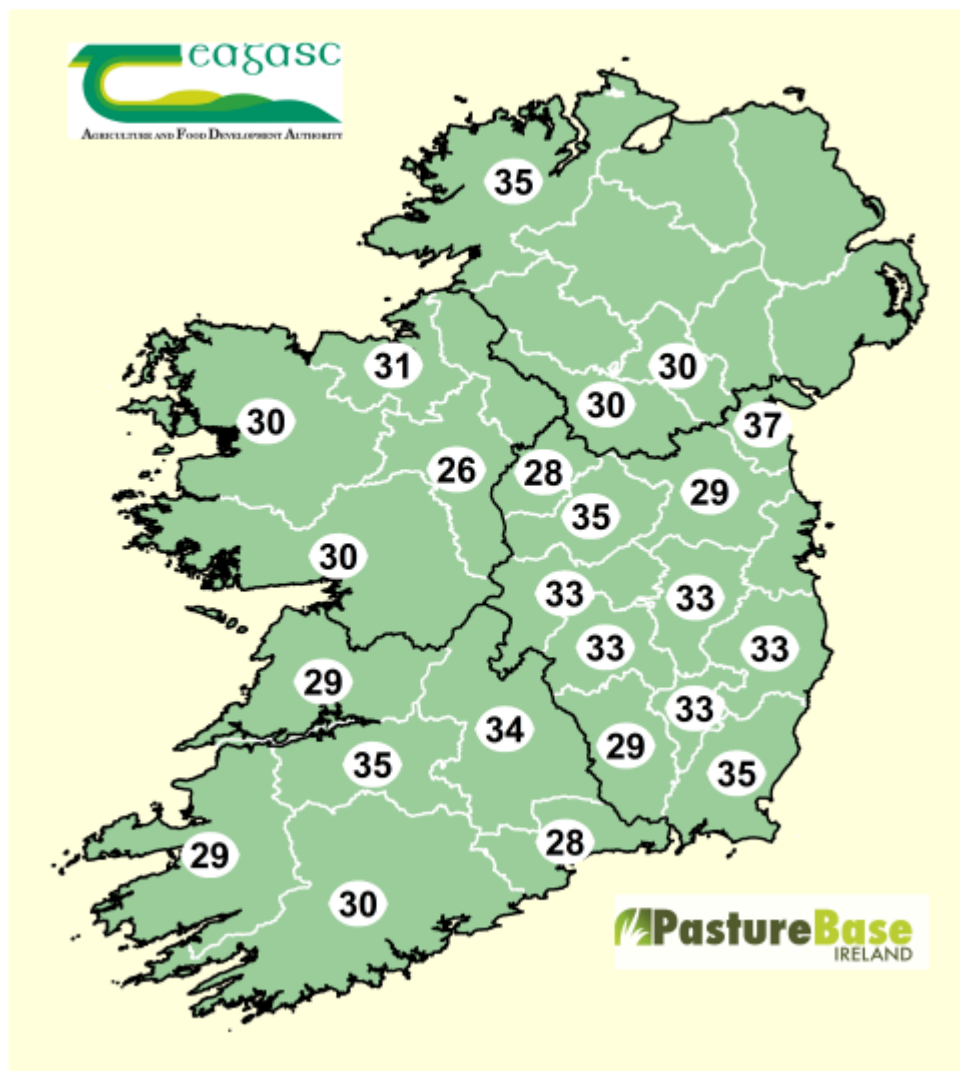


Grass10 Newsletter

312th Edition - 8th October 2024

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

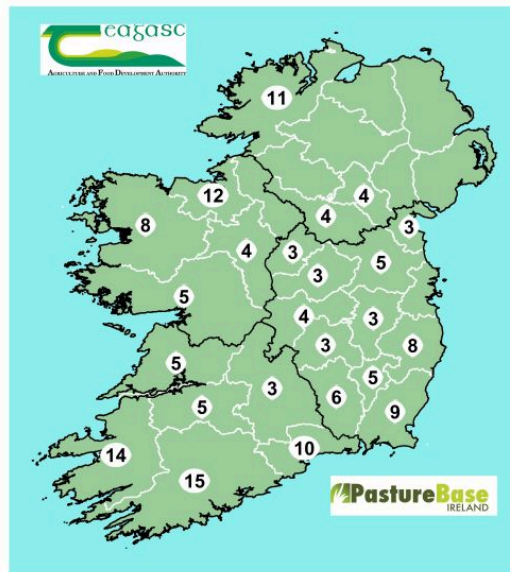
