

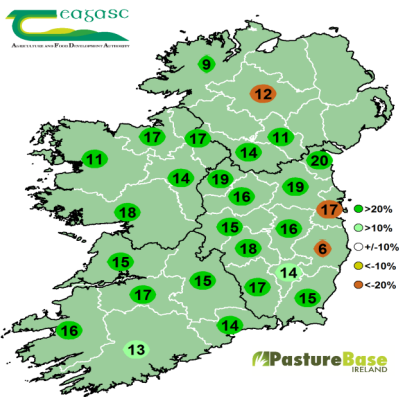
23rd November 2021

## PastureBase data from dairy farms:



AFC	Cover/LU	Stocking Rate	Growth	Demand	Grass DM + Silage DM + Concentrate	Pre Grazing Yield
674 Kg DM/Ha	255 Kg DM/LU	2.64 LU/ha	16 Kg DM/ha	22 Kg DM/ha	5 Kg + 10 Kg + 3 Kg	1580 Kg DM/Ha

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



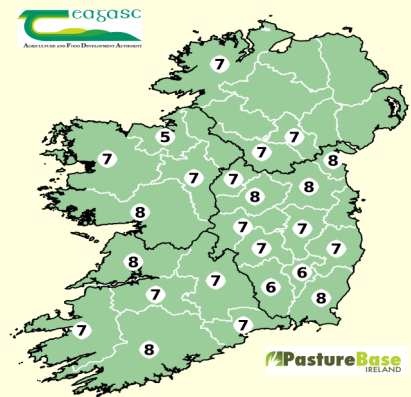
On the left: counties map showing **current** grass growth rates over the last week.

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 7 kg DM/ha
- Wexford 6 kg DM/ha
- Athenry 7 kg DM/ha
- Clonakilty 8 kg DM/ha

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



## A Great Autumn at Ballyhaise- Donal Patton & Barry Reilly

A new experiment has started in 2021 at Ballyhaise with the focus on the benefits of grass-clover swards, the transition from grass-only to grass-clover swards, and the nitrogen surplus on the farm. There are four grazing treatments currently on the farm; grass-only on high concentrate (HC) - being fed 1,200 kg meal per cow, grass-clover on HC, grass-only on low concentrate (LC) - being fed 600 kg meal per cow, grass-clover on LC.



The target closing AFC for December 1st is 800 Kg DM/ha. So the farm is ahead of target but are happy to carry the AFC forward into 2022. The cows were housed by night since November 1st (70% closed) and housed full time last Thursday (Nov. 18th). There were no days missed at grass and the HC treatments did not benefit from any extra days at grass. The grass covers are in the right paddocks with 85% of the grass-clover paddocks with a cover < 500 Kg DM/ha. Donal commented that there is a high clover content in these paddocks currently. Most of the grass being carried is on grass swards where clover has not yet been established.

Grass-Clover LC treatment	Performance
AFC	849 kg DM/ha
Cover/LU	340 kg DM/LU
Growth	14 Kg DM/ha/day
Heaviest Covers Carrying into Winter	1,600 Kg DM/ha
Finished Grazing on	November 18th
Meal + Silage	3 kg + 15 Kg DM
Milk Yield/Cow	12.2L (1.2 Kg MS)
Annual Tonnage (Grass-Only Treat-)	12.1 T DM/ha (13.7 T DM/ha)
Total N Applied (Grass-Only Treat-)	194 Kg N/ha (254 Kg N/ha)

"The grass-clover paddocks received no nitrogen after clover establishment to encourage clover growth. We were very happy with the level of clover establishment and the clover content in these swards. It will be interesting to see how the clover survives into next year, and the impact it will have on next year's grass growth and animal performance." - Donal Patton

## Grass10 Grazing Tips for the Week- Time to complete a closing Average Farm Cover (AFC):

- Super weather & ground conditions having left many farmers tempted to keep grazing this Autumn. Do **NOT** regrazed closed paddocks at this stage unless you have calculated you will be on target with your AFC on Dec 1st as seen in the table here to the right. Remember grass grazed in the spring will earn you more profit than grazing it now. So ensure you have enough by using the targets.

- Over the next week, it is time to establish a closing AFC for your farm. A closing AFC cover is a very useful figure to have for your farm to review and analyse grazing management in the shoulders and also to review performance on the grass grown on your farm throughout 2021.

Stocking Rate	Average Farm Cover on Dec 1st	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

