



Growing a Grass Wedge

FAS Meeting

Thainstone Centre, Inverurie

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Why am I here & why are you here?

- Natural climatic advantage
- Grass – cheapest feed
- Relationship between Cost of Prod and profit
- Who makes money out of grass? – you!

Value of Grass

- Target average 12 ME
- > 20% protein
- NDF > 35%
- Grass grows grass – the more you can get your stock to consume the more you will grow!

Soils

- Drainage
- pH
- Fertility – P; K; S
- Ca:Mg
- Organic matter
- Structure



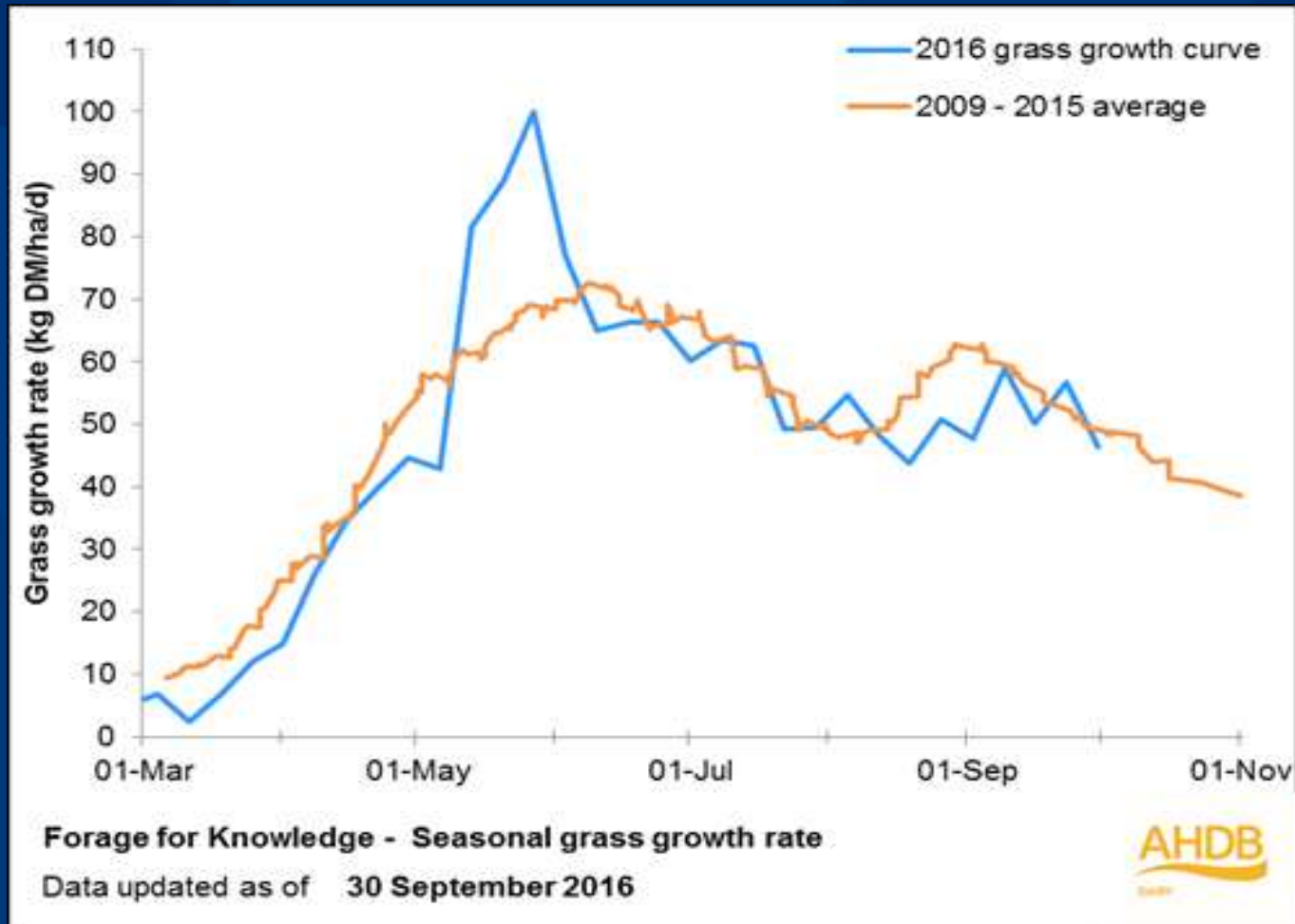
Single biggest improvement : *better management*

