

10th March 2020

PastureBase Ireland Current Performance:

AFC	Growth	DM% Fermoy Co. Cork:
915	10	18%

Predicted Growth Elodie Ruelle: (Kg DM/ha/day)

Ballyhaise: 18 kg DM/ha/day	Johnstown: 26 kg DM/ha/day
Moorepark: 18 kg DM/ha/day	Clonakilty 21 kg DM/ha/day

Grass Supply Not an Issue- Get Cows Out Grazing:

Figures from PastureBase farms (AFC: 915 kg DM/ha) show that farmers have a **large volume of grass on farms**, because of the lack of grazing in February. It is important that farmers capitalise on this huge grass supply by:

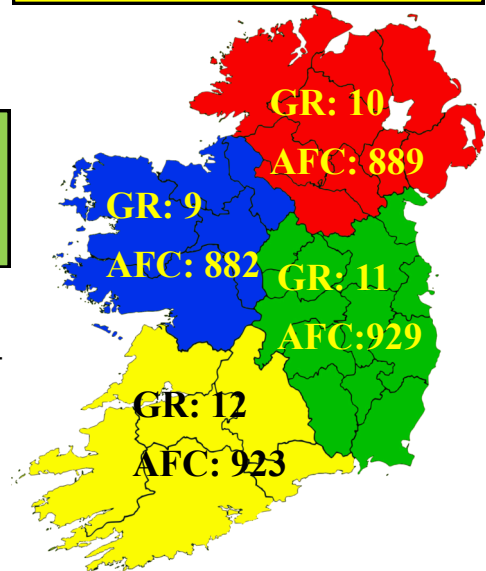
- Turning cows out to graze when weather allows
- Reducing the amount of silage being fed when cows are grazing

Current Management Practices- Wet Weather

1. Graze the **driest paddocks** on the farm if possible
2. **Hold cows in the yard without silage prior to grazing** so they have an **appetite to graze**. Take cows off the paddock when they are **finished grazing or if they are damaging the paddock**. Letting cows out to graze with an appetite will help to **avoid poaching paddocks**
3. Supplementation will be needed if cows are in by night or only receiving 1 grazing bout per day. **Make sure silage has ran out by the morning if cows are grazing by day**
4. **Graze the paddocks that are easy to access especially when on-off grazing in wet weather**. This means that cows can be taken off a paddock easily if they are finished grazing or if it is raining heavily
5. **Strip graze and backfence grazed areas** to allow regrowths and protect damaged areas. Set up square strips for cows in wet weather, rather than long narrow strips

PastureBase
IRELAND

Below: Covers in the Last 7 Days



Grass Samples Clonakilty

DMD- 82%, Crude Protein- 20%

Below:

Niall Moloney, Crecora, Co. Limerick, is doing his best on heavier land, as the dry land on the farm has been grazed. Cows are out for 3hr grazing bouts

