

# GRASS TIPS



## Grazing management advice during May as growth takes off

- Finally, grass growth increased to 57 Kg DM/Ha and 49 Kg DM/Ha on dairy and drystock farms respectively over the past 7 days
- Higher temperature & sunshine will increase growth rates into the mid - high 60's Kg DM/ha over the next 7 days
- Use this opportunity to improve grass utilisation & clean outs in the paddock
- Grass supply on many farms was tight but is now recovering
- AFC, Cover/LU & Rotation length need to be monitored

## Managing growth vs demand on your farm using PastureBase

- It is vital to get back into a routine of weekly grass walks and entering grass covers on PastureBase Ireland to help you to react when grass growth increases
- For farmers that have been growing 55 Kg DM/ha and have a demand of 70 Kg DM/Ha, this means that every week 105 Kg DM/ha will be removed from your Average Farm Cover
- Similarly, if you grow 65 Kg DM/ha over the next 7 days and have a demand of 50 Kg DM/Ha, you will increase your Average Farm Cover by 105 Kg DM/Ha
- Keep on top of Cover/ LU figure for your farm & growth vs demand as growth increases & as we approach plant reproduction stage
- Aim for a Cover/LU of 160-200 Kg DM/LU or 12-15 days ahead
- AFC should be maintained above 600 Kg DM/Ha and rotation length should not drop below 20 days

## Keeping chemical N & dilute slurry applications up to date

- Lack of chemical N application is still affecting growth on some farms throughout the country
- If slurry has been applied, apply N with S at a rate of 25 Kg N/Ha if you are up to date on N or apply at 35 Kg N/Ha if an application has been skipped during April
- If paddocks have no slurry received, apply N P K + S compound fertiliser
- Dilute slurry at a rate of 1500-2000g/ac is working well on paddocks after grazing
- If you have paddocks with >20% clover, consider reducing N input from now on

Nutrient management									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Similar N up until early May – low levels of N fixed by clover until May</li> <li>• Sulphur applied from April onwards – 20 kg S/ha</li> <li>• Reduce N in paddocks with adequate clover content</li> <li>• Use soiled water mid-season on high clover paddocks</li> </ul>									
April clover content (%)	Feb	Mar	April	May (2 rot)	June (2 rot)	July (2 rot)	Aug	Sept	Total
Chemical Fertiliser (kg N/ha)									
Grass sward	24	36	20	32	28	28	21	23	212
5%	20	35	20	20	20	20	20	20	175
10%	20	35	20	15	15	10	15	20	150
15%	20	35	20	15	10	*SW	10	20	130
20%	20	35	20	15	SW	SW	SW	15	105

\*Soiled water: 2000 gallons/acre = 6 N-1.4 P-10 K