

# Putting grazing targets into practice on my farm

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**NATIONAL DAIRY CONFERENCE 2024**  
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# 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: 20<sup>th</sup> Jan

- 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 2<sup>nd</sup> round on time (~April 10<sup>th</sup>)**
  - First 3 paddocks @ 1100-1200 kg DM/ha
  - A.F.C - 650 kg/DM/ha

# Start of Grazing season: 1<sup>st</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

## ■ 4<sup>th</sup> target: Mid Season

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

## ■ 5<sup>th</sup> target: 1<sup>st</sup> of Sept

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

## ■ 6<sup>th</sup> target: 1<sup>ST</sup> 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	Brook Co	11/1	7/5	12/5	5/6	30/6	22/7	12/8	2/9	28/9	2/10			
2	Black Co	10/6	24/6	2/6	24/6	27/7	16/8	7/9	1/10	2/10	2/10			
3	Moanagh	4/4	10/5	2/5	11/6	4/7	28/7	18/8	8/9	2/10	2/10			
4	Lugan	2/4	2/5	2/5	5/6	2/6	14/7	2/8	2/9	2/10	2/10			
5	Shannon	10/5	1/5	20/5	4/6	2/6	13/7	2/8	2/9	2/10	2/10			
6	White, Rath	4/4	11/5	24/5	12/6	2/7	24/7	17/8	11/9	2/10	2/10			
7	Cullinane	13/5	12/5	20/5	28/6	6/7	5/8	25/8	17/9	17/10	17/10			
8	Pat Collins	15/6	12/6	20/6	10/6	5/7	6/8	25/8	17/9	20/10	20/10			
9	North of S. Hill	14/6	14/6	21/6	11/7	10/7	5/8	24/8	17/9	20/10	20/10			
10	North of S. Hill	14/6	14/6	21/6	11/7	10/7	5/8	24/8	17/9	20/10	20/10			
11	Town	21/6	14/6	21/6	16/6	3/7	25/7	17/8	11/9	2/10	2/10			
12	Castle	15/7	20/7	20/7	6/8	20/8	16/7	1/8	11/8	16/9	2/10			
13	Double by Bush	10/7	20/7	20/7	10/8	11/8	25/8	14/9	2/10	2/10	2/10			
14	Top	20/7	24/7	20/7	2/8	17/8	27/8	24/9	14/9	4/10	27/10	10/11		
15	Forch	20/7	24/7	20/7	2/8	17/8	27/8	24/9	14/9	4/10	27/10	10/11		
16	Glade, North	21/7	28/7	17/8	25/8	16/9	11/8	10/8	16/9	2/10	2/10			
17	Forch, North	21/7	28/7	17/8	25/8	16/9	11/8	10/8	16/9	2/10	2/10			
18	Forch, North	21/7	28/7	17/8	25/8	16/9	11/8	10/8	16/9	2/10	2/10			
19	Forch, North	21/7	28/7	17/8	25/8	16/9	11/8	10/8	16/9	2/10	2/10			
20	Forch, North	21/7	28/7	17/8	25/8	16/9	11/8	10/8	16/9	2/10	2/10			
21	Forch, North	21/7	28/7	17/8	25/8	16/9	11/8	10/8	16/9	2/10	2/10			
22	Forch, North	21/7	28/7	17/8	25/8	16/9	11/8	10/8	16/9	2/10	2/10			
23	Forch, North	21/7	28/7	17/8	25/8	16/9	11/8	10/8	16/9	2/10	2/10			
24	Forch, North	21/7	28/7	17/8	25/8	16/9	11/8	10/8	16/9	2/10	2/10			
25	Forch, North	21/7	28/7	17/8	25/8	16/9	11/8	10/8	16/9	2/10	2/10			
26	Forch, North	21/7	28/7	17/8	25/8	16/9	11/8	10/8	16/9	2/10	2/10			
27	Forch, North	21/7	28/7	17/8	25/8	16/9	11/8	10/8	16/9	2/10	2/10			
28	Forch, North	21/7	28/7	17/8	25/8	16/9	11/8	10/8	16/9	2/10	2/10			
29	Forch, North	21/7	28/7	17/8	25/8	16/9	11/8	10/8	16/9	2/10	2/10			
30	Forch, North	21/7	28/7	17/8	25/8	16/9	11/8	10/8	16/9	2/10	2/10			

