



National Fodder & Food Security Committee

Monday 8th July 2024

Agenda

Welcome & Opening remarks (Chair)

- 1) Tillage Crop Update & Outlook (Teagasc Tillage Team)
- 2) Summary of Grass Growth situation on farms (Michael O'Donovan, Teagasc)
- 3) Teagasc June 2024 Fodder Survey Results and advisory messages for the coming weeks and months (Joe Patton and Pearse Kelly, Teagasc)
- 4) Comments from around the NFFSC members – Including sharing any relevant initiatives being taken to support farmers
- 5) Close



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Tillage Update

Presenter:

Shay Phelan (Teagasc)

Crops Observations

- Winter barley harvest within 1 week
- Wheat crops are very variable
- Difficult to assess yields in winter crops
- Spring crops are later but better than last year

Tillage Update

Main points for this season:

- Overall cereal area down 7,800 ha
- Total grain production set to decrease again in 2024
 - Decrease of possibly 150,000 t
- SIM €10 million funding in 2024, was €12.5 million in 2023
 - Fund fully used in 2023 – potentially less hectares with straw incorporated in 2024
- Straw yields per hectare expected to increase in 2024
 - Caveat – Late Harvesting risks quality / yield / baling of straw
- Excess straw from previous season not available in 2024
 - **Advice to all farmers to book straw supply as early as possible**
- Fodder crops increased 4,300 ha
- Native proteins have increased 2,700 ha

Figures above based on provisional DAFM crop figures



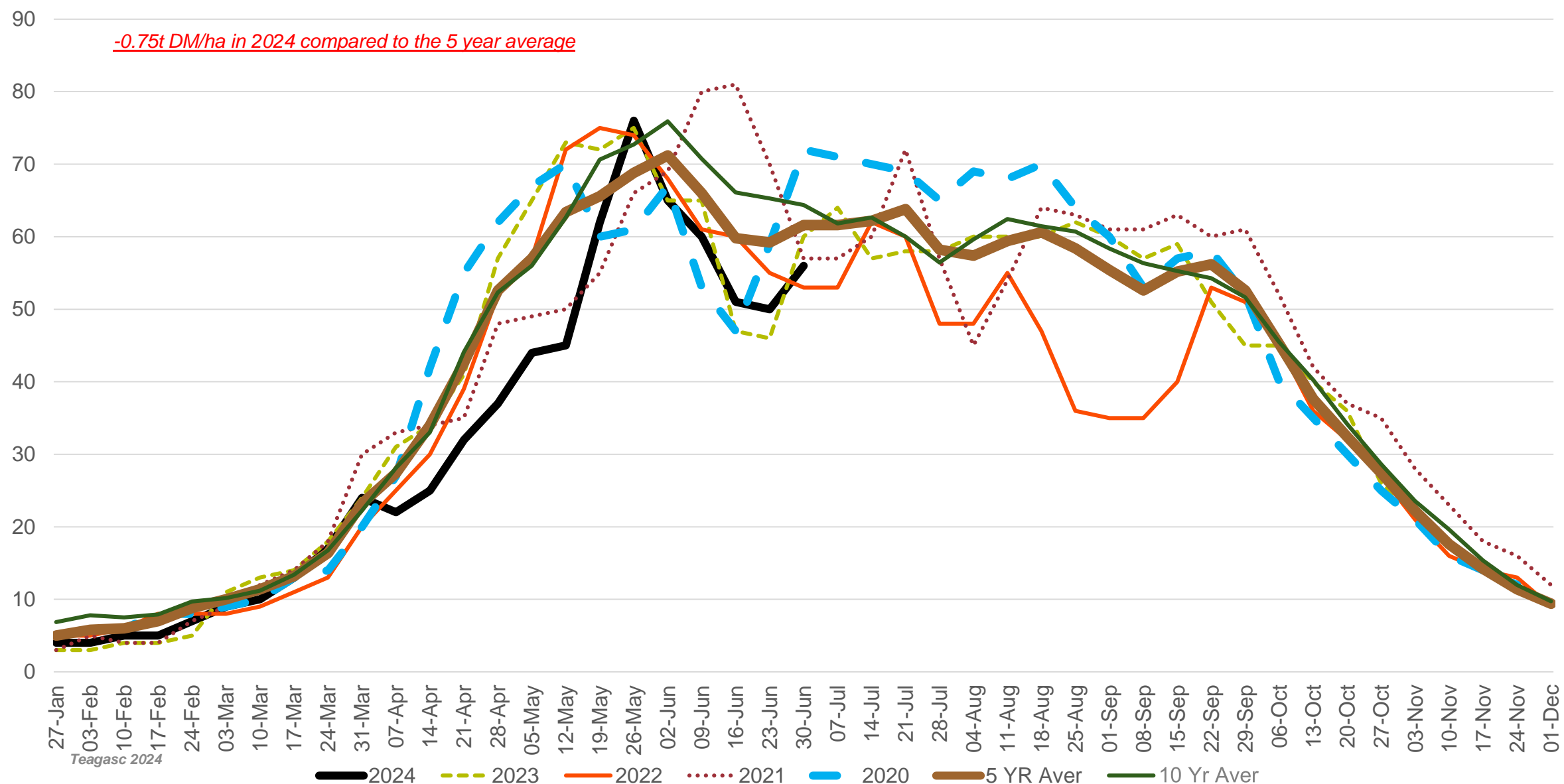
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Grassland Update (PastureBase Ireland)

