Milk for Profit programme

Grass is Perishable! – graze at 3 leaf stage

<1300 – cows work harder

OPTIMUM COVER = 1300-1600 kg DM/ha

>1600 – reduced quality, utilisation and milk = drop in €

Good Grazing Infrastructure
- More days at grass
- Increase grass utilisation
- Greater animal performance
- Reduce workload
- Reduce lameness

Arrabawn Co-op

Teagasc Agriculture and Food Development Authority
Farm Roadways

Grass is THE key Driver of profitability on Irish Farms
A well designed farm road network is ESSENTIAL

**DESIGN**

Considerations

- Parlour Location
- Cow Flow
- Paddock Shape and size
- Access
- Future Expansion
- Surface

**CONSTRUCTION**

Considerations

- Base of the road
- Fall on the road
- Finished level
- Width

€10 - €30/m run
How to Calculate Paddock Size:

1. Long term cow numbers
2. Calculate daily grass demand
   - 80 cows x 17kg DM = 1,380kg DM (24hrs)
3. Establish number of grazing’s per paddock
4. Calculate grass required for 36hr grazing
   - 1,380 x 1.5 days = 2,040kg DM
5. Ideal Pre-Grazing Cover is 1,400kg DM/ha
6. Divide total amt. of grass required in paddock by Ideal Pre Grazing Cover
   - 2,040kg DM ÷ 1,400 = 1.46 Ha

Pros

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cons</th>
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<tr>
<td>12 h</td>
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<tr>
<td>36 h</td>
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Water Systems

A cow needs 4-4.5L of water for every litre of milk she produces!

What effects water availability?

1. Flow rate
   - 0.2L/cow/minute
   - 100 cow herd – 20L/minute

2. Pipe size - Loop system
   • Main pipes – 32mm internal diameter
   • Branch pipes – 25mm

3. Trough size
   • 9L reserve per cow
   • Enough space for 5% of cows to drink at the same time

4. 12.5mm medium pressure or full flow type ballcocks

Position of the water trough

1 2 3

Firm Roadway

Tips!

• Put hardcore/dust around trough to keep level and clean
• Install flowmeter to detect leaks

€275 per Ha
One extra tonne of grass DM utilised /ha = €161 extra farm profit/ha

Host farm: ________ha x €161 = €______

TYPICAL COSTS *

ROADWAYS: €25/m = €600/ha
WATER: €2/m pipe = €300/ha
FENCING: €1.30/m = €300/ha
TOTAL COSTS: €1200/ha
€400/cow

*Costs can be lower where own labour and materials used, larger scale or some infrastructure already in place

PLAN

Physical
- Plan and map out infrastructure required
- Decide who will carry out the work

Financial
- Price out proposed expenditure
- Use a term loan - NOT cash flow to fund development
- Have a full farm financial plan