

Follow-up on impact of 2026 drought on grass production and fodder supply & advisory support activities

Teagasc Update

**National Fodder and Food
Security Committee**

Mon 7 September 2026

Teagasc, Oak Park, Carlow

Meeting Agenda

- 1) Update on grass growth following recent rain (Teagasc)**
- 2) Update on advisory activities supporting farmers (Teagasc)**
- 3) Input and discussion from stakeholders regarding ongoing support being provided to farmers (All)**
- 4) Close**



Grass growth and Fodder Feed Budget Update

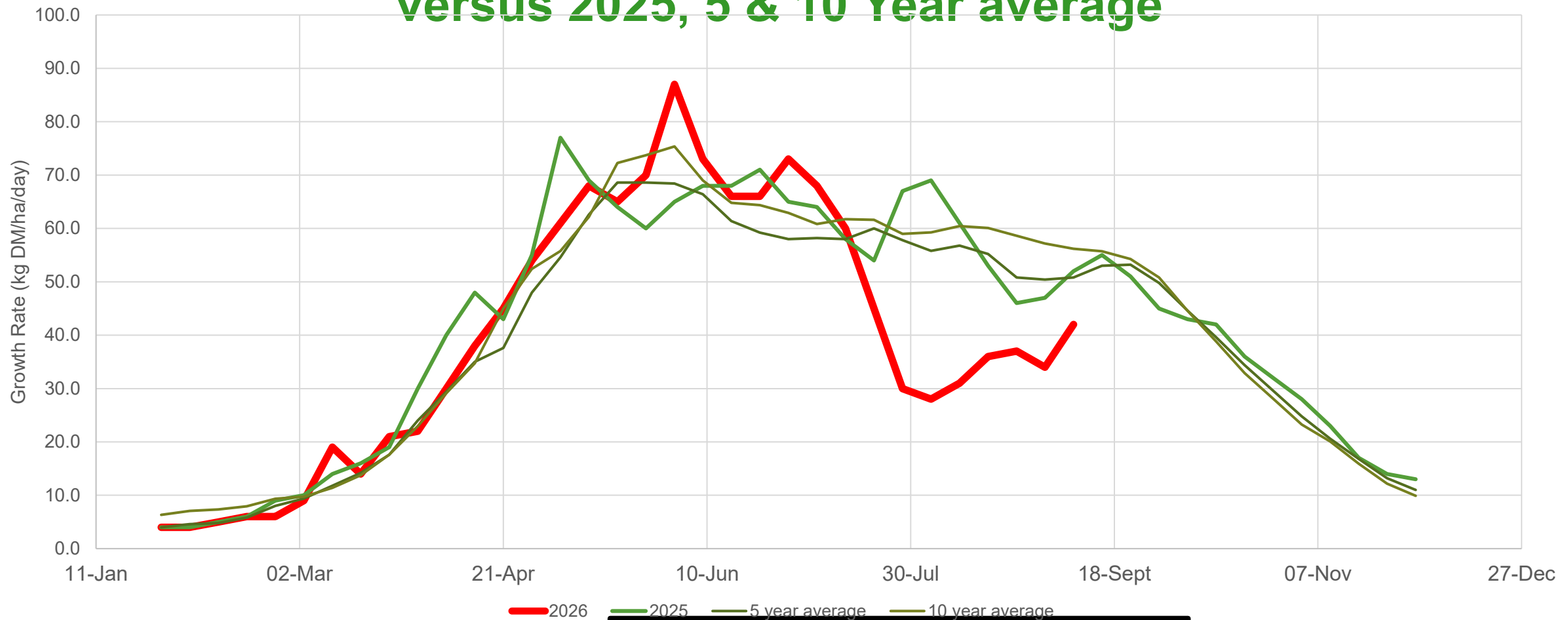
