Action plans

An action plan is a simple, yet highly effective tool for getting things done (ie, putting your plans into action). Objectives should be SMART;

**S**pecific

**M**easurable

**A**ttainable

**R**ealistic

**T**imely

The following hypothetical example shows how action plans are built on clear objectives. Again, to write your own action plan all you need is a blank sheet of paper.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Objective** | **Action** | **Contact/By whom** | **Timing** |
| 1. Drain bottom (5ha) field to double pasture production.
 | Year 1* Confirm plan and quote.
* Order materials.
* Put in drains (weather allowing).
* Soil test.
* Graze and spray off with glyphosate.
* Plough.
* Apply lime and development fertiliser.
* Harrow, roll, sow and roll.
* Post emergence, check and spray for weeds if a problem.
* Graze with sheep as soon as tillers can’t be pulled (on-off in a couple of days).
* Repeat intensive on-off grazing every 2-3 weeks for rest of summer but don’t overgraze.
* Apply light dressings of N to strengthen pasture.
* Don’t graze when wet and shut up by mid-October (c.1,200kgDM/ha) for grazing in March.
 | Self / drainerSelfDrainerSAC ConsultingSelfSelfFert companySelfSelfSelfSelfSelfSelf | Jan ‘18Feb ‘18Mar/Apr ‘18Apr ‘18May ‘18“““June ‘18“Rest of sum/autumn |
|  | Year 2* Soil test to confirm fert plan for 2019
* Graze rotationally from mid-March. Don’t under or overgraze and don’t cut in first year.
* Apply fertiliser and lime as per fert plan.
* Shut up by mid-autumn (c.1,200kgDM/ha).
 | SAC ConsultingSelf Self/fert company Self | Jan ‘19Mar-Sept ‘19“Oct ‘19 |