



IGA Dairy Conference 2020
Donal O'Reilly

Background



1999

- Kildalton College

2001

- Clonakilty

2004

- Joined PHD discussion group

2009

- Milk Production Partnership

2013

- Joined B&B discussion group

2014

- Ownership of farm

2015

- Company

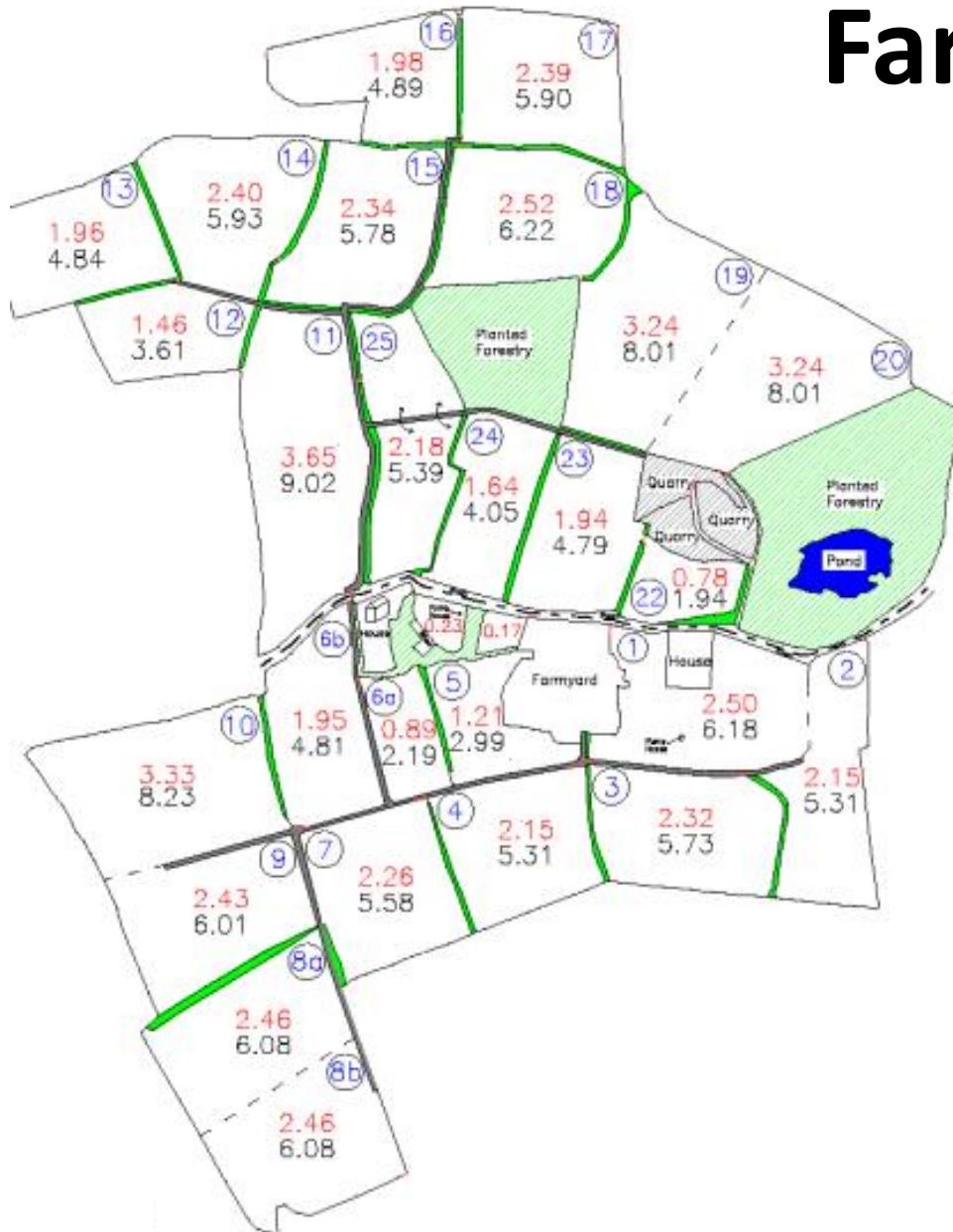
2015

- Teagasc/ Glanbia Monitor Farmer

2018

- Teagasc/UCD business strategy course

Farm details 2019



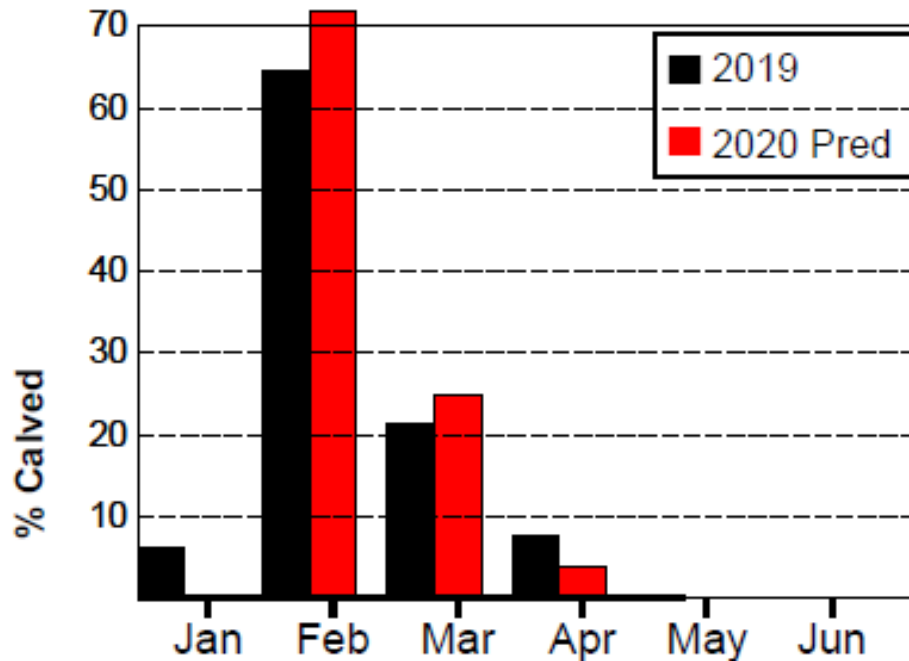
- Farmed 82Ha
- Milking Platform 57Ha
- Cow numbers 202
Heifers contract reared
- Overall SR 2.5 LU/Ha
- M.P. SR 3.55 LU/Ha
- 1 Fulltime labour unit hired

2019 Performance

- 510 KGS MS Produced/cow, average 291 DIM
- 1275 KGS MS/Ha Produced on Whole Farm
- 15tonnes DM/Ha Grown on whole farm using 240kgs of N/Ha. 17tonnes on MP
- 284 Days at Grass
- 1 tonne of meal fed/cow
- Net Profit/Ha €1672 for whole farm

