Managing rushes – containment or suppression?

1. Identify all relevant factors

2. Weight relevant factors as appropriate and choose method best suited to your situation

**Suppression**

**Location factors**
- Soil structure & drainage – moderate/good
- pH – > 4.5
- Nutrient status – fair/good
- Environmentally sensitive – low risk

**Farm factors**
- Farm profitability – viable
- Cost/benefit analysis – positive

**Sward factors**
- % rush infestation – small clumps present
- % competitive grasses – medium/high

**Containment**

**Location factors**
- Soil structure & drainage – Poor
- pH – ≤ 4.5
- Nutrient status – impoverished
- Environmentally sensitive – high risk, close to water course/within a drinking water catchment

**Farm factors**
- Farm profitability – marginal
- Cost/benefit analysis – negative

**Sward factors**
- % rush infestation – high
- % competitive grasses – low
Options to promote Suppression

- Top and remove rushes
- Deal with wet soil conditions e.g. sub-soil, mole drain, field drains if appropriate (get professional advice)
- On basis of soil test address pH and nutrient status
- Introduce additional grass seed mixture
- Apply high standard of grassland management
- If appropriate consider application of suitable herbicide

Requires long term investment in time, money and resources

Options for Containment - opportunistic management strategies

- Graze during late spring early summer
- Top if ground conditions allow
- Bale and remove cut rushes if ground conditions allow

Containment does not require the use of herbicides