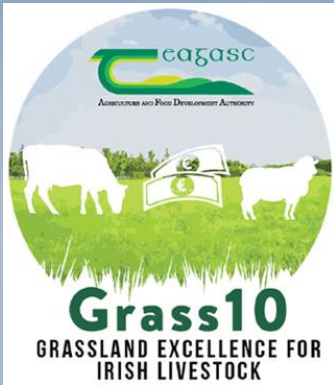
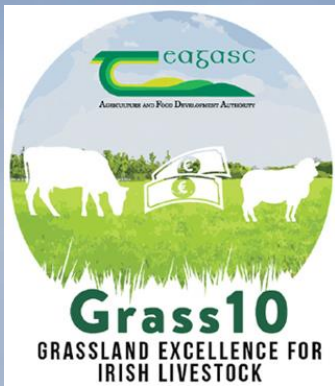


**Ger Dineen Beef Grassland
Farmer of the Year Winner
2017**



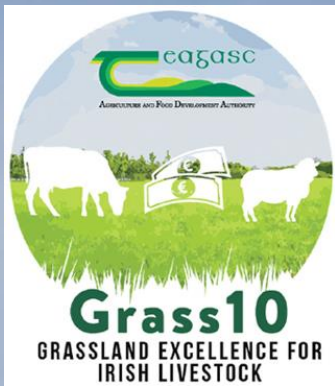
Background:

- Full time suckler farmer
- West Cork
- Family man
- 32 adjusted ha of grassland
- Former Beef Better Farmer
- 60 suckler cows finishing bulls under 16 months and selling maternal heifers
- 2/3 dry ground, 1/3 heavy ground



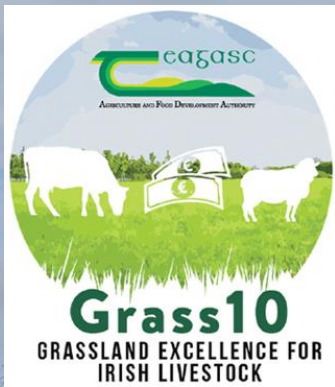
Why is Grass Important to Me?

- *The more grass I can include in the diet of my cows and young stock, the more profitable the system becomes*



Why is Grass Important to Me?

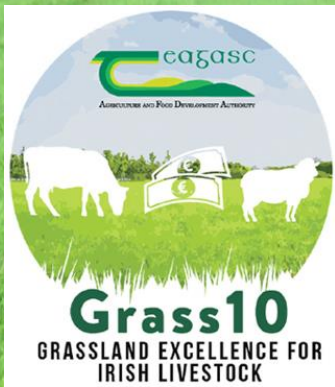
- Increasing grass grown and utilisation on my farm:
- Reduces supplementary feed in the system
- Reduces the cost of production
- Increase output through WG and stocking rate
- Every extra week at grass = €1,200 profit per week in spring



