

Oil Seed Rape

After one of the best years on record to get rape sown the acreage has recovered to pre-2024 levels.

All these crops were grown in the best of conditions and got the best start possible. Slugs played their usual part but good timing and application of slug pellets have meant that crops are going into the winter looking very good.

A lot of the rape was sprayed with **Katamaran Turbo** at pre-emergence stage and this has given good weed control. If the crop was not sprayed pre-emergence it should by now have got a gramini-cide to take out grass and cereals. **Centurian max** and **falcon** are the products of choice and if used at the correct rates to get good results.

Any crop still needing weed control should be sprayed with **Kerb**

at 2L/ha if you want to compost the straw.

Belkar can also be used to tidy up weeds if some got through the pre-emergence spray.

With good cover and a lot of leaf we need to keep disease and crop height to mind.

If not done already, 0.8 of **Caryx**, 0.4 of **Olbran** and 2 litres of **Boron** will give your rape the best chance to come through the winter in top condition.

With crops looking so good and if the pigeons do not graze crops too bad we will enter the spring with high G.A.I. (Green Area Index).

This will give you the tools to determine the amount of nitrogen the crop will need to reach its potential.



Baltinglass Weighbridge & Mill Christmas Opening Hours

Monday	22nd	Dec	8am – 5pm
Tuesday	23rd	Dec	8am – 5pm
Wednesday	24th	Dec	8am – 1pm
Thursday	25th	Dec	Closed
Friday	26th	Dec	Closed
Saturday	27th	Dec	8am – 1pm
Monday	29th	Dec	8am – 5pm
Tuesday	30th	Dec	8am – 5pm
Wednesday	31st	Dec	8am – 5pm
Thursday	01st	Jan	Closed
Friday	02nd	Jan	8am – 5pm



Last date for Christmas orders, all orders, including feed, for delivery before Christmas must be placed before Friday 12th December

Wishing all our customers a merry Christmas and prosperous new year

Mycotoxins and their effects on ruminant animals

What are Mycotoxins?

Mycotoxins are secondary metabolites produced by fungal molds growing on crops or silage. It can be a challenge to detect the presence of mycotoxins in silage as they are invisible and odorless. They are resistant and chemically stable. Small grains and flowering plants are at highest risk and most sensitive to mycotoxins. Since the 1960's climatic factors and changing agricultural practices have increased the level of Mycotoxins on Irish farms. Delays in harvest, wet weather and milder winters aids continued grass growth. The absence of any hard frost to kill fungal flora have incrementally increased the level of Mycotoxins.

Furthermore, it is important to note that it can be present in high quality DMD silage. Over 95% of samples analysed contain at least one mycotoxin. Oxygen presence in the clamp will create favorable conditions for mycotoxins to multiply.

The three most common mycotoxins found in silage are fusarium, penicillium and aspergillus. Penicillic acid is the highest risk found in humid conditions, especially poorly stored grains and silages. This can be prevented by proper drying, storage and clamp sealing. It can cause many health issues including reduced feed intakes & productivity, rumen dysfunction and immune suppression. Type B mycotoxins produced by fusarium fungi are most prevalent in maize silage. This can cause digestive issues, weakened immunity and stunted growth in animals.

Animal performance

Higher performing animals are at higher risk of adverse effects. Research has shown that Mycotoxins can increase SCC by 46.6% and reduce milk production by 0.62kg per cow/day. Additionally, mycotoxins can cause feed inefficiencies, decrease reproductive performance and increase vet costs.

There are many warning signs which farmers need to be aware of such as the following:

Is your herd showing signs of:

Variable dry matter intake?

Leg and udder swelling?

- Visible mould in forage and feed
- Heating behind clamp face
- Loose/inconsistent dung
- Reduced feed intakes due to altered rumen
- Swollen hocks and arched backs
- Lethargy-sunken eyes, reduced activity
- Drop in reproductive performance-delayed maturity, infertility and poor conception rates.
- Reduced immunity will create increased risk of mastitis and laminitis
- Soil or fecal contamination of feedstuff.

