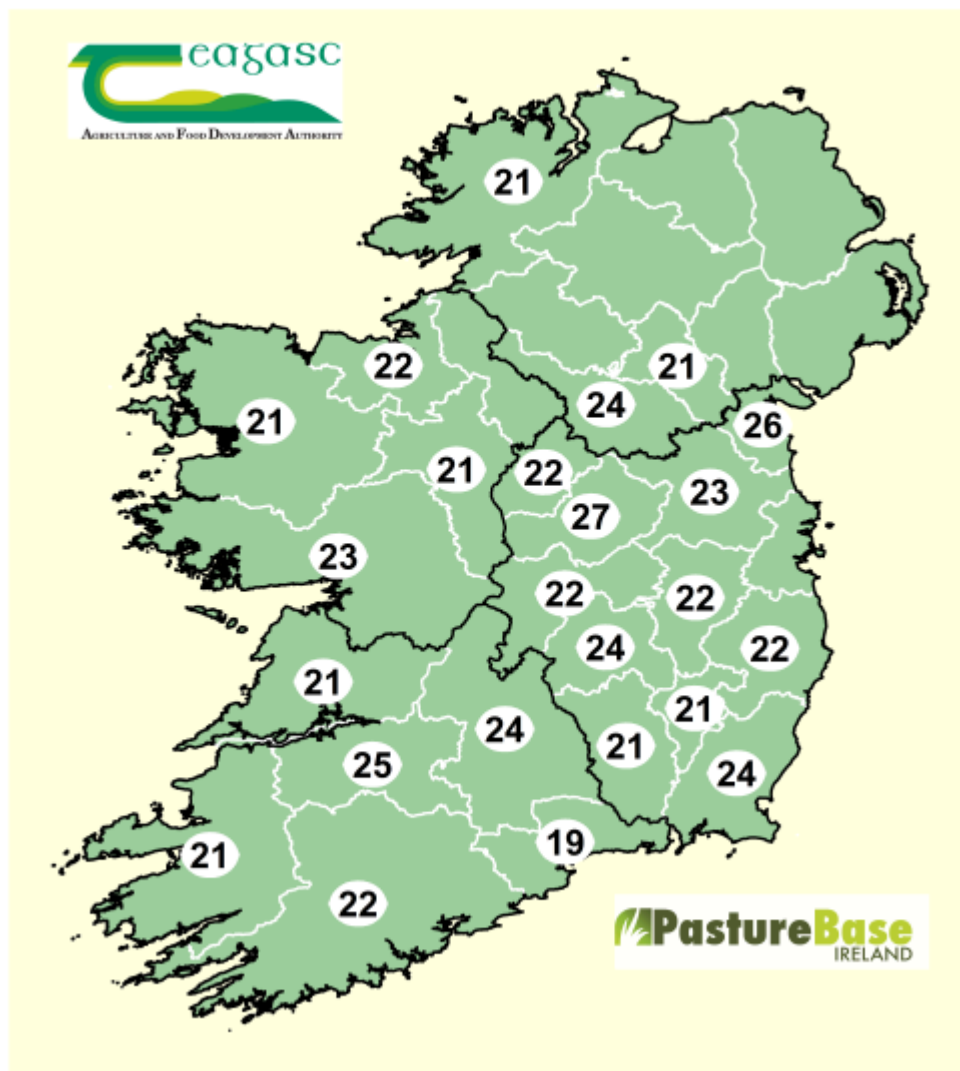


Grass10 Newsletter

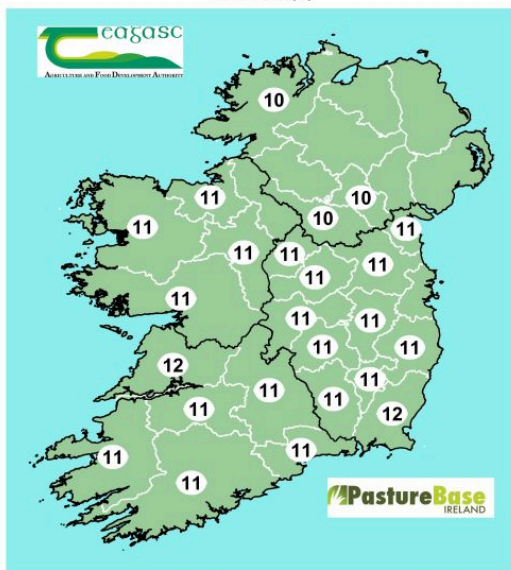
314th Edition - 22nd October 2024

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

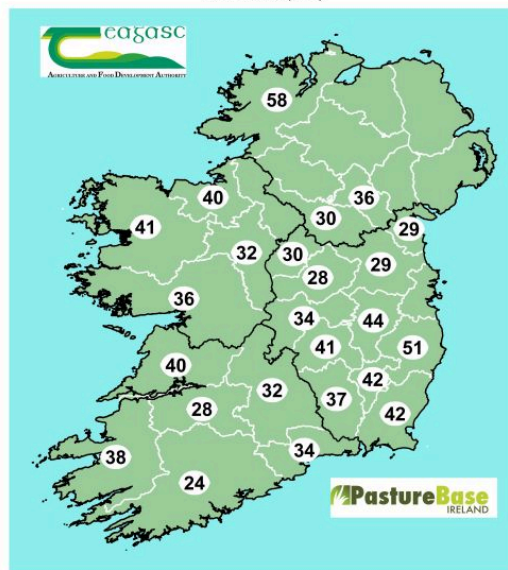
Grass growth predictions
Next week (kg DM/ha/day)



Average soil temperature
Next week (C)



Predicted rainfall
Next week (mm)



