

# Grasses for the Future

Perennial ryegrasses: current and future genetic potential

## International Conference

Thursday and Friday, 14 and 15 October, 2010  
Cork, Ireland

A unique opportunity for all grassland industry stakeholders (breeders, merchants, advisers, farmers, evaluators, scientists) to come together to discuss the future needs of the sector.



## Introduction

On Thursday and Friday, 14 and 15 October 2010, Teagasc will host a grass breeding and evaluation conference and workshop. The conference will focus on livestock production requirements from perennial ryegrass as a feed source in temperate climates. This conference provides a unique platform for all stakeholders to participate in strengthening progress in the grassland sector.

**Day 1** of the conference will examine grass breeding and evaluation, and the possibilities of influencing a more accelerated uptake of grass breeding progress at farm level. This debate will provide a forum for stakeholders, breeders, evaluators, grassland scientists and the industry to discuss the grassland traits required to improve livestock production systems.

**Day 2** will feature a workshop at which all stakeholders in the chain from breeder to farmer will be able to discuss their priorities for grassland and seek to influence the future advances in variety development. Two site visits focusing on delivering the advances generated by grass breeding to the industry will take place to the Department of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries Crop Variety Evaluation Site at Ballyderown Farm and Teagasc Moorepark's Grassland Research Programme following the workshop.

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## Conference Programme

### Day 1: Thursday, 14 October

at the Silver Springs Hotel, Cork

**Session 1: The ideal grass for livestock production systems**

**Session 2: Breeding grasses for the future**

**Session 3: Identifying the best grasses**

**Session 4: Industry uptake of grass breeding progress**

### Day 2: Friday, 15 October

at Moorepark Conference Centre, Fermoy, Co. Cork

#### **Morning Workshop:**

**The requirements of grassland stakeholders from grass breeding and evaluation**

#### **Afternoon Field Trips:**

**to the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (DAFF) variety evaluation trials and the Grassland Research Programme at Teagasc Moorepark.**

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