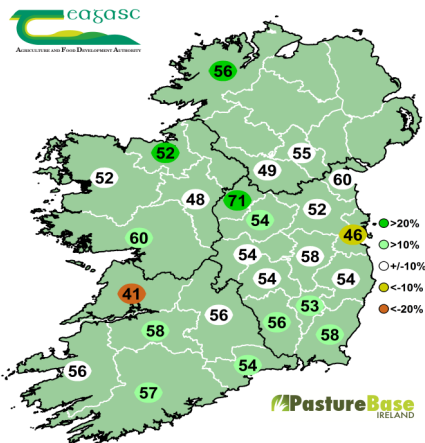


29th September 2020

PastureBase
IRELAND

AFC	Stocking Rate	Cover/LU	Growth	Demand	Pregrazing Yield
962 kg DM/ha	2.95 LU/ha	326 kg DM/LU	52 kg DM/ha	42 kg DM/ha	2063 kg DM/ha

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



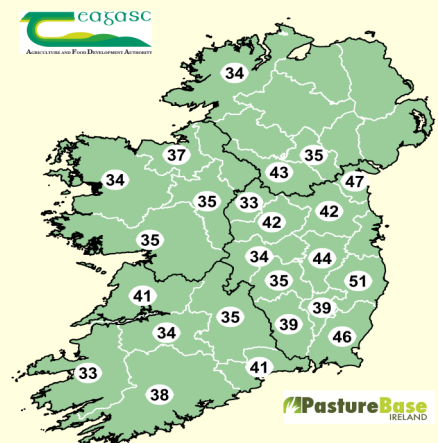
On the left: counties map showing **current** grass growth rates over the last week.

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 40 kg DM/ha
- South Wexford 41 kg DM/ha
- Athenry 32 kg DM/ha
- Clonakilty 38 kg DM/ha

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



Focus turns to setting the farm up for the Spring

Higher stocked farmers and farmers with heavy land will start closing paddocks in rotation this week. Paddocks grazed after this date should not be grazed again until Spring 2021. Use the 60/40 Autumn Rotation Planner as a tool to plan your October grazing. Aim to graze 60% of your farm by 1st November (70 - 80% if highly stocked or heavy land).

It is important to put a grazing plan together for the paddocks you want grass on next Spring. Continue to make use of the good grazing conditions and graze to 4cm – don't waste grass. Use 12 hour allocations with a temporary fence for heavy covers.

Paddocks closed early in October are **not** going to be the first paddocks you will aim to graze – these will have too much grass (1500 + Kg/DM/ha) at turnout in Spring. These paddocks will be important in late February / early March as cows appetites rise. These paddocks can be further from yard, larger size or may be poor for grazing infrastructure.

Paddocks closed in mid/late October will have medium covers in Spring so **target these** in early February. These must be dry paddocks with good grazing infrastructure and close to yard.

Behind Target Average Farm Cover?

If you are behind target on AFC you will have to reduce demand with supplement in October. Example 40 ha MP, 100 cows and AFC of 850kg/DM/ha. 60% grazed by 1st Nov = **0.8 Ha per day X 1700 kg/DM/ha** in strongest paddock = **1360 kg/DM** available divided by 100 cows = **13.6kg** grass and remainder of the diet will have to be supplemented with meal/silage.

Autumn Checklist– Tick when completed for your farm

Slurry & FYM applied	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lime applied	<input type="checkbox"/>
K fertiliser applied	<input type="checkbox"/>	Grass Budget	<input type="checkbox"/>
Autumn Rotation Planner	<input type="checkbox"/>	Grazing Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>

Grass DM%

14

Moorepark

(1400 kg/DM/ha cover in damp conditions)

October 1st Autumn Grazing Targets

Stocking Rate	Cover/LU (Kg DM/LU)	AFC (Kg DM/ha)	Rotation Length
2.5 LU/ha	400	1000	40 Days
3.0 LU/ha	380	1150	40 Days
3.5 LU/ha	335	1175	40 Days

Apply remaining slurry now using LESS methods

Now is the time to take advantage of the settled weather conditions and empty any remaining slurry tanks on your farm rather than leaving it until close to the deadline of the 15th October. Some of the benefits of using Low Emissions Slurry Spreading methods are:-

- Retain more nitrogen to grow grass and therefore lower nitrogen bill on farm
- Less grass contamination
- Contribute to lowering national ammonia emissions

Click on the link to view Teagasc Johnstown Castle video on Low Emissions Slurry spreading method

<http://bit.ly/AutumnLESS>



29th September 2020

Closing Plan for Dry Farms – Kevin Moran

Kevin Moran milks a herd of 263 spring calving cows on a 90.5 Ha milking platform in Caherlistrane, Co. Galway, less than 5 minutes from the Mayo/Galway border. The land is largely dry and free draining. Kevin has built up his Average Farm Cover to 1201 kg/DM/Ha and now his focus turns to utilising that grass while setting the farm up for the spring.



