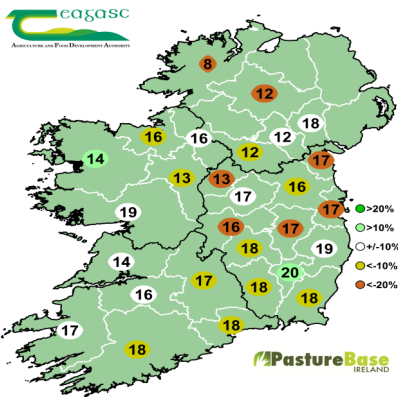


23rd March 2021

PastureBase
IRELAND

| AFC | Growth | Diet |
|--------------|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| 800 Kg DM/Ha | 18 Kg DM/Ha | 10.5 Kg grass, 4 Kg meal, 2 Kg silage |

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



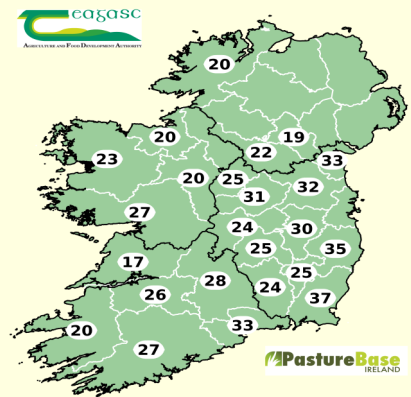
On the left: counties map showing **current** grass growth rates over the last week.

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 20 kg DM/ha
- South Wexford 27 kg DM/ha
- Athenry 24 kg DM/ha
- Clonakilty 31 kg DM/ha

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



Using the Grass10 "3 checks" to plan your 2nd rotation

As we approach the 1st April, many farmers particularly those in the South and East of the country will be edging towards the start of the 2nd rotation. **Eddie O Donnell** is milking 300 cows in Golden Co. Tipperary on a dry farm. He is stocked at 3.1 cows/ha on the milking platform. Eddie discusses below his plans for the 2nd rotation by taking us through the Grass10 "3 checks" for his farm.



Grass Dry Matter %

- Moorepark, Co. Cork**
18.9% (2200 Kg DM/Ha)
- Grange, Co. Meath**
22% (950 Kg DM/Ha)

1st check:- Weekly Farm walk to establish Average Farm Cover (AFC):- "I completed a farm walk Monday morning, AFC is 781 Kg DM/Ha and 86% of the platform is grazed to date. Growth was 32 Kg DM/Ha for the last week. The cows are currently being allocated 13kg grass and 2.7kg meal in the parlour.

2nd check:- Making a plan of how many days/weeks grazing you have left on your 1st rotation:- "The plan is to start the 2nd rotation on Tuesday 30th March, cows are grazing heavier covers of 1800 Kg/DM/Ha currently."

3rd check:- Grass covers back on the 1st 4 paddocks:- "I have over 1000Kg/DM/Ha on my 1st 4 paddocks so by next week I expect these to grow 30/40 Kg DM/Ha per day and be on target to start the 2nd round. The key to having these covers back on paddocks was getting 40% grazed in February and having newly reseeded swards"

Use the tools on PastureBase Ireland such as the Spring rotation planner, Grass Budget and Grass Wedge to map out the remainder of 1st round grazing on your farm. Avoid dipping **under 500 Kg DM/Ha AFC** during March/early April at all costs.

Lets Talk Dairy Webinar

Joseph Dunphy from the Grass10 team joined Teagasc Dairy Specialist Stuart Childs on Lets Talk Dairy to discuss planning your grazing for the remainder of the 1st rotation and the importance of making a grazing plan and sticking to the plan! Watch here-: <http://bit.ly/LetsTalkDairy-Grass10>

Let's Stick to the Plan!

Let's Talk Dairy - Grass10 Update

Joseph Dunphy
Grass10 Team

Grassland Farmer of the Year Social Media Takeover!

