

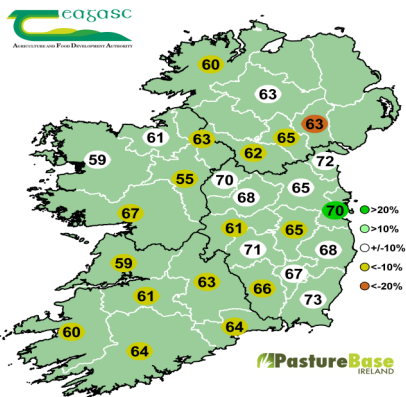
25th May 2021

PastureBase data from dairy farms:

PastureBase
IRELAND

AFC	Cover/LU	Stocking Rate	Growth	Demand	Diet (Grass + Meal)	Pre Grazing Yield
762 Kg DM/Ha	195 Kg DM/LU	3.9 LU/ha	66 Kg DM/ha	57 Kg DM/ha	14.5 Kg DM + 3.5 Kg	1596 Kg DM/Ha

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



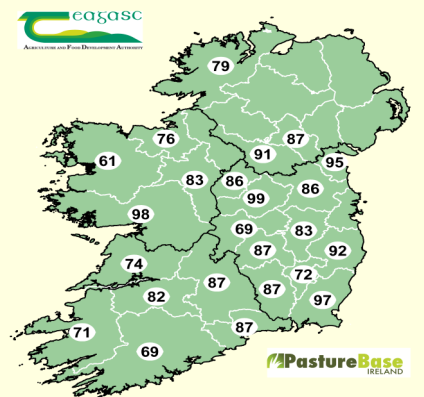
On the left: counties map showing **current** grass growth rates over the last week.

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 86 kg DM/ha
South Wexford 89 kg DM/ha
Athenry 95 kg DM/ha
Clonakilty 64 kg DM/ha

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



Keeping an eye on Pre- Grazing Yield in the Premier County

Brendan Phelan farms with his wife Louise & 3 children in Moyne, on the outskirts of Thurles in Co. Tipperary. Brendan is the host farmer for the Grass10 Grazing Discussion Group in Thurles.

"The Grass10 group were back out last week on our farm, it was great to get out walking paddocks again with other people. The Zoom's during the Spring were great, but you cant beat the interaction of a Discussion group"

"I was a small bit tight on grass last week, so I grazed a paddock marked for silage on the groups advice. However if we get favourable weather next week I would say we will be taking paddocks out for bales soon"

"Cows are performing well at the minute, delivering 2.02 Kg's of Milk Solids per cow per day, they are just beginning to start to start their decline, so my plan is to keep quality grass ahead to extend the peak"

"My target is to continue to graze 1400 Kg DM/ha covers on an 18- 21 day rotation and take surplus bales out when I need to"

The difficult weather has affected graze-outs on some of Brendan's paddocks, however he has a plan for them. "I have made note of any paddocks that are poorly grazed and these are earmarked for bales in the next rotation"



Grass Dry Matter %

Moorepark, Co. Cork

14.6% (1400 Kg DM/ha)

Grange, Co. Meath

18% (1200 Kg DM/ha)

Brendan's Grass Data

AFC	793 kg DM/ha
Cover/LU	195 kg DM/ha
Growth	77 kg DM/ha/day
Demand	63 kg DM/ha/day
PGY	1450 kg DM/ha
LU/ha	4.07
Diet (Grass+Meal)	16kg + 2.5kg

Grazing Management in wet weather

Weather at the moment is leading to difficult conditions across the country, with farms on heavy soils particularly in areas on the North West & South West having to revert to some of the wet weather grazing techniques such as on-off grazing and back fencing over the last week. Paudie O'Brien from Co. Kerry updates us on page 2

