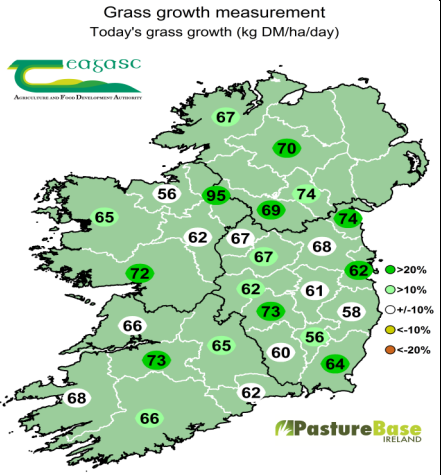


31st August 2021

PastureBase data from dairy farms:

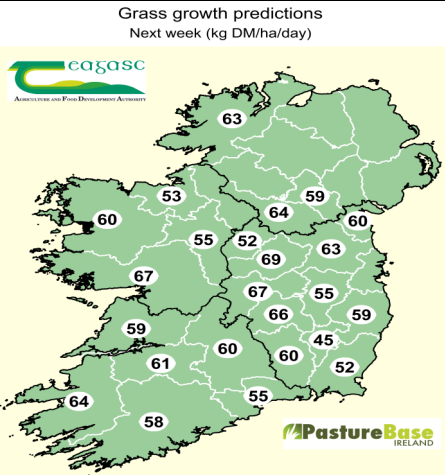
AFC	Cover/LU	Stocking Rate	Growth	Demand	Diet (Grass + Supplement)	Pre Grazing Yield
895 Kg DM/Ha	286 Kg DM/LU	3.18 LU/ha	69 Kg DM/ha	49 Kg DM/ha	15 Kg DM + 3 Kg	1862 Kg DM/Ha



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 69 kg DM/ha
 Wexford 36-70 kg DM/ha
 Athenry 74 kg DM/ha
 Clonakilty 71 kg DM/ha



How the Sustainable Farming Winner has planned his Autumn Grazing

John Galvin farms near Dunmanway, Co. Cork with his wife Yvonne, and they milk just over 100 cows on 35ha. Last week John held a farm walk on his farm for winning the 2020 Sustainable Farming Category of the GFOY competition.

The key points on autumn grazing for John's farm are:

1. Plan the PastureBase grass budget to peak at 1200 Kg DM/ha in the latter half Sept
2. He removed 2 paddocks as bales to keep the budget on target. Quality is very good as he is building from a clean base.
3. John will graze heavier grass covers of 2000-2500 Kg DM/ha during Sept. To do this, John will; keep meal feeding low, keep silage out of the diet & graze heaviest covers during drier weather.
5. 25 u/ac N has been applied in the final fertiliser application.
6. John will walk the farm weekly to make sure he's on target.
6. John will have a closing AFC around 750 kg DM/ha on 1st Dec.

"I have a big demand for grass in the spring, to have enough I need to close with enough, this all starts with building up grass in August and September."

Grass Dry Matter %

- Moorepark, Co. Cork**
19.4% (1200 Kg DM/Ha)
- Ballyhaise, Co. Cavan**
17% (1400 Kg DM/Ha)
- Grange, Co. Meath**
18% (1800 kg DM/Ha)

Galvin's PBI Data	
AFC	900 kg DM/ha
Cover/LU	303 kg DM/cow
Growth	90 kg DM/ha/day
Demand	45 kg DM/ha/day
PGY	1,900 kg DM/ha
Meal	1.5 kg
Milk Yield	1.65 kg MS/cow (18 L/cow)

Grazing Tips for the week:

- PastureBase data shows grass growth rates are above normal for most parts. Predicted growth is set to drop back by 5-10 Kg DM/ha/day in many counties.
- High grass quality and good grazing conditions mean farmers should take the opportunity to reduce meal feeding. Use strip-wires for better utilisation
- Keep walking your farm weekly to monitor AFC against the targets. Farms behind or on target should not remove grass as surplus bales.
- Farms with a lot of surplus grass should reduce meal and/or remove as bales now if high growth rates anticipated. Bring AFC back to around 100 Kg DM/ha ahead of target.
- Rotation length should be 25 days for farms stocked < 2.9 LU/ha, and 30 days for farms > 2.9 LU/ha. This is not rotation length between grazing events, it is rotation length based on area per day. E.g. 30ha grazing block should be grazing 1 ha per day (About 3% of the farm per day).

