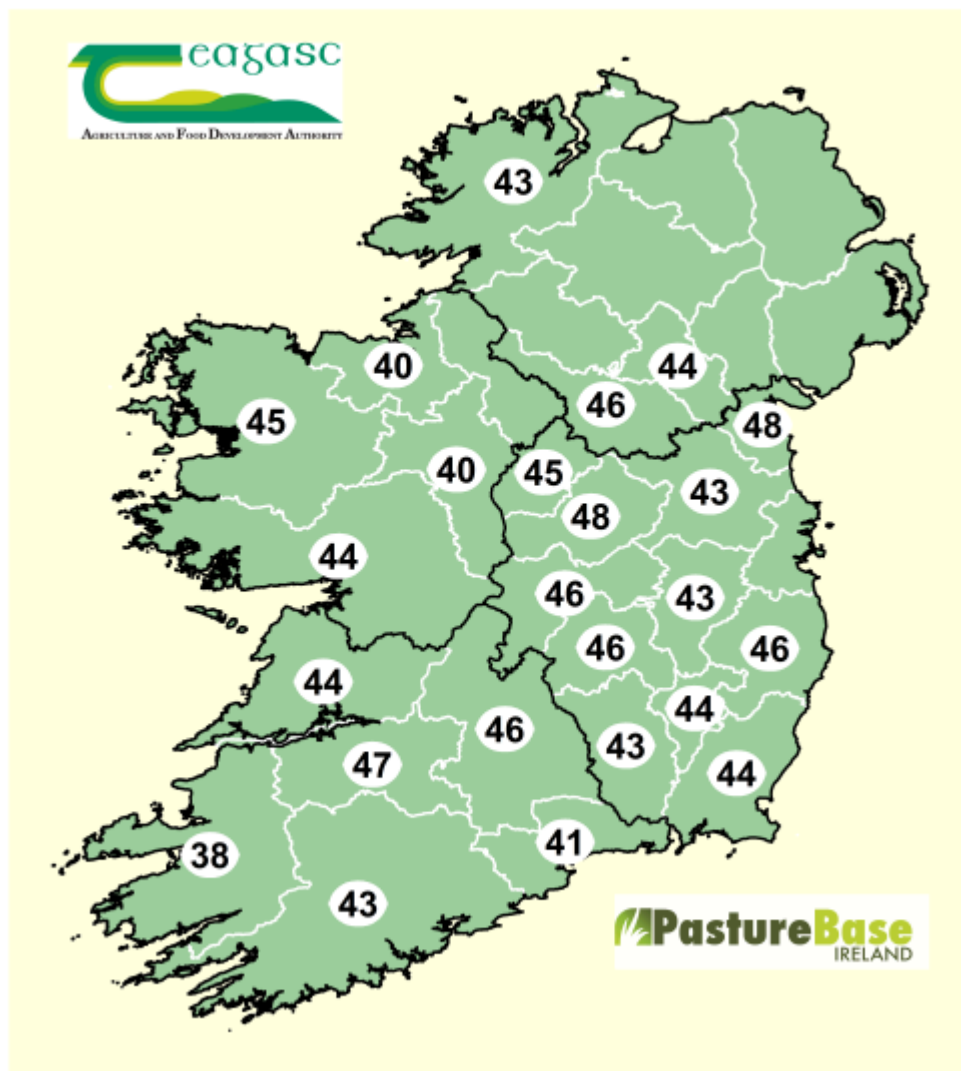


Grass10 Newsletter

311th Edition - 1st October 2024

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

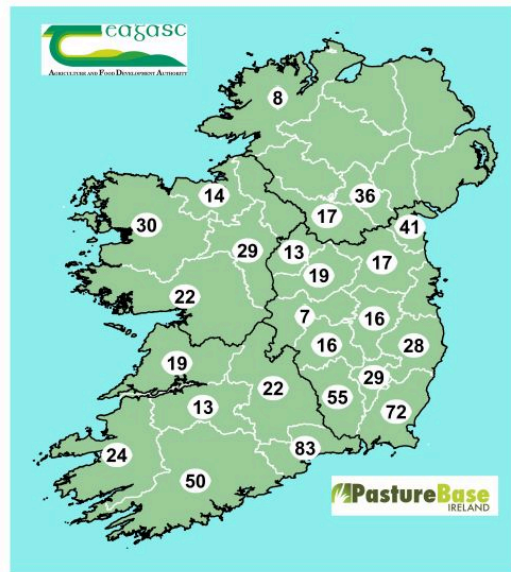
Grass growth predictions
Next week (kg DM/ha/day)



