

Tirláin plans to invest €126Mn in whey protein facilities

21 November 2025 | News

The facility will significantly increase Tirláin's capacity and flexibility to create high-value whey-based products



The facility will significantly increase Tirláin's capacity and flexibility to create high-value whey-based products

Tirláin, Ireland's leading dairy processor, has announced plans for a €126 million investment in a state-of-the-art whey processing facility at its Ballyragget site in Kilkenny.

The significant investment marks an important step in Tirláin's value-add journey, enabling the company to expand its whey processing and product innovation capabilities. The new facility will focus on the production of an advanced nutritional whey protein product portfolio, including clear whey protein - an increasingly popular product among lifestyle consumers.

Once operational, the facility will significantly increase Tirláin's capacity and flexibility to create high-value whey-based products.

The announcement was made at an event in Ballyragget attended by Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Martin Heydon TD.

Minister Heydon said: "Today marks another milestone in the proud history of Tirláin and the Ballyragget site, which has been synonymous with dairy innovation for many years now. This multi-million-euro investment in whey protein processing capability represents not just a commitment to Tirláin's future, but to the Irish dairy industry as a whole. Whey has transformed from what was once considered just a by-product of cheese making into one of the most valuable and versatile nutritional ingredients in the world. Our grass-based milk production, traceability standards, and processing innovations give us a strong competitive advantage as international demand for whey ingredients continues to grow across sports nutrition, lifestyle products, infant formula and medical nutrition."

Tirláin Chairperson John Murphy said: "Today's €126 million investment is a real vote of confidence in the Irish dairy sector and in the world-class team here in Ballyragget. This is our largest value-add investment ever - a bold step forward in our journey to move further up the value chain."

"This project isn't just about building capacity, it's about creating a platform for long-term growth, innovation, and global leadership in whey protein nutrition. This is how we turn consumer demand into a sustainable opportunity."

“Ballyragget is already one of Europe’s largest integrated dairy processing sites, and this development will position Tirláin at the forefront of global nutritional protein innovation. It reflects our financial strength and long-term commitment to creating more value for our suppliers, customers, and rural communities.”

Tirláin Chief Executive Seán Molloy said: “This investment enables us to diversify our product mix, ensuring we remain relevant in a changing and growing market. It will deliver a product portfolio to support our customers’ evolving needs.”