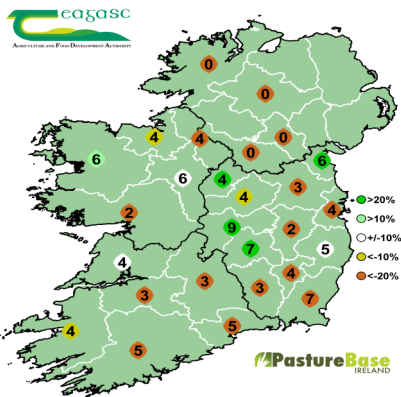


12th January 2021

**PastureBase**  
IRELAND

AFC	Growth	Grass Dry Matter %
832 kg DM/ha	6kg DM/Ha	14.6% (1200 Kg/DM/Ha)

Grass growth measurement  
Today's grass growth (kg DM/ha/day)



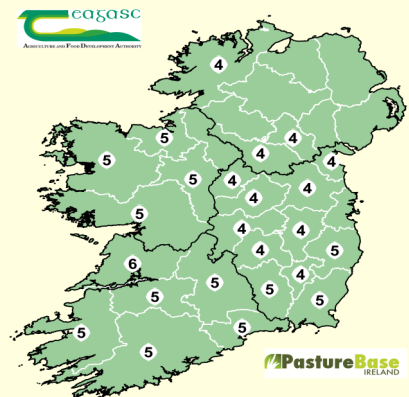
On the left: counties map showing **current** grass growth rates over the last week.

On the right: counties map showing **predicted** grass growth over the next 7 days from farms involved in Elodie Ruelle's MoSt grass growth model (55 farms).

Predicted Growth Rate:

- Ballyhaise 4 kg DM/ha
- South Wexford 6 kg DM/ha
- Athenry 5 kg DM/ha
- Clonakilty 6 kg DM/ha

Grass growth predictions  
Next week (kg DM/ha/day)



**Use Protected UREA as your Nitrogen source on farm in 2021**

As farmers one of the most effective and simplest ways we can reduce both our ammonia and greenhouse gas (GHG; i.e. nitrous oxide) emissions is by switching our straight fertiliser use from CAN and Urea to a Urea protected with NBPT. Nitrous Oxide loss from soils is a very important contributor to GHG emissions from agriculture. Nitrous oxide as a GHG is approximately 300 times more potent than carbon dioxide. Urea protected with NBPT has the double benefit of cutting ammonia emissions and improving air quality.

**Need help getting set up on PastureBase Ireland for grass measuring in 2021?**

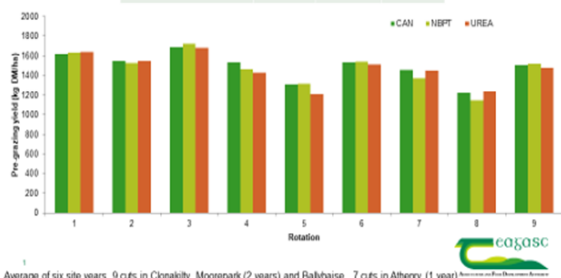
Email [support@pbi.ie](mailto:support@pbi.ie) or call 046-9200965

A grazing plot study was carried out by **Aine Murray from Teagasc Moorepark** comparing the herbage production between CAN, UREA and UREA protected with NBPT at four site locations over 2 years;

- Moorepark Fermoy, Co. Cork in 2019 and 2020
- Clonakilty, Co. Cork in 2019 and 2020
- Ballyhaise, Co. Cavan in 2020
- Athenry, Co. Galway in 2020

**Protected Urea grazing plots (2019/2020)**

	CAN	NBPT	Urea
Pre-grazing yield (kg DM/ha)	1,490	1,470	1,464
Grass grown (kg DM/ha)	13,485	13,282	13,213



There was **no difference** in grass production between the three fertiliser types over the two years at any of the site locations. UREA protected with NBPT has consistently produced the same grass growth pattern as CAN and UREA across the year at the four sites. Over the two years we have experienced **no practical issues** with using UREA protected with NBPT and see it as a front runner for Irish agriculture to reach its GHG and ammonia emissions targets.

The Grass 10 team and Pasture-Base Ireland along with **researcher David Wall** and **dairy farmer Kevin Moran** will host a webinar tomorrow, Wednesday 13th January at 7pm on Zoom.

Increase your Nutrient Use Efficiency in 2021 with the help of PastureBase Ireland.

Please click on the link below to register.

<http://bit.ly/PBI-NUE>



**Creating a Win-Win Scenario for the Farmer & the Environment**

Reducing fertiliser costs and increasing nutrient use efficiency (NUE) benefits the farmer and the environment

Join the Grass10 & PastureBase experts along with Researcher David Wall as they outline the challenges & opportunities to increase nutrient use efficiency with the help of PastureBase Ireland

Wednesday, 13th January | 7pm

Hear from special guest, dairy farmer **Kevin Moran** and learn how he records his soil fertility and fertiliser on PastureBase and how this helps him become more nutrient efficient on his farm.



