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TECHNICAL NEWSLETTER

August 2026

Winter Oilseed Rape - The Farmers Favourite

As growers look to optimise rotational performance and manage on farm income and weed pressures, Winter Oilseed Rape (WOSR) continues to prove its worth on Irish tillage farms, delivering robust margins while serving as a suitable entry for winter wheat. OSR remains one of the most effective and profitable break crops available.

Key Agronomic Benefits

Beyond strong financial returns, WOSR provides vital long-term benefits across your cropping system:

- **Yield Boost for the Following Cereals:** Serving as a non-cereal break crop, OSR completely resets take-all pressure, typically boosting subsequent winter wheat yields by **0.5 to 1.5 t/ha**.
- **Soil Health and Structure:** The crop's deep taproot naturally conditions the soil, improving drainage, aeration, and rooting depth for the next crop.
- **Eradicating Problem Weeds:** OSR opens the door for effective, alternative herbicide chemistries to target problem grass weeds like sterile brome, blackgrass, and wild oats.
- **Nutrient Scavenging:** Rapid autumn growth allows OSR to efficiently capture residual nitrogen and organic manures, holding nutrients in the canopy over winter.

Top Variety Choices

Modern hybrid breeding has revolutionised OSR performance, delivering built-in **pod shatter resistance, TUVV (Turnip Yellow Virus) resistance, N-Flex technology and increased sclerotinia resistance**. Quinns have a range of varieties available that have performed well on farm over the last number of years.

- LG Aviron
- LG Armada
- LG Avenger
- LG Aurelia
- LG Adapt

Target Establishment

Establishment is critical to securing potential yields. Sowing between **mid-August and early September** into a fine, firm seedbed ensures plants establish deep taproots and thick canopies before winter dormancy. Sowing rates should be from **40-60 seeds per m²**, OSR generally comes in a 3ha pack depending on TGW. Hybrid varieties are particularly recommended for their vigorous autumn growth, helping crops outgrow early slug and pigeon grazing. Using a pre-emergence herbicide such as **Katamaran Turbo @ 2.5L/ha** is important to reduce competition and weed burden on the crop in its early growth stages.



Thinking of Increasing your Forage Options This Autumn?



Grass silage will always be top priority for winter feeding cattle and sheep in Ireland however with our feed stocks currently being used during this drought period, forage crops have become increasingly popular and can play a very important role for either out-wintering livestock or overcoming grass deficits. Below, we take a look at some of the options available to farmers this year.

Forage rape

Forage rape is popular due to its flexible sowing date and its good leaf to stem ratio. It grows fast and vigorous after sowing and it has excellent leaf quality due to its palatability and leaf protein. It is very common among farmers for fattening lambs however sheep must be introduced gradually in order to prevent digestive disorders. Ensure the animal's diet is correctly balanced.

Varieties	Crude Protein and Energy	DM Yield	Sowing time	Utilisation Time	Seeding Rate
Mosa, Stego	18-20% CP 10-11 MJ/Kg	4-6 t/ha	July - August	Oct - Feb	3.5-4 kg/acre

Hybrids

Interval and Redstart are both hybrid forage varieties. A hybrid is a cross between a kale and a forage rape, therefore it has the benefits of the winter hardiness from the kale and the rapid vigorous growth from the rape. It is a hugely popular option for farmers with its great DM yields and its good re-growth potential.

Varieties	Crude Protein and Energy	DM Yield	Sowing time	Utilisation Time	Seeding Rate
Redstart, Interval, Mainstar	18-20% CP 10-11 MJ/Kg	6-8T/Ha	May - August	June - Feb	3.5-4 kg/acre

Stubble Turnips

Stubble Turnips is an excellent option that is highly palatable, easy established and easily managed. It has a wide sowing window and it is a common option for sheep farmers due to its high impact on lamb performance. It is not a winter hardy crop and some losses may occur in periods of frost etc. It is also important to correctly balance the animal's diet to prevent digestive upsets. It is also a great option for dairy herds due to its high yield, low cost and short growing period.

