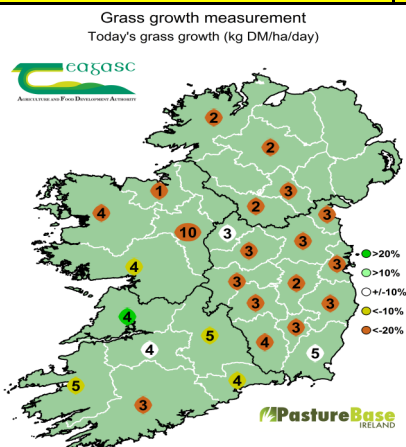


19th January 2021

**PastureBase**  
IRELAND

AFC	Growth	Grass Dry Matter %
814 kg DM/ha	5kg DM/Ha	14.1% (1300 Kg/DM/Ha)

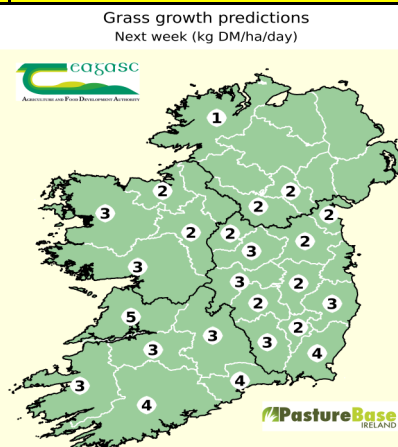


On the left: counties map showing **current** grass growth rates over the last week.

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 2 kg DM/ha  
South Wexford 3 kg DM/ha  
Athenry 3 kg DM/ha  
Clonakilty 4 kg DM/ha



## Overall winner of the Grassland Farmer of the Year 2020 – Caroline Walsh, Ballinascarthy, Co.Cork

Grass10 and its partners which include Teagasc, AIB, FBD, Grassland Agro, The Farmers Journal and Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine held the annual Grassland Farmer of the Year Awards in a virtual setting on Zoom on Tuesday 19th January. The award ceremony recognises those farmers who are achieving high levels of grass utilisation in a sustainable manner. The competition aims to encourage farmers, across the country and across enterprise to optimise the use of the valuable resource that grass is on Irish farms. This is the 4th year of the awards.

Caroline Walsh was the **Overall Winner** and **Dairy Category Winner** of the 2020 Grassland Farmer of the Year award. Caroline farms with her husband Joe and 5 children in Ballinascarthy, Co. Cork milking 70 cows on a 20 ha milking platform. She is reducing cow numbers slightly and will be stocked at 3.2 LU/ha this year. Heifers are contract reared and silage comes from outblocks. Caroline began measuring grass in 2015, and in 2020 her farm grew 14.2 T DM/ha (slightly reduced due to June drought) with her cows producing 500 kg MS per cow (supplied to Lisavaird Coop) from 850 kg meal. In 2019, the farm grew over 16 T DM/ha and achieved 10 grazings per paddock. She has invested heavily in grazing infrastructure so she can get cows out from early February to mid-November. Caroline is involved in her local Grass10 grazing course.

From all at Grass10, we congratulate Caroline and family on this great achievement!

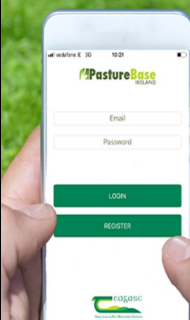


### Need help getting set up on PBI for grass measuring in 2021?

Email [support@pbi.ie](mailto:support@pbi.ie) or call 046-9200965

### Spring Grazing Checklist

- Opening Average Farm Cover ☐
- Grass Budget ☐
- Spring Rotation Planner ☐
- Fertiliser and Slurry Plan ☐
- Enter Soil test results on PBI ☐
- Temporary Reels & Posts ☐
- Roadways and fences tidied up ☐



## Getting Familiar with PastureBase Ireland

Are you looking to begin your journey measuring grass with PastureBase Ireland?

