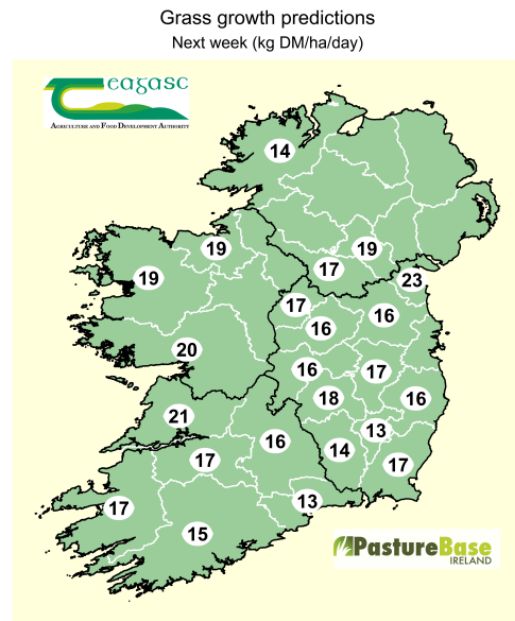
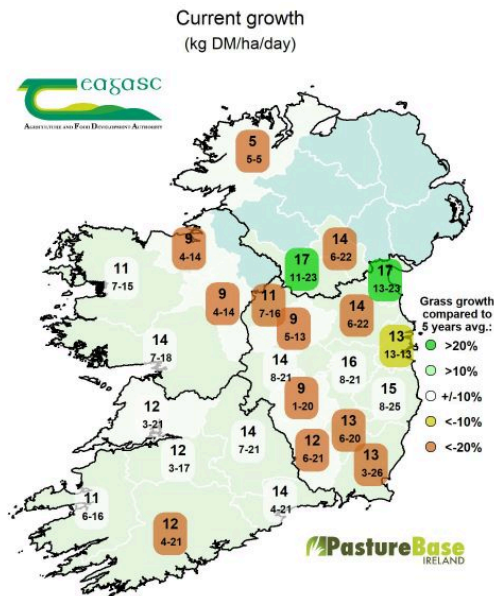


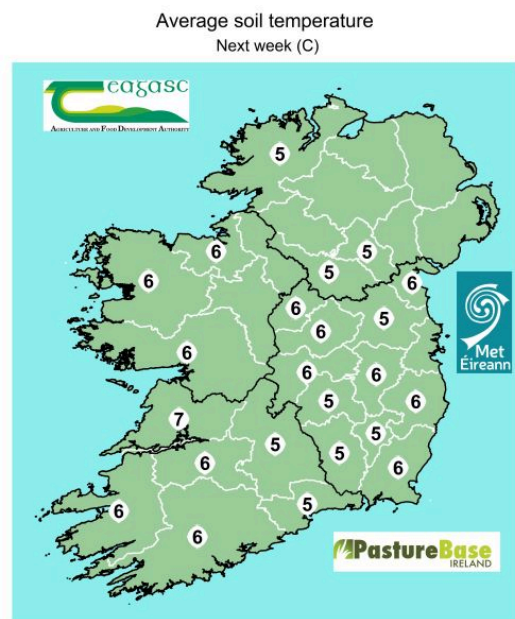
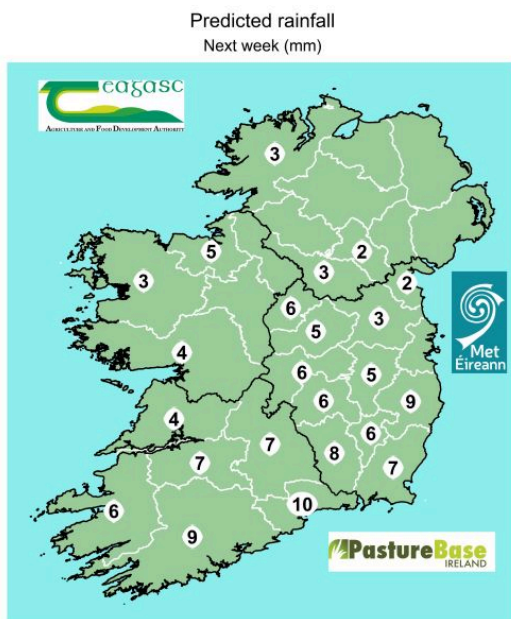
# Grass10 Newsletter

