

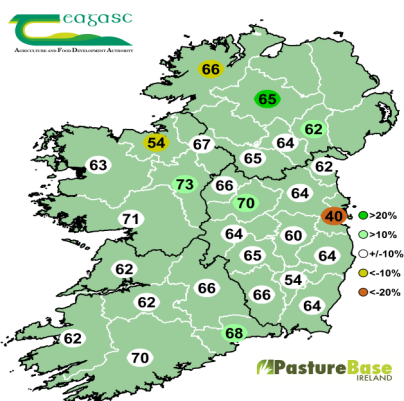
22nd June 2021

PastureBase data from dairy farms:

AFC	Cover/LU	Stocking Rate	Growth	Demand	Diet (Grass + Meal)	Pre Grazing Yield
673 Kg DM/Ha	180 Kg DM/LU	3.72 LU/ha	68 Kg DM/ha	58 Kg DM/ha	15.5 Kg DM + 2.5 Kg	1678 Kg DM/Ha

PastureBase
IRELAND

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



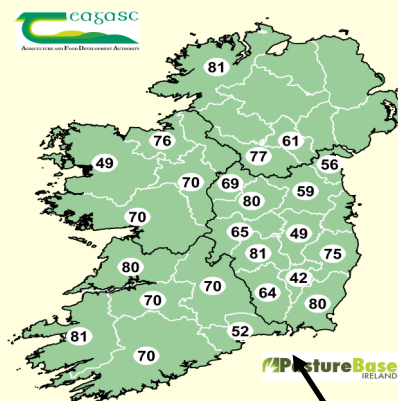
On the left: counties map showing **current** grass growth rates over the last week.

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 71 kg DM/ha
South Wexford 46 kg DM/ha
Athenry 73 kg DM/ha
Clonakilty 73 kg DM/ha

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



2021 a huge learning curve for Co. Donegal new entrant!

"May was harder than February here with us" according to **Oisín Gallen**, a new entrant to milk in 2020, farming in Ramelton, Co. Donegal. Oisín is the host farmer for the Grass10 Donegal Grazing Group.

"As I am only in my 2nd year milking, I am learning all the time and trying to improve the grass that I have ahead of my cows. Last week I grazed a paddock that I shouldn't have at 1700 Kg DM/Ha and my protein % dropped from 3.42 to 3.35 % and re-growths were also hit, so I am learning to trust PastureBase with my decision making"

"I have put much more of an emphasis on measuring this year using PastureBase Ireland and I am currently walking my farm every 5 days which I have felt even with all the harsh weather that we had in April and early May has helped my grass quality"

"From a soil fertility point of view, my farm is coming from a low base so I am following the cows at the minute with 1.5 bags per acre of 18.6.12 to try and improve the P&K"

"My stocking rate is quite high currently as I will require a good 2nd cut of silage in order to satisfy my winter feed requirements. I have put the meal up to 4.5 Kg to get over a slight dip in the wedge and in order to build winter feed stocks"



Growth rates difficult to predict as parts of the country entering drought

"There is a lot of uncertainty in the weather pattern for this coming week and confidence in the weather pattern is low" is the quote from Met Eireann's Weatherline today!

The MoSt Grass growth predictions above are based on **10-20mm of rain** coming this week, most of it on **Thursday** and if the rain doesn't come then growth rate for most (not all) farms will be more than likely **overestimated**.

Grass Dry Matter %

Moorepark, Co. Cork

17.3% (1300 Kg DM/Ha)

Grange, Co. Meath

22.8% (1500 Kg DM/Ha)

Athenry, Co. Galway

22% (1500 Kg DM/Ha)

Oisín Gallen's Grass Data

AFC	627 kg DM/ha
Cover/LU	143 kg DM/ha
Stocking Rate	4.4 LU/ha
Growth	63 kg DM/ha/day
Demand	53 kg DM/ha/day
PGY	1450 kg DM/ha
Milk Yield	1.95 kg MS/cow
Diet (Grass+Meal)	12.5 kg + 4.5kg

Grass10 Grazing Tips

As mentioned above, there are huge variation in growth rates across the country at present, with soil moisture deficits (SMD) along the Eastern Seaboard of between 20—60 mm. If SMD is between 30-50mm growth is impeded, however if it goes above 50 mm of an SMD, farms will see a substantial decline in growth. For farmers in this scenario

