, Ireland holds a unique advantage in terms of biosecurity, particularly in protection against exotic animal diseases. However, with recent outbreaks of exotic diseases and the increased threat of other disease incursions, it is important not to become complacent. In 2025, we saw foot-and-mouth disease outbreaks in three countries in the EU, a wave of outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza across Europe, including four in Ireland and the recent bluetongue outbreak in Northern Ireland. This highlights the ongoing threats we face.

"Therefore, it is important that we all work together and practice effective biosecurity measures on our farms to mitigate the risk of diseases spreading in Ireland. I look forward to engaging with stakeholders in the months ahead to ensure this new strategy delivers upon its objectives."

The strategy will complement the forthcoming Plant Health and Biosecurity Strategy and biosecurity measures in place in the aquaculture sector, as well as reinforce other department and agency strategies and regulatory frameworks such as the Climate Action Plan 2025.

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine says it will continue to engage and work closely with the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) on an all-island approach to exotic disease prevention and control.

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Members of the Organic Mayo Knowledge Transfer Group at the launch of a collection of farm safety tools. Front row: Gerard Doyle; Micheal Holmes; Shane O'Haire; Ben Foy; Áine Macken Walsh; Julie Hughes; Micheal O'Grady; Sean Kelly; Vincent Hennelly. Back row: Martin Kerrigan; Anthony Walsh; John Noonan; Edward Rowland; Jacinta O'Neill, Peter Gibbons, Patrick O'Toole and PJ Foy. Missing from photo: Maura Doherty and Fiona Heneghan.



FARMERS LEADING FARM SAFETY

The Organic Mayo Knowledge Transfer (KT) Group recently launched a collection of farm-safety tools. Part of the BeSafe Project, funded by the Department of

Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM), the KT group worked with some of the project's key findings and developed them into practical tools to raise farm safety awareness and address risks.

The group developed prototypes, which a team of animators and graphic designers developed into finished versions. An updated, interactive farm safety map was produced by the group, highlighting common hazards on farms. Further tools designed by the group are an animation, showing a farm of the future with labour-saving and data-based technology for improved farm safety; and a prototype job-planning app that builds farm safety to all relevant steps. A further tool was developed with Teagasc, Moorepark and Teagasc dairy advisors to support better time management on farms, reflecting the relationship between time pressure and risk of farm accidents.

Speaking at the event, farmer member Michael Holmes said: "You have to talk to farmers, to get an understanding of what happens on farms, in order to find ways to address and improve things." A farmer-centred approach was a key aspect of the BeSafe Project, explained by Dr Áine Macken-Walsh who led the co-design process for BeSafe. She commented: "The BeSafe scientific team identified key risks based on evidence. Farmers in this innovative KT group took a selection of those risks and

used their decades of farming experience to contextualise them to real-life farming scenarios and develop practical tools to address them," the Teagasc researcher said. Organic advisor, KT Group facilitator and acting Mayo regional manager, John Noonan emphasised the importance of making farm safety an everyday part of farming life: "When we're doing a job, with sheep or cattle or whatever, do we think, is this safe? This should be an automatic consideration, to think of safety. It should be part of the plan." Referring to the tools, farmer member Martin Kerrigan explained: "Visuals are important to help remind farmers at all times that there are safety risks with almost every job on a farm." Farmer member PJ Foy, whose young son attended the launch, explained: "The older you get, the more near misses you experience, the more aware you are. The more you pinch your fingers in gates, and more serious things, the more sense you get. We need to share that sense of safety with our younger farmers. Young people need to be more aware at a younger age, and tools like this can share and widen common lessons and experience."

Teagasc Farm Health and Safety Specialist, Francis Bligh further emphasised the vital importance of engendering awareness of farm safety among youth – both youth who live on farms and those who don't, as a high proportion of all youth live, visit and may consider future careers on farms.

The BeSafe project (DAFM, 17/S/269) undertook research on farm safety in Ireland and then developed practical farm safety

approaches to effect positive, lasting change. The BeSafe Project was led by Dr David Meredith from Teagasc with the co-design work undertaken by Dr Áine Macken-Walsh and Dr Marion Beecher (Teagasc) and involved colleagues at the University of Galway and University College Dublin. The scientific team was complemented by the expertise of extension specialists Dr John McNamara and Francis Bligh from Teagasc, regulatory specialists from the Health and Safety Authority and was supported by the Farm Safety Partnership.

Dr McNamara, senior specialist advisor in occupational safety and health, Teagasc, said: "The BeSafe tools complement a diverse range of initiatives and practical tools that are informed by scientific research but for direct use by farmers – they are suitable for wide circulation in farming circles and use in discussion groups, which will enhance their impact."

Dr Meredith, coordinator of the BeSafe Project, highlighted the effectiveness of taking a farmer-centred, multi-actor approach: "BeSafe has shown that placing co-design of solutions intended for farmers' use in the hands of farmers themselves is an effective way of developing impactful approaches for policy and practice – we are continuing and expanding this approach in the EU funded SafeHabitat Project and other nationally funded projects that are in the pipeline." The BeSafe Farm Safety Tools are available at: <https://teagasc.ie/about/farm-advisory/advisory-ethodologies/agile/behaviours-for-safer-farming/>



Damien O'Reilly
EU Affairs and Communications Manager, ICOS

LETTER FROM BRUSSELS

At the end of June, Ireland will take over the presidency of the EU. What this means is that the taoiseach and ministers will chair council meetings and drive priority areas of EU legislation. This is an opportunity to focus on the many challenges facing agriculture. The EU Strategic Agenda 2024-2029 aims to strengthen its long-term competitiveness and to improve citizens' economic and social well-being. This includes increasing their purchasing power, creating good jobs, and assuring the quality of goods and services including a sustainable and resilient agricultural sector. Sounds good, but as we saw from the December farmer protests here in Brussels, the EU agricultural sector is not seeing action on this promise.

The announcement in July of a cut in the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) budget from 2028 onwards is at the heart of farmer frustration and fear. At a time when the EU is aware of a generational renewal crisis on European farms, it is ironic that the message screaming out from the multiannual financial framework (MFF), which funds the CAP, is that there is no future in this business. The war in Ukraine and continuous threat from Russia to other EU Member States has understandably focussed minds in Brussels on security and defence. Throw in high energy costs, meeting climate targets, trade volatility, struggling economies in bigger Member States, and it is the perfect storm which has resulted in the CAP sliding down the EU Commission priority list. All those critical issues notwithstanding, it does not mean that farmers and co-operatives should take it lying down. 'No farmers, no food' may seem like a glib slogan, but how else can it be put?

When we talk about security in Europe, food security is integral. Chipping away at the budget which supports food production will only undermine it. So, Ireland has a golden opportunity to show its commitment to farming, co-operatives, food production, and food security by prioritising agriculture during its six months in the council chair.

The MFF proposal will be high up on the agenda by that stage. Supporting a fully funded ring-fenced CAP, initiating the recently published national and EU strategies on generational renewal and putting simplification into action should be foremost on the governments list of priorities. Taoiseach, it is over to you.



APPOINTMENT

Cross Agricultural Engineering Ltd has appointed Tom Sheedy as its new dealer sales and equipment specialist. Tom will be responsible for all dealer sales across the UK and Ireland and is also available for direct sales enquiries. Tom has hands-on agricultural experience from his time working with a local agricultural contractor and farmer near the Cross factory. He also holds a degree in business and finance. This background gives him a solid understanding of both the practical and commercial aspects of the industry, helping him support dealers and customers effectively, according to Cross

REPORT INDICATES DEMAND FOR SEED AND PLANTS

A report has been published to provide an analysis of potential demand for seed and plants on the island of Ireland for a range of tree species and purposes to 2035. The report includes a comprehensive analysis of available data, industry views, and policy scenarios. Five key drivers of plant demand were identified, including: forest regeneration, grant aided afforestation, farm-based tree planting as part of agri-environment schemes, tree planting outside of grant schemes, and tree planting to align with national habitat conservation and restoration commitments.

Under the baseline scenario, total plant demand is projected to increase from 34.31 million in 2025 to 52.72 million in 2035, totalling 492.67 million plants over the forecast period. This represents a significant increase in the overall estimated demand for plants over the period.

Welcoming the report, Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Michael Healy-Rae said: "This new study provides a comprehensive analysis of the future demand for seed and plants for the forest sector. This information is vitally important to plan for securing supply of young trees to meet the needs of the forestry sector. I would like to thank the report's authors and members of the COFORD Council Forest Genetic Resources Working Group for their hard work in producing this forecast."

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CEO, AHI, Patrick Donohoe.

'WE ARE AT THE END POINT; WE CANNOT ALLOW SLIPPAGE'

AT THIS CRUCIAL STAGE OF BOVINE VIRAL DIARRHOEA (BVD) ERADICATION IN IRELAND, **MATT O'KEEFE** DISCUSSES THE IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING A VERY CLOSE EYE ON THAT BALL WITH CEO OF ANIMAL HEALTH IRELAND (AHI), **PATRICK DONOHOE**

Patrick took the AHI CEO reins in July 2025 and came to the role with a solid pedigree of experience. Previously, he served as news editor with the *Irish Farmers Journal*, advisor to former agriculture minister, Charlie McConalogue and, latterly, chief corporate affairs officer at Lakeland Dairies. We discussed his latest role in the closing days of 2025 as AHI launched a new strategy to complete the eradication of bovine viral diarrhoea (BVD) from the national herd.

He put the role of AHI into context: "Our remit is to bring farmers, vets, industry and government together with the aim of improving animal health and welfare. Healthy animals are the foundation of our €17bn agri-food export industry.

"A key aspect of the work since 2013 has been the identification of BVD in animals and the removal of those infected, so that we ultimately eradicate the virus from the national herd. The programme has involved taking a tissue

sample from every newborn calf. It has been an enormously successful programme, reducing the number of animals with BVD from 11,000 breeding herds to 200 herds today. That's a 97 per cent reduction since 2013, with the prevalence at individual animal level reduced to 0.2 per cent. We are at the end point now where the last cohort is the most difficult to eradicate."

LEARNING FROM PRECEDENT

Patrick provided a comparison with a previous disease-eradication programme. "In 1990, we were down to nine herds in the country infected with brucellosis. We let it slip as we were on the cusp of total eradication, and it took several years to finally conclude the eradication process. Way back in 1964, then Minister for Agriculture, Charlie Haughey, sent a letter thanking everyone involved for eradicating TB. There were only 40 herds left infected at that stage. Similarly, with BVD, we are at the end point now. But we cannot allow slippage."

VALUE OF BVD ERADICATION

The economic impact of eradicating BVD from the national herd is significant, Patrick explained: "Before the eradication programme was initiated, BVD infection was estimated to be costing livestock owners €102m every year. The annual saving to the economy, including farmers, is €184m. Farmers, alone, spend €10m in time, postage, tags and so on. We have an extra 70,000 calves alive and healthy because of the programme, so it has worked. The list of specific benefits is extensive, including healthier cattle, better fertility, milk yield and animal welfare. There are lower vet bills, less vaccine use, and reduced stress at calving. In blunt terms, the cost/benefit ratio is heavily skewed towards strong returns for farmers at, it should be said, a relatively low, though not unimportant cost."

THE FINAL STEPS

When asked why the BVD programme is

AHI'S 2026 ACTION PLAN FOR BVD COMPRISES SEVEN STEPS

- ▶ Pre-movement tests to reduce risk of spreading infection to other herds.
- ▶ Tailored investigations for herds that are positive for more than one year.
- ▶ Application of tracing tools in herd investigations to identify risks and act early.
- ▶ Reinforced support for farmers and vets that are dealing with outbreaks to assist them in becoming disease-free as quickly as possible.
- ▶ Develop and enhance training and resources to help farmers protect their herds from BVD and tools for vets working with at-risk herds.
- ▶ Promote good biosecurity practices in herds at-risk so they can minimise the risk of BVD introduction.
- ▶ Communications campaigns around breakdowns, including upgraded neighbour notifications by SMS and letter. Targeted campaigns in at-risk areas and promoting the dissemination of resources on how to protect herds.



BVD IS A SERIOUS DISEASE, AND WE NEED TO ELIMINATE IT COMPLETELY TO RETAIN THE HEALTH AND FINANCIAL BENEFITS ALREADY ACHIEVED

not yet complete, Patrick said: "Besides adopting best biosecurity practices, the prompt removal of positive animals is key to success. Ninety-seven per cent of herds are clear. There are a few instances of farmers retaining persistently infected (PI) calves. The incidence rate is low, but the retention

rate needs to be reduced further. Herds with PI animals face movement restrictions with serious implications for trading and so on. So, there are big downsides for those herd owners with PIs from not acting in the best interest of all livestock owners as well as their own interests. We also have supports in place to financially assist in the tissue-tagging process. There is compensation for removal of infected calves. In fairness, most farmers are very conscious of BVD disease. "We may have reached an inertia period, where people think the disease is practically eliminated because incidence is so low. That's a challenge for everyone involved. BVD is a serious disease, and we need to eliminate it completely to retain the health and financial benefits already achieved and ensure it doesn't become widespread again." While reluctant to put a conclusion date on the long-running BVD eradication programme, Patrick did have this to say: "We are focussed on completion and the new steps announced will accelerate progress. These include, among others, pre-movement testing, tailored investigations, the promotion of good biosecurity practices, and improved communications with the herd owners and neighbouring herd owners."

A FULL AGENDA

Patrick commented on other disease-control and eradication initiatives of critical importance: "We have several programmes in train, all with a science-based focus. There are top-class experts heading up each eradication programme, including BVD, IBR, Johne's, as well as Calcare, Hoof HealthCheck and others. In those programmes we have our vets leading technical groups of scientists who, in turn, bring forward the scientific and technical expertise needed to implement the programmes on the ground. AHI's priorities include being commercially relevant and focussed on each programme to deliver results. There is funding from government and industry, and we must ensure that what we are doing is delivering for everyone involved."

There is an understanding that there are potentially serious implications if timely progress is not made in reducing various disease threats, Patrick agreed: "There may be implications for calf exports if we do not adopt a comprehensive IBR control programme. Johne's disease is a silent challenge to the health of our herds and must be fully addressed. I want programmes in place that will benefit farmers in terms of profitability and herd health. And I want farmers to be fully conscious of what they can and need to do to ensure their livestock is profitable and healthy. We have to be constantly aware of what our export markets require and will require in terms of the health status of our animals and our produce. Being constantly proactive in that regard and aiming to have the highest standards possible will ultimately protect our license to trade and sell livestock-derived produce across the world."



WITHOUT [MILK] RECORDING, PRODUCERS ARE SHOOTING IN THE DARK, WITHOUT ANY INFORMATION ON COW HEALTH OR PERFORMANCE

MILK RECORDING IS ESSENTIAL

Patrick expressed extreme disappointment that so many dairy-herd owners still do not engage in milk recording: "There's no simple solution. Mandatory recording has been introduced in one instance by a processor. It is an expense and there is an added workload involved. Are the recording and sampling technologies, and laboratory facilities available in all cases? There are legitimate questions, but the value and absolute need for regular recording cannot be doubted. Without recording, producers are shooting in the dark, without any information on cow health or performance. Milk recording is the key to unlocking every herd's potential."

HARD-WON DEROGATION EXTENSION

IRELAND'S THREE-YEAR NITRATES DEROGATION EXTENSION OFFERS BRIEF RELIEF BUT ONE THING IS CERTAIN, FARMERS MUST DOUBLE DOWN ON THEIR EFFORTS TO IMPROVE WATER QUALITY, WRITES EDITOR, MATT O'KEEFFE

Costly, tedious, and necessary. That sums up the conditionality around Ireland's three-year extension to our nitrates derogation.

Three years, while welcome, is problematic from a few perspectives. As it happens, it neatly coincides with the gestation/maturity of a calf. If inseminated in spring 2026, the cow will deliver a calf in spring 2027. That calf will mature to a two-year old heifer, calving down in spring 2029. That neatly mirrors the dateline for the next review of our nitrates derogation.

Will that newly calved heifer be required in the herd? That could very much depend on whether there is a further renewal of the derogation from the end of 2028. Of course, in the normal breeding-planning process, up to 20 per cent of the herd may be replaced in any one year. That assumes a stable herd, without any increase or decrease in numbers. If the derogation is reduced or lost entirely in another EU Commission decision after the current extension concludes in late 2028, then a reduction in livestock numbers would be required, assuming no additional land is bought or leased. That heifer, three years in planning, would be surplus to what a producer could carry on his/her farm. The considerable cost of carrying a heifer from birth to calving would be wasted, with only some hope of retrieving a portion of the

rearing costs from sale or slaughter.

STRANDED ASSETS RISK

In addition, many farmers are borrowing to fund additional slurry storage space as required under legislation. Normally, those loans are long-term, of five- or seven-year duration. If no further derogation, or a reduced one, is decided on at the end of 2028, the farmer must continue to carry the loan cost for a further two to four years, with fewer cows to fund repayments. The additional slurry storage and other infrastructure investments would be 'stranded assets,' surplus to requirements, though still costing the farm dearly. From these examples, it is clear that while the latest derogation extension provides limited certainty for the next three years, it does not provide the kind of long-term assurance required for long term planning, most notably in relation to a breeding programme or financial and infrastructure planning.

A WELCOME REPRIEVE

We can't look a gift horse in the mouth and must welcome the limited extension on offer. Meanwhile the long-term future of the derogation is not in our own hands only. While some of the challenges with water quality improvements are within farmer competence, there is an additional water quality burden, which we cannot influence. Other contributors



OTHER CONTRIBUTORS TO WATER QUALITY STATUS INCLUDE DEFICIENT WASTE-WATER TREATMENT FACILITIES AS WELL AS THE THOUSANDS OF SUB-OPTIMAL SEPTIC TANKS

to water quality status include deficient waste-water treatment facilities around the country as well as the thousands of sub-optimal septic tanks in our towns and countryside.

DOUBLING DOWN

The challenge for farmers is to double down on their efforts to ensure that agriculture-related water quality challenges are addressed, using the current momentum as a starting point. We know that the sub-catchment areas will be monitored over the next three years to ensure compliance from farmers. That undertaking will be costly and lengthy. It is unlikely to be concluded in three years, given the scale of the undertaking and the deficit in qualified personnel to carry out these studies. Lower fertiliser limitations, extended buffer zones and compliance under the Habitats Directive will all add complexity and cost to an already burdensome regime. This is the price we must pay to farm competitively and profitably under our grass-fed production model.

Farmers from all over Europe protesting against Mercosur in Brussels. Photo: COPA COCEGA.



IS A MERCOSUR DEAL INEVITABLE?

DESPITE THE POSTPONEMENT, YET AGAIN, OF THE MERCOSUR TRADE DEAL, MATT O'KEEFFE ASKS IF THERE IS A CERTAIN INEVITABILITY OF AN EVENTUAL AGREEMENT IN THE COMING WEEKS?

It is now almost an annual event. The proposed Mercosur trade agreement has been in gestation for almost a quarter of a century. Each end-of-year report suggests an imminent conclusion to the trade talks with the South Americans, but to no avail. The urgency for agreeing a Mercosur trade deal has increased considerably since the end of 2024, because of the tariff wars President Trump has engaged in with the European Union and several other countries and trading blocs over the past 12 months. A trade agreement with the Mercosur countries was anticipated to be finally agreed at the EU Council of Ministers meeting December 18 last. Yet again, it was postponed, with Italy in particular, seeking another opportunity to review and refine several tenets of the proposed deal between the EU and four South American countries, most especially those aspects of the tentative trade agreement relating to agricultural goods. France also raised doubts, while the Irish government sat on its hands, presumably hoping that something would turn up to avoid making any decision that would upset someone, somewhere. That's understandable and good politics, given the recent cost-free derogation extension concession from other EU countries, as well as the need to keep some goodwill in reserve for the coming negotiations over the next Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) budget, most likely culminating in decisions being made during

Ireland's six-month presidency of the EU Council from July next.

REMAINING STUMBLING BLOCK

Is there a certain inevitability to a Mercosur agreement in the coming weeks? One of the main stumbling blocks remains the lower production protocols under which Brazilian beef is produced, with poor traceability standards – certainly in comparison to the 'gestation to beef hook' traceability and production standards model in place on European Union livestock farms. An own goal was well and truly scored by Brazil last month when artificial hormones were detected in South American beef on sale in Italy. The real threat, as Irish and European beef producers see it, is that if tonnages of South American beef imports into the EU ramp up in the event that an agreement is signed in the early weeks of 2026, they may, over time, have a depressive effect on European-produced beef prices. That potential outcome could be several years down the road, but, even with assurances that a fall in EU beef prices directly linked to South American imports, would be addressed, producers are rightly sceptical that a firm price drop linkage could be made in five or six years time.

NOTHING PERSONAL, JUST BUSINESS

Right now, even with several EU Member States having insisted at the December council meeting on a further postponement



AN OWN GOAL WAS WELL AND TRULY SCORED BY BRAZIL LAST MONTH WHEN ARTIFICIAL HORMONES WERE DETECTED IN SOUTH AMERICAN BEEF ON SALE IN ITALY

into 2026, with a couple of additional reassurances potentially to be negotiated, the Mercosur trade deal seems inevitable. We wrote here 12 months ago that the European Union needed a trade impetus to assist in rejuvenating the EU economy. Twelve months on, a trade agreement that would deliver unfettered access to another 350 million consumers has taken on a renewed urgency. The historical trading affinity with the United States is defunct. Even if/when the Trump-driven tariff imbroglio finally settles down, the cosy economic, political, and philosophical relationships between the US and Europe, in place since World War 2, are no more. We have entered an increasingly antagonistic trading environment, where self-interest trumps economic, social or cultural affinities. To quote that iconic Mafia phrase, 'it's nothing personal, just business'; the interests and priorities of the European Union and the United States are diverging and are unlikely to become realigned in any foreseeable timescale.



ESSENTIAL TIPS FOR SAFE HANDLING OF SLURRY

CIARAN ROCHE, RISK MANAGER WITH FBD, SHARES ESSENTIAL ADVICE ON THE SAFE HANDLING OF SLURRY

Working with slurry is an inherently dangerous task, presenting hazards such as toxic gas exposure, drowning, and power-take-off (PTO) accidents.

Despite the known dangers, incidents continue to occur when safety precautions are neglected. Tragically, lives have been lost, and many farmers have faced near misses with lethal gases when attempting to remove cattle from sheds during agitation or when re-entering a building before lethal gases have been allowed to dissipate to a safe level. To protect yourself, your family, and your livestock, always prioritise safety when managing slurry facilities and handling activities.

KEY SLURRY HAZARDS

There are three primary hazards to assess and control:

1. Slurry gases;
2. Slurry tank openings; and
3. Slurry tankers and the PTO.

1. SLURRY GAS - THE SILENT KILLER

- ▶ Hydrogen sulphide, a highly toxic gas, is released during the bacterial decomposition of slurry. This gas is odourless and can be deadly. The greatest gas release occurs:
 - ▶ When the crust is broken;
 - ▶ In the first 30 minutes of agitation;
 - ▶ In deep tanks during agitation; and
 - ▶ After several months of storage.

There are a number of golden rules for managing slurry gas risks.

Ventilate

- ▶ Choose a windy day to disperse gas quickly; and
- ▶ Open all shed doors and ventilation outlets.

Evacuate

- ▶ Remove all people and animals from the shed.

Agitate

- ▶ Avoid standing on or near slats or agitation points;
- ▶ Agitate from outside the shed whenever possible; consider moving internal agitation points to external areas;
- ▶ Wait at least 30 minutes post-agitation before entering the shed;
- ▶ Have at least two people present during agitation for added safety; and
- ▶ Never smoke near the shed during agitation.

2. SLURRY TANK PROTECTION

Unprotected slurry tanks have been the cause of fatal drownings involving children, farmers, and contractors. To prevent these tragedies:

Fence off

- ▶ Secure open slurry tanks with an unclimbable safety wall or fence at least 1.8m high. Install locked gates of similar standard.

Safety manhole covers

- ▶ Ensure all tanks have safety access covers at agitation points.

Temporary precautions

- ▶ Use temporary covers or guardrails if safety covers are not available, along

with warning signs. However, this is a temporary solution. Replace unsafe access points/covers promptly.

Regular inspections

- ▶ Check slats frequently for signs of wear or damage and replace them as appropriate.

3. PTO SAFETY: PREVENTING ENTANGLEMENT

The PTO shaft can be a deadly hazard if not properly guarded. Entanglement with exposed bolts, universal joints, or other rotating components can lead to severe injury or death.

PTO safety tips

- ▶ Ensure the PTO is fully guarded with a PTO shaft guard, U guard, and O guard.
- ▶ Regularly inspect and maintain all guards to ensure they remain in good condition.

By following these simple but essential precautions, you can minimise the dangers associated with slurry handling and create a safer farming environment.

Always think safety first; your life and livelihood depend on it.

For more farm safety information, scan the code



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BOVINE ABORTION: CAUSES AND DIAGNOSIS

JOHN F MEE, PRINCIPAL VETERINARY RESEARCH OFFICER, TEAGASC, PROVIDES AN UPDATE ON THE MULTIPLE CAUSES OF ABORTION AND THE LATEST LABORATORY TESTS AIMED AT IMPROVING DIAGNOSIS RATES FOR VETS AND FARMERS

While abortion is technically defined as pregnancy loss between days 42 and 260 of gestation, losses prior to 120 days are rarely observed, though are of greater magnitude. Using this gestational threshold (>120d), an 'observable abortion' rate of <2 per cent could be expected in a 'normal' herd. Around 45 per cent of laboratory-submitted abortion cases have a diagnosis. Of these, the most common causes of sporadic abortions in dairy and suckler herds are *Trueperella pyogenes* and *Bacillus licheniformis*, respectively, while the most common cause of abortion outbreaks is *Neospora caninum*. Current adoption of PCR and second- and third-generation sequencing technologies and detection of recessive lethal alleles will increase future abortion diagnosis rates.

INTRODUCTION

In Ireland, it is a legal requirement to notify the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) of any case of abortion in a bovine animal (SI 114 of 1991). Additionally, as brucellosis is a notifiable disease in Ireland (though officially eradicated in 2009), anyone who suspects that an animal may have the disease (due to abortion) is also legally obliged to notify DAFM (SI 130 of 2016). Clients may often adopt a fatalistic attitude to abortion – 'where there is livestock there is deadstock', a form of learned helplessness. This is particularly true for sporadic abortions. However, recent national and international advances in laboratory diagnostics indicate that we should recalibrate our expectations regarding the diagnosis of abortion in cattle. So, to facilitate this process, this article addresses five common questions about bovine abortion with emphasis on potential causes and case investigation by veterinary practitioners.

1. WHAT DO YOU DEFINE AS AN ABORTION?

While it is traditional to define bovine abortion as expulsion of a dead or non-independently viable live foetus between 42 and 260 days of gestation, this is a purely academic case definition. In practice today, (dairy) cows are often scanned ~30 days after last service and maybe again at ~60 days and/or examined in late pregnancy if there is suspicion of

abortion. Thus, 'abortion' may be defined in practice as circumstantial evidence (by farmer – return to oestrus) or proof (by vet – none or dead foetus on scan) of pregnancy failure after pregnancy confirmation. This can obviously lead to wide variation in (poorly comparable) estimates of abortion rates. For example, data from vets (n=77) in four countries (Ireland, UK, Italy, Canada) surveyed at conferences showed that the most used case definition (43 per cent) was expulsion of a preterm non-viable foetus, without specification of gestational age. Where age was specified, the most common (36 per cent) threshold was <260 days. As pregnancy loss rates are much higher in the first trimester (Figure 1), but these losses are not always observable, it has been suggested that a practical definition of 'observable abortion' is foetal loss between 120 days and 260 days of gestation. While both visual markers (Agerholm et al, 2023) and simple morphological measurements (e.g., crown-rump length) may be used to estimate foetal age, neither method is day-precise, but adequate to estimate approximate month of gestation.

2. HOW MANY ABORTIONS WOULD YOU EXPECT IN A 'NORMAL' HERD?

With our average dairy and suckler herd sizes of ~100 and ~150 cows, respectively, it may be possible to use a per cent threshold value for dairy herds but not in small (suckler) herds. In the absence of accurate data on national herd level abortion rates, the opinions of farmers and their vets are more commonly used

to decide on the threshold of acceptance/ intervention. Data from vets (n=77) in four countries (Ireland, UK, Italy, Canada) and Irish agricultural students (n=91) showed that both groups had digit bias towards >5 per cent as an investigative threshold (Figure 2) but most vets (63 per cent) and agriculture students (84 per cent) used a threshold of >3 per cent. In the UK, dairy and suckler farmers reported thresholds of 2-5 per cent and >0 per cent, respectively, (Clothier et al, 2020). In contrast, an intervention level of 10 per cent has been recommended for dairy herds in the US; where early abortions are included eg. following confirmed pregnancy scan at ~30-days), intervention thresholds will naturally be much higher.

The most recent estimates of animal-level early abortion rates from meta-analyses are 9 per cent (45-90 days) in dairy cows (Albaaj et al, 2023) and 6 per cent (32-100 days) in beef cows (Reesce et al, 2020). Estimates of animal-level foetal abortion rates in dairy cows have recently been reviewed with an average of ~12 per cent estimated (42-260 days), (Wijma et al, 2022). Estimates of animal-level dairy mid-late-term abortion rates are much lower varying between 1.2 per cent (>152d and <251d), (Neupane et al, 2023) and 1.7 per cent (120-259d) (Mee, 1992). These data confirm that if 'abortion' includes early pregnancy losses then a high threshold of 'normal' (~10 per cent) can be applied but if 'abortion' only includes mid-late pregnancy losses then a lower 'normal' threshold (~2 per cent) can be applied. However, in our seasonal-calving systems a temporal cluster



Figure 1. Early aborted foetuses (September – November in spring calving herds) are rarely submitted for laboratory examination.

Table 1: Infectious agents detected in bovine foetal material in the regional veterinary laboratories in 2023.

Positive tests (per cent)	Total tests (No.)	Test method	Pathogen	Rank
8.4	763	PCR	<i>Neospora caninum</i>	1
7.5	1,447	Culture	<i>Trueperella pyogenes</i>	2
5.5	893	PCR	<i>Coxiella burnetii</i>	3
4.5	1,447	Culture	<i>Bacillus licheniformis</i>	4
3.3	1,234	Culture	<i>Salmonella</i> spp.	5
4.2/2.7	887/1,447	PCR/Culture	<i>Listeria monocytogenes</i>	6
2.6	38	PCR	BHV-1**	7
1.6	61	PCR	Schmallenberg virus**	8
1.0	888	PCR	<i>Leptospira</i> pathogenic svr.	9
1.0	1,447	Culture	<i>Aspergillus</i> spp.	10

*Many other infections, of unclear clinical significance, were also detected; detection with lesions is convincing of causation but absence of detection does not rule out infection. **Note the limited number of total (selected) tests.

of abortion cases (an outbreak/'storm') often warrants investigation even if the annualised prevalence is below this suggested threshold.

3. WHAT'S THE BEST WAY TO DEAL WITH A CALL TO AN ABORTED COW?

When a farmer reports an abortion, the standard operating procedure (SOP) should include advice on potential zoonotic risks (and to wear appropriate PPE), to isolate the affected animal, clean/disinfect the abortion site, collect the foeto placental material into biosecure, scavenger-proof storage, and submit all aborted material to the regional vet lab (RVL). The farm-visit abortion SOP should include collection of a clinical history, clinical examination, maternal blood sample (from aborted animal and cohorts) and review of existing biosecurity practices (eg. vaccination regime). Knowing that less than 50 per cent of abortions will have a laboratory diagnosis, enquiry about potential on-farm risk factors which cannot be detected by the lab may prove fruitful, eg. recent stress (drying off, hoof trimming, 'crushing'), illness (post-parturient disorders, previous abortion, mastitis, lameness), recent loss in BCS, short calving to conception interval (CCI) and twinning (Mee, 2023).

4. WHAT ARE THE MOST COMMON CAUSES OF ABORTIONS?

The data in Table 1 show the latest available results on the detection rate of infectious agents likely to cause abortion in foetal material submitted to the six RVLs in Ireland (Hayes, 2024). The overall infectious diagnosis rate was 45 per cent, similar to rates internationally (Mee, 2023). This means that the majority of abortions are caused by non-infectious factors. Of the top 10 infections listed, *N. caninum*, *Coxiella burnetii* and *Salmonella Dublin* are more likely to cause abortion outbreaks while the remainder cause sporadic abortions. When these data were disaggregated by enterprise type, certain bacteria were more likely to be detected in dairy (*T. pyogenes*, *S. Dublin*) than in suckler herds; and in suckler (*B. licheniformis*) than in dairy herds. Similar associations have been found in UK and EU data. Notable features of these data are: *C. burnetii* has been reported in abortion diagnostics for the first time; and both salmonella and leptospiral infection have a low prevalence in foetal material. The former reflects the recent introduction of PCR testing and the latter two, perhaps, widespread vaccination. It should be noted that some pathogens are more likely to be detected in

the foetus (eg. *T. pyogenes*) and others in the placenta (eg. *S. Dublin*) hence the importance of always submitting both (Hayes et al, 2023); currently the placenta accompanies the foetus in ~25 per cent of submissions. Overall, these findings suggest that the most common diagnosed causes of sporadic abortions in dairy and suckler herds are *T. pyogenes* and *B. licheniformis*, respectively, while the most common cause of abortion outbreaks is *N. caninum*. However, the majority of abortions are non-infectious in origin.

5. HOW CAN WE IMPROVE THE ABORTION DIAGNOSIS RATE?

If we accept that most abortions are non-infectious in origin (diagnosis-not-reached – DNR), then we need to improve our DNR diagnosis rate. However, non-infection diagnoses are not likely to be made in veterinary diagnostic labs, which specialise in infectious diagnoses. The best hope here for the future is the increasing detection of recessive lethal alleles in embryonic and early foetal mortality as exemplified by the sire, Pawnee Farm Arlinda Chief, which has been linked to over half a million abortions worldwide.

Attempts to improve the abortion infectious diagnosis rate are ongoing nationally and internationally. For example, in recent years, the DAFM and commercial vet labs (eg. FarmLab Diagnostics) have introduced abortifacient PCR screening tests (*Anaplasma phagocytophilia*, Bovine herpesvirus-4, *Campylobacter fetus*, *Chlamydomphila*, *C. burnetii*, *Leptospira*, *Neospora* and *salmonella*). For the first time, these tests generated results on these common and not so common abortifacients in Irish foetal material.

Additionally, research is being conducted on difficult-to-diagnose pathogens through samples submitted to the RVLs (Hayes et al, 2023). In parallel, research has started using metagenomic next generation sequencing (NGS) to identify pathogen Y (viral foeto pathogens not identified by routine diagnostic methods) in aborted material as part of the One Health: All Ireland for European Surveillance (OH-ALLIES) project. Related diagnostics (nanopore sequencing) have recently been introduced in Belgium and the Netherlands for bovine abortion diagnostics (PathoSense). And in Denmark, microbiome analysis is now routinely used to assist in diagnosis of bovine abortions. All of these initiatives are likely to continue the current trend of increasing abortion diagnosis rates internationally.

References available on request.

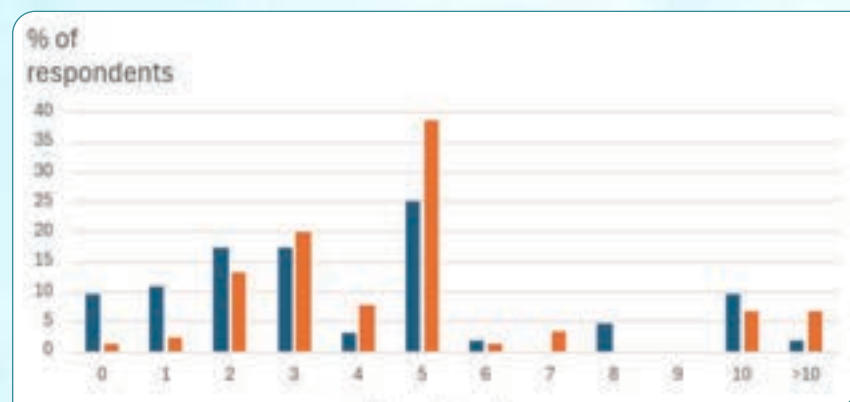


Figure 2: Investigative thresholds (at or above per cent) for abortion used by vets and agricultural students.



Irish dairy's green advantage

Irish dairy has built its strong global reputation on quality, sustainability, reliability and our unique grass-fed credentials. Our success in export markets depends not only on finding new buyers, but on protecting the strong and hard-fought position we occupy on the global stage.

Today's consumers want proof that the food they consume is both nutritious and responsibly produced. When it comes to making purchasing decisions, they seek out assurances of environmental care and high animal welfare standards.

Grass-fed milk production sits at the heart of what makes Irish dairy unique, benefiting farmers, cows, consumers, and the environment. Grass-fed isn't just how we farm – it's how we stand out.

Market demand

Grass-fed dairy satisfies market demand across four main areas:

1. Health benefits

Grass-fed dairy has higher levels of beneficial nutrients compared to indoor based dairy, supporting healthy lifestyles.

2. Improved animal welfare

Irish dairy cows can lead more 'natural' lives out on pasture. Healthier cows also contribute to better quality milk.

3. Improved environmental sustainability

Ireland has one of the lowest dairy carbon footprints in the EU, largely due to our pasture-based production systems, which typically have lower carbon footprints than mixed or indoor systems.

4. Consumers will pay a premium for grass-fed dairy

Half of consumers globally said that grass-fed would influence their choice of dairy. According to Bord Bia research, 19% of dairy consumers will pay a premium for grass fed-dairy.



Ornuia
THE HOME OF IRISH DAIRY

Grass-fed success in the US market

Consumers worldwide increasingly see grass-fed dairy as the 'gold standard' for quality and authenticity. This is particularly prominent in markets like the US, where Kerrygold is the second most popular butter in the market. Irish grass-fed milk gives Kerrygold its golden, creamy texture which consumers actively seek out as they cannot find it elsewhere in the butter category.

From one pallet of butter in 1999, to the number one imported butter brand and fastest growing in the market, Kerrygold's strength is the result of decades of strategic marketing investment, strong long-term retail partnerships, and consistent delivery of a consumer experience that is unmatched. It is the model for best-in-class production from paddock to parlour to plate, underpinned by robust standards designed to protect and enhance the foundations of Ireland's unique value proposition: grass-fed.

Protecting our natural advantage

Grass-fed is more than a production method, it's Ireland's competitive differentiator. It connects farming heritage and efficiency with the modern consumer's appetite for taste, quality, and sustainability. As global competition intensifies, protecting and communicating the value of Ireland's grass-fed system will be vital to sustaining our reputation, our premium position in world markets, and our ability to realise value for producers.



The Bord Bia Grass-Fed Standard

Bord Bia, in collaboration with the wider Irish dairy industry, developed the Grass-Fed Standard in 2020. As the world's first independently verified grass-fed certification, the Bord Bia Grass-Fed Standard provides proof that Irish dairy is verified grass-fed.

The Grass-Fed Standard asks no requirements of farmers other than to be a member of the SDAS. The data is collected through the sustainability survey conducted by farmers as part of their audit. The percentage of grass in the herd's diet is calculated on a fresh weight basis and includes grass-based forage.

- Milk processors that wish to use the grass-fed logo are audited against the standard every 12 months and must comply with these requirements:
Sourced from farms that are members of the Bord Bia Sustainable Dairy Assurance Scheme (SDAS).
- Each individual herd must achieve at least 90% grass-fed diet over a three-year period.
- The combined milk pool must achieve a weighted average of at least 94.5% grass-fed (herds producing more milk count more towards this average.)
- Cows must be permitted to graze outdoors on grass for at least the national average grazing days, plus or minus 30 days (to allow for challenging grass growth conditions).

BORD BIA
IRISH FOOD BOARD

HARVEST ANALYSIS: EARLY 2025 DATA SHOW RISING THREAT

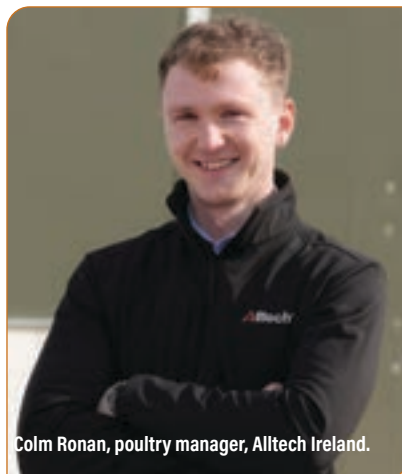
COLM RONAN, POULTRY MANAGER, ALLTECH IRELAND, GIVES AN OVERVIEW OF ALLTECH'S
ANNUAL REVIEW OF CROP GRAINS AND FORAGE SAMPLES

The Alltech 2025 Harvest Analysis is already uncovering a concerning picture across global feed ingredients, with early results indicating elevated mycotoxin threats in several key regions. Mycotoxin analysis data from Europe, North America and Canada shows a rising prevalence of multiple mycotoxin groups, shaped by volatile weather, crop stress, and regional disease pressure.

ANNUAL ANALYSIS

Each year, Alltech tests thousands of new crop grains and forage samples to obtain the most up-to-date data on mycotoxin contamination patterns, worldwide. This data supports timely and accurate analysis of mycotoxin risks, from global trends to details on specific regions, crops and animal species. We call this programme the Alltech Harvest Analysis.

Alongside this, Alltech's global network of mycotoxin specialists, spanning researchers, veterinarians, nutritionists and on-farm advisors, provide practical expertise



Colm Ronan, poultry manager, Alltech Ireland.

and informed guidance. Their combined knowledge strengthens the nutritional strategies used throughout the feed supply chain and supports the fight against an increasingly complex mycotoxin challenge.

PREVALENCE

Mycotoxins, which are natural substances produced by certain molds and fungi, are



THE INITIAL DATA SHOWS A MODERATE-TO-HIGH MYCOTOXIN RISK SO FAR IN 2025, WITH SIGNIFICANT REGIONAL VARIATIONS.

more prevalent than ever before. More than 95 per cent of crops today are contaminated with at least one mycotoxin, and usually with two or more. Because these toxins are difficult to detect, being odorless, colourless, and invisible to the naked eye, they can often cause considerable damage to animal health and performance, sometimes even before producers realise they are present. A proactive mycotoxin management programme is essential, and the first step is understanding which mycotoxins pose the



highest risk in specific regions, crops, and animal species.

As part of the Alltech 2025 Harvest Analysis, we're sharing a preliminary view of the data from Europe, the United States and Canada, and the results are striking. These early insights are intended to help farmers and feed producers stay ahead of the mycotoxin threat before the full reports from these three regions are released, shortly.

EUROPE: INCREASED MULTI-MYCOTOXIN COMPLEXITY

The Alltech 2025 European Harvest Analysis (EHA) programme tested over 400 samples at the state-of-the-art Alltech 37+ lab, which can detect the presence of 54 individual mycotoxins. Corn samples from Central and Southern Europe are also tested in collaboration with SGS, a global leader in mycotoxin testing and certification. The initial data shows a moderate-to-high mycotoxin risk so far in 2025, with significant regional variations. This is similar to the results seen at this time last year. Over 45 per cent of corn grain samples have tested positive for aflatoxin B1, averaging 23 parts per billion (ppb), with some samples, including one from Romania, reaching as high as 733 ppb, well above EU feed safety limits.

Wheat and barley samples continue to demonstrate widespread multi-mycotoxin contamination, averaging nearly six mycotoxins per sample, dominated by fumonisins and type B trichothecenes. Forage samples have shown contamination in 88 per cent of cases, with penicillium mycotoxins emerging as a significant risk for dairy producers.

Comparing this to 2024, the European dataset shows a notable increase in overall mycotoxin diversity and frequency. Last year's report recorded widespread type B trichothecene contamination in barley samples, a pattern that has intensified into 2025, with aflatoxin pressure returning strongly in southern and eastern Europe.

A PROACTIVE MYCOTOXIN MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME IS ESSENTIAL, AND THE FIRST STEP IS UNDERSTANDING WHICH MYCOTOXINS POSE THE HIGHEST RISK

UNITED STATES: FUSARIUM MYCOTOXINS DOMINATE

In the US, over 300 samples of corn silage and corn grain have revealed moderate-to-high risk levels, driven by fusarium-related mycotoxins. Corn grain for swine shows synergistic risk from type B trichothecenes and zearalenone (ZEA), while fusaric acid and fumonisins also pose challenges at maximum levels. Poultry grain samples show type B trichothecenes as the primary concern, with zearalenone and fusaric acid increasing risk in wetter regions.

Corn silage samples show a 95 per cent occurrence of fusaric acid and 86 per cent for type B trichothecenes, posing risks to feed intake, milk yield, fertility and immune function. Many of these toxins are linked to gut health, reproductive performance and immune stress.

CANADA: REGIONAL CONTRASTS EMERGING

Early Canadian findings show divergent regional risk profiles, influenced by weather extremes. Barley samples from western Canada show a high occurrence of deoxynivalenol (DON [74 per cent]) – also called vomitoxin, is a common mycotoxin produced by *Fusarium fungi* – with T2-HT2 toxins detected in 50 per cent and zearalenone in 25 per cent. Maximum DON concentrations have reached 8,500 ppb. Wheat samples show elevated DON in 23 per cent of cases, peaking at 3,200 ppb, with DON averaging 820 ppb.