Presenter:

Michael O'Donovan & Ciarán Hearn (Teagasc)

Pasturebase Ireland Grass Growth 2020 - 2024



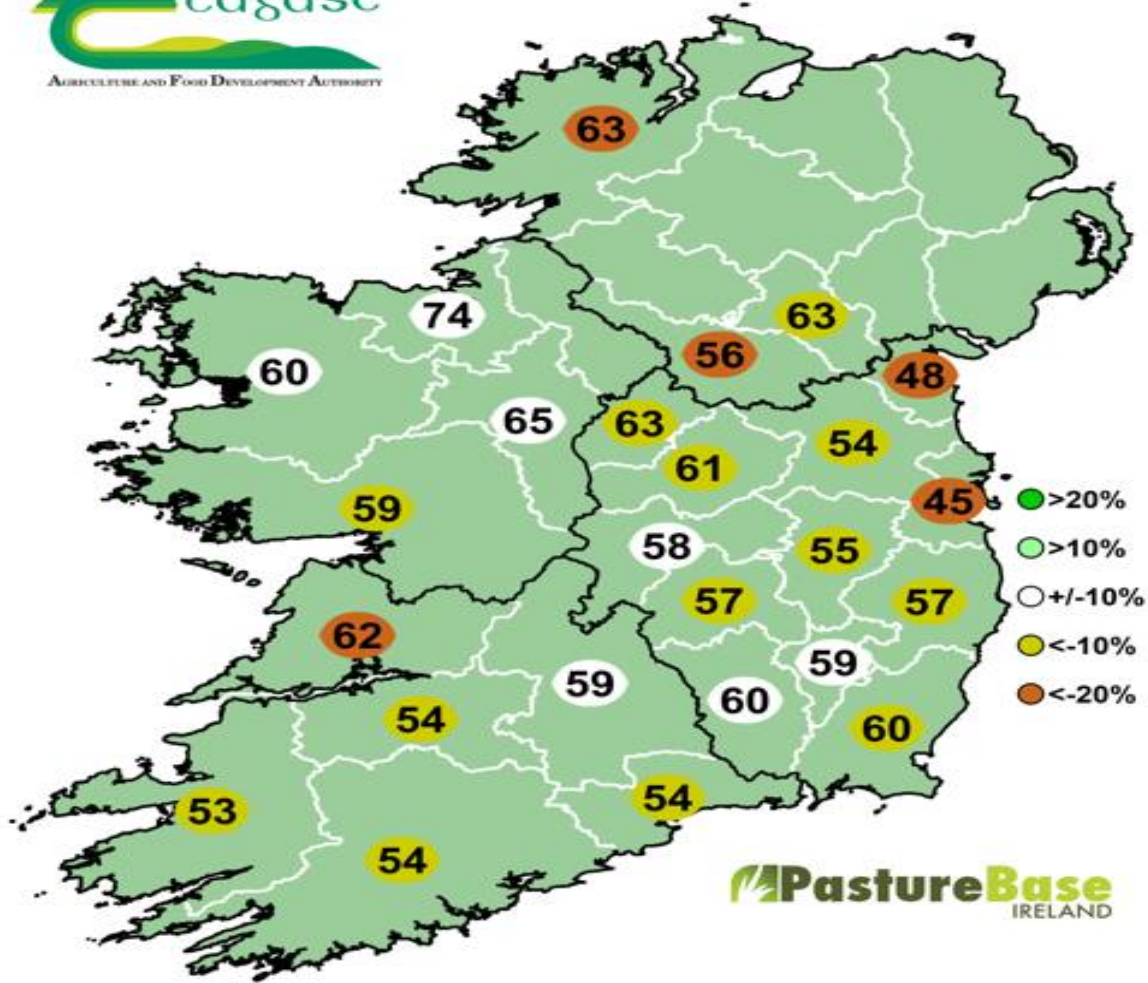
Fertiliser application and Total DM Production

