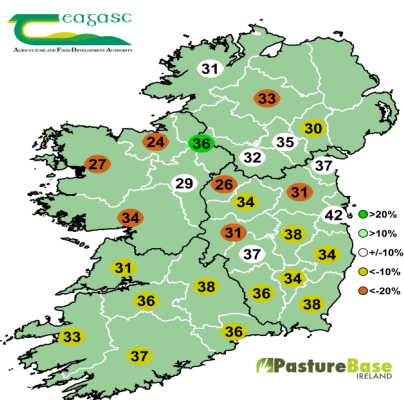


20th April 2021

PastureBase
IRELAND

AFC	Stocking Rate	Cover/LU	Growth	Demand	Grass/Meal/Silage
725 kg DM/ha	3.3 LU/ha	213 kg DM/LU	35 kg DM/ha	45 kg DM/ha	13kg/4kg/1kg

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



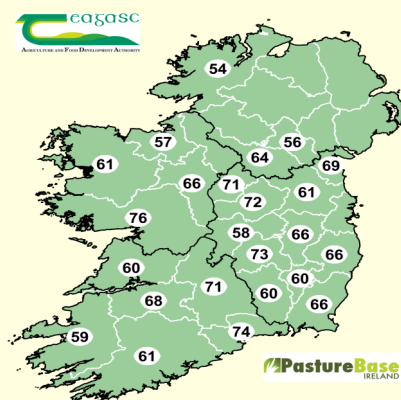
On the left: counties map showing **current** grass growth rates over the last week.

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 57 kg DM/ha
South Wexford 50 kg DM/ha
Athenry 72 kg DM/ha
Clonakilty 64 kg DM/ha

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



Walking your farm every 5 days as higher growth rates are anticipated

Mike Bermingham, Dairy category winner from the 2019 Grassland Farmer of the Year farms with his family in Ballyhooly, Fermoy in Co. Cork.

"Things can change very quickly on farm at this time of year, so I will walk the farm every 5 days to keep an eye on things. My next walk is due Friday to review how things are going"

"During mid-April I grazed some high covers of grass to hold Average Farm Cover. I am delighted with this decision as the poorer growth rates have not had a major impact on my farm cover.

Cows are grazing out very well at the moment and clean outs are excellent" I am following the cows with 22 units/ac of Protected Urea plus S.

"I will drop the level of meal feeding to 2kg/cow and this will increase demand to over 70 kg DM/ha/day when the growth comes. If necessary, I will remove surplus grass as round bales if the cover of grass to be grazed goes beyond 1500/1600 kg DM/ha."



Mike Bermingham

Grass Dry Matter %

Moorepark, Co. Cork

16.5% (1400 Kg DM/ha)

Athenry, Co. Galway

15% (1000 Kg DM/ha)

(Both samples taken in damp conditions)

AFC (kg/ha)	898
Cover/LU (kg/LU)	221
Stocking Rate	4.06
Growth (kg/ha/day)	37
Demand (kg/ha/day)	69
Pre Grazing Yield	1400
Meal (kg /cow)	3
MS yield (kg/cow/day)	2.4

If your AFC is <550 Kg/DM/ha today, take action!

Lower growth rates over the last 2 weeks have put pressure on farmers around the country who are now mid way through the 2nd rotation, re-growth's are slow and a "hole" is forming in many grass wedges.

- Minimum 24 day rotation during April and fill balance with meal. Increase meal short term until growth rates rise. Consider feeding silage if AFC goes <500 Kg DM/ha
- Remove surplus stock from the main platform, prioritise cows as we approach breeding
- Walk your farm again on Friday/Saturday this week & keep AFC over 550 Kg DM/ha

Mike Bermingham's current performance



Reseeding & Clover Management with PastureBase Ireland

Wednesday, 5th May | 7pm

Join the Grass10 & PastureBase team on the night along with Teagasc Researcher Michael Egan as they discuss:

- How to identify paddocks to reseed on your farm by using PBI
- Why you should include clover in your reseed in 2021
- Using the Pasture Profit Index (PPI) to pick perennial ryegrass varieties for your 2021 reseed
- Management tips to ensure the long term success of the grass/clover reseed
- Entering reseeding events on PastureBase Ireland

Hear from dairy farmer James Barber from Co. Laois on the night about his experience of grass/clover reseeding on his farm



Or visit www.teagasc.ie/grass10

Caroline Walsh Welcomes You To Her Virtual Event!

