Grazing wet soil types - adapting strategies

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1 Description of the innovation

- Grazing wet soil types - adapting strategies
- Grazing monocultures on wet soils
- Some varieties of grass performing extremely well
- Can see advantages/disadvantages of each variety
- Identifcation of quality grass varieties
- Grassland quality (species composition, feeding value)
- Moorepark reseach
- Pasturebase Ireland

Identifcation of quality grass varieties for heavier soils

Maximise output per hectare while minimising costs

- Grazing monocultures on wet soils
- Some varieties of grass performing extremely well
- Some varieties of grass performing poorly
- Can see advantages/disadvantages of each veriety

2 Farm description

ENVIRONMENT

Soil type: Clayey-loam

Climate type:: Temperate Oceanic

Agricultural area (ha UAA): 111

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

Altitude: Variation across the farm (80m above sea level)

Slope: Variation across the different paddocks (25%)

GRASSLAND MANAGEMENT

Grazing : Yes

Grazing management type:

Rotational grazing

STRUCTURE

Main animal type: Dairy

Number of animals (heads): 385

Total Livestock unit (LU): 285

Number of reproductive animals (heads) 196

Breed type 1: Fr*Je

Breed type 2: Fr

ANIMAL PERFORMANCE

Milk production per head (l/year/dairy animal): 5500l

Grassland management type: Rotational

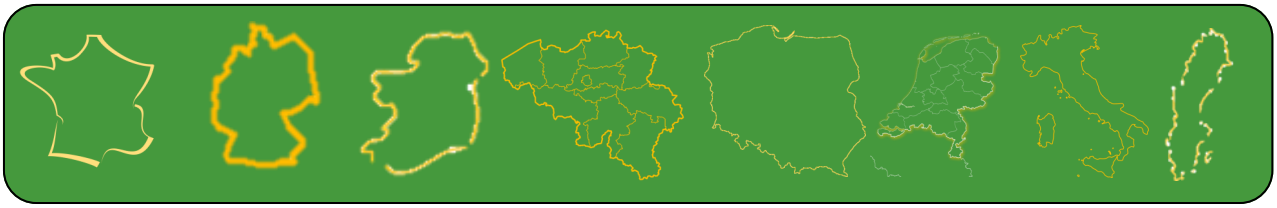
Length of grazing period: 285 days

Fertilization rate (kg N/ha): 230

WHY IT IS WORKING

- Grazing monocultures on heavier soils
- Some varieties of grass performing extremely well
- Can see advantages/disadvantages of each variety
- Reseed poor varieties with better quality varieties
- Grassland quality (species composition, feeding value)
- Moorepark reseach
- Pasturebase Ireland

Ireland



Domains of innovation

Pasturebase, contractor

monocultures and mixtures

silage pit

Rotational grazing

n/a

Parlour, feed barrier

Fr*Je

Milk

Quality

Low cost grass based milk

Clayey-loam soil

Dairy cow

MILK