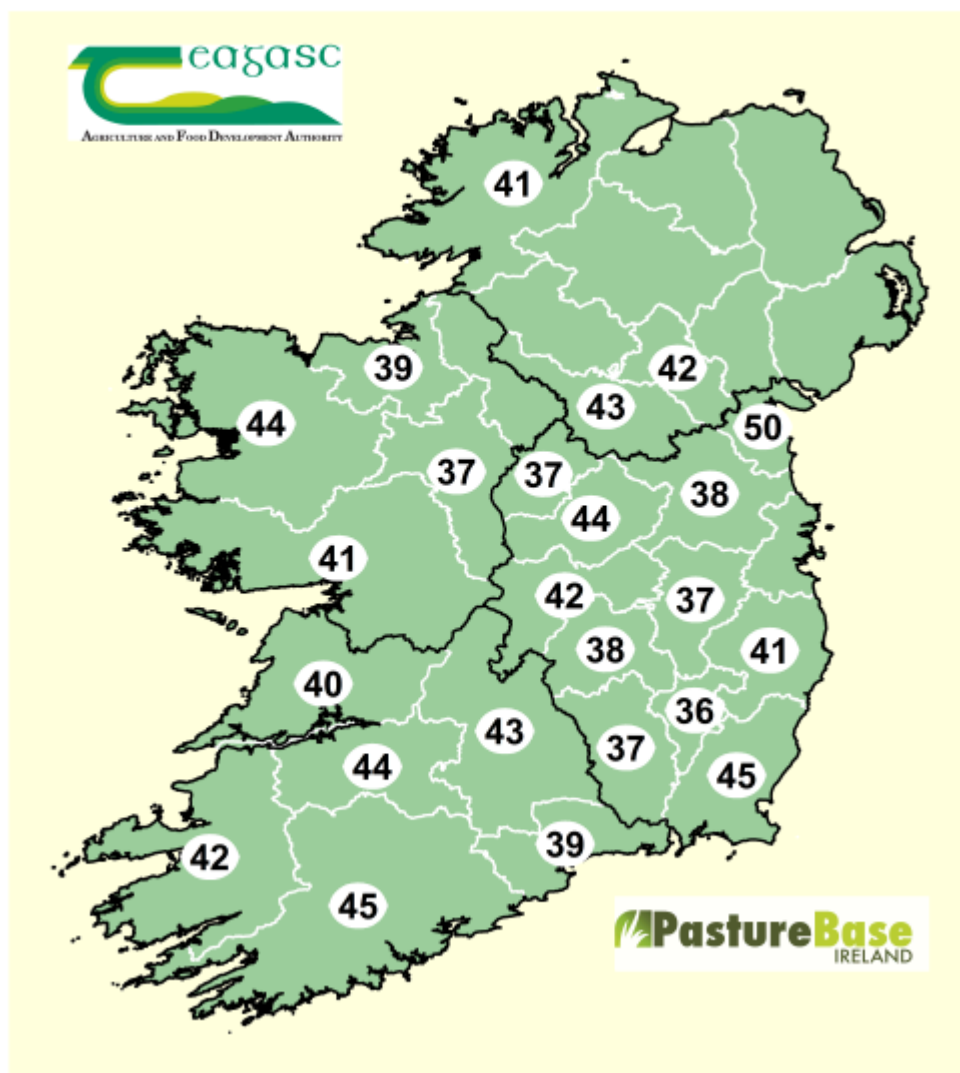


# Grass10 Newsletter

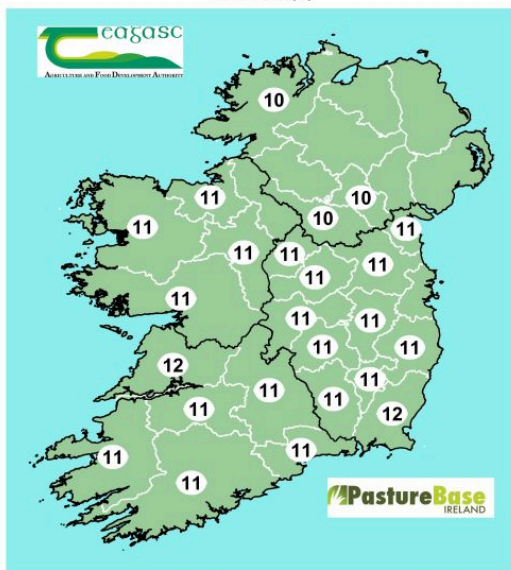
310th Edition - 24th September 2024

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

