

Forward Planning

As we move into September and the harvest is drawing to a close we have to think of the year ahead and make plans and decisions on several fronts.

1. Rotation

Having a good rotation is the key to successful tillage farming. Having a break crop to allow for first wheats is a must in the current climate. This break crop can vary from oilseed rape to oats to beans to peas. To get the best from your break crop you should have a gap of at least 4 – 6 years between crops of oilseed rape. And also, between beans and peas. A gap of 3 – 4 years is acceptable for oats. Two examples of this are:

Rotation Planner Example	
Year 1	Oilseed Rape* OR Beans*
Year 2	Winter Wheat
Year 3	Winter Barley
Year 4	Beans OR Oats
Year 5	Winter Wheat
Year 6	Winter Barley OR Spring Barley

Other break crops like beet and maize can be used too. The moral of the story is to pick the rotation that suits you and your land.

2. Sowing Dates

The rate of oilseed rape sown should be raised to combat the slowdown of the growing season. If you want to sow winter barley in September you should use a BYVD tolerant variety. **KWS Joyau** and **Oracle** being the first two varieties to come on the market. **KWS Joyau** has proven itself over the past years as a good quality high yielding variety.

3. Autumn Management Tips

Oilseed Rape should be emerged with **Katamaran Turbo** to lay a good foundation of weed control.

Be proactive about slugs if ground conditions are tricky due to adverse weather, stubble in min till or poor cover crop desiccation. Spread slug pellets. When you see the damage you are usually too late to fix the problem.

All winter sown cereals should get an aphicide at the 2 to 4 leaf stage (Gs 12 – 14). If you don't spray, you are leaving the crop open

to BYVD infection. Early drilled crops should get two applications of spray to help prevent infection.

To get the most from your autumn cereal herbicide the answer is pre-emerge.

Using **Firebird Met** or **Flight** pre-emerge gives you a much better control of weeds especially grass seeds. This is a must for winter barley as you only get one chance with grass weeds.



When you form a plan to sow a crop, form a plan to manage it too!

Feed your land with Agriphos



Agriphos is a perfect solution for building soil P and K indices this autumn.

Agriphos is a concentrated fertiliser of totally organic origin providing mainly Phosphorous and Potassium, with Sulphur, Magnesium, Calcium, Sodium and significant quantities of essential trace elements required by crops and grass. Agriphos is a very cost effective source of P and K while also providing soil conditioning benefits through its high calcium content. Agriphos is a very flexible product and can be used in grassland, cereals, oilseed rape, peas, beans, and potatoes. It is a coarse powder which allows for full coverage of the soil by all nutrients which allows for optimum crop uptake. Agriphos should be spread via a bulk spreader and it is available bulk delivered or contract spread. Agriphos is Bord Bia approved and it is exempt from the fertiliser register.

Contact your Technical Agri Advisor for more information.

Agriphos specification Average composition

Primary Nutrients		
Phosphate as P	% product	4.5
Potassium as K	% product	10.0
Secondary nutrients		
CaO	% product	21
MgO	% product	5
Ng ₂ O	% product	2
SO ₃	% product	7
Micronutrients		
B	mg kg ⁻² dry matter	153
Co	mg kg ⁻² dry matter	<5
Cu	mg kg ⁻² dry matter	457
Fe	mg kg ⁻² dry matter	5.691
Mn	mg kg ⁻² dry matter	2.309
Mo	mg kg ⁻² dry matter	19
Zn	mg kg ⁻² dry matter	1.936
Other		
Particle size	mm	0 = 4
Density	Kg ⁻² L	1.5
Dry Matter	%	90

Ad-lib feeding for success

For finishing well bred beef stock, it is hard to beat the efficiency gains that ad-lib feeding will bring in terms of performance and daily live weight gains. Initially it should be decided what age or date you plan to slaughter the animals. This allows you to work back to plan for regular weighing and changes in the diet. On average an animal will eat 2 - 2.2% of its body weight per day. For a 600 kg steer, this is about 12 kg of DM per day. It's important to take into account the age, type, breed and stage of the animal when deciding on a particular finishing diet. The diet should be balanced carefully for energy, protein, fibre, minerals and water. When ad-lib feeding concentrates, roughage in the form of hay/straw should be offered to allow rumination. Ad lib feeding will also reduce your demand for silage while also allowing for faster finishing periods compared to a concentrate and silage diet.