(First Week of July)

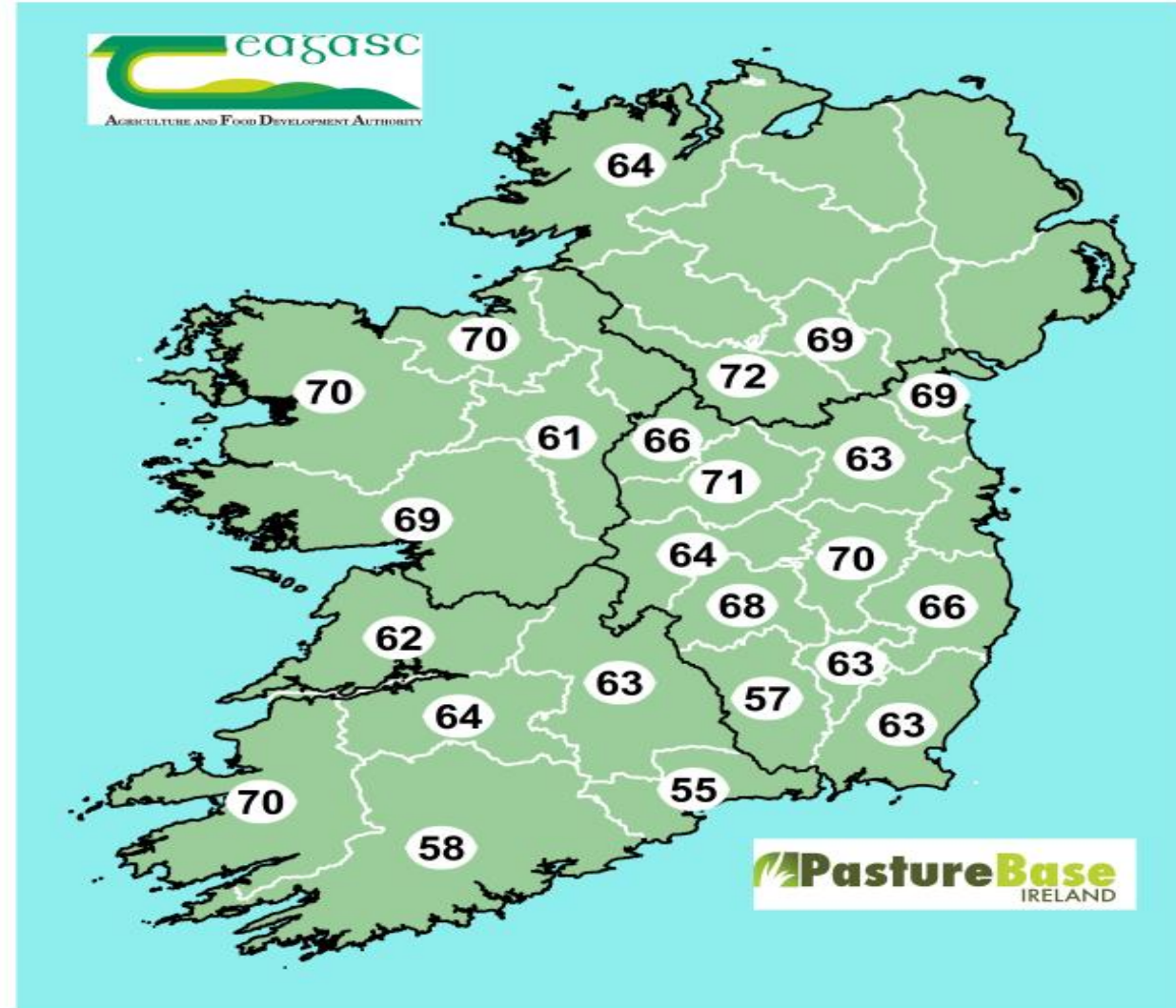
	N Kg/ha	P Kg/ha	K Kg/ha	S kg/ha	Total DM
2024	121 (105)	12 (4)	62 (13)	14 (13)	5.9 - (5.0 G)+ 0.9 (S)
2023	109 (96)	15 (7)	63 (18)	8 (7)	6.4 - (5.1 G) + 1.3 (S)
2022	112 (95)	15 (7)	68 (14)	8 (6)	6.5 - 5.1 (G) + 1.4 (S)
2021	147 (132)	17 (10)	66 (20)	11 (9)	6.4 – 5.0 (G)+ 1.4 (S)
2020	150 (138)	11 (12)	80(25)	15 (11)	6.4 – 5.1 (G) + 1.3 (S)