**Thursday, 4th February | 7pm**

Join the Grass10 & PastureBase team on as they go through a step-by-step process of using PastureBase Ireland

Learn how to:

- Download the PastureBase Ireland app on your mobile
- Set up paddocks on your profile
- Enter a grass measurement on PastureBase Ireland and how to interpret the data
- Enter groups of grazing animals and correctly allocate grass
- Use Spring and Autumn rotation planners

To register visit [www.teagasc.ie/grass10](http://www.teagasc.ie/grass10)

19th January 2021

## Grassland Farmer of the Year competition 2020 Awards Ceremony

Grass10 and its partners which include AIB, FBD, Grassland Agro, Farmers Journal and Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine held the annual Grassland Farmer of the Year Awards in a virtual setting on Zoom on Tuesday 19th January. The Grassland Farmer of the Year Competition has **10 Category Awards** and an **Overall Award Winner**. We would like to congratulate all award winners and would like to thank everyone for entering the competition.

### Young Farmer Category Winner

David O'Leary, Castleisland, Co. Cork

David is a new entrant to dairy-farming, milking 80 cows on a 32 Ha leased block since 2018. He grew 14.3 T DM/Ha and has over 1/3 of the milking platform re-seeded since he has taken over the farm.



### Heavy Soils/ Disadvantaged Land Category Winner

Sean Barry, Pallasgreen, Co. Limerick

Sean milks 70 cows alongside his father Pat, growing 13 T DM/Ha on a heavy soil milking platform that is split in 3 by main roads. Due to heavy nature of farm, Sean has invested in reseed and drainage.



### Sustainable Farming Category Winner

John Galvin, Dunmanway, Co. Cork

John milks 100 cows on 35 Ha with his wife Yvonne. John puts a big focus on sustainability. He uses LESS for slurry, Protected UREA, he is a GLAS participant and is part of the Caha River Project.



### Sheep Category Winner

Peter McGuinness, Trim, Co. Meath

Peter and Tom McGuinness are sheep and tillage farmers lambing 800 ewes per year. Peter puts a big focus on measuring grass to ensure good liveweight gain in lambs and grew 13.7 T DM/Ha in 2020.



### Dairy Category Winner

Caroline Walsh, Ballinascorthy, Co. Cork

Caroline milked 70 cows on a 20 ha milking platform. She has invested heavily in grazing infrastructure in order to get cows out from mid February to mid November each year. She grew 16 T DM/ha in 2020 and achieved 10 grazings per paddock.



### Beef Production (non-suckling) Category Winner

Pat Collins, Castlemartyr, Co. Cork

Pat farms runs a dairy calf to beef system & tillage enterprise alongside his father Matt. Pat has excellent soil fertility and has a super sward of clover to drive efficient liveweight gain in his cattle. He grew 15 T DM/Ha in 2020.



### Suckler Beef Production Category Winner

Thomas Hogan, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary

Thomas operates 60 cow strong suckler to store operation. The farm is divided into 10 paddocks that can be sub divided with temporary reels to make the best use of grazed grass. Thomas is focused on soil fertility before re-seeding.



### Grassland Merit- Most improved Grassland in 2020

Noel Hurley, Kildorrey, Co. Cork

Noel milks just shy of 200 cows in Kildorrey. He started grass measuring in 2015, walked the farm 40 times in 2020 and grew 15.7 T DM/Ha. In recent years Noel has really focused on soil fertility, correcting pH using Lime and K using MOP (Potash).



### Grassland Merit- Most improved Grassland in 2020

David Brady, Stradone, Co. Cavan

David milks 100 cows on a heavy farm. He has put big focus on soil fertility and drainage in order to prepare ground for profitable reseed. David is a member of local Grass10 group, walked his farm 40 times and grew 13T DM/ Ha in 2020.



### Grassland Merit- Sustainable Grassland

JP Hammersley, Lattin, Co. Tipperary

JP runs a dairy calf to beef system on 37 Ha, of which he split up into 45 paddocks. Calves are taken through to slaughter at 24 -28 months from grass. JP has a big focus on clover. The farm is in GLAS and in 2020 JP's farm grew 10 T DM/Ha.

