

Tillage Review 2025



As the 2025 harvest draws to a close, Quinns are proud to share a review of the season and outline opportunities for the tillage sector as we look to 2026 and beyond. The tillage sector is at the heart of Irish agriculture — not only providing essential feed and food grains, but also contributing to sustainability through practices such as cover cropping, reduced tillage, and integrated pest management. These practices improve yields, protect soil health, and support biodiversity.

The 2025 harvest has been a success, with strong yields across most crops compared with 2024. Farmers benefited from favourable weather, with harvesting completed in excellent July and August conditions. Many growers were also able to establish cover crops and winter oilseed rape promptly afterwards. Grain quality has been consistently good, with average moisture levels falling well within acceptable ranges.

Challenges in the grain market

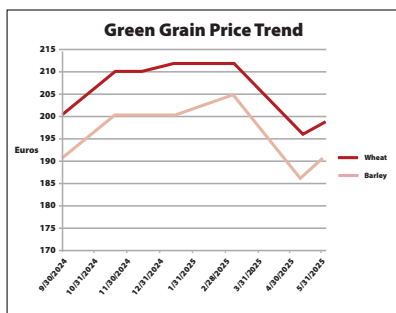
While yields have been encouraging, farmers continue to face challenges with suppressed grain prices and ongoing market volatility. Global supply and demand, climate factors, and policy shifts remain unpredictable. At Quinns, we are committed to supporting farmers in managing these risks and achieving greater financial stability.

Forward selling – An option worth looking at

One of the most effective tools for risk management is forward selling grain. By locking in prices early, farmers can average their returns, capture premiums during peak demand, and reduce exposure to sudden price drops.

Quinns are leading the way in offering competitive forward prices.

In spring 2025, we offered €212 per tonne for wheat and €200 per tonne for barley (based on 20% moisture). This gave our growers an opportunity to secure strong prices well before harvest — a strategy that will remain central to our support for farmers in the years ahead. The chart below highlights the green grain prices offered throughout the growing season of 24/25.



Why supporting Irish grain matters

The benefits of using Irish grain go far beyond farm incomes. By reducing reliance on imports, we strengthen food security and reduce the carbon footprint of animal feed. A Quinns study comparing Irish-

based and imported dairy feed formulations showed that imports generated over 800kg more CO₂ per tonne than the Irish equivalent.

Despite this, Ireland imports around 5 million tonnes of feed annually, while some of our own quality grains are exported. This is an area where Quinns are determined to make a difference.

Oats – championing native grains

At Quinns, we recognise the excellent feeding quality of native oats and are actively incorporating them into our feed mixes. Oats are highly nutritious, with a high oil content, ruminant animals perform very well when fed oats as part of their diet. So why do we need to export this quality cereal when the country continues to import sub-standard substitutes such as palm kernel, wheat feed, and sunflower meal?

Quinns are committed to supporting Irish-grown oats and other native grains in our feed formulations. We encourage other mills to follow our lead — because when we back Irish grains, everyone benefits: farmers, livestock, and the environment.

Policy and support for the future

For the tillage sector to thrive, stronger government backing is essential. Current market prices will not sustain the industry, let alone allow it to grow. Quinns fully support the IFA's call for increased tillage funding, including a budget of at least €250/ha, alongside a mandated minimum inclusion of native grains and pulses in Irish-milled feeds.

Such measures would provide immediate demand for Irish crops, strengthen farm incomes, and reduce reliance on imported feed.

Looking ahead to 2026 and beyond

The tillage sector is uniquely placed to support both economic and environmental goals in Irish agriculture. With strong forward-selling strategies, greater use of native grains such as oats, and the right government supports, we can build a sustainable and resilient future for tillage farming.

At Quinns, we are proud to lead by example. By backing Irish farmers, championing local grain, and promoting sustainable practices, we are ensuring that Irish agriculture can thrive in 2026 and beyond. Together, we can build a stronger, more sustainable future for farmers, consumers, and the environment.



Feeding Hoggets on Forage crops

Feeding forage crops to hoggets can provide a cost-effective, high nutrition feed option during the winter months. It is also an efficient method of fattening or preparing them for breeding.

Forage Crops are an energy-rich, protein-dense feed source, and suitable for strip grazing, helping to lengthen the grazing season and reduce reliance on concentrates.

Popular forage crops for hoggets:

1. Kale

- High in energy and protein
- Suitable for strip grazing
- Should be supplemented with fibre

2. Fodder Beet (roots and tops)

- Very palatable and energy-rich
- Limit intake to prevent acidosis

3. Redstart (Hybrid Brassica)

- Quick growing, ideal for late sowing
- Excellent regrowth potential
- High dry matter yields

4. Forage Rape and Turnips

- Quick to establish and suitable for winter grazing
- Good crude protein levels

Management tips:

1. Introduce hoggets to forage crops gradually, over 10-14 days, to avoid digestive issues.
2. Ensure constant access to fibre (eg hay, straw, or silage) to reduce risk of bloat or acidosis.
3. Provide a clean and fresh water supply and ensure appropriate grazing infrastructure is in place.
4. Regularly monitor their Body Condition (ideally 3.0-3.5 BCS).
5. Manage parasites and minerals.

Benefits:

- Lower winter feed costs
- Extends grazing season
- Improves land-use efficiency
- Improves soil quality

Forage crops are a great feed option when looking for a cost-effective, multi-beneficial way to keep hoggets thriving through winter.