Michael O'Donovan & Caitlin Looney



National Fodder Meeting September 2026

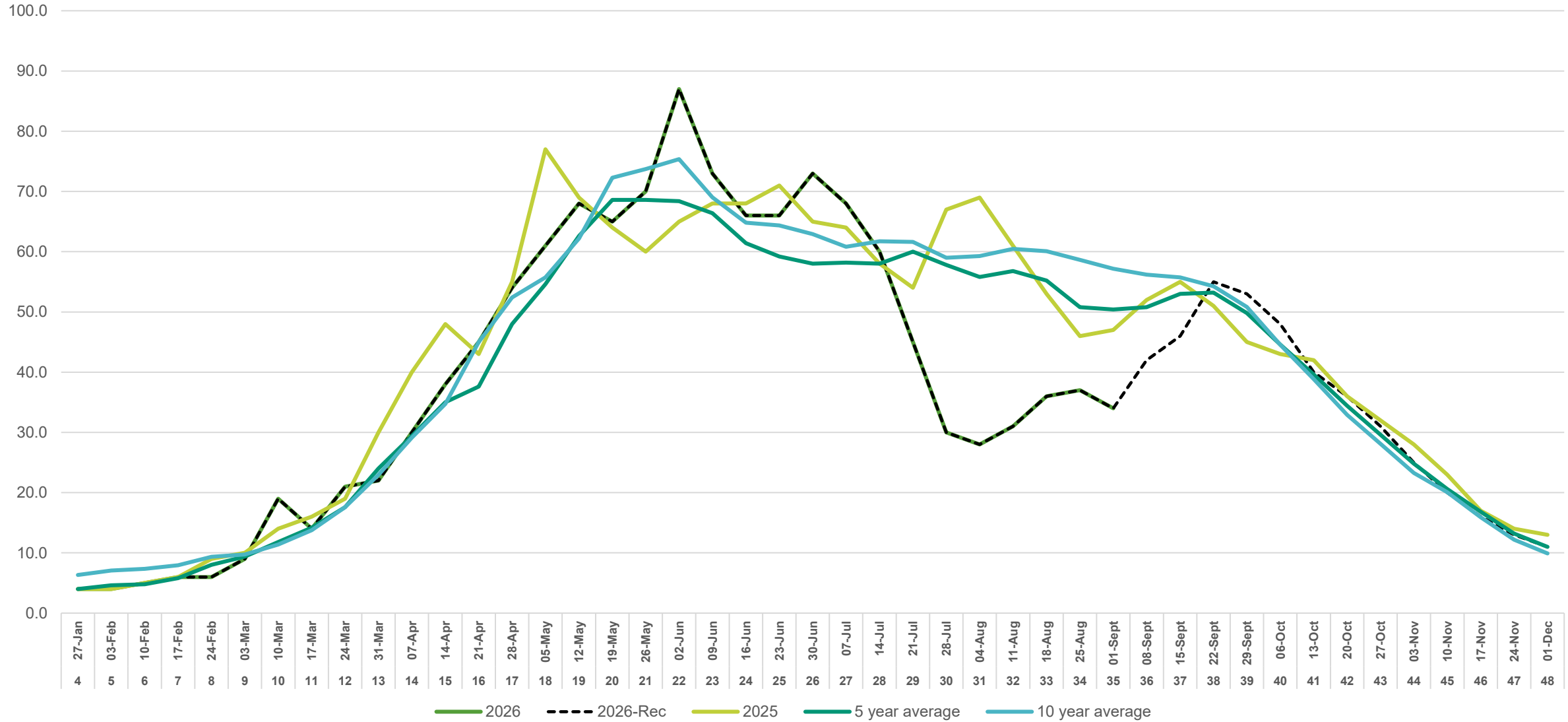


PastureBase Ireland 2026 Growth Curve versus 2025, 5 & 10 Year average

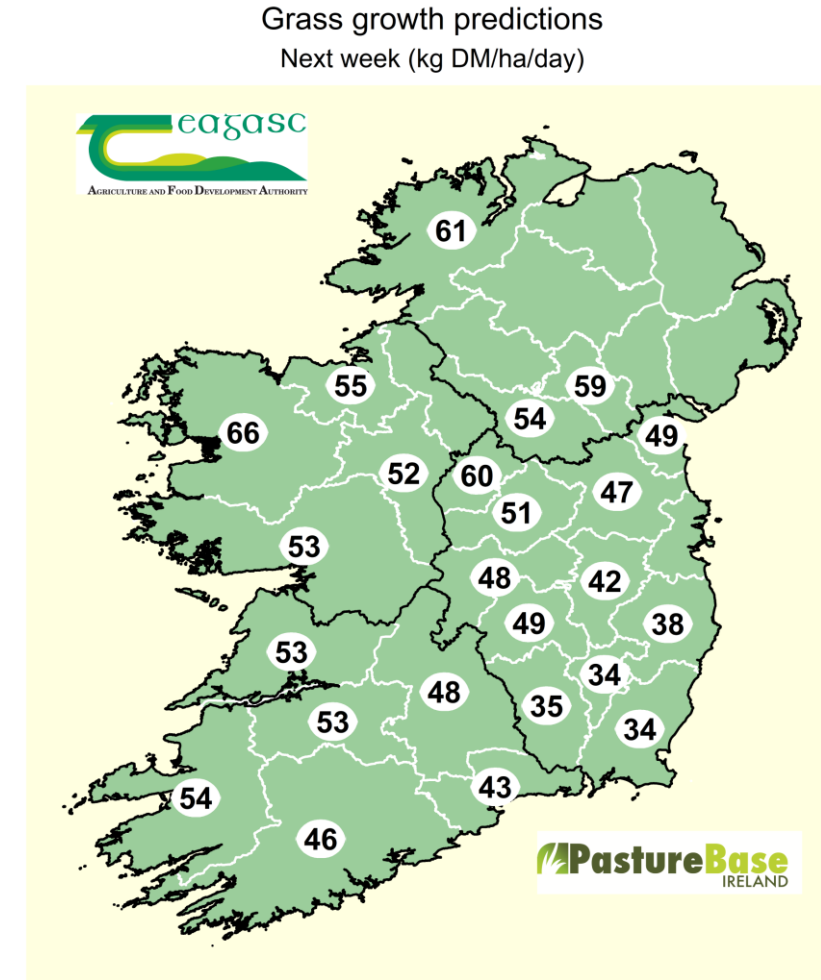
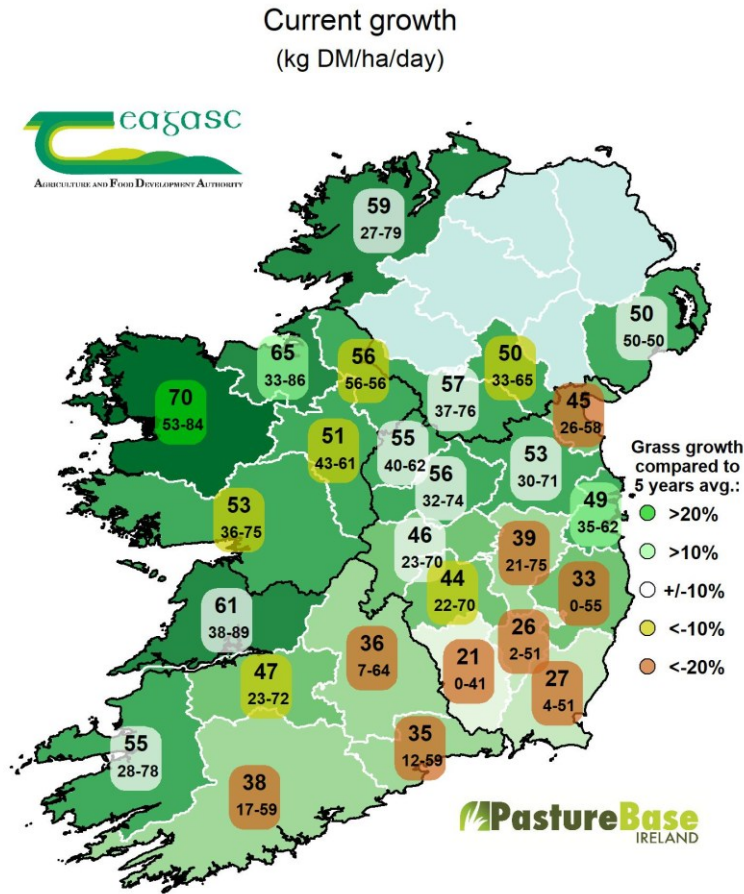


