

Week beginning 3rd June 2024





AGRI-FOOD & BIOSCIENCES INSTITUTE

MANAGEMENT NOTES:

- Grass growth is to fall below the LT av. over the next 14 days due to low temperatures.
- Measure grass 3 times in 2 weeks to manage growth vs demand on your farm.
- Plan and take steps now to lessen the effects of a potential deficit over the coming fortnight. Options to reduce demand include bringing 2nd cut silage area into the grazing platform, buffer feeding silage potentially made from surplus grass several weeks ago and removing non-priority stock from the grazing platform.
- It is key to hold rotation length above 21 days and keep the AFC above 2,100 kg DM/ha, to avoid a spiralling effect into a severe deficit, which is more difficult to recover from.
- There is a variation in grass quality between and across farms. Pre-mowing and topping can be used as tools to correct grass quality. However, avoid correcting all areas in one rotation as growth rates can be reduced by 20 30 kg DM/ha and avoid these practices completely if grass demand exceeds grass growth.

Value of Grass		Grass Quality	
Dairy — maintenance plus (M+) (kg/cow/day)*	16.1	DM (%)	17.0
Growing animals — live weight gain (kg/head/day)**	0.94	ME (MJ/kg DM)	10.9
*M+ calculated assuming: 650kg cow, and 15 kg DMI. Maintenance=75 MJ/day, 5.3 MJ/kg milk		CP (% DM)	15.7
**Beef daily gain assuming: 300 kg beef steer, and 6.6 kg DMI. Maintenance=35 MJ/day, 40 MJ/kg gain		WSC (% DM)	13.5



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