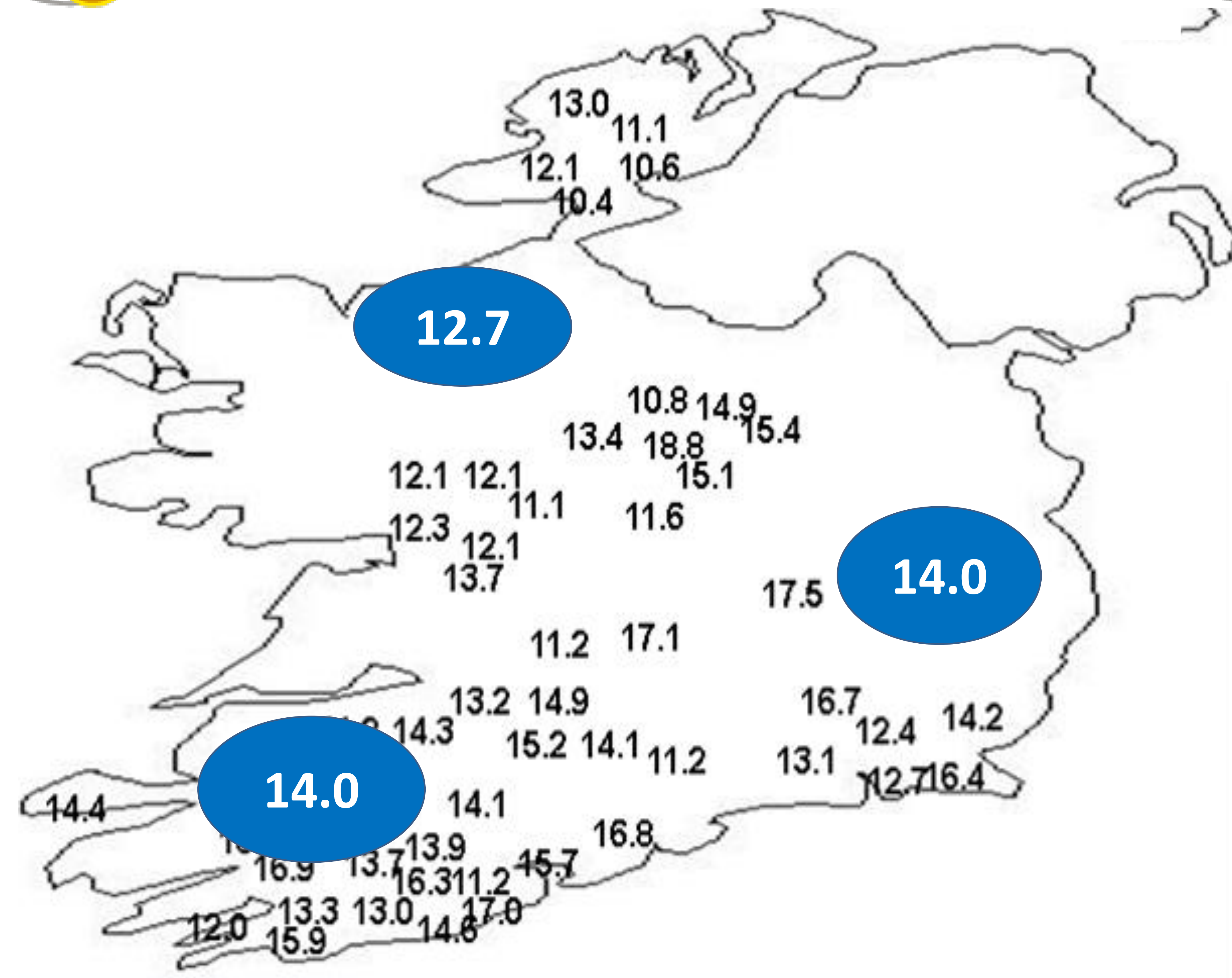
