Sustainable Dairy Under Origin Green

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Since 1972, dairy has been at the heart of Kerry's business and has instilled a culture of sustainability and quality throughout the organisation. Since the commissioning of the first dairy and ingredients plant in Listowel, Ireland, Kerry has grown to become the industry's leading provider of technology based Taste & Nutrition solutions for the food, beverage and pharmaceutical markets.

Kerry operates three state-of-the-art dairy manufacturing facilities in Ireland, where over one billion litres, or 20% of the total Irish milk pool, are processed annually via a unique, fully controlled supply chain. Through Kerry Agribusiness, we guarantee the integrity and quality of our supply chain by working in partnership with over 2,900 direct milk suppliers.

Kerry are proud to be founding members of Origin Green, Bord Bia’s (the Irish Food Board) sustainability programme. It is the only sustainability programme in the world which operates at a national level and which includes farmers and primary producers, processors and retailers working together and leading the way to create a better future for all involved.

The Origin Green programme operates at two levels:

> Farm Level
> Factory Level

Farm Level

Ireland's mild climate and grass based dairy production system means our cows can graze outdoors for up to 300 days per year. It's this natural method of production that makes us the most carbon efficient dairy producer in the EU. However, in pursuit of continuous improvement, Origin Green has developed the world's first internationally accredited, national dairy assurance scheme. This programme, known as the Sustainable Dairy Assurance Scheme (SDAS), aims to further enhance the credentials of the Irish dairy industry.

Kerry has 100% certification of our milk supply under the SDAS scheme and our Kerry Agribusiness division work with farmers on the ground to support them in the implementation of more sustainable farming practices.

Through the SDAS programme, farms are assessed on quality and environmental performance as well as farm safety, traceability and animal welfare. The process allows farmers to receive information on their carbon footprint and supports them with tools and outreach programmes through which they can reduce their impacts and improve their profitability. For more information on the farm level programme check out the Origin Green website.
At factory level, member companies are required to submit an ‘Origin Green Charter’ outlining the actions they are proposing to take to improve the sustainability of their operations. There are three key areas of focus in the charter under which each company must set clear targets. These are:

- Raw Materials
- Manufacturing Process
- Social Sustainability

Each year Kerry Group must submit a review outlining how we have performed against our targets in each of these areas and this is independently verified. Kerry Group has been a fully verified member of the programme since 2013. The Groups Origin Green Charter covers our six Irish sites and is fully aligned with our efforts under the Group’s overall sustainability programme Beyond the Horizon.

Origin Green’s system of measuring and feedback helps to identify steps to increased efficiency and demonstrate how improved sustainability practices are good for business too.

In 2020, Bord Bia introduced a tiered membership for its Origin Green programme, making it easier to identify members who are performing at a high level or excelling in their sustainability performance. At Kerry, we are very proud to be among the first gold members of the programme.