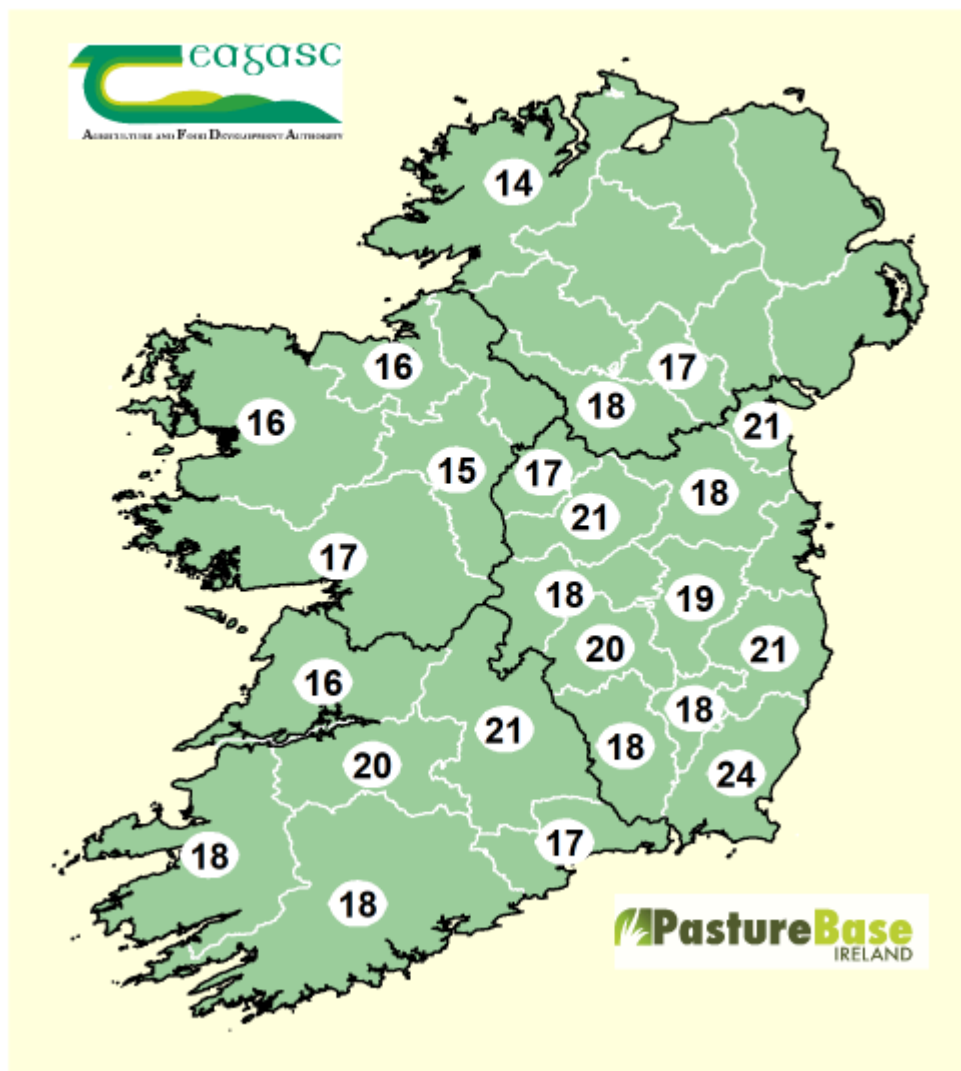


# Grass10 Newsletter

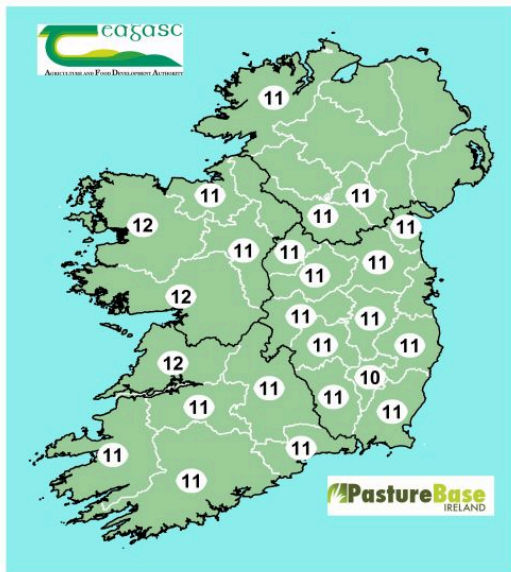
315th Edition - 29th October 2024

## 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)



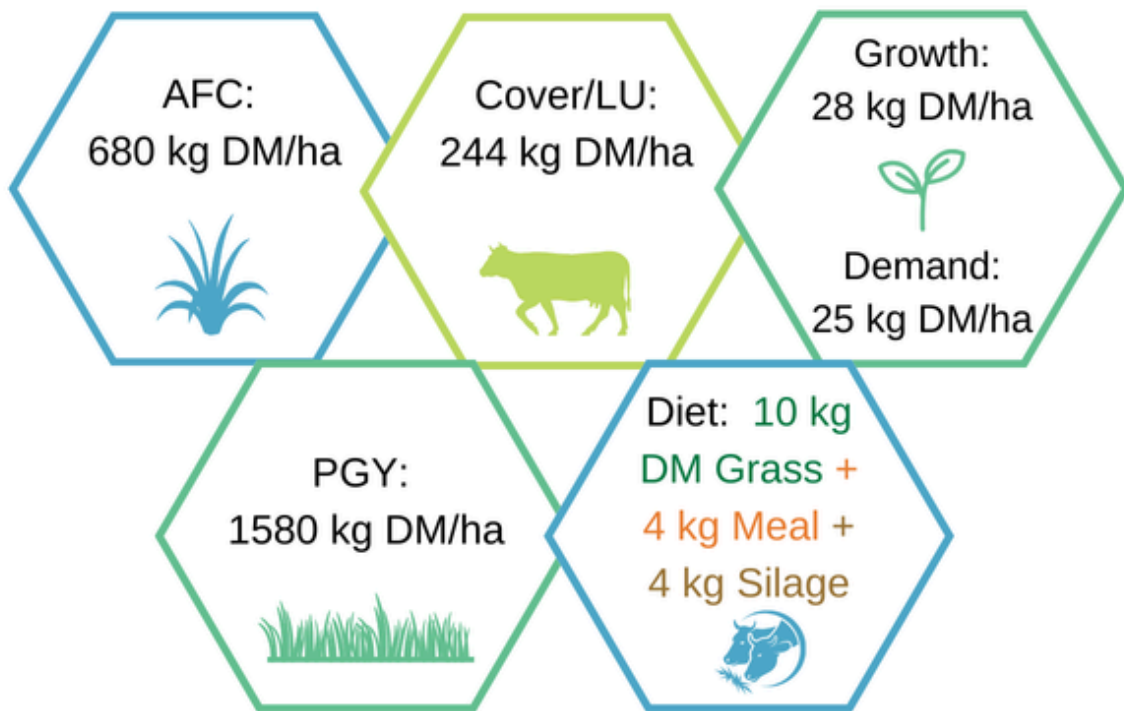
## Dry Matter %

Moorepark 12%

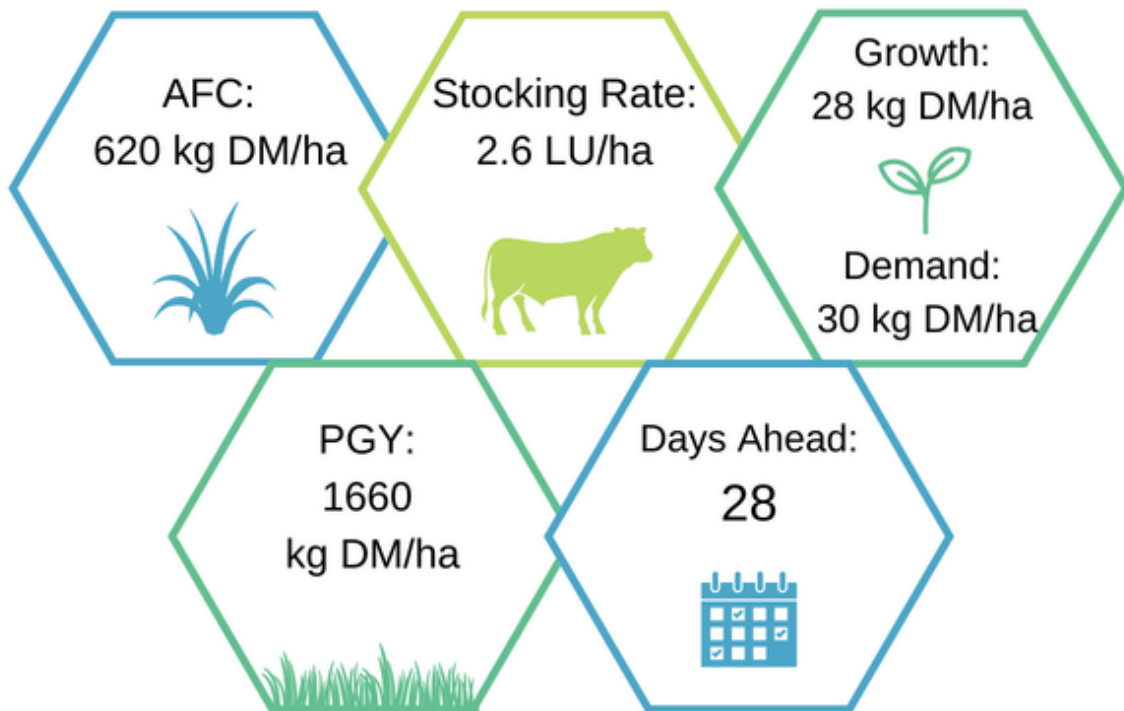
Oakpark 14%

Athenry 13%

**Dairy Farms** - PastureBase Data



### Drystock Farms - PastureBase Data



# Grass10 Weekly Checklist

Closing up the farm  
this autumn



November growth  
rates on your farm



Review your %  
grazed by  
completing an AFC  
on PBI



Autumn grazing  
updates from  
Kilkenny, Cavan &  
Tipperary



## Closing up the farm this autumn

- The excellent grazing conditions & above average grass growth conditions that prevailed during October were very much welcome across Irish farms
- It enabled animals to remain grazing and 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
- 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
- Every week delay in closing reduces spring grass supply over 100 kg DM/ha
- 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 milk protein % up for dairy farms
- Remaining paddocks to target for grazing should be the clover paddocks and some paddocks that need early slurry application
- See our "Picking your paddocks" infograph below to guide you in closing off your farm