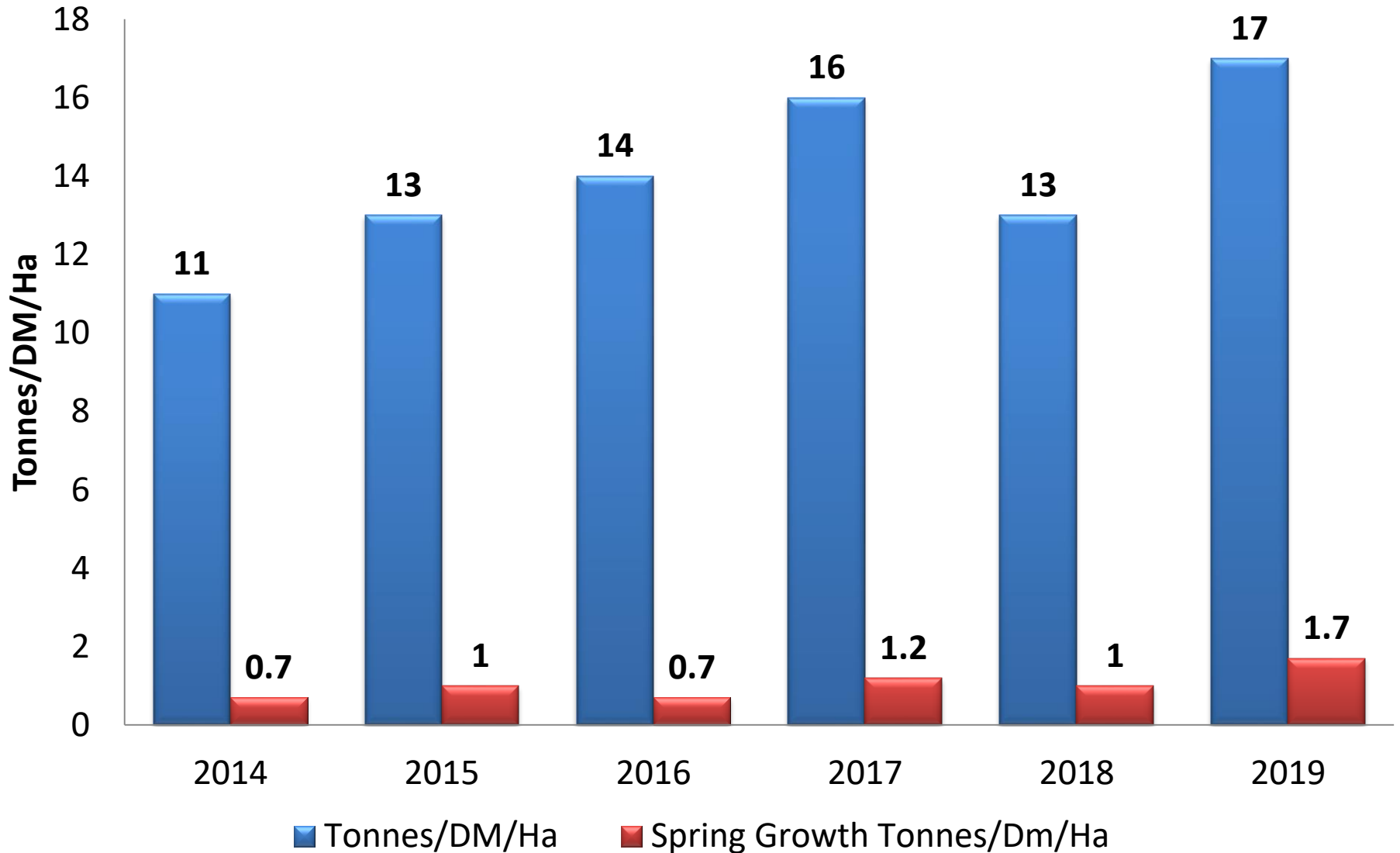
Breeding

Current & Predicted Spring Calving Pattern



- 13 % empty after 10 week breeding season.
- 50% herd in 1st/2nd lactation
- DIY AI
- Crossbreeding since 2015
- Average cow EBI €149

