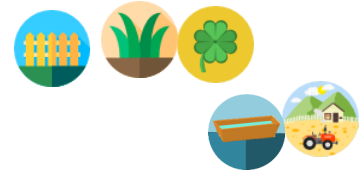# Grass measurement for sheep grazing

Brian Nicholson

1 Description of the innovation

- Grass measurement for sheep grazing

- Grass-measuring using the grass-hopper and uploading onto pasturebase

- Better management of grass, increase utilisation levels, grow more grass

- Working to increase amount of lamb produced from grass

- Increasing amount of grass grown and utilised through measuring and managing

- Economic results

- Focusing on higher production and/or lower costs

Better management of grass,

Increase utilisation levels,

Maximise amount of lamb produced from grass

- Grazing management system

- Manage grass and increase utilisation levels

- Grass-hopper, Pasturebase

2 Farm description

ENVIRONMENT

Soil type: Clay-loam

Climate type: temperate oceanic climate

Altitude: Variation across the farm (250m)

Slope: Variation across farm (25%)

Agricultural area (ha UAA): 90 grazing

Arable land area (ha): 9

Permanent grassland area (ha): 90

Average stocking rate (agriculture area) (LU/ha UAA): 2.8

Average growth performance per head (kg LWG/day): 250 grams

GRASSLAND MANAGEMENT

Grazing : Yes

Grazing management type: Rotational

STRUCTURE

Farm type: Specialist sheep

Annual work units (AWU): 1.5

Main animal type: Sheep

Number of animals (heads): 1200 ewes

Breed type 1: Texel*Belclare

Breed type 2: Texel and charolais terminal rams
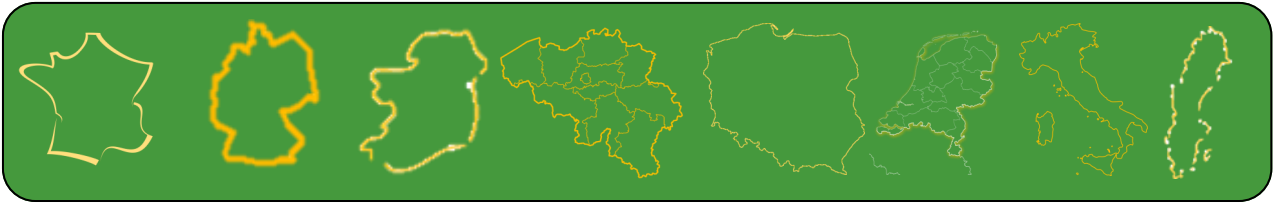
Agricultural Area : 90 ha UAA

Length of grazing period: 310 days

Fertilization rate (kg N/ha): 130

WHY IT IS WORKING

- Increasing amount of grass grown and utilised through measuring and managing grass

- Working to increase amount of lamb produced from grass

- Maximise output per hectare

- Quality grass all year round

- Reducing cost of production

Ireland

Domains of innovation

Grasshopper, Pasturebase

Grass and small amount of clover

Silage but mainly grass

Rotational system

Reseeding

Paddocks

TexelXBelclare ewes

Texel, charolais terminal rams

Lamb

Quality lamb produce from grass

Low cost grass based

Mixture

Sheep

SHEEP