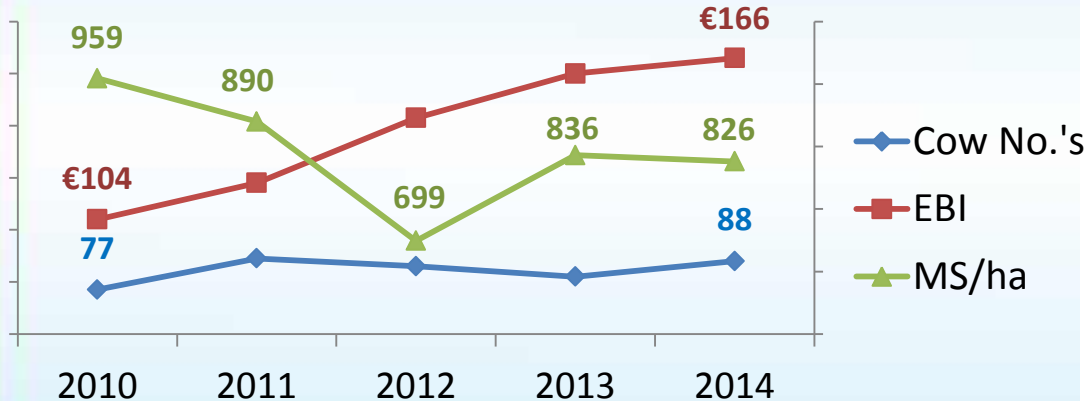
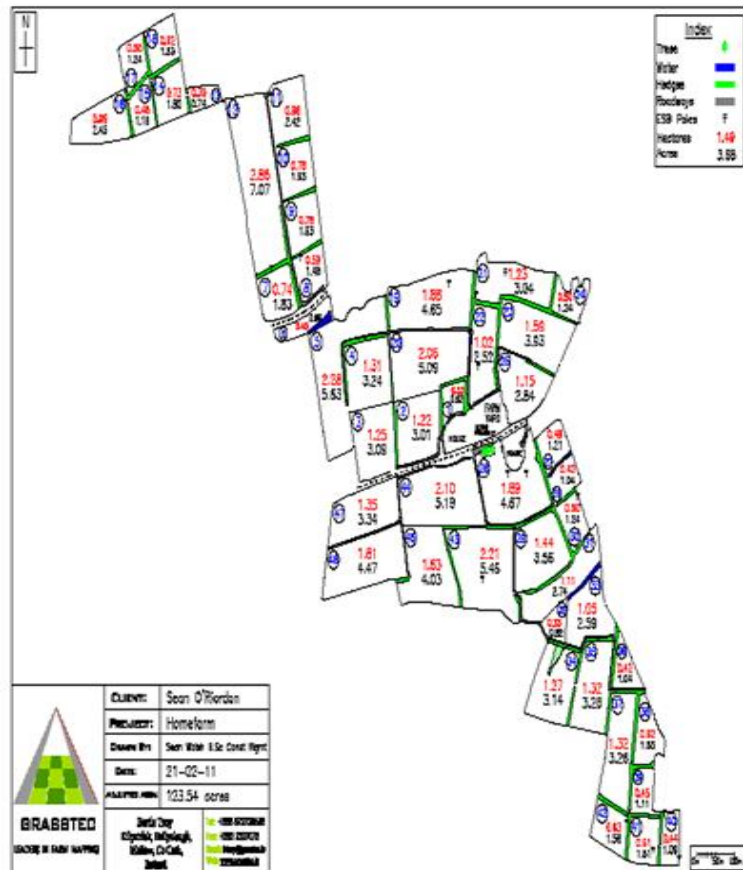


# Sean O' Riordan's Farm Performance



## Key Farm Drivers

- € Low Cost Grass-Based Dairy Production
- € Cow type – Fertility & Milk Solids
- € Increase profit & Manage Cash Flow
- € Silage reserves - Weather
- € Average Annual Rainfall (Kishkeam - 1622mm)



INFRASTRUCTURE	ADEQUACY		
	Good	Adequate	Needs Attention
<b>Grazing</b>			
Paddock Size	X		
Farm Roadways		X	
Water troughs	X		
<b>Milking parlour</b>			
No. of rows		X	
Collecting Yard		X	
Drafting			X
<b>Farmyard</b>			
Slurry Storage	X		
Silage Slab		X	
Cubicle Spaces		X	
Head Feed Space	X		
Calf Facilities		X	
Calving Facilities			X