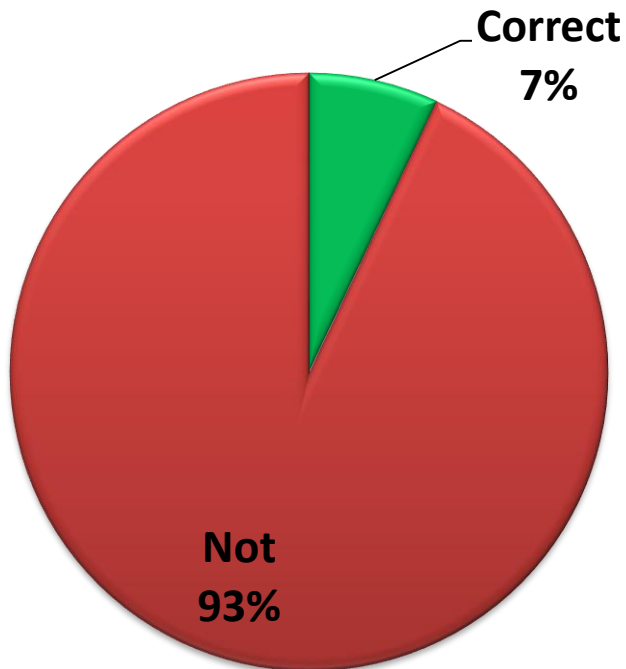
Grass Growth tonne/DM/ha



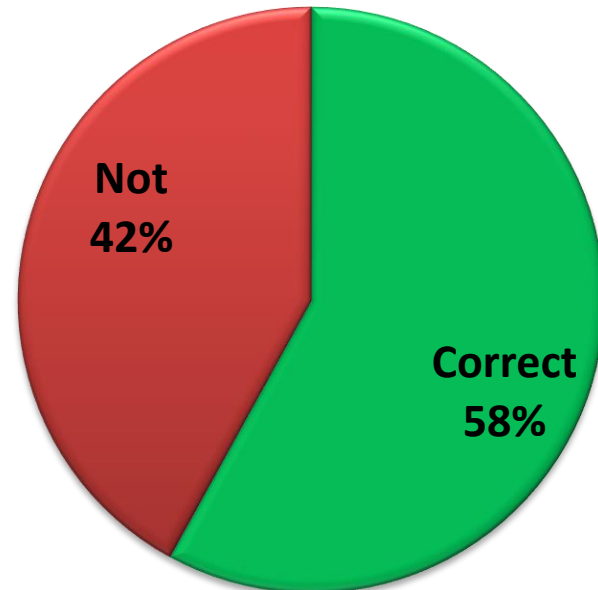
Overall Fertility Status

pH>6.2, P&K index 3 or 4

2015




2019





Soil pH


Legend


pH  Invalid

 <5.5

