

5th June 2018

Current Pasture Performance PastureBase Ireland: www.pbi.ie

Teagasc Demonstration Farms: Beef, Sheep, Dairy & Heavy Soils Programme

PastureBase
IRELAND

Farm Cover (kg DM/ha)	Cover/LU (kg DM/LU)	Stocking Rate (LU/ha)	Growth (kg DM/ha)	Demand (kg DM/ha)
676	185	3.68	90	58

- Massive growth rate of 90kgDM/ha across these farm.
- Cover per livestock unit is higher than the target 160-180kgDM/LU for the mid-season.
- Surplus bales must be cut on these farms to maintain grass quality.
- Growth is exceeding demand by 32kgDM/ha on these farms.

Grazing Tips to Maintain Grass Quality on Drystock Farms:

1. Close off enough ground for 2nd cut silage to maintain an adequate stocking rate on the grazing platform to deal with high levels of growth.
2. Cut surplus bales from the poorest quality paddocks when there is surplus grass on the farm.
3. Enter low covers <10cm and avoid grazing heavy covers. .
4. Operate a short rotation length of 16-20 days.
5. Include sulphur in fertiliser being spread on the farm this week.
6. Make sure to graze out paddocks well to have quality grass in the next rotation.



Silage/ Fodder Message:

1. Quality of 1st cut silage is deteriorating rapidly.
2. No advantage in delaying cutting. Cut now.
3. Slurry should be spread where silage is taken off to replace P and K (high K off-take) (2,500-3000 gallons/acre).
4. Aim for 80 Units N/ acre for 2nd cut to achieve a good yield.
5. On low index soils, use compound fertiliser (+ Sulphur) to achieve the 80 units and to build P & K indexes.



Cutting Surplus Bales:

1. Cut immediately if demand is high so the paddock is back in grass as soon as possible.
2. Mow in the middle of the day when the dew has evaporated.
3. Aim for a dense, well-packed bale >220kgDM/bale.
4. A long wilt will increase sugar content (24-36hrs).
5. Any damage to bales should be repaired immediately to ensure good preservation of the bale.
6. Make sure to replace P and K (especially K) on cut paddocks in the form of slurry and/or compound fertiliser.



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Grass10 Reseeding Event Mountbellew Agricultural College, Co. Galway

Take Home Messages:

- Reseed early in the year when growth rate is high.
- Take a soil test to identify lime, P & K status of the paddock.
- Spray off the paddock with a glyphosate product.
- Prepare a firm, fine seedbed regardless of cultivation method.
- Choose varieties from the Pasture Profit Index that suit your farm and your paddock.
- Spread 1.5-2.5 tonnes lime/acre and 3 bags of 10-10-20 at reseeding.
- Roll after sowing to establish soil-seed contact and increase germination rates.
- Spread a further 30 units N/acre in weeks 4-5.
- Post emergence spray is essential to remove chickweed, docks, etc. (weeks 5-6).
- Graze at a low cover and meet residuals (3.5cm -4cm) for tillering to take place in the 1st grazing.
- Graze every 17-20 days during the mid-season to manage pre-grazing yields and residuals.



- The new 2018 Pasture Profit Index is available online. Use the following link to see the top varieties: <https://www.teagasc.ie/media/website/crops/grassland/PPI-2018-pdf.pdf>

Upcoming Event:



Beef Grassland Farmer of the Year
Ger Dineen,
Kilnamartyra, Co. Cork
June 15th @ 11am.
Ger is achieving a beef output of >1 tonne liveweight per hectare

Social Media: Follow PastureBase Ireland @PastureBase on Twitter for the latest updates, news and discussion around grassland management! Check out Teagasc PastureBase Ireland and Teagasc YouTube channels for videos on grassland management and Grass10. Add us on Facebook (Username: Teagasc).