

Grazing management: areas

If you don't measure you can't improve



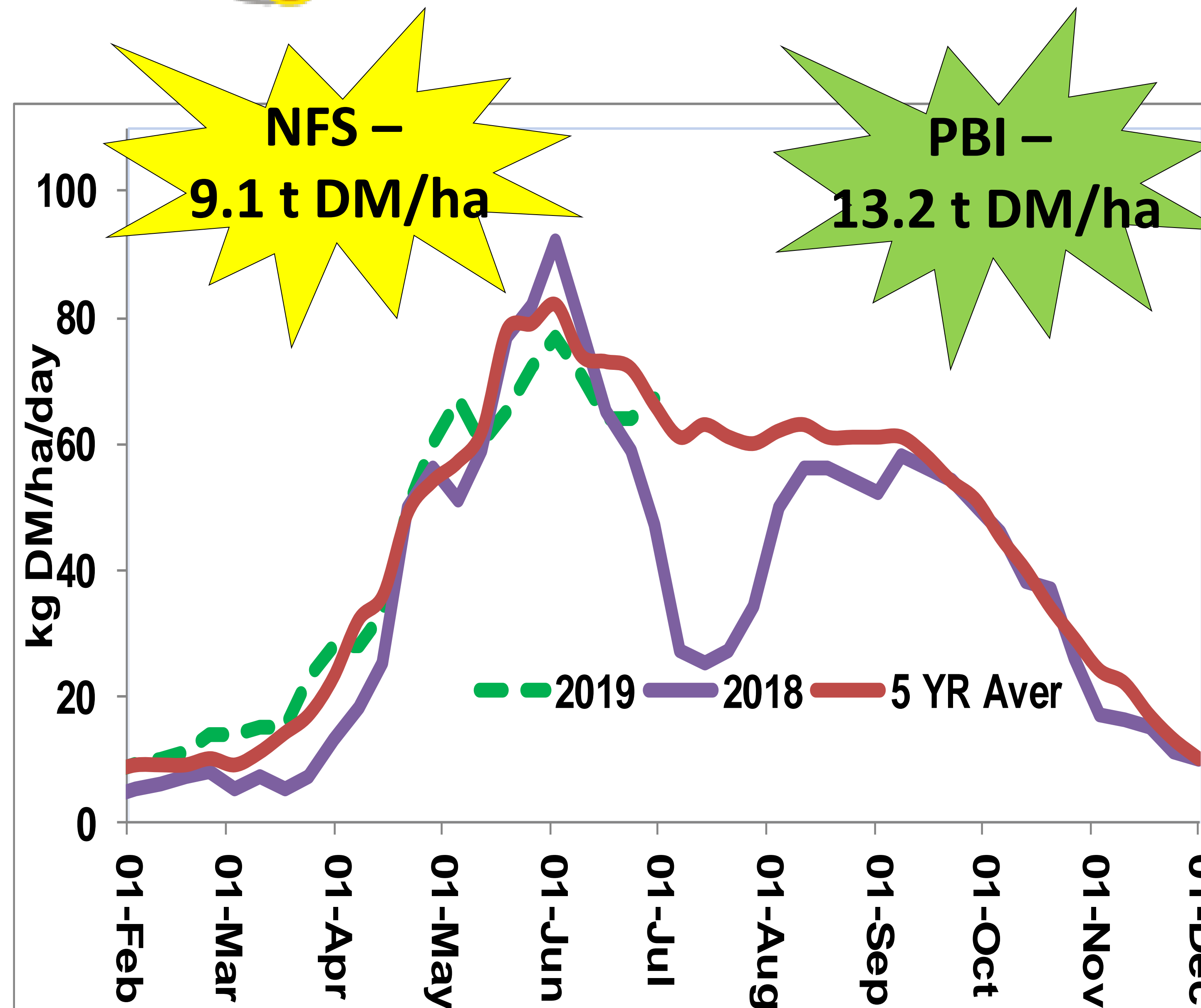
Grass utilisation 80%+

1 ton grass utilised = €173 t DM/ha

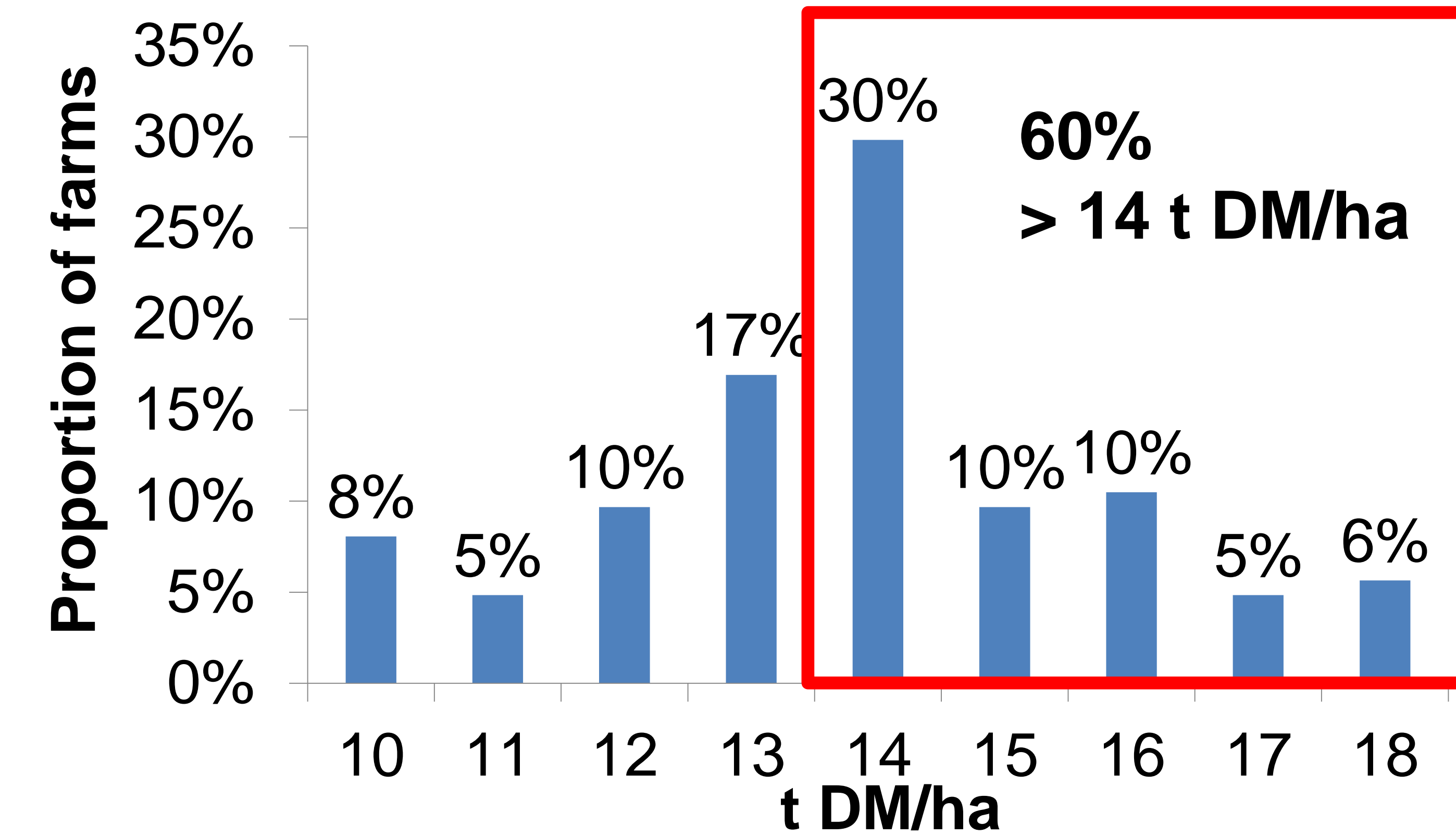
1. Grass – Protein inside farm
2. What is the farm able to grow today?
3. 8 t DM/ha in grass production between farms
4. Better grazing management - nutrient use efficiency

High grass producing farms

- Long grazing season - grass KPI focused
- High soil fertility
- Good grazing infrastructure
 - paddocks/water/access
- Measurement -> 30 walks per year
- First rotation – early April finish
- Stocking rate – farm grass output
- Concentrate level – grass demand



2017 Herbage Production (PBI Farms)



Perennial ryegrass + clover swards

- ✓ Clover inclusion at + 20%
- ✓ +10% More Milk solids/ha
- ✓ +€150/ha
- ✓ N fertiliser usage



1. Measure → **2. Manage** → **3. Respond**

for improvement on dairy farms

Roadmap to increased grass utilisation

Self-sufficient farm stocked at 2.8 cows/ha utilising 13 t DM/ha

	Grass Grown (kg DM/ha)	No. Grazing's	Nitrogen (kg N/ha)	Conc. fed per cow (kg)	Milk solids per cow (kg)
1 st Jan - 10 th Apr	1450	1	85	210	105
11 th April – 31 st May	+3800	+ 3	+ 75	+ 70	+110
1 st June - 5 th Aug	+5400	+ 3	+ 40	+ 70	+110
6 th Aug - 1 st Dec	+5350	+ 3	+ 50	+ 150	+155
Total	16000	10	250	500 (1400 kg/ha)	480 (1344 kg/ha)

Autumn/Spring grazing management

- Peak Autumn cover (early Oct) 450 kg DM/cow
- Closing cover 650-750 kg DM/ha (Dec 1st)
- Opening farm cover (>1000 kg DM/ha)
- Spring grass availability- **+64kg milk solids/ha; 200 kg less silage fed/ha – end April**
- Second rotation early April - 550kg DM/ha
- Silage reserve – 400 kg DM/cow

Take home messages

1. Increase grazing's per paddock
2. How much grass does the farm need to grow, what is it growing
3. Consistent feed self sufficiency
4. Nutrient use efficiency – grazing management