



National Fodder and Food Security Committee

Update on ongoing priority actions by Teagasc

NFFSC – Meeting 2

Teagasc, Moorepark

Tue 22 March 2022

Overview

- 1) Feedback from stakeholder engagements
- 2) Key messages from survey results
- 3) Ongoing & Planned Activities

PIGS & POULTRY

Update since last meeting

- Further 2,000 sows destocking
- The average pig unit has lost a further €28,000
- Individual feed mill customers are rapidly approaching max credit limits
- Poultry flocks considering not putting in pullets as forecast is loss making

Stakeholder feedback

■ Feed Ingredients

- Moderate price reduction but still very high & very volatile

■ Mills

- Feed prices are going to rise by €50-€70/tonne in April & €25/t in May

■ Producer losses

- Pigs: Currently €56k/mth & April €71k/mth
- Turkey: Currently €50k per flock (16 wks)
- Eggs: Currently breakeven, April feed will lead to losses

■ Processors

- EU pig price has increased but Irish unchanged due to backlog
- Expected pig & poultry price rises won't cover costs

■ Banking

- Trying to support producers but scale of loss makes it difficult
- Market increases & banks won't be able to cover expected losses
- Return to profit forecast for March 2023 – even allowing for 40% price rise

Current Activities

- **Advisors ongoing work with Individual Producers**
 - Assess – Current performance, costs and losses
 - Forecast – Their costs and income over next 12 months
 - Options – Close, Destock/Restock decisions, extra finance

- **Sector Dissemination**
 - Pig & Poultry Producer 5 Point plan
 - Series of producer crisis meetings
 - Podcasts & newsletters

- **Stakeholders**
 - Market intelligence updates
 - Evolving sector forecast updates

CROPS

Stakeholder feedback

- Willingness to increase tillage area
 - Land availability – grassland farmers not approaching tillage farmers
 - If extra crops – concerns about sourcing extra fertiliser
- Some concerns about bulk fertiliser orders
- General concerns about availability of fuel
- Nervous about prices at harvest
 - Small quantities forward sold!

Key messages from survey results *(n=440)*

Phosphorus & Potassium Fertiliser

- 69% have >75% of their P & K requirements for the season in stock or awaiting delivery. (41% all requirements)
- 12% have less than 25% in stock or awaiting delivery. (4% none).

Nitrogen Fertiliser

- 63% have >75% of their N requirements for the season in stock or awaiting delivery. (35% all requirements)
 - 13% have less than 25% in stock or awaiting delivery. (3% none)
- 69% have made no changes to their cropping plans as a result of fertiliser supply/price.
 - If changing – increasing beans, followed by spring oats
- 72% have already used or plan to use organic manures this season
 - But unsure how much available or used
- 31% plan no reduction to normal chemical fertiliser application this year
 - further 22% plan on a minimal 10 kg/ha reduction

Other issues

- 55% said they would increase tillage area if more land became available
- 39% said that access to additional credit is an issue this year

Tillage Activities

- Include key messages in podcast, newsletters etc, and events
 - Fertiliser Precision webinar – (online - Mon 21 March)
- Training for advisors
 - Managing crops to optimise N
 - Avoiding pitfalls when converting grass to tillage (or forage crops)
 - Key Messages for Discussion groups
- Upcoming Publications
 - Crop Costs and Returns Sensitivity analysis for key crops (Spring barley/Oats)
 - Fact Sheet – Grassland to tillage conversion
 - Crop Report – Update No 3 (Technical report to the industry)
- Spring Crops walk in April – will include Grassland to tillage conversion

Spring Barley Returns (Jan & March 2022)

- Costs adjusted (in January)
 - CAN €700/t, 13:6:20 €765, Grain @€200/t
 - 7.5 t/ha = Margin €380/ha
- Adjustment - March 2022
 - Grain +€60 = €260t ,
 - Machinery costs + €50/ha
 - fertiliser increase + €300/t

