

## Overview

This standard covers managing and monitoring grass and forage grazing plans for livestock production. Grass and forage grazing management is a key area in determining the profitability of livestock enterprises.

This standard covers a variety of grass and forage grazing systems in use on livestock farms, especially dairy farms, and includes producing, managing and monitoring grass and forage grazing plans. It also includes calculating requirements, evaluating possible crops and grass budgeting, including how to use information on grass covers.

This standard is suitable for farmers, farm managers and farm advisers.

## Manage and monitor grassland and forage grazing plans

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### Performance criteria

*You must be able to:*

1. manage and monitor the organisation grass and forage grazing plans, matching the chosen livestock production system
2. evaluate new technologies and assess the likely benefits to the management and monitoring of the grass and forage grazing plans
3. seek specialist advice where required
4. calculate grass and forage requirements based on the chosen livestock production system and available resources
5. use grass budgeting techniques, including measuring grass covers, and take action as required
6. identify and confirm the availability of the resources required to implement the grass and forage grazing plans
7. communicate the grass and forage grazing plans to those involved with the implementation
8. establish measures to maintain the required levels of hygiene and bio-security and confirm that they have been implemented
9. confirm that working methods maintain health and safety and are consistent with relevant legislation, codes of practice and organisational requirements
10. monitor the outcomes of the grass and forage grazing plans and compare them to relevant benchmarks
11. confirm that records are maintained and stored as required by relevant legislation, codes of practice, quality assurance requirements and organisational policies

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### Knowledge and understanding

*You need to know and understand:*

1. how to manage and monitor grass and forage grazing plans to ensure profitability of the enterprise
2. how to source new technology and how to evaluate its usefulness to the management and monitoring of the grass and forage grazing plans
3. how to monitor and examine grass and forage crops and the factors that affect forage production
4. the potential yields, costs and nutritional benefits of a range of suitable grass and forage crops
5. the different livestock production systems in use and their grass and forage requirements
6. the methods of calculating annual grass and forage requirements, matching the livestock production system to the requirements of the grass and forage grazing plans
7. the function of grass budgeting, taking into account factors affecting grass availability, growth rates, quality and new livestock intakes during the grazing season
8. the sources of information and specialist advice on the development of grass and forage grazing plans
9. how to determine the human, financial, material and capital resources necessary to achieve the grass and forage grazing plans
10. the methods of communicating grass and forage grazing plans to those involved in their implementation
11. the methods of maintaining hygiene and bio-security and the reasons why this is important
12. your responsibilities under relevant environmental, health and safety and food hygiene legislation, codes of practice and organisational requirements
13. how to measure and interpret grass and forage crop cover throughout the growing season
14. the methods of monitoring livestock performance from conserved forages and grazed grass and forage, including using the relevant records and comparative data
15. the suitability of the site and surrounding environment for livestock grazing
16. the requirements for reporting and recording and the length of

time that records should be retained

## Glossary

### Forage crops that are grazed could include:

- brassicas e.g. kale
- stubble turnips
- swede
- forage rape
- forage beet
- forage rye
- forage pea/bean
- chicory
- lucerne
- clover
- sainfoin

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**Suite** Agricultural Management

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