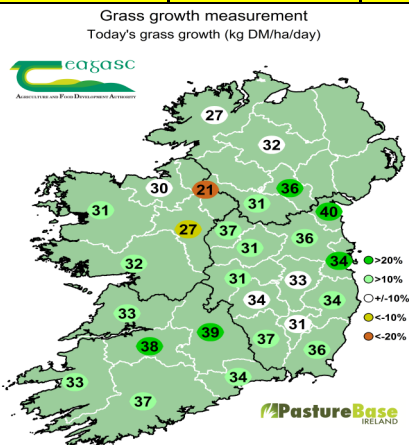


26th October 2021

## PastureBase data from dairy farms:

**PastureBase**  
IRELAND

AFC	Cover/LU	Stocking Rate	Growth	Demand	Diet (Grass + Supplement)	Pre Grazing Yield
801 Kg DM/Ha	283 Kg DM/LU	2.9 LU/ha	35 Kg DM/ha	39 Kg DM/ha	12.5 Kg DM + 5 Kg	1993 Kg DM/Ha

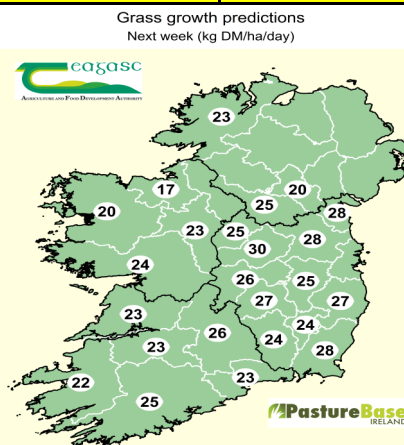


On the left: counties map showing **current** grass growth rates over the last week.

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 24 kg DM/ha  
Wexford 22 kg DM/ha  
Athenry 25 kg DM/ha  
Clonakilty 26 kg DM/ha



## Keeping an eye on the Autumn Rotation Planner in the Premier County

Brendan Phelan farms with his wife Louise & 3 children in Moyne, on the outskirts of Thurles in Co. Tipperary. Brendan is the host farmer for the Grass10 Grazing Discussion Group in Thurles.

"Grazing is going very well at the minute, we have avoided a lot of the wet weather that the north & west received at the weekend. Ground conditions are super"

I continue to walk my farm every week and enter measurements on PastureBase which then updates the data in my *Grass Budget & Autumn Rotation Planner*. I am slightly ahead of my target area grazed at **61% today**. To slow cows down they are receiving about 4 kg of silage when they come in for milking and 2.5 kg meal in the parlour.

"This is a dry farm and I aim to graze here until about 20th of November, without having any affect on grass availability for next Spring. My target is to have an Average Farm Cover of 650-700 Kg DM/Ha on the 1st of December"

Cows are producing about 1.4 Kg Milk solids per day currently.



### Brendan Phelan's Autumn Rotation Planner

### Grass Dry Matter %

Moorepark, Co Cork:

11.2% (1500 Kg DM/Ha)

Grange: Co. Meath

13% (1450 Kg DM/ha)

### Phelan's PBI Data

AFC	701 kg DM/ha
Cover/LU	245 kg DM/cow
Growth	30 kg DM/ha/day
Demand	33 kg DM/ha/day
PGY	1650 kg DM/ha

WEEK	TARGET HA GRAZED/DAY	TARGET HA GRAZED BY WEEK END	ACTUAL HA GRAZED BY WEEK END	TARGET %	ACTUAL %
08/10/2021 - 14/10/2021	1.40	9.80	10.19	18	18
15/10/2021 - 21/10/2021	1.40	19.61	24.99	35	44
22/10/2021 - 28/10/2021	1.40	29.41	34.53	52	61
29/10/2021 - 04/11/2021	1.40	38.88		69	
05/11/2021 - 11/11/2021	1.32	48.11		86	
12/11/2021 - 18/11/2021	1.32	56.02		100	

## Grass10 Grazing Tips for the week:

- Continue to walk your farm weekly to monitor Average Farm Cover (AFC) vs. Grass Budget. Use the Autumn Rotation Planner to plan out the remainder of your grazing this year. Heavy soils should have between 70-80% of their grazing area closed this week & dry farms between 60 & 70% closed by the 1st November.
- Do NOT let AFC drop below 500 kg DM/ha. This is detrimental for grass growth on the farm. Remember grass grows grass. If AFC is below 500 kg DM/ha now, house animals immediately. Walk the farm again in 2-3 weeks to decide if another paddock should be grazed. Don't start spring on the back foot by continuing to graze now.
- Heavy rainfall, mainly in the north & west, is making grazing conditions difficult. What can we do to maintain grass in the diet? Revert to our Spring grazing rules, on-off grazing for 3 hours, medium covers of 1300-1600 Kg DM/Ha and backfence animals (do not let back across grazed ground to avoid damage)