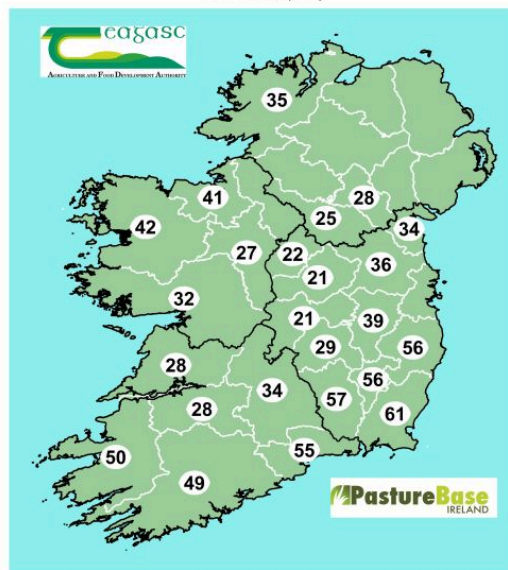
Grass growth predictions  
Next week (kg DM/ha/day)



Average soil temperature  
Next week (C)



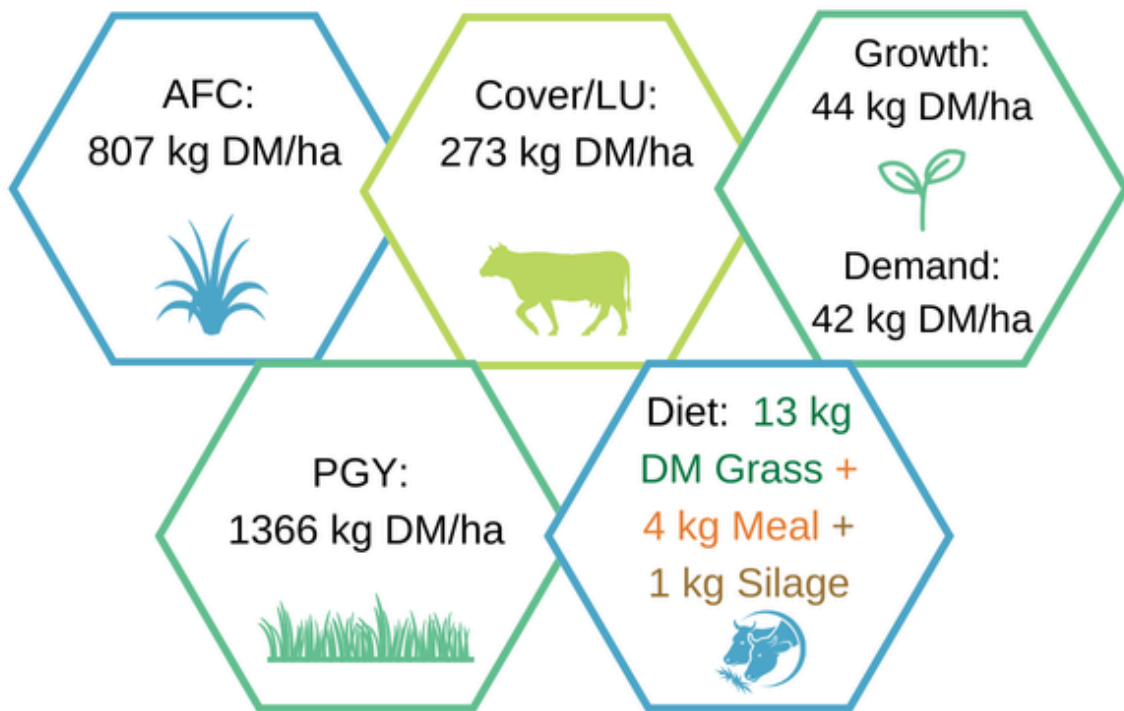
Predicted rainfall  
Next week (mm)



