

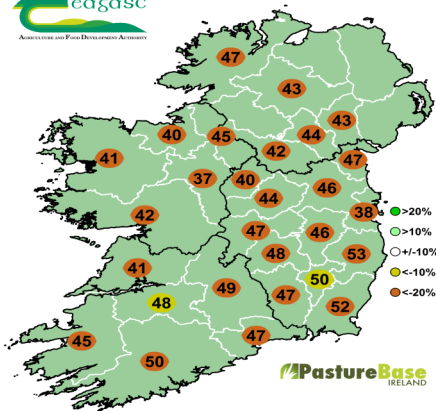
11th May 2021

## PastureBase data from dairy farms:



AFC	Cover/LU	Stocking Rate	Growth	Demand	Diet (Grass + Meal)
706 Kg DM/Ha	186 Kg DM/LU	3.8 LU/ha	54 Kg DM/ha	51 Kg DM/ha	14 Kg DM + 4 Kg

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



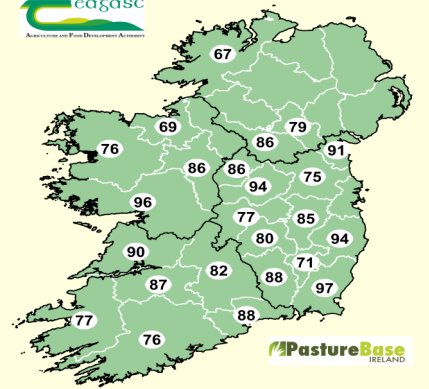
On the left: counties map showing **current** grass growth rates over the last week.

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 76 kg DM/ha
- South Wexford 88 kg DM/ha
- Athenry 97 kg DM/ha
- Clonakilty 76 kg DM/ha

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



## Starting off on the right foot in Offaly

Eanna Galvin farms in partnership his father Willie near Walshisland, Co. Offaly. The farm has switched over to dairying and the lads began milking cows for the first time this spring. They are currently milking 83 heifers.

Being involved in their local Grass10 course helped the transition and meant they understood and could apply better grazing management as new entrants. About 50% of the MP has been reseeded in the past 5 years also.

*"Using the spring rotation plan tool on PastureBase really set us up well this year. We only missed 4 days grazing in spring and started the 2nd rotation on the 27th March."*

Their plan is to hold Cover/LU between 160-180 kg DM/LU. If it goes over this PastureBase enables them to know how many paddocks need to be skipped and baled. Eanna plans to walk the farm again this Thursday, and every 4-5 days during periods of high growth.

*"Growth has been a bit slow and things are tight but I'm expecting it to jump this week. Using the projected planner on PastureBase is really helpful. Based on a projected growth of 65 kg DM/ha/day, we will have close to 200 kg DM/LU by the end of the week."*

Cows are currently grazing on 24hr paddocks with no strip-wire. The rotation length is currently 24 days but this will reduce to 18 days as grass growth increases.

Cows are being followed with 23u N/ac of protected urea. Watery slurry is also being applied to low index paddocks using LESS.



### Grass Dry Matter %

**Moorepark, Co. Cork**

17.5% (1300 KgDM/Ha)

**Athenry, Co. Galway**

19% (1250 Kg DM/Ha)

Left: Willie & Eanna Galvin. Below: Galvins' current PastureBase data.

AFC	793 kg DM/ha
Cover/LU	179 kg DM/ha
Growth	56 kg DM/ha/day
Demand	49 kg DM/ha/day
PGY	1400 kg DM/ha
Milk Yield/Cow	20L (1.5 Kg MS)
Diet (Grass+Meal)	12kg + 4Kg

## Grazing tips with growth predicted to increase this week:

- Monitor pregrazing yields ahead of stock
- Maintain supplement until regrowths improve
- Continue to graze out, but watch overgrazing in dry conditions
- Prepare to skip paddocks as growth improves

