



# Grazing with monocultures and mixtures



## Neill Irwin

### 1 Description of the innovation



- Grazing with monocultures and mixtures
- Curiosity in subject/area
- Farmer wanted to see what varieties would grow best on the farm
- Varieties growing very well, easy managed and palatable
- Growing and utilising more grass on the farm
- Reseeding poor varieties
- Research in Moorepark and discussion groups
- Reduce costs on the farm by increasing the amount of grass in the diet



Varieties growing well across the farm

#### Produce more milk from grass:

- Growing and utilising more grass on the farm
- Reseeding of monocultures
- PastureBase Ireland



## 2 Farm description

### ENVIRONMENT

Soil type: Clay/loam soil

Climate type: Temperate Oceanic climate

Agricultural area (ha UAA): 121

Permanent grassland area (ha): 121

Average stocking rate (agriculture area)  
(LU/ha UAA): 2.85

Altitude: Variation across the farm (200m)

Slope: Variation across the farm (20%)

### GRASSLAND MANAGEMENT

Grazing : Yes

Grazing management type:

Rotational Grazing

### STRUCTURE

Annual work units (AWU): 3

Main animal type: Dairy

Number of reproductive animals: 300

Breed type 1: Fr\*Je

Breed type 2: Fr

### ANIMAL PERFORMANCE

Milk production per head (l/year/dairy  
animal) 4500l

Grassland management type: Rotational

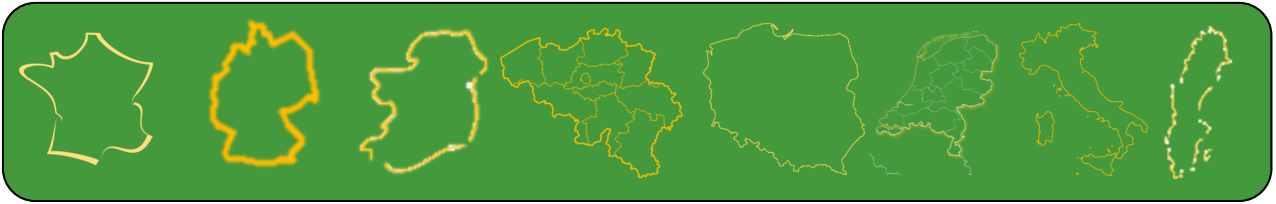
Length of grazing period: 300 days

Fertilization rate (kg N/ha): 240

### WHY IT IS WORKING

- Farmer exploring what grass varieties grow best on the farm
- Monocultures growing very well, easy managed and palatable
- Growing and utilising more grass on the farm
- Reseeding poor varieties
- Economic results
- Research in Moorepark and discussion groups
- Reduce costs on the farm by increasing amount of grass in the diet

# Ireland



## Domains of innovation



Agrinet



Fr\*Je, Fr



Monocultures and mixtures



Milk



Soil fertility, reseeding



USP: Quality



Rotational grazing



Low cost grass based



N/a

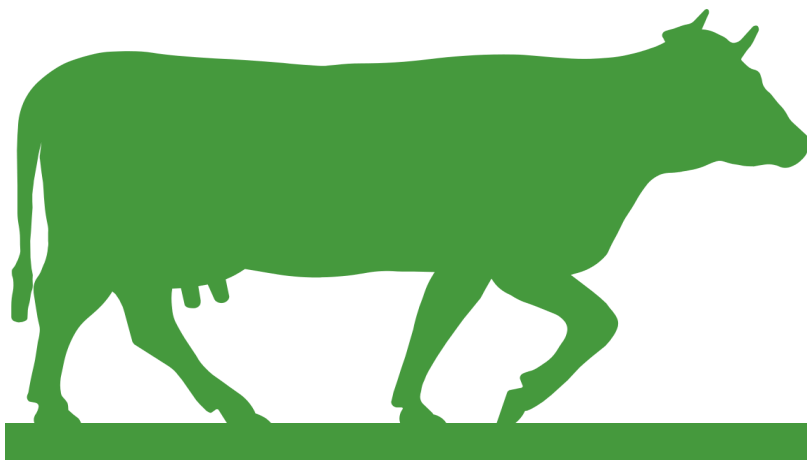


Sandy soil



Feed barrier

## Dairy Cows



MILK