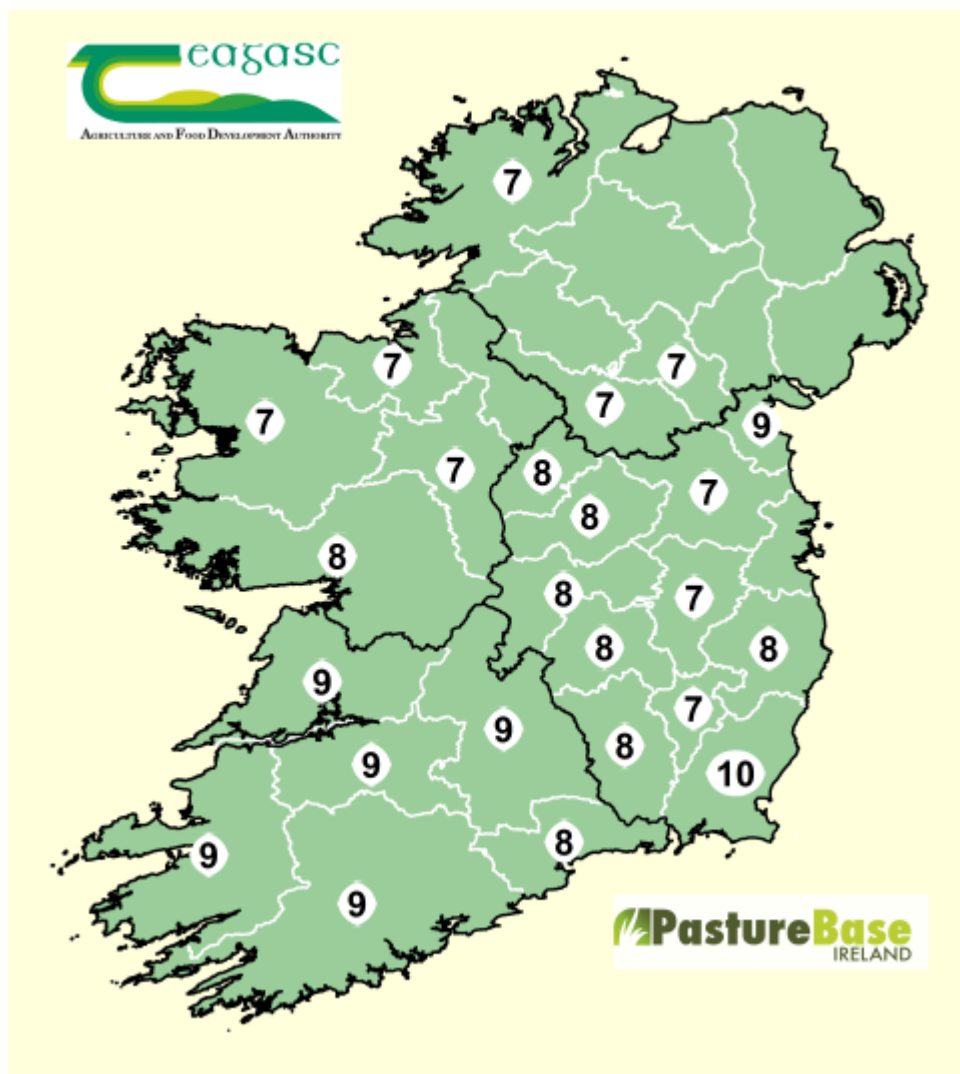


Grass10 Newsletter

318th Edition - 19th November 2024

Grass growth, soil temperature & rainfall predictions for the next 7 days

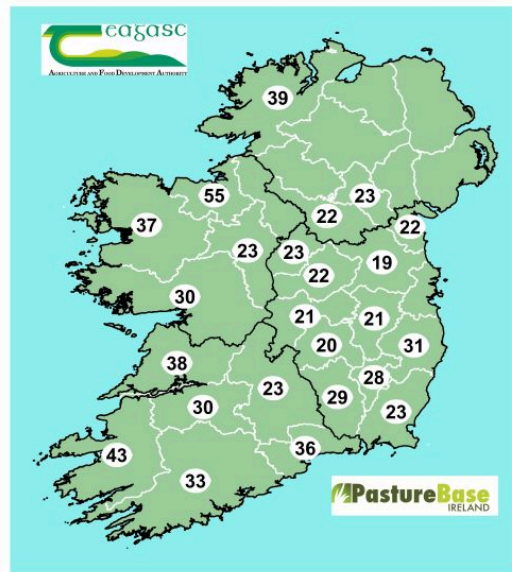
Grass growth predictions
Next week (kg DM/ha/day)



