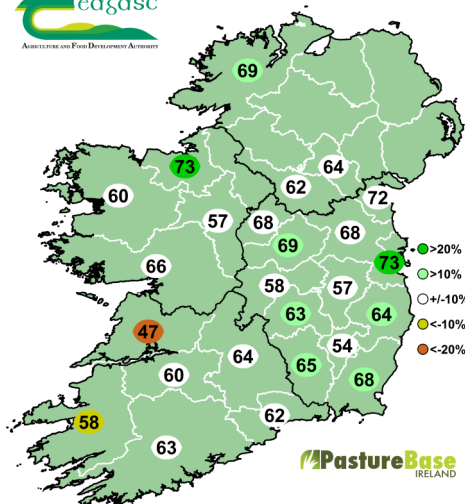


1st Sept 2020

PastureBase
IRELAND

AFC	Stocking Rate	Cover/LU	Growth	Demand	Pregrazing Yield
860 kg DM/ha	3.16 LU/ha	272 kg DM/ha	60 kg DM/ha	50 kg DM/ha	1,840 kg DM/ha

Grass growth measurement
Today's grass growth (kg DM/ha/day)



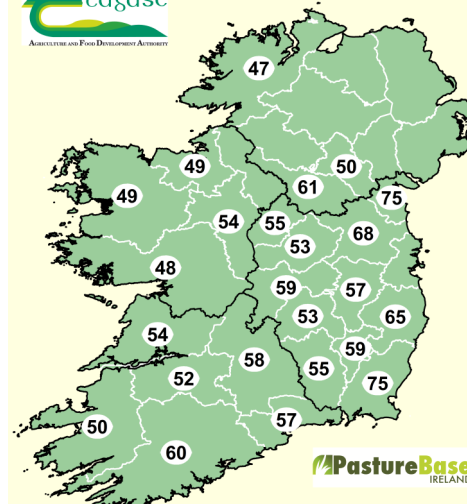
On the left: counties map showing **current** grass growth rates over the last week.

On the right: counties map showing **predicted** grass growth over the next 7 days from farms involved in Elodie Ruelle's MoSt grass growth model (55 farms).

Predicted Growth Rate:

Ballyhaise 55 kg DM/ha
South Wexford 50 kg DM/ha
Athenry 43 kg DM/ha
Clonakilty 60 kg DM/ha

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



Switch Focus Back To Autumn Grazing Targets

- AFC of 860 Kg DM/ha is about 150 Kg DM/ha behind target based on a stocking rate of 3.16 LU/ha. It is possible that with additional land returning into the system from delayed silage cut or reseeded land, that we may be closer than these figures suggest.
- At the moment growth is running 10 Kg DM/ha above demand. Therefore AFC will increase by 70 Kg DM/ha in a week (AFC 930 Kg/ha). This assumes that growth will remain the same for the week ahead. However grass supply on average will still be behind target.
- Options to increase AFC include: increasing grazing area now, increasing supplementation now, and removing surplus stock now.
- Fertiliser N application will help increase grass supply on the farm. There are two weeks left to apply N and P fertiliser.
- Rotation length is currently 25-27 days from analysing PastureBase data. This should be closer to 30 days. E.g. 60 acres, grazing 2 acres per day. By mid Sept this should be 33-35 days.

Grass Dry Matter %

Moorepark 13.6%

(Average 8 paddocks 1,100
-1,400 Kg DM/ha covers @
9am on 01/09/20)

Target No. Farm Walks For The Remainder Of 2020

Month	# Farm Walks
September	4 (Weekly To Build Grass)
October	2 (Early Oct & Late Oct)
November	2 (Early Nov & At Housing)
December	1 (Dec 1 st Closing Cover)
Total	9

Why continue to walk the farm and record on PastureBase in the autumn?

- Monitor AFC and meet the autumn grazing targets
- Record autumn growth rates for your farm for future use
- Not run the AFC too low and have grass for the spring
- Accurately record your annual tonnage

Date	Cover/LU (Kg DM/LU)	AFC (Kg DM/ha)	Rotation Length
Stocking Rate 2.5 LU/ha			
1st Sept	300	750	30 Days
Mid Sept	400-450	1000-1100	35 Days
Stocking Rate 3.0 LU/ha			
1st Sept	330	990	30 Days
Mid Sept	370	1100	35 Days
Stocking Rate 3.5 LU/ha			
1st Sept	280	980	30 Days
Mid Sept	340	1200	35 Days

1st Sept 2020

Sward Quality

Sward quality results from samples taken at Clonakilty last week are below. The samples are all taken from the same paddock which is split into four different treatments (see below). This paddock was reseeded in April 2020. Dry matter was low due to heavy rainfall, and it was lower still for the two grass-clover treatments. However the energy (DMD & UFL) and protein (CP) content of both grass-clover swards were higher when compared with the grass-only swards. Dry matters have increased in most areas as rainfall has reduced and drier conditions have settled in. This is a welcome boost to animal performance which had declined on many farms due to continuous wet weather and difficult grazing conditions.

Date	Treatment	Cover	Clover %	DMD	CP	UFL	DM
24-08-2020	Grass-only - 250 kg N/ha	1,619	-	76.3	18.4	0.96	12.5
24-08-2020	Grass-clover - 250 kg N/ha	1,466	13	77.7	21.8	0.97	10.6
24-08-2020	Grass-only - 150 kg N/ha	1,056	-	76.1	17.6	0.96	11.7
24-08-2020	Grass-clover - 150 kg N/ha	1,445	11	78.6	23.1	0.98	9.2

Grassland Farmer Of The Year 2020—Deadline Extended

The deadline for entries for the 2020 Grassland Farmer Of The Year competition has been extended until Friday 11th Sept. This is to accommodate the later launch of the competition which coincided with peak holiday season. This gives farmers and advisors another chance to get in entries for the competition. In the videos below, our 4 category winners from the 2019 GFOY go through some of the reasons they entered the competition and what they learned along the way. Click into the videos to hear from the farmers. You can also click on the link attached to see more information on the competition and for the entry form <https://bit.ly/GFOY2020>



John O'Connell, 2019 Sheep Category Winner

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ya40jX6oVnc>

Bryan Daniels, 2019 Overall & Sustainable Farming Winner

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pbanCULkPbo>



Trevor Boland, 2019 Beef (Suckling) Category Winner

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jTRgSrK9D2Q>

Mike Bermingham, 2019 Dairy Category Winner

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FVCU52qa200>