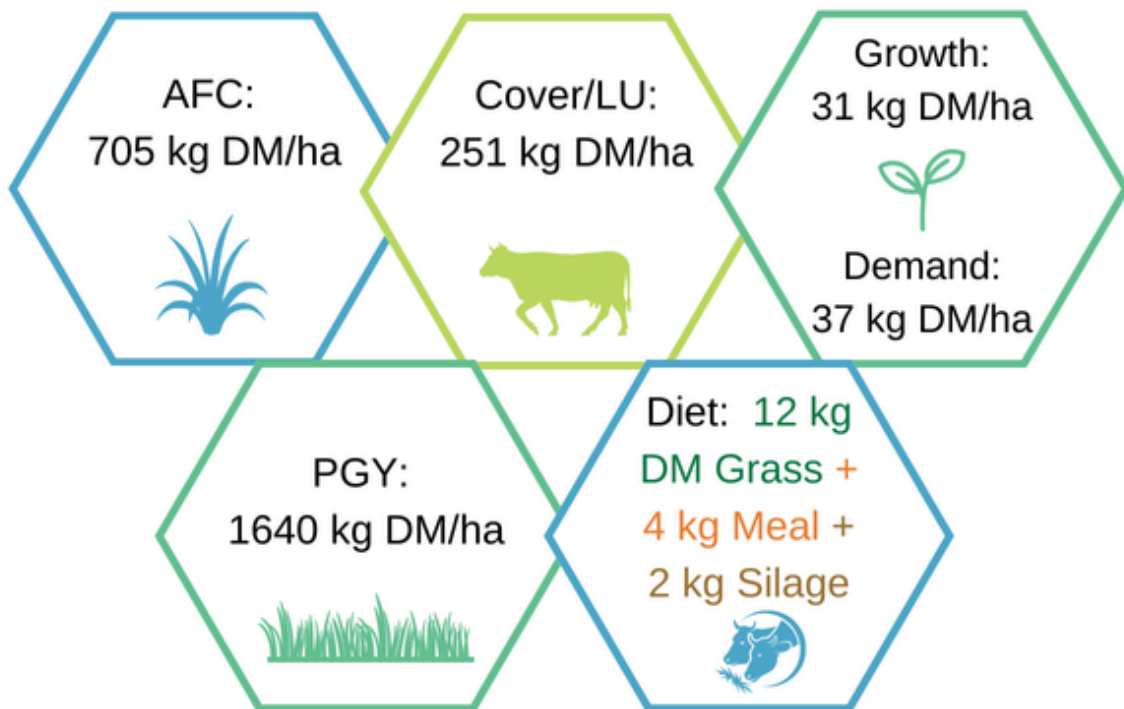
Dry Matter %

Moorepark 14%

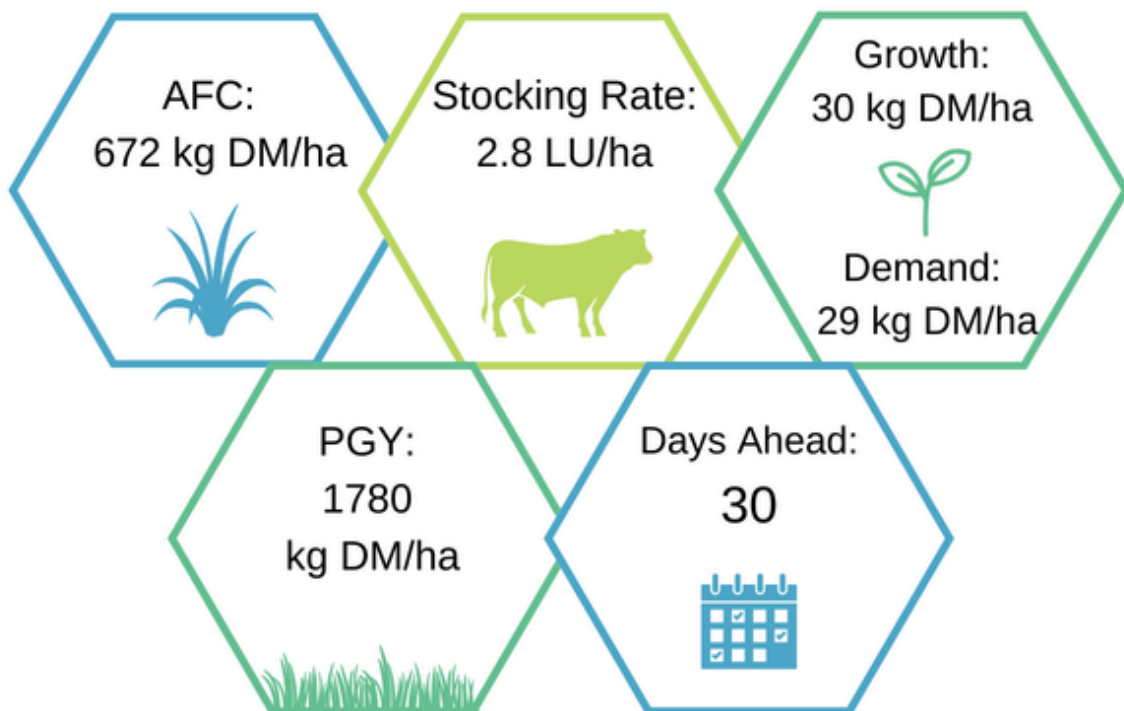
Oakpark 16%

Athenry 14%

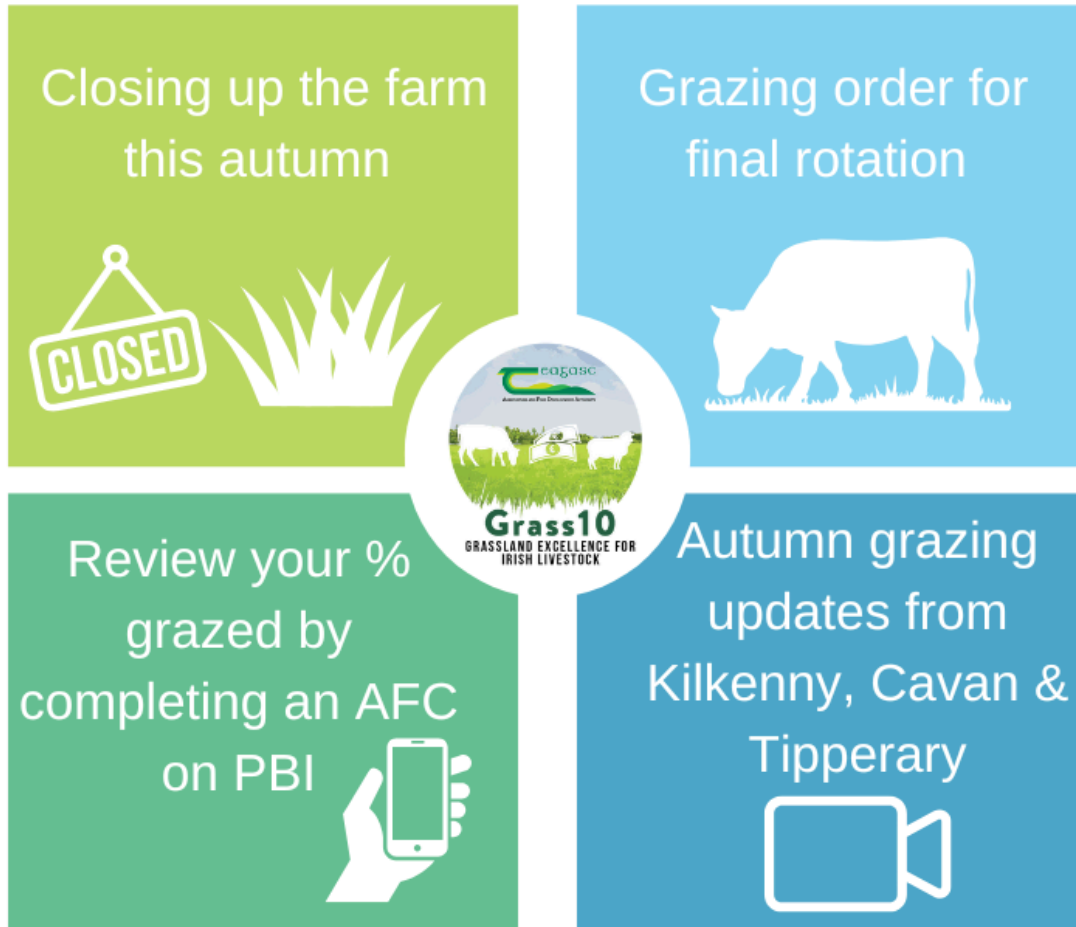
Dairy Farms - PastureBase Data



Drystock Farms - PastureBase Data



Grass10 Weekly Checklist



Closing up the farm this autumn

- The two objectives on farm are to keep grass in diet of the grazing animal and to close up the farm to have grass available in spring
- AFC has dropped this week by over 50 kg DM/ha as growth has declined and grass demand remains higher. There is now more silage in the diet
- 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)
- To get good clean outs on paddocks continue to strip graze, use a back fence & multiple access points to reduce damage
- Aim to keep grass in the diet, by day at least if possible, this will lower costs and keep protein % up for dairy farms

