

Grass10 Newsletter

304th Edition - 13th August 2024

Sustainable Grassland Farmer of the Year Competition Launched for 2024!



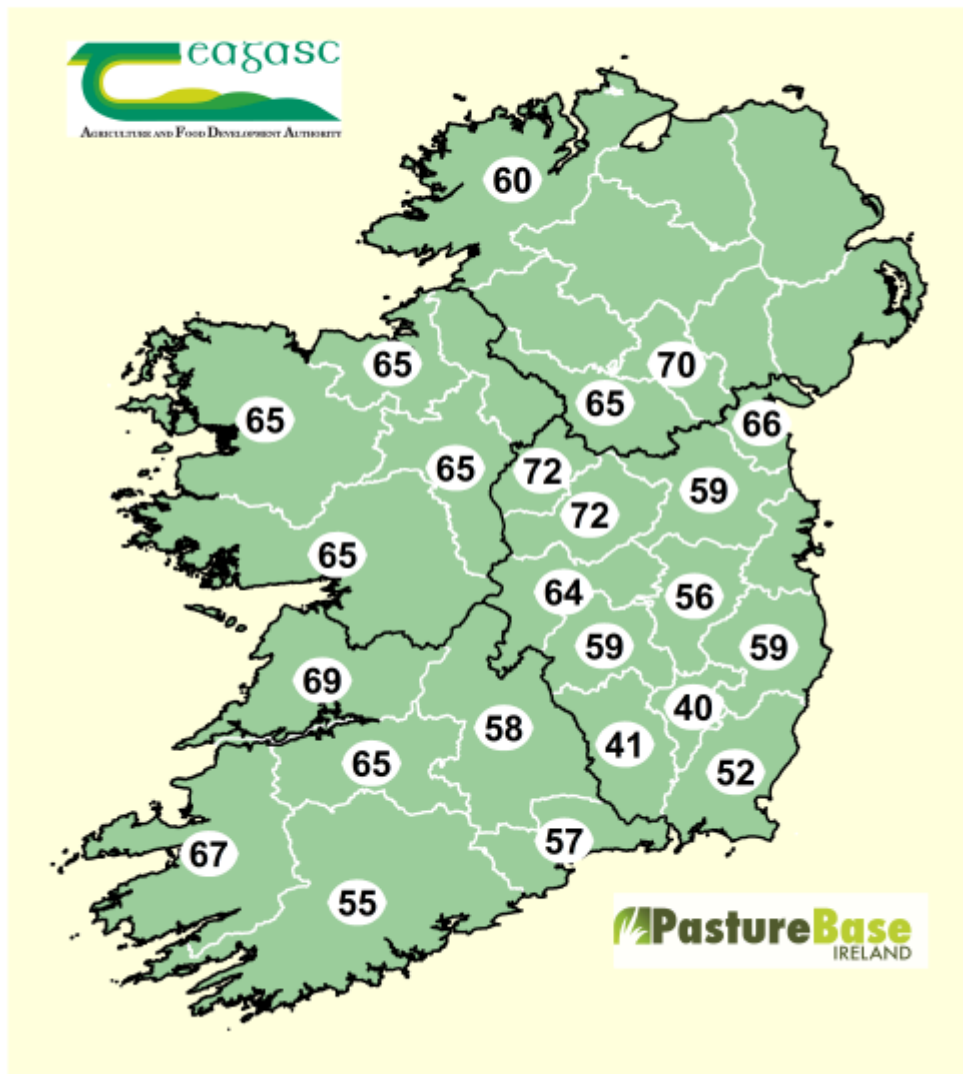
Pictured at the launch of the Sustainable Grassland Farmer of the Year 2024 competition are: John O'Loughlin, Grassland Agro; Liam Herlihy, Chairman of Teagasc; Professor Frank O'Mara, Teagasc Director; Emer O Byrne, FBD; Charlie McConalogue T.D., Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine; Michael Berkery, FBD Trust; John Macnamara, Chair of Grass10 Steering group; Liz Hyland, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine; Donal Whelton, AIB; Adam Woods, Irish Farmers Journal; and John Maher, Teagasc Grass10