Year to date:
9219 kg DM/ha grown across farms to date
Down 1,148 kg on 2025
Down 412 kg on 5 year average
Down 1072 kg on the 10 year average

2026 with Projected Recovery in Grass Growth



Current and Predicted Grass Growth Nationally



Current Feeding levels- from 4/9

	Grass (kg DM/cow)	Conc (Kg DM/cow)	Silage (Kg DM/cow)	% Diet as Supplement
All Country (1815 Farms)	10.9	4.8	3.7	44%

Cork farms (552 Farms)

40%: No Silage in diet; 50% : 2-9kg Silage; 10% : >9kg Silage in Diet

Carlow/Kilkenny/Laois/Kildare/Wicklow/Wexford farms – (252 Farms)

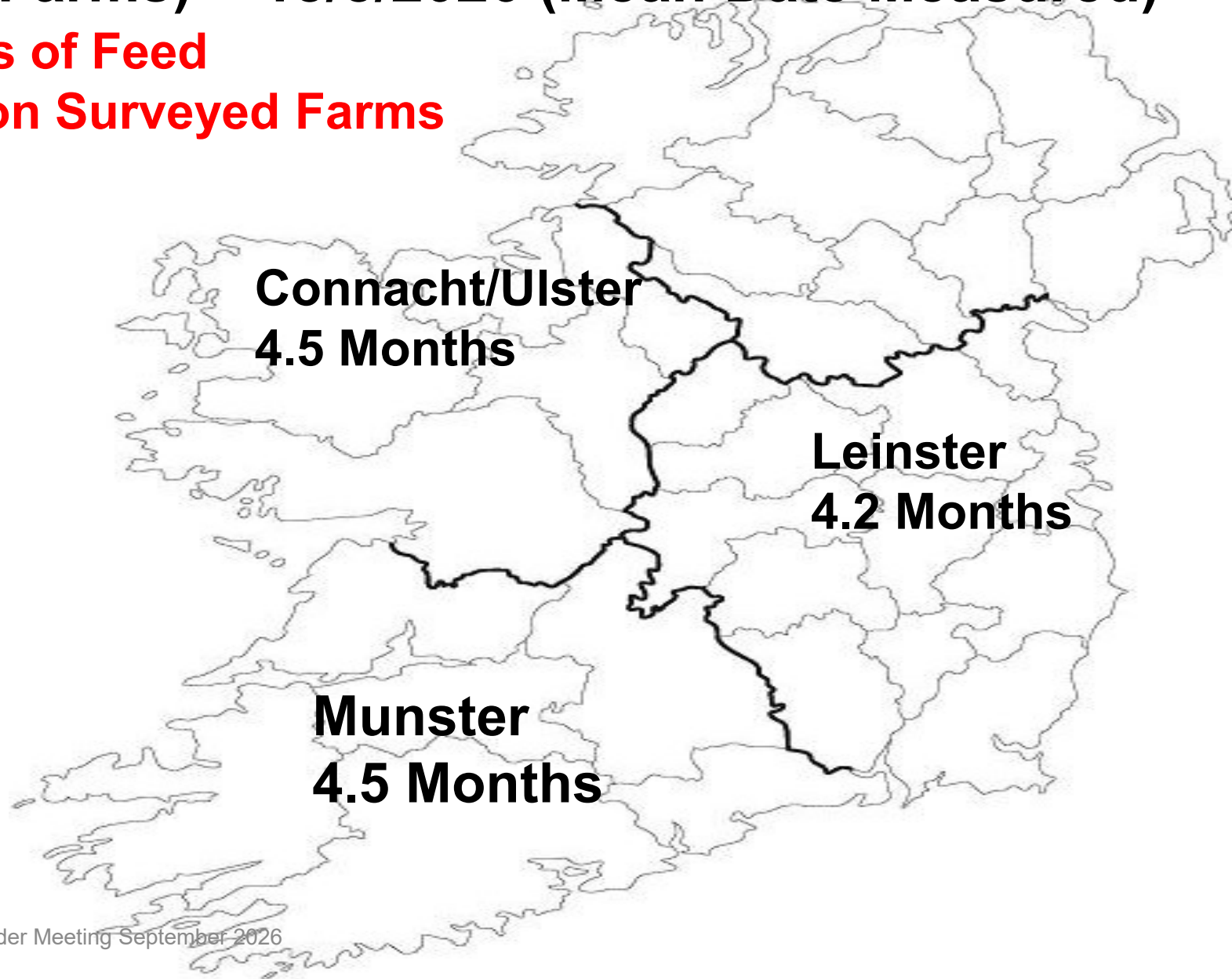
30% : No Silage in diet; 40% : 2-9kg Silage; 30% >9 kg Silage in Diet