Grazing order for final rotation

- The paddocks that will need to be closed mid-October are paddocks with good infrastructure that you will target for early grazing in spring (Feb 2025) and will have medium covers of 800-1200 kg DM/ha to start grazing
- You should be grazing these paddocks now!
- To help develop clover in paddocks, closing should start this week
- See our "Picking your paddocks" infograph below to guide you in closing off your farm

Review your % grazed by completing an AFC on PBI

- It is important to keep measuring weekly at this time of the year as a weeks grazing with low growth rates can have a big impact on AFC
- Grass growth is now significantly lower than herd demand, therefore the management of AFC becomes more critical
- This week you should have between 30-40% of your farm closed on dry farms. Heavy farms should have close on 60% closed by now. Some lower stocked drystock farms should have begun closing last week
- 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. 0.80 ha/day or 5.5ha per week

Autumn grazing updates from Co. Kilkenny, Co. Cavan & Co. Tipperary

- Autumn grass growth has been quite variable around the country
- However, its important to close the farm correctly during the final grazing rotation to prioritise spring grazing
- Click on the links below to hear from dairy farmers, Micheal Smith, Co. Cavan and Joe Murphy, Co. Kilkenny on their plans for the final grazing rotation
- Click on the link below to hear from Dairy Calf to Beef farmer, JP Hammersley, Co. Tipperary on his plans for the final grazing rotation

Managing grass correctly in the autumn, farmer updates!



