







AGRI-FOOD & BIOSCIENCES INSTITUTE

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College of Agriculture,

Food & Rural Enterprise

week ending Friday 7th June

## **MANAGEMENT NOTES:**

- Grass growth has declined sharply as predicted due to colder than normal air temperatures, which are predicted to persist throughout the incoming week also.
- Walk grass swards every 5 days during this spell to monitor how much feed there is.
- Many farms will be approaching or are in a feed deficit due to growth rates being 20 30 kg DM/ha below the LT. av. It is vital to hold the rotation length above 21 days and keep the AFC above 2,100 kg DM/ha, to avoid a spiralling effect into a severe deficit.
- Reduce demand by increasing the grazing area with silage area and/or introducing /increasing supplementary feed, either as forage or conc., depending on stock type.
- Carry out a winter fodder budget now. A late spring turnout will have depleted forage reserves. It is important to know early how much forage you can afford to feed now in a feed deficit or if alternative feed stocks should be considered.

Value of Grass		Grass Quality	
Dairy — maintenance plus (M+) (kg/cow/day)*	17.8	DM (%)	19.0
Growing animals — live weight gain (kg/head/day)**	1.04	ME (MJ/kg DM)	11.4
*M+ calculated assuming: 650kg cow, and 15 kg DMI. Maintenance=75 MJ/day, 5.3 MJ/kg milk		CP (% DM)	14.5
**Beef daily gain assuming: 300 kg beef steer, and 6.6 kg DMI. Maintenance=35 MJ/day, 40 MJ/kg gain		WSC (% DM)	16.6





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