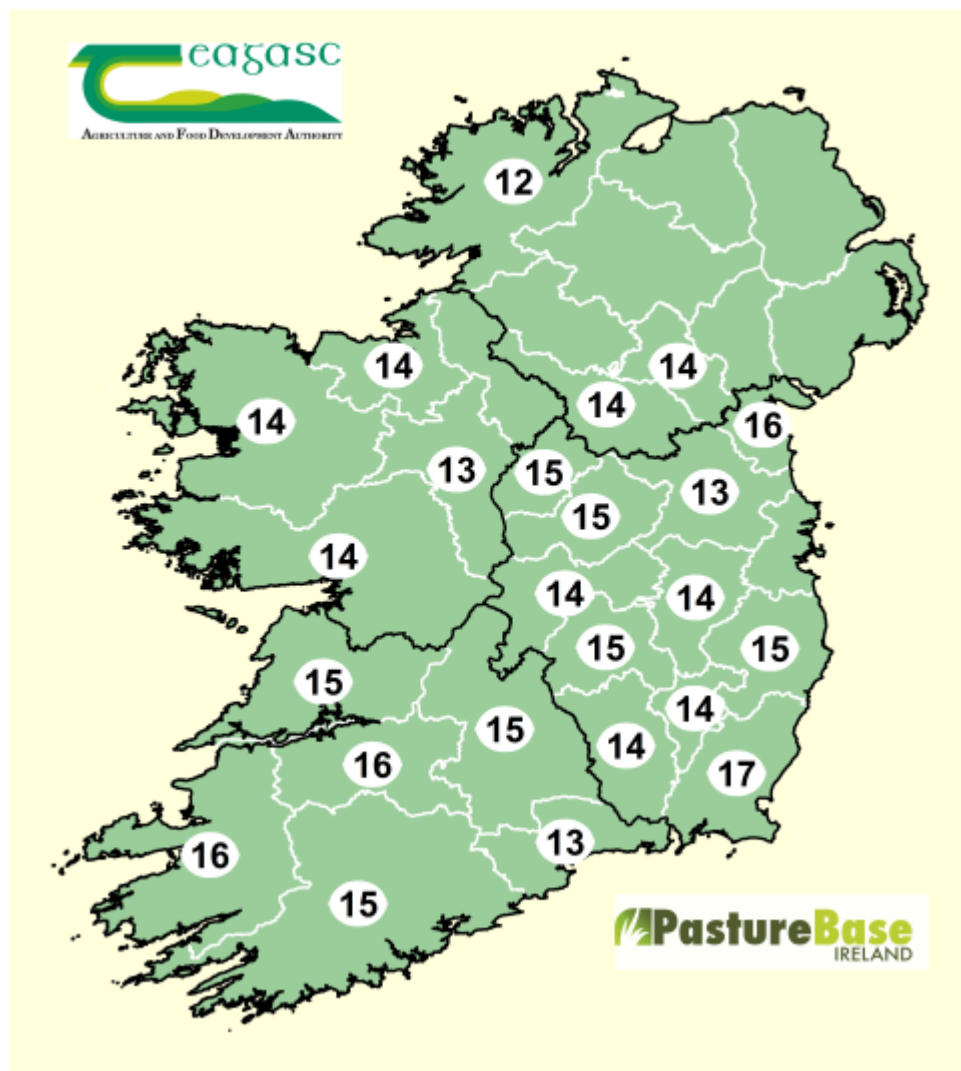


# Grass10 Newsletter

317th Edition - 12th 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)



