

GRASS TIPS



Are you on track to hit mid-Sept grazing targets?

- The requirement to build grass from August starts to become clear this week. Predicted growth rates (ranging 48-66 KgDM/ha/day) will match or drop below demand on some farms (avg. 48 KgDM/ha/day).
- This indicates that some farms will not build in AFC this week without making a decision to reduce demand, particularly higher stocked farms.
- Compare your AFC (Average Farm Cover) & rotation length with this week's target (see below).
- Most farms should push out to a 35-day rotation. For example a 35ha milking platform should be grazing 1ha per day.
- If the daily grass allowance based on this rotation length is not enough to meet demand, consider reducing stocking rate or introducing supplement.
- A minimum 30-day rotation needs to be maintained, to grow and utilise more grass. Every day at grass is worth about €2/LU per day.
- Grazing conditions are good, but rain is forecast and pre-grazing yields are high so use strip-wires to ensure grazing to 4cm. Consider grazing heavier paddocks before rain arrives.

Sept 30th: the Last Day to Apply Slurry in 2023

- Use dairy washings & slurry on clover paddocks and paddocks grazed after 14th September. The deadline for slurry application is 30th September this year.
- Ensure slurry tanks & silos are empty going into the closed period. (Closed period has moved ahead one week from October 8th to October 1st)
- Grass growth has been very strong in most parts over the past few weeks. But nutrients applied now are required to grow grass for the final rotation. Apply to the right paddocks that will give the best response.

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 September	300	750	30 Days
Mid-September	400-450	1,000-1,100	35 Days
1 st October	400	1,000	40 Days
1 st November Fully Housed	60%+ of grazing platform should br closed for Spring 600		
STOCKING RATE OF 3.0 LU/HA			
1 st September	330	990	30 Days
Mid-September	370	1100	35 Days
1 st October	380	1150	40 Days
1 st November Fully Housed	65%+ of grazing platform should br closed for Spring 650		

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