



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

TECHNICAL NEWSLETTER

October 2026

Reeling in the Years

1936 – Quinns of Baltinglass Ltd. starts trading on Main Street Baltinglass

1959 – Quinns acquire the West Wicklow Hotel and rename it Quinns Corner Bar

1961 – Grain Yard opened on Mill Street Baltinglass

1962 – Quinns expand by acquiring the next door O’Neills bar, extending the presence on Main Street

1988 – More expansion on Main Street - the original business is split into a Supermarket, Drapery (Upstairs at Quinns) and neighbouring Bar

1989 – Naas Grain Depot and Agri Store opened

1993 – Quinns Superstore opens in Baltinglass – 20,000 sq foot of Agri, DIY, Build & Garden

1995 – Quinns Superstore Athy opened

1996 – Quinns Coarse Feed Mill opened in Baltinglass

2002 – Lewistown – state of the art grain intake yard opened

2007 – Avoca Agri Store opened

2010 – Milford Agri Store opened

2010 – Geashill Agri Store opened

2011 – Quinns Superstore, Baltinglass was named Hardware Store of the Year

2013 – Quinns Bar on Main Street ceases trading after 77 years.
Quinns Eurospar extended

2013 – Quinns Superstore Athy extended and revamped

2014 – Coarse Ration Feed Mill awarded UFAS and Bord Bia certification

2015 – Quinns win inaugural Agri Business award “Agricultural merchant of the Year”

2017 – New Pelleting Plant in Quinns Mill, Baltinglass

2020 – Lewistown grain facility expanded

2022 – Quinns new bagging plant was opened in Baltinglass

2026 – Avoca Agri Store revamped
Quinns celebrates 90 years in business

To all our valued customers,

This year, Quinns is proud to celebrate 90 years in business and we find ourselves in a reflective mood. As a third-generation family business, we are deeply grateful for the ongoing support of you, our loyal customers, over the decades.

Our roots have always been firmly planted in the local farming community and we’ve weathered many challenges together over the years. Every new year brings its own set of hurdles — whether it is fluctuating prices, changing regulations or the unpredictable nature of the weather. Yet, through it all, Quinns has remained steadfast, thanks to our dedicated staff and your continued trust in us.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to serving you for many more years to come. Our goal is simple: to help you maximise the benefits from your family farm, just as we’ve always done.

Throughout the month, we will celebrate 90 years in business with a series of Customer Appreciation Days across our branches. These special days will be an opportunity to celebrate our proud past while embracing the future, together with the customers and staff who have been such an important part of the Quinns journey. We hope you will join us as we reminisce, celebrate 90 years of memories and achievements, and look forward to the future together.

On behalf of my family and the entire Quinns team, thank you for your loyal support and friendship over the past 90 years. Here’s to many more years ahead.

William Quinn



Grassland management

After a tough summer, grass is back with growth rates of 65kgDM/day. Following the arrival of rain, nutrients that were waiting in the soil became available for uptake leading to higher growth rates and elevated free nitrogen in the plant. Energy and protein supply in the grass is high whilst the dry matter is ranging from 11-14%.

What will be key for October will be to keep grazing grass and follow the autumn grazing planner to keep covers tight before the paddocks are closed up for the winter season. Even though farmers will feel like they have more to graze, it's important to close paddocks up in time so there will be adequate covers available for grazing in the following spring.



Autumn Grazing Targets

Date	Cover/Cow (Kg DM)	Average Farm Cover (Kg DM/Ha)	Rotation Length
STOCKING RATE OF 2.5 LU/HA			
1st August	180	450	20 Days
Mid - August	200	500	25 Days
1st September	300	750	30 Days
Mid-September	400-450	1,000-1,100	35 Days
1st October	400	1,000	40 Days
1st November	60% of your grazing platform should be closed for Spring at this stage		
Fully Housed		550-600	
STOCKING RATE OF 3.0 LU/HA			
Mid - August	250	750	25 Days
1st September	330	990	30 Days
Mid-September	370	1100	35 Days
1st October	380	1150	40 Days
1st November	60% of your grazing platform should be closed for Spring at this stage		
Fully Housed		600-650	
STOCKING RATE OF 3.5 LU/HA			
Mid - August	220	770	25 Days
1st September	280	980	30 Days
Mid-September	340	1200	35 Days
1st October	335	1175	40 Days
1st November	70% of your grazing platform should be closed for Spring at this stage		
Fully Housed		700-750	

Timing is everything, Spray it right

As sowing gets under way in earnest we need to remember that the best form of weed control in winter crops is pre-emergence.

The main products that are on the market now all give a better control of weeds when used as pre-emerge. So if you have to stop drilling to spray, you should do just that!! You will be well rewarded by better control of weeds especially grass weeds.

