

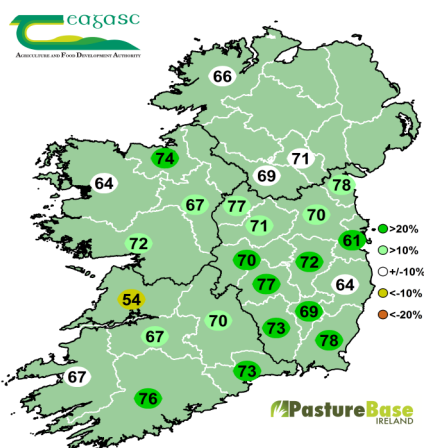
18th August 2020

PastureBase Ireland Current Performance (Last 7 Days):

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AFC	Stocking Rate	Cover/Cow	Growth	Demand	Pregrazing Yield
825 kg DM/ha	3.2 LU/ha	258kg DM/ha	70 kg DM/ha	52kg DM/ha	1,671 kg DM/ha

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



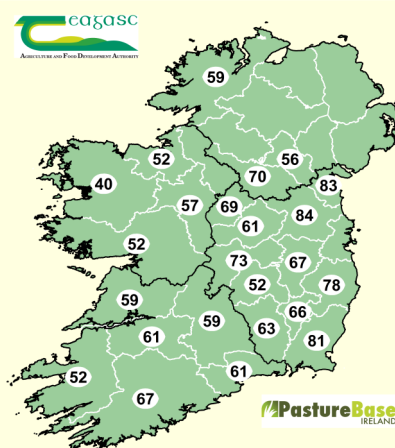
On the left: counties map showing **current** grass growth rates over the last week.

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 66kg DM/ha
South Wexford 62 kg DM/ha
Athenry 51 kg DM/ha
Clonakilty 69 kg DM/ha

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



Wet Weather management

High rainfall in the south and south west of the country has left grazing conditions extremely difficult.

Paudie O'Brien, 2019 GFOTY – Heavy soils category winner reported 147 mm of rain in August so far on his farm in Co. Kerry.



Paudie O'Brien,
Co. Kerry

Grass DM: 11.3%

Moorepark

(1400 kg DM/ha)

Monday 17th August

10.30am in wet conditions

As grazing conditions are challenging on Paudie's farm, this is how he is managing grazing at the minute.

- "Spring time grazing rules apply"
- On—off grazing for 3 hour blocks AM + PM
- Grazing paddocks on the farm that have good access and easy exit back onto farm roadways
- Strip grazing with 12 hour allocations
- Cows are grazing medium covers (1200—1500 kg/DM/ha)
- Walking farm daily to identify dry paddocks for cows



18th August 2020

Mid August Autumn Grazing Targets

As we are past the 15th August, its time to review where your farm is in relation to the 15th August targets.

If ahead of targets:-

- ⇒ Continue to walk farm every 5 days and keep an eye on forecast during this unsettled spell
- ⇒ Paddocks with heavy covers that have a good proportion of stem and dung paths should be earmarked for bales when the weather dries up
- ⇒ Paddocks that have heavy covers >1600 Kg/DM/Ha that are clean, good proportion of leaf or aftergrass should be grazed

If behind target:-

- ⇒ This will mean dropping demand on farm so as to build grass cover. Examples for reducing demand can be moving young stock off the milking platform, introducing extra supplement and by selling cull or empty cows
- ⇒ Complete Pasturebase grass budget to map out how you are going to get back on target
- ⇒ Make use of higher than normal growth rates in August to build "cheap" grass covers on farm
- ⇒ Apply nitrogen in line with your nutrient management plan

Date	Cover/Cow (Kg DM)	Average Farm Cover (Kg DM/Ha)	Rotation Length
STOCKING RATE OF 2.5 LU/HA			
1 st August	180	450	20 Days
Mid - August	200	500	25 Days
1 st September	300	750	30 Days
Mid-September	400-450	1,000-1,100	35 Days
1 st October	400	1,000	40 Days
1 st November	60% of your grazing platform should be closed for Spring at this stage		
Fully Housed		550-600	
STOCKING RATE OF 3.0 LU/HA			
Mid - August	250	750	25 Days
1 st September	330	990	30 Days
Mid-September	370	1100	35 Days
1 st October	380	1150	40 Days
1 st November	60% of your grazing platform should be closed for Spring at this stage		
Fully Housed		600-650	
STOCKING RATE OF 3.5 LU/HA			
Mid - August	220	770	25 Days
1 st September	280	980	30 Days
Mid-September	340	1200	35 Days
1 st October	335	1175	40 Days
1 st November	70% of your grazing platform should be closed for Spring at this stage		
Fully Housed		700-750	

Using the Pasturebase Grass Budget to Maximise Days at Grass this Autumn

Webinar 12/08/2020

Key Points:-

- In 2019, many farms failed to reach target farm covers in Autumn which resulted in a shorter grazing season and a longer housing period for cows
- Switch focus from the grass wedge to the grass budget from 10th August
- Each day at grass in Autumn is worth €1.80 per cow per day- huge impact on profitability on Irish farms
- If building peak covers to over 1100kg/DM/ha- grazing infrastructure must be excellent on farms to maximise utilisation of this grass
- On heavier soils- Don't build peak cover as high (900-1000 Kg/DM/Ha) & carry the high covers on the dry ground
- Continue to measure grass on farms weekly using the Pasturebase Offline App



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Grassland Farmer of the Year 2020

The Grassland Farmer of the Year competition for 2020 was officially launched by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Dara Calleary TD.

The aim of the competition is to recognize and acknowledge Irish farmers who are achieving high levels of grass utilisation in a sustainable manner.

Click the link below for more information on the competition and for the entry form.

<https://bit.ly/GFOY2020>



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine

