

Silage 2016



Aim to cut grass before it heads out, which is usually the last few days of May or the first few in June.

Once grass heads out, you can expect a fall in DMD of 3 units per week up to mid-June and 5 units thereafter.

DMD of lodged grass can fall even quicker, due to decay of the lower leaves.

Aim to mow silage in late afternoon on a warm sunny day as sugars and dry matter are highest at that time.

Seal pit straight away after ensiling, as silage is produced under anaerobic conditions (air-tight)

As usual we have stocks of silage covers, bale wrap, bale tite, net & twine.



Silage Additives: (Powerstart)

In recent years, silage additives have largely been forgotten and at Grennans we had done the same until a few years back we were approached by a company called ABS who presented some excellent results on a silage additive called Powerstart. Powerstart has become very popular locally and anyone who uses it never stop using it, because the benefits are huge, it pays for itself many times over. Feed-back has been excellent.

It can also be used on round bales and last year a farmer told us that it totally eliminated mould, which he constantly had problems with.

Powerstart works very quickly and is applied as a fluid via the forage harvester. This means that the fermentation process finishes as soon as two days after the sheet goes on and this means that more of the nutrients in the grass remain in the silage and are available for the animal to utilise.

Grassland:



All the commons sights- Docks, Dandelions, Thistles, Nettles, Rushes, and Furze. Every farm has its share of some or all of these weeds. Each year an effort must be made to control these weeds because if they are neglected, the density of these weeds will multiply rapidly. Make sure these weeds are in a healthy growing state before you spray them. Spray onto a warm dry leaf. When leaves are warm and dry, the plant will take in chemical much quicker. When cold plants tend to harden and develop a tough wax layer on leaves for protection, therefore making it much harder for chemicals to penetrate the leaf.

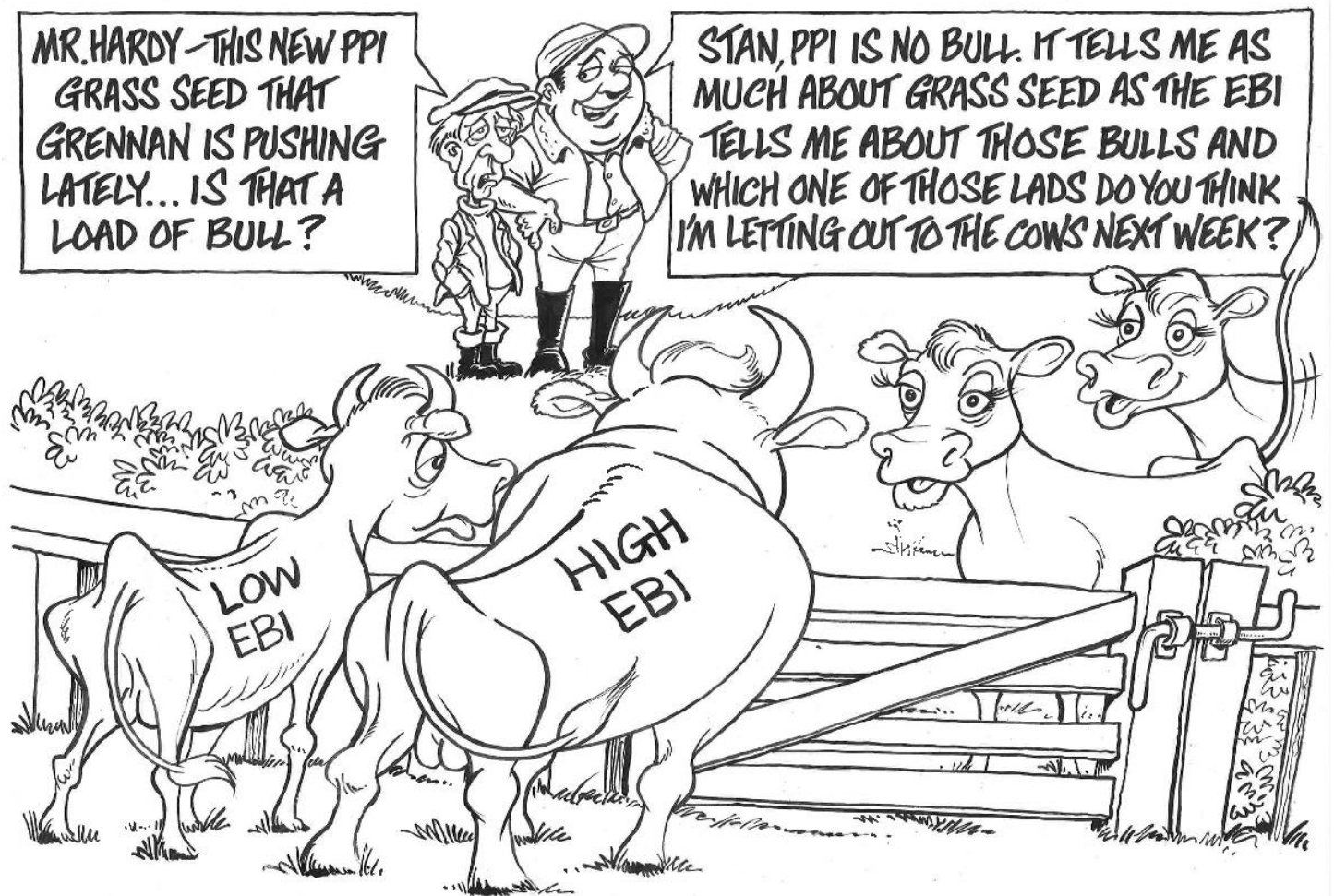
The key to good weed control is annual defence and eliminating the roots as well as the leaf.

“Remember the old saying, one years seed equals seven years weed.”

Whats value for money when buying grassland sprays??

- 1)** Cheap and cheerful €10 per acre and needs to be done every year, so costs €20 per acre when you include spraying
- 2)** Much newer and better chemical which needs to be used every 3 -4 years or maybe even eliminates weeds costing €30 per acre plus spraying = €40 per acre over say 3 years works out at €13 per acre per year.

For advice on how to deal with all your weed problems, talk to our chemical experts



PPI = Pasture Profit Index

Pasture Profit Index (PPI) is an extremely valuable tool for anyone thinking of reseeding grassland. It was developed by Teagasc in conjunction with the Dept. of Agriculture's variety assessment team. PPI is now widely accepted as the most accurate reflection of the real economic value to the farmer of individual Perennial Ryegrass varieties.

Reseeding is a 10 – 15 year investment, so the PPI system should be given the same level of consideration as the EBI system for livestock. In the same way as the EBI system gives us a monetary value for each individual bull, the PPI gives us a single monetary value for each grass variety. This figure tells us the value of that variety (Euro /hectare /year) compared to all the other varieties tested.

The differences in value of the varieties are very substantial on a yearly basis, so they are absolutely massive over the 10 to 15 year lifetime of the sward.

We are fortunate to have access to all the top Grass varieties. They are fully recommended and have the highest ranking on the PPI list & deliver you the greatest gains, yields & profits.

Example below of how PPI is compiled for a variety.

VARIETY DETAILS			PASTURE PROFIT INDEX SUB-INDICES (€ PER HA PER YEAR)						
			DM PRODUCTION			QUALITY	SILAGE	PERSISTENCY	TOTAL PPI € PER ha/yr
VARIETY	PL OI DY	HEADI NG DATE	SPR	SUM	AUT				
ABERGAIN	T	JUN-05	38	44	32	65	25	-5	199

Full 2016 PPI list available on request.