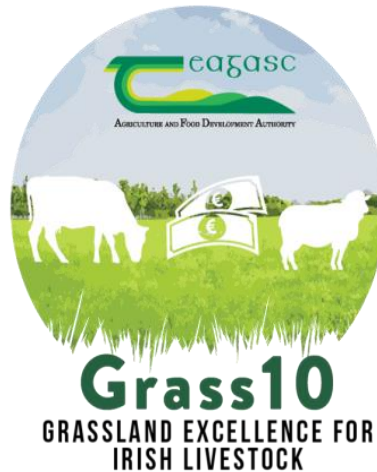


Growing Lots of Grass

Mark Heffernan,

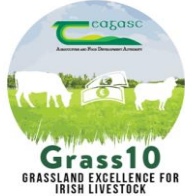
Caherleske Farm,

Dunnamaggin, Co. Kilkenny



“Our objective is to grow and utilise as much grass as we can and in turn convert that grass into milk solids”





Heffernan Farm Grassland Farmer of the Year Winner



Farm History

- Started out Mixed Farming
- 2008: 70 cows & 12.6T DM/ha
- 2017: 380 cows & 19T DM/ha
- Family Farm Partnership
- Discussion Group Members

***Farm Target 2019:
1600 kg milk solids/ha
feeding 500-600 kg
meal/cow***

Farm Details

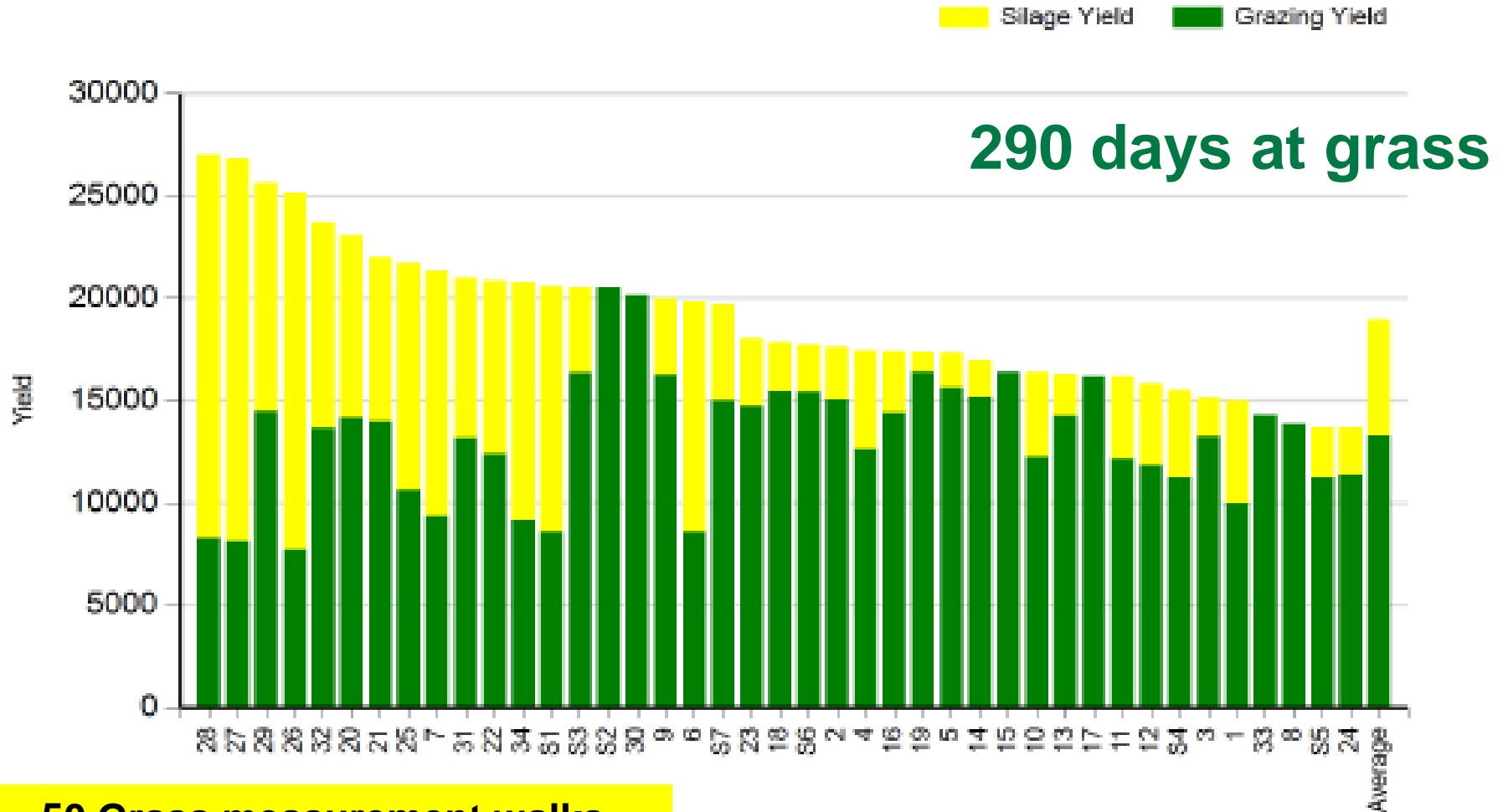
- Land 200 ha (owned & leased)
 - Home Farm: 132ha Milk Platform
 - Outfarms: (2 out farms) 60ha
 - Replacements and silage