**Upcoming Event:** Pat Collins will host the next social media takeover from his farm in Castlemartyr, Co. Cork. Pat runs a calf to beef system, finishing bulls and achieves 1.25 kg LWT/day at grass as yearlings. More info at [bit.ly/PatCollinsG10](http://bit.ly/PatCollinsG10)



**'Getting every cent out of grass!'**

# Social Media Takeover

On the farm of

## Pat Collins, Co. Cork

2020 Cattle (Non-Suckling) Category  
Grassland Farmer of the Year

📱 @Teagasc 🐦 @TeagascGrass10

**Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> May**

11th May 2021

PastureBase data from beef & sheep farms	AFC	Days Ahead	Stocking Rate	Growth	Demand
	760 Kg DM/ha	18.5 days	3.23 LU/ha	41 Kg DM/ha	41 Kg DM/ha

## Reseeding Webinar Summary

- Reseeding has the capacity to increase grass utilised by over 2 T DM/ha in comparison to older grass varieties.
- Return on investment on dairy farms is about two years, it is nearly double this on drystock farms. So ensure all other methods of increasing grass growth implemented first.
- Use PastureBase to identify paddocks for reseeded, recording reseeded events and including grass varieties used.
- Use grass and clover varieties from the DAFM recommended list which score well yield, quality and grass utilisation.
- James Barber, dairy farmer, is attempting to establish clover through full reseeds and oversowing across all his farm as part of the clover research programme. The aim is to implement this strategy over three years.
- James wants to reduce chemical nitrogen usage on his farm and is focused on building clover content in swards to achieve this. James reduced it by 20 Kg N/ha in 2020 and aims to reduce it by a further 20-30 Kg N/ha for 2021. But he is adamant on building clover content in swards first so they can handle the reduction.
- Mike Egan, head of the clover research programme has developed the Clover Content Score Card to help farmers identify the level of clover in each paddock. Chemical nitrogen usage should be altered depending on the level of clover in the sward. Download it at the following link [bit.ly/G10Clover](http://bit.ly/G10Clover)

## GFOY Update - Sean Barry (Disadvantaged Land Category Winner)

*"Things are tight but grass utilisation is super as we are grazing covers of 1,300 kg DM/ha and cows are leaving nothing behind them. Ground conditions are very good."*



Sean's cows are grazing to 4cm

## Athenry Sheep Update May 2021

- Grass growth rates averaged 43kg DM/ha/day in April. Growth this week was 49kg DM/ha/day and average demand is 53kg DM/ha/day. **We have 16 days ahead on average.**
- Target days ahead for sheep farms for early May is 15 days ahead, 12-14 days ahead by mid-May and **10-12 days ahead by late May/Early June.**
- We have 30% of each farmlet closed for silage that we hope to cut in late May depending on growth rates over the next few weeks.
- Once growth improves we will take out surplus paddocks as they occur to **keep supply and demand in balance and to keep grass quality high for the lambs.**
- We are applying between 12 and 24kg N/ha (10 to 20 units/ac) after paddocks have been grazed depending on whether they are part of the high or low chemical N treatments.
- In general farms stocked above 10 ewes/ha should be applying 20-25kg N/ha during May, and farms stocked below 10 ewes/ha should apply 15-20 kg N/ha. Where high clover swards are present these levels can be reduced.
- From birth to 8 weeks all lambs have gained an average of **270g/day.**

Rotation No.	3 (started 6th May)
AFC	594 Kg DM/ha
Cover/LU	183 Kg DM/LU
Growth	52 Kg DM/ha/day
Demand	45 Kg DM/ha/day
Stocking Rate	3.24 LU/ha
PGY (kg DM/ha)	1300 Kg DM/ha
Fertiliser	Following with 1u N/ac per day (Protected Urea 29-0-14 +S)
Cow Diet	14 Kg DM Grass + 4 Kg Meal
Milk Yield	29 L/Cow (2.2 Kg MS/Cow)
Annual Tonnage	2,200 Kg DM/ha (400 kg DM/ha behind 2020)