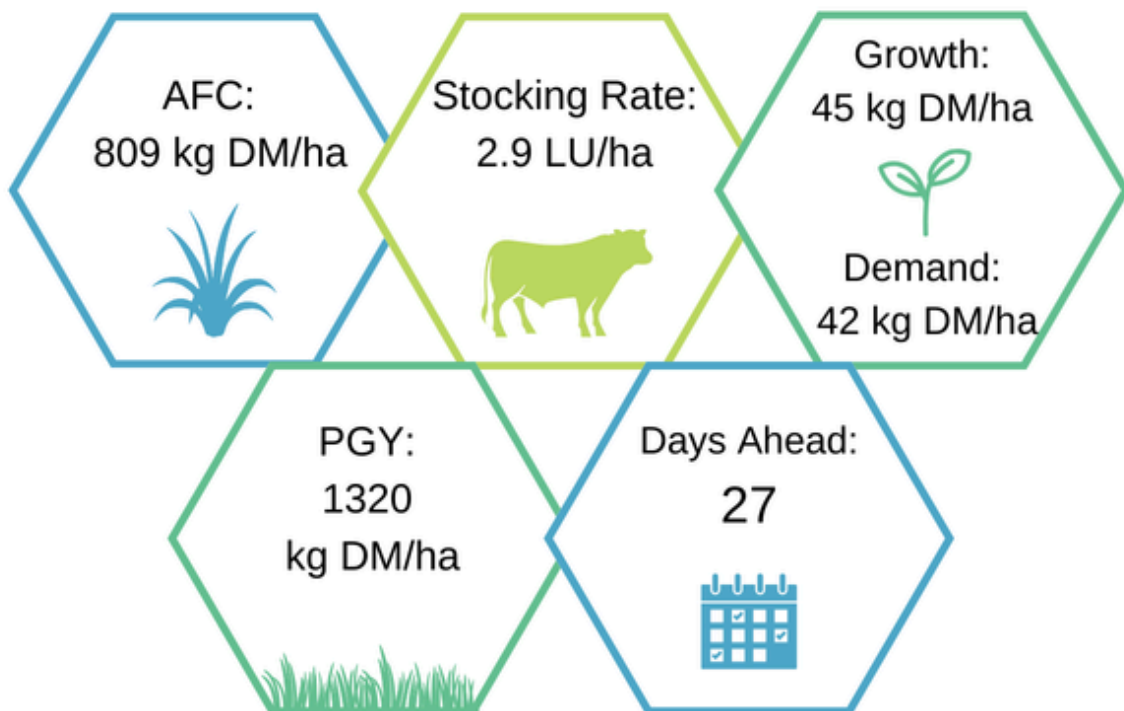
## Dry Matter %

Athenry	15%
Oak Park	20%
Moorepark	17%
Grange	20%

**Dairy Farms** - PastureBase Data



### Drystock Farms - PastureBase Data



# Grass10 Weekly Checklist

Grazing advice to achieve adequate grass supply



Final SGFOY farm walk on Evan Hunt's farm in Sligo



Complete a grass budget on PBI



Advice on remaining nutrient application



## Grazing advice to achieve adequate grass supply

- AFC & Cover/LU has increased slightly this week with growth rates of 44 kg DM/ha and 45 kg DM/ha on dairy and drystock farms respectively
- 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 5-6 weeks
- Those with reasonable growth rates (>50 kg DM/ha), still have the opportunity to build grass. So continue to focus on keeping 15-20 kg DM/ha/day difference between growth and demand to build AFC
- Some farms, particularly in the east and south east, are struggling with growth rates less than 30 kg DM/ha/day due to soil moisture deficits
- As we move to closer to the final rotation, the farm should be set up for a 40 day rotation. It is important to fill the feed gap with meal and/or silage to hold this rotation at 40 days