Current Stock Numbers

- Cows - 450
 - Stocking rate – 3.3 on Milking Platform
- Replacements 0-1 yo - 140
- Replacements 1-2 yo - 128

Grass Production 2017

Cumulative Paddock Yield to 31/12/2017



50 Grass measurement walks completed every year

Paddock **7 T DM/ha Lower in 2018!!**



Our Approach to Soil Fertility

- **Soil Testing in winter every year**
- **Lime & K Deficiencies**
- **NMP yearly**
- **Milking Platform now due for testing**
- **Soil Fertility Maps**



MILKING PLATFORM

NOTES SEPT 4TH

- * SEPT/14 CROWN TO DATE
- * 1ST AHEAD ON LAST YEAR
- * TAKE OUT
- * DOWN OVER WEEK



DATE: SEPT 4TH
 AFC: 900 (TARGET 980)
 CPC: 301 (TARGET 300)
 GROWTH: 58
 DEMAND: 51

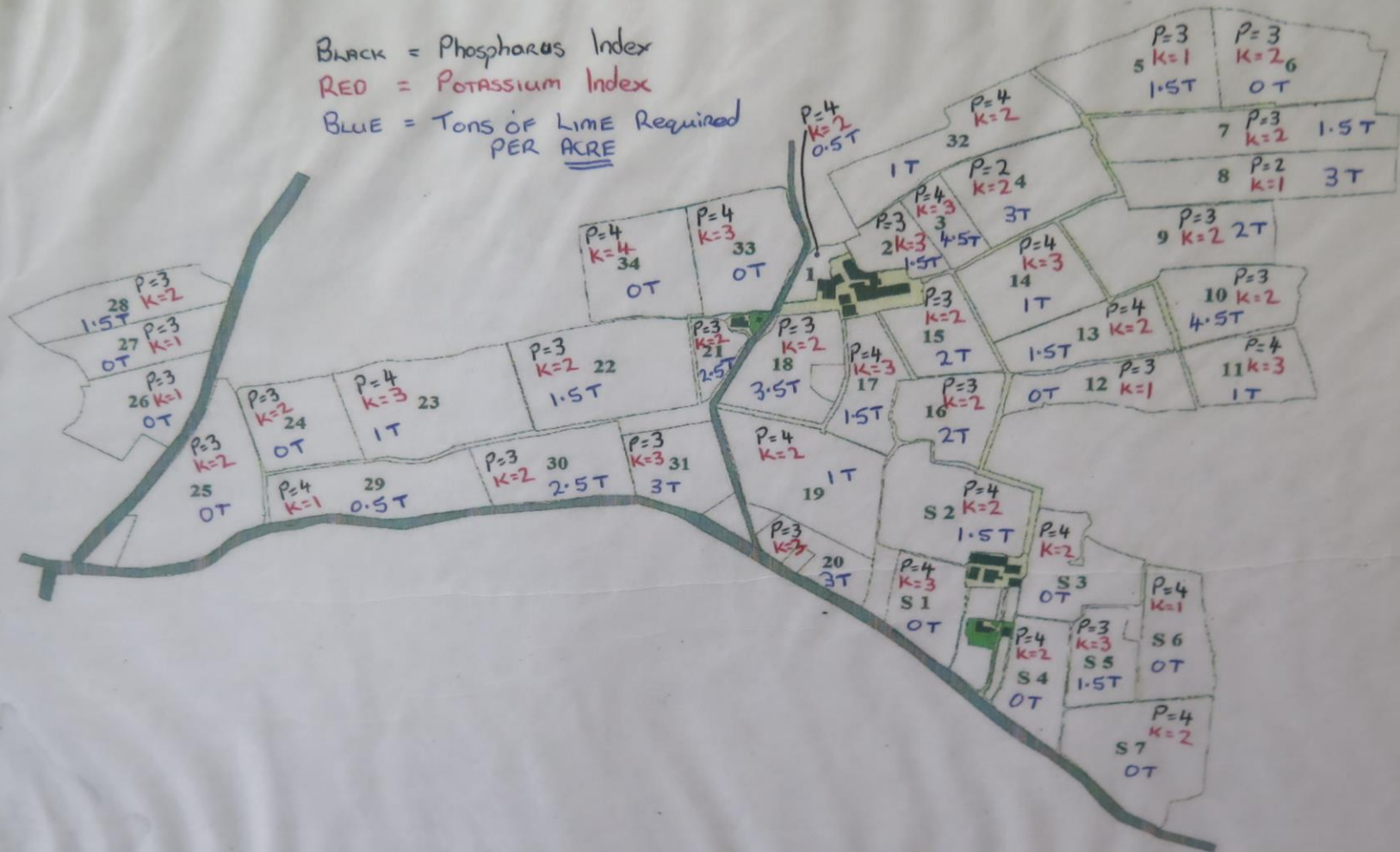
SEPT 4TH

Day	Days in Milk	Number of Milking Cows	Yield
Sun 28	1	344	3.38%
Tue 29	2	344	3.38%
Wed 30	3	344	3.38%
Thu 31	4	344	3.38%
Sum 1	5	344	3.38%
Sun 2	6	344	3.38%
Mon 3	7	344	3.38%
Tue 4	8	344	3.38%
Wed 5	9	344	3.38%
Thu 6	10	344	3.38%
Sum 7	11	344	3.38%
Sun 8	12	344	3.38%
Mon 9	13	344	3.38%
Tue 10	14	344	3.38%
Wed 11	15	344	3.38%
Thu 12	16	344	3.38%
Sum 13	17	344	3.38%
Sun 14	18	344	3.38%
Mon 15	19	344	3.38%
Tue 16	20	344	3.38%
Wed 17	21	344	3.38%
Thu 18	22	344	3.38%
Sum 19	23	344	3.38%
Sun 20	24	344	3.38%
Mon 21	25	344	3.38%
Tue 22	26	344	3.38%
Wed 23	27	344	3.38%
Thu 24	28	344	3.38%
Sum 25	29	344	3.38%
Sun 26	30	344	3.38%