Average soil temperature
Next week (C)



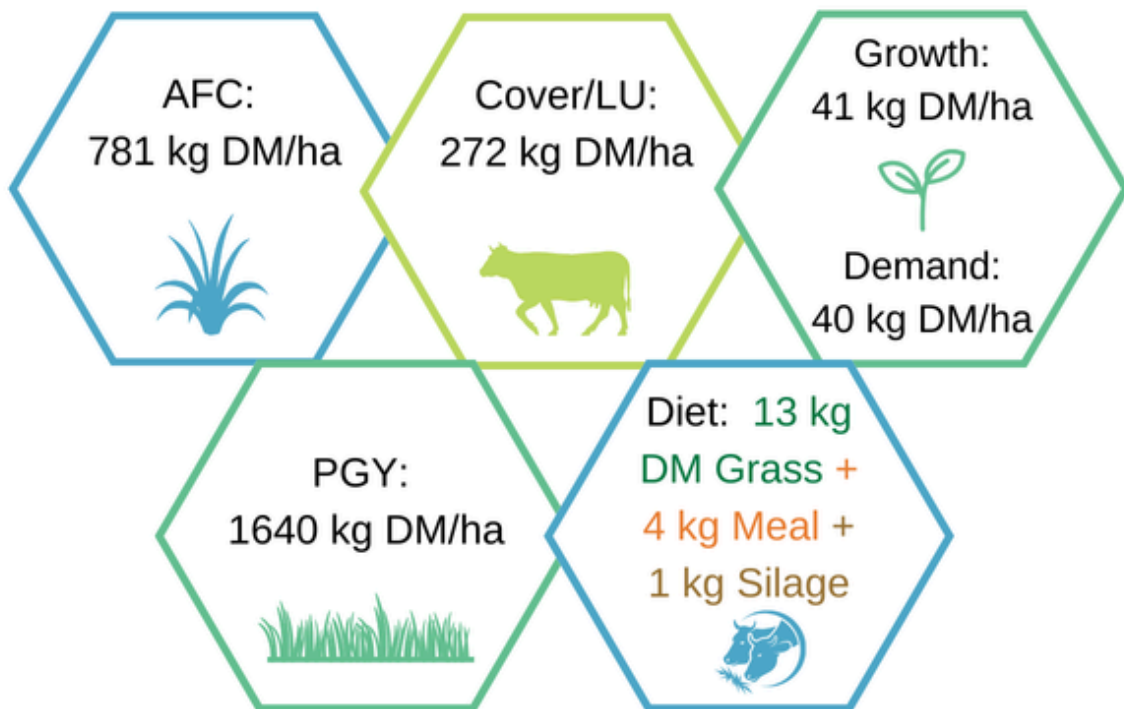
Predicted rainfall
Next week (mm)



