

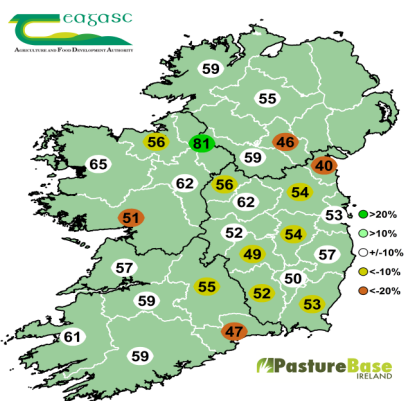
10th August 2021

PastureBase data from dairy farms:

PastureBase
IRELAND

AFC	Cover/LU	Stocking Rate	Growth	Demand	Diet (Grass + Supplement)	Pre Grazing Yield
684 Kg DM/Ha	204 Kg DM/LU	3.28 LU/ha	61 Kg DM/ha	48 Kg DM/ha	14.5 Kg DM + 3.5 Kg	1582 Kg DM/Ha

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



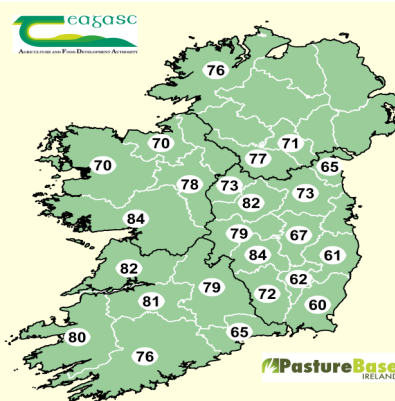
On the left: counties map showing **current** grass growth rates over the last week.

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 81 kg DM/ha
Wexford 51 kg DM/ha
Athenry 80 kg DM/ha
Clonakilty 76 kg DM/ha

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



Growth rates increase nationally as the focus moves to Autumn

After a number of weeks of poor growth rates on farms, this weeks data from PastureBase Ireland tells us they have rebounded to 61 Kg DM/Ha on dairy farms around the country.

However, depending on your location, the grass situation around the country is still variable with farms particularly in the West/South West growing very well at the minute & farms that suffered due to Soil Moisture Deficits still experiencing lower growth rates as farmers look to build Average Farm Cover back up over 550 Kg DM/Ha on these farms.

In this weeks newsletter on the 2nd page we will look at two farms and their approach towards building grass for an extended grazing season this Autumn -:

1. John Galvin from Dunmanway, Co. Cork gives us an overview of his plan on his 35 Ha milking platform. His farm is currently growing 70 Kg DM/Ha + after receiving rain at the correct time 2 weeks ago.
2. Eoin Corrigan from Trim, Co Meath was impacted by the drought and was supplementing up to 1/2 the cows diet with meal and silage up to 1 week ago. Grass growth had recovered to 55 Kg DM/Ha and he anticipates this will be much higher this week.

When should I start building grass on my farm?

Stocking Rate	Date
2.5	3 rd week of August
3	2 nd week of August
3.5 +	1 st week of August

Grass10 Website for Autumn Grazing Tips

<https://bit.ly/AutumnGrazing-Tips>

Grass Dry Matter %

Moorepark, Co. Cork
16.4% (1200 Kg DM/Ha)
Grange, Co. Meath
22.3% (1375 Kg DM/Ha)

Grass10 & PastureBase Ireland Autumn Webinar

Did you miss last weeks Webinar titled "Building Grass for an Extended Grazing Season"?

Not to worry you can, you can watch it back here -:

<https://bit.ly/AutumnWebinar>

teagasc

Building Grass for an Extended Grazing Season
Thursday, 5th August | 7pm

Join the Grass10 & PastureBase team as they discuss:

- August is the beginning of the grazing calendar
- Learn the why, what and how of building grass for Autumn
- Get the views of experienced dry and heavy soils farmers
- Get your questions answered by the Grass10 & PastureBase team

Hear from special guest's heavy soils farmer, David Brady, Co. Cavan & dry soils farmer, John Galvin, Co. Cork as they give their own experiences on how they improved their farms.

Or visit www.teagasc.ie/grass10

Beef Farm Walk

Wednesday, 18 August | 7pm

Thomas Hogan, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary
Suckler Beef Grassland Farmer of the Year 2020

For more information see
www.teagasc.ie/ThomasHoganFarmWalk



PastureBase data from sheep & beef farms:

10th August 2021

AFC	Days Ahead	Stocking Rate	Growth	Demand	Pre Grazing Yield
723 Kg DM/Ha	20 days	2.6 LU/ha	43 Kg DM/ha	36 Kg DM/ha	1632 Kg DM/ha

Building Average Farm Cover in Co. Cork

John Galvin farms near Dunmanway, Co. Cork with his wife Yvonne. John is milking 105 cows on a 35 ha milking platform on a relatively dry farm. The farm grew 15 T DM/Ha in 2020 and has grown 8 T DM/Ha to the 1st August 2021. John was the Sustainable Category Winner in the 2020 Grassland Farmer of the Year Competition. Cows are currently producing 1.8 Kg MS (20 L, F 4.70%, Pr 3.97%).

