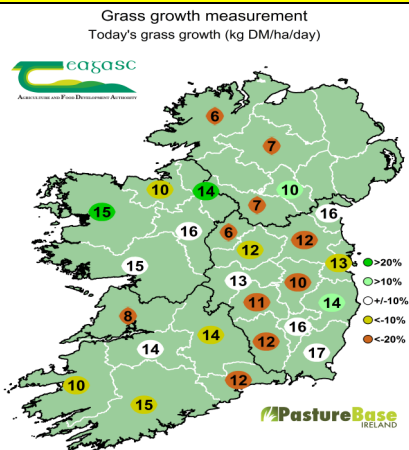


16th March 2021

PastureBase
IRELAND

AFC	Growth	Diet
801 Kg DM/Ha	14 Kg DM/Ha	10 Kg grass, 4 Kg meal, 2 Kg silage

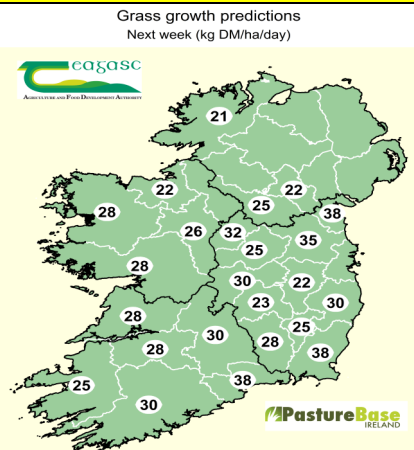


On the left: counties map showing **current** grass growth rates over the last week.

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 21 kg DM/ha
South Wexford 35 kg DM/ha
Athenry 21 kg DM/ha
Clonakilty 36 kg DM/ha



Keeping on the Right Side of the Wire with Tomás O'Brien

The dry settled conditions in early March resulted in a lot of area grazed on Irish farms. Grazing in the dry conditions was the correct decision, however farmers must react if Average Farm Cover (AFC) has dropped on farm and make a plan from now until the start of the 2nd rotation.

Tomas O'Brien, Mitchelstown has a high demand for grass with a 90% six-week calving rate plus 3.24 LU/ha stocking rate on milking platform. With 55% grazed and current AFC 700 Kg DM/ha, Tomás knows he must **ACT NOW** to avoid running out of grass (AFC < 550 Kg DM/ha) before the start of the 2nd rotation. Here is Tomás' plan:

1. Reduce the amount of grass being fed (supplement with silage & meal)
2. Hold the AFC for the next 10 days (match demand to growth)
3. Walk the farm weekly from now on using PastureBase Ireland
4. Ensure adequate level fertiliser/slurry applied
5. Monitor regrowth on earliest grazed paddocks
6. Adjust the start of the 2nd rotation if necessary
7. Stretch out area left to graze until the 2nd rotation (20 days until 5th April)
8. Complete & update a PastureBase grass budget

Grass growth to double around the country this week!



Grass Dry Matter %

Moorepark, Co. Cork

15.8% (1600KgDM/Ha)

Athenry, Co. Galway

16.5% (1250 Kg DM/Ha)

Watch Tomás' video where he explains his plan here-: <http://bit.ly/TomásG10>

Have you 25-35% grazed or are you farming on Heavy soils?

1. With good weather forecast, farmers should aim to graze as much as possible over the next week (except for farms below target Average Farm Cover)
2. Aim to graze medium covers (1000-1300 Kg DM/Ha) to increase area grazed
3. Apply fertiliser to grazed paddocks as intervals will be shorter until 2nd rotation
4. Aim to start 2nd rotation on 15th April

teagasc
AGRICULTURE AND FOOD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



PastureBase
IRELAND

Hitting Grazing Targets in 2021 with PastureBase Ireland

Wednesday, 7th April | 7pm

Join the Grass10 & PastureBase team on the night and hear:

- Update on Spring grass supply & grazing from PastureBase Ireland
- Tips & advice on managing the 2nd rotation during April
- Helping you to understand terms on PastureBase Ireland such as Average Farm Cover, Cover per Livestock Unit, Demand and Days Ahead so you can make better grazing decisions
- Setting your farm up with quality grass as we transition from low to high growth rates

Hear from special guest's dairy farmer Noel Hurley, Co. Cork & sheep farmer Peter McGuinness, Co. Meath as they discuss April grassland management on their farms and how PastureBase Ireland helps them achieve targets.

Or visit www.teagasc.ie/grass10

16th March 2021

Teagasc Grange dairy calf-to-beef systems update

Nicky Byrne & Donall Fahy

Grazing began on the 1st of March following a 100 day indoor winter period. Weanlings across all treatments recorded an Average Daily Gain of **0.6 kg**, which should allow for full compensatory growth over the coming grazing season. These weanlings received ad-lib second cut silage (72 DMD) in addition to 1.5 kg of concentrate per day. This level of ADG meant animals were on target at turnout with Holstein Friesian (HF) and Angus (AAX) steers weighing 330 kg and 333 kg, respectively. At turnout yearlings which received concentrate thought their first grazing season as calves had a 6 kg liveweight advantage over those on a grass only diet.



Opening AFC was 940 kg DM/ha with a demand of 21 kg DM/ha. To overcome the low demand experienced in dairy beef systems, lighter covers were targeted to make up area grazed, followed by heavier silage swards, to inflate herd demand some silage swards with the lowest covers will not be grazed. Current AFC is 640 kg DM/ha and to date the average pre-grazing herbage mass was 1115 kg DM/ha, grazed to a residual of 4 cm, **allowing 29% of the farm to be grazed to date.** Cattle had to be rehoused due to poor weather and grazing conditions, however this was only a slight interruption and as ground dries this week animals will be back at grass.

GFOY Update - Pat Collins (Cattle Non-Suckling Category Winner)

"We stayed grazing during the rain by picking and choosing drier paddocks to graze. We are now grazing silage ground which is stretching out grass until the 2nd rotation. There is 800 Kg DM/ha back on the first grazed paddocks."



Recording Fertiliser & Slurry with PastureBase Ireland

Click on the link here to the video on recording fertiliser using PastureBase Ireland. Very important to know what you are spreading on your farm so you can identify areas for improvements with nutrient use efficiency.

<http://bit.ly/RecordingFert>

Dry soils should have 66 units N per acre (83 kg/ha) spread by the end of March and heavy soils should have 46 units per acre (58 kg/ha) spread by that time. See fertiliser advice here:-

<https://bit.ly/TeagascEarlyNitrogen>



Grassland Farmer of the Year Take Over!

Sean Barry, Disadvantaged Land Category Winner, will take over @TeagascGrass10 Twitter and @teagasc Instagram accounts on the 24th March. Sean will showcase how he operates the farm in terms of current grazing management, soil fertility, drainage, grazing infrastructure as well as many other topics.



Association of Food Businesses

Grass10

dairygold

Social Media Takeover

Sean Barry

Co. Limerick

2020 Heavy Soils Category
Grassland Farmer of the Year

@Teagasc @TeagascGrass10



Date	12/03/2021
AFC	911 Kg DM/ha
Growth	20 Kg DM/ha/day
Demand	23 Kg DM/ha/day
% Grazed	65% (2nd rotation begins early April)
PGY	1600 Kg DM/ha (1200 Kg DM/ha)
Fertiliser	44 u N/ac (55 Kg N/ha) on grazing ground. (with P, K & S in 2nd application). Silage ground & low index paddocks got 3000 gal/ac LESS in Feb

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

Email support@pbi.ie or call 046-9200965

Wednesday, 24th March



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