# Reseeding

- 7<sup>th</sup> target: Reseeding
  - Clover
  - MSS
  - Grass



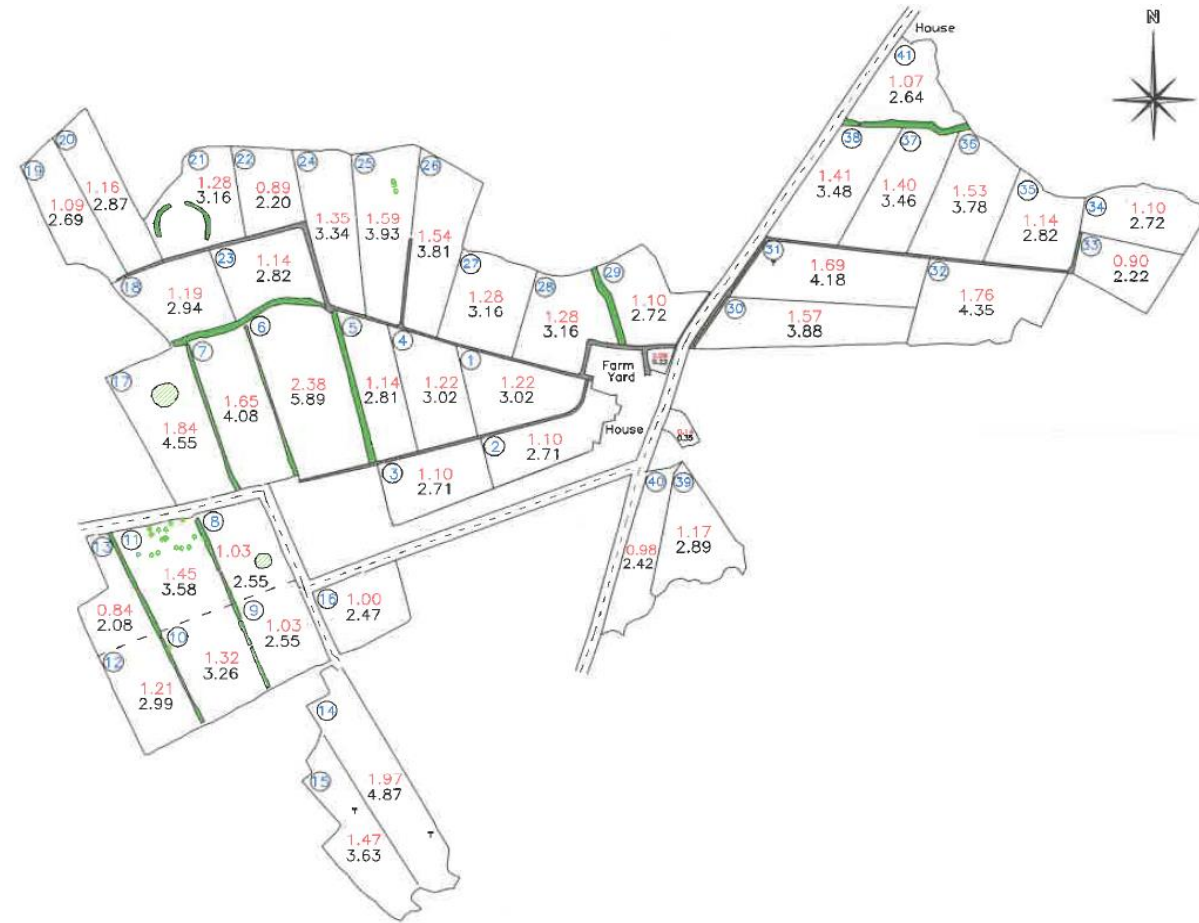
# Target 3 (Late April/May)

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)
- 1<sup>st</sup> paddock 700-800 kgDM/ha
- 2.5kg meal, grass and high quality silage
- Planned Day & Night - 14<sup>th</sup> of Feb
- 30% grazed by 1<sup>st</sup> of March
- Weather conditions determine paddock choice
- Walk regularly to do AFC





# The most Important thing !

