

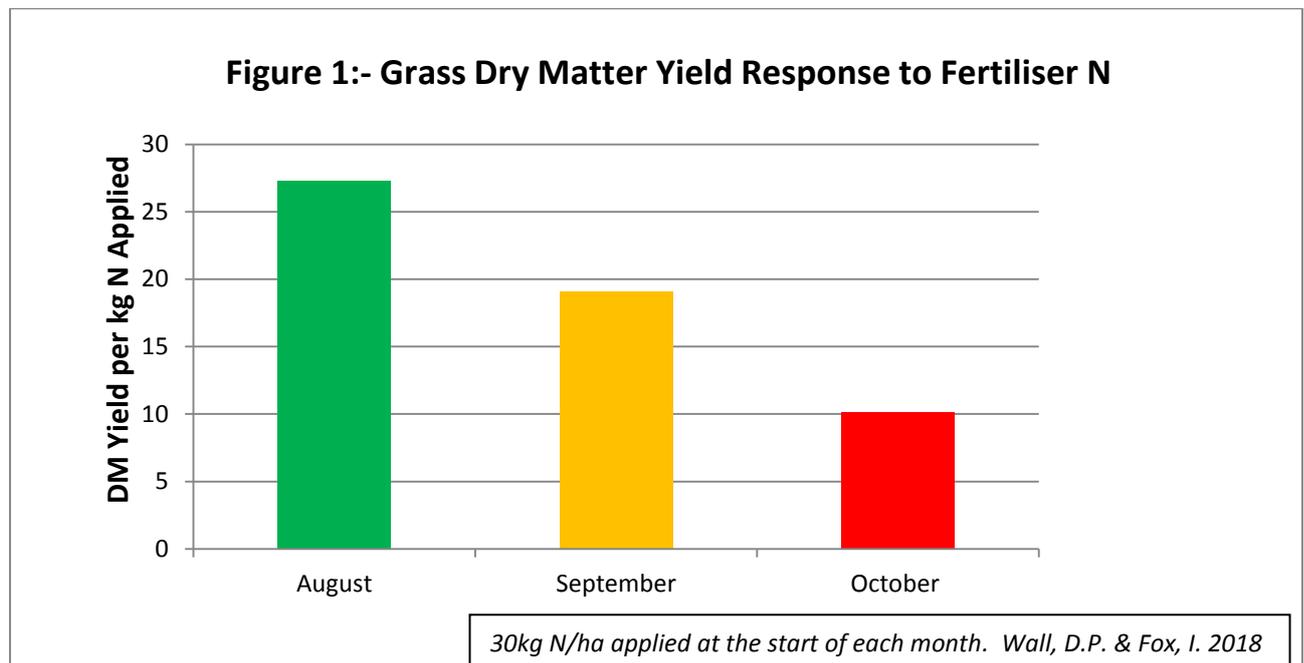
## Late Season Fertiliser N Advice for 2018

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Nitrogen will be the key driver of grass growth over the coming days and weeks as soils wet up. Every effort should be made to apply nitrogen (N) where required sooner rather than later. As we move from August to September to October the response to applied fertiliser N will decline.

### Late Season N Response Studies

Fertiliser N studies conducted over the last 3 years at four sites in Wexford, Cork, Louth & Mayo within the Agricultural Catchments show the average response to per kilo of N applied during August, September and October were 27kg, 19kg and 10kg respectively (figure 1).



### Response to applied late N fertiliser

- Average grass growth in August was 27kg DM per kilo of N applied. Grass dry matter yield response to applied N reduces by 30% in September and 63% in October
- Currently N costs ~€0.92/kg. The N cost for growing a kg of grass DM in August and early September is 3 to 5 cent per kilo. Grass grown from N fertiliser applied in later September costs approximately 10c per kilo
- Earlier applied N results in greater grass growth & more efficient use of each kilo of N

### Nutrient Advice

- Apply cattle slurry to meet grass fertiliser demands & empty slurry tanks before winter
- Apply 30 kg N/ha on grazing ground to build grass covers
- Where grass will be cut for silage apply 60kgN /ha depending on grass yield potential
- Due to drying and re-wetting, soils will mineralise more N from the soil organic matter this Autumn – also helping to supply N for grass growth