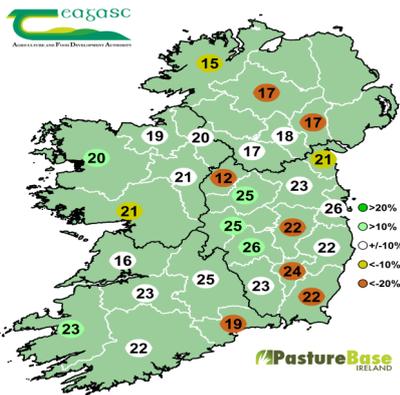


30th March 2021

PastureBase  
IRELAND

AFC	Stocking Rate	Cover/LU	Growth	Demand	Grass/Meal/Silage
770 kg DM/ha	2.75 LU/ha	280 kg DM/LU	27 kg DM/ha	34 kg DM/ha	11kg/4kg/1.5kg

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



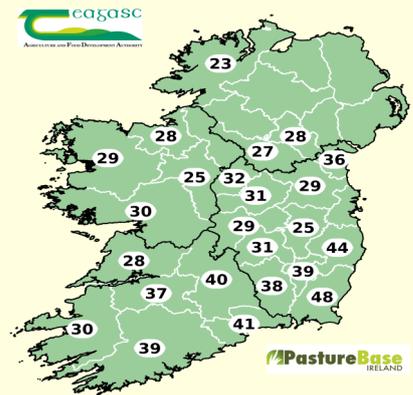
On the left: counties map showing **current** grass growth rates over the last week.

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 29 kg DM/ha  
South Wexford 40 kg DM/ha  
Athenry 27 kg DM/ha  
Clonakilty 40 kg DM/ha

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



**Starting the 2<sup>nd</sup> rotation today...and preventing history from repeating itself!**

Michael Lally farms outside Kilmessan, Co. Meath alongside his father and uncle. The milking platform is stocked at 3.9 LU/ha with 70% spring calving and 30% autumn calving split herd. Grazing began on the 10th Feb with 25% of the farm grazed by 1st March and 90% today.

Today, **regrowth on the best paddock is 1,200 Kg DM/ha** and the Lally's have decided to start the 2nd rotation, even with 10% of the first round still to go. The next 3-4 paddocks have covers 1000-1100 Kg DM/ha on them.

"There will be a transition period as we finish completing the first rotation and begin the second one at the same time."

"Last year we started the 2nd rotation too late and we didn't reduce supplement quick enough and grass covers got too heavy. **I want to avoid that this year by walking weekly and using the grazing targets.**"

Diet is 8 kg DM grass, 6 kg meal, 4 kg DM silage. As growth increases supplement will be reduced to increase demand, which is another reason for weekly farm walks. Current growth is 35 Kg DM/ha/day & demand is 32 Kg DM/ha/day.

By matching growth and demand Michael aims to hold the current AFC 613 Kg DM/ha throughout April. Avoid going under 550 Kg/DM/ha AFC at all costs as this will have a detrimental affect on growth rates in early/mid April.



Michael Lally

**Grass Dry Matter %**

**Moorepark, Co. Cork**  
14.7% (1700 Kg DM/ha)  
**Grange, Co. Meath**  
16.5% (1440 Kg DM/ha)  
**Ballyhaise, Co. Cavan**  
15% (1550 Kg/DM/ha)

Michael's cows grazing the 1st paddock on the 2nd rotation today.



**Grass10 & PastureBase Ireland Webinar Series**

Do you want to make better use of PastureBase Ireland this year on your farm?

Research and farmer feedback shows the more often you measure grass using PastureBase Ireland, the more often your animals graze the correct grass covers of 1400 Kg/DM/ha.

Register here for our April webinar:-

[www.teagasc.ie/grass10](http://www.teagasc.ie/grass10)



**Hitting Grazing Targets in 2021 with PastureBase Ireland**  
Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> April | 7pm

- Join the Grass10 & PastureBase team on the night and hear:
- Update on Spring grass supply & grazing from PastureBase Ireland
  - Tips & advice on managing the 2<sup>nd</sup> rotation during April
  - Helping you to understand terms on PastureBase Ireland such as Average Farm Cover, Cover per Livestock Unit, Demand and Days Ahead so you can make better grazing decisions
  - Setting your farm up with quality grass as we transition from low to high growth rates

Hear from special guest's dairy farmer Noel Hurley, Co. Cork & sheep farmer Peter McGuinness, Co. Meath as they discuss April grassland management on their farms and how PastureBase Ireland helps them achieve targets.