## Final SGFOY farm walk on Evan Hunt's farm in Sligo

- Our final SGFOY farm walk will take place tomorrow, Wednesday 25th September at 11am on the farm of Evan Hunt, Tubbercurry, Co.Sligo
- Evan was the young farmer category winner of the 2023 SGFOY competition
- See below for further information

## 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 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)
- There is still some slurry remaining in tanks on some farms, dilute down and spread now with LESS at a rate of 1500-2000 gal/ac
- 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
<b>STOCKING RATE OF 2.5 LU/HA</b>			
1 <sup>st</sup> September	300	750	30 Days
Mid-September	400-450	1000-1100	35 Days
1 <sup>st</sup> October	400	1000	40 Days
1 <sup>st</sup> November	60% of your grazing platform should be closed		
1 <sup>st</sup> December	600 kg DM/ha AFC depending on spring demand		
<b>STOCKING RATE OF 3.0 LU/HA</b>			
1 <sup>st</sup> September	330	1000	30 Days
Mid-September	350	1050	35 Days
1 <sup>st</sup> October	370	1100	40 Days
1 <sup>st</sup> November	65%+ of your grazing platform should be closed		
1 <sup>st</sup> December	650-800 kg DM/ha AFC depending on spring demand		
<b>STOCKING RATE OF 3.5 LU/HA</b>			
1 <sup>st</sup> September	300	1050	30 Days
Mid-September	340	1200	35 Days
1 <sup>st</sup> October	335	1175	40 Days
1 <sup>st</sup> November	75% of your grazing platform should be closed		
1 <sup>st</sup> December	700-750 kg DM/ha AFC depending on spring demand		

**Final SGFOY farm walk tomorrow morning in Co. Sligo at 11am!**



# Sustainable Grassland Farmer of the Year Farm Walk

Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> September | 11am

with Young Farmer Category Winner

Evan Hunt

Tubbercurry, Co. Sligo

Eircode: F91 WF21



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Food and the Marine



## Evan Hunt promotional video

Evan Hunt promotional video in advance of his SGFOY farm walk on tomorrow, Wednesday 25th September at 11am in Co. Sligo

[Link to video](#)

## Grass10 - Featured Farmer

Evan Hunt, Tubbercurry, Co. Sligo



### AFC

1027 kg DM/ha

### Cover/LU

419 kg DM/ha

### Growth

54kg DM/ha/day

### Demand

29 Kg DM/ha

### PGY

1700 Kg DM/ha

### Milk Yield

15L (Fat % 5.12 Protein % 4.27)

### Grazing Mgmt

The excellent weather last week has really transformed my farm as grazing conditions had been tricky with all the rain in late August. Cows are on 12 hour allocations

### Autumn Grass Build up

Even though the weather was dry last week I fed hard with 4 kg baled silage & my farm cover has increased from 850 - 1027 Kg DM/ha which sets me up well for autumn

### SGFOY Farm Walk

As winner of the young farmer category of the 2023 SGFOY, I am having my farm walk tomorrow 25th September at 11am here in Co. Sligo & ye are all welcome

**Evan Hunt's cows enjoying the weather in Co. Sligo! Grass Clover swards on the menu**









# Climate Adaptation Conference

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



15<sup>th</sup> 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. Padraig 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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:



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Grassland AGRO



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