### Grass10 Weekly Update

21st April 2020

**PastureBase Ireland Current Performance (Last 7 Days):**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AFC</th>
<th>Stocking Rate</th>
<th>Cover/Cow</th>
<th>Growth</th>
<th>Demand</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>787 kg DM/ha</td>
<td>3.62 kg DM/ha</td>
<td>217 kg DM/ha</td>
<td>55 kg DM/ha</td>
<td>53 kg DM/ha</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

- **There is surplus grass on most farms across the country**
- Pre grazing should be 1400 kg DM/ha and cover/cow should be 160-180 kg DM/ha to control grass quality on farms.
- Farmers should close off ground (silage &/or reseed) to match growth and demand on farms. E.g. Growth 65 kg DM/ha. 100 cows, 40 ha in total. In this case, the farmer should close of 15 ha and run 100 cows on 25 ha. 100 cows/25 ha = 4 LU/ha. 4 LU X 16 kg grass = 64 kg DM/ha Demand. Growth is now matching demand. Pregrazing will remain at 1,400 kg DM/ha.
- Target residuals of 4 cm. Maintain quality for next rotation.
- A few small areas along the east coast have experienced a slight decline in growth rate due to soil moisture deficit. Walk the farm regularly to monitor growth rate.
- PBI App version 2.3.0 for both iOS and Android.

**Take Off In Growth – Make The Key Decisions:**

- **Pregrazing yield should be 1,400 kg DM/ha** in front of livestock. Cows should ideally be on 36 hr grazing bouts.
- The **ideal stocking rate to run on the grazing platform is 4+ LU/ha** given the current growth rates. Set the demand at 65+ kg DM/ha and surpluses should be taken when growth exceeds demand.
- PastureBase farms currently have a cover/LU of 217 kg DM/LU. Where stocking rate is well below 4 LU/ha on the grazing platform, paddocks can be closed off to be cut with 1st cut silage. Where stocking rate is over 4 LU/ha on the grazing platform, surplus bales should be cut straight away.
- **Meal feeding should be reduced as there is surplus grass on farms.** E.g. For 100 cows, a 1 kg reduction in meal feeding (@€280/tonne – 28c/kg) is worth €28 per day, or €200/week.
- Now that growth is exceeding demand on farms, it is an **ideal time to reseed underperforming paddocks**. Using varieties from the Pasture Profit Index will lead to higher quality grass varieties for grazing on farms. **Soil seed contact, soil fertility and pre/post spraying** are critical to a successful reseed.

**Below: Covers in the Last 7 Days**

- John Leahy, Teagasc Heavy Soils Programme, cut bales 10 days ago. There is 750 kg DM/ha back on these paddocks today. Current cover/cow is 180 kg DM/LU and growth is 73 kg DM/ha. Demand is 60 kg DM/ha. If high rate growth continues, more action will be taken to keep control of grass quality.
- Kieran Hogan, Co. Limerick, is currently reseeding an underperforming paddock on the farm. The field has 3 tonne lime/acre spread and will receive 3 bags 10-10-20/acre too. This is a low index paddock. Clover is included in the mix.
New Grass Report PastureBase Ireland:

New data and graphs can be accessed on the new Grass Report on PastureBase Ireland to be able to make better decisions and draw on more information regarding the grass profile of the farm. Here are a few graphs from the new Grass Report section from 2018 Grassland Farmer of the Year John Macnamara.

### Average Farm Cover 2020 vs 2019

![Average Farm Cover 2020 vs 2019](image)

**Cover/Cow 2020 vs 2019**

![Cover/Cow 2020 vs 2019](image)

**Stocking Rate 2020 vs 2019**

![Stocking Rate 2020 vs 2019](image)

### Growth 2020 vs 2019

![Growth 2020 vs 2019](image)

### Demand 2020 vs 2019

![Demand 2020 vs 2019](image)

### Fertiliser and Slurry Message:

- All paddocks where there is silage taken off should receive slurry using low emission slurry spreading techniques
- All chemical fertiliser should include sulphur
- Protected Urea should be used where possible. Straight Urea should not be used given the warm, sunny conditions
- Anywhere that did not receive slurry or compound fertiliser, should get a compound fertiliser to boost growth (where there are allowances). Responses are high to phosphorus early in the year