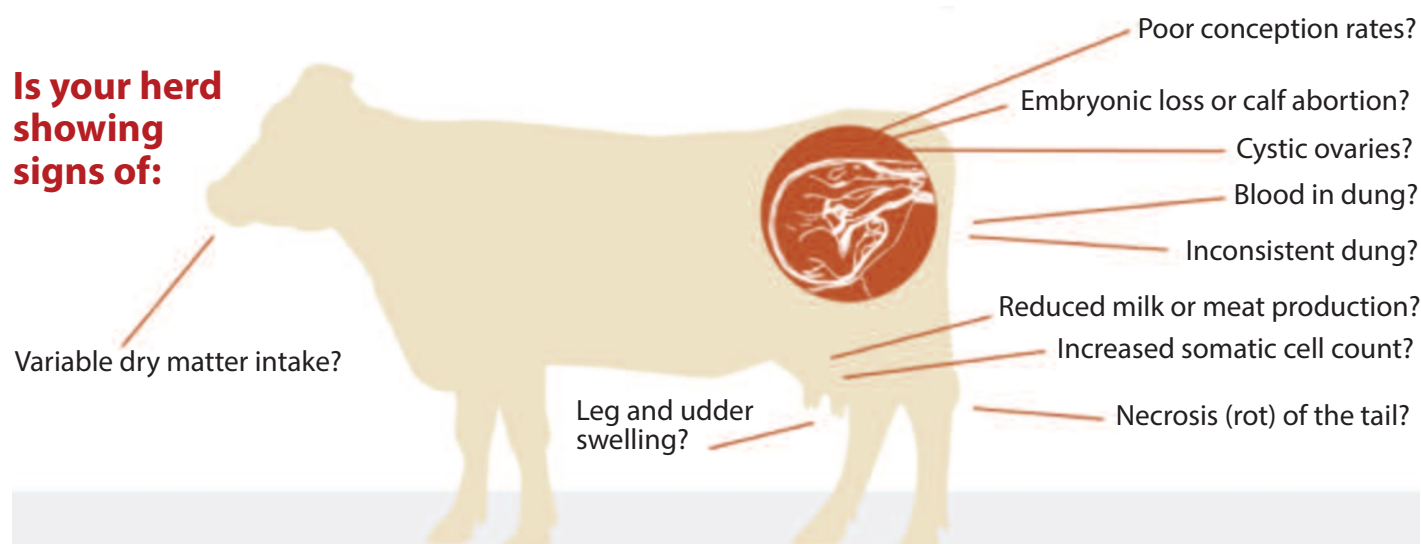
Mycosorb A+ Evo-mycotoxin binder

Alltech have created a new mycotoxin binder to help deliver strong levels of protection for high-risk production systems such as dairy cows and youngstock where broader coverage is crucial. Mycosorb A Evo combines yeast extracts with algae. This enhances binding the most problematic toxins including Penicillic acid. It can be fed at 10g/head/day or 30g/head/day for the first 2 weeks in high-risk situations. It can be fed in the diet daily or as required based on risk assessment.

How do we reduce mycotoxin risk?

Mycotoxin development can be prevented rolling back the silage pit a little and often. This will help reduce exposure to moisture. Good consolidation reduces trapped oxygen in the silo thus reduces mould growth and mycotoxin risk. The pit should be cut from top to bottom and fed across every 3-4 days. Furthermore, cleaning out the diet feeder and feeding troughs regularly over the winter every 2 weeks will also help prevent the risk.

In conclusion, mycotoxins can greatly reduce farm profitability and productivity. It can have serious implications for animal health and performance if adequate preventative and mitigation measures are not in place.



Soil Testing – the key benefits for farmers

Soil testing provides major economic, environmental, and agromonic benefit to farmers. Here are the key advantages:

1. Improved Fertiliser Efficiency

- Right nutrient, right rate, right place, right time — soil testing helps farmers apply fertilisers more accurately.
- Reduces overuse of costly nutrients like nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), and potassium (K).
- Leads to better returns on investment and lower input costs.

2. Enhanced Crop Yields and Quality

- Knowing the exact nutrient status of the soil allows farmers to correct deficiencies.
- Promotes optimal plant growth, higher yields, and improved crop quality.
- Ensures balanced nutrition for grass, cereals, and other crops.