Grass Growth Week 5th July 2024

Grass growth measurement
Today's grass growth (kg DM/ha/day)



Grass growth predictions
Next week (kg DM/ha/day)



Grass production: (Dairy \geq 30 covers recorded, Farms with 20 covers in 2024)



Summary

- Grass growth reduced by approximately 10% so far in 2024
- Slurry and Chemical N applications are getting up to date and need to be maintained - **in tandem with P, K, S & Lime**
- Fertiliser use needs to be optimised for rest of year
- Little opportunity to harvest surplus grass so far in 2024
- Capable of 12 t/ha year if average growth appears for remainder of the year
- Plan for third cuts now and source feed if short based on fodder budget (incl. buffer)



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Teagasc June 2024 Fodder Survey

Presenter:

Joe Patton

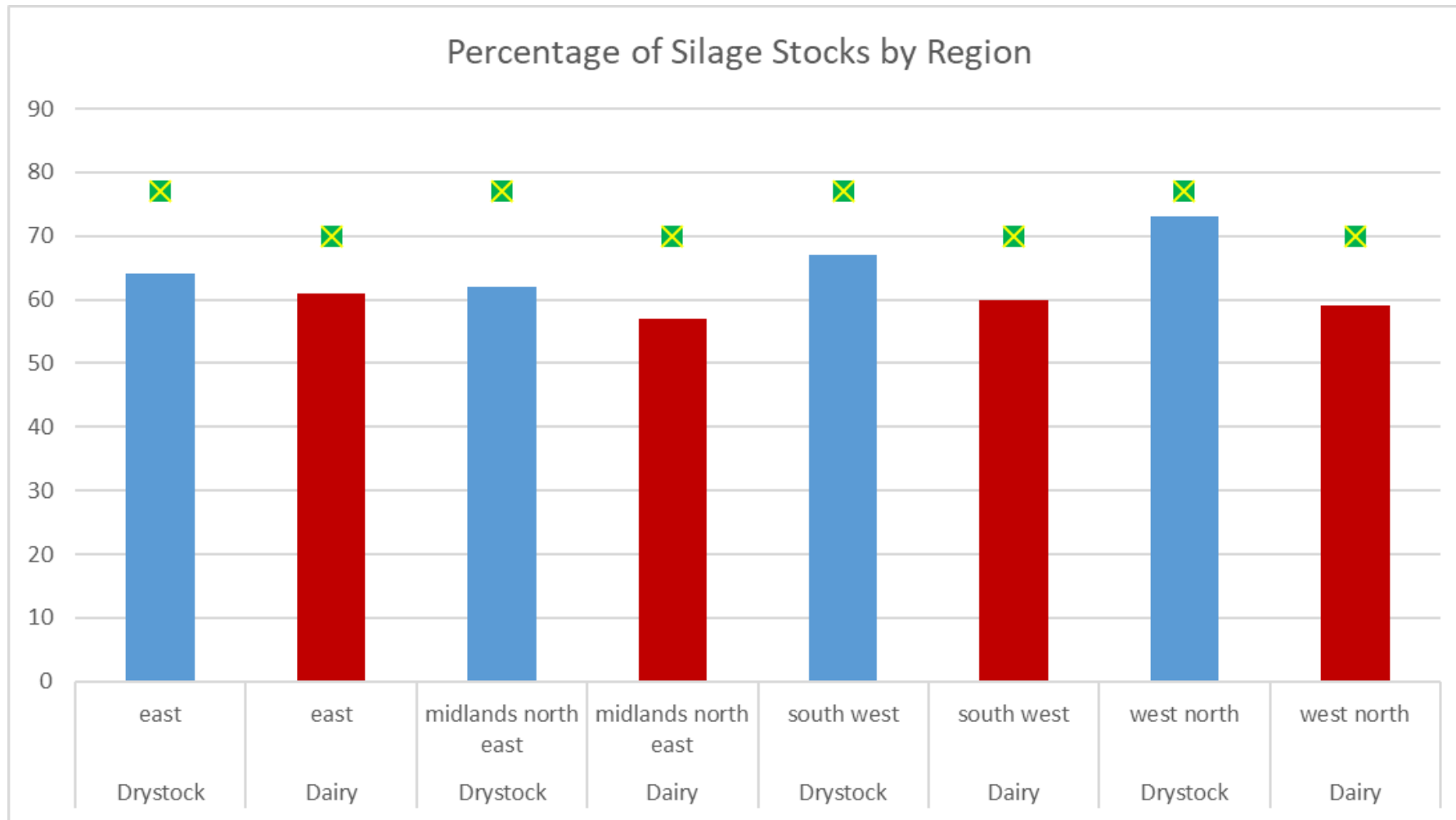
Teagasc Fodder Survey - June 2024

- Survey was sent to c. 840 Teagasc client farms over 2 weeks
- Balanced for enterprise, scale and region
- 563 responses in total:
 - Data checked and sample balanced- 498 valid responses
 - Final dataset 54% Drystock and 46 % dairy