Mon 27	31	344	3.38%
Tue 28	32	344	3.38%
Wed 29	33	344	3.38%
Thu 30	34	344	3.38%
Sum 31	35	344	3.38%
Sun 1	36	344	3.38%
Mon 2	37	344	3.38%
Tue 3	38	344	3.38%
Wed 4	39	344	3.38%
Thu 5	40	344	3.38%
Sum 6	41	344	3.38%
Sun 7	42	344	3.38%
Mon 8	43	344	3.38%
Tue 9	44	344	3.38%
Wed 10	45	344	3.38%
Thu 11	46	344	3.38%
Sum 12	47	344	3.38%
Sun 13	48	344	3.38%
Mon 14	49	344	3.38%
Tue 15	50	344	3.38%
Wed 16	51	344	3.38%
Thu 17	52	344	3.38%
Sum 18	53	344	3.38%
Sun 19	54	344	3.38%
Mon 20	55	344	3.38%
Tue 21	56	344	3.38%
Wed 22	57	344	3.38%
Thu 23	58	344	3.38%
Sum 24	59	344	3.38%
Sun 25	60	344	3.38%
Mon 26	61	344	3.38%
Tue 27	62	344	3.38%
Wed 28	63	344	3.38%
Thu 29	64	344	3.38%
Sum 30	65	344	3.38%
Sun 31	66	344	3.38%
Mon 1	67	344	3.38%
Tue 2	68	344	3.38%
Wed 3	69	344	3.38%
Thu 4	70	344	3.38%
Sum 5	71	344	3.38%
Sun 6	72	344	3.38%
Mon 7	73	344	3.38%
Tue 8	74	344	3.38%
Wed 9	75	344	3.38%
Thu 10	76	344	3.38%
Sum 11	77	344	3.38%
Sun 12	78	344	3.38%
Mon 13	79	344	3.38%
Tue 14	80	344	3.38%
Wed 15	81	344	3.38%
Thu 16	82	344	3.38%
Sum 17	83	344	3.38%
Sun 18	84	344	3.38%
Mon 19	85	344	3.38%
Tue 20	86	344	3.38%
Wed 21	87	344	3.38%
Thu 22	88	344	3.38%
Sum 23	89	344	3.38%
Sun 24	90	344	3.38%
Mon 25	91	344	3.38%
Tue 26	92	344	3.38%
Wed 27	93	344	3.38%
Thu 28	94	344	3.38%
Sum 29	95	344	3.38%
Sun 30	96	344	3.38%
Mon 31	97	344	3.38%
Tue 1	98	344	3.38%
Wed 2	99	344	3.38%
Thu 3	100	344	3.38%

