

5th May 2020

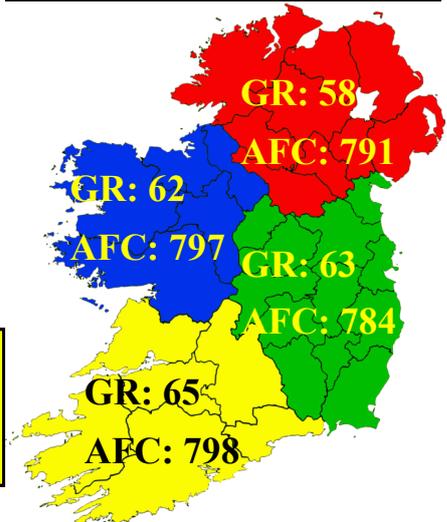
PastureBase Ireland Current Performance (Last 7 Days):

**PastureBase**  
IRELAND

AFC	Stocking Rate	Cover/Cow	Growth	Demand	Pregrazing
793 kg DM/ha	3.73 kg DM/ha	212 kg DM/ha	64 kg DM/ha	60 kg DM/ha	1686 kg DM/ha

- Surplus grass & growth exceeding demand on most farms on PBI. Farmers should make the decision to “**skip ahead**” and cut a paddock/ close off a paddock for surplus bales to keep pregrazing at 1,400 kg DM/ha and cover/cow at 160-170 kg DM/LU
- Key tools for farmers to use on PastureBase: Wedge & Cover Summary, Predicted Wedge, Grazing Planner, Grazings & Silage Events, Recording of Fertiliser/Slurry. All of these tools are available on the PBI Offline App
- Activate your milk link on [www.pbi.ie](http://www.pbi.ie) to have latest milk sales

Below: Covers in the Last 7 Days



Predicted Growth Rate: Elodie Ruelle Moorepark

Moorepark 63 kg DM/ha	Ballyhaise 93 kg DM/ha
Johnstown Castle 62 kg DM/ha	Athenry 74 kg DM/ha

Walk the Farm– Keep the Right Grass Ahead of Livestock:

- Decision Making on Farms: No farmer should be making a decision on grass without walking the farm. It is proven on PastureBase Ireland data that increasing the number of grass covers improves decision making as a result. This increases performance and profit on farms.
- Current Performance: We can see that there is surplus grass on farms at the moment. Surplus bales should be cut to keep quality grass ahead of livestock
- Pregrazing yield should be 1,400 kg DM/ha: Cattle should be grazing covers of 9-10 cm and sheep should be grazing covers of 8 cm to maximise performance, to graze down to 3.5– 4 cm and to promote quick regrowth
- Rotation Length should be 20 days: With current PastureBase growth rates, **livestock should be on a 20 day rotation**. Current PBI growth: 65 kg DM/ha X 20 day rotation = 1300 kg DM/ha pregrazing yield. E.g. If cattle are on a 40 acre platform, livestock should be grazing 2 acres/day to keep quality grass in front of them. 40/2= 20 day rotation. If livestock are not grazing this amount of area per day, far away paddocks can be closed off for silage or pregrazing will become too strong >1,500 kg DM/ha
- Drystock farms should be operating a rotational grazing system, where livestock are **moved on every 2-3 days**. If cattle/sheep are in a paddock any longer, regrowths will be compromised.
- Micheal O’Sullivan is following @TeagascGrass10 and was so impressed with Paudi O’Briens Twitter Takeover, that he is putting in some spur roadways. Well done Micheal!

Quote of the Week:

Walter Power

Carrick-on-Suir Grass Course:

*“One certainty. All our farms are different. The only way we know what is growing on our farms is to go out and measure grass. You’ll earn hundreds of euros per hour doing it”.*



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## 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 higher to phosphorus application early in the year



## Current Grassland Videos:

### Mike Bermingham– Milk Solids from Grass



### Temporary Fencing for Sheep Phil Creighton



- Mike Bermingham has saved 2 kg meal/cow/day in the month of April and milk solids have stayed at 2.5 kg MS/cow/day. This is a saving of €54/day or over €370/week. Quality grass & genetics in cows are the driver to milk solids on the farm. @PastureBase @teagasc #Grass10 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7Cq5z1EEg4>
- Philip Creighton gives us an update on rotational grazing and temporary fencing for sheep: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T8oghXUTkjY>
- See the following link for advice from Mike Egan, Teagasc Moorepark on oversowing clover: <https://bit.ly/3aP2zgB>



## Grazing Per Paddock Board:

Michael Carey, farm manager Ballyhooley, co. Cork shows us that he is half way through his 3rd rotation on his grazing per paddock board.

This is on target with our 10 grazings per paddock this year Michael. Well done!

PastureBase		Grazings Per Paddock Per Year												
Paddock	Paddock Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
1	1-2-5.1P	17.7	10.7											28.4
2	2-1-6.4P	17.7	17.5											35.2
3	3-10.5P	17.7	17.5											35.2
4	4-5.7P	17.7	17.5											35.2
5	5-2.9P	17.7	17.5											35.2
6	6-1.2P	17.7	17.5											35.2
7	7-1.2P	17.7	17.5											35.2
8	8-1.5P	17.7	17.5											35.2
9	9-5.0P	17.7	17.5											35.2
10	10-8.8P	17.7	17.5											35.2
11	11-8.15P	17.7	17.5											35.2
12	12-8.10P	17.7	17.5											35.2
13	13-8.8P	17.7	17.5											35.2
14	14-4.5P	17.7	17.5											35.2
15	15-7.3P	17.7	17.5											35.2
16	16-5.9P	17.7	17.5											35.2
17	17-6.10P	17.7	17.5											35.2
18	18-1.7P	17.7	17.5											35.2
19	19-4.10P	17.7	17.5											35.2
20	20-4.9P	17.7	17.5											35.2
21	21-8.1P	17.7	17.5											35.2
22	22-5.7P	17.7	17.5											35.2
23	23-12.6P	17.7	17.5											35.2
24	24-10.8P	17.7	17.5											35.2
25	25-11.1P	17.7	17.5											35.2