

OBSERVER FARMING

A big issue for young farmers is their failure to get their qualifications done early

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Leo also gave his opinions and recommendations about the optimal timing of obtaining a Level 6 Certificate in Agriculture qualification.

“I think a big issue regarding a lot of young farmers out there is their failure to get their qualification as a Young Trained Farmer done in their early to mid-20s. Waiting until you are in your 30s to do the Green cert is a joke in my opinion so that’s why I wanted to get mine done at the earliest opportunity. Personal drive is the biggest factor in most successions planning processes I reckon,” he said.

The next stage in the process involved Leo setting up his herd number in addition to having ongoing discussions with his agricultural advisor and the Department of Agriculture.

“All the department staff I spoke to were helpful and as-



Dr Shane Conway talks with Leo about his experiences.

sisted greatly in my entry into farming as a ‘Young Trained Farmer’ under the Basic Payment Scheme National Reserve and Young Farmers Scheme,” he said.

Leo also took advantage of the grant-aid funding available to him under the TAMS II - Young Farmer Capital Investment Scheme as he set about establishing his farm enterprise.

Leo explained: “towards the end of 2015 when I first began

farming independently I had zero stock of my own, no sheds or machinery and minimal fencing. I was lucky to have my land base however which is the hardest part for any new entrant into farming. When TAMS II was announced I applied under the Young Farmer Capital Investment Scheme for around 4000 meters of sheep fencing along with associated gateways. I qualify for a 60% grant aid on this project and feel it is going to set a solid foundation for my enterprise going forward.”

He hopes to have the project finished by Autumn this year.

“Although it is a huge capital outlay, especially factoring in the fact I have had to purchase all stock from the outset, I still think after doing the maths and weighing up the benefits that it is an excellent opportunity seized,” he said.

For full story see www.leitrimobserver.ie