



ATHY • AVOCA • BALTINGLASS • GEASHILL • LEWISTOWN • MILFORD • NAAS

TECHNICAL NEWSLETTER

February 2026

Spring Cereal Seed Options

As we move into February our thoughts now turn to spring plantings and cropping plans. Ground conditions and good seedbed preparation are key for spring crops to ensure a good strike and strong crop establishment. It is important to also have cover crops and stubble ground desiccated in good time to allow previous crop residues to wilt away in time for cultivations. The Protein Aid Scheme has been continued for 2026, which will keep interest in spring beans as a profitable break crop.



Aim to have your seed order in as soon as possible for collection. There are limited quantities of certain varieties so book early to avoid disappointment.

The benefits of using Certified Seed

- Guaranteed germination
- Consistent quality
- Guaranteed varietal purity
- Fully traceable
- Independently monitored
- Reduced risk of seed borne diseases
- Continued cereal genetic improvement

Spring Barley

HURLER: A high yielding, moderately early maturing variety. Good resistance to lodging and moderately resistant to straw breakdown. Very good resistance to mildew, Rhynchosporium and net blotch. Moderately resistant to brown rust

SY AMITY: A good yielding, moderately late maturing variety. Good resistance to lodging and moderately resistant to straw breakdown. Very good resistance to mildew and net blotch. Moderately resistant to Rhynchosporium and brown rust

SKYWAY: A good yielding, moderately late maturing variety. Moderately susceptible to lodging and susceptible to straw breakdown. Very good resistance to mildew. Good resistance to Rhynchosporium. Moderately resistant to brown rust and net blotch.

GERALDINE: A good yielding, moderately early maturing variety. Good resistance to lodging and moderately resistant to straw breakdown. Very good resistance to



Spring Barley

mildew and net blotch. Good resistance to Rhynchosporium. Moderately resistant to brown rust

ROCKWAY: A good yielding, moderately late maturing variety. Moderate resistance to lodging and straw breakdown. Very good resistance to mildew. Good resistance to Rhynchosporium. Moderate resistance to brown rust and net blotch.

Spring Wheat

KWS HELIUM: A good yielding, moderately early maturing variety. Moderately susceptible to lodging. Good resistance to mildew and sprouting. Moderately susceptible to Septoria spp and yellow rust. Very good grain quality.



Helium Spring Wheat

Spring Oats

HUSKY: A moderate yielding, very early maturing variety. Moderate resistance to lodging and moderately susceptible to straw breakdown. Moderately susceptible to mildew and susceptible to crown rust. Good grain quality.

WPB ENYA: A good yielding, moderately late maturing variety. Moderately resistant to lodging and good resistance to straw breakdown. Moderately susceptible to mildew and crown rust. Good grain quality.



Enya Spring Oats

Spring Beans

LYNX: Good yielding, moderately early maturing variety with good protein content. It has good resistance to brackling and very good lodging resistance. It has moderate resistance to chocolate spot and good resistance to downy mildew. It is moderately susceptible to rust.



Lynx Spring beans

PROTINA: Good yielding, early maturing variety with high protein content. It has good resistance to brackling and very good resistance to lodging. It has moderate resistance to chocolate spot and rust. It has good resistance to downy mildew.

Quinn's are longstanding members of the Irish Seed Trade Association which promote and assemble certified seed within Ireland.

Giving Calves the Best Start with Transformula

We now know that after feeding colostrum and before moving calves onto whole milk or milk replacer, it's essential to feed transition milk for at least 10 days. This is where **Transformula** comes in.

Transformula is the only transition milk replacer on the market that allows farmers to feed a consistent, high-quality milk to calves for an extended period. Trials have shown that calves fed Transformula demonstrate improved early-life performance, with benefits carrying right through to the milking herd, including increased milk yield in heifers.

Transformula is designed to give calves the best possible start, helping to build a strong, robust immune system and supporting their ability to fight infection on farm during this critical early stage.

It is manufactured using high-quality skim milk, buttermilk, and carefully selected additives, all formulated to support a successful and stress-free calf rearing period.

The Quinns milk replacer range is the ideal follow-on from Transformula. Our range contains high levels of skim milk and buttermilk, making them perfectly suited for continued calf performance and development.



If Transformula or any of our cranial calf milk replacer range is of interest to you this spring, contact the Quinns team or call into any of our branches for more information.



Scan the QR code to find out more about Transformula

Quinn Calf 23% Milk Replacer



Quinn Calf 23% is expertly designed to meet the nutritional needs of calves post colostrum and transition milk stages:

- **23% crude protein with 20% fat:** Provides essential nutrients crucial for calf growth and development.

- **Whey based with added skim and buttermilk:** Derived from premium Irish dairies, ensuring quality and consistency.
- **Enhanced energy with sugar:** Helps calves regulate body temperature in varying environmental conditions.
- **Improved digestion and feed intake:** Includes skim and buttermilk to support digestive health and encourage dry feed consumption.