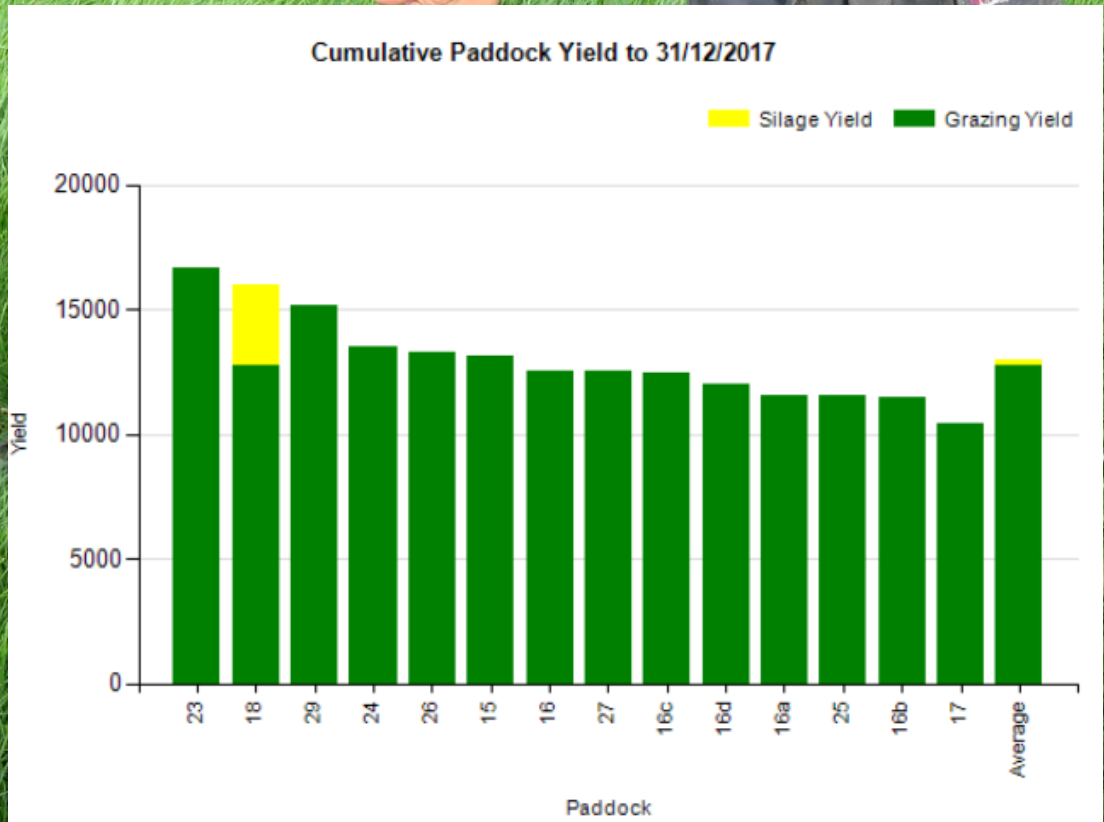
Beef Output

- Increasing beef output per hectare
- Stocking rate has increased 1.4-2.4LU/ha
- Increased LWG through quality grass

Output Performance		
KPI's	Ger Dineen	National Average
Beef Output per LU	423kgs	294kgs
Beef Output per ha	1028kgs	455kgs
Stocking rate	2.43	1.41



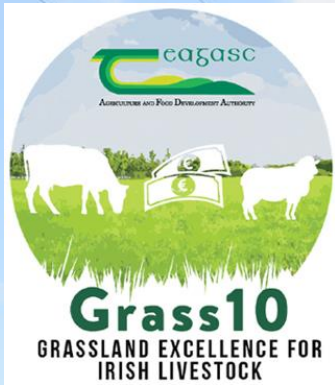
2017 Paddock Performance:





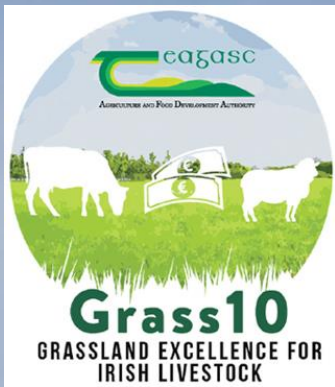
Extending the Grazing Season

- Cows and calves go out given an opportunity and come back in when weather breaks
- Roadways essential to minimise damage
- Strip grazing and back fencing
- Multiple access points into paddocks
- Water trough placement



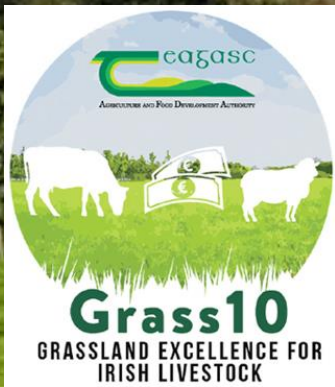
Roadways in Spring

- In bad weather, the paddock wire is left open to the roadway
- The cows wait on the roadway to come into the calves
- This way there is a lot less damage done to the paddock



