

# Theme – Grassland Management Beef

## Essential Technologies

### 1 Nutrient Management Plan

Demonstrates an annual nutrient management plan is implemented on farm using relevant CAFRE Nutrient Calculator including quantities of fertiliser used, where, when and how much to be spread. Demonstrate addition of all fertiliser and other applications such as lime are based on soil requirements indicated by soil analysis, repeated on a 3 year rotation and accredited by a UKAS accredited lab. Demonstrates regular assessment of soil compaction, methods on farm to alleviate compaction and selecting appropriate drainage methods. Demonstrates use of livestock manure nitrogen loading calculator and value of slurry calculator on farm. Demonstrates **slurry mixing safety** on farm, slurry spreading using trailing shoe/injection/dribble bar. Demonstrates appropriate timing of applications, for example, takes into consideration time of year, weather, ground conditions, and crop demand for maximum nutrient uptake/minimum risk of pollution/nutrient loss to environment.

### 2 Reseeding Activities in the Last Five Years

Demonstrates target farm area to reseed annually using the chosen cultivation method, seed selection. Demonstrates selection of suitable clover and/or grass mixtures for grazing and reseeding to improve silage yield and quality on farm. Demonstrate minimum tillage techniques or use of an air seeder to oversow in pasture.

### 3 Target Grazing Grass Covers

Demonstrate method of grass measurement for example a plate meter, sward stick etc. and monitoring to plan grazing. Using these targets to make decisions such as removing a paddock from the rotation for silage. Demonstrate extended grazing techniques. Ability to demonstrate grazing area allocation and stocking rate on the farm.

### 4 Managed Grazing System (i.e. Rotational/Paddock/Set Stocked grazing system)

Demonstrates permanent or temporary grazing infrastructure for example fences, lanes, water troughs to graze smaller areas for shorter periods to increase grass utilisation. Demonstrate knowledge of adjusting feed levels according to grazing conditions.

### 5 Silage Quality Assessment

Demonstrates provision for ensuring silage is produced to highest possible quality, (outside weather constraints) such as appropriate ensiling methods, storage area. Demonstrate use of silage stocks calculator on farm and addition of silage analysis and ration formulation to achieve target performance at least cost. Demonstrate forage analysis completed to indicate mineral deficiency in diets and highlight issues with soil contamination.

### 6 Animal Performance

Demonstrates walk over weighing facilities on farm with safe handling pens including drafting gates etc. Demonstrates management of cattle using body condition scoring. Demonstrate pregnancy diagnosis at 6 weeks after removal of the bull, 30 -35 days scanning for heifers and weaning a calf weighing half of the suckler cow body weight at 200 days. Demonstrates blood sampling to determine blood mineral profiles of grazing animals.

# **Desirable Technologies**

## **1 Total Farm Cover Measuring Technology**

Demonstrates regular use of innovative technologies to estimate and record grass covers and growth. These technologies may include a rising platometer, cut and weigh method or a sward stick etc.

## **2 Grazing software technology**

Demonstrates use of online grazing software technology for example AgriNet to aid decision making and benchmark performance. Demonstrating usage of Grasscheck/AgriNet grass budgeting tool predictions to manage grass covers and assess grazed grass yields on farm. Using grass budgeting tools (for example, Agrinet) to assess grazed grass yields

## **3 Low ammonia emission slurry spreading technology**

Demonstrates understanding and use of low ammonia emission slurry spreading techniques, for example, band spreading, trailing shoe or injection.

## **4 Worm Burden Assessment**

Demonstrate the use of faecal egg count to monitor worm burdens. Demonstrate grazing policies to minimise infection and wormer rotations to minimise resistance.