330th Edition - 11th March 2025

## Current grass growth & predicted grass growth

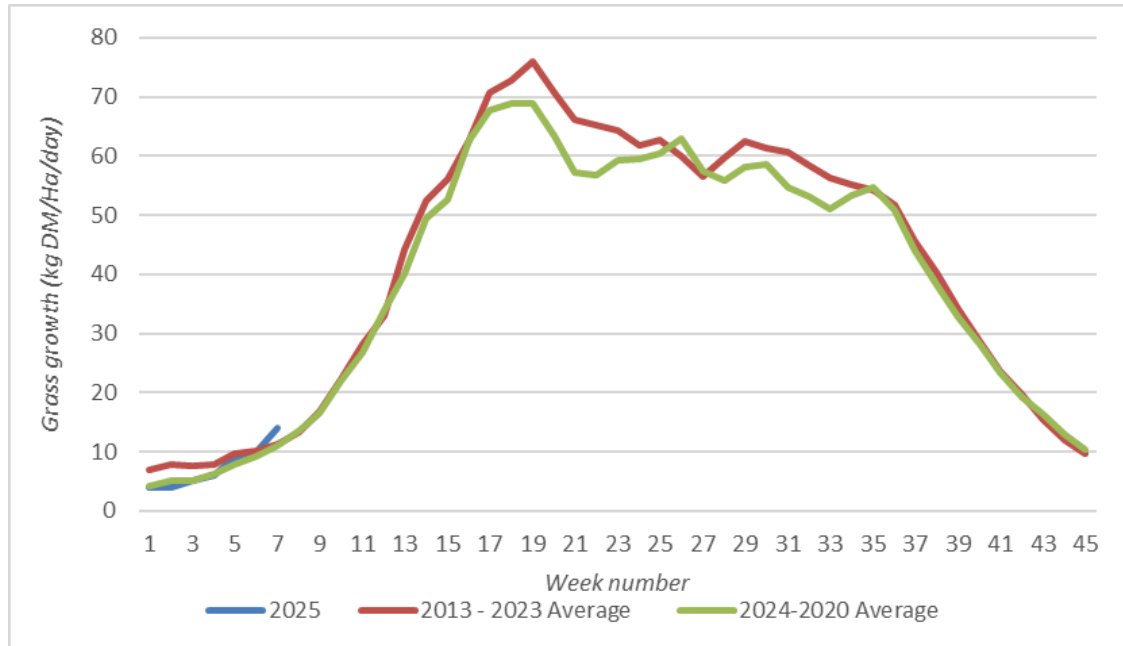


## Rainfall & soil temperature predictions for the next 7 days

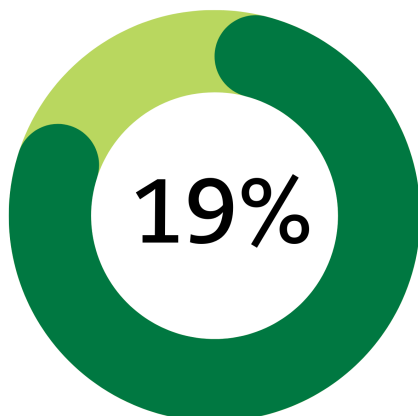


- Current grass growth compared to 5 year average is slightly below normal
- Grass growth for the coming week is predicted to range between 13-23 kg DM/ha
- There is low levels of rainfall predicted for the week ahead
- Soil temperatures to range between 5-7 degrees

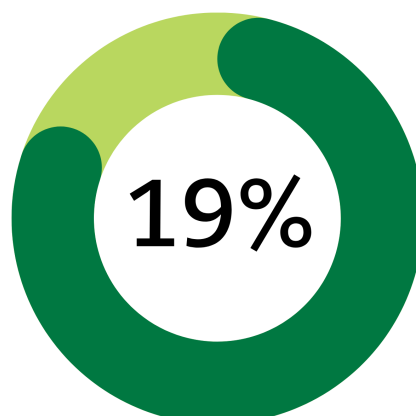
## PastureBase National Grass Growth Curve 2025



