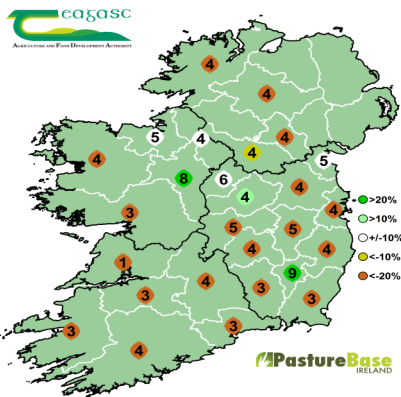


26th January 2021

**PastureBase**  
IRELAND

<b>AFC</b>	<b>Growth</b>	<b>Grass Dry Matter %</b>
<b>843 kg DM/ha</b>	<b>5kg DM/ha</b>	<b>13.8% (1300 Kg/DM/ha)</b>

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



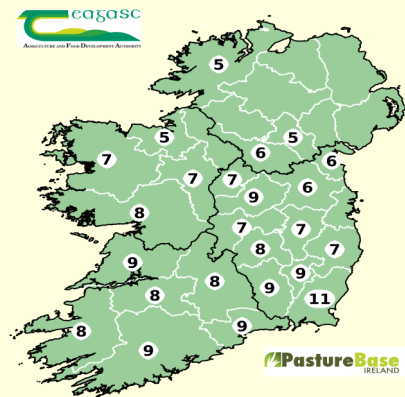
**On the left:** counties map showing **current** grass growth rates over the last week.

**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 6 kg DM/ha
- South Wexford 9 kg DM/ha
- Athenry 7 kg DM/ha
- Clonakilty 10 kg DM/ha

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



## Establish Opening Average Farm Cover (AFC) & Complete Spring Rotation Planner

As the days start to lengthen and we approach 1st February, it's a good time to walk your farm and establish opening AFC on PastureBase Ireland (PBI). Walking your farm will also give you a feel for the soil conditions and trafficability of your farm, along with noticing any fences or roadways that need repair. Opening AFCs so far have been promising with plenty of grass on farms (843 Kg/DM/ha) and a typical winter growth of 4kg DM/ha.

The next step for you is to complete a Spring Rotation Planner on PBI. The Spring Rotation Planner is crucial in order to map out Spring grazing efficiently and to utilise as much grass as possible while ensuring grass availability for the 2nd round. The Key targets are to graze 30% of your farm by 1st March and 66% by 17th March on dry farms.

### Spring Rotation Planner from PastureBase on 30Ha Platform

WEEK	TARGET HA GRAZED/DAY	TARGET HA GRAZED BY WEEK END	ACTUAL HA GRAZED BY WEEK END	TARGET %	ACTUAL %
27/01/2021 - 02/02/2021	0.25	1.76		6	
03/02/2021 - 09/02/2021	0.28	3.69		12	
10/02/2021 - 16/02/2021	0.31	5.85		19	
17/02/2021 - 23/02/2021	0.35	8.29		27	
24/02/2021 - 02/03/2021	0.40	11.09		37	
03/03/2021 - 09/03/2021	0.47	14.38		47	
10/03/2021 - 16/03/2021	0.57	18.37		61	
17/03/2021 - 23/03/2021	0.72	23.43		77	
24/03/2021 - 30/03/2021	0.99	30.35		100	

Dry farms should aim to be out grazing on the 1st week of February and finish 1st round on the 1st week of April. Wet farms may be 10—14 days later on both respectively.

Everyday in Spring you are out grazing is worth €2.70 per LU, this can make a huge difference to profitability on dairy, beef, sheep and drystock farms throughout Ireland.

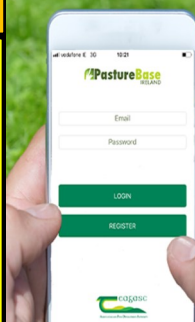
See Spring Grazing Checklist below and ensure that you are ready to graze for Spring 2021!

### Need help getting set up on PBI for grass measuring in 2021?

Email [support@pbi.ie](mailto:support@pbi.ie) or call 046-9200965

### Spring Grazing Checklist

- Opening Average Farm Cover
- Grass Budget
- Spring Rotation Planner
- Fertiliser and Slurry Plan
- N (Protected Urea) in yard
- Temporary Reels & Posts
- Roadways and fences tidied up



## Getting Familiar with PastureBase Ireland

Are you looking to begin your journey measuring grass with PastureBase Ireland?

**Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> February | 7pm**

Join the Grass10 & PastureBase team on as they go through a step-by-step process of using PastureBase Ireland

Learn how to:

- Download the PastureBase Ireland app on your mobile
- Set up paddocks on your profile
- Enter a grass measurement on PastureBase Ireland and how to interpret the data
- Enter groups of grazing animals and correctly allocate grass
- Use Spring and Autumn rotation planners

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

26th January 2021

## Spring Nitrogen Action Plan for Dry and Wet Farms

Spring Nitrogen when applied at the correct time and in optimum conditions delivers up to 3 weeks extra grass. There is high sward N recovery in Spring. There are a number of factors to be considered when looking to get the best response from an early application of Nitrogen and Slurry.

