

Applying fertiliser in spring

When

- Ground is dry enough to travel on with tractor and spreader without causing damage
- Soil temperatures are above 5°C and rising- you can check soil temperatures on the links below
» <https://www.met.ie/forecasts/farming/agricultural-data-report> & <https://www.acpmet.ie/>
- There are 4-5 days of dry weather forecast, you want fertiliser and slurry to stay where you spread it.
- When you plan on letting cattle out within 3 weeks.

Where & how much

- Split your farm in to **thirds** based on grass covers, heavy, medium and low covers.
- In all cases apply slurry to the third of the farm with the lowest covers once conditions allow. Ideally check your soil samples and apply to fields low in P or K. For lowly stocked farms, if you don't have enough slurry to cover the second third of the farm use 20-23 units of protected urea per acre.
- Quality silage is hugely important, therefore all silage ground should be grazed and closed by late March to allow for cutting 15th-25th May.
- **Top Tip:** Reseeded fields, dry fields and fields with good soil fertility will give you the best response to early nitrogen, so target these for early grazing and fertiliser applications.
- Use fertiliser recommendations alongside Spring Rotation Planner – bit.ly/SpringRotationPlanner

	Heavily Stocked Farm or farms with a high demand for early spring grass (170kg N/ha +) 2.6 LU per ha	Medium Stocked Farm (150kg N/ha +) 2.3 LU per ha	Lowly Stocked Farm (<130kg N/ha) 2 LU per ha
Heavy Covers <i>Graze first</i>	Apply 23 units of protected urea per acre to heavy covers once conditions allow, then graze. Apply second round of fertiliser by mid-March, around 30 units of N per acre, in a compound if possible, (1.5 bags 18-6-12)	Graze Heavy covers first. Then apply 23 units of protected urea per acre immediately after grazed. Apply second round of fertiliser by late -March, around 30 units of N per acre, in a compound if possible, (1.5 bags 18-6-12)	Graze Heavy covers first. Apply 23 units protected urea per acre immediately after grazing. Apply second round of fertiliser by late March, around 30 units of N per acre, in a compound if possible, (1.5 bags 18-6-12)
Medium Covers <i>Graze second</i>	Apply 23 units of protected urea per acre, to medium covers once conditions allow. Apply second round of fertiliser by mid-March, around 30 units of N per acre, in a compound if possible, (1.5 bags 18-6-12). OR If its silage ground apply slurry and fertiliser for silage after grazing	Apply 23 units of protected urea per acre, to medium covers once conditions allow. Apply second round of fertiliser by late -March, around 30 units of N per acre, in a compound if possible, (1.5 bags 18-6-12). OR If its silage ground apply slurry and fertiliser for silage after grazing	Apply 2,500 gallons slurry or 23 units of protected urea per acre to medium covers, once conditions allow. Apply 23 units of nitrogen per acre after grazing as a straight if slurry was applied earlier or as a compound if protected urea was applied earlier. OR If its silage ground apply slurry and fertiliser for silage after grazing
Low covers <i>Graze last</i>	Apply 2,500 gallons of slurry per acre to light covers. Apply second round of fertiliser by mid-March around 30 units of N per acre, in a compound if possible, (1.5 bags 18-6-12)	2,500 gallons slurry per acre to light covers, once conditions allow. Apply second round of fertiliser by late -March, around 30 units of N per acre, in a compound if possible, (1.5 bags 18-6-12).	Apply 2,500 gallons slurry per acre to light covers. Apply 23 units of protected urea either before or after grazing depending on cover and demand.