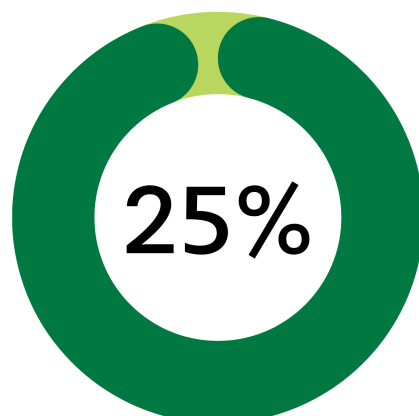
## DRY MATTER%



Moorepark



Athenry



Grange



## Dairy Farms - PastureBase Data

AFC:  
757 kg DM/ha



Growth:  
14 kg DM/ha



Diet: 9 kg DM  
Grass + 4.5 kg  
Meal + 3.5 kg  
Silage



## Drystock Farms - PastureBase Data



AFC:  
712 kg DM/ha







Growth:  
10 kg DM/ha



**PastureBase**  
IRELAND

## Dairy Farm Cover Data - 11th March

	<b>AFC</b> <b>350-750 KG DM/ha</b> 	<b>AFC</b> <b>750-900 kg DM/ha</b>	<b>AFC</b> <b>&gt;900 kg DM/ha</b> 
% of farms	49%	35%	16%
Mean AFC	622 kg DM/ha	823 kg DM/ha	1005 kg DM/ha
Growth rate	13 kg DM/ha	16 kg DM/ha	16 kg DM/ha
PBI Demand	22 kg DM/ha	25 kg DM/ha	29 kg DM/ha
<b>Targeted Grass Allocation</b>	6 kg Grass - Grass by day	8-10 kg Grass - Grass by day + 3hr after evening milking	10-12 kg Grass - Fulltime at grass
<b>Targeted Demand</b>	<15 kg DM/ha	16-20 kg DM/ha	24 kg DM/ha
<b>Nutrient Application Target (Organic &amp; Chemical)</b>	60 units/ac (75 kg/ha) by 20th March 		



# Weekly Checklist



## Ideal grazing conditions prevail

- Weather conditions have improved significantly throughout the country
- Refer to targets above, specifically to your farm based on your most up to date AFC
- Farm cover is below recommended levels on 50% of farms on PBI this week, grass needs to be budgeted for the next three weeks to ensure that cows are on a rising grass diet
- Most farms with low AFC (<750 kg DM/ha) will still only be able to allocate grass by day, apart from farms with less than 2.1 LU/ha S.R who will be able to graze fulltime
- Most farms with high AFC (>900 kg DM/ha) should be fulltime at grass
- On drystock farms, priority animals should be turned out immediately to take advantage of good grazing conditions and higher live weight gain

## Complete weekly AFC from now on & make necessary adjustments

- Every farm needs to establish where the farm is at in terms of grass supply weekly
- As we approach St. Patrick day , it is vital that you complete an AFC to review % grazed during March & growth rates for your farm
- See the grazing checklist below for tips on readjusting your plan depending on % grazed

## Are you up to date with Nutrient Application?

- Target nutrient application by 20th March is 60 units of N/ac (75 kg N/ha) for most highly stocked farms or slightly later on heavier soil types
- Second applications of fertiliser on grazed ground should be N-P-K+S type products if you have P allowance and no slurry was applied i.e. 18-6-12+S
- For paddocks that have received slurry, apply a N+S type product

- For ground that has received no chemical N or slurry to date, apply 35 units N/ac
- Target slurry to silage ground from now on at a rate of 2500-3000 gal/ac of good quality slurry

### **Subscribe to Grass10 TV**

- Subscribe to our new YouTube channel "Grass10 TV"
- There will be farmer updates, farmer diaries, interviews and research updates throughout 2025
- Click on the link below to subscribe

[Link to article on spring dairy cow nutrition](#)

## **Grazing Checklist!**

**Complete AFC** - this week on PBI & update stock numbers

**% of the farm Grazed** – Readjust plan if behind

- If 20%+ grazed by March 1<sup>st</sup> :Then 60% by Patricks Day, 100% by April 10<sup>th</sup>
- If 10% grazed by March 1<sup>st</sup>: Then 30% by Patricks Day, 60% by April 1<sup>st</sup>, 100% by 15 April
- If 0% grazed by March 1<sup>st</sup>: Then 30% by Patricks Day, 60% by April 1<sup>st</sup>, 100% by 20 April

