










Grazing and forage year planner

Get the most you can from grazed grass and silages. Use this dairy year planner to make sure you are doing the right jobs at the right time. Fill in the dates and tick off the tasks once completed.

January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
<p>Grazing tasks</p> <p>Task 1</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> DATE Fencing, tracks and water troughs MOT to be carried out before turnout</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>  <p>Task 2</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> DATE Analyse borehole water</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Task 2</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> DATE Finalise spring rotation planner</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Notes</p>	<p>Grazing tasks</p> <p>Task 1</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> DATE Capitalise on grazed grass by turning out to pasture as soon as possible when covers are around 2,400–2,600 kg DM/ha</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> DATE Achieve target residuals of 1,500 kg DM/ha at the start of the season</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> DATE Soil sample 25% of the farm (rotating to ensure each field is sampled every 4 years)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Task 2</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> DATE Aim for 30% of the grazing platform to be grazed by the end of February</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Silage tasks</p> <p>Task 1</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> DATE Begin nutrient applications for grass, as per nutrient management plan and in line with NVZ's regulations</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>  <p>Task 2</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> DATE Discuss your requirements and expectations and agree a price for silage-making with your contractor</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>  <p>Notes</p>	<p>Grazing tasks</p> <p>Task 1</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> DATE Wait until soil temperatures rise to 5–6°C for five consecutive days before applying N fertiliser</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> DATE Practise on/off grazing; be flexible in wet weather conditions and use multiple access points</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>  <p>Task 2</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> DATE Aim to graze 60% of the platform by 20 March</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Task 3</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> DATE Ensure livestock magnesium requirements are met to prevent grass staggers</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Silage tasks</p> <p>Task 1</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> DATE Review silage budget for this cropping year and reconcile with silage requirements for the next 12 months</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Task 2</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> DATE Roll silage fields if necessary</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Task 3</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> DATE Prepare clamps for first cut</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Notes</p>	<p>Grazing tasks</p> <p>Task 1</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> DATE Aim to complete first rotation (100% grazed) 7 days before magic day</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Task 2</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> DATE For GB farms, magic day normally arrives between 4 and 20 April. Make a note of when grass supply matches grass demand on your farm for future reference</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Task 3</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> DATE After magic day you will need to shift from managing a deficit to dealing with a surplus</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Task 4</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> DATE Cows should be offered an all-grass diet if appropriate</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>  <p>Silage tasks</p> <p>Task 1</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> DATE Prepare a silage budget for this cropping year and reconcile with silage requirements for the next 12 months</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Notes</p>	<p>Grazing tasks</p> <p>Task 1</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> DATE Reduce rotation length depending on grass growth rates, usually between 18 and 21 days</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>  <p>Task 2</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> DATE Have a dry weather management contingency plan in place to minimise the effect on forage stocks and livestock performance</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Silage tasks</p> <p>Task 1</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> DATE Prepare a silage budget for this cropping year and reconcile with silage requirements for the next 12 months</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Notes</p>	<p>Grazing tasks</p> <p>Task 1</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> DATE Measure grass twice a week when grass growth rates hit 75 kg DM/ha</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Task 2</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> DATE Remove grass surplus as silage. Do not wait to bulk up; focus on the feed supply and quality in the next grazing round</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Silage tasks</p> <p>Task 1</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> DATE Estimate the quantity of silage required for the next 12 months</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Task 2</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> DATE Develop a cropping strategy to produce sufficient silage to meet estimated requirements for the next 12 months</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Task 3</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> DATE Aim to take second cut 30–35 days after first cut</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Task 4</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> DATE Aim to take third cut 30–35 days after second cut</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>  <p>Notes</p>	<p>Grazing tasks</p> <p>Task 1</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> DATE Monitor grazing to ensure residuals are consistently met and that wastage does not build up in the bottom of the sward</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Task 2</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> DATE In a hot summer, consider the implications of heat stress on your stock and have a 'plan B' to reduce exposure</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Silage tasks</p> <p>Task 1</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> DATE Prepare clamps for wholecrop silage</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Task 2</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> DATE Keep an eye on cereal crop ripeness, if harvesting as fermented wholecrop</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Task 3</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> DATE Aim to take fourth cut 30–35 days after third cut (multi-cut system)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Notes</p>	<p>Grazing tasks</p> <p>Task 1</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> DATE The next grazing season starts now with managing autumn pastures</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> DATE Finalise your autumn rotation planner</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Task 2</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> DATE 'Clean out month' and time to ensure pastures are grazed down to target residual – 1,500 kg DM/ha</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Silage tasks</p> <p>Task 1</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> DATE Review grass silage yields and reseed where necessary to improve sward quality</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Task 2</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> DATE Prepare clamps for maize silage</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Notes</p>	<p>Grazing tasks</p> <p>Task 1</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> DATE Highest average farm cover (AFC) should be achieved in mid-to-late September, with a rotation length of more than 35 days from mid-September</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Task 2</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> DATE Assess roadway surface quality, water flow and trough size</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Task 3</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> DATE Apply lime in accordance with your most recent soil pH results. If your analysis is over four years old, retest soil</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Closed period for applying manufactured nitrogen fertilisers starts 15 September for grassland across all soil types until 15 January in NVZs</p> <p>Closed period for applying organic manure with readily available nitrogen content (e.g. slurry, poultry manures) on shallow or sandy soils starts 1 September for grassland in NVZs</p> <p>Silage tasks</p> <p>Task 1</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> DATE Keep an eye on maize crop ripeness to harvest at optimum dry matter</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Task 2</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> DATE When all silage is harvested, review the silage budget for this cropping year and reconcile with silage requirements for the next 12 months</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Task 3</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> DATE Sample silages for analysis and formulate rations</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Notes</p>	<p>Grazing tasks</p> <p>Task 1</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> DATE Start last rotation around 5–10 October and aim to graze and close 60% of the platform in October</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> DATE Graze all covers >3,000 kg DM/ha in October, especially on wet farms</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> DATE Use multiple access points and use back fencing if needed to reduce poaching</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Closed period for applying organic manure with readily available nitrogen content (e.g. slurry, poultry manures) on all other soil types, apart from shallow or sandy soils, starts 15 October for grassland in NVZs</p> <p>Silage tasks</p> <p>Task 1</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> DATE Review silage yields and quality analysis and identify possible areas for improvement next season</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Task 2</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> DATE Soil sample any fields not sampled within the last 3–4 years and develop a nutrient management plan for the following growing season</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>  <p>Notes</p>	<p>Grazing tasks</p> <p>Task 1</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> DATE Aim to graze the remaining 40% of the platform and finish the last rotation by 15–20 November</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>  <p>Task 2</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> DATE Target closing AFC at housing should be around 2,150–2,230 kg DM/ha on 20 November</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Silage tasks</p> <p>Task 1</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> DATE Review silage budget for this cropping year and reconcile with silage requirements for the next 12 months</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Notes</p>	<p>Grazing tasks</p> <p>Task 1</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> DATE Conduct annual tonnage report and set targets for following year and identify paddocks for improvement</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Notes</p>