

16th June 2020

PastureBase Ireland Current Performance (Last 7 Days):

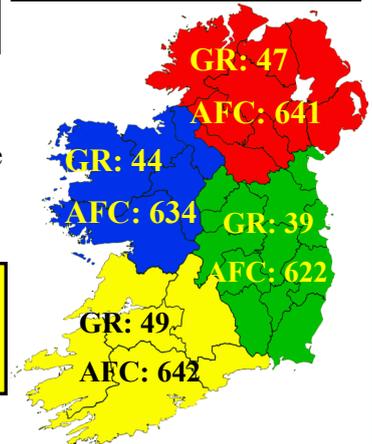
**PastureBase**  
IRELAND

AFC	Stocking Rate	Cover/Cow	Growth	Demand
637 kg DM/ha	3.44 LU/ha	185 kg DM/ha	46 kg DM/ha	48 kg DM/ha

- Growth rates have averaged 46 kg DM/ha over the last 7 days
- Most parts of the country have received rainfall and growth should increase** on farms this week as a result
- Areas such as north Meath, Carlow, Kildare, north Tipperary, parts of Clare and parts Kilkenny have still received no rain. **Low growth rates will continue in areas that have not received rain**

Grass DM: 18%  
Moorepark (1500 kg DM/ha)

Below: Covers in the Last 7 Days



Predicted Growth Rate: Elodie Ruelle Moorepark

Ballyhaise 74 kg DM/ha  
Athenry 67 kg DM/ha

South Wexford 59 kg DM/ha  
Moorepark 56 kg DM/ha

Two Recommendations:

Areas that have received rain

- Walk the farm regularly. Target a pregrazing yield of **1,400 kg DM/ha**. Target cover/cow of **160- 180 kg DM/cow on dairy farms or 10- 12 days ahead for drystock farms**
- Rotation length should be 21 days** to maintain grass quality on farms
- Where farm covers were run down due to decreased growth rates, growth should exceed demand until **farm cover is back on target** (see above)
- Once sufficient grass on the farm **match growth and demand** to avoid running into surplus or deficit depending on growth
- Where farm covers are on target, supplementation should reduce** and growth match demand. **No silage should be fed**

Steps to Increase Grass Quality on Farms

- Where farm cover is on target and where growth is normal on farms, **avoid grazing silage ground** and target quality grass on the grazing platform
- Target residuals of 4 cm** on the grazing platform. Any paddock that is not grazed out well should be earmarked for surplus bales in the next rotation if growth exceeds demand
- Where farms have received rain, where **cover/cow exceeds 200 kg DM/cow+**, and where there is rain in the forecast- **surplus bales should be cut to maintain grass quality**. The **poorest quality paddocks** should be targeted

Areas that have still not received rain

- Rotation length** should be maintained at **25 days** on farms where growth has declined
- Avoid running down the farm cover by matching growth and demand now. Farms that have held farm cover over 500 kg DM/ha are growing 20 kg DM/ha/day more grass than farms where the cover has dropped below 500 kg DM/ha
- Dry matter of grass is 20%+ so avoid underestimating grass measurements. **Graze down to 4cm**. No grass should be wasted on farms.

Steps to Hold Rotation and Average Farm Cover:

- \* **Bring all area into the grazing rotation.** Strip graze paddocks that were earmarked for surplus bales. Strip grazing is more cost efficient than making bales and subsequently feeding them out.
- \* **Supplement if necessary** to match growth and demand: e.g. Growth 45 kg DM/ha @3.5 Cows/ha = 45/3.5= 13 kg DM grass + 5 kg concentrates (growth matching demand)
- \* In areas where growth rate has declined, **any livestock that serves no purpose on farms e.g. dry cows should be sold**. On drystock farms, animals that can be drafted for finishing should be taken off the grazing platform to reduce demand.

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## Social Media Takeover: Trevor Boland, Suckler Category Grassland Farmer of the Year 2019



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“Growing Grass in the West will  
shape the Future of Suckler Farming”

# Social Media Takeover

with  
**Trevor Boland**  
2019 Suckler Category Grassland Farmer of the Year

**Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> June**

@Teagasc  
@TeagascGrass10

Suckler Winner Grassland Farmer of the Year 2019 Trevor Boland is hosting a social media takeover on Wed 17th June at 2 pm. See the following video: <https://bit.ly/TrevorBolandVideo>

Follow:

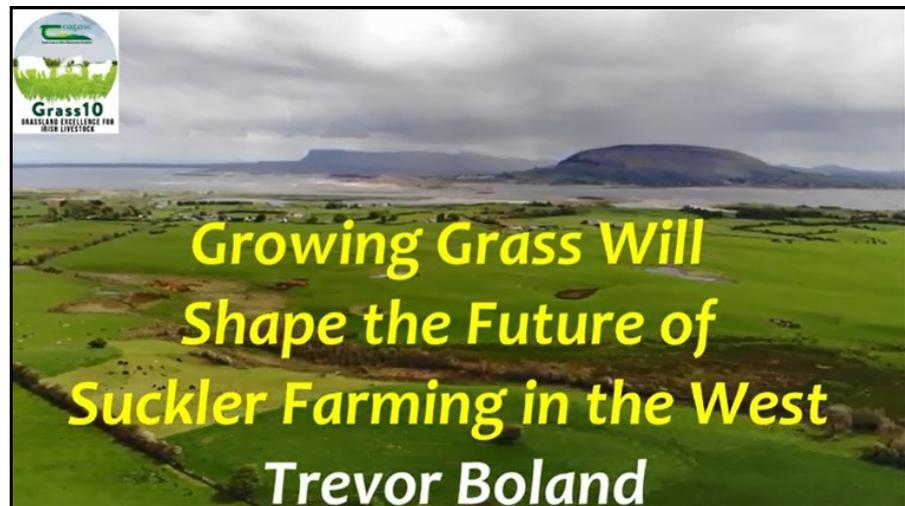
@TeagascGrass10  
Twitter

Teagasc Instagram

Topics Include:

- Setting up a rotational grazing system
- Key grazing infrastructure for suckler beef farms
- Management tips to keep top quality grass ahead of cattle
- Soil fertility
- Grass measurement– Why do it and its impact..

Make sure to follow @TeagascGrass10 and ask any questions have for Trevor!



Grass10  
GRASSLAND EXCELLENCE FOR  
IRISH LIVESTOCK

## Growing Grass Will Shape the Future of Suckler Farming in the West

### Trevor Boland



Teagasc Social Media Takeover  
Wed 17th June @2pm  
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