



# SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PAYMENT

Actions to enhance the economic and environmental sustainability of our network of family farms



Scan the QR code to find out how to submit your sustainable actions on Tirlán FarmLife

**0.5 CENT  
PER LITRE PAYMENT**  
**TAKE ACTION  
TODAY**

Declare your actions on



**Tirlán**  
FarmLife

Tirlán has a Sustainability Action Payment available for all our milk suppliers, to enhance on-farm economic and environmental performance.

Tirlán operates a world-class food supply chain with a strong focus on quality and sustainability. The programme is designed to assist dairy suppliers in reducing the carbon footprint, enhancing water quality and biodiversity and improving air quality and soil health of farms in line with Tirlán's sustainability strategy, Living Proof.

As part of this initiative, dairy suppliers will receive 0.5 cent per litre (cpl) (including VAT) through delivering specific sustainability actions.

The measures are closely aligned with the climate action measures identified in Teagasc's emissions reduction Marginal Abatement Cost Curve (MACC) climate plan.



### CARBON REDUCTION

- Measuring grass growth
- Incorporating clover\*
- Multi-species swards\*
  - Milk recording
  - Improve herd EBI
- FarmGen solar energy\*
- Use of sexed semen
  - Genotyping



### AIR QUALITY

- LESS equipment
- Protected urea\*
- Low Protein Concentrate Feed\*



### BIODIVERSITY

- Native trees\*
- Hedgerows\*



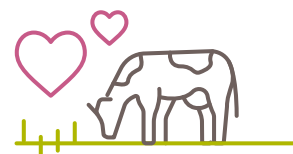
### SOIL HEALTH

- Nutrient management plan



### WATER PROTECTION

- Water quality improvement plan
- Water protection measures
- Water Quality EIP



### ANIMAL HEALTH

- SCC improvement
- Herd Disease Screening\*
- Twenty20 Beef Club

\*Delivery of the actions will be verified by purchase of relevant product/service from Tirlán.

***"Irish farmers are renowned for producing high quality dairy products with world leading natural credentials. Our farmers are proud of their family farms and want to protect them for the next generation."***

***"We all have a role to play in climate action, water and biodiversity protection and air quality enhancement. It is important that our family farms are assisted as they continue to enhance the economic and environmental sustainability of their farms."***

***"This initiative is designed to reward suppliers for adopting a series of measures identified as key to delivering on our comprehensive sustainability strategy, Living Proof. The implementation of many of these actions will improve farm economic performance."***

Tirlán Chairman John Murphy

*"I've a strong focus on sustainability on our farm. Through a series of actions on our farm and as part of the Future Farms and Signpost farm programme, I'm aiming to reduce my carbon footprint to 0.80 kgCO<sub>2</sub>e per kg FPCM (Fat and Protein Corrected Milk). I want to continue to improve the land and leave it in an even better place for the next generation."*

Signpost Living Proof Future Farmer Steven Fitzgerald



Tirlán Co-op Chairman John Murphy and Tirlán/Teagasc Signpost Living Proof Future Farmer Steven Fitzgerald on his family farm at AGLISH, Cappoquin, Waterford

## KEY MEASURES

The 0.5 cpl Sustainability Action Payment will be made to all suppliers that deliver any seven sustainability actions from a total of 20 options.

To qualify for the 2025 payment, suppliers need to implement their chosen on-farm sustainability actions in 2024.

If a supplier achieves only a proportion of the seven options, they will receive the relevant percentage of the 0.5 cpl payment on a pro rata basis.

### NEW IN 2024

Purchase of protected urea (option 7) now represents two actions. Participation in a Genotyping Programme (option 19) and Water Quality EIP Programme (option 20) are two new measures. These changes are introduced to further support suppliers address key water quality and emissions reductions challenges.

Dairy suppliers will be required to select from a series of options, which includes measures aimed at:

- Reducing carbon emissions by utilising multi-species swards and clover; measuring grass growth, improving the herd Economic Breeding Index (EBI) to deliver lower GHG emissions; milk recording; genotyping; opting for FarmGen renewable energy generation and use of sexed semen;
- Improving air quality through use of Low Emissions Slurry Spreading (LESS) equipment; utilising Low Protein Concentrate Feed and the use of Protected Urea;
- Supporting biodiversity by planting additional native trees and increasing hedgerows;
- Protecting soil health and water quality through nutrient management planning; delivering ASSAP water quality improvement plans; Participation in the Water Quality EIP and water protection measures;
- Supporting animal health and welfare by herd disease screening; improving udder health and participating in the innovative Twenty20 Beef Club;

Over the duration of this initiative the list of 'options' may be extended to provide an increased range of choices for milk suppliers.



# SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PAYMENT

**0.5 CENT  
PER LITRE PAYMENT**  
**TAKE ACTION  
TODAY**

Suppliers need to action **seven options** to continue to receive full payment from January 2025.

Sustainability Option	On-Farm Action	Requirement	When Action to be Taken
1. Measuring Grass Growth	Grass cover measurement & uploaded to PastureBase Ireland or equivalent	Minimum of 10 covers uploaded/year	2024
2. Clover incorporation	Clover seed purchased in 2022 – 2024 from Tirlán	Minimum purchase of 5 Kg	2022 – 2024
3. Multi-species swards	MSS seed purchased in 2022 – 2024 from Tirlán	Minimum purchase of seed required for sowing 2 acres (24 Kg)	2022 – 2024
4. Milk recording	Engage in milk recording for the herd	Minimum of four recordings/year	2024
5. Improve Herd EBI	EBI of the herd is improved vs previous year	Improvement of €1 or greater required	2024 vs 2023
6. Low Emissions Slurry Spreading	Spread Slurry using Low Emissions Equipment	Some or all slurry spread by LESS	2024
7. Purchase of Protected Urea	Purchase of protected urea fertiliser from Tirlán	1.5 tonne purchased per 100,000 litres of milk supplied in 2024	2024
8. Native trees	Additional native trees on the farm via Tirlán	Minimum 20 trees purchased	2024
9. Hedgerows	Additional hedgerows on the farm via Tirlán	Minimum 100 hedging plants purchased	2024
10. Nutrient Management Planning	Soil Nutrient Management Plan in place	NMP in place for 2024	2022 – 2024
11. ASSAP water quality planning	ASSAP water quality plan completed where farm is in EPA water quality Priority Area for Action (PAA)	Where required, to be completed in 2024 or before	2024 or before
12. Fencing off watercourses	At least one field/paddock with drain, river or stream watercourse permanently fenced off	Completed during 2022 – 2024 & outlined on a farm map	2022 – 2024
13. Renewable energy generation	Renewable energy generation system installed & operational – solar PV, solar thermal or wind	System in place in 2024, including previous installations. Solar PV installations from 2022 to be FarmGen	Installed in 2024 or before
14. Herd Disease Screening	Participating in Tirlán bulk tank disease screening service	Three or more tests/year for minimum of six diseases	2024
15. Twenty20 Beef Club	Participant in Tirlán Twenty20 Beef Club	Calf supplier or rearer as part of Twenty20 Beef Club	2024
16. Udder Health	Management of mastitis in the herd through 2024 delivers a low or improved herd SCC	2024 average SCC for the herd is lower than 2023 OR average herd SCC for 2024 is less than 150,000 cells/ml	2024 vs 2023
17. Low Protein Concentrate Feed	Purchase of low protein dairy feed, (max 15% crude protein) from 1st April to 30th September, from Tirlán	Four tonnes purchased per 100,000 litres of milk supplied in 2024	2024
18. Use of sexed semen	Use of sexed semen inseminations in the dairy cows and/or replacements	Receipts for sexed semen purchases or ICBF breeding data records	2024
19. Genotyping	Genotype the breeding dairy stock on the farm	Participate in the National Genotyping Programme and/or genotype all replacement Heifers through the ICBF Genomic Service	2024 or before
20. Water Quality EIP	Participate in Water Quality Improvement EIP operated by LawPro, Teagasc and DII	Plan submitted to Water Quality EIP in 2024	2024

## Next Steps: Sustainability Action Payment 2025 – Take Action Now

As per the table above, 2024 is the reference year for many of the 20 sustainability actions. Therefore it is important to decide on which seven actions, at a minimum, you are going to implement this year. Delivery on these will ensure receipt of the full Sustainability Action Payment in 2025.

### How to declare your Sustainability Actions

1. Log on to your “My Account” on [www.tirlanfarmlife.com](http://www.tirlanfarmlife.com)
2. Click on “Sustainability Action Payment” tab in the “My Farm” section. Here you will see all 20 Sustainability Actions
3. Select all actions which you have completed by ticking the box to the right of each action.



**OPTION 7  
PROTECTED  
UREA.**  
Declaration of  
this action now  
represents **two**  
actions.