

Soil Nutrient Management: Potash & Sulphur

Potash: for optimum yields and efficient use of N

20% of fields on dairy farms in 2017/18 displayed K deficiency and could result in yield losses of up to 30%



33% of fields on dairy farms in 2017/18 displayed high soil K (> Index 2+)

Applying too much potash to grazed fields in spring can be a contributing factor in Grass Tetany



Test your soil and monitor nutrient inputs. Nutrient surpluses can be as harmful as nutrient deficits

Sulphur deficiency is widespread across NI and can result in yield losses of 30%

A sulphur-containing fertilizer should be applied routinely to all grazed and silage fields particularly for 1st cut

The sulphur will cost an extra £5/ha per cut but could prevent yield losses worth up to £90/ha per cut



Soil Nutrient Management: Lime and Slurry

43% of grassland in NI currently requires lime and could be losing 2 t DM/ha/yr

The recommended soil pH for permanent grassland is pH 6.0



The extra grass potentially achievable through correcting soil pH is potentially worth a 5-fold return on the lime investment

Maintaining soil pH close to pH 6.0 is essential for nutrient uptake and optimal grass growth

Slurry is an excellent source of nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P) and potassium (K)

Make the most of slurry nutrients by spreading in March and April prior to spring growth

Use low trajectory spreading techniques such as trailing shoe



Trailing shoe reduces N loss and can improve yields by up to 25%