



*The World's Largest Open Access Agricultural & Applied Economics Digital Library*

**This document is discoverable and free to researchers across the globe due to the work of AgEcon Search.**

**Help ensure our sustainability.**

**Give to AgEcon Search**

AgEcon Search

<http://ageconsearch.umn.edu>

[aesearch@umn.edu](mailto:aesearch@umn.edu)

*Papers downloaded from **AgEcon Search** may be used for non-commercial purposes and personal study only. No other use, including posting to another Internet site, is permitted without permission from the copyright owner (not AgEcon Search), or as allowed under the provisions of Fair Use, U.S. Copyright Act, Title 17 U.S.C.*

*No endorsement of AgEcon Search or its fundraising activities by the author(s) of the following work or their employer(s) is intended or implied.*



Centre for Agricultural Strategy

University of Reading



Grassland Research Institute

GRI

# Grassland in the British economy

Edited by J L Jollans

Published as  
CAS Paper 10    January 1981

## **Appendix IV**

# **Fertiliser usage on grassland in England and Wales**

**K M Down & A Lazenby**

Fertiliser use on grassland now accounts for well over half the total N and about a third of the total P & K used in England and Wales. The increasing use of N on grassland represents the major change in total fertiliser usage and the possibilities for increasing efficient grassland production with fertilisers are greater than for any tillage crop.

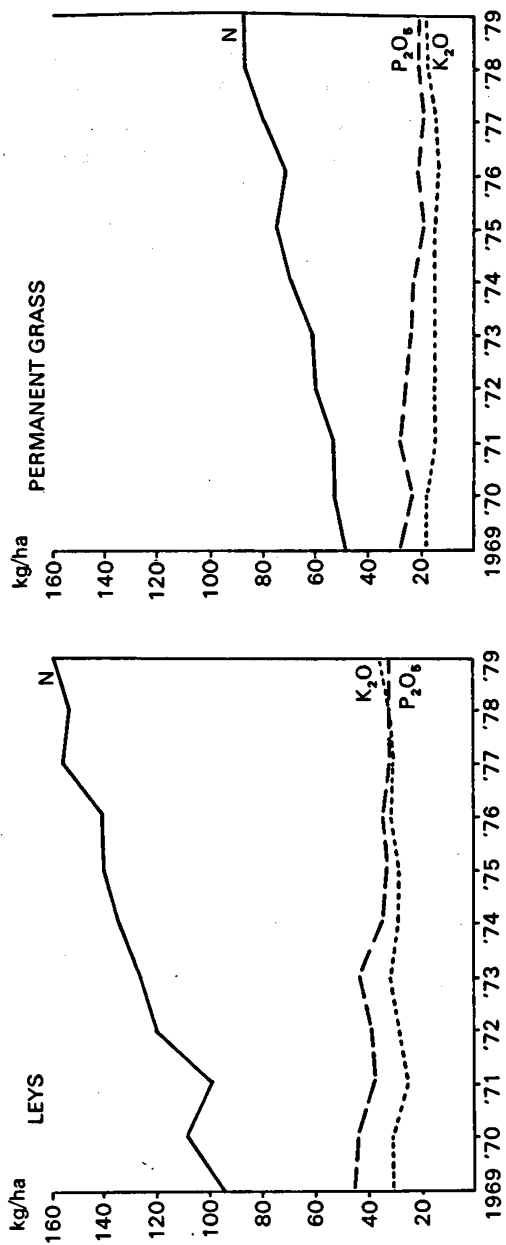
Between 1969 and 1976, N use on grassland increased by nearly 50% (an average rate of 7.5% per year) and by 1976 50% of leys and 25% of permanent grass received more than 100 kg N per ha. On the other hand, the use of P declined by 30% during the same period and that of K very slightly (Figure 1).

The nutrient ratios (N:P:K) for inorganic fertilisers used on grassland showed marked changes between 1969 and 1976 from 1:0.48:0.34 to 1:0.25:0.23 on leys and from 1:0.58:0.36 to 1:0.31:0.19 on permanent grass. Thus the amount of P used per kg N in 1976 was about half that in 1969.

The most useful indicator of the level of productivity is total N use. Between 1969 and 1976 the areas of leys receiving no N declined from 18% to 9% and those of permanent grass from 43% to 34%. More importantly, the proportions receiving more than 100 kg per ha increased from 36% to 52% of leys and from 14% to 25% of permanent grass.

More P & K was used on mown swards than on grazed-only swards in 1976, mainly because more of the mown area was dressed, K dressings being heavier on areas cut for silage. In 1969 there was little difference between proportions of mown and grazed swards receiving P and much of the reduction in P since then has been on grazed grassland.

Figure 1  
Fertiliser use on grassland in England and Wales, 1969-1979



Source: Church & Hills (1980).

## REFERENCES

- Church, B M & Lewis, D A (1977) Fertiliser use on farm crops in England and Wales: information from the Survey of Fertiliser Practice, 1942-1976. *Outlook on Agriculture*, **9**, 186-193.
- Church, B M & Hills, M G (1980) *Fertiliser use on farm crops in England and Wales, 1979*. London: Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.