

Newsletter May 2019

Teagasc Pasture Profit Index PPI

The 2019 Pasture Profit Index (PPI) is an extremely useful tool when analyzing grass seed varieties in economic terms.

Each variety is valued on its overall contribution to net profit per hectare and is made up of key traits which drive profit including:

- **Seasonal DM yield**
- **Quality**
- **Persistency**
- **Highest performing varieties**

When formulating a grazing mixture a blend of late heading tetraploids and diploid varieties should be selected:

Select two diploids and 2 tetraploids.

Selecting only the best varieties will deliver the best performance on your farm!!

Protected Urea

What is it?

Protected urea is a form of urea which is treated with an active ingredient called a urease inhibitor. The urease inhibitor can be either:

- Coated onto the outside of the fertilizer granule
- Incorporated into the urea granule melt during manufacture

Urease is the enzyme in the soil that speeds up the conversion of urea to ammonium. It is during this conversion the ammonia gas is lost from untreated urea. The urea inhibitor moderates the rate at which urea converts to ammonium. In doing so ammonia loss is reduced to low levels.

Protected urea can be spread throughout the year, across the growing season, at times when you would otherwise spread CAN or unprotected urea. Published Teagasc trials have shown that protected urea has 71 % lower nitrous oxide emissions than Can and ammonia loss is reduced by 79% compared to urea.

Milk Price

The milk price for April is 31.0 cent per litre (incl. Vat.) for milk of 3.60% Butterfat and 3.30% Protein plus 0.5 cent per litre Supplementary Payment.

Is there potential for protected urea to reduce nitrate loss to water?

Yes, during periods when leaching occurs nitrite present in the soil is vulnerable to leaching loss. Protected urea does not deliver N directly as nitrite to the soil, therefore reducing the risk of nitrate loss occurring with rainfall post fertiliser application. Reduced ammonia loss compared to urea will also reduce the risk of ammonia N being deposited from the atmosphere onto sensitive habitats or into sensitive waterbodies.

Agriculture accounts for 33% of national greenhouse gas emissions and 98% of ammonia emissions and consequently is under the spotlight to reduce emissions. The use of protected urea can reduce agricultural greenhouse gas emissions and ammonia emissions while maintaining yield and saving cost.

Summer diets for Grazing cows

Feed a 14% dairy nut with Rumbuff & Yeast in it, ideally containing a high level of maize. Maize is the most suitable cereal to feed on a grass based diet. Feeding rumbuff supports rumen function & reduces the risk of acidosis and low milk fat syndrome on low fibre grass.

Milk protein is directly linked to energy in the cows diet, high maize inclusion is designed to maximise milk protein output from spring calvers. Megalac is also important to improve milk yield, fertility and body condition.

Silage Plastic Collection Day

Kanturk Mart 24th/25th May
Listowel Mart 31st May/ 1st June

Fertilizing 2nd cut silage

Second cut silage is planned on many farms to replenish silage reserves for the coming winter. This crop tends to be lower yielding compared to first cut silage. Where 1st cut has been cut it is important to ensure that 2nd cut crops are fertilised adequately to ensure a good yield of grass at harvest time.

Cattle slurry may not have been applied to 1st cut silage crops due to heavy grass covers this spring. Aim to apply cattle slurry after 1st cut silage to replenish soil P and K removed.

Cattle slurry applied by splash plate in June will have lower nitrogen (N) value compared to low emission (+ 3 units / 1,000 gals) application techniques. Maximise cattle slurry application at this time of the year so that slurry tanks are emptied before next winter. Consider using the trailing show or dribble bar to get the most out of your slurry.

Sulphur

Sulphur is an essential nutrient for grass growth and is closely associated with nitrogen uptake and efficiency.

Sulphur application has been shown to:

Increase grass silage protein content by 22%

Increase grass silage sugar content by 20%

Increase grass yield by 2t/ha/year (€500 ha)

Sodium

Sodium increases the palability of grazing grass – especially where slurry is being spread.

Sweeter grass means tighter grazings and higher % grass utilization.

Avail Phosphorous

Avail phosphorous is a water soluble additive for granular phosphorous fertilizer that enables phosphate to remain free in the soil, this allows for greater plant uptake

Table below:

Units of N,P & K applied per acre in slurry depending on slurry thickness & application rate

Slurry Application Rate	Dairy cow slurry Units/acre			Thick slatted slurry Units/acre		
	N	P	K	N	P	K
1500 gal/acre	9	4.5	32	16	9	54
2000 gal/acre	12	6	42	22	12	72
2500 gal/acre	15	7.5	53	28	15	90
3000 gal/acre	18	9	63	33	18	108

TAMS 2 Grants

Did you know you may be eligible for a grant of up to 40% on farm buildings and certain machinery!!

If you are a young farmer it is even better as you get a 60% grant!

These grants are to a ceiling of €80,000 per farmer unless you are in partnership.

The next closing date is the **7th of July 2019**, so ensure you have your paperwork completed well before this date! It can take a few month, before you get approval, so it is vital to speak with you advisor and give him/her enough notice, to complete your work.

Teagasc Kanturk: Tel 029 50886

Teagasc Listowel: Tel 068 21266

Sustainable use of Herbicides

From the 1st of January 2019, the Department of Agriculture require the seller of professional – use herbicides to record the herd number or professional user number of each customer buying herbicides. Please have your herd number/ professional user number available when purchasing chemicals, otherwise the sale will be declined.

Weekly Deliveries

Day	Area
Monday	001 Kanturk
Tuesday	002 Glensouth
Wednesday	003 Castlecor 004 Banagh
Thursday	005 Ballyhoulihan
Friday	006 Cullen

Please order 24 hrs in advance instore or on 02950003

Call instore today for all your farm input needs, Quality products at competitive prices. Kanturk [029 50003](tel:02950003)/Cullen [02979002](tel:02979002)