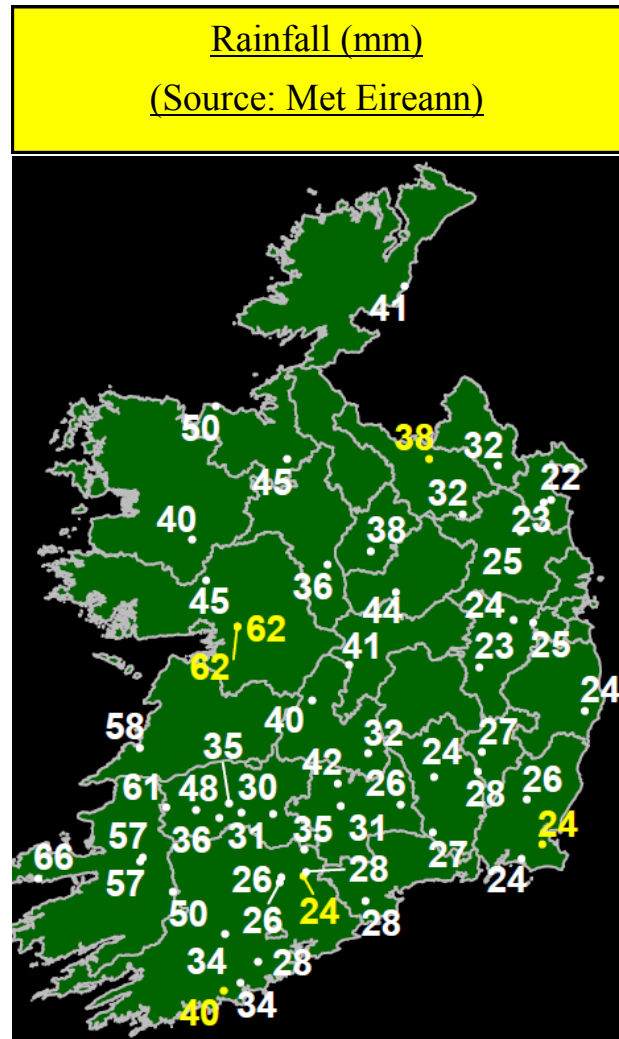
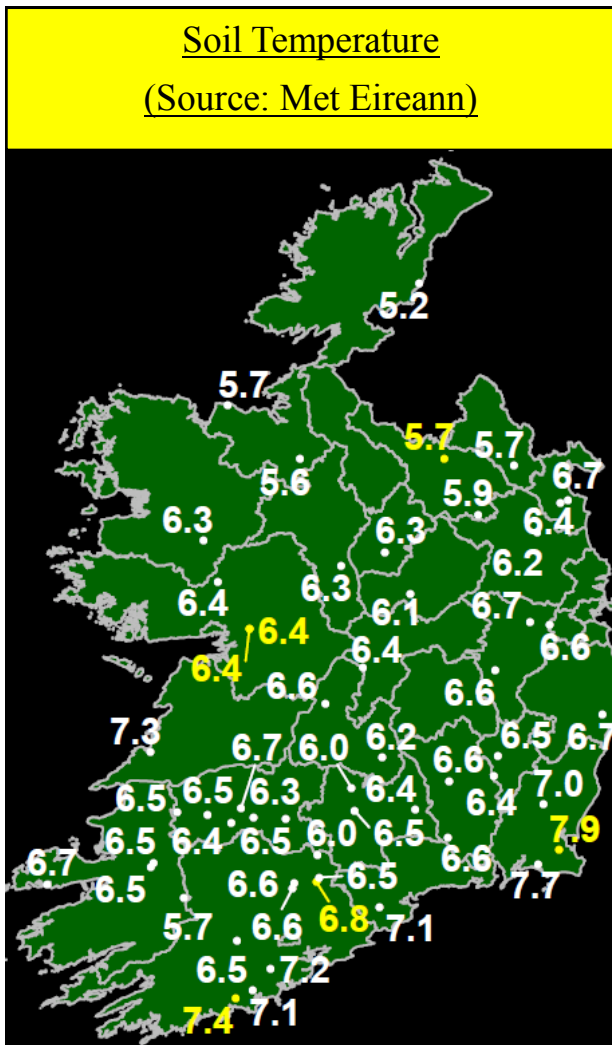


Current Grassland Farmer of the Year Bryan Daniels has made a huge effort to get cows out grazing in February and early March. Cows are taken off the paddocks when they are finished grazing or if a heavy shower of rain comes. Cows are being offered 1-2 kg DM silage at night, but are keen to graze again the following day



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Predicted Rainfall & Soil Temperatures for the Next 7 Days:



- Soil temperatures are over 5°C for the next 7 days
- Rainfall is an issue in some areas. Stay alert to weather forecast and assess ground conditions and forecasted rainfall when making a decision to spread fertiliser

Grassland Farmer of the Year Videos– Coping With a Difficult Spring:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VKF8C6CM1jQ>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xxJmtO_lcg5

Right:

Grassland Farmer of the Year Disadvantaged Land Winner Paudie O'Brien has cows out between the showers in Firies, Kilarney, Co. Kerry.