[Enter the 2024 Competition here](#)

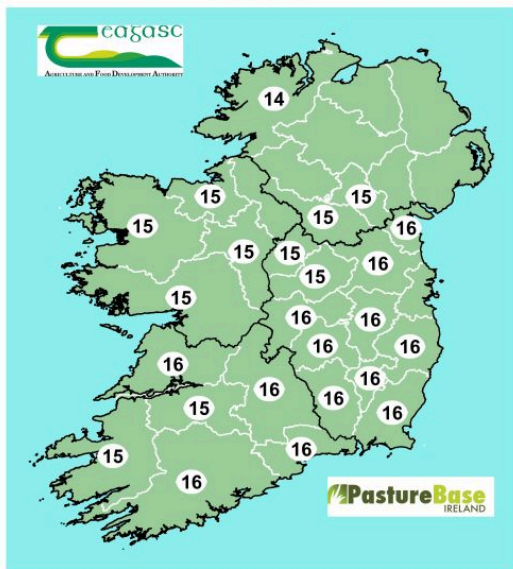
**Grass growth, soil temperature &
rainfall predictions for the next 7 days**

Grass growth predictions

Next week (kg DM/ha/day)



Average soil temperature
Next week (C)



Predicted rainfall
Next week (mm)



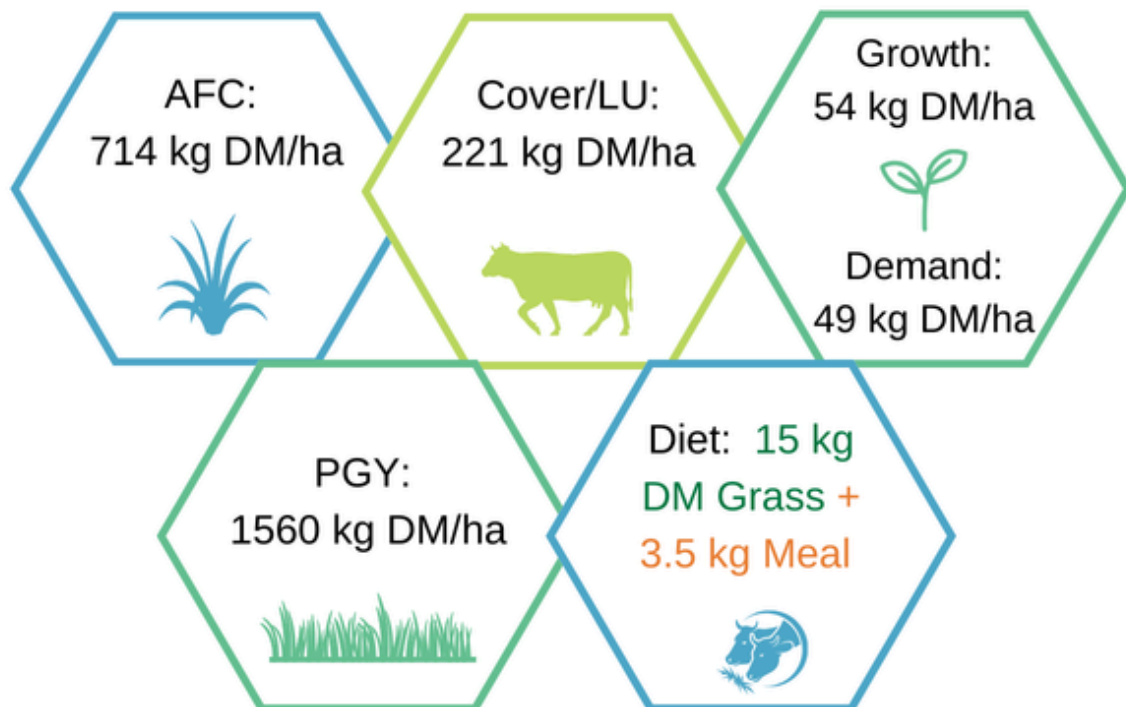
Dry Matter %

Moorepark 20%

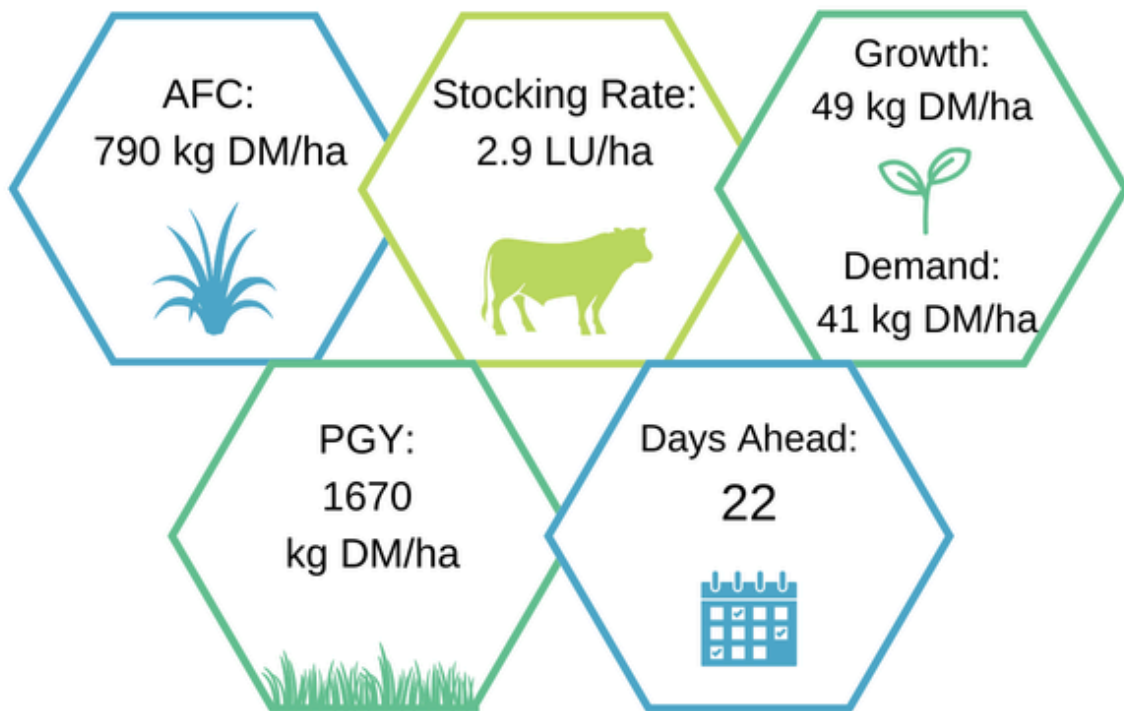
Athenry 17%

Oakpark 17%

Dairy Farms - PastureBase Data



Drystock Farms - PastureBase Data



Grass10 Weekly Checklist

The checklist is organized into four quadrants around a central logo:

- Top Left (Green):** SGFOY competition launched for 2024 (Icon: Trophy)
- Top Right (Light Blue):** Autumn grazing targets (Icon: Checklist and Target)
- Bottom Left (Dark Green):** Grazing Infrastructure Week (Icon: Fencing and Cow)
- Bottom Right (Blue):** Lime & K application during August (Icon: Fertilizer and Seedling)

Central Logo: Teagasc (Association of Pasture Decision Makers) and Grass10 (Grassland Excellence for Irish Livestock) featuring a cow in a field.

SGFOY Competition launched for 2024

- As pictured above, Minister Charlie McConalogue launched this year's Sustainable Grassland Farmer of the Year competition
- The competition recognises and acknowledges those dairy, beef and sheep farmers who are achieving high levels of grass utilisation in a sustainable manner
- This year's competition has 6 categories:

- Dairy
- Drystock
- Nutrient Management and Use Efficiency
- Clover
- Organic Farming
- Young Farmer (under 30 years)
- Each category winner will receive €5,000. The overall winner will be selected from the category winners and will receive an additional €5,000
- Click on the link below for further information and to enter. Good luck!