- Hold rotation length at 20-21 days and fill the balance with supplement.
- Hold Average Farm Cover above 500 Kg DM/ha
- Park the Mower! Topping and pre mowing should be avoided at all costs so as to retain as much moisture at base of sward as possible

PastureBase data from sheep & beef farms:

22nd June 2021

AFC	Days Ahead	Stocking Rate	Growth	Demand	Pre Grazing Yield
757 Kg DM/Ha	17 days	3.18 LU/ha	60 Kg DM/ha	43 Kg DM/ha	1789 Kg DM/ha

Teagasc Moorepark Grass-Clover Research Programme Update

Dr. Deirdre Hennessy and Ellen Fitzpatrick

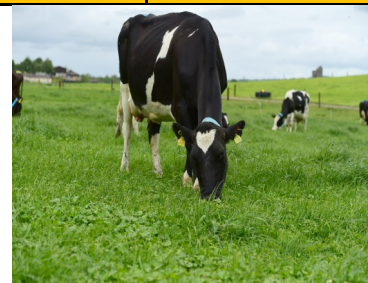
The grass-white clover research programme at Teagasc Moorepark is comparing herbage and milk production from three pasture-based systems, all stocked at a whole farm stocking rate of 2.6 cows/ha.

The three experimental treatments are **grass-only receiving 225 kg N/ha**, **grass-white clover receiving 150 kg N/ha** and **grass-white clover receiving 150 kg N/ha in an alternative N application strategy**. Paddocks in the grass-white clover treatment receiving 150 kg N/ha in an alternative N application strategy receive N fertiliser every second rotation from May to August, while in the other grass-clover treatment N is applied in every rotation.

Current sward clover content for is **21%** on the grass-clover 150 kg N/ha and **20%** on the grass-clover 150 kg N/ha alternative N application strategy.

Current milk and herbage production from the Moorepark grass-clover tri-

	Grass 225	Grass-clover 150	Grass-clover 150 alternative
Milk yield (kg/cow/day)	20.71	21.88	21.45
Milk solids yield (kg/cow/day)	1.85	1.70	1.88
Pre-grazing herbage mass (kg DM/ha)	1300	1300	1400
Post-grazing sward height (cm)	4.3	4.2	4.3
Current sward clover content (%)	-	21	20
Herbage grown to 21/06/2021 (t DM/ha)	6.0	6.4	6.3



GFOY Update - JP Hamersley, 2020 Sustainable Grassland Award Winner.

"The grass covers we are grazing this week are gone a bit stronger at 1500-1600 kg DM/ha. We normally target 1200 kg DM/ha for easier graze outs and moving cattle to fresh grass quicker. But I don't want to cut out surplus with growth rates dropping."



Managing a reseeded sward

In the video below, Grass10 Advisor John Douglas discusses some of the fundamentals of managing a new reseed which are critical to the long term success of the new ley.

Key points:-

Applying post emergence spray to ensure a clean sward long term

Grazing at the 2nd leaf stage of 1000 Kg DM/ha & applying N

Avoiding silage to encourage tillering

<http://bit.ly/Grass10Reseed>

The Beef Edge Podcast

On the latest episode of the Beef Edge, John Maher, Grass10 gives his top tips in relation to managing grass quality on drystock farms. Tune in here:-

www.teagasc.ie/thebeefedge



Rotation No.	4th rotation
AFC	690 Kg DM/ha
Days Ahead	15 Days Ahead
Growth	36 Kg DM/ha/day
Demand	45 Kg DM/ha/day
Stocking Rate	3.72 LU/ha
PGY	1550 Kg DM/ha
Fertiliser	Some paddocks 20 U N/ac Protected Urea. Some paddocks with clover didn't get anything this round to promote clover growth
No. Mobs	3 Mobs
Annual Tonnage	4,200 Kg DM/ha



"Taking things to the next level with grass"

Sheep Farm Walk

Wednesday, 7 July | 7pm

Peter & Tom McGuinness, Co. Meath
Sheep Grassland Farmer of the Year 2020

For more information see
www.teagasc.ie/McGuinnessFarmWalk