Average soil temperature
Next week (C)



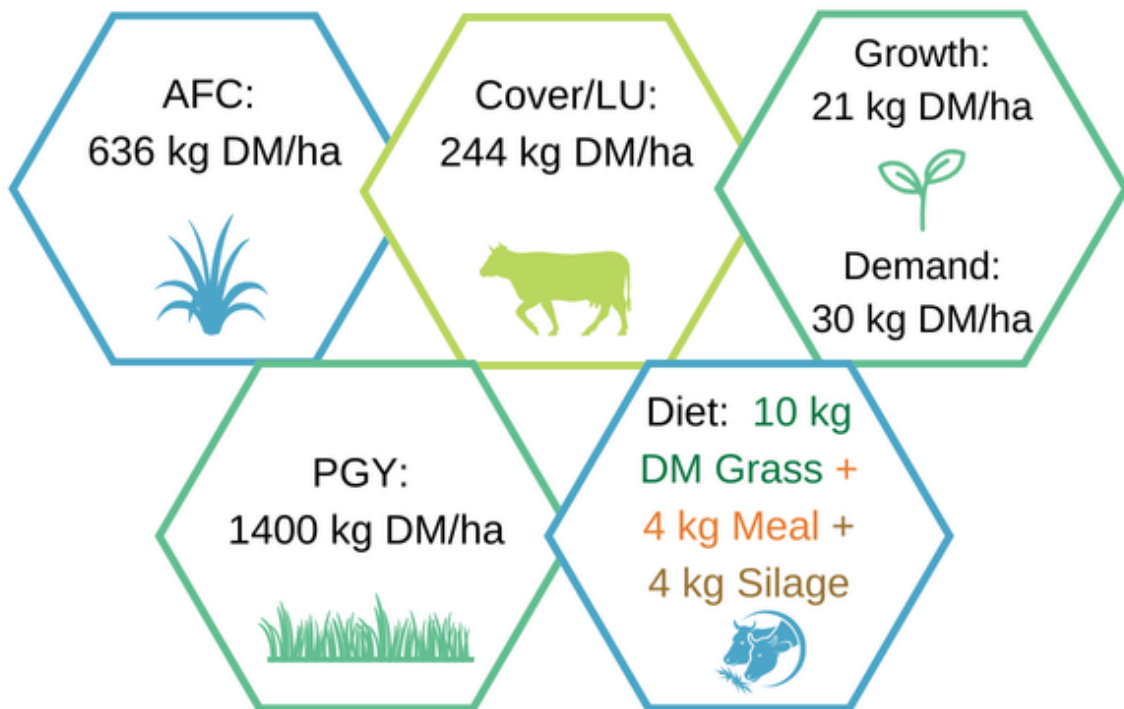
Predicted rainfall
Next week (mm)



