

Grass Reseeding

By Paul Mooney (Crop Specialist)

Now may be the perfect opportunity to reseed! Excellent grass growth throughout June has created surpluses on many farms. This gives the opportunity to take out paddocks for reseeding.

Benefits of reseeding include:

- 8% more milk production & better live weight gain
- 15-20% more productive swards as well as increased sward quality
- 10% increase in grass content of cows diet = increased profit of 2.5cent/litre
- Save €2.70/cow/day for every extra day a cow is at grass
- 25% more responsive to applied nitrogen fertiliser
- Better utilisation of grass allowing for higher stocking rates



Direct reseeding service now available, contact any of our branches to find out more information about this service or to discuss which grass variety mix suits your system best.

Profitability from Sustainability

By Brian Delaney (Beef Specialist)

Ireland is currently ranked 5th in Europe for producing beef with the lowest carbon footprint. Fortunately for Irish beef farmers, a move towards a lower carbon footprint will also bring increased profitability. This increased profitability will come primarily through the growing and utilisation of more grass.

Grazed grass is the cheapest feed source available to livestock. By increasing the amount of grazed grass in the diet, carbon footprint will be reduced, farm profit should also increase while the level of environmental sustainability will also improve. A “grow in 3 weeks and graze in 3 days” paddock system is crucial in maximising returns from beef farming.

Management is key in enabling farmers to improve sustainability & profitability. Grassland management needs to improve on many farms, allowing more grass to be utilised on farm. A soil health and reseeding plan are also tools which can be used to improve both profitability & sustainability.



Importance of Soil Health

By Hilda Dooley (Environmental/Crop Specialist)

Underperforming paddocks may be indicative of overall **Soil Health** rather than just soil nutrition. Soil health encompasses physical (soil structure), chemical (nutrition) and biological (soil flora and fauna) factors.

Nutrition levels in a soil may be good, but there are several factors which restrict nutrient availability and uptake by the plants, such as incorrect soil pH & poor soil structure. Soil structure is directly linked to Soil Health. Soils are made up of aggregates (sand, silt and clay particles & organic matter) and pore space. Compaction leads to a reduction in pore space which reduces water movement, leading to flooding. Flooding caused by compaction leads to anaerobic conditions which in turn leads to a reduction of biological activity and soil organic matter.

Standard soil sample results give the soil nutritional status, but not the soil structure status. With the help of the recently developed Teagasc GrassVess (Visual Evaluation of Soil Structure), we can help you assess your soil structure and identify whether or not compaction may be present. This will tell us to what degree your soil health may be compromised.

If soil structure problems are identified & addressed, the dividends in terms of increased productivity tend to be massive.



We can help you **Improve Your Soil Structure** and increase **Productivity**.
For further information phone Hilda on 05791 33584.

“What the farmers say”



Conor Spollen - Dairy Farmer
Glasson, Co Westmeath

John & Conor Spollen use Eprecis on their herd to improve overall cow health and performance.

“ Since we started using Eprecis for worm control on our herd we have noticed less coughing, fewer thin cows and milk yields have responded positively. One other important advantage of using Eprecis injection is that I didn't have to worry about losses of product due to weather conditions. Eprecis is a peace of mind product that I would strongly recommend, it's very easy to use and you're getting better value from the product because of its high bioavailability. ”

Double delight at the Beltex All-Ireland championships for Offaly breeder.

Congratulations to Brian Mathews of Killeigh, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on his recent success at this year's All-Ireland Beltex Championships at Athlone show, Co. Westmeath on Sunday 23rd June.

The Quarrymount flock dominated many of the classes, taking home three red rosettes with their Shearling Ram, Shearling Ewe and Ram Lamb as well as two second places in the Aged Ewe and Ewe Lamb classes. The Quarrymount flock had a strong representation in the final line up with three out of six sheep hoping to claim the Overall Champion & Reserve Champion.

Judge Dafydd Lewis from Wales tapped forward Brian's Shearling Ram as the Overall champion and Shearling ewe as the Reserve Champion. This is Quarrymount's first double championship win.

Brian has been using Nugget Animal Feeds as his No.1 choice for his pedigree flock for many years. We are delighted that our range of quality feeds is complementing the superb breeding in his flock.

“If you have the breeding, then make J Grennan & Sons Nugget feeds your No.1 choice for feeding”



Brian Mathews pictured with Judge Dafydd Lewis and Overall Champion Beltex Shearling Ram

Gut Worm Control in Cows

by **Shane Gonoude** (Animal Health Specialist)

All grazing cows are exposed to gut worms, therefore parasites remain one of the main threats to livestock health & productivity. Oestertagia species are prevalent & are the most pathogenic species of gut worms in cattle. Larval stages invade & temporarily destroy the gastric glands. Large numbers of parasites can then significantly reduce acid production which in turn reduces digestion efficiency.

Trials have shown that cows exposed to a significant gut worm challenge have a reduced appetite & reduced dry matter intake. This will have a direct effect on performance & fertility. Maintaining feed intake is important for all cows as intake drives performance. While there are several licenced wormers on the market, most are not permitted for use in dairy cows. Eprinomectin Pour On has zero milk withdrawal or Eprinomectin Injection with a zero milk withdrawal.

Benefits of gut worm treatments:

- Increased yield & improved milk quality
- Early treatment avoids contamination of pasture
- Increased dry matter intakes while on pasture
- Treated animals have improved calving intervals
- Treatment for gut worms will improve overall cow health



We are delighted to announce the recent addition of Clareen native, Ms. Hilda Dooley to our Technical team. Hilda completed a Ph.D. in Plant Pathology at Teagasc, Oakpark.

Hilda will be focusing on Crop Agronomy and our Soil Health Improvement Programmes. Hilda will be based in Rath and is looking forward to the challenges that this role will bring. Hilda's contact details are 057 91 33584 / 086 6074729.