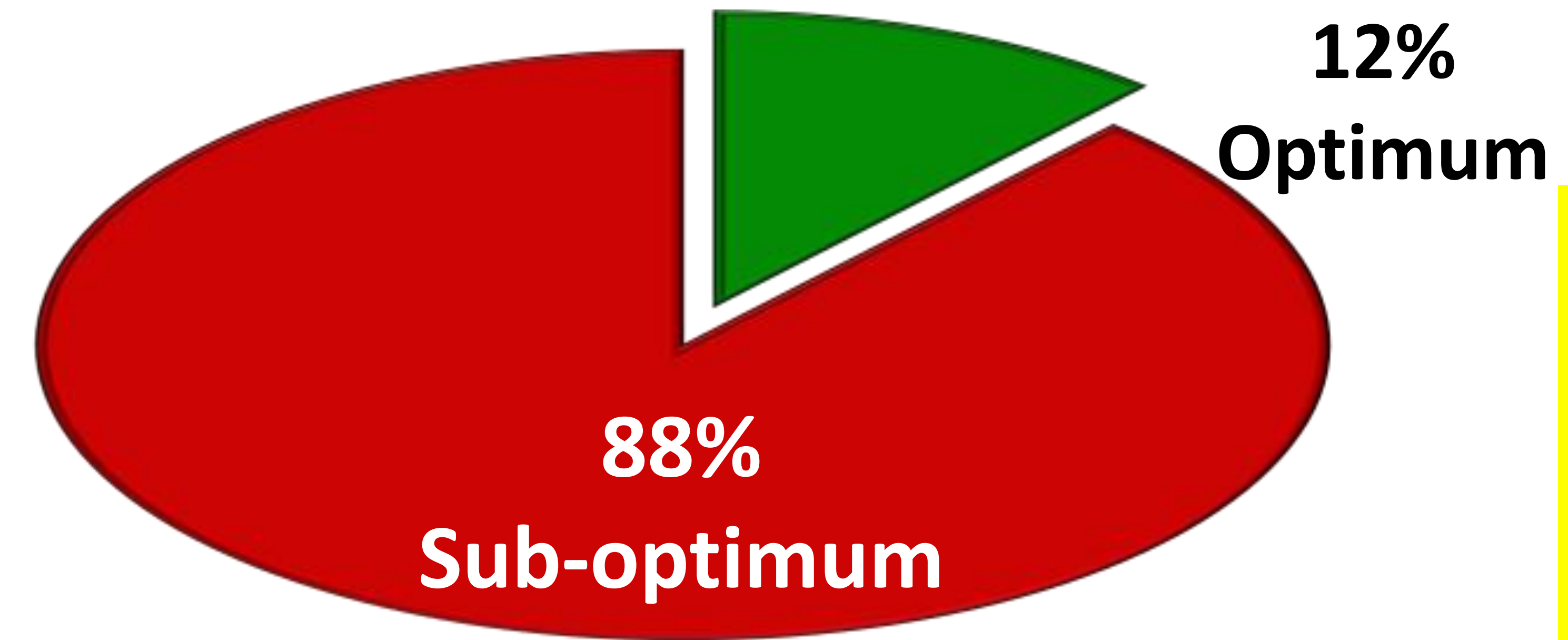


