

LARCH HILL
FARM



How farmers and science are
approaching disease, weed and pest
problems on farms

Darragh Cleary

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Overview

Our Enterprise

Tillage System

New Technologies & PA

Approach to Soils

Composting

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Introduction & Background

Fifth generation tillage farmer

Farm with my father

Zurich Tillage Farmer of the Year 2016

The majority of our land is leased in
under 5-10 year agreements

Land is fragmented

*“We farm high value, high input,
high output – sustainably - in the
most environmental way.”*



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Our Enterprise

600 acres

Min-till

Green waste & composting

High-input/High-output



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Tillage System

Minimum tillage

Stale seedbed and cover crops

Maximising resources

PA Technology

Rotation is critical

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Min-till Approach



A green Fendt 720 tractor is shown in a field, pulling a red Horsch 5040 seedbed machine. The tractor has large black tires with red rims and a white cab. The seedbed machine is red with black tires and has the number 5040 and the Horsch logo on it. The background shows a grassy field with some trees in the distance under a blue sky with scattered clouds.

Stale Seedbeds & Cover Crops

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Maximising Resources Using Technology

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Rotation

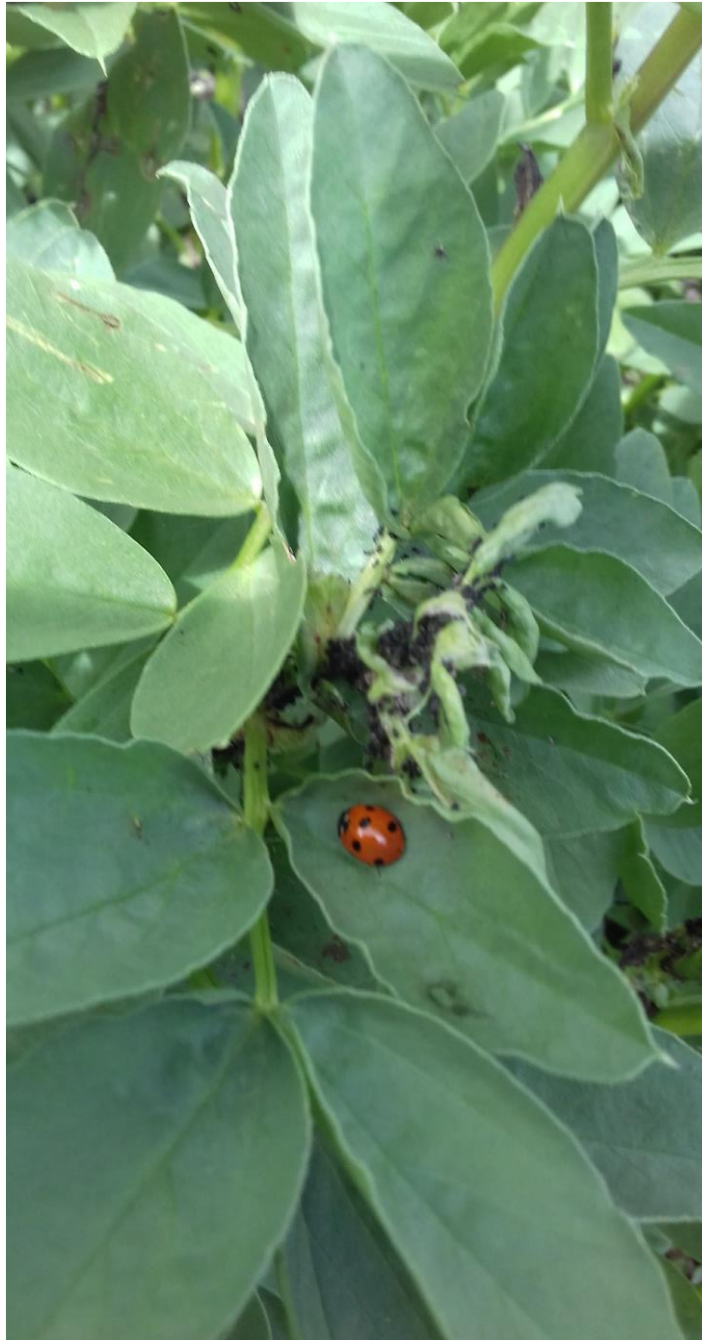
A diverse crop rotation is vital

Break Crops

Huge Benefits

6 year rotation- using different herbicides and pesticides yearly.

