

Successful Grazing



Why?

- Profit
- Reduced soil damage
- Higher stocking rate
- Reduction in weeds
- Stock out longer
- Quieter stock
- Bigger growth rates from grass

| Strategy | Annual yield (t DM/ha) | Utilisation (%) | Useable yield (t DM/ha) | Percentage increase |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| Set stocking | 6.0 | 50 | 4.3 | |
| Continuous (variable) | 8.5 | 60 | 5.1 | 20% |
| Rotational | 10.2 | 65 | 6.6 | 56% |
| Paddock | 10.2 | 80 | 8.2 | 92% |

Source – AHDB Beef
and Lamb

- Every hour spend on grassland management (moving fences, water troughs or measuring grass) is worth £85
- Every extra tonne of grass grown is worth £158/ha in net profit

4 S of grazing

- Soil/seed
- Stocking rate
- Sub-division
- Super (Fertiliser)

Soil/seed

Soil pH, P and K need to be right
6:1 return with lime on grassland
Sort drainage issues
Grazing mix

Stocking rate

- Match stocking rate to growth rate
- 100 cows per Ha per day
- If grass gets away from cows cut it quickly
- Will need more stock than a set stocking situation

Sub-division

- As small as is practical
- Dairy cows – 12/24 hours
- Beef/sheep/youngstock – 3 days max
- Shorter times in paddocks result in better residuals and less damage in wet weather
- Back fence

Lambing time

- Busy enough, consider set stocking until lambed
- Forward graze ewes with twins/triplets – bigger energy demand

Super (fert)

- Get it on early - urea
- Get it on often – small spinner following stock

Infrastructure

- Spend the money upfront
- Electric fencing is cheap
- Water limiting factor on many farms
- Tracks a must with dairy

Fencing

- Look to split fields into even sized blocks
- Use temp fencing to experiment paddock sizes and shapes
- Make the most of current infrastructure
- One of the cheapest ways to grow more grass



Water

- Adequate flow rate
- Portable water troughs to save money





Tracks

- Plan to maximise area that can be reached by a track
- Make them wide – 4 metres+
- Keep them high
- Good surface – astroturf
- AECS potential

When should I turn my cows out??

- When ground will carry – be willing to accept a small amount of poaching
- When grass growth is adequate – measure grass
- Early grass is good stuff
- Aim a week earlier than usual