Grass Growth Recovery

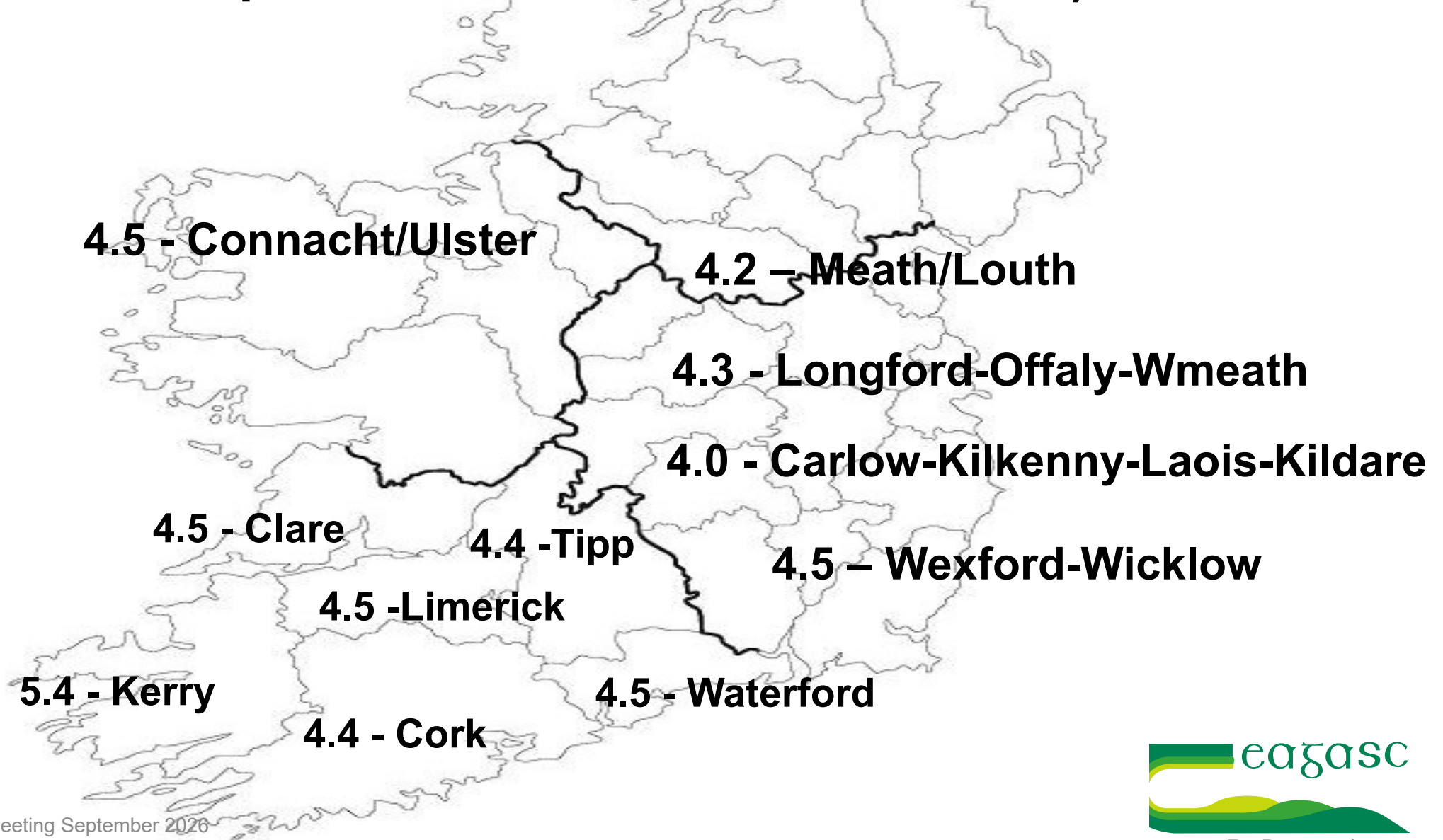
- Grass Growth is recovering in last 10 days
- Fertiliser needs to be up to date on Farms before closing period and slurry
- Measure farm cover and autumn Budget in the weeks ahead (2/3 months) grazing season
- Many farms will over-supplement coming out of a drought without the above
- Annual DM Production is likely 400kg DM/ha below the 5 year average of 12.3t DM/ha

