

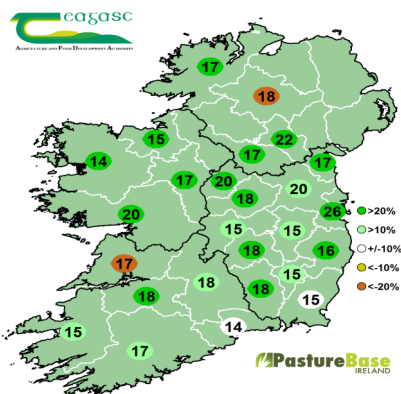
16th November 2021

PastureBase data from dairy farms:



AFC	Cover/LU	Stocking Rate	Growth	Demand	Grass DM + Silage DM + Concentrate	Pre Grazing Yield
687 Kg DM/Ha	262 Kg DM/LU	2.62 LU/ha	18 Kg DM/ha	30 Kg DM/ha	7 Kg + 8 Kg + 3 Kg	1727 Kg DM/Ha

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



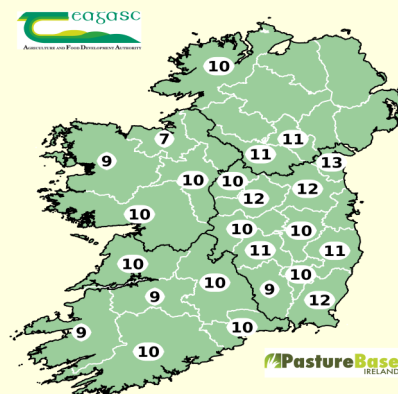
On the left: counties map showing **current** grass growth rates over the last week.

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 11 kg DM/ha
Wexford 12 kg DM/ha
Athenry 9 kg DM/ha
Clonakilty 10 kg DM/ha

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



Responding to a Bumper Back End In Wexford

Arthur Sweetman farms in Carrick-on-Bannow, Co. Wexford, milking 138 cows on free draining soils. Arthur is stocked at 3.45LU/ha on the milking platform and 2.2 LU/ha whole farm stocking rate. The herd EBI is €141. Cows are still out grazing by day since November 1st, just after the heavy rainfall where 100mm fell in one week. "It has been a good year overall and grass growth has held well with the mild weather. Even the paddocks grazed the past week are greening up nicely."



"I want to carry a good AFC through the winter because I'll need all the grass I can get in the spring for the cows. I want an opening AFC in February around 1100-1200 Kg DM/ha, and even at this grass gets tight in late March and I normally have to buffer feed."

Arthur aims to have an AFC near 800 Kg DM/ha by December 1st. His original plan to achieve this was to house the cows around 10-15th November with AFC at 600 Kg DM/ha. However strong grass growth and grazing by day only means Arthur estimates he can graze for a week longer than planned. The key thing here is: **Arthur will still reach the closing AFC target.**

"I'll walk the farm again early next week, if the AFC is still above 800 kg DM/ha, I'll graze until November 25th. If it is closer to 750 Kg DM/ha, I'll house the cows full time and stop grazing completely. That grass will be worth a lot more to me in the spring!"

Cows are milking 14.5 L/cow at 5.8% fat and 4.35% protein yielding 1.52 Kg MS/cow. Their current diet is 10 kg DM grass, 4 kg DM silage, 2kg DM maize silage and 2.5 kg concentrate.

Arthur soil tests every two years, and will test again over this winter. This year 2 T/ac lime was spread on the silage ground. Arthur reseeded 8% of the milking platform with a multi species sward (MSS) on June 1st. It received 23u N/ac plus some dairy washings since and it has grown over 10 T DM/ha since reseeding. "The year one performance of the MSS has been very good."

