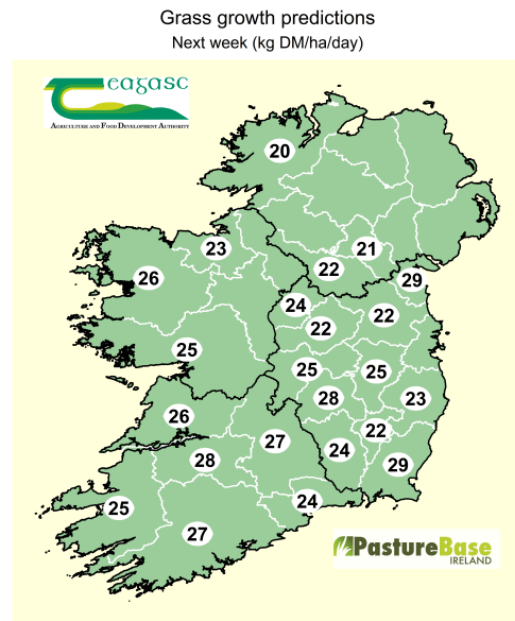
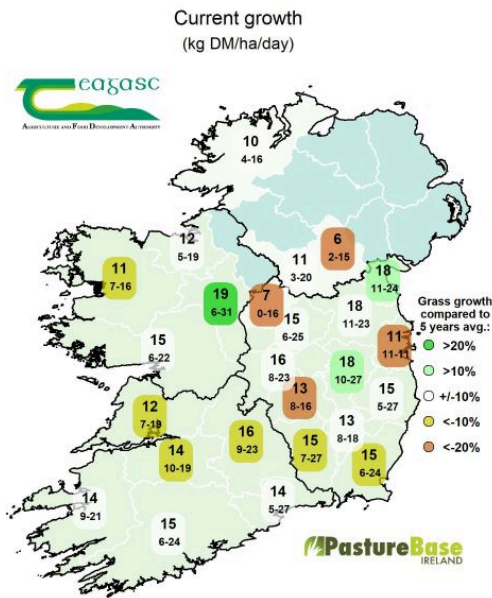


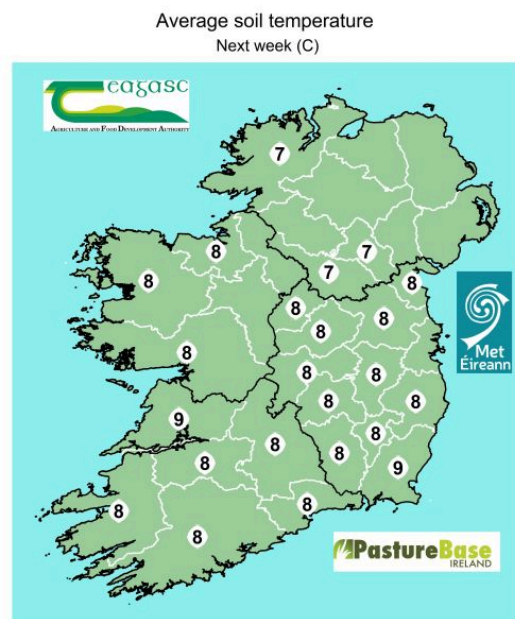
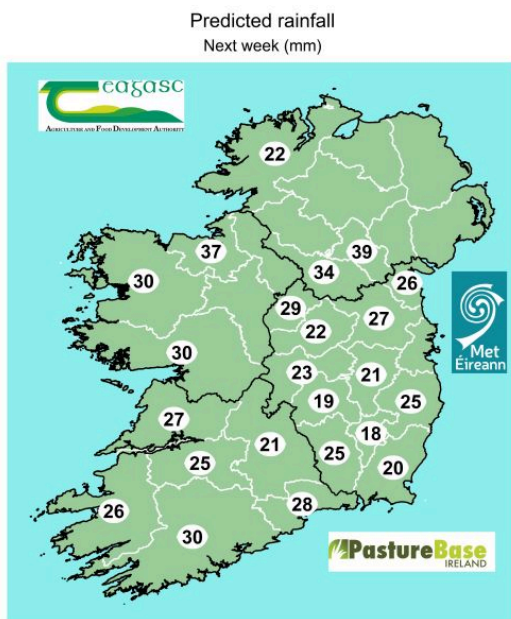
# Grass10 Newsletter

331st Edition - 18th March 2025

## Current grass growth & predicted grass growth



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

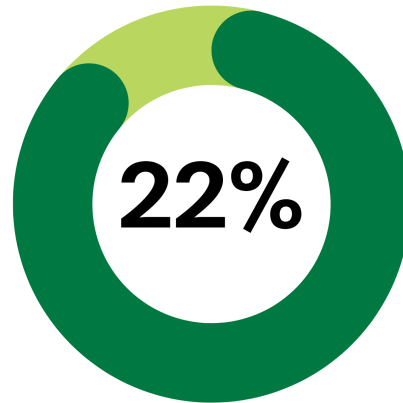


- Current grass growth vs 5 year average is slightly below normal

- Grass growth is predicted to range between 20-29 kg DM/ha
- There is 20-37mm rainfall forecast across the country
- Soil temperatures are to increase to 7-9°C



