



Introduction



Challenges

- Poor grass supply
- Rainfall/Ground conditions
- Heavy covers of grass

Opportunities

- Adequate Grass supply
- Lower feed costs
- Shorter housing period

***Each additional day at pasture is worth
€1.80/animal***



Autumn Grassland Management: Current Grass Supply Figures



Huge Variation:

- ***Predicted growth this week: 45 to 80 Kg DM/ha/day***
- ***Some land very wet (western seaboard) vs. drier in East***
 - ***Some cows housed vs. out full time***
- ***Grass supply: v. high to v. low***
- ***Some dry farms are in grass deficit***
- ***Some heavy farms are in grass surplus & can't cut surplus due to poor trafficability***
- ***So Blanket Generic Grass Advice is Questionable!!!***



Autumn Grassland Management: Current Grass Supply



AFC kg DM/ha	860
Cover/LU	272
SR LU/ha	3.16
Growth kg /ha/day	60
Demand kg/ha/day	50
Grass kg	15.5
Ration kg	2.5



Autumn Grassland Management: Current Grass Supply



SR Lu/ha	total no of farms	no of farms on target	farm cover Kg/ha	cover /lu	Actual SR Lu/ha	Growth Kg/d	Dem and Kg/d	Grass Intake	Meal kg	Silage Kg DM	total
up to 2.5	136	77	795	342	2.3	54	37	15.1	2.1	0.2	17.4
up to 3	286	36	841	299	2.8	56	45	15.7	2.4	0.2	18.3
>3	737	175	882	253	3.5	63	54	15.3	2.6	0.3	18.2





Autumn Grassland Management: Current Grass Supply



SR LU/ha	target	% on target
2.5	750	55
3	990	13
>3	980	23



Autumn Grassland Management: Autumn Grass Targets



Date	Cover/Cow (Kg DM)	Average Farm Cover (Kg DM/Ha)	Rotation Length
STOCKING RATE OF 2.5 LU/HA			
1 st August	180	450	20 Days
Mid - August	200	500	25 Days
1 st September	300	750	30 Days
Mid-September	400-450	1,000-1,100	35 Days
STOCKING RATE OF 3.0 LU/HA			
1 st August	180	540	20 Days
Mid - August	250	750	25 Days
1 st September	330	990	30 Days
Mid-September	370	1100	35 Days
STOCKING RATE OF 3.5 LU/HA			
1 st August	190-200	650-700	20 Days
Mid - August	220	770	25 Days
1 st September	280	980	30 Days
Mid-September	340	1200	35 Days



Autumn Grassland Management: Autumn Grass Targets



Targets need to be modified for heavier land:

- ✓ ***Avoid very high build up of AFC: >900 kg DM/ha***
- ✓ ***Graze covers over 2000 Kg DM/ha should be avoided***
- ✓ ***Closing up begins earlier (late september)***

Where farm is behind Grass Targets:

- *Introduce more land*
 - *Reseeds*
 - *Silage ground*
- *Remove stock from milking platform*
 - *Replacements*
- *Increase feed*
 - *Meal/Silage*
- *Remove Culls/NIC cows*



Autumn Grassland Management:



Current Pasture Quality: Clonakilty 24th August

Treatment	Cover	Clover %	DMD	CP	UFL	DM %
Grass-only - 250 kg N/ha	1,619	-	76.3	18.4	0.96	12.5
Grass-clover - 150 kg N/ha	1,445	11	78.6	23.1	0.98	9.2
Grass-only - 150 kg N/ha	1,056	-	76.1	17.6	0.96	11.7
Grass-clover - 250 kg N/ha	1,466	13	77.7	21.8	0.97	10.6

