Clonakilty Update

The effect of tetraploid and diploid swards sown with and without white clover: 2014 - 2017

- Four grazing treatments – 2.75 cows/ha, 250 kg N/ha
  - Tetraploid only and tetraploid + white clover
  - Diploid only and diploid + white clover
- Ploidy did not affect milk or grass production

Results 2014 - 2017

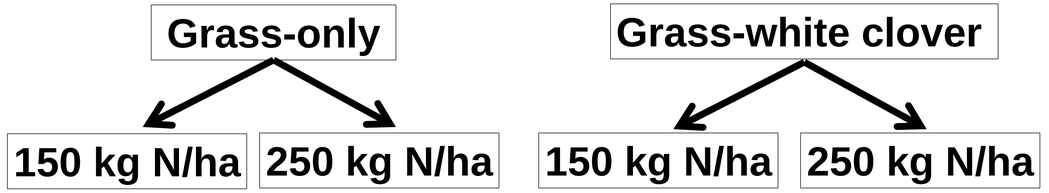
	Grass-only	Grass-clover	Diff.
White clover content (%)	**-**	**23.1**	**-**
Grass production (t DM/ha)	**15.6**	**16.8**	**+ 1.2**
Milk yield (kg/cow)	**5,222**	**5,818**	**+ 597**
Milk solids yield (kg/cow)	**437**	**485**	**+ 48**
Net profit per ha (€)	**2,369**	**2,674**	**+ 305**

Lessons learned

- White clover content varies across season and over time
- This affects benefits and challenges associated with clover

Clonakilty Experiment 2019 - 2021

- Impact of sward type and nitrogen (N) fertiliser



- Stocking rate of 2.75 cows/ha
- Reduce N application rate from mid-May
- Aim to maintain white clover at 20%-25%
- Programme of reseeding and over-sowing

Take home messages

- Excellent milk and grass production from grass-clover swards over 4 years
- Potential to increase profitability: + €305/ha
- Continue to investigate the potential of white clover in intensive grass-based dairy systems