

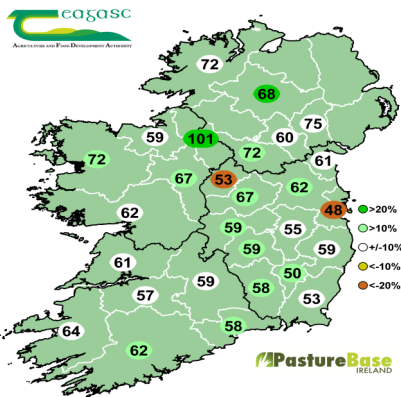
13th July 2021

PastureBase data from dairy farms:

PastureBase
IRELAND

AFC	Cover/LU	Stocking Rate	Growth	Demand	Diet (Grass + Meal)	Pre Grazing Yield
678 Kg DM/Ha	197 Kg DM/LU	3.5 LU/ha	60 Kg DM/ha	51 Kg DM/ha	14.5 Kg DM + 3 Kg	1411 Kg DM/Ha

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



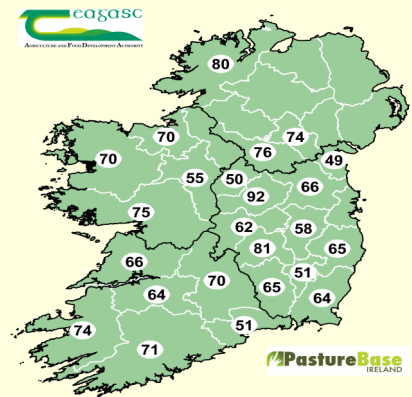
On the left: counties map showing **current** grass growth rates over the last week.

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 87 kg DM/ha
Wexford (30-75) kg DM/ha
Athenry 72 kg DM/ha
Clonakilty 79 kg DM/ha

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



Rain a welcome sight at last in Kildare!

Father and son duo Eugene & Eoin Lawler farm in Ballitore, Co. Kildare. They began milking cows in 2015 and now milk 166 cows at a milking platform stocking rate 3.45LU/ha.

Eugene and Eoin are well used to summer drought, having been affected in three of the past four years. Their strategy is always to drop their demand to the growth on the farm to hold AFC.

"We had been feeding 6kg silage and 4kg meal for two weeks as grass growth rates dropped due to soil moisture deficits. We stretched rotation to 25 days and used stripwires to ensure cows grazed out to 4cm. The rain that fell last week was very welcome and has allowed us to remove all silage from the diet. Once we get back to grazing covers 1400 Kg DM/ha we will reduce meal back to 1 kg per cow."

Grass quality on the farm has been excellent even on paddocks which have not been mowed this year. However in some paddocks grass is seeding at covers 800-1000 Kg DM/ha. *"We wanted to take out one paddock but we don't have the surplus available so we grazed this paddock at 1000 kg DM/ha using a stripwire and the cows cleaned it very well."* [See picture on right]

"We checked our annual tonnage on July 1st, the halfway point in the grazing year. We've grown about 6 T DM/ha and completed 5 rotations. Low April growth plus drought means we are about 0.75 T DM/ha behind average."

"We are also recording fertiliser on PastureBase through the App for the first time. It is well worth it and important for us to know where we are to help reduce inputs in the future."



Grass Dry Matter %

Moorepark, Co. Cork
15% (1400 Kg DM/ha)
Grange, Co. Meath
15% (1350 Kg DM/ha)
Athenry, Co. Galway
16% (1350 Kg DM/ha)

We want your feedback!



We would ask all our readers to please click on the link below or scan the QR code and complete the survey on the weekly Grass10 Newsletter as we are always looking for ways to improve the newsletter. Thanks!

<https://bit.ly/Grass10Survey>

Lawler's Grass Data

AFC	639 kg DM/ha
Cover/LU	160 kg DM/ha
Stocking Rate	4.0 LU/ha
Growth	51 kg DM/ha/day
Demand	56 kg DM/ha/day
PGY	1,200 kg DM/ha
Milk Yield	2.06 kg MS/cow
Diet (Grass+Meal)	14 kg + 4 kg

Grass10 Grazing Tips – Variation is the order of the day!

