

Knowledge Exchange Newsletter

December 2022 Roundup



As the first calendar year of the KE program comes to a close, here's a round-up of the year, and a look ahead to what's to come in 2023

May - Soils & Nutrients

Soil sampling was carried out on 123 fields on the Isle of Man. Thanks to Caroline Perry for her help with sampling. Of the fields sampled, only a quarter (30) were at the optimum pH 6 for grassland and half were deficient in phosphate (P). DEFA can provide a grant to farmers to support the purchase of lime.

Paul Newell-Price, principal soil scientist at ADAS, joined Emma, James & Tony to host a practical soil health demo at Chrissy Cannell's at Ballacarnane. Emma Jones also presented on Nutrient Management Planning.

Reseeding plans were developed for the development farm, and a herbal v conventional ley trial established at Ballacarnane

The lime grant and other nutrient management grants are open for applications. All the resources from the demo and presentation, including videos, are available on the Google Drive digital library.



If you haven't yet got access to the digital library of resources, pop an e-mail to manxfarming@adas.co.uk to be added

All event materials and other useful resources are saved on the drive so you can find them at a later date.



August - Royal Manx Show

James & Cheryl enjoyed a very warm couple of days, meeting plenty of new and familiar faces. We thoroughly enjoyed the show, and learnt a lot from the range of Manx stock & produce on display.



SEPTEMBER - SHEEP & SILAGE

Daniel & Alice hosted the event at Ballavitchell, where Emma demoed pre-tupping healthchecks for ewes and rams, body condition scoring and feed budgeting for the winter. After lunch Tony talked about forage sampling, interpreting silage analysis and calculating forage quantities.

There is a DEFA grant available for forage sampling and anyone who has their forage analysed can also ask for rationing advice from an ADAS senior consultant. The rationing tools are available on the Google drive.

NOVEMBER - YF STUDY TOUR

We welcomed 11 young farmers to the Welsh borders for a study tour. They visited two beef and sheep farms, learning about grassland management and different farm business structures. We visited the Welsh Winter Fair and met some of the NFU Cymru Next Generation group. We also enjoyed a talk from Ally Hunter-Blair over breakfast, who gave us the lowdown on social media, marketing and self-promotion. We packed a lot into just 2 days!



Key dates for 2023:

- 31st December 2022 - applications close for 2023 development farms
- Late Jan/early Feb 2023 - KE Event, planning nutrition to prepare for lambing & calving. The YF group will also present their learning from the study tour
- Spring 2023 - KE events focusing on setting KPI's and grassland management
- Early Summer 2023 - Dairy Day
- August 2023 - Royal Manx Show
- Autumn 2023 - KE events covering the importance of weighing stock, and assessing whether herbal leys are an effective part of a grassland management plan