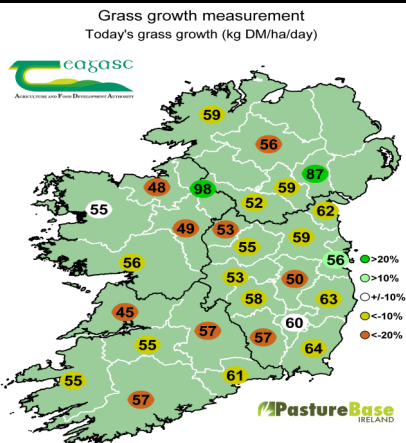


18th May 2021

PastureBase data from dairy farms:

AFC	Cover/LU	Stocking Rate	Growth	Demand	Diet (Grass + Meal)	Pre Grazing Yield
732 Kg DM/Ha	190 Kg DM/LU	3.8 LU/ha	57 Kg DM/ha	55 Kg DM/ha	14.5 Kg DM + 3.5 Kg	1610 Kg DM/Ha

PastureBase
IRELAND

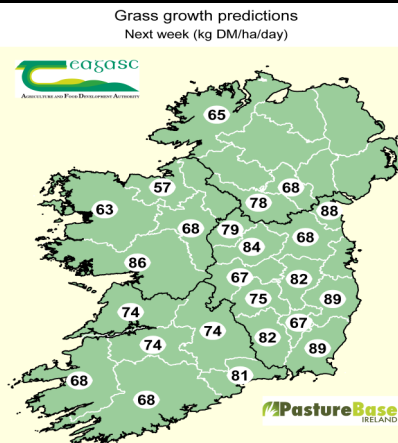


On the left: counties map showing **current** grass growth rates over the last week.

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 70 kg DM/ha
South Wexford 87 kg DM/ha
Athenry 84 kg DM/ha
Clonakilty 70 kg DM/ha



Glad to see the back of April in Co. Sligo!

"Over the last week or 10 days is the first time that I am happy with my average farm cover so far in 2021, April has been very difficult here, we are very exposed along the Atlantic Ocean to the harsh northerly airflow"

2019 Suckling Grassland Farmer of the Year **Trevor Boland** farms in Dromard Co. Sligo and runs an Autumn Calving suckler herd along with finishing heifers and bulls off grass.

"Autumn calves have been weaned at this stage, and I weighed the weanling bulls last week. They are averaging 1.7 Kg/day at the minute which I am very happy with."

"My target from now is to walk my farm every 5 days and keep to between 12-14 days grass ahead on my PastureBase Ireland grass wedge. It is very important to trust the grass wedge at this time of the year and be ruthless in taking out paddocks for silage. Animals are being followed with 20 units of Protected N+S after grazing. I have skipped a number of paddocks for grazing and I will take these with my main 1st cut of silage next week"



Grass Dry Matter %

Moorepark, Co. Cork

18% (1500 Kg DM/Ha)

Grange, Co. Meath

22.75% (1450 Kg DM/Ha)

Trevor Boland's Grass Data

AFC	890 kg DM/ha
Cover/LU	166 kg DM/ha
Growth	90 kg DM/ha/day
Demand	70 kg DM/ha/day
PGY	1450 kg DM/ha
Days ahead	13 days
Diet (Grass+Meal)	Grass only

Grass surplus beginning to appear around the country!

Data from PastureBase Ireland shows Cover/LU is above the target of 160-180 Kg DM /LU on many farms around the country. It is a critical time of year to keep a handle on grass supply as grass enters the reproductive phase

- 1) Walk your farm every 5 days and complete wedge using PastureBase Ireland
- 2) Keep Cover/ LU between 160 –180 or in a drystock scenario keep between 12-14 days grass ahead
- 3) Keep Pre- Grazing Yields at 1400 Kg DM/ Ha. PBI figures are at 1610 & 1743 Kg DM/Ha for dairy and drystock figures respectively. This is too high. Time to remove surplus grass.
- 4) Avoid large differences between growth and demand on your grass wedge & reduce supplementation this week.

