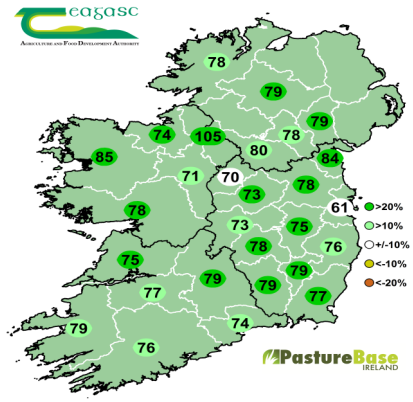
Grass10 Weekly Update

15th June 2021

PastureBase data from dairy farms:

AFC	Cover/LU	Stocking Rate	Growth	Demand	Diet (Grass + Meal)	Pre Grazing Yield
706 Kg DM/Ha	183 Kg DM/LU	3.9 LU/ha	81 Kg DM/ha	60 Kg DM/Ha	15.5 Kg DM + 2.5 Kg	1713 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:

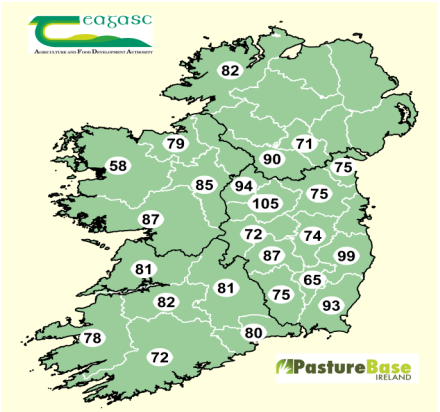
Ballyhaise 81 kg DM/ha

South Wexford 61 kg DM/ha

Athenry 83 kg DM/ha

Clonakilty 69 kg DM/ha

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



Getting grass quality back on track is the priority in Kilkenny

John O'Gorman farms with his family in Hugginstown, Co. Kilkenny. John is milking 70 cows, on a milking platform which is split into 3 blocks and stocked at 3.2 LU/ha. The herd EBI is €157.

"I've been walking the farm every 5 days recently and if strong growth continues I'll probably walk twice per week."

John took out 4 surplus paddocks for bales last week and after his farm walk on Saturday decided to take out another 2 paddocks. This has brought his cover/LU back to 167 kg DM/LU. *"I use the projected planner on PastureBase to see how many paddocks I can take out without running too tight, it's very handy to use."*

In other paddocks where quality had deteriorated but couldn't be baled out, John pre-mowed covers at **1500-1600 KgDM/ha** in front of the cows. Any covers heavier than this were baled. *"There are a couple of paddocks left to do and then I'll be back grazing good quality grass again."* John pre-mows enough grass for one grazing. This is only suitable where weather conditions are dry.

Cows are grazing 12hr allocations as John feels it suits his fragmented farm better. He crosses the road during the day and cows graze near the yard at night.

"I'm spreading 1u N/ac per day with protected urea. I spread once per week following the cows." To replace P & K on paddocks cut for bales, John applies slurry in spring. The past couple of years John has been recording fertiliser and slurry on the PastureBase app. This along with the Grass10 course is helping him reduce the amount of fertiliser he uses without affecting grass growth.

Grass Dry Matter %

Moorepark, Co. Cork

16.7% (1500 Kg DM/Ha)

Grange, Co. Meath

22.8% (1500 Kg DM/Ha)

John O'Gorman's Grass Data

AFC	620 kg DM/ha
Cover/LU	167 kg DM/ha
Stocking Rate	3.72 LU/ha
Growth	97 kg DM/ha/day
Demand	60 kg DM/ha/day
PGY	1450 kg DM/ha
Milk Yield	2.06 kg MS/cow
Diet (Grass+Meal)	16 kg + 2 kg

Nitrogen Planner - Explained!