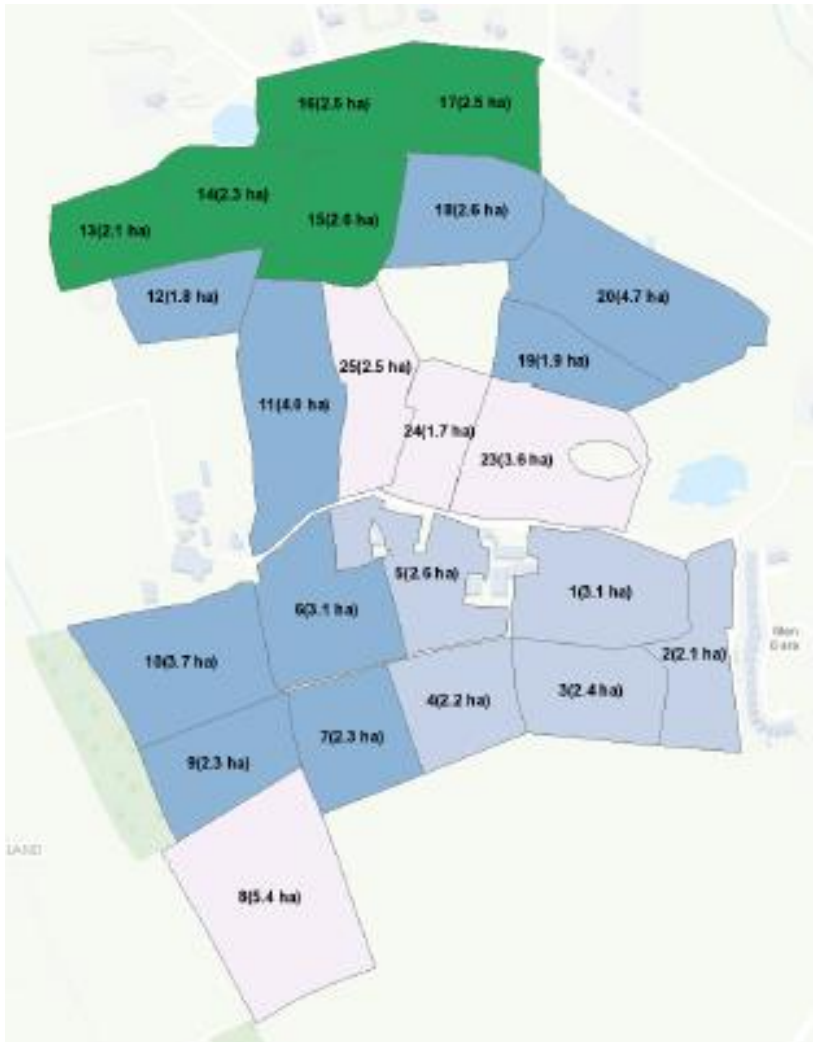
 5.6 - 5.9

 5.9 - 6.2

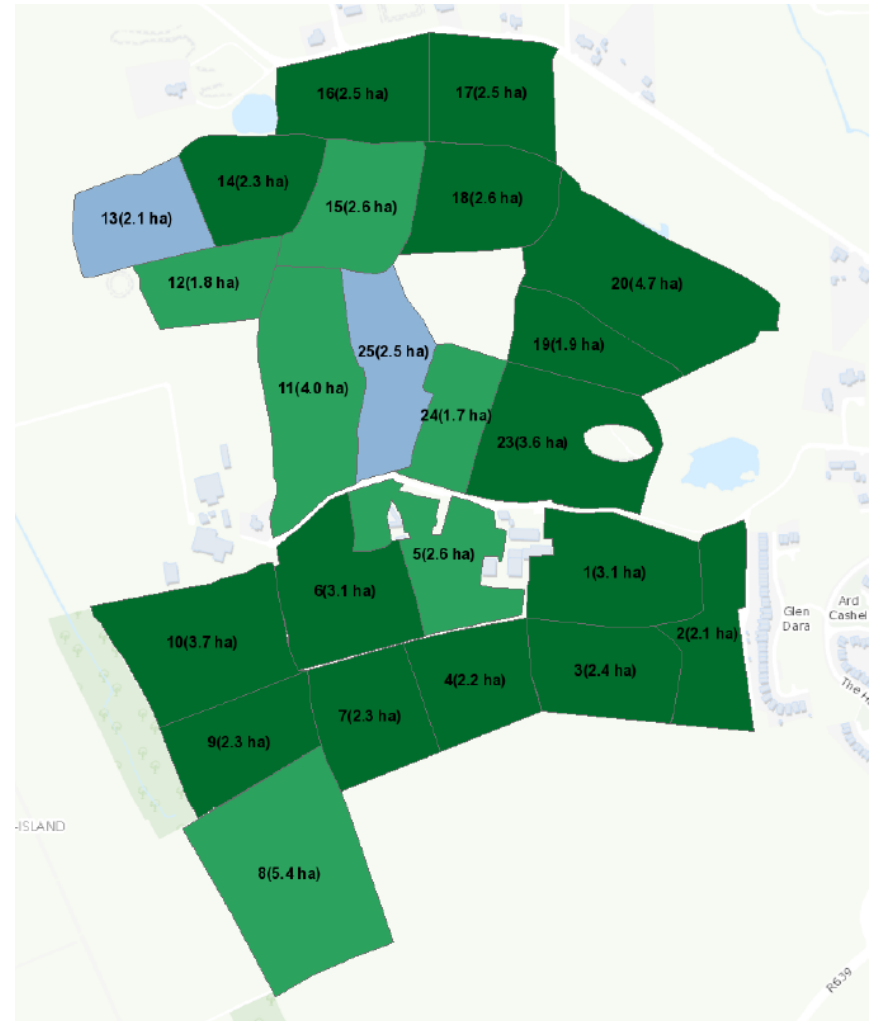
 6.2 - 6.5

 >6.5

2015



2019



Phosphate

Legend

P

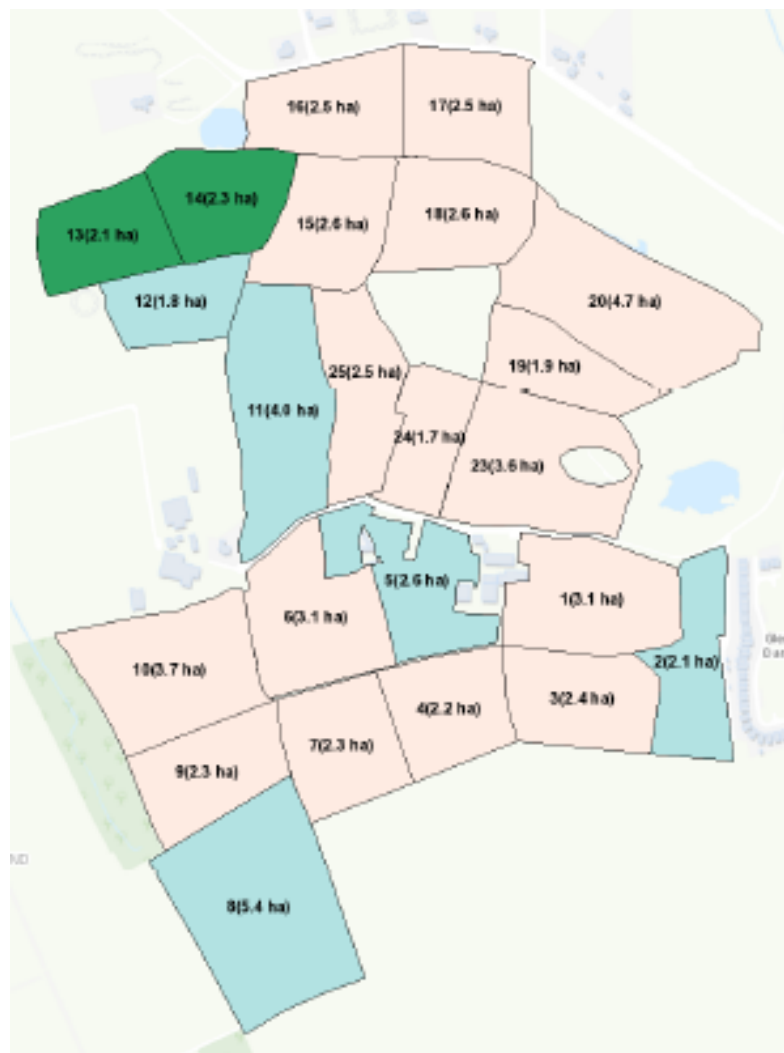
1 - Very Low

2 - Low

