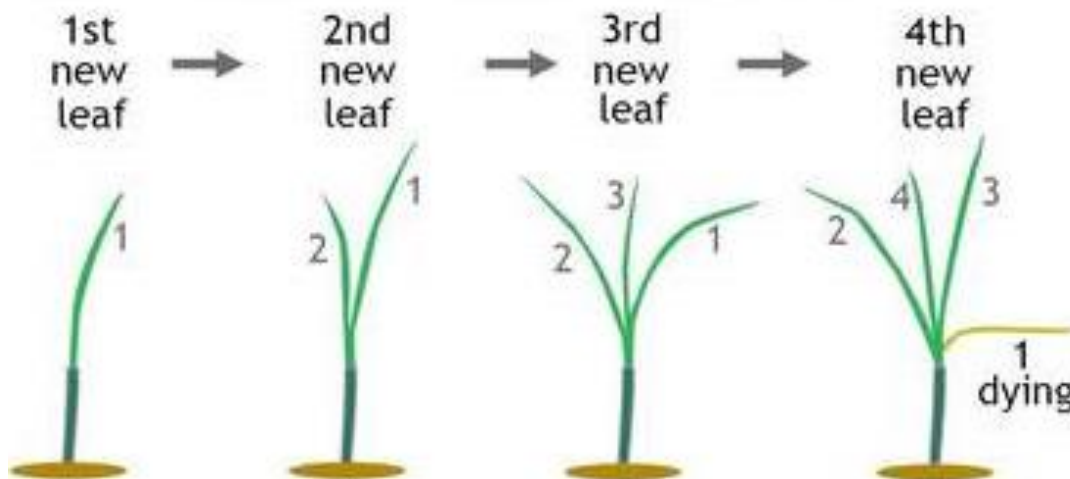




Milk for Profit programme



Grass is Perishable! – graze at 3 leaf stage

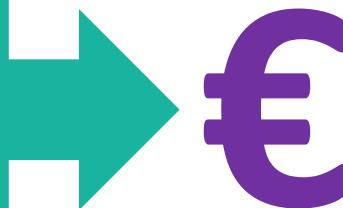
<1300 – cows work harder

**OPTIMUM COVER =
1300-1600 kg DM/ha**

**>1600 – reduced quality,
utilisation and milk = drop in €**

Good Grazing Infrastructure

- More days at grass
- Increase grass utilisation
- Greater animal performance
- Reduce workload
- Reduce lameness



Grass is THE key Driver of profitability on Irish Farms
A well designed farm road network is ESSENTIAL

DESIGN Considerations

- Parlour Location
- Cow Flow
- Paddock Shape and size
- Access
- Future Expansion
- Surface

CONSTRUCTION Considerations

- Base of the road
- Fall on the road
- Finished level
- Width

€10 - €30 /m run

Map

Roadways

Grazing's
/paddock

Water
troughs

Shape

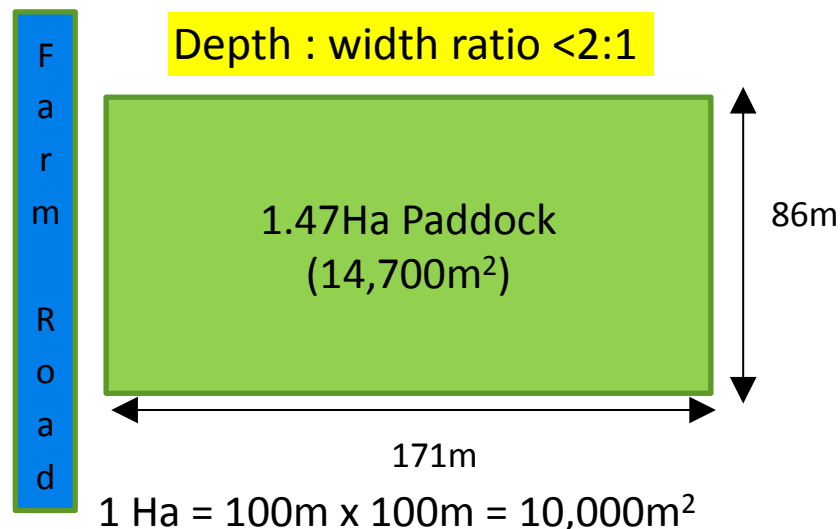
Entrances

How to Calculate Paddock Size:

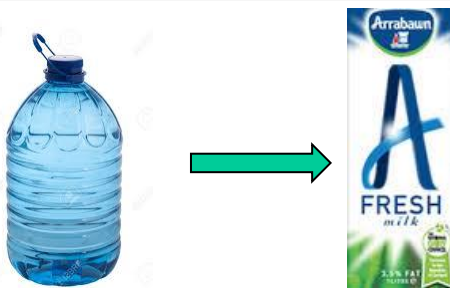
1. Long term cow numbers
2. Calculate daily grass demand
- 80 cows x 17kg DM = 1,380kg DM (24hrs)
3. Establish number of grazing's per paddock
4. Calculate grass required for 36hr grazing
- 1,380 x 1.5 days = 2,040kg DM
5. Ideal Pre-Grazing Cover is 1,400kg DM/ha
6. Divide total amt. of grass required in paddock by Ideal Pre Grazing Cover
- 2,040kg DM ÷ 1,400 = 1.46 Ha



Depth : width ratio <2:1



	Pros	Cons
12 h		
36 h		



A cow needs 4-4.5L of water for every litre of milk she produces!

What effects water availability?

1. Flow rate

- 0.2L/cow/minute
- 100 cow herd – 20L/minute

2. Pipe size - Loop system

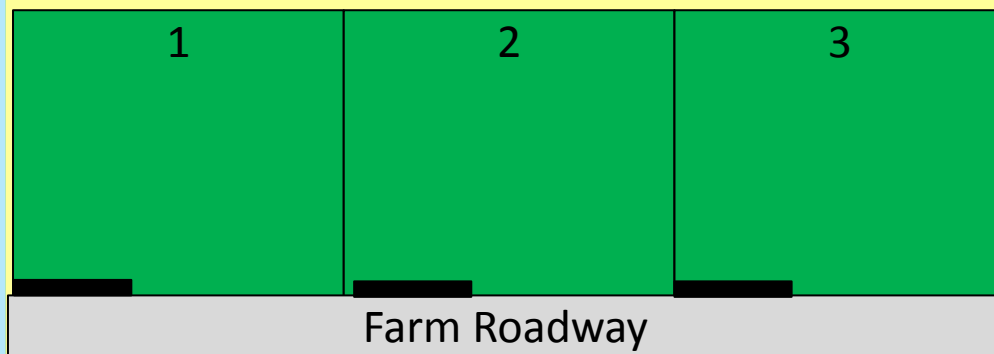
- Main pipes – 32mm internal diameter
- Branch pipes – 25mm

3. Trough size

- 9L reserve per cow
- Enough space for 5% of cows to drink at the same time

4. 12.5mm medium pressure or full flow type ballcocks

Position of the water trough



Tips!

- Put hardcore/dust around trough to keep level and clean
- Install flowmeter to detect leaks



€275 per Ha

One extra tonne of grass DM utilised /ha = €161 extra farm profit/ha

Host farm: _____ ha x €161 = € _____

TYPICAL COSTS *



ROADWAYS: €25/m €600/ha



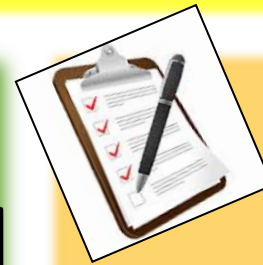
WATER: €2/m pipe €300/ha



FENCING: €1.30/m €300/ha



TOTAL COSTS: €1200/ha
€400/cow



PLAN

Physical

- Plan and map out infrastructure required
- Decide who will carry out the work

Financial

- Price out proposed expenditure
- Use a term loan - NOT cash flow to fund development
- Have a full farm financial plan

*Costs can be lower where own labour and materials used, larger scale or some infrastructure already in place