## PastureBase data from sheep & beef farms:

26th October 2021

AFC	Days Ahead	Stocking Rate	Growth	Demand	Pre Grazing Yield
808 Kg DM/Ha	32 days	1.78 LU/ha	26 Kg DM/ha	25 Kg DM/ha	2017 Kg DM/ha

### GFOY Update: David Brady Co. Cavan, Heavy Soils Category Winner

"We are grazing away the last of the heavy covers at about 2800 Kg DM/Ha at the minute. We had a lot of rain over the weekend and ground conditions have suffered, however I am happy with clean outs. We had built up a large farm cover at the start of October, so the dry weather earlier in the month was a huge help to get some of these covers cleaned off."



"We have about 1 week grazing left (day and night), which I am very happy with on a heavy farm. We started closing paddocks here on the 25th September and my target was to have 75% closed by the 23rd October and the final 25% of grazing would bring me to the end of the 1st week of November."

"I will walk the farm again this coming weekend, my target is to have an Average farm cover (AFC) of 550 Kg DM/Ha on the 1st of November & an AFC of 750-800 Kg DM/Ha on the 1st December. As we are a heavier soil & grow less grass over the winter, it is vital that I carry a good supply of grass into Spring 2022"

### David Brady's Autumn Rotation Planner

WEEK	TARGET HA GRAZED/DAY	TARGET HA GRAZED BY WEEK END	ACTUAL HA GRAZED BY WEEK END	TARGET %	ACTUAL %
25/09/2021 - 01/10/2021	1.09	7.64	7.54	19	18
02/10/2021 - 08/10/2021	1.09	15.29	14.21	38	34
09/10/2021 - 15/10/2021	1.09	22.93	22.42	56	54
16/10/2021 - 22/10/2021	1.09	30.58	33.53	75	82
23/10/2021 - 29/10/2021	1.09	36.07	36.26	88	88
30/10/2021 - 05/11/2021	0.78	40.77		100	

### The Dairy Edge Podcast

Grassland Farmer of the Year, Caroline Walsh, joins Emma-Louise Coffey on this week's Dairy Edge podcast with an insight into her success and key learnings from the Grass 10 competition.



### The Beef Edge Podcast

In preparation for the last grazing rotation, Teagasc Grass10 Beef Grassland Farmer of the Year Thomas Hogan, joins Catherine Egan on this week's Beef Edge podcast to discuss his beef suckling to store system and his autumn plan.



Click here -: <https://bit.ly/DairyEdge>

Tune in here-: <https://bit.ly/AutumnMgt>

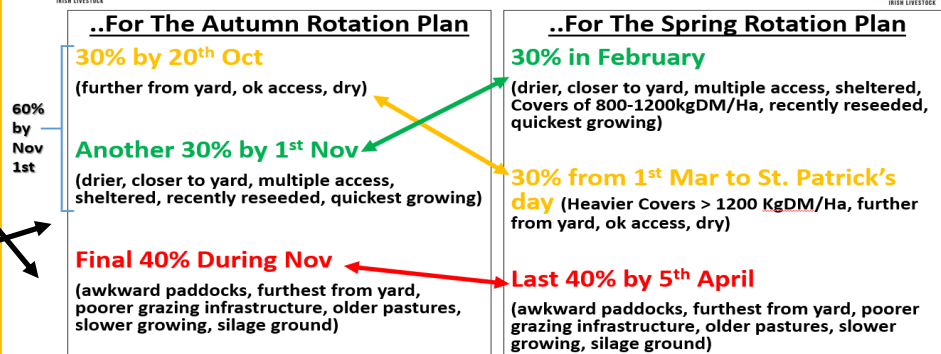
### Picking your paddocks to graze

As David Brady described above, heavy soils farmers will be coming into the last week or 10 days of grazing. Therefore, pick the paddocks that you do not want carrying grass over the winter, i.e awkward paddocks with poor access, silage ground, paddocks for slurry in early 2022.

Many dry farms will be approaching 60-70% grazed this week, which means grazing the 30% of your farm that you want a medium cover on next spring (800-1200 Kg DM/Ha)



## Picking Your Paddocks to Graze



\*Heavy Farm targets for autumn should be 7 - 10 days earlier and for the spring 7-10 days later.