

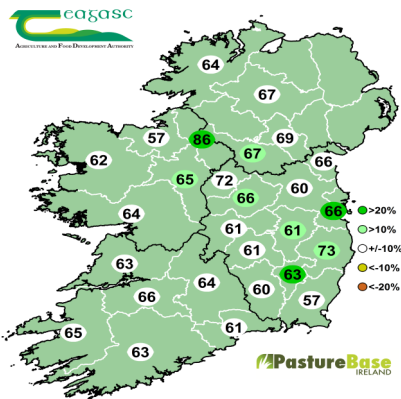
17th August 2021

PastureBase data from dairy farms:

PastureBase
IRELAND

AFC	Cover/LU	Stocking Rate	Growth	Demand	Diet (Grass + Supplement)	Pre Grazing Yield
759 Kg DM/ha	238 Kg DM/LU	3.24 LU/ha	64 Kg DM/ha	48 Kg DM/ha	14.5 Kg DM + 3.5 Kg	1674 Kg DM/ha

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

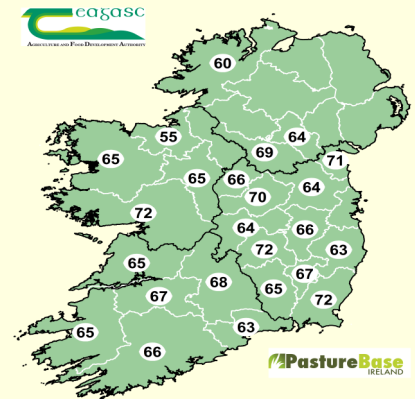


On the left: counties map showing **current** grass growth rates over the last week.

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 63 kg DM/ha
Wexford 53-75 kg DM/ha
Athenry 70 kg DM/ha
Clonakilty 66 kg DM/ha

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



Saving what you have is the aim in Wexford

Brenda Murphy manages the dairy enterprise on her brother John's mixed tillage and dairy farm outside Ferns in Co. Wexford. Currently milking 92 cows on 25ha they are stocked at 3.8 LU/ha for the autumn. This will change next year (back to 3 LU/ha) as more tillage is converted to grass. Brenda feels this is more suitable given the drier summers impacting grass growth.



Grass Dry Matter %

Moorepark, Co. Cork
14.5% (1200 Kg DM/ha)
Grange, Co. Meath
17% (1600 Kg DM/ha)

The Murphy's plan for this autumn began at the start of the month and they haven't removed any surplus as silage although their farm cover has built well ahead of target to 1,100 Kg DM/ha. "We are still grazing covers 1,500-1,600 Kg DM/ha and our demand is 60 Kg DM/ha/day so we don't expect the AFC to grow much more over the next few weeks."

They are on a 25-day rotation, grazing 1 ha per day (4% per day). The demand from their cows are 1,470 kg DM/ha, adding in residual, this matches the pre-grazing yield. "We plan on extending rotation to 30 days in a couple of weeks and depending on pre-grazing yield we will decide whether we need to supplement or not. Being higher stocked we are more concerned with holding rotation length to 30-35 days coming into the autumn and supplementing if there is a deficit."

Brenda plans to continue to walk the farm weekly to monitor growth and pre-grazing yields. She is using 12hr strip-wires to manage graze outs and rotation length. 27u N/ac is being applied this month.

Murphy's PBI Data

AFC	1,100 kg DM/ha
Cover/LU	290 kg DM/cow
Growth	68 Kg DM/ha/day
Demand	60 Kg DM/ha/day
PGY	1600 kg DM/ha
Meal	3 kg
Milk	1.9 kg MS/cow (25L/cow)

Grazing Tips for the week:

- Pasturebase data shows most lower stocked farms are on target. However only 45-50% of farms stocked over 3.0 LU/ha are on target.
- Farms behind target should not remove surplus bales and try to reduce demand by increasing area for grazing or remove surplus stock (increasing supplement has a lower benefit).
- Farms with a lot of surplus grass should reduce meal and/or remove bales now if high growth rates anticipated. Bring AFC back to around 100 Kg DM/ha ahead of target.
- Farms stocked around 2.5-3.0 LU/ha should begin building grass in the next week.
- Keep walking your farm weekly to monitor AFC against the targets.
- Rotation length should be 25 days for farms stocked at 3.0+ LU/ha. This is not rotation length between grazing events, it is rotation length based on area per day. E.g. 25ha grazing block should be grazing 1 ha per day, this should extend to 30 days by early Sept, i.e. 0.8 ha per day.

