5 Steps to Improving Soil Fertility

1) Soil Test
2) Soil pH & Lime
3) P & K Index 3
4) Slurry
5) NPKS Balance

Increasing soil fertility will cost money
→ Be sure of using extra grass (more stock and/or less concentrate feed)

Fertiliser programmes (P K S)

Standard compounds for Index 3 situation
P:
50% early
50% split in summer

Products:
K:P ratio of 2:1 ideal for grazing
Slurry or K:P 4:1 → 6:1 ideal for silage
Adjust based on soil tests, crops, stocking rates

FYM – 1 tonne
N - 3 units/ton
P - 2 units/ton
K - 12 units/ton

Information
Increase soil fertility
+
+€80/ha
Interpretation
+€400/ha
Action

Index | Description
--- | ---
1 | Very Low
2 | Low
3 | Target
4 | High

N - 3 units/ton
P - 2 units/ton
K - 12 units/ton

High K
N-P-0 compound
High P
N-0-K compound / Straight K
Low P and K
higher rates / Slurry

Extra P
Extra K
Fertilising Grassland

Soil fertility Targets for Sheep farms

- **Lime**
  - Target pH 6.3
  - Release 60 to 80kgN/ha
  - Worth €60 to 80/ha/year

- **P & K**
  - Target Index 3
  - Select suitable fertiliser

### Soil Fertility Levels in 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% of Soils with Optimum Fertility</th>
<th>Optimal 9%</th>
<th>Sub-Optimal 91%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Soil Fertility Levels in 2014

- **Soil Fertility Levels in 2014**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>N, P &amp; K Advice for sheep grazing at 130 to 170kg Org N/ha</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N Advice kg/ha</td>
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<tr>
<td>----------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>145kg/ha (116units/ac)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
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