Grass growth predictions
Next week (kg DM/ha/day)



Average soil temperature
Next week (C)



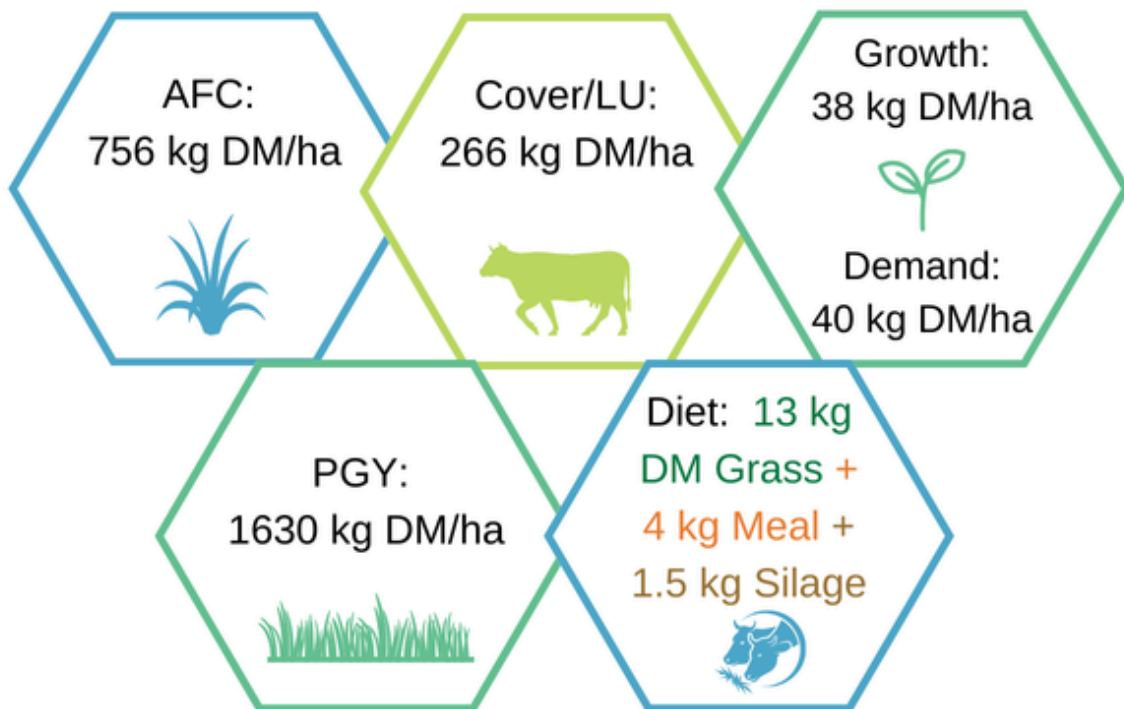
Predicted rainfall
Next week (mm)



