Agriculture and Food Development Authority

Grass10
GRASSLAND EXCELLENCE FOR IRISH LIVESTOCK

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**

Improved Sustainability

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

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