■ Regions

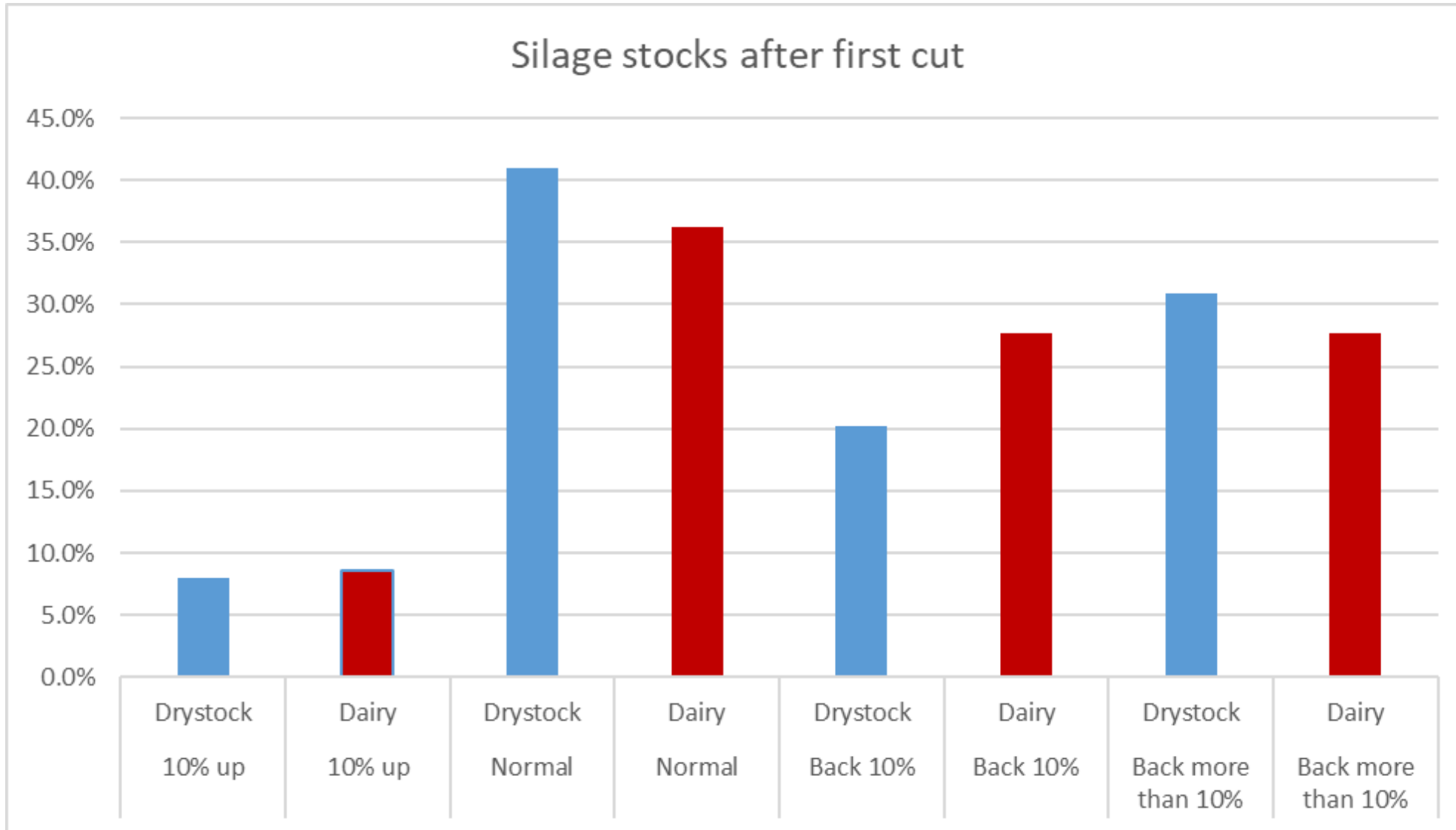
- Midlands/North East:
Cavan, Dublin, Kildare, Laois, Longford, Louth, Meath, Monaghan, Offaly, Westmeath
- East:
Carlow, Kilkenny, Tipperary, Waterford, Wexford, Wicklow
- South West:
Clare, Cork, Kerry, Limerick
- West- North:
Donegal, Galway, Leitrim, Mayo, Roscommon, Sligo

% of Fodder in place vs. Target



- Weighted for scale of enterprise within region
- Overall average stocks after 1st cut stands at 60% for dairy and 64% for drystock farm
- Target feed on hand after 1st cut 70% for dairy and 77% for drystock

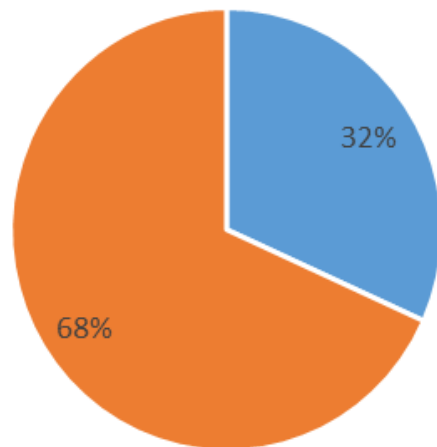
Fodder position vs. normal



- Results by farm, not weighted for scale of enterprise
- 25-30% of farms in both enterprises reporting deficits >10%

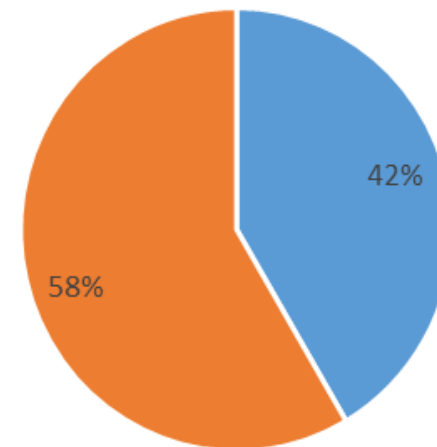
Outlook for Second Cuts

Will planned second cut deliver 100% of budget?