## DRY MATTER%



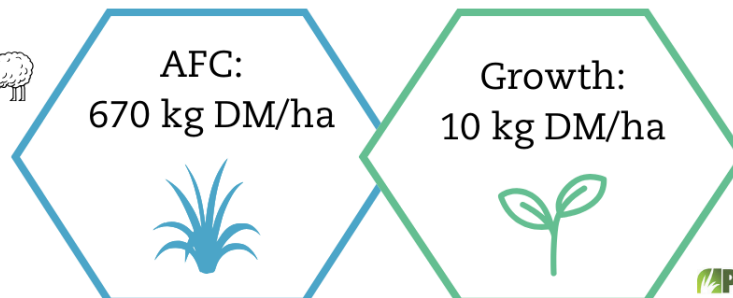
Moorepark



### Dairy Farms - PastureBase Data



### Drystock Farms - PastureBase Data



# Weekly Checklist

Complete weekly AFC & plan remaining 1st rotation grazing



Sulphur - an important nutrient








Are you up to date with Nutrient application?



Dairy Cow Nutrition Q&A



## Dairy Farm Cover Data - 18th March

 	<b>AFC</b>  <b>350-750 kg DM/ha</b> (Category 1 Farms)	<b>AFC</b> <b>750-900 kg DM/ha</b> (Category 2 Farms)	<b>AFC</b>  <b>&gt;900 kg DM/ha</b> (Category 3 Farms)
% of farms	59%	29%	12%
Mean AFC	610 kg DM/ha	814 kg DM/ha	1011 kg DM/ha
Growth rate	13 kg DM/ha	16 kg DM/ha	17 kg DM/ha
PBI Demand	24 kg DM/ha	27 kg DM/ha	25 kg DM/ha
<b>Grass Allocation Target</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>Demand Target</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 		

## Complete weekly AFC & plan remaining 1st rotation grazing

- Refer to targets above, specifically to your farm based on your most up to date AFC
- Farm cover is below recommended levels on 60% of farms on PBI this week. Grass demand needs to reduce in the coming week on these farms
- Most farms with low AFC (<750 kg DM/ha) will still only be able to allocate grass by day
- Most farms with high AFC (>900 kg DM/ha) should be fulltime at grass

- First 5 paddocks grazed should now have a cover of 650-800kg DM/ha to start 2nd rotation on the 6<sup>th</sup> of April, if below this, slow down rotation

## Sulphur - an important nutrient

- As you order chemical fertiliser for grazing and silage in the coming weeks, do not forget about Sulphur
- For grazing fields, apply 20 kg S/ha/year (16 units/acre/year) by July 1st. Select a product such as 18-6-12+ S or P.Urea+ S & apply between March & July
- For silage fields, apply 15 kg S/Ha/cut (12 units/acre/cut). If receiving cattle slurry @ 3,000gals/ac, apply P.Urea+ S (38% N + 7% S) to balance crop N & S requirements

## Are you up to date with Nutrient Application?

- Target nutrient application by late March is 60 units of N/ac (75 kg N/ha) for most highly stocked farms or slightly later on heavier soil types
- 2nd 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
- For silage ground on grazing platforms, do not apply full silage N rates in one go

## Dairy Cow Nutrition Q&A

- This short review answers some of the most commonly asked questions in relation to feeding the herd in Spring, while also focusing on achieving more grass utilised on the farm
- See link below to read this Q&A

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

## Sulphur - an important nutrient!

Table 1:- The benefits of sulphur applications in grass production (Johnstown Castle, 2022)

Grass yield (t/ha)	+ 2.6t/ha
Nitrogen Uptake (kg/ha)	+ 38kg/ha
N leaching reduction (kg/ha)	-22kg N/ha
Nitrogen Use Efficiency (%)	+ 25%

## Grass10 Featured Farmer

**AFC:**  
863 kg DM/Ha  
**Growth:**  
12kg DM/Ha  
**Demand:**  
35 kg DM/ha  
**% grazed:**  
62% grazed



**Milking 192 cows**  
**86% calved**  
**Cows grazing fulltime, 4.5 kg meal**  
**Milk Yield**  
**24 Litres @**  
**4.69 %Fat &**  
**3.59 % Protein**

**2ND ROTATION**  
I have 500-600 Kg DM/ha back on 1st 5 grazed paddocks. I will have to slow down grazing with 3/4 Kg of arable silage to extend rotation

