

Newsletter

March 2026

NEWS, AGRI ADVICE AND PROMOTIONS



Growing Forage Maize in 2026

In 2026, maize can offer good quality feed at a low price compared to other forage options as seen in the table below. However, this is only possible if good yields and quality are achieved.

Site: Choice of site is critical to giving an economic return to growing maize (growing maize on marginal sites is high risk). Choose a sheltered south facing field (warmest on farm) with light to medium soil type and good drainage as maize will not tolerate compaction. Site altitudes should not exceed 120m.

Rotation: Maize can be grown continuously in the same field. Weed control costs tend to increase, and fungal disease attacks become more likely with continuous maize cropping, but these challenges can be overcome.

Sowing & Seedbed Prep: Can proceed when soil temperatures are above 8°C.

Sowing under plastic can proceed from late March, uncovered delay sowing until after mid-April. Plough as early as possible and allow to weather naturally. Prepare a fine, firm seedbed 10-12 cm (4-5 inches) deep as if tilling for potatoes or sugar beet. Drill 100,000- 110,000 seeds/ha (40,000 to 45,000 seeds/acre) depending on conditions and yield potential (sow at higher end for earlier sowing and better sites).

Plastic: Plastic cover helps to deliver consistent yield and quality.

Crop Nutrition: Fertiliser applications should be in line with the nitrate's directive. Soil testing to determine requirements is strongly recommended. Top dressing N after emergence should be avoided as it can cause crop scorch. Ensuring adequate nutrients, especially Phosphorus (P), are supplied is essential. Slurry is very useful in supplying significant proportions of the P & K requirements.

Maize nutrient requirement Kg/ha (units/acre)

Soil Fertility (P & K Index)	N	P	K
High (4)	75(60)	20(16)	120(96)
Moderate (3)	110(88)	40(32)	190(152)
Deficient (2)	140(112)	50(40)	255(180)
Poor (1)	180(144)	70(56)	250(200)

N & P rates as per Nitrates Directive

Barryroe Maize Variety Recommendations 2026

Site	Site Description	Site Description	Varieties Uncovered
Excellent Site	< 50m altitude South facing Not exposed	P8200 & P8153	Ambition, Foxtrot P7326
Good Site	50m to 75m altitude Not too exposed, good sunshine.	P8200, P8153 & Ambition	Ambition & P7326 Use Plastic
Moderate site	75m to 100m altitude	Ambition & P7034	Use Plastic
Marginal Site	Over 100m altitude or Very exposed North facing	Do not grow maize	Do not grow maize

NEWS WATCH

MILK SUPPLY AND PRICE

February milk supply amounted to 5,017,713 litres which was a 10% increase on February 2025. There is no change in the Co-op's base price of milk which remains at 35.14 c/L. However, Carbery is continuing with its market support of 2.5 c/L for February milk. Barryroe is paying €6.68649 per kg of protein and €4.45766 per kg of butterfat. Our average constituents for the month are 3.42% protein 4.45% butterfat and our average price paid is 42.42 c/L, including 0.88 SCC bonus and VAT @4.5%.

Bluetongue Virus Type 3 In Ireland

BTV3 has been detected in Ireland and is expected to spread during 2026. The virus needs to replicate within the midge before it can infect an animal. It can only do this when temperatures are above 12 °C. Therefore, late spring, summer and early autumn is considered the high-risk season. The virus can also be spread through germinal products such as semen and embryos, and biological products such as blood. Infected pregnant animals can also pass the virus to their unborn offspring in the womb.

Clinical signs may include: Fever, loss of clinical signs appetite, lethargy, drop in milk yield, lesions, sores, reddening and ulcerations of nostrils, mouth and teats, swelling of the face, lips and tongue, lameness and reproductive losses among others. Herds with spring calving patterns are at higher risk due to stage of early and mid-gestation coinciding with the high-risk period.

Vaccination does not completely prevent infection but reduces clinical signs and viremia. It consists of 2 doses 3 weeks apart, with immunity conferred 3 weeks after the 2nd dose. Vaccination should therefore be considered in spring, at a minimum of 6 weeks before the high-risk season. Vaccination is important in breeding animals. Bulls are particularly important because the virus can be transmitted through semen, even if the animal appears healthy. Further details are available at www.gov.ie/bluetongue.

AGRI OFFERS



Barryroe Calf Jackets
BUY 3 FOR €75



Farmstokk Screw in Ring Insulator Bucket 100
ONLY €21.95



FarmStokk Green Dairy Roll
BUY 2 BALES FOR €110



Farmstokk Tail Paint 750ml
BUY 2 FOR €31.95



Farmstokk Solar Fencer S4200
ONLY €499



Farmstokk Kick bar
ONLY €12.95

SAVE 20%



Maxol Milk Machine Oil 20Ltr
WAS €75
NOW €59



Farmstokk Milking gloves
BUY 2 FOR €25



Orange Nitrile Gloves
BUY 2 FOR €25



Farmstokk milk filter sock
(Extremely High Quality / Double Stitched / 120Gram)

- 24" x 4" ONLY €59.95**
- 10.5" x 2.75" ONLY €22.95**
- 17" x 3" ONLY €32.95**
- 26" x 3" ONLY €42.95**

GENFIT
A KRAMP COMPANY

Slurry Promotion 2026
Almost over! Don't miss out on these prices.

