



ITLUS

C/O Eugene Ryan,
Ballycarroll House,

Portlaoise,

Co. Laois

16/11/2018

Dear Member,

On behalf of the council of the Irish Tillage and Land Use Society I would like to invite you to attend our winter conference and Annual General Meeting which will be held on Thursday 6 December 2018 in the Clanard Court Hotel in Athy, Co Kildare.

The theme of this year's conference is "**Optimising organic manures in tillage systems**".

Optimising fertilizer inputs on crops has never been more important. Future price rises for inorganic fertilizers will continue to hit margins. Limits on organic fertilizer loading on livestock farms are likely to create a potential supply of organic fertilizers. Tighter regulations and higher stocking rates may make this more available in the future to tillage farmers.

Is this a potential opportunity or just not worth the effort? This year's ITLUS conference looks at many of the issues surrounding the use of organic fertilizers on tillage farms. With these things in mind ITLUS has organised this conference with a panel of speakers who are users, regulators, advisors, custodians, service providers and researchers.

Dr. Patrick Forrestal from Johnstown Castle will discuss the fact that organic manures have benefits beyond their nutrient content. Then **Duncan Rose** from NRM Laboratories in the UK will outline their findings with regard to the nutrient variability in organic manures submitted for testing between 2011 and 2016. Our own **Ivan Whitten** will give an advisor's perspective on accounting for the nutrients we use in organic manures.

The controls and regulations pertaining to the use of organic manures will be outlined by **Seamus Barron** from DAFM. Finally, **Brendan Cooney**, who is chief environmental officer in Wexford County Council, will outline his role in protecting the environment and his concerns for the operation of the current systems.

We will also have a panel discussion on the experiences and challenges of using a range of organic manure sources with panellists **Pat Keenan**, a farmer from Kildare, **Donal O'Keefe**, a farmer from Westmeath and **Dermot Forristal**, Teagasc researcher.

The programme for the day is attached. I look forward to seeing you there. Please let me know if you wish to attend so we can streamline our catering arrangements. Cost for the conference is the usual €50 per member.

Yours Sincerely,

Eugene Ryan, Secretary ITLUS.

Email: itlussec50@gmail.com