Or visit [www.teagasc.ie/grass10](http://www.teagasc.ie/grass10)

30th March 2021

## Johnstown Castle Co. Wexford Winter Milk Update

### Aidan Lawless

- Grazing conditions for the most part during March have been excellent, which was welcome after two very wet months in January & February. Our high stocked 100% autumn calved herd have **82%** of their area grazed, which is matching our revised target of ending the first round on **8th April**.
- Average Farm Cover is **759 Kg/DM/Ha**. Covers on the first grazed paddocks are **900 Kg/DM/ha**. With a reasonable weather forecast for the coming week they'll get near the **1300kgs by start of second round**. Growth rates for the past 10 days or so came in at a 37kgs/day.
- The herd are currently doing 26L @ 4.60BF & 3.74 protein. (2.23 Kgs Milk Solids per cow) As soon as we have adequate grass they'll be pulled right back from the 6kgs down to 2kgs & probably onto a full grass diet by the end of April.
- Our first round of fertiliser only went out in early March, we've followed that up last week with a further 30kgs/N/ha of protected urea (29%N, 14%K product spread @ 100kgs/ha or 40 units per acre). Silage ground will be topped up when we're sure what plots are for silage. The good ground conditions allowed us to follow the cows with 2000 gals of slurry using LESS on most paddocks grazed. Paddocks that received slurry did not receive artificial N.



Cows at Teagasc Johnstown Castle doing a great job cleaning out paddocks. Pre-grazing yield was 1250 Kg/DM/Ha

## GFOY Update **Peter McGuinness** **(Sheep Category Winner)**

*"With good grass supply and ewes in good body condition, we aren't feeding any meal after lambing. We will be batching up smaller groups later this week to get paddocks grazed out and into a proper grazing rotation."*



## Pasture Profit Index Updated for 2021!

The Pasture Profit Index or "PPI" is an index used by farmers to select Perennial Ryegrass varieties to drive grass performance and utilisation on their farms.

In this video, Tomas Tubritt from Teagasc Moorepark explains the PPI and the new "Grazing Utilisation" sub index so you can select the correct varieties when reseeded paddocks in 2021. Click here-: <http://bit.ly/PPI2021Explained>

Tomas Tubritt

## New Pasture Profit Index Explained

### Quick Grazing tips for busy sheep farmers

Making sure ewes have enough grass to produce the most amount of milk for their lambs is essential to a profitable sheep farm. Here are some tips to help you do this:

- Once lambs are 2-3 weeks old begin to batch ewes into larger group sizes. This means paddocks are grazed out quicker and can be rested. The longer the rest period, the lower the risk of running out of grass in April.
- Begin grazing in a rotation. With larger groups, paddocks are grazed out quicker and a rotation can begin. A paddock grazed this week will require about 30-days recovery, i.e. 30 day rotation. This means graze about 20% of the farm per week.
- Apply fertiliser to help grass growth. A compound can be used to supply N, P, K and S to paddocks to maximise grass growth. Important as ewe and lamb intakes increase.
- Avoid having a larger number of smaller groups of sheep grazing. This means paddocks are grazed for longer with less recovery. Less recovery means a higher risk of running out of grass. When many paddocks are being grazed at the same time, it is likely they will all be finished grazing around the same time. Avoid this situation.

Date	26/03/2021
Ewes/ha	10.5 ewes/ha
AFC	885 Kg DM/ha
Growth	16 Kg DM/ha/day
Demand	29 Kg DM/ha/day
Days ahead	30 days
% Grazed	35 %
% Lambled	88 % (700 out of 800)
Fertiliser	30 u N/ac Protected Urea (will apply compound in early April)
Start 2nd rotation	20-25th April

**Need help getting set up on PBI for grass measuring in 2021?**

Email [support@pbi.ie](mailto:support@pbi.ie) or call 046-9200965

