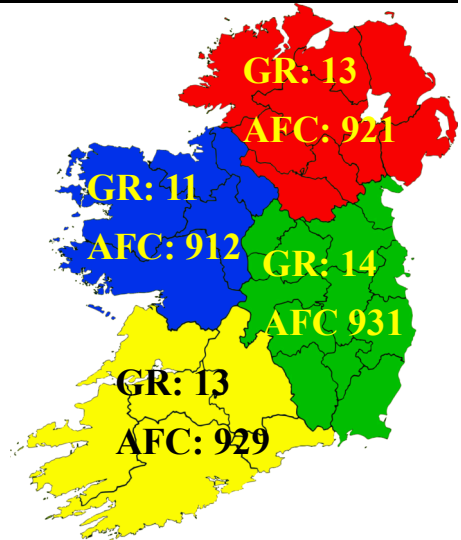


18th March 2020

PastureBase Ireland Current Performance:

| AFC kgDM/ha | Growth kgDM/ha | DM% |
|-------------|----------------|--------|
| 927 | 13 | 16.5 % |

Below: Covers in the Last 7 Days



There is a lot of grass on farms– grass growth is close to normal.

This time last year, AFC was 903 kg DM/ha and growth was 15 kg

Weather Forecast :

High pressure becomes the main influence on our weather over the coming week, bringing **mostly settled conditions** with lots of **dry weather and light winds**, but colder than normal with frosty nights.

Source: Met Eireannso its time to get grazing!

Predicted Growth Elodie Ruelle: (Kg DM/ha/day)

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Ballyhaise: 20 kg DM/ha/day | Johnstown: 22 kg DM/ha/day |
| Moorepark: 15 kg DM/ha/day | Clonakilty 18 kg DM/ha/day |

Time to Review the 1st Grazed Paddocks... and potential 2nd round start date

Current cover on 1st grazed paddocks: 500 kg DM/ha.
Planned 2nd round start date: 12th April.

Average growth over next 25 days: 30 kg DM/ha

$30 \text{ (growth)} \times 25 \text{ (days until 2nd round)} = 750 + 500 = 1250 \text{ kg DM/ha}$
(the ideal cover to start the 2nd rotation)



Slurry An Issue, But We Have A Chance to Spread This Week:

Many farmers need to spread slurry. It is very important we spread slurry while the weather conditions allow. As stated above, this weeks forecast is dry, so it is important that farmers get slurry out where ground conditions allow. Here are some tips:

- Slurry should be spread on **silage ground or grazed ground**. Where farmers have large amounts of grass, use LESS techniques and “watery slurry” to minimise contamination of grass
- The contractor can spread large amounts of slurry in a short space of time. For farmers who are busy or where tanks are full, **the contractor can alleviate this pressure**. Contractors have access to LESS and this should be used to:
 1. Increase N efficiency (+ 3 Units/ 1,000 gallons)
 2. Can spread on heavier covers
 3. Livestock can graze sooner after application