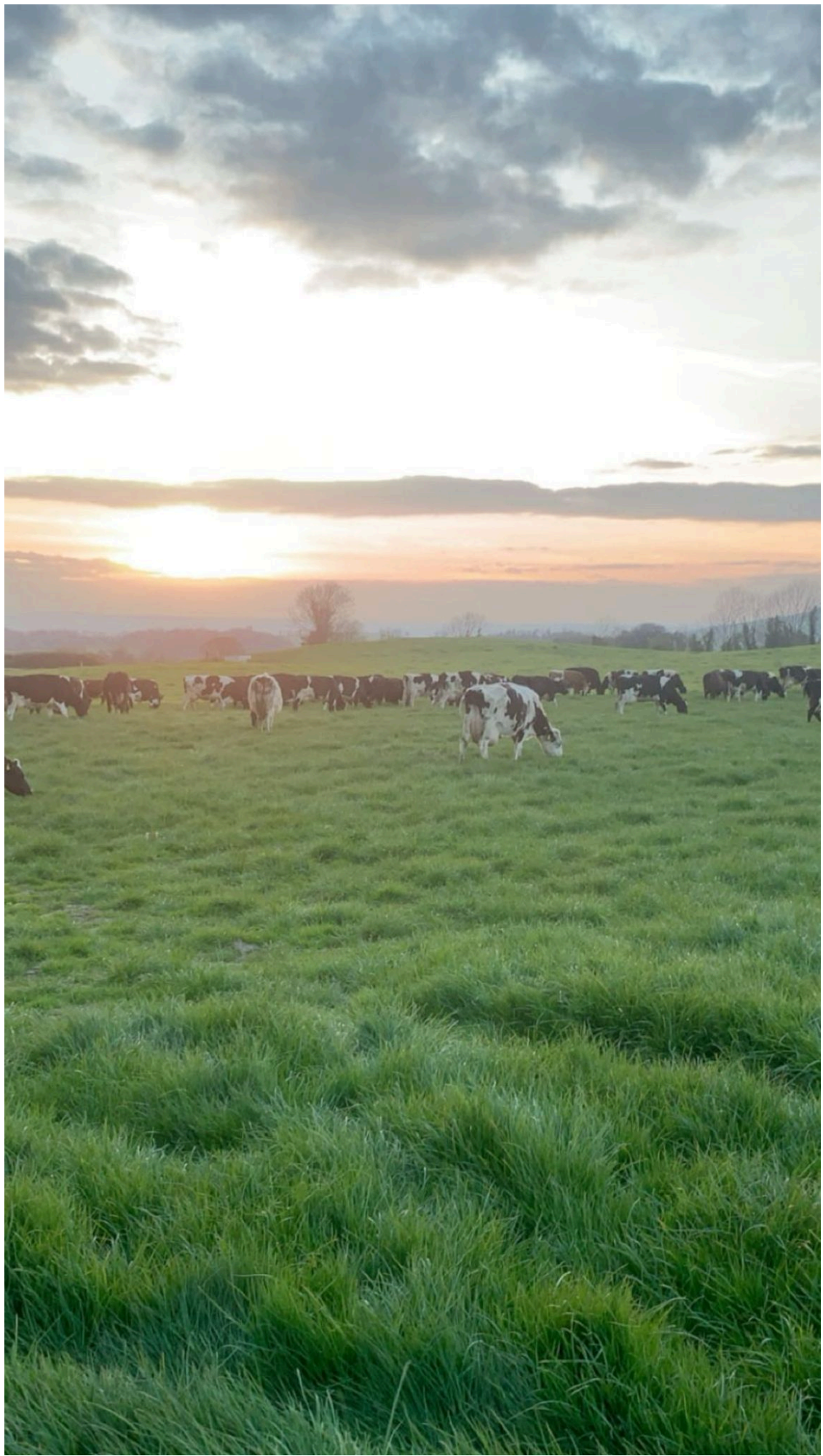
**Shane Seymour,  
Carney, Co.  
Tipperary**



**NUTRIENT APPLICATION**  
I am spreading 18.6.12 +S at 2 bags/acre & my plan is to be at 60 units/ac spread by late March. Paddocks that got slurry will get Pro. Urea only



**Shane's cows grazing away in Co. Tipperary!**



# Future Beef

## Spring Farm Walk

Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> March | 5pm

Cathal Irwin's Farm,  
Cloonfert, Castlebar, Co. Mayo  
(Signposted from N84, Castlebar to Ballinrobe Rd)

### Topics discussed will include:

- Optimise breeding in your herd
- Future-Proofing Your Farm: Smart shed & yard investments that are TAMS compliant
- Maximising Profit - Under 16-Month Bull Beef
- Make top-quality silage and reduce feed costs on your farm starting today



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