**Average Farm Cover (AFC):** Should be 800-900 kg/ha on March 1st

- Calculate AFC Drop: e.g. 900 kg/ha on Mar 1<sup>st</sup> & target is >600 kg/ha (>200 kg/LU) on Apr 10<sup>th</sup> (42 days)
- Can afford 300 kg/ha drop in over 6 weeks or 50 kg/ha/week or 7 kg/ha/day
- AFC drop will generally be higher on higher stocked farms & needs more monitoring

**Growth vs Demand:**

- If Growth is 15 kg/ha and Demand is 25 kg/ha: then AFC drops 10 kg/ha/day or 70 kg/ha/week

**Grass Budget on PBI:** Ultimate spring grazing tool!

- If above or below AFC target - plan adjusts
- Very useful tool as it will account for grass recovery/regrowth unlike Spring Rotation Planner

**Watch two new episodes on  
Grass10 TV below!**

**Sticking with the grazing plan in Co. Kilkenny**



**40 cows grazing worth €800/week on a Cavan dairy farm**



[Click here to subscribe to Grass10 TV](#)

**Grass10 Featured Farmer**

**AFC:**  
1063 kg DM/Ha  
**Growth:**  
18 kg DM/Ha  
**Demand:**  
31 kg DM/ha  
**% grazed:**  
45% grazed



**Milking 150 cows**  
80% calved

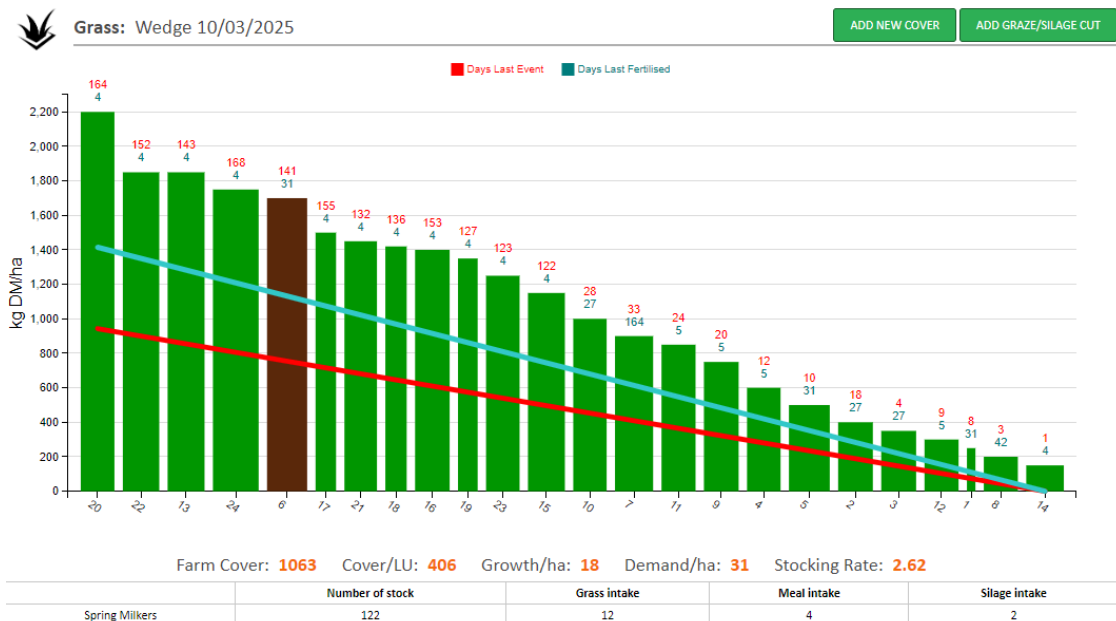
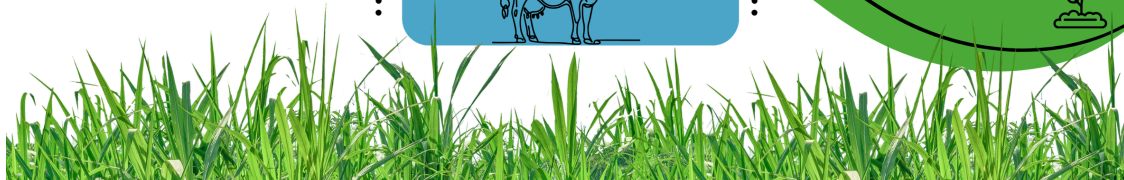
**Cows grazing fulltime, 4 kg meal & 1-2 kg silage/cow at barrier during milking**

