

7th April 2020

PastureBase
IRELAND

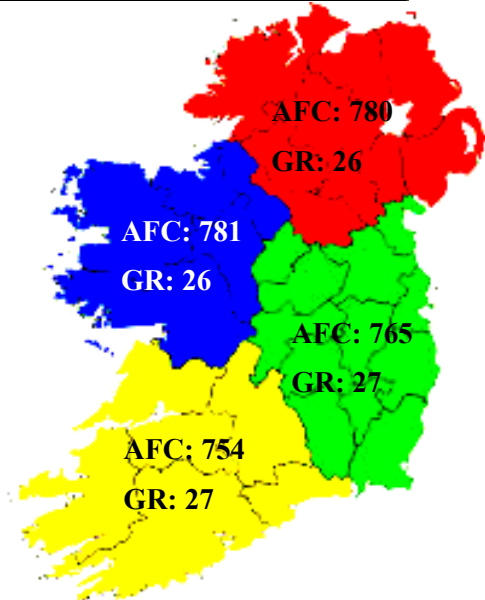
Current PastureBase Ireland Performance (Last 7 Days):

AFC	Growth	Demand	1st Round	2nd Round
773 kg DM/ha	27 kg DM/ha	35 kg DM/ha	20% DM	16.5% DM

Elodie Ruelle Growth Prediction:

Ballyhaise: 57 kg DM/ha Moorepark 37 kg DM/ha
Johnstown Castle: 58 kg DM/ha Clonakilty 45 kg DM/ha

- Growth rate is predicted to increase across the whole country, so walk the farm every 4-5 days to monitor AFC. For many farms, the 2nd rotation should start this week (**1,200 kg DM/ha back on the 1st grazed paddocks**)
- There is surplus grass throughout the country. Supplementation should be minimised and paddocks will have to be closed/cut for silage too (in many cases)
- See below our tips for starting the 2nd rotation and dealing with surplus grass



Starting the 2nd Rotation and Dealing With Surplus Grass on Farms

- **Meal feeding should be reduced as there is surplus grass on many farms.** E.g. For 100 cows, a 2 kg reduction in meal feeding (@€280/tonne– 28c/kg) is worth €56 per day, or €392/week. Many farmers should reduce from 5 kg back to 2-3 kg cow/day to take advantage of surplus grass on farms.
- **The 2nd rotation should start on farms when pregrazing is 1200 kg DM/ha on the 1st grazed paddocks.** The remainder of the 1st rotation can be closed off for silage or cut as surplus bales. A delay in starting the 2nd rotation will lead to a pregrazing of over 1,400 kg DM/ha which will lead to reduced milk solids/ ADG, poorer graze outs and slower regrowth on farms. Starting the 2nd round on time will enable control on grazing management on farms
- Earmark paddocks that are far away, awkward to graze, poor quality, across roads for silage at the end of the 1st rotation. These paddocks can be closed off for bales to be cut in early May or later
- Where ground conditions are solid and where pregrazing is 1400 kg DM/ha, farmers should move from 12 hr grazing blocks to 24-36 hr grazing blocks.
- Train livestock to graze down and meet residuals of 4 cm to ensure higher quality grass for the subsequent rotations
- Make sure fertiliser is up-to-date and sulphur should be included in fertiliser from now on. Responses have been good to compound fertiliser and see the Teagasc recommended list when using Protected Urea <https://www.teagasc.ie/media/website/environment/soil/Protected-Urea-List--December--2019.pdf>

Grassland Farmer of they Year Bryan Daniels started the 2nd rotation yesterday. It can't emphasised enough to start the 2nd rotation on time to maximise performance, establish graze outs (4 cm) and to promote quicker regrowths



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Twitter Takeover @TeagascGrass10:

Paudie O'Brien is the current Grassland Farmer of the Year Disadvantaged Land Winner. He is a dairy farmer in Firies, Co. Kerry. An event was scheduled to be held on Paudies Farm tomorrow (8th April), however due to social distancing it has been postponed. Therefore Paudie is going to take over the @TeagascGrass10 twitter account for the day and share his story with us. Please follow @TeagascGrass10 and post your questions! Thank you Paudie for making this possible.



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Twitter
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with Grassland Farmer of the Year
Heavy Soils Category Winner

Paudie O'Brien

Follow his day
@TeagascGrass10

Wednesday
8 April

See Invitation: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QZ_Ne-fyhSM



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Twitter Takeover
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Wednesday 8th April

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Current Social Distancing:

Please use Grass10 platforms to share knowledge, videos & photos of current grassland performance & decisions at farm level. Please ask questions and feel free to get in touch. @TeagascGrass10

Thank you to all farmers who have been active in our WhatsApp groups and social media platforms.