

GRASS TIPS



Do your silage fields require lime?

- 2nd cut silage should now be removed from fields when weather conditions allow, along with surplus paddocks at high pre-grazing yield. This is important for building grass coming into the autumn.
- It is also an ideal time to apply lime to silage fields, consult your soil tests and make necessary arrangements.
- Check which grazing paddocks require lime and plan to have them grazed off for applying at the same time.

Planning your autumn grazing strategy

- Grass growth figures from PastureBase are ahead of demand. And this trend is predicted to continue.
- Where growth has increased, it is important to keep inline with the summer grazing targets for now and use this opportunity to remove paddocks with poor grass quality as surplus bales.
- Dry farms with stocking rate >3.0 LU/ha have one rotation left before autumn build up begins. It is important that grass quality is corrected before building grass cover commences.
- The first half of autumn grazing begins in August during the build-up phase. This is when AFC is increased, and rotation length extended (farm target depends on your peak AFC and autumn grass growth).
- Use the grass budget on PastureBase to help you decide when to start building grass on your farm.

Carry out essential upgrades to grazing infrastructure

- Grazing infrastructure really comes into its own in the spring and autumn, especially in wetter conditions.
- The weather in the past week may have been a reminder to complete upgrades to grazing infrastructure before the autumn arrives.
- Working on them when you need them is not ideal as constructing roadways takes time and it can often be too wet to enter paddocks to upgrade water or fenceways, so the earlier the better.
- Can you access all paddocks from a roadway? And would any paddocks benefit from a spur-road?

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
1 st September	300	750	30 Days
STOCKING RATE OF 3.0 LU/HA			
1 st August	180	550	20 Days
Mid-August	250	750	25 Days
1 st September	330	990	30 Days
STOCKING RATE OF 3.5 LU/HA			
1 st August	190	665	20 Days
Mid-August	220	770	25 Days
1 st September	280	980	30 Days