# 5 Steps to Improving Soil Fertility

## Soil Fertility Summary: O' Riordan's Farm

Information

1) Soil Test

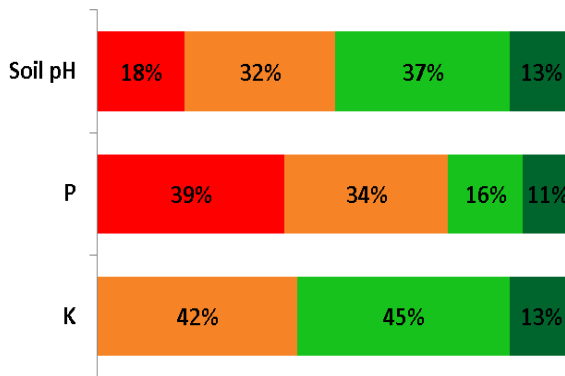
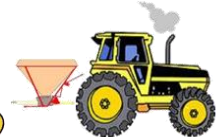
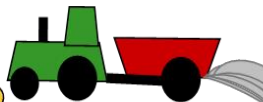
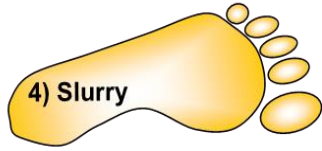
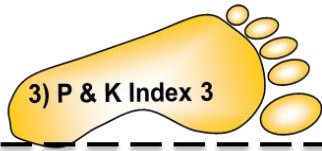
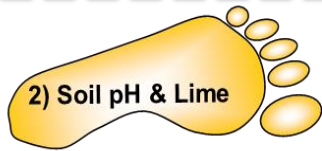
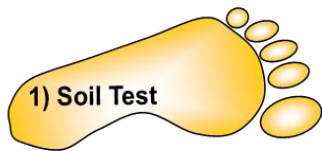
Interpretation

3) P & K Index 3

Index	Description
1	Very Low
2	Low
3	Target
4	High

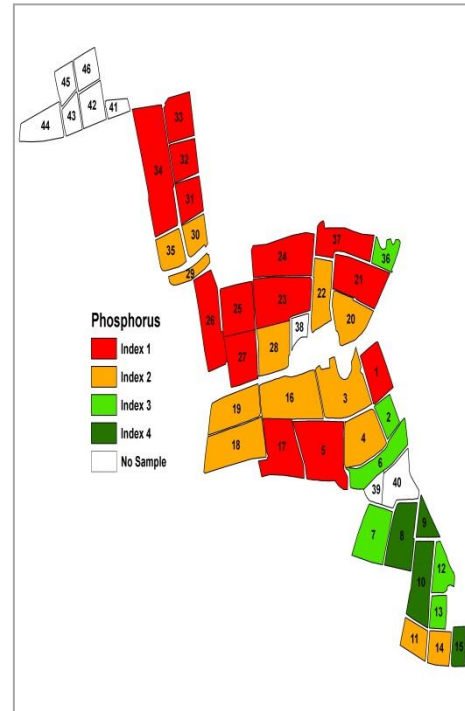
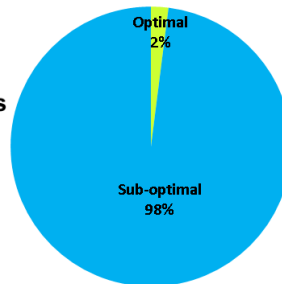
Action

5) NPKS Balance



Very low Low Optimum High

Percentage of soils with optimum soil pH, P & K status



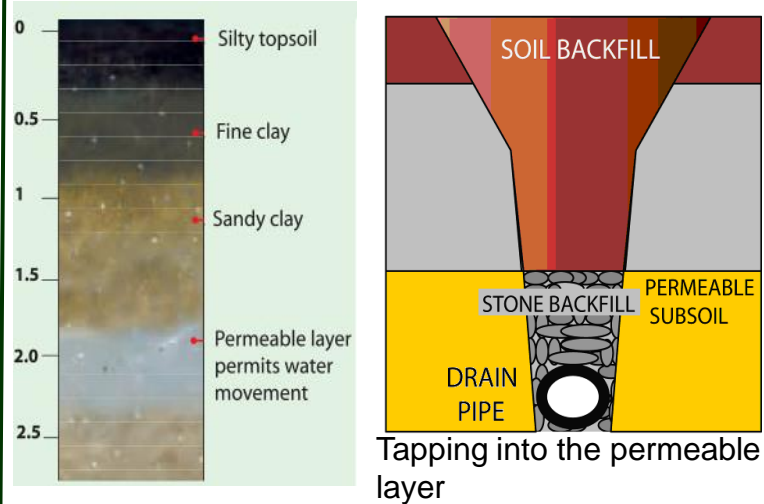
## Problem Diagnosis



### Soil Test pits (at least 2.5m deep)

- Design varies with soil type
- Is it a groundwater or shallow drainage problem?
- Water enters in permeable layers
- Other layers need help

## Groundwater Drainage System



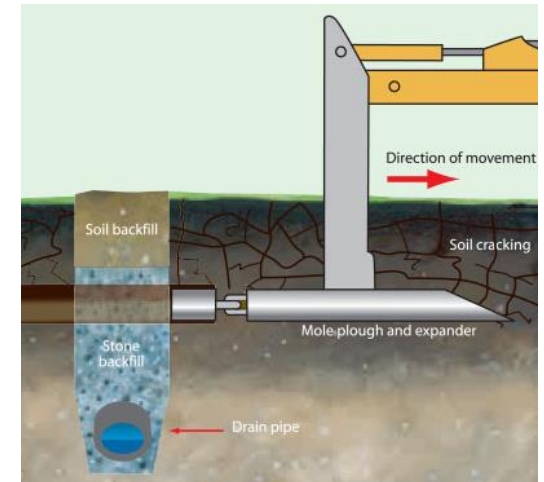
### Conventional or deep pipe drains:

