

28th April 2020

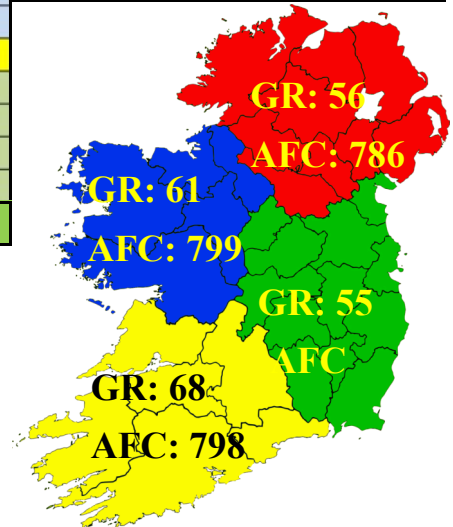
PastureBase Ireland Current Performance (Last 7 Days):

AFC	Stocking Rate	Cover/Cow	Growth	Demand
796 kg DM/ha	3.73 kg DM/ha	213 kg DM/ha	62 kg DM/ha	55 kg DM/ha

- Surplus grass & growth exceeding demand on most farms on PBI
- Key tools for farmers to use on PastureBase: Wedge & Cover Summary, Predicted Wedge, Grazing Planner, Grazings & Silage Events, Recording of Fertiliser/Slurry. All of these tools are available on the PBI Offline App
- Activate your milk link on www.pbi.ie to have latest milk sales

Name:	Mid Kerry Farmer
Date Sampled:	26th April
Grazed Last	28th March
% DM	16.8%
Protein %	20.90%
DMD	77.9%
NDF	42.80%
UFL	1.03
Cover	1,000 kg DM/ha

Below: Covers in the Last 7 Days



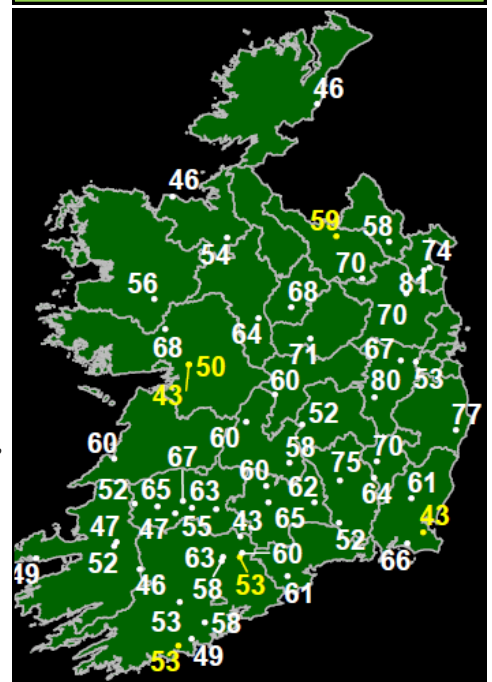
Rain is On the Way

Changeable and unsettled weather will continue for the rest of the week and during next weekend, with some rain or scattered showers, but good dry spells also. Temperatures will be around normal for early May, or a little below. Nights will be quite chilly. (Source– Met Eireann)

Rain is Forecasted– Walk the Farm and Monitor Growth

- **Measure grass twice weekly to monitor grass supply on the farm.** Rain is forecasted for tomorrow and growth may increase significantly as a result, so its important to walk the farm regularly and make the key decisions to keep quality grass in front of livestock
- **Pregrazing yield should be 1,400 kg DM/ha** in front of livestock. Cows should ideally be on 36 hr grazing bouts to maximise performance
- PastureBase farms currently have a cover/LU of 213 kg DM/LU (AFC: 796 kg DM/ha, stocking rate 3.73 LU/ha). **The target cover/cow is currently 160– 180 kg DM/LU.** Target AFC: 3.73 LU/ha X 170 kg DM/cow= 634 kg DM/ha. AFC is 162 kg DM/ha too high. For a 25 ha grazing platform, that means we have 4 tonnes DM surplus feed on the farm. 2 ha of 2000 kg DM/ha can be skipped and taken out for silage
- According to PastureBase figures (current growth 62 kg DM/ha), the **ideal stocking rate to run on the grazing platform is 4 LU/ha.** E.g. Growth 62 kg DM/ha. 100 cows, 40 ha in total. In this case, the farmer should close of 15 ha and run 100 cows on 25 ha. 100 cows/ 25 ha= 4 LU/ha. 4 LU X 16 kg grass = 64 kg DM/ha Demand. Growth is now matching demand.
- Where growth is exceeding demand on farms, it is an ideal time to **reseed underperforming paddocks.** Many farmers are taking the opportunity to **oversow clover** into swards too. See the following link for advice from Mike Egan, Teagasc Moorepark on oversowing clover: <https://bit.ly/3aP2zgb>
- “The stemming phase” of grass will start soon– **grazing down to 4 cm is essential** to maintain quality

There is huge variation nationally on the Grass Growth Prediction this week. It is crucial that farmers walk the farm regularly to identify surplus’ or deficits quickly and make decisions based on growth and demand



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Fertiliser and Slurry Message:

- All paddocks where there is silage taken off should receive slurry using low emission slurry spreading techniques
- All chemical fertiliser should include sulphur
- Protected Urea should be used where possible. Straight Urea should not be used given the warm, sunny conditions
- Anywhere that did not receive slurry or compound fertiliser, should get a compound fertiliser to boost growth (where there are allowances). Responses are higher to phosphorus application early in the year



Grass Course Member Shows How Clover Is a Key Part of Grazing on Her Farm:



Left: Roisin & Liam O'Donnell, Carrick-on-Suir Grass Course members, got their reseed finished last week. Soil fertility plays a major part in establishing a new reseed. Roisin spread 2 Tonne lime/acre and used 4000 gallons slurry/acre to achieve P & K requirement.

Grass varieties were chosen from the Pasture Profit Index (Aberchoice, Astonenergy, Abergain & Drumbo) and 1.5 kg clover/acre (Buddy) is included in the mix.

Roisin has done a fantastic job in establishing clover on the farm. Clover is included in all reseeds. Good soil fertility and grazing management makes clover a key part of grazing on this farm.

The picture on the right is the pregrazing yield of where cows are grazing today.

Grass10 Reseeding Links:

Eddie Gavin Reseeding-
<https://bit.ly/3eSnnXU>

10 Steps to Reseeding-
<https://bit.ly/3aJBlln>

Pasture Profit Index-
<https://bit.ly/35kztVy>

Current Grazing Advice:

Donal O'Gorman,
Dairy Farmer, Cavan-
<https://bit.ly/2VOinwd>