Sean Barry, Disadvantaged Land Category Winner, will take over @TeagascGrass10 Twitter and @teagasc Instagram accounts **tomorrow Wednesday 24th March**. Sean will showcase how he operates the farm in terms of current grazing management, soil fertility, drainage, grazing infrastructure as well as many other topics. Click here for more info-: <http://bit.ly/SeanBarrySMT>



Social Media Takeover Sean Barry Co. Limerick

2020 Heavy Soils Category Grassland Farmer of the Year

@Teagasc @TeagascGrass10

Wednesday, 24th March



23rd March 2021

Ballyhaise Research Farm Update

Donal Patton & Barry Reilly

650 Kg DM/
Ha on 1st
paddock
grazed

- We are on target for area grazed with 42% grazed at start of the week.
- Average farm cover is 710kg DM / ha which is slightly below target of 750. There is 550-650 Kg DM/Ha back on the 1st 3 or 4 grazed paddocks.
- There are two paddocks with high covers above 1500 Kg DM/Ha which will be grazed this week. Growth is 22 Kg DM/Ha and demand is 26 Kg DM/Ha. We will hold off introducing silage into diet for this week until we get heavy covers removed.
- Grazing conditions are very good and cows are out day and night. 80% of the herd is calved with remaining cows due by early May. Cows are being fed 4kg of a 16% CP nut in addition to 13kg DM of grass. The whole farm will have 70 units per acre (slurry + N) by this week-end
- Milk yield is 26.6 litres, 5.02% fat, 3.51% protein, 2.34kg Milk Solids per cow per day.
- As part of a new trial starting this year we will be reseeding a large proportion of the grazing block in April and May (25%). Because of this we are grazing the rest of the area on the farm first so that it has best chance of recovering and carrying us through to June when reseeding area will come back into rotation.



GFOY Update - John Galvin (Sustainable Farming Category Winner)



"Our initial plan was to start the 2nd rotation on the 5th April. With good weather and good grass growth we will be starting this week. We have 1000-1200 Kg DM/ha back on first four paddocks grazed."

Realising the true value of slurry!

As we move into a new era of nutrient use efficiency on Irish farms, it will become very important to strategically use slurry to replace chemical fertiliser on farms. However, slurry nutrient value can be very variable from farm to farm depending on the diet of the animal and dilution of the slurry. Farmers are starting to get slurry tested for N,P & K and therefore can strategically supply slurry to paddocks on the farm to satisfy offtakes from both silage and grazing respectively. The table below contains slurry values from 5 different farmers:-

Available N, P & K (units/ 1,000 gals) by LESS Application Techniques

| Sample Name | N | P | K |
|-------------|-----|-----|------|
| Farmer 1 | 6.5 | 5.7 | 38.9 |
| Farmer 2 | 5.2 | 4.8 | 34.1 |
| Farmer 3 | 8.1 | 8.8 | 40 |
| Farmer 4 | 6.4 | 5.8 | 36.7 |
| Farmer 5 | 5.6 | 4.8 | 39.5 |

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Date | 23/03/2021 |
| AFC | 687 Kg DM/ha |
| Growth | 46 Kg DM/ha/day |
| Demand | 37 Kg DM/ha/day (2.68LU/Ha) |
| % Grazed | 85 % |
| Average Regrowth | 1000-1200 Kg DM/Ha (on 4 best paddocks) |
| Fertiliser | 60 u N/ac (75 Kg N/ha) on grazing ground to date (with P, K & S in 2nd application). This includes 33% MP which 3000 gal/ac LESS was applied to in January. |
| Cow Diet | 14 kg DM Grass, 4 kg Meal |
| Milk Yield | 28L/Cow, P: 3.59%, F: 4.6%, 2.35 Kg MS/Cow |

Hitting Grazing Targets in 2021 with PastureBase Ireland

Wednesday, 7th April | 7pm

- Join the Grass10 & PastureBase team on the night and hear:
- Update on Spring grass supply & grazing from PastureBase Ireland
 - Tips & advice on managing the 2nd rotation during April
 - Helping you to understand terms on PastureBase Ireland such as Average Farm Cover, Cover per Livestock Unit, Demand and Days Ahead so you can make better grazing decisions
 - Setting your farm up with quality grass as we transition from low to high growth rates

Hear from special guest's dairy farmer Noel Hurley, Co. Cork & sheep farmer Peter McGuinness, Co. Meath as they discuss April grassland management on their farms and how PastureBase Ireland helps them achieve targets.



Or visit www.teagasc.ie/grass10

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

Email support@pbi.ie or call 046-9200965



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine