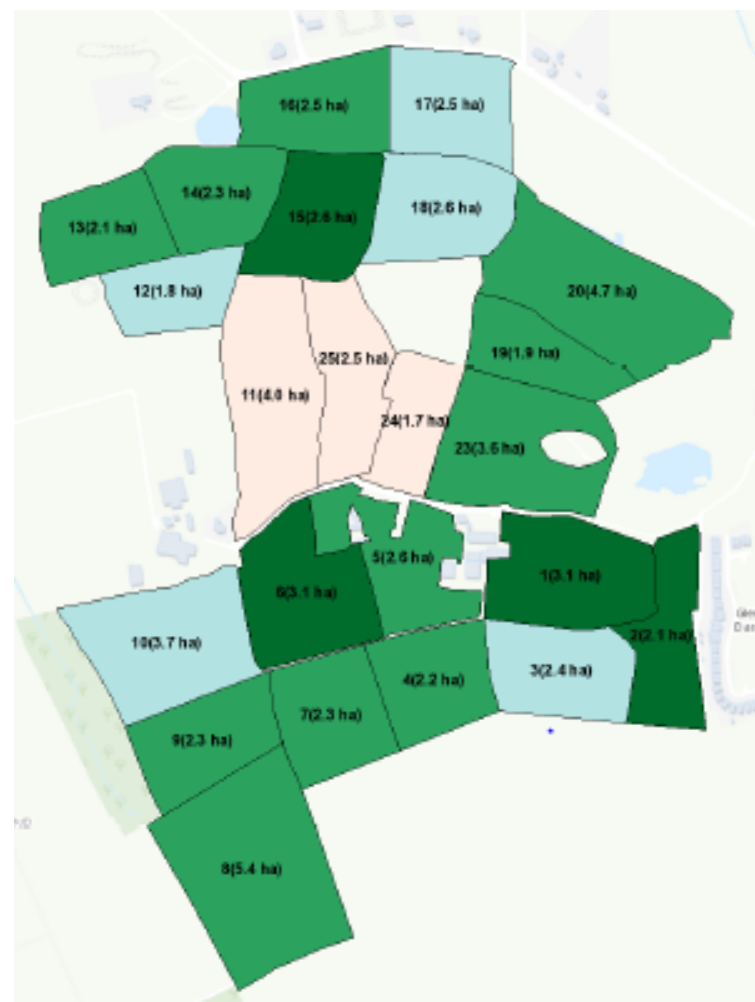
3 - Satisfactory

4 - High

2015



2019



Potassium

Legend

K

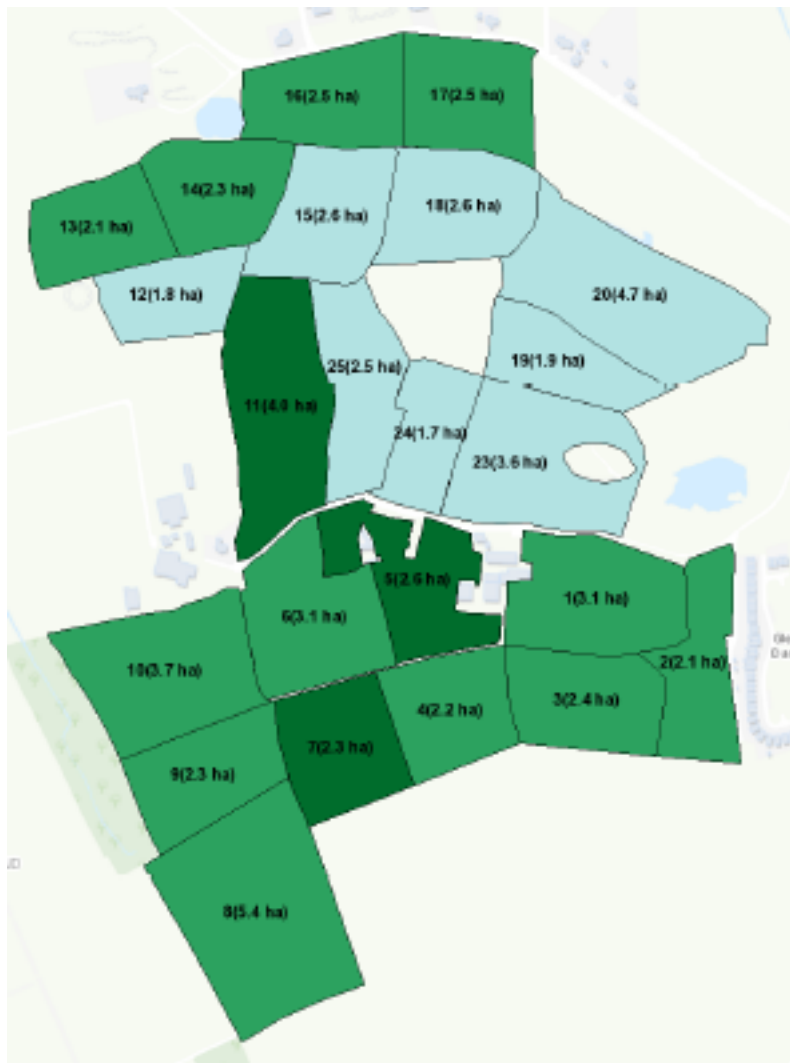
1 - Very Low

2 - Low

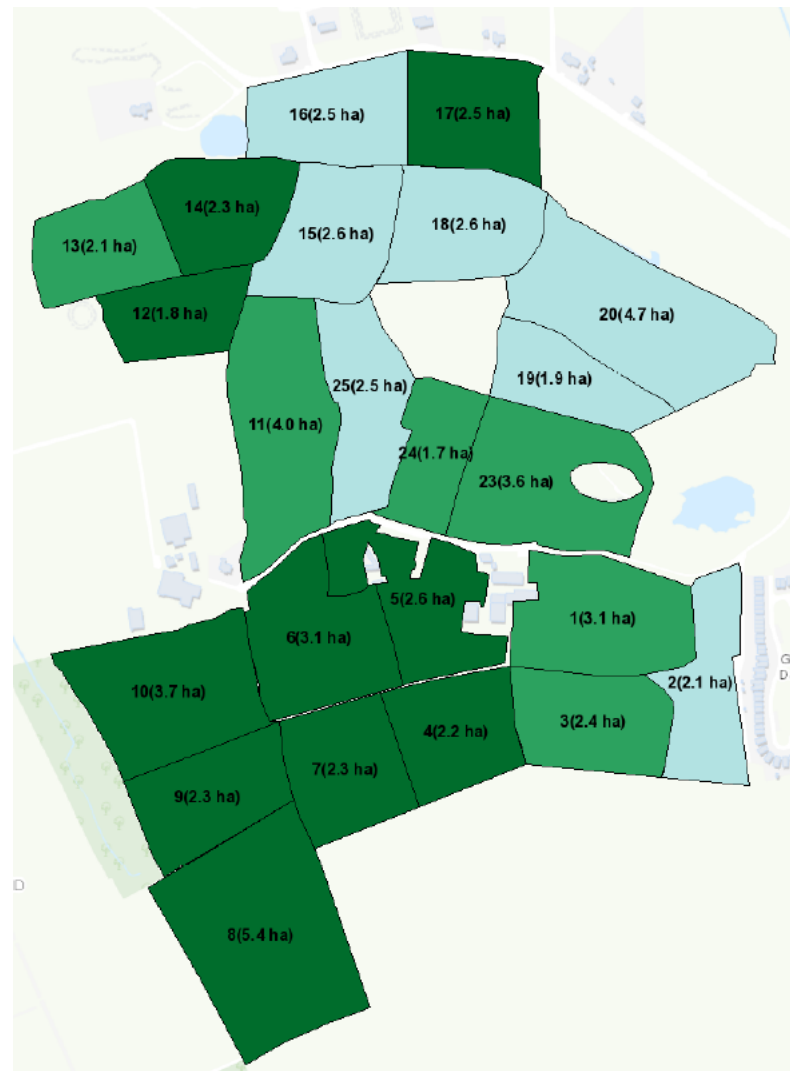
3 - Satisfactory