(Hopefully re introduce sugar beet into crop rotation)



New Technologies & PA

GPS

RTK

Section Control

Software & Apps

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Approach to Soils

Cover crops before all spring cropping(GLAS)

Separate crop rotation

Cost of cover crop mixes versus cultivation

Regular soil and plant testing

Compaction



Composting

Composting Process

Soil Organic Matter

Carbon & GHG

Full of Life!



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Soil Organic Matter

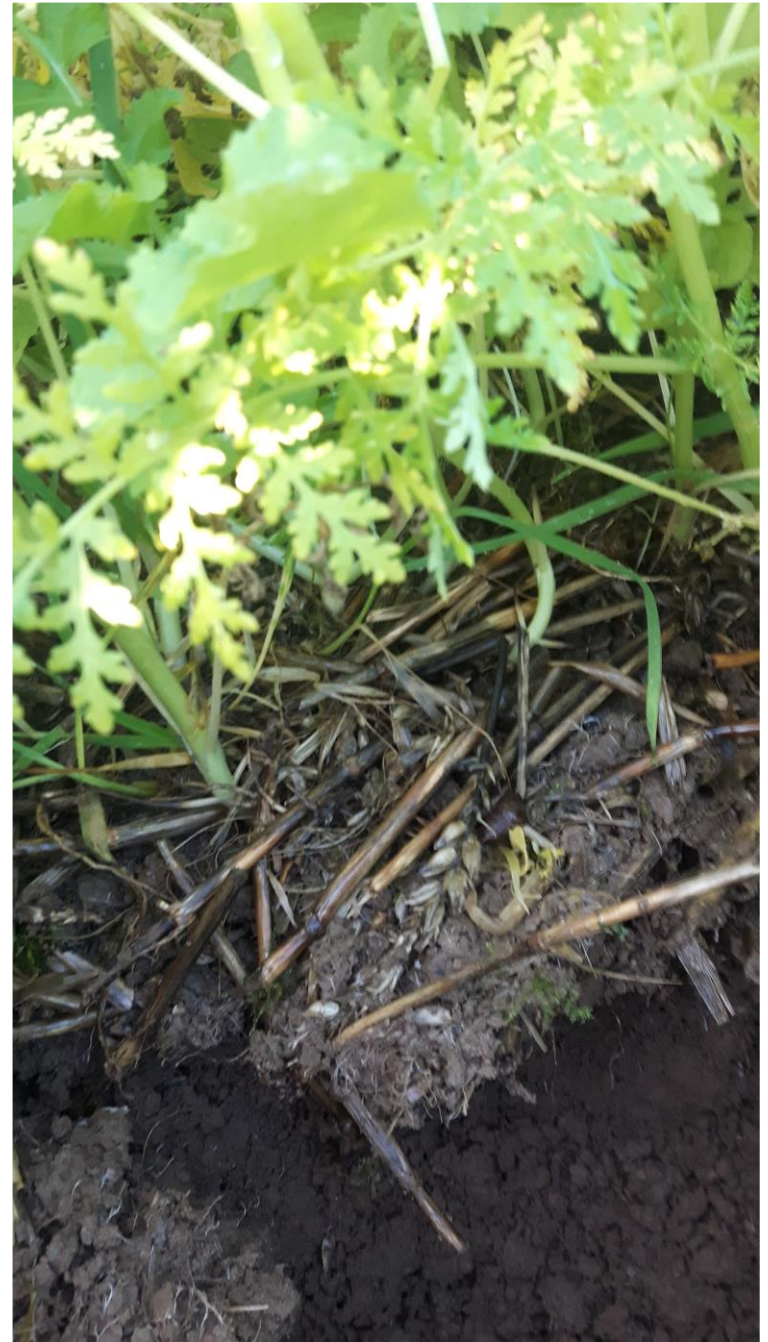
Beneficial Bacteria

Worm Populations

Dealing with slugs

