

21st July 2020

PastureBase Ireland Current Performance (Last 7 Days):

PastureBase
IRELAND

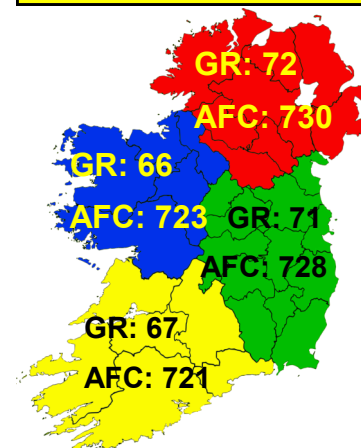
AFC	Stocking Rate	Cover/Cow	Growth	Demand	Pregrazing Yield
725 kg DM/ha	3.4 LU/ha	213 kg DM/ha	69 kg DM/ha	55 kg DM/ha	1612 kg DM/ha

Predicted Growth Rate: Elodie Ruelle Moorepark

Ballyhaise 76 kg DM/ha
Athenry 58 kg DM/ha

South Wexford 53 kg DM/ha
Clonakilty 71 kg DM/ha

Below: Covers in the Last 7 Days



Final Round of Summer Grazing has Commenced

Growth Period	Grass Grown/Rotation (kgDM /ha)	Rotation Length (Days)	Rotation No.	Growth Required (kgDM/ha)
Mid Feb to Early Apr	975	65	1	15
Apr 7 to Aug 5	1400	20	2-7	70
Aug 6 to Aug 31	1625	25	8	65
Sep 1 to Oct 10	1900	40	9	48
Oct 11 to Nov 20	1100	40	10	27
Total Grass Production	14000	290	10	

High Growth rates

Walk your farm every **5 days** during the next few weeks so you can react to the high growth rates at present.

The last round of summer grazing should finish on the first week of August. This means most farms will have already commenced their final round of summer grazing or be on the 7th grazing rotation of 2020. To be on target to grow 14 T Grass DM in 2020 farms should have grown 8 T Grass DM to date. How much has your farm grown? Check your annual tonnage report on PastureBase Ireland.

- Grass growth exceeding demand by **14 kg DM/ha** this week. Pre-grazing yields are **too high** at **1612 kg DM/ha** nationally. The target pre-grazing yield is 1400 kg DM/ha or 9-10cm. This is compromising on graze outs and animal performance.
- React now to high growth rates in order to set the farm up with quality grass for later in the grazing season. Use this rotation to get grass quality right coming into the autumn build up period.
- Keep cover per cow between **160 and 180kg DM/ha** (or 12-14 days ahead for drystock farms) and mow surplus paddocks for high quality bales. Use dry intervals over the next week to remove surplus. Tedding out reduces the time needed to wilt silage.
- Farms should continue to spread Nitrogen in the form of Protected Urea. Whilst grass growth on most farms is above demand, it is important to maintain this as building grass covers will begin in early August.

K is the star of the 2nd half

- 50% of Irish grassland soils are index 1 and 2 for K
- Removing surplus grass as silage bales removes a lot of K. Every 1 T Grass DM/ha removes 30 Kg K/ha (24u K/ac). This is the equal to 5 silage bales/ac
- P is more important in the 1st half but K is more important for grass growth in the 2nd half.
- Applying K in the 2nd half has a much lower risk of causing grass tetany

Actions to Take:

- Apply slurry on silage ground or where bales have been removed. LESS is safer where grazing. 1000gal/ac of thick slurry will replace the K removed by 5 bales/ac.
- Where slurry is not available. Apply a Protected Urea compound with K included. Most fertiliser companies offer this type of product.

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Grass10 Course Member Videos

Last week we featured two of our Grass10 course members who took us through some of the key points on their grass based beef enterprises.

This week, Aidan Maguire part of the Grass10 Meath Drystock Course and Tommy Murphy & Prionsias Creedon part of the Macroom Beef Course give us an overview of how the Grass10 courses really have helped them develop their grassland management on farm. [Click on the links below to view the videos on Youtube.](#)

Aidan Maguire– Grass10 course participant

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AQM5Y9uuKmA>

Key Points

- Calf to beef system
- 31 Ha platform
- Divided each paddock in 3 to make 33 paddocks
- Grass measuring and Pasturebase help him to allocate grass so he has excellent utilisation



Tommy Murphy and Prionsias Creedon– Macroom Beef Course participants

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ZyV10SUhWo>

Key Points

- Measuring grass weekly to keep on top of grass management - spotting surpluses + deficits
- Changing mind-set: importance of grazing the right covers at the right time
- Benefits of clover in grass mix on beef farms



Dairy GFOY Winner Taking Over Social Media

Mike Bermingham 2019 Grassland Farmer Of the Year Dairy Winner is taking over @TeagascGrass10 Twitter and @Teagasc Instagram on Wed 29th July. Mike's farm is a great example of what good breeding and good grassland management can achieve. Stick the date in your diary.

See the Promotional video here! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ACcLG5m188g>




“ Making the best use of grass in a simple system ”

Social Media Takeover

with

Mike Bermingham

2019 Dairy Category Grassland Farmer of the Year

Wednesday, 29th July

 @Teagasc
 @TeagascGrass10