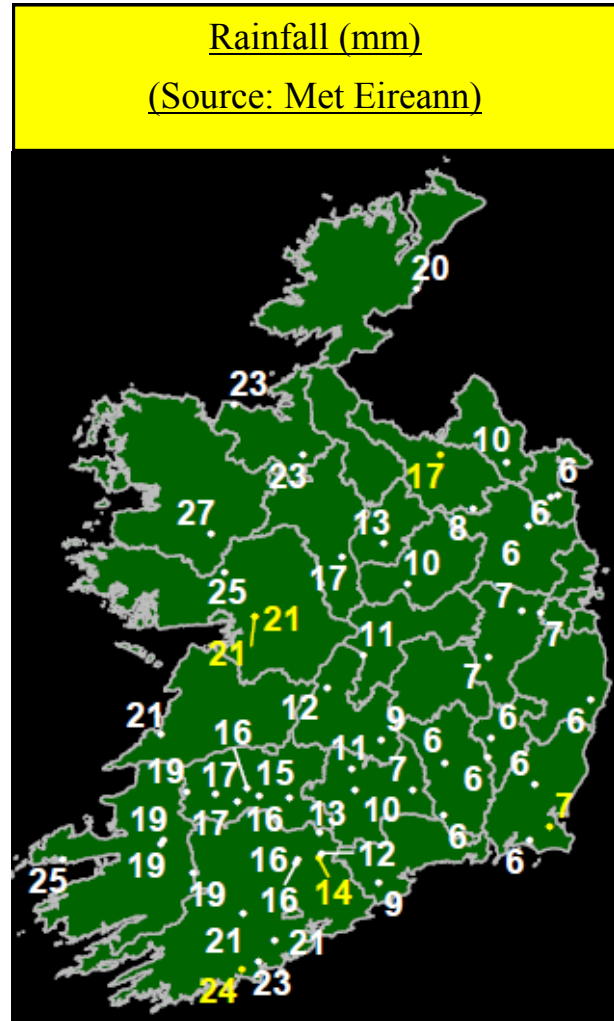
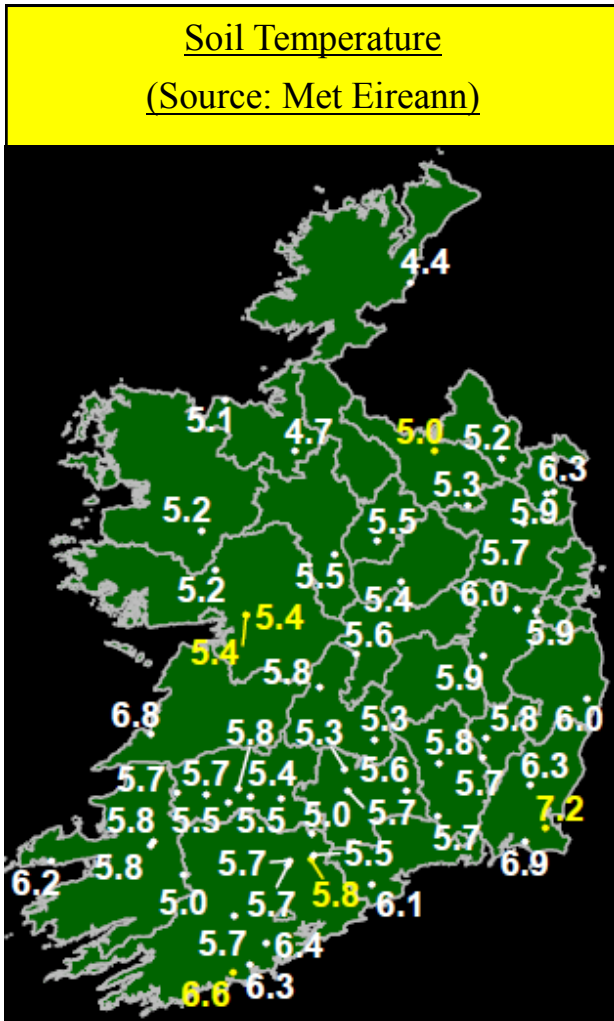
Grazing Plan:

1. Walk the farm this week and identify paddocks that are fit for grazing (firm ground conditions)
2. Take advantage of the dry weather coming this week and graze these paddocks day and night where conditions allow
3. Reduce/ eliminate silage in the diet and increase grass allowances for livestock at grass
4. Strip graze using a backfence to avoid damage and to protect grazed areas
5. If grazing heavy covers or where ground conditions are mixed, hold cows after milking with no access to silage so they graze with an appetite



18th March 2020

Predicted Rainfall & Soil Temperatures for the Next 7 Days:



- Soil Temperatures and rainfall are reasonable for the next 7 days
- This is an opportunity for farmers who have not spread any fertiliser so far this year to apply some N and increase grass growth on farms
- Farmers who spread slurry and fertiliser in late January/ early February should apply N at this stage too
- The preferred choice of product is Protected Urea because of its stability in wet weather conditions and because of its benefits to the industry in terms of reduced GHG emissions
- The aim is to have 60-70 units of N/acre applied by early April through a combination of slurry and fertiliser application



Fertiliser application is behind on most farms, this is the week to catch up!