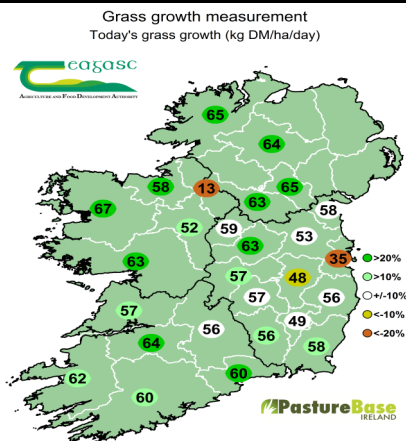


21st September 2021

PastureBase data from dairy farms:

PastureBase
IRELAND

AFC	Cover/LU	Stocking Rate	Growth	Demand	Diet (Grass + Supplement)	Pre Grazing Yield
908 Kg DM/Ha	294 Kg DM/LU	3.15 LU/ha	61 Kg DM/ha	48 Kg DM/ha	15 Kg DM + 3 Kg	2040 Kg DM/Ha

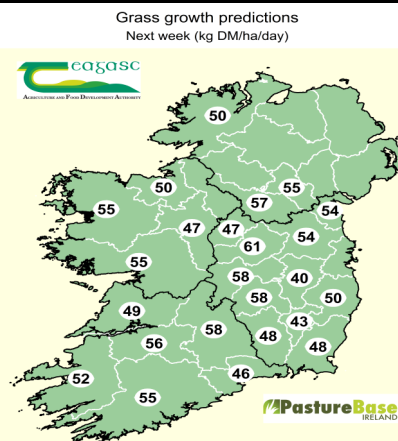


On the left: counties map showing **current** grass growth rates over the last week.

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 64 kg DM/ha
Wexford 48 kg DM/ha
Athenry 67 kg DM/ha
Clonakilty 61 kg DM/ha



'Grazing hell for leather' in Co. Kerry

Paudie O'Brien and his family are milking 81 cows on a mixed heavy and dry soil farm outside Killarney, Co. Kerry. Paudie was the Disadvantaged Land category winner of the 2020 Grassland Farmer of the Year.

"Most years if the AFC was this high I'd be worried about leaving grass behind me as the high rainfall means ground conditions deteriorate quickly and although we have had a nice bit of rain over the past week, we are still very happy with how ground conditions are holding."

Paudie's grass budget shows he needs to graze day and night for all of October plus try stick to 2kg meal and no silage in order to get through the grass. This is important as Paudie wants to finish grazing in November with 500 kg DM/ha AFC. This will mean a closing cover in early December of 600 kg DM/ha, which is perfect for setting the farm up for next spring.

"We'll graze hell for leather for the next month to try and achieve this, juggling the wet and dry ground. We should save on silage and meal this autumn also, producing milk as cheaply as possible."

Paudie begins the final rotation in early Oct but monitoring AFC ultimately decides this. "We mostly run out of weather before we run out of grass!" However a key priority is closing the drier and sheltered paddocks between mid-Oct and early-Nov to have the right grass cover on them for next spring (800-1000 kg DM/ha). **Paudie is a guest on our webinar next week, tune in to hear more from him, you will be glad you did!**

Grazing Tips: Graze the heavy grass covers whilst conditions are good!

- With peak AFC now reached, pre-grazing yields are >2000 kg DM/ha. Use the good conditions to graze heavy covers to 4cm, especially on wetter ground. Use stripwires and 12-hour allocations. The PastureBase App has a Grazing Calculator tool available to help calculate the correct allocation.
- For farms well behind target (<800 Kg DM/ha), remember every day at grass extra in the autumn is worth €1.80/LU/day. Hold rotation length to a minimum of 30 days, i.e. total area / 30 = area to graze per day. Reduce demand immediately (remove culls, feed supplement and/or remove surplus stock from the milking platform).
- The rotation length back on Pasturebase is 31 days. This should be stretched further to ensure a long grazing season. See targets in table.
- Heavy soils farms in the northern half of the country should have an autumn rotation plan complete on PastureBase and begin closing the farm later this week. It is important to get a good cleanout on these paddocks. Do not close up paddocks which you intend on grazing first in the spring time just yet. These should be closed in mid-Oct.