Upcoming Event: Pat Collins will host the next social media takeover tomorrow Wednesday 19th May from his farm in Castlemaryr, Co. Cork. More info at bit.ly/PatCollinsG10



'Getting every cent out of grass!'

Social Media Takeover

On the farm of
Pat Collins, Co. Cork
2020 Cattle (Non-Suckling) Category
Grassland Farmer of the Year

@Teagasc @TeagascGrass10

Wednesday, 19th May

18th May 2021

PastureBase data from sheep & beef farms:

AFC	Days Ahead	Stocking Rate	Growth	Demand	Pre Grazing Yield
786 Kg DM/Ha	18 days	3.4 LU/ha	50 Kg DM/ha	42 Kg DM/Ha	1743 Kg DM/ha

Mid Season Nitrogen Application

William Burchill, Teagasc/Dairygold Joint Programme

The aim for mid-season N is to apply 1 unit of N/day' or 30 units N/month. In some cases this recommendation is taken as 30 units N/rotation which leads to too much N being spread when we get into short rotations of around 21 days. This increases fertiliser N cost and may increase the amount of surplus bales to be harvested to maintain grass quality which also comes at a cost. The easiest way to stick to the '1 unit of N/day' rule is to match your units N/acre you're spreading after the cows to your rotation length i.e. if you're on a 20 day rotation you should be spreading 20 units N/acre after the cows.

During the middle of the year grass crude protein content varies from 17 to 22% (avg. 19%). This essentially means that the N content of the grass averages 3.1% N during the summer. Using this figure we can calculate the amount of N that will be needed to grow a cover of 1,400 kg DM/ha;

$$1,400 \text{ kg DM grass/ha} \times 3.1\% \text{N} = 43.4 \text{ kg N/ha or 35 units N/acre}$$

Soils with good soil fertility will supply around 12 units N/acre over a 21 day rotation in summer. This N comes from the soil, N left from previous fertiliser/slurry applications and some N from dung and urine from previous grazings. The remaining 23 units N/acre is generally applied as N fertiliser. This ties in with the '1 unit of N/day' rule.



GFOY Update - Pat Collins, Cattle (Non-Suckling) Category Winner

"I'm looking forward to the social media takeover tomorrow to go through how I manage my farm to get every cent I can out of grass." [See advert on page 1]



Teagasc Research Insights Webinars

On a recent Teagasc Research Insights webinar which took place on Wednesday, 12th May, Michael O'Donovan, Head of Grassland Science, Teagasc was joined by Patrick Conaghan, Stephen Byrne & Tomas Tubritt, Teagasc Researchers to discuss the new innovations in grass/white clover breeding and the evaluation programme at Teagasc.

Patrick Conaghan, spoke on the 'Grass and Clover Breeding Programme' that is currently taking place in Teagasc. One stand out point is that it takes 15-20 years to bring a new variety from trial plots to paddocks around Ireland.

Stephen Byrne presented on the 'Application of Genomic Selection to Grass Breeding'. Genomic selection is a tool that can be used to make selection by making use of information in the DNA rather than using field evaluations. Genomic selection can help forage breeding by increasing selection intensity, increasing selection accuracy and reducing generation interval.

Tomas Tubritt discussed the 'Pasture Profit Index and Variety Selection 2021'. In his presentation, this variety selection tool is used widely by the industry from the farmer back to the breeder. A new utilisation sub index has been added in 2021, while looking to the future new trails will be developed along with a Clover Profit Index

Click here to view-: <http://bit.ly/ResearchInsights18>

TEAGASC RESEARCH INSIGHTS

Rotation No.	4th Rotation (began at the weekend)
AFC	708 Kg DM/ha
Days Ahead	12.5 days ahead
Growth	66 Kg DM/ha/day
Demand	56 Kg DM/ha/day
Stocking Rate	4.4 LU/ha
PGY (kg DM/ha)	1500 Kg DM/ha
Fertiliser	Following with 1u N/ac per day (Protected Urea)
LWT Gain	1.1 kg/day from turnout (1.4 kg/day over past month)
Annual Tonnage	4,437 kg DM/ha