S Barley @7.5t/ha

Grain	+ €450/ha
Fertiliser	- € 203/ha
Machinery	- € 50/ha
Total	+ € 197/ha

GRASSLAND LIVESTOCK

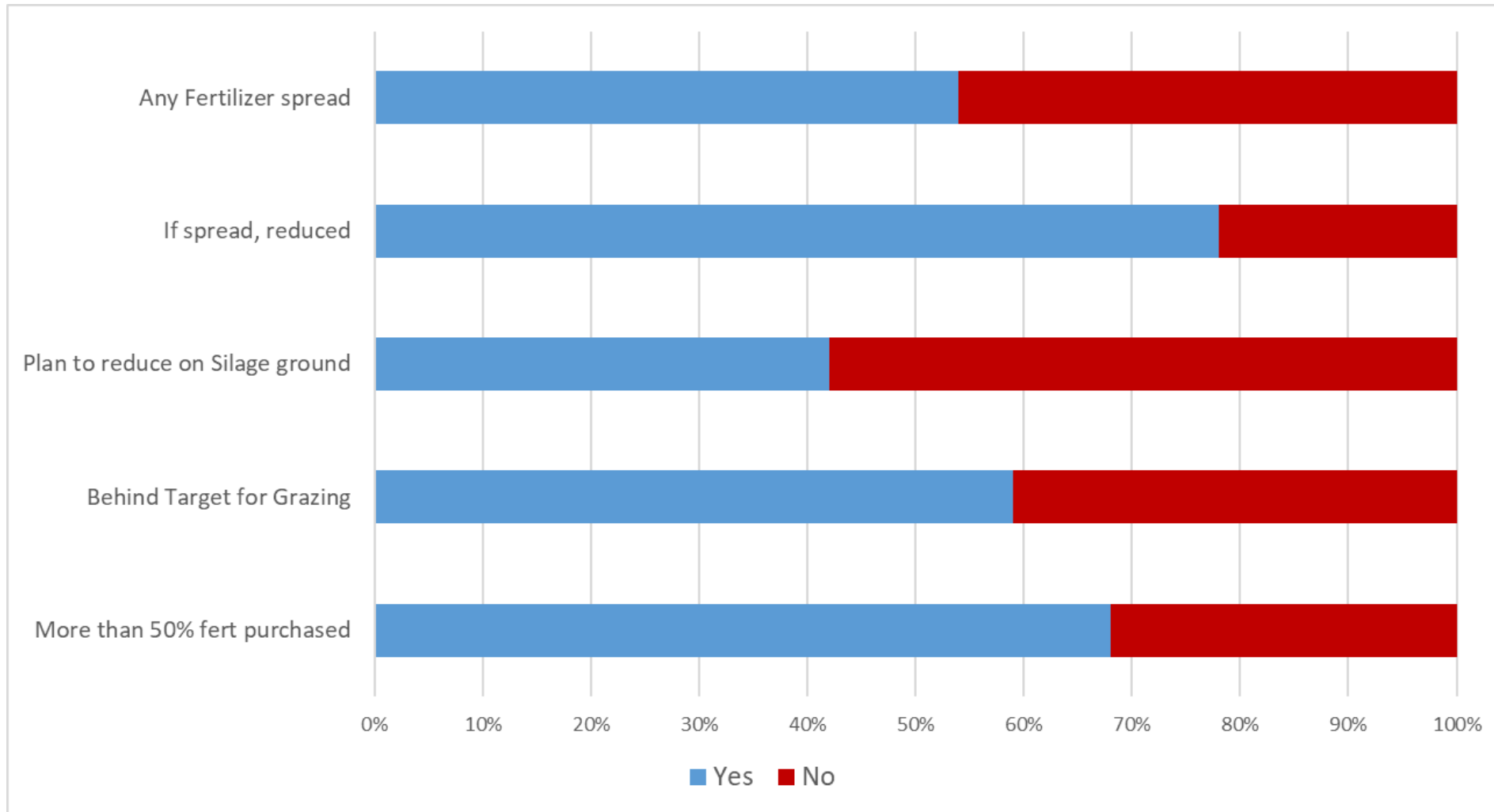
Summary of Drystock Survey (n=688)

- 28% of drystock farmers have bought no fertiliser to date
- 43% are finding it difficult to get fertiliser delivered
 - 63% of these stating either the merchant cannot guarantee delivery or delivery will be delayed
- 46% are paying 100% upfront for fertiliser
 - only 25% being given more than one months credit
- 87% of drystock farmers plan on spreading less fertiliser on grazing ground
 - 10 – 30% reduction (**43% of farmers**)
 - 30 – 50% reduction (**31% farmers**)
- Only 28% of drystock farmers plan on making more than 75% of their fodder for next winter in 1st cut silage
- Farmers plan on spreading less fertiliser on silage ground
 - 10 – 20% reduction (**37% of farmers**)
 - 20 – 30% reduction (**23% of farmers**)
 - 30 – 50% reduction (**15% of farmers**)

