

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2023

### **NEWS, AGRI ADVICE & PROMOTIONS**

### **SPRING 2023 GRASSLAND FERTILISER PLAN**

Phosphorus (P) and Potassium (K) Requirements for Grazing: The requirement for P and K for grazed swards can get very complicated (i.e., influenced by stocking rate, baling surplus grass, soil test indices, etc.). A simplified version of P and K requirements is shown below.

Soil Index	P Kg/ha (Units/ac)	K Kg/ha (Units/ac)		
1	36 (29)	90 (72)		
2	28 (22)	65 (52)		
3	19 (15)	36 (29)		
4	0 (0)	0 (0)		

In a grazing scenario, the P:K requirement ratio is approximately 1:2, which reflects common NPK products used for grazing such as 27-2.5-5 and 18-6-12. You need a lot more K for silage than for grazing, because the cow leaves most of the K behind her when she's grazing!

**When to apply Phosphorus (P)**: The programme for applying P fertiliser across the year should be to front load P in spring (to support early growth), with a target to get between 50-75% of the annual P requirement applied in the first 2 rounds of fertiliser. The remaining balance of the annual P fertiliser rate should then be applied in little and often applications across the summer months.

**When to apply Potassium (K):** Fertiliser K applications generally go hand in hand with P applications due to the typical usage of NPK compounds for supplying P. For maintenance requirements, applying the P and K together will generally work well. It is important to avoid high rates of K in the spring period as excess K at this time can impact negatively on the uptake of magnesium (Mg) by grass, resulting in an increased risk of grass tetany. Where additional K is required for soil fertility build-up, apply the additional K in the autumn period.

**Fertilising Silage Ground:** The P:K ratio required in a fertiliser product for silage should be closer to 1:6. Guideline P and K requirements for first and second cut silage crops based on target yields of 5 t/ha and 4 t/ha of grass

DM respectively are shown in the table below. Rates shown refer to soil fertility maintenance only. Additional P or K for low soil Index situations should also be included in the overall fertiliser plan for the year.

	P Kg/ha (units/ac)	K Kg/ha (units/ac)
First cut requirements (5T/ha grass DM)	18 (14)	125 (100)
Second cut requirements (4T/ha grass DM)	14 (11)	100 (80)

Impact of taking paddocks out for bales: Every 1,000 kg/ha of grass DM cover that is cut for bales rather than grazed will add approximately 2.5 kg/ha of P and 25 kg/ha of K to the overall P and K requirements for maintenance to a paddock across the year. The simplest way to manage this change in P and especially K is to target slurry to be returned to paddocks that are cut for bales as the balancer for the higher P and K offtake.

If you had to buy a 50 kg bag of fertiliser that was equivalent to the nutrients in 1,000 gallons of slurry, you would have a product with an NPK value of approximately 5-5-30. The P:K ratio in slurry is 1:6, so it is very apparent that slurry is a far better fertiliser for silage than for grazing. If slurry is half-water, then it only has half the nutrients! The rates of slurry required to supply the P and K requirements for silage are shown below with rates for 'thick' and 'watery' slurry. Rates shown refer to soil fertility maintenance only. Additional P or K for low soil Index situations should also be included in the overall fertiliser plan for the year.

**Role of sulphur (S) in nitrogen (N) response:** The balance of N and S supply to the grass through the soil is critical to ensure the efficiency of N is optimised. Over the course of the year, applying N and S at a ratio of approximately 12:1 is a good target. In terms of timing, splitting S across 3 to 4 timings during the year is better, as S behaves similarly to N in the soil and therefore is well suited to a little and often application approach.

CARBERY

FutureProp

## **NEWS WATCH**

#### **MILK SUPPLY AND PRICE**

February milk supply amounted to 5,723,782 litres which was a 4% increase on February 2022. Weaker market conditions have resulted in a 6c/L drop in the milk price. The Carbery Board has agreed to a 2c/L support from its sustainability fund which leaves milk suppliers with a net drop of 4c/L. Barryroe are paying €8.4765 per kg of protein and €5.6510 per kg of butterfat for variable priced milk. Our average constituents for the month are 3.47% protein 4.53% butterfat and our average price paid for variable priced milk is 55.91 c/L, including 0.88c SCC bonus and VAT @ 5%. The Carbery 2c/L support is also paid on fixed-price milk.

### Have you signed up to FutureProof phase 2?

Have you: Sent your form back to your Co-op? Contacted Munster Bovine to sign up to Milk Recording? Ph 022 - 43228 Purchased Protected Urea from your Co-op? Agreed to an ASSAP assessment?

Sign up today to improve your sustainability and receive 1cpl bonus on all milk supplied in 2023

# FENCING OFFERS

New Quality Range of German made Fencers Manufactured Exclusively and Sold Under the Farmstokk Brand at Highly Competitive Prices.



