Grass10 Weekly Update

2nd April 2019

Current PastureBase Ireland Performance:

Daily allocations per cow:
- 13.4 kg DM Grass & 3 kg concentrates

Projected growth this week:
- Moorepark: 46 kgDM/ha/day
- Johnstown Castle: 42 kgDM/ha/day
- Ballyhaise: 42 kgDM/ha/day
- Clonakilty: 37 kgDM/ha/day

Grazing Tips for the Week:
- **Start the second rotation when there is 1,400 kgDM/ha on the 1st grazed paddock (180 kgDM/LU).** Ballyhaise College have a cover of 1,000 kgDM/ha back on the 1st grazed paddock. The 2nd rotation will start in the next 10 days: 10 days X 35 kgDM/ha (growth rate)= 350 kgDM/ha (additional cover)= 1,350 kgDM/ha on 1st grazed paddock. To start the 2nd rotation on time, 2 paddocks are being skipped and closed for medium term silage (cut early/mid May). These paddocks have covers of 2,800 kgDM/ha
- Heavy covers: strip graze- 12 hr blocks, minimise supplement, graze down to target residuals (4 cm), skip if there is surplus grass and start 2nd rotation
- **70 units N/acre** should be achieved across the platform. High compound fertiliser should go out on low index soils and damaged areas. Sulphur should be included and farmers should start using protected Urea for the mid-season.
- Farm cover should not drop under 600 kgDM/ha at any stage. Where farm cover is low, demand cannot exceed growth. Higher stocking rate farms will need higher farm covers to start 2nd round (180/LU). E.g. 4 cows X 180 kgDM/LU= 720 kgDM/ha

Left: Fergus Austin (grazing coach Nenagh) is grazing down to residuals of 3.8 cm. Regrowths are excellent. Fergus will start the 2nd rotation this week. 1,200 on 1st grazed paddock. Heifers are grazing a far away paddock on the milking platform to increase demand and to get through heavy covers. Fergus has been grazing day and night since 28th January with 3.5 kg concentrates. Fergus only missed 5 grazings with wet weather and snow this spring. On/off grazing, excellent grazing infrastructure and walking the farm has allowed him to stay out grazing even through wet weather in March.

Picture Above: Some farmers took advantage of the good weather and took the chance to cut surplus bales on heavy covers last week. The earlier these paddocks were cut, the earlier the regrowth for the 2nd rotation. Other farmers with lower stocking rates opted to close off paddocks for silage (to be cut early/mid May) and will start the second rotation when there is 1,400 kgDM/ha on the 1st grazed paddock.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Moorepark</th>
<th>DM%</th>
<th>AFC</th>
<th>827 kgDM/ha</th>
<th>285 kgDM/LU</th>
<th>Stocking Rate</th>
<th>2.9 LU/ha</th>
<th>Growth</th>
<th>29 kgDM/ha</th>
<th>Demand</th>
<th>38 kgDM/ha</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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Key Quote from Northern Grassland Farmer of the Year Winner Peter Farrell:
- “A grass cover is taken every Monday and Thursday during the summer months. I’m not able to do it all the time, but whoever carries it out sends it into our WhatsApp group with the grazing plan for the next few days”. -Excellent team work between labour and farmer managing grass.

Key Messages:
- Peter carried out a feed budget on PastureBase Ireland in early January which gave him the confidence to graze in January without running down farm cover for the milking cows
- The 2nd rotation on this farm started last Wednesday. Good soil fertility (pH, P and K), early grazing and early N has led to excellent growth this spring.
- Peter plans to spread 10% less N this year while maintaining same grass growth rates. Peter will not spread fertiliser on soiled areas at the front of paddocks, around water troughs or beside ditches to reduce N usage while maintaining grass output/ha.

Fertiliser Requirement for 1st Cut Silage:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nutrient</th>
<th>Nitrogen</th>
<th>Phosphorus</th>
<th>Potassium</th>
<th>Sulphur</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Units/ Acre</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

P and K Off-Take:
- 3,000 gallons/slurry per acre or 2.5 bags of 0-7-30/acre to cover P and K off-takes
- Chemical fertiliser should be used to achieve remainder of N, P and K
- 1,000 gallons of slurry= 6-5-30 in terms of N, P and K (good slurry)
- Chemical fertiliser should include sulphur (target: minimum 10 units/acre)
- Where indexes are low, products like Muriate of Potash or 0-7-30 should be spread in late summer/autumn to build indexes

Right:
Drystock Grass10 grazing coach in Nenagh using strip wires and back fence to graze heavy covers. All livestock are out grazing. The farmer spread early Urea and followed livestock with slurry to maximise growth this spring. There is a surplus of grass on the farm (AFC: 950 kgDM/ha), so the farmer has closed off some paddocks for quality silage to be cut in early/mid May. 2nd round of fertiliser went out in mid– March (40 units N/acre)