Sweetman's PBI Data

AFC	879 kg DM/ha
Cover/LU	276 kg DM/cow
Growth	37 kg DM/ha/day
Demand	38 kg DM/ha/day
PGY	1700 kg DM/ha

Grass Dry Matter %

Moorepark, Co Cork:

13% (Dry, 1500 Kg DM/ha)

Grange, Co. Meath:

12.5% (1600 Kg DM/ha)

Grass10 Grazing Tips for the Week:

- With good ground conditions and above average autumn growth, there is a temptation to regraze closed paddocks. Do **NOT** regraze closed paddocks unless you have calculated you will be on target with your AFC on Dec 1st (see table to the right).
- E.g. Target AFC on Dec 1st is 700 kg DM/ha for a farm stocked at 3.0 LU/ha. If, today, AFC 550 Kg DM/ha it will require every day between now and Dec 1st to grow and reach the target (10 Kg DM/ha/day x 15 days = + 150 Kg DM/ha).
- Remember grass grazed in the spring will earn you more profit than grazing it now. So ensure you have enough by using the targets.

Stocking Rate	Average Farm Cover on Dec	Covers on Strongest Paddocks
2.5 LU/ha	600	~ 1200 Kg DM/ha
3.0 LU/ha	650-700	~ 1400 Kg DM/ha
3.5 LU/ha	700-750	~ 1600 Kg DM/ha

PastureBase data from sheep & beef farms:

16th November 2021

AFC	Days Ahead	Stocking Rate	Growth	Demand	Pre Grazing Yield
572 Kg DM/ha	32 days	1.2 LU/ha	13 Kg DM/ha	18 Kg DM/ha	1420 Kg DM/ha

GFOY Update: Noel Hurley, Most Improved Grassland Award Winner

"It has been a super back end. The cows have been housed since last Thursday but they never got any silage during the last round of grazing. I had a lot of grass all autumn and was cautious that I would need to keep grazing without silage in the diet to get the covers cleaned off properly to have good quality next spring. The last cover I grazed was at 2000 Kg DM/ha."

"I want a closing AFC 800-850 Kg DM/ha on December 1st because some of my ground is cold and doesn't grow well over the winter. On the other hand I reseeded 10% of the milking platform this year and the grass is still flying in these paddocks."



Noel's Farm Summary Report for 2021

On the right is Noel's Farm Summary Report. It is a concise overview of the farm performance. It has a lot of information inputted by you for your farm, use it to make future decisions. For example the red circle is the average summer pre-grazing yield, this should be 1300-1400 kg DM/ha. Noel has put a lot of work in to get his right. Below in the blue circle is the summer growth rate. This is helpful to decide summer stocking rate. You can find your Farm Summary Report in the report section on the PastureBase website.

Parameter	YTD	Spring	Summer	Autumn
		J F M A	M J J	A S O N D
No. of Covers Recorded	35	9	13	13
No. Of Grazings	8.2	1.6	3.6	3.1
No. Of Silage Cuts	0.5		0.4	0.1
Grazing DM (kg DM/ha)	12346	1915	4584	5915
Silage DM (kg DM/ha)	1182		1119	79
Total DM (kg DM/ha)	13528	1915	5703	5994
Over Winter Growth (kg DM/ha)	150			
Average Pre-grazing Yield(kg DM/ha)	1506	1197	1273	1908
Average Growth Rate (kg DM/ha)	49	15	66	69

Upcoming Events:

There are two upcoming events to add to your calendar. The first is the **National Dairy Conference** which is focusing on improving farm efficiency, economic and environmental performance, dairy breeding, and grazing management including clover. Find out more and register at:

bit.ly/31BnhBP

Secondly, **Grass10 & PBI team** are hosting a not-to-be-missed webinar revealing how you can use PBI to grow your business in 2022. See more at:

<https://bit.ly/G10Webinar>






Opportunities for growth in 2022 with PastureBase Ireland

Thursday, 2nd December | 7pm

Join the Grass10 & PastureBase team as they discuss:

- What reports are available on PastureBase Ireland
- Understanding your PastureBase Ireland reports
- Identifying 3 areas to improve on your farm in 2022

Dairy farmer John Phelan from Co. Waterford will join us on the night to discuss his 2021 grass performance and identify areas for improvement in 2022.

Or visit www.teagasc.ie/grass10



National Dairy Conference

23 & 24 November | Cork & Athlone | 10am

The best technical advice on meeting our climate obligations, the future direction of Ireland's dairy breeding programme and practical solutions on improving dairy farm efficiency