## November growth rates on your farm

- November growth rates can be quite variable from farm to farm
- It is important to review your PBI data for the last number of years to see what growth rates were during November on your farm
- This is important as it has an affect on the potential to graze in early November while also protecting your 1st December AFC target

- For example, with growth rates of 10 kg DM/ha/day during November, target an AFC of 500-550 kg DM/ha in early November to achieve a closing cover of 750+ kg DM/ha on 1st December

## 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 reducing AFC
- Grass growth is now significantly lower than herd demand, therefore the management of AFC becomes more critical
- AFC should take precedence over % grazed from now on. If your farm is slightly behind target on AFC, prioritise a paddock or two closed in early October for the spring time
- Remember, every difference of 15 kg DM/ha per day between growth & demand will reduce AFC by 105 kg DM/ha per week so therefore it is important to keep measuring weekly on PBI when you are actively grazing at this time of the year

## 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](#)

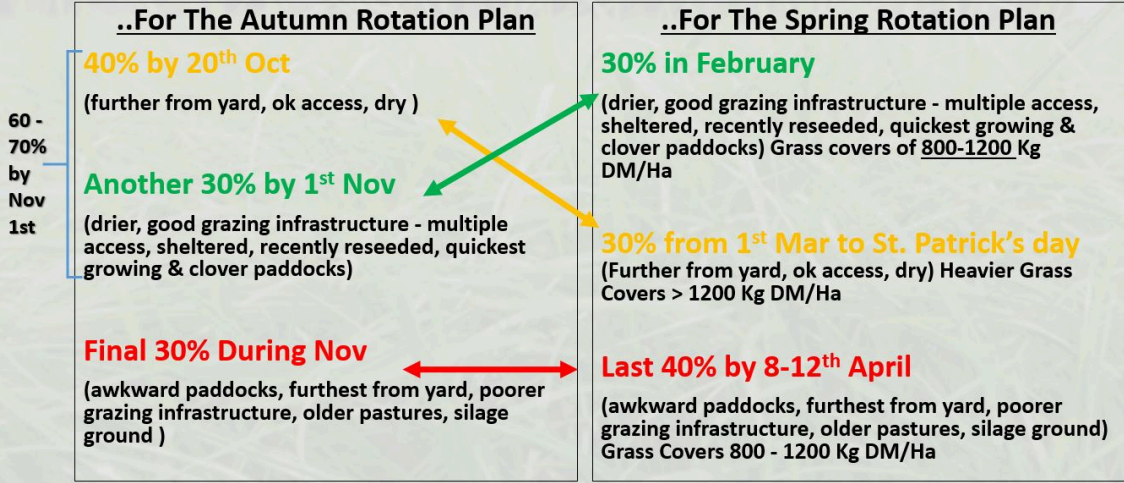