Stocking Rate	AFC 1st Sept Target	Rotation Length
2.5 LU/ha	750 kg DM/	25 days
3.0 LU/ha	990 kg DM/	30 days
3.5 LU/ha	980 kg DM/	30 days

PastureBase data from sheep & beef farms:

31st August 2021

AFC	Days Ahead	Stocking Rate	Growth	Demand	Pre Grazing Yield
909 Kg DM/Ha	26 days	2.37 LU/ha	65 Kg DM/ha	35 Kg DM/ha	1941 Kg DM/ha

Clonakilty Agricultural College – 30/8/2021 (from Brian McCarthy)

Growth was high last week, at around 80 Kg DM/ha per day so we skipped a paddock or two for bales in each treatment to stop average farm cover (AFC) getting too high too early. We are happy with the position we are in in terms of AFC and are on track to build up to 1,150-1,200 kg DM/ha peak AFC by the start of October. The final application of fertiliser is going out this week at a rate of approximately 30 units/acre on the Grass-only 250 kg N/ha treatments and 10 units/acre on the Grass-Clover 150 kg N/ha treatments. Cows are milking well and are currently on 1 kg of concentrate.

	Grass-only 250 kg N/ha	Grass-clover 150 kg N/ha
Date	30/8/2021	30/8/2021
Average farm cover (kg DM/ha)	882	882
Cover/LU (kgDM/LU)	320	320
Growth (kg DM/ha per day)	72	66
Demand (kg DM/ha per day)	44	44
Stocking rate (cows/ha)	2.76	2.76
Pre-grazing yield (kg DM/ha)	2,000	1,850
Fertiliser	30 units N/acre	10 units N/acre
Cow diet	16 kg DM grass plus 1 kg concentrate	
Milk yield (kg/cow)	17.5	19.5
Fat content (%)	5.02	5.02
Protein content (%)	4.19	4.17
Milk solids yield (kg MS/cow)	1.61	1.79

Autumn Grazing Targets on Beef Farms

Every day that cattle can remain out grazing, earns beef farmers €1.80/LU, so a farmer who can keep 55 cattle out grazing earns €100 per day. To do this, farmers must build up grass now, by increasing rotation length and days ahead. This will stretch grazing in the autumn as grass growth now is still higher than the demand. Grass at this time of year moves to a vegetative state so farmers can let pre-grazing yields increase to 2,000-2,400 kg DM/ha (12-14cm) without reducing quality. The amount farmers should build to will depend mainly on stocking rate and soil type. Heavy farms shouldn't let pre-grazing yields go over 1,800 Kg DM/ha. The targets for beef farms this autumn are above. Rotation length should be 30-35 during September and 40-50 days during the final rotation in Oct/Nov.

Days Ahead at Peak (Mid/Late Sept)	Heavy Soils	Mixed Soils	Dry Soils
Higher Stocking Rate (>2 LU/ha)	20 days (housing early Nov)	25 days (housing mid Nov)	30 days (housing late Nov)
Lower Stocking Rate (<2LU/ha)	25 days (housing mid Nov)	30 days (housing late Nov)	40 days (housing Dec)

GFOY Update: Sean Barry (Disadvantaged Land Category Winner)

Rotation No.	7 - 8
AFC	908 Kg DM/Ha
Cover/LU	302 Kg DM/LU
Growth	64 Kg DM/Ha
Demand	51 Kg DM/Ha
Stocking Rate	3.0 LU/ha
PGY	1700-1800 Kg DM/ha
Milk Yield	1.65 Kg MS/cow (20 L/cow)
Fertiliser	25 units per acre of Protected Urea (final application)
Annual Tonnage	9.4 T DM/ha

"Ground was getting soft but the last couple of weeks it has dried out great and ground conditions are excellent, so we can't complain!"

"Cows were fed no meal for a couple of weeks and we put them back onto 1kg per day just to get them into the parlour."

"Our plan is to max out the AFC at 1000 kg DM/ha on 15-20th Sept."

"The last of our slurry was applied on silage ground earlier in the year so tanks are empty. We also spread 75 ton of lime across the farm this year during May and June."

