



IRISH TILLAGE AND LAND USE SOCIETY

Winter Conference and Annual General Meeting

Flexible Tillage Farming: Plant Breeding and Alternative Markets

5 December 2024, Clanard Court Hotel, Athy (R14 FY90)

Agenda

- 9.15 am** **Registration, tea and coffee**
- 10.00 am** **President's introduction**
- 10.15 am** **Exploring BYVD resistance in Hyvido hybrid barley**
- Ben Urquhart, Seeds Technical Manager for Hybrid Barley at Syngenta, will discuss the Syngenta Hyvido hybrid barley breeding pipeline, new traits which are commercially available, and breeding targets in the medium and longer term. He will summarise the results from the UK official trials as well as the Syngenta performance data for SY KESTREL. He will also outline preliminary results from a project, run in conjunction with the University of Nottingham, exploring the interaction between Aphids, BYDV and SY KESTREL.*
- 10.35 am** **Testing the BYVD toolbox on Signpost tillage farms**
- John Mahon, Teagasc Tillage Signpost Programme Advisor will discuss cereal aphids and BYDV in Ireland, challenges facing aphid management, what tools are available, and how successful they are. John previously oversaw the successful completion of the five year EIP-funded Enable Conservation Tillage Project on sustainable grass weed control on Irish tillage farms.*
- 10.55 am** **BYVD – A Farmers perspective**
- Speaker to be confirmed.*
- 11.15 pm** **Crop Genetics – utilising Ireland's productivity potential now and in the future**
- John Dunne, Arable Trials and Variety Development Manager for Goldcrop, and Tillage Farmer, will discuss the ongoing work that has delivered genetic crop improvements for Irish growers and his views on future developments.*
- 11.35 pm** **Panel discussion on the morning's topics, including Q&A**
- Denis Dunne, ITLUS President, will chair a panel discussion with Ben Urquhart, John Mahon and John Dunne to further discuss the topics presented during the morning.*
- 12.15 pm** **Launch of Rosenbaum Scholarship and Foreign Study Tour 2025**
- Denis Dunne, ITLUS President, will provide details about the joint ITLUS/UAS Rosenbaum Scholarship which offers students the opportunity to apply for a three month placement on a farm in Missouri in the USA. Brett Wesley, ITLUS Council, will outline plans for a proposed Foreign Study Tour to Scotland in 2025.*
- 12.30 pm** **Lunch**

- 2.00 pm** **ITLUS student bursary winners 2024 – presentation of awards**
- Awards to Charlie O'Reilly (Kildalton College), Matt Rossiter (South East Technological University), and Seanóg McCormock, (Dundalk Institute of Technology, and Caoimhe McGahern (University College Dublin) in recognition of excellent performance in final year cereal and crop classes.*
- 2.15pm** **Anerobic Digestion and Tillage farmers – opportunities for a symbiotic relationship**
- Stephen Robb, Renewables Editor with the Irish Farmers Journal, will discuss the emerging anerobic digestion sector and what opportunities it will present for the tillage industry.*
- 2.35 pm** **Potential yield and feeding values of forage crops on tillage farms**
- Nigel Condell, Ruminant Nutritionist at Specialist Nutrition will give an overview of crops that can be grown on tillage farms that are used for animal feed, and which can also be used in Anerobic digestion. Nigel will also provide an overview of the current yield and nutritional potential for these crops and will help farmers understand the crops benefit on farm.*
- 2.55 pm** **Maximising productivity from our land**
- Sean Callan, who farms a mixed enterprise farm comprising of dairy, beef and tillage in Dunleer, Co Louth, will discuss maximising the productivity of his land to produce forage and cereals in order to combat high land prices and ever tightening nitrates regulations.*
- 3.15 pm** **Tillage Industry Ireland – a voice for tillage farmers**
- Andy Doyle is a former tillage editor with the Irish Farmers Journal who reported on all things tillage for over three decades, and who, during this time, was heavily involved in ITLUS, including in various roles on Council. Andy will provide an overview of the work of Tillage Industry Ireland – an organisation he helped to establish to represent and promote the Irish Tillage Sector.*
- 3.35 pm** **Panel discussion on this afternoons topics including Q&A**
- Samuel Deane, ITLUS Council, will chair a panel discussion with Stephen Robb, Nigel Condell, Sean Callan and Andy Doyle to further discuss the topics presented during the afternoon session.*
- 4.15 pm** **Society AGM**
- 4.45 pm** **Conference closes**

Please note: Numbers are limited so pre-booking is essential – email itlussec50@gmail.com by 5pm on Wednesday 27 November. Fee payable on the day (by cash, card or cheque) is €50 for members (student members are free) and €80 for non-members (student non-members €30).