OSR and cover crops

Little and often approach



CO₂ Sequestering

Reduced GHG impact

Environmentally friendly recycling

Not weather dependant

Rural planning and regulations



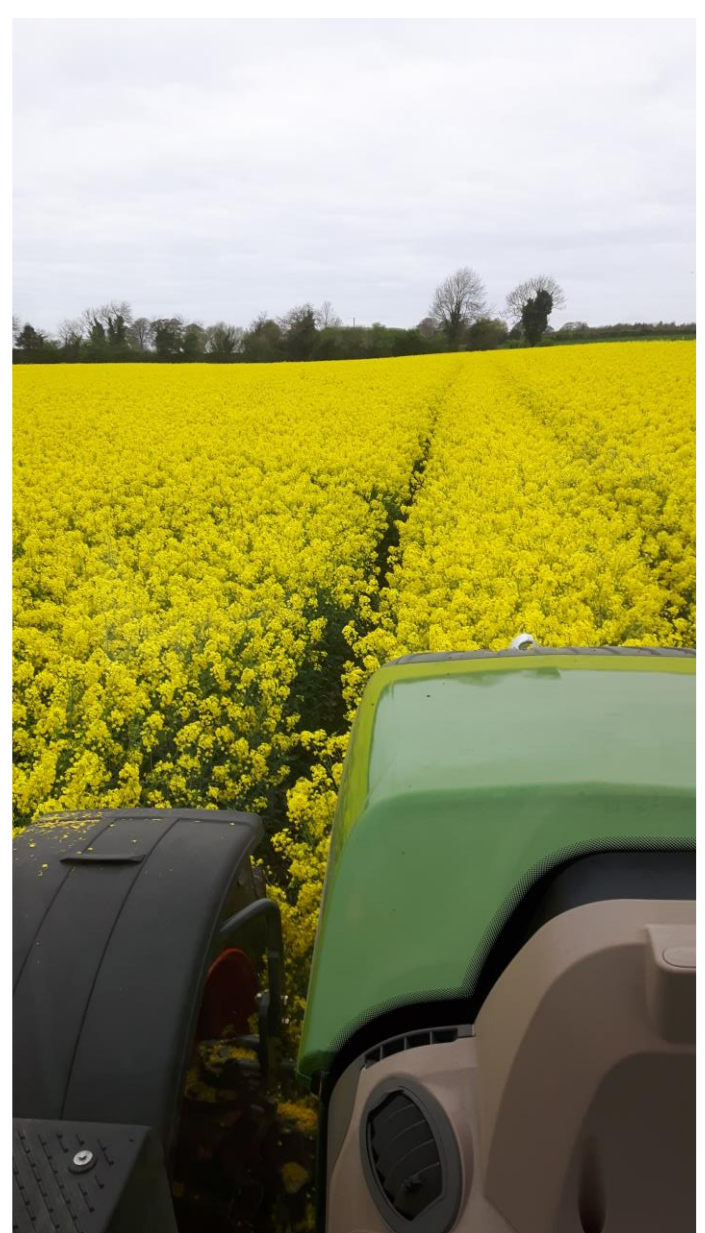
Summary & The Future

Crop rotation, min-till, cover crops and compost have transformed our farm

New techniques

New technologies

New life to the soil



“By having healthy soils we are putting in the foundations for healthier crops, reducing costs and allowing us to maximise yields in a sustainable and environmental way”

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