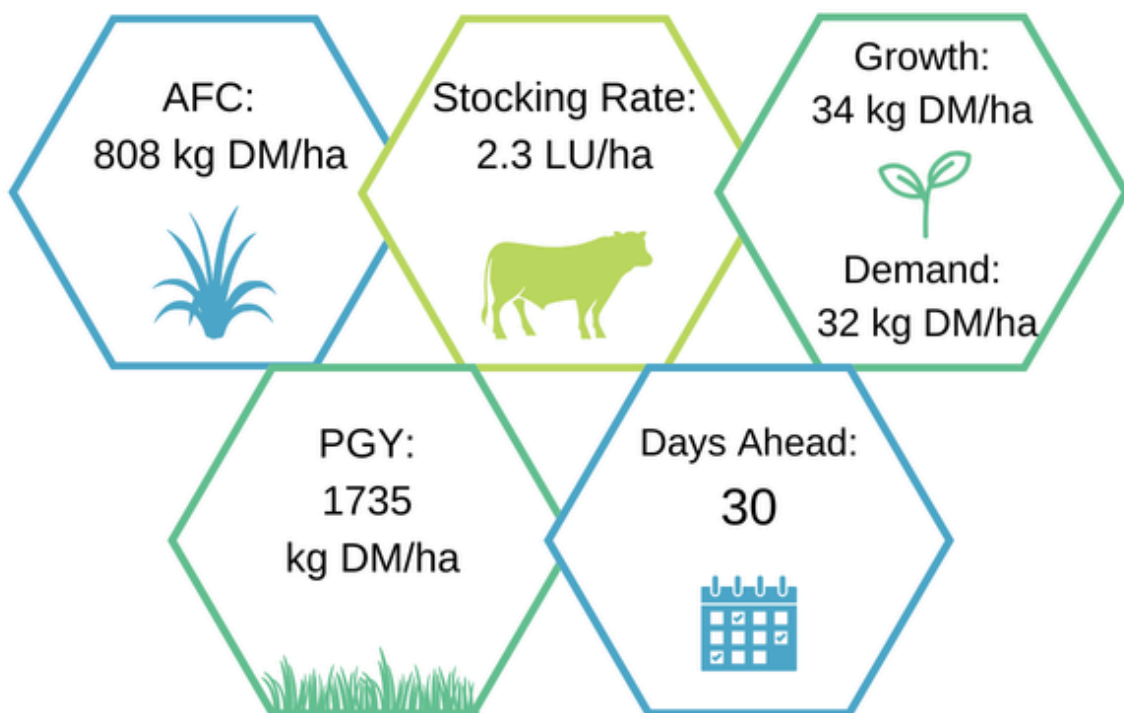
Dry Matter %

Athenry	13%
Oak Park	18%
Moorepark	16%
Grange	17%

Dairy Farms - PastureBase Data



Drystock Farms - PastureBase Data



Grass10 Weekly Checklist

Autumn grazing
mgmt as we enter
October



Grazing order for
final rotation



Complete a grass
budget on PBI



Advice on
remaining nutrient
application



Autumn grazing management as we enter October

- Growth of grass on Irish farms is now equal or less than what is being eaten & AFC is starting to reduce to 781 and 808 Kg DM/ha respectively on dairy and drystock farms
- As we enter October, it is important make a plan for closing paddocks on your farm
- On dairy farms where spring grass supply is a priority, farmers should aim for a farm cover of >700 kg DM/ha on the 1st December
- Every week delay in closing reduces spring grass supply over 100 kg DM/ha. Paddock choice during closing is critical to set up the farm for spring time (see below)
- The aim on dry farms is to have close to 70% of the farm closed by 1st November and heavy soils over 80%. So for a 30ha farm this means grazing 20 ha (66%) in 25 days, i.e. 0.80ha/day or 5.5ha per week
- Most farms should try to push out to a 40 day rotation. For example a 30 ha milking platform should be grazing 0.75ha per day
- PBI data shows that 50% of farms have a farm cover <800 kg DM/ha, the aim for these farms is to hold farm cover for the next 4-5 weeks

Grazing order for final rotation

- While closing-off is influenced by ground conditions, paddock choice during closing is critical. To start grazing next spring, some of the drier paddocks that have good grazing infrastructure with roadways and plenty of access/exit points will need to be targeted
- So these paddocks will need to be closed mid-October to ensure medium covers of 800-1200 kg DM/ha to start grazing next spring
- Weather conditions are largely good for the week, try and graze off some of the more difficult, heavier soil type paddocks on your farm