€ 1 ton grass utilised = €267/t DM/ha €

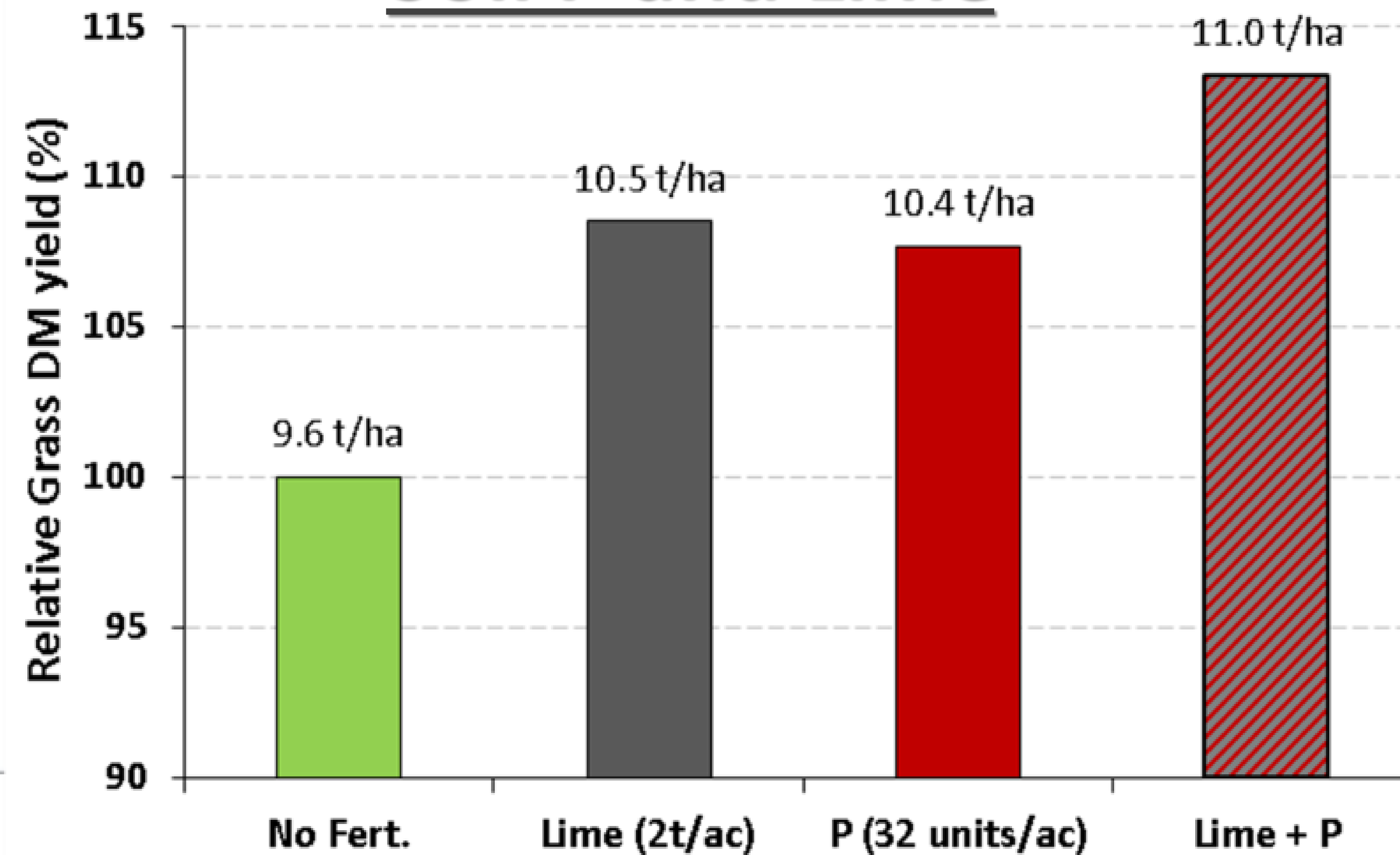


Grass growth in 2014 – little location effect

## Dairy Farm Soil Fertility Status



## Soil P and Lime



Lime to correct pH  
Release soil N, P & K

Grass production loss  
Index 1 vs. Index 3  
~ 2.0 t DM/ha/yr  
Worth €400/ha/yr

Return on investment  
4:1 from extra grass on low fertility soils



# hectare utilised

## Grazing management

- Spring Rotation Planner
- Mid Season – Grass Wedge
- Autumn - 60:40 closing management

## Mid-season grazing management

>2000 kg DM/ha

Low regrowth  
4 leaves



Low utilisation

1300 -1600 kg DM/ha

High regrowth

3 leaves



High Utilisation

<1100 kg DM/ha

Medium regrowth

2 leaves



Med utilisation

## Grazing practices to promote utilisation & support high performance

- Consistent pre/post grazing height (mid season – 4 cm)
- Infrastructure – paddock access and size (4%-5%)
- Regular farm walks – forward planning

## Improve perennial ryegrass/clover content

- Perennial ryegrass content too low on farms
- Perennial Ryegrass/White clover – +1.5 t DM/ha
- €300-400+/ha lost with low producing swards

## Take home messages

1. Soil fertility
2. Grazing management - utilisation
3. Perennial ryegrass/clover swards