

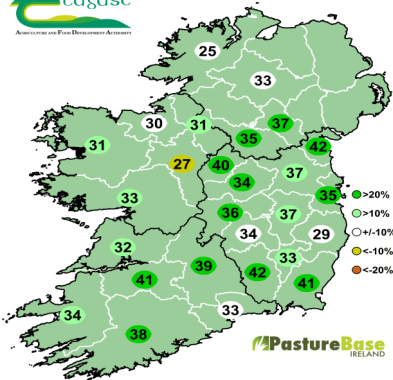
19th October 2021

PastureBase data from dairy farms:



AFC	Cover/LU	Stocking Rate	Growth	Demand	Diet (Grass + Supplement)	Pre Grazing Yield
876 Kg DM/Ha	295 Kg DM/LU	2.96 LU/ha	39 Kg DM/ha	41 Kg DM/ha	13.5 Kg DM + 4.5 Kg	2191 Kg DM/Ha

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



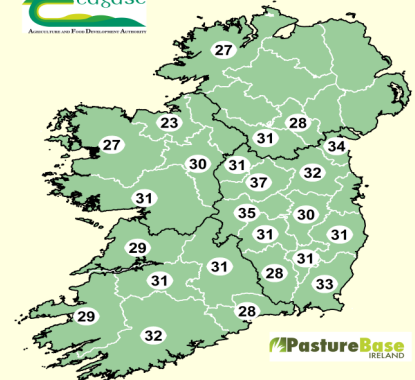
On the left: counties map showing **current** grass growth rates over the last week.

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 30 kg DM/ha
Wexford 33 kg DM/ha
Athenry 33 kg DM/ha
Clonakilty 35 kg DM/ha

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



Following the Budget and the Planner to grow the number of days at grass

Ed & Catriona McHugh farm with their son Brian outside Raharney, Co. Westmeath. They milk 100 cows and are stocked at 3.5 LU/ha on the milking platform. The cows are currently milking 13L @ 5.44% fat and 4.3% protein giving 1.3 KgMS/cow from 2 kg meal.



"We are on a dry farm and have a big demand for grass in the spring as the cows are turned out straight away. This is why we want a minimum AFC of 750 Kg DM/ha on December 1st."

"We started closing the farm at the end of September and have 55% closed now. We are on target to have 70% closed by November 1st. The plan is to keep the cows out to the 20th November if possible. To do this we are feeding 6kg silage to stretch grass."

"We are allocating grass using 12-hour strip-wires. We lock the cows into the paddock during the day and open the wire in the evening to give them access back to the silage. They are cleaning out paddocks well, the ground conditions are helping this too. If we need to, we correct the graze-out by allocating less area in the next grazing."

To date, the McHugh's have grown 16.5 T DM/ha and achieved 9.6 grazings per paddock.

McHugh's PBI Data

AFC	1008 kg DM/ha
Cover/LU	291 kg DM/cow
Growth	35 kg DM/ha/day
Demand	35 kg DM/ha/day
PGY	1950 kg DM/ha

Grass Dry Matter %

Moorepark:

12.4% (damp, 1200 Kg DM/Ha)

Grange:

13.8% (1425 Kg DM/ha)

Grass10 Grazing Tips for the week:

- In the next 10-12 days graze and close the paddocks that are key to getting grazing started in the spring.
- Graze reseeded and clover paddocks later to let light to the base.
- Walk the farm weekly while animals are still grazing.
- Monitor AFC vs. grass budget on PBI. Complete and follow the autumn rotation planner on PBI.
- In wet conditions, consider skipping to graze lighter covers for better utilisation (4cm residual). Use 12hr stripwires & backfence.



Picking Your Paddocks to Graze



..For The Autumn Rotation Plan

60% by Nov 1st

30% by 20th Oct
(further from yard, ok access, dry)

Another 30% by 1st Nov
(drier, closer to yard, multiple access, sheltered, recently reseeded, quickest growing)

Final 40% During Nov
(awkward paddocks, furthest from yard, poorer grazing infrastructure, older pastures, slower growing, silage ground)

..For The Spring Rotation Plan

30% in February
(drier, closer to yard, multiple access, sheltered, Covers of 800-1200kgDM/Ha, recently reseeded, quickest growing)

30% from 1st Mar to St. Patrick's day
(Heavier Covers > 1200 KgDM/Ha, further from yard, ok access, dry)

Last 40% by 5th April
(awkward paddocks, furthest from yard, poorer grazing infrastructure, older pastures, slower growing, silage ground)

*Heavy Farm targets for autumn should be 7-10 days earlier and for the spring 7-10 days later.