Beef & Sheep Stakeholders Feedback

- Must emphasise the importance of making high quality silage
- The farmer will be carrying all of the financial risk with no guarantee the value of livestock sales will compensate them for significantly increased input costs
 - There needs to be some level of risk sharing
 - Can meat processors provide some assurance on beef price?
- Should livestock farmers look at working with tillage farmers to grow forage crops after cereals have been harvested ?
- Will livestock farmers qualify for low finance credit options ?
- What stocks of fertiliser / fuel are in the country – can an inventory be done ?
- Big challenges on diesel availability & price
- Need for advisors on the ground talking to farmers on these issues

Summary of dairy survey (n =422)



Dairy Stakeholders Feedback

- Silage stocks quite good on dairy farms
- Concentrate usage is up YTD - weather delayed grazing
- First fertilizer application delayed and/or reduced
- Concern around feed and fertilizer over 18-month timeframe
- Silage survey and budgeting in April essential
- Effect of marginal cows on silage stocks should be highlighted
- Initiatives on clover and cash flow required
- Contracts for growing forage crops should be put in place

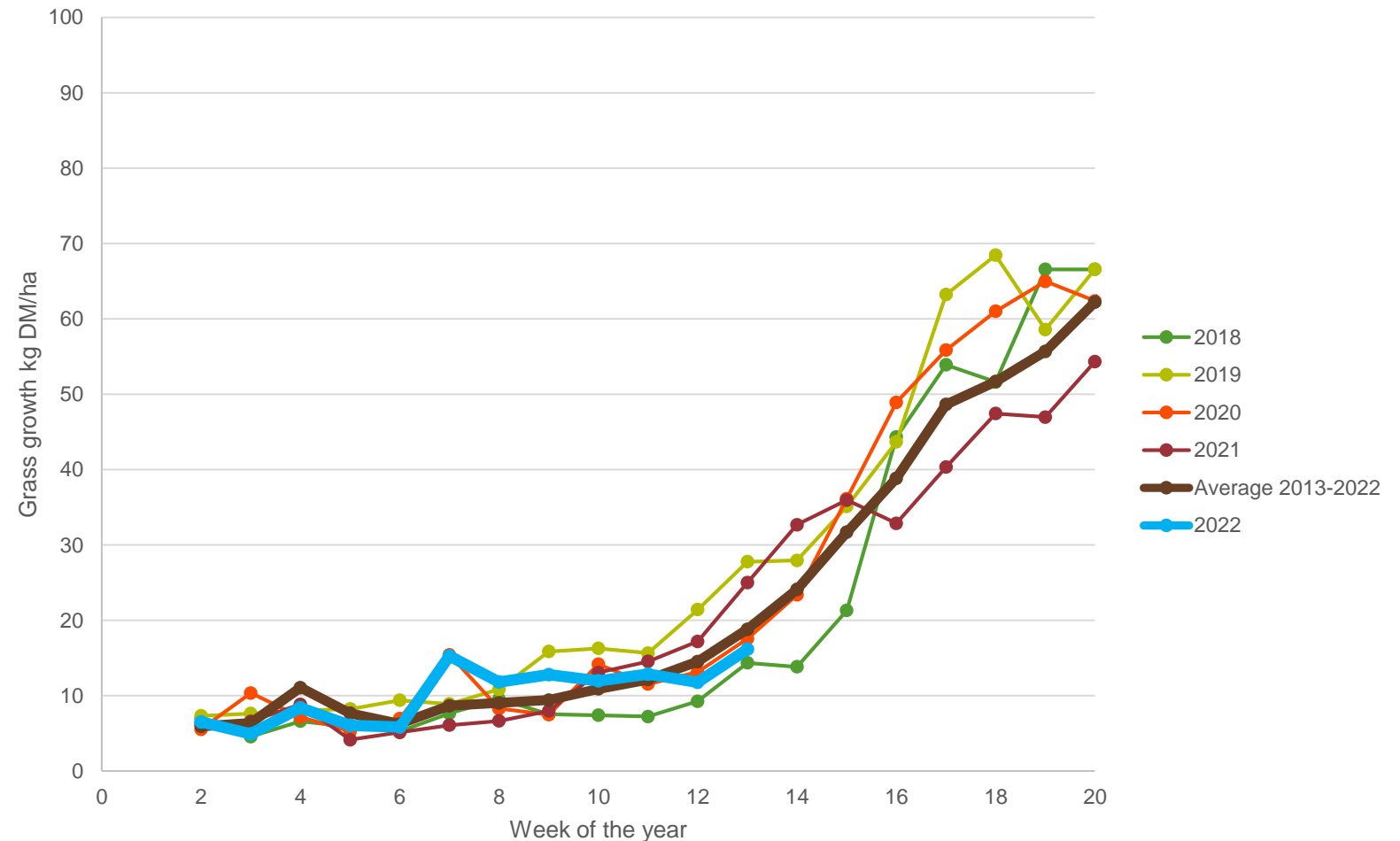
Dairy & Drystock Activities

- Dairy and drystock advisors
 - training updates provided on fertilizer N use, cash budgeting, economics of marginal stock
- Text message to all clients - key messages on fertilizer and silage planning
- Podcast, Webinar, Grass10 Newsletter - focus on fertilizer for silage and April grass
- 12 regional events on clover and feed budgeting planned Apr 5th to 17th
- Fodder survey planned for early April