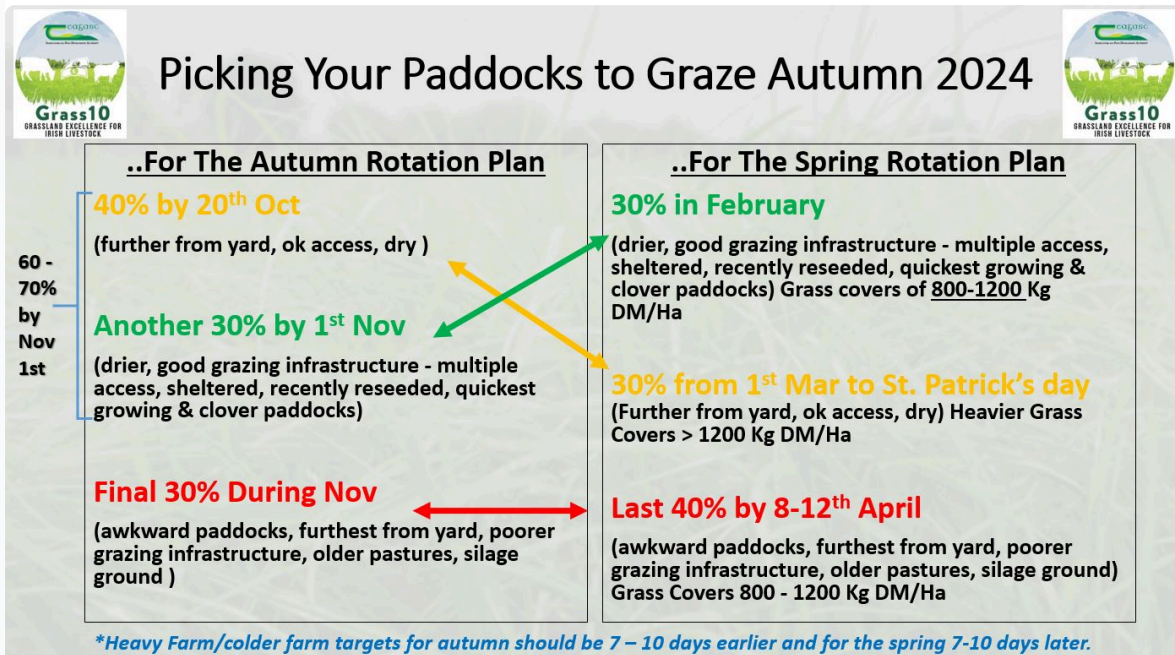
- See our "Picking your paddocks" infographic below to guide you in closing off your farm

Complete a grass budget on PBI for the remainder of the grazing season

- All farmers should create a feed budget for the remainder of the grazing season on PastureBase Ireland to help plan out your grazings and help you hit the closing cover target (>700 kg DM/ha) that you set out for your farm
- A quick sum to figure out grass allowance for your farm is to divide growth rate by your current stocking rate
- For example, a farm with 100 cows and milking platform size of 33ha with current growth rate 40 kg DM/ha;
 - Growth 40 kg DM/ha divide by 3.0 LU/ha = 13.5 kg grass allowance and the balance of the diet with meal and silage
 - Doing this calculation every week with hold AFC on your farm
- Click the link below to see the tutorial video on how to use the feed budgeting tool

Advice on remaining nutrient application

- Chemical N & P fertiliser application and slurry application date has passed
- There is still an opportunity to apply K & lime with the current excellent ground conditions on farm
- Apply K to index 2 grazing paddocks and ground cut for silage -1 bag/ac of MOP (0-0-50)
- Soiled water/collecting yard tank should be spread as paddocks are grazed from October 1st



[Link to feed budget tutorial on PBI](#)

Autumn Grazing Targets

Date	Cover/Cow (Kg DM)	Average Farm Cover (Kg DM/Ha)	Rotation Length
STOCKING RATE OF 3.0 LU/HA			
1 st September	330	1000	30 Days
Mid-September	350	1050	35 Days
1 st October	370	1100	40 Days
1 st November	65%+ of your grazing platform should be closed		
1 st December	650-800 kg DM/ha AFC depending on spring demand		

