

# Grazing management in an automatic milking system

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# Introduction

- System Layout
- Objectives
- Grazing Management
  - Spring
  - Summer
  - Autumn
- Overall performance



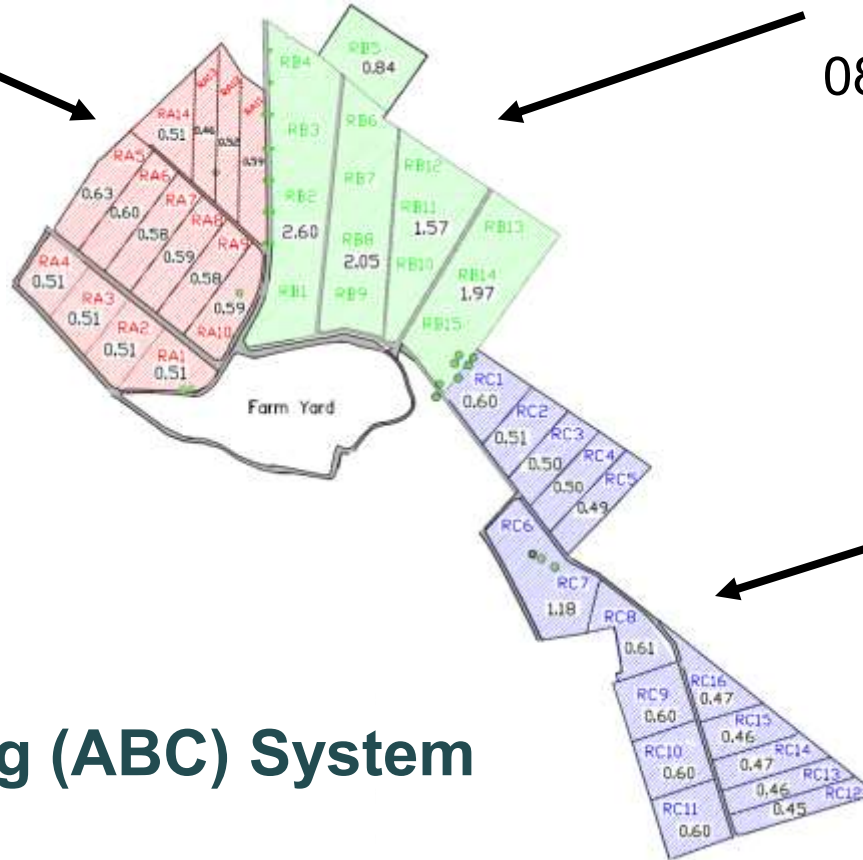
# Farm Layout

Section A

Section B

00:00 to 08:00  
8 hours

08:00 to 16:00  
8 hours



Section C  
16:00 to 00:00  
8 hours

## 3-Way Grazing (ABC) System

# Objectives

- Grow large quantities of grass
- Utilise as grazed grass
- Long grazing season
  
- Optimise milking frequency
  - Milk 80 cows per robot
  - Milking frequency 1.5 times/day

# Objectives



Only **300 - 400**  
kg/cow/lactation



- Grass - Main component of diet
- Grassland management is vital



# Grazing Management - Spring

- Grazing start date: 1<sup>st</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> February
- Supplementation
  - ~ 3kg/cow/day
  - Reduced as grass growth ↑
- Grazing techniques during bad weather
  - On/off grazing
  - Back fencing



# Grazing Management - Summer

- Cow Diet
  - Grass -17.5kg DM/cow/day
  - Concentrate - 0.5kg/cow/day
- Farm walked weekly
  - 3 grazing blocks managed independently
  - Grass surpluses identified
  - Removed as bale silage



**Pre Grazing Herbage Mass  
1200 - 1500kg DM/ha**







Post Sward Grazing  
Height 4 - 4.5cm

# Summer Grazing - Daily Management

- Grass allocations
  - 2 sections allocated in morning - B + C
  - 1 allocation in afternoon - A
- Paddock Sweeping
  - Occurs in morning (Block B+C)
  - Afternoon (Block A)
- Grazing performance monitored daily
  - Cows back graze if post height >5cm



# Grazing Management - Autumn

- Manage grass
  - Ensure extended autumn grazing
- Supplementation
  - Only where necessary
- Grazing season finish
  - 21<sup>st</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> November



# 2014 Performance

- Days at grass : 283 days
- Average post grazing sward height: 4.93cm
- Grass Grown: 14.8 tonnes/DM/ha
  
- Milk yield: 4,400 L/cow
- Milk solids yield: 380kg/cow
  
- Concentrate supplementation fed
  - 365 kg/cow



Thank You &  
Questions