- Where a permeable layer will transmit water
- Where water can percolate to watertable
- Most effective way to discharge water

## Shallow Drainage System

### Mole/Gravel Mole drain/Subsoiling:

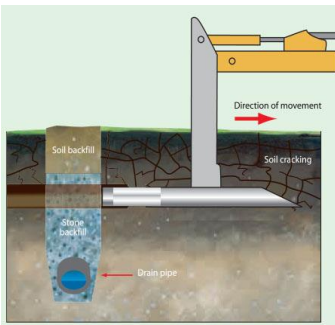
- Aim to fracture and crack the soil
- Effectiveness dependent on:
  - Soil clay/stone content
  - Implement used
  - Weather conditions
- Used In tandem with collector drains



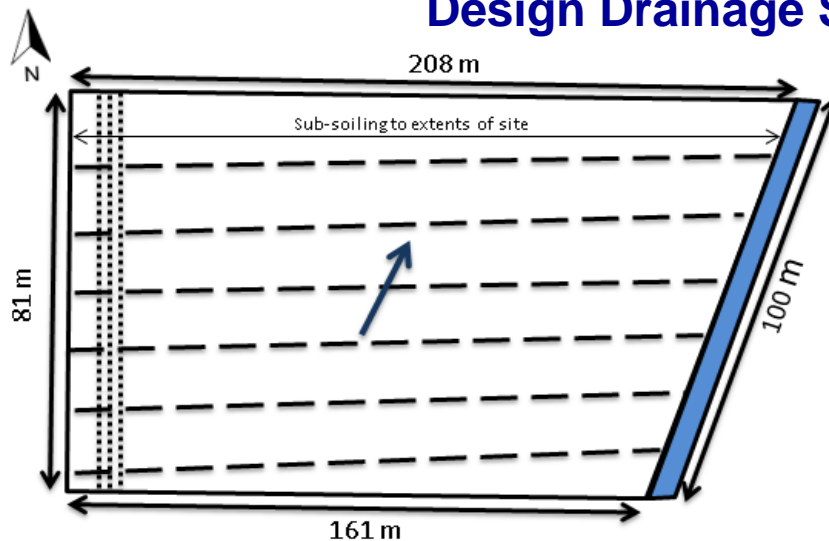
## Shallow Drainage System

### Sub-soiling:

- Aim to fracture and crack the soil
- Effectiveness Dependent on:
  - Soil clay/stone content
  - Implement used
  - Weather conditions
- Used In tandem with collector drains



## Design Drainage System



- Field drains: 1.1 m depth, 15 m spacing
- ..... Sub-soiling: 0.6 m depth, 1.5 m spacing
- Field slope
- █ Open drain



# Sean O' Riordan – Drainage Costs

## Key points:

- Soil investigation
- Site appraisal
- Drainage system design

Costs	Total/ha
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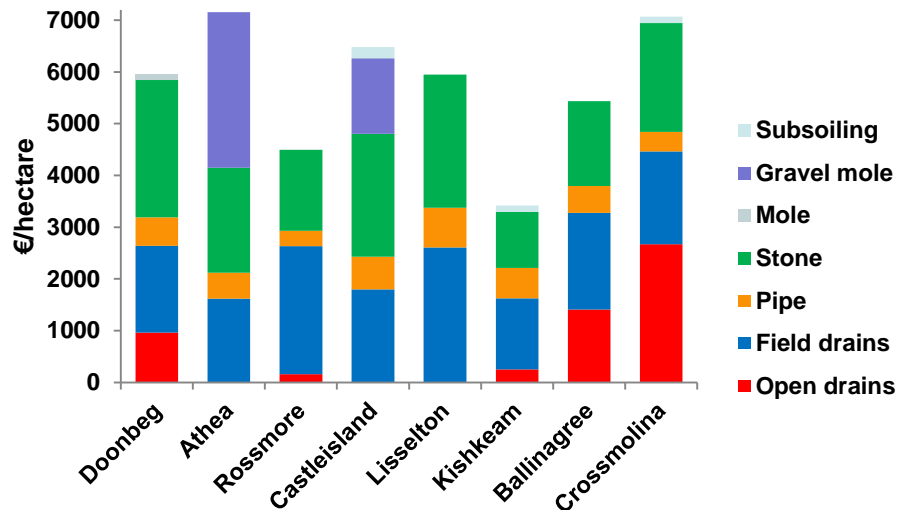
Drain installation @ €45/hr (36 hrs)	€1,625
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Drainage pipe @ €1.03/m (566 m)	€585
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Drainage stone @ €10.78/t (101 t)	€1,085
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Subsoiling	€125
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<u>Drainage cost</u>	<u>€3,420</u>
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## Decision process:

- Soil fertility
- Farm roadway and water Infrastructure
- Ryegrass pasture
- Drainage