**EVENT**  
Join us for a  
Spring Pasture  
Morning  
Thursday, 20th  
March, at 11am on  
our farm! All are  
welcome

**Dara Killeen,  
Eyrecourt,  
Co. Galway**



**NUTRIENT APPLICATION**  
The farm has received  
46 units/ac or 57 Kg  
/ha. I will finish the  
2nd application of N  
next week with 35  
units/ac on final area  
of the farm.



### Key management decisions as a result of Dara's grass walk

- Grass intakes increased as 45% grazed but AFC is still over 1000 kg DM/ha



- Remaining 55% to be grazed between now and 7th of April
- 8th April, 2nd rotation planned start as cover on first 5 paddocks grazed is averaging 700 kg DM/ha
- Walk your farm and make your own management decisions!

## **Dara's cows enjoying the sun in Co. Galway!**

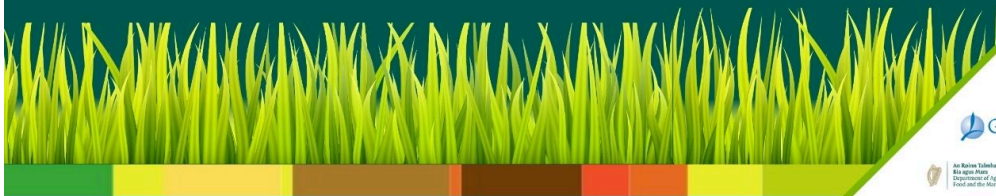




# SPRING PASTURE MORNINGS 2025

**Discussing spring grazing management on a farm near you!**

Date	Time	Location	Eircode
20 Feb	11.30am	Hugh & Aodán Brennan, Dromcollogher GAA Club, Co. Limerick	P56H584
20 Feb	11am	Donie & Mary O Donovan, Cullenagh, Skibereen, Co. Cork	P81 YH28
20 Feb	11am	James Slattery, Moyriesk, Quin, Co. Clare	V95A9FW
20 Feb	11am	John Fox, Kilgarrieff, Ballylanders, Co Limerick	V35 YK66
20 Feb	11am	John Whelan & Michael Bryson, Ramsgrange, Co. Wexford	Y34 W278
20 Feb	11am	Gary Shaw, Ballygilgan, Carney, Co. Sligo	F91 K5F3
21 Feb	11am	James Scanlan, Carrigadrohid, Co Cork	P12NY57
26 Feb	11am	Brendan, James & Eleanor Cremin, Lisselton, Listowel, Co. Kerry	V31DW61
26 Feb	11am	Denis & Mairead McSweeney, Kilsarcon, Currow, Co. Kerry	V93P5Y0
26 Feb	11am	Vincent, Andrew & Bryan McNamee, Calhame, Convoy, Co Donegal	F93H9RR
26 Feb	11am	Ben & Robin Mooney, Dunbur Farm, Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow	A67E6V3
27 Feb	11am	Matt Stafford, Tomsallagh, Ferns, Co. Wexford	Y21 D253
5 Mar	11am	Patrick Murtagh, Doon, Virginia, Co. Cavan	A82KT25
12 Mar	11am	John & Eileen O Callaghan, Monee, Mourneabbey, Co Cork	P51PY79
19 Mar	11am	PJ Hession, Ballymote, Tuam, Co. Galway	H54XH61
20 Mar	11am	Dara Killeen, Meelick, Eyrecourt, Co. Galway	H53 VK25



**Find out more about our Spring Pasture Mornings**





## March Grass Management Tips

Grass10 Advisor Niamh Doyle shares her March grassland management tips on the Beef Edge podcast, focusing on cattle turnout and spring rotation plans. Niamh encourages farmers to apply slurry on soils that require Phosphorus and Potassium, particularly the silage ground.

[Listen to the podcast here](#)

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