

GRASS TIPS

As the forecast improves, grazing conditions are also expected to improve. There is plenty of grass out there to be grazed, we need to maximise its use, graze our lowest covers and get through as much of the farm as possible.

- Conditions have been very difficult particularly for those on heavier land or in the northern half of the country with rainfall and cold conditions leaving land water-logged
- If you have been grazing by day, aim to get back out for a 2nd grazing in the afternoon as the weather starts to improve. Farms who are settled at grass should consider 24-36hour allowances now.
- If you have been housed, walk your farm and try and get out for 3 hours in medium covers of 1100-1400 Kg DM/Ha
- On some farms, the last remaining paddocks on the 1st rotation are too wet to graze, so move into 2nd rotation if covers are above 1200 Kg DM/Ha on 3 paddocks
- With decent seasonal growth rates, your 1st grazed fields will have 1200-1500kgs of grass back on them in 20 days time.



Factors to consider:

- Be-wary not to overestimate grass intakes as you transition cows out
- Keep an eye on the protein and butterfat in your bulk tank. Protein and butterfat percentages will tell you how well fed your cows are.
- Close up strong covers, have a desired cutting date in mind and fertiliser them accordingly. Mid may is 30 days away, use no more than 60units of nitrogen. The 1st of June is 45 days away, you can spread more N, 90units, bulking up the crop but dropping quality.
- Don't close up too much ground for silage, your first grazed paddocks will need a minimum of 20 days to recover.

Walking your farm & measuring grass weekly on PastureBase Ireland

- As grazing conditions begin to improve, farms can change very quickly as we move into late April
- Its vital to get back into a routine of weekly grass walks and entering grass covers on PastureBase Ireland to help you to react when grass growth increases
- Aim for a Cover/LU of 180-220 Kg DM/LU as we move through April