Or visit [www.teagasc.ie/grass10](http://www.teagasc.ie/grass10)

**Webinar tomorrow!**  
**Register here**

12th January 2021

## Grassland Farmer of the Year Awards Ceremony 2020

The annual 2020 Grassland Farmer of the Year Awards Ceremony will take place on Tuesday 19th January 2021. The digital conference will kick off at 2pm and will be held on Zoom.

Click here to register for the event

[www.teagasc.ie/gfotyawards](http://www.teagasc.ie/gfotyawards)



Register online at:  
[www.teagasc.ie/GFOTYawards](http://www.teagasc.ie/GFOTYawards)



## Grassland Farmer of the Year 2020 Competition Awards Ceremony

Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> January | 2pm



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,  
Bia agus Mara  
Department of Agriculture,  
Food and the Marine



### Is it OK to spread Nitrogen in early spring?

Applying early spring N is often controversial due to environmental risks associated with N loss off the farm and grass growth response is sometimes queried by farmers. Spring N applied at the right time and in correct conditions will give high sward N recovery. On average the **grass growth response is 10:1, i.e. for every 1 kg N applied there is 10kg DM extra grass grown**. The advice is to not spread anymore than **30 Kg N/Ha (23u N/acre or 0.5 bag Urea)** in late January/early February so at this rate the average paddock will respond with 300 Kg DM extra grass. For a farm stocked at 2.5 LU/ha this equates to about 10 days extra feed on the farm costing about €1/LU/day and not to mention improved animal performance.

It's no wonder every day at grass in the spring is worth €2.70/LU!

But we all know not every paddock will respond the same due to soil fertility, climate, soil type, grass varieties, altitude, direction it is facing, etc. **Under no circumstances should chemical N be applied to paddocks that have recently received slurry!** For you to get the best response please see document below highlighting the different conditions under which a high, medium and low response is likely to Spring Nitrogen.

**"Make your decision paddock by paddock, you know your farm best, it's not all or nothing anymore!"**

### Do you want to improve your grassland management in 2021?

If you would like to join a Grass10 Grazing course in 2021 and join a group of like minded farmers looking to make grassland management improvements, click here to register your interest and the Grass10 team will get back to you with suitable courses in your area for 2021. [www.teagasc.ie/grazingcourses](http://www.teagasc.ie/grazingcourses)



**99%** of farmers who participated in a Grass10 Grazing Course would recommend it to another farmer

**90%** of participant farmers changed some aspect of their farm management based on what they learnt from the course

**73%** of farmers say that it was very easy or easy to apply the training they learnt from the Grass10 Grazing course

**Grazing Courses 2021**

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Department of Agriculture,  
Food and the Marine

FARMERS JOURNAL  
AIB  
Grassland AGRO  
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		Getting The Best Response To Early Spring Nitrogen?		
Factors to Consider		Best Response Likely	Medium Response Likely	Low Response Likely
Forecasted Conditions (Check Met Éireann & PastureBase)	Soil Temperature	Good (>6°C)	OK (4-6°C)	Too Cold (<4°C)
	Rain	Little Rain, No affect	Some Rain, Not Heavy	Lots Rain, Too Wet
	Growth Rates	Good Response (>7kgDM/Ha)	Responsive (5-7kgDM/Ha)	Low Response (<5kgDM/Ha)
Paddock Details	Ground Type	Dry	Middling	Wet
	Perennial Ryegrass (PRG) %	Mostly PRG	Some PRG	Very Little PRG
	Grass Cover/Height (Each Fist ~ 500kgDM/Ha)	2-3 Fist High (High N Uptake)	1-2 Fist High (Good N Uptake)	Less than 1 Fist High (Low N Uptake)
	Soil Fertility	Optimum Fertility (pH 6.2-6.5, P&K Index 3 or 4)	OK, could be better	Low Fertility
Farm & Farmer Attitude	Infrastructure	Many Access Points, Near the yard, Good Shelter, Good Drainage.	Somewhere Between the two Extremes.	Not Easily Accessible, No shelter, Poor drainage, Prone to Poaching.
	Stocking Rate (Whole Farm)	>2.0LU/Ha	1.5-2.0LU/Ha	<1.5LU/Ha
	Willingness to get out early?	Early February	Late February	Paddy's Day
	Are You Tight on Winter Fodder?	I am tight on fodder	I might be if late Spring	No, I have a good buffer
Did you consider the above factors?		Have considered all Factors		Haven't considered all of the Factors
Outcome	Grass Growth	Higher Grass Growth	Medium Grass Growth	Lower Grass Growth
	Economic Return	Higher Return, Average €2:€1	Some Return (Paid For itself at least)	Lower Return



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