Autumn grazing targets

- As we approach mid August, it is important to assess where are you in terms of the autumn grazing targets. For farmers stocked at 3.0 LU/ha, the target is 250 kg DM/LU with a 25 day rotation
- If you are not at 250 kg DM/LU by the end of the week, you need to introduce supplement or reduce demand by removing surplus stock
- Growth is quite variable across the country. Some parts of the south and east are still experiencing soil moisture deficits and this is having an impact on growth rates on these farms
- Rotation length needs to be at 25 days now to utilise fertiliser spread this rotation
- Build peak farm cover in early September to 330 kg DM/LU, see targets below
- How to build grass:
 - Increase grazing area - bring in silage ground/reseed ground
 - Reduce demand
 - Remove young stock or surplus stock
 - Supplement with meal and/or silage
- Continue to walk the farm weekly to follow autumn targets

Grazing Infrastructure week

- This week, the Grass10 social media page will be focusing on grazing infrastructure on farms
- Areas to be covered include research updates, setting up infrastructure to suit your system and on farm experiences
- Follow us on instagram and twitter for stories, videos and research updates to help you improve your infrastructure and maximise days at grass
 - Instagram: @teagascgrass10
 - Twitter: @teagascgrass10

Lime & K application during August

- Opportunity to apply K with Fertiliser N for next 4 weeks (Zero P products with N, K & S)
- Products like 29-0-14 can help to replace K on paddocks that have been cut for silage or surplus bales
- Now is also a good opportunity to start thinking about lime application for your farm, consult your soil results from last winter
- Apply lime to paddocks that require it before weather and ground conditions start to deteriorate later on in the autumn
- Only apply lime based on a recent soil test report. Don't exceed 7.5t/ha (3.0t/ac) in a single application. Where more lime is recommended apply 50% now and the balance after 2 years
- Target lime to grazing paddocks with low covers (\leq 500 kg DM/ha), recently cut for round bales or reseeded ground

August Grazing Targets

Date	Cover/Cow (Kg DM)	Average Farm Cover (Kg DM/Ha)	Rotation Length
STOCKING RATE OF 2.5 LU/HA			
1 st August	220	550	20 Days
Mid August	240	600	25 Days
1 st September	300	750	30 Days
STOCKING RATE OF 3.0 LU/HA			
1 st August	200	600	20 Days
Mid August	250	750	25 Days
1 st September	330	1000	30 Days
STOCKING RATE OF 3.5 LU/HA			
1 st August	200	700	20 Days
Mid August	240	850	25 Days
1 st September	300	1050	30 Days

P and K offtakes

Pre-cutting yield (kg DM/ha)	Bales/ac	N units/ac	P units/ac	K units/ac
1,500	3	30	4.8	30
2,000	4	40	6.4	40
2,500	5	50	8	50

Grass10 - Dairy Featured Farmer

Oisín Gallen, Ramelton, Co. Donegal



AFC

919 kg DM/ha

Cover/LU

258 Kg DM/Ha

Growth

77 kg DM/ha/day

Demand

53 Kg DM/Ha

PGY

1650 Kg DM/Ha

Milk Yield

21L (Fat % 4.36, Protein % 3.83)

Grazing Mgmt

Grass growth has been very strong here over the last few weeks and I have 2 paddocks removed for bales & Cover/LU is still above 250 kg DM/LU which is my mid August target

Cow Diet

Cows are on 3kg of meal in the parlour and 24 - 36 hour grass allocations.

Grass quality has improved significantly over the last number of weeks

3rd Cut

I will take a 3rd cut of silage towards the 1st September.

This crop has received 2000 gal/ac of good quality slurry & 65 units/ac of 24-2.5-5



Oisin's cows grazing away in Co. Donegal!

GRASS10 INFRASTRUCTURE WEEK

Monday 12th - Monday 19th August

- Research updates
- Setting up infrastructure to suit your system
- On farm experiences

Instagram: @teagascgrass10
Twitter: @teagascgrass10



Sustainable Grassland Farmer of the Year



Tuesday, 27th August | 6.30pm

with **Drystock
Category Winner**

**Billy Gilmore
Cortoon, Tuam
Co. Galway
H54 AP28**



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



The Teagasc Grass10 Campaign is supported by:



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Grassland AGRO



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