Note: These are clean, medium cover, ryegrass/clover swards



Autumn Grassland Management: Autumn Grass Budget



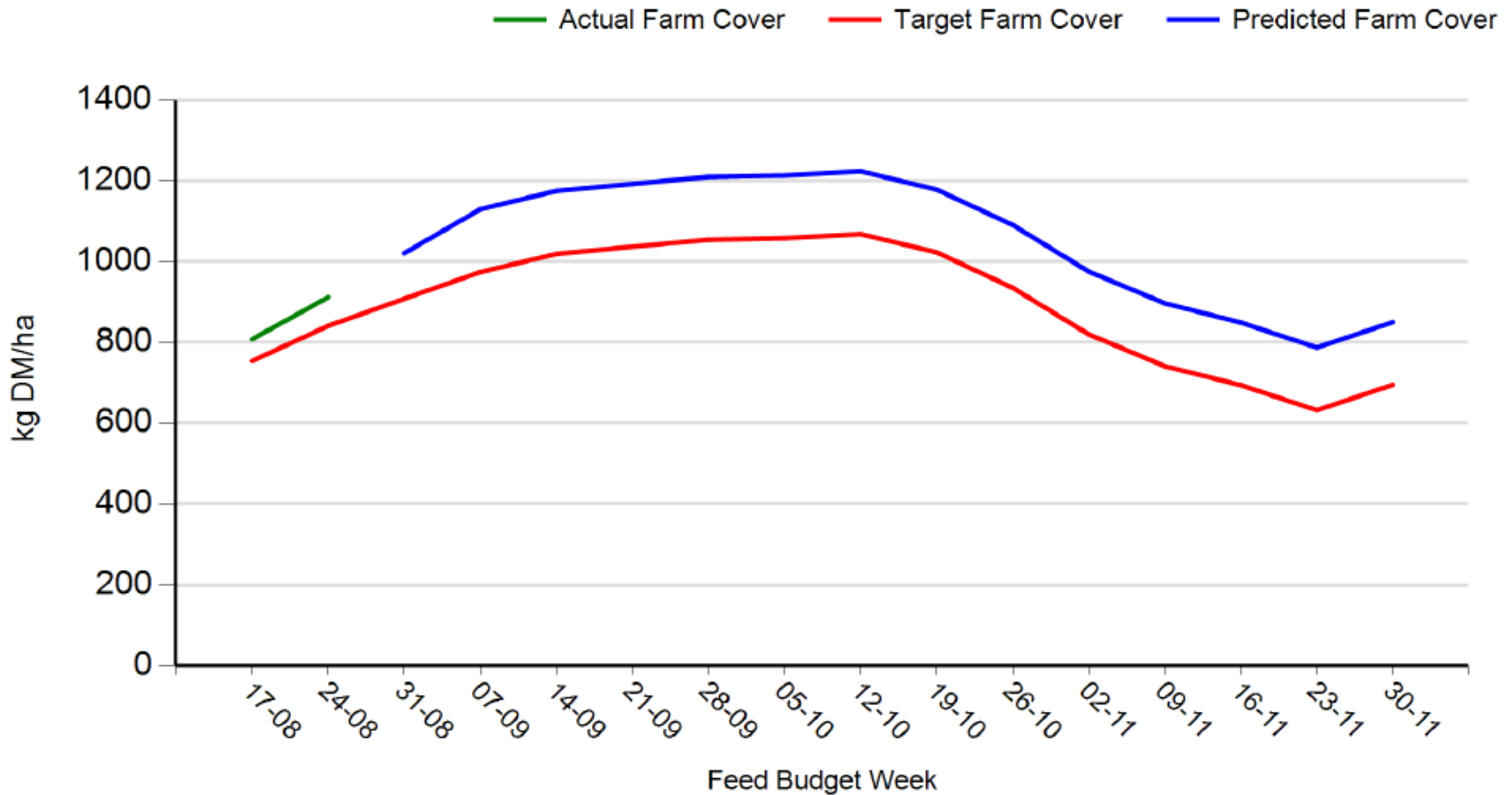
Budget Details

Week Start	Area (ha)	No. of stock	Grass Intake	Meal Intake	Silage Intake	Total Intake	Target Farm Cover (kg DM/ha)	Predicted Growth (kg DM/DAY)	Actual Farm Cover(kg DM/ha)	Predicted Farm Cover(kg DM/ha)	Actual Growth (kg DM/DAY)	Demand (kg DM/ha)	Stocking Rates (LU/ha)	Actual Cover/L U(kg DM/LU)
17/08/2020	36.27	110	16	2	0	18	754	61	808		52	49	3.03	267
24/08/2020	36.27	110	14	4	0	18	841	58	912		41	42	3.03	301
31/08/2020	36.27	110	14	4	0	18	908	58		1021		42	3.03	337
07/09/2020	36.27	110	16	2	0	18	974	55		1130		49	3.03	373
14/09/2020	36.27	110	16	2	0	18	1019	51		1175		49	3.03	388
21/09/2020	36.27	110	16	2	0	18	1037	51		1192		49	3.03	393
28/09/2020	36.27	110	16	2	0	18	1054	49		1210		49	3.03	399
05/10/2020	36.27	110	15	2	0	17	1058	47		1213		45	3.03	400
12/10/2020	36.27	110	15	2	0	17	1068	39		1224		45	3.03	404
19/10/2020	36.27	110	15	2	0	17	1023	33		1178		45	3.03	389
26/10/2020	36.27	110	15	2	0	17	935	29		1091		45	3.03	360
02/11/2020	36.27	90	15	2	0	17	820	26		975		37	2.48	393
09/11/2020	36.27	90	10	3	4	17	741	18		897		25	2.48	362
16/11/2020	36.27	90	8	3	5	16	694	11		849		20	2.48	342
23/11/2020	36.27	0	0	0	0	0	632	9		787		0	3.03	260
30/11/2020	36.27	0	0	0	0	0	695	5		850		0	3.03	281