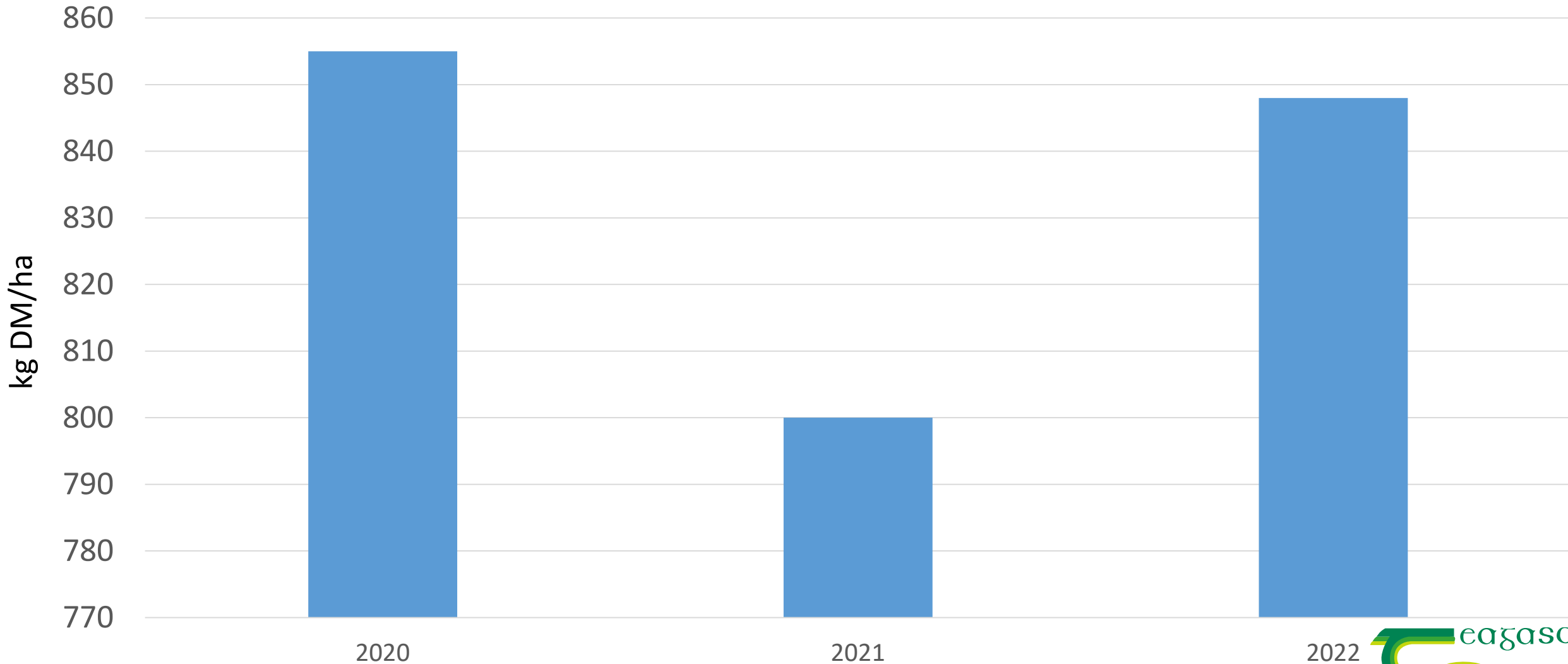
Grass Growth

- Grass growth is very similar to previous years
- Growth last week slightly behind 2021
- Growth forecast for the coming week is good (c. 