Stocking Rate	AFC Mid-Aug Target	% farms On Target
2.5 LU/ha	600 kg DM/ha	95%
3.0 LU/ha	750 kg DM/ha	45%
3.5 LU/ha	770 kg DM/ha	50%

17th August 2021

PastureBase data from sheep & beef farms:

AFC	Days Ahead	Stocking Rate	Growth	Demand	Pre Grazing Yield
794 Kg DM/Ha	21.5 days	2.6 LU/ha	50 Kg DM/ha	37 Kg DM/Ha	1802 Kg DM/ha

Getting a return on your investment with Autumn fertiliser Application

Nitrogen prices are up over 30% this year, with a Kg of N costing between €0.95 & €1.00. With that in mind farmers should be looking at getting the best response to chemical N from now until the 15th September.

A multi site trial completed by colleagues in Teagasc Johnstown Castle, Co. Wexford looked at the response to chemical fertiliser in the Autumn.

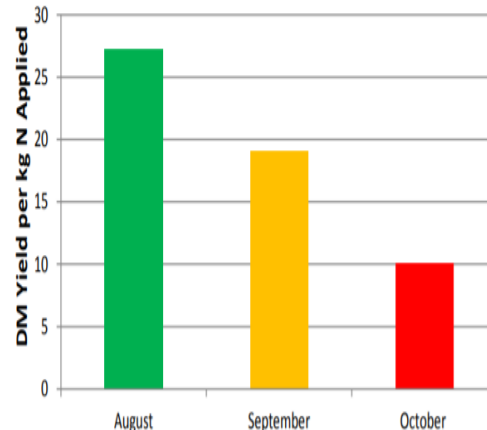
Every kg N applied gave a response of 27kg in August, 19kg in September and 10kg in October.

Nitrogen will be the key driver of grass growth over the coming days and weeks as soils wet up. Every effort should be made to apply nitrogen (N) where required sooner rather than later.

With Autumn grass worth 11 cent per Kg, a kg of chemical fertiliser spread in early August (costing 1 euro per kg) will grow €2.97 worth of grass (11 cent per kg x 27 kg grass DM response).

However the closer we get to the 15th September deadline, the response reduces significantly, and potentially could be breakeven with poor weather, reduced soil temps & day length.

Figure 1:- Grass Dry Matter Yield Response to Fertiliser N



30kg N/ha applied at the start of each month. Wall, D.P. & Fox, I. 2018

GFOY Update - Thomas Hogan, 2020 Grassland Farmer of the Year– Suckler Beef Category Winner

"I am happy with my grass situation at present with 18 days grass ahead of my cows and calves. My focus now has turned to building grass for the Autumn on my farm and my target at the end of September is to have a peak farm cover of 1200 Kg DM/Ha. I am following animals with 15 units of N at the minute and growth & average farm cover will dictate whether I put out any N in early September. We are looking forward to welcoming everyone to our farm this Wednesday evening for our Farm Walk"



The Hogan's run a 60-cow suckler-to-store operation outside Nenagh in Co. Tipperary. They will host their Grassland Farmer of the Year walk this Wednesday 18th August at 7pm on their farm. The farm is split into two blocks with the cows and calves grazing on the 66 acre outblock during the main grazing season. **The address is Rathmartin Road, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary. The event will be signposted from Nenagh Ormond Rugby Club.**

Come along on Wednesday to hear Thomas' story. Topics discussed on the night will be:- Farm Overview and Performance, Grazing Infrastructure for Suckler Beef systems, Using PastureBase Ireland, Soil Fertility and Reseeding. It promises to be an excellent event. **Click here to view promotional video:- <https://bit.ly/ThomasHoganVideo>**

Click on the link here for more information :- www.teagasc.ie/ThomasHoganFarmWalk

Rotation No.	5
AFC	918 Kg DM/Ha
Cover/LU	266 Kg DM/LU
Days ahead	18 days
Growth	55 Kg DM/Ha
Demand	50 Kg DM/Ha
Stocking Rate	3.45
PGY	1550 Kg DM/Ha
Fertiliser	1.5 bags of 10.10.20 per acre
Annual Tonnage	8T DM/Ha



"Grass measuring gives me great confidence managing grass"

Beef Farm Walk

Wednesday, 18 August | 7pm

Thomas Hogan, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary
Suckler Beef Grassland Farmer of the Year 2020

For more information see www.teagasc.ie/ThomasHoganFarmWalk

