

Water Conservation on the Farm

Making small changes can make a big difference

By reducing the amount of water you use on the farm, you will save on bills and help to conserve Ireland's precious water supply.

Here are some steps you can take:



Taps and hosepipes

Do not leave running taps and hosepipes unattended. Always fix dripping taps and hosepipes promptly and repair overflows. Fit automatic shut-off valves if possible.



Dry cleaning

Save water when cleaning the yard by using dry-cleaning techniques to remove solid waste from yards and pens before hosing.



Rainwater harvesting

Reusing rainwater from the roofs of farm buildings can lead to savings on your water bills. Collected rainwater can be used for washing down yards and on slatted sheds.



Drinking troughs

Watch out for overflowing drinking troughs as they can waste significant amounts of water. Adjust the ball valves to lower the float or replace faulty parts.



Watering crops

Water your crops efficiently by irrigating at the right time of day, or better still at night, to meet crops' needs and reduce losses through evaporation.



Clean plate cooler water

If you own a dairy farm, you can divert clean plate cooler water to a tank and use it for parlour washing.

Conduct a water audit

The first thing we suggest is that you carry out a water audit on your farm. This will show where the major water use is coming from and where you can make savings. You can do the audit yourself. Below are some simple things you can do to start an audit.

STEP 1 Examine your bill to understand water use patterns and charges

STEP 2 Read your meter, but remember to do so safely

STEP 3 Check for leaks using your water meter

Detecting leaks

Water meters

Check your water meters, including remote ones, on a regular basis to help find and fix leaks on your farm. Do an overnight test using your meter when little or no water is being consumed. If the night usage is unusually high or the counter is still running when everything is turned off, you may have a leak.

Visual checks

Carry out regular, visual checks along your private pipework on the farm to detect leaks. Inspect the ground above your pipes for visible signs of leaks such as unusually damp ground, lusher than expected vegetation (sign of recent leak) or reduced community / rush vegetation (consequence of a long-term leak).

Suspect a leak?

If you think you may have a leak, you can further investigate by shutting off sections of your pipework to assess the change in flow. Wet drains after a period without rain can indicate blockages or water from a leak may be flowing into them.



Spot opportunities, take action and **start saving**



Visit our dedicated water conservation for agriculture sector web page at: water.ie/conservation/business/business-conservation-tips/agriculture

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For queries on your bill, contact our Business Team:

0818 778 778 | **+353 1 707 2827** Lines open Mon–Fri, 9am–5.30pm

To report a water issue, call:

1800 278 278 | **+353 1 707 2828** Lines open 24 hours, 7 days a week.