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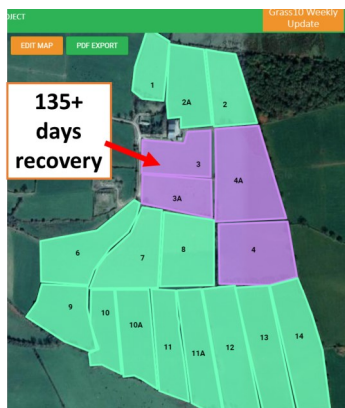
PastureBase data from sheep & beef farms:

AFC	Days Ahead	Stocking Rate	Growth	Demand	Pre Grazing Yield
791 Kg DM/Ha	28 days	2.0 LU/ha	29 Kg DM/ha	28 Kg DM/Ha	2000 Kg DM/ha

Taking Control of Grass Supply on Beef and Sheep Farms - Webinar Key Takeaways

Tomás O'Leary - Sheep Farmer, Co. Kerry

- Need minimum 20% of the farm closed NOW to have grass in early March for ewes lambing. (See Tomás's farm map from PBI, purple is to graze first in spring).
- A few weeks after lambing a ewe eats double what she is eating now. Spring grass is crucial to reduce labour and costs.
- Measuring grass crucial for >90% lambs drafted for slaughter by October 1st.



Trevor Boland - Beef Farmer, Co. Sligo

- Autumn-calving suckler herd - autumn grass is key to get cows back in calf quickly. Cows graze until Nov 1st.
- Breeding and beef heifers stay grazing until mid-Nov to reduce winter costs and for better ADG. Turnout to out-block in mid-March.
- Grass measuring helps control grass supply in summer and remove surplus grass as high quality silage bales for feeding to autumn-calving cows (no meal).
- Paddocks grazed out and closed in 2-3 days and are not re-grazed until the spring.



View the full webinar at:

<https://bit.ly/BeefSheepGrass10>

GFOY Update: Sean Barry - Disadvantaged Land Category Winner

"We were under pressure a week ago after a lot of rain and had to feed a 2kg silage for 4-5 days to settle cows as grass dry matter was very low."

"But after good drying, we are very happy with cleanouts now [see picture on right]. We will finish grazing heavy covers in the next week."

"In 10 days time, I'll house cows by night and keep grazing during the day for another two weeks after this."

"I reseeded some heavy land with 3kg clover and between August 14th and October 1st, I grazed it four times to help clover establishment."



Rotation No.	9
AFC	1031 Kg DM/Ha
Cover/Lu	343 Kg DM/Ha
Growth	57 Kg DM/Ha
Demand	54 Kg DM/Ha
Stocking Rate	3.01 LU/Ha
PGY	1800 Kg DM/Ha
Milk Yield/Cow	13L (1.25 Kg MS)
Supplement	4 kg meal
Tonnage YTD	11.8 T DM/Ha

Grassland Farmer of the Year Competition 2021 - Deadline Extended Until October 26th 2021

This competition will recognise farmers who are achieving high levels of grass utilisation in a sustainable manner. Awards will also be made to those farmers who demonstrate excellence in specific areas of grassland on their farm. There will be an overall award and many other category winners. The competition has many categories with an overall prize fund of €20,000

Awards: Eight prizes will be awarded

Enterprise category awards: Dairy, Drystock

Other category awards: Clover/sustainable farming, Heavy soils/Disadvantaged Land, Innovation, Young Farmer (under 30 years)

Each category winner will receive €3,000. The Innovation award winner prize is €1,000. The overall winner will be selected from the category winners and will receive an additional €2,000.

Enter at <https://bit.ly/GFOY2021>

Could you be the 2021
Grassland Farmer
of the Year?

Enter here! >>>

