

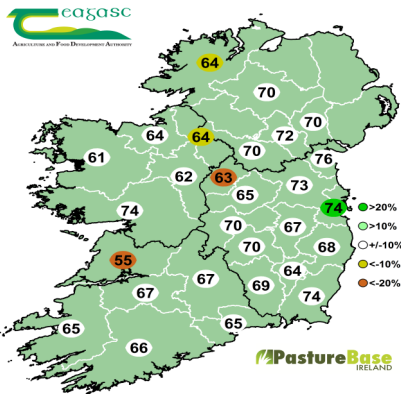
1st June 2021

PastureBase data from dairy farms:

PastureBase
IRELAND

AFC	Cover/LU	Stocking Rate	Growth	Demand	Diet (Grass + Meal)	Pre Grazing Yield
754 Kg DM/Ha	191 Kg DM/LU	3.95 LU/ha	69 Kg DM/ha	60 Kg DM/ha	15 Kg DM + 3.25 Kg	1649 Kg DM/Ha

Grass growth measurement
Today's grass growth (kg DM/ha/day)



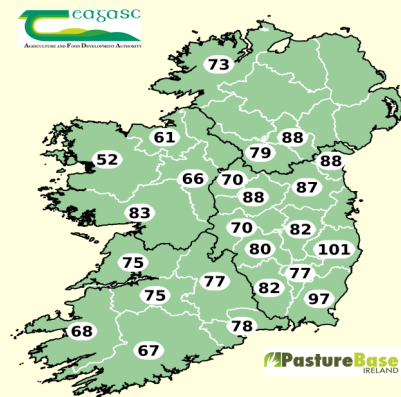
On the left: counties map showing **current** grass growth rates over the last week.

On the right: counties map showing **predicted** grass growth over the next 7 days from farms involved in Elodie Ruelle's MoSt grass growth model (55 farms).

Predicted Growth Rate:

Ballyhaise 74 kg DM/ha
South Wexford 88 kg DM/ha
Athenry 78 kg DM/ha
Clonakilty 68 kg DM/ha

Grass growth predictions
Next week (kg DM/ha/day)



"You need to be out measuring twice per week" - Killian Brennan

Killian Brennan is farming with his family near Kilcogy, Co. Cavan. They milk 119 cows with 80% being 1st and 2nd lactation. The stocking rate on the MP is 3.6LU/ha and 2.4LU/ha overall on the farm. Most paddocks are on the 4th rotation with some on the 5th.

"I walked the farm Saturday and even since then I can see things taking off even more. Paddocks cut for bales last Wednesday have 500-600 kgDM/ha back on them. I'm walking twice per week for the past couple of weeks and will do whilst the growth is high. I will walk again tomorrow, Wednesday."

"Generally I try to take silage bales from most paddocks to keep pre-grazing yield right and keep paddocks clean. I have taken out 7 surplus paddocks for silage in the past 10 days. I'll go with another round of 18-6-12 on the paddocks that were cut and all paddocks get LESS slurry in the spring time." This helps maintain soil fertility. Currently Killian is applying 20u N/ac or about 1 u N/ac per day of protected urea to grazing ground.

Grazing the right grass covers means Killian isn't having many problems with graze-outs however in the wet weather residuals did suffer. "Some of my paddocks are still sticky and I'm trying to avoid poaching, so residuals suffered. I hope to take these out as surplus paddocks next round when things are drier."

"Cows have been reduced from 4kg of concentrate to 2 kg as conditions settled." On the breeding front there was 91% of cows served in the first 3 weeks.

"I got a lot from being involved in the grass10 course & I'm getting more from my grass and my cows. One thing I learnt is you need to be out walking the farm twice per week at this time of year to get the right grass into cows."



Grass Dry Matter %

Moorepark, Co. Cork

16.7% (1400 Kg DM/ha)

Grange, Co. Meath

23.4% (1550 Kg DM/ha)

Killian Brennan's Grass Data

AFC	715 kg DM/ha
Cover/LU	199 kg DM/ha
Stocking Rate	3.6 LU/ha
Growth	71 kg DM/ha/day
Demand	50 kg DM/ha/day
PGY	1450 kg DM/ha
Milk Yield	25.2L/cow, 1.98 kg MS/cow
Diet (Grass+Meal)	16 kg + 2kg

The Dairy Edge Podcast

Grass10 Advisor Joseph Dunphy joined Emma — Louise Coffey on this weeks edition of the Dairy Edge podcast to discuss the important targets to maximise grass utilisation and minimise costs during the main grazing season.