Gallagher M1400 Fencer **ONLY €489** 

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**Gallagher Geared Reel** SAVE €10

Gallagher Pigtail Post (while stocks last) Buy 10 For € 29.95



**NGP Plastic Fence Post 5ft** Buy 10 for €165

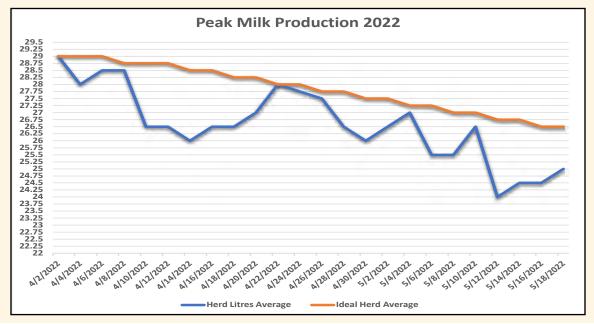
### **REVIEW OF PEAK MILK PRODUCTION IN 2022**

- This milk graph was completed on a farm over a six-month period in 2022.
- The herd in question had 90 cows milking over this period.
- 32 litres of milk per cow (2880 litres in total) were lost over that period due to reduced feed intake and or poor weather conditions.
- Milk price averaged 56 cents for that period so total loss of milk was €1613 on this farm.

**Examples of why cow performance dropped faster than expected:** On the 10th of April, cow performance dropped significantly. We noted that

grass was tight as the second-round grazing was started and growth rates were slow. Therefore, the farmer should have increased the area cows were grazing or else increased feed in the parlour for the couple days around that time.

Again, on the 12th of May cow performance dropped significantly. We noted that the weather became very wet for two days which impacted on the cow's milk performance, but the weather improved again, and cow performance picked up.



### FODDER AND SUGAR BEET OPTIONS 2023

- Due to uncertainty in the feed markets, Fodder and Sugar Beet may be great options as hi-energy feed for cattle this winter.
- Beet is well suited to grow in our climate that give the highest yields of dry matter, fresh yield, and net energy of all forage crops.

Nutrient Requirements (units/acre)				
Index	N	Р	K	
1 Very Low	156	56	256+80Mg	
2 Low	124	44	192	
3 Medium	96	32	128	
4 High	64	16	64	

Free draining land that is **sufficiently limed (pH 7)** that has **adequate P and K** should be considered. Other elements that are important include **Boron** (applied in basal dressing) and **Magnesium**.

#### Weeds:

- Weed control is straightforward with a programmed approach based around Debut, Beetup Flo and Oblix should be used.
- Conviso Beet is a new technology where only one spray, Conviso One is used at the early post emergent stage. If speedwells are an issue Goltix should be included.

The crop should be monitored throughout the growing season for pest attack from Mangold flies, aphids and capsids and treated appropriately.

	Alisha Sugar Beet	Fodder Beet		
	13-20 t/ha	13-20 t/ha		
Fresh Yield	55-88 t/ha	70-110 t/ha		
DM %	21-22.5%	12-19%		
Crude Protein	5-7%	6-8%		
ME (MJ/KG DM)	14	13.5		

#### Fertiliser Recommendations:

Slurry can be used to reduce the amount of chemical fertiliser needed. 3000 gallons of thick slurry will replace the equivalent of a bag of 15-15-90.

#### 2023 Variety Choice

- For high yields of dry matter then white skinned fodder beet varieties such as Emermax or Gustea should be grown.
- For home feeding Alisha sugar beet should be grown due to its higher yield of dry matter per acre.

Variety	Rel Root DM Yield expected	Rel Root Fresh Yield Expected	Expected Root DM%	Root Colour	% Root Over Ground	Soil Tare (1-9, 9= Best)	Leaf Score (1-9, 9=best)	Comments
Conventional S	lugar Beet							
Alisha	112	97	22.5	White	20	3	6	Top Sugar Beet Variety
High Dry Matte	er Fodder Beet							
Enermax	100	100	19.6	White	24	4	8	Very High DM yield and Fresh Yield
Gustea	106	99	21.0	White	23	4	7	New very high DM variety with excellent leaves at harvest
Magnum	93	96	19.0	White	22	4	8	Traditional variety with all round good performance



Prices correct at time of going to print. Offers available from 23<sup>rd</sup> March to 12<sup>th</sup> April 2023 inclusive, unless otherwise stated. Customer quotas may apply. All savings shown are versus recommended retail price.

Barryroe: 023-8840000 Ballinspittle: 021-4778221 Inchybridge: 023-8846207 Kilbrittain: 023-8849605 Darrara: 023-8833256 Timoleague: 023-8846244 Email: barryroe@barryroeco-op.ie Bill Cahill: 086-0241079 Hugh Holland: 087-6774336 Amanda Nugent: 087-2720716 David Walsh : 086-8073953 David Nyhan: 087 4433376