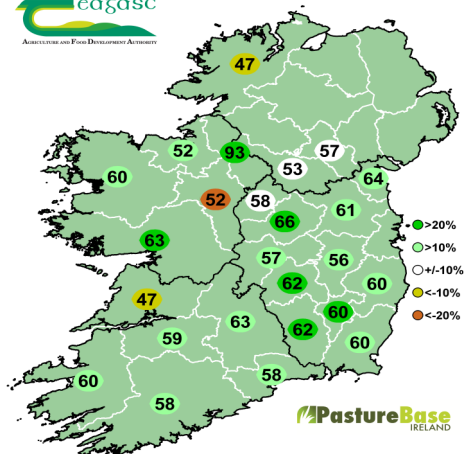


22nd September 2020

PastureBase
IRELAND

AFC	Stocking Rate	Cover/LU	Growth	Demand	Pregrazing Yield
960 kg DM/ha	2.97 LU/ha	323 kg DM/LU	58 kg DM/ha	47 kg DM/ha	1950 kg DM/ha

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



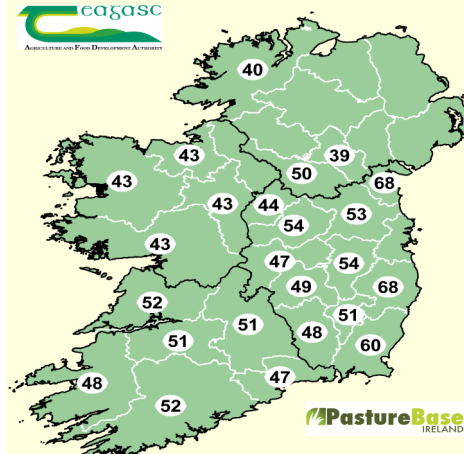
On the left: counties map showing **current** grass growth rates over the last week.

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 45 kg DM/ha
South Wexford 49 kg DM/ha
Athenry 39 kg DM/ha
Clonakilty 47 kg DM/ha

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



Behind On Autumn Grazing Targets

83 - 92% farms behind autumn target (see table on top right).
Use Autumn Budget in PBI to get back on track.

To reach Oct 1st targets (see table on bottom right) will require a big reduction in demand (20 kg DM below growth based on PastureBase figures). This would mean dropping demand to around 30 Kg DM/ha/day based on grass growth predictions for most of the country.

The following options might suit better:

- Lower stocked farms have a better chance so may supplement 2-3Kg DM/LU per day to reach target.
- Higher stocked farms should try to hold their AFC until closing by matching growth with demand e.g. S.R 3.5LU/ha, Dem 53kg/ha & Gr 45kg/ha deficit filled with 2kg DM/LU per day.
- Ensure a minimum 35-day rotation e.g. 70 acres grazing 2 acres per day. To maintain this rotation length increase supplement and/or remove some stock from grazing block.

Farms With AFC On Target For Mid-Sept

S.R. (LU/ha)	% on Target	Actual AFC	Target AFC	Actual Growth
< 2.75	17	883	1050	54
2.75 – 3.25	15	934	1100	59
> 3.25	8	944	1200	62

October 1st Autumn Grazing Targets

Stocking Rate	Cover/LU (Kg DM/LU)	AFC (Kg DM/ha)	Rotation Length
2.5 LU/ha	400	1000	40 Days
3.0 LU/ha	380	1150	40 Days
3.5 LU/ha	335	1175	40 Days

Grass DM%: **16%** Moorepark **17%** Ballyhaise

Start Closing With The Spring In Mind

The second objective of autumn grazing management is closing up the farm properly to have enough grass for the spring.

- Closing should begin around 7th Oct (7-10 days earlier for heavy farms and higher stocked farms)
- Paddocks grazed after this date should not be grazed again until spring 2021. Graze out to 4cm residual.
- Use the 60:40 Autumn Rotation Planner - graze 60% of the farm by Nov 1st and the remaining 40% during Nov. (Heavy farms and higher stocked farms should aim for 70-80% farm closed by Nov 1st).
- Listen to Mike Bermingham, 2019 GFOY Dairy Category Winner, go through his closing plan on the Dairy Edge Podcast at <http://bit.ly/MikeClosingPlan>**

Grazing Tips For The Week:

- Continue to walk the farm and record on PastureBase. **Use Autumn Budget to plan better.**
- Use dry conditions to graze heaviest covers, wetter paddocks, and paddocks poorly grazed out in the last rotation. Graze down to 4cm.
- Use 12hr allocations and strip-wires to help graze down to 4cm.
- Use backfences, different access points and spur roads if conditions deteriorate.