4 - High

2015



2019



Infrastructure

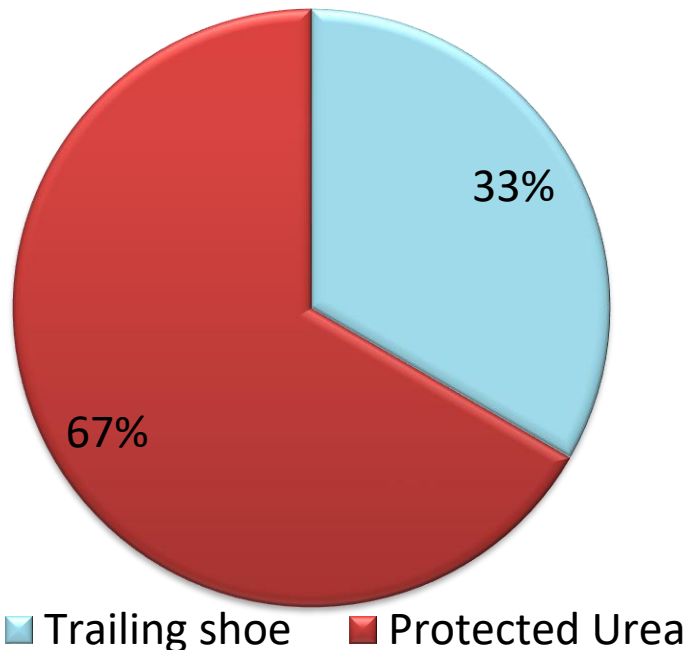


- Av. Paddocks 2.4 ha(24hrs)
- Water upgrade 2018 including a Storage Tank - €15k
- 1.5 km of new roads since 2013 - €30k
- Gaps at every post along passageways.
- Underpass 2018 - €40k
- 230 cubicles
- 20 unit milking parlour in 2009
- €650k spent in the last 10 years
 - 70% of whole farm Reseeded in last 5 years - €41k
 - Soil fertility increase – €23k over 4 years

