

# Shinagh Dairy Farm

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# Shinagh Dairy Farm

- 242 cows milked on average in 2023
- 463 kg of milk solids produced per cow
- 102 ha farmed (including leased land)
- 224 kg/ha organic nitrogen (2.5 cows / hectare)
- Band 2 in Nitrates (92kg organic nitrogen / cow)



# Calving & Breeding

- €257 herd EBI
- 90% six week calving
- 21 Feb median calving date
- 362 day calving interval
- 98% three week submission rate
- 9.2 % not in calf



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# Grass & Fertiliser

- **12.15 tonnes of grass drymatter grown per hectare**
- **114 kg / ha of artificial Nitrogen used**
- **20 kg / ha of bag Phosphorus used**
- **62 kg / ha of bag Potassium used**



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# Soil Fertility

- **97% of the farm is at optimum pH (>6.3)**
- **70% of the farm is Index 3 or greater for P**
- **80% of the farm is Index 3 or greater for K**
- **60% of the farm has optimum pH, P, K**



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# Reducing Chemical Nitrogen

- Reduction from 247kg/ha to 114kg/ha in 2023
- Grass 13.4 t/dm/ha down to 12.2 t/dm/ha
- Reduced growth on transition to increased clover
- High Clover paddocks getting no chemical N  
matching low / no clover paddocks getting 200kg/N



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# White Clover

- **Gradually built confidence in what clover can do**
- **Used both top-seeding and reseeding**
- **Top seeding V Reseeding**
- **60% of the farm now has at least 20% clover**
- **Risk Factors**



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# Clover & Multispecies

Clover Content	Chemical N (kg/ha)	Grass Grown (kg DM/ha)
High Clover 0 nitrogen	0	12.44
High Clover- 1 Spring N application	21 kg in Spring only	11.00
High Clover – 2 Spring N applications	62 kg in Spring only	11.76
Low to Medium Clover	182 kg of Nitrogen	12.55

**Conclusion:** High clover swards can match High bag nitrogen swards in grass grown



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# Red Clover

- Hybrid grass / Red clover mix set in Sept 2021
- Outside silage ground
- It has been grazed in autumn
- Gets no chemical nitrogen
- P & K requirements met with slurry and chemical



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# Reducing Emissions

- **97% of chemical nitrogen is PU**
- **All slurry is spread using LESS**
- **Contractor use of GPS for fertiliser**
- **Slurry: 9N:5P:35K**



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# Spring Fertiliser Plan

- Watch soil temperature before Feb spread
- Watch forecast for low rainfall window
- Feb: - 40% of farm will get 5,000 gals slurry / ha
- As paddocks are grazed they get 5,000gals slurry
- High grass covers get 25kg PU / ha
- March: 50kg/ha on ground that has got no bag N



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# Financial Performance

	2023
<b>Average Cows</b>	<b>242</b>
<b>Litres / cow</b>	<b>5264</b>
<b>MS kg /cow</b>	<b>463</b>
<b>Meal / cow (kg)</b>	<b>872</b>
<b>Milk Price / litre (cents)</b>	<b>50.00</b>
<b>Meal (cents / litre)</b>	<b>6.80</b>
<b>Fertilizer ( cents/ litre)</b>	<b>3.20</b>
<b>Total costs ( cents / litre)</b>	<b>48.01</b>
<b>Net Cash Flow</b>	<b>6.92</b>

