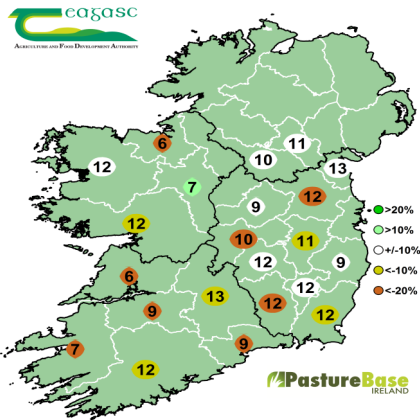


24th November 2020

**PastureBase**  
IRELAND

AFC	Stocking Rate	Growth	Demand	Pregrazing Yield
633 kg DM/ha	1.7 LU/ha	12 kg DM/ha	13 kg DM/ha	1240kg DM/ha

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



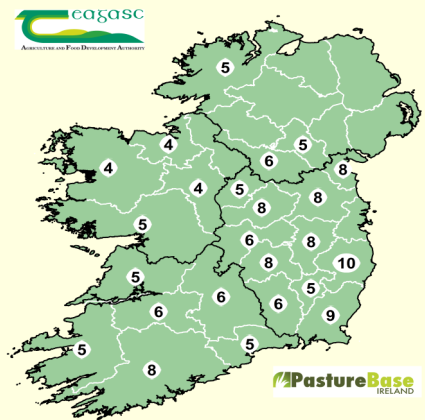
On the left: counties map showing **current** grass growth rates over the last week.

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 7 kg DM/ha
- South Wexford 7 kg DM/ha
- Athenry 6 kg DM/ha
- Clonakilty 8 kg DM/ha

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



**Time to Establish Farm Closing Cover as we Approach 1st December**

Every day at grass in the Spring is worth €2.70 per LU so having your farm at the correct AFC on the 1st December for your given stocking rate is key as we look forward to Spring 2021.

- Over the next week it is important to walk your farm and enter a closing Average Farm Cover on PastureBase. Recording a closing AFC will allow you to accurately measure over winter growth when you walk the farm next Spring.
- Target varies depending on stocking rate, calving date, calving rate and land type.
- If aiming to have 30-40% of the farm grazed by 1st Mar increase the target by **50 Kg DM/ha** for your stocking rate.
- Ensure you have **20 farm walks** entered on PastureBase Ireland for your derogation.

Stocking Rate (LU/Ha)	AFC Dec 1st
2.5	650
3.0	700
3.5	750

**Teagasc Virtual Dairy Conference 2020**

The Virtual Dairy Conference kicked off this morning with the important topic of "Making Better Use of Chemical N". 3 Key points from the discussion:-

- In the last 10 years, grass utilisation on Irish farms is up 10% or 1.3 tonne/DM/Ha and better grazing management accounts for 73% of that extra grass.
- Protected Urea delivers the same grass growth as CAN or Urea however it reduces Nitrous Oxide emissions by 70% in the process. Minimal change in management for high return on emissions.
- Incorporating clover into the grazing sward has the potential to deliver the same grass growth at 100 kg/N/Ha less chemical N when managed correctly.

Link for the remaining 3 sessions of the Conference:- <http://www.teagasc.ie/dairycon20>

**Video with Kevin Moran on Annual Tonnage Report**

Click on the link to view the video of Galway dairy farmer Kevin Moran as he discusses grass grown year to date on his farm and some of the reasons for higher grass growth in 2020. <https://bit.ly/KevinMoranAnnualTonnage>



**Upcoming Event:** Join us for our Achieving Grazing Excellence in 2021 webinar on Wed 9th Dec at 7pm on Zoom. Please see advert below or click <https://bit.ly/PBIWebinar>

**Do you understand & capitalise on your PastureBase reports?**

Join our webinar with Teagasc Grass10 & PastureBase Ireland experts & achieve grazing excellence in 2021!

Wednesday, 9th December | 7pm

Hear from special guest, dairy farmer **Jim White** and learn how he uses his reports to identify areas for improvement on his dairy farm.