Fertiliser Spring 2020

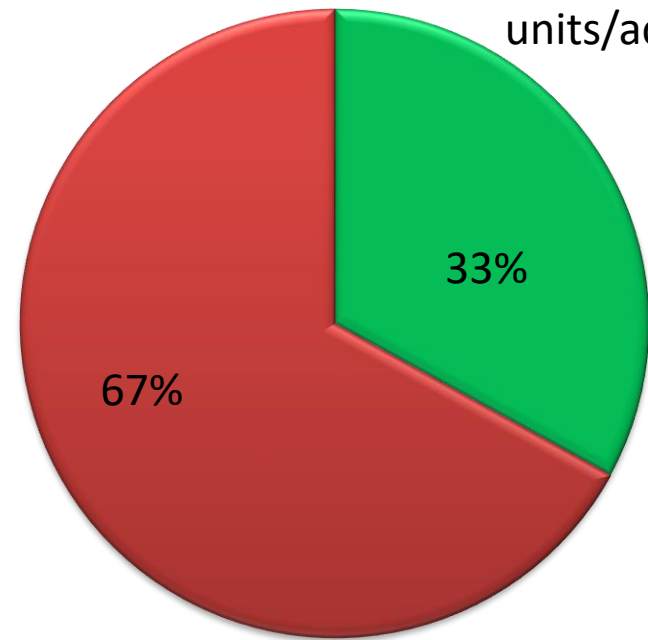
Nitrogen Application 1st round

23 units/ac



Nitrogen Application 2nd round

Trailing shoe + 23 units/ac top up



46 units protected urea/ac

Preparation for the Spring



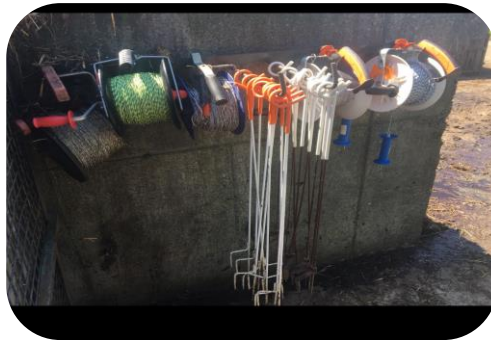
Well Rested



Opening Grass Cover
Completed. AFC 1000Kgs
DM/Ha Required



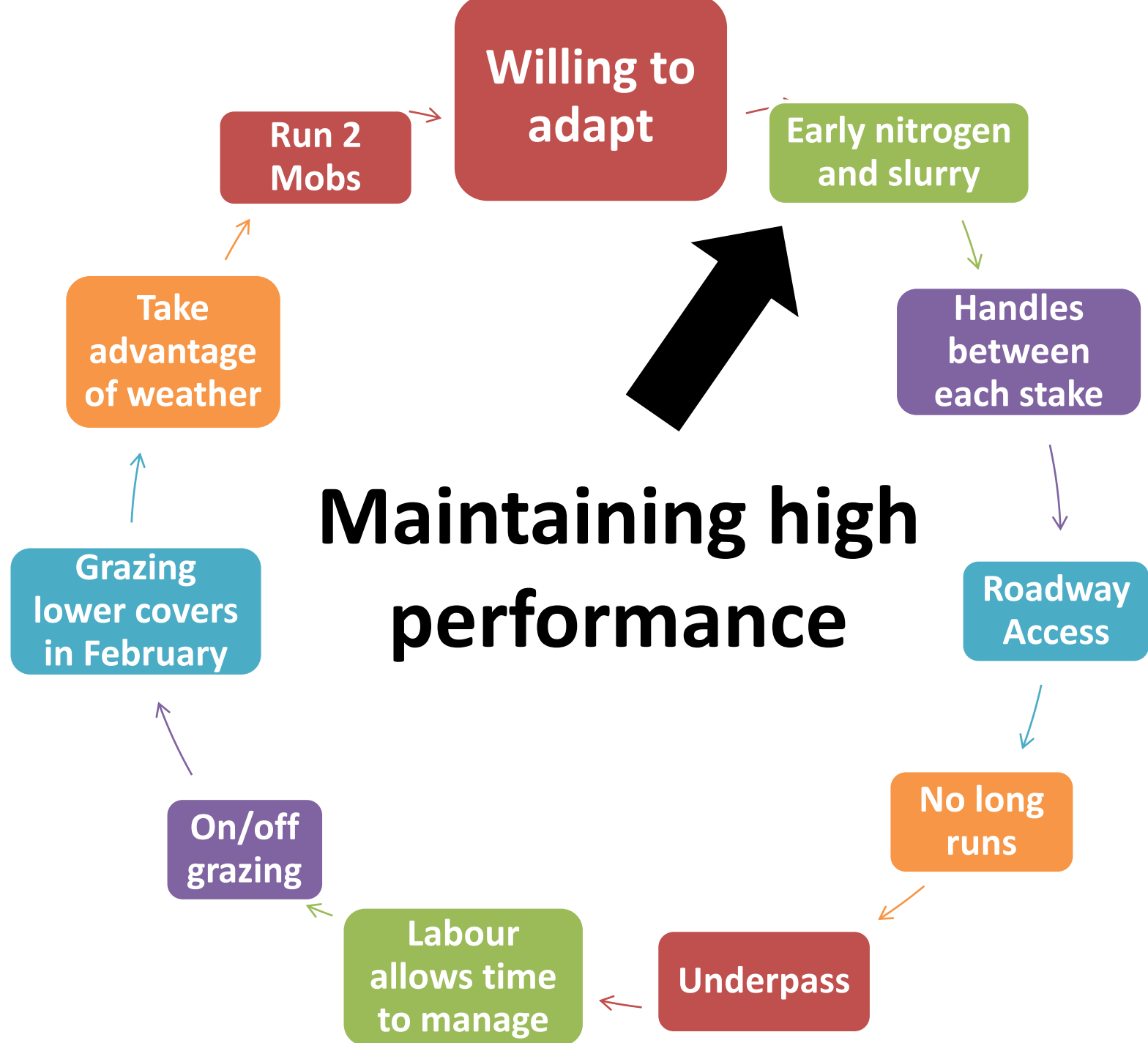
Knowing my Demand- have
3 bales/cow of high quality
silage



Reels and pigtail posts
ready to go



Purchase Batt-Latch to
open paddocks



The Next Steps

- Maintain/Increase Grass Grown/Utilised
- More strategic use of Nitrogen
- More targeted use of Meal towards shoulders of the year
- Milk supplied increased to 550+Kgs MS/cow
- Maintain a 90% six week calving rate
- Sustainable in relation to Profit, Work/Life Balance, Environment

