

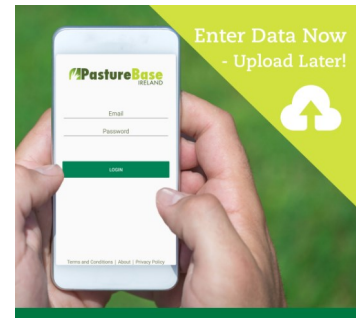
31st July 2018

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	483	161	2.99	34	28

- Growth rate has increased slightly after weekend rainfall, particularly in the north-west region.
- Allocation per cow: 8.8 kg DM Grass, 6 kg concentrates, 2.9 kg DM silage.
- Dry matter has been extremely high in recent weeks. Make sure to take this into consideration when carrying out measurements.
- The PastureBase app is available to download on both Google Play and the App Store. Search 'PBI Grass' to download.



Dry Matter Content:

Location	Moorepark
Sampling Date	30/7/18
Time of Day	09.00
Weather	Dry
Rotation No	6
Cover:	500 kg DM/ha
DM%:	27.4%

Location	Grange
Sampling Date	30/7/18
Time of Day	15:30
Weather	Dry
Rotation No	5
Cover:	600 kg DM/ha
DM%:	26.57%

Drought Message:

- Continue to supplement to maintain an extended rotation length (30 days). Supplementation will have to continue to build grass for the autumn
- Keep silage ground closed after second cut and aim to harvest a third cut on this ground. Fertilise accordingly.
- Continue to graze to 4 cm. This may become challenging to achieve as grass high in N may be "sour" as growth increases. This grass is feed available to the herd, so we must do everything possible to utilise it and set up paddocks to grow in the next rotation.
- Harvesting a second cut - It is being reported that there are high nitrogen readings in grass crops ready for harvesting. It is important that these crops are wilted for 24 hours before being picked up. Wilting will increase dry matter and sugar content helping to overcome high nitrogen levels.
- **Lowly stocked farmers should harvest surpluses and consider growing a 2nd/3rd cut crop of silage which can be sold for the winter 2018/2019. This will be beneficial to both lowly and highly stocked farmers. Forage is in demand for the winter ahead.**
- Forage crops may be an option for farmers short on winter feed, but the 15th August is the cut-off date for sowing these crops, The later the sowing date, the lower the yield of the crop.
- Farms must be walked weekly to monitor grass supply.



31st July 2018

Grazing ground fertiliser strategy

- Apply 25-30 units of N on the grazing platform.
- Phosphorus is essential for leaf and root recovery and growth. Swards that have been damaged will require a compound fertiliser to enhance recovery and boost growth rate (be aware of your P allowances). Swards also require some K and sulphur.
- Lime should be spread on acidic soils (soil pH <6.2). Lime is the cheapest fertiliser of all. It will unlock nutrients for growth from the soil and from the fertiliser being spread. It will also create a stable environment for plants to recover from the stress of the drought.

Situation	Practice
Farmers that have spread no fertiliser for weeks:	Blanket spread the farm with 25-30 units N/acre
Farmers that have continued with fertiliser (particularly on heavy soils, or higher rainfall areas):	Continue to spread fertiliser
Those farmers that have not spread fertiliser in the last 10 days:	Spread fertiliser on the proportion of the farm that has not received N (25-30 units N/acre)

Fertiliser following cutting/grazing of second cut silage:

- Apply slurry with a trailing shoe on land that was cut for second cut silage
- Remember, many second cut silage yields were low (or grazed), as a result there will still be a large proportion of N, P & K in the soil following fertilisation after first cut silage
- Rain received/forecasted– take the chance to spread fertiliser and aim to take a third cut of silage
- The level of fertiliser application will depend on:
 1. Whether a paddock was cut for silage or grazed (paddocks cut will need compounds high in P&K)
 2. The yield of grass cut/grazed for “second cut silage” (higher yield, higher fertiliser requirement)
 3. The amount of unused fertiliser in the soil (estimate from silage yield, the amount of fertiliser applied for second cut and the amount of rainfall since fertiliser was last applied)
 4. Adjust fertiliser rate depending on soil N mineralisation

<u>Apply slurry using a trailing shoe</u>	<u>N per acre</u>	<u>Apply P and K if not already applied for first and/or second cut</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver some of the N, P & K requirement • Empty slatted tanks now 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 units now after 2nd cut • 35-40 units on 2nd cut that was grazed midway through the growing season 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organic manure • Compound fertiliser

Silage ground	Requirement per tonne DM (units/acre)	3 t DM/ha: 6-7 bales/acre (units/acre)
Nitrogen	25 kg N/ha/t DM (20)	75 kg N/ha (60)
Phosphorus	4 kg P/ha/t DM (3)	12 kg P/ha (10)
Potassium	25 kg K/ha/t DM (20)	75 kg K/ha (60)
Sulphur	2.5 kg S/ha/t DM (2)	7.5 kg S/ha (6)