Key Benefits of Quinns Milk Replacers

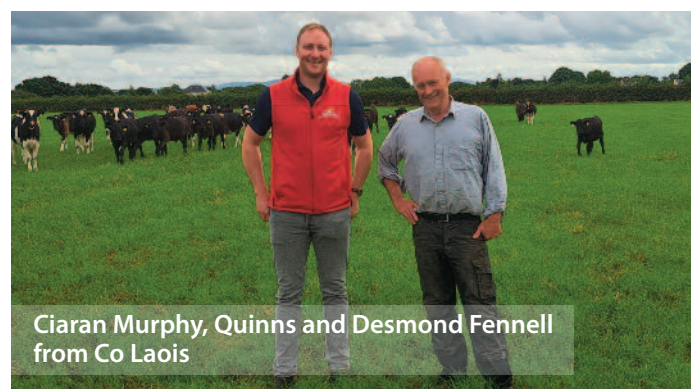
- **Consistent Formulation:** Every batch is formulated to exacting standards, ensuring reliability in every bag.
- **Enhanced Digestive Support:** Includes pre-biotics and buttermilk, known for their ability to improve digestion and reduce feed refusals.
- **Immune System Boost:** Incorporates plant extracts to bolster the calf's immune system against pathogens.

Quinn Heifer 25% Milk Replacer

- **Quinn Heifer 25%** offers a robust nutritional profile tailored for healthy calf development.
- **25% crude protein with 18% fat:** Ensures consistent nutrient supply essential for growth.
- **Rich in low heat skim, buttermilk, and whey:** Facilitates steady nutrient release throughout the day, promoting rumen development.
- **Supports digestive health:** Contains pre-biotics and buttermilk, reducing stomach upsets and enhancing fat breakdown.

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- **Enhanced Digestive Support:** Includes pre-biotics and buttermilk, known for their ability to improve digestion and reduce feed refusals.
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Ciaran Murphy, Quinns and Desmond Fennell from Co Laois

Desmond, Nigel and John Fennell milk 125 Friesian Holstein cows in Partnership in Ballyhide, Co. Laois.

"In Spring 2023, I started using Quinns Calf 23% for the first time and was delighted how the calves preformed. Calf rearing could not have gone any better as calves were healthy, showed no scours or stomach upsets and continued to perform on grass over their first summer. Quinns Calf 23 worked well with the automatic feeder and was very easy to mix when mixed for beef calves outside the feeder. Spring born calves are ahead of target which is very important when aiming to reach target breeding weights"



Scan the QR code to find out more about our milk replacers

ELITE Calf Starter & Follow-On Muesli



Set your calves up for success from day one with our **NEW ELITE Calf Starter & Follow-On Muesli** — a high-performance feed designed to support health, growth, and lifetime productivity.

Made with 100% toasted flakes for excellent palatability and digestibility, and formulated to a **RumiGro** calf mineral specification, this muesli is enriched with **Algimun** to:

- Support optimal gut health
- Strengthen the immune system
- Help reduce the risk of infection at critical early stages

The result? Healthier calves, better feed intakes, and stronger growth rates — giving young stock the very best start on their journey.

- Stronger immunity
- Improved nutrient absorption
- Faster, more consistent growth

Also available in pellet form, offering flexibility to suit all calf-rearing systems.

Contact us today to find out more or speak to your local Quinns representative.



Scan the QR code to find out more about our Elite range

Oilseed Rape Crop Update – East Wicklow



Interest in oilseed rape has increased significantly, driven by expanded sowing in 2025 and excellent harvest results. Yields of 1.75–2.0 t/ac were widely achieved in harvest 2025, and with strong prices relative to cereals, prospects remain positive for harvest 2026.

Our agronomist, James O'Loughlin, carried out a crop walk of the winter oilseed rape variety **Armada** which was sown in East Wicklow. This crop walk highlights the widespread use of hybrids in Ireland due to traits such as pod shatter resistance, turnip yellows virus resistance, sclerotinia tolerance, and N-Flex nitrogen efficiency. The crop was sown in the last week of August at 50 seeds/m² (approx. 3 kg/ha) with the following findings:

An application of chicken litter before sowing has significantly benefited establishment. The crop is well developed, with 6–8 leaves per plant and strong taproot systems which helped carry it through the winter.

A pre-emergence application of **Katamaran Turbo** (2.5 L/ha) has delivered excellent weed control, and no follow-up treatments were required. **Falcon** (1.0 L/ha) was applied in early October to control barley volunteers following winter barley.

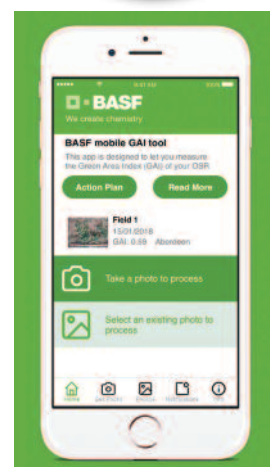
The **Green Area Index (GAI)** measured on January 8th was 2, indicating approximately 100 kg N/ha already held in the canopy. This reduces spring nitrogen requirements, equating to a saving of €60–€80 per acre at current prices.

As a forward crop, an early spring application of **Carax** (1.0–1.4 L/ha) is planned, along with **Proline** for disease control and a boron trace element application. Fertiliser is planned for mid to late February, after which the crop is expected to move quickly into stem extension.

Watch out for our March newsletter for updates on spring oilseed rape varieties for harvest 2026



Scan the QR code to watch the full video on our oilseed rape crop walk





Exploring Dairy Innovation in Northern Ireland

More than 60 Quinn's dairy customers, in association with Trouw Nutrition and Alltech Ireland recently travelled to Craigavon, County Armagh, for two dedicated dairy farm visits. The group visited Claire Beckett's farm and Mark Lewis's farm. These visits focused on best practice in dry cow management, early lactation nutrition and high-input dairy systems. The strong attendance highlighted the level of engagement within the dairy sector and underlined Quinn's ongoing commitment to supporting dairy farmers through practical on-farm learning, expert nutritional advice and knowledge sharing.



Scan the QR code to watch the full video of our Dairy trip to Northern Ireland