

Teagasc Notes for week ending Friday 10th July 2020

Grass

The rainfall over the last two weeks has led to an explosion of grass growth on farms in the region. With high grass growth it is critical to keep 10-12 days grass ahead of the cows which equates to a Cover/LU of 160-180 Kg DM/LU. With grass growth exceeding demand on many farms, it is important to cut/earmark the poorest quality paddocks for surplus bales to keep pre grazing grass cover at 1200- 1400 kg DM/ha. It is important to be decisive and take out paddocks so that they recover quickly. By doing this you are keeping good quality grass in front of your stock.

In paddocks where the grass quality is poor, they can be grazed at a lower cover. This will help to get a good clean out to 4 cm and ensure better quality grass in the next round. Any paddocks not grazed out well can be earmarked for cutting bales in the next round to clean them off.

If there is too much grass on the farm, you are better to take out bales and skip paddocks rather than start pre-mowing or topping. This will waste grass that may be needed later in the next rounds. It also does not correct that you will be grazing grass is too strong. Remember, strong grass of over 1,500 kgs DM /ha will give poorer performance in terms of milk yield, solid and weight gain in drystock.

When using a 36 hr grazing block, a strip wire can be used at the back of the paddock to save about 15% of the area which can be removed on the 3rd grazing to encourage cows to graze down to 4 cm across all the paddock.

By grazing ideal covers; every 5% increase in leaf content increases digestibility by 1 unit. Grazing heavy covers; every 4% reduction in grass digestibility will reduce milk solids yield by about 5%.

Event: Teagasc Virtual Beef Week 2020

'Building a Sustainable Irish Beef Sector' is the theme for the virtual beef week, which will involve two webinars each day from Monday to Friday. This will be accompanied by a continuous stream of content through social media platforms.

Each day will focus on a different topic.

- Monday: Suckler Beef Production
- Tuesday: Dairy Calf to Beef
- Wednesday: Sustainable Beef Production
- Thursday: Grassland Management
- Friday: The Grand Challenges

For more information please click on the link below.

www.teagasc.ie/virtualbeefweek