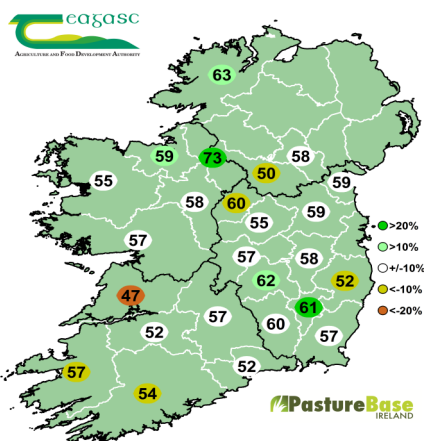


8th September 2020

PastureBase
IRELAND

AFC	Stocking Rate	Cover/LU	Growth	Demand	Pregrazing Yield
868kg DM/ha	3.05 LU/ha	284 kg DM/ha	53 kg DM/ha	46 kg DM/ha	1,815 kg DM/ha

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



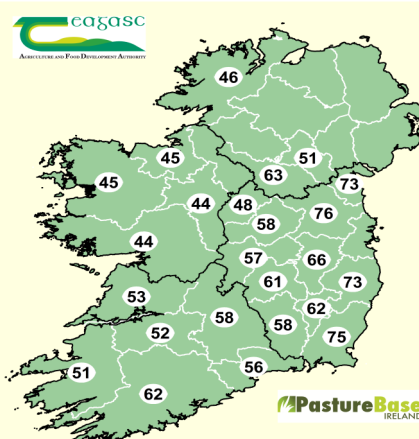
On the left: counties map showing **current** grass growth rates over the last week.

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 58 kg DM/ha
South Wexford 50 kg DM/ha
Athenry 44 kg DM/ha
Clonakilty 57kg DM/ha

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



Average Farm Covers Behind Target

Data from PastureBase Ireland has revealed that many farmers (especially dairy) are behind target for the Autumn. This will have a huge impact on the amount of grazed grass in the diet. Every additional day at grass in Autumn is worth €1.80 per LU. Growth is also dropping on farms (53 kg/DM/ha this week) and in most instances growth will match demand within the next 10 days.

React now and take advantage of the remaining good grass growth to build AFC, see autumn targets attached.

- Reduce demand with meal and silage. Feed high quality baled silage for 7-10 days. Use a stripwire to allocate grass
- Remove cull and empty cows from the herd
- Remove calves and heifers from the milking platform
- Extend rotation to 30 + days from 25 days. Example a 120 acre platform should be grazing 4 acres per day and the deficit filled with silage and meal
- Complete Autumn Grass Budget on Pasturebase to map your way out of the current deficit

Fertiliser deadline of 14th Sept approaching!

Farmers will be applying the last round of fertiliser this week so here are some tips to maximise grass growth from the last application

- Target drier paddocks, with good grazing infrastructure, good soil pH and soil fertility
- Target reseeded paddocks as these will grow more grass in the shoulders of the year
- Target paddocks that have 2+ grazing's left
- Target paddocks where silage has been taken off to replace nutrients

Grass DM%

16%

Avg. 5 covers of
1600 kg/DM/ha

Stocking Rate LU/ha	Target Average Farm Cover	% of farms on target
2.5	750	55
3	990	13
>3	980	23

Small % of farmers reaching targets

Mid September and 1st October targets

Date	Cover/LU (Kg DM/LU)	AFC (Kg DM/ha)	Rotation Length
Stocking Rate 2.5 LU/ha			
Mid Sept	400-450	1000-1100	35 Days
1st Oct	400	1000	40 Days
Stocking Rate 3.0 LU/ha			
Mid Sept	370	1100	35 Days
1st Oct	380	1150	40 Days
Stocking Rate 3.5 LU/ha			
Mid Sept	280	980	35 Days
1st Oct	335	1175	40 Days

Modify targets for heavy land

- Avoid very high build up of AFC: >900 kg DM/ha
- Grazing covers of over 2000 Kg DM/ha should be avoided if possible
- Closing up begins in late September

8th September 2020

Grassland Farmer Of The Year 2020—Deadline this Friday 11th September

The deadline for entries for the 2020 Grassland Farmer Of The Year competition has been extended until Friday 11th Sept. This is to accommodate the later launch of the competition which coincided with peak holiday season. This gives farmers and advisors another chance to get in entries for the competition. In the videos below, our 4 category winners from the 2019 GFOY go through some of the reasons they entered the competition and what they learned along the way. Click into the videos to hear from the farmers. You can also click on the link attached to see more information on the competition and for the entry form <https://bit.ly/GFOY2020>



John O'Connell, 2019 Sheep Category Winner

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ya40jX6oVNc>

Bryan Daniels, 2019 Overall & Sustainable Farming Winner

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



Trevor Boland, 2019 Beef (Suckling) Category Winner

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jTRgSrK9D2Q>

Mike Bermingham, 2019 Dairy Category Winner

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FVCU52qa200>



Social Media Takeover with John Trant– Wednesday 16th September

See flyer below. Follow link here for more information <http://bit.ly/JohnTrant>



Teagasc
AGRICULTURE AND FOOD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Grass10
GRASSLAND EXCELLENCE FOR
IRISH LIVESTOCK

Social Media Takeover

with
John Trant
Clane, Co. Kildare
2019 Young Grassland Farmer of the Year

@Teagasc @TeagascGrass10

Wednesday, 16th Sept