Understanding of:

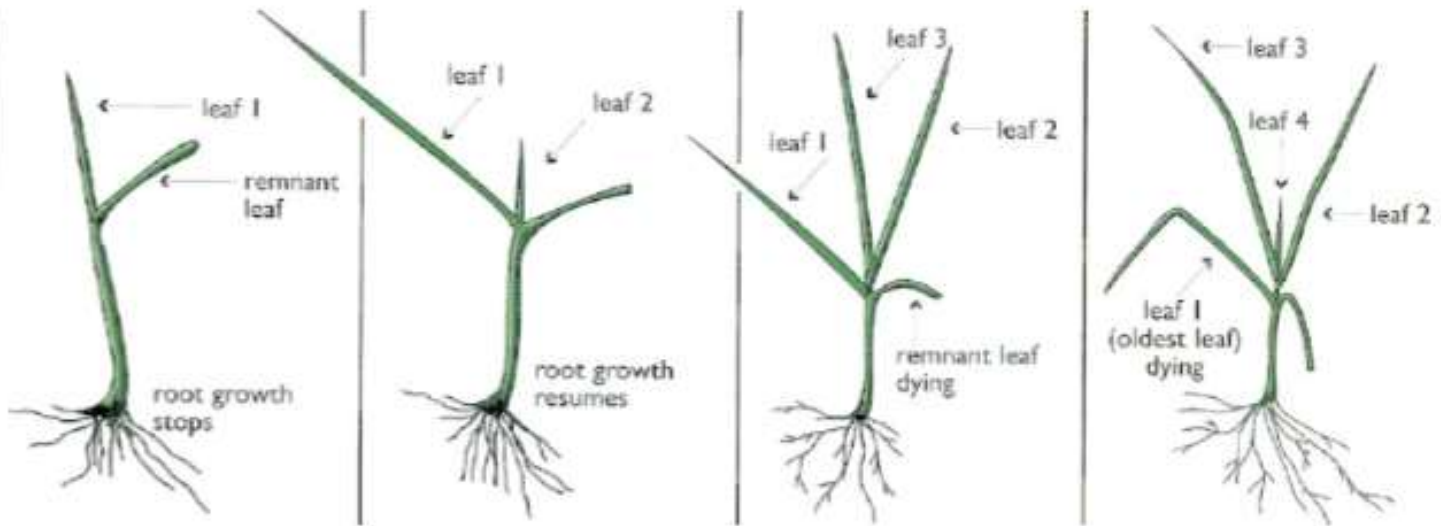
- How ryegrass plant grows
- Grass growth across the year
- Relationship between grass and your stock
- Techniques for better grazing management

= paddock grazing system!

Grass growth across the year...



How grass grows...



Leaf Stage 1	Leaf Stage 2	Leaf Stage 3	Leaf Stage 4
Growth dependent on crown and root reserves		Rapid growth, adequate leaf area ensures optimal growth	Slower growth phase due to: 1. Shading 2. Decay

Relationship between grass & your stock

- Intake of grass – kgDM
- Size of herd/flock
- Area to graze
- Demand of herd/flock
- Supply of grass

Rotational Grazing Management

- Use 3 leaf principle to match leaf emergence
- Rotation length approx 20 days
- What will make this easier?



