

**Keep an eye on lamb performance  
Post Weaning:**



Where lambs are grazing good quality grass during the month of August they should be achieving a weekly gain of 1.5kg. It is important to monitor growth rates by weighing lambs regularly. If lambs are failing to meet the target growth rate of 1.5kg/week or approx. 200g/day certain areas such as grass quality, parasites, mineral deficiencies and lameness may need to be addressed.

Stomach worms and liver fluke can also have a detrimental impact on growth rates. Just because lambs are not scouring does not mean that they don't have a parasite burden. FEC (Faecal Egg Counts) are the most accurate way to check if the flock is affected by parasites.

Mineral deficiencies can also be a cause of ill thrift in lambs post weaning. Cobalt is the most commonly diagnosed mineral deficiency in sheep mainly due to their inability to store cobalt. Rumen bacteria require a level of cobalt to be able to synthesise Vitamin B12, vital for energy metabolism and efficient lamb growth. Therefore it is vital to supply lambs with sufficient cobalt via drenching, boluses or mineral lick buckets such as



Lameness will also hammer thrive if it is prevalent in the flock. This needs to be treated immediately by foot-bathing and rotating lambs into clean paddocks regularly. Supplementing lambs with Zinc will harden hooves and reduced incidence of lameness in the flock.

**NUGGET 4 way sheep mineral buckets contain 9,000mg of Zinc in 4 different forms and are an excellent way to improve hoof health in the flock.**



**Always the Best**

**Weaning Suckled Calves:**



For every 1kg of concentrate feed you give an animal at weaning time, it will return 0.25kg of liveweight gain or 4:1.

Make sure that the calf is consuming at least 2kg of Super Weaning crunch before weaning, and wean calf onto good after grass if possible. Calves can become very agitated and most susceptible to pneumonia at weaning. With this in mind, we urge you to use Super Weaning + Lungbooster.

Lungbooster is a cost-effective support for animals in the fight against pneumonia, for use in a preventative manner. It is a new and clever way of dealing with the problem and has no withdrawal period.

- It works via an anti-bacterial effect.
- Stimulates specific immunity, supports a specific immune response.
- Facilitates easier breathing.
- Increases mucous production and therefore the removal of harmful bacteria.

**Feeding levels of 1kg per 100kg of liveweight per head per day for 10-14 days.**

Note: While using lung booster animals will exhibit runny noses for up to 7 days due to the removal of the bacteria causing mucous from the nasal passages, but this is nothing to be alarmed by unless it keeps up.

**Beat the threat of pneumonia this Autumn with  Super Weaning + Lungbooster!**

**Imported Grain Controversy**

The only imported grain we ever purchase is maize as there is no native supplies. Indeed "From Irish farms for Irish farms" is a slogan we often use to promote our range of  feeds. We are

very mindful that  Fertilizer is now the No. 1 choice of Irish tillage farmers and we will always only buy native beans, wheat, barley and oats rather than imports to support those growers and also to enhance the quality and traceability of our feed.

## Where can you harness more from the land?



## The answer is grass and many are only utilizing a small portion of the lands grass growing ability.

Grazed grass is our cheapest form of feed for livestock and going forward we must get serious about it and push it all the time for more yield.

We constantly highlight the importance of reseeding but this is irrelevant if the advantages are not exploited. Under perfect conditions in Ireland we can produce up to 15tonne of dry matter per hectare but on Irish beef farms only 5tonne of this is used and very little more than 5 is produced. It is possible on heavy rich soils in Ireland to produce 5tonne of wheat per acre, which equate to 16tonne per hectare including straw and there's no reason why we cant achieve these yields of grass as our climate is more favourable to grass growing. 89% of Irish farms have sub-optimal fertility status and 65% of Irish farms require lime. Just imagine the loss of production from these 2 facts. Index 3 soils are optimum for fertility and when you drop to Index 1, grass yield drops by 1.5tonne/ha or €150/ha.

Old, poorly performing grassland is costing Agriculture €300-400/ha/year.

We fully acknowledge reseeding is expensive but remember the old saying money makes money, well this is true when it come to reseeding as the payback is 4:1. Payback from lime is 6:1.

## Fodder Crops

Provided fodder crops are properly grown, they have a very important role to play on farms as a way of reducing costs, They reduce the need to conserve expensive fodder and also reduce the need for winter housing and slurry spreading. Before growing a fodder crop it's important to note that you must treat it like growing any crop, be it cereals or beet etc, it must be properly done and closely monitored, too often seed is scattered over a poorly cultivated soil and left there. Anyone who grows fodder crops correctly fully recognize their benefits.

### **The options:**

From mid-May to mid-July kale is the preferred option. From July to August Redstart (cross between kale and Rape is the best option.

From Aug 1<sup>st</sup> on, **Forage Rape** is your best option.

Weather depending, rape can grow up to 8tonne of DM per hectare. Excellent option after spring cereals crops. Sow with 1 bpa of 18-6-12 and topdress with 1 bag of CAN. Sow up to Sept 1<sup>st</sup> Some volunteer cereals may emerge, but these will also give some grazing. If volunteers are very thick apply stratus ultra at 1lt to 2.5 acres.

### **Broadcast Rape seed @ 4kg per acre**

Many also grow these crops on tillage farms as cover or break crop but don't fertilise them to the same extent as if they were grown for fodder

On average a crop of forage rape will produce 3.5tonne of dry matter, which equals 105units of N, 8units of P and 52units of K, which if ploughed back in, is worth at least €68 going on today's fertiliser prices.

### **GLAS:**

For tillage farmers in GLAS, you may need to sow cover crops and below you will find details on the mixes we have to offer.

**Soil booster max** includes 5kg of tillage radish, 1kg of phacelia and 19kg of spring vetch. (1bag sows 2.5acres)

**Soil booster plus** includes 6kg of tillage radish, 2kg of phacelia and 2kg of forage rape. (1 bag sows 5acres)

**Soil booster graze** includes 6kg of forage rape and 4kg of leafy turnip. (1 bag sows 5acres)

## **Grain Growing in Ireland**

At Grennans we aim to provide our customers with the best of up to date advice in order to make your business as profitable as possible and we would like to sit down with each of our growers and find the best possible route to take. Its very important that growers make calculated decisions going forward. Every grower has different costs and its essential that they are thoroughly examined in order to find the best crop going forward that will deliver profit. At least half of Irish grain is grown on rented land and land owners must be made aware of the current situation. Land rent will have to be adjusted in line with grain prices. Please avail of our services and come talk to us at any time.

### **Closed on September 10<sup>th</sup>.**

We would like to inform you in advance that we will be closed on Saturday 10th September 2016. This includes Rath and all other J Grennan & Sons retail branches in Kilcormac, Tinnycross, Moate, Rosemount and Moyvore. We will return to our usual business hours on Monday 12th September. Weather dependant however we will be taking in grain in Rath and Tinnycross. We hope this will not cause any inconvenience.

Many thanks,

John Grennan