40 kg/ha) – although long-term forecast > 1 week indicating cooler temperatures

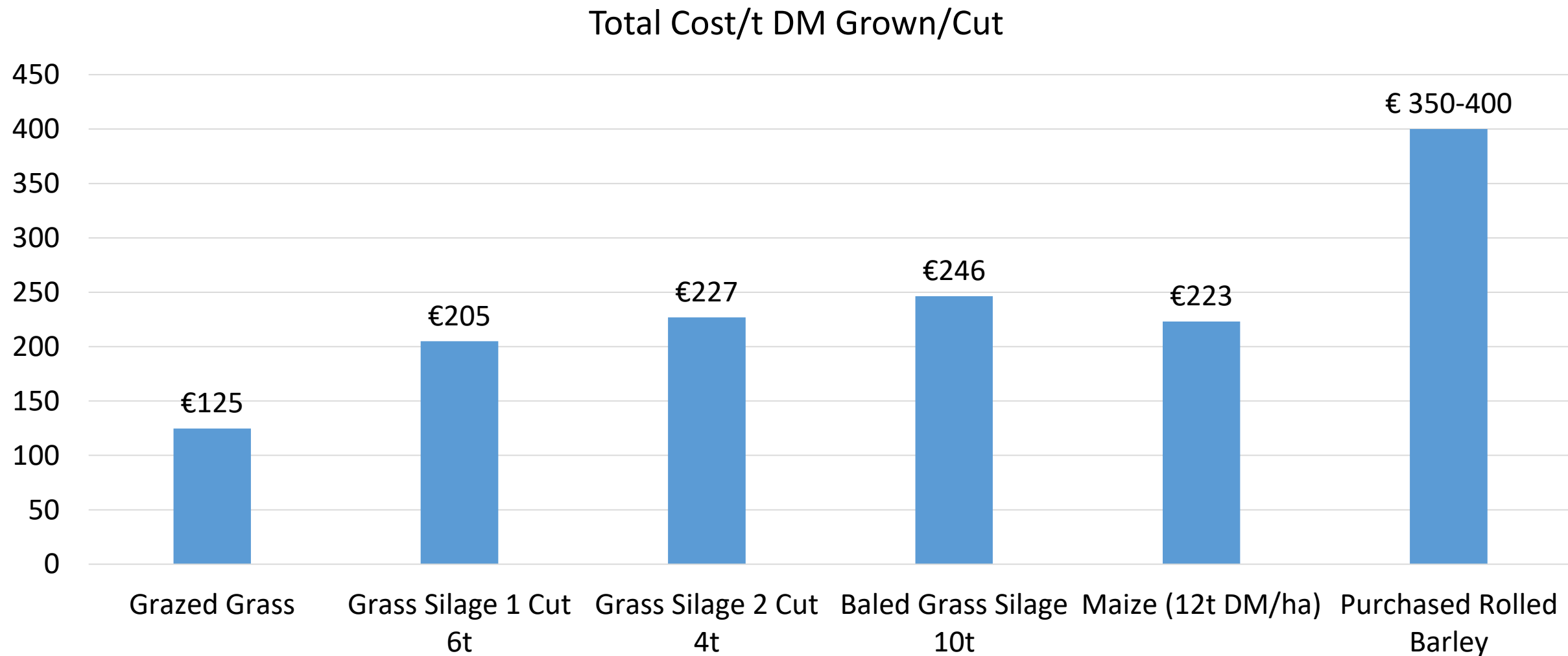
Grass growth all PBI data



Average Farm Cover (3rd Week of March)



