

Managing two large low input dairy farms



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1 Description of the innovation



- Managing two large low input dairy farms
- Sourcing land and building grazing infrastructure, building soil fertility, managing grass on both farms and milking on both farms
- Increasing output
- Economic results
- Job satisfaction for the farmer
- Sourcing land and installing grazing infrastructure
- Discussion groups
- PastureBase Ireland
- Irish Grassland Farmer of the Year 2017



Economically profitable and job satisfaction



Maximise output per hectare at minimum cost

- Sourcing land and building grazing infrastructure
- Building soil fertility
- Managing grass on both farms



2 Farm description

ENVIRONMENT

Soil type: Clay-loam

Climate type: Temperate climate

Agricultural area (ha UAA): 160

Permanent grassland area (ha): 160

Average stocking rate (agriculture area)
(LU/ha UAA): 2.9

Altitude: Variation across the farm (300m)

Slope: Variation across the farm (20%)

GRASSLAND MANAGEMENT

Grazing : Yes

Grazing management type

Rotational Grazing

STRUCTURE

Annual work units (AWU): 2

Main animal type: Dairy

Total Livestock unit (LU): 317

Breed type 1: Fr*Je

Breed type 2: Fr

ANIMAL PERFORMANCE

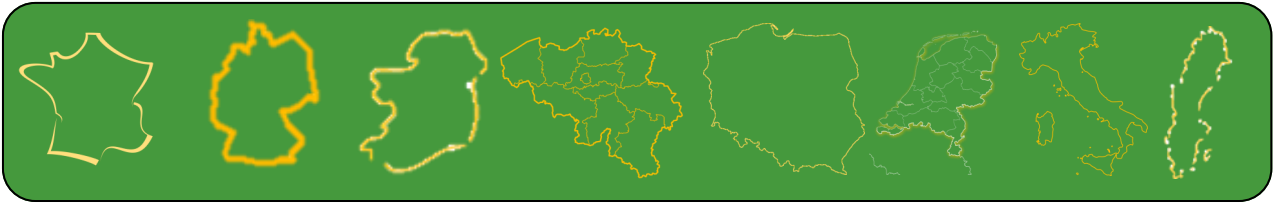
Average stocking rate (grassland area) (LU/
ha): 2.8

Milk production per head (l/year/dairy
animal): 5200l

WHY IT IS WORKING

- Increase output
- Economically profitable
- Job satisfaction
- Economic results
- Sourcing land and installing grazing infrastructure
- PastureBase Ireland
- Good technical performance

Ireland



Domains of innovation



Pasturebase Ireland



Fr and Fr*Je



Monocultures and mixtures



Quality grass based milk



Silage pit, produce as much milk from
grass



Quality



Rotational



Low cost grass based dairy
farm



N/a



Hills and flat across land



Paddocks

Dairy Cow



MILK