

Teagasc Notes for week ending Friday 7th May 2021

Current Grass Situation

With a colder Northerly airflow for the week, growth rates on many farms with average farm covers of <550 kg DM / ha are still struggling.

1. Hold the rotation at 20-22 days
2. Hold feeding levels until growth increases (match growth and demand)
3. Continue to walk the farm every 5 days
4. Don't over graze cows, keep an eye on protein percentage as we approach breeding.

Major Focus on Clover Establishment and Management in 2021

The EU Farm to Fork strategy (2030) has increased the urgency to focus research on the role of white clover to reduce chemical nitrogen fertiliser use. White clover has a very important role to play in sustainable Irish pasture-based milk and meat production systems. The high quality forage and the nitrogen fixation benefits of grass-white clover pastures have led to a resurgence of interest in its use as a means of reducing the economic and environmental costs in pasture-based milk and meat production systems. Research is currently being undertaken at Teagasc Moorepark, Curtins, Clonakilty and Athenry research farms on the role of white clover in our production systems with very promising results both in terms of nitrogen efficiency & animal performance. A booklet has been produced to provide farmers with information on establishment of grass-white clover swards and the management to ensure those swards are productive and persistent. Clover can add more to Ireland's successful grassland efficiency, but it needs better management, especially in the first year post sowing. The booklet is available online at www.teagasc.ie.

Results-Based Environment-Agri Pilot Project (REAP)

The Results-Based Environment-Agri Pilot Project (REAP) is a Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine (DAFM) pilot project that pays farmers to maintain and improve the environmental conditions of their land. This factsheet provides information on the pilot project. The pilot will test the 'Results-Based' approach and prepare farmers, Advisors and DAFM for the Agri Environment Scheme in the new Rural Development Programme in 2023. There is no guarantee of entry. The scheme has a 2 year duration: 2021 and 2022.

Who CANNOT apply? Farmers in GLAS; EIPs or Organics.

What Fields are eligible?

- ✓ Fields on your BPS in 2020
- ✓ Grass fields
- ✗ Not tillage fields
- ✗ Not peatland with heather

How to make an Expression of Interest?

You make an expression of interest through a DAFM approved REAP Advisor. Contact your local Teagasc Office. The deadline for expression of interest is Monday, 10th May

IF accepted into REAP

1. You choose any grass fields totalling 2 – 10 ha
2. Your Advisor will walk these grass fields in June / July and score each field with you using one of two scorecards (Low Input Grassland or Multi Species Ley)
3. The score determines the level of payment
4. Your Advisor will discuss the option of planting trees or hedges

Field scores based on:

1. Number and abundance of grass and non-grass species
2. Extent of boundaries
3. Margin width: 1m, 2m, 3m (and an additional option of 5m for Multi Species Leys)

How Much Might I Earn with this Scheme?

1. Participation Payment: €1,200 per year
2. Optional Capital Payment: €1,200 in one year only
€9.20 / tree up to 130 trees or
€15.80 / m of hedge up to 76m
3. Field Score Payment:
Low Input Grassland (LIG)
€250 - €400 /Ha based on a score of 4 - 10
» Plus top up of €50 /Ha for late mown meadows
» **Max** €4,500 if 10 Ha LIG + late mown meadow at a score of 10/10
OR

Multi Species Ley (MSL)

- » €125 - €275 / Ha based on a score of 4 - 10
- » Max €2,750 if 10 Ha MSL at a score of 10/10

Max Payment: €6,900 in one year & €5,700 in other year for a score of 10/10.

Average payments will be significantly lower than maximum payments.