

# Grazing targets 2019

**Richard O'Brien**  
**Teagasc**



**40 ha farm**  
**14 ton grown/Ha**  
**Feed Bill = €112,000**  
**1 ton = €8,000**

**Cow requires 5.5t of dry matter grown per hectare**  
(allowing for 0.8 tonne of meal)

- **At 2 cows per ha = 11 tons grown per ha**
- **At 2.5 cows per ha = 14 tons grown per ha**
- **At 2.7 cows per ha = 15 tons grown per ha**

All the  
farm

# Blueprint to grow 15 t DM/ha

Growth Period	Grass grown (kg DM/ha)	No. of Rotations	Daily growth rate required (kg DM/ha)
1 <sup>st</sup> Jan – 10 <sup>th</sup> April	1,400	1	13
11 <sup>th</sup> April – 5 <sup>th</sup> Aug	1,400	6	70
6 <sup>th</sup> Aug – 1 <sup>st</sup> Sept	1,700	1	65
1 <sup>st</sup> Sept - 1 <sup>st</sup> Oct	1,850	1	55
1 <sup>st</sup> Oct – 15 <sup>th</sup> Nov	1,550	1	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>10</b>	

# Spring rotation plan — 60 day plan

**500**

**100**

**60**

**30**

*When weather is  
good go hard -  
there will always  
be a wet week*

**Look back**

**Get ahead of yourself**

**Start early**

# Summer target - 120 days - 6 grazings

- **Pregrazing 1,400kgDM/Ha**
  - Looks after residuals
  - “If in doubt take it out”
- **20 day rotation @70 kg DM/day**
  - 33% grazed per week
- **AFC 500 to 600**
- **3 grazings per paddock**
- **Trust the figures**



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# August – September - building grass

- **Start mid-August**
- **Peak AFC mid-September**
- **Max AFC 1,000 kg DM/ha**



# Oct-Nov plan- rationing grass

**750**

**100**

**30**

**70**

*Don't get hung  
up on whether a  
paddock is  
closed or not*

**Different paddocks**

**Get ahead of yourself**

**Start early**

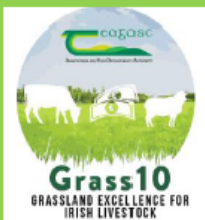


# Where should we be now

- Set up farm map
- Walk farm
- 900 AFC
- Identify first paddocks
- Identify 30%
- 1000 PGY
- Divisions ready
- Fert ready
- Slurry ready
- What is my reseeding plan?







# Grazings Per Paddock Per Year



Paddock	Paddock Name	Rotation Number (Record Date of Grazing)												Total
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
1														
2														
3														
4														
5														
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<b>Targets</b>		Finish by Apr 10th	←	Apr 10th - 6 Grazings @ 20 days each - Aug 10th					→	Mid August to Mid Sept	Mid Sept to Mid Oct	Mid Oct to Mid Nov	Late Nov	Dec

'It's all about the system

**no player** is greater than the system'



**Trust the figures**

**Start early and go hard**

**Have a grass plan**