Weed Control

- Apply to a fine, firm seedbed preferably after rolling
 - Spray max 48 hours after sowing
 - Where high amounts of residue are present, efficacy may be reduced
 - Do not apply if there is heavy rain forecast
 - Use a minimum water volume of 200l/ha to increase coverage – surfactants are also useful for this
 - Keep rates as close to full rate as possible
 - Pre-emerge spray is essential for grassweed control – don't drill today unless you know you can spray tomorrow
1. **Flight** contains pendimethalin and picolinafen. This can be used pre and post crop emergence at a rate of 4l/ha. Picolinafen synthesizes the target weed to allow for greater efficacy of pendimethalin and other primary actives. Picolinafen is less persistent in the soil than other actives but provides a good level of broad leaved weed control.
 2. Products such as **Firebird** at 0.3l/ha contain flufenacet and diflufenican pre-mixed in the one can. This will also give good control of both grassweeds and broad leaved weeds can be used until December 10th.
 3. New to the market this year is **Mateno Duo**. It is a pre and post emergence product which can be used with a partner such as Defy or Stomp to give a wider control. The rate for wheat is 0.7l/ha. The rate for barley is 0.35l/ha.

Pest Control

Slugs were found to be present during the month of September. When drilling winter cereals, it is essential to note where slug populations may be detrimental to the emerging crop the application of slug pellets may be necessary. This may be essential in the following scenarios:

- There will be high slug numbers following oilseed rape crops
- Where high amounts of crop residue are present
- After heavy rainfall

Aphids (BYDV) Control

The use of an aphicide plus a follow up application at the two leaf stage will help to control aphid numbers thus lowering the chances of BYDV. This is very important in September and crops drilled early in October.

Stealth or **Sparviero** at 50ml/ha is the product of choice.

The majority of oilseed rape crops have received slug pellets but later sown crops should be monitored. Place a slate on the ground overnight, if there are 5 or more slugs underneath the slate when checked then treatment is required.

Axcela at 5kg/ha, **Traxx** at 4kg/ha or **Metarex** INOV at 5kg/ha are varieties of slug pellets and are available at all our Quinns branches.



Feeding Beef Cattle Indoors – Getting the Most from the Finishing Period



As beef cattle move indoors for winter, having the correct feeding programme in place is essential to maximise animal performance, feed efficiency and profitability. With feed representing one of the largest costs in beef production, every kilogram fed needs to deliver

The starting point should always be **good-quality silage**. Silage quality has a major influence on animal performance and the amount of concentrate required. Dry matter digestibility (DMD) is a key indicator of silage feeding value, and as quality falls, additional concentrate is needed to maintain target growth rates.

Farmers should consider having silage analysed. Knowing the DMD, dry matter and protein levels allows a feeding programme to be developed around the actual forage available rather than relying on guesswork.

Start with a “Warm-Up” Diet

At housing, cattle need time to adjust to their indoor diet. Starting with a **higher-protein warm-up ration** can be beneficial, particularly where cattle still have potential for frame and lean-tissue growth or where silage protein is low.

Meal levels should be increased gradually. Allowing cattle time to adapt to higher concentrate levels helps reduce the risk of digestive problems such as acidosis.

Drive Energy in the Final 60 Days

As cattle approach finishing, the emphasis should shift towards **energy**. During the **final 60 days before slaughter**, a high-energy ration can help drive liveweight gain, carcass development and the required fat cover.

The **Quinns range of beef feeds** can form an important part of this programme. A feeding plan can be built around quality silage, using a higher-protein Quinns beef ration during the warm-up period before moving to **Supreme Maize Beef, a high-energy finishing ration, for the final 60 days**.

Feeding rates should reflect silage quality, animal type, liveweight and intended finishing date.

Monitor Performance

Where possible, cattle should be weighed at housing and during the finishing period to identify animals performing to target and those requiring attention. Adequate feed space, comfortable housing, clean water and correctly balanced minerals and vitamins are also essential.

The message is simple: **test your silage, plan your feeding programme and match the ration to the stage of production**. With quality forage and the **Quinns beef feed range**, farmers can develop a targeted programme to get cattle performing efficiently and ready for market.



EVERYTHING FOR THE FARMER



You're Invited

Quinns Customer Appreciation Days

Join us as we celebrate 90 years in business and thank the customers and communities who have supported Quinns through the generations

Meet the team • Fantastic Offers • Supplier Stands • Food & Fun

9th October

Quinns Superstore, Baltinglass
Quinns Agristore Geashill

16th October

Quinns Agristore Naas
Quinns Agristore Milford

30th October

Quinns Superstore Athy
Quinns Weighbridge, Baltinglass

**Everyone
Is Welcome**



Thank you for being part of our story