

25th September 2018

Current Pasture Performance PastureBase Ireland: www.pbi.ie Micheal O'Leary



	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha)	Cover/LU (kg DM/LU)	Stocking Rate (LU/ha)	Growth (kg DM/ha)	Demand (kg DM/ha)
Average	977	329	3.02	55	40

- Average feed allocation:
 - Grass 13.4 kgDM/LU
 - Concentrates 4 kg/LU
 - Silage 0.2 kgDM/LU

Dry Matter Results:

Location	Moorepark
Sampling Date	24/09/18
Time of Day	08.45
Weather	Frosty
DM%:	14.1%

5 Grazing Tips for this Week:

- 1) Meet residuals of 4 cm
- 2) Operate a rotation length of 35+ days
- 3) Use a strip wire and back fence to graze heavy covers
- 4) Set up an autumn grass budget and an autumn rotation plan on PastureBase Ireland
- 5) Carry out a grass measurement to monitor farm cover and growth

Using our PastureBase figures above:

Average farm cover: 977, Cover/LU: 329, Growth: 55, Demand 40.

Grass surplus: 15 kgDM/ha/day (105/week). If growth rate continues, our average farm cover will be 1,082 kgDM/ha (358 kgDM/LU) in 7 days. It is important that demand remains low and farmers allow for a reduced growth rate going forward to build grass to 1,100 kgDM/ha

Autumn Rotation Planner:

The autumn rotation planner is a tool to help extend the grazing season into late autumn and will ensure that paddocks are set up correctly for grazing the following spring.

The 60:40 plan is based on having proportions of the farm closed by certain dates. These dates will vary slightly across the country and depend on soil type and the amount of grass that is likely to grow over the winter. The objectives of the autumn rotation planner are:

- To keep grass in the diet of the cattle for as long as possible.
- To set up paddocks for grazing the following spring.



See the following autumn rotation plans for a dry farm and a heavy farm:

Autumn Rotation Plan for a Dry Farm
Start of Closing: 7th October
60% Grazed by: 7th November
Housing: 20th November
Closing Cover Dec 1st: >600kgDM/ha

Autumn Rotation Plan for a Heavy Farm
Start of Closing: 26th September
60% or More Grazed by: October 31st
Housing: Early November
Closing Cover Dec 1st: >600kgDM/ha

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PastureBase Autumn Grass Budget:

An autumn feed budget is designed to allow you plan to have enough grass for grazing in October and November this year and that a suitable amount of grass is saved for early grazing in spring next year. This feed budget can help farmers manage supplementation levels and in-turn manage silage feeding levels. See the following budget using the current PastureBase average farm cover, stocking rate and supplementation levels for a 100 cow herd:

Week Start	Area (ha)	Milking Cows	Grass (kgDM)	Meal (kg)	Silage (kg/DM)	Predicted Farm Cover (kgDM/ha)	Predicted Growth (kgDM/ha)	Demand (kgDM/ha)	Actual Farm Cover
25/09	33.1	100	13	4	0	977	50	39	977
02/10	33.1	100	14	3	0	1052	50	42	—
09/10	33.1	100	14	3	0	1106	45	42	—
16/10	33.1	100	14	3	0	1125	40	42	—
23/10	33.1	100	14	3	0	1109	35	42	—
30/10	33.1	100	14	3	0	1058	25	42	—
06/11	33.1	100	11	4	2	937	20	33	—
13/11	33.1	100	10	3	4	844	15	30	—
20/11	33.1	100	7	3	6	738	9	21	—
27/11	33.1	100	0	3	13	652	4	0	—

The actual line column will plot automatically on PastureBase as measurements are taking place

Fertiliser:

- Farms should continue to spread fertiliser up until the deadline to maximise grass growth (20 units N/acre)
- Lime should be spread on farms when ground conditions are good to rectify paddocks acidic in pH
- Slurry can be spread on the grazing platform now as rotation length is extended (35 days)
- Slurry and Nitrogen should be spread where silage is cut to build grass (chemical fertiliser– only up to the deadline)
- Be aware that the chemical fertiliser deadline is the end of this month

Picture: Lime Spreader



Picture: Low Emission Slurry Spreading



Safety Message: Be vigilant on farms when carrying out agitation and slurry spreading. Farm safely this week!