New Genfitt Slurry Range available from Barryroe Central Garage

UCD Lyons Systems Herd Annual Report 2025

Summary of 2025 Findings and Research Plan 2026.

- **Production:** Average herd production was 7,518kg milk and 620 kgs MS. Compared with last year's production of 6,748 kgs of milk and 563 kg MS, both milk yield and milk solids increased significantly.
- **Grass:** A total of 11.8 T DM/ha grass was grown on the milking platform with 10,363 kg DM/ha utilized (88%).
- **Fertility:** Fertility performance was excellent again in 2025. Submission rate was on target at 91%, 6-week in calf rate was 83% and the empty rate was 9%.



Grass Production Parameter	
Opening cover on 7 th Jan 2025 (kg DM/ha)	929
Total grass grown (kg/ha)	11,776
Total number of grazings	7.1
Closing cover on 1 st December 2025 (kg DM/ha)	727
Stocking rate on MP	3.11
Nitrogen (kg N/ha MP)	208
Phosphorus (kg P/ha MP)	0
Sulphur (kg S/ha MP)	16
Potassium (kg K/ha MP)	93
Turnout by day	6 th February
Turnout full time	4 th March
Housed by night	23 rd October
Full time housing	25 th November
Total days at grass	284
Silage (bales) on MP (kg/ha)	1,531
Herbage utilized kg/ha	10,363
Grazed grass utilized t/cow	2,838
Grazed grass utilized t/ha	8,832
Milk from forage (kg)	4,040
Average concentrate consumed (kg/cow as fed)	1,739
Average silage consumed (kg/cow DM)	1,878

Growing fodder beet in 2026

Beet gives the highest yields of Dry Matter and energy of all forage crops. Beet is an extremely high yielding fodder crop that is easy to grow but attention to detail is vital.

Rotation: Beet should only be grown after two years have elapsed since a beet, brassica or oil seed rape crop was grown.

Sowing period: Sugar Beet can be sown from mid-March. Fodder Beet can be sown from early April. Beet is a sensitive crop and will not thrive in harsh conditions. For maximum yields, sow as early as possible under favourable weather and soil

conditions, latest sowing time is late May. .

Seeding rates: Seeds are precision drilled. Aim to establish 30,000 plants per acre.

Crop Nutrition: Correct soil pH of 7 (lime application) and fertiliser application is critical to successful beet crops. Apply a compound fertilizer with boron before sowing and mix into soil. Nitrogen topdressing can be applied at 4-8 leaf stage.

Weed Control: Poor weed control is the most common cause of crop failure. Beet is a poor competitor with weeds. The aim

is to keep the crop weed free until at least eight weeks after emergence. Two to three herbicide applications will be required with herbicide choice, rate of application and timing critical.

Pests: Due to the slow development of beet seedlings and the fact the crop is sown to a stand, beet is very prone to pest problems particularly slugs, leatherjackets (seed treatment only control mechanism) and rabbits. Crops need to be inspected regularly in the early stages to determine any action required.

Disease: Ramularia Leafspot and Rust are the main problems and usually occur in the autumn. They can result in severe defoliation which will increase harvesting losses with belt lifting harvesters. Crops to be harvested after Nov 1st should be treated with a fungicide in late July or early August. For crops to be harvested in October, treatment is justified when disease symptoms are seen before August 1st.

Beet nutrient requirement Kg/ha (units/acre)

Soil Fertility (P & K Index)	N	P	K
High (4)	80(64)	20(16)	80(64)
Moderate (3)	120(96)	40(32)	160(128)
Deficient (2)	155(124)	55(44)	240(192)
Poor (1)	195(156)	70(56)	320(256)

Barryroe Beet Varieties Recommendations 2026

Variety	Relative Root DM Yield expected	*Expected root DM%	Root Colour	% Root Over Ground	Soil Tare (1-9, 9=best)	Leaf Score (1-9, 9=best)	Comment
ALISHA	110	22.5	White	20	3	5	Sugar Beet
LAURENA	107	22.2	White	20	3	8	Resistant to Rhizoctonia root rot
GAHAN	86	22.7	White			8	A next generation sugar beet with high dry matter.
ENERMAX	100	19.6	White	24	4	8	Very high DM yield and fresh yield
MAGNUM	95	19.0	White	22	4	7	Long established & popular
ENERCOMBI	99	18.4	White	60		8	A white fodder beet with high DM content
BOLERO	90	17.1	Yellow	42	6	7	Medium DM Consistent yield of clean roots
JAMON	85	15.1	Orange	46	7	7	Suitable for grazing in-situ
SMART CHAVA	101	20.3	White	24	4	8	Conviso Smart weed control system



