



# NUTRIENT WISE DEMOS 2011

PRESENTED BY CREEDY ASSOCIATES



## OPTIONS FOR GRASSLAND RESEEDING

This demonstration set up at the main demonstration site aimed to show two (ploughing/seeding and direct drilling) different methods for renewing a grass ley.

### KNOWING WHEN TO RENEW A GRASS LEY

- Grass measuring - is that field under performing
- What proportion of the original grasses drilled in the field are still present
- What percentage of rye grass is within the ley

### BENEFITS OF RENEWING GRASSLAND THAT IS UNDER PERFORMING

- Increased grass yields
- Introduce new grass and clover varieties
- Improved palatability and quality
- Reduce nitrogen requirement if clover is included in the mix.
- Opportunity to tackle weeds
- Opportunity to remove soil compaction

### OPTIONS FOR RENEWING GRASSLAND

- Ploughing in previous crop or grass ley and establishing a new ley either via broadcasting or drilling seed.
- Direct drilling new ley into previous crop residue either with minimal or no cultivation.

### THINGS TO CONSIDER BEFORE RESEEDING – SET YOURSELF UP FOR SUCCESS

1. Asses the current sward. What portion of the originally sown grasses are still within the sward? – swards with less than 30% rye grass should be reseeded.
2. Soil test the field to assess the pH and Phosphate and Potash indices and correct any imbalances. Target pH is 6.5 and Phosphate and Potash indexes should be at least 2.
3. Assess the weed content and whether the proposed reseeding method will remove these.
4. Assess the existing soil structure to identify soil compaction on the surface or in the top soil or subsoil.

**BGS Nutrient Wise Demos are part of the South West Agricultural Resource Management (SWARM) Knowledge Hub [www.swarmhub.co.uk](http://www.swarmhub.co.uk), which is a SW RDA initiative, managed by Duchy College Rural Business School, and funded through the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE).**



European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: Europe investing in rural areas.



## FIELD DEMONSTRATIONS 2011 AT THE MAIN DEMONSTRATION SITE

- Demonstration plots were set up in October 2010 to compare two methods of renewing a grass ley. One plot was ploughed and reseeded while the other was direct drilled using a Vaderstad direct drill.
- A section of the paddock was left uncultivated to allow ongoing observation of clover plots established during the summer of 2009.
- A section of all the plots were sub soiled pre establishing the new leys.

### 2011 Demonstration Plot Site Map

SPRAYED OFF AND	ORIGINAL	PLOUGH AND
SUBSOILED		
DIRECT DRILL	CLOVER PLOTS	RESEED

### TREATMENTS RECEIVED BY EACH PLOT (excluding fertiliser and seed costs)

Complete Reseed		Direct Drill	
Operation	£/ha	Operation	£/ha
Plough	57	Spray with Glyphosate	10
Roll	17	Operational cost of spraying	13
Harrow ( 2 passes)	44	Graze with dry cows	0
Roll	17	Seed cross drilled in two directions using a Vaderstad direct drill	104
Broadcast seed	26		
Roll	17		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>178</b>		<b>127</b>

### WHAT WERE THE PROS AND CONS OF PLOUGHING?

#### PROS

-Ploughing can help correct soil structural problems that have developed over time. Direct drilling will not.

#### CONS

-Ploughing/reseeding is more expensive than direct drilling.