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Closing Plan for Heavy Farms

Sean and Pat Barry, Pallasgreen, Co. Limerick are currently milking 68 cows on a 23Ha grazing platform on heavy land. To set up well for grazing in the spring, their closing rotation usually begins on Oct 6th and finishes early November. However these dates can vary depending grazing conditions and grass growth. **As 60% of the grass available in the spring grows during Oct and Nov** it is crucial to have enough area closed to have enough grass for the spring. Sean aims to have a minimum of 70% (16Ha) grazed by the Nov 1st by grazing 0.63Ha per day. As their paddocks are mostly 1.2Ha in area, Sean plans on grazing and closing one paddock every two days.

Barry's Current Grass Performance

AFC (Kg DM/Ha)	981
Cover/LU (Kg DM/LU)	329
Growth (Kg DM/Ha/Day)	53
Demand (Kg DM/Ha/Day)	42
Stocking Rate (LU/Ha)	2.9
PGY (Kg DM/Ha)	1,800

WEEK	TARGET HA GRAZED/DAY	TARGET HA GRAZED BY WEEK END	ACTUAL HA GRAZED BY WEEK END	TARGET %	ACTUAL %
06/10/2020 - 12/10/2020	0.63	4.39		19	
13/10/2020 - 19/10/2020	0.63	8.78		38	
20/10/2020 - 26/10/2020	0.63	13.17		57	
27/10/2020 - 02/11/2020	0.63	18.06		77	
03/11/2020 - 09/11/2020	0.87	23.30		100	

Sean's PastureBase grass budget demonstrates their AFC will average around 800 Kg DM/Ha during Oct. Meaning the pre-grazing yields will average around 1,600 Kg DM/Ha. This equates to 1,000 Kg DM grass per day available to feed for 0.63Ha. For 68 cows this is 15 Kg DM Grass per cow per day and Sean will supplement 3kg concentrate per cow per day during this period to meet the cows demand.

"We'll go hammer and thongs at grazing as long as possible if the weather is anyway right" Sean says. Farming on heavy land Sean's priority is to ensure he gets some drier paddocks closed in mid Oct to have grass for the spring and graze everything else when he can. "90% of autumn grazing last year was wet weather management. I want to avoid poaching but still try to graze out paddocks as well as I can." Sean has a lot of gaps into paddocks and lets cows in and out of different entry points to avoid poaching. He also uses pigtales and polywire to set up 12hr strips and backfence to limit time cows spend on an area to avoid poaching. To graze awkward areas and back of paddocks Sean also uses the pigtales and polywire to make temporary spur roadways. This allows him to increase days at grass.



Pat & Sean Barry,
Dairy Farming,
Pallasgreen.

We will catch up with Sean again during Oct to see how his autumn rotation plan is progressing.

Lambs On Clover Drafted One Week Earlier

Current grazing studies in Athenry are focused on animal, environmental and economic impacts. With the third year of the Grass-Clover vs. Grass-Only grazing trials on-going.

There are two different stocking rates being trialled 11 and 13 ewes/ha. Along with three different grazing treatments: grass-only sward receiving 145 kg N/ha, grass-clover sward receiving 145 kg N/ha, and grass-clover sward receiving 90 kg N/ha.

The average DM yield to date for the three treatments are summarised in the table below.

Treatment	Grass-Only 145 Kg N/ha	Grass-Clover 145 Kg N/ha	Grass-Clover 90 Kg N/ha
DM Yield (Kg DM/Ha)	12,063	12,037	11,936

While no difference is evident between treatments a positive aspect is that the low N treatment (90kg N/ha) is growing just as much grass as the other high N treatments (145kg N/ha). This is the third year (including establishment year) that this has been achieved. Sward clover content has averaged 7% of the sward pre weaning and 15% post weaning for the grass + clover treatments.

Key findings to date show that the inclusion of white clover in the sward relative to perennial ryegrass alone resulted in lambs reaching slaughter weight 7 days faster.

John Trant's Social Media Highlights

On Wed 16th Sept John Trant took the reigns of the @TeagascGrass10 twitter and @Teagasc Instagram accounts. This was to replace the open day which was cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions.

John showcased why he was a worthy winner of the 2019 GFOY Young Farmer category and many different elements of Clongowes Wood College Farm which he manages.

If you missed anything from the day the highlights are available at bit.ly/JohnTrant

Lets Talk Dairy

John also joins Stuart Childs this Thursday 24th Sept at 10am on Lets Talk Dairy. This interview with John will focus on his education to become a farm manager and his career path to date.

If you would like to register for the event please go to <https://www.teagasc.ie/corporate-events/lets-talk-dairy/>