





## Week beginning 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025

## Grass Growth – AFBI Hillsborough and CAFRE Greenmount Plots



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## **MANAGEMENT NOTES:**

- The grass growth curve has remained close to what was seen last year but continues to lag behind the long term average. With soil moisture deficit predicted to increase over the next 10 days, growth on many farms will further decrease.
- Measure grass at least weekly or even three times in two weeks in these conditions to know what grass you have, as there will be a lot of on-farm variation.
- To manage through this dry period, increase supplement feed and/or buffer feed to maintain rotation length at a minimum of 21 days and keep AFC above 2,100 kg DM/ha.
- Avoid pre-mowing as this will further depress growth. Where possible bring in additional areas, such as silage after-grass, and remove additional stock from the dairy cow grazing platform.
- Don't overestimate the M+ value of the grass and ensure cows are full after every grazing.

Value of Grass		Grass Quality	
Dairy — maintenance plus (M+) (kg/cow/day)*	17.3	DM (%)	17.9
Growing animals — live weight gain (kg/head/day)**	0.96	ME (MJ/kg DM)	11.1
*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)	15.5
		WSC (% DM)	14.4