"We got rain at the correct time, about 43mm in 2 weeks and my farm has grown well since with growth rates in the mid 70's recently. My focus has now turned to building grass on my farm for Autumn 2021. I am stocked less than 3 cows/ha (demand of 51 Kg DM/ha) so I can build Average Farm Cover quite easily"

"My key targets in the Autumn is to build farm cover to 1200 Kg DM/ha on the 20th September and have 800 Kg DM/ha on the 1st December. All my management decisions revolve around these 2 key targets. I have good grazing infrastructure on my farm which allows me in the right weather conditions to graze covers > 2000Kg DM/ha"



Key Management decisions

- Complete Grass Budget on Pasture-Base Ireland
- Walk farm weekly to see where farm is compared to target
- If we get strong growth rates throughout August and we are ahead of target, take out a paddock (poorly grazed/ poorer quality grass) for bales in early September
- If behind target, introduce additional meal/silage

WEEK START	AREA (HA)	SPRING MILKERS	GRASS INTAKE	MEAL INTAKE	SILAGE INTAKE	TOTAL INTAKE	TARGET COVER (KG DM/HA)	Click to copy Predicted to Target Predicted Cover	ACTUAL FARM COVER(KG DM/HA)	PRED. GROWTH (KG DM/DAY)	ACTUAL GROWTH (KG DM/DAY)	DEMAND(KG DM/HA)	STOCKING RATES(LU/HA)	ACT. COV./ LU (KG DM/ LU)
05/08/2021	35.34	105	15	3	0	18			634	64	73	45	2.97	213
12/08/2021	35.34	105	16	2	0	18	770	770		66		48	2.97	259
19/08/2021	35.34	105	17	1	0	18	899	899		62		51	2.97	303
26/08/2021	35.34	105	17	1	0	18	980	980		61		51	2.97	330
02/09/2021	35.34	105	17	1	0	18	1053	1053		58		51	2.97	355
09/09/2021	35.34	105	17	1	0	18	1106	1106		56		51	2.97	372
16/09/2021	35.34	105	16	2	0	18	1144	1144		53		48	2.97	385
23/09/2021	35.34	105	16	2	0	18	1182	1182		48		48	2.97	398
30/09/2021	35.34	105	16	2	0	18	1185	1185		40		48	2.97	399

Building Average Farm Cover after a drought in Co. Meath

Eoin Corrigan farms outside Trim in Co. Meath with his wife Roisin. 2021 is Eoin's first year milking, with 187 first lactation cows. Its been a difficult year for grass quality and grass supply has come in boom-bust cycles. Cows are currently producing 1.3 Kg MS (14.5 L, Fat: 5.08%, Pr: 3.79%).

Eoin's aim until now has been to hold Average Farm Cover (AFC) above 500 Kg DM/ha, as high soil moisture deficits reduced grass growth to 35 Kg DM/ha/day for the previous two weeks. **This was done by feeding 3kg meal plus 6 Kg DM silage per cow.** But with over 30mm rainfall in the past week Eoin anticipates growth to average 80 Kg DM/ha/day for the next fortnight (see budget below).

This change has come right in time for Eoin, who will be stocked at 3.44LU/ha this autumn. Eoin needs to begin growing his AFC immediately in order to exploit cheap August grass which can be carried later into the autumn and grazed when growth drops below demand. This will be helped with 2nd cut silage ground coming available for grazing in the next 10 days. He has removed silage from the diet. Eoin spread 25 units N/ac before the rain last week to help boost growth.

Eoin completed a grass budget on PastureBase and aims to build his AFC to 1100-1200 kg DM/ha by late September. In order to do this he **must begin building now by NOT removing surplus.** Weekly farm walks are a priority for Eoin to monitor and update his autumn grazing plan. If he gets a week of lower growth rates, Eoin can adjust the grass budget.



Key Management decisions for farms recovering from a drought

- Keep demand less than growth rates i.e if your growth rate is 50 Kg DM/ha and you are stocked a 3.2 LU/ha, you can allow 15 Kg grass just to hold AFC and 3kg meal is required.
- You MUST complete a grass budget on PastureBase Ireland to map your way out of a <500 Kg DM/ha AFC
- If over 3-4 Kg of supplement is needed, you should be looking at feeding silage or alternative feeds/forage

WEEK START	AREA (HA)	SPRING MILKERS	GRASS INTAKE	MEAL INTAKE	SILAGE INTAKE	TOTAL INTAKE	TARGET COVER (KG DM/HA)	Click to copy Predicted to Target Predicted Cover	ACTUAL FARM COVER(KG DM/HA)	PRED. GROWTH (KG DM/DAY)	ACTUAL GROWTH (KG DM/DAY)	DEMAND(KG DM/HA)	STOCKING RATES(LU/HA)	ACT. COV./ LU (KG DM/ LU)
09/08/2021	43.64	187	13	3	0	16			550	80		61	4.51	122
16/08/2021	53.33	187	14.5	1.5	0	16			683	80		55	3.69	185
23/08/2021	53.33	187	14.5	1.5	0	16			855	62		55	3.69	232
30/08/2021	60.25	187	14.5	1.5	0	16			901	59		49	3.26	276
06/09/2021	60.25	187	14.5	1.5	0	16			968	55		49	3.26	297
13/09/2021	73.52	187	13	3	0	16			1008	53		37	2.67	377
20/09/2021	73.52	187	13	3	0	16			1121	50		37	2.67	420
27/09/2021	73.52	187	13	3	0	16			1213	50		45	3.44	353