Kevin Moran,
Caherlistrane
Co. Galway

Kevin's Current Grass Performance

AFC (Kg DM/Ha)	1201
Cover/LU (Kg DM/LU)	413
Growth (Kg DM/Ha/Day)	62
Demand (Kg DM/Ha/Day)	52
Stocking Rate (LU/Ha)	2.91
PGY (Kg DM/Ha)	2200

Kevin's plan is to start closing from the 7th October and to graze 60% of the farm by 3rd November. **54 Ha to be grazed in 27 days = 2 Ha per day.** If weather conditions are favourable, Kevin hopes to extend out his grazing until after the 20th November, so he plans to graze the remaining 40% of the farm in 21 days. **36 Ha to be grazed in 21 days = 1.72 Ha per day.**

As 60% of the grass available in the spring grows during October and November it is crucial to have enough area closed to have enough grass for the spring.

"I calved 90 % of the herd last year in 6 weeks and it will be similar in 2021 so I have a large demand in Spring time. I completed a Grass Budget on PastureBase to map out my grass supply until late Spring 2021. I plan to have an AFC on the 1st December of 850 kg/DM/Ha and with typical winter growth rates of 4-5 kg/DM/Ha per day I aim to have an AFC of 1100 Kg/DM/Ha on the 10th February when I start calving"

Kevin is making use of the dry spell at the minute to get some of the wetter paddocks grazed on his farm. "Flexibility is key to Autumn grazing. I am targeting to be grazing covers of 2000 kg/DM/Ha for October however I have no problem grazing paddocks with covers of 1300 –1500 kg/DM/Ha if weather conditions are poor or I need to get extra area grazed to stay on target"

"Rotation length was key"

Kevin remarked that the key to building grass on his farm was getting the rotation length in line with the Grass10 Autumn targets. "In previous years I was getting caught as I was not extending my rotation length to out to 35 days quick enough in September which left me behind target for my peak cover on 1st October. Rotation length is 35 days at the minute and it will be 50 days for the last rotation if weather plays ball"

Kevin's Autumn rotation planner on PastureBase

WEEK	TARGET HA GRAZED/DAY	TARGET HA GRAZED BY WEEK END	ACTUAL HA GRAZED BY WEK END	TARGET %	ACTUAL %
07/10/2020 - 13/10/2020	2.01	14.08		16	
14/10/2020 - 20/10/2020	2.01	28.16		31	
21/10/2020 - 27/10/2020	2.01	42.23		47	
28/10/2020 - 03/11/2020	2.01	56.31		62	
04/11/2020 - 10/11/2020	1.72	68.38		76	
11/11/2020 - 17/11/2020	1.72	80.44		89	
18/11/2020 - 24/11/2020	1.72	90.50		100	

Clover continues to impress in Clonakilty

Cows on the grass clover swards on the Clonakilty trial have delivered **25 kg milk solids per cow** more YTD in 2020 than their grass only counterparts and continue to deliver **15% extra in kg milk solids per cow per day at the minute.** In the table below of the 4 different treatments, the grass clover swards have also grown 0.5 to 0.7 T grass DM/Ha more than their grass only counterparts.

Clover % in the Grass clover 150 Kg/N/ha and Grass Clover 250 Kg/N/ha are running at **17.5 % and 12.2 %** respectively.

Treatment	Grass Only 150 Kg N/ha	Grass Only 250 Kg N/ha	Grass Clover 150 Kg N/ha	Grass Clover 250 Kg N/ha
Grass (T DM/Ha) YTD	11.7	13	12.2	13.7
Milk prod. (kg/MS/Day)	1.57	1.49	1.80	1.70
Milk Solids YTD	422	435	457	454

Completing an Autumn Rotation Planner on PastureBase

It is important to strike the balance between closing up paddocks for the Spring and keeping grass in the diet for as long as possible. To complete an ARP you need to know:-

- 1) Land area available to cows
- 2) Start date of last rotation and Interim date to have 60% grazed
- 3) When you plan on housing fulltime

See the tutorial for more help on completing an Autumn rotation planner on PastureBase.

<https://bit.ly/ARPTutorial>