

Management and Fertiliser Options

Culling

- Sooner rather than later is the best approach
- Culling early will help save winter forage

Finishing Early

- Steers consume the equivalent of 1 bale of silage per month on a diet of 5kg concentrate + grass VS an ad-lib diet with some straw/hay for fibre.

Importance of fibre

- Vital in keeping the digestive system in good health.
- Ideally livestock need 50% of their dry matter intake in the form of long fibre.
- Animals for slaughter can have 10-15% fibre on a short term basis

Spreading Fertiliser

Grazing ground

- Spread a high Nitrogen N,P & K compound + sulphur
- Aim to spread 27 units of N/acre.
- Consider applying another 20-30 units N/acre in 3-4 weeks.

Silage Ground

- 2nd Cut silage ground which was subsequently grazed, spread 40 units/acre of N + S
- For 3rd cut silage spread 50 units/acre of N in a compound with sulphur if within Nitrates limit.

Restricted feeding

If grassland produces half of normal growth in August and normal growth for September to November, it can be expected to grow 4t of Dry Matter/Ha between now and the end of November. The table below outlines how much silage can be conserved on the milking platform.

Example: 40 hectares stocked at 2 LU/ha with 4kg concentrates, 7.4t (40Ha X 185kg) silage can be saved)

Concentrate Supplement (Kg/head/day)	Silage saved (kg/Ha) based on concentrate supplementation & Stocking Rate		
	Stocking Rate (LU/Ha)		
	2.0 LU/Ha	2.5 LU/Ha	3.0 LU/Ha
4	185kg	0	1t of silage needed/cow
6	280kg	135kg	0
8	375kg	250kg	135kg