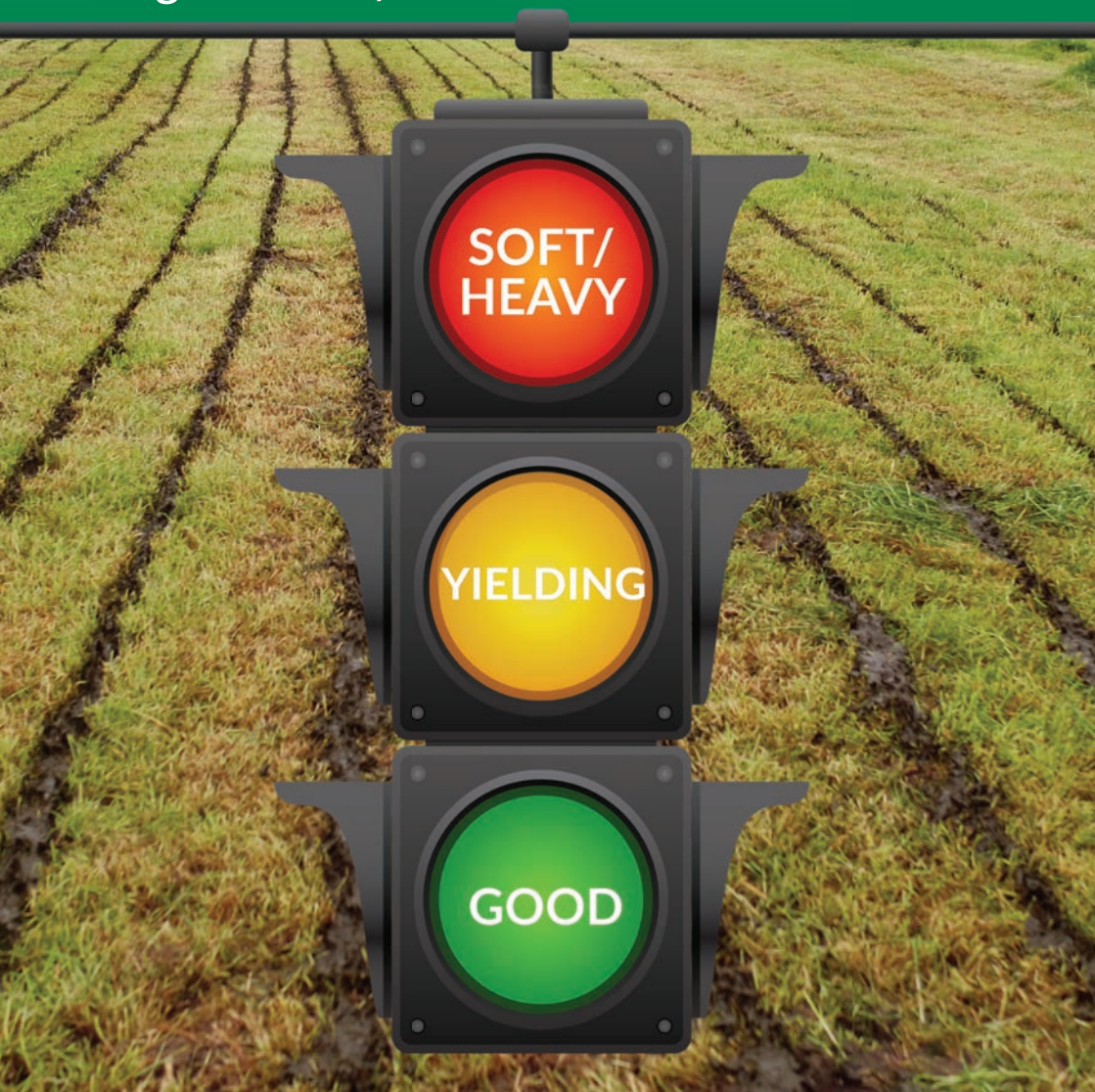


Field Guide for Assessing Ground Conditions

*Reduce compaction and nutrient loss
on grassland farms*



Using a heel imprint and/or walking stick to

(Stick penetration is dep



Soft/Heavy

- Stick penetrates 20-30 cm with very low resistance
- Substantial give in ground
- Easy to imprint heel



Yielding

- Stick penetrates 15 cm with low resistance
- Some give in ground
- Heal imprint moderate force

measure penetration depth and resistance (dependent on depth of soil)



Good

- Stick penetrates 10 cm with medium resistance
- Little give in ground
- Minimal heal imprint with force



Good/Firm

- Stick penetrates 5 cm with high resistance
- No give in ground
- Heal imprint not possible





Environmental risks working on difficult field conditions

- Operating machinery on soft/heavy soils can lead to soil compaction
- Applying Phosphorus on poorly draining soils, particularly in soft/heavy ground conditions can lead to P runoff to waterbodies
- Applying Nitrogen to free draining soils before heavy rain can lead to N leaching to groundwater
- Applying Nitrogen in soft/heavy ground conditions can result in N₂O emissions

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