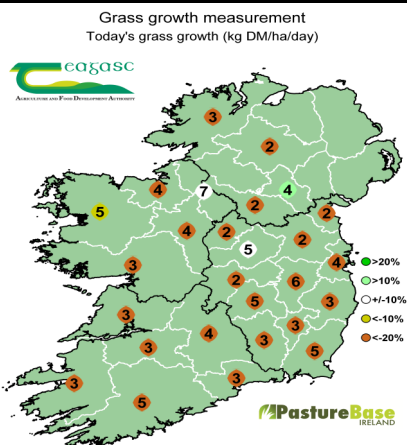


9th February 2021

PastureBase
IRELAND

AFC	Growth
855 Kg DM/Ha	4 Kg DM/Ha

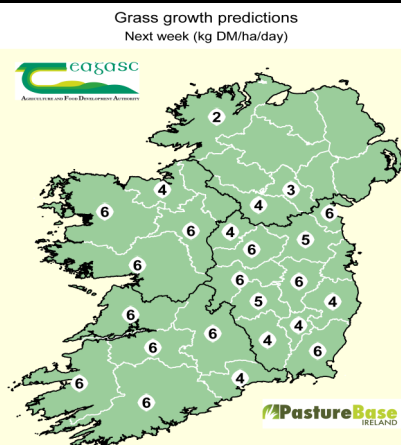


On the left: counties map showing **current** grass growth rates over the last week.

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 3 kg DM/ha
South Wexford 4 kg DM/ha
Athenry 7 kg DM/ha
Clonakilty 7 kg DM/ha



Grazing begins on many Irish farms for 2021!

The cold & dry spell of weather over the last number of days has seen grazing commence on many Irish dairy and beef farms. Every day at grass has huge benefits in terms of cost & animal performance and farmers are taking advantage of good ground conditions to get grazing started for spring 2021.

Over **1600 farmers** have completed an opening Average Farm Cover (AFC) on PastureBase Ireland over the last number of weeks. Completing an opening AFC establishes grass supply for the spring while also identifying the paddocks suitable for grazing over the coming weeks.

Start with lower covers (800– 1,000 kg DM/ha) in order to train both animal and farmer back into grazing! A number of paddocks will be fit for grazing on farms during this cold spell. Try and graze an awkward paddock, ie on a hill or a long narrow paddock and save paddocks with better grazing infrastructure for wet days in late February/ early March.

Many farmers in our Grass10 Grazing Groups have sent pictures to us of animals out grazing during the week. Huge satisfaction & financial return on animals out at grass!

Grass Dry Matter %

Moorepark, Co. Cork
22.4% (800 Kg DM/Ha)

Grange, Co. Meath
22% (900 Kg DM/Ha)

Graze More, Earn More in Spring 2021

Calf- to – Beef farmer Aidan Maguire in Co. Meath has been out grazing weanlings since late January. See video below on how he manages spring grazing on his farm.

<http://bit.ly/EarlyGrazingEarnsMore>



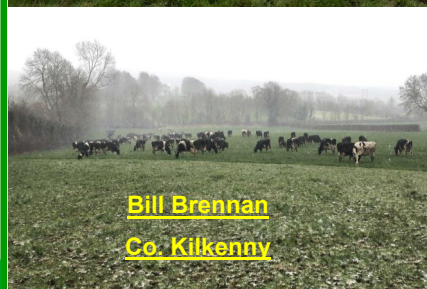
Jack Fortune
Co. Wexford



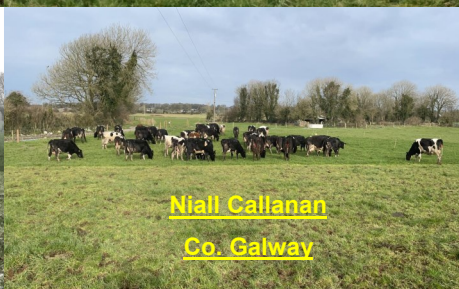
Dermot Costello
Co. Tipperary



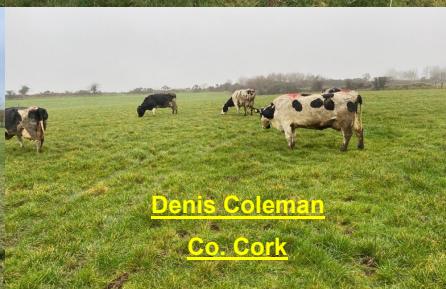
John Fox, Kilgariff,
Ballylanders, Co. Limerick



