



Teagasc – Agriculture and Food Development Authority IRELAND

Teagasc – the Irish Agriculture and Food Development Authority – is the national body providing integrated research, advisory and training services to the agriculture and food industry and rural communities in Ireland. Our mission is to support science-based innovation in the agri-food sector and the broader bio-economy that will underpin profitability, competitiveness and sustainability. This mandate gives Teagasc responsibility for meeting the knowledge and technology needs of the entire food chain and the authority to integrate research, advice and education services to deliver the innovation support necessary to add value to Ireland's agri-food sector. Teagasc is a key node in Ireland's Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System. It is unique internationally in having the three pillars of research, education and advisory functions within one organisation. Teagasc employs 1,300 people, located in seven research centres, 50 agricultural extension offices and seven agricultural colleges distributed across Ireland. We also host the studies of 270 PhD and MSc students as part of our highly innovative Walsh Scholarship Programme which enables the training of the future generation of scientists, farm advisors and other agri-food industry professionals.

Teagasc is an applied research organisation, focused on the needs of the Irish agri-food industry. The impact and value of Teagasc research and innovation (R&I) and extension activities on the wider agri-food industry is evidenced through the organisations 45,000 farmer clients and the 250 client SMEs which avail of Teagasc research and innovation support on an annual basis. Indeed numerous collaborations exist between Teagasc and Irish-based multi-national food companies. Teagasc is also a much sought-after research partner by international research organisations, performing consistently among the top beneficiaries in EU Framework Programmes for R&I. We currently have close relationships with more than 150 research institutes and universities around the world, including with all of the leading European institutions.

As a knowledge-intense organisation, Teagasc relies on its expertise, innovative capacity and research infrastructure for success. Its annual research budget of €82 million is delivered across four research programmes relating to Animal & Grassland Research and Innovation, Crops, Environment and Land Use, Food and Rural Economy & Development. As well as state-of-the-art laboratory facilities, our researchers have access to expansive areas of experimental farmland totalling 2,300 hectares supporting experimental work on livestock, pasture and arable crop enterprises. Significant investment has been made in infrastructure and pilot-plant facilities, such as the National Food Innovation Hub and National Prepared Consumer Food Centre, as well as other major scientific and

innovation support research platforms such as the Next Generation Genome Sequencing Facility and the National Farm Survey.

The Animal & Grassland Research and Innovation Programme brings together the organisation's expertise in dairy, beef, sheep, pigs, animal bioscience and grassland research to increase the profitability, competitiveness and sustainability of Irish livestock production. It includes research sites and demonstration farms located across the country. Teagasc also hosts VistaMilk, a unique agri-tech research and innovation centre to harness the benefits of precision science and data analytics for pasture-based agriculture and food systems. It is co-funded by Science Foundation Ireland and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and brings together over 200 scientists across 7 research organisations and 50 committed industry partners.

Contact: Prof. David Kenny, Head of Animal and Bioscience Research Department and President of the EAAP Physiology Study Commission

Relevant links:

- Teagasc on Social Media: <https://www.teagasc.ie/news--events/daily/social-media/>
- Teagasc Podcasts: <https://www.teagasc.ie/news--events/daily/podcasts/>
- Teagasc Webinars: <https://www.teagasc.ie/news--events/daily/webinars/>
- Teagasc Videos: <https://www.teagasc.ie/news--events/daily/videos/>

Other major programmes:

- The [Teagasc Signpost Programme](#), a Teagasc-led, collaborative, multi-actor initiative of farmers, agri-food organisations and state agencies, working together for climate action. It has a focus on farmer-to-farmer learning, with approximately 120 demonstration farmers across Ireland participating in the programme from all enterprises – dairy, beef, sheep, tillage, pigs and poultry.
- The [National Agricultural Soil Carbon Observatory \(NASCO\)](#) project, which aims to quantify the amount of carbon stored in our soils, using data generated from both soil analysis and carbon flux towers, with the Signpost Farms acting as sites for measurements

Photo courtesy of Teagasc



Teagasc Headquarters, Oakpark, Carlow



Teagasc Animal and Grassland Research and Innovation Centre, Grange, County Meath.