

Week beginning 1st April 2024





AGRI-FOOD & BIOSCIENCES INSTITUTE

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College of Agriculture,

Food & Rural Enterprise

MANAGEMENT NOTES:

- Significant rainfall across the province over the past week has continued to make grazing very difficult if not impossible for many, as well as planned field operations.
- Any chance to get livestock out grazing at this stage will have several benefits including lowering costs, conserving forage supplies and establishing a grass wedge.
- Make every effort where possible to walk the farm regularly, to identify the drier areas to get some livestock out, using temporary wires, spur roads and troughs.
- Grass growth is forecast to significantly increase over the next fortnight and with increasing day length, ground conditions could turn around quicker than expected.
- Slurry and fertiliser applications are behind schedule on many farms. Consider the desired harvest date of 1st cut silage and re-calculate the application rate if needed.

Value of Grass		Grass Quality	
Dairy — maintenance plus (M+) (kg/cow/day)*	18.1	DM (%)	18.74
Growing animals — live weight gain (kg/head/day)**	1.06	ME (MJ/kg DM)	11.61
*M+ calculated assuming: 650kg cow, and 15 kg DMI. Maintenance=75 MJ/day, 5.3 MJ/kg milk		CP (% DM)	18.89
**Beef daily gain assuming: 300 kg beef steer, and 6.6 kg DMI. Maintenance=35 MJ/day, 40 MJ/kg gain		WSC (% DM)	15.83





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