

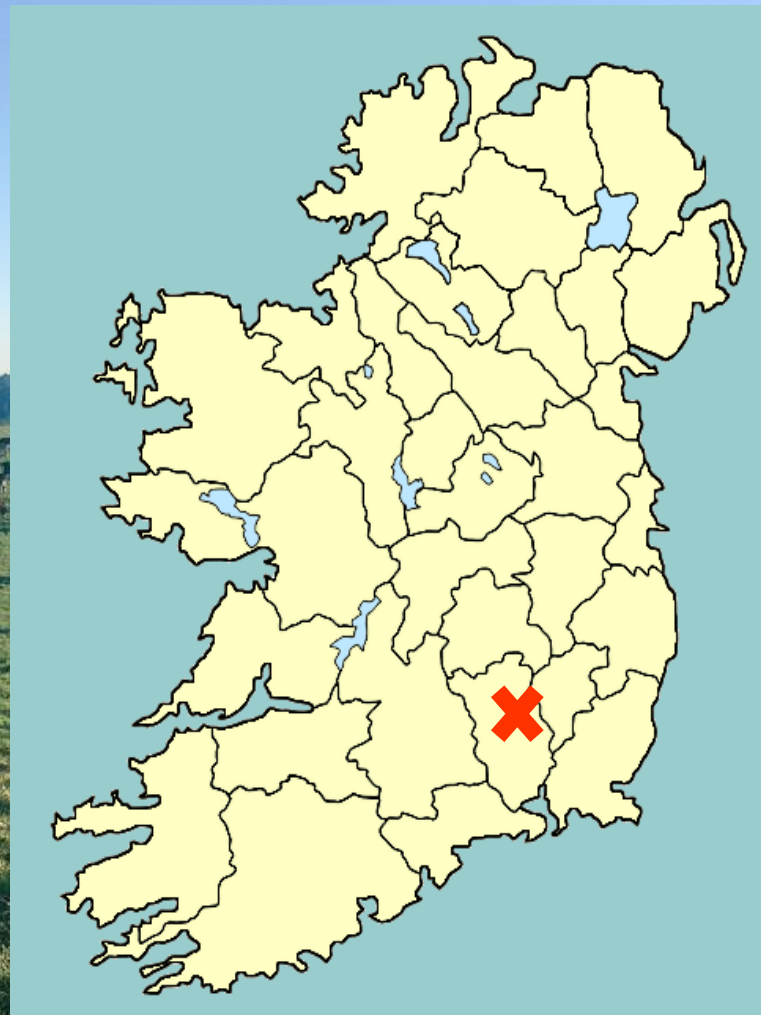
# Greenfield Farm Forage Plans



David Fogarty  
Greenfield Farm

# Introduction

- **My background**
- **Greenfield Farm**
  - 120 ha leased  
conversion 2010
  - All hired labour
  - No Single Farm Payment
  - 340 cows milked
  - 2.7 cows/ha