Finishing periods of 60 to 90 days are suitable for heifers and steers while longer periods of 100 - 150 days are more suitable for bulls. For animals over 20 months of age, **Quinns Supreme Maize Beef** is a perfect solution for an ad-lib finishing situation. It is a 12% crude protein high energy ration with high maize inclusion level to drive on fat deposition in the finishing period. Older animals have less demand for protein as the focus is now on achieving good fat covers rather than growing the frame of the animal. For animals below 20 months of age, **Quinns Supreme Bull Beef** is an ideal ration. This is a 15% crude protein feed which provides a higher level of quality protein to help drive muscle and skeletal

growth. Both rations are suitable for ad-lib feeding, and contain **Quinns RumiGain** package. RumiGain is a specially formulated superior beef mineral package which includes Yea-Sacc, Acid Buff and protected copper and zinc. RumiGain maximises feed efficiency gains, reduces risk of acidosis and aids overall herd health.

Contact your Technical Agri Advisor for more information.



Scan the QR code to view our beef feed range

Fodder options for winter - time to take stock

Now is the time to prepare your winter fodder options on your farm. 2024 has been a tough year for growing grass and in some cases farmers have had to dip into their winter fodder reserves to reduce demand on grass. It is worthwhile now to complete a feed budget for the winter to assess fodder quantities and quality to ensure you will have enough feed to get your herd through the winter. This allows you to proactively make plans or arrangements for your fodder situation where a shortfall may arise. Testing silage quality is a must when preparing winter feed diets.

Forage crops such as forage rape, leafy turnips and other brassica hybrids may be a useful winter fodder option. For crops intended for grazing, a fertiliser application to drive on dry matter yield is very important. An application of 2-3 bags/ac of 18-6-12 or similar

would be very beneficial. These are low dry matter, high energy and high protein crops. Roughage in the form of hay, straw or silage should be offered to stock when grazing these crops due to their low fibre content. Try to avoid letting the brassica crops go to flower before grazing as it's poisonous to stock. When the forage crops are fully grazed, this provides a good opportunity to reseed grassland into a clean seedbed the following spring

Contact your Technical Agri Advisor for more information.



Scan the QR code to access our free online fodder budgeting tool

Late lactation feeding - keep your milk yields up!

Late lactation is a perfect time to consider the overall body condition score of the herd and to make management decisions accordingly. Efforts to be made to manipulate body condition score should be made pre-dry off. Typically late lactation cows are in a positive energy balance and energy demand from pregnancy is at its lowest. For cows with a body condition score lower than 3.0 it may be worth considering increasing energy intakes through supplementary feeding or moving them on to OAD milking for some period. For cows with a BCS greater than 3.75 it may be worth considering reducing energy intakes to avoid over conditioning cows.

It is now the time to start considering your autumn grazing plan in order to extend the grazing season for as long as possible. It is important to walk your farm to budget your grass reserves and make a feed plan for the autumn going forward. It is also the last chance to apply fertiliser before the 15th of September closing date. Every 3 kg of concentrates you feed drops grass demand by 2.5kgDM/day per cow.

Milk yield response to concentrate feeding this time of year is typically 1 litre to 1 kg of concentrate fed. If full time grazing, 2-3 kg of concentrates is adequate where grass quality and quantity are not a concern. If grass quality is poor or grass reserves are tight, these gaps can be filled with concentrates while maintaining milk solids. **Quinns Supreme Spring Breeder** pellet is a perfect feed for this situation. Supreme Spring Breeder is a high energy feed (.96 UFL as fed) with high inclusion levels of maize and barley. If

the majority of the diet is still grass, a 14% crude protein feed should suffice. If higher levels of maize or grass silage are in the diet a higher protein feed may be needed. The focus should be to keep energy intakes as high as possible into the latter stages of the year to prevent a slide in milk yield.



Scan the QR code to view our dairy feed range

Tullamore Show Winners



Quinns sponsored Class Number 415 – Irish Dutch Spotted Champion, Rachel Gallagher, Co Donegal with John Tobin, Quinns Sales Manager



Quinns sponsored Class Number 402 – Blue Faced Leicester Champion Dean Kerrigan, Co Galway, 2nd Place, Kevin Staunton, Co Mayo



Quinns sponsored Class – Shearling Ewe Champion, Carol Gillespie