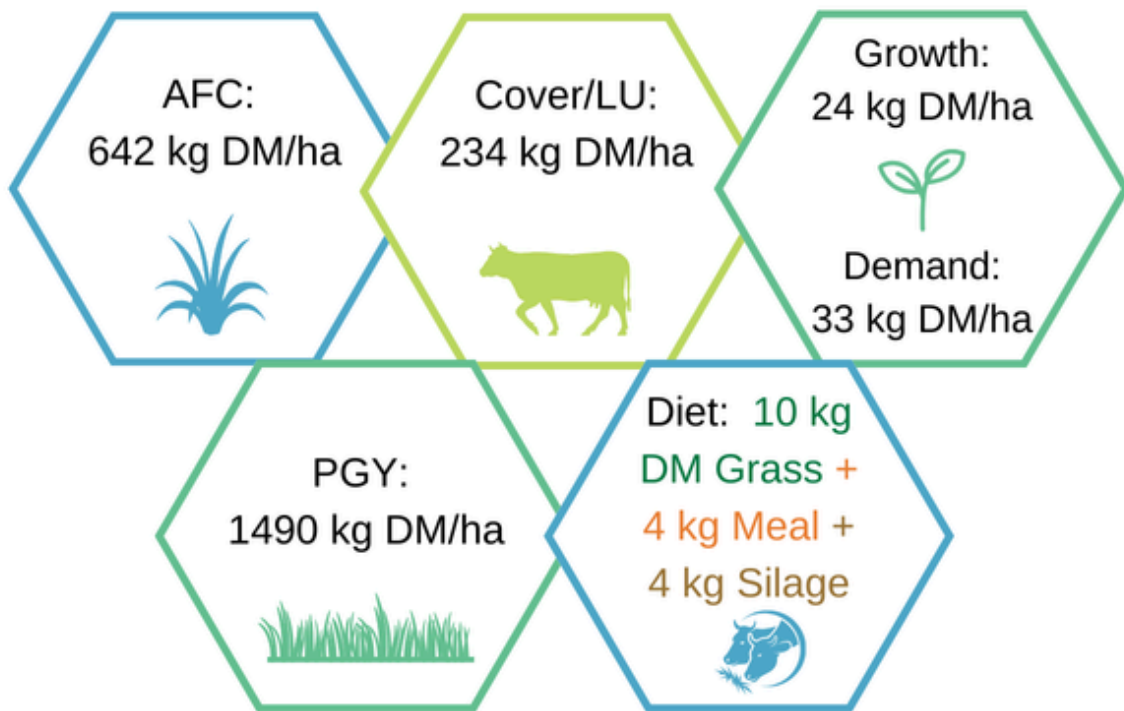
## Dry Matter %

Moorepark 11%

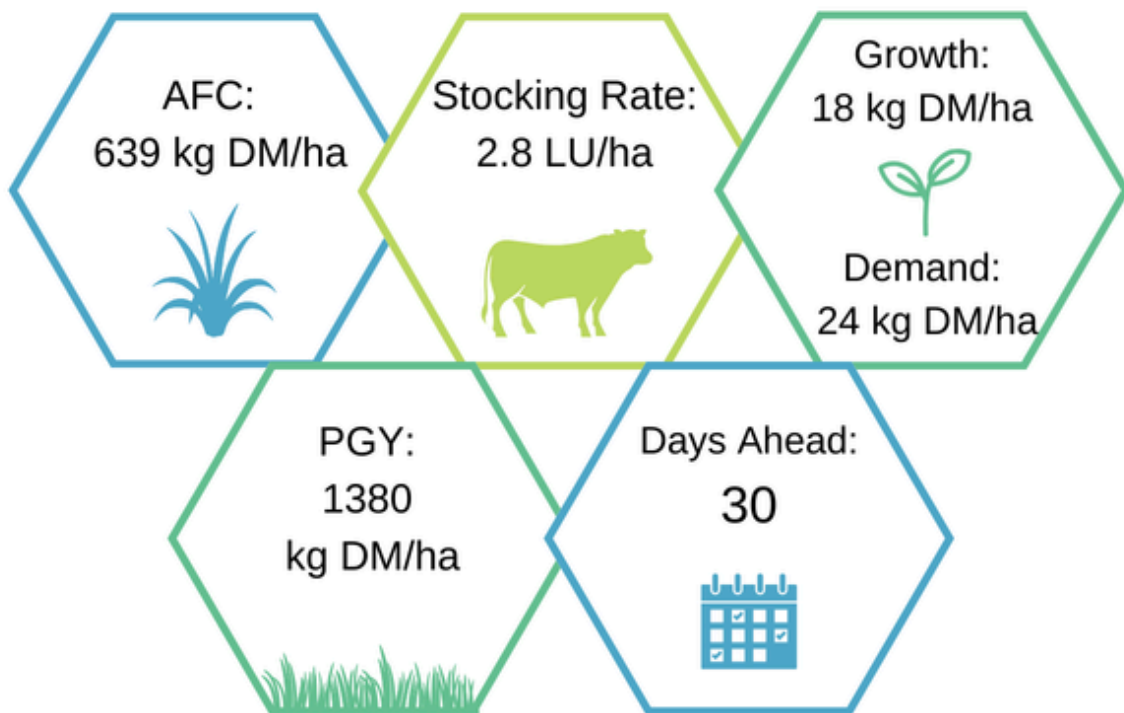
Grange 15%

Athenry 13%

**Dairy Farms** - PastureBase Data



### Drystock Farms - PastureBase Data



# Grass10 Weekly Checklist

Main focus now is  
grass supply in early  
2025



November growth  
rates above normal  
on farm



Ground conditions  
excellent for lime  
application



National Dairy &  
Beef Conferences  
during November



## Main focus now is grass supply in early 2025

- 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
- 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
- Budget off growth rates of between 11 kg DM/ha/day during the last two weeks of November. If grazing finishes on November 15th, there will be an additional 150 kg DM/ha added to AFC
- Target an AFC of 600 kg DM/ha on November 15th to achieve a closing cover of 750+ kg DM/ha on 1st December
- Remaining paddocks to target for grazing should be the clover paddocks and some paddocks that need early slurry application
- Aim to keep grass in the diet, by day at least if possible. This should only happen if AFC is above 600 kg DM/ha

