

GRASS TIPS



Is your farm on target for autumn grass build up?

- Focus on target farm cover, extending rotation length & grass budgeting while continuing to walk your farm weekly.
- If you are stocked at 3 or 3.5 LU/Ha you should be on a 25 day rotation and have an AFC of 750 and 770 Kg DM/Ha respectively.
- Grass growth figures from PastureBase are staying steady 60 and 52 Kg DM/Ha respectively on dairy & drystock farms so review where you are today by completing a grass walk.
- Based on current and predicted growth it will be difficult to increase AFC for farms at 3.5 LU/ha on the MP. Reduce demand (remove animals/increase feed).
- There is still opportunity this week for farmers stocked <2.5 LU/Ha to remove surplus grass
- Extend rotation length by 2.5 days per week during August to move to a 30day rotation by the 1st September

Identify paddocks for weed control before the end of August

- With a settled few days forecast ahead and very little opportunity for weed control recently due to poor weather, assess your farm and complete any outstanding weed control
- Weeds such as docks should be targeted when the plant is green (leafy) and is actively growing.
- Think of paddocks that you want to oversow clover into in 2024 and spray these paddocks to have a clean sward for the oversowing.

Completing a grass budget on PBI to plan autumn grazing

- To map out your autumn build up, all farmers should create a feed budget on PastureBase Ireland to help plan out your grazings and help you hit the targets that you set out for your farm. Click on the QR code below to see a tutorial video on how to use the feed budgeting tool.
- Using the targets below, a grass budget will help you map out how you are going to get to your target peak AFC later in September.

When should I start to build Autumn grass?

Stocking Rate	Date
2.5 LU/Ha	3 rd week of August
3 LU/Ha	2 nd week of August
3.5 LU/Ha	1 st week of August

AUTUM GRAZING TARGETS

Date	Cover/Cow (Kg DM)	Average Farm Cover (Kg DM/Ha)	Rotation Length
STOCKING RATE OF 2.5 LU/HA			
1 st August	180	450	20 Days
Mid-August	200	500	25 Days
1st September	300	750	30 Days
STOCKING RATE OF 3.0 LU/HA			
1st August	180	550	20 Days
Mid-August	250	750	25 Days
1st September	330	990	30 Days
STOCKING RATE OF 3.5 LU/HA			
1st August	190	665	20 Days
Mid-August	220	770	25 Days
1st September	280	980	30 Days

How to create a GRASS BUDGET

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BTdwm...>



The autumn grazing targets are presented in the table on the left. This table gives farmers a target depending on their stocking rate.

NB: for heavier soils, peak average farm cover (AFC) should be no more than 900-950 Kg DM/Ha and peak grazing covers of 1800 Kg DM/Ha