

19th June 2018

Current Pasture Performance PastureBase Ireland: www.pbi.ie Micheal O'Leary

PastureBase
IRELAND

| Farm Cover (kg DM/ha) | Cover/LU (kg DM/LU) | Stocking Rate (LU/ha) | Growth (kg DM/ha) | Demand (kg DM/ha) |
|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 614 | 180 | 4 | 60 | 55 |

- Growth rate has decreased on PasturBase farms in the last week.
- It is important to carry out a grass cover at least once per week to monitor growth rates.
- We are targeting a cover per livestock unit of 160-180 DM/LU.
- Measure your growth rate and demand to see if farm cover is falling.



Grazing Tips for this Week:

1. Grass quality has deteriorated on farms in the last week, so it is important to meet residuals of 4cm to increase quality for subsequent rotations.
2. Operate a rotation length based on growth rates (20 days) (see last weeks calculation for help!).
3. Avoid pre-mowing heavy covers. Skip and cut for bales.
4. Enter pre-grazing covers of 1400kgDMha.
5. Spread at least 1 unit N/day and sulphur to maximise growth rates and grass quality. Grass deficient in nitrogen will become stressed and lose quality as a result.



Drought Message:

1. Some farms are starting to experience drought conditions.
2. Growth rate has declined.
3. It is essential to hold rotation length at 20 days e.g. if platform is 100 acres (40ha), graze 5 acres (2 ha) per day.
4. Fill the feed gap with concentrates first (up to 6kg/cow/day) and silage thereafter.
5. Avoid running down farm cover by holding rotation length and entering the correct pre-grazing covers.
6. Farmers must be proactive rather than reactive in this situation. Walk the farm and assess growth rate and grass supply.



Silage/ Fodder Message::

1. Makes sure that silage ground is adequately fertilised for 2nd cut silage.

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Grass10 Beef Grassland Farmer of the Year: Ger Dineen Take Home Messages:

- “The more grass I grow, the more profit I make”
- Ger grew on average 14 tonnes DM/ha across the farm in 2017.
- The farm is achieving >1 tonne beef output per hectare (double the national average).
- Ger is stocked at 2.43LU/ha over the whole farm compared to the national average of 1.43LU/ha.
- Soil fertility has improved over the last 5 years. Lime has been spread to bring pH up to the target 6.2-6.5. Soil index's have been built to index 3 & 4 for Phosphorus and Potassium.
- “Every week that my animals are inside costs €1,200 per week. Therefore spending time putting up temporary strip wires during difficult grazing conditions pays me well.”
- “In 2013, I was growing 7 tonnes grass DM/ha, now I am growing 14 tonnes grass DM/ha.. It was like being handed a new farm next door.” -Ger Dineen



Launch of the Grassland Farmer of the Year Competition 2018:

- The Grassland Farmer of the Year competition for 2018 was launched 15th June, by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Michael Creed TD.
- This competition acknowledges dairy, beef and sheep farmers who are achieving high levels of grass utilisation on their farms.
- Entry forms are available on the Teagasc website and from your local Teagasc advisor.