## November growth rates above normal on farm

- Excellent grazing conditions continue to prevail on Irish farms which has simplified grazing for dairy and drystock farmers
- November growth rates have been above normal for this time of year with 24 kg DM/ha and 18 kg DM/ha growth rates on dairy and drystock farms respectively
- However, on average this will not last and growth rates will return to normal soon
- Monitoring AFC is crucial this week to reach closing targets
- This continued dry period allows animals to remain grazing and there is reduced pressure on winter feed supplies, especially in areas that due

to poor growth rates/droughts have had to sustain considerable supplementation since late summer

- With such excellent grazing conditions, there is a huge risk that farmers will reduce AFC too much by staying grazing during November
- 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 500 kg DM/ha

### **Ground conditions excellent for lime application**

- Ground conditions have never been better for this time of the year across the country particularly on heavy soils farm
- With that in mind, there is an ideal opportunity to apply ground limestone on your farm
- Consult your most recent set of soil samples and order lime for spreading before the weather deteriorates
- Remember your only need to get 10-12 acres for a lorry load of lime (20-24 ton)

### **National Dairy & Beef Conferences during November**

- This year's National Dairy Conference takes place on Wednesday, 27 November in Limerick Racecourse. The theme of the conference is 'Robust dairy farming for future challenges'
- This year's National Beef Conference takes place on Tuesday, 19 November in Landmark Hotel, Co. Leitrim. The theme of the conference is 'Sustainable Beef Farming: Pathways to a greener future'
- For more information or to register for the conferences, please see the flyers and links below

## **Grass10 - Featured Farmer**

**Eugene & Eoin Lawler, Ballitore, Co. Kildare**



**AFC**  
827 kg DM/ha  
**Cover/LU**  
273 kg DM/ha  
**Growth**  
26 kg DM/ha/day

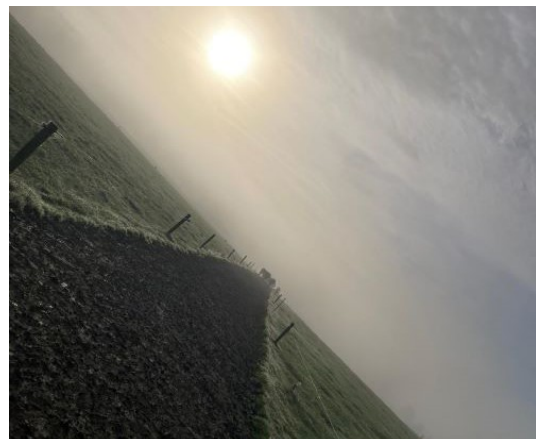
**Demand**  
24 kg DM/ha/day  
**PGY**  
1800 kg DM/ha  
**Milk Yield**  
13L (Fat % 6.01 Protein %  
4.53)

**Grazing Mgmt**  
Cows are in at night and out  
by day. Grazing conditions  
are excellent but I plan on  
housing the cows in 10 days  
time to ensure a closing  
AFC of 800 kg DM/ha on 1st  
December

**Closing Paddocks**  
The cows have three  
paddocks left to graze  
before closing the farm.  
These paddocks are the  
furthest away paddocks  
from the yard

**Clover**  
We grazed our clover  
paddocks in late October.  
Clover was slow for us in  
spring but we have got a  
great response from clover  
this autumn

**Eugene & Eoin's cows enjoying the dry weather  
in Co. Kildare!**



**Upcoming Conferences in November!**



NATIONAL  
**DAIRY**  
CONFERENCE  
2024

Wednesday,  
**27 NOVEMBER**

Limerick  
Racecourse

*Register  
Now*

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



# NATIONAL BEEF CONFERENCE 2024

19  
November  
5pm

Landmark Hotel  
Carrick-on-Shannon  
Co. Leitrim

[www.teagasc.ie/beefcon24](http://www.teagasc.ie/beefcon24)



[Click here to find out more about the Beef conference](#)

The Teagasc Grass10 Campaign is supported by:



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,  
Bia agus Mara  
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