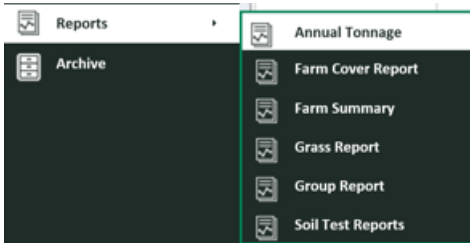
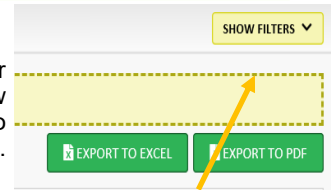
Open the camera on your phone and scan the QR Code to register

Or visit [www.teagasc.ie/grass10](http://www.teagasc.ie/grass10)

24th November 2020

## Reviewing your 2020 grass growth per paddock

PastureBase Ireland has developed a host of reports which offer insights into your grass production and how you manage it. As the grazing season finishes for 2020, now is the time to review and analyse these reports. Why? Because doing so enables you to reflect on your current progress, and identify further areas for improvement. This week it is the **Annual Tonnage Report**

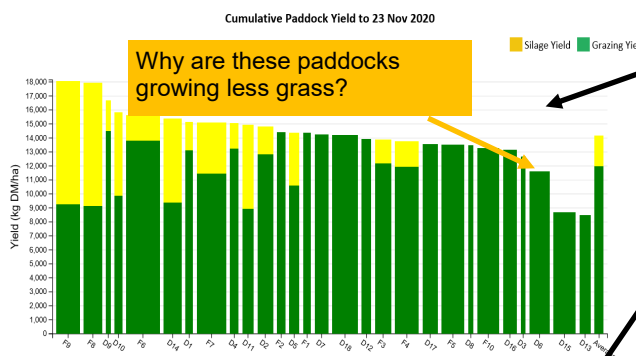


1. The **Annual Tonnage Report** can be found on the left toolbar on the PastureBase home screen, under the "Reports" dropdown menu.

The Annual Tonnage Report is an excellent visual on your grass growth for each paddock on your farm.

Identify 3 or 4 paddocks that need action on your farm for 2021.

4. To view 2019 or previous years grass growth for your farm, click **show filters** in top corner of Tonnage page and change year.



2. Identify why paddocks on the right of the screen have grown less grass in 2020.

Poor soil fertility? Old sward? Wet paddock? What is the % of Perennial Ryegrass in the sward?

Identify the problem and act on solving the issues with the paddock in 2021, i.e. Lime, Reseeding etc

3. We can find out the Average Pre-Grazing Yield for 2020 by dividing the (A) Grazing (kg/DM/ha) by the (B) Number of Grazings. To ensure clean graze outs and minimal wasted grass = Ideal covers of 1400 kg/DM/ha.

$$(A) 11988 / (B) 8.3 = 1,444 \text{ kg/DM/ha}$$

Paddock Code	Paddock Name	Variety	Last Reseed	Area	No. of Grazings	No. of Silage Cuts	Grazing (kg DM/ha)	(A)	Silage (kg DM/ha)	Total (kg DM/ha)	Total N kg	Total P kg	Total K kg
F1	Corner Field	AberChoice 1 ...	16/07/2015	1.75	10	0	14375			14375	259.53	26.65	110.65
Averages					(B)		11988		2183	14171	259.01	25.2	107.99

## Research update- Sheep Research Demonstration Farm, Athenry Co. Galway

Table 1: Average Grass Grown year to date 2020

Current grazing systems research in Athenry is focusing on the impact of incorporating white clover into sheep grazed swards at two stocking rate levels (11 or 13 ewes/ha) with three pasture treatments at each stocking rate i) Perennial ryegrass receiving 145kg N/ha/yr, ii) Perennial ryegrass plus white clover receiving 145kg N/ha/yr and iii) Perennial ryegrass plus white clover receiving 90kg N/ha/yr.

Treatment	T DM yield (kg/DM/ha)
Grass only	11.4
Grass Clover 145 kg N/ha	11.8
Grass Clover 90 kg N/ha	11

Philip Creighton, Teagasc Animal and Grassland Research and Innovation Centre, Athenry gave the following update on how Autumn has gone on the research farm.

"Sward production for 2020 to date and lamb drafting pattern are shown in tables 1 and 2. We had to introduce concentrate supplementation at a rate of 500g/hd/day in early October due to low grass DM% and declining lamb ADG. Any lambs remaining on the farm in late October were housed to conserve grass for ewes. We currently have approximately 60% of the 11 ewe/ha stocking rate farmlets closed for the winter and 75% of the 13 ewe/ha farmlets. Due to their higher demand for grass they moved through available covers faster with average farm cover

Table 2: Lamb drafting pattern Autumn 2020

of these farmlets now standing at 625kg DM/ha compared to the 11 ewe/ha groups at 871 kg DM/ha".

	% lambs drafted end Sept	% lambs drafted end Oct*	% lambs drafted end Nov
Grass only	57	78	91
Grass Clover	67	85	93

\*Remaining lambs housed

