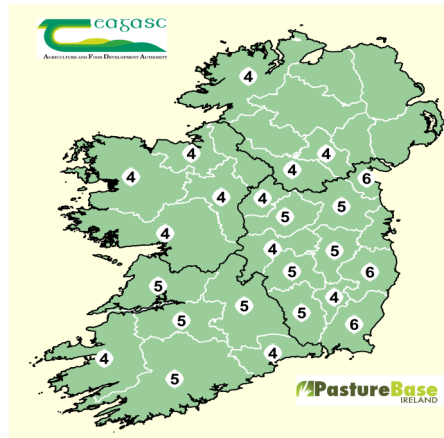


1st December 2020

**PastureBase**  
IRELAND

AFC	Growth	Grass Dry Matter %
682 kg DM/ha	10kg DM/Ha	12.8% (1300 Kg/DM/Ha)

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



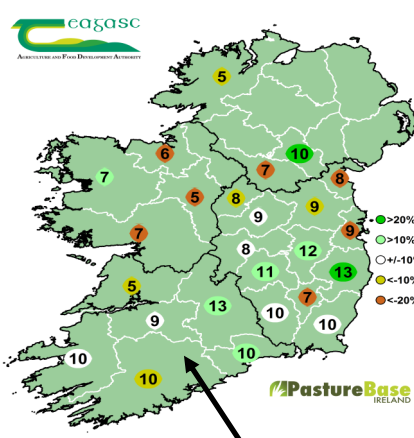
On the left: counties map showing **current** grass growth rates over the last week.

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 4 kg DM/ha  
South Wexford 5 kg DM/ha  
Athenry 4 kg DM/ha  
Clonakilty 6 kg DM/ha

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



### Establish your closing Average Farm Cover this week

- As we enter December, its time to walk your farm and enter a closing Average Farm Cover on PastureBase. Recording a closing AFC will allow you to accurately measure over winter growth when you walk the farm next Spring.
- Target varies depending on stocking rate, calving date, calving rate and land type.
- If aiming to have 30-40% of the farm grazed by 1st Mar increase the target by **50 Kg DM/ha** for your stocking rate.
- Ensure you have 20 farm walks entered throughout 2020 on PastureBase Ireland to meet your derogation plan requirements. Make sure you have measured at **least once** in November.

Stocking Rate (LU/Ha)	AFC Dec 1st
2.5	650
3.0	700
3.5	750

### MoSt Grass Growth Prediction

This weeks grass growth predictions are the final predictions of the year. They will be back early in the New Year! Many thanks to **Elodie Ruelle** for all her hard work on this throughout the year.

### Cows on Grass/Clover swards producing an extra 34kg of milk solids per year-Teagasc Clonakilty Research Update

The current grazing experiment is looking at grass-only swards and grass-clover swards at two levels of nitrogen (N) fertiliser, 150 and 250 kg N/ha per year.

**Brian McCarthy from Teagasc Clonakilty, Co. Cork had the following update.**

"Grass growth is slightly behind previous years and as you would expect grass growth was lower on the 150 kg N/ha treatments than the 250 kg N/ha treatments. This has meant that the amount of silage made per cow for the winter is lower on the 150 kg N/ha treatments and we have also had to feed more silage to cows on those treatments during lactation, especially in the autumn when we struggled to build farm cover. We have fed around 640 kg of meal across the treatments and **cows on the grass-clover treatments have produced 34 kg more milk solids than cows on the grass-only treatments**".

Treatment	GO-150 <sup>1</sup>	GO-250 <sup>2</sup>	GC-150 <sup>3</sup>	GC-250 <sup>4</sup>
Stocking Rate (LU/ha)	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75
Autumn Peak AFC(kg DM/ Ha)	898	1097	997	1176
Start Closing (date)	28 <sup>th</sup> Sept	28 <sup>th</sup> Sept	28 <sup>th</sup> Sept	28 <sup>th</sup> Sept
Finished Grazing (date)	3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec	3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec	3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec	3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec
Annual Tonnage (kg DM/ha)	13.2	14.7	13.8	15.6
White clover content (%)	-	-	19.1	13.6
Meal Fed per Cow (kg)	640	641	646	645
Silage fed during lactation (kg DM/cow)	386	270	358	260
Silage made (kg DM/cow)	723	831	699	980
2020 Milk Yield (Kg MS/Cow)	<b>504</b>	<b>517</b>	<b>548</b>	<b>541</b>

<sup>1</sup>GO-150 = Grass-only sward receiving 150 kg N/ha per year

<sup>2</sup>GO-250 = Grass-only sward receiving 250 kg N/ha per year

<sup>3</sup>GC-150 = Grass-clover sward receiving 150 kg N/ha per year

<sup>4</sup>GC-250 = Grass-clover sward receiving 250 kg N/ha per year

1st December 2020

## Analysing your 2020 Farm Summary Report

The "Farm Summary Report" is a one page summary of your farms grassland performance for a given year. It is an excellent report in a discussion group setting to highlight areas where farmers can improve and make quick gains in the subsequent grazing season. It is packed with information but we will focus on a few specific headings in today's newsletter.

