

# Technical Advice for Grassland Farmers to secure winter feed for next year

*The following immediate actions are recommended:*

- Complete a feed budget for next winter including a reserve of at least 1 months fodder
- Close sufficient area for first cut silage based on fodder budget
- Graze swards in rotation at a high quality growth stage (10cm height) to improve animal performance. Skip heavy swards for silage when growth allows
- Prioritise available slurry to silage ground and lower fertility fields
- For first cut silage, apply enough fertiliser to ensure overall supply of 100 kg/ha (80 units/acre) of Nitrogen from slurry plus fertiliser. Make sure enough P, K and Sulphur is supplied to grow the crop
- Roll silage ground as required and where soil conditions are suitable
- Plan for lime application this year where low soil pH needs to be addressed. Applying lime on bare ground after first cut is a good opportunity

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The National Fodder and Food Security Committee is tasked by government with preparing an industry response, contingency plans and advice to assist farmers in managing their farm enterprises through a period of high input price inflation and potential supply pressures.

**Supports and advice are available to all farmers through your Teagasc advisor, at your local Teagasc advisory office or on [www.teagasc.ie/feedsecurity](http://www.teagasc.ie/feedsecurity)**