Scan the QR code to find out about our sheep feed range

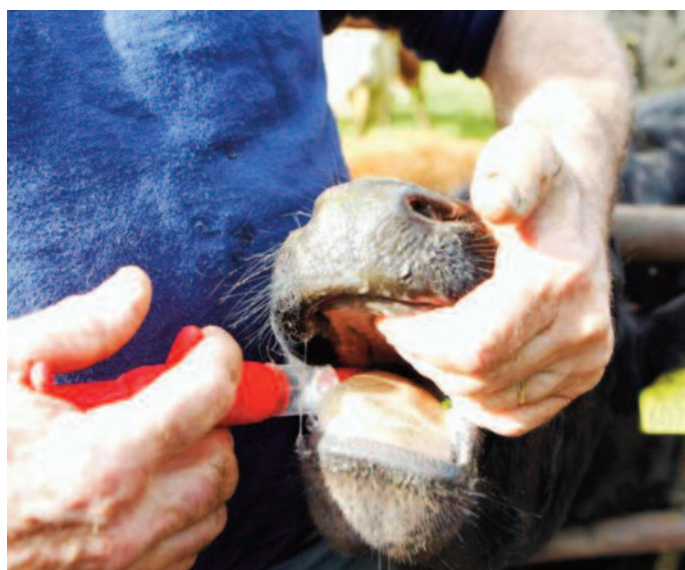


**Quinns Newly Reformulated Supreme 15% Hogget Coarse Ration & Pellet
Now in Stock Prices available from €310/T in Bulk**

Winter housing parasite Control for cattle



Housing animals offers an opportunity to assess parasite control from the grazing season. Removal of parasites at housing can leave the herd disease free while they are indoors. Parasites at housing will result in poor thrive or milk yield reducing production levelsh.



The parasites of most concern are lung worm stomach worm liver fluke and rumen fluke along with external parasites.

Stomach worms - The two most economically important gastrointestinal worms are Ostertagia Cooperia which can damage to the gut leading to malabsorption of nutrients. They can inhibit and overwinter in the gut causing severe disease in the spring. A product such as BZ-1 (Fenbendazole) or ML-3 (Ivermectin) is effective whereas products Lev-2 (levamisole) are ineffective against inhibited larvae.

Lungworm - This often seen in the first grazing season of calves. A product containing LEV-2 (levamisole) can be very effective. Also ML-3 (Ivermectin) and BZ-1 (Fenbendazole) can be used.

Liverfluke - This is a disease that animals cannot develop resistance to. It is important to match the correct product to the stage of liver fluke to be treated. Triclabendazole (Endofluka) can kill most stages but resistance is known. Albendazole (Endospec) can be used to treat mature fluke and for Rumen fluke oxclozanide has known efficacy.



Ectoparasites - such as lice or mites live on dead cells or blood. Shaving the back of the animal can reduce the burden. A product such as Spot on can be used. Also a pour on combination product to treat fluke, worms and lice can be used such as Closamectin.

It is important to use the worming products responsibly using the correct product at the correct time on the correct animals.

For dung testing, advice and animal health products contact your local Quinn's branch.

WARNING

DEC 1st Change to Anti-Parasitics!

From December 1st this year the department of agriculture's new **Veterinary Medicinal Products Regulation** will become effective. This means that any farmer purchasing anti-parasitic medicine (including worm/fluke doses) will now need a prescription. For farmers buying these products in any

agri-store this means a few changes: products will no longer be on display or accessible, no promotions/pricing will be allowed (akin to cigarettes in supermarkets) and a prescription will be required. However, despite these changes please be assured that from December 1st Quinn's will be able to provide this service and continue to sell you anti-parasitics. Until Dec 1st it is business as usual for sales of antiparasitics.



Dry Cow Management



Effective dry cow management is essential to ensure optimal dairy herd health and productivity, particularly with a pasture-based system. The dry period typically lasts between 6 to 8 weeks. This period is important as it allows the cow to rest, regenerate udder tissue in preparation for the next lactation and prepare for calving.

Key goals of Dry Cow management:

1. Prevent new intramammary infections
2. Cure existing infections
3. Ensure optimal body condition at calving
4. Support the transition to lactation with minimal metabolic issues

For optimum health, fertility and milk production the recommended length of the Dry period is 60 days. Having a shorter dry period may run the risk of a reduced milk yield in the next lactation, whereas having a dry period longer than 60 days could lead to over-conditioning and metabolic issues. The dry period does allow the correction of BCS in cows. Cows that have a lower BCS may need an extended period of being dry and be fed a higher energy diet to help increase body condition.

Drying off cows

The most recommended approach to use when drying off cows is Selective Dry Cow Therapy (SDCT), this process includes only giving antibiotic treatment to the cows that show signs of an existing infection. All cows receive the internal teat sealant. The teat sealant is an important step when drying off cows as it helps prevent bacteria from entering the teat canal. Other good practices to follow

to help prevent infection during drying off include:

- Having a clean environment
- Clipped tails and clean udders
- Wearing gloves and use a pre- and post-milking disinfectant
- Insert tubes carefully to prevent contamination
- Teat sealant should be massaged upward only after full insertion

Leading up to calving

The ideal Body Condition Score (BCS) at calving is 3.0, so it is important to reach the dry cows nutrient requirement. Our Supreme Dry Cow feed includes a blend of cereals including oats, which are an excellent source of oil and fibre. A high specification pre-calver mineral is also included in the feed. This formulation aims to prepare the cow for lactation by building body reserves of essential trace elements and helps prevent calving difficulties, retained after-birth, uterine infections and lactation metabolic diseases.



Quinns manufacture a 18% Supreme Dry Cow formulation – high in soya, cereals including barley and oats which includes a complete dry cow mineral package.

Coming next Month Instore Agri days

Avoca, Friday November 07th
Superstore, Baltinglass, Friday November 14th
Athy, Friday November 21st

