

26th June 2018

Current Pasture Performance PastureBase Ireland: www.pbi.ie Micheal O'Leary.

	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha)	Cover/LU (kg DM/LU)	Stocking Rate (LU/ha)	Growth (kg DM/ha)	Demand (kg DM/ha)
Average	589	173	3.4	53	48

We are delighted to announce that the new offline PBI app is now available on Google Play for download. Record covers, record grazing dates, record milk details and record fertiliser applications offline. Thank you.



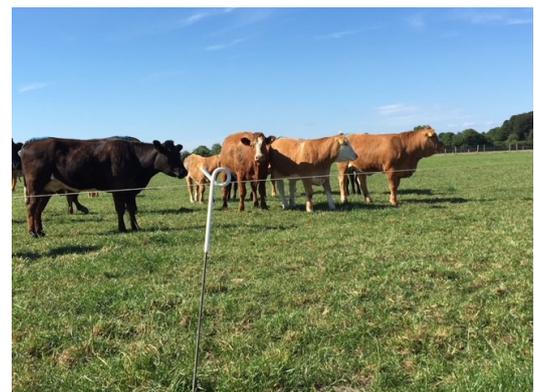
Grazing Tips for this Week:

1. Grass quality has deteriorated on farms due to heat stress in many parts of the country, so it is important to meet residuals of 4cm to increase quality for subsequent rotations.
2. Operate a rotation length based on growth rates (20-25 days). Extend rotation length as growth rates decline.
3. Enter pre-grazing covers of 1400kgDM/ha if possible.
4. Spread at least 1 unit N/day and sulphur to maximise growth rates and grass quality. Grass deficient in nitrogen will become stressed and lose quality as a result.
5. Walk the farm this week to assess the amount of grass cover on the farm. If there is a deficit, supplementation is required. This is covered in the following drought message:



Drought Message:

- A proactive approach must be adopted to tackle the prevailing and anticipated drought conditions on some farms (especially south and east).
- Farmers must maintain a minimum of a 20 day rotation (preferably 25days +) to keep some level of grass in the diet despite the reduced level of grass growth.
- Rotation length must be held at 20-25 days. This is not calculated by looking back but by the proportion of the farm grazed each day i.e. grazing 4-5 acres per day on a 100 acre grazing platform.
- Walk the farm and calculate a farm cover and cover per livestock unit. Supplement concentrates first and silage second based on the feed deficit on the farm.
- On a dairy farm where grass supply is not adequate, increase the level of concentrates to 5-6 kg/cow/day. However, where grass supply is less than 50% of what the cows require each day, then some other forage is needed with concentrates to fill the feed gap. e.g. silage.
- Where drought conditions are (or are likely to become) a problem, topping/mowing paddocks should cease. This is wasting feed and enhancing the drying conditions further.
- Current weather forecasts suggest very little rain is expected over the next ten days.
- Fertiliser N application should continue in a "green drought" until 25 days has passed without rain.
- Water intake of animals will double where grass is dry and where silage and meal are being fed.



A farmer with little or no silage:

Feed up to 6kg/meal/cow/day to maintain farm cover.

A farmer with a reserve of silage:

Feed 4kg/meal/cow and silage to maintain farm cover.

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Water Message:

- The water requirement of a dairy cow is approximately 2.3 litres of water per litre of milk produced.
- Therefore a cow producing 20 litres of milk will need to consume about 45 litres/day (10gals/day).
- This occurs under normal temperatures and normal grazing conditions.
- Water intake will increase by up to 30% when air temperature increases from 18°C to 30°C.
- Water intake will also increase as the DM concentration of the diet increases.
- Cows eating more silage and more ration due to drought conditions and will drink more water.
- In addition, grass DM concentration is also increasing.
- Water intake has almost doubled due to all these combined factors in this period of drought.



National Beef Open Day 26/06/18:

Take home messages to follow in next weeks Grass10 weekly update!!

European Grassland Federation Conference:

The EGF conference was hosted by Teagasc to showcase Ireland's research, extension and education system in Irish grassland systems. This was the 27th EGF general meeting. Over 450 participants registered for the event. It offered European delegates, and indeed stakeholders worldwide, the opportunity to see and experience dairy, beef and sheep production from grassland in Ireland. The conference was a major success with very positive feedback from all who attended.

