

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2024

NEWS, AGRI ADVICE & PROMOTIONS

FORAGE MAIZE GROWING 2024

In 2024, maize will offer good quality feed at a low price compared to other forage options as seen in the table below. However, this is only possible if good yields and quality are achieved.

Site: Choice of site is critical to giving an economic return to growing maize (growing maize on marginal sites is high risk). Choose a sheltered south facing field (warmest on farm) with light to medium soil type and good drainage as maize will not tolerate compaction. Site altitudes should not exceed 120m.

Rotation: Maize can be grown continuously in the same field. Weed control costs tend to increase and fungal disease attacks become more likely with continuous maize cropping, but these challenges can be overcome.

Sowing & Seedbed Prep: Can proceed when soil temperatures are above 8°C. Sowing under plastic can proceed from late March, uncovered delay sowing until after mid-April. Plough as early as possible and allow to weather naturally. Prepare a fine, firm seedbed 10-12 cm (4-5 inches) deep as if tilling for potatoes or sugar beet. Drill 100,000-110,000 seeds/ha (40,000 to 45,000 seeds/ace) depending on conditions and yield potential (sow at higher end for earlier sowing and better sites).

Plastic: Plastic cover helps to deliver consistent yield and quality.

Crop Nutrition: Fertiliser applications should be in line with the nitrate's directive. Soil testing to determine requirements is strongly recommended. Top dressing N after emergence should be avoided as it can cause crop scorch. Ensuring adequate nutrients, especially Phosphorus (P), are supplied is essential. Slurry is very useful in supplying significant proportions of the P & K requirements.

Maize nutrient requirement Kg/ha (units/acre)

Soil Fertility (P & K Index)	N	Р	К
High (4)	75(60)	20(16)	120(96)
Moderate (3)	110(88)	40(32)	190(152)
Deficient (2)	140(112)	50(40)	255(180)
Poor (1)	180(144)	70(56)	250(200)

N & P rates as per Nitrates Directive

Barryroe Maize Variety Recommendations 2024

Site	Site Description	Varieties Under Plastic	Varieties Uncovered	
Excellent Site	< 50m altitude South facing Not exposed	P8200 & P8201	Ambition, Foxtrot	
Good Site	50m to 75m altitude Not too exposed, good sunshine.	P8200, P8201 & Ambition	Ambition, Use Plastic	
Moderate Site	75m to 100m altitude	Ambition	Use Plastic	
Marginal Site	Over 100m altitude or Very exposed North facing	Do not grow maize	Do not grow maize	

NEWS WATCH

MILK SUPPLY AND PRICE

February milk supply amounted to 5,111,057 litres which was an 11% decrease on February 2023. An improvement in market conditions resulted in Barryroe increasing its price to €7.1925 per kg of protein and €4.7950 per kg of butterfat. This represents a 2 c/L increase in base price, with a 0.5 c/L reduction in Carbery's support from the stability fund, the support is now at 1.5c/L. Our average constituents for the month are 3.38% protein 4.38% butterfat and our average price paid is 45.4 c/L, including 0.88c SCC bonus and VAT @4.8%.

CARBERY SHARE PRICE

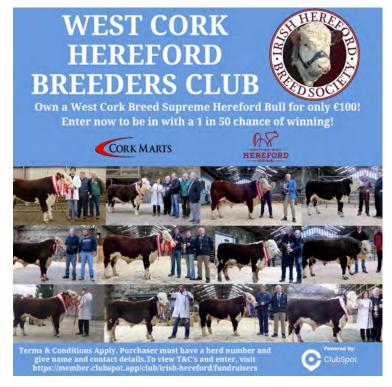
The most recent valuation has put an indicative value of \in 4.71 cents on each Carbery share.

FUTUREPROOF SUSTAINABILITY BONUS

The FutureProof sustainability bonus will be available again in 2024 for all suppliers who meet the qualifying criteria. There was excellent uptake in 2023, with 84% of suppliers and more than 90% of Carbery's milk pool included in FutureProof 2023. The measures to be included in FutureProof 2024 are the same as last year and a letter has gone out to all suppliers with the details.

BALLINSPITTLE TRANSPORT SCHEDULE

Please note that Mondays and Thursdays are the new delivery dates for our Ballinspittle Branch area.



AGRI OFFERS



ONLY €229

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Condon 2Ton Meal Bin



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Faro Intelligent Heaters **EXCELLENT OFFERS IN STORE**

FODDER AND SUGAR BEET OPTIONS 2024

Beet gives the highest yields of Dry Matter and energy of all forage crops. Beet is an extremely high yielding fodder crop that is easy to grow but attention to detail is vital.

Rotation: Beet should only be grown after two years have elapsed since a beet, brassica or oil seed rape crop was grown.

Sowing period: Sugar Beet can be sown from mid-March. Fodder Beet can be sown from early April. Beet is a sensitive crop and will not thrive in harsh conditions. For maximum yields, sow as early as possible under favourable weather and soil conditions, latest sowing time is late May.

Seeding rates: Seeds are precision drilled. Aim to establish 30,000 plants per acre.

Beet nutrient requirement Kg/ha (units/acre)

Soil Fertility (P & K Index)	N P		К
High (4)	80(64)	20(16)	80(64)
Moderate (3)	120(96)	40(32)	160(128)
Deficient (2)	155(124)	55(44)	240(192)
Poor (1)	195(156)	70(56)	320(256)

Crop Nutrition: Correct soil pH of 7 (lime application) and fertiliser application is critical to successful beet crops. Apply a compound fertilizer with boron before sowing and mix into soil. Nitrogen topdressing can be applied at 4-8 leaf stage.