- When soil temperatures are rising (5.5 degrees+) and where conditions are dry, it is a safe time to apply slurry & chemical fertiliser on farms. Check Met.ie forecast for your location. Avoid at all costs spreading fertiliser or slurry when heavy rainfall is forecast.
- Target paddocks that will give best response - recently reseeded, dry, high proportion of perennial ryegrass, optimum soil fertility and a cover of grass >700 Kg DM/ha.
- Apply slurry using LESS at the rate of 2500 gallons/acre on covers of under 700 Kg DM/ha. This will deliver up to 20 units N/acre and will replace early N application. **"If using LESS this Spring you should be spending less on fertiliser"**

**Table 2:- Nitrogen fertiliser/Slurry application plan for the early spring period on Dry soils**

Fertiliser/Slurry Split	Month	Product	Rate	1 <sup>st</sup> 33% of Farm Area	2 <sup>nd</sup> 33% of Farm Area	3 <sup>rd</sup> 33% of Farm Area
1	January / February	Cattle Slurry	2,500 gals/ac 20 units N/ac (25 kg N/ha)	2,500 gals/ac (20 units N/ac) Lower covers (<600 kg DM/ha)		
		Protected Urea (NBPT)	23 units/ac (29kg N/ha)		23 units N/ac (29kg N/ha)	23 units N/ac (29kg N/ha)
2	March	Cattle Slurry	2,500 gals/ac (25 kg N/ha)		2,500 gals/ac (20 units N/ac) Grazed areas/silage ground	
		Protected Urea (NBPT)	46 units/ac (50 kg N/ha)	46 units N/ac (57 kg N/ha)	23 units N/ac (29 kg N/ha)	46 units N/ac (57 kg N/ha)
Total N by 1st April <sup>2</sup>		Slurry + Fertiliser N	65-70 units N/ac (80-86 kg N/ha)	66 units N/ac (82 kg N/ha)	66 units N/ac (83 kg N/ha)	69 units N/ac (86 kg N/ha)

<sup>1</sup>Slurry by LESS & chemical fertiliser should only be applied once the open period commences  
<sup>2</sup>Combination of Protected Urea and cattle slurry available on farm

**Table 3:- Nitrogen fertiliser/Slurry application plan for the early spring period on Heavy Soils (Flexibility in application is essential on heavy land)\***

Fertiliser/Slurry Split	Month	Product	Rate	1 <sup>st</sup> 33% of Farm Area	2 <sup>nd</sup> 33% of Farm Area	3 <sup>rd</sup> 33% of Farm Area
1	February /March/early April	Cattle Slurry	2,500 gals/ac (25 kg N/ha)	2,500 gals/ac (20 units N/ac) Driest land with lowest cover and some silage ground (Depending on land wetness and weather, this may be more or less than 33% of farm)		2,500 gals/ac (20 units N/ac) Areas that are trafficable & mostly silage ground (Depending on land wetness and weather, this may be less than 33% of farm)
		Protected Urea (NBPT)	35 units/ac (44 kg N/ha)	23 units N/ac (29 kg N/ha)	46 units N/ac (57 kg N/ha) (Can be completed in 2 splits)	23 units N/ac (29 kg N/ha)
Total N by 15 <sup>th</sup> April <sup>2</sup>		Slurry + Fertiliser N	43-46 units N/ac (54-57 kg N/ha)	43 units N/ac (54 kg N/ha)	46 units N/ac (57 kg N/ha)	43 units N/ac (54 kg N/ha)

<sup>1</sup>Slurry by LESS & chemical fertiliser should only be applied once the open period commences  
<sup>2</sup>Combination of Protected Urea and cattle slurry available on farm  
 \*Not all paddocks (or parts of paddocks) may get an application before April 1st

**Table 2 & Table 3** above contain Nitrogen and Slurry plans for a dry farm and a heavy farm respectively. This is a guide to use on your farm. Many farmers will have a mix of both land types. Keep the plan simple and apply fertiliser and slurry in line with the recommendations when it suits your farm. Factor in Protected Urea as your Nitrogen source of choice for 2021.

**"Make your decision paddock by paddock, you know your farm best, it's not all or nothing anymore!"**

## GFOY Winners' Videos

Last week saw the awarding of Grassland Farmer of the Year titles to those farmers achieving excellence in grassland management. The links to the winners profiles and videos are below. If you missed the event you can watch it back at <http://bit.ly/GFOYAwards2020>

**Overall & Dairy:** Caroline Walsh <http://bit.ly/G10CarolineWalsh>

**Sheep Category:** Peter McGuinness <http://bit.ly/PeterMcGuinness>

**Cattle (Suckling):** Thomas Hogan <http://bit.ly/ThomasHogan>

**Cattle (Non-Suckling):** Pat Collins <http://bit.ly/G10PatCollins>

**Sustainable Farming:** John Galvin <http://bit.ly/JohnGalvin>

**Young Farmer:** David O'Leary <http://bit.ly/G10DavidOLeary>

**Disadvantaged Land:** Sean Barry <http://bit.ly/SeanBarry>

**Most Improved Grassland (Merit):** Noel Hurley <http://bit.ly/NoelHurley>

**Most Improved Grassland (Merit):** David Brady <http://bit.ly/G10DavidBrady>

**Sustainable Grassland (Merit):** JP Hammersley <http://bit.ly/JPHammersley>