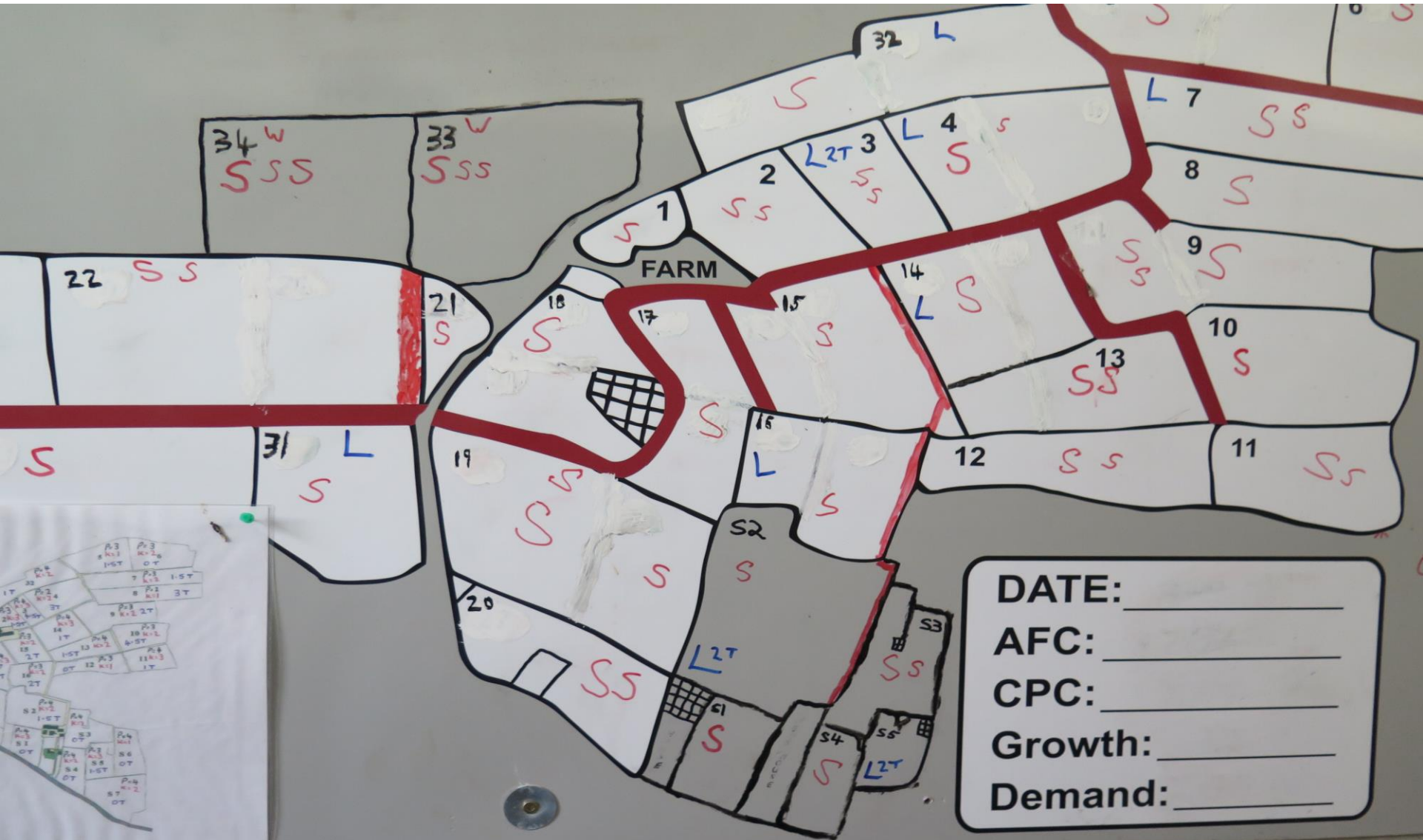
Soil Fertility Map in Dairy

SOIL SAMPLES JANUARY 2017

BLACK = Phosphorus Index
 RED = Potassium Index
 BLUE = TONS OF LIME Required
 PER ACRE



