



THE FERTILISER ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND

5 STEPS TO INCREASING NITROGEN USE EFFICIENCY ON FARMS

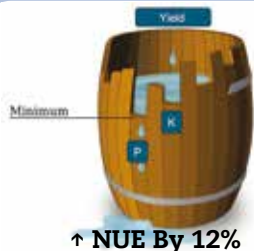
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CORRECT SOIL PH

- Primary step to maximise N use efficiency
- Target soil pH 6.3-6.8 grassland, 6.5-6.8 tillage & 5.5-5.8 peat soils
- Consult soil test report to confirm lime application rates
- Contact your lime contractor to organise lime spreading



↑ NUE 16%



↑ NUE By 12%

OPTIMISE SOIL P & K FERTILITY

- Correct soil P & K deficiencies. Target P & K soil index 3
- Develop a Nutrient Management Plan for each field on the farm
- Utilise P & K in organic manures on soils with low P & K
- Select suitable P-K fertiliser compounds to balance nutrient supply

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ACCOUNT FOR SOIL NITROGEN SUPPLY

- Fertiliser N required will change according to soil N supply
- Determine soil N index based on previous cropping history
- Adjust for N supplied by organic manures
- Reduce fertiliser N applications where clover is present



↑ NUE 25% Grassland/
NUE 19% Tillage



↓ N requirement 26%

UTILISE ORGANIC MANURE RESOURCES

- Target organic manure applications to replenish / supply P and K
- Apply in Spring and use LESS methods to maximise manure N supply
- Replenish SOM/Carbon reserves with organic manure applications on silage ground and tillage fields

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MAINTAIN SULPHUR BALANCE

- A balanced N to S ratio (10:1) in grassland and crops is critical for driving fertiliser N use efficiency
- Apply S applications with N fertiliser to grazing / silage / tillage crops
- Lighter soils will require S applications more frequently (up to 20kg S /ha)
- S applications should coincide with periods of high N use (April to July)



↑ NUE 14-30% poorly- to well-drained soil types

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