Weed Control: Poor weed control is the most common cause of crop failure. Beet is a poor competitor with weeds. The aim is to keep the crop weed free until at least eight weeks after emergence. Two to three herbicide applications will be required with herbicide choice, rate of application and timing critical.

Pests: Due to the slow development of beet seedlings and the fact the crop is sown to a stand, beet is very prone to pest problems particularly slugs, leatherjackets (seed treatment only control mechanism) and rabbits. Crops need to be inspected regularly in the early stages to determine any action required.

Disease: Ramularia Leafspot and Rust are the main problems and usually occur in the autumn. They can result in severe defoliation which will increase harvesting losses with belt lifting harvesters. Crops to be harvested after Nov 1st should be treated with a fungicide in late July or early August. For crops to be harvested in October, treatment is justified when disease symptoms are seen before August 1st.

Barryroe Beet Varieties Recommendations 2024

Variety	Relative Root DM Yield expected	*Expected root DM%	Root Colour	% Root Over Ground	Soil Tare (1-9, 9=best)	Leaf Score (1-9, 9=best)	Comment	Comments
ALISHA	110	22.5	White	20	3	5	Sugar Beet Highest DM Yield	Top Sugar Beet Variety
LAURENA	105	22.0	White	20	3	7	Resistant to Rhizoctonia root rot	Very High DM yield and Fresh Yield
ENERMAX	100	19.6	White	24	4	8	Very high DM yield and fresh yield	New very high DM variety with excellent leaves at harvest
MAGNUM	95	19.0	White	22	4	7	Long established & popular	Traditional variety with all round good performance
BOLERO	90	17.5	Yellow	42	6	7	Medium DM Consistent yield of clean roots	
JAMON	85	15.1	Orange	46	7	7	Suitable for grazing in-situ	

SHINAGH FARM UPDATE FEBRUARY 2024

Profitable Science Based Farming. (John Mc Namara & Kevin Ahern)

2023 was a difficult year financially as milk price (including all bonuses) was down 12c/litre on 2022 and costs (although less than 2022) were not back the equivalent amount. The transition to having all the farm with 20% clover and using less than 150kg/ha of bag nitrogen is progressing well. We are finding during this transition, while encouraging clover in a paddock by decreasing bag nitrogen there is a reduction in the paddock total yield.

Once the paddock has 20% clover or more it can match the best paddocks getting 200kg/ha of N with only 80kg/ha in spring. This all amounted to about 2t/ha of less dry matter produced in 2023 compared to our usual yield of 14t/DM/ha. Extra silage was bought in to fill that shortfall at a cost to the farm €33,000.

The profit monitor figures for 2023 are given in the table below. Production was up at 463kg of milk solids per cow on 872kg of ration. The cost of ration and fertiliser was down on amount and price. The farm holds onto no Single Farm Payment (it just collects it on behalf of the owners).

There were 242 cows on average in the herd in 2023 and they yielded 5,323 litres at 4.68% Fat and 3.76% Protein and an average SCC of 171,000. Overall farm stocking rate was 2.47 lu/ha and the milking platform was stocked at 2.88 cows per hectare. The organic nitrogen was 224kg N/ ha. The herd is in the middle band for nitrates at 92kgN/ cow.

Shinagh Dairy Farm eProfit Monitor Analysis for 2023:

	Cents/Litre	Comment
Milk Price (c/l)	50.4	4.68% Fat & 3.76% Prt
Gross Output	54.93	Milk + calves + cull cows
Replacement costs	5.11	Contract rearing costs
Concentrate feed	6.80	872kg/ cow
Purchase Forage	2.53	Silage bought on the stem
Fertiliser	3.63	114kg/ha N
Veterinary	1.86	
Breeding & Milk recording	1.71	
Contractor	5.38	All silage, slurry, fertiliser, feeding
Parlour Running Cost	1.21	
Sundry Variable Costs	0.78	
Total Variable Costs	29.01	
Labour	7.98	Total labour incl casual
Land Leases	4.06	All land is leased
Depreciation	3.08	Incl 3 new slatted tanks
Other Fixed Costs	3.88	ESB low as solar & wind turbine
Total Costs	48.01	
Dairy Profit	6.92	



Supermarket



Birds Eye Mini Waffles 456g €4.93 pe



Goodfella's keaway Pizza Range rious See Shelf for Information



Flahavan's Microwave Quick Oats Natural/ Red Berry Sachets 10 Park/8 Park 350g/370g £857/£9 38 r

€2.29

alp alpro ro



Casillero del Diablo





Pringles Snacks Range



Carlsberg/Heineken
0.0% Beer Bottles 4 Pack 4x330ml €4.55 per lt







Fairy Washing Up Liquid Original/





Ristorante Pizza Range







Cully & Sully Chilled Soup Range 400g €5.63 per kg



Heinz Beanz 4 Pack 4x415g €2.71 per kg





SPAR Pasta Range

Doritos
Tortilla Chips Range

Birds Eye Omega 3 Fish Fingers 10 Pack 280g €12.50 per kg



SPAR Nº1





Fairy Non Bio Pods for Sensitive Skin



Easy Cook... Baby New Potatoes €173 per kg



Fresh Choice York Cabbage See Shelf for Information Carrots Bag 750g €1.19 per kg



Kellogg's Cornflakes/ Crunchy Nut Honey & Nut Flakes/ Special K





Pampers Sensitive/Fresh Clean Baby Wipes





Mi Wadi Squash Range 1lt €2.09 per lt



Prices correct at the time of going to print. Offers available from 21st March to 10th April 2024, unless otherwise stated.

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Customer quotas may apply. All savings shown are versus recommended retail price.