

14th July 2020

PastureBase Ireland Current Performance (Last 7 Days):

PastureBase
IRELAND

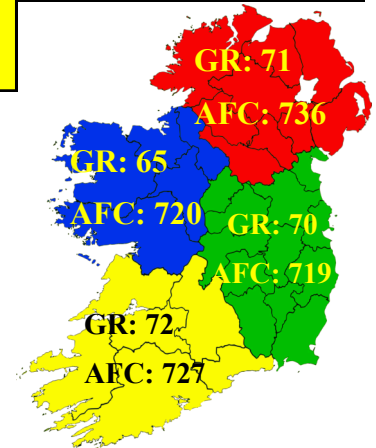
AFC	Stocking Rate	Cover/Cow	Growth	Demand	Pregrazing Yield
727 kg DM/ha	3.53 LU/ha	207 kg DM/ha	70 kg DM/ha	56 kg DM/ha	1678 kg DM/ha

Predicted Growth Rate: Elodie Ruelle Moorepark

Ballyhaise 73 kg DM/ha
Athenry 59 kg DM/ha

South Wexford 51 kg DM/ha
Clonakilty 72 kg DM/ha

Below: Covers in the Last 7 Days



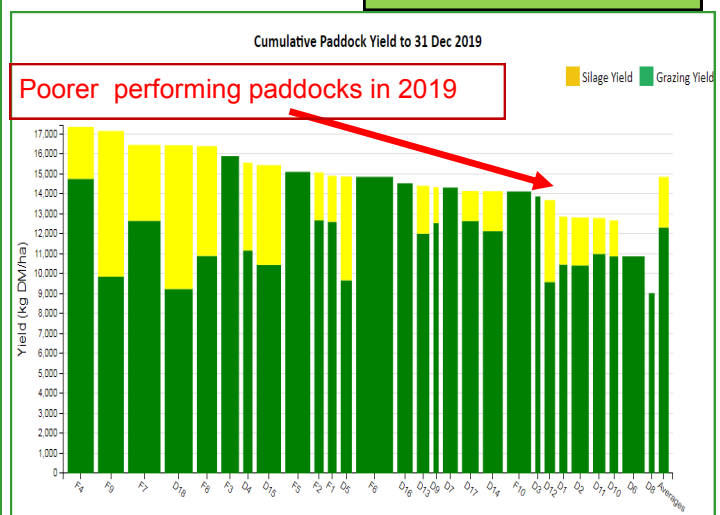
- Grass growth exceeding demand by **14 kg DM/ha** this week. High temperatures as we approach the weekend will drive grass growth.
- Pre grazing yields at **1678 kg DM/ha** nationally (recommended grazing yield at 1400kg DM/ha). This is compromising on graze outs and milk production.
- Farmers must react to the high growth rates at present in order to set the farm up with quality grass for the latter stages of the grazing season.
- Keep cover per cow between **160 and 180kg DM/ha** and mow paddocks for high quality bales.
- **Grazing ideal covers; every 5% increase in leaf content increases digestibility by 1 unit.**
- **Grazing heavy covers; every 4% reduction in grass digestibility will reduce milk solids yield by about 5%.**

High Growth rates

Walk your farm every **5 days** during the next few weeks so you can react to the high growth rates at present.

Reseeding

- Farmers had put off reseeding due to the dry weather
- Late July/ Early August— key time to complete reseeding— high soil temperature
- These paddocks need to be sprayed off in next 7-10 days
- Use varieties off the Pasture Profit index
- High returns on reseeding—18 month payback from increased grass growth
- Identify paddocks for reseeding using Pasturebase annual tonnage over the last 2/3 years



Summary

- ◆ Growth exceeding demand nationally, with a favourable forecast for grass growth this week
- ◆ High pre grazing yields greater than 1600 kg DM/ha will compromise on graze outs and milk production
- Farmers must REACT to high grass covers and take them out as high quality surplus bales
- Identify paddocks for reseeding in early August. Use Pasturebase total tonnage grown per year over the last 2/3 years to help identify paddocks that are underperforming
- Now is an ideal time to spread lime on farms.

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Virtual Beef Week 2020

Last Thursday, Virtual Beef Week focused on grassland management and how beef farm families can realise the benefits of grass based systems. See the videos below of two of our Grass 10 course members, Cathal Irwin discussing his grass based system in Co. Mayo and Sean Roddy discussing setting up and operating a paddock grazing system in Co. Kildare.

Cathal Irwin - Grass10 course participant

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=26opaH-raWw>



Key Points

- Operating a suckler to store system
- Split 20 acre grazing platform into 12 paddocks
- Key that the farm system is simple- family time
- Focused on average daily gain through good grassland management
- 30 grass walks entered on Pasturebase in 2019

How to install and operate a simple paddock grazing system - Sean Roddy

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oGEXn0H9UAQ>



Key Points

- Installed permanent fencing in 17 paddocks
- Paddocks can then be split up into 4/5 grazings with temporary fences
- 50 cows and 50 calves= 1 hectare paddock =2 days grazing
- Water trough location—service two paddocks
- Value— Grass growth , grass utilisation and huge management ability for 1 person

Upcoming Events

Mike Bermingham 2019 Grassland Farmer Of the Year Dairy Winner is taking over @TeagascGrass10 Twitter and @Teagasc Instagram on Wed 29th July. Tune in on the day to see how Mike focuses on the simple KPIs in order to maximise profitability from his grass based system.



Teagasc
AGRICULTURE AND FOOD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Grass10
GRASSLAND EXCELLENCE FOR
IRISH LIVESTOCK

“ Making the best use of
grass in a simple system ”

**Social Media
Takeover**
with
Mike Bermingham
2019 Dairy Category Grassland Farmer of the Year

Wednesday, 29th July

@Teagasc
@TeagascGrass10