

"Resource Efficiency in Practice - Closing Mineral Cycles"





Presentation Overview

- ✓ Comments on Report
- ✓ Background
- ✓ Collaborative & voluntary
- ✓ Objectives
- ✓ Whole farm approach
- ✓ Resource Efficiency Assessments (REA'S) / Cost Saving Studies
- ✓ Plans for 2014



Comments on Report

- ✓ No Substantial Reference to Existing KT Measures
- ✓ No engagement with key stakeholders
- ✓ Conclusion
 - ✓ Report - incomplete



Knowledge Transfer (KT) Measures

- ✓ **Beef Technology Adoption Programme**
 - ✓ Initiative to encourage cattle farmers to adopt new technologies to improve their enterprise.
- ✓ **Beef Data Programme**
 - ✓ Assists farmers in improving the genetic quality of their livestock
- ✓ **Sheep Technology Adoption Programme**
 - ✓ Designed to improve technology transfer on sheep farms.



Knowledge Transfer (KT) Measures

✓ Carbon Navigator

- ✓ Developed by Teagasc and Bord Bia as a management tool which allows farmers to set improvement targets in key management areas and see the results for their enterprise in terms of environmental and economic performance.

✓ Teagasc BETTER Farm Programme

- ✓ Transfer usable knowledge from research to practicing farmers Assists farmers in improving the genetic quality of their livestock

Smart Farming Origin

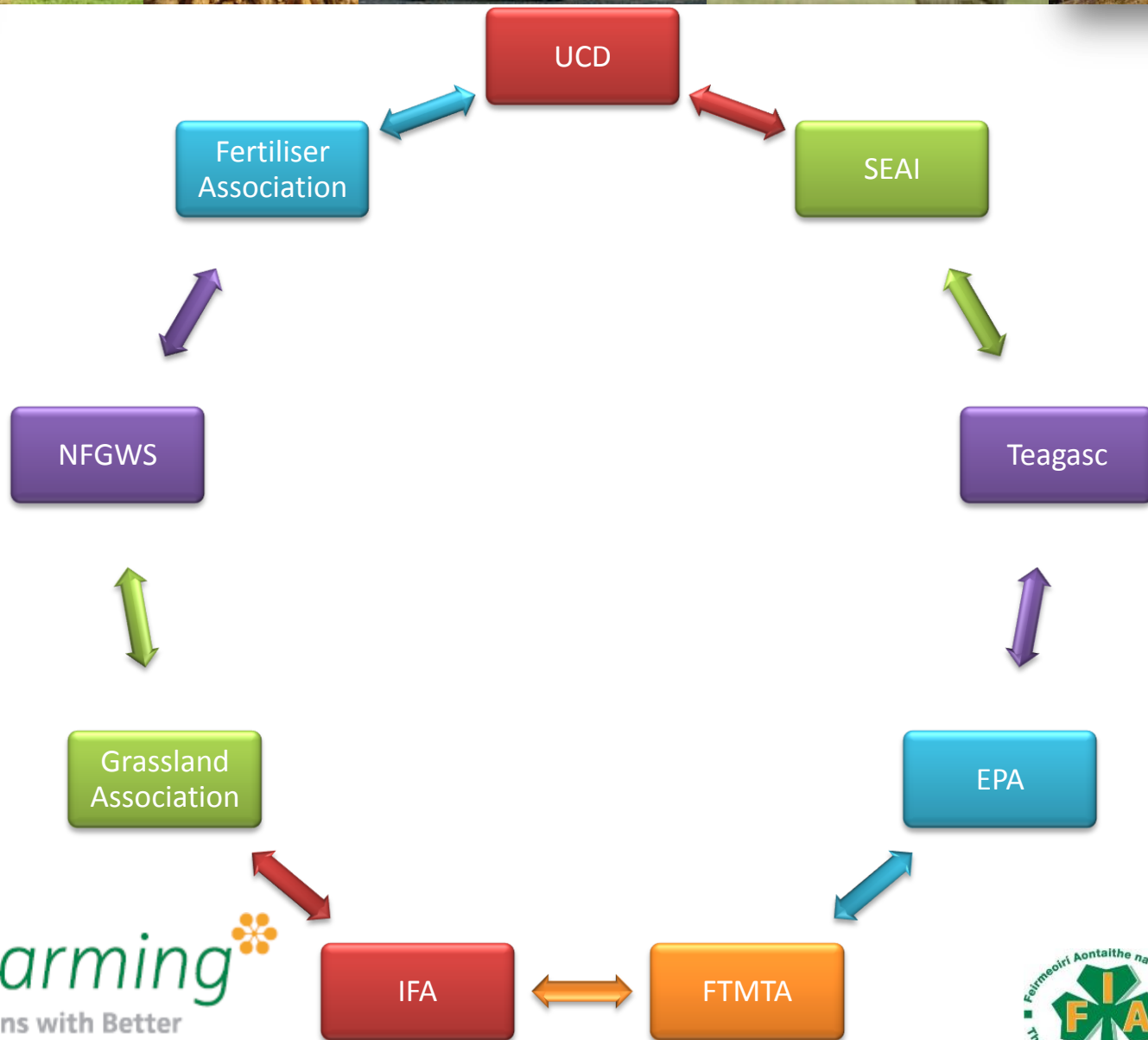


- Gap identified in Resource Efficiency Programme
- Increasing Agri-Environmental Obligations
- Irish Agriculture for 2013
 - Value of Outputs = €7.1 billion
 - Cost of inputs = €5.5 billion
- Even an increase of 1% in resource efficiency on-farm potential savings of €55 million

