



FARMING *for* WATER

Water European Innovation Partnership - AGRI

Farming for Water - Project Overview

Border Regional Water and Environment Management Committee Meeting

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July 10, 2024.



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



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the European Union



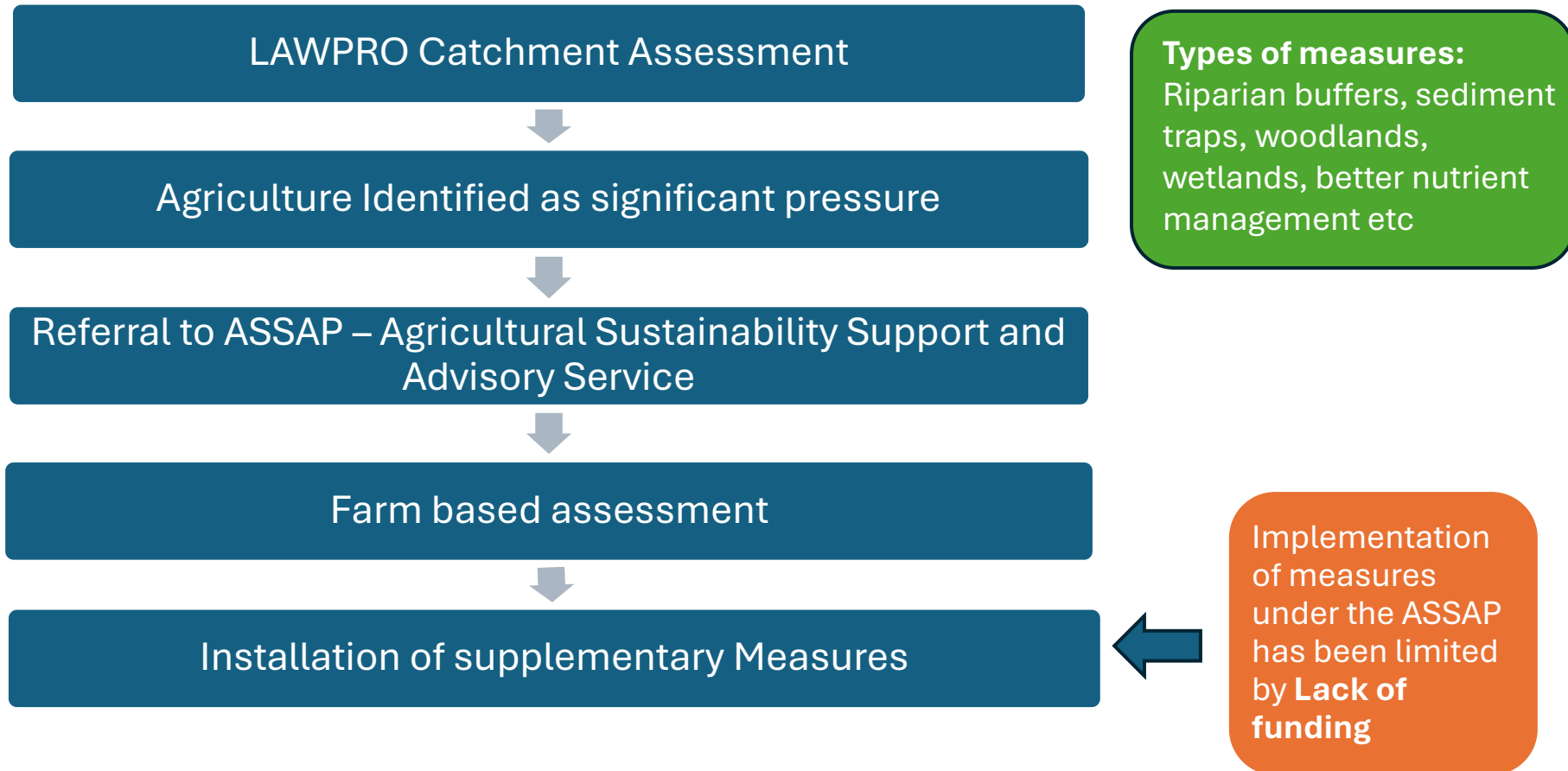
Local Authority
Waters
Programme



Dairy
Industry
Ireland



Background



What is the Farming for Water EIP?