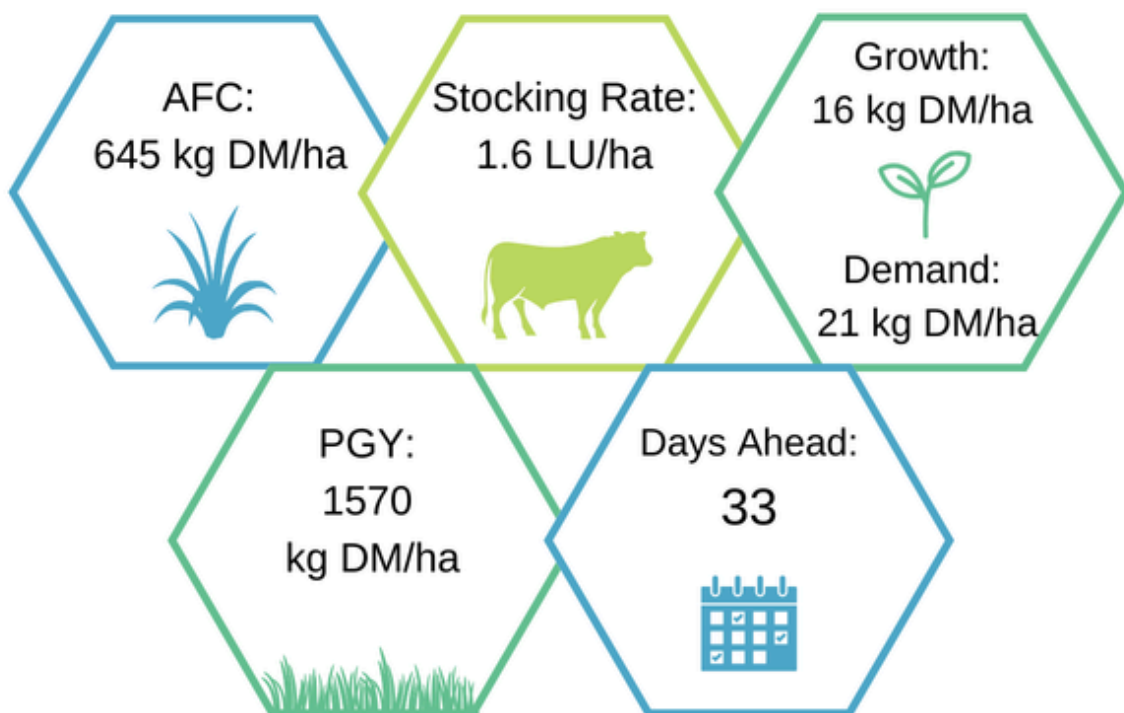
Dry Matter %

Athenry	13%
Oak Park	11%
Moorepark	12%
Grange	12%

Dairy Farms - PastureBase Data



Drystock Farms - PastureBase Data



Grass10 Weekly Checklist

Protecting your opening AFC for spring 2025



October & November growth rates 6 kg DM/ha/day above normal



Do your farm roadways need upgrading this winter?



National Dairy Conferences takes place next week!



Protecting your opening AFC for spring 2025

- Grazing has slowed down on farms with most farmers housed by night and have a few grazings left by day
- Wet weather in the last few days particularly in the north and west has housed animals full time. However, this has been a great grazing autumn overall and AFC is now at a level where grazing should finish
- On dairy farms where spring grass supply should be a priority, farmers should aim for a farm cover of >700 kg DM/ha on the 1st December
- Budget off growth rates of 8 kg DM/ha/day now for last 10 days of November
- Target an AFC of 650+ kg DM/ha today to achieve a closing cover of 750 kg DM/ha on 1st December
- It is important to keep measuring weekly at this time of the year as a weeks grazing with low growth rates can have a huge impact on reducing AFC
- Extending the grazing season on drystock farms and lower stocked dairy farms (<2.0 LU/ha) is acceptable as long as AFC does not go below 550 kg DM/ha

October & November growth rates 6 kg DM/ha/day above normal

- October & November growth rates have been above normal for this time of year which has made for an excellent autumn for grazing
- On average from Mid-October to today, growth rates were 6 kg DM/ha/day higher than the 5 year average. This put an extra 250 kg DM/ha on farms (1 bale/ha) during this time period which was very welcomed in a tough grass growing year

- With cold and wet weather forecast this week, growth rates will return to normal at 8-9 kg DM/ha/day

Do your farm roadways need upgrading this winter?

- As the winter approaches, now is a great time to assess some of the grazing infrastructure on your farm and first up for inspection are your farm roadways
- Did some of your farm roadways deteriorate throughout the year due to insufficient camber to move rainwater away? Are your roadways the correct size for your herd? Are your roadways compliant with the new nitrates requirements?
- See the table below on roadways requirements and click the link to view the dairy infrastructure workbook with tips on designing/improving farm roadways

National Dairy Conference takes place next week!

- This year's National Dairy Conference takes place next Wednesday, 27 November in Limerick Racecourse. The theme of the conference is 'Robust dairy farming for future challenges'
- For more information or to register for the conference, please see the flyer and link below

Table 2. Farm roadway width required for various herd sizes

Herd size	Roadway width (m)
50	3.5
100	4.0
150	4.5
200	5.0
250	5.5
300	6.0



Ideal cow movement; heads down, well-spaced, using the full width of the roadway.

[Dairy Infrastructure book for more info!](#)

NATIONAL
DAIRY
CONFERENCE
2024

Wednesday,
27 NOVEMBER

Limerick
Racecourse



*Register
Now*

[Click here for info & sign up for the Dairy conference](#)

Grass10 - Featured Farmer

John Casey, Causeway, Co. Kerry



AFC

795 kg DM/ha

Cover/LU

368 kg DM/ha

Growth

21 kg DM/ha/day

Demand

17 kg DM/ha/day

PGY

1500 kg DM/ha

Milk Yield

11L (Fat % 5.85 Protein %
4.45)

Grazing Mgmt

Cows have been out by day with just one paddock left to graze before being housed full time. My target AFC on 1st Dec is 750 kg DM/ha as I am prioritising spring pasture availability

Reseeded Paddock

I have a reseed paddock with a cover of 1200 kg DM/ha that I will graze with the calves before housing. This was reseeded in early August and has got grazed twice