- No of grazing's:** Are you achieving 10 grazing's per paddock per year on your farm? Identify paddocks for improvement.
- Average pre- grazing yield:** The pre-grazing yield (Kg/DM/Ha) during the summer should be 1400– 1500 Kg/DM/Ha (8-10 cm on drystock farms). If you are above this then you need to shorten your grazing rotation or remove paddocks as surplus baled silage and keep animals grazing at the correct grass covers (heights).
- Opening/Closing covers:** Have you began closing your farm up early enough in Autumn to ensure good grass availability in spring?
- Grazing season length:** Depending on soil type, aim for 280 days at grass. On heavy ground, have good grazing infrastructure to lengthen grazing season.
- Start date of 2nd rotation:** Are you beginning your 2nd round early enough? Begin 2nd round when covers are between 1100– 1200 kg/DM/Ha. However never let farm cover <500 Kg/DM/Ha.

Farm Summary - Year 2020 -

Area (ha): 67.67

Generated on: 30/Nov/2020

Parameter	YTD	Spring	Summer	Autumn
		J F M A	M J J A	S O N D
No. of Covers Recorded	46	13	19	14
No. Of Grazings	8.7	1.8	4.8	2.1
No. Of Silage Cuts	0.4		0.3	0.1
Grazing DM (kg DM/ha)	12751	2248	6924	3580
Silage DM (kg DM/ha)	1594		1295	300
Total DM (kg DM/ha)	14345	2248	8219	3880
Over Winter Growth (kg DM/ha)	62			
Average Pre-grazing Yield (kg DM/ha)	1466	1249	1443	1705
Average Growth Rate (kg DM/ha)	41	18	62	46
Max Farm Cover (kg DM/ha)	1190 (28/Sep)	1046 (02/Mar)	869 (25/Aug)	1190 (28/Sep)
Min Farm Cover (kg DM/ha)	462 (09/Jun)	639 (08/Apr)	462 (09/Jun)	686 (16/Nov)
Demand/ha (kg DM/ha)	37	22	51	36
Stocking Rate (LU/ha)	2.48	1.76	3.23	2.39
Opening/Closing Cover (kg DM/ha)		836 (08/Jan)		726 (24/Nov)
Total Meal Fed/LU (kg/LU)	843	384	230	230
Total Supplement Fed/LU (kg/LU)	1522	949	230	344
Area Cut for Silage (ha)	26.64		20.99	5.65
Silage Yield (Tonnes of DM)	108		88	20
Area Reseeded (%) (ha)				
Total Kg MS Produced	85877	24406	39348	22123
Average Milk Solids per ha	1269	361	581	327
Average Milk Solids per cow	511	168	209	134
Average kg N/ha (%)	272	117 (43)	108 (40)	47 (17)
Average kg P/ha (%)	30	18 (60)	8 (27)	4 (13)
Average kg K/ha (%)	79	51 (65)	16 (20)	12 (15)
Average kg S/ha (%)	32	17 (53)	8 (25)	6 (19)
Start Grazing on	01/Feb			
Finish Grazing on	21/Nov			
Grazing Season Length (days)	294			
Start Date of 2nd Rotation	23/Mar			
Growth Exceeded Demand on	11/Apr			
Peak Growth was on	11/May (87)	11/Apr (77)	11/May (87)	28/Sep (63)
Your 5 Best Paddocks are	14, 27, 2, 11, 1			
Your 5 Worst Paddocks are	12, 15, 17, 10, 18			

## Grass10 & PastureBase Ireland Webinar

Do you want to understand and capitalise on your PastureBase reports such as the **Annual Tonnage Report**, **Farm Cover Report** and the **Farm Summary Report** (above)?

Tune in to our Achieving Grazing Excellence in 2021 webinar on Wednesday 9th December at 7pm on Zoom. Please see advert on the right or click <https://bit.ly/PBIWebinar> to register.

Link to Promo Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gY-ruKy4dGE>



## Do you understand & capitalise on your PastureBase reports?

Join our webinar with Teagasc Grass10 & PastureBase Ireland experts & achieve grazing excellence in 2021!

Wednesday, 9th December | 7pm

Hear from special guest, dairy farmer **Jim White** and learn how he uses his reports to identify areas for improvement on his dairy farm.



Open the camera on your phone and scan the QR Code to register

Or visit [www.teagasc.ie/grass10](http://www.teagasc.ie/grass10)



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