Together, these results suggest that Canadian feed ingredients are trending toward higher DON levels. DON was present in 31 per cent of barley samples in 2024 versus 74 per cent in 2025 and greater zearalenone prevalence than in 2024, when risk was more localised to eastern provinces.

MYCOTOXIN PRESSURE INTENSIFYING WORLDWIDE

While the regional profiles vary, the overall picture from the 2025 preliminary data is clear:

- ▶ Fusarium-derived mycotoxins, especially DON, zearalenone, and T2-HT2, remain dominant across continents.
- ▶ Aflatoxin is re-emerging as a major threat in southern Europe.
- ▶ Weather extremes, from rainfall and humidity to late-season disease outbreaks, have been a major driver of toxin proliferation across corn, cereals and forages.
- ▶ Producers in all regions are encouraged to intensify testing and management strategies through the remainder of the season and into 2026.
- ▶ The use of a dietary mycotoxin binder, such as Mycosorb Evo or Mycosorb A+ Evo from Alltech, is recommended to mitigate the impact of these invisible threats on animal health and productivity as well as the profitability of your business.

WHAT'S NEXT

The full European, US and Canadian 2025 Harvest Analysis reports will be released later this month (January), delivering not only specific data, but trend analysis and species-specific impact assessments.

The Alltech 2025 Harvest broadcast will also take place this month (January), featuring expert insights and regional breakdowns. For more information about Alltech mycotoxin management solutions, visit knowmycotoxins.com.

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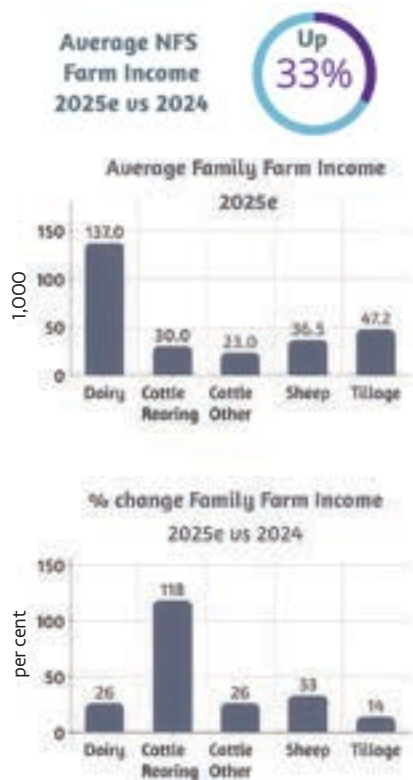


Ciaran Fitzgerald
Agri-food economist

POSITIVE LONG-TERM OUTLOOK FOR IRISH AGRICULTURE

As we enter the second quarter of the 21st century, agri-food economist, Ciaran Fitzgerald writes, with some reservations, that the prospects for Irish agriculture are positive, provided politics doesn't either over-constrain or under-support our largest indigenous business sector

The chart below from Teagasc's *Outlook 2026: Economic Outlook for Irish Agriculture* report, shows an increase in farm incomes last year of 33 per cent, with beef farming delivering the largest percentage increases in incomes at 118 per cent.



Source: Teagasc.

Unfortunately, 2026 does not look as promising, particularly for the dairy and tillage sectors. Based on current market trends, Teagasc predicts on-farm milk prices, particularly during the production peak, of 42.4c/L. Nevertheless, the overall Irish economic contribution of the primary agriculture sector looks like being sustained.

A multiplier impact

Indeed, the Central Statistics Office (CSO) early estimate puts the overall value of agricultural output for 2026 in excess of €13.5bn which, with known CSO multipliers, puts Irish economy expenditure for the food production sector in excess of €20bn. Early indicators of export value put total food and drink exports in 2025 at €20bn, despite direct Trump tariff threat impacts and consequent global trading challenges.

This is clearly and unambiguously a huge and very real contribution to the Irish economy supporting over 220,000 jobs in farming, manufacturing and distribution, making the sector very relevant to the Irish economy in 2025 and into the future. Moreover, the yield from increased agricultural output value represents a unique impact in the Irish economy and a footprint that is driving real Irish economic transactions.

In terms of Irish expenditure within the Irish economy, (a much more sober /realistic measurement of the impact of local and multinational companies in the Irish economy than delusional gross value-added calculations), the agri-food sector constitutes one third of all industry spend.

Global competence

At the core of these very impressive figures is a global competence in producing and marketing sustainable food and drink for 50 million consumers, that no other indigenous sector can come near. Moreover, this embedded competence is also testament not just to agri-industry and producers' understanding of real global trends in demand for sustainable food, but to the

Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine and its agencies for their strategies and support for the sector. This global connectivity is in direct contrast to the 'small island' disconnected and introverted thinking that has tried to misidentify the agriculture sector solely in terms of environmental impacts. Moreover, the recurring and resilient, substantive and unique, economic impact of the Irish agri-food and drink sectors surely demonstrates the good fortune of having world class producers, processors and Government departments and agencies working in tandem, while at the same time hosting our world-class foreign direct investment (FDI) sectors. To be very clear, there is no inherent conflict in supporting the development of our world class agri-food sector and, at the same time, supporting our FDI stream. But perhaps one of the first challenges for our industrial development gurus might be to recognise that our FDI companies are successfully embedded in Ireland because they are hugely incentivised.

Narrow industrial focus

Herein lies a huge challenge, though. There is no doubt, from tuning in any day to public discourse and, indeed, discussions with a broad range of non-agriculture related departments will confirm this, that in terms of industrial development policy the sole focus seems to be on the policy needs and incentives for FDI.

At the same time, there is concern in the agricultural sector that its cost challenges are not understood, and, possibly as importantly, are expected to be absorbed when its output is effectively constrained. The competitiveness challenges facing the agri sector, including the huge cost of decarbonisation for processors and farmers, are clearly substantial. But, unlike the energy sector for example, there is absolutely no discussion of guaranteed long-term pricing incentives being put in place to support substantial decarbonisation costs. Likewise, in terms of access to the competitive 'patient capital' required, there seems to be no interest at Government level in instituting a root and branch



**GOVERNMENT, RESPECTFULLY,
NEEDS TO COME ON BOARD WITH
THE AGRI SECTOR AND DISCUSS A
COMBINATION OF SUPPORTS THAT
ARE SPECIFIC TO ITS CHALLENGES**

examination of current EU state aid rules to develop a bespoke support system for Ireland's largest indigenous sector.

This is in sharp contrast to a German approach that is constantly exerting political pressure to ease constraints on its capability of providing German state support for heavy industry and car manufacturing. Incidentally, at the same time, Germany is also pushing back on EU commitments to phase out non fully electric cars by 2035.

Supporting global competence

Regarding the overall competitiveness challenges facing the Irish agri sector, as has been clearly demonstrated, a combination of regulatory constraints and zero selling power means low or no possibility of recovering decarbonisation and other transition costs in the marketplace through increased prices. As importantly, Government must understand that the production limits imposed on the primary processing sectors, through environmental constraints, effectively mean that increased costs cannot be absorbed through increased output. Ireland's agri sector is a hugely important and relevant cog in the modern Irish economy wheel. The people in agri-business, from farm to fork, have enduring global competence and, very importantly, are experiencing increasing global demand for the food we produce.

Government, respectfully, needs to come on board with the agri sector and discuss a combination of supports that are specific to the challenges which the agricultural sector is facing and embracing.

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The importance of mycotoxin management

Mycotoxin contamination negatively impacts livestock by harming the gut, organs, and immune systems, ultimately reducing performance and profitability. A well-executed mycotoxin control program helps mitigate these effects, improving feed quality and overall livestock productivity.

Our holistic approach to mycotoxin management

At Alltech, we go beyond just offering solutions — we provide a complete, farm-to-feed mill strategy. With over 30 years of expertise in mycotoxin research, we understand the complex challenges faced by feed and livestock producers. The Alltech Mycotoxin Management Program combines cutting-edge risk identification, data analysis and advanced binding technologies like Mycosorb Evo to reduce the negative effects of mycotoxins, helping you protect your livestock and business.



01

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02

QUANTIFY THE RISK

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03

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IRISH FARMERS MONTHLY

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PRIORITY CALF-CARE PRACTICES

IN THIS CALF-HEALTH SERIES, BERNIE COMMINS CHATS TO MICHELLE McGRATH, PROGRAMME MANAGER CALFCARE AND HOOF HEALTHCHECK AT ANIMAL HEALTH IRELAND (AHI), ABOUT THE PRIORITY TOPICS AT THIS YEAR’S CALFCARE ROADSHOW RUN BY AHI IN ASSOCIATION WITH TEAGASC

The current iteration of the annual Calfcare Roadshow is in full swing. Commencing in December 2025, it will have travelled to 16 best-practice farms nationwide by its completion date later this month (January), highlighting the connection between good calf health, animal welfare, and farm profitability. The theme of the roadshow, ‘Healthy Calves, Your Profitable Future’, represents the aims of all dairy farmers but the roadshows are helpful reminders of how to get the basics right when the animal is born. The roadshows are focussing on four key topics: winter weanling nutrition and commercial beef value; preventing pneumonia; feeding the newborn calf; and maintaining that calf’s healthy gut. In this article, we will discuss feeding the newborn calf and preventing pneumonia.

FEEDING

Feeding the calf correctly from the very start leads to a healthy and productive future for the animal. While colostrum is obviously key here, there are other important factors to consider, says Michelle. “There is a lot of interest [from farmers] in feeding rates and milk replacer rates and we are also pointing out the importance of having a consistent feeding schedule.” If attention to these details is not followed, that is when issues can arise.”

COLOSTRUM

Colostrum, as we know, is essential for newborns, ensuring all the antibodies, energy, and nutrients get to the calf. But it must be given soon after birth as antibodies

Step	Action	Reason
1	Use colostrum from the first milking	Highest antibody concentration (IgG > 50g/L)
2	Feed within two hours of birth	Absorption of antibodies reduces rapidly after six hours
3	Feed at least 3 litres	Ensures sufficient antibody intake and energy supply

Source: Animal Health Ireland.

cannot pass from cow to calf beforehand. As expected, the ‘1, 2, 3 Rule’ is to the fore, and the table above reminds us of this rule. But, Michelle explains, the roadshows are highlighting some additional details this year: “In addition to the ‘1, 2, 3 Rule’, we are trying to get across the importance of harvesting the colostrum as hygienically as possible because if the dirt gets into it, then it will prevent antibody absorption. So, it doesn’t matter how good the colostrum is to begin with if the calves can’t absorb it.” The hygiene aspect relates to the cow’s teat being clean, as well as the receptacle in which the colostrum is collected. Michelle adds: “It also relates to not leaving it lying around the dairy after it is collected. It needs to be put into a fridge, or frozen immediately, because otherwise, bacteria will grow and so the quality will not be there. Lots of people do the colostrum right [in parts] but still end up having problems so it might be a few small things that are catching them out.”

Note: When being re-heated, colostrum must reach 38-40°C.

In terms of the optimal time to harvest the colostrum, Michelle explains: “Ideally it is within the first six hours; after that, the cow is coming into milk, and the colostrum is more diluted.” At the end of the day, if calves get

sick, they do not reach their potential in terms of yield or slaughter, Michelle emphasises.

COLOSTRUM QUALITY

Aa Brix refractometer will tell you how good, or not, the colostrum you are giving your calves actually is. Values of 22 per cent, or higher, indicate good quality colostrum, according to AHI. Collect and store hygienically; refrigerate within three hours or freeze immediately.

ASKING A LOT

We ask a lot of our calves, Michelle says – and of farmers, too – at this time of year. There are certain expectations of both but the priority is for calves to be eating properly and for farmers to ensure that this happens. “There is a lot of pressure to wean at a certain age or by a certain date but, really, calves need to be eating properly and now is the most economical time for a calf to feed. The rumen needs to be fully functioning by 10 weeks so there is no harm in taking the pressure off yourself, and don’t feel the need to wean them as quickly as you think you must.” AHI recommends that fresh water and calf starter should be accessible from three days of age to promote rumen bacterial development, which will in turn help to develop the rumen.



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SIX AT SIX

By the time a calf is six days old, it should be drinking six litres of milk, or 15 per cent birth bodyweight assuming a 40kg birth weight. If feeding milk replacer, it should contain 750g of milk powder in six litres and be divided into two equal feeds. Of the 750g fed, around half is required for maintenance of the calf, and the remainder is available for growth, AHl advises. Milk replacer must reach a temperature of 38-40°C for feeding.

FEED-INTAKE WEANING

When it comes to weaning, Michelle says, farmers should base it on feed intake and not just on age. Calves must be taking in 1.5kg of concentrates daily for three consecutive days before weaning commences. See table below for more details.

Week	Milk feed	Concentrate intake
1-3	Full feed (6L/day)	Ad lib access
4-7	Reduce by 25-50%	Ad lib access
8-10	Stop milk feeding	Consuming ≥1.5kg/day

Source: Animal Health Ireland.

PREVENTING PNEUMONIA

This is an extremely important topic as pneumonia is the ‘most common disease in young cattle from weaning to 10 months of age causing death and poor performance’ according to AHl. Some of the key messages being communicated to farmers at the roadshows include the delivery of colostrum, the optimum quantities of milk or milk replacer required by calves, managing stress, and developing a vaccination plan. The two main considerations are outlined below.

Maximise immunity

- ▶ Give good quality colostrum at sufficient volume, collected cleanly, at an effective time (within two hours of birth).
- ▶ Feed enough milk or milk replacer and increase feeding during cold spells.
- ▶ Manage transport, weaning and disbudding stress with good management practices.
- ▶ Develop a vaccination plan with your vet.

Minimise exposure

- ▶ Check the environment at the calf level: fresh, clean air, without draughts.
- ▶ Prevent leaks and have good drainage which results in dry bedding.
- ▶ Keep calves warm with dry, clean bedding deep enough to nest in.
- ▶ Match calf groups by age and avoid calves sharing airspace with adults
- ▶ Isolate any sick animals from the group and treat as soon as illness is suspected.

PRACTICAL BLUEPRINT

AHl has recently launched a calf care pocket booklet, which Michelle describes as a practical blueprint to the first year of the calves’ lives. She adds: “Inside you will find clear, specific and practical advice based on the latest research and best practice. It is written for both dairy and dairy beef farmers and focuses on the key points that matter from birth to one year of age. You will also find links to further information if you want to explore any topic in more detail.”

TRACTORGUIDE2026





Not just a telehandler: Merlo Multifarmer

The whole premise of the Multifarmer is that it combines the capabilities of a traditional agricultural telehandler with those of a tractor, offering an all-in-one solution for farmers. As a result, the Merlo Multifarmer is becoming more and more popular among farmers here – it is practical, compact, powerful, and versatile.

The MF34.7 offers a 3,400kg lift capacity and a maximum lift height of 6.8m, powered by a 136hp Deutz Stage 5 diesel engine. It features rear PTO speeds of 540/1000 RPM, a Category II three-point linkage, with an option to upgrade to Category III and a maximum travel speed of 40km/h. Cab suspension is optional on the MF34.7.

For those needing even more muscle, the MF44.7 and MF49 step up with a 4,400kg lift capacity and a lift height of 6.8m and 8.9m Category III three-point linkage and powered by a 170hp FPT engine and CVT transmission. Cab suspension is standard on the MF34.7, MF44.7 and MF49. Both models include all-wheel drive, and advanced cab comfort with level II FOPS certification, hydraulic pick-up hitch and joystick controls for seamless operation.

A standout feature of the MF44.9 is Merlo's CVTronic



In April 2025, mixed beef and dairy farmer, Michael Guinan (pictured above), from Co. Offaly, took delivery of a Merlo Multifarmer MF34.7 – the fortunate result of a competition to use a Multifarmer for a year. A significant challenge to Michael's dairy operations arises from the division of the farm by the Grand Canal, with only a very old and narrow stone bridge spanning the water. This bridge cannot accommodate most modern machinery, forcing a six-mile round trip for farmers and their tractors. However, the MF34.7 can navigate the bridge making it hugely helpful to the Guinan family. Photo: Justin Roberts.

transmission system, which combines the smoothness of a hydrostatic drive with the efficiency of a mechanical gearbox. This advanced technology delivers optimal power transfer, improved fuel efficiency, and exceptional driving comfort making the MF44.9 ideal for heavy-duty tasks and long working hours.

Success for Case IH Optum 440



The Case IH Optum 440 leads a three-strong line-up of new tractors that extend the Optum range into the 360-435hp power sector. It features an all-new design combining a long wheelbase with compact dimensions, creating the versatility to handle tasks from high-speed road transport to unballasted light field work or fully-ballasted heavy draft jobs. Cursor 9 8.7-litre engines power a new 4x2 CVXDrive transmission with 60km/hr maximum speed for minimised travel time, plus upgraded braking to match. Other features include new independent front axle suspension and optional fully integrated central tyre inflation system for fast road/field adjustment. Integrated precision technology comprises

The Case IH Optum 440 enters the new year with a brand-new accolade, having won the 'Upper Medium Size Tractor' category in the 2026 Farm Machine of the Year awards. Formerly known as 'Machine of the Year', the Farm Machine Awards are presented every two years during Agritechnica in Hanover, Germany. Thirteen categories are judged by agricultural technology editors from leading German trade publications, together with international colleagues from 10 additional countries.

Connectivity Included (eliminating recurring connectivity subscriptions), telematics, Isobus compatibility and Tractor Implement Management (TIM). Case IH FieldOps simplifies management of machine and agronomic data. Commenting on the win, Franz Josef Silber, global product marketing medium horsepower tractors at Case IH, said: "This is a design created in direct response to farmers' feedback on what they want in a high-horsepower yet light, compact and manoeuvrable tractor."



New Holland delivers 'completely reimagined' T7 Series

New Holland has given its T7 Standard Wheelbase (SWB) tractor a total overhaul with new front axle, new cab, and a new transmission bringing enhanced capabilities to the 180hp to 225hp segment. Multiple technology and transmission improvements enhance efficiency, and the new front axle makes for a significantly smoother ride and tighter turning circle. The new T7 SWB also sports the striking new Dynamic Blue colour, which will be introduced across future New Holland tractors, according to the company.

The T7.225 with Dynamic Command transmission (DCT) recently set a new benchmark at the German DLG test centre, achieving best-in-class PowerMix fuel efficiency in its power class, consuming just 243g/kWh, according to New Holland. The new front axle, available in standard or heavy-duty versions, either of which can be suspended, incorporates dual accumulators for faster, smoother response that cushions the tractor and the operator. A roll control option locks the accumulators to eliminate movement and enhance handling in transport mode. In conjunction with a new axle support and redesigned hood shape, the new axle has cut the turning circle by 17 per cent (2.4m), from 14.3m to 11.4m, for swifter, more efficient headland turns.

The new T7 SWB tractors all feature the same 2,789mm wheelbase as the models they succeed, yet now have a maximum permissible gross vehicle weight of 13.5t and a



greater maximum payload of 5.5t, positioning them among the segment leaders.

A new sloping bonnet that enhances forward vision conceals a Stage V FPT NEF 6.7L engine, with 750-hour service interval. Diesel fuel and AdBlue/DEF capacities have respectively been increased to 350L and 480L. The NEF engine's new power curve reaches maximum power at a lower engine speed of 1,500rpm, reducing both fuel consumption and noise. Each model benefits from an Engine Power Management boost for 22-25 per cent additional power in transport, PTO and hydraulic applications.



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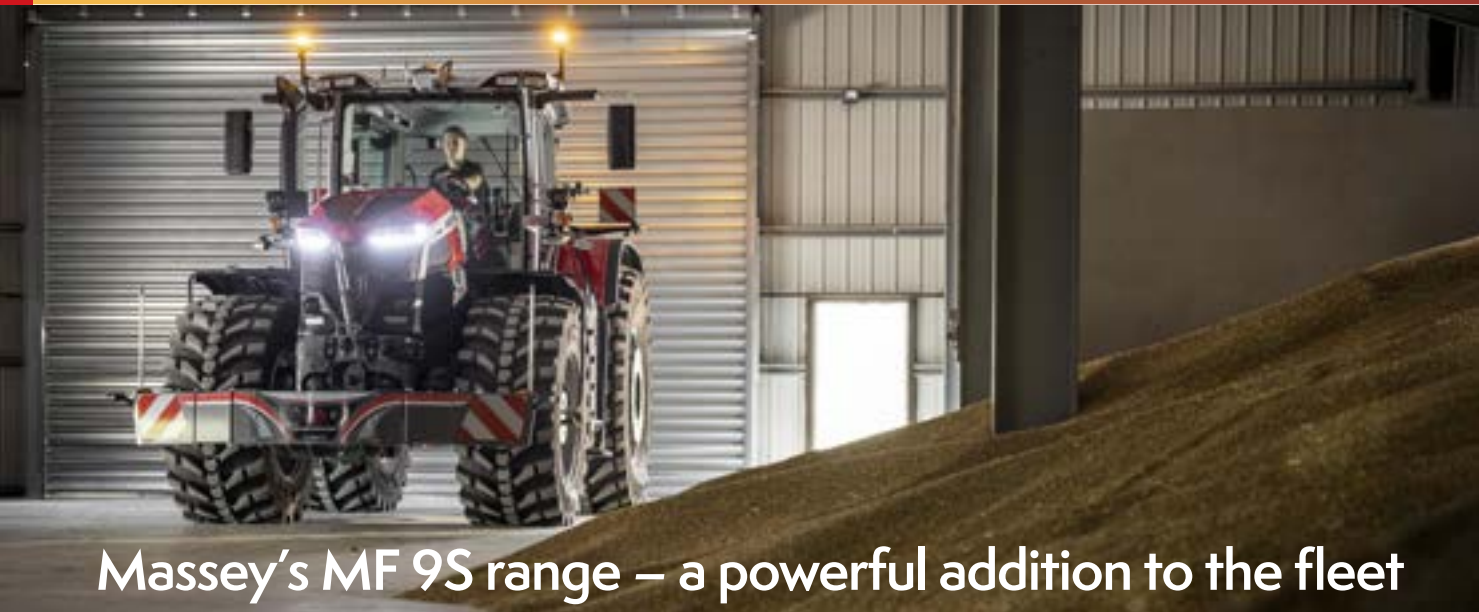
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Massey's MF 9S range – a powerful addition to the fleet

The new MF 9S range, which replaces the outgoing MF 8700 S series, includes six models with powers from 285hp to 425hp, and it is now available in Ireland and the UK. All six models feature the innovative Protec-U design, the Dyna-VT transmission, best-in-class visibility from the new cab, while the flagship model has an unladen power-to-weight ratio of 25.4kg/hp. And they are all powered by an updated six-cylinder, 8.4L AGCO Power engine, with Engine Power Management (EPM) offering up to 30hp extra for all models, except the flagship 9S.425.

Models start with the MF 9S 285, which offers a maximum power of 285hp as standard with a maximum EPM power of 315hp, while torque output is 1,250Nm@1,500rpm at maximum power, and rises to 1,400Nm@1,500rpm with EPM. The largest model is the MF 9S.425, which has a maximum power of 425hp and maximum torque of 1,750Nm@1,500rpm. Updates to the engine include a new turbocharging design with a single advanced turbo replacing the twin turbo system, while it complies with Stage V emissions regulations using a

simplified All-In-One system of DOC, SCR and SC, without the need for an EGR valve.

To increase the time between fill ups, the 660L fuel tank is 10 per cent larger than previous models, while the engine is also designed to run on HVO fuel to offer users the option to run more sustainable fuels.

As standard, the new models are fitted with MF's renowned Dyna-VT continuously variable transmission that offers new power management to deliver additional power and torque compared with previous models. Central to this is a separate hydraulic oil reservoir that eliminates the risk of contamination and helps extend service life.

The new MF 9S features the Protec-U cab design with an 18cm gap between the cab shell and the bonnet to reduce heat, noise and vibration transfer to the cab, resulting in a 69dBa working environment, which is one of the quietest on the market. Not only this, the 3.4m³ cab offers best-in-class visibility with a 6.6m² glass area, and a new wiper now covers 72 per cent of the area.



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A new year, a new Claas Arion 6 Series

Key features of the ARION 6.190 CMATIC

- Launch of the new Arion 6 series with Arion 6.190 CMATIC top model from spring 2026 (parallel to the ARION 660 CMATIC).
- New design based on the Xerion 12 and Axion 9.
- 6.8L six-cylinder engine with 205hp maximum output and 849Nm maximum torque
- More safety thanks to automatic trailer stretch brake.
- More comfort and precision with less tyre wear thanks to wheel loader mode for front loader work.
- Maximum driver comfort thanks to the sprung front axle, full-suspension and quiet cab with CEBIS equipment and CMOTION, as well as the optional dynamic steering for halved steering wheel turns.
- New premium seats with massage function, seat ventilation and seat heater available.
- High-end multimedia system with Apple CarPlay, Android Auto and DAB+.
- New lighting concept with up to 20 LED headlamps and new entry-level step lighting.
- Optional self-learning driver assistance and process optimisation system CEMOS for increased efficiency and productivity in the field.
- New Auto CSM function on the GPS Pilot CEMIS 1200 automatically triggers the stored headland management.
- Automatic activation of the appropriate reference track thanks to the new Auto RefLine function.
- New K80 suspension with 4t drawbar load.
- Digitally networked in the Claas connect cloud for machine management to vehicle fleet and order management through to precision farming.

This year, Claas launches the new Arion 6 CMATIC alongside the Arion 600 CMATIC. Initially, the 6.190 CMATIC model will be introduced and offered alongside the 660 CMATIC, according to the company, which unveiled the new 6 Series at Agritechnica.

The Arion 6.190 CMATIC is powered by a smooth-running 6.8L six-cylinder engine with up to 205hp maximum output with CPM and a maximum torque of 849Nm at 1,500 rpm. The additional power provided by Claas Power Management (CPM) is now gradually activated in the new Arion 6.190 CMATIC from 185hp to 205hp, which increases effectiveness and efficiency in numerous tasks, for example during transport work and work with PTO-driven devices or implements with hydraulic drives or continuous pick-ups, according to the company.

The CMATIC gearbox developed and built by Claas Industrietechnik is characterised by highly efficient power train management. In addition to first-class load reactivity and tuning of engine characteristics and transmission ratio, it has functions such as the automatic trailer stretch brake and the unique wheel loader mode for front loader work.



Meet your local AXA Agri Managers



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Barry Clarke
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Tom McCarthy
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When it comes to growing your farm, you need the right team behind you.
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Essential Tractor Safety Checks

Initial Checks

- Valid road tax and insurance
- Valid CVRT, if applicable
- Roadworthy condition
- Sitting level on ground
- Tyre condition/inflation
- No fluid leaks
- Number plates visible and clean

Driver

- Trained and competent
- Fit to drive
- Follows safety rules
- Valid licence
- Valid insurance
- Appropriate PPE
- Not fatigued

Windscreen and Side Windows

- All in place
- Undamaged and clean
- View not obscured e.g. by stickers etc.
- Windscreen wipers present and in good condition
- Valid tax and Insurance disc

Mirrors

- All mirrors in place
- Clean and in good condition
- View not obscured e.g. by stickers etc.
- Correctly aligned

In Cab Checks

- Controls clearly marked
- Controls working
- Seat in good condition
- Seat adjusted for driver
- Safety belt used [if fitted]
- Dashboard – all warning lights working
- Wipers and Washers working
- Hand brake working
- Steering and brakes working correctly
- Split brakes linked and working
- Horn, demister and temperature controls [where fitted] working correctly
- Cab clean
- Cab floor clear of any obstructions
- High-Visibility jacket/vest(s) accessible in cab



Full lighting system

- All in place
- Clean and undamaged
- Correct colour
- Flashing amber beacon turned on
- Lights and indicators working
- Work (plough lamp) switched off when travelling on road

Tyres and Wheels

- Tyres correctly inflated
- Tyres have correct tread depth
- Tyres undamaged: No abrasions, bulges or tears
- Wheel nuts all in place, correctly fitted and secure

External Checks

- Cab/Roll bar in good condition
- Check all fluid levels (oil, coolant, windscreen wash, brake fluid)
- Sufficient fuel and fuel cap secure
- Check radiator
- Check Hydraulic hoses
- Steps undamaged and clean
- Doors in place and handle working
- PTO drive guarded (U-guard)
- Hitching equipment in good condition
- Speed disc (if required)

Passengers

- Carry passenger(s) in passenger seat only
- Safety belt used [if fitted]
- High-Visibility vest(s) for passenger in cab
- No children under 7 years allowed

Safe Parking

- Reverse park safely
- Park in a safe area
- Apply parking brake
- Place in correct parking gear
- Lower attachments to ground
- Switch off engine
- Remove key
- Dismount facing tractor

Ensure tractor is maintained and is in a roadworthy condition at all times

HSA

An tÚdaráis Sláinte agus Sábháilteachta
Health and Safety Authority

www.hsa.ie



www.garda.ie

**VISION
ZERO**



www.rsa.ie



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

JOHN DEERE

1026R	4wd	2-range Hydro	309	24.8	540	22,866
2026R	4wd	2-range Hydro	415	24.8	540	26,752
2032R	4wd	2-range Hydro	615	30.6	540	35,067
2038R	4wd	2-range Hydro	615	36.7	540	37,745
3025E	4wd	2-range Hydro	615	24.4	540	26,246
3038E	4wd	2-range Hydro	615	36.7	540	30,317
3039R	4wd	3-range eHydro	995	38.2	540	44,645
3046R	4wd	3-range eHydro	995	44.7	540	48,299

LANDINI

Mistral 2-055	4wd	16x16	1,200	49	540/540E + Ground drive	36,255
Mistral 2-060	4wd	16x16	1,200	57	540/540E + Ground drive	37,170
Rex 3-070	4wd	16x16	2,700	68	540/540E or 540/1000 + Ground drive	39,049
Rex 3-080	4wd	16x16	2,700	75	540/540E or 540/1000 + Ground drive	39,676

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

MASSEY FERGUSON

MF1520	4wd	8x8	600	20	-	25,213.26
MF1525	4wd	8x8	600	25	-	26,910.46
MF1735 M HC	4wd	Hydrostatic	1,200	35	-	56,058.78
MF1735 M HP	4wd	Hydrostatic	1,200	35	-	44,778.96
MF1740 E MP	4wd	8x8	1,200	40	-	37,894.30
MF1740 M HC	4wd	Hydrostatic	1,200	40	-	62,225.46
MF1740 M HP	4wd	Hydrostatic	1,200	40	-	50,999.22
MF1750 M HC	4wd	Hydrostatic	1,580	49	-	70,015.10
MF1755M MC	4wd	12x12	1,580	54	-	67,529.29
MF1765 M HC	4wd	Hydrostatic	1,600	67	-	76,246.81
MF1765 M MC	4wd	12x12	1,600	67	-	73,749.54
MF1765 M MP	4wd	12x12	1,600	67	-	62,546.21

SOLIS

Solis 16	4wd	6+2	500	16	16	8,130
Solis 26 M	4wd	6+2	600	26	24	10,895
Solis 26 Shuttle	4wd	9+9	600	26	24	12,114
Solis 26 HST	4wd	Hydrostatic	600	26	24	13,398
Solis 50 with cab	2wd	12x12	600	50	48	25,200
Solis 50 with cab	4wd	12x12	2,500	50	48	26,830

Model	Engine (cylinder)	Engine (hp)	Transmission F/R	Overall weight (kg)	Hydraulic pump capacity (L/min)	Max. linkage (kg)	Fuel tank capacity (L)	Price € (excl. VAT)
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NEW HOLLAND

Boomer 25 Compact	3	24.7	Hydro	655	27.4	450	25	20,622
Boomer 25	3	27	Hydro	766	30.8	650	25	24,340
Boomer 35 CAB	3	38	12+12	1,660	33.3	820	47	44,162
Boomer 35 CAB	3	38	Hydro	1,660	33.3	820	47	44,795
Boomer 35 ROPS	3	38	12+12	1,460	33.3	820	40	34,177
Boomer 35 ROPS	3	38	Hydro	1,460	33.3	820	40	34,810
Boomer 40 CAB	3	41	12x12	1,660	33.3	820	47	47,124
Boomer 40 CAB	3	41	Hydro	1,660	33.3	820	47	47,757
Boomer 40 ROPS	3	41	12x12	1,460	33.3	820	40	37,140
Boomer 40 ROPS	3	41	Hydro	1,460	33.3	820	40	37,773



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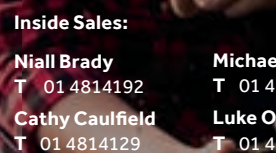
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51-80HP

51-80HP

Model	Engine (cylinder)	Engine (hp)	Transmission F/R	Overall weight (kg)	Hydraulic pump capacity (L/min)	Max. linkage (kg)	Fuel tank capacity (L)	Price € (excl. VAT)
CASE IH								
Quantum 80 V/N/F CAB	4	75	32x16	4,500/4,500/4,800	64 or 82	2,500	104	104,090
Quantum 90 V/N/F CAB	4	86	32x16	4,500/4,500/4,800	64 or 82	2,500	104	107,590
Quantum 100 V/N/F CAB	4	99	32x16	4,500/4,500/4,800	64 or 82	2,500	104	111,090
Farmall 55 A ROPS 2WD	3	55	8x8	2,550	48	3,000	82	38,691
Farmall 55 A CAB 2WD	3	55	8x8	2,800	48	3,000	82	46,653
Farmall 55 A ROPS 4WD	3	55	12x12	2,850	48	3,000	82	47,657
Farmall 55 A CAB 4WD	3	55	12x12	3,100	48	3,000	82	54,371
Farmall 65 A ROPS 2WD	3	65	8x8	2,550	48	3,000	82	39,727
Farmall 65 A CAB 2WD	3	65	8x8	2,800	48	3,000	82	48,162
Farmall 65 A ROPS 4WD	3	65	12x12	2,850	48	3,000	82	48,690
Farmall 65 A CAB 4WD	3	65	12x12	3,100	48	3,000	82	55,379
Farmall 75 A ROPS 2WD	3	75	8x8	2,550	48	3,000	82	41,342
Farmall 75 A CAB 2WD	3	75	8x8	2,800	48	3,000	82	49,811
Farmall 75 A ROPS 4WD	3	75	12x12	2,850	48	3,000	82	50,307
Farmall 75 A CAB 4WD	3	75	12x12	3,100	48	3,000	82	57,025

DEUTZ FAHR

3050	4	51	12x12	1,810	31	1,200	40	41,960
3060	4	59	12x12	1,885	31	1,200	40	44,050
4070 E LS 2wd	3	66	15x15	2,750	48	3,500	75	44,850
4070 E LS	3	66	15x15	2,950	48	3,500	75	51,860
4070 E GS	3	66	15x15	2,950	48	3,500	75	55,710
5070 D Keyline LS	3	66	15x15	3,250	56	3,500	90	65,960
5070 D Keyline GS	3	66	15x15	3,250	56	3,500	90	71,790
5075 Keyline LS	4	74	15x15	4,000	55/68	4,525	145	81,070
5075 Keyline GS	4	74	20x20/40x40	4,000	55/68	4,525	145	84,750
5075 D LS	4	75	30x15	3,275	64	3,600	85	78,790
5075 D GS	4	75	30x15	3,275	64	3,600	85	82,140
4080 E 2wd	3	76	15x15	2,750	48	3,500	75	48,190
4080 E LS	3	76	15x15	2,950	48	3,500	75	54,080
4080 E GS	3	76	15x15	2,950	48	3,500	75	57,960
5080 D Keyline LS	3	76	15x15	3,250	56	3,500	90	68,210
5080 D Keyline GS	3	76	15x15	3,250	56	3,500	90	74,030



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A large Massey Ferguson tractor is shown from a side profile, working in a field of dark, tilled soil. The tractor is red and black, with 'MASSEY FERGUSON' visible on the side. It has large, treaded tires. In the background, a bright sunset or sunrise is visible, with a large red checkmark graphic in the upper left corner of the image.

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MASSEY FERGUSON

BORN TO **FARM**



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

e107 S Vario	4wd	-	-	75	-	217,288
207 S Vario Gen3	4wd	-	-	79	-	135,471
208 S Vario Gen3	4wd	-	-	84	-	138,402

JOHN DEERE

4052M compact	4wd	3-range eHydro	1,229	50.8	540	40,857
4066M compact	4wd	3-range eHydro	1,229	65	540	48,942
4052R compact*	4wd	3-range eHydro	1,229	50.8	540	61,434
4066R compact*	4wd	3-range eHydro	1,229	65	540	66,775
5050E	4wd	9+3	1,800	49	540/540E	37,508
5058E	4wd	12+12	1,800	60.3	540/540E	42,675
5067E	4wd	12+12	1,800	68.5	540/540E	46,812
5075E	4wd	12+12	1,800	74.7	540/540E	49,434
5075M	4wd	16+16	4,326	75	540/540E/1,000	70,464

*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	-	32,508
L1552 (ROPS)	4wd	HST 3 Range	1,750	52	-	36,94
L2522 (CAB)	4wd	16F/16R	1,750	52	-	46,91
L2622 HST CAB	4wd	HST 3 Range	1,750	62	-	57,602
M4-063	4wd	18F/18R	2,500	66	-	56,537
M4-063 (ROPS)	4wd	18F/18R	2,500	66	-	45,745
M4-073	4wd	18F/18R	2,500	74	-	59,834
M4-073	4wd	36F/36R	2,500	74	-	61,177

John Deere 4052M Compact.



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

4-060	4	12x12 (24x24 Opt)	3,000	61	540/1,000	52,210
4-070	4	12x12 (24x24 Opt)	3,000	68	540/1,000	53,094
4-080	4	12x12 (24x24 Opt)	3,000	75	540/1,000	54,420
5-085	4	24x24	3,900	75	540/1,000	64,600

MASSEY FERGUSON

MF 3AL.75						
CAB Flatfloor Efficient	4wd	24+12PS+Spdsft	3,100	75	-	POA
MF 3AL.75						
CAB Tunnel Efficient	4wd	24+12PS+Spdsft	3,100	75	-	POA

Model	Engine (cylinder)	Engine (hp)	Transmission F/R	Overall weight (kg)	Hydraulic pump capacity (L/min)	Max. linkage (kg)	Fuel tank capacity (L)	Price € (excl. VAT)
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NEW HOLLAND

Boomer 50 CAB	3	52	16+16	1,950	33.3	1,250	47	51,212
Boomer 50 CAB	3	52	Hydro	1,950	33.3	1,250	47	53,130
Boomer 50 ROPS	3	52	16+16	1,720	33.3	1,250	40	40,460
Boomer 50 ROPS	3	52	Hydro	1,720	33.3	1,250	40	41,093
Boomer 55 CAB	3	57	16x16	1,950	33.3	1,250	47	52,970
Boomer 55 CAB	3	57	Hydro	1,950	33.3	1,250	47	54,888
Boomer 55 ROPS	3	57	16x16	1,720	33.3	1,250	40	42,214
Boomer 55 ROPS	3	57	Hydro	1,720	33.3	1,250	40	42,847
T4.80 V/N/F ROPS	4	75	16x16 (Opt 32x16)	4,500/4,500/4,800	64 or 82	2,500	104	73,358
T4.80 V/N/F CAB	4	75	16x16 (Opt 32x16)	4,500/4,500/4,800	64 or 82	2,500	104	97,161
T4.90 V/N/F ROPS	4	86	16x16 (Opt 32x16)	4,500/4,500/4,800	64 or 82	2,500	104	77,158
T4.90 V/N/F CAB	4	86	16x16 (Opt 32x16)	4,500/4,500/4,800	64 or 82	2,500	104	100,961
T4.100 V/N/F ROPS	4	99	16x16 (Opt 32x16)	4,500/4,500/4,800	64 or 82	2,500	104	80,658
T4.100 V/N/F CAB	4	99	16x16 (Opt 32x16)	4,500/4,500/4,800	64 or 82	2,500	104	104,461
T3.60 LP 2WD	3	56	12x12	2,800	52	2,800	42	43,643
T3.60 LP	3	56	12x12	2,800	52	2,800	42	46,885
T3.70 LP 2WD	3	65	12x12	2,800	52	2,800	42	46,320
T3.70 LP	3	65	12x12	2,800	52	2,800	42	49,764
T3.80 LP 2WD	3	75	12x12	2,800	52	2,800	42	49,413
T3.80 LP	3	75	12x12	2,800	52	2,800	42	52,974
T4.55 S ROPS 2WD	3	55	8x8	2,550	48	3,000	82	37,530
T4.55 S CAB 2WD	3	55	8x8	2,800	48	3,000	82	46,972
T4.55 S ROPS 4WD	3	55	12x12	2,850	48	3,000	82	48,332
T4.55 S CAB 4WD	3	55	12x12	3,100	48	3,000	82	57,966
T4.65 S ROPS 2WD	3	65	8x8	2,550	48	3,000	82	38,534
T4.65 S CAB 2WD	3	65	8x8	2,800	48	3,000	82	48,045
T4.65 S ROPS 4WD	3	65	12x12	2,850	48	3,000	82	49,558



Model	Engine (cylinder)	Engine (hp)	Transmission F/R	Overall weight (kg)	Hydraulic pump capacity (L/min)	Max. linkage (kg)	Fuel tank capacity (L)	Price € (excl. VAT)
FENDT								
T4.65 S CAB 4WD	3	65	12x12	3,100	48	3,000	82	59,040
T4.75 S ROPS 2WD	3	75	8x8	2,550	48	3,000	82	40,097
T4.75 S CAB 2WD	3	75	8x8	2,800	48	3,000	82	49,631
T4.75 S ROPS 4WD	3	75	12x12	2,850	48	3,000	82	51,122
T4.75 S CAB 4WD	3	75	12x12	3,100	48	3,000	82	60,353
T4.55 ROPS 2WD	4	58	12x12	2,280	48	2,760	90	49,536
T4.55 CAB 2WD	4	58	12x12	2,550	48	2,760	90	62,291
T4.55 ROPS 4WD	4	58	12x12	2,700	48	2,760	90	56,008
T4.55 CAB 4WD	4	58	12x12	2,830	48	2,760	90	66,781
T4.65 ROPS 2WD	4	65	12x12	2,280	48	2,760	90	50,764
T4.65 CAB 2WD	4	65	12x12	2,550	48	2,760	90	64,053
T4.65 ROPS 4WD	4	65	12x12	2,700	48	2,760	90	57,236
T4.65 CAB 4WD	4	65	12x12	2,830	48	2,760	90	68,543
T4.75 ROPS 2WD	4	75	12x12	2,280	48	2,760	90	52,575
T4.75 CAB 2WD	4	75	12x12	2,550	48	2,760	90	65,366
T4.75 ROPS 4WD	4	75	12x12	2,700	48	2,760	90	59,047
T4.75 CAB 4WD	4	75	12x12	2,830	48	2,760	90	69,856
T5.80 Dual Command ROPS	4	80	24x24	3,245	82	4,700	130	TBC
T5.80 Dual Command CAB	4	80	24x24	4,030	82	4,700	130	97,414

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81-150 HP

Make/Model	Drive	No. of gears	Max linkage (kg)	Engine (hp)	PTO (ISO)	Price € (excl. VAT)
Belarus 320	4wd	14+4	2,200	45	45	22,220
Belarus 622	4wd	14+4	2,400	60	60	27,720
Belarus 578	4wd	14+4	3,000	70	70	29,040
Belarus 920	4wd	14+4	3,200	81	81	34,870
Belarus 952	4wd	14+4	3,200	90	90	42,680
Belarus 920.3	4wd	14+4	3,200	85	85	41,690

BELARUS

81-150 HP

Make/Model	Drive	No. of gears	Max linkage (kg)	Engine (hp)	PTO (ISO)	Price € (excl. VAT)
Belarus 952.3	4wd	14+4	3,200	95	95	43,560
Belarus 1025	4wd	16+8	3,200	105	105	46,640
Belarus 1025.3	4wd	16+8	3,200	110	110	48,400
Belarus 1221.3	4wd	16+8	3,200	135	135	60,280
Belarus 1523.3	4wd	16+8	3,200	150	150	70,400

Model	Engine (cylinder)	Engine (hp) /with boost (hp)	Transmission F/R	Overall weight (kg)	Hydraulic pump capacity (L/min)	Max. linkage (kg)	Fuel tank capacity (L)	Price € (excl. VAT)
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CASE IH

Farmall 90 A	4	90	12x12	4,000	64 or 82	4,400	128	76,776
Farmall 90 C ActiveDrive2 ROPS	4	90	24x24	3,245	64 or 82	4,700	130	POA
Farmall 90 C ActiveDrive2 CAB	4	90	24x24	4,030	64 or 82	4,700	130	101,180
Farmall 90 A MY26	4	90	12x12	4000	64 or 82	4400	130	84,821
Farmall 100 A MY26	4	101	12x12	4000	64 or 82	4400	130	88,521
Farmall 100 A	4	101	12x12	4,000	64 or 82	4,400	128	80,435
Quantum 110 V/N/F CAB	4	110	32x16	4,500/4,500/4,800	64 or 82	2,500	104	114,590 (F cab)
Farmall 110 A MY26	4	117	12x12	4000	64 or 82	4400	130	92,221
Farmall 100 M	4	101	16x16	4,550	80	5200	174	€116,980
Farmall 110 M	4	110	16x16	4,550	80	5200	174	€120,491
Farmall 120 M	4	117	16x16	4,550	80	5200	174	€123,996
Quantum 120 V/N/F CAB	4	120	32x16	4,500/4,500/4,800	64 or 82	2,500	104	118,090 (F cab)
Farmall 100 C ActiveDrive2 ROPS	4	101	24x24	3,245	64 or 82	4,700	130	POA
Farmall 100 C ActiveDrive2 CAB	4	101	24x24	4,030	64 or 82	4,700	130	106,357
Farmall 110 C ActiveDrive2 ROPS	4	110	24x24	3,245	64 or 82	4,700	130	POA
Farmall 110 C ActiveDrive2 CAB	4	110	24x24	4,030	64 or 82	4,700	130	110,011
Farmall 120 C ActiveDrive2 ROPS	4	117	24x24	3,245	64 or 82	4,700	130	POA
Farmall 120 C ActiveDrive2 CAB	4	117	24x24	4,030	64 or 82	4,700	130	113,665
Vestrum 100 CVXDrive	4	100/110	CVT	5,500	80 or 110	5,500	180	138,415
Vestrum 110 CVXDrive	4	110/120	CVT	5,500	80 or 110	5,500	180	141,942
Vestrum 120 CVXDrive	4	120/130	CVT	5,500	80 or 110	5,500	180	147,449
Vestrum 130 CVXDrive	4	130/140	CVT	5,500	80 or 110	5,500	180	151,941
Vestrum 100 ActiveDrive8	4	100/110	DCT	5,500	80 or 110	5,500	180	128,562
Vestrum 110 ActiveDrive8	4	110/120	DCT	5,500	80 or 110	5,500	180	131,907
Vestrum 120 ActiveDrive8	4	120/130	DCT	5,500	80 or 110	5,500	180	136,298
Vestrum 130 ActiveDrive8	4	130/140	DCT	5,500	80 or 110	5,500	180	140,375
Maxxum 125	4	135/155	SPS	5,680	121	7,864	263	139,605
Maxxum 125 CVX	4	135/155	CVT	5,680	121	7,864	263	169,722
Maxxum 125 MultiController	4	135/155	DCT	5,680	150	7,864	263	152,320

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

Nexos 220 S/M/L/XL	2/4wd	24/24 or 30/30	3,100	85	540	POA	Arion 440 TREND/CLASSIC	4wd	16+16	6,000	125	540/1,000	112,930
Nexos 230 S/M/L/XL	2/4wd	24/24 or 30/30	3,100	92	540	POA	Arion 450 TREND/CLASSIC	4wd	16+16	6,000	135	540/1,000	114,750
Nexos 240 S/M/L/XL	2/4wd	24/24 or 30/30	3,100	103	540	POA	Arion 460 TREND/CLASSIC	4wd	16+16	6,000	145	540/1,000	118,700
Nexos 260 S/M/L/XL	2/4wd	30/30	3,100	120	540	POA	Arion 470 TREND/CLASSIC	4wd	16+16	6,000	155	540/1,000	122,720
AXOS 3.95	4wd	12/12, 24/12, 36/18	3,600	92	540/1,000	85,995	Arion 510 HEXASHIFT CIS/CIS+/CLASSIC						
AXOS 3.105	4wd	12/12, 24/12, 36/18	3,600	92	540/1,000	87,635	& CMATIC CIS+/CEBIS	4wd	24+24/CVT	6,500	125	540/1,000	121,675
AXOS 3.110	4wd	12/12, 24/12, 36/18	3,600	92	540/1,000	89,960	Arion 530 HEXASHIFT CIS/CIS+/CEBIS						
AXOS 3.120	4wd	12/12, 24/12, 36/18	3,600	92	540/1,000	92,065	& CMATIC CIS+/CEBIS	4wd	24+24/CVT	6,500	145	540/1,000	143,460
Arion 410 TREND/CLASSIC	4wd	16+16	4,500	90	540/1,000	101,630	Arion 610 HEXASHIFT CIS/CIS+/CLASSIC						
Arion 420 TREND/CLASSIC	4wd	16+16	4,500	100	540/1,000	105,560	& CMATIC CIS+/CEBIS	4wd	24+24/CVT	6,500	145	540/1,000	154,915
Arion 430 TREND/CLASSIC	4wd	16+16	6,000	115	540/1,000	111,810							

TFM



2025 EX-HIRE FLEET NOW FOR SALE

6I20M 10 HP Front & Cab Suspension, Autoquad 40K, 3 spools 600 tyres, 603R loader ALMOST SOLD OUT	6I40M 140 HP Front & Cab Suspension, Autoquad 40K, 3 spools 600 tyres, Autotr ALMOST SOLD OUT	6I55M 155 HP Front & Cab Suspension, 650 tyres, 3 spools, Autoquad 40K
6MI25 125 HP Front & Cab Suspension, 600 or 520 tyres 3 spools, Autoquad 40K	Low Hours (app 1000)	6M 140 140 HP Front & Cab Suspension, 600 tyres, 3 spools, Autoquad 40K, Aut ALMOST SOLD OUT
6M 200 200 HP Front & Cab Suspension, 650 tyres, 3 spools Autoquad 50K, Aut ALMOST SOLD OUT	6R 130 140 HP Front & Cab Suspension, 650 tyres, 3 spools Autoquad 40K ALMOST SOLD OUT	6R 140 140 HP Front & Cab Suspension, 650 tyres, 3 spools Autoquad 50K, Aut ALMOST SOLD OUT
6R 155 155 HP Front & Cab Suspension, 520 tyres, 4 spools, Autoquad 50K, Autotr	6R185 185 HP Front & Cab Suspension, 650 tyres, 5 spools Autopower 50K, Au ALMOST SOLD OUT	Competitive Prices Powergard warranty included Contact your local Sales Specialist for more information



Model	Engine (cylinder)	Engine (hp)	Transmission F/R	Overall weight (kg)	Hydraulic pump capacity (L/min)	Max. linkage (kg)	Fuel tank capacity (L)	Price € (excl. VAT)
DEUTZ FAHR								
5095 Keyline LS	4	90	15x15	4,000	55/68	4,525	145	84,730
5095 Keyline GS	4	90	15x15	4,000	55/68	4,525	145	88,410
4090 E LS	3	91	15x15	3,050	48	3,500	75	60,270
4090 E GS	3	91	15x15	3,050	48	3,500	75	64,130
5090 D Keyline LS	3	91	15x15	3,350	56	3,500	90	74,440
5090 D Keyline GS	3	91	15x15	3,350	56	3,500	90	80,260
5095 D LS	4	95	30x15	3,275	64	3,600	85	84,020
5095 D GS	4	95	30x15	3,275	64	3,600	85	87,370
5095 D TTV	4	95	CVT	3,875	84	3,910	115	127,980
5095 LS	4	95	10+10 / 40x40	3,800	55/90	4,525	135	93,250
5095 GS	4	95	10x10 / 40x40 / 60x60	3,800	55/90	4,525	135	99,360
5105 Keyline LS	4	101	15x15	4,000	55/68	4,525	145	88,410
5105 Keyline GS	4	101	15x15	4,000	55/68	4,525	145	92,090
5105 Plus Keyline LS	4	101	15x15	4,250	55/68	4,525	145	90,860
5105 Plus Keyline GS	4	101	15x15	4,250	55/68	4,525	145	94,540
4100 E LS	3	102	15x15	3,050	48	3,500	75	62,350
4100 E GS	3	102	15x15	3,050	48	3,500	75	66,220
5100 D Keyline LS	3	102	15x15	3,350	56	3,500	90	76,670
5100 D Keyline GS	3	102	15x15	3,350	56	3,500	90	82,500
5100 LS	3	102	10+10 / 40x40	3,950	55 / 90	4,525	135	95,070
5100 GS	3	102	10x10 / 40x40 / 60x60	3,950	55 / 90	4,525	135	101,210
5105 D LS	4	106	30x15	3,275	64	3,600	85	87,370
5105 D GS	4	106	30x15	3,275	64	3,600	85	90,730
5105 D TTV	4	106	CVT	3,875	84	3,910	115	131,380
5105 LS	4	106	10+10 / 40x40	3,950	55/90	4,525	135	97,200
5105 GS	4	106	10x10 / 40x40 / 60x60	3,950	55/90	4,525	135	103,010
5115 D TTV	4	116	CVT	3,875	84	3,910	115	135,930
5115 Keyline LS	4	116	20x20 / 40x40	4,250	55/68	5,410	145	93,050
5115 Keyline GS	4	116	20x20 / 40x40	4,250	55/68	5,410	145	96,730
5115 LS	4	116	10+10 / 40x40	4,250	55/90	4,855	145	98,410
5115 GS	4	116	10x10 / 40x40 / 60x60	4,250	55/90	4,855	145	104,550
5125 LS	4	126	10+10 / 40x40	4,350	55/90	5,410	145	101,370
5125 GS	4	126	10x10 / 40x40 / 60x60	4,350	55/90	5,410	145	107,520
5125 Keyline LS	4	126	20x20 / 40x40	4,350	55/68	5,410	145	96,300
5125 Keyline GS	4	126	20x20 / 40x40	4,350	55/68	5,410	145	99,970
6115 C PS	4	126	20x20	4,500	55/90	5,410	160	126,670
6115 C RV Shift	4	126	20x16	4,900	90/120	7,000	160	149,390
6115 C TTV	4	126	CVT	4,900	90/120	7,000	160	154,770
6125 C PS	4	136	30x30	4,750	90/120	7,000	160	135,580
6125 C RV Shift	4	136	20x16	4,900	90/120	7,000	160	154,310
6125 C TTV	4	136	CVT	4,900	90/120	7,000	160	159,690
6130.4 RV Shift	4	136	20x16	6,500	90/120	9,170	260	162,820
6130.4 TTV	4	136	CVT	6,500	90/120	9,170	260	185,100
6135 C PS	4	143	30x30	4,750	90/120	7,000	160	140,500
6135 C RV Shift	4	143	20x16	4,900	90/120	7,000	160	159,230
6135C TTV	4	143	CVT	4,900	90/120	7,000	160	164,610
6140.4 RV Shift	4	147	20x16	6,500	90/120	9,170	260	166,690
6140.4 TTV	4	147	CVT	6,500	90/120	9,170	260	188,980

Make/Model	Drive	No. of gears	Max linkage (kg)	Engine (hp)	PTO (ISO)	Price € (excl. VAT)
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FENDT**200 S Vario Gen3**

209	4wd	-	-	94	-	142,497
210	4wd	-	-	104	-	146,612
211	4wd	-	-	114	-	153,145

Make/Model	Drive	No. of gears	Max linkage (kg)	Engine (hp)	PTO (ISO)	Price € (excl. VAT)
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300 Vario Gen4

311	4wd	-	-	113	-	170,388
312	4wd	-	-	123	-	175,313
313	4wd	-	-	133	-	182,012
314	4wd	-	-	142	-	190,048



81-150 HP

Make/Model	Drive	No. of gears	Max linkage (kg)	Engine (hp)	PTO (ISO)	Price € (excl. VAT)
500 Vario Gen3						
512	4wd	-	-	-	131	- 206,228
513	4wd	-	-	-	141	- 211,487
514	4wd	-	-	-	156	- 220,119
600 Vario						
614	4wd	-	-	-	164	- 242,904

JOHN DEERE

5095M	4wd	16+16	4,326	95	-	68,404
5105M	4wd	16+16	4,326	105	-	71,451
5120M	4wd	16+16	4,326	120	-	76,083
6M 95	4wd	24+24	4,350	100/114	540/1,000	99,023
6M 105	4wd	24+24	4,350	111/125	540/1,000	101,187
6M 115	4wd	24+24	4,350	122/135	540/1,000	103,622
6M 125	4wd	24+24	4,350	133/145	540/1,000	106,820
6M 130	4wd	24+24	5,700	144/156	540/1,000	112,892
6M 140	4wd	24+24	5,700	155/166	540/1,000	117,524
6M 145	4wd	24+24	6,400	161(no 1PM)	540/1,000	133,913
6R 110	4wd	24+24	6,400	121/135	540/1,000	130,658
6R 120	4wd	24+24	6,400	132/145	540/1,000	131,670
6R 130	4wd	24+24	6,400	143/156	540/1,000	139,796
6R 140	4wd	24+24	6,400	154/166	540/1,000	150,095
6R 145	4wd	20+20	7,650	160/192	540/1,000	168,460

KUBOTA

M5-102N CAB	4wd	36F/36R	2,300	106		70,967
M5-092 CAB	4wd	36F/36R	4,100	95	N/A	71,282
M5-112 CAB	4wd	36F/36R	4,100	110	N/A	75,681
M6-101 Utility	4wd	24F/24R	5,000	104	N/A	75,380
M6-111 Utility	4wd	24F/24R	5,000	111	N/A	80,773
M6-121 Utility	4wd	24F/24R	6,100	123	N/A	86,654
M6-131 Utility	4wd	24F/24R	6,100	133	N/A	92,267
M6-141 Utility	4wd	24F/24R	6,100	143	N/A	106,680
M6-122	4wd	24F/24R	7,000	123	N/A	108,467
M6-132	4wd	24F/24R	7,000	133	N/A	113,491
M6-142	4wd	24F/24R	7,000	143	N/A	117,486
M7-154 Access	4wd	30F/15R PS	9,400	150	N/A	From 14,3731
M7-154 Premium	4wd	30F/15R PS	9,400	150	N/A	From 16,2354
M7-154 Premium KVT	4wd	CVT	9,400	150	N/A	From 18,4120

LANDINI

5-100	4wd	24x24	4,500	95	540/1,000	76,400
5-110	4wd	24x24	4,500	102	540/1,000	81,727
5-120	4wd	24x24	4,500	114	540/1,000	83,797
6-125H	4wd	36x12	6,000	119	540/540E/1,000/1,000E	91,115
6-135H	4wd	36x12	6,000	127	540/540E/1,000/1,000E	93,229
6-135RS	4wd	24x24	7,200	125/135	540/540E/1,000/1,000E	110,379
6-145RS	4wd	24x24	7,200	135/145	540/540E/1,000/1,000E	112,095
6-155RS	4wd	24x24	7,200	145/155	540/540E/1,000/1,000E	114,295

MASSEY FERGUSON

MF3 Series						
MF3V1 85	4wd	15\15:30\30:30\15	2,800	85	-	POA
MF3V1 95	4wd	15\15:30\30:30\15	2,800	95	-	POA

81-150 HP

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

MF 4700M Platform

MF 4708 M	2/4wd	12x12	3,000	82	-	60,540
MF 4709 M	2/4wd	12x12	3,000	92	-	63,720
MF 4708 M (Dyna 2)	2/4wd	24x24/2	3,000	82	-	62,820
MF 4709 M (Dyna 2)	2/4wd	24x24/2	3,000	92	-	66,000

MF 4700M Cab

MF 4708M	2/4wd	12x12	3,000	82	-	68,820
MF 4709M	2/4wd	12x12	3,000	92	-	71,670
MF 4708M	2/4wd	24x24/2	3,000	82	-	71,100
MF 4709M	2/4wd	24x24/2	3,000	92	-	73,950
MF 4710M	4wd	12x12	3,000	100	-	73,950
MF 4710M	4wd	24x24/2	3,000	100	-	76,230

MF 5M. 95

MF 5M. 95	4wd	Dyna 4	4,300	95	-	88,990
MF 5M. 105	4wd	Dyna 4	4,300	105	-	91,840
MF 5M. 115	4wd	Dyna 4	4,300	115	-	94,690
MF 5M. 125	4wd	Dyna 4	5,200	125	-	100,000
MF 5M. 135	4wd	Dyna 4	5,200	135	-	103,620
MF 5M. 145	4wd	Dyna 4	5,200	145	-	106,470

MF 5S series

MF 5S.105	4wd	16x16/4 or 24x24/6	6,000	105	-	105,05
MF 5S.115	4wd	16x16/4 or 24x24/6	6,000	115	-	107,900
MF 5S.125	4wd	16x16/4 or 24x24/6	6,000	125	-	111,640
MF 5S.135	4wd	16x16/4 or 24x24/6	6,000	135	-	114,490
MF 5S.145	4wd	16x16/4 or 24x24/6	6,000	145	-	117,340
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	-	134,230
MF 6S.145 Dyna-6	4wd	24x24/6	7,100	145	-	137,080
MF 6S.135 Dyna-VT	4wd	DVT	9,600	135	-	165,970
MF 6S.145 Dyna-VT	4wd	DVT	9,600	145	-	168,820



Model	Engine (cylinder)	Engine (hp) /with boost (hp)	Transmission F/R	Overall weight (kg)	Hydraulic pump capacity (L/min)	Max. linkage (kg)	Fuel tank capacity (L)	Price € (excl. VAT)
NEW HOLLAND								
T5.100 Electro Command MY26	4	101	16x16	4,550	80	5,200	174	116,580
T5.110 Electro Command MY26	4	110	16x16	4,550	80	5,200	174	120,091
T5.120 Electro Command MY26	4	117	16x16	4,550	80	5,200	174	123,596
T5S.90 MY26	4	90	12x12	4,000	64 or 82	4,400	130	84,821
T5S.100 MY26	4	101	12x12	4,000	64 or 82	4,400	130	88,521
T5S.110 MY26	4	110	12x12	4,000	64 or 82	4,400	130	92,221
T4.120 V/N/F ROPS	4	120	16x16 (Opt 32x16)	4,500/4,500/4,800	64 or 82	2,500	104	87,658
T4.120 V/N/F CAB	4	120	16x16 (Opt 32x16)	4,500/4,500/4,800	64 or 82	2,500	104	111,461
T5.100 S	4	101	12x12	4,000	82	4,400	130	80,247
T5.100 Dual Command ROPS	4	101	24x24	3,245	82	4,700	130	TBC
T5.100 Dual Command CAB	4	101	24x24	4,030	82	4,700	130	106,357
T5.100 Dual Command CAB SuperSteer	4	101	24x24	4,030	82	4,700	130	TBC
T5.110 Dual Command ROPS	4	110	24x24	3,245	82	4,700	130	TBC
T5.110 Dual Command CAB	4	110	24x24	4,030	82	4,700	130	110,011
T5.110 Dual Command CAB SuperSteer	4	110	24x24	4,030	82	4,700	130	TBC
T5.120 Dual Command ROPS	4	117	24x24	3,245	82	4,700	130	TBC
T5.120 Dual Command CAB	4	117	24x24	4,030	82	4,700	130	113,665
T5.100 Electro Command	4	101	16x16	4,550	82	5,420	174	111,913
T5.110 Electro Command	4	110	16x16	4,550	82	5,420	174	115,024
T5.120 Electro Command	4	117	16x16	4,550	82	5,420	174	119,179
T5.140 Auto Command	4	130/140	CVT	5,500	110	5,500	180	152,691
T5.110 Dynamic Command	4	100/110	DCT	5,500	110	5,500	180	128,211
T5.120 Dynamic Command	4	110/120	DCT	5,500	110	5,500	180	131,465
T5.130 Dynamic Command	4	120/130	DCT	5,500	110	5,500	180	136,557
T5.140 Dynamic Command	4	130/140	DCT	5,500	110	5,500	180	141,008
T6.145 ElectroCommand	4	125/145	SPS	5,680	121	7,864	263	130,405
T6.155 Electro Command	4	135/155	SPS	5,680	121	7,864	263	135,055
T6.155 Auto Command	4	135/155	CVT	5,680	121	7,864	263	161,865
T6.155 DyNAMIC Command	4	135/155	DCT	5,680	150	7,864	263	148,797
T6.160 Electro Command	6	145/160	SPS	5,860	121	7,864	263	143,298
T6.160 Dynamic Command	6	145/160	DCT	5,860	150	7,864	263	157,732

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

Solis 90	4wd	20+20	3,500	90	90	40,245
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New Holland T5 Dual Command.

SAVE THE DATE

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National TILLAGE CONFERENCE

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For more information visit
www.teagasc.ie/tillagemonth





151-200 HP

151-200 HP

Model	Engine (cylinder)	Engine (hp) /with boost (hp)	Transmission F/R	Overall weight (kg)	Hydraulic pump capacity (L/min)	Max. linkage (kg)	Fuel tank capacity (L)	Price € (excl. VAT)
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CASE IH

Maxxum 145	4	155/175	SPS	5,680	150	7,864	263	147,437
Maxxum 145 CVX	4	155/175	CVT	5,680	150	7,864	263	177,661
Maxxum 145 MultiController	4	155/175	DCT	5,680	150	7,864	263	160,145
Maxxum 150	6	158/175	SPS	5,680	121	7,864	263	152,479
Maxxum 150 CVX	6	158/175	CVT	5,680	150	7,864	263	183,197
Maxxum 150 MultiController	6	158/175	DCT	5,680	150	7,864	263	165,594
Puma 150	6	165/190	SPS	6,750	113	8,257	330	169,010
Puma 150 MultiController	6	165/191	FPS	6,750	113	8,257	330	189,713
Puma 150 CVX	6	165/190	CVT	6,750	140	8,257	330	213,806
Puma 165	6	180/210	SPS	6,750	113	8,257	330	177,012
Puma 165 MultiController	6	180/210	FPS	6,750	113	8,257	330	197,204
Puma 165 CVX	6	180/210	CVT	6,750	140	8,257	330	220,564
Puma 175 CVX	6	200/225	CVT	6,750	140	8,257	330	228,274
Puma 185	6	200/224	18x6/19x6 or CVXDrive	9,550	120, 150 or 170	10,463	470	277,324 - 306,633

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

Arion 550 HEXASHIFT CIS/CIS+/CEBIS & CMATIC CIS+/CEBIS (Stage 5)	4wd	24+24/CVT	6,900	165	540/1,000	153,400
Arion 570 CMATIC CIS+/CEBIS (Stage 5)	4wd	CVT	6,900	189	540/1,000	163,200
Arion 630 HEXASHIFT CIS/CIS+/CEBIS & CMATIC CIS+/CEBIS (Stage 5)	4wd	24+24/CVT	6,900	165	540/1,000	154,915

Arion 650 HEXASHIFT CIS/CIS+/CEBIS & CMATIC CIS+/CEBIS (Stage 5)	4wd	24+24	8,000	185	540/1,000	164,325
Arion 660 CMATIC CIS+/CEBIS (Stage 5)	4wd	CVT	8,000	205	540/1,000	212,175

Model	Engine (cylinder)	Engine (hp) /with boost (hp)	Transmission F/R	Overall weight (kg)	Hydraulic pump capacity (L/min)	Max. linkage (kg)	Fuel tank capacity (L)	Price € (excl. VAT)
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DEUTZ FAHR

6150.4 RV Shift	4	156	20 x 16	6,500	90/120	9,170	260	170,540
6150.4 TTV	4	156	CVT	6,500	90/120	9,170	260	192,890
6160.4 PS	4	161/171	30+15	7,080	120/160	9,700	300	177,980
6160.4 RC Shift	4	161/171	54+27	7,080	120/160	9,700	300	187,250
6160.4 TTV	4	161/171	CVT	7,045	120/160	9,700	300	223,060
6160 PS	6	161/171	30+15	7,200	120/160	9,700	350	185,530
6160 RC Shift	6	161/171	54+27	7,200	120/160	9,700	350	194,760
6160 TTV	6	161/171	CVT	7,205	120/160	9,200	350	229,490
6170.4 PS	4	171	30+15	7,080	120/160	9,700	300	183,650
6170.4 RC Shift	4	171	54+27	7,080	120/160	9,700	300	192,900
6170.4 TTV	4	171	CVT	7,045	120/160	9,700	300	228,790
6170 PS	6	171	30+15	7,200	120/160	9,700	350	191,210
6170 RC Shift	6	171	54+27	7,200	120/160	9,700	350	200,440
6170 TTV	6	171	CVT	7,205	120/160	9,200	350	235,210
6180 PS	6	181/192	30+15	7,200	120/160	9,700	350	200,450
6180 RC Shift	6	181/192	54+27	7,200	120/160	9,700	350	209,700
6180 TTV	6	181/192	CVT	7,465	120/160	9,200	350	247,630
6190 PS	6	192	30+15	7,200	120/160	9,700	350	218,230
6190 RC Shift	6	192	54+27	7,200	120/160	9,700	350	223,650
6190 TTV	6	192	CVT	8,680	120/160	9,200	420	269,270



151-200 HP

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 - 231,189

600 Vario

616 Vario 4wd - - 184 253,686



Fendt 500 Vario.

