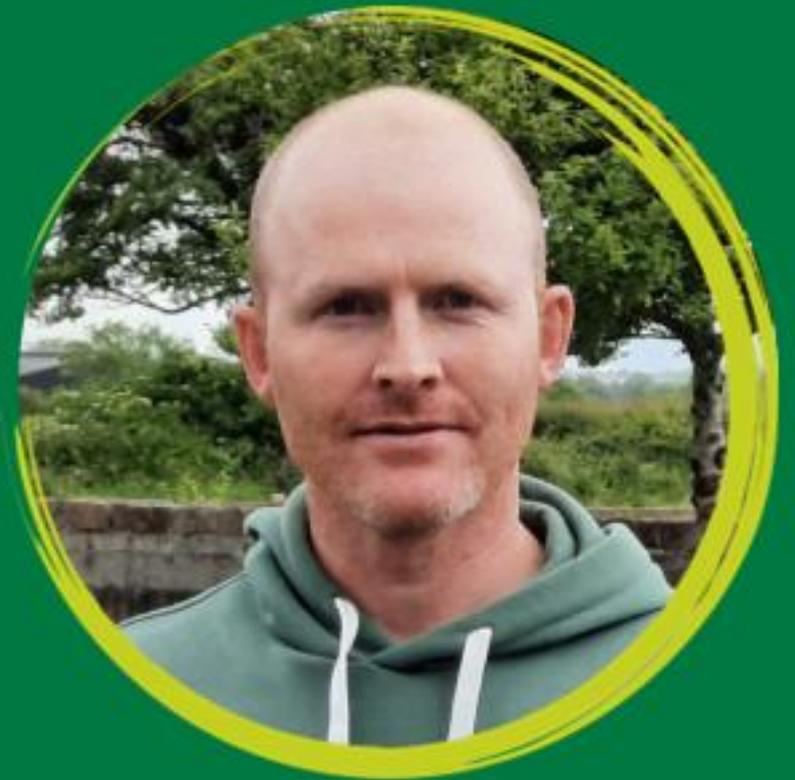


Putting grazing targets into practice on my farm

Michael Carroll
Dairy farmer, Limerick



NATIONAL DAIRY CONFERENCE 2024
Wednesday 27 November | Limerick Racecourse

Farm & Herd Details

■ Land area

- Total land area = 100ha
- Milking Platform = 55ha
- Soil type= Very mixed soil

■ Registered Farm Partnership

- Martin(second partner)
- Ollie O'Brien- full time

■ Cows: 145 (EBI €227)

- 0-1 yrs 50, 1-2 yrs 30

■ Start of calving: 20thJan

- 6 week calving rate 85%
- Cows milked OAD for 6 weeks

■ Milk solids (delivered)

- 2023 - 500 kg MS - 4.73 F, 3.74 P
(630kg meal)
- 2024 - 485 kg MS - 4.75 F, 3.78 P (est.)
(800 kg of meal)

My grazing year 2024

■ Grass Production & Utilisation

■ 13.8t grown

- 9.5 grazing events
- 35 walks recorded

■ Avg pre grazing yield: 1462 kg DM/ha

■ Reseeding 10% per year

- 25% of farm good clover

■ Soil Fertility & Nutrient Management

- Mostly Index 3 for P&K
- pH 6.2 or above
- kg N/ha: 176 (152)
- kg P/ha: 21 (9)
- kg K/ha: 96 (20)
- kg S/ha: 33 (31)

Key drivers

- **Cost of feed (c/kg DM)**
 - 10:20:30 (Grass:Silage:Meal)
- **Days at grass:**
 - Late Jan – Mid Nov (290 days)
- **Start 2nd round on time (~April 10th)**
 - First 3 paddocks @ 1100-1200 kg DM/ha
 - A.F.C - 650 kg/DM/ha

Start of Grazing season: 1st of Dec 750-800kg DM/ha

- **1st target: Late Jan**
 - AFC 1000 kg DM/ha
- **2nd target: Early April**
 - 650 kg DM/ha @ Start of 2nd rotn.
 - 3 paddocks at 1100 kg/DM/ha
 - Walk every 5 days
 - Slurry and Fertiliser applied
- **3rd target: Late April: Growth v Demand**
 - Meal level
 - Fat & Protein %



