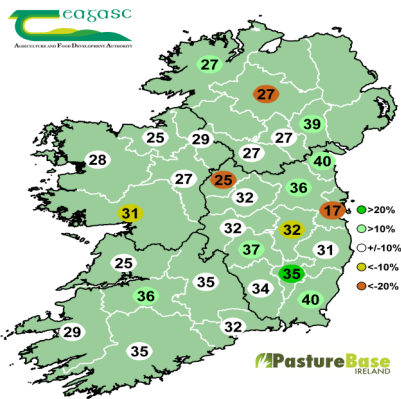


6th April 2021

**PastureBase**  
IRELAND

AFC	Stocking Rate	Cover/LU	Growth	Demand	Grass/Meal/Silage
760 kg DM/ha	3 LU/ha	253 kg DM/LU	33 kg DM/ha	40 kg DM/ha	13kg/3.5kg/1kg

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



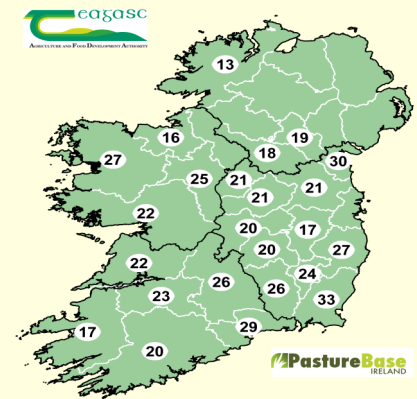
On the left: counties map showing **current** grass growth rates over the last week.

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 18 kg DM/ha  
South Wexford 33 kg DM/ha  
Athenry 22 kg DM/ha  
Clonakilty 28 kg DM/ha

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



**Keeping an eye on Average Farm Cover & Cover/Cow in the West!**

Niall Callanan farms just outside Craughwell, Co. Galway. The farm is a spring calving dairy herd and is stocked at 3.1 cows/Ha on the milking platform. Niall is a member of the South Galway Grass10 Discussion Group and was a finalist in the Grassland Farmer of Year 2020.

"I started my 2nd rotation yesterday, with covers of 1250 & 1200 Kg/DM/Ha on my 1st couple of paddocks. First rotation is fully finished. Growth rates are 32 Kg/DM/Ha at the minute and demand is 41Kg/DM/Ha. Average Farm Cover is close to 700 Kg/DM/Ha. I grazed 40% of the farm in February which is key to having grass back on 1st week of April"

Currently the cows are being offered 14 kg grass, 3 kg meal and 1-2 kg of high quality round baled silage at milking time am + pm.

**April targets**

- Measure the farm weekly using PastureBase and keep Cover/cow between 180 – 220 Kg DM/Ha. This means an Average Farm Cover of 600 Kg/DM/ha.
- Silage in diet until growth increases over demand of 41 Kg DM/ha. Very important time of the year 3/4 weeks from breeding to ensure cows are fully fed.
- Target a 24 day 2nd rotation during April.



**Niall Callanan**

**Grass Dry Matter %**

**Moorepark, Co. Cork**  
20% (1300 Kg DM/Ha)  
**Grange, Co. Meath**  
16.5% (850 Kg DM/Ha)

**Testing slurry quality to improve Nutrient Use Efficiency**

The farm will be blanket spread this week with **25 units of Protected N per acre (31 Kg/Ha)** and slurry will be injected throughout April to paddocks that have not received slurry up to now. I got slurry tested for N,P,K and DM% and I am keen to make best use of my slurry to reduce chemical N use

"Cows are milking 1.9 Kg/MS at the minute, 23 litres– Fat 4.89%, Protein 3.53%"

**Grass10 & PastureBase Ireland Webinar Series**

Do you want to make better use of PastureBase Ireland this year on your farm?

Research and farmer feedback shows the more often you measure grass using PastureBase Ireland, the more often your animals graze the correct grass covers of 1400 Kg/DM/ha.

