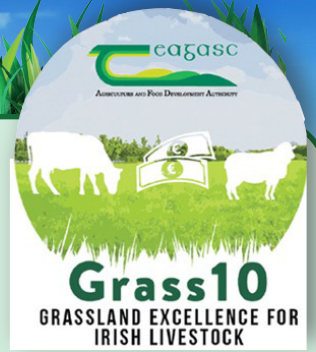


# GRASS TIPS

## Current grazing situations & targets

- It is important to get out and walk the farm as growth rates have been lower than average due to cooler northerly wind
- Growth rates are back this week to 51 kg and 48 kg respectively on Irish dairy and drystock farms. This has led to some farms introducing supplement to hold rotation (20-21 days)
- Fortunately, warmer weather is forecast this week with occasional showers according to Met Eireann
- This warmer weather should hopefully see grass growth rates improve. Continue to walk the farm every five days and reduce supplement if possible
- Grass quality is a challenge on farms. However, avoid getting into a full rotation of correcting all paddocks as this will drop growth rates by 20-30 Kg DM/Ha
- PBI data shows milk solids per cow to be behind target, even though meal feeding rates are high. Ensure pasture DMI and quality are on target
- At this time of year, herd dry matter intakes should be 18-18.5 kg DM/cow
- Mid- Season Targets:
  - Farm cover >600kg DM/Ha (150kg DM/LU) on dairy farms or 12-15 days ahead on drystock farms
  - Rotation length: 21-24 days
  - Pre-grazing yield: >1200 kg DM/Ha



## Management tips to increase AFC

- Bring grass demand down with the farm grass growth - keeping an eye on how regrowths are progressing
- Options are to introduce more grazing area or introduce high quality silage (3/4 kg per cow/day) in combination with concentrates. Increasing concentration supplementation alone will not be sufficient to increase rotation length
- Paddocks with little or no clover, require 20-25 kg N/ha (Chemical & organic N forms)

## Fertilising grass clover swards mid season

- With poor growing conditions, it is important to review your clover paddocks to decide on N application strategy
- Clover content should be 20%, or higher, before considering a significant reduction in N input
- Paddocks with poor clover content should receive similar N application to grass only paddocks until growing conditions improve
- Review your clover paddocks again in July to see if clover % has improved
- Remember to input your clover content scores into PBI when completing your weekly grass walk

### White Clover content score card



Clover content 10%



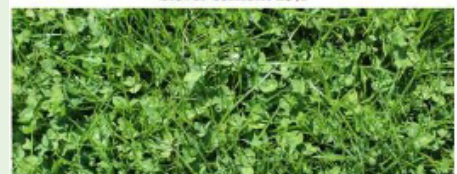
Clover content 15%



Clover content 20%



Clover content 25%



Clover content 30%



Clover content 35%