- Managed by LAWPRO in partnership with Teagasc and Dairy Industry Ireland (*and supporting partners*)
- **€60** million Agri-environmental scheme for farmers, spanning a five-year period (2023 – 2027).
- Launched on 7th March 2024
- Focus on water quality measures in targeted areas (mostly nature-based with co-benefits)
- Aims to engage 15,000 farmers



FARMING
for **WATER**
Water European Innovation Partnership - AGRI

FIVE-YEAR PROJECT FROM 2023-2027

€60 MILLION INNOVATIVE LOCALLY-LED AGRI-ENVIRONMENTAL EIP TO PROTECT WATER

HOW TO SIGN UP
Farmers will be invited to participate by appointed farm advisors or agents targeting areas needing most attention to protect water quality.

THE MEASURES
These are voluntary measures that go over and above regulatory requirements, such as spatially targeted actions and improvements in nitrogen use efficiencies.

WATER QUALITY
Good water quality provides many benefits for everyone. These include clean drinking water for people and livestock, tourism and recreation, wildlife and a wide range of industries and sectors. Clean water is necessary to support vibrant local economies and healthy communities.

Eligibility Criteria

Restore

- **Tier 1** - Farms in cycle 2 or cycle 3 PAAs which have been assessed by ASSAP

Restore

- **Tier 2** - Farms in cycle 3 PAA or within a catchment with a community led water quality initiative, as well as areas prioritised by the EPA/LA which were identified as having a nutrient/sediment/pesticide issue

Protect

- **Tier 3** - Farms in cycle 3 PAA or within a catchment with a community led water quality initiative, in catchments not identified as having a nutrient/sediment/pesticide issue, not prioritised by the EPA

Other

- **Tier 4** – All other farms not included above

Pilot 1

- Oct/Nov 2023
- Engaged 47 farmers to test process
- Dairy, Tillage, Hill Farming (OWENTESKINY_010) and Dry Stock
- Feedback from advisors and farmers

Payments for Pilot	
Applications	13
Payment Range	€500 to €9,804
Average payment	€4,173
Average payment less annual	€3,883
Annual payments	9 (69% of applications)
Annual payment Range	€100 to €1,500
Average annual payment	€290



Kerry Pilot

- Work is progressing on farmer engagements in the Castleisland area of Kerry in the Maine and Fahaduff catchments.
- Kerry advisors have engaged 45 – 50 farmers who will submit applications.
- Kevin O’Sullivan of Teagasc is carrying out ASSAP assessments on non-dairy farms in the area.
- Water and biological sampling was carried out to establish a baseline.
- Collaborating with the Teagasc Heavy Soils programme
- Willow bed measure being designed and installed which will be monitored by the Heavy Soils programme.
- Exploring a tillage pilot at present.