- Grass growth is improving week on week & grass is now in the heading stage on many farms
- Keep Pre grazing Yield manageable ahead of animals 1300-1500 Kg/DM/ha (8-10 cm on Drystock farms)
- This may mean you will have to skip some paddocks to keep it right ahead of the herd (cut with main 1st cut)
- Leave supplement levels as is, until weather improves, it is important cows have a steady intake. Good quality bales if necessary if animals have to be housed.
- If residuals have slipped, returning earlier in the next round (1100- 1200 Kg DM/ha) can help alleviate this issue, or else these paddocks can be baled or topped.
- Walk the farm again at the weekend to re-assess the Average Farm Cover and grazing conditions

25th May 2021

PastureBase data from sheep & beef farms:

AFC	Days Ahead	Stocking Rate	Growth	Demand	Pre Grazing Yield
815 Kg DM/Ha	18.5 days	3.4 LU/ha	56 Kg DM/ha	44 Kg DM/Ha	1708 Kg DM/ha

Clonakilty Agricultural College – Grass/Clover trial update

Brian McCarthy



Growth has been high for the last two weeks, between 80 and 90 kg DM/ha per day so we skipped a paddock for bales in each treatment last week and this week. We weren't able to cut the paddock last week due to the weather so our stocking rate is high, hopefully we will cut out the 2 paddocks at the end of this week and reduce our stocking rate again.

Utilisation and post-grazing residuals have been poor for the last week but hopefully if we can get cows going into the right covers and the weather improves we can get on top of it again.

	Grass-only 250 kg N/ha	Grass-clover 150 kg N/ha
Date	24/5/2021	24/5/2021
Average farm cover (kg DM/ha)	821	832
Cover/LU (kg/LU)	175	177
Growth (kg DM/ha per day)	84	88
Demand (kg DM/ha per day)	75	75
Stocking rate (cows/ha)	4.69	4.69
Pre-grazing yield (kg DM/ha)	1,600	1,600
Fertiliser	21 units/acre	10 units/acre
Cow diet	16 kg DM grass plus 1 kg concentrate	
Milk yield (kg)	25.9	27.4
Fat content (%)	4.59	4.3
Protein content (%)	3.75	3.7
Milk solids yield (kg)	2.16	2.19

GFOY Update - Peter & Tom McGuinness, Sheep Category Winner

"We've increased demand to over 70kg/day by taking out more ground for silage and bringing more stock on to the grazing block. We've also cut back fertiliser to reduce the amount of surplus, we're following with 15u N/ac of protected urea."



Paudie O'Brien – Battling to graze on heavy soils

Paudie milks 82 cows near Killarney, Co. Kerry on heavy soils. There has been 125mm of rainfall during May with 80mm in the past week. This has led to a battle to stay grazing.

40% of the milking platform is unavailable to graze due to waterlogging, and Paudie says he is "rapidly running out of dry ground" with currently 7 days of grazing ahead of him before he has to house the cows. Cows are currently grazing silage ground (2500 Kg DM/ha)

Grass growth has been slow with the next paddock to graze having pale grass covers of 1,000 kg DM/ha after 25 days. This isn't helped by the fact that fertiliser applications are also running behind due to trafficability issues.

Paudie is managing to keep cows at grass and avoiding silage, by:

- Assessing paddocks daily by walking the drier areas
- Setting up strip-wires to get cows to the drier areas
- Using spur roadways to access drier areas
- Using a back-fence where necessary
- Allowing cows stand in the yard after milking before letting them to grass
- Flexible attitude and positive mind-set

"I will fix the residuals next month as my main priority now is to feed the cows. I am hopeful we will get a break in the weather soon to let some of the marginal land dry out, this will ease the pressure and keep cows at grass"



Rotation No.	3rd Rotation (half way through)
AFC	914 Kg DM/ha
Days Ahead	14 days ahead
Growth	75 Kg DM/ha/day
Demand	72 Kg DM/ha/day
Stocking Rate	4.6 LU/ha
PGY (kg DM/ha)	1500 Kg DM/ha
Fertiliser	Following with 15u N/ac protected urea
No. Mobs	3 mobs