Caroline farms in Ballinascorthy, Co. Cork milking 70 cows on a 20ha milking platform. She is the 2020 Overall and Dairy Category Winner of the Grassland Farmer of the Year competition.

Caroline is taking over our @TeagascGrass10 Twitter and @Teagasc Instagram account on Wed 21st April. This will be followed in the evening with a live interview with Caroline on her farm (through Zoom). The interview will be hosted by special guest, Aidan Brennan, of the Irish Farmers Journal. Caroline is looking forward to discussing her journey and showcasing her farm plus answering all your questions through out the day and in the evening.

To watch Caroline's invitational video, register for the interview, or for more info, go to <https://bit.ly/CarolineWalshG10>

Background info: Caroline began measuring grass in 2015, and in 2019/2020 her farm grew 16 / 14.2 T DM/ha (drought in June) respectively. The number of grazing rotations achieved during 2019/2020 was over 10/ over 9 respectively. Her cows produced over 500 kg MS per cow in 2020 (supplied to Lisavaird Coop) from 850 kg meal.



Social Media Takeover & Live Interview

Join Caroline Walsh from Ballinascorthy, Co. Cork, Overall and Dairy Category Winner of the 2020 Grassland Farmer of the Year Competition for a social media takeover on Instagram & Twitter, followed by a live interview at 7:30pm.

Register now today!

@Teagasc @TeagascGrass10

Wednesday, 21st April

GFOY Update - David Brady (Grassland Merit Award Winner)

"I'm in the best position I've ever been with regard to finishing the 1st rotation, grass growth this week will decide if I need to finish it. I started the 2nd rotation by night, grazing covers of 1200 Kg DM/ha."



AFC	660 Kg DM/ha
Cover/LU	255 Kg DM/LU
Growth	31 Kg DM/ha/day
Demand	36 Kg DM/ha/day
Stocking Rate	2.6 LU/ha
Started 2nd Rotation	By night since 18th April, 88% grazed on 1st rotation
PGY (kg DM/ha)	1800 by day, 1200 by night
Fertiliser	80 u N/ac (100 Kg N/ha) on MP (1.5bags/acre 18-6-12 applied this week)
Cow Diet	14 Kg DM Grass + 4.5 Kg Meal
Milk Yield	31.5 L/Cow (2.47 Kg MS/Cow)

Athenry Sheep Update - 2nd Rotation Commencing:

- AFC in early March was around 500kg DM/ha or 16 days ahead. As a result, we supplemented ewes at grass until grass growth improved in the second half of March.
- Grass growth rates averaged 23kg DM/ha/day in March and 31kg DM/ha/day in April to date. Growth this week was 48kg DM/ha/day and average demand is 39kg DM/ha/day. **We have 24 days ahead on average, target is 20 days ahead.**
- We will close 20% of each farmlet this week for silage, which will lower our days ahead and **bring supply and demand back into balance.**
- The **2nd rotation is also commencing this week** (Monday/Tuesday). Covers on the first paddocks grazed in March are now back at around 1000kg DM/ha (~7cm).
- We began subdivided paddocks in early April to maintain better control on grazing and maximise grass re-growth. While the weather has been cool, grazing conditions have been good, **allowing us to graze out swards to 3.5 to 4cm.**
- To date we have spread 50kg N/ha (25kg/ha in Early March and 25kg/ha in early to mid-April (as fields were grazed).