Cost of Feeds 2022



Summary Dairy and Drystock

- Conditions for grazing good and improving
 - Good utilisation
- Grazed grass still the cheapest feed possible followed by grass silage
 - Need to grow good quality grass silage
- Grass growth similar to other years with less N applied

Other Teagasc Initiatives



Technical Advice for Farmers to Improve Food and Feed Security

The following immediate actions are recommended:

Pigs and Poultry

- Update cash flows and financial situation to enable decision-making options
- Assess breeding decisions with the objective of reducing financial risk and increasing health status
- Review feed demand and diet formulation to make sure you are using the most cost efficient diet
- Ensure that animal welfare is of the highest standard

Tillage Crops

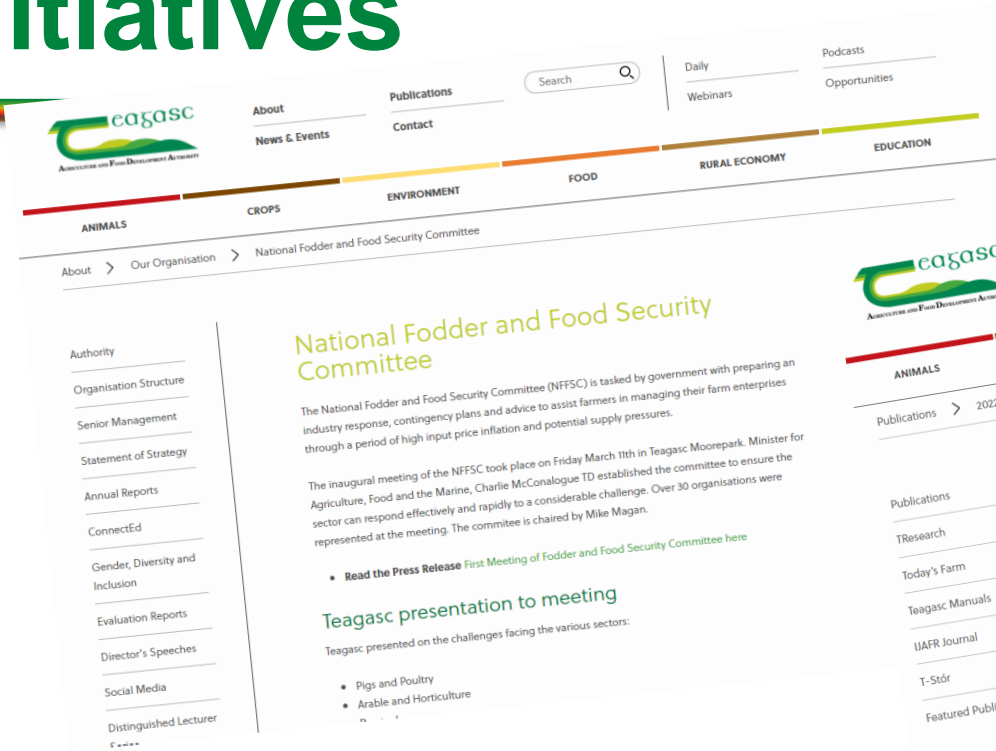
- Review your 2022 costs and returns projections for each crop
- Secure fertilizer supplies for crops
- Consider sowing additional protein crops
- Investigate opportunities to grow extra cereals, including certified seed production
- Consider leasing/renting to a specialised tillage farmer

Grassland Farmers

- Get livestock out to grass when conditions allow
- Ensure adequate fertilizer is applied for grazing
- Complete a winter feed budget for next winter
- Spread fertilizer and close silage ground based on silage budget
- Prioritise organic manures on grassland for silage

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



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National Fodder and Food Security Committee

The National Fodder and Food Security Committee (NFFSC) 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.

The inaugural meeting of the NFFSC took place on Friday March 11th in Teagasc Moorepark. Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Charlie McConalogue TD established the committee to ensure the sector can respond effectively and rapidly to a considerable challenge. Over 30 organisations were represented at the meeting. The committee is chaired by Mike Magan.