Slurry Map



Our Approach to Lime

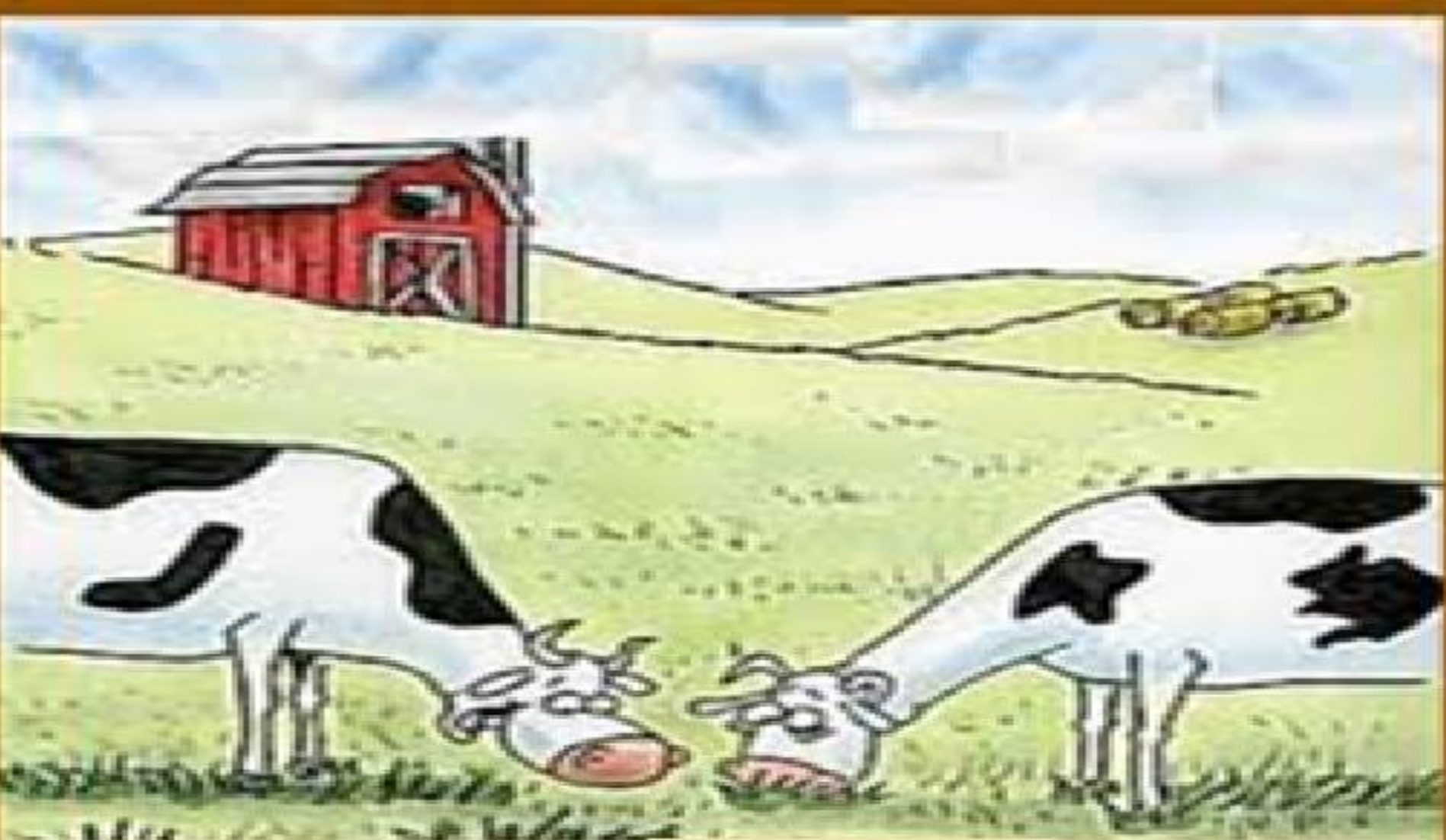
- Release N
- Optimise P & K
- Soil Results Jan 2017
- 800 tons of lime required
- 500 tons on Milk Platform
- Contractor application
- 1.5-2.5 ton/acre
- After Silage & Autumn
- More lime required autumn 2018



Our Approach to P, K & Sulphur

- **Soil Results Jan 2017**
- **Soil K deficiency**
- **Use of Slurry**
- **18:6:12 in Spring**
- **Muriate of Potash in Autumn**
- **20-25 units Sulphur/ac starting in April (CAN+S)**





"Just think... Manure feeds the soil, The soil feeds the grass, The grass feeds the cows..."

*Every additional ton of grass eaten/ha
will **increase profit** on Dairy farms by*

€173/ha