Current Conserved Feed Availability on Farms (595 Farms) - 18/8/2026 (Mean Date Measured)

**4.3 Months of Feed
available on Surveyed Farms**



Current Conserved Feed Availability (Months Feed) - (595 Farms quantified on Pasturebase Ireland)



Advisory supports through the Drought

Tom Curran, Teagasc



Fodder Budgeting

Webinars & Clinics

Fodder Webinar		Fodder Clinics	
Region	Date	Teagasc Office	Date
Waterford	Tuesday, 8 th September at 7.30pm https://bit.ly/4xlbeT6	Dungarvan	Friday, 4 th September 10am to 4pm
Kilkenny		Mullinavat	Friday, 4 th September 10am to 4pm
Kilkenny		Kilkenny	Friday, 4 th September 10am to 4pm
Wicklow	Thursday, 27 th August at 7pm https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88307559511	Tinahely	Wednesday, 2 nd September 10am -1 pm, 2pm – 4 pm
Carlow		Oakpark	Wednesday, 2 nd September 10am -1 pm, 2pm – 4 pm
Wexford		Gorey	Wednesday, 2 nd September 10am -1 pm, 2pm – 4 pm
Wexford		Enniscorthy	Wednesday, 2 nd September 10am -1 pm, 2pm – 4 pm
Wexford		Johnstown Castle	Wednesday, 2 nd September 10am -1 pm, 2pm – 4 pm
Laois	Tuesday, 1 st September at 7.30pm https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87302845188	Portlaoise	Wednesday, 26 th August 10am -1 pm, 2pm – 4 pm
Offaly		Tullamore	Wednesday, 26 th August 10am -1 pm, 2pm – 4 pm
Kildare		Naas	Wednesday, 26 th August 10am -1 pm, 2pm – 4 pm
East Cork	Monday, 31 st August 7.30	Moorepark	Friday 4 th September 11am to 1 pm.
East Cork		Middleton	Friday 4 th September 11am to 1pm
East Cork		Mallow	Wednesday, 2 nd September 11.30am to 1 pm
East Cork		Kanturk	Tuesday, 1 st September 10am to 12 pm
Louth	Thursday, 27 th August at 7.30pm	Dundalk	Monday, 31 st August 11.30 to 1.00pm
Meath		Navan	Tuesday, 1 st September 11.30 to 1pm
Tipperary	Monday, 31 st August at 7.30 pm	Thurles	Friday, 28 th August 9.30am -1.30pm
Tipperary		Clonmel	Friday, 28 th August 9.30am -1.30pm
Tipperary		Nenagh	Friday, 28 th August

Key Message:

- Awareness of risk next spring
- Assess and Act now

Promotion of fodder budgets on-going

- 5 regional Webinars: 278, 1 this week
- MACRA webinar
- 20 Clinics: 334 attended
- 11 radio slots covering fodder budgeting
- Social Media, local marts

Comments

- Generally solving any issues locally
- Queries & interest on straw inclusion
- Fodder becoming harder to source in some areas
- South-east: TIRLAN Lighthouse farms completing and sharing feed budgets and options