



# Increasing grass output through increasing soil fertility and improving grazing infrastructure



## Padraig and Pat Walsh

### 1 Description of the innovation



- Carrying out soil tests and building soil index's
- Increase in grass grown on the farm
- More milk being produced from grass
- Cost in building the soil index's (out-weighed by the benefits though)
- Increase output and reduce costs
- Economic results
- Soil testing is starting point
- Discussion groups
- Moorepark research
- PastureBase



Increase grass grown and utilised on the farm



Increase output per hectare and minimise costs through increasing the amount of grass grown on the farm

- Carrying out soil tests and building soil index's



## 2 Farm description

### ENVIRONMENT

Soil type: Clay/loam

Climate type: Temperate Oceanic Climate

Agricultural area (ha UAA): 85

Permanent grassland area (ha) : 85

Average stocking rate (agriculture area)  
(LU/ha UAA): 3

Altitude: Variation across the farm (200m)

Slope: Variation across the farm (15%)

### GRASSLAND MANAGEMENT

Grazing : Yes

Grazing management type:

Rotational grazing

### STRUCTURE

Annual work units (AWU): 2

Main animal type: Dairy

Number of animals (heads): 170

Total Livestock unit (LU): 240

Breed type 1: Fr\*Je

Breed type 2: Fr

### ANIMAL PERFORMANCE

Milk production per head (l/year/dairy  
animal): 5800l

Grassland management type: Rotational

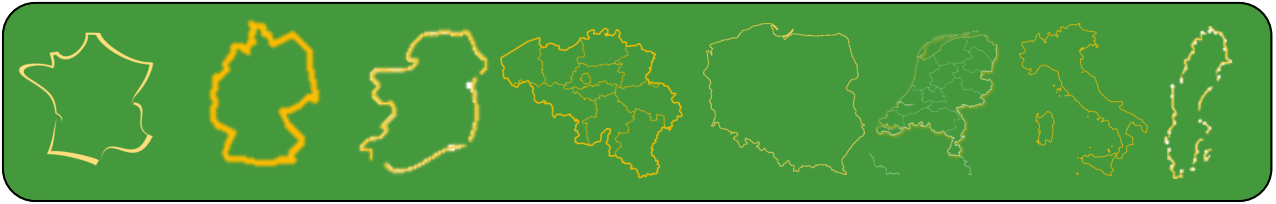
Length of grazing period: 285-300 days

Fertilization rate (kg N/ha): 250

### WHY IT IS WORKING

- Increasing grass output through increasing soil fertility and improving grazing infrastructure
- Carrying out soil tests and building soil index's
- Increase in grass grown on the farm
- More milk being produced from grass
- Economic results
- Pasturebase Ireland

# Ireland



## Domains of innovation



Agrinet



Fr\*Je, Fr



Different grass varieties



Milk



Soil fertility. Grazing infrastructure



Quality product



Paddock system



Low cost grass based milk



N/a



Mixture



Parlour, feed barrier

## Dairy cow



MILK