Bill Brennan
Co. Kilkenny



Niall Callanan
Co. Galway



Denis Coleman
Co. Cork

9th February 2021

New Clover Research Programme Countrywide in 2021

In 2021, Teagasc Moorepark are starting a new on farm clover research programme. The aim of the project is to establish white clover onto **30 commercial grassland farms** across the country. The project will be run over 6 years, and farms will be selected on soil type, geographical location and farming system (dairy, sheep and beef). White clover will be established on farms by a mix of reseeding and over-sowing each year over the course of the programme.

The programme will start in April of this year, with the reseeding and over-sowing carried during the months of April, May and June. The protocol proposed for the establishment of clover on farm will be approx. 10% per year reseeded and 25% per year over sowing, and over a 3 year period to establish an average sward clover content of 20%. Various white clover cultivars will also be evaluated on farm to determine the most suited clover cultivar for soil type and geographical location.

If you have any further enquires please contact Michael Egan "Michael.Egan@teagasc.ie" or Michael O'Donovan "MichaelOdonovan@teagasc.ie"



Planning for Spring Grazing on Sheep Farms in 2021

Having started your grazing plan for the year the previous autumn all going according to plan ewes can be turned out to grass as they lamb with minimal supplementary feeding, if any, required post turn-out. From a management, cost and labour point of view, this must be the aim. To boost spring grass supply nitrogen should be applied in early to mid-February or once soil temperatures reach 5.5°C + rising (the threshold for grass growth). Protected Urea should be used at a rate of approx. 25kg N/ha (20 units/acre).

Average opening farm cover required will depend on SR (Demand). For a mid-season lambing flock (March lambing) stocked at 10 ewes/ha an opening farm cover of approximately 650kg/DM/ha (5.5cm to 6cm avg height across farm) will be required.

Why? **10 ewes/ha with average demand of 2.5 kg DM/hd/day (Ewe + 2 lambs) in early lactation =**

10 x 2.5 = daily requirement of 25kg DM/day

650kg DM/ha farm cover divided by 25kg DM/day demand = 25 days ahead

If we estimate average grass growth rate of 15kgDM/ha/day in early/mid-March this will add another 10-15 days grazing so we have 35-40 days grass available which should bring us to mid-April (magic day).

Walk your farm and measure opening farm cover with PastureBase Ireland.

Philip Creighton
Teagasc Athenry
Co. Galway



View Grass10 Webinars back!

Have you missed the Grass10 & PastureBase Webinar titled "Getting Familiar with PastureBase Ireland" last week?

Not to worry as the webinar along with our December and January webinars are all available to view on the Teagasc Grass10 page on the Teagasc website— under the "Webinar" tab. The PowerPoint presentation and FAQs from the webinars are also available to view! www.teagasc.ie/grass10

Need help getting set up on PBI for grass measuring in 2021?

Email support@pbi.ie or call 046-9200965

Upcoming Event

John Douglas from the Grass10 team will join Beef Specialist Alan Dillon to discuss Early turnout to Grass on Irish Beef farms on Thursday 11th February at 8pm. Click here - : <http://www.teagasc.ie/letsstalkcattle>



Planning Your Spring Grazing with PastureBase Ireland

Wednesday, 3rd March | 7pm

Join the Grass10 & PastureBase team on the night and hear:

- Update on Spring grass supply and February grazing from PBI
- Practical advice on how to make the Grass Wedge, Spring Rotation Planner and Grass Budget work for you on your farm
- Tips and advice from Grass10 team on managing grass throughout March

Hear from special guest's heavy soils dairy farmer **Sean Barry** from Co. Limerick & beef farmer **JP Hammersley** from Co. Tipperary as they discuss how they will manage grass on their farms throughout Spring using the tools on PastureBase



Or visit www.teagasc.ie/grass10



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