Rotational Grazing Management

Infrastructure

- Tracks
- Fences
- Gateways
- Troughs



Rotational Grazing Management

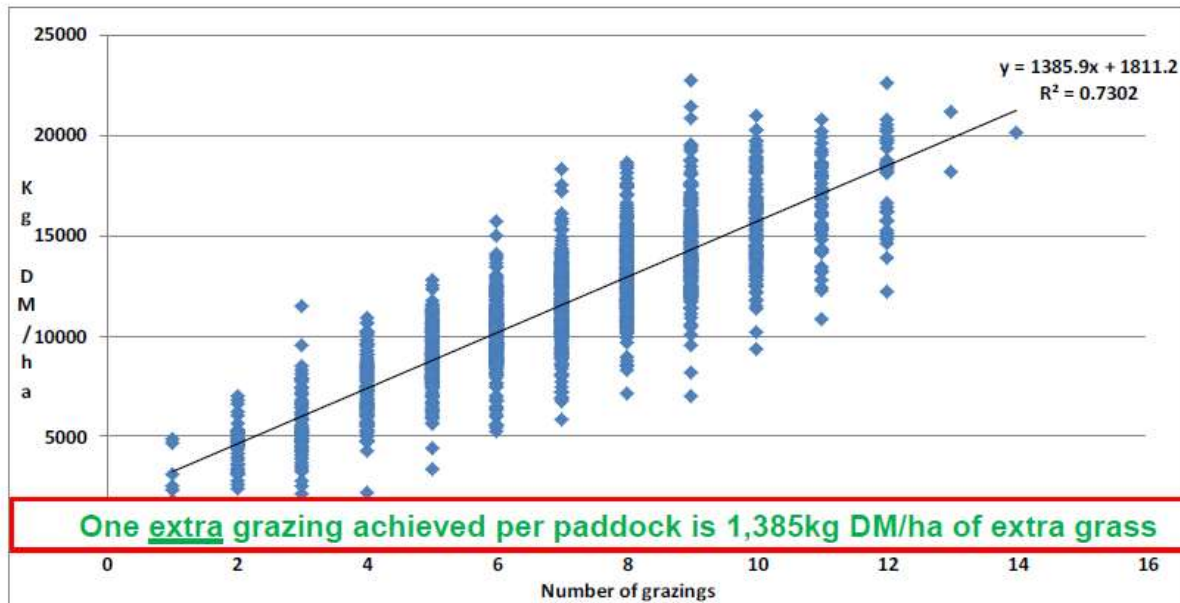
- Cows enter paddock at 2700 – 3000kgDM/ha
- Sheep enter paddock at 2300 – 2500 kgDM/ha
- Residuals consistent and even
- Target residual 1500kgDM



Rotational Grazing Management

- Increase number of times each paddock is grazed

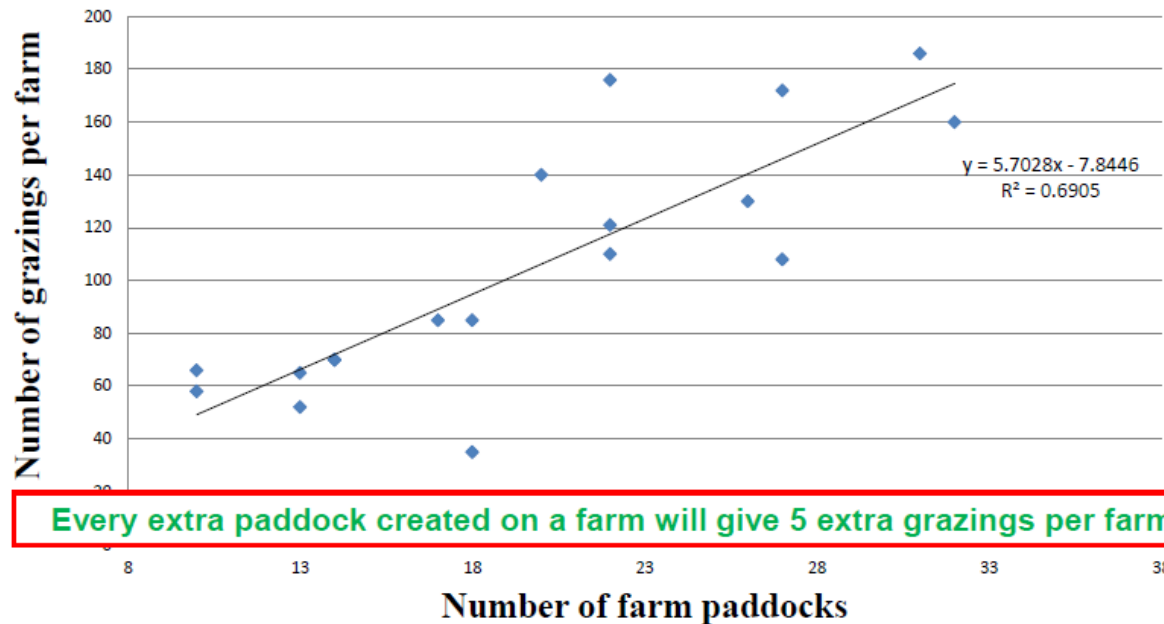
Number of grazing achieved per paddock and its association with total grazing DM production



