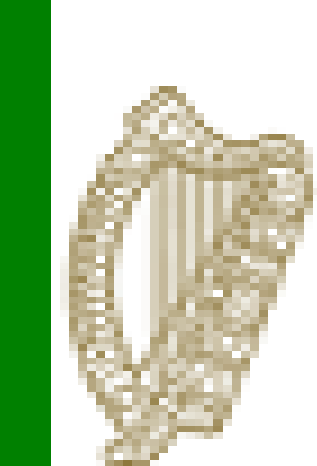




Irish National List/Recommended List Herbage Variety Evaluation Trials



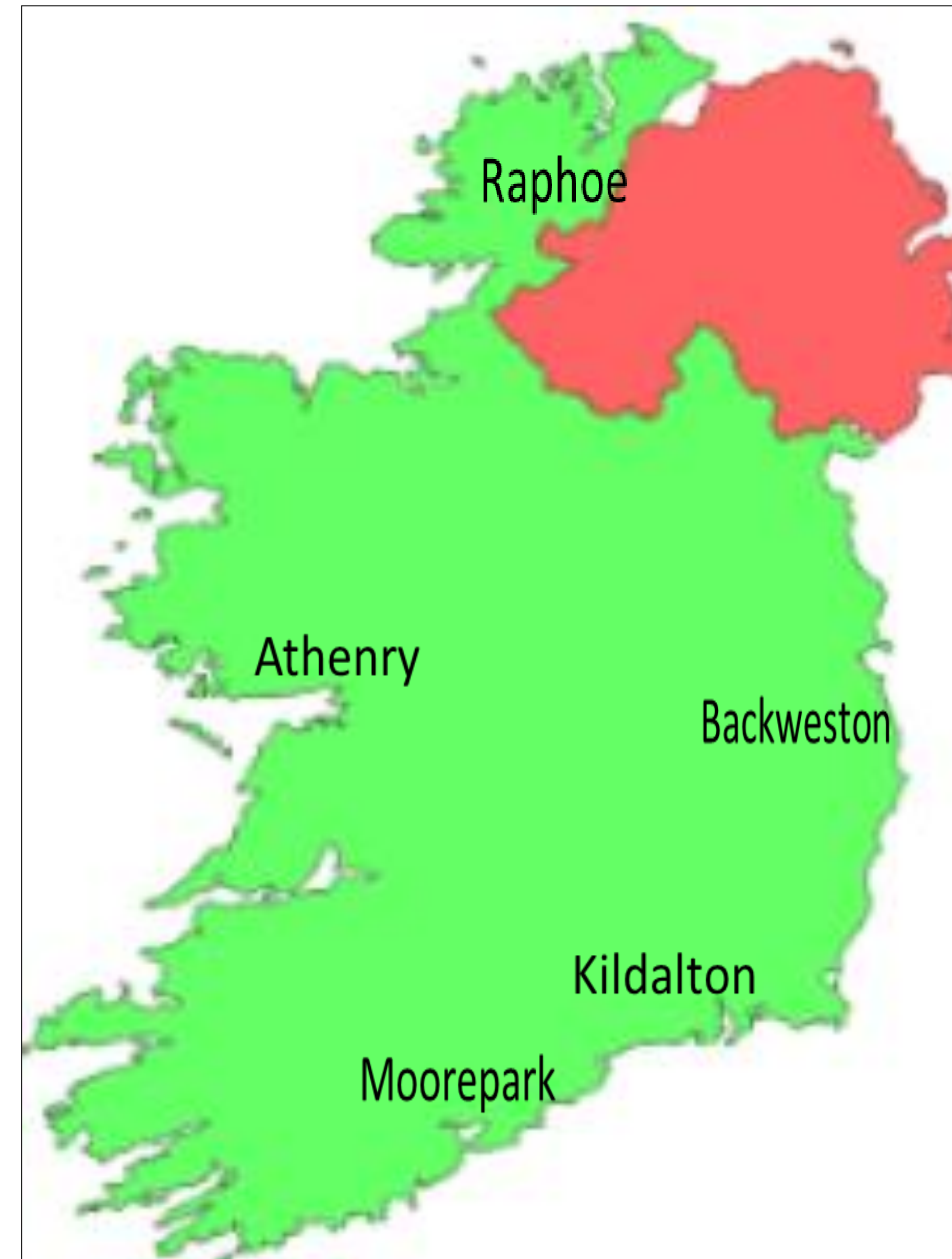
What we do

- Combined National List / Recommended List Grass and White Clover Trials
- Determine the 'Value for Cultivation and Use' for inclusion on National Catalogue
- Best performing varieties included on Recommended List

How we do it

- 2 grass variety categories
 - Intermediate & Late Heading Date
- 2 sowings of each variety; 2 harvest years per sowing
- Plots sown in May/June
- 1 establishment year for grass
- 2 establishment years for white clover
- 4 control varieties per trial
- Simulated grazing and general purpose (silage) protocols for grass varieties
- 7 cut protocol for white clover

