



PastureBase Ireland is an online grassland management application that is available to all livestock farmers. The primary function of PastureBase Ireland is to quantify the amount of grass on a farm on a given day and subsequently calculate the amount of grass grown in each paddock over the year. PastureBase Ireland includes a range of tools to aid farmers in making better use of their chemical N fertiliser and organic manures

How to get started with PastureBase Ireland

Map out each paddock on your farm using the mapping tool

On the map different parameters can be displayed for example soil fertility, grass covers, growth rates, etc. These maps can also be printed to help with decision making

Activate link with one of the soil fertility laboratories or enter soil fertility results manually

PastureBase Ireland is linked to a number of soil fertility laboratories. Results can be automatically uploaded to your profile. These results are the foundation of a fertiliser plan

Calculate the farm's winter forage requirement using the fodder budget tool

A plan can then be put in place to calculate the area that needs to be cut for silage and also determine the fertiliser and slurry requirement; fodder can be purchased and secured well in advance of the winter

Complete a grazing plan by filling out a grass budget

A grass budget will identify when the farm may be in a surplus or a deficit. Depending on the situation, nutrient and supplement management may have to change. Weekly farm covers are essential for this budget to work

Create a N plan for monthly guidelines for chemical and organic manures

Paddocks are categorised depending on their use; grazing, grazing + 1 cut, grazing + 2 cuts, grazing with high clover content. A different fertiliser and slurry plan is determined for each category. Target, versus actual, applications need to be reviewed on an ongoing basis

Record fertiliser and slurry applications throughout the year

The amount of nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium and sulphur applied per hectare can be recorded and the totals calculated for each paddock at any time throughout the year. Chemical fertiliser can also be distinguished from organic manures

Walk the farm weekly, and twice weekly in periods of high growth rates, recording grass covers in PBI

When farm cover is measured it is much easier to create and implement a plan for the coming week. Walking the farm regularly will ensure that livestock are grazing high quality grass which leads to better performance and lower emissions

Farmers who use PastureBase Ireland

-  Grow more grass compared to the average farm
-  Have a longer grazing season
-  Keep high quality grass available to their livestock