Grass10 - Featured Farmer

David Melody, Grove, Dunbell, Co. Kilkenny



AFC

731 kg DM/ha

Cover/LU

288 kg DM/ha

Growth

42 kg DM/ha/day

Demand

23 kg DM/ha

PGY

1400 kg DM/ha

Milk Yield

18.8L (Fat % 5.34
Protein % 4.31)

Grazing Mgmt

We received 30mm rainfall over the weekend. We hope this will improve growth this week and increase AFC. Cows are on a diet of 10kg grass, 4kg silage & 4kg meal

Closing Paddocks

We will start closing paddocks from the 10th October. The farm will be closed around mid November, aiming for a closing AFC of 700 kg DM/ha

Soiled water

We will spread soiled water on paddocks after grazing. A contractor spreads this for us using an umbilical system

David's cows content grazing a PGY of 1400 kg DM/ha



Aerial image of David's grazing



Irish Farmers & Climate Adaptation Survey

You are invited to participate in a research project by the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine (DAFM) and Technological University Dublin (TU Dublin). Led by Dr. Paul Hynds and Dr. Ammara Batool from the Environmental Sustainability and Health Institute, this study seeks to gather your insights, experiences, and needs related to climate change and adaptation in farming.

[Link to survey](#)

Climate Adaptation Conference

Teagasc, Animal & Grassland Research and Innovation
Centre, Moorepark, Fermoy, Co. Cork, P61 P302



15th October, 2024
Sponsored by Department
of Food, Agriculture
and the Marine



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

What are the adaptations to be made to address the climate challenges in grassland?

Impacts of changing weather patterns

(Chair Michael Doran, ICBF Chairman)

- 8.30am Registration (Tea/Coffee)
- 8.45am Conference opening
- 9.00am Setting the scene – Dr. Joe Patton
- 9.15am How weather patterns are changing, what are we adapting to – Dr. Pdraig Flattery, Met Eireann
- 9.45am Feed costs - future scenario analysis – Dr. Peter Doyle and Dr. Tomas Tubritt, Teagasc
- 10.05am A decade of PastureBase Ireland - what do we know about grass growth on farms – Prof. Michael O'Donovan and Dr. Ciaran Hearn, Teagasc

Climate adaptation challenges

(Chair Brian Murphy, DAFM)

- 10.35am The Grazing Cow – A Carbon Paradox – Dr. Luc Delaby (INRAe)
- 11.00am Grass growth to 2040: the challenges ahead – Dr. Elodie Ruelle, Teagasc
- 11.25am Coffee/Break

Registration

Registration fee - €100
To register,
Scan the QR code.



clr.ie/136319

Closing date to register is
Friday 11th October - 5.00pm

New species and the challenges

(Chair Fiona O'Donnell,
Dairy Women Ireland/Dairy Farmer)

- 11.50am Breeding for climate adaptation – Dr. Alan Stewart PGG Wrightson Seeds, New Zealand
- 12.20pm Plantain and multi species swards - their role in adaptation – Dr. Ellen Fitzpatrick, Dr. Philip Creighton, Dr. Brendan Horan and Mr. Kevin Dolan, Teagasc
- 12.50pm Grass/clover swards - adapting to the climate challenge – Dr. Michael Egan, Dr. Caitlin Looney, Teagasc and Mr. Mark Bateman (Dairy farmer)
- 1.10pm Discussion
- 1.30pm Summary/key messages/new research areas – Dr. Deirdre Hennessy, UCC
- 1.45pm Lunch
- 2.30pm Visit Moorepark grassland studies
 - a) Grassland nutrition - plantain and clover impacts – Dr. Michael Dineen and Mr. Eoin Wims, Teagasc
 - b) Plantain/clover plot and grazing investigations – Dr. Tomas Tubritt and Ms. Ciara Carroll, Teagasc
 - c) Long term grass clover results – Dr. Aine Murray, Teagasc
 - d) Red clover evaluation trials – Ms. Sinead Kearney and Dr. Peter Doyle, Teagasc
 - e) Initiatives on climate adaptation on Moorepark Farm – Dr. Jonathan Herron, Teagasc



The Teagasc Grass10 Campaign is supported by:



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



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