

## **Pasture Profit Index Meeting - Clonakilty May 13<sup>th</sup> 2014. Meeting minutes and Summary.**

Brian Wickham Introduction

Background and notes from previous meeting

Introduction around the table

Michael O Donovan

What has happened since the last meeting

Industry meetings

Planned index release

The research that is being carried out now on;

Wear tolerance

Persistency

Justin McDonagh on wear tolerance

Monoculture versus Mixtures

Research on evaluating varieties under actual grazing conditions

Booklet on reseeding

Brian Wickham

Summing the information together

Question – Jack Kennedy

The soil type interaction with reseeding across the country.

Response

Michael O Donovan suggests that PastureBase will provide useful information.

David Cummins

DAFM

Presentation

Collaboration with Teagasc & analysis of data which better adjusts for factors e.g. site, block, harvest & sowing year.

Where the varieties are coming from

Perennial Ryegrass

## White Clover

87% from recommended list

### Recommended Lists

February both hard copy and online

2014 Recommended List is the first year with data from both frequent cutting and standard procedures (using 2010 sowing year with 2011 & 2012 harvest year data)

Origin of varieties currently on the Rec List

Ire 22%, UK 20%, NI 10%, De 17%, Be 2%, Dk7%, NL 10%

Diploid and tetraploid nearly equal in terms of numbers on the list

### Lates and earlies x

### Sites

Five sites

Backweston & Moorepark - Inters and Lates

Athenry & Kildalton - Lates

Donegal - Inters

Sowing plan for 2014

will have GP and FC protocol at each site

Site	Inter	Lates	FQT CU
Athenry	-	24 varieties	-
Backweston	24 varieties	24 varieties	-
Donegal	24 varieties	-	15 varieties
Kildalton	-	24 varieties	15 varieties
Moorepark	24 varieties	24 varieties	-
Controls:	2 Inter + 2 Lates	2 Inter + 2 Lates	2 Inter + 2 Lates

The future

More frequent cutting data available for RL varieties  
Increasing confidence in data for all varieties  
Pasture Base Ireland – will provide useful information  
Number of varieties and species evaluated  
Suitable Hybrid/ festulolium varieties for FC protocol  
Palatability  
Scientific Development

### Questions

Mike Magan– Have you limitations?

David

Yes there are based on sites and staff, resources etc?

Brian

If you had more resources would you get more varieties from the list

David

No more progress could be made with more resources. Huge amount of data to be combed through to come up with answers.

Brian

Are all of best possible varieties being trialled?

Are the most important attributes being assessed?

Question

Two levels of management in one system nowhere else in the world

David

Rank by heading date.

### Mary McEvoy – Presentation

Background to the index

Why was the index developed?

Rank varieties

Traits – seasonal yield, quality, persistency, silage

Economic values

Grass growth and feed demand line

Persistency calculation

Overall Index

Defining the base

Prototype

Use the sub indices

Summary

Focus on important traits

Only cultivars on the recommend list are included in the PPI

More varieties will be available in 2015 and 2016.

## Industry Feedback

Data Robustness and Transparencies

DAFM data with a geneticist included to make sure that analysis is correct

Economic values changing over time

Model used as well as the index

Numbers will change based on an update in the model, which will happen every two years

Individual traits

Emphasis on quality is approx. 30%, with most in June in July

PPI penalising ground scores that change rapidly over time

Ensure that varieties last over time

Pasturebase Ireland will quantify if cultivars are persisting at farm level

Individuals versus Mixtures

Sub indices and the dairy cow selection index

More research for mixtures versus monocultures

## Questions

Updates to the economic values – How often?

Ans. As much as needed but at a minimum every 2 years

Sean Leonard

How many harvest years and how many cuts?

Ans. Data is generated from DAFM trials, we have used 2010 sowing year with 2 harvest years for data presented in prototype and here today. Going forward we will have 2 sowing years and 2 harvest years per sowing year – resulting in 4 years data per variety. In the FC data there are 8-10 cuts from sites as described by D. Cummins in the DAFM presentation earlier.

Seed count and its relationship to persistency? Much more diploid seed than tetraploid seed being sown as we sow on a weight basis – is this creating the issue of persistency.

PastureBase should be able to pick that up

But what about the different weights of seeds

A study looking at different seeding rate is needed – this is a research question

Followed by germination rate

DAFM have it will captured

Need more work on seeding rate and weight of seed applied.

Palatability of different cultivars

Big differences on the palatability, need to understand what factors affecting intake and incorporate this as a trait into the index

Index robustness

Data solid (based on DAFM trials) versus the index numbers changing

Mid season quality

Stems included in mid- summer

Brian Wickham

Pat Dillon

PastureBase – How is it used

Should there be an overall total at all?

Reseeding window too short, should we have seeds for the west

Vincenth Griffith - PastureBase Ireland

Basic statistics

Information from the 100 farms

Growth rate across the 100 farms for 2013 and 2014

Spring 2013 versus 2014

Farm performance in 2014

Future for PastureBase

Mixture information

Will use it to look at mixtures over time

Leather jackets

More an establishment issue, not really an issue established leys.

Permanent pasture issues on some soils

Definitely need something to be looked at.

Positive on the index

Monoculture and mixtures

Both in PastureBase

When will it be included in the index

Build the foundation and work from there

Most exciting data collection project for the industry, More data that we can add the better and this will ultimately result in a maximum return for the industry.

Will there be a recommended list and a PPI in the future?

History of recommended list for grass and crops etc. Advantages of keeping them separate. It can be looked at again in the future.

Better farms will get the information, problem with poorer farmer, we need one list for the future

General Discussion

Feedback

Now going out with prototype and releasing it to the public

Better information on seeds, mixtures and germination issues is required – some of these are research questions that should be considered, Need to get some further information on this

Timing – Finish with today and the next list will be available. Bring this group back together for late Autumn to discuss the new data for 2015 and the updated version of the Index with more varieties for 2015 publication.

M Magan raised an idea of setting up a Reseeding Trust as is in new Zealand, this would be to promote the reseeded message across the industry, it was decided to discuss this concept further and bring it back to the next meeting,

Frank O Mara

Positive Day

Increase the overall levels of reseeded

Next Meeting Scheduled for October 23<sup>rd</sup> in Horse and Jockey