

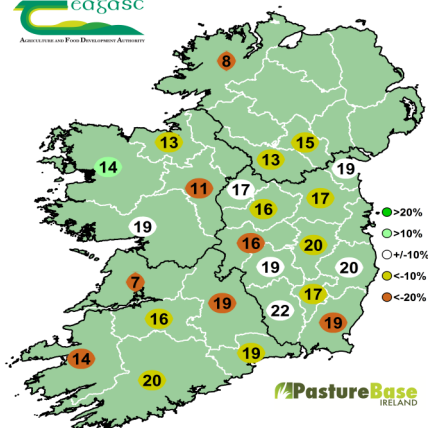
10th November 2020

PastureBase
IRELAND

AFC	Stocking Rate	Cover/LU	Growth	Demand	Pregrazing Yield
687 kg DM/ha	2.7 LU/ha	254 kg DM/LU	16 kg DM/ha	24 kg DM/ha	1350 kg DM/ha

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

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

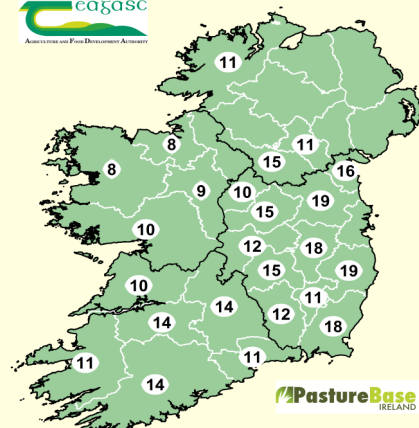
On the right: counties map showing **predicted** grass growth over the next 7 days from farms involved in Elodie Ruelle's MoSt grass growth model (55 farms).

Predicted Growth Rate:

Ballyhaise 14 kg DM/ha
South Wexford 12 kg DM/ha
Athenry 9 kg DM/ha
Clonakilty 12 kg DM/ha

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

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All Eyes Should Be Firmly On Grass For The Spring

Key from now on is to close the farm on time allowing you to have enough grass for the spring. To achieve this use the Dec 1st closing cover target (see table on right).

- Target varies depending on stocking rate, calving date, calving rate and land type.
- Work back from your target, e.g. 3.0 LU/ha target on Dec 1st is 700 Kg DM/ha. Estimate Nov growth 7 Kg DM/ha/Day x 20 days = 140 Kg DM/ha. The AFC needs to be a minimum of 550 Kg DM/ha today to reach the target.
- DO NOT** let AFC drop below **550 Kg DM/ha this week** for any stocking rate. This will be detrimental to overwinter grass growth
- If aiming to have 30-40% of the farm grazed by 1st Mar increase the target by **50 Kg DM/ha** for your stocking rate.
- Develop a **PastureBase** grass budget for your farm. Consult and update as necessary.
- Spring grazing rules** apply to those out grazing

Stocking Rate (LU/ha)	Cover Dec 1st
2.5	650
3.0	700
3.5	750

Grass DM

12.1%

10/11/2020

Moorepark @ 9am
(1500 kg/DM/ha)

Grass Sample results from Clonakilty: The table below contains the quality results from grass samples taken across the 4 treatments on the ongoing clover trials in Clonakilty, Co. Cork. These samples were taken at the end of October.

Date	Treatment (kg N/ha)	DMD %	CP %	OMD %	UFL
28/11/20	Grass-only - 250	83.1	16.3	81.9	1.00
28/11/20	Grass-clover - 150	83.1	16.4	81.9	1.00
28/11/20	Grass-only - 150	82.8	13.9	81.7	0.99
28/11/20	Grass-clover - 250	82.2	15.7	81.3	0.99

Upcoming Event: Join us for our Achieving Grazing Excellence in 2021 webinar on Wed 9th Dec at 7pm on Zoom. Please see advert below or click <https://bit.ly/PBIWebinar> for more info.

Kevin Moran Videos

Please click on the links below to view recent videos done with Kevin Moran, Caherlistrane, Co Galway on his autumn grazing management.

1) Maximising Days At Grass

<https://bit.ly/daysatgrass>

2) November Grazing & Closing Off for spring

<https://bit.ly/autumngrazing>



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IRELAND

Do you understand & capitalise on your PastureBase reports?

Join our webinar with Teagasc Grass10 & PastureBase Ireland experts & achieve grazing excellence in 2021!

Wednesday, 9th December | 7pm

Hear from special guest, dairy farmer **Jim White** and learn how he uses his reports to identify areas for improvement on his dairy farm.



