Research theme | Agri-Economy & Policy  
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Project title | Analysis of the impact on farm income and farm numbers of market and non-market based strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions on Irish farms  
Project reference | 07 555  
Abstract | In 2005 agricultural support payments were decoupled from production and the sugar quota was abolished. Looking to the future the milk quota is likely to be eliminated and there may be a significant impact on agriculture stemming from changes in trade policy. Furthermore the increasing concern over climate change has led to a number of international agreements to control greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, including the Kyoto Protocol and the Clean Air for Europe (CAFE) Act. As a result targeted reductions in GHG have been set for the Irish agricultural sector and farmers now face the prospect of a whole new set of challenges. To date research into GHG emissions from Irish agriculture has focused on two main themes (i) projecting future emission levels and (ii) devising abatement strategies at the farm level. This project will link these two areas of research and increase our level of understanding on the most cost efficient means of reducing GHG emissions. The project will produce projections of emission at the farm level, rather than the aggregate level which has been done to date. These farm level projections will facilitate the estimation of the cost-benefit of adopting various abatement strategies. These projections will then be aggregated up to estimate the ability of the abatement strategies to allow us to meet our current and future national limits. One of the more innovative aspects of the project includes an analysis of the impact of market based mechanisms, tradable emissions permits and emission charges, in reducing emissions from agriculture. This project will constitute the first such analysis with Irish farm level data.  
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Lead organisation | Teagasc RERC  
Collaborating institutions | Teagasc RERC, UCD  
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