Rotational Grazing Management

- Increase the number of paddocks

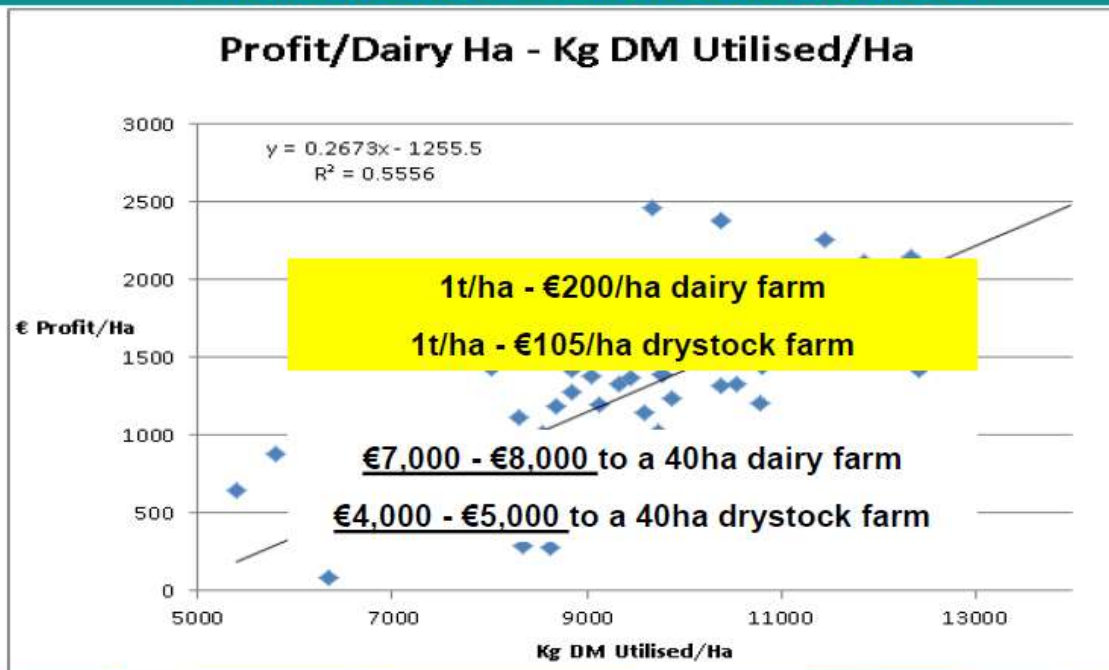
Number of grazing achieved per farm and its association with total number of paddocks