One of the latest tools available to farmers using PastureBase Ireland is the Nitrogen Planner. This allows farmers to allocate and budget their Nitrogen allowance through the grazing season. This will help stop excess Nitrogen fertiliser being applied to grassland over and above the recommended rate. Micheal O'Leary, PastureBase, explains how to use the tool in this video: **http://bit.ly/NPlanner**

Grass10 Grazing Tips

Grass quality is a major issue on farms at present due to the weather conditions and seed heading over the past month. Restoring quality should be a priority on farms and here are tips to help you:

- Take bales from paddocks with heavier covers, especially those under-grazed (over 4cm) on last rotation
- Hit grazing residuals by keeping pre– grazing yields to 1400 Kg DM/ha and cover/ LU at 160-180 Kg DM/LU or 12-14 days ahead
- Check rotation length back on your PastureBase data (aim for 15-18 days)
- Keep walking the farm every 5 days during high growth
- Target pre– grazing yields of 1200—1300 Kg DM/Ha to achieve better cleanouts

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PastureBase data from sheep & beef farms:

AFC	Days Ahead	Stocking Rate	Growth	Demand	Pre Grazing Yield
791 Kg DM/Ha	18.4 days	3.3 LU/ha	67 Kg DM/ha	43 Kg DM/Ha	1804 Kg DM/ha

Weather Data & Reports Now Available on PastureBase

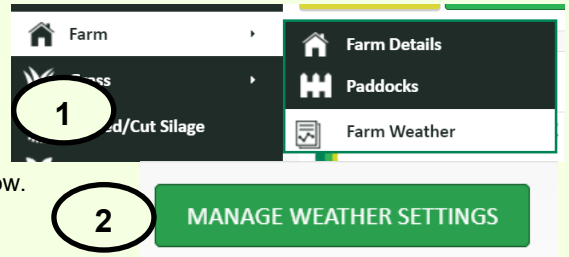
Weather Data is now available on PastureBase Ireland for your farm.

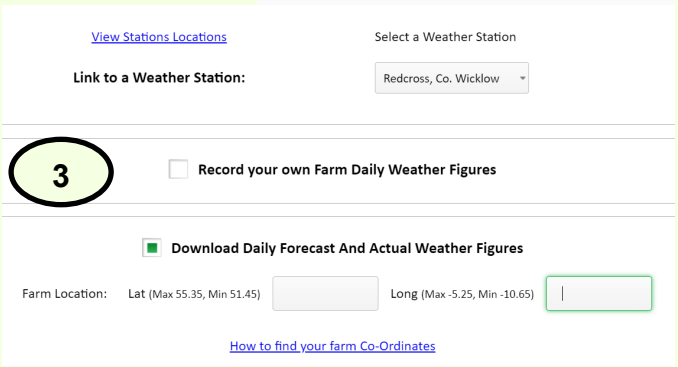
The first step is to determine the source of the weather data for the farm. These options are available on the **'Farm'** tab under **'Farm Weather'** screen in the **'Manage Weather Settings'** option. [See the steps on the right]. There are currently three sources available, see below.

1. Link to a weather station - the nearest Teagasc and Met Eireann weather station to the farm
2. Enter weather data for the farm
3. Enter the location of the farm to download the fore-cast and actual weather data

A farm can be linked to one, two or all three options above.

Once the link is created, run the **'Weather Report'** to see the data. There are also graphs available where different years can be compared.





GFOY Update - David Brady, 2020 Grassland Merit Award Winner.

"Grass quality has been a challenge since the wet weather in May, when we were lucky to keep cows out at grass. But cows will get back into grazing after-grass later in the week."

Rotation No.	Mix of 3rd or 4th rotation
AFC	574 Kg DM/ha
Cover/LU	146 Kg DM/LU
Growth	71 Kg DM/ha/day
Demand	63 Kg DM/ha/day
Stocking Rate	3.92 LU/ha
PGY (kg DM/ ha)	1400 Kg DM/ha
Fertiliser	1 bag DAP (18-20-0), baled pad-docks getting LESS slurry
Diet	15 Kg DM Grass + 3 Kg Meal
Milk Yield	27.5 L/cow, 2.08 Kg MS/cow
Annual Ton-nage	3,630 Kg DM/ha (1 T DM/ha be-hind last year)

How many farm walks have you done?

To get the most from grass measuring, you need walk the farm 30-40 times in the year. The frequency of measurement should follow the grass growth curve. During current high growth periods, a farm walk should be completed every 5 days and up to twice per week.

Farmers should have 15-20 walks completed so far this year if they are serious about grassland management. This enables frequent and accurate decisions to be made which ensures animals graze the best grass for animal performance whilst not running short of feed. See David Brady's Farm Cover Report below. This is available to you in the reports section of your PastureBase account.

Month	Count	Cover Date(day)
January	1	27
February	1	17
March	4	3; 18; 24; 31
April	4	5; 13; 19; 26
May	5	2; 10; 17; 22; 30
June	2	7; 11
July	0	
August	0	
September	0	
October	0	
November	0	
December	0	
TOTAL	17	