**Grass grown 2017**

**15.5t DM/ha**

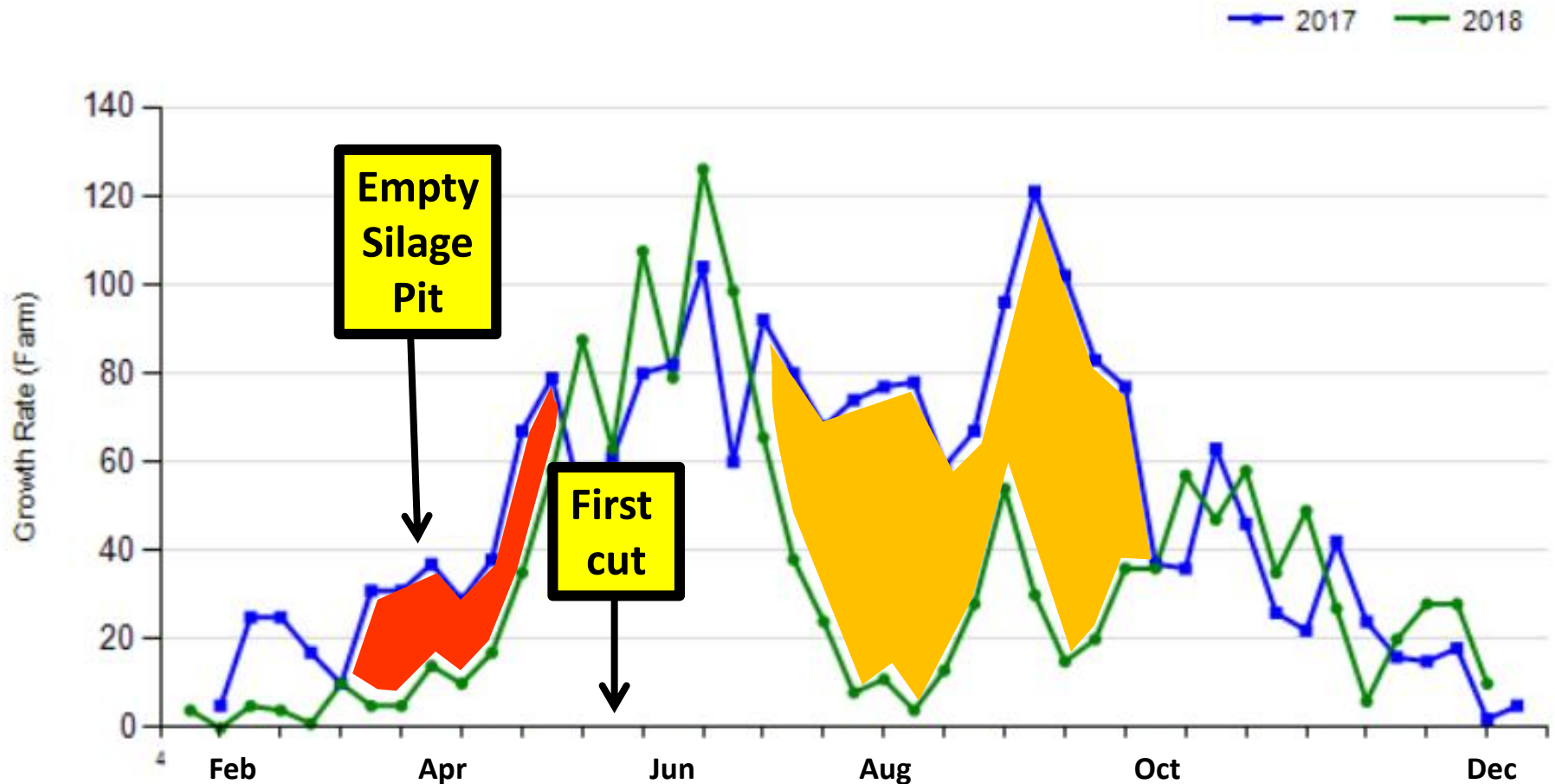
**Grass grown 2018**

**12.1t DM/ha**

**Deficit cost**

**€110,000 (€350/cow)**

Grass Growth Curve 2017 vs 2018





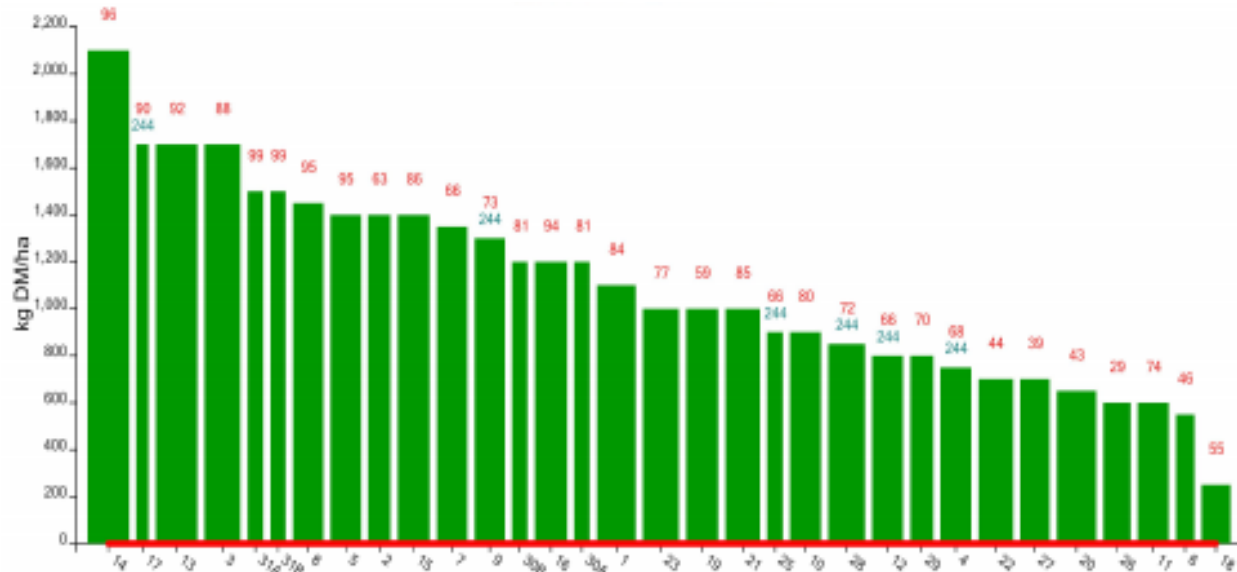




# Drought 2018 actions

<b>Stock type</b>	<b>No. days</b>	<b>Actions taken</b>
<b>Jun – Aug</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>1. Increase meal 2. Own silage fed</b>
<b>Sept–Mid -Nov</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>1. Keep meal in 2. Fertiliser 3. Protect grass</b>
<b>Mid-Nov – Jan</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>1. Cows off farm 2. Bought in silage</b>
<b>Feb – Mar '19</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>1. Feed extra meal if necessary</b>

# Wedge 8/1/2019



**AFC: 1101**

**Winter growth: 10kg DM/day**

**Slurry: 25% of the grazing area next week**

**Urea: ½ bag on the remaining 75% asap**

**Target area grazed Feb: 35-40%**

**Might have to use dry cows to achieve target area**

# How we managed the extra workload in the drought





# Winter Feed Requirements

<b>Stock type</b>	<b>No. head</b>	<b>Months feed</b>	<b>T DM /head</b>	<b>Total T DM</b>
<b>Cows</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>336</b>