Targets Continued

- 4th target: Mid Season

- Walk every 5 days
- Grass Wedge
- Surplus/Deficit in grass
- Clover paddocks

- 5th target: 1st of Sept

- A.F.C 750-800 kg of DM/ha

- 6th target: 1st Dec

- A.F.C 750-800 kg of DM/ha

Paddock	Paddock Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
1	Frank A	11/1	7/5	23/5	5/6	20/6	22/7	12/8	2/9	26/9	2/10			
2	Black A	10/5	24/5	2/6	24/6	27/7	16/8	7/9	11/9	1/10				
3	Nowack	4/4	10/5	27/5	11/6	4/7	28/7	18/8	8/9	25/9	13/10			
4	Lugans	20/5	2/6	21/5	5/6	21/6	14/7	2/8	21/8	15/9	13/10			
5	Shams	19/5	1/6	20/5	4/6	21/6	13/7	2/8	21/8	15/9	10/10			
6	Volans date	4/4	11/5	24/5	13/6	2/7	24/7	17/8	11/9	7/10	6/11			
7	Cullinane	13/5	12/6	20/5	28/6	5/7	5/8	25/8	17/9	17/10				
8	Pat Collins	15/5	12/6	20/5	18/6	5/7	2/8	25/8	17/9	20/10				
9	Neil O'S. near	14/5	20/5	27/5	19/6	10/7	5/8	24/8	19/9	10/10				
10	Neil O'S. far	14/5	20/5	27/5	19/6	10/7	5/8	24/8	19/9	10/10				
11	Tams	21/5	11/6	21/5	16/6	3/7	25/7	17/8	11/9	27/10				
12	Passale	19/5	20/6	20/5	2/6	20/6	16/7	1/8	21/8	12/9	8/10			
13	Double by each	21/5	22/6	20/5	10/6	11/7	15/8	2/9	25/9	27/10				
14	Far	20/5	24/6	20/5	7/6	17/6	2/7	24/7	19/8	4/9	27/9	10/11		
15	Far	20/5	24/6	20/5	7/6	17/6	2/7	24/7	19/8	4/9	27/9	10/11		
16	Black near	21/5	28/6	17/5	25/5	16/7	11/8	20/8	16/9	7/10	12/11			
17	Far near	20/5	24/6	19/5	23/5	15/7	11/8	20/8	16/9	7/10	12/11			
18	Far near	20/5	24/6	19/5	23/5	15/7	11/8	20/8	16/9	7/10	12/11			
19	Far near	20/5	24/6	19/5	23/5	15/7	11/8	20/8	16/9	7/10	12/11			
20	P. G. Hill	7/5	25/5	27/5	6/6	21/6	10/7	4/8	27/8	20/9	15/10			
21	Leggation	9/5	1/6	20/5	6/6	22/6	10/7	4/8	27/8	20/9	15/10			
22	Long near	2/5	11/5	21/5	9/6	28/6	24/7	11/8	27/8	22/9	22/10			
23	Shams	11/5	4/6	20/5	8/6	28/6	24/7	11/8	27/8	22/9	22/10			
24	Shams	28/5	7/6	20/5	2/6	17/6	7/7	20/7	22/8	25/9	20/10			
25	P. G. Hill	7/5	25/5	27/5	6/6	21/6	10/7	4/8	27/8	20/9	15/10			
26	Far	20/5	24/6	19/5	23/5	15/7	11/8	20/8	16/9	7/10	12/11			
27	Far	20/5	24/6	19/5	23/5	15/7	11/8	20/8	16/9	7/10	12/11			
28	Far	20/5	24/6	19/5	23/5	15/7	11/8	20/8	16/9	7/10	12/11			
29	Far	20/5	24/6	19/5	23/5	15/7	11/8	20/8	16/9	7/10	12/11			
30	Far	20/5	24/6	19/5	23/5	15/7	11/8	20/8	16/9	7/10	12/11			

