

14th April 2020

PastureBase Ireland Current Performance (Last 7 Days):



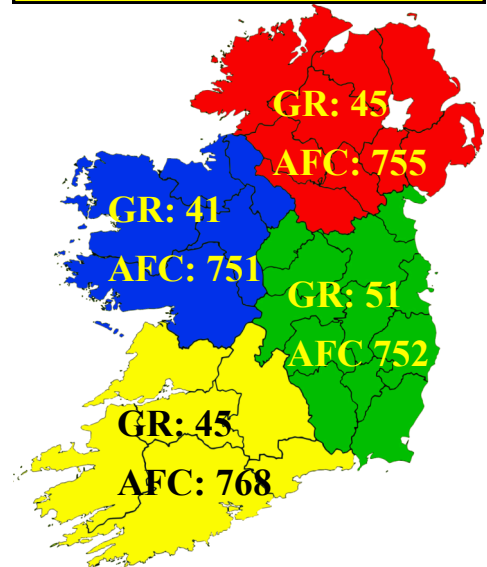
AFC	Stocking Rate	Cover/Cow	Growth	Demand
760 kg DM/ha	3.3 kg DM/ha	231 kg DM/ha	42 kg DM/ha	47 kg DM/ha

Predicted Growth Rates (Elodie Ruelle Moorepark)

Ballyhaise 60 kg DM/ha  
Johnstown Castle 40 kg DM/ha  
Moorepark 43 kg DM/ha  
Clonakilty 52 kg DM/ha

- Pre grazing should be 1400 kg DM/ha and cover/cow should be 180 kg DM/ha to maintain grass quality
- There is surplus grass on farms around the country (231 kg DM/LU). Make the key decisions to keep quality grass ahead of livestock (Pre- Grazing of 1,200- 1,400 kg DM/ha)
- Magic day has occurred nationally This is where growth exceeds demand. Demand can now increase on farms to take advantage of the grass being grown (see options below)

Below: Covers in the Last 7 Days



Increase Demand and Keep Quality Grass in Front of Livestock:

- The objective for all farmers is to keep a pregrazing yield of 1,200– 1,400 kg DM/ha in front of livestock. This type of grass will result in:
  1. **Higher milk solids/ liveweight gain**
  2. Livestock can **graze down to target residuals** (3.5-4 cm) which results in better quality grass for the next rotation
  3. **Quicker regrowth** on paddocks grazed at the “3 leaf stage” and grazed down to 3.5- 4 cm
- **Meal feeding should be reduced as there is surplus grass on farms.** E.g. For 100 cows, a 1 kg reduction in meal feeding (@€280/tonne– 28c/kg) is worth €28 per day, or €200/week. Many farmers should reduce meal feeding to take advantage of surplus grass. The energy value of spring grass is higher than meal. Grazing conditions are excellent
- Now that growth is exceeding demand on farms, **it is an ideal time to reseed underperforming paddocks.** Using varieties from the **Pasture Profit Index** will lead to higher quality grass varieties for grazing on farms. **Soil seed contact, soil fertility and pre/post spraying** are critical to a successful reseed
- **Land should be closed off for silage** to increase demand and maintain grass quality on farms. E.g. 100 cows on 40 ha. 15 ha closed for silage. Now 100 cows on 25 ha = 4 LU/ha. Demand: 4 LU X 16 kg Grass = 64 kg DM/ha/day.

**3 Ways to Increase Demand**

- Reduce Meal Feeding
- Reseed Land
- Close Off Ground For Silage

Kevin Cooney, Carrick-on Suir Grass Course member has cows grazing covers of 1,400 kg DM/ha down to 3.5 cm. The farm is growing 70 kg DM/ha/day. Demand is now 60 kg DM/ha. Cows are on 36 hr blocks and are currently doing 2.1 kg MS. Grass covers are being recorded every 5 days to make decisions.

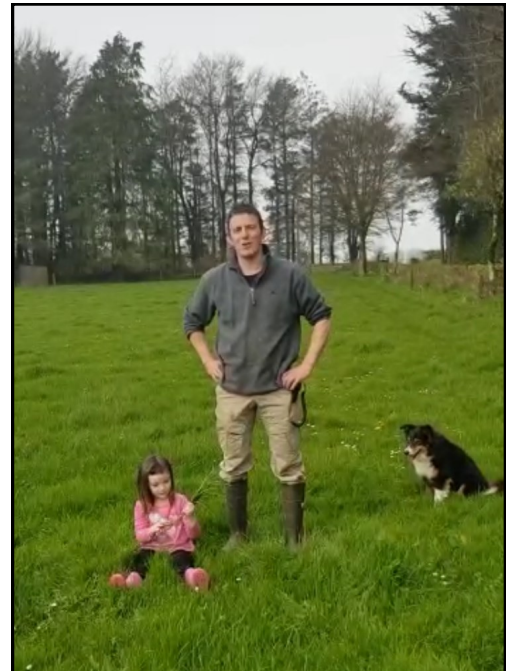


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## Grassland Farmer of the Year Social Media Takeover:

Bryan Daniels is the Grassland Farmer of the Year 2019. Bryan also won the Sustainability Category award, because of his focus on being socially, economically and environmentally sustainable on the farm. An event was scheduled to take place on Bryans farm tomorrow, however it has been cancelled due to Covid19. So Bryan has accepted the offer to take the reigns of the @TeagascGrass10 twitter account and the Teagasc instagram account tomorrow and give us an insight into his farming system. Thank you Bryan. Please follow and support. The invitation video can be seen on the link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LuccEBZyA2o>



## Being Sustainable and Growing More Grass

- Farm Background
- Grass Production
- Spring 2020
- Current Performance & Decision Making
- Soil Fertility
- Grazing Infrastructure
- Clover Strategy
- Reseeding
- Biodiversity
- And Much More..



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