Grass growth prediction in Ireland to improve grazing management practice

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Introduction

- Increasing **grass utilisation** increases **farm profitability.**
- Knowledge of grass growth for the week ahead can help farmers **to react appropriately** to potential **grass growth changes**

On farm grass growth prediction: How it works

- The MoSt Grass growth model is used to predict grass growth at farm level
- The majority of the input data required for grass growth prediction in Ireland is captured in a web base management tool **PastureBase Ireland** (grazing, cutting, nitrogen fertiliser application)
- Weather data is provided by the Irish Meteorological Service - **Met Éireann**
- Grass growth prediction is undertaken at the paddock level on **78 commercial farms**

Dissemination

Different scales: farm level or county level
Different audiences: farmer, adviser, government departments, state agencies
Different communication channels: whatsapp, emails, newsletter, press and….
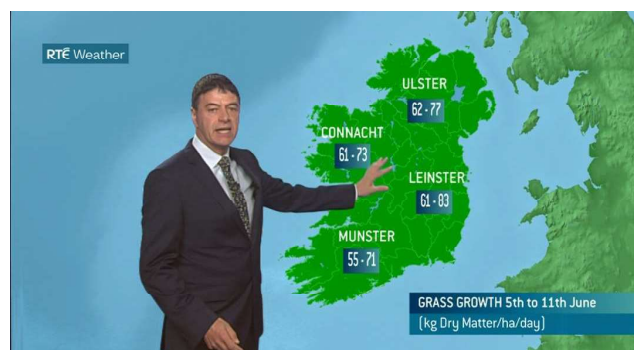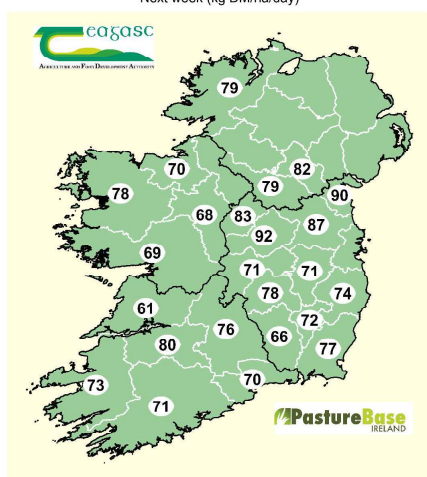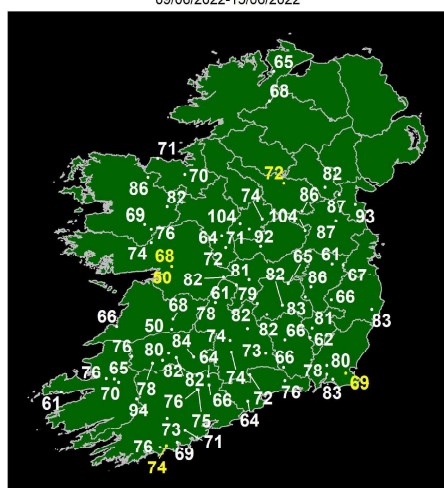
on National TV!!

Figure 1: The different forms of dissemination of the MoSt weekly predictions

Conclusion

- With the right combination of tools **live grass growth prediction** is **possible**
- Irish **farmers** are **engaging** with the predictions and using them to inform their grassland management