

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.



Always the Best

Sheep:

The new Sheep Welfare Scheme was recently launched. Sheep farmers who joined this new scheme had to choose from a number of options which include:

- Mineral Supplementation Ewes Post Mating
- Meal Feeding Lambs Post Weaning
- Mineral Supplementation Lambs Pre Weaning.

- Mineral Supplementation of Ewes post mating: Under this action scheme participants must supplement all ewes (including hoggets out to the ram) with mineral feeding stuffs post mating. Ewes must be supplemented with suitable minerals feed-stuffs for 60 days post mating. Supplementation may be in the form of bagged mineral feeding stuffs (dry minerals), mineral blocks, drenches and liquid minerals, injectables or boluses.

- Meal Feeding Lambs Post Weaning: Lambs must be supplemented with compound feeding stuffs containing appropriate mineral and vitamins for 4 weeks post weaning. **Our  sheep feed range meets all mineral and vitamin requirements** for this option.

- Mineral Supplementation Lambs Pre Weaning: With this option supplementation includes boluses or liquid minerals. **Such boluses and drenches are available in store.**

 **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.**

Dairying(August/September Targets)



- 3.6% protein or better
- Milk Solids (MS) per cow per day 1.25-1.45 kgs
- A milk drop of less than 2.5% from week to week
- A post grazing height of 4 to 5 cms
- Pre grazing cover for September not greater than 2000kg DM ha
- 100% of winter feed requirements made

Autumn grazing management

- Extend rotation from 10th august
- Rotation length 30 days by 1st September
- Rotation length of 40 days by end of September
- Highest farm cover should be achieved by last wk of September (1100-1150 kg DM ha)

Autumn Fertilizer

- Units spread will depend on stocking rate
- Aim to spread between 40-60 units/acre between august and September on milking block
- P and K may need to be spread depending on soil results
- Good time to spread K to build soil fertility
- Paddocks with low PH should be targeted for lime spreading

Concentrate feeding

- Concentrate feeding will vary from 1 to 4kgs per day depending on cow type, grass cover, grass dry matters, grass quality and ground conditions.
- Increase supplementation when grass dry matters are low to prevent BCS loss.
- An additional 1kg during periods of continuous rain fall will help achieve optimal intakes and prevent BCS loss

Tip for Calculation of milk solids

Yield x 1.03= kg milk

Kg of milk x Fat % and protein %

Example

21 litres/cow 3.55% protein 4.1% fat

= 21 x 1.03 =21.63

21.63 x (0.0355 + 0.041)

=1.65 kg MS/cow

Fodder Crops



Provided fodder crops are properly grown, they have a very important role to play on farms as a way of reducing costs.

Its now too late to sow kale or Redstart.

From Aug 1st on, **Forage Rape** is your best option.

Weather depending, rape can grow up to 8tonne of DM per hectare. Excellent option after cereal crops. Sow with 1 bpa of 18-6-12 and topdress with 1 bag of CAN. Sow up to Sept 1st

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.

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)

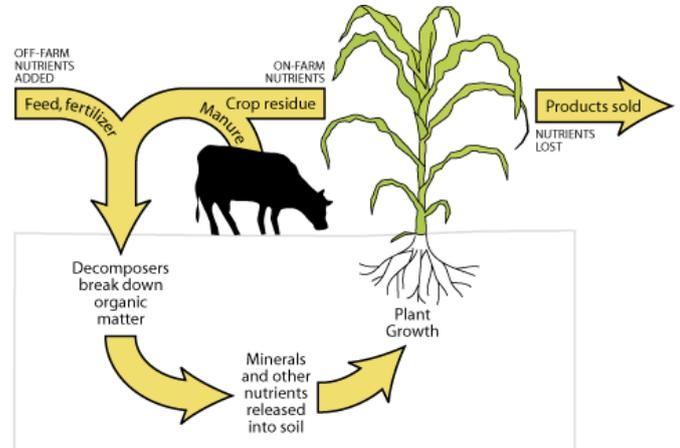
Japanese Knotweed:



Lot of interest in this weed recently as it appears to be spreading rapidly. It was originally brought into the country as an ornamental plant and unfortunately not controlled.

It is a highly invasive plant which occupies many roadsides and waste ground. Its now even reported that it can devalue the price of land. If you have this plant, don't be tempted to cut it as this makes it more aggressive and encourages it to multiply rapidly. Chemical control is the best method and Forefront T or Garlon Ultra are the two chemicals that are active on it. Roundup will work but you may need to apply twice to get control. Please pay particular attention to this weed as it has the potential to do cause havoc in our countryside.

Putting back what you take away from Grassland:



To date its been a bumper year for grass growth. Its wonderful to see all the advancements in grass management in recent years. Farmers are reseeded more regular and using a proper rotation of stock. In turn this leads to extra liveweight gain, extra fodder and ultimately increased profits. We're all aware of the low cost of producing grass and going forward we must get serious about it and push it all the time for more yield. Ireland is probably the most suitable country in the world for grass production and where the highest grass yields should be achieved.

As we enter into August, grass cover is very low for the time of year on some farms. The exceptional growth during the year prompted many to cut back on fert usage. Lot of surplus silage has been cut so grass will benefit from more than straight CAN & compounds will give a good boost. Some dairy farmers have been applying a bag of 18-6-12 or 10-10-20 mid-summer for the past number of years and have got very good results. Depending on your soil indices, chose from products like 21-2.2-10, 24-2.2-4.5, 18-6-12 & 10-10-20. If your soils are low in potash, the Autumn time is the best time to apply, as applying large amounts in the spring encourages luxury consumption and you can end up with excessively high levels of K in grass and silage which can lead to issues like milk fever. Many soil samples for silage indicate a requirement of 120-150units per acre. This must be split between Autumn & Spring as 70units is the max amount that should be applied for silage in Spring. 1 bag of muriate of potash contains 50units.