

PROGRESS UPDATE 2019

Moving ahead



Smart Farming...is a great example of the type of co-ordinated action that will help the sector meet its environmental obligations

An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar T.D.



Smart Farming being selected as a Sustainable Development Goals Champion is a great achievement for all the farmers who volunteer to take part

Joe Healy, IFA President



Participants demonstrate how day to day actions can deliver environmental benefits and resource efficiency; and also share their learnings with neighbouring farmers

Laura Burke, EPA Director General



IFA AGM



"Smart Farming...is a great example of the type of co-ordinated action that will help the sector meet its environmental obligations".
An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar T.D.

Launch of 2019 Programme



"The Smart Farming programme is a great example of how agriculture can take the lead on sustainability."
Richard Bruton T.D.,
Minister for Communications,
Climate Action and
Environment.

Updated Water Guidance



"Smart Farming plays an important role in addressing water conservation and water quality in the farming sector."
Mary Frances Rochford,
EPA Programme
Manager.

JANUARY

Farmers need to think about the health benefits of the food they produce when communicating with consumers.
Dr. Paddy Wall,
Professor of Public Health, UCD.

Spring Seminar



APRIL

"I am delighted for the hundreds of farm families who have participated in the Smart Farming programme that their hard work is recognised at the RDS Spring Awards."
Thomas Cooney,
Smart Farming
Programme Leader.

Talamh Agri-Innovation award at RDS Spring Awards



MAY TO AUGUST

Smart Farming cost saving studies completed on farms across the country

2019 in Review

Sustainable Development Goals Champion 2019-2020

Energy in Agriculture

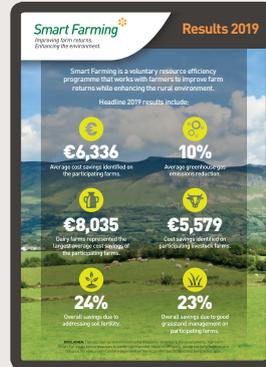


"Smart Farming is doing important work in supporting the uptake of renewable energy, to reduce agriculture's environmental impact."
Sean Kelly, MEP.



"The EPA in partnership with the IFA will use the role of SDG Champion to clearly link Smart Farming activities to the Sustainable Development Goals – including Climate Action & Life on Land."
Laura Burke, EPA Director General.

2019 Programme results



Farmers who took the Smart Farming challenge in 2019 identified ways to reduce average costs by over €6,300 and their climate impact by 10%.

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2020

"I would like to congratulate the IFA and the EPA on developing this Programme...because we need pioneers now to help us address the huge challenge of climate change."
Richard Bruton T.D.,
Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment.

"Smart Farming provided a fresh pair of eyes on my farm, focused on reducing farm bills, using resources better and improving the local environment."
Andrew McHugh,
Smart Farming farmer.

Summer Farm Walk in Kilkenny



Agricultural Science Association Annual Conference



Smart Farming is a voluntary resource efficiency programme that works with farmers to improve farm returns while enhancing the rural environment.

Headline 2019 results include:



€6,336

Average cost savings identified on the participating farms.



10%

Average greenhouse gas emissions reduction.



€8,035

Dairy farms represented the largest average cost savings of the participating farms.



€5,579

Cost savings identified on participating livestock farms.



24%

Overall savings due to addressing soil fertility.



23%

Overall savings due to good grassland management on participating farms.

DISCLAIMER: The cost savings and environmental measures identified in the assessments represent Smart Farming's best endeavours to improve resource efficiency and farm incomes, as well as enhance the environment, and are dependent on the recommendations being acted upon

Your Award. Your Work.

Smart Farming won the inaugural Talamh Agri-Innovation sustainability award in April at the RDS Spring Awards, which was accepted by the IFA and EPA.

This award recognises the voluntary efforts of so many farmers across the country, who openly share their Smart Farming learnings with their neighbours. Their ambition is to reduce farm costs and enhance the rural environment.

Thank you.



In September, Richard Bruton, Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment selected Smart Farming as a Sustainable Development Goals Champion for 2019 and 2020.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) promote prosperity while protecting the planet. Have a look at the SDGs here to see how Smart Farming is making a difference.



Míle Buíochas

Smart Farming is made possible because of the collaborative willingness of some of Ireland's leading agricultural and environmental experts working with farmers to make a difference. Here are some of the organisations that participated in Smart Farming seminars and farm talks, completed cost saving studies or provided technical assistance during the year.



SAVE €5,000

Reduce climate impact by 5-7%



What's required?

-  Details of your energy, fuel, water and feed use for the last 12 months.
-  Results of recent soil samples, silage and water quality tests and nutrient management plans.
-  The willingness to share good Smart Farming ideas with your neighbours, discussion group, purchasing group or IFA branch.

Gillian and Neil O'Sullivan from Dungarvan took the *Smart Farming* challenge. They identified over **€5,500** in cost savings and ways to reduce their climate impact by **16%**.