

# Grazing Divisions/Paddocks and Rotational Grazing

Why use this system?

- Works on graze and rest principle
- Gives much more control on grazing management
- Allows for taking out surplus grass in peak season
- Allows for creep grazing with calves later in season
- Allows for targeted fertiliser application
- Ability to operate leader/follower system

Positives of Paddock System	Negatives of Set Stocking
Grazing Management Control	Lack of control
Higher Grass production	Lower grass production
Ensure high utilisation	Poor utilisation
Improve grass quality	Lower grass quality
Greater access in wet weather	Poor access
Allows strip grazing	
Makes grass budgeting easier	

## Steps to setting up paddocks

1. Get a farm map with exact areas
2. Number each paddock
3. Plan out drinking points when dividing fields
4. Find out history of each paddock i.e soil fertility, reseeding

5. Allocate stock to each paddock ( 6 paddocks min per group)
6. Minimise grazing groups hence minimise no. of paddocks required
7. A good roadway system is a great advantage in managing paddock system
8. Aim to grow grass in 3 weeks and eat grass in 3 days

### **Paddock Sizes**

- Aim for equal sizes
- Ideal size for 40 sucklers: 2Ha
- Temporary wires and reels have been used to good effect on some of the BETTER farms

### **Water Supply**

- Water supply in each grazing division is necessary
- Strategic placing of troughs in fields can help to avoid poaching
- If drinkers are centered in fields, then these fields can be further split with temporary wires

### **Stocking Rate Table**

Time of year	Stocking Rate	Daily Demand
Turnout-mid june	1000-2500kgs/ha	20-50kg/ha
Mid June-Late August	1500-2000kgs/ha	30-40kg/ha
Early Sept-Housing	1000-1500kgs/ha	20-30kg/ha