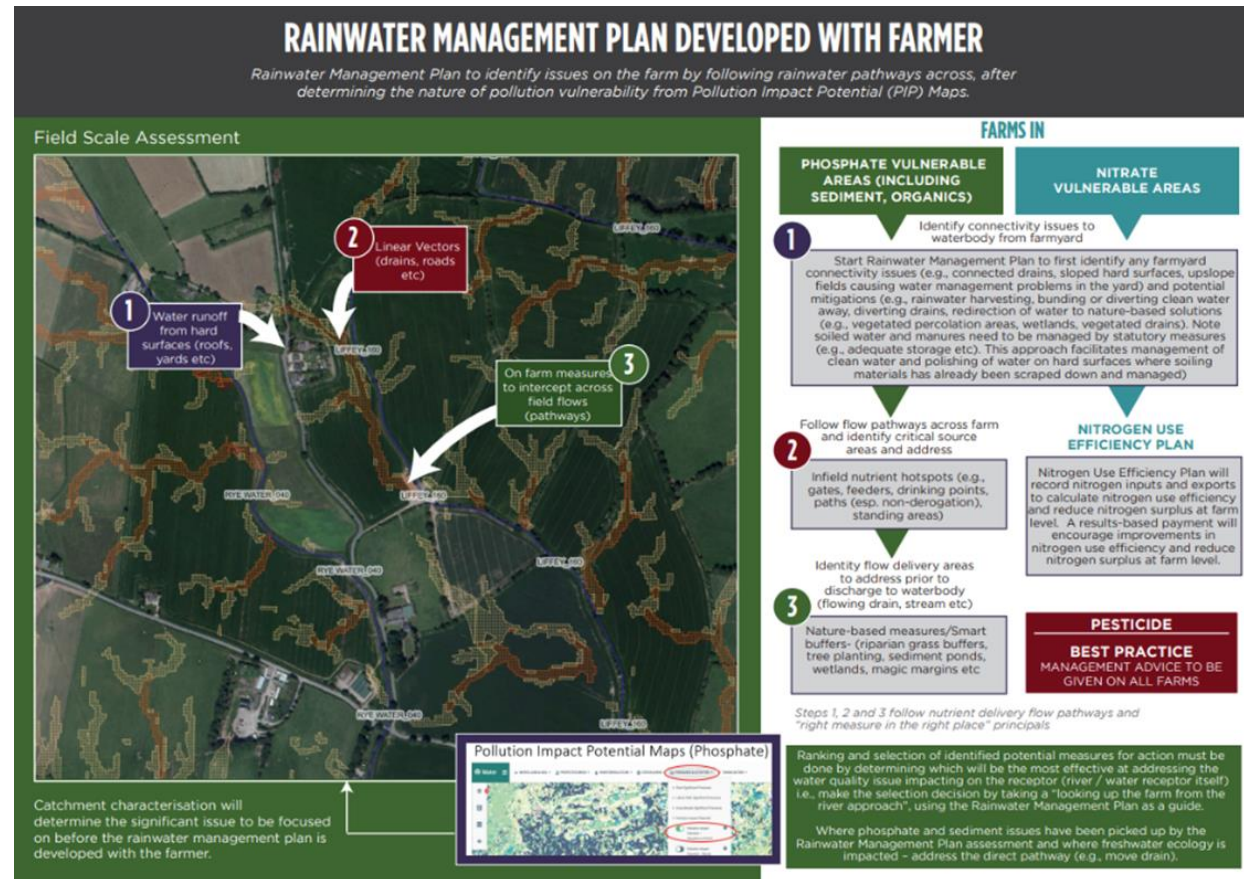
Project Launch

- Held on the shores of Lough Ennell on March 7th
- Farm of David & Róisín Fay
- This project was jointly launched by Minister McConalogue, Minister Noonan and Senator Hackett.



Measures

- Applications start with the Rainwater Management Plan
- Showing where water moves through farmyards and fields,
- Measures selected based on both the PIP maps and the actual scenario on the farm
- Input of the farmer is crucial to include local knowledge of the land and conditions
- A collaborative approach to installing the right measure in the right place



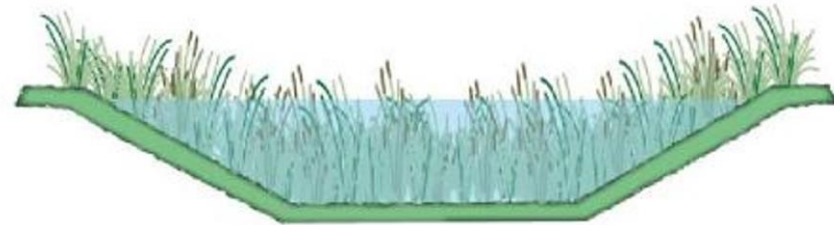
Source Control Measures

- Rainwater management plan
- Farmer Training Courses
- Nutrient management plans
- Nitrogen Use Efficiency plans
- Catch/Cover crops
- Multi species sward
- Low Drift Nozzles
- Mobile Drip trays
- Decommissioning of sheep dips



Pathway Interceptor Measures

- Hedgerow establishment on low earthen mounds
- Riparian buffer zones
- Tree Planting in buffer zones
- Wetland ponds
- Earthen bunds
- Swales
- Management of critical source areas
- Water course crossings
- Gateway improvements
- Willow beds



Receptor Measures

- Bovine and ovine exclusion from watercourses
- Solar Power Electric Fence
- Alternative water supplies
- Water Troughs
- Bunded drains

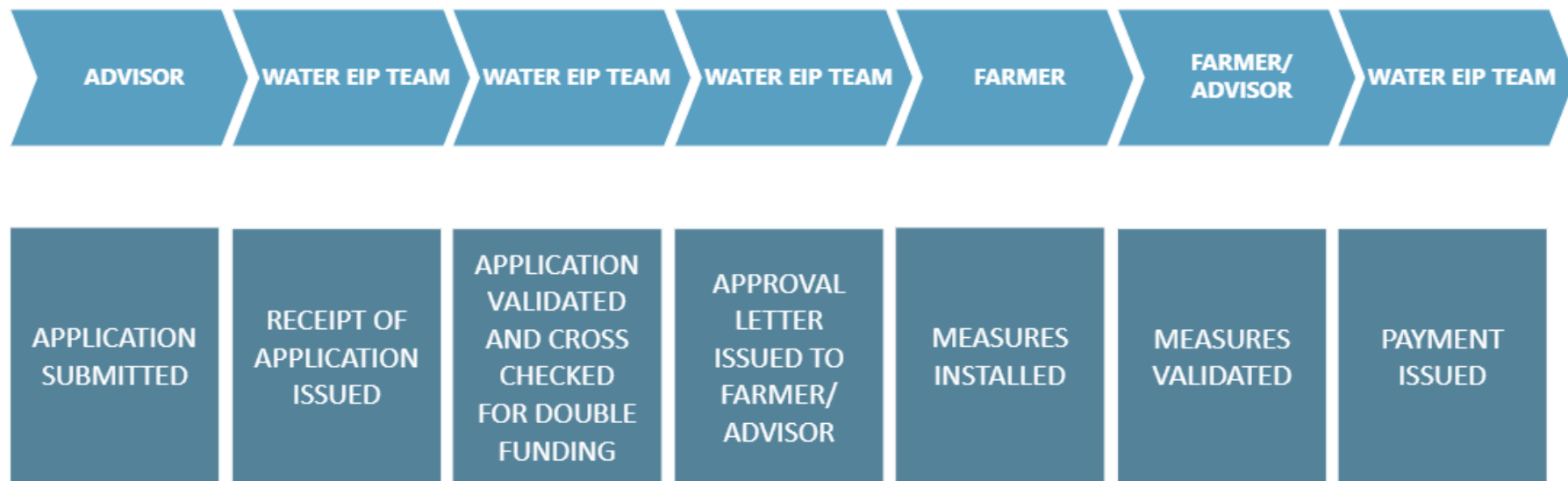
We also have a
bespoke measures
option.



Progress Highlights

- **Governance** - Project Governance established and KPIs developed
- **Recruitment** – 16 of 19 roles in place or transitioning from the existing LAWPRO team.
- **Barbara Olwill CS with LAWPRO has joined the team on the 4th June 2024 and will be keeping an eye on the border applications**
- **Measures** - Suite of measures developed for the various pressures
- **Testing** – Testing of the application and payment process through a number of pilots
- **Training** - Multiple workshops and training sessions with project team and ASSAP advisors
- **Consultation** - Consultation with Farm Orgs through the Farming Consultative Group for the ASSAP programme
- **Alignment** - Working with Dairy Co-operative Sustainability Leads to ensure alignment with Sustainability Bonus Schemes
- **Applications** - Project open for applications and first payments have been made

Application Process



NOTE: Any measures installed before an Approval letter is issued to the farmer are installed at his/her own risk.

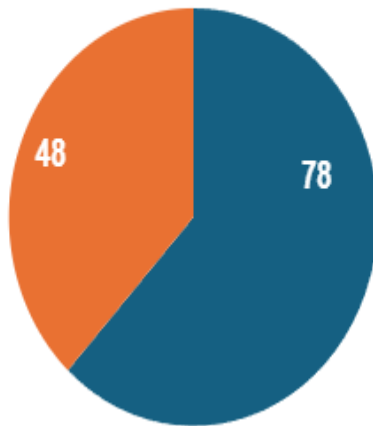
We will be taking in applications from Local Authorities in Phase 2 of the project, using Meath Co. Co. as our pilot to work through the process.

Key Performance Indicators

126 applications in so far

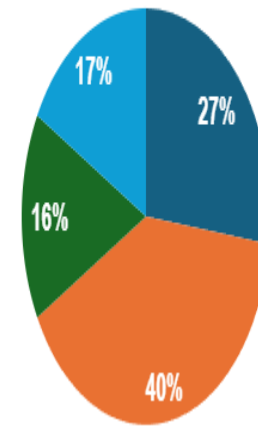
ADVISOR BREAKDOWN

■ Teagasc Advisors ■ Dairy Advisors



SECTOR BREAKDOWN

■ Beef ■ Dairy ■ Mixed ■ Tillage



Project Validation - Research Hub

- UCD, UCC, ATU, Trinity, James Hutton Institute UK, Teagasc Research, Teagasc ACP & others
- Research projects being developed to aid validation of the measures being tested as part of the Farming for Water EIP
- Internal monitoring and testing will be designed to bridge gaps in validation where necessary

WATER EIP RESEARCH HUB

Facilitating research through an applied integrated catchment management approach, from farm to catchment scale, to protect and restore water quality, centred on a national Agri-environment EIP project with a focus on multiple benefits



BACKGROUND

The Water EIP is the largest European Innovation Partnership ever undertaken in the Irish Republic.

This five year 40 million project aims to bring about improvements in water quality with co-benefits for climate change and biodiversity. 30 million will go in direct payments to farmers for measures delivered following approaches outlined below (e.g. ASSAP), Catchment Science, ACP, Teagasc Research, LAWPRO local catchment assessments, EIPs and other initiatives) with the Agriculture sector under the 2nd tier Rural Management Plan.

NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

The project will adopt innovative practice to nutrient management, the application of nature-based Nature Water Retention Measures (NWRMs) and other measures at farm level following the principles of Integrated Catchment Management. Innovative approaches include the production of Rainwater Management Plans for farms in urban vulnerable areas.

Measures are being designed and implemented, in collaboration with farmers, and will be targeted specifically to address local challenges. Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage together with our project partners are fully engaged in the delivery of this project to ensure savings in future policy.

WHAT IS WATER EIP?

The development of innovative solutions to address major European & global water challenges.

European Innovation Partnership Agriculture (EIP-AGRI) projects are locally led projects which are collaborative in nature, leading to new effective sector measures, such as water, in an innovative way.

THE RESEARCH HUB

The aim is to establish a research community focusing on the EIP project. This community of researchers will leverage the opportunity provided by the project to facilitate high quality practical scientific research.

The research hub will also advise on project evaluation, research findings and practices which may be adopted within the EIP.



Farmers receiving water with high biodiversity value
Courtesy of AGI Dublin



Riparian margin rich in biodiversity
Courtesy of LA06010



Weather sharing water during high rainfall events in a catchment area
Courtesy of AGI Dublin Farming for Water EIP

THE RESEARCH HUB WILL...

- 

Facilitate input from the academic community and applied research
- 

Provide subject matter expertise on adaptive management trends
- 

Develop best practice and knowledge in key areas (e.g., adding high nature value to existing infrastructure measures, riparian management planning, nutrient efficiency opportunities, water reuse of specific water quality areas of interest)
- 

Complement core project evaluation
- 

Leveraging industry and project based capacity
- 

Informing and influencing research calls
- 

Supporting farm scale measures to catchment scale
- 

Strategic, informed to support water quality risk management at the farm scale
- 

Deliver policy based on the practical, innovative, and social leverage covered the project.

KEY RESEARCH AREAS

-  The water quality protection efficacy and multiple benefit potential of critical source pathway interaction measures, across a range of farm enterprises (dairy, beef, tillage) and soil types.
-  Nutrient management Planning applied to the agricultural landscape (incorporating nature-based solutions).
-  Upscaling and maintaining actions within an integrated catchment management context.
-  Investigative into socio-economic factors determining the participation of farmers in water protection incentivised base leading to the optimum design of future agri-environmental schemes and policy.

RESEARCH COMMUNITY

This research hub already involves researchers from the Agricultural Catchments Programme, Teagasc Research, University College Cork, University College Dublin, Dundalk Institute of Technology, Atlantic Technical University, James Hutton Institute UK, LA06010.

WE ARE HIRING!

RELEVANCE TO YOU

IF YOU OR YOUR RESEARCH COMMUNITY WOULD LIKE TO GET INVOLVED PLEASE GET IN TOUCH.

PARTNERS

The Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO), Teagasc and Dairy Industry Ireland (Dairy Co-ops) with wider support from Food Industry Ireland, AGI, third level research institutes, OIW, Uisce Éireann, National Federation of Group Water Schemes, wider community sector and An Bord Iúil.