Open the camera on your phone and scan the QR Code to register

Or visit www.teagasc.ie/grass10

10th November 2020

Resist the temptation to graze closed paddocks!

Sheep farmer, Grassland farmer of the year and contract rearer John O'Connell from Ballinamore, Co. Leitrim farms 34Ha in total, with the 17Ha home block containing most of the sheep and contract heifer rearing on the out block. Rams were let out with the ewes on the 16th October and repeats are quiet.

Ground conditions are challenging at the minute on John's farm. All of the contract reared animals are housed and just the ewes and some lambs remain grazing.

"I am stocked quite heavy on the home farm and have a big demand in Spring so I have between **70-80% closed** at the minute and I aim to have all stock removed from the home farm by the 1st December. The outfarm has **55% closed** at the minute. I will have all animals housed by Christmas".

John remarked "Due to my location, I have poor growth over the winter, and so my paddocks **must have a good grass covers in place before the end of November**."

My first closed paddock beside the yard has 1100 kg/DM/ha on it and this will be very important grazing for me in Spring. A ewe with two lambs at foot has twice demand for energy as a dry ewe.



John O' Connell,
Ballinamore
Co. Leitrim

John's Current Grass Performance	
AFC (Kg DM/ha)	645
Growth	13
Demand (Kg DM/Ha/Day)	3
% closed	70-80%

Lessons Learned

"I learned the hard way down through the years, grazing my farm down in November and December, keeping no grass over the winter, which resulted in poor grass covers in spring and a large meal bill!"

Understanding The Sheep Autumn Closing Plan

Area To Close (%)	When To Close By	Which Paddocks	120 Day Rest Period (DO NOT RE- GRAZE)	Needed For Grazing In	Pregrazing Yield In Spring
20	Late Oct	Closer To The Yard		Early Mar	1200-1400 Kg DM/Ha (8-9cm)
40	Mid Nov			Late Mar	
60	Late Nov	Further From The Yard		Early Apr	
80	Mid Dec			Mid Apr	

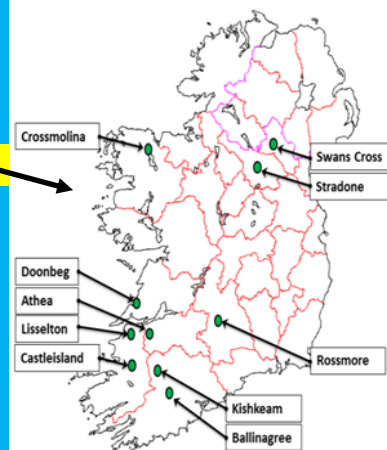
Teagasc Heavy Soils Programme (HSP) update

The aim of the programme is to improve the profitability of grassland farmers on heavy soils farms. This is achieved by adopting key technologies including land drainage, farm infrastructure, soil fertility, herd efficiency and managing and utilising high quality pasture at 10 locations around Ireland.

On a whole as a group:-

- Cows have been in by night since the middle of October
- Most of the farms are fully housed now with an average farm cover of 550Kg DM per/ha
- Average milk production is 15 litres 4.98% fat, 4.03% protein and 1.39 kg Ms /Cow
- Grass grown on the milking platform is similar to last year @ 12.5 tons DM/ha
- This level of grass production was achieved by applying 253Kg N/ha, 57kg P/ha and 121 kg K/ha. These sources of nutrient are chemical and organic combined. Improving soil fertility is a key objective.

Location of farms



HSP grass summary report

FARMER	NO. OF GRAZINGS	NO. OF SILAGE CUTS	Average PreGrazing Covers	GRAZING (kg DM/ha)	SILAGE (kg DM/ha)	TOTAL Grass production (kg DM/ha)
Athea	6.9	0.9	1467	10122	2000	12122
Crossmolina	5.3	0.6	1672	8862	1531	10393
Macroom	8.4	0.5	1427	11987	1196	13183
Doonbeg	6.5	1	1490	9685	1784	11469
Listowel	4.3	1.3	1768	7604	6157	13761
Rossmore	7.8	0.8	1500	11702	1404	13106
Castleisland	8.7	0.5	1450	12614	1194	13808
Kiskeam	6.9	0.9	1329	9172	1907	11079
Stradone	5.8	1	1576	9140	3369	12509
SwansCross	6.3	0.3	1723	10852	881	11733
Average	7	1	1540	10174	2142	12316

Please follow the link for more detailed information on all farms programme information and weekly weather updates: www.teagasc.ie/heavy-soils



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



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