DAFM Herbage Evaluation Centres



Cutting protocols

- Grass:
 - 9-cut simulated grazing
 - 6-cut general purpose
- White clover: 7-cut system

Traits assessed

- Dry matter yield
- Quality analysis – DMD & WSC
- Ground cover
- Heading dates
- Winter hardiness
- Disease observations
- Clover percentage (for white clover)



Information sources

- National Catalogue of Agricultural Plant Varieties for Ireland
- DAFM Recommended List
- Teagasc PPI
- Website: www.gov.ie/agriculture

Farmers should give preference to Recommended List varieties

Pasture Profit Index

Variety Details			PPI Sub-Indexes (€ per ha per year)							PPI
Variety	Ploidy	Heading date	Spring	Summer	Autumn	Quality	Silage	Persistence	Grazing Utilisation	Total €/ha per year
Aberclyde	T	25-May	51	66	46	44	46	0	****	253
Barwave	T	22-May	93	61	59	-20	50	0	-	244
Abergain	T	4-Jun	34	61	50	47	49	0	****	241
Gracehill	T	4-Jun	46	60	58	10	67	0	**	241
Abermagic	D	28-May	31	64	78	18	24	0	***	215
Nashota	T	3-Jun	53	57	39	28	38	0	-	214
Aberwolf	D	30-May	54	54	48	11	43	0	**	209
Moira	D	26-May	108	39	57	-32	36	0	***	209
Glenfield	T	3-Jun	59	63	40	3	41	0	-	207
Astonconqueror	D	27-May	75	52	48	-10	42	0	****	206
Aberplentiful	T	8-Jun	59	63	50	11	26	-6	**	204
Ballintoy	T	4-Jun	36	60	43	23	32	0	****	195
Meiduno	T	3-Jun	45	56	46	27	21	0	****	195
AberGreen	D	31-May	38	69	70	5	11	0	*	193
Aberchoice	D	11-Jun	15	65	58	22	30	0	***	190
AberBann	D	10-Jun	5	81	75	-25	54	0	***	190
Fintona	T	24-May	49	52	49	-5	45	0	*****	190

Variety Details			PPI Sub-Indexes (€ per ha per year)							PPI
Variety	Ploidy	Heading date	Spring	Summer	Autumn	Quality	Silage	Persistence	Grazing Utilisation	Total €/ha per year
Ballyvoy	D	3-Jun	65	46	47	19	10	0	*	186
Dunluce	T	29-May	23	58	52	24	34	-6	****	184
Gusto	D	31-May	50	51	64	2	9	0	****	176
AberBite	T	1-Jun	-2	56	53	32	36	0	*****	175
Elysium	T	27-May	43	52	32	12	32	0	-	170
Bowie	D	16-Jun	19	53	54	28	16	0	-	170
Briant	T	3-Jun	10	58	46	13	29	0	***	156
Solas	T	10-Jun	10	48	55	1	39	0	***	153
AstonEnergy	T	1-Jun	5	47	43	49	6	0	*****	151
Oakpark	D	2-Jun	32	52	52	-12	25	0	*	149
Drumbo	D	5-Jun	23	44	42	24	13	0	*	146
Nifty	D	28-May	38	61	57	-37	26	0	**	145
Xenon	T	7-Jun	12	49	35	29	17	0	*****	143
Triwarwic	T	2-Jun	20	53	30	7	32	0	-	141
AstonKing	D	5-Jun	61	50	36	-25	18	0	***	141
Aspect	T	3-Jun	11	50	30	27	23	-6	*****	136
Callan	D	3-Jun	71	39	35	-35	16	0	****	126

What is the Pasture Profit Index?

- Variety selection tool identifying best perennial ryegrass varieties to sow when reseeding
- Uses agronomic data from DAFM Recommended List & Teagasc Moorepark variety grazing trials
- Consists of a number of traits with economic impact on sward performance
 - Spring, summer and autumn yield
 - Herbage quality (digestibility)
 - 1st and 2nd cut silage yield
 - Persistency
 - Grazing utilisation
- Higher values = higher performance for that trait
- Total PPI calculated by summing performance values of all traits

How to use the Pasture Profit Index

- The predominant use of the reseeded paddock should dictate variety selection
 - Grazing paddocks: select varieties with high values in quality, grazing utilisation traits
 - Silage paddocks: select varieties with high silage and spring yield traits
 - General purpose: select high total PPI value varieties

Take home messages

- Grazing utilisation performance is expressed as a 'Star' rating – higher stars indicate better suitability to grazing
- Heading date: maintain a 4 - 6 day spread for silage swards; less of an issue for grazing paddocks
- Ploidy: tetraploids tend to have higher values for grazing traits, grazing utilisation etc.