3. Cost Savings

- Prevents unnecessary fertiliser application.
- Helps prioritise spending on nutrients that actually increase productivity.
- On average, soil testing costs a fraction of total fertiliser costs but can save hundreds of euros per hectare annually.

4. Environmental Protection & Compliance

- Supports Ireland's Nitrates Action Programme (NAP) and Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) regulations.
- Reduces nutrient losses to water bodies (especially P and N leaching), helping protect rivers, lakes, and coastal waters.

- Demonstrates commitment to sustainable and climate-smart farming.

5. Better Soil Health Management

- Provides insight into pH levels, organic matter, and nutrient balance.
- Helps farmers decide on lime applications to correct soil acidity — crucial for nutrient uptake and grass growth.
- Encourages long-term soil fertility and resilience.

6. Informed Farm Planning & Advisory Support

- Data from soil tests help with Nutrient Management Plans (NMPs) and Farm Sustainability Plans.
- Farmers can use precise fertiliser recommendations on their farms.
- Enables farmers to track changes in soil fertility over time.

7. Supports National Sustainability Goals

- Aligns with Ireland's Climate Action Plan
- Contributes to reducing agricultural emissions through more efficient nutrient use.

In summary:

Soil testing gives Irish farmers the knowledge to boost productivity, cut costs, and protect the environment — making it a cornerstone of profitable and sustainable farming. Quinns offer a soil sampling service to their customers for analysis for both macro and micro nutrients.



An early eye on Milk Replacer!

Milk Replacer has seemed to have become more complicated over the years with new products, new designs and additives etc but it all comes down to the basic simple ingredients, Whey & Skim!

With over 20 brands of calf milk powder on the market it can get quite confusing when trying to compare one bag with another.

So to simplify this ahead of the spring season Quinn's stock a range of high quality milk replacers (MR) that contain milk derived protein sources and range from 20-25% **protein**. Milk-derived proteins sources include skim milk powder and whey powder. Young calves should be fed a MR based on skim milk powder or whey protein concentrate.

The ideal **fat** content of a MR is from 17% to 20% with these parameters been seen as sufficient. It is important that the fat % is not too high as it will suppress concentrate intakes and will not suit early weaning systems.

If a MR contains over 0.15% **Fibre** then it generally includes a higher level of plant proteins. Be sure when looking for a MR that it contains a maximum of 0.15% fibre.

MR also contains ash, minerals & vitamins. It is important that the ash levels do not surpass 8% with desirable levels ranging between 6.5-7.5%.

At this point we have the specifications that we are looking for, the next thing to do is to look at the range of milk replacers that Quinn's are supplying. These brands are listed below are made with high quality milk derived protein sources and a maximum of 20% fat.

Quinn Calf 23 & Quinn Heifer 25, Volac, Cargill, Shine Bonanza are the main brands of milk replacer that we stock in our branches.

Shine also have a product called **Transformula** which is a transition milk replacer that can be fed for the first 10 days as it contains high levels of antibodies, nutrients and anti-scour agents to help prevent against infectious scours & diseases on farms.

If you are interested to learn more about our milk replacer range or you want to organise milk replacer ahead of the spring calving season contact your local branch or sales representative



Take the headache out of Christmas Gifts!

Quinn's have a stylish Gift Voucher that will fit the bill for any friend or family. Gift vouchers can be made out to any value and are available to purchase (and use) in any of our Agri-stores.

Quinn's
Gift Voucher

Quinn's FUEL PRODUCTS

Save €10 by collecting fuel packs in-store*

Winter 2025/26

Convenience Pack €14.99 641734	Convenience Pack €14.99 644867	Zero Carbon Fuel Pack €24.99 651484	
Fuel Pack 1 €44.99 641699	Fuel Pack 2 €44.99 644865	Supertherm Offer 20kg €84.99 22044	
Supertherm 10kg €8.49 623015	Cosyflo 10kg €8.75 646140	Cosyflo 20kg 3 for €44.99 634434	Harvest Flame Biomass 30ltr 3 for €44.99 637805

Athy 059-8638884
Avoca 0402-30783
Baltinglass 059-6481866
Geashill 057-9367832
Milford 059-9171860
Naas 045-876346