

The Benefits of Drainage

Fact Sheet # 5

Benefits Gained Through Drainage

The amount of benefit varies considerably according to many factors and circumstances such as the weather, soil, and land use. It is therefore necessary for every case to be considered separately and for each individual to apply appropriate monetary values to the benefits obtainable.

Benefits to be evaluated include :

Stocking density can be considerably increased

The grazing season is extended in the autumn and spring by virtue of earlier 'start up' and better ground conditions. The resulting saving of purchased feed is an important factor. In addition the potential exists for significant changes to calving dates.

The reduced risk and degree of pugging by stock is valuable not only because feed is not destroyed under foot, but because of the prevention of damage to soil structure. Experiments in The U.K. have shown that pugging can destroy up to 50% of available feed.

Better yields and better swards provide more nutritional grazing.

Yields of hay or silage are increased and harvesting of these can be carried with optimum timing.

Nitrogen, so essential to grassland, can be applied at the correct time and its effectiveness improved by not being washed off or excessively diluted.

Health risks are reduced :

- Spread of disease by stagnant water is reduced
- Parasitic larvae do not survive in dry conditions
- Snails carrying liver fluke do not thrive in dry conditions
- Feet problems are significantly reduced
- General hygiene for dairy cows is improved

Stock are more contented when they have good clean grazing and do not have to struggle in boggy conditions. Contentment leads to better yields.

more grass less mud ... guaranteed

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