Silage Quality 2022

Why do you need better quality silage?

High DMD silage (75% DMD), that is a leafy silage sward prior to mowing, can add value to your stock on a lower feed cost as highlighted in the table below.

Silage quality	Good 72% DMD	Average 68% DMD	Poor 62% DMD	Very Poor 55% DMD
Store cattle on silage only Liveweight gain (kg/140 day winter)	**102**	**83**	**55**	**21**
Weanlings Concentrates required (kg/hd/day)	1.0	2.0	3.0	4.5
For **100 weanlings** 140 day winter	14 Ton	28 Ton	42 Ton	63 Ton
Conc. Costs over winter	**€5,600**	**€11,200**	**€16,800**	**€25,200**

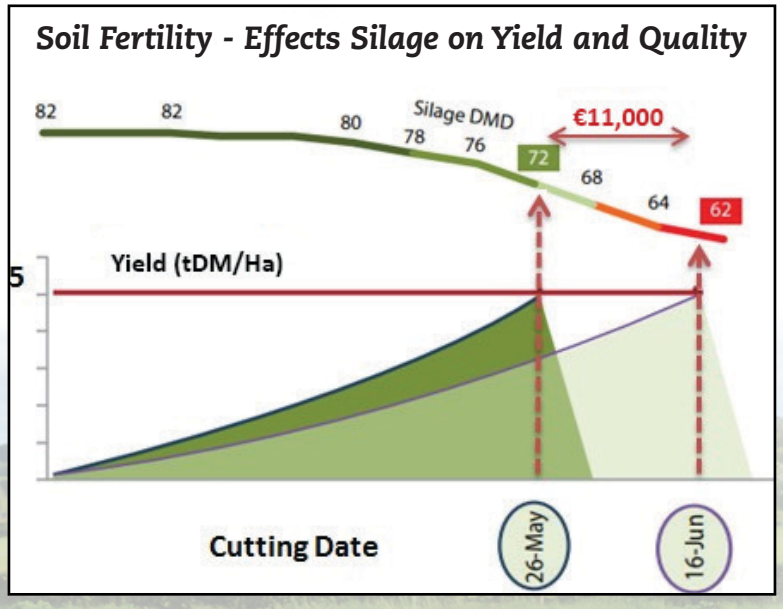
Delaying your cutting date can cost up to €500/day due to higher feed costs and reduced performance!

How can you achieve this?

To improve quality you need to harvest the crop at a younger (leafy) stage.

Good fertiliser programme → **Equal yield, 20 days earlier** → **Improved DMD by 10%** → **Increased Animal Performance**

With correct fertiliser you can produce the same yield 3 weeks earlier!!! Potentially saving €11,200 in meals



Good Soil Fertility

Poor Soil Fertility

Joe Hand and Louise Pierce, Teagasc

Your Worksheet

A good fertiliser programme will allow you to decide your silage DMD. Based on your soil results you can work out your requirements below.

Please note slurry is a very valuable resource in 2022 and should be used on silage ground to control costs.

2,500 gallons of slurry is approximately = 2.5 bag of 0-7-30

Soil Index	Units/Acre			Bags/Acre		
	N	P	K	0-7-30	Protected Urea (38%)	Urea (46%)
Index 1	80	32	140	2.5 + Build up	2.1	1.75
Index 2	80	24	124	2.5+ Build up	2.1	1.75
Index 3	80	16	100	2.5 + Balance	2.1	1.75

Soil Index	Kg/Ha			Kg/Ha		
	N	P	K	0-7-30	Protected Urea (38%)	Urea (46%)
Index 1	100	40	175	310+ Build up	260	215
Index 2	100	30	155	310 + Build up	260	215
Index 3	100	20	125	310 + Balance	260	215

Is your fertiliser plan adequate?

	Requirements from above (N, P, K)			N	P	K
Step A	E.g. Index 2 (Units/acre)			80	24	124

	Fertiliser Type	Quantity Applied	N	P	K
Step B	E.g. 24-2.5-10	3 Bags/acre	72	7.5	30
Step C	Total Applied (N, P, K)				
Step D	Deficit left to be applied (A-C) * Apply K Balance/Build - Up Req. in excess of 75 units/ac				
	E.g. Deficit from example above		8	16.5	94

Address this deficit to achieve the true potential from your silage: "Higher weight gain at low costs next winter"