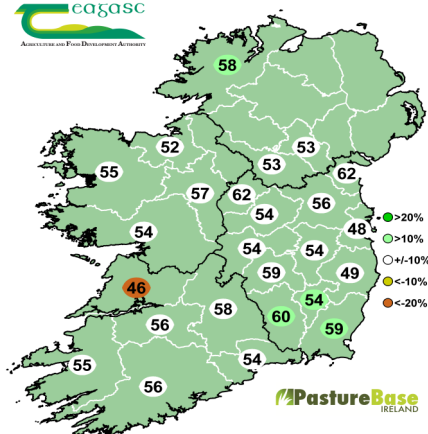


15th September 2020

**PastureBase**  
IRELAND

AFC	Stocking Rate	Cover/LU	Growth	Demand	Pregrazing Yield
888kg DM/ha	2.93 LU/ha	303 kg DM/LU	57 kg DM/ha	45 kg DM/ha	1,815 kg DM/ha

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



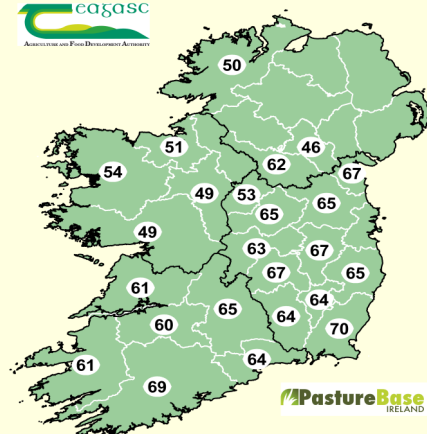
On the left: counties map showing **current** grass growth rates over the last week.

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 55kg DM/ha  
South Wexford 59 kg DM/ha  
Athenry 45 kg DM/ha  
Clonakilty 63kg DM/ha

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



## A welcome return to drier conditions

For most parts of the country, dry and settled weather has returned which has made grazing conditions easier on most farms. Dry matter % has been consistent and animals are more content so it is important to target good cleanouts and avoid wasting grass. In this dry spell, it is a good chance to look at some of the challenging paddocks on your farm and get them grazed and cleaned off well.

Paddocks to target are:-

- Large paddocks with poor grazing infrastructure
- Wet paddocks or areas of the farm that potentially flood
- Paddocks that were grazed poorly during the difficult conditions in the past month
- Paddocks furthest away from the parlour as farm roadways are dry and cows are under less pressure

Be **Flexible** with these paddocks. It may mean grazing them at medium covers (1200 – 1500 kg/DM/Ha) but it is important to take advantage of the opportunity with the dry weather at present to get the farm cleaned out.

## Grass DM%

**16%**

Moorepark  
Ballyhaise and  
Grange

## Continue to focus on the Autumn targets

Many dairy farms around the country continue to be behind target for grass supply. Every extra day at grass this autumn is worth €1.80 per LU. **Continue to walk your farm and record measurements on PastureBase.**

If behind target:-

- Reduce demand with meal and silage. Feed high quality baled silage for 7-10 days. Use a strip wire to allocate grass
- Remove cull and empty cows from the herd
- Rotation should be at 35 days from mid September. 120 acre grazing platform should be grazing 3.5 acres per day and the deficit filled with meal and silage

## Targets for 15th September and 1st October

### Grazing conditions remain difficult in parts of West & North West

Some areas of the West and North West of the country received further heavy rainfall over the weekend with 15-20 mm falling in parts. The dry forecast is encouraging but ground conditions particularly on heavy farms are challenging and in many cases "spring grazing rules apply"

- 12 hour grass allocations and back fence stock
- Avoid heavy covers (>1600) and aim for medium covers of 1200-1500 kg/DM/Ha or 10 -12 cm on drystock farms
- Use spur roadways to get to the back of paddocks so as to minimise damage

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

15th September 2020

## Virtual Sheep Week– 21st– 25th September

Next week, Virtual Sheep Week takes place with the theme for the week being “Building a sustainable sheep sector”. Tune in at 7pm each evening for a live webinar focusing on latest research results and panel discussion. On Monday, grassland management is the focus and Micheal O Leary from PastureBase Ireland will discuss how to improve grassland management on Irish sheep farms alongside 2019 GFOTY Sheep Enterprise winner John O’Connell. Make sure to tune in each evening via the following link <http://www.teagasc.ie/virtualsheepweek>



## Virtual Sheep Week 2020

Monday, 21 September

### Grassland Management

Live@Athenry | 7pm

This panel discussion will focus on current grassland research for sheep and grazing management strategies that can be applied at farm level.

Led by Damian Costello, Teagasc with panellists:  
Philip Creighton & Micheal O’Leary, Teagasc along with  
Teagasc BETTER Sheep farmer, John O’Connell, Co Leitrim.

[f](#) [t](#) [v](#) [i](#) [d](#) [e](#) [o](#) [i](#) [n](#) [s](#) [t](#) [a](#) [g](#) [r](#) [a](#) [m](#) [e](#) [n](#) [t](#) [i](#) [n](#) [g](#) [t](#) [h](#) [e](#) [h](#) [h](#) [a](#) [s](#) [h](#) [e](#) [e](#) [p](#) [w](#) [e](#) [e](#) [k](#) [#VirtualSheepWeek](#)

Kindly  
sponsored  
by:



## Social Media Takeover with John Trant – Wednesday 16th September

Our 2019 GFOTY Young Farmer category winner John Trant will take over the @Grass10 Instagram and Twitter social media accounts for his virtual open day this Wednesday 16th September. John is the farm manager in Clongowes Wood College, Clane, Co. Kildare. On the day John will discuss grassland management, autumn grassland management, soil fertility, grazing infrastructure, cow performance, clover management and his own career progression. It promises to be a super day with plenty of excellent information so make sure to tune in! Click on the link for more info. <http://bit.ly/JohnTrant>



## Social Media Takeover

with

John Trant  
Clane, Co. Kildare

2019 Young Grassland  
Farmer of the Year

[@Teagasc](#) [@TeagascGrass10](#)

Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> Sept



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