Varieties	Crude Protein and Energy	DM Yield	Sowing time	Utilisation Time	Seeding Rate
Appin, Samson, Skyfall	18-20% CP 10-11 MJ/Kg	3-5T/Ha	April - Sept	June - Feb	2-3 kg/acre

For more information including fertiliser requirements, other varieties or general forage queries please contact your local rep or the Quinn's office on 059-6481266



Summer feeding options to help with the Drought

July has been a very dry month for farms, with all farms experiencing grass shortages, and lack of grass quality. Farms have used alternative forage sources as well as increasing supplementation on farm. If the drought of 2018 taught us anything, it is that we need to receive a sufficient level of rainfall before applying fertiliser to ensure there is enough soil moisture for the crop to utilise the nutrients effectively.

Listed below are some alternative steps you can put into action to try and keep grass in the diet and lengthen the rotation until sufficient growth rates return. We need to try and keep grass in the diet for as long as possible.

Step 1: Evaluate grass and forage supply

- At a minimum we need 50% of the diet to come from forage (grass, grass silage etc) Check on stocks to see what best fits the system. So if a cow has a daily DMI of 20kg then she must be fed 10kg forage DM and 10 kg concentrate DM (approx. 12kg F/W)

Step 2: Introduce alternative forage if possible/available

- If silage is available try to pick the best quality you have on the farm to keep energy levels up in the cows.
- If forage is introduced be mindful that you will have to adjust protein supply. Grass is high in protein whereas silage is not (unless Red Clover silage). We must ensure enough protein is supplied to the cow
- Forage introduction will help lengthen grass rotation in the system

Step 3: Increase feeding rate in parlour to 5 – 6Kgs per day

- Increasing the supplementation will reduce the reliance on the forage and grass supplies.
- For every 1kg of concentrates fed, you will reduce the need for 5/6kg of grass (Dry matter dependent).
- We have a wide range of dairy/ beef pellets/rations to suit all systems.

Step 4: Buffer feed

- Where forage supplies are low/ using forage supplies will put pressure on winter forage stocks. Then you must have an alternative to reduce this pressure.
- Irish rolled oats and beans, along with soyabean meal will provide a high energy, high protein mix that gives plenty of fibre to help with rumen fill and reduce pressure on the forage system..
- Quinns Fodder Stretcher Ration is also available which a 16% Crude Protein ration is with 0.96UFL/kg fed.
- Farmers can feed up to 6kgs of this ration or indeed higher for the larger Holstein cow.

Step 5: Seek Nutritional advice

- Our nutrition team here at Quinns are on hand to help you and your herd through this stressful period with expert advice and alternative solutions.

If you need any help this summer with Diets please contact our Nutritional team or your local Sales Representative for more information

Milking Cow Diets on limited/no grass

Sample 1 for 22 litre cow

	Fresh Weight	DMI
Grass	8kg	2
Grass silage (@25% DM)*	20kg	5
Fodder Extender	4kg	3.6
Compound	6kg	5.4

Sample 2 for 22 litre cow

	Fresh Weight	DMI
Grass	0kg	0
Grass silage (@25% DM)*	25kg	6.25
Fodder Extender	5kg	4.5
Compound	6kg	5.4

**If grass silage is <25% DM, increase fresh weight supply. If grass silage >35%, reduce fresh weight supply*





Celebrating 90 years – Shaping What's Next

2013 – 2015: Change, Investment & Industry Awards

2013 – Quinn's Bar on Main Street closed after **77 years**, marking the end of an era.

2013 – Major investment continued with extensions to **Quinn's Eurospar** and **Quinn's Superstore Athy**.

2014 – The **Coarse Ration Feed Mill** achieved **UFAS** and **Bord Bia** certification.

2015 – Quinn's won the inaugural **Agricultural Merchant of the Year** award, a significant industry milestone.



Harvest 2026



Financial Year End Draw Winners 2025

1st	Colm McEvoy, Tullamore, Co Offaly	€400
2nd	Pat Hoxey, Donard, Co Wicklow	€200
3rd	Francis Doyle, Baltinglass, Co Wicklow	€200
4th	Lakeshore Gardens Ltd, Headford Rd, Co Galway	€100
5th	Whitestown Farms Ltd, Stratford On Slaney, Co Wicklow	€100

Tullamore Show
FBD National Livestock Show

Join us at the Tullamore Show on
Sunday 9th August. Stand number L91

TINAHELY
AGRICULTURAL SHOW
SINCE 1925

Join us at Tinahely Show on
Monday 3rd August