- [Read the Press Release First Meeting of Fodder and Food Security Committee here](#)

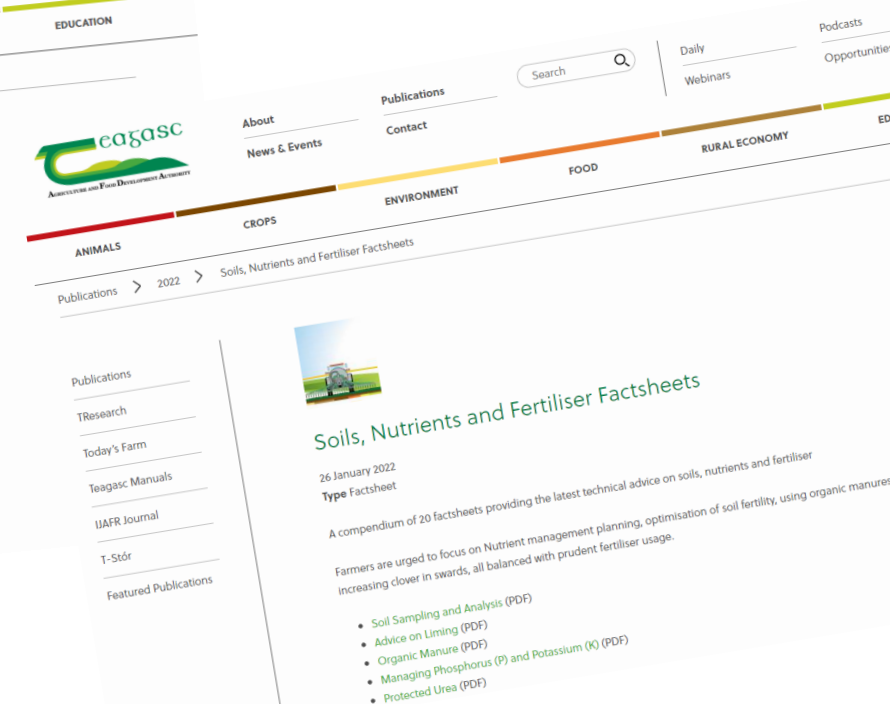
Teagasc presentation to meeting

Teagasc presented on the challenges facing the various sectors:

- Pigs and Poultry
- Arable and Horticulture

Authority

- Organisation Structure
- Senior Management
- Statement of Strategy
- Annual Reports
- ConnectEd
- Gender, Diversity and Inclusion
- Evaluation Reports
- Director's Speeches
- Social Media
- Distinguished Lecturer



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Soils, Nutrients and Fertiliser Factsheets

26 January 2022
Type Factsheet

A compendium of 20 factsheets providing the latest technical advice on soils, nutrients and fertiliser. Farmers are urged to focus on Nutrient management planning, optimisation of soil fertility, using organic manures increasing clover in swards, all balanced with prudent fertiliser usage.

- [Soil Sampling and Analysis \(PDF\)](#)
- [Advice on Liming \(PDF\)](#)
- [Organic Manure \(PDF\)](#)
- [Managing Phosphorus \(P\) and Potassium \(K\) \(PDF\)](#)
- [Protected Urea \(PDF\)](#)

Publications

- TResearch
- Today's Farm
- Teagasc Manuals
- IJAIFR Journal
- T-Stór
- Featured Publications

<https://www.teagasc.ie/about/our-organisation/national-fodder-and-food-security-committee/>

<https://www.teagasc.ie/rural-economy/farm-management/farming-during-difficult-times/food-and-feed-security/>

<https://www.teagasc.ie/publications/2022/soils-nutrients-and-fertiliser-factsheets.php>

Other Teagasc Initiatives

- Grass Silage Stock Checker
- Online Calculator
- Calculate Stocks & Requirements
- Download / Print Report

<http://interactive.teagasc.ie/Open/FeedChecker>

Teagasc Interactive Services

Grass Silage Stock Checker

1. Grass Silage Required for Next Winter

Animal Type	No. of Stock	No. of Months	Pit Silage Required /animal	Total Silage Required	
				Tonnes	Bales
Dairy Cows	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	1.6	0	0
Suckler Cows	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	1.4	0	0
0-1 year old	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	0.7	0	0
1-2 year old	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	1.3	0	0
2+ year old	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	1.3	0	0
Ewes	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	0.15	0	0
Other LU	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	0	0
Total Grass Silage Required:				<input type="text" value="0"/>	0
Add % buffer (e.g. 10-20% of total for most farms)				<input type="text" value="0"/>	0
Total Grass Silage Required including Reserve:				<input type="text" value="0"/>	0