Rotational Grazing Management

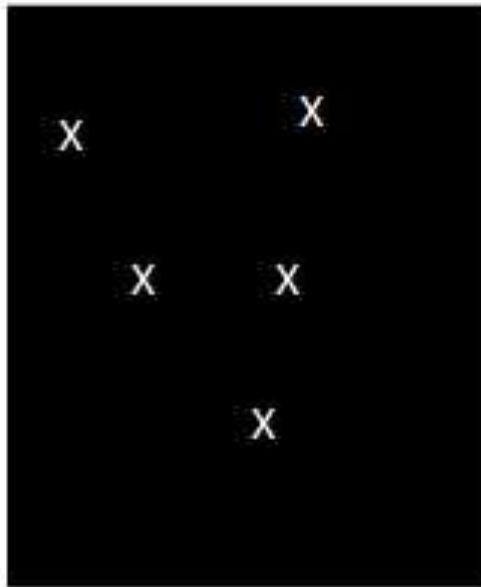
- Increase pasture utilisation

Grassland Challenge – Improve Production and Utilisation

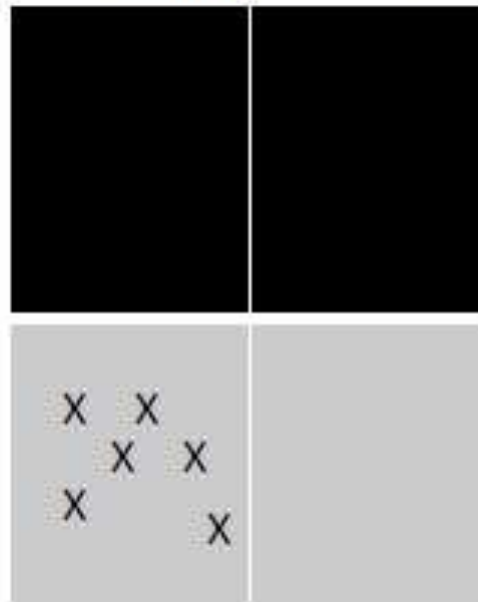


Rotational Grazing Management

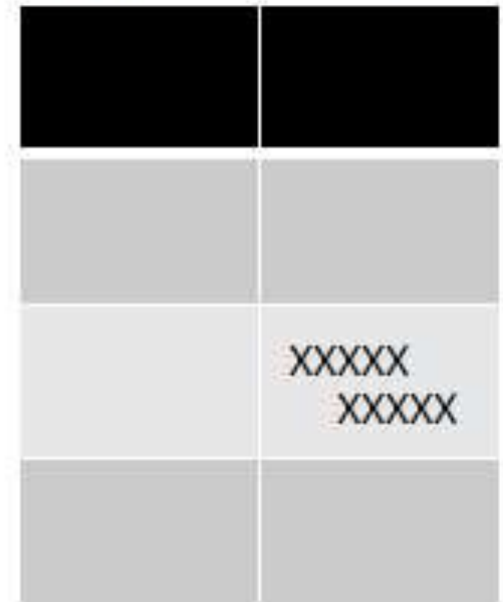
Continuous grazing



Rotational grazing



Intensive grazing



Rotational Grazing Management

Biggest opportunities to utilise more grass...

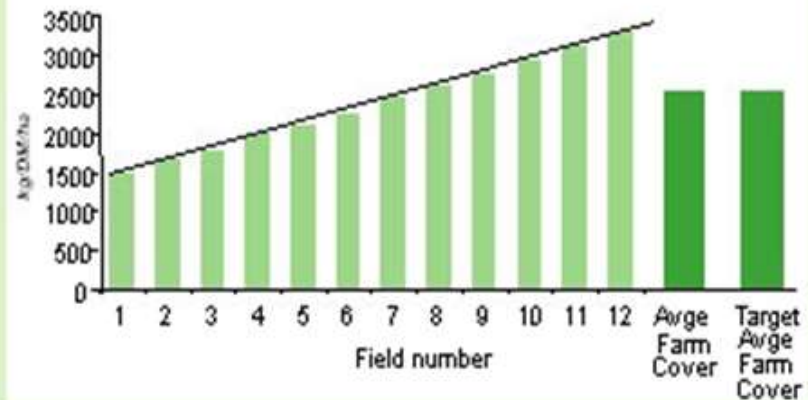
- Early spring grazing
- Management during times of surplus



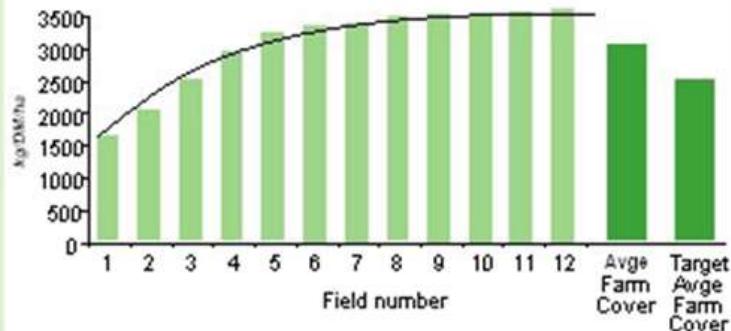
Rotational Grazing Management

- Measure
- Make decisions
- Manage

(a) Ideal Situation



(b) Surplus Looming



Importance of Clover

- Nitrogen fixing
- Better growth during summer dry
- Higher quality during summer dry
- Balances well with grass on the shoulders of the season



In summary...

- Rotate around your farm every 20 days
- Subdivide paddocks
- Encourage your stock to consume grass
- Measure grass to make good decisions
- Clover in swards is beneficial

Any questions!!!

Thank You

