



Grassland in Ireland

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Grassland in Ireland

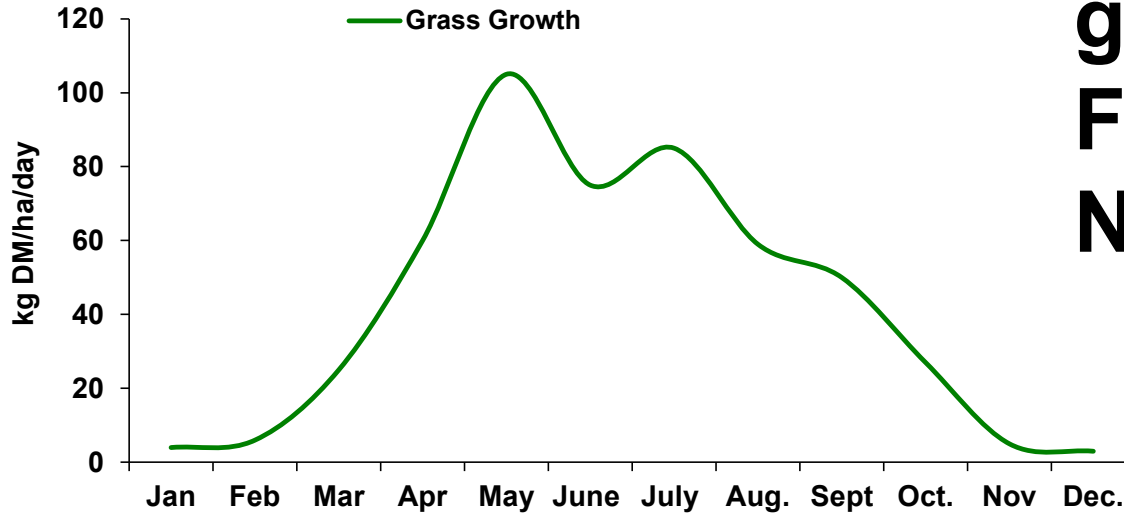
- Ireland is grass based – the most grassland based country in Europe
- 80 % of the agriculture area is on pasture, hay and grass silage
- Inputs are reasonably low