Autumn Grassland Management: Autumn Grass Budget

PastureBase Ireland Grass Budget should be used

Comparison Chart





Autumn Grassland Management: Autumn Grass Budget



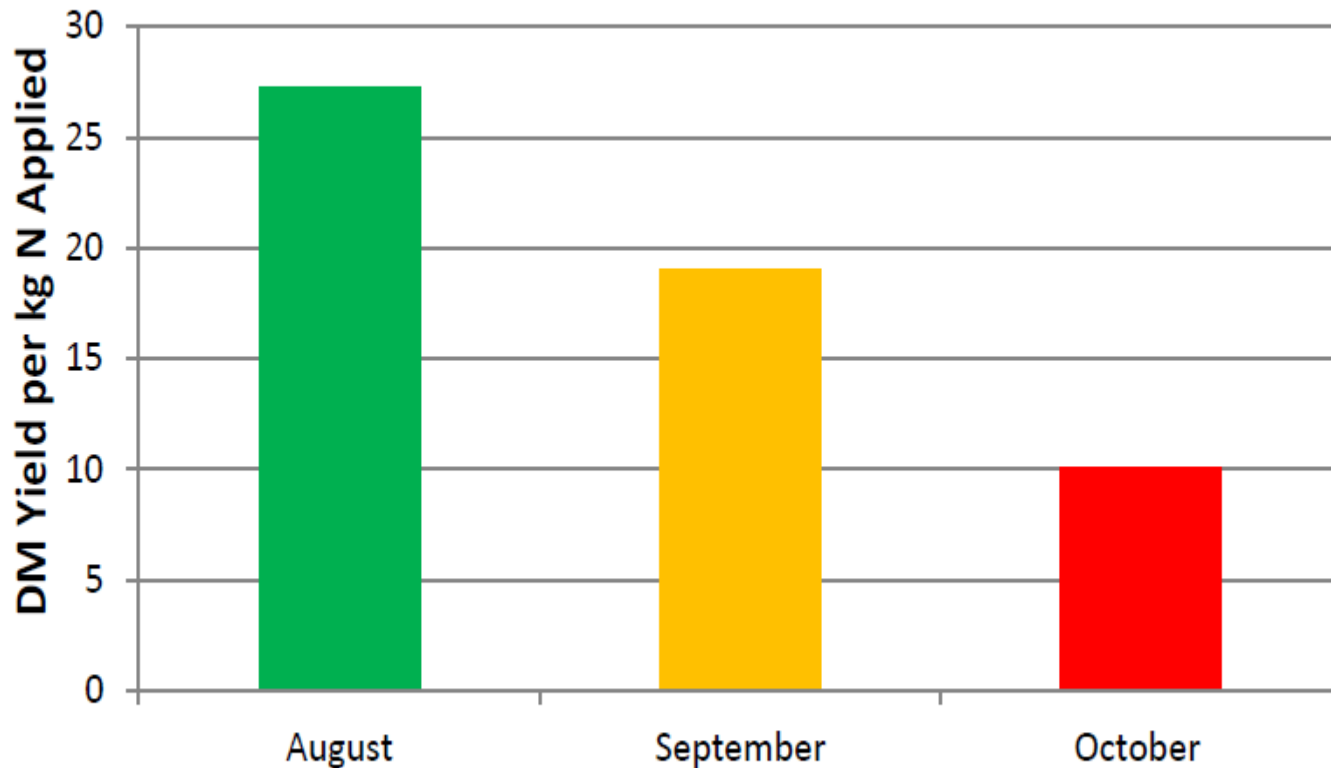
PastureBase Ireland Grass Budget should be used

**428 grass budgets created for the
autumn**

**415 autumn rotation planners
created**

Autumn Grassland Management: N Fertiliser Response Rate

Figure 1:- Grass Dry Matter Yield Response to Fertiliser N



30kg N/ha applied at the start of each month. Wall, D.P. & Fox, I. 2018



Autumn Grassland Management:



Current N Fertiliser Application should mostly be determined by:

- ***Grass supply on the farm (AFC)***
- ***Likely response rate***
- ***Overall N allowance***
 - ***Will be more important in future***

Current N Fertiliser Advice

- **Greater Response**

- Drier paddocks
- Early september
- Reseeds/Silage ground
- 2+ grazings left
- Good soil pH

- **Lesser Response**

- Wetter Paddocks
- Later september
- Older/Low ryegrass swards
- 1 grazing left
- Low soil pH



Autumn Grassland Management: Autumn Grass N



Cost of N fert:

Pr. Urea 80c/kg?

Response 15 kg: DM/kg N

Value of grass in autumn: 11c/kg DM

Cost of spreading: €25/ha?

Application : 30 kg N/ha

$$(0.8 \text{ c/kg} \times 30 \text{ kg N/ha}) + \text{€}25 \text{ (spreading)} = \text{€}49$$

Response:

$$30\text{kg/Ha} \times 15 \text{ (response)} \times 0.11 = \text{€}49.5$$

Grow More,

Graze More,

Earn More!



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine

