



In 2023, farmers participating in the FutureProof scheme, were offered a one-cent-per-litre payment to all suppliers who adopted the four key measures.

FutureProof aims to reduce emissions at farm level and enhance environmental sustainability. There was a fantastic uptake in its first full year, with 90% of milk supplied to Carbery coming from shareholders who have embraced the scheme.

Environmental Impact

- Protected Urea: Adoption via the Futureproof scheme has led to a remarkable reduction of 4,737 tonnes of CO₂, equivalent to the emissions of 846 cows.
- Overall Fertilizer Use: Combined with protected urea usage, has resulted in a reduction of 41,309 tonnes of CO₂ between 2022 and 2023, equivalent to the emissions of 7,378 cows.

Key Actions of FutureProof

1. ASSAP Assessment: Free on-farm assessments by Carbery ASSAP advisors' offer farmers confidential advice to enhance water quality. ASSAP advisors assess farms on nutrient management, land management to reduce nutrient losses and farmyard practices.
2. Protected Urea Usage: Protected Urea (PU) reduces greenhouse gas and ammonia emissions, crucial for sustainable grass growth in Ireland. Treated with a urease inhibitor, PU cuts nitrous oxide emissions by 71% compared to calcium ammonium nitrate (CAN) and reduces ammonia losses better than traditional urea. A €150 per tonne subsidy is available for PU purchased through your co-op.
3. Economic Breeding Index (EBI): Improve the Economic Breeding Index (EBI) of your herd to enhance fertility, productivity and reduce emissions. Teagasc research shows a €10 gain in EBI reduces emissions by 3%. Top-performing herds or those genotyping 25% of their dairy female stock qualify for the bonus.
4. Milk Recording: Regular milk recording is essential for managing somatic cell count, reducing antibiotic use and making informed breeding and culling decisions. Milk recording is vital for improving milk quality, managing herd health and ensuring long-term profitability. To receive the bonus for milk recording, a minimum of four milk recordings is required.

**If you have any questions about any of the measures,
please reach out to your co-op advisor.**