There is huge variation in terms of rainfall, growth rates and grass quality throughout the country. Farms are generally falling in to two categories:-

- Farms that have got a significant amount of rainfall in the last week are starting to grow surplus as growth outstrips demand. Use this opportunity to correct paddocks during this rotation with poor grass quality as August grass build up is approaching and it is vital to build covers on clean paddocks. Continue to walk the farm every 5 days, as the forecast and grass growth prediction are positive.
- For farms that are still struggling due to lack of moisture or coming from a low AFC, continue to match growth rate to demand on farm. Apply 1 unit per day of Protected N and hold AFC over 500 Kg DM/ha.

13th July 2021

PastureBase data from sheep & beef farms:

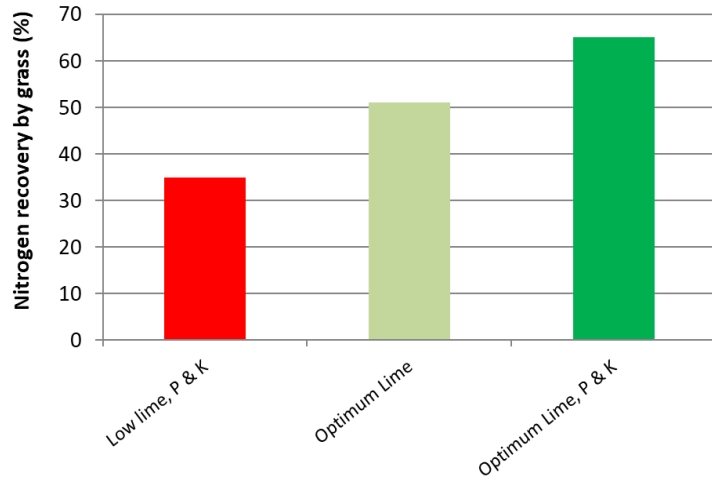
AFC	Days Ahead	Stocking Rate	Growth	Demand	Pre Grazing Yield
726 Kg DM/Ha	19 days	2.9 LU/ha	49 Kg DM/ha	41 Kg DM/ha	1683 Kg DM/ha

Doubling the efficiency of the Nitrogen you spread

William Burchill, PhD, Teagasc/Dairygold Joint programme



Soil fertility is the key to getting the maximum from the N we apply. Recent work at Teagasc Johnstown Castle recorded the efficiency of N utilisation by grass swards across 446 paddocks on 23 dairy farms over two years. The common trend found was that the paddocks with low lime, P and K only recovered 35% of the N applied (Fig. 1). In paddocks with optimal lime status this increased to 51% and **even further to 65% on the paddocks which had optimal lime, P and K**. This highlights that having the correct soil fertility can almost double the efficiency of the N you apply. This cannot be ignored at current fertiliser N prices and the current environment where we must get the best out of every unit of N we spread. Recent trials also found that **correcting soil pH can release up to 60 units N/acre** from soil organic matter.



Take action over the summer to improve your soil fertility by-:

- 1) Review your soil sample results & apply lime to cut or grazed paddocks
- 2) Apply P&K to paddocks cut for bales/ 2nd cut silage to replace offtakes

GFOY Update Heavy Soils Category winner– Sean Barry, Co. Limerick



“After a few weeks of low growth rates, we are finally back on track and the rain and higher temperatures have turned this farm around in a matter of days. I will walk my farm again on Friday as I have a lot of paddocks coming together at 1000 Kg DM/ha and I suspect I will be baling next week! I reseeded 8 acres last week and it is already starting to appear.

Grassland Farmer of the Year Farm Walk

Last Wednesday 7th July, the Grass10 team were delighted to host the first “on farm” Grassland Farmer of the Year farm walk in over 16 months.

Over 130 farmers turned up on the farm of Tom and Peter McGuinness, Trim, Co. Meath to see why they were the worthy winners of the Sheep Category in 2020.

Follow us on Twitter @TeagascGrass10 to see more pictures and information from the night!

Speakers on the night (l to r)– John Douglas (Grass10), John O’Loughlin (Grassland Agro), Ciaran Lynch (Teagasc), Peter and Tom McGuinness (host farmers), Joseph Dunphy (Grass10), Micheal O Leary (PastureBase Ireland), David Colbourne (Teagasc Regional Manager), Edward Egan (Teagasc)

Rotation No.	5
AFC	617 Kg DM/Ha
Cover/LU	175 Kg DM/LU
Growth	72 Kg DM/Ha
Demand	42 Kg DM/Ha
Stocking Rate	3.52
PGY	1350 Kg DM/Ha
Fertiliser	20 units of 29-0-14 + S
Annual Tonnage	5.6 T DM/Ha