JOHN DEERE

6M 155	4wd	20+20	7,650	172	540/1,000	141,038
6M 180	4wd	20+20	9,050	194	540/1,000	160,909
6R 150*	4wd	20+20	6,400	165/177	540/1,000	165,734
6R 155	4wd	20+20	7,650	171/203	540/1,000	176,280
6R 165*	4wd	20+20	7,650	182/213	540/1,000	198,672
6R 175	4wd	20+20	9,050	193/223	540/1,000	200,196

* = AutoPowr only

151-200 HP

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

M7174 Premium 4wd 30F/15R PS 9,400 170 N/A From 170,550
M7174 Premium KVT 4wd CVT 9,400 170 N/A From 195,694

LANDINI

7-165	4wd	30x15	9,300	155/165	540/540E/1,000/1,000E	132,821
7-170	4wd	30x15 (CVT OPT)	9,300	155/165	540/540E/1,000/1,000E	137,476
7-175	4wd	30x15	9,300	166/175	540/540E/1,000/1,000E	135,784
7-180	4wd	30x15 (CVT OPT)	9,300	166/175	540/540E/1,000/1,000E	140,438
7-200	4wd	30x15	9,300	180/190	540/540E/1,000/1,000E	170,616

Based on 50km/hr with front and cab suspension.

MASSEY FERGUSON

MF 6S Series

MF 6S.155 Dyna-6	4wd	24x24/6	7,100/8,100 E	155	175	141,180
MF 6S.165 Dyna-6	4wd	24x24/6	7,100/8,100 E	165	185	145,790
MF 6S.180 Dyna-6	4wd	24x24/6	7,100/8,100 E	180	200	153,130
MF 6S.155 Dyna-VT	4wd	DVT	9,600	155	175	172,470
MF 6S.165 Dyna-VT	4wd	DVT	9,600	165	185	177,080
MF 6S.180 Dyna-VT	4wd	DVT	9,600	180	200	181,080

MF 7S Series

MF 7S.155 Dyna-6	4wd	24x24/6	8,100	155	175	148,640
MF 7S.165 Dyna-6	4wd	24x24/6	8,100	165	185	153,540
MF 7S.180 Dyna-6	4wd	24x24/6	8,100	180	210	161,620
MF 7S.155 Dyna-VT	4wd	DVT	9,600	155	175	178,650
MF 7S.165 Dyna-VT	4wd	DVT	9,600	165	185	183,550
MF 7S.180 Dyna-VT	4wd	DVT	9,600	180	210	191,930
MF 7S.190 Dyna-VT	4wd	DVT	9,600	190	220	194,780

Model	Engine (cylinder)	Engine (hp) /with boost (hp)	Transmission F/R	Overall weight (kg)	Hydraulic pump capacity (L/min)	Max. linkage (kg)	Fuel tank capacity (L)	Price € (excl. VAT)
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NEW HOLLAND

T6.175 Auto Command	4wd	155/175	CVT	5,680	150	7,864	263	168,048
T6.175 Dynamic Command	4wd	155/175	DCT	5,680	150	7,864	263	155,670
T6.180 Electro Command	6wd	158/175	SPS	5,860	121	7,864	263	146,431
T6.180 Auto Command	6wd	158/175	CVT	5,860	150	7,864	263	173,187
T6.180 Dynamic Command	6wd	158/175	DCT	5,860	150	7,864	263	160,741
T7.165s	6wd	165/-	SPS	6,750	113	8,257	270	155,520
T7.190 Classic	6wd	165/190	SPS	6,750	113	8,257	330	176,102
T7.190 SideWinderII	6wd	165/191	SPS	6,750	113	8,257	330	176,688
T7.190 Auto Command	6wd	165/190	CVT	6,750	140	8,257	330	204,146
T7.210 Classic	6wd	180/210	SPS	6,750	113	8,257	330	181,444
T7.210 SideWinderII	6wd	180/210	SPS	6,750	113	8,257	330	185,578
T7.210 Auto Command	6wd	180/210	CVT	6,750	140	8,257	330	210,780
T7.195 s	6wd	190/-	FPS	7,790	120	8,647	395	214,905

201 HP+

201 HP+

Model	Engine (cylinder)	Engine (hp) /with boost (hp)	Transmission F/R	Overall weight (kg)	Hydraulic pump capacity (L/min)	Max. linkage (kg)	Fuel tank capacity (L)	Price € (excl. VAT)
CASE IH								
Puma 200	6wd	225/245	18x6/19x6 or CVXDrive	9,550	120,150 or 170	10,463	470	284,062 - 313,516
Puma 220	6wd	240/260	18x6/19x6 or CVXDrive	9,550	120,150 or 170	10,463	470	293,225 - 322,673
Puma 240	6wd	260/271	18x6/19x6 or CVXDrive	9,550	150 or 170	10,463	470	302,389 - 339,406
Puma 260	6wd	280/302	CVXDrive	9,550	150 or 170	10,463	470	352,620
Optum 270	6wd	288	CVXDrive	11,530	165 or 223	11,058	630	374,377
Optum 300	6wd	313	CVXDrive	11,530	165 or 223	11,058	630	392,571
Optum 340	6wd	340	CVXDrive	11,530	165 or 223	11,058	630	413,480
Magnum 355	6wd	390/410	21x5 or CVXDrive	12,190	221 or 358	11,700	617/678	POA
Magnum 385	6wd	417/435	CVXDrive	12,190	221 or 358	11,700	617/678	POA
Magnum 405	6wd	435	21x5	12,190	221 or 358	11,700	617/678	POA
Magnum 385 Rowtrac	6wd	417/435	CVXDrive	17,113 (Rowtrac)	221 or 358	11,700	674	POA
Magnum 405 Rowtrac	6wd	435	21x5	17,113 (Rowtrac)	221 or 358	11,700	674	POA
Quadtrac / Steiger 475	6wd	522	16x2 or CVXDrive	19,35; 24,165	216 or 428	10,092	1779	POA
Quadtrac / Steiger 525	6wd	578	16x2 or CVXDrive	19,350; 24,165	216 or 428	10,092	1779	POA
Quadtrac 555	6wd	614	16x2 or CVXDrive	24,620	216 or 428	10,092	1779	POA
Quadtrac 595	6wd	656	16x2	24,620	216 or 428	10,092	1779	POA
Quadtrac 645	6wd	699	16x2	24,620	216 or 428	10,092	1779	POA
Quadtrac 715	6wd	778	17x2	27,760	217 or 428	10,092	1968	POA

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

Axion 810 CMATIC CIS+/ CEBIS (Stage 5)	4wd	CVT	9,500	215	540/1,000	231,000	Xerion 4200 Trac + Xerion 4200 Trac VC	4wd	CVT	15,400	462	1,000	POA
Axion 850 CMATIC							Xerion 4200 Saddle Trac	4wd	CVT	15,400	462	1,000	POA
CEBIS (Stage 5)	4wd	CVT	10,200	264	540/1,000	274,000	Xerion 4500 Trac	4wd	CVT	15,400	490	1,000	POA
Axion 870 CMATIC							Xerion 4500 Trac +	4wd	CVT	15,400	490	1,000	POA
CEBIS (Stage 5)	4wd	CVT	10,200	295	540/1,000	301,530	Xerion 4500Trac VC	4wd	CVT	15,400	490	1,000	POA
Axion 9.360	4wd	CVT	11,000	360	1,000	409,980	Xerion 5000 Trac	4wd	CVT	15,400	530	1,000	POA
Axion 9.360 Terra Trac	4wd	CVT	11,000	360	1,000	518,165	Xerion 5000 Trac +	4wd	CVT	15,400	530	1,000	POA
Axion 9.450	4wd	CVT	11,000	360	1,000	444,145	Xerion 5000 Trac VC	4wd	CVT	15,400	530	1,000	POA
Axion 9.450 Terra Trac	4wd	CVT	11,000	360	1,000	555,180	Xerion 12.590 Terra Trac	4wd	CVT	13,600	585	1,000	POA
Xerion 4200 Trac	4wd	CVT	15,400	462	1,000	POA	Xerion 12.650 Terra Trac	4wd	CVT	13,600	653	1,000	POA

Model	Engine (cylinder)	Engine (hp) /with boost (hp)	Transmission F/R	Overall weight (kg)	Hydraulic pump capacity (L/min)	Max. linkage (kg)	Fuel tank capacity (L)	Price € (excl. VAT)
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DEUTZ FAHR

6210 PS	6	216	30+15	7,930	120/160	9,700	410	232,120
6210 RC Shift	6	216	54+27	7,930	120/160	9,700	410	237,540
6210 TTV	6	216	CVT	8,830	120/160	9,200	410	283,540
6230 PS	6	217/230	30+15	7,930	120/160	9,700	410	244,010
6230 RC Shift	6	217/230	54+27	7,930	120/160	9,700	410	249,430
6230 TTV	6	230	CVT	8,830	120/160	9,200	420	291,490
6230 HD TTV	6	230	CVT	9,030	120/160/210	10,000	505	307,810
7250 TTV	6	247	CVT	9,030	120/160/210	10,000	505	309,310
7250 HD TTV	6	247	CVT	9,185	120/160 /210	11,100	505	328,060
8280 TTV	6	287	CVT	10,200	120/160/210	11,100	505	360,280
8310 TTV	6	313	CVT	11,915	160/200	12,000	570	388,560
8340 TTV	6	340	CVT	11,915	160/200	12,000	570	400,560
9290 TTV	6	295	CVT	11,800	120/160/210	12,000	600	375,920
9310 TTV	6	312	CVT	11,800	120/160/210	12,000	600	381,680
9340 TTV	6	336	CVT	11,800	120/160/210	12,000	600	397,260

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John Deere 6M 200.



Massey Ferguson MF 9S.

201 HP+

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

618 Vario	4wd	-	-	204	-	268,893
620 Vario	4wd	-	-	224	-	284,080

700 Vario Gen7i

720 Vario	4wd	-	-	203	-	309,870
722 Vario	4wd	-	-	223	-	321,771
724 Vario	4wd	-	-	243	-	334,715
726 Vario	4wd	-	-	262	-	346,810
728 Vario	4wd	-	-	303	-	355,155

800 Vario Gen5

826 Vario	4wd	-	-	260	-	378,794
829 Vario	4wd	-	-	290	-	393,158
832 Vario	4wd	-	-	320	-	406,673

900 Vario Gen7

930 Vario	4wd	-	-	296	-	413,455
933 Vario	4wd	-	-	326	-	428,429
936 Vario	4wd	-	-	355	-	442,536
939 Vario	4wd	-	-	385	-	453,863
942 Vario	4wd	-	-	415	-	467,489

1000 Vario Gen4

1040 Vario	4wd	-	-	400	-	475,754
1044 Vario	4wd	-	-	440	-	495,739
1048 Vario	4wd	-	-	480	-	510,215
1052 Vario	4wd	-	-	520	-	522,319

Tracked Tractors

900 Vario MT Gen2

938 Vario MT	-	-	-	380	-	522,694
940 Vario MT	-	-	-	405	-	531,792
943 Vario MT	-	-	-	431	-	545,841

1100 Vario MT Gen1

1151 MT	-	-	-	511	-	533,998
1156 MT	-	-	-	564	-	561,630
1162 MT	-	-	-	618	-	586,491
1167 MT	-	-	-	673	-	624,971

201 HP+

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

6R 185*	4wd	20+20	7,650	204/234	540/1,000	212,340
6R 195	4wd	20+20	9,050	215/244	540/1,000	214,613
6M 200	4wd	20+20	9,050	216	540/1,000	172,266
6R 215	4wd	20+20	9,050	215/259	540/1,000	221,537
6R 230	4wd	IVT	9,900	230/281	540/1,000	260,325
6R 250	4wd	IVT	9,900	250/301	540/1,000	273,628
7R 270	4wd	e23	13,010	270/297	540/1,000	327,373
7R 290	4wd	e23	13,010	290/319	540/1,000	336,433
7R 310	4wd	e23	13,010	310/341	540/1,000	350,444
7R 330	4wd	e23	13,010	330/363	540/1,000	363,619
7R 350	4wd	IVT	13,010	350/388	540/1,000	389,620
8R 280	4wd	16+5	9,000*	280/308	540/1,000	332,126
8R 310	4wd	16+5	9,000*	310/341	540/1,000	349,025
8R 340	4wd	16+5	9,000*	340/374	540/1,000	378,137
8R 370	4wd	e23	9,000*	370/407	540/1,000	394,834
8R 410	4wd	e23	9,000*	410/443	540/1,000	413,274
8RT 310	Tracked	e23	8,800*	310/341	540/1,000	514,675
8RT 340	Tracked	e23	8,800*	340/374	540/1,000	544,177
8RT 370	Tracked	e23	8,800*	370/407	540/1,000	557,246
8RT 410	Tracked	e23	8,800*	410/443	540/1,000	575,861
8RX 310	4-track	e23	9,000*	310/341	540/1,000	571,481
8RX 340	4-track	e23	9,000*	340/374	540/1,000	587,321
8RX 370	4-track	e23	9,000*	370/407	540/1,000	594,864
8RX 410	4-track	e23	9,000*	410/443	540/1,000	615,336
9RX 490	4-track	18+6	9,072	539	540/1,000	661,939
9RX 540	4-track	18+6	9,072	594	540/1,000	699,694
9RX 590	4-track	18+6	9,072	649	540/1,000	734,783
9RX 640	4-track	18+6	9,072	691	540/1,000	757,460

Note: 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. AutoPowr IVT transmission also available on models from the 6090M to the 8R/RT 410.

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

JANUARY 2026

TRACTORGUIDE2026

LANDINI

MASSEY FERGUSON

MF 7S Series

MF8 S

MF 8S.305 Dyna-VT	4wd	DVT	10,000	305	305	264,470
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A Claas Axion 9 Terra Trac tractor is shown from a rear three-quarter view. It features a dark grey body with bright orange accents on the rear fenders and the large, treaded tires. A continuous track system is mounted over the rear wheels. The tractor is parked on a light-colored concrete floor inside a large, modern building with a high ceiling and corrugated metal walls. The lighting is bright and even.

Claas Axion 9 Terra Trac

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Model	Engine (cylinder)	Engine (hp) /with boost (hp)	Transmission F/R	Overall weight (kg)	Hydraulic pump capacity (L/min)	Max. linkage (kg)	Fuel tank capacity (L)	Price € (excl. VAT)
NEW HOLLAND								
T7.225 Auto Command	6	200/225	CVT	6,750	140	8,257	330	218,728
T7.215 s	6	214 / -	FPS	8,900	120	8,647	395	224,497
T7.230 Classic	6	200/225	FPS	9,550	120	10,463	395	224,437
T7.245 Classic	6	225/245	FPS	9,550	120	10,463	395	234,204
T7.260 Classic	6	240/260	FPS	9,550	120	10,463	395	243,970
T7.270 Classic	6	260/270	FPS	9,550	120	10,463		252,96
T7.230 Power Command	6	200/225	FPS	9,550	120	10,463	465	273,664
T7.230 Auto Command	6	200/225	CVT	9,550	150	10,463	465	294,601
T7.245 Power Command	6	225/245	FPS	9,550	120	10,463	465	283,427
T7.245 Auto Command	6	225/245	CVT	9,550	150	10,463	465	304,377
T7.260 Power Command	6	240/260	FPS	9,550	120	10,463	465	293,194
T7.260 Auto Command	6	240/260	CVT	9,550	150	10,463	465	314,153
T7.270 Power Command	6	240/260	FPS	9,550	120	10,463	465	302,962
T7.270 Auto Command	6	260/270	CVT	9,550	150	10,463	465	324,400
T7.300 Auto Command	6	280/300	CVT	9,550	150	10,463	465	346,419
T7 290 HD Auto Command	6	288	CVT	11,530	165 or 223	11,058	630	367,147
T7 315 HD Auto Command	6	313	CVT	11,530	165 or 223	11,058	630	385,024
T7.340 HD Auto Command	6	340	CVT	11,530	165 or 223	11,058	630	405,933
T8.415 Ultra Command	6	374/409	FPS	12,500	214/271	11,700	647	POA
T8.415 Auto Command	6	374/409	CVT	12,500	214/271	11,700	609	POA
T8.440 Auto Command	6	417/435	CVT	12,500	214/271	11,700	609	POA
T8.440 Ultra Command	6	417/435	FPS	12,500	214/271	11,700	647	POA
T8.440 Auto Command Smart Track	6	417/435	CVT	17,500	214/271	11,700	670	POA
T8.440 Ultra Command Smart Track	6	417/435	FPS	17,500	214/271	11,700	670	POA



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MESSAGES

- Concentrate on the basics this year!
- Risk management suggestions for 2026.
- The correct minerals NOW are essential.
- Spring is high-risk time for mastitis.
- Don't cut back on preventative care.
- Be aware of your health checks and necessary actions.
- Make derogation work – it might be our last chance!



By Matt Ryan

'BE A LITTLE BORED THIS YEAR'

- ▶ "In order to be farming profitably, you need to be a little bored!"
- ▶ An unusual statement from me but let me elaborate.
- ▶ In my experience, dairy farmers get their farming 'kicks' when they are really driving on – expanding, making capital investments on the farm, etc.
- ▶ Imagine, for a minute, that you are in a social setting and someone asks 'how is the farming going?' Will your answer focus on costs and reducing them, and the efficiencies you are implementing? Or will you highlight the more 'exciting' things like the new tractor or the shed being built?
- ▶ It is easy to see which of these replies will generate more conversation, interest, and excitement. But we have to change the narrative to make reducing costs and being more efficient dairy farmers the focus of such conversation.
- ▶ Therefore, I am suggesting that these farming 'kicks' listed above, should be low down the priority investment list this year for farmers.
- ▶ The investment time should be in planning, pricing, preventing, monitoring – all the practices that generate efficiency and, hence, profit.
- ▶ A lot of this is office work, which is a lot more 'boring' than yard work, but at least 10 times more financially rewarding. Therefore, ensure that you have an office with: a good desk and chair; a computer, printer, paper, and very good WiFi; and a filing cabinet with separate files for important business transactions.
- ▶ Set aside a certain time of day when you are 'fresh' for office work.
- ▶ It is chilling to hear Teagasc's prediction that 'dairy farmers' incomes will reduce by 40 per cent in 2026'. So, let us try, from now, to risk-manage that prediction downwards for our own farms.

RISK MANAGE 2026

- ▶ All the vibes suggest that 2026 will see:
 - ▶ Milk price under pressure for most of the year.
 - ▶ Cost of inputs will remain approximately the same.
 - ▶ Living expenses will increase.
 - ▶ Loan repayments will be the same or increased.
 - ▶ Tax increases because of 2025 being so good.
- ▶ Now is not the time to sit on your hands.
- ▶ Plan! Plan! Plan! I want you to do a cashflow plan NOW for 2026 and plan for a base milk price of 33-37c/L.
 - ▶ If you cannot do it, get your adviser to do it, or to help you. But

you must learn because it is the future and is not rocket science.

- ▶ Farmers do a lot of planning in their heads as they go about their daily chores, so I want to remind you now, and monthly, of some important things to do.
- ▶ Farm profit has several drivers:
 - ▶ **Gross output**
 - ▶ The actions/outcomes that contribute to this are:
 - ▶ Milk price, which is driven by getting all bonuses with no penalties, achieving the level of percentage fat and protein that are within the herd's capabilities (there is 3-7c/L difference between farmers).
 - ▶ Calf price.
 - ▶ Cull cow price.
 - ▶ Numbers of calf and cow deaths has a big effect. Target less than 3% calf death to 28 days, and 2% cow deaths.
 - ▶ **Fixed costs:**
 - ▶ Costs, both fixed and variable, are predicted to be greater than 42c/L for 2025:
 - ▶ Fixed cost should not be considered 'fixed' because many of them are capable of being reduced. Therefore, examine each to see where you can 'trim' them back, even if only a little.
 - ▶ Land rental/lease is 2-4c/L with some spending 6-7c/L – you should ask yourself if you need to spend so much because of overstocking?
 - ▶ Labour is the big one and generally it can't be reduced but be sure to concentrate on tasks that deliver over €100/hour for your time for yourself.
 - ▶ An electricity broker may help to reduce costs by switching provider mid-contract.
 - ▶ **Variable cost management:**
 - ▶ Meal represents 20-30% of all costs, so you must address this. At normal stocking rates, meal feeding per cow should be no more than 700-800kg. Having to buy in forage indicates you are overstocked for the farm's ability to grow grass.
 - ▶ Fertiliser is another big one that can be managed downwards by a good fertiliser plan based on soil results.
 - ▶ Veterinary, medicines, and breeding costs are now very high on many farms, so they must be examined.
 - ▶ Contractor costs are 15-20% of variable costs and can be reduced by cutting a high percentage of farm for first cut

and minimising the expense for round bales.

- ▶ Bulk buying and getting quotations could save money but you need to establish the quantities you require for six months.
- ▶ The next step now is to establish your costs and profit for 2025 so that you can plan the year ahead

DON'T CUT BACK ON PREVENTATIVE CARE

- ▶ With farm incomes likely to be under a lot of pressure we have to ensure animals are cared for so as to perform to their best and minimise deaths and various health issues.
- ▶ Preventative care is essential to prevent/reduce some of the following causes of financial losses (approximate costs):

Cow death	€2,282 per death
Milk fever	€130 per case
Left displaced abomasum	€515 per case
Grass tetany (clinical)	€632 per case
Ketosis	€190 per case
Acidosis	€277 per case
Lameness	€312 per case
Mastitis	€450 per case
Vulva discharge	€188 per case
Cost of a twin calving	€122 per calving
Cost of calf death	€470 per case
Cost of retained placenta	€392 per case

- ▶ From the above figures each farmer should estimate the losses under these headings based on 2025 data.
- ▶ In an era of increasing costs and lower sales prices, we cannot allow disease or health mismanagement to reduce our profit due to inadequate preventative care.
- ▶ The above costs are direct and indirect costs.
- ▶ Direct costs covered:
 - ▶ Vet's time, farmer's time, drugs, discarded milk, reduced yields and others, such as dead calves.
- ▶ Indirect costs covered:
 - ▶ Increased risk of disease extending calving interval, higher culling rates, extra services per conception, and risk of fatality.

MINERALS ARE ESSENTIAL

- ▶ Mineral deficiency is responsible for retained placenta, calf deaths at birth, calving difficulty and many more related problems.
- ▶ To be sure of the concentration of the various minerals in the mix, get your silage analysed for minerals and act accordingly.
 - ▶ Some of the samples I have seen this year are very low in manganese, cobalt and copper with very high levels of antagonists, such as aluminium and molybdenum.
- ▶ A reputable pre-calving mineral must be fed to cows from 40 days before calving.
- ▶ Feed 2-3oz /cow/day.
 - ▶ Shake half of this quantity evenly on the silage morning and evening.
- ▶ In-calf heifers must also receive pre-calver mineral.
- ▶ If your farm has a special mineral problem, then include extra quantities of that mineral.

- ▶ Ketosis, acidosis and, to a lesser extent, lameness are a feed problem associated with poor silage (under feeding energy levels) or switching from good silage to poor silage (bought-in feed may not be as good as your own).

HIGH RISK MASTITIS PERIOD

- ▶ Because cows' immune systems come under severe pressure in the last few weeks before calving, mastitis is a very likely outcome either before calving or in the first two weeks after calving.
- ▶ It causes severe losses and frustration and most of the early lactation problems are caused by poor hygiene in the cubicles and the calving boxes before and after calving.
- ▶ It is prevented by having:
 - ▶ Clean environment.
 - ▶ Good milking machine.
 - ▶ Good milking routine.
 - ▶ Good cow immunity.
 - ▶ Maintaining a stress-free environment for cows and particularly heifers.
- ▶ This is the month where the cow's immunity decreases and she becomes stressed:
 - ▶ The last months of pregnancy and the influence of the dry cow wears off.
 - ▶ Scrape yards and cubicles at least twice per day.
 - ▶ Avoid overcrowding (one cubicle/cow is required)
 - ▶ Move shy feeders and cows that lie in passages onto a straw bedded area with plenty of feeding face.
 - ▶ Heifers calving down or getting mastitis in first four to seven days, indicates that they have been exposed to dirty bedding in the last few weeks of pregnancy. This is a terrible loss.
- ▶ Where there is a history of heifers getting mastitis before or after calving, a case can be made to teat seal them four to six weeks before calving.
- ▶ It is well known that very poor milking machines are the cause of 40 per cent of all mastitis problems.
 - ▶ Get it serviced now by a qualified technician.
 - ▶ Make sure to get a print-out of the technician's report and act on the recommendations. If your technician isn't up to scratch get a new technician.
 - ▶ Liners, worn rubber, diaphragms must be replaced.
 - ▶ Vacuum pump should be washed out with diesel.
 - ▶ Regulator should be cleaned with methylated spirits.
 - ▶ Pulsators and relays must be checked.
 - ▶ Draw hot water through the pulse tube, through the pulsators/relays and into the vacuum line to clean them out.
 - ▶ As an alternative to a dump line use an old churn or milk bucket in the pit.
 - ▶ It is suggested you leave the churn in the dairy and use a long milk tube to attach onto the relevant unit.
 - ▶ Consider the addition of a dump line, an automatic bulk tank and milking machine washer, if these chores are slowing you down in the parlour.
 - ▶ If you are milking more than eight cows per unit, consider adding a few more units to your machine if possible.
 - ▶ These suggestions should be seriously considered if you are paying a lot of tax or if you are expanding.

- ▶ Some well-informed farmers could and do service their milking machines themselves.
- ▶ Poor milking routine is the cause of mastitis on 30% of farms.
 - ▶ Something that must be re-learned and practiced.
 - ▶ Make sure to teach all those skills to new farm staff in January.
- ▶ Well trained staff can milk as good as yourself, trust them, so that you are freed up for more important skill/experience demanding tasks.

HEALTH CHECKS AND ACTIONS

- ▶ This is a key month to check out the progress of your winter management,
- ▶ Have your thin cows put on condition?
 - ▶ They should now be near body condition score (BCS) of 3.
 - ▶ If they aren't and they are still six to eight weeks from calving, increase the meal feed and keep them on very good silage.
 - ▶ If some cows are too fat (BCS = 3.5+) then you must separate them out from the cows and restrict their silage to 25-30kg silage (fresh) plus 2-3kg straw. Otherwise, they will have health problems after calving, will milk 300 litres less in early lactation and be slower to go in calf.
 - ▶ They will be more prone to calving problems and milk fever.
- ▶ Have you lame cows or heifers?
 - ▶ This is an issue on many farms.
 - ▶ It is often not picked up in time.
 - ▶ To prevent lameness, keep yards and passages clean; but you must also have good ventilation.
 - ▶ Put milkers through a footbath of copper or zinc for three consecutive days during each month.
- ▶ Has your herd got lice?
 - ▶ Scratching or licking can be signs that they do.
- ▶ Are your strong yearlings, replacements, or males going to grass over at over 280kg?
 - ▶ They need no more meal with fairly good silage.
 - ▶ Light weanlings almost certainly need 2-3kg of meal (12-14% protein), particularly if silage quality is moderate, otherwise they will not achieve service weights in May.
- ▶ Look out for the signs of liver fluke in stock.
 - ▶ It costs €160 per cow affected.
 - ▶ Consult your vet.
 - ▶ Symptoms include scouring, poor thrive.
 - ▶ Best confirmed by dung samples, dose before calving, being aware of milk withdrawal periods.
- ▶ Worms (type 11) can be a serious problem for all cattle and young cows.
 - ▶ Confirm their presence or absence with a dung sample.
 - ▶ Use a worm dose that kills type 11 stomach worms.

MAKE DEROGATION WORK - LAST CHANCE?

- ▶ Great! Derogation farmers have got an extension!
- ▶ Going by the social media and some press reaction one would think it was a jail sentence that has been suspended for three years.
- ▶ We have made progress – see November Hints – but we have more to do.
- ▶ We know, thanks to Irish research, that farmers who adopt good farming practices are not only taking care of the environment but they are also profitable.
- ▶ Water is the big concern! WATER QUALITY must be to the fore at all times when making most on-farm decisions.
- ▶ You may think you are miles away from a river or stream but you 'own' the groundwater under the soil on your farm. Dealing with run-off is also your baby.
 - ▶ Would you be happy or would you drink your own water if contaminated with slurry, excess nutrients, etc.? No!
- ▶ What I'm trying to say is do not fight the science because most of the rules/regulations that have been set out for you are scientifically based.
- ▶ Yes, many of us have adopted low emission slurry spreading, but all farmers must implement this, while being the required distance from water sources and obeying timing dates. Being told in mid-December that farmers were spreading 'a few loads' is grossly irresponsible behaviour.
- ▶ Nitrogen (N) is one of the most important environmental eight-letter words in farming! Why? Because:
 - ▶ To date, it has been perceived by farmers as the most important nutrient to grow grass, which, as we all know, is the cheapest and most natural way to feed animals. The introduction of legumes, clover, etc. has helped to alleviate that attitude.
 - ▶ Losses to the atmosphere and groundwater. Of all the bag N applied only 30% (approx.) is utilised, the remainder is lost,
 - ▶ Losses are greatest in light soils and on fields where urine and dung patches are greatest. Therefore, where you have many animals/acre you have more urine and dung patches.
 - ▶ Excessive presence of N in water leads to human health risks and impairs life in streams, rivers and seas.
- ▶ So, what must farmers do?



- ▶ Farmers MUST use protected urea. In two-years' time (a very short window), 80 per cent of the N we are using should be protected urea.
- ▶ If the quantity being imported does not reach that level in three years' time, then we won't have a derogation.
 - ▶ Why protected urea?
 - ▶ Leads to lower greenhouse gas emissions (GHC) emissions by 6-8%.
 - ▶ Reduced emissions of:
 - ▶ Ammonia by 78%.
 - ▶ Nitrous oxide by 71%.
 - ▶ Research has shown that there was no difference in grass yield between urea, CAN and protected urea in several trials.
 - ▶ Actually, for every 40kg/ha of urea applied, 35kg/ha of protected urea has the same amount of effective N. Therefore, the protected urea rate could be reduced by 12.5%.
 - ▶ Using last year's price and purchasing the same amount of effective N: 5-tonnes CAN = 3 tonnes protected urea, the saving was €380.
 - ▶ The liquid N products tested in Johnstown Castle last year reduced nitrous oxide emissions and gave better grass yields

than standard urea.

- ▶ 10:10:20 and 18:6:12 compounds tended to have lower GHC emissions than other N compounds.
- ▶ Remember, when soil pH, phosphorous and potash are at optimum levels in the soil, you maximise N efficiency, hence more grass grows.
- ▶ My message is clear! Believe the research and use all protected urea as your source of N.
- ▶ Phosphorous loss is the issue in heavier soils in the northern half of the country. The advice is to soil sample and stick to the recommendations.

BITS AND PIECES

- ▶ Replacement heifer management:
 - ▶ Ensure weanlings are going to hit weight targets for May service.
 - ▶ All heifers for mating this year must now be 255kg minimum. Under that will need special attention. If greater than 280kg they need to be restricted in feed.
 - ▶ It would be a good idea to mix in calving heifers with thin cows or second calvers now, so as to minimise post-calving stress,
 - ▶ Run the in-calf heifers through the milking parlour from now to calving, feeding them 1-2kg/hd/day meal to get them used to the parlour. They will also be less likely to be bullied during milking as they will think they own the parlour.
 - ▶ They must get pre-calving mineral for same period as cows.
 - ▶ More than the cows, they must be kept on very clean bed pre-calving because their intake can be as low as 4-6kg DM and their immune system will be very low.
- ▶ Examine your milk recording and ICBF data to identify aspects of your breeding management and mastitis management you must improve.
- ▶ Over 30% of farmers were below target closing covers on December 1 – there isn't much you can do now but make sure you:
 - ▶ Have a spring rotation plan done and, more importantly, a grass/feed budget, both on PastureBase.
- ▶ Do a final check on all your calving facilities and requirements early in January so as to be ready for your busiest six weeks of the year.
 - ▶ If tight on 'help,' even though late, check with neighbours if any are available for a few hours per day.
 - ▶ SOPs or videos on phone are great at helping staff better understand calving and calf rearing requirements.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"A clear conversation is one where the receiver accurately understands the message and its intent – what is being said, why it matters, and what is expected as a result. This leaves minimal room for confusion, assumption, or misinterpretation."

FINALLY

I sign off wishing all my readers a very happy and prosperous 2026.

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TRACK-TECH TRIUMPH FOR CLAAS

CLAIMING THE 2026 TRACTOR OF THE YEAR (TOTY) TITLE, THE CLAAS AXION 9.450 TERRA TRAC HAS MADE ITS MARK WITH ITS UNIQUE DESIGN AND TRACK TECHNOLOGY; IT IS OUR 'FROM THE CAB' FOCUS THIS MONTH

The Axion 9.450 Terra Trac beat off stiff competition from four competitors to win the coveted TOTY title, as announced at the recent Agritechnica agricultural machinery trade show. It impressed, according to TOTY judges, with its intelligent solutions in the areas of driver assistance and machine optimisation, digital connectivity and the newly developed, quiet cab. And it looks incredible too as it combines features of conventional and crawler tractors.

The TOTY jury, consisting of 26 international agricultural and agricultural engineering journalists, stated: "The Claas Axion 9.450 Terra Trac combines high performance with machine optimisation tools specially developed for large agricultural businesses. Its CCLS hydraulic system delivers a flow rate of up to 370L/min, with a rear lift capacity of over 11 tonnes and full Isobus and Power Beyond connectivity. Intelligent features such as CEMOS, Dynamic Auto Droop and CEBIS connect increase precision, while the four-point suspended cab ensures a high level

of comfort." The jury also praised the Axion's combination of power density, hydraulic performance, and data-driven performance management.

GIFT OF THE CAB

The Axion 9 Terra Trac boasts a completely newly developed cab with a noise reduction of up to 66dB(A) and a volume of three cubic metres, a new electronic infrastructure and new, intelligent assistance systems up to Level 2 Autonomy. The adaptive, predictive drivetrain management of the continuously variable CMATIC transmission with Auto Load Anticipation – a self-learning algorithm – increases driving comfort, productivity and efficiency, according to Claas. And thanks to extended maintenance intervals, service times and costs for users are also significantly reduced, according to Claas.

GROUNDLED

The Terra Trac's large, ground-protecting contact area gives this tractor unique versatility and enables it to be used all year

round, from spring fertilisation with minimal wheel tracks to light to heavy tillage and sowing with optimised traction, to grassland mowing and in-field logistics tasks in harvest chains.

According to Claas, this latest generation of this concept, the Axion 9 Terra Trac with up to 450hp engine power, is a logical further development with the latest electronic infrastructure, premium driving comfort, cloud connectivity in Claas connect and automated workflows up to Level 2 Autonomy with the AgXeed VCU (Vehicle Control Unit). "When developing the series, we listened more than ever to the wishes and expectations of farmers and contractors," explained Dr Martin von Hoyningen-Huene, Claas chief technology officer. "So we owe this award not only to our innovative developers, but also to our existing and potential customers. The tractor uniquely combines several of our core development competencies, such as soil-conserving chassis technologies and continuously variable power-split transmissions."



TOTY CATEGORY WINNERS:

- ▶ **Tractor of the Year 2026 (Overall/High Power)**
Claas Axion 9.450 Terra Trac
- ▶ **MidPower**
Fendt 516 Vario
- ▶ **Utility**
Valtra G125 CVT Active
- ▶ **Specialized**
New Holland
- ▶ **TOTYBot (Autonomous)**
AgXeed 2.055 W3
- ▶ **Sustainable**
JCB Fastrac 6300

*Turn to page 64 for more information on all the winners.

Industrial engine manufacturer, FPT Industrial also had something to celebrate at Agritechnica, as it powered three of 2026's TOTY winners:

- ▶ 2026 HighPower Tractor of the Year – Claas Axion 9.450 Terra Trac, powered by FPT's Cursor 9 engine.
- ▶ 2026 Specialized Tractor of the Year – New Holland T4.120 F Auto Command, powered by FPT's F36 engine
- ▶ 2026 Sustainable Tractor of the Year – JCB New Fastrac 6300, powered by FPT's N67 engine.

CURSOR 9 ENGINE- SPECS FOR THE AXION 9.450 TERRA TRAC

- ▶ **Certification:** Stage V/Tier 4 Final
- ▶ **No. of cylinders/valves:** 6L/4
- ▶ **Injection system:** Common rail
- ▶ **Turbocharger:** VGT (TCA)
- ▶ **Displacement [litres]:** 8.7L
- ▶ **Max power kW (hp) @ rpm:** 330 (448) @ 1,800
- ▶ **Max torque [Nm] @ rpm:** 1,850 @ 1,400



NOEL DUNNE
Machinery editor

HERE WE GO AGAIN!

And here we go, January 2026 kicks off. We blinked and 2025 came and went. They say the older you get, the quicker time passes; if that is the case, I'm gonna be very old before my time! It was a year of highs in the beef sector, stability in the dairy sector, and lows in the tillage sector. We had tariffs, new rules and regulations, climate-change impacts, increased costs, all sorts of weather, and a load more in 2025. To paraphrase Irish poet, Sean Ó Casey, the country 'is in a state o' chassis'. Yes, our economy was stable. Yes, there were green shoots of positivity. But there was also uncertainty. As we turn our attention to a new year, let's hope we see a better start, weather wise, and a burst of confidence coming through.

I learned last year, as I travelled extensively, that agriculture the world over share similar experiences. Indian farmers are upping horsepower, increasing the variety of their crops, and expanding their farms through local collaboration. American farmers are in crisis. Central European farmers are battling drought, floods and unstable markets. And the central plains of Russia and Ukraine are still reeling from war. The southern hemisphere seems to be where it's at – India, China, Japan, Australia, and New Zealand (which attracts a lot of Irish).

If I were a young man again, I would be on the east side of India, around the city of Chennai – where I was last October. The growth in infrastructure and investment there is off the wall. This country is becoming the jewel in the world's crown. As America, Russia and Europe lock horns on war and security issues – Korea, too – India is forging ahead. In my opinion, it will be the next superpower. Now, down to business and I am going back a little to look forward! Agritechnica was the only show in town at the back end of last year with everything from alternative fuels to new launches and farming concepts for the future. We will feature many of these new launches in 2026 in my From the Cab section, from Deutz Fahr's all-new 8 series to Valtra G series' new CVT options, and more. Despite uncertainties, the Irish tractor market performed well in 2025, according to the Farm Tractor and Machinery Trade Association. It was up by 14 per cent, year on year, to the end of November 2025, with 2,051 registered. One in every four tractors sold in Ireland is in the 160hp to 200hp range, accounting for 25 per cent of all tractors sold.

And, as mentioned above, India is also upping the horsepower – from 25hp to 50hp – citing the need for more horsepower to cover more ground quicker and at less cost.

Until next month, farm safely and farm wisely! And a very happy new year to you all.



A NEW YEAR, A NEW CLAAS ARION 6

This year, Claas launches the new Arion 6 CMATIC alongside the Arion 600 CMATIC. Initially, the 6.190 CMATIC model will be introduced and offered alongside the 660 CMATIC, according to the company, which unveiled the new 6 Series at Agritechnica. The Arion 6.190 CMATIC is powered by a smooth-running 6.8L six-cylinder engine with up to 205hp maximum output with CPM and a maximum torque of 849Nm at 1,500 rpm. The additional power provided by Claas Power Management (CPM) is now gradually activated in the new Arion 6.190 CMATIC from 185hp to 205hp, which increases effectiveness and efficiency in numerous tasks, for example during transport work and work with PTO-driven devices or implements with hydraulic drives or continuous pick-ups, according to the company. The CMATIC gearbox developed and built by Claas Industrietechnik is characterised by highly efficient power train management. In addition to first-class load reactivity and tuning of engine characteristics and

transmission ratio, it has functions such as the automatic trailer stretch brake and the unique wheel loader mode for front loader work.

KEY FEATURES OF THE ARION 6.190 CMATIC

- ▶ Launch of the new ARION 6 series with ARION 6.190 CMATIC top model from spring 2026 (parallel to the ARION 660 CMATIC).
- ▶ New design based on the Xerion 12 and Axion 9.
- ▶ 6.8L six-cylinder engine with 205hp maximum output and 849Nm maximum torque
- ▶ More safety thanks to automatic trailer stretch brake.
- ▶ More comfort and precision with less tyre wear thanks to wheel loader mode for front loader work.
- ▶ Maximum driver comfort thanks to the sprung front axle, full-suspension and quiet cab with CEBIS equipment and CMOTION, as well as the optional dynamic steering for

The CMATIC continuously variable transmission has high-end vehicle drive controller, automatic trailer brake and wheel loader mode.

halved steering wheel turns.

- ▶ New premium seats with massage function, seat ventilation and seat heater available.
- ▶ High-end multimedia system with Apple CarPlay, Android Auto and DAB+.
- ▶ New lighting concept with up to 20 LED headlamps and new entry-level step lighting.
- ▶ Optional self-learning driver assistance and process optimisation system CEMOS for increased efficiency and productivity in the field.
- ▶ New Auto CSM function on the GPS Pilot CEMIS 1200 automatically triggers the stored headland management.
- ▶ Automatic activation of the appropriate reference track thanks to the new Auto RefLine function.
- ▶ New K80 suspension with 4t drawbar load.
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Tom Murphy
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DRIVING FOR WORK

I was recently invited to a workshop held by the Health and Safety Authority (HSA) in conjunction with the Road Safety Authority (RSA) and An Garda Síochána. The main theme was the safety of those who drive for work and the impact of their driving on others. It was a thought-provoking event, capturing the attention of over 200 delegates, evidenced by the fact that the room was still full at the end of the four-hour session.

The results of research into the causes of serious injuries and fatalities to those who drive for work also apply to those working in agriculture, even though driving on the land escapes many of the legal requirements applied to driving for work on public roads.

MEDICATION

Research shows that not only recreational drugs, but certain prescribed and over-the-counter drugs can seriously affect the ability to drive or operate machinery safely. The Central Statistics Office (CSO) shows that in 2023 the average age of farmers was 59.4 years with almost 38 per cent being 65 years or older. This age group is, perhaps, more likely to be taking prescribed medication that can affect their ability to drive safely, due to drowsiness, dizziness, or slowed reaction times; although the ability of drivers of any age can be affected by medication. Please heed the advice of medical practitioners and pharmacists when it comes to taking medication and driving or operating machinery.

ALCOHOL

The workshop also highlighted concerns surrounding alcohol and the amount still in the blood stream the morning after, potentially tipping you over the limit permitted to drive. Coupled with certain medications – even over-the-counter ones – this situation is exacerbated. We need a strong awareness campaign to highlight these often-overlooked dangers. When investigating serious farm accidents, the HSA should also look for evidence of medication or medication-alcohol combinations to ascertain if these are contributory factors.

FSPAC

The Farm Safety Partnership Advisory Committee (FSPAC) also met in December, where we reviewed the 17 fatalities reported up to November 30, as well as the countless injuries. Below, I outline just some of the causes.

▶ ATVs/quads

Quads are a useful piece of machinery around the farm but they have been associated with injuries and fatalities.

Uneven terrain can result in overturning and serious injury to the driver. Since November 2023, training has been compulsory for ATV operators, as is the use of protective headgear but it is difficult to enforce.

▶ Roofs

Before carrying out repairs on any roof, it is vital to assess the risk. Sadly, there are regular accidents and fatalities involving falls through Perspex roofs, which perish over time and cannot take any weight.

▶ Cattle handling

Every month, tragedies occur involving the handling of cattle, particularly involving older farmers who are less agile. The number-one rule is to know your limitations and don't handle cattle alone; get help or risk serious injury.

▶ Brakes

Not applying the handbrake or not maintaining brakes regularly results in serious injuries and fatalities. What time does it save when you don't apply the handbrake? That split second saved could cost you your life or someone else's. Not maintaining brakes is utter madness.

There are many lessons to be learned, but I believe much of it is in your own hands. By demonstrating safe work practices, you can significantly influence the attitudes and behaviours of the next generation – your kids and grandkids. You can stop farm accidents from becoming a self-fulfilling prophecy.



Dr John McNamara

JOHN McNAMARA

In December, the FSPAC bade farewell to Dr John McNamara, senior health and safety specialist at Teagasc. For over 30 years, John and I have championed farm safety all over Ireland. On behalf of PAC Ireland, we wish him all the best in his well-earned retirement from the FSPAC. John, without doubt, has helped save many lives on Irish farms. He has presented papers around the world and

Europe where his expertise and research have formed European farm safety policy, and secured funding for many European grants. The Farm Partnership Advisory Committee will miss his sound advice and his jovial personality.

Enjoy your retirement, John.

Wishing all *Irish Farmers Monthly* readers a very happy and, most of all, safe 2026.

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TRACTOR OF THE YEAR: THE VERDICT

FOR THE TRACTOR OF THE YEAR (TOTY) 2026 AWARDS, SOME OF THE WORLD'S LEADING MANUFACTURERS AND THEIR TOP TRACTORS, DRIPPING IN THE LATEST TECHNOLOGICAL AND INNOVATIVE ADVANCEMENTS, WERE JUDGED BY A DISCERNING TOTY JURY. SIX WERE VICTORIOUS AND WE HIGHLIGHT THEM HERE



WINNER: HIGHPOWER

CLAAS AXION 9.450 TERRA TRAC

This large-farm machine fuelled by a Stage V 6-cylinder and 8.7L engine is a most worthy winner. For more details, see From the Cab on page 60.

Verdict: The jury valued the Axion's combination of power density, hydraulic capability, and data-driven performance management.



WINNER: MIDPOWER

FENDT 516 VARIO

'Compact dimensions meet premium technology in the Fendt 516 Vario Gen4' according to the TOTY judges. This mid-power machine has a 5L AGCO Power CORE 50 engine, helping it to deliver 164hp (up to 174hp with boost) and 792Nm of torque under the Fendt iD low-rpm concept. The Vario CVT transmission (TA 120) provides seamless speed control from 20km/hr up to 50km/hr, maintaining 40km/h at just 1,300 rpm. The eLS hydraulic system delivers up to 155L/min of flow, with up to seven valves, electronic linkage, and full headland management. Cab comfort features include hydraulic front axle suspension, optional pneumatic cab suspension, and an ultra-low 69dB noise level.

Verdict: The jury highlighted the 516 Vario's balance of efficiency, comfort, and versatility as a reference in the mid-power class.



WINNER: UTILITY

VALTRA G125 CVT ACTIVE

The Valtra G125 CVT Active represents 'the evolution of compact versatility' according to TOTY judges. Its CVT transmission ensures precise control and smooth acceleration, particularly in front-loader and mixed-field operations.

The SmartTouch interface offers intuitive access to Valtra's Smart Farming features such as section control and variable-rate application. Designed for practicality, it features a robust hydraulic system, excellent visibility, and an ergonomic cab layout optimised for loader work.

Verdict: The jury appreciated the G125's blend of agility, user-friendly operation, and technological integration.



WINNER: SPECIALIZED NEW HOLLAND T4.120 F AUTO COMMAND

The New Holland T4.120 F Auto Command 'introduces continuously variable transmission (CVT) technology to the narrow tractor segment' according to TOTY judges.

Equipped with a 4-cylinder FPT F5 Stage V engine (118hp, 506Nm), it delivers precise power management through Auto Command CVT. The tractor features PLM Intelligence connectivity, enabling remote diagnostics, over-the-air updates, and fleet management. Advanced automation includes IntelliSteer RTK+ guidance (up to 1.5 cm accuracy), IntelliTurn automatic headland turns, CustomSteer variable steering, and full ISOBUS TIM Class II compatibility. Safety and comfort are enhanced by the Intelligent Trailer Brake System, reversible fan, and three-camera setup.

Verdict: The jury recognised its compact design and premium technology as a new standard for vineyard and orchard applications



WINNER: SUSTAINABLE JCB FASTRAC 6300

TOTY judges said the JCB Fastrac 6300 'redefines the balance between performance, efficiency, and sustainability in high-speed tractor engineering.' Powered by a 6-cylinder FPT Industrial NEF 6.7 Stage V engine and a ZF Ecom 3.1 transmission, it optimises fuel use and lowers emissions through Smart Transmission Control (STC), providing seamless transitions between pedal and joystick operation. Its full hydro-pneumatic suspension, 50/50 weight distribution, and ABS disc brakes ensure stability and safety up to 70km/hr, reducing time and energy consumption in transport operations.

The integrated Central Tyre Inflation System (CTIS) adjusts pressure directly at the wheels to minimise soil compaction and preserve soil health, while the new four-wheel steering with Twin Steer Guidance enhances manoeuvrability and precision. Inside, the iCON control system integrates ISOBUS, GPS, configurable work profiles, and dual-screen operation; telematics via JCB LiveLink support data-driven efficiency and preventive maintenance.

Verdict: The jury recognised the Fastrac 6300 as an example of sustainable innovation that combines intelligent engineering, digital connectivity, and care for the soil to deliver productivity with responsibility.



WINNER: TOTYBOT AGXEED 2.055 W3

The AgXeed 2.055 W3 is an 'autonomous platform marking a concrete step toward robotic field operations' according to TOTY judges.

It is powered by a Deutz TCD 2.9 L4 Stage V diesel engine (55kW, 300Nm) driving an electric powertrain with Engiro generators and Bosch Rexroth final drives. The system includes an electric PTO up to 55kW at 700 V, CCLS hydraulics (85L/min), and a 2.5t rear lift, compatible with standard implements. Connectivity encompasses ISOBUS, cloud-based fleet management, and telemetry, with TIM capability under development.

Safety is ensured by LiDAR, cameras, GPS-RTK, and tactile sensors, while its 2.8t unladen weight and wide tyres ensure low soil impact.

Verdict: The jury valued its commercial readiness and open architecture as key steps toward scalable, autonomous agriculture.



AMAZONE'S SELF-ADJUSTING FERTILISER SPREADER

An autonomous solution for optimum fertiliser distribution is being implemented for the first time with Amazone's ZA-TS 01. After years of development and over 100,000 hectares (ha) of successful field trials, the unique AutoSpread feature sets new standards in precision and automation, according to the company.

AutoSpread monitors the actual spread pattern of the fertiliser and automatically adjusts the settings to achieve optimum distribution. Combined with the intelligent online connection to the Amazone Spreader Application Centre, the actual spread pattern is permanently validated, meaning that the operator no longer has to make any setting adjustments.

As anyone involved in spreading knows, the main challenge of precise fertilisation has always been getting the settings correct. The global fertiliser market sees growing product diversity and increasing differences in fertiliser types and fertiliser batches, which further increases the complexity for farmers. Incorrect spreader settings can lead to uneven distribution of the fertiliser, which in turn results in reduced yields and loss of quality. This not only results in economic losses but also damages sustainability and efficiency in agriculture. For the first time, the company says, AutoSpread measures the actual flight characteristics of the fertiliser and adjusts the spreader automatically. Existing systems such as ArgusTwin already enable the direction of throw to be measured, but the actual throwing distance



of the fertiliser remains unknown because, until now the throwing distance of the fertiliser could only be determined under stationary laboratory conditions. If an incorrect throwing direction is set as the target variable, this will result in incorrect application with a loss of yield and quality, furthermore an incorrect throwing distance not only leads to a loss of accuracy in the normal spread pattern but also to incorrect switch-on and switch-off points in Section Control. Additional AutoSpread sensors make it possible, for the first time, to determine not only the throwing direction but also the throwing distance and consequently the actual spread pattern in the field. Where the innovative solutions for the various individual situations such as HeadlandControl, WindControl or Section Control used to be individual solutions, they are now optimally integrated via AutoSpread for the first time.



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Denis Drennan
President, ICMSA

2025 – A MOMENTOUS YEAR? HERE'S WHY!

There are two observations I feel safe making about 2025. The first is that we celebrated the 75th anniversary of our association in a way that the founders might have appreciated. They were sober and serious people and we, too, endeavoured to mark that milestone in a way that was sober and serious. We remembered our heritage and founding principles, and they have served to re-energise us as we go into 2026, and beyond.

The second observation is that the pace of everything seems to have picked up noticeably and that pace seems to be accelerating as we head into 2026. The range of issues the association is presently addressing on your behalf is dizzying, and once one issue is dealt with and progressed, another crops up demanding instant understanding and policy formulation. Like that popular US arcade game, whack-a-mole, as soon as problems are hammered down, more keep popping up.

PRIORITY

Despite all the issues, the ICMSA is essentially an association founded and focussed milk price. That has always topped our to-do list, and it always will. In this respect, 2025 might turn out to be a momentous year, in that it provided the best illustration yet of why we cannot go on with this rollercoaster model of 'boom and bust' where dairy farmer incomes can go up by 40 per cent in one year and collapse by the same percentage the next. The last quarter of 2025 has provided the best proof yet – if further proof was even needed – that the basic economic model of milk price is no longer fit-for-purpose. And until we (and the Irish State) can move past a system that has collapsed dairy farmer income serving as the 'reset' button for the whole sector, then we are at nothing. This point was made repeatedly to the taoiseach at our AGM and it was stressed to him that the ICMSA has tabled several variations on a supervised farm deposit scheme that would mitigate the worst volatility and see-saw income variability.

TAOISEACH'S COMMITMENT

In fairness to him, the arguments seemed to land with him, and we got – and will hold him to – a commitment to look at our proposed



ICMSA president, Denis Drennan,
addressing the 2025 AGM.

scheme. The ICMSA will ensure that our scheme, properly drawn up and set out, will be the one that the civil servants will be asked to examine. The ICMSA knows its place. We do not believe that we can control international dairy markets. But we do believe that we cannot continue with a supply-chain and price system that casually uses our farmer members as the risk control mechanism for the whole sector. This is a system where everyone else simply passes their risk back to the farmer and are left untouched by the kind of price collapse we have seen since late August while the farmers – who are the basis for everyone else earning their living – are wiped out income terms and are expected to work for nothing until normal service is resumed.

DEROGATION

The securing of the derogation for a further three years is obviously welcome, but there are two things to note. First, three years is inadequate to attract the desperately needed next generation. And second, the devil is in the detail around the 'hammering in' of the very round Habitats Directive into the very square ability to farm at a feasible level. The ICMSA had lobbied relentlessly for the extension of the derogation, and we could not adopt a dog-in-the-manger attitude to the announcement. But we have said – and I'll say it again as often

as needed – that there's no point in having a derogation if nobody can meet the Ts and Cs. The more suspicious among us have linked the apparent granting of the derogation to Ireland's distinctly half-hearted opposition to the Mercosur trade agreement. The taoiseach denied this vehemently at the AGM and said that the timing of both was completely coincidental. The ICMSA is happy to take his word, but we hope he'll take ours in the same fashion. If the EU proceeds with Mercosur, then we never again want to hear a word about climate mitigation and the need to farm sustainably. There's only so much hypocrisy that any normal person can bear.

BLUETONGUE

The relatively good year that we had on the beef side has been tempered somewhat by the very unwelcome news that bluetongue arrived in Co. Down. We might be spared by the cold weather and our own utmost vigilance. But the announcement has brought centre-stage again the question of animal diseases and in that respect the stance taken by Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Martin Heydon at the AGM was instructive. His conviction that the new TB strategy will at least halt and then reverse the surge in incidences is admirable, but he has given hostage to fortune. If the numbers do not reduce noticeably, then his personal conviction and involvement in the strategy will become impossible to ignore.

AN HONOUR

I'd like to end on a bright note and just say that it was a great honour to have served as president of the ICMSA in this anniversary year and also to congratulate all the past presidents and deputy presidents who came to the AGM, and stayed on to receive our best wishes and a small token of our esteem. Listening to them – and particularly the senior member of those distinguished guests, Tom O'Dwyer – it is easy to see why the ICMSA has played such an active and notable role in the interests and cause of Ireland's farm families since 1950. Their sincerity and energy and conviction shone through and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank them all again.

'THE WOMEN BEHIND IT – I JUST CAN'T PRAISE THEM ENOUGH'



Dairy Women Ireland past president, Mary Kinston and current president, Fiona O'Donnell.

BERNIE COMMINS SPOKE TO RECENTLY APPOINTED PRESIDENT, AND PAST PRESIDENT OF DAIRY WOMEN IRELAND (DWI), FIONA O'DONNELL AND MARY KINSTON, ABOUT BEING AT THE HELM OF THIS FLEDGLING BUT FORCE OF AN ORGANISATION, AND THE IMPACT IT IS HAVING ON DAIRY WOMEN ACROSS RURAL IRELAND

Not long ago, Fiona says, a woman commented to her: 'Why wasn't this set this up years ago?' She was, of course, talking about DWI. It wasn't a criticism; it was an observation of a void that had existed for far too long, and a stamp of approval for what had filled that void.

Established in 2021, DWI is self-described as being dedicated to empowering and supporting women involved in Ireland's dairy industry – a place where women have, traditionally, played important roles but never really received the recognition to match. DWI aims to change that, and it has already begun to do so.

A lot has been achieved in the four years since DWI was set up, Fiona says: "The amount of work that's been done the last few years has been phenomenal and the women behind it, I just can't praise them enough for what they've done and what we've achieved to get to the stage we're at today." That stage sees DWI now comprise six regions, nationally, with upwards of 250 members across the country. Significantly, it secured a landmark partnership model with milk processors in 2025, and it scooped two wins at the National Dairy Awards in the same year. It won the Cormac Tagging Dairy Discussion/Support Group of the Year, and it also won the FARM TV Dairy Marketing Campaign of the Year for its 'I'm passing the phone to a woman in dairy' campaign. And there is plenty more on the horizon.

Embarking on her term as DWI president, Fiona shares some of her hopes for the year ahead: "We're really looking at growing the membership across the regions, and making communication clearer with our members. We are going to start up WhatsApp groups within the regions rather than depend solely on the traditional email method.

"We have also put a new leadership structure in place. Previously, we would have had a range of between three to 10 region leaders within each region but what we're planning to do is put a chairperson, a vice-chairperson, and a membership official into each region, similar to the way that Macra clubs are structured and run. We are just at that stage now where we can do this because we have that many members now."

DETOUR TO DWI

Although she grew up on a dairy farm, Fiona took a bit of a detour before returning to her roots, she explains: "I had a great 15 years in banking in AIB, saw various parts of the organisation from corporate to retail to business banking but for the five or six years I was in business banking, I worked on agricultural portfolios, dealing with farmers mainly so I got great insight into that side of it – financials, projections, even just dealing with the bank and seeing it from the farmer's side.

"On the farm, I was always working behind the scenes, strategically, in terms of the admin and financial side. But when our youngest of three children turned three years old, I decided to go back to the farm full-time with my husband, Eddie. And we were lucky in that we had grown the farm to such an extent that we could afford for me to come back." Having that different career experience is invaluable when you make the decision to farm full-time, she explains: "There are so many facets to a farm business – particularly a growing one – and sometimes that just doesn't get the recognition it deserves. The education level of all our members – life experience and formal education – means they bring so much back to a farm, and sometimes they don't even realise that themselves." Imposter syndrome, Fiona says, is alive and well for many women, however, despite their achievements and

abilities but Fiona's advice is to 'feel the fear and do it anyway'. She adds: "There is a wide representation of women on our steering committee and with the new structure, there will be more opportunities for members to follow the path further into the organisation, become part of the decision-making and the strategic vision of DWI."

FLEXIBILITY

DWI offers its members many opportunities from training to attendance of various events, but the one really important offering is connection, Fiona explains: "You can go to Cork to a tractor-driving course, or to Dublin to a soft skills course on communication, or you can go to our flagship event at the end of the year; it just gives women the opportunity to connect. It can be so, so isolating on the farm whether you are doing the admin, milking the cows or feeding the calves, and it can be a very male-orientated environment. Women yearn to meet other women and to have that connection." That kind of 'connection' is exemplified by the DWI discussion groups, says Fiona, where members have the freedom to talk about all things non-farming as well as all things farming. "The DWI discussion groups will cover all the technical aspects of farming but people will also bare their souls at these meetings."

CREDIT WHERE IT IS DUE

Fiona credits New Zealander and agri-consultant, Lynaire Ryan, for the establishment of DWI, alongside fellow agri-consultant, Paidí Kelly. "Our model is based on the Dairy Women's Network model in New Zealand and Lynaire spearheaded DWI here in Ireland," says Fiona.

RECOGNITION

Fiona says she is buoyed by the reception that DWI has received, particularly among the male cohort of dairy farmers: "The men in this industry are really getting behind what we are representing, and they are recognising the fact that women do so much on the farm. We had a huge vote of confidence at the

start with the support of some of the male discussion groups who gave us the initial seed funding to get going and that was huge." Other recognition has come in the form of the aforementioned landmark partnership model with milk processors across the country, as well as their support at DWI conferences. Mary Kinston, was at the helm when the processor partnership was secured; this is a funding structure that sees milk processors contribute €2 per supplier annually for a number of years. It will assist DWI in providing long-term, sustainable support for women in the dairy sector, she explains. This funding is essential for DWI to drive on and thrive. "Fundamentally, getting sponsorship for our organisation has been one of the hardest journeys, especially at the start," says Mary. "We managed to organise the first conference with very little money available and no bank account, but we have grown from there. It has been challenging and we have had to prove ourselves; that we could deliver and that we are necessary," says Mary. And she acknowledges, gratefully, the support that DWI received over the last three years from the industry.

Of her own tenure as president, she says it played a positive role in her life: "I kind of ended up as president by default, I just always kept turning up, and attending all the meetings," she says, laughing. "It is something I never really sought but it was so lovely to get the backing and support and I have grown in confidence and capability, and felt very much supported by such a lovely group of girls. I have taken a huge amount from it." She echoes Fiona's comments in relation to DWI's achievements: "We have secured sponsorship, we have new systems in place, we have streamlined processes, and we have continued to deliver the annual conference, as well as monthly events," says Mary. She continues: "We have increased membership, we have put a board in place, and we have appropriate governance in place. And we have done all of this from a voluntary basis. It is not an easy thing to do, to set up a new voluntary organisation and get commitment from people. It has taken a huge amount of time and effort to do all of that, and it will continue to evolve."



MATT O'KEEFFE
EDITOR



NEW YEAR WISHES

Wishful thinking rarely delivers positive outcomes. Likewise, new year resolutions are only beneficial if accompanied by resolute actions. What should we wish for Irish agriculture in the coming 12 months? Economic prices, profitable farming, and clement weather conditions are vague, if positive, wishes. Unknowable events could change current trends, with weather very much an influencer of both price and profit, and entirely uncontrollable.

GRAIN PRICES

Take grain prices as an example. Global climatic or other events regularly impact production and may alter supply and price prospects in 2026. This is possible, given the unpredictable climatic/political/military conditions globally, but it's wishful thinking. Irish actions to improve domestic grain prices would involve a reordering of Irish grain use. Irish provenance for Irish branded spirits and beers, with a large premium for the Irish grain input, reflecting the end value of the products, would do much to transform the profitability of malting barley production. That requires action, not wishful thinking. Low grain prices are driving milk production, globally. Higher grain prices, again induced by some unknowable events, would lower milk production and restore profitability in the coming months. We need only look at global meat prices to see how even a relatively small production deficit lifts producer prices to profitable levels. These unknowable events, however, would not be the result of actions taken, just wishful thinking.

TAKING ACTION

Some actions to deliver positive outcomes in 2026 have already been taken. The successful campaign to retain the Nitrates Derogation, for instance. The new TB control/eradication strategy must be action-led to reduce incidence significantly over the coming 12 months. Apart from movement restrictions and changes in testing protocols, consideration should be given to radical actions that could deliver substantial results. Should a complete cull of the Sika invasive deer population be considered? Apart from Sika deer being a TB vector of note, the outcomes for our Irish red deer population would be positive, along with reduced damage to crops and forestry. Meanwhile, cattle movements are still too numerous. Further restrictions would surely reduce infection risks across a range of diseases, especially TB. In any case, how many incomes can one bullock support?

PREVENTION

Disease prevention is one of the most actionable wishes for 2026. A conclusion to the much-extended bovine viral diarrhoea (BVD) eradication programme is within reach. Finality requires resolute coercion of the laggards, who are imposing ongoing cost on the vast majority who have cooperated fully. Animal Health Ireland (AHI) has launched an action strategy for the final eradication push. A major drive to reduce Johnes disease incidence is not only actionable but an absolute necessity to safeguard live cattle and dairy product export markets.



A FEW MILES OF SEA WERE NEVER GOING TO BE ENOUGH TO PREVENT INFECTED MIDGES FROM BREACHING OUR NATURAL AQUATIC DEFENCE BARRIER

Infectious bovine rhinotracheitis (IBR) is another viral risk to our cattle herd and AHI's control/eradication programme must be fully supported. We are beset by a myriad of diseases over which we have limited prevention capability. We wished that migrant wildfowl would not infect our native wild birds or managed poultry flocks with avian flu. That wish didn't work so our second line of defence is now in operation after several outbreaks. Housing actions work, at least partially, at great cost and inconvenience to our commercial poultry sector. Bluetongue absence was another wishful thought. Hope was replaced by the reality that a few miles of sea were never going to be enough to prevent infected midges from breaching our natural aquatic defence barrier. We can hope that a 'hardy winter' may eliminate the current incursion. Better, perhaps, to have a vaccination contingency plan based on the proposition that luck or wishful thinking are poor substitutes for positive, actionable disease management strategies.

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1. Bovigen SPC 2. Géollot, S. et al (2018). Serologic and colostral response and vaccine efficacy in calves following a single injection of Bovigen® Scour in seronegative pregnant cows. 10.13140/RG.2.2.30920.37129.

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