

14th December 2021

PastureBase
IRELAND

Johnstown Castle Update

Aidan Lawless, Johnstown Castle, Co. Wexford



Similar to most of the Country we've had an excellent backend, we thought it had come to an end in late October with over 100mm rain in four days (190mm in total for month of October), but November proved to be one of the best that I can remember with just 23mm rainfall & soil temperatures about 0.5°C above average -December might prove to be a bit more disagreeable!

All stock are housed at this stage, the autumn cows were housed fulltime on the 12th Nov with the spring herds coming in a week later followed by the last of our replacement stock in the last week. Grazing conditions were excellent for all bar a few days in late October and the farm is well set up for the spring with no poaching/soil damage. Closing covers at 1st December are a little lower than target on most groups (ranging between 550-600kgs/ha).

All the autumn cows have finished up calving now the cycle starts again! – breeding will kick off around 15th December. 65% of the spring herd are dry - the remainder will be dried before Christmas. Similar to previous years selective dry cow therapy will be used on cows with no infection & low SCC ~60% of the herd. Cows go on a straw diet for a week pre-dry off in order to drop yields to below 8L, they stay on this diet for about 5 days post dry off.

See brief summary table of our spring systems looking at multi-species swards v grass clover.

Treatment	Period	Total tonnage	Grazed	Silage	Kgs/N/ha	Conc fed	kgs/MS/cow	Empty rate
Grass clover	2021 YTD	14,700	11,386	3,314	155	770	539	5% (1/20)
Multi species		14,445	11,098	3,347	64	832	538	5% (1/20)

Christmas Greetings

As this is our final newsletter of the year, the Grass10 team would like to thank you all for your continued readership in 2021 & wish you and your families a safe and Happy Christmas.

We will back Tuesday 11th January 2022!

End of the Grazing Season Review with Alan Duggan

Between now & early in the New Year is the ideal time to review your PastureBase Ireland reports & identify areas for improvement in 2022.



Please click here for the link to the Grass10 video with Dairy farmer Alan Duggan from Co. Mayo who has completed his Closing Average Farm Cover and is using the PastureBase Scorecard to review 2021:-

<https://bit.ly/AlanDuggan2021Review>

Click here for the PastureBase Scorecard:-

<https://bit.ly/PBI-Scorecard>

PastureBase usage rises again in 2021!

- 11% increase in the number of farms recording >10 covers (2,623 vs 2,344)
- 20% increase in the number of farms recording fertiliser and slurry applications (>200 applications) 388 vs 310
- 20% increase in the number of farms recording 30 covers or more 1010 vs 810
- 12% increase in the number of farms created a spring rotation plan 1,693 vs 1,496
- 50% of grass covers are uploaded to PBI via the app, this is an increase from 42%

Grass10 & PastureBase Webinar

After the holiday period, the Grass10 team will host a webinar on Growing Grass using Less Nitrogen Fertiliser in 2022.

We will be joined by 2020 Young Grassland Farmer of the Year David O'Leary on the night

For more information and to register for the webinar, click here:

<https://bit.ly/G10Webinar>



Growing Grass Using Less Nitrogen Fertiliser

Getting the best response from what you apply

Thursday, 20th January | 7pm

Join the Grass10 & PastureBase team as they discuss how to:

- Develop an effective spring fertiliser plan
- Reduce nitrogen usage during the summer
- Understand how clover reduces the need for nitrogen
- Use PastureBase to record fertiliser usage per paddock

Kerry dairy farmer and 2020 Young Grassland Farmer of the Year, David O'Leary will join us on the night to discuss his efficient use of nitrogen fertiliser to grow a lot of high quality grass.

For more info visit www.teagasc.ie/grass10

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Grassland Farmer of the Year 2020 Award Winners

We would like to sincerely thank all our winners from the 2020 Grassland Farmer of the Year competition for their weekly information in the Grass10 Newsletter. For their final comment of the year—our winners documented one area of particular focus to improve grassland management in 2022. Our 2021 Grassland Farmer of the Year Competition winners will be announced in the New Year!

Dairy Category & Overall Winner

Caroline Walsh, Ballinascorthy, Co. Cork

"Continue to focus on the Annual Tonnage Report on PastureBase, looking at paddocks that haven't performed well & identify paddocks for lime, P & K and reseeding in 2022"



Heavy Soils/ Disadvantaged Land Category Winner

Sean Barry, Pallasgreen, Co. Limerick

"Continue to focus on the most important aspect, getting out walking my farm every Monday, key decision making tool"



Sustainable Farming Category Winner

John Galvin, Dunmanway, Co. Cork

"Continue to focus on clover incorporation, with a further 10-15% reseeding planned for 2022 on my milking platform"



Sheep Category Winner

Peter McGuinness, Trim, Co. Meath

"2021 was a great year for grass but for 2022, I would like to bring my pre-grazing yield under 1400 Kg DM/Ha & finish 95% of lambs by 30th September"



Young Farmer Category Winner

David O'Leary, Castleisland, Co. Kerry

"Aiming to incorporate another 15-20% clover in 2022 with the plan of reducing chemical N to 170 Kg/Ha in 2 years"



Beef Production (non-suckling) Category Winner

Pat Collins, Castlemartyr, Co. Cork

"When you walk your farm weekly, there is no need to panic! You can make so many decisions from that weekly grass walk, especially during times of drought or poor growth"



Suckler Beef Production Category Winner

Thomas Hogan, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary

"I am hoping to reduce my pre-grazing yield in 2022 which will help to drive live-weight gain on my beef animals & also lead to quicker regrowths"



Grassland Merit- Most improved Grassland in 2020

Noel Hurley, Kildorrey, Co. Cork

"In 2022 & going forward, I must incorporate more clover to reduce chemical N use which will drive my farm in terms of sustainability & profitability"



Grassland Merit- Most improved Grassland in 2020

David Brady, Stradone, Co. Cavan

"Taking a full set of soil samples over the coming weeks, upload to PastureBase & use information to reduce fertiliser & improve fertiliser efficiency in 2022"



Grassland Merit- Sustainable Grassland

JP Hammersley, Lattin, Co. Tipperary

"With the price of fertiliser, reseeding will be an important part of the plan for 2022 so we are getting the most out of every bag of fertiliser that is spread"

