

**Company**

Derrycamma Farm

Sector

Oils and condiments

Chief products

- Natural cold pressed Irish rapeseed oil
- Infused flavoured Irish rapeseed oils
- Dressings based on Irish rapeseed oils

Sustainability headlines

- Explicit commitment to LEAF principles and guidelines
- Eco or min tillage cultivation utilised for the past five years
- Goal of significantly raising organic matter content in farm soil by 2016

Background

Derrycamma Farm is a tillage farm in Co. Louth that, for many years, chiefly produced wheat, barley and oats. Following the introduction of oilseed rape as a rotation crop, the decision was taken to add value by producing branded culinary oil.

Who we are

Derrycamma Farm is owned and managed by Patrick and Carol Rooney, who worked for many years in the IT industry. Having taken the decision in 2010 to add value to the oilseed rape crop grown on their farm, the couple now grow, press and bottle a range of Derrycamma Farm products, which are sold to both independent and multiple stores in Ireland and Northern Ireland. A keen focus on brand promotion and NPD has been central to the success of the products. In 2013, the range was expanded to include dressings and the company's products have won numerous accolades that reflect their premium status, including a number of UK Great Taste Awards.

Our sustainability credentials

As producers of branded, premium products, Derrycamma Farm is focused on developing eco-friendly production systems. Tillage farming is typically highly intensive in nature but over recent years, Derrycamma has introduced many of the practices used by organic farmers and is committed to the principles and guidelines laid down by LEAF, the UK-based organisation that promotes good environmental practices on farms. Eco or min tillage cultivation has been

utilised for the past five years on the farm and, in 2013, for the first time, organic poultry manure was used. Following this, a fertiliser programme implemented from 2014 onwards will see as much organic material as possible used. By planting trees and sowing 'wild bird cover' in suitable areas around the farm, the general eco balance on the farm is also being restored. In manufacturing, Derrycamma Farm has always used the cold press process, which is completely natural and avoids the use of heat or chemicals.

Origin Green in action

Using 2013 as a base year, Derrycamma Farm's commitment to Origin Green is expressed in a number of steps to improve the overall sustainability of production on the farm, in turn, supporting the goal of building new markets and increasing customer loyalty in existing markets. The three key aspects to the plan are; soil management, biodiversity and energy efficiency.

Improving soil biology will involve continued utilisation of min till farming techniques in conjunction with maximising the use of organic fertilisers. Each year, the soil will be tested by an approved lab to monitor organic soil content, with a goal of raising organic matter content in the farm's soil from 'medium' to 'high' for 2016 and beyond. This will, in turn, help to improve yields and lower input costs.

In the area of on-farm biodiversity, Derrycamma Farm will seek to improve the eco balance between intensive tillage farming and the natural habitat by planting trees and patches or strips of nectar-rich flowering plants that will attract bees, insects and birds.

The main sources of energy on farm are electricity and diesel fuel. Following the completion of a complete energy analysis policy and the installation of electricity and fuel meters, the farm will put in place practices and technology to reduce energy usage per unit over a planned period.

Social responsibility

In the coming years, Derrycamma Farm will invest resources in creating a farm visitor experience that is both educational and entertaining and which will target students and other interested groups. In addition to the educational dimension, these farm visits will also help build brand loyalty by communicating the sustainability of the company's production model.

What we're doing better

Prior to participation in Origin Green, Derrycamma Farm had not analysed usage of energy within the company. As a result of signing up to the Origin Green charter, assertive actions to become more energy efficient will now be taken, supporting a more efficient and sustainable business model.

For more information, contact: info@rapeseed-oil.ie

Website: www.rapeseed-oil.ie

Facebook: Derrycamma Farm Foods

Twitter: twitter.com/DerrycammaSales