Reseeding

- 7th target: Reseeding
 - Clover
 - MSS
 - Grass

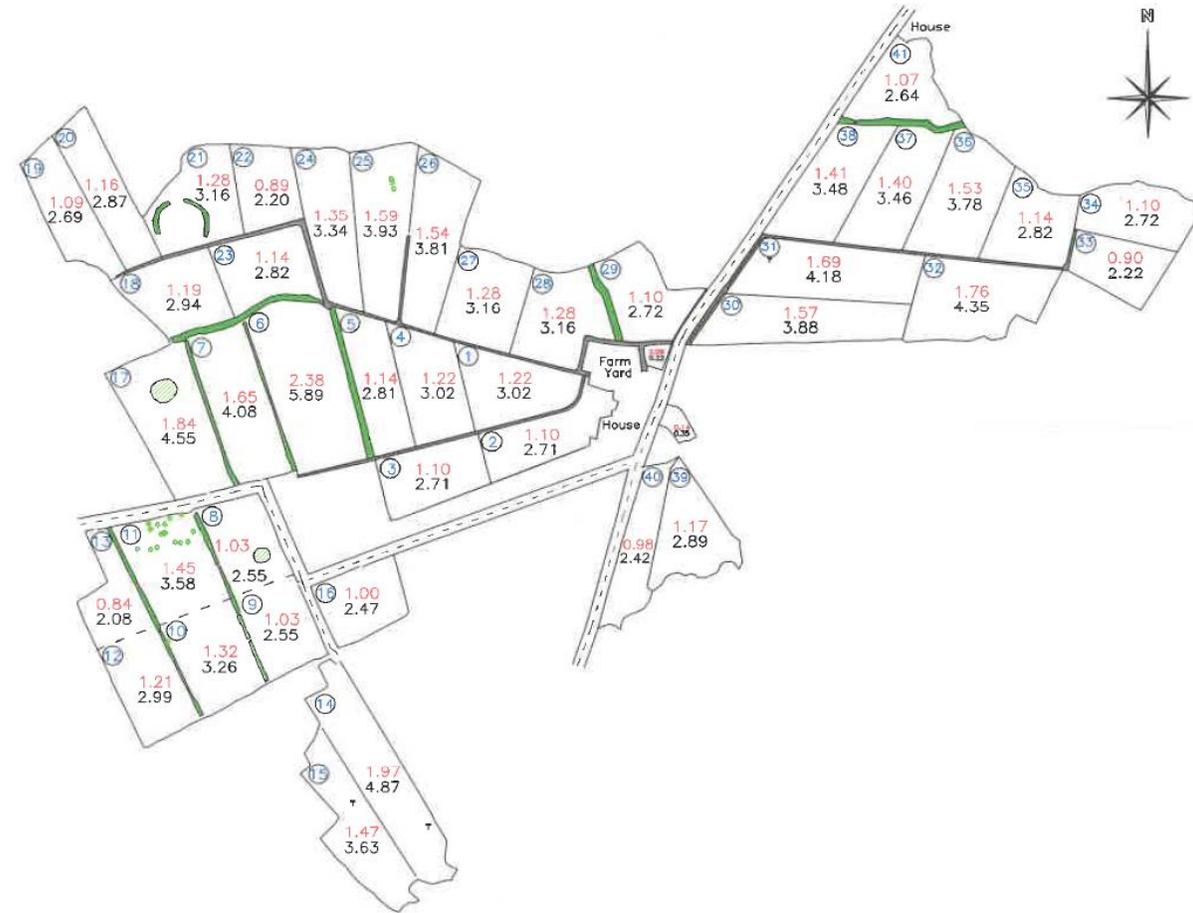


Target 3 (Late April/May)

1. Most important target
2. Priority to get Grazing management right
3. Consequences are large if unsuccessful
 - Grass production
 - Grass quality
 - Cow performance

Spring 2025

- Late January, 10 cows calved, grazing commences
- Infrastructure – Roadways (spur roadways), c
- 2 hr splits, 11am to 1pm (Milked OAD)
- 1st paddock 700-800 kgDM/ha
- 2.5kg meal, grass and high quality silage
- Planned Day & Night - 14th of Feb
- 30% grazed by 1st of March
- Weather conditions determine paddock choice
- Walk regularly to do AFC



The most Important thing !

