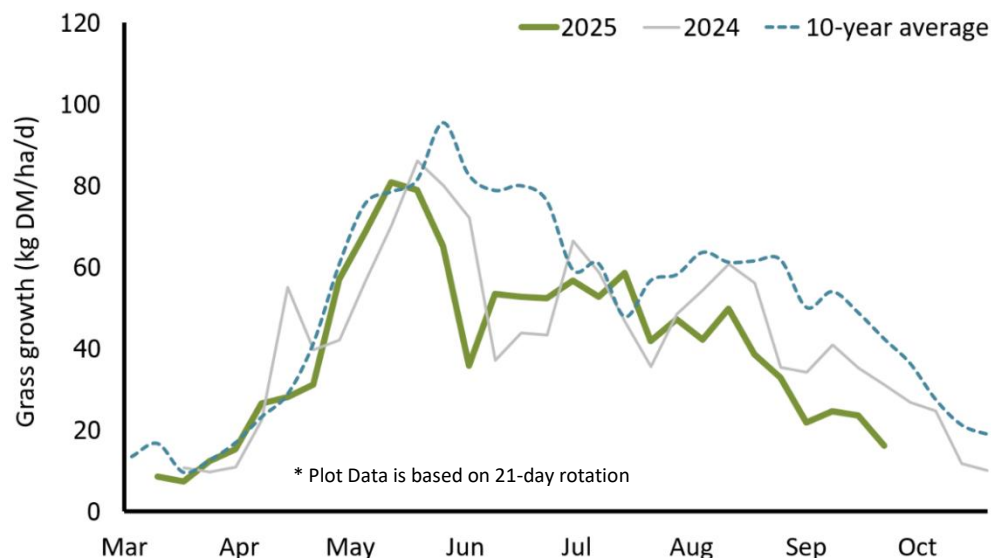


Week beginning 22nd September 2025

Grass Growth – AFBI Hillsborough and CAFRE Greenmount Plots

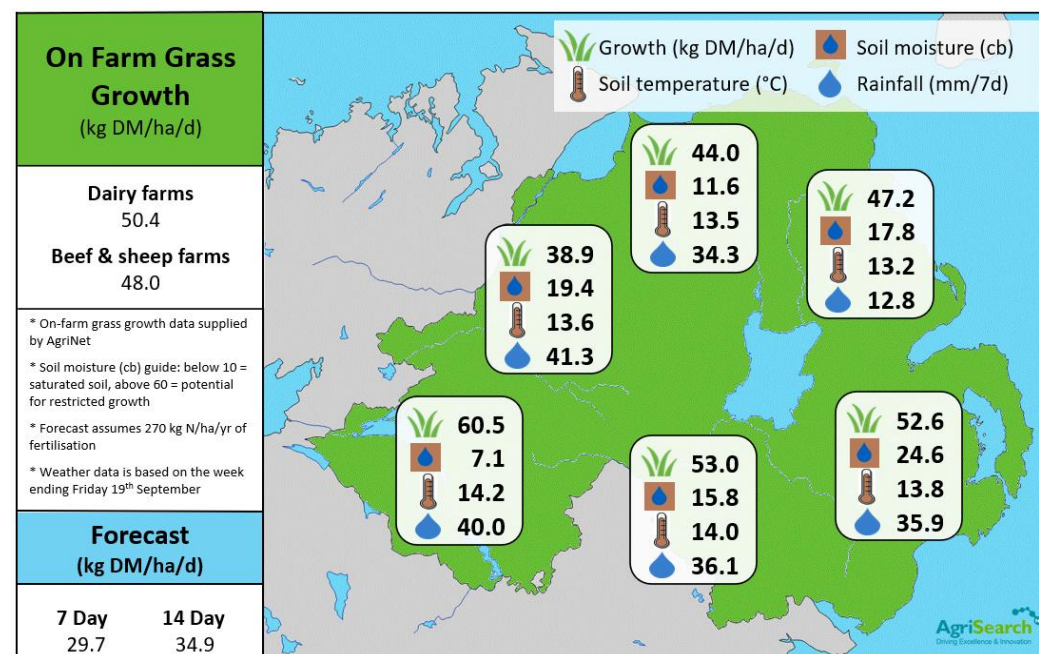


MANAGEMENT NOTES:

- Grass growth on farms is similar to the 10 year growth average (50 kg DM/ha/d), however it will now start decreasing due to lower soil temp and shorter daylength.
- AFC will peak on most farms this week, approx. 2500 kg DM/ha.
- Exceptionally high rainfall in the past week has made grazing conditions challenging, especially when trying to graze and utilise high grass covers. In these situations it may be necessary to graze swards laxly to minimise poaching and follow on then with young stock. At all costs avoid tramping the sward, as it will not have recovered by spring in time for turnout.
- Use extended grazing techniques. Allocate grass every 12 hours and use a back fence to minimise damage. On-off grazing may be an option to keep grass in the diet.
- Rotation length should now be 35 days. Aim to graze drier fields first during the last rotation and make sure to achieve target residuals (1800 kg/DM/ha), ensure quality grass for spring turnout.

Get more information from the GrassCheck e-bulletin
Sign up here: agrisearch.org/grasscheck

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Value of Grass		Grass Quality	
Dairy — maintenance plus (M+) (kg/cow/day)*	9.8	DM (%)	14.5
Growing animals — live weight gain (kg/head/day)**	0.87	ME (MJ/kg DM)	10.6
*M+ calculated assuming: 650kg cow, and 15 kg DMI. Maintenance=75 MJ/day, 5.3 MJ/kg milk **Beef daily gain assuming: 300 kg beef steer, and 6.6 kg DMI. Maintenance=35 MJ/day, 40 MJ/kg gain		CP (% DM)	19.3
		WSC (% DM)	9.9