<b>Heifers*</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>21.5</b>
<b>Weanlings</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total</b>				<b>357.5</b>

\* Contract reared until late-Jan

# My Learnings from 2018

- DON'T PANIC
- Continue to do weekly grass walks
- Grass management
  - Maintained a grazing rotation
  - Dropped stocking rate
  - Had a fertiliser strategy
  - Fed supplement to build Autumn Cover
  - Cows grazed until 12-Dec



# My Learnings from 2018 contd.

- Contract Rearers
  - B&B for dry cows (silage bought on a kg DM basis)
  - Closed herd
  - Proximity
  - Stockmanship
- Financials
- Feed meal before silage

# Am I comfortable with the SR?

- Yes I am comfortable and yes it is on the high side
  - Stocking rate 2.7 LU/Ha. = Grow 15t/Ha
  - Higher SR makes the farm grow more and makes grass utilisation easier in my view
  - Solution in our Contract Rearers



# Plan for 2019 & beyond

- Spring 2019
- Stocking rate for silage cuts
  - 5 LU/Ha for 1<sup>st</sup> cut = 52Ha
  - 4 LU/Ha for 2<sup>nd</sup> cut = 35Ha
- Look at ways to store fodder on-farm

# In summary....

- Grass
- 1<sup>st</sup> cut silage strategy
- Stocking Rate
- Reserve/Buffer
- Contract Rearer
- Financial Reserve
- Keep the system simple

