



Farmers best practices to mitigate or remediate biodiversity losses

Sean Finan, CEJA's Vice President & Beef Farmer Ireland

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ABOUT CEJA

- Represents the political interests of around two million young farmers from across Europe
- CEJA's main objectives are:
 - *Facilitating the installation of young farmers and their long-term inclusion in EU agriculture;*
 - *Informing and training them;*
 - *Acting as a forum for communication and dialogue between them and key decision-makers.*



ABOUT MY FARM

- Seán Finan – Beef Farmer, Roscommon, West of Ireland.
- Details of Farming Enterprise:
 - *Young Farmer started own enterprise in 2018 whilst also continuing to be involved in running the family farm.*
 - *Operate a Non-breeding trading system.*
 - *Purchase store heifers at approximately 450kg – 500kg at 15 – 18 Months of age.*
 - *All animals brought to beef on a grass-based finishing system.*
 - *Target beef carcass weights of 380kg – 400kg*
 - *Objective: Maximise the amount of high-quality grazed grass in the diet to reduce costs.*





Farm challenges

- Land was purchased in 2018 and soil fertility varied.
- Fencing and infrastructure needs to be developed.
- Farm Income and viability.

External considerations

- Negativity towards ruminant agriculture regarding climate change and biodiversity loss.
- Uncertainty associated with Brexit.
- New CAP and increased focus on environment.

Opportunities as a young farmer

- Grass based production system
- Willing to embrace knowledge and information to improve all aspects of my farm.
- Heightened focus on biodiversity and environmental considerations.
- Producing a top quality, nutritious, fully traceable, quality assured product.

Fostering Soil Health on my farm

Free Draining Mineral Soil. Improve Soil Fertility and Nutrient Management. Improve the soil structure and resilience with cover crops and using different species swards when reseeding.



*Measure: Soil
Sampling*



*Planning: Nutrient
Management Planning*

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Application: Liming to address PH and Fertility



Application: Forage Crop on my farm to reduce winter costs and improve soil structure.

Fostering Biodiversity on my farm

Grassland system using rotational grazing, protection of animal habitats reducing chemical fertiliser and pesticide input. planting trees, maintaining hedgerows,



Grassland system – Rotational Grazing



Hedge Row habitat

Fostering Biodiversity on my farm - Continued

Grassland system using rotational grazing, protection of animal habitats reducing chemical fertiliser and pesticide input. planting trees, maintaining hedgerows,



*Mature and New
Trees*



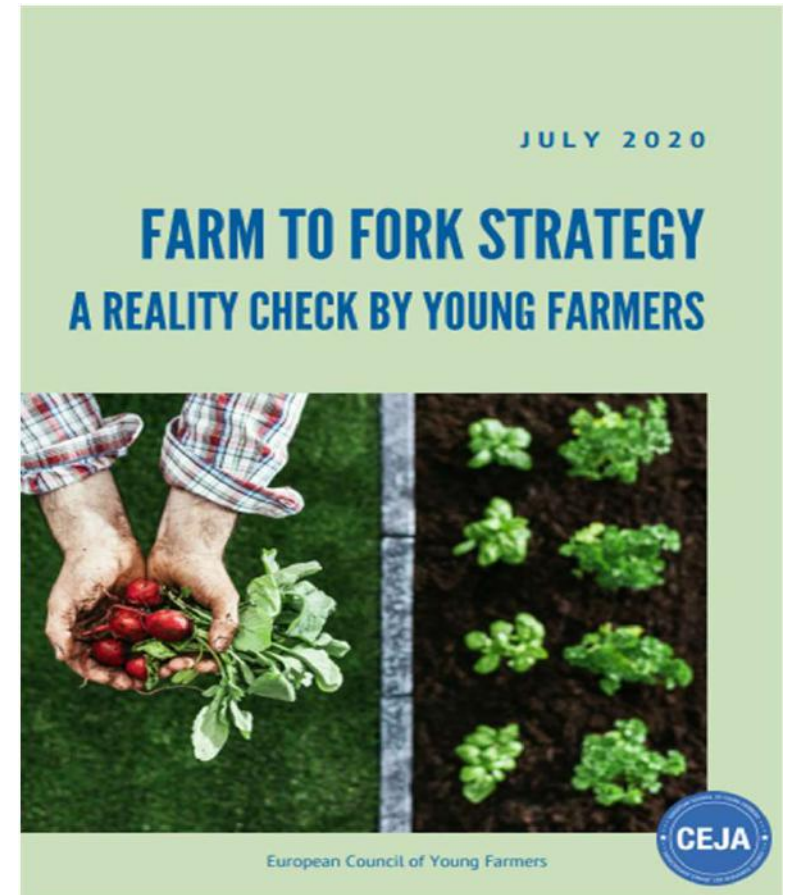
*Dry stonewall habitat
on the farm.*

LIVESTOCK FARMERS IMPROVING SOIL HEALTH AND BIODIVERSITY

- Livestock farmers delivering public goods.
- Custodians of the countryside.
- Turning inedible protein (grass) into edible protein (meat and milk).
- Measurement and monitoring at farm level
- Access to knowledge transfer and latest research.
- Acknowledgement by policy makers and environmentalists of the importance of animal production to improve soil health and biodiversity.
- Better relationship between environmentalist and farmers.
- Net emissions v's gross emissions from agriculture.
- Practical and results-based policy measures in CAP.
- Better return required from the market.
- Strengthening of farmers position in the supply chain.
- Link between sustainable production delivering healthy soils and biodiversity.
- Delivering for the environment and human health.



LIVESTOCK FARMING AND FUTURE FARMING POLICY



TO CONNECT



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