

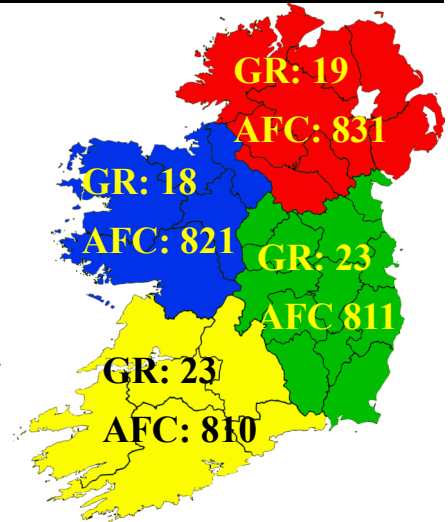
31st March 2020

PastureBase Ireland Current Performance (Last 7 Days):

AFC	Growth	Demand	DM%
812 kg DM/ha	20 kg DM/ha	35 kg DM/ha	20.5 %

PastureBase
IRELAND

Below: Covers in the Last 7 Days



- 1,100 farms recorded grass covers in the last 7 days on PastureBase. Average Farm Cover is currently high, so supplementation levels should be minimised nationally to capitalise on the high volume of grass on farms.
- Grass DM is 20%+ from all samples measured in the last 2 weeks. Make sure to avoid underestimating covers during this dry spell of weather
- Over-allocating grass is also an issue with the current high DM%. If you are over allocating grass to livestock, make sure to tighten up the area & graze down to 4 cm in the current weather

Here is the Summary of Farms on PastureBase Ireland:

<u>On Target (>70% Grazed)</u>	<u>Delayed Farms (50-70% Grazed)</u>	<u>Heavy Soils (<50% Grazed)</u>
<p>Walk the farm every 5 days to monitor growth and Average Farm Cover. The <u>2nd Rotation</u> will start shortly on these farms</p> <p>Look at 1st grazed paddocks and start the 2nd rotation when 1st grazed paddock has 1,200 (and covers of 1,000 following behind). The last paddock may have to be skipped and cut as surplus bales (or closed off to be cut in early May) to start the 2nd rotation if AFC is high on the farm</p> <p>Make sure to have the 2nd round of fertiliser spread to have enough grass for the 2nd rotation. Where there are P allowances, a compound like 18-6-12+S (2 bags/acre) will increase spring growth</p> <p>Do not let Average Farm Cover drop below 550 kg DM/ha at any stage. If demand is high and AFC is dropping, cows may have to be slowed down to ensure that Average Farm Cover doesn't drop any further</p>	<p>Grass supply is not an issue on most of these farms.</p> <p>Minimise the supplementation levels and look at regrowths on the 1st grazed paddocks.</p> <p>Target reseeded ground for grazing to promote tillering & to have grass coming back for the 2nd rotation</p> <p>Avoid grazing poor infrastructure/ far away paddocks and leave these paddocks to the end of the 1st rotation. In a lot of cases, the 1st rotation won't finish on farms and these paddocks will have to be baled because of the large supply of grass on farms.</p> <p>It is important to hit residuals of 4 cm and train cows to graze down.</p> <p>Where fertiliser has not been spread, or where it has been 4-6 weeks since N has been spread, it is time to go with fertiliser (2 bags 18-6-12+S/acre)</p>	<p>Grass supply is very high on these farms and ground conditions are solid too (Teagasc Heavy Soils AFC: 1,000 kg DM/ha)</p> <p>Minimise supplementation levels and graze as much ground as you can while the weather is good</p> <p>Graze wet paddocks, paddocks that can't be baled and reseeded ground while the weather is dry</p> <p>Heifers should be let out onto the platform to increase the area being grazed every day (if not already on silage/ heifer ground)</p> <p>Close off far away paddocks/ paddocks that can be baled for silage to be cut in early May. High quality silage is always required on heavy farms</p> <p>Graze down to 4 cm while the weather is dry. Grazing down to target residuals will increase grass quality for the 2nd rotation</p> <p>Spread fertiliser on any paddocks that didn't receive fertiliser yet</p>

31st March 2020

How to Take Advantage of the Current Weather Conditions:

- Graze the wet/ heavy paddocks on the farm while the weather is dry
- Graze down to 4 cm so that grass quality is excellent for the 2nd rotation. By grazing down to 4 cm, we will maximise performance on farms and promote quicker regrowths too
- Graze reseeded ground for 2 reasons:
 1. Avoid damaging this ground
 2. Graze tight to promote tillering
- Minimise supplementation levels as dry matter intakes are not an issue on any farm and grass utilisation is high on all farms
- Right: Paudie O'Brien Grassland Farmer of the Year Heavy Land Winner grazing his heavy land. Meal is cut back to 3 kg/ cow and some paddocks will be closed for silage too



Paudie O'Brien
Grassland Farmer of the Year
Heavy Land Winner

Social Media Takeover Wed 8th April

@TeagascGrass10 Twitter

Grass10 Videos:

A number of videos were taken in the last 7 days to show current grazing performance on farms:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qBf9FEUpDF8>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eavtDzV3LN4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XAkdsIc0QHg>

Thank you to the farmers who participated in these videos:

David Brady, Heavy Soils, Cavan.

Morty O'Sullivan, Dairy Farmer, Meath.



Bryan Daniels

Grassland Farmer of the Year

Cows are currently grazing a reseed from last August. This ground was water logged over the winter, but it's coming on well. 50% Drumbo, 25% Abergain and 25% Aberchoice

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