

# RESEEDING THIS AUTUMN

## Why you should reseed?

- Reseeded swards grow up to 3tDM/ha/year extra, equivalent to 7 bales more/acre/year
- Up to 3 litres more milk from high quality forage/cow/day
- Higher quality grass swards will improve milk protein production
- Reseeded swards are 25% more responsive to chemical fertiliser application
- Weather conditions over the past 12 months have caused significant damage to grassland and in most cases the only option to repair the damage and level the land is through reseeding.
- **RETURN ON INVESTMENT: Typical cost of reseeding is €600 - €650/Ha, recouped in approx. 2 years as a consequence of increased volume of grass grown**

## 4 STEPS YOU NEED FOR SUCCESSFUL RESEEDING

€12/sample special offer

### 1) Soil fertility

#### TEST YOUR SOIL FERTILITY

- Provides vital information about your soils
- A small expense – approx. €0.80/ha/year, valid for 5 years
- Standard soil test details the following information: pH, lime requirement, phosphorus (P) & Potassium (K)

#### FIX YOUR SOIL FERTILITY - pH & LIME

- Low pH reduces fertiliser efficiency – Lime improves the availability of Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potassium, Sulphur, Calcium & Magnesium
- Ground limestone should ideally be spread in Autumn, 12 week interval required between liming and application of slurry/urea
- Apply lime as per soil test report (max. 3t/acre in one application) – Avoid over-liming as this can result in trace element imbalances
- Avoid lime with high Magnesium content (heavy soil types)

#### FIX YOUR SOIL FERTILITY - TARGET INDEX 3 FOR P & K

- Index 3 is the optimum level for crop growth
- Index 4 soils (high fertility) are a resource – they will save you money on fertilizer
- Index 1 & 2 soils (low fertility) need additional nutrients

#### Nutrient requirements at establishment (kg/ha)\* of a grass/white clover sward

| Soil Index | P** | K   |
|------------|-----|-----|
| 1          | 60  | 120 |
| 2          | 40  | 90  |
| 3          | 30  | 60  |
| 4          | 0   | 40  |

\* kg/ha x 0.8 = units/acre \*\*Always adhere to upper limits of Nitrates directive

Effectiveness of fertiliser at different soil pH levels

|                             | N   | P   | K    |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----|------|
| pH 5.0 (very strong acidic) | 53% | 34% | 52%  |
| pH 6.0 (medium acidic)      | 89% | 52% | 100% |

## 2) Control weeds before reseeding

- Kill off old pasture with Round-up/Gallup. This will help control docks, scotch, and bent grasses.
- After 5-7 days, the area can be cut or grazed.
- Choose your grass seed - late-heading diploids work best
  - A maximum of 30% tetraploids on drier free-draining soils
  - Always choose grass seeds from the recommended list
  - **SEEK ADVICE**

## 3) Choosing your reseeding method

### *Conventional Reseeding (Ploughing)*

- Pests, thrash and native competitors are buried.
- Advantageous in heavier soils as it aids drainage.
- Provides the basis for a sound seedbed and more level surface.
- After ploughing the objective is to develop a fine, firm and level seedbed.

### *Minimum Cultivation*

- Minimal cultivation techniques allow perennial ryegrass to be introduced into swards without ploughing.
- Spray existing vegetation – seedbed then prepared using shallow cultivation equipment.
- Soil disturbance minimised so the more fertile soil remains at ground level.
- Fast and simplistic.
- Important that the sward is grazed tightly as surface trash will not be buried.
- Applying about 2t lime/acre **BEFORE** cultivation to help neutralise acids released by surface trash.
- With minimum cultivation more weeds may appear - critical to use post-emergence spray.

## 4) Manage your new reseeded sward carefully

- Apply post-emergence weed spray approx. 6 weeks after establishment (provided the grass & clover are at a suitable growth stage). Use clover friendly sprays in clover swards
- Graze swards as soon as the new grass plants roots' are strong enough to withstand grazing
- Graze light covers and graze them often to promote tilling and suppress weeds
- Avoid cutting newly reseeded swards in the first year
- Check reseeds for slug/leatherjacket attack

**For further information & advice please contact any of the 4 joint programme advisors and they will be happy to call with you and discuss your reseeding plans:**

- Enda Duffy (087)6647022
- Andrew McNamee (087)7905160
- Adrian McKeague (087)4138584
- Martina Moran (087)9031069