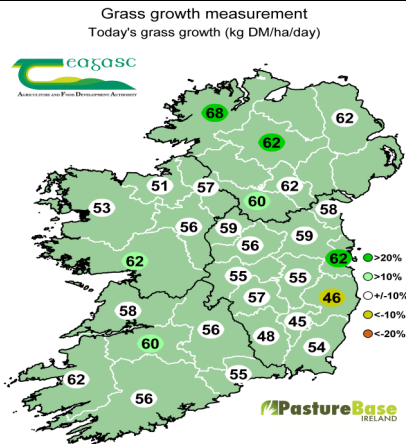


7th September 2021

## PastureBase data from dairy farms:

**PastureBase**  
IRELAND

AFC	Cover/LU	Stocking Rate	Growth	Demand	Diet (Grass + Supplement)	Pre Grazing Yield
914 Kg DM/ha	295 Kg DM/LU	3.12 LU/ha	61 Kg DM/ha	48 Kg DM/ha	15.5 Kg DM + 2.5 Kg	1932 Kg DM/ha

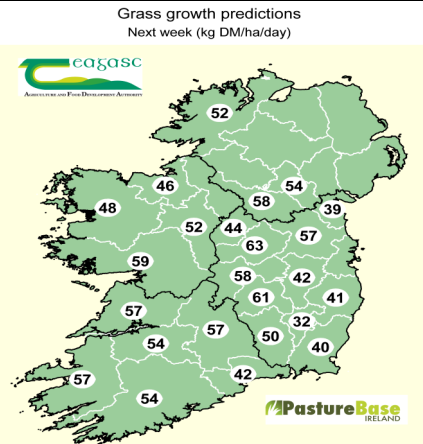


On the left: counties map showing **current** grass growth rates over the last week.

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 69 kg DM/ha  
 Wexford 36-70 kg DM/ha  
 Athenry 74 kg DM/ha  
 Clonakilty 71 kg DM/ha



## Ahead of budget but not worried in Co. Cavan

Seamus Dolan farms with his wife Tina outside Ballyconnell, Co Cavan. They milk 230 cows in a split calving system. 66% calve in the spring and 33% calve in the autumn (October calving). Last year they grew 14.3 T DM/ha and achieved 9.4 grazings per paddock. Their cows produced 500 kg MS from 1.2 ton meal.

The Dolan's target AFC is 1000 kg DM/ha by mid-Sept, as some of their soil type is heavy and in a higher rainfall area. However this target was reached this week. But good grazing conditions and stocked at over 3 LU/ha on the milking platform means Seamus isn't worried about being above target AFC just yet. He is currently on a 30-day rotation.

*"If I see a change coming in the weather and I think I have too much, I can bring back 40 dry cows to graze one or two paddocks."*

Seamus plans to start closing his farm on the 25th Sept and keep grazing until 1st Nov. *"I've a big demand for grass in the spring so I want a high closing cover."* The Dolan's want 1000 kg DM/ha opening AFC in Feb, this means they need around 800 kg DM/ha closing on 1st Dec. Seamus plans on stretching grass with silage from early October. *"I intend to keep spring cows out grazing and draft winter milking cows indoors at night to feed them silage. This will help keep grass in the diet for longer."*



### Grass Dry Matter %

Moorepark, Co. Cork  
18% (1300 Kg DM/ha)  
 Grange, Co. Meath  
18% (1500 kg DM/ha)

### Dolan's PBI Data

AFC	1004 kg DM/ha
Cover/LU	334 kg DM/cow
Growth	75 kg DM/ha/day
Demand	50 kg DM/ha/day
PGY	1900 kg DM/ha
Meal	2.5 kg
Milk Yield	1.67 kg MS/cow (20.6 L/cow)

