



Biagro® PhosN

Biagro® PhosN is a highly concentrated culture of free living Micro Organisms designed to convert insoluble inorganic forms of Phosphate to simple soluble forms - increasing Phosphate reserves in the soil.

Most soils have plenty of P in them but they lack the micro-organisms to disassociate this P in to a form the plant can use.

David Baker is currently milking 80 Holstein just outside Croagh, county Limerick. David originally contacted Glenside's distributor in Limerick Creamery foods, as he had discovered the Albrecht® soil survey and wanted to investigate the benefits further.

As a new entrant to dairy farming 5 year's previously, David wanted to maximise the potential from his farm in terms of grass grown, cow health and performance. However, he was encountering serious challenges during dry weather on this very dry farm. Average rainfall in this region is lower than the national average and in dry summers grass growth became non-existent in July.

David like all new customers started by taking a number of soil samples off the worst performing parts of the farm, to be

FARM FACTS

80 Holstein Cows

25ha Milking Platform

Milking Platform Stocking Rate of 3.2 Cows/ha

Heifers Reared Outside Blocks of Land

Silage Cut Off Outside Blocks of Land

tested using Glenside patented Albrecht® soil survey. This is used to identify the imbalances that are within the soil and the limiting factors that could be affecting production. Half of the Baker farm was already adequately balanced for Calcium and Magnesium, but was suffering from low levels of Potassium, Boron and Copper and excessively high levels of Iron which were all having a negative effect on the amount of grass grown. The other half of the farm also had these deficiencies but was also suffering from low Magnesium levels.

David set about correcting the imbalances. GT Boron and GT Copper were applied to rectify trace element deficiencies. David started applying a specially formulated fertiliser, applying the correct nutrients to adequately feed the grass for maintenance and to build his Potassium levels.

Magnesium was included in one of his fertiliser mixes as a nutrient, it rarely applied to grassland yet deficient on a large number of soil samples tested. Compaction was identified in a number of fields. All the grazing block was aerated using slit aeration in the first year, this practice has continued every year since, which is leading to open friable soil that allows earth worms and soil biology to flourish.

Slurr-Morr® slurry inoculant is now added to all tanks to aid with the breakdown of raw organic matter to Humus, to decrease agitation times and to help with nutrient retention while spreading.

David said "the slurry now takes far less time to agitate and it can be spread on higher covers of grass in spring time as it is far quicker to break down and disappear".

"Grass growth has dramatically increased in summer months, I had to cut 200 surplus bales just to keep onto of grass"

RESULTS

- PEAK RECORDED MILK YIELD IN JUNE OF 31.6 LITRES PER DAY @ 3.35% PROTEIN AND 3.44% BUTTERFAT (2.2KG/MS PER DAY)
- 200 SURPLUS BALES CUT OFF MILKING PLATFORM
- CONSISTENT GRASS GROWTH THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER
- REDUCED DEPENDENCE ON BUFFER FEEDING AT SHOULDERS OF THE YEAR

