Benefits of mixed grass / white clover swards

- **Animal**
  - Increased dry matter intake - + 1.5 kg DM/cow/day
  - Increased milk solids production - + 30 kg MS/cow/year

- **Sward**
  - Increased dry matter production - + 800 kg DM/ha
  - Potential to reduce nitrogen fertiliser with white clover contents >25%

- Increase farm profit by €150/ha
Establishment of a white clover sward

- High fertile soils
  » Index 3 & 4 for P and K
  » Soil pH 6.3
- Small and medium leaved clover cultivars
- Sowing date
  » Spring / early summer
- Reseeding
  » Fine firm seed bed
  » Sowing depth of 10 – 12 mm
  » 1.2 – 3.7 kg/ha (0.5 - 1.5 kg/ac)
  » Soil contact – roll post sowing
- Over-sowing
  » Ensure existing sward has a high perennial ryegrass content
  » Sow immediately after grazing or surplus silage (<4 cm)
  » 3.7 - 5 kg/ha (1.5 – 2 kg/ac)
  » Ensure soil to seed contact post sowing - roll
  » Graze at <1100 kg DM/ha for the following 3 rotations
- Post emergence spray
  » Ensure spray is clover safe
  » Ensure correct timing of spray application

Grazing management

- To maintain a sward clover content of 25%
- Pre-grazing herbage mass – 1300 – 1600 kg DM/ha
- Post-grazing sward height – 4 cm (50 kg DM/ha)
  » Light required to promote stolon growth
- Grazing rotation of 18 to 21 days mid-season
- Early grazing in spring to stimulate plant growth

### Nitrogen fertiliser application strategy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rotation / Date</th>
<th>Grass 250 kg</th>
<th>Grass-Clover 150 kg</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mid-late January</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid March</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April (2nd rotation)</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May (3rd rotation)</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May (4th rotation)</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June (5th rotation)</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July (6th rotation)</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July (7th rotation)</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August (8th rotation)</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid September</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>12</td>
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</tbody>
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