### Grazing Tips for the week:

- PastureBase data shows grass growth rates are above normal for most parts. Predicted growth is set to drop back by 5-10 Kg DM/ha/day in many counties. Keep walking your farm weekly to monitor AFC against the targets
- High grass quality and good grazing conditions mean farmers should take the opportunity to reduce meal feeding. Use strip-wires for better utilisation
- Certain parts of Leinster are suffering with soil moisture deficits, maintain a minimum of a 25 day round and fill the balance with supplement.
- Farms with a lot of surplus grass should reduce meal and/or remove as bales now if high growth rates anticipated. Bring AFC back to around 100 Kg DM/ha ahead of target.
- Rotation length should be 25 days for farms stocked < 2.9 LU/ha, and 30 days for farms > 2.9 LU/ha. This is not rotation length between grazing events, it is rotation length based on area per day. E.g. 30ha grazing block should be grazing 1 ha per day (About 3% of the farm per day).

Stocking Rate	AFC 15th Sept Target	Rotation Length
2.5 LU/ha	1000 kg DM/ha	30 days
3.0 LU/ha	1100 kg DM/ha	35 days
3.5 LU/ha	1200 kg DM/ha	35 days

7th September 2021

**PastureBase data from sheep & beef farms:**

AFC	Days Ahead	Stocking Rate	Growth	Demand	Pre Grazing Yield
922 Kg DM/Ha	27 days	2.31 LU/ha	62 Kg DM/ha	34 Kg DM/Ha	2019 Kg DM/ha

**Moorepark '21 - Delivering Sustainability**

The Teagasc Moorepark Open Day 2021 Day is taking place on Tuesday 14th, Wednesday 15th & Thursday, 16th September 2021. It is repeated over the three days to ensure compliance with government Covid-19 guidelines. The event consists of a planned onsite event and also a virtual event on Wednesday.

Open Day topics will include strategies to increase farm efficiency and profitability, grassland management and nutrient use efficiency, the SignPost programme, the DairyBeef 500 campaign and dairy cow breeding, and developing a Great Farm Workplace.

Make sure to call in to the Grass10 team at the "Grazing Village" at Moorepark '21!

If you wish to attend the event you must pre-book. If you need more information about the event visit -:

<http://www.teagasc.ie/moorepark21>



Teagasc FBD  
**Moorepark '21**  
Irish Dairying - Delivering Sustainability  
14, 15 & 16 September

**Time to apply remaining Slurry on Irish Farms**

One of the main tasks on all farms throughout September should be to empty all slurry and soiled water tanks. With fantastic soil conditions countrywide at the minute, now is the time to take that opportunity. Weather conditions and correct buffer zones must be right to make use of the organic fertilisers on farms so as to ensure no losses to watercourses. Normal buffer zones from watercourses is 5 metres, however this increases to 10 metres from the 1st—14th October.

**Remember-: An application of cattle slurry in September will grow double the grass compared to an October application!**



**The Dairy Edge Podcast**

Grassland researcher Mike Egan joined Emma-Louise Coffey on last week's Dairy Edge podcast to quantify the level of grass cover on dairy farm and practical advice to increase your Average Farm Cover if you are behind target.

Click here to listen back:

<https://bit.ly/DairyEdge>



**GFOY Update: Peter & Tom McGuinness (Sheep Category Winner)**

Rotation No.	7
AFC	973 Kg DM/Ha
Days Ahead	24
Growth	46 Kg DM/Ha
Demand	40 Kg DM/Ha
Stocking Rate	2.2 LU/Ha
PGY	1900 Kg DM/Ha
Lambs Drafted	75% (from mainly grass)
Fertiliser	20u N/ac, plus following some paddocks with 1500 gal/ac of LESS
Annual Tonnage (YTD)	9.5 T DM/Ha

"Grass has been flying it and we mowed out two paddocks last week. Although we could do with a drop of rain."

"Our demand will drop at the end of Sept when contract reared heifers leave the farm."

"We will hopefully have 90-95% lambs gone off grass mainly by the end Sept and at this stage we'll sell the rest as stores to save grass for ewes during breeding."