Joe Murphy, Co. Kilkenny

Joe gives us an autumn update from his farm where grass growth has been behind normal due to soil moisture deficits and he takes us through his plan for his final grazing rotation

[Link to video](#)



Micheal Smith, Co. Cavan

Micheal has built an AFC above 1000 kg DM/ha on his farm in Co. Cavan. He takes us through his final grazing rotation and his plan for closing the farm this autumn

[Link to video](#)



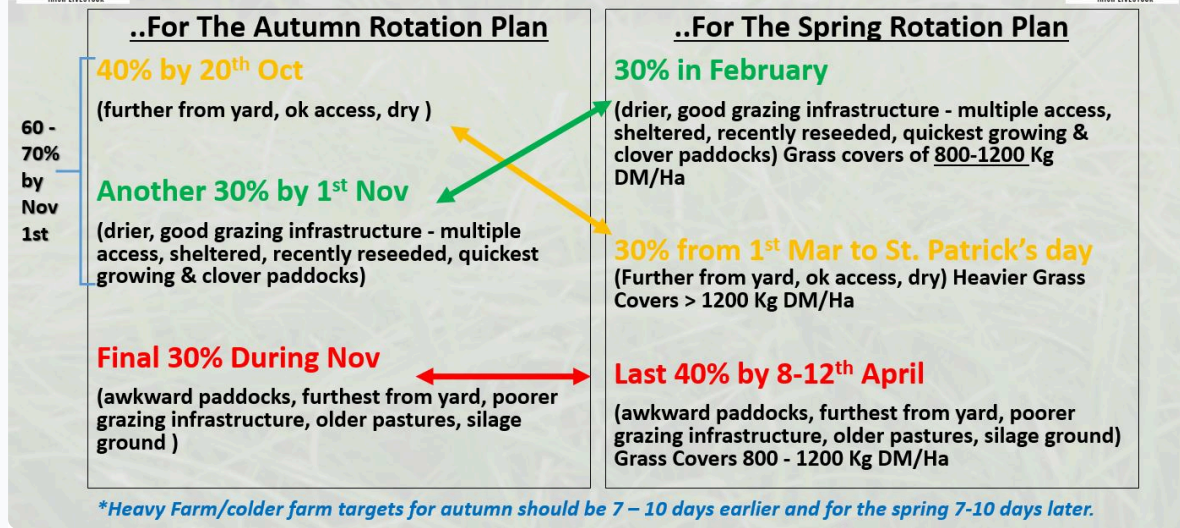
JP Hammersley, Co. Tipperary

JP is farming a dairy calf to beef system with an AFC of 631 kg DM/ha. Stocking rate has reduced with forward animals housed for finishing and calves will now manage the final grazing rotation

[Link to video](#)



Picking Your Paddocks to Graze Autumn 2024



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

Brian Meade, Rathkenny, Navan, Co. Meath



AFC

770 kg DM/ha

Cover/LU

288 kg DM/ha

Growth

38 kg DM/ha/day

Demand

35 kg DM/ha

PGY

1600 kg DM/ha

Milk Yield

16.5L (Fat % 5.05 Protein % 4.35)

Grazing Mgmt

The cows are out grazing during the day and housed at night. I plan on finishing grazing around the 15-20th November depending on weather with a target closing cover of 700 kg DM/ha

Closing Paddocks

The target is to have 60% of the farm closed by the 1st November. Paddocks reseeded with clover this year will be grazed in two weeks time and closed

Cow Diet

The cows are on 12 hour grass allowances during the day. The cow diet is 8kg grass, 2kg meal, 2kg silage and 7kg zero-grazed grass

Brian's cows enjoying favorable autumn conditions in Co. Meath!



The Teagasc Grass10 Campaign is supported by:



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