Background



- *Smart Farming* Initiative - collaborative & voluntary
- Collaboration
 - Using existing knowledge and expertise
 - Improve farm returns and deliver environmental benefits
 - Through better resource management
- Implementing Partner
 - Irish Farmers' Association





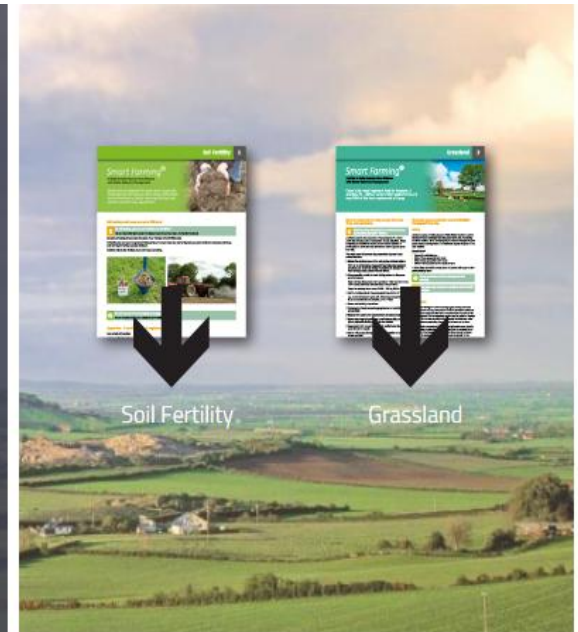
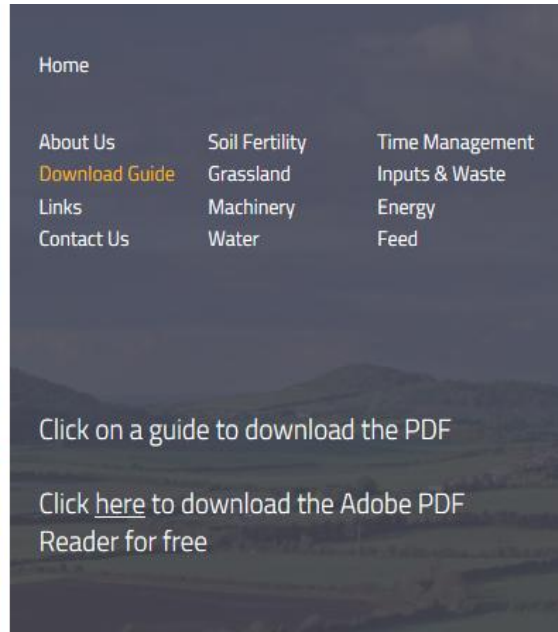
Whole farm approach

- Top tips on how to save money and maximise outputs
 - i.e., doing the simple things better





Smart Farming Guide



Dissemination & Implementation



- Smart Farming Guide
- www.smartfarming.ie
- IFA has 87,000 members and network of 947 branches
- Smart Phone App and IFA Farm Directory
www.ifarm.ie
- National Conference – 6th November
- Farmers Journal 12 page supplement – readership 100,000





Example of a CSS

Focus Area	Action	Economic Return	Environmental Dividend
Soil Fertility	Apply Lime 2.5 ton/ac – 60% of the farm <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Low soil pH• Cost €4,500	Release equivalent of 2 bags of CAN per acre Save 9 ton of CAN per year = €2,610 Payback period = 2 years	More efficient use of nutrients Reduced Risk of Run-off



Example of a CSS

Focus Area	Action	Economic Return	Environmental Dividend
Water	Invest €7750 in water <ul style="list-style-type: none">20 troughs @ €2001500m pipe @ €2.5	Cows currently yield 5500 L +10% yield @ €0.1/L profit = €4,400 Benefits in less than 2 years	Increased output/unit of production Increased Resource Efficiency
Feed	Measured the amount of feed that was being delivered to the cows	Saving by feeder adjustment €3300	Improved feed efficiency Reduced GHG emissions



Activities in 2014

- 30 on-farm CSS
- Across all farm types
- Farmers informing farmers
- Findings of case studies uploaded to web and app
- National seminar – Nov 6th



Resource Efficiency –the double dividend!

An Alternative Approach to Environmental Protection



Acknowledgement



THE SMART FARMING TEAM

The people below have prepared this guide to help improve farm returns and reduce farm bills.

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Stan Lalor is a research officer with Teagasc working in the crops environment and land use programme at Johnstown Castle, Co Wexford.

He is president of the Fertilizer Association of Ireland.

Tommy Boland, University College Dublin

Tommy Boland is a lecturer and researcher in ruminant nutrition and sheep production at University College Dublin. From a mixed

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Harold chairs the *Smart Farming* working group. He is a dairy farmer from Summerhill, Courtmacsherry, Co Cork, where he operates a milk production partnership with two neighbours. They supply the Barryroe Co-op.

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Thomas is the programme manager for the Smart Farming initiative. He is executive to the

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Gary is chief executive of the Farm Tractor and Machinery Trade Association, which this year celebrated its 100th year in business.

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Jim is the national training manager with FRS training. He is a qualified farm manager and has experience in providing training courses.



Thank you

www.smartfarming.ie and www.ifarm.ie