Register here for our April webinar:-

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



**Webinar tomorrow!**  
**Register here**



**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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://www.teagasc.ie/grass10)

## Review your grazing plan for the week with colder forecast

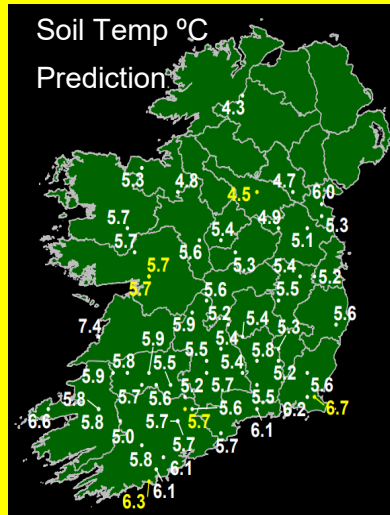
The MoSt Grass Growth Model predicts much lower growth rates (front page) and soil temperatures (below) for the week coming. Many farmers around the country are coming to the end of the 1st rotation and starting 2nd rotation.

Important to keep farm cover above **550 Kg/DM/ha** so that it is in the best possible position to grow grass mid April.

Plan a 24 day rotation if you have started 2nd rotation. If 1st 4 covers are less than 1200 Kg DM/Ha, slow down the 1st rotation until they have reached sufficient cover.

Farmers < 650 Kg DM/Ha AFC must match growth to demand this week.

Farmers with 750 Kg DM/Ha AFC can afford to drop AFC over the next 7 days to the tune of 15 kg DM/Ha per day, example, growth 25 Kg DM/Ha and Demand 40 Kg/DM/Ha.



## Using the Band Method for beginners to grass measuring!

New to grass measuring in 2021 and lacking confidence in telling the difference between different covers of grass in a paddock?

The Covid pandemic also brings challenges for individuals new to measuring as they cannot get out to discussion groups to learn skills off fellow farmers/ advisors.

As with all new skills, grass measurement takes time and repeated grass walks to build confidence. Click on the video below completed by Grass10 advisor John Douglas in which he displays the band method for grass measurement.

Click here:-

<http://bit.ly/BandMethod>



## GFOY Update

### Noel Hurley (Grassland Merit Award Winner)

*“Grass growth shot up over the weekend leaving me with a high AFC, but I’m still grazing the right covers. With growth predicted to be less than half that of last week, I will eat into the AFC this week.”*



## Aidan Maguire has reaped the rewards from Early Spring Grazing

Earlier this spring, Grass10 released a video of why and how Aidan Maguire gets cattle out to grass early in the spring in Co. Meath.

(See this video at <https://bit.ly/EarlyGrazingEarnMore> )

Following on from this we have put together an update on how he has set himself up to grow more quality grass this year.

### Where does the saving in costs come from in spring grass?

By getting out to grass early, Aidan has managed to save **at least** 1 bale silage per yearling (110 yearlings) and save **at least** 50 kg meal per yearling.

Aidan is finishing his 1st rotation this week with a good supply of grass coming behind him (AFC 660 Kg DM/ha). He will start grazing the 2nd rotation this week once the first three paddocks are back at 1000-1200 kg DM/ha. He will continue to monitor grass on his farm by walking weekly. Any heavy grass covers over 1600 kg DM/ha will be skipped and baled at the end April – early May for high quality bale silage.

Watch video here -: <http://bit.ly/AidanMaguireG10>

Date	04/04/2021
AFC	1080 Kg DM/ha
Growth	60 Kg DM/ha/day
Demand	64 Kg DM/ha/day
Stocking Rate	4.18 LU/ha
Started 2nd Rotation	3rd April
Cover/LU	258 Kg/LU
PGY	1500 Kg DM/ha
Fertiliser	65 u N/ac (80 Kg N/ha) on most of MP (including N from LESS)
Cow Diet	16 Kg DM Grass + 3 Kg Meal