Co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the European Union

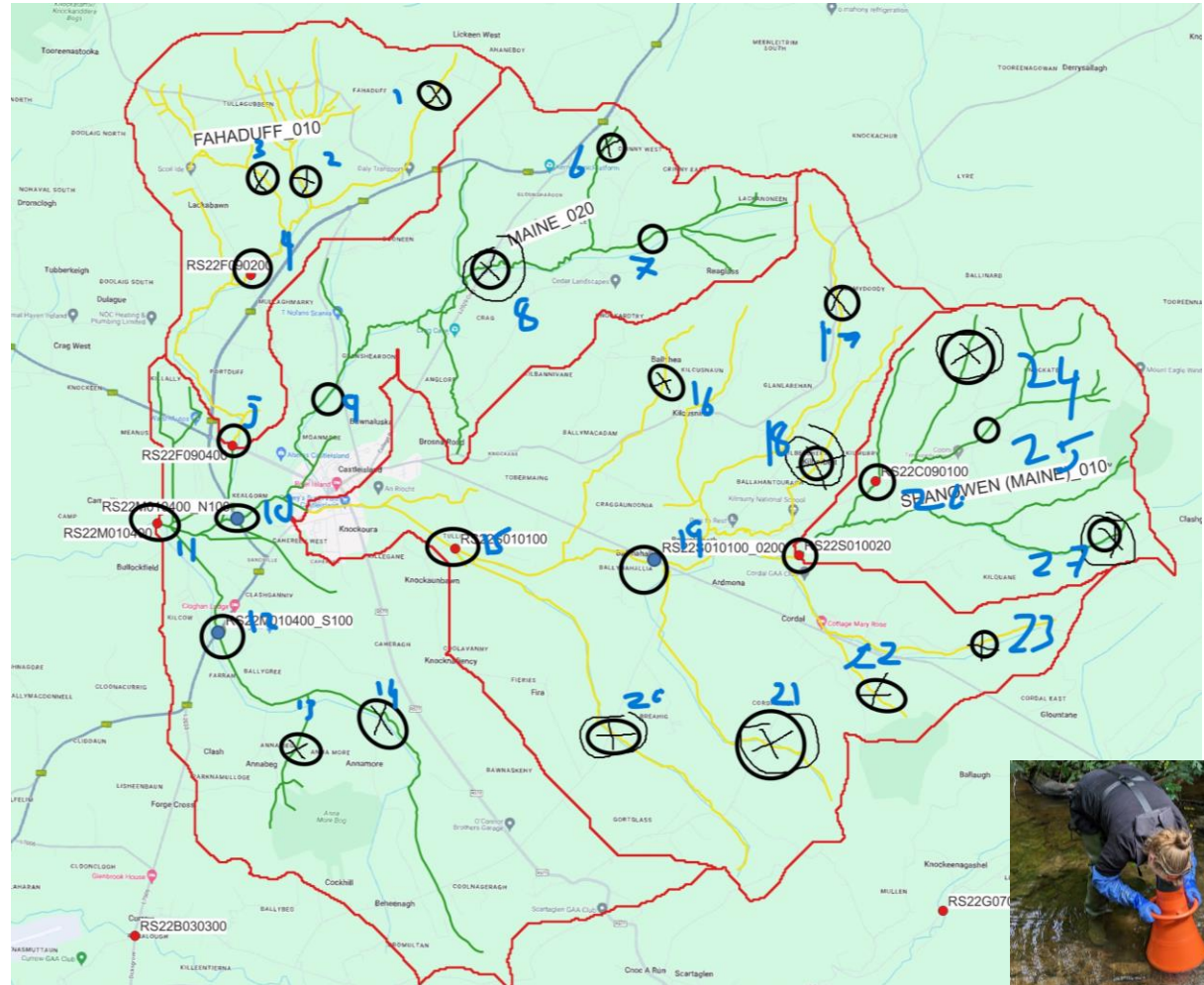


FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT YOUR LOCAL TEAGASC OR CO-OP ASSAP ADVISOR
www.wia.waters.ie

Project Validation – Pilot 2 testing

Castleisland Pilot

- Site selected for Autosampler near the outlet of the Fahaduff_10 to establish baseline for ortho phosphate, ammonia and BOD, to be installed next week
- Engaging external testers for baseline diatom assessment
- Farm on the Heavy Soils programme assessed for measures and measures agreed



Dairy Cooperative Events:

- Kerry Agribusiness Information Event – “How to Future Proof your Farm in the face of Changing Regulations”.
- Dairygold Agribusiness Information Event – “Dairy Farming – A Positive Future Event”

Research Sector:

- Teagasc ACP Conference
- Research Hub Meeting
- Nature Based Solution Conference

Sustainability Leads:

- Dairy Cooperative Sustainability Leads with DII
- Meat Processor Sustainability leads with MII

Industry Consultation:

- Farming Consultative Group for the ASSAP Programme
- IFA Rural Development Committee

Other:

- Updates to Waters of Life, Blue Dot, ROCs, NTIG, CAP network Ireland



Focus Areas for Q2

- Define the parameters
- Assessment of proposed Research Hub projects
- Gap analysis
- Internal monitoring programme

Community Animators

- Expressions of Interest for 5 posts

Establish network of Demonstration farms & tillage pilot

- Targets per region to demonstrate best practice – Signpost farms

IT System Development

- Incorporation of existing systems to reduce inputs and provide consistency

Recruitment

- Complete project advisory team and IS and GIS leads



Questions ?

**We will be providing updates
through the meeting notes
circulated by Regional Co-Ordinator
at future Border ROC &
management meetings.
Any queries get in touch:
Jmartin@lawaters.ie**



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Water Innovation | Land Management | Healthy Water



Dairy
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