Soil Fertility + Roadways

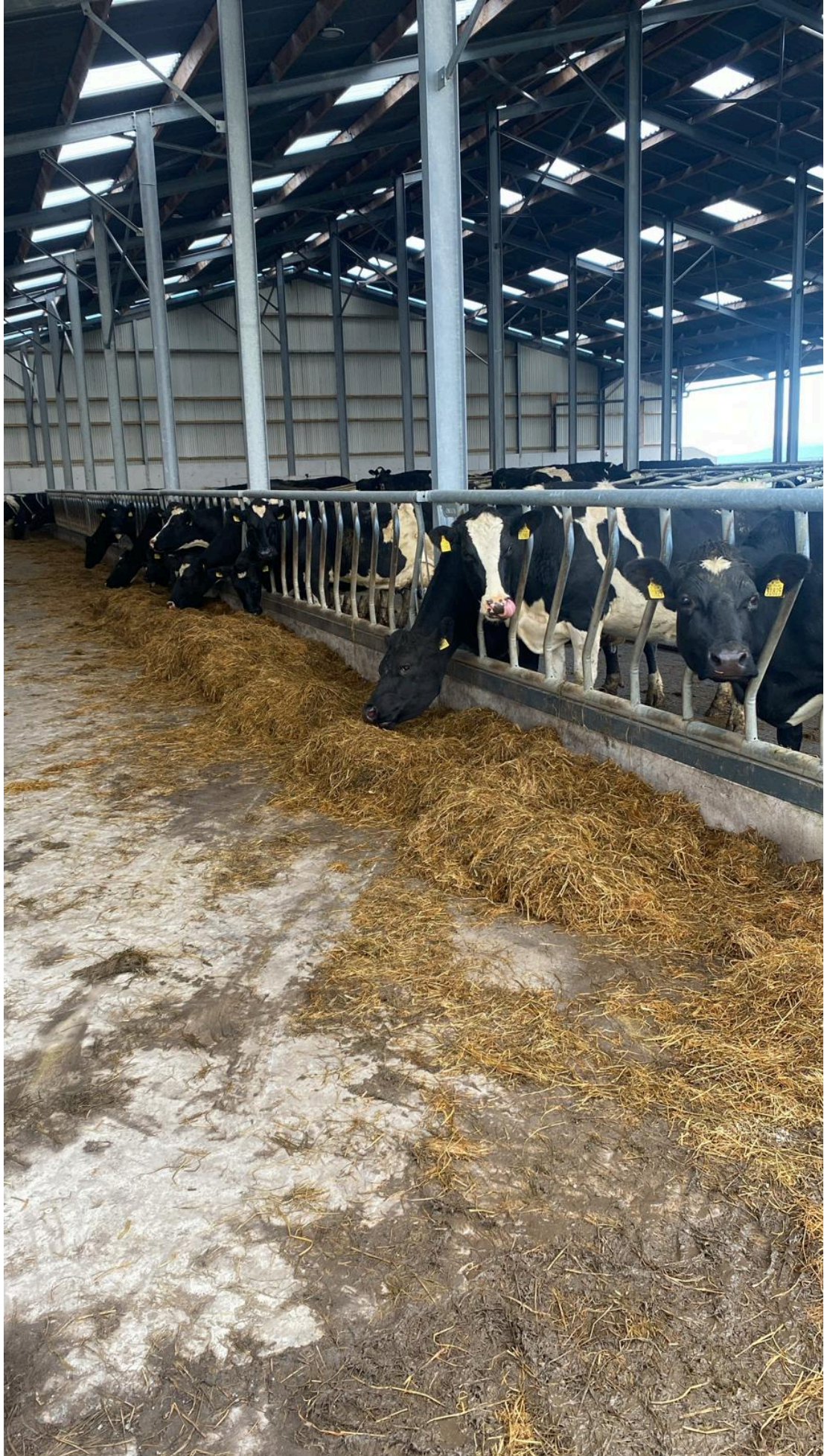
Paddocks with low K on the milking platform got 1/2 bag/ac of MOP last week. When grazing finishes, I will focus on making improvements to roadway surfaces on milking platform



One of John's first paddocks closed in October. It now has a cover of 1200 kg DM/ha



John's last paddock left to graze for the cows



John's cows are in the at moment but he hopes to let them back out tomorrow to graze the final paddock

The Teagasc Grass10 Campaign is supported by:



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine



Teagasc,
Head Office,
Oak Park,
Carlow
Tel: 059-9170200
Email: grass10@teagasc.ie



This email was sent to {{ contact.EMAIL }}
You received this email because you registered with Teagasc PastureBase Ireland or Teagasc
Grass10

[Unsubscribe here](#)



© 2022 Teagasc