

Theme – Grassland Management Sheep

Essential Technologies

1 Nutrient Management Plan

Demonstrates an annual nutrient management plan is implemented on farm, (can be completed using relevant Nutrient Calculator such as Crop or CAFRE). Nutrient management plan to include quantities of fertilizer used, where, when and how much to be spread. Optimise usage of CAN and urea on farm. 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 slurry mixing safety on farm, slurry spreading using trailing shoe/injection/dribble bar. Demonstrates regular assessment of soil compaction, methods on farm to alleviate compaction and selecting appropriate drainage methods. Demonstrates appropriate timing of applications, e.g. takes into consideration time of year, weather, ground conditions, 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, the chosen cultivation method, seed selection. Demonstrates selection of suitable clover and/or grass mixtures for grazing and reseeded 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 such as a plate meter, sward stick. Monitoring grass covers to plan grazing system. Use pre and post grass covers and targets to make decisions regarding grazing including introducing and removing livestock from paddocks, removing a paddock from the rotation to conserve for silage/hay if supply is in excess. Demonstrate extended grazing techniques. Ability to demonstrate grazing area allocation and stocking rate on the farm.

4 Managed Grazing System i.e. Rotational/paddock grazing systems.

Demonstrates permanent or temporary grazing infrastructure e.g. fences, lanes, water troughs etc. to graze smaller areas for shorter periods to increase grass utilisation. Demonstrate knowledge of feed requirements based on number and age of grazing livestock and ability to adjusting feed levels according to grazing conditions and feed requirements.

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 Weighing Technologies

Demonstrates walk over weighing facilities on farm with safe handling pens including drafting gates etc. Demonstrate ability to collect and attribute weights to individual animals. Demonstrate management of livestock using body condition scoring. Demonstrates blood sampling to determine blood mineral profiles of grazing animals.

Desirable Technologies – Grassland Management Sheep

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.

2 Grazing software technology

Demonstrates use of online grazing software technology e.g. 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 (e.g. AgriNet) to assess grazed grass yields

3 Low ammonia emission slurry spreading technology

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

4 Worm Burden Assessment

Demonstrate the use of Faecal Egg Count (FEC) to monitor worm burdens and establish efficacy of anthelmintic use and identify possible issues with resistance. Demonstrate grazing policies to minimise infection and wormer rotations to minimise resistance.

5. Animal Health Plan

Demonstrate the inclusion of an animal health plan developed and discussed regularly with a veterinary professional. To include vaccination and anthelmintic use policy, biosecurity and quarantine policy. Standard operating procedures for common infection/disease outbreaks on farm.