### JP Hammersley, Co. Tipperary

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](#)





*\*Heavy Farm/colder farm targets for autumn should be 7 – 10 days earlier and for the spring 7-10 days later.*

## Grass10 - Featured Farmer

**Robin Stevenson, Killygordon, Co. Donegal**



### AFC

601 kg DM/ha  
Cover/LU  
209 kg DM/ha  
Growth  
27 kg DM/ha/day

### T DM/Ha YTD

13.4 T DM/Ha

### PGY

1200 kg DM/ha

### Milk Yield

17L (Fat % 4.93 Protein %  
4.05)

### Grazing Mgmt

The month of October has been an excellent grazing month here in Donegal. We are still grazing by day and I aim to get 5-6 days grazing in November which I am very happy with

### Closing Paddocks

My target is to have between 700-750 Kg DM/Ha on the farm on the 1st December so I am measuring weekly so I dont allow my AFC to drop below 550 Kg DM/Ha in early Nov

### Soil Fertility

I took advantage of good land trafficability during October & spread 80 T of Lime on milking platform & I spread 50 units K (0-0-50 @ 1 bag/ac) on my silage ground

**Robin's cows enjoying the dry weather in Co. Donegal!**



# National Dairy Conference

'Robust dairy farming for future challenges'

27 November | 9am | Limerick Racecourse



[Link for info & sign up for Dairy conference](#)

The Teagasc Grass10 Campaign is supported by:



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