

15th January 2019

Current PastureBase Ireland Performance:

PastureBase
IRELAND

Average Farm Cover	Growth
847 kgDM/ha	7 kgDM/ha

Note: This growth rate is calculated from closing cover to opening cover (over winter growth)

PBI App:

New version of the PBI Grass app is now available for download on iOS and Android devices.

New features include:

- Ability to view the Wedge
- Cover calculators (cut and weigh method)
- Previous cover now displayed on screen
- One Synchronise button (upload and download)
- Fertiliser added to the summary report

Follow us on twitter @PastureBase for the latest information on events, grazing tips and updates!

Follow Grass10 on twitter @TeagascGrass10

Register on PastureBase Ireland through our help desk– support@pbi.ie or 046-9200965

Download the 'PBI Grass' app

Fertiliser and Slurry Spreading Dates:

Zone	Spreading Start Date	Ability to Spread Now?	Counties
Zone A	13th January	Yes	Carlow, Cork, Dublin, Kildare, Kilkenny, Laois, Offaly, Tipperary, Waterford, Wexford, Wicklow
Zone B	16th January	Tomorrow	Clare, Galway, Kerry, Limerick, Longford, Louth, Mayo, Meath, Roscommon, Sligo, Westmeath
Zone C	1st February	No	Donegal, Leitrim, Cavan, Monaghan

Note: Spreading start date applies for chemical fertiliser, slurry & FYM

DM%	16% Moorepark
DM%	19% Grange

Slurry:

- Every 1000 gallons of slurry is worth roughly 6-5-30 in N, P & K to your farm this spring
- Slurry should be spread where soil index's are low to build P & K levels
- Many farmers are opening with high average farm covers this spring. The trailing shoe is an opportunity for farmers to spread slurry on covers up to 1,200 kgDM/ha

Where Tanks are Full:

- Spread slurry on lower covers on the grazing platform
- Use a trailing shoe to spread slurry on covers up to 1,200 kgDM/ha on the grazing platform
- Turn out young stock i.e. weanlings to out-farms early and spread slurry on grazed areas (livestock can graze areas quickly by entering grass covers of 800-1,000 kgDM/ha)
- Graze off silage ground early this year and spread slurry on this area when closed off
- Follow the cows with slurry this spring as paddocks are being grazed

Right: Trailing shoe will reduce grass contamination compared to the splash-plate. This allows farmers to spread slurry on heavier grass covers (up to 1,200 kgDM/ha)



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Should I Spread Urea and Slurry Now?

- Soil temperatures are 7-10°C nationally (requirement >5.5°C)
- Weather forecast is good for this week, so take the opportunity to spread Urea and slurry (once legislation allows)
- Where fodder reserves are scarce, early nitrogen should be spread to increase grass supply on farms
- Where there is a high demand for spring grass, early N is essential to build grass supply and to reduce the amount of silage being fed to lactating cows this spring
- Target reseeded areas of the farm first, as response will be greatest on ryegrass swards



Cost of Spreading Urea	Value of Spring Grass	Required Response to Break Even	Typical Response
80c/kgN (€380/tonne)	16c/kgDM	5 kgDM/ kgN applied	10-15 kgDM/kgN applied

What grazing Infrastructure do I need to achieve more days at grass this spring?

- A strip wire and a back-fence to meet residuals of 3.5-4cm and avoid poaching
- Multiple entry/exit points into paddocks to avoid excessive damage at gaps
- Water troughs that allow for strip grazing to occur (water troughs in the middle of fields, or portable water troughs)
- On dairy farms, a good roadway network is essential



Every extra day at grass is worth €3/cow/day this spring! For a 100 cow herd, that's €300 profit per day!!

How does on/off grazing work for dairy cows?

The idea is to get cows out to grass with an appetite so that they graze efficiently and are taken off pasture once they've had their fill of grass! Flexibility is key for this to work.

How do I carry out on-off grazing this spring?

- 7am– 9am milking time
- 9am-11am hold cows in the yard/ indoors
- 11am-1.30pm cows out for grazing (2.5 hrs)
- 1.30pm bring cows in and hold in yard/ indoors
- 2-4pm milking time
- 4pm- 6.30pm cows out grazing
- 6.30pm bring cows in

Spring can be a challenging time for farmers physically & mentally. Make sure to carry out jobs like spreading fertiliser early to ease the workload during calving time

