

16th June 2020

PastureBase Ireland Current Performance (Last 7 Days):

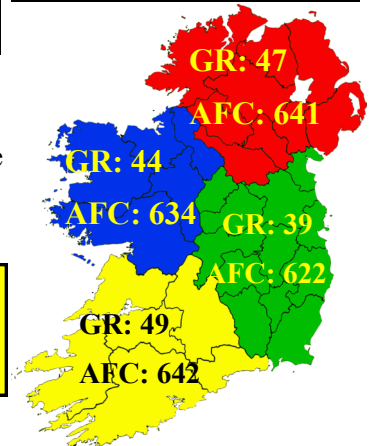
PastureBase
IRELAND

AFC	Stocking Rate	Cover/Cow	Growth	Demand
637 kg DM/ha	3.44 LU/ha	185 kg DM/ha	46 kg DM/ha	48 kg DM/ha

- Growth rates have averaged 46 kg DM/ha over the last 7 days
- Most parts of the country have received rainfall and growth should increase** on farms this week as a result
- Areas such as north Meath, Carlow, Kildare, north Tipperary, parts of Clare and parts Kilkenny have still received no rain. **Low growth rates will continue in areas that have not received rain**

Grass DM: 18%
Moorepark (1500 kg DM/ha)

Below: Covers in the Last 7 Days



Predicted Growth Rate: Elodie Ruelle Moorepark

Ballyhaise 74 kg DM/ha
Athenry 67 kg DM/ha

South Wexford 59 kg DM/ha
Moorepark 56 kg DM/ha

Two Recommendations:

Areas that have received rain

- Walk the farm regularly. Target a pregrazing yield of **1,400 kg DM/ha**. Target cover/cow of **160- 180 kg DM/cow on dairy farms or 10- 12 days ahead for drystock farms**
- Rotation length should be 21 days** to maintain grass quality on farms
- Where farm covers were run down due to decreased growth rates, growth should exceed demand until **farm cover is back on target** (see above)
- Once sufficient grass on the farm **match growth and demand** to avoid running into surplus or deficit depending on growth
- Where farm covers are on target, supplementation should reduce** and growth match demand. **No silage should be fed**

Steps to Increase Grass Quality on Farms

- Where farm cover is on target and where growth is normal on farms, **avoid grazing silage ground** and target quality grass on the grazing platform
- Target residuals of 4 cm** on the grazing platform. Any paddock that is not grazed out well should be earmarked for surplus bales in the next rotation if growth exceeds demand
- Where farms have received rain, where **cover/cow exceeds 200 kg DM/cow+**, and where there is rain in the forecast- **surplus bales should be cut to maintain grass quality**. The **poorest quality paddocks** should be targeted

Areas that have still not received rain

- Rotation length** should be maintained at **25 days** on farms where growth has declined
- Avoid running down the farm cover by matching growth and demand now. Farms that have held farm cover over 500 kg DM/ha are growing 20 kg DM/ha/day more grass than farms where the cover has dropped below 500 kg DM/ha
- Dry matter of grass is 20%+ so avoid underestimating grass measurements. **Graze down to 4cm**. No grass should be wasted on farms.

Steps to Hold Rotation and Average Farm Cover:

- * **Bring all area into the grazing rotation.** Strip graze paddocks that were earmarked for surplus bales. Strip grazing is more cost efficient than making bales and subsequently feeding them out.
- * **Supplement if necessary** to match growth and demand: e.g. Growth 45 kg DM/ha @3.5 Cows/ha = $45/3.5 = 13$ kg DM grass + 5 kg concentrates (growth matching demand)
- * In areas where growth rate has declined, **any livestock that serves no purpose on farms e.g. dry cows should be sold**. On drystock farms, animals that can be drafted for finishing should be taken off the grazing platform to reduce demand.

16th June 2020

Social Media Takeover: Trevor Boland, Suckler Category Grassland Farmer of the Year 2019



Teagasc
AGRICULTURE AND FOOD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Grass10
GRASSLAND EXCELLENCE FOR
IRISH LIVESTOCK

“Growing Grass in the West will
shape the Future of Suckler Farming”

Social Media Takeover

with
Trevor Boland
2019 Suckler Category Grassland Farmer of the Year

Wednesday, 17th June

@Teagasc
@TeagascGrass10

Suckler Winner Grassland Farmer of the Year 2019 Trevor Boland is hosting a social media takeover on Wed 17th June at 2 pm. See the following video: <https://bit.ly/TrevorBolandVideo>

Follow:

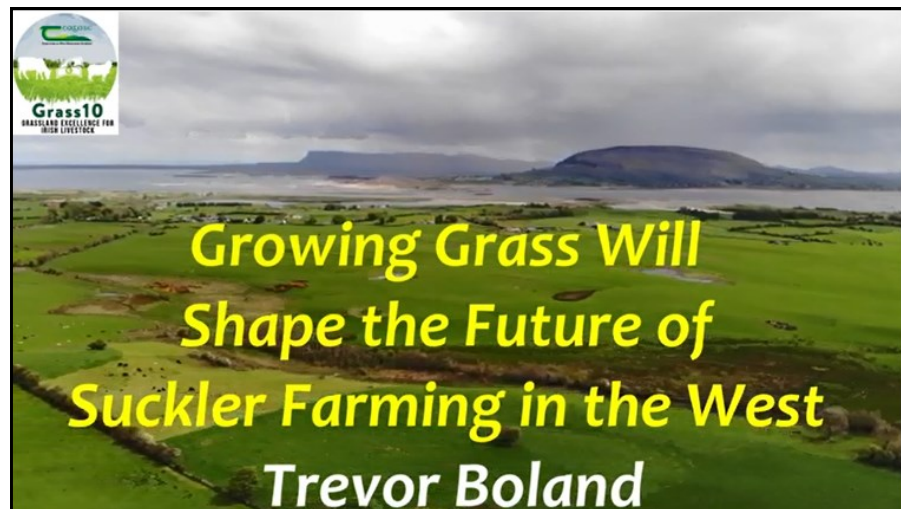
@TeagascGrass10
Twitter

Teagasc Instagram

Topics Include:

- Setting up a rotational grazing system
- Key grazing infrastructure for suckler beef farms
- Management tips to keep top quality grass ahead of cattle
- Soil fertility
- Grass measurement– Why do it and its impact..

Make sure to follow @TeagascGrass10 and ask any questions have for Trevor!



Grass10
GRASSLAND EXCELLENCE FOR
IRISH LIVESTOCK

Growing Grass Will Shape the Future of Suckler Farming in the West

Trevor Boland



Teagasc Social Media Takeover
Wed 17th June @2pm
@TeagascGrass10 Twitter
Teagasc Instagram