Summer Management

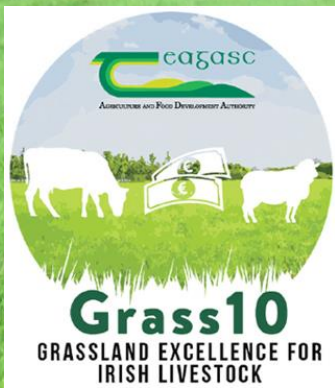
- Paddock System
- 17-21 day rotation
- Measuring grass on Pasturebase Ireland
- Pre grazing yield: 1,500kgDM/ha
- Residual 4cm
- If there is a grass surplus on my farm, I will cut very high quality silage



Creep Grazing the Calves

- All wires are raised so that the calves graze ahead of the cows
- Calves have access to leafy digestible grass
- Cows eat down to a residual of 4cm

LW Gain Calves	
Heifers	Bulls
1.3kg/day	1.5kg/day

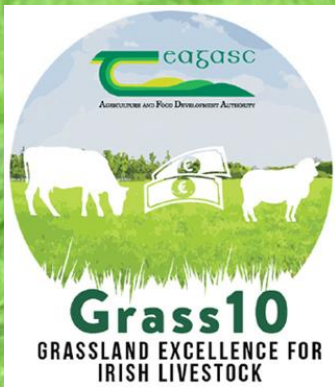


Surplus Bales



- PastureBase Ireland shows us that we have excess grass on the farm
- I cut around 5 bales per acre
- 75DMD+
- These high quality bales save me about 1 tonne ration/bull (€250 /head)

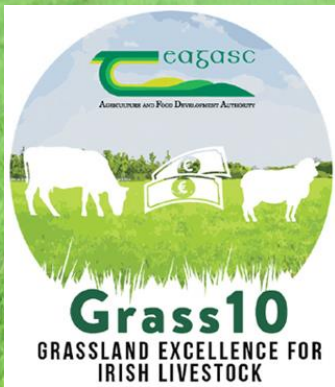
Cost of Making 1 Tonne DM Bales	Cost of 1 tonne DM Concentrates
All costs included in making bales:	Per Tonne DM:
€160 Tonne DM Surplus Bales	€287 tonne DM Concentrates



Heavy Ground

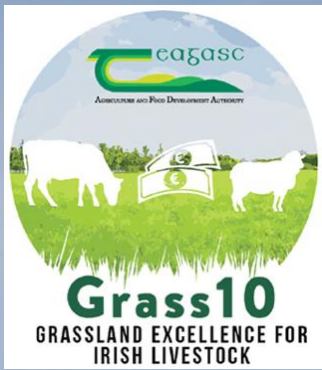
- Cold, peaty soil
- Shallow drains dug 30 feet apart
- Hymac with a pointy foot bucket
- Shallow drains lead to deep drains
- 8 tDM/ha/year to 12tDM/ha/Year





Reseeding

- 10-15% of the farm is reseeded annually
- Worst performing paddocks identified for reseeded
- Drainage carried out if paddock is wet
- Burned off- Grazed/baled after 5 days
- Spring harrow (2 runs to create a fine seedbed)
- Lime 2t/acre, 2 bags 10-10-20
- 60% tetraploid on dry ground, 40% tetraploid on wet ground

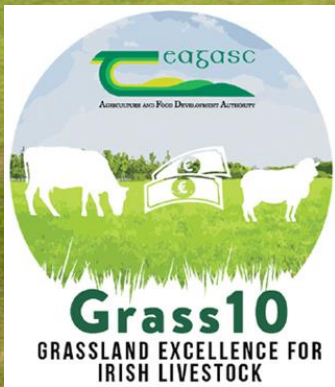


Increasing grass grown and utilised has lead to the following on this farm:

1. Reduced the cost of production
2. Increased output per hectare

How do I increase grass grown and utilised?

- Extend the grazing season
- Grassland measurement
- Creep feed the calves
- Cut surplus bales when there is a grass surplus
- Drain heavy land
- Reseeding



Thank you for
listening

