

Teagasc – Agricultural Development Authority

Summary of Sustainable Measures - January 2012

Teagasc through its Agricultural Research, Education, and Farm Advisory programmes generates and imparts knowledge to the farming industry, that enshrines sustainable measures.

The four Goals of the Organisation which guides all aspects of its operations reflect sustainable measures. These Goals are:

- **Goal 1** - Improve the Competitiveness of Agr, Food, and the wider bio-economy.
- **Goal 2** - Support sustainable Farming & Improve the Environment
- **Goal 3** – Encourage Diversification of the Rural Economy & improve the Quality of Life in Rural Areas.
- **Goal 4** – Deliver Value for Money through High Standards of Accountability and Governance.

These Goals are delivered through activities that are targeted at the areas that give the industry a competitive advantage in sustainability i.e:

1. Animal Production – improving quality, performance, and profit
2. Grass & Clover Utilisation – sustaining animal performance, animal & crop organic waste nutrient recycling. Reducing chemical fertilizer use, and the carbon foot print of food production.
3. Forestry – improving quality, performance, biomass, and profit.
4. Environment- improving water quality, biodiversity enhancement, green house gas abatement, country side appearance.
5. Farming support schemes – streamlining applications and ensuring maximum inflow of farm income supports.
6. Training – offering courses that are a requirement to support sustainable farming activities – basic knowledge, scheme requirements, land transfer.
7. Rural Development – supporting and co-operating where possible with other rural development agencies for the development of Organic Farming, Food Markets, Agri- Tourism, Sport Horse Production, Alternative farming systems, Commercial and Amenity Horticulture etc.

Teagasc is actively pursuing a reduction in fossil fuel dependency at its major centres with the installation of wood chip heating boilers, powered by timber and plant material grown on it's own land.

In its smaller offices throughout the country there is a policy as the need arises to change local heating systems to more efficient boilers and where possible wood burning boilers.

All Teagasc buildings are being upgraded with extra building insulation and other heat saving measures are installed.

More efficient lighting systems are being installed to reduce electricity use. The practice of using phone and video conferencing to communicate with staff around the country, and save travelling long distances to meetings, is occurring.