■ Drystock No ■ Drystock Yes

Will planned second cut deliver 100% of budget?

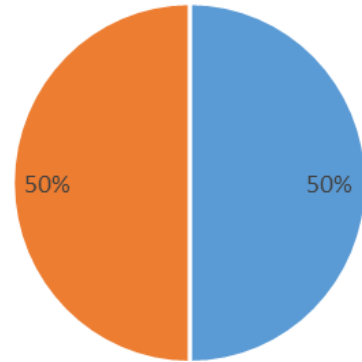


■ Dairy No ■ Dairy Yes

- Planned second cuts will meet fodder budget on:
 - 68% of drystock farms
 - 58% of Dairy farms
- 32-42% of farms need to act to secure additional fodder beyond second cut crops

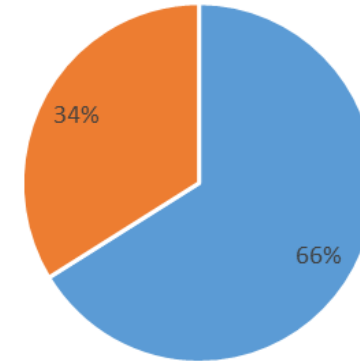
Planning Ahead (on farms with a deficit)

Have you made provision for extra feed if short?



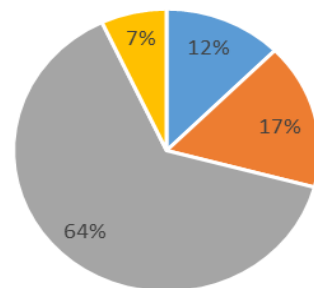
■ Dairy No ■ Dairy Yes

Have you made provision for extra feed if short?