Irish grazing system

Characteristics

**Extended
grazing season:
February to
November**

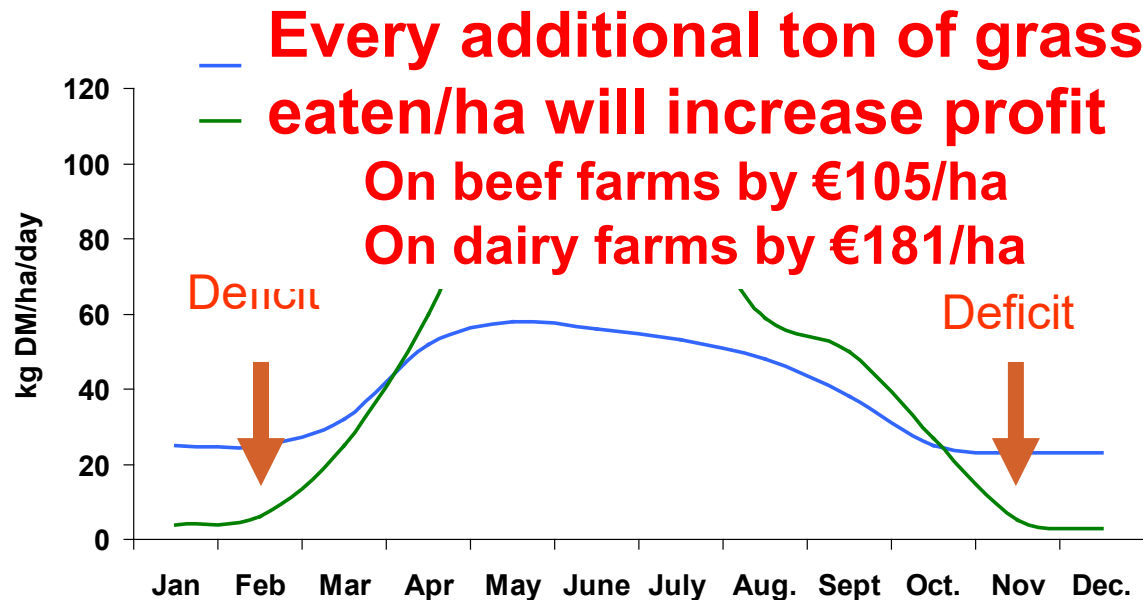


Irish grazing system

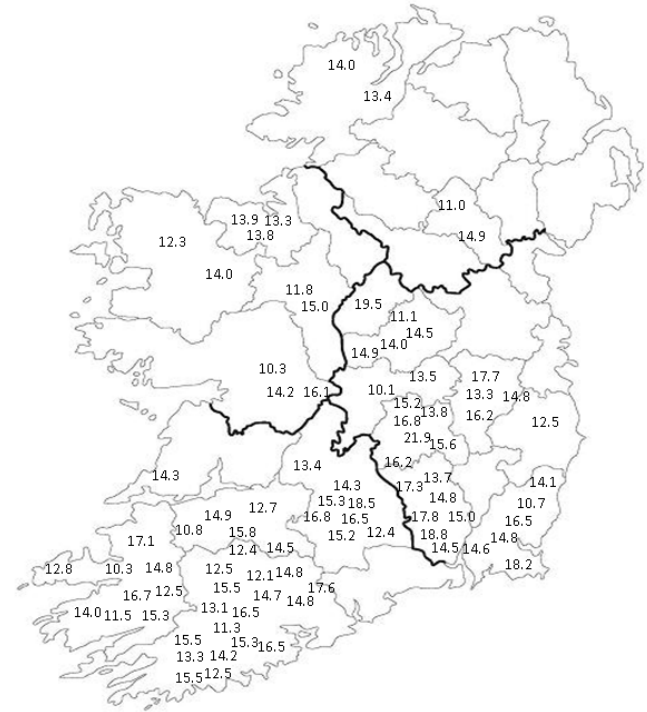
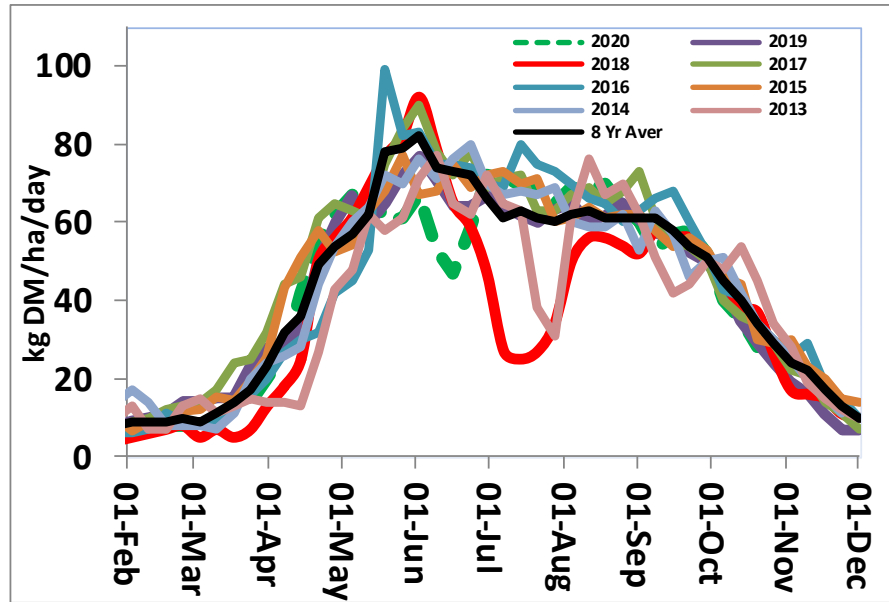
Characteristics

Relative feed cost :

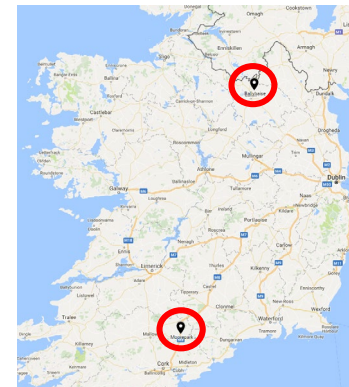
c/kg DM	Relative
7.3	1
14.0	1.9
21.0	2.9
10.4 - 15.3	1.8



Variability of grass growth in Ireland



Impact of weather and soil type (SR=2.5 fert = 250 kg N/ha)



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Soil	Average growth	Grass intake per cow	Number of day without silage feeding
Free draining			
Heavy			
	+1,264	-563	-13

Ballyhaise

Soil	Average growth	Grass intake per cow	Number of day without silage feeding
Free draining	13,664-5	3,593 +66	222 +11
Heavy	14,399-534	2,778 -186	188 -10
	+675	-815	-34

Incoming challenges

- Green house gases reductions
- Water quality
 - Probable reduction of N fertiliser (20%)



Review of the Influence of Chemical Nitrogen Application Rate, Soil Type and Agroclimate Location on Grass Production, Feed Budgets, Nitrogen Use Efficiency, Environmental Impact and Farm Profitability



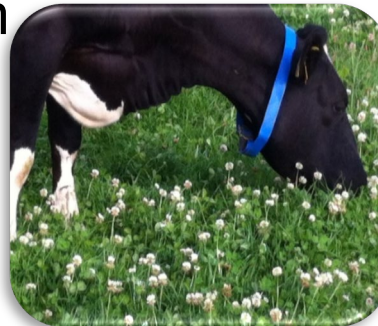
November, 2020

Reduction of 50 kg N/ha -> reduction of 0.25 cow/ha

- 20% reduction lead to a reduction of farm profit of:
 - 16% sheep farm
 - 12% beef farm
 - 15% dairy farm

Solutions

- Improving grass utilisation
- Improving soil fertility
- Incorporate clover on farm



Conclusion

- Ireland is grass based – the most grassland based country in Europe
- Competitive advantage: long grazing season but there is variability
- Challenges to come but there is solutions



**Thank you for
your attention**