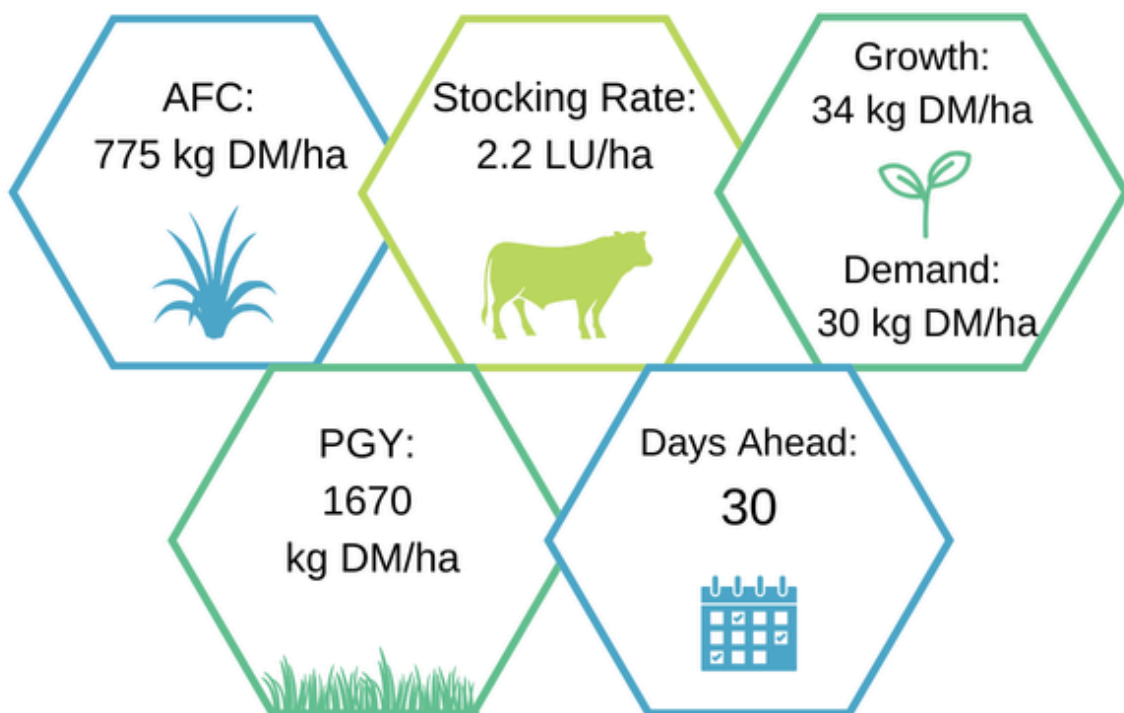
Dry Matter %

Athenry	16%
Oak Park	15%
Moorepark	12%
Grange	15%

Dairy Farms - PastureBase Data



Drystock Farms - PastureBase Data



Grass10 Weekly Checklist

All farms should have begun closing up at this stage



Grazing order for final rotation



Autumn grazing updates from Kilkenny & Cavan



Advice on remaining nutrient application



All farms should have begun closing up the farm at this stage

- 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
- Growth of grass on Irish farms is now equal or less than what is being eaten & AFC is starting to reduce to 756 and 775 Kg DM/ha respectively on dairy and drystock farms
- AFC is starting to fall on farm so the introduction of silage in the diet will be required on some farms. This will maintain AFC and allow animals to stay out grazing for longer
- As we enter October, it is important make a plan for closing paddocks on your farm
- 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
- 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. 0.80ha/day or 5.5ha per week
- Most farms should try to push out to a 40 day rotation. For example a 30 ha milking platform should be grazing 0.75ha per day

Grazing order for final rotation

- While closing-off is influenced by ground conditions, paddock choice during closing is critical. To start grazing next spring, some of the drier

- paddocks that have good grazing infrastructure with roadways and plenty of access/exit points will need to be targeted
- So these paddocks will need to be closed mid-October to ensure medium covers of 800-1200 kg DM/ha to start grazing next spring
 - Try to graze off some of the more difficult, heavier soil type paddocks on your farm this week
 - See our "Picking your paddocks" infograph below to guide you in closing off your farm

Autumn grazing updates from Co. Kilkenny & Co. Cavan

- 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 here from Micheal Smith, Co. Cavan and Joe Murphy, Co. Kilkenny on their plans for the final grazing rotation

Advice on remaining nutrient application

- Chemical N & P fertiliser application and slurry 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)
- Soiled water/collecting yard tank should be spread as paddocks are grazed from October 1st

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](#)



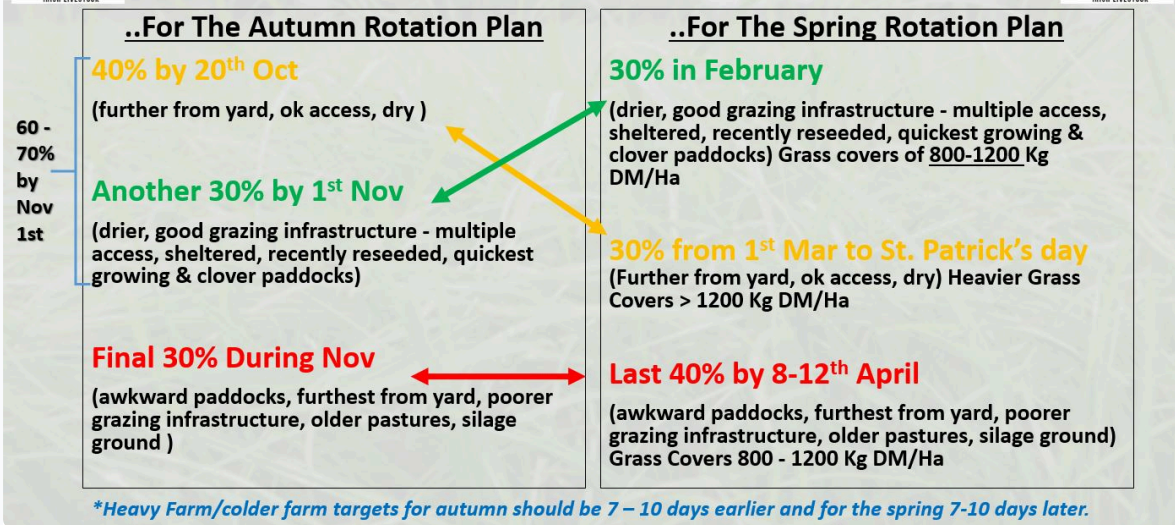
Micheal Smith, Co. Cavan

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](#)



Picking Your Paddocks to Graze Autumn 2024



[Link to feed budget tutorial on PBI](#)

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

Michael Ahern, Sheanbeg, Ballyduff Upper, Co. Waterford



AFC

776 kg DM/ha

Cover/LU

214 kg DM/ha

Growth

49 kg DM/ha/day

Demand

51 kg DM/ha

PGY

1600 kg DM/ha

Milk Yield

15L (Fat % 6.03 Protein % 4.41)

Grazing Mgmt

Cows are on 12 hour grass allocations, grazing 1 ha per grazing with a 40 day rotation. The cow diet is 9.5kg grass, 4kg meal & 5.5kg silage

Closing Paddocks

We will begin closing paddocks from today onwards. Our target is to have an AFC of 650-700 kg DM/ha on December 1st

Clover Paddocks

White clover paddocks will be grazed in late October. Red clover silage fields will be grazed/zero-grazed in the next week

Michael's cows content grazing in Co. Waterford!



THE BEEF EDGE - GRASS10 GRASS UPDATE
Key grazing management tips and advice
Monthly bonus episode on The Beef Edge podcast with **Niamh Doyle** from the Grass10 team
www.teagasc.ie/thebeefedge
Scan the QR code to listen to The Beef Edge Podcast

October Grass Update on the Beef Edge

Teagasc Grass10 advisor, Niamh Doyle has the monthly update on the Beef Edge podcast discussing grass management tips for the month ahead

[Listen to the podcast here](#)

The Teagasc Grass10 Campaign is supported by:



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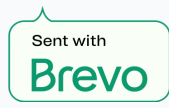


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