Click here to listen:-

<https://bit.ly/3p3ro11>



Pre Grazing Yield too high on farms

Figures from PastureBase Ireland tells us that pre grazing yields across both Dairy & Beef/Sheep farms are too high around the country at 1649 & 1757 Kg DM/ha respectively.

It is difficult to achieve high grass utilisation grazing high herbage masses.

The Grass10 team are also noticing farmers are underestimating covers of grass so we advise farmers to check the number of grazings per paddock to calibrate your eye when completing a grass walk on your farm. If an extra grazing is achieved, you are underestimating the cover.

Keep Pre- Grazing Yield at 1300- 1400 Kg DM/ha & Cover/LU between 160-180 or 10-12 days ahead on beef/sheep farms.

1st June 2021

PastureBase data from sheep & beef farms:

AFC	Days Ahead	Stocking Rate	Growth	Demand	Pre Grazing Yield
758 Kg DM/Ha	17 days	3.36 LU/ha	56 Kg DM/ha	44 Kg DM/Ha	1757 Kg DM/ha

Don't wait to apply Lime

All too often Lime applications are left until the late in the year and the opportunity is lost due to wet soil conditions and poor trafficability.

Many 1st cut crops have been cut across the region or will be in the next week and surplus bales have been taken which is a great opportunity to apply lime to bare ground. Some of the common barriers to lime application and there solutions are outlined here

Consult your Soil sample results and order Lime & organise contractor for these paddocks.

Barriers

- Weather (rainfall & wet soils)
- Softening the ground/ sod
- Impact on Urea & Slurry (N loss)
 - Paddock availability
- Pasture contamination
- High Molybdenum soils
 - Financial / costs

vs.

Solutions

- Avail of any opportunity for Lime
 - "Little and often" (2 t / acres)
 - Lime first - leave ~3 months
Lime after - 10 days
- After silage harvest (esp. 2nd cut)
- After grazing (1 load = 10 acres @ 2 t)
 - Spring grazing (covers up to 750)
 - Summer (on tightly grazed paddocks)
 - Autumn/Winter (heavier covers/ @ paddock closing)
 - Maintain soil pH 6.0 – 6.2
- Return on investment €6 : 1€

GFOY Update - David O'Leary Young Farmer Category Winner

"Things were wet and growth slow until this week. I was running out of paddocks to graze and rotation length was 25 days. But I've shortened my rotation now, and looking at taking out surplus paddocks over the next few weeks."



Watch P and K off takes in surplus bales

When harvesting surplus bales be aware of the amount of P and K they remove from the paddock.

A typical bale of silage weighing 800kg fresh (200 kg Dry matter) contains 1.6 units of phosphorus (P) and 10 units of potash (K).



- A 4-5 bales/acre crop will remove around 6-8 units of P/ac and 40-50 units of K/ac. This is important as a rough rule of thumb is that 50 units K/ac is enough to change a soil K index i.e. to go from index 2 to index 3 or vice versa.
- If no slurry and only straight N was applied before and after cutting the surplus bales there will be a large shortage of P and K in this paddock. Farmers have found soil K indexes to be low on individual paddocks on the milking platform where a lot of surplus bales are removed and K is not replenished.
- **A good rule of thumb to remember with surplus bales is that 3-4 bales per acre requires 1,000 gallons of thick slurry or 2,000 gal of watery slurry to replace the P and K removed.**
- Where you have no P allowance and no slurry is available to spread a compound like 29:0:15+S is an option.

Rotation No.	Mix of 3rd or 4th rotation
AFC	939 Kg DM/ha
Growth	76 Kg DM/ha/day
Demand	79 Kg DM/ha/day
Stocking Rate	4.87 LU/ha
PGY (kg DM/ha)	1500 Kg DM/ha
Fertiliser	Following with 1.5 bags 18-6-12 (some paddocks not fertilised for a month)
Diet	15 Kg DM Grass + 3 Kg Meal
Annual Tonnage	4,100 Kg DM/ha