Fresh Choice Market Baby Potatoes
750g/ York Cabbage/See in store for details

ONLY
€1 EACH



Inishella Irish Unsmoked Ham Fillet
(Pre Pack) Price Marked 2kg €6 per kg

ONLY
€12



Dunn's of Dublin Smoked Salmon
100g €40 per kg

ONLY
€4



Chivers Jelly Range
135g €9.26 per kg

ONLY
€1.25 EACH



Koka Instant Noodles Curry/Chicken
4 Pack 4x85g €10.29 per kg

ONLY
€3.50 EACH



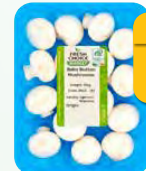
Denny Gold Medal Pork Sausages
16 Pack 454g €6.61 per kg

ONLY
€3



SPAR Granulated Sugar 1kg €1.25 per kg

ONLY
€1.25 EACH



Fresh Choice Market Baby Button Mushrooms
150g See in store for details

ONLY
€1



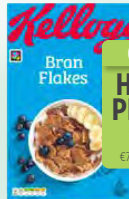
Innocent Juice Range
900ml €3.33 per lt

ONLY
€3 EACH



Nescafé Alta Rica/Cap Colombia/Espresso Instant Coffee
95g €47.37 per kg

ONLY
HALF PRICE
€4.50



Kellogg's Bran Flakes
500g €3.64 per kg

ONLY
HALF PRICE
€1.82



Charville Select Red Cheddar Block 200g/Grated 180g/Sliced 160g/Mature Red Cheddar Block 200g See in store for details

ONLY
€2.50 EACH



McVitie's Digestives Milk/Dark Chocolate
400g €8.13 per kg

ONLY
€3.25 EACH



ONLY
€1.75

SPAR Still Water 5lt 35c per lt



Danone Activia Multipack Yogurts Range
4 Pack See in store for details

ONLY
€2.75 EACH



Guinness Draught Cans 0% Multi Pack
4 Pack 4x500ml €3.75 per lt

ONLY
€7.50



Denny Traditional/Maple/Hickory Rashers
180g €13.89 per kg

ONLY
€2.50 EACH



Dolmio Sauce for Bolognese Range
450g €5.56 per kg

ONLY
€2.50 EACH



Staffords Easter Gateaux
900g €17.78 per kg

ONLY
€16



Staffords Chocolate Biscuit Cake
550g €18.16 per kg

ONLY
€9.99



Felix As Good As It Looks Range
12 Pack 12x85g €5.87 per kg

ONLY
€5.99 EACH



Goodfella's Thin Pizza Range Various
See in store for details

ANY 2 FOR €6



Cully & Sully Soup Range
400g €5.63 per kg

ONLY
€2.25 EACH



Pampers Baby Wipes 12 Packs x 52 Wipes See in store for details

ONLY
€15



Finish Ultimate All in One Regular/Lemon
55 Wash See in store for details

ONLY
€13 EACH



Nescafé Gold Blend
95g €52.11 per kg

ONLY
€4.95



Marlborough Springs Sauvignon Blanc
750ml €10.99 per 75cl

ONLY
€10.99



Smirnoff Vodka
700ml €21.49 per 70cl

ONLY
€21.49



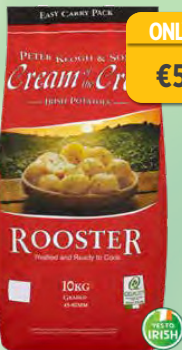
Jack Daniel's/Bombay Sapphire
700ml €29.99 per 70cl

ONLY
€29.99 EACH



ONLY
€5.25

SPAR Woodlogs
5 Pack See in store for details



Cream of the Crop Rooster Potatoes
10kg 50c per kg

ONLY
€5



ONLY
€5.99

SPAR Fire Starter Firelogs Bag Multi Pack
4 Pack 4x600g €2.50 per kg

CHEAPEST IN IRELAND



Tennent's 8x440ml €3.16 per lt

ONLY
€11.11



Molson Canadian Lager Beer
Cans 8x500ml €3.16 per lt

ONLY
€12.62



Carlsberg 8x500ml €3.39 per lt

ONLY
€13.57



Bulmers Original/Light Cans
8x500ml €3.55 per lt

ONLY
€14.20 EACH

Prices correct at the time of going to print. Offers available from 26/03/26 to 15/04/26, unless otherwise stated. Customer quotas may apply. All savings shown are versus recommended retail price.