

Week beginning 8th April 2024





AGRI-FOOD & BIOSCIENCES INSTITUTE

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College of Agriculture,

Food & Rural Enterprise

MANAGEMENT NOTES:

- Despite the wet conditions, soil temperatures have risen and growth rate is beginning to increase, forecasting to reach 70+kgDM/ha/d within the next fortnight.
- Try to walk the farm regularly to identify paddocks that might be suitable for grazing. Establishing a grass wedge as growth increases is important to maintain grass quality for the rest of the season.
- Fodder availability is becoming an issue on some farms be proactive and take action early to stretch out your fodder supply.
- Weather has continued to limit the opportunities to get both organic and artificial fertiliser spread. Have fertiliser in the yard ready for when conditions improve and remember it is best to leave around 1 week between slurry and fertiliser applications to limit Nitrogen losses. 1000 gals of 6% DM Dairy Slurry will supply 9 units of N.

Value of Grass		Grass Quality	
Dairy — maintenance plus (M+) (kg/cow/day)*	19.0	DM (%)	19.2
Growing animals — live weight gain (kg/head/day)**	1.02	ME (MJ/kg DM)	11.6
*M+ calculated assuming: 650kg cow, and 15 kg DMI. Maintenance=75 MJ/day, 5.3 MJ/kg milk		CP (% DM)	17.6
**Beef daily gain assuming: 300 kg beef steer, and 6.6 kg DMI. Maintenance=35 MJ/day, 40 MJ/kg gain		WSC (% DM)	15.5