■ Drystock No ■ Drystock Yes

Options implemented if short

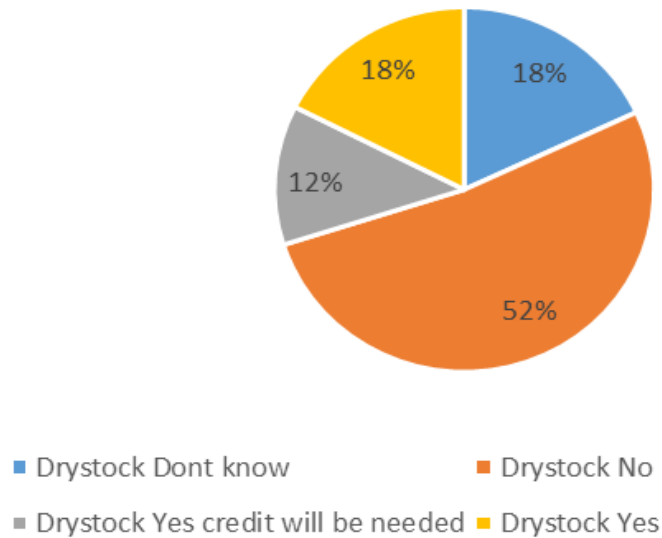


■ forage crops/beet ■ maize
■ rented more grass ground ■ whole crop

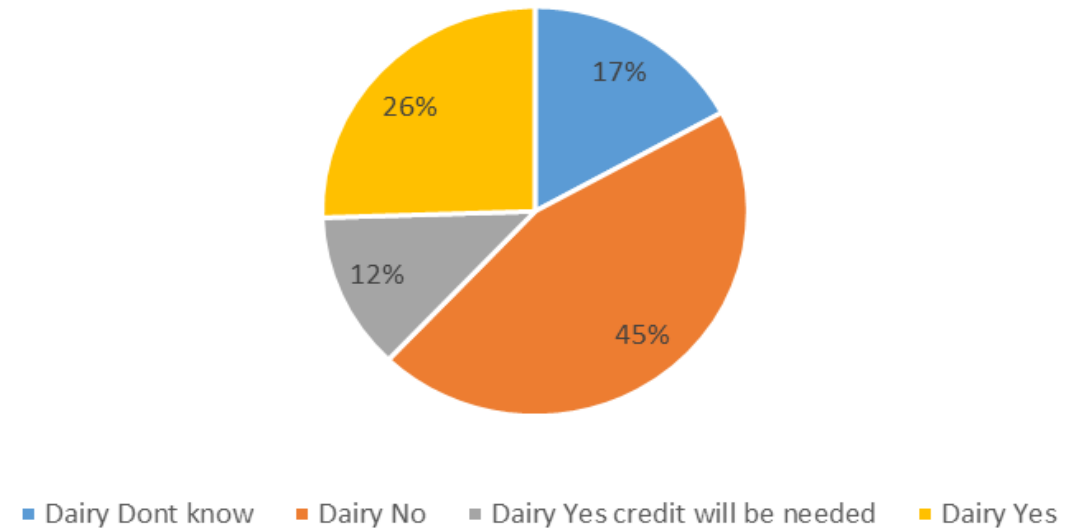
- Action required to secure more fodder in 34% (drystock) - 50% (dairy) of farms
 - Renting grass (64%) is the main response
 - Forage crops = 36%

Cash flow (on farms with a deficit)

Drystock- Will feed create a cash flow issue?



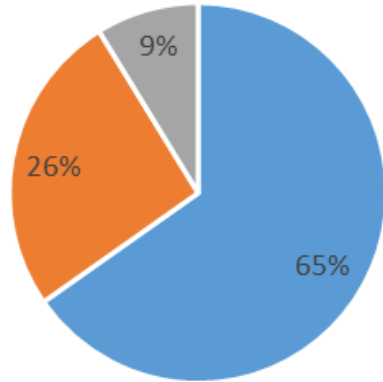
Dairy - Will feed create a cash flow issue?



- 30% of drystock farms expect a cash flow issue arising from fodder
- 38% of dairy farms expect a cash flow issue arising from fodder

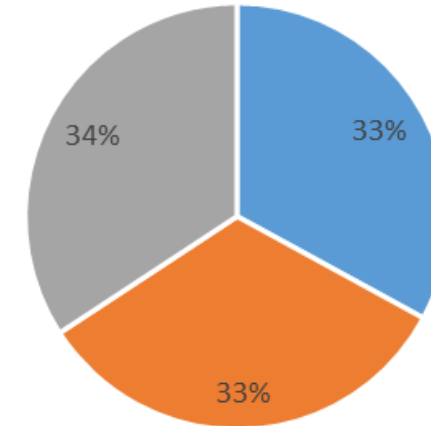
Livestock over winter (on farms with a deficit)

Drystock - Plan to sell stock?



- Drystock No plans to sell stock
- Drystock Yes
- Drystock Yes- low performing stock only

Dairy- Plan to sell stock?



- Dairy No plans to sell stock
- Dairy Yes
- Dairy Yes- low performing stock only

Summary and conclusions

- Data provides evidence of an emerging winter feed deficit that requires action on farms affected
- Overall feed stocks after first cut
 - Dairy 60% of budget (target 70%)
 - Drystock 64% of budget (target 77%)
- No significant regional bias
 - Drystock farms in North West closest to target
- 30% drystock farms and 27% dairy farms report significant deficits
- Farms with feed shortages
 - 50% dairy farms and 66% drystock have made no provision for extra feed
 - 67% of dairy farms and 35% drystock will consider reducing stock
- Renting extra land for grass silage most popular mitigation option (64%)
- 12% of farms (across enterprises) expect a structural cash flow effect

Advice to farmers in the weeks ahead

- 1) Assess the winter feed requirement (livestock numbers & demand vs. fodder stocks) on your farm
 - Do a fodder budget

- 2) Assess YTD fertiliser usage against allowances and plan applications of organic fertilisers and N, P, K, S & lime for the remainder of the year

- 3) Address gaps in winter feed budget through:
 - a) Maximise fodder production (second & third cuts)
 - b) Source fodder gaps (rented grass and/or forage crops)

- 4) Book Straw Early