

Grass Tips

GRAZING TARGETS

- The target is to complete 6 rotations between early to mid-April and mid-August. This can be achieved by sticking to a 20 day rotation
- Walk your farm weekly (more frequently during times of high growth) and create a grass wedge using PastureBase Ireland
- The grass wedge looks at how your farm is fixed for grass now and over the coming weeks. It allows you to react with confidence: Is there a deficit or surplus?
- Paddocks should be taken out for bales when there's a surplus. In a deficit situation additional concentrates should be fed to reduce demand
- Aim to keep pre-grazing yield at 1400 kg DM/ha & cover/LU at 160 kg DM/LU
- Keeping pre-grazing at 1400 kg DM/ha will:
 - Increase milk solids
 - Result in better cleanouts
 - Promote quicker regrowth
- If you are interested in learning to grass measure or if you are already grass measuring and want to improve your management and grass grown please contact our Dairy Advisor Gavin Hunt on 087-3453495

FERTILISER

- As a general rule of thumb aim to spread one unit of N/acre for every day in your round. If you are on a 20 day round aim to spread 20 units of N/acre.
- Consider using a fertiliser containing Sulphur. Aim to apply 16 units Sulphur/acre little and often throughout the grazing season
- Target slurry/dirty water to low index fields
- Anywhere that did not receive slurry or compound fertiliser, should get a compound fertiliser to boost growth (where there are allowances). Responses are higher to phosphorus application early in the year
- All paddocks where there has been bales taken off should receive slurry using low emission slurry spreading techniques. Where slurry cannot be spread use a compound such as 0-7-30

LIME

- Lime can be spread anytime of the year! Take your opportunities to spread lime, waiting until the back end of the year may not go to plan if ground gets wet!
- Check soil sample results and apply lime as required. Max application is 3 Tonne/acre
- Grazing ground: Apply lime after grazing. Aim to have lime washed off grass leaves before next grazing
- 1st Cut Silage Ground: Apply slurry first and apply lime 7-10 days later
- 2nd Cut Silage Ground: Apply lime after 2nd cut. Do not spread lime before silage as you risk contaminating the grass
- Avoid Urea and slurry applications on ground that has received lime for 3 months after
- No gap is required between lime to spread CAN based products

Full technical support will be available to assist farmers in making grassland decisions. If you are interested in availing of this service please contact Gavin Hunt on 087-3453495