

Crop Nutrition Club West Ireland



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OPTIMISING CROP NUTRITION

Region: County Kilkenny

Members: 8 farms (61-122ha)

Crops: Barley, wheat, osr, beans and oats

Livestock: Dairy cattle, beef and sheep

Nutrient Management Challenges:

- Compared to the other CNCs the Kilkenny member's farms are significantly smaller. They consider that many of the tools and technologies on the market will not give them a significant enough return on investment. Therefore, they are not as open to trying new technologies and often do not have the infrastructure of equipment necessary to do so in the first place.
- Another challenge is the fact that there is not enough education available on using rtk systems such as auto-steer, gps and variable rate meaning some are apprehensive about making the jump and purchasing this equipment.
- Again like the east CNC the growers in the west have struggled to get spring crops sown on time and they too have opted to put all of their nitrogen fertiliser in the seedbed rather than a 2 split programme. This is riskier as the potential for leaching and therefore loss of nutrients is higher.
- A number of growers in this club are also livestock farmers meaning the time and commitment they have to concentrate on achieving the most from their crops is lacking.



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