O'Brien's PBI Data

AFC	1060 kg DM/ha
Cover/LU	393 kg DM/cow
Growth	50 kg DM/ha/day
Demand	46 kg DM/ha/day
PGY	2200 kg DM/ha
Meal	2 kg
Milk Yield	1.52 kg MS/cow (17 L/cow)

Grass Dry Matter %

Moorepark, Co. Cork
13.6% (1200 Kg DM/Ha)
Athenry, Co. Galway
14% (1500 kg DM/Ha)
Ballyhaise, Co. Cavan
12% (1600 kg DM/Ha)
Grange, Co. Meath
17% (1750 kg DM/Ha)

Stocking Rate	AFC 1st Oct Target	Rotation Length
2.5 LU/ha	1000 kg DM/ha	35 - 40 days by the 1st Oct
3.0 LU/ha	1150 kg DM/ha	
3.5 LU/ha	1175 kg DM/ha	

PastureBase data from sheep & beef farms:

21st September 2021

AFC	Days Ahead	Stocking Rate	Growth	Demand	Pre Grazing Yield
907 Kg DM/Ha	26 days	2.29 LU/ha	46 Kg DM/ha	35 Kg DM/Ha	2198 Kg DM/ha

Take Home Messages from Moorepark 21:

- The grazing plots demonstrated correct residuals to graze out to, the ideal covers to build to for different scenarios and the autumn grazing targets.
- The plots were also grass-clover swards. These demonstrated the level of clover content needed in the sward on a dry matter basis (roughly half the visual amount observed) to deliver animal performance and fertiliser reduction benefits.
- Attendees were impressed to see the Low N plots grow the same amount of grass compared to the High N plots which received 50u N/ac extra since mid-June. (Low N got 5 applications at 10u N/ac, High N got 5 applications at 20u N/ac).



Upcoming Webinar:

Our next webinar will take place on Thursday 30th Sept at 7pm through Zoom. The focus will be on the 2nd part of the autumn grazing jigsaw; closing up the farm properly in the final rotation ensuring a long grazing season this autumn whilst still having enough grass for cows next spring. We are joined by dairy farmers Paudie O'Brien (heavy soils) & Padraig Callanan (dry soils).

If you are serious about making more money from grass register at: <https://bit.ly/G10webinars>



Managing the final grazing rotation with PastureBase

Thursday, 30th September | 7pm

Join the Grass10 & PastureBase team as they discuss:

- Current grass supply on Irish dairy farms from PastureBase Ireland
- How correctly managing your final rotation ensures grass availability in Spring
- Deciding when to close paddocks on your farm
- Autumn grazing tips from the Grass10 team

Hear from special guest's dairy farmers Paudie O'Brien from Co. Kerry & Padraig Callanan from Co. Laois who will discuss their targets for the final rotation of grazing.



Or visit www.teagasc.ie/grass10

AFC	1183 Kg DM/Ha
Cover/LU	364 Kg DM/LU
Growth	64 Kg DM/Ha
Demand	55 Kg DM/Ha
Stocking Rate	3.25 LU/Ha
PGY	2300 Kg DM/Ha
Milk Yield/Cow	1.4 Kg MS (16.5L)
Tonnage YTD	11.9 T DM/Ha YTD

GFOY Update: David O'Leary (Young Farmer of the Year Category Winner)

"I have a lot of grass on the farm at the minute, probably too much but it is similar to last year and grazing conditions are fairly good."

"I'm trying to get the heavier covers on wet ground grazed off now during the better weather. I don't want to be stuck with grass there and not able to graze it."

"I'm hosting a farm walk this Thursday and would like to invite all interested to come along. The focus of the day will be growing a lot of grass on a reduced amount of nitrogen fertiliser."



"I aim to grow as much grass as possible from a low amount of nitrogen"

Dairy Farm Walk

Thursday, 23 September | 11am

David O'Leary, Castleisland, Co. Kerry. Eircode: V92 P523

Young Grassland Farmer of the Year 2020

For more information see www.teagasc.ie/DavidOLearyFarmWalk



Join the Grass10 team on **Thursday 23rd September at 11am** for a great farm walk